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A Message to the Domestic and International Public

July 9, 1991

- key excerpts -

The message:

The state-political crisis of the former, and only in a formal international-legislative way existing, Yugoslav state union -- has reached the level of unstoppable breakup.

In the spiritual sense that breakup has acquired characteristics of general distrust and blinding hatred.

Obviously, we have reached the point of such climax of ideological-political and international differences at which hatred and invoking of military solutions threaten with catastrophic outcomes. And that means by excluding each possibility of making up for a longer historical time period.

That is the reason why I am addressing the domestic and international public with this message.

TO CROATIAN PEOPLE IN THE HOMELAND AND IN THE WORLD, AND ALL CITIZENS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA!

All the time, since last year's establishment of a democratic rule in Croatia, freedom and sovereignty of Croatia have been threatened by dogmatic, communist, Yugoslav-unitaristic and great Serbian-hegemonistic forces. The movement of chetnik-terroristic disloyalty from Knin to east Slavonia, and the backside of federal forces of the Yugoslav federation and the Yugoslav Army, is the most obvious expression of the attempt to bring down the democratic Croatia and the creation of Great Serbia.

With that purpose a continuous terrorist, in effect hidden or "small" war with the purpose of its gradual spreading from one to another territory has been imposed on Croatia.

These days, after the declarations of independence of Croatia and Slovenia and the beginning of a military confrontation between the Yugoslav National Army and Slovenia, Croatia has avoided being sucked into an open all out war in which all of its already mentioned enemies of freedom and sovereignty want to push it into.

That would, actually, be pleasing to the already threatened Slovenia. We have given political, moral, and every other kind of backing to Slovenia, but we have refused multisided urgings to attack the columns of tanks, troops and soldiers of the Yugoslav National Army on the territory of Croatia. And that is because that would mean taking on our backs war with the entire Yugoslav National Army, as well as an excuse for the spreading of the chetnik movement, and even an open war between Serbia and Croatia.

We think that our wise political action, not only contributed to the termination of military confrontation in Slovenia and the acceptance of the initiative of the European Community for a peaceful solution to the crisis, but also helped in the international recognition of Croatia and Slovenia.

We have accepted the suggestions of the "three" from the EC (De Michellis, Jacques Boos, and Hans von den Broaks, with two conditions: first, that the decision for independence and sovereignty is not threatened, and second that the return of JNA forces to their barracks

refers to those in Croatia as well, so that we could restore law and order on the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia with our police forces...

That critical day (July 3) in talks with General Kadijevich, I got reassurances "that the JNA will not attack Croatia unless it is provoked"...

I ESPECIALLY ADDRESS THE SERBS IN CROATIA AT THIS TIME

The democratic government of sovereign Croatia gives the Serbs in Croatia all freedoms of a constitutional-legislative state. It is also interested that Croatians outside of Croatia enjoy these same freedoms. The Croatian govt. is taking on itself all the international conventions about citizen's, human and national rights and is ready for the verification of this on the part of the entire international community...

The friendship between the Slovenian and Croatian people, established by the cooperation of their democratic state-political leaderships, was of the greatest meaning for the establishment, and the defense, of their sovereign and independent republics.

That cooperation was built on the comprehension of different positions of both of these people, and also the differences of position of their presidents in different historical moments, or at the approach of various questions.

That is why certain statements by the Slovenian government were heard by great surprise in Croatia, that Croatia betrayed Slovenia, and that Croatia "leads an abandoned policy", and that the independent Slovenis still borders the state of Yugoslavia...

Croatia will keep its promise and expects that the Presidency of Yugoslavia will secure that the Yugoslav National Army will, according to the second agreement of that accord, withdraw its forces to their barracks along the territory of Croatia.