

KUCAN

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From the Private Secretary

30 June 1992

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I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Messrs Kucan, Drnovsek and Rupel.

I should be grateful for advice and a draft reply, to reach me by Tuesday 14 July.

J.S. Wall

Christopher Prentice Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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His Excellency
Mr. John Major
Prime Minister of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Lisbon, 26 June 1992

Your Excellency,

By coincidence, the European Community Summit coincides with the first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Slovenia. Our national day seems to us a particularly appropriate opportunity for the Slovene message to the European Twelve. We are taking this auspicious occasion to send you a glass of Slovene wine, by which we invite you to join our celebration, at least from afar. This toast is also a symbolic sign of gratitude for the efforts of your country and the Community as a whole.

From the commencements of independence, our fate has been linked with activities of the Community. Without your help, Slovenia would not be where it is today: a sovereign internationally recognised country, sharing aspirations of other nations and especially those of the Community: a peaceful life, creative coexistence with other people and economic prosperity, democratic foundations which recognise neither eternal majorities nor eternal minorities.

Slovenia has long been a part of European civilisation, linked by culture and geography. We have shared with Europe the Christianity of the Middle Ages, Protestantism and Reformation, as well as Counter-Reformation; Enlightenment, French Revolution, Baroque and Romanticism, the Spring of Nations, Industrial and Social Revolution. Real-socialism and the division of Europe to the democratic West and the communist-bolshevik East after the Second World War, in which our fathers fought against fascism together with the democratic world, lead us away from Europe until the democratic elections of 1990 brought us closer again. Slovene democracy is based on culture. We recited with particular pride the Romantic Classicist Prešeren, who wrote love poems for the most part, but also composed "Zdravljica" (Toast) which says: "Here's life to all nations who long to see the day when quarrels end: when those across the borders will not be enemies but only neighbours." These words are today our national anthem.

Last year when we were under the eyes of the world and enjoyed the attention of your country, the Slovenes withstood united the pressures of ex-Yugoslav political leadership and the attack of the "Yugoslav People's Army", which was forced to leave Slovenia due to the resolute intervention of the Community at the Brioni meeting.

We consolidated democratic institutions and created relative prosperity; our social and economic achievements are comparable to those of our neighbours; and very different from those of the former state of Yugoslavia. We have parted with it not because we wished to live in isolation, but because it did not allow us the accelerated and independent development and equal cooperation with others which is the first requirement of your and our Europe.

Although peace reigns in Slovenia, and although we have achieved our eternal aspiration, Slovenia is today actively cooperating in international activities to end the war on the territory of former Yugoslavia. We believe that we can contribute to the success of the Conference on Yugoslavia, and we entirely agree with the conclusions of its Arbitration Commission. We do all this in the spirit of the documents of the UN and CSCE, of which we have become a member. We are guided in our policies by the Paris Charter and the Helsinki process in general.

As far as the European Community is concerned, Slovenia has cooperated with it in the past: we realised the major share of the cooperation within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and Yugoslavia.

Economically, Slovenia has been traditionally bound to the countries of the European Community; almost two thirds of our entire foreign trade exchange, three quarters of tourist traffic and a good half of all flows of finance, technology, information, etc. are realised with these countries. Despite the well developed economic relations, we consider that more can be achieved through mutual efforts, which would be to the benefit of both sides.

Among all the economies in transition, Slovenia has considerable advantages: it has a relatively high national product (over 12 bn US \$), almost half of GNP is realized through exports, and 90 % of SMEs are in the private sector. We have a relatively liberal foreign trade regime and a high educational level of the population (6 % with at least university degree), with traditionally rich contacts and working experience in the countries of the European Community.

In the Republic of Slovenia we are accelerating the introduction of all the elements of an open market economy, bearing in mind the principles and guidelines of the Community. We would like to achieve the earliest possible inclusion of Slovenia in the Community and we would ask you to support us in these endeavours.

We hope, Excellency, that you share our view that the Republic of Slovenia is a special case which deserves special treatment. We would like to assure you that we are capable, taking into account a high degree of unity of our citizens, of finalising the transformation of our political and economic system in a very short period, and of meeting all the conditions and requirements for inclusion in the process of European political and economic union. With your support, we are thus willing and able soon to become a full member of the Community.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Milan Kučan
President of the Presidency



Dr. Janez Drnovšek
President of the Government



Dr. Dimitrij Rupel
Minister for Foreign Affairs