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GR.



cc RB

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

31 July 1992

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Stephen,

Slovenian Membership of the European Community

Thank you for your letter of 30 June, enclosing a letter to the Prime Minister from Messrs Kucan, Drnovsek and Rupel of the Slovenian Government. We have consulted our EC partners who have agreed that the Prime Minister might reply on behalf of the European Council, as Presidency, on the lines of the enclosed draft.

Slovenia is the only ex-Yugoslav republic with which the Community is negotiating a new Trade and Cooperation Agreement. We expect this to have standard language, looking forward to the prospect of an Association Agreement. A future Association Agreement - as distinct from the Cooperation Agreement now being negotiated - would almost certainly contain language recognising their aspirations for full membership of the Community. But we should not make this point explicit in this reply to the Slovenians. The decision on whether there will be an Association Agreement (still less what it will contain) has not yet been taken. Slovenia is further down the road of political and economic reform than other ex-Yugoslav republics and, arguably, Romania and Bulgaria (to which the Community have offered Association Agreements). But it is still far short of being ready to join the Community, and the Community has made no commitment on possible future membership for Slovenia.

The draft draws on texts agreed by the Lisbon European Council (with some additional atmospherics).

Yours ever,
Christopher Prentice.

(C N R Prentice)
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq
10 Downing Street

CF/kucan

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DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
His Excellency Milan Kucan
President of the Presidency
Republic of Slovenia

me

Thank you for your letter of 26 June. I am replying as President of the European Council on behalf of my colleagues.

I welcome the progress which Slovenia is making in consolidating democracy and developing an effective market economy. Together with the other states of Europe, Slovenia and the member states of the European Community share a common tradition and cultural heritage. It is right that Slovenia should play a full role in the Europe of today.

At its meeting in Lisbon on 26-27 June, the European Council stressed its determination to help the peoples of the former Yugoslavia in their quest for a peaceful future in Europe. The Council reaffirmed the Community's will to develop its partnership with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The immediate priority for the Community's relations with Slovenia is the early conclusion of the new Trade and Cooperation Agreement, now under negotiation. Once this is agreed and enters into force, the Community will wish to consider, together with Slovenia, how relations could be developed still further.

I hope we can continue to work closely together in shaping the Europe of the future, in which - as Prešeren wrote - those across the borders will not be enemies, but neighbours.

Auto doc: enlargement

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