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GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COLUMBUS 43266-0601

June 28, 1991

The Honorable George Bush
President
The White House
Washington, D.D. 20500

Dear President Bush:

In light of the worsening situation in Yugoslavia, I feel it is urgent that you take every action at your disposal to bring about a peaceful, diplomatic solution to the strife in that nation and to make clear to the government in Belgrade that this nation is absolutely opposed to military action.

As you well know, the crisis in Yugoslavia -- the homeland of my own grandparents -- is potentially explosive. The underlying issues are extremely complicated and long-standing. It is the kind of volatile situation that would benefit from your able leadership and experience in international matters.

Americans have watched with great hope as the "new world order" that you envisioned has begun to take shape -- an order that is nowhere better exemplified than by the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe. The present crisis, however, is a threat to that order and, if left unchecked, will likely inflict intolerable, new hardship upon a people who have already suffered far too long.

I know how deeply concerned you must be about the events in Yugoslavia. As you consider the appropriate course of action for our nation, please know that you have my own personal support, as well as that of the American people.

Once again, thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

George V. Voinovich
Governor



GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COLONY # 45266 0001

July 3, 1991

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I implore you to speak out publicly and forcefully about your concern for the people of Yugoslavia.

During your 1988 campaign, you spoke eloquently of the cause of the captive nations at the rally we arranged at the Lithuanian Hall and again at the rally we held on your behalf at the German Farm right after the Republican convention. I have been bombarded by calls from people crying, "Why won't President Bush speak out like he did on Iraq?"

The Yugoslav army, at the direction of the government in Belgrade, is beginning to rear out of control. Our government sold out Yugoslavia at Yalta in 1944. History cannot record that in 1991 George Bush sold them out.

Please, Mr. President, do not let Yugoslavia's central government snuff out freedom in Croatia and Slovenia.

You are in my prayers.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of George V. Voinovich in cursive script.
George V. Voinovich
Governor

GVV/jec



GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COLUMBUS 43266-0601

July 12, 1991

The Honorable Thomas R. Pickering
United States Ambassador to The United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to you Mr. Ambassador, not only as a person whose heritage is deeply rooted in Yugoslavia, but also as a Governor, whose constituency is a large segment of Slovenes, Serbs and Croats, including other nationalities of Yugoslavia, and who, like the people of Ohio, believe in peace and justice.

Now that the issue of solving the problems in Yugoslavia has been apparently moved from the armed military conflict to peaceful negotiations, it is appropriate that we focus on the issues of the rights of the minorities in this troubled Balkan land.

The potentially explosive conflict between the Serbian and Croatia population could forever damage any peace initiatives and bring this conflict into all out civil war. This is no longer an issue of politics or economics, the issue here is thousands of potential victims and masses of refugees from this region to the neighboring lands.

I appeal to you, Mr. Ambassador, to utilize the positive influence and power of your office in support of the Universal Human Rights, as Yugoslavia was the cosigner of the Helsinki Accords. I believe that sending United Nations observers to the area of recent conflicts and specifically in the regions of ~~Vojvodina~~ Slavonia and Krajina would be the first step in neutralizing the dissensions. I also urge you to please use your influence with the leaders of Croatia and Serbia, and especially with the Federal Premier Mr. Ante Markovic, for acceptance of this plan.

If there is anything I can do to assist in bringing about the support of your positive course of action for peace in Yugoslavia, please call on me.

Sincerely,

George V. Voinovich
George V. Voinovich
Governor

*Voinovich corrected in 2nd letter
SLAVONIA*

HOME
FINAL

The Columbus Dispatch

1991

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1991

for July 4-91

Voinovich pulling for freedom of rebel Yugoslavian republics

By Alan Johnson
Dispatch Statehouse Reporter

Gov. George V. Voinovich, grandson of immigrants, has a personal stake in the daily reports of violence in Yugoslavia.

Although Voinovich and his parents were born in the United States, his grandparents on both sides of the family immigrated here from Yugoslavia, a country torn by civil unrest.

"I am a Yugoslav," Voinovich said during a recent interview. "My mother was full, 100 percent Slovenian. My father was 100 percent Serbian, although his family lived in Croatia.

"All of what's going on over there is in me," the governor said.

Voinovich has an uncle, several first cousins and what he describes as "a whole family over there" that he discovered during visits in 1981 and 1985.

The republics of Slovenia and Croatia make up nearly half the country of Yugoslavia. They are struggling to become independent of the communist central government in Serbia in a split with historical roots dating to the 1700s, when the two regions were divided between the Hapsburg and Ottoman empires.

The governor's interest goes beyond family, however. During 10 years as mayor of heavily ethnic Cleveland, Voinovich was visited by several Yugoslavian delegations and knows the political leaders of both rebel republics.

Voinovich feels so strongly that he wrote to President Bush yesterday, saying the Yugoslavian army, at the direction of the central government, "is beginning to rear out of control. Our government sold out to Yugoslavia at Yalta in 1944. History cannot record that in 1991 George Bush sold them out."

Voinovich pleaded, "Please, Mr.

"Please, Mr. President, do not let Yugoslavia's central government snuff out freedom in Croatia and Slovenia."

Gov. George Voinovich
In letter to Bush

President, do not let Yugoslavia's central government snuff out freedom in Croatia and Slovenia."

Voinovich said he doesn't want the United States to "send the wrong signal" to the communist government in Belgrade that it will support the use of military force to suppress the independence movement.

"The president has got to insist that force not be used," Voinovich said. "That isn't in the best interests of anyone.

"My hope is the Yugoslavs work out some system where they allow the respective republics and provinces to go to a free market economy, to enjoy their newfound freedoms, both political and economic, while continuing to work together in certain areas."

Cont

HOME
FINAL

The Columbus Dispatch

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1991

Voinovich, though proud of his Yugoslavian heritage, is a private man.

He declined to reveal the Yugoslavian cities where his grandparents lived, even though they are deceased.

"I would like them to maintain their anonymity," he said.

Voinovich blames the unrest on the communist government's failure to provide an adequate standard of living.

"A lot of the nationalism you see would diminish if the economy would pick up. . . . Some politicians take their mind off the main issue, which is to get the economy going so people have food and clothing and shelter and a decent quality of life."

He worries about his family in the strife-torn country.

"I have the same feelings, with family that's there, as I do when I see tanks anyplace. . . . Like anyplace in the world where things get out of control, you're always worried because somebody is going to get hurt. If the fighting continues, someone could get hurt or killed.

"What's happening there is happening in a lot of other places. The ethnic nationalism is percolating. . . . People are yearning for freedom, which is what we've prayed for for years.

"It's a combination of many things which are sweeping Eastern Europe."

The civil strife in Yugoslavia was in part responsible for the postponement of what would have been Voinovich's first overseas trip since be-



Gov. George V. Voinovich

. . . worried about "whole family"

coming governor. The planned September trip to Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland could happen in the spring but only if the situation in Eastern Europe improves, Voinovich said.

"Things are happening so rapidly over there. If you end up in a situation where nobody's getting along with each other and there's chaos, for me to take a bunch of Ohio businessmen in there for a couple of days, even though I'm very supportive of trying to support their free market economy, I'm certainly not going to do that at the expense of our Ohio business people," he said.

"If things have not ripened to the point where it's worth their while to do this, I'm not going to go on some protocol visit . . . so I can take a ride on the Danube and see some castles and a few other things. It's nice stuff, but I can do that some other time and enjoy it a whole lot more. This is business."

End

EUROPE

A German idea of Europe

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL insists on linking the European Community's conferences on political union and economic and monetary union. The chancellor is prepared to sign away the D-mark and see it replaced by a Euro-currency, but only if the treaty on political union gives the European Parliament lots more power. Outside Germany, such idealism seems curious.

Most EC governments are using the conferences to pursue national interests: Spain wants more money, France wants European defence, Britain wants to hang on to sovereignty. Championing the parliament is not self-evidently in Germany's interests (although Germany's population of 80m may one day entitle it to the



move in that direction. He has proposed that a new body should handle common policies on visas, asylum and immigration. In foreign policy he would like to see some decisions taken by majority vote.

Like France, Germany wants the goal of a common defence policy written into the treaty on political union, and a review of defence arrangements in 1996.

Germany insists that the EC should not switch to a single currency until specific criteria for economic convergence have been met, and that countries (for instance, Italy) should not be allowed into the currency union unless most of the others approve. Germany wants an independent European central bank to have a say



Pointing to federalism

largest number of Euro-MPs). Mr Kohl's linkage even bemuses some German officials: "The man in the street cares a lot about the D-mark but has no interest in the Strasbourg parliament," says one.

But Mr Kohl is in fact pursuing one definition of Germany's interest. A federal Europe, its proponents argue, is an acceptable framework for (and, they trust, constraint on) German power. "We are finding our national identity through our successful experience of European integration; that is a reaction against our history and the idea that we are different," says Wolfgang Wessels, the director of the Institute for European Politics.

Mr Kohl is openly aiming for a United States of Europe (cynics might say he really means a Federal Republic of Europe), and is pushing for policies that

in the future monetary union's exchange-rate policy. Strict rules should stop governments borrowing too much.

Some German officials point to the inflationary risks of monetary union. No mainstream politician, however, questions the government's ambitions for the two conferences. And everyone seems to be in a hurry, insisting that the conferences must be concluded this year. They talk of a window of opportunity: the rest of the Community cannot count on the Germans remaining such good Europeans for ever.

This is where Germany's good Europeans start to sound like good blackmailers. Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the French have wanted to bind Germany into the Community, especially by a common foreign and security policy. "Some

countries want political union because they fear the dominance of a united Germany; we should exploit that fear before it diminishes," says Karl Hornhues, the Christian Democrats' foreign-affairs spokesman. He believes that, if the Social Democrats returned to power, their inclination to neutralism could block progress towards an EC defence policy.

Others point out that no one expects the new central bank to do better than the Bundesbank in fighting inflation. In time, Germans already worried about price rises from unification could become unwilling to abandon the D-mark. "The French know they get the D-mark now or never," says a German official.

Germany's European policy could also change subtly with the generations. Mr Kohl and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, remember the war and are committed to the ideals of the Community's founding fathers. But politicians in their 40s and early 50s—such as Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, Björn Engholm, the Social Democrats' leader, and Volker Rühe, the Christian Democrats' general secretary—tend to be more practical, and less emotional, in their support of the EC. They may be less inclined to let France think it still shapes the Community.

The alliance between France and Germany has never been free of strain. Their recent dispute over the right of Slovenia and Croatia to independence (Germany favours, France does not) reflects differing views over the EC's future. France would like to minimise the number of new members, partly because entrants from northern and eastern Europe would tend to see things the German way. Germany wants the East Europeans in as soon as possible, partly to avert possible instability on its eastern borders.

But none of this alters the belief in Bonn that only when France and Germany act together can the Community progress. The alliance with France is still the cornerstone of Germany's European policy—and will remain so, says a government planner. "In a 20-country EC, north-south conflicts would be harder to manage," he says; adding, with slightly curious geography, "so compromises between France, representing the south, and Germany, representing the north, would be more essential than ever."

Most officials and politicians in Bonn doubt that Britain will be able to play a leading rôle. "We cannot count on Britain's interests being European, as we can with the French," says one of Germany's negotiators. "Only if Britain overcame its problem with the Atlantic link and its reluctance to give up sovereignty could we have a triple alliance."