The original documents are located in Box 27, "4/2/76 - The President's Remarks on Eastern Europe, Milwaukee, Wisconsin" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SHEET.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON EASTERN EUROPE

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

APRIL 2, 1976

-|-

LET ME BEGIN BY EXPRESSING MY APPRECIATION

FOR YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY.

I AM REMINDED OF A MEETING WE HAD IN THE

CABINET ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE LAST JULY 25.

SOME 30 LEADERS OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

IN THE UNITED STATES ATTENDED.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES MET WITH LEADERS REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF SO MANY AMERICANS CONCERNED ABOUT EASTERN EUROPE

-3-

IN OUR BICENTENNIAL DELEBRATION IT IS

APPROPRIATE TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR

CITIZENS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN ORIGIN.

-5-

BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE EUROPEAN SECURITY

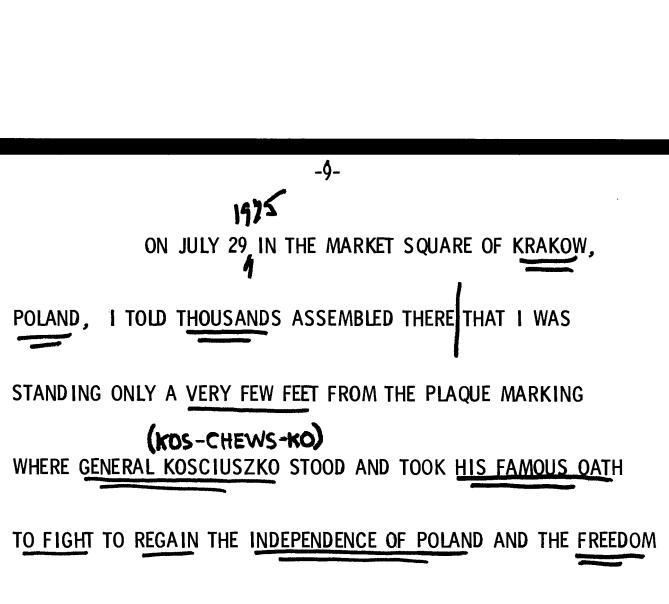
CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI LAST JULY, I STATED MY POLICY ON

EASTERN EUROPE

IT IS A STATEMENT I AM PROUD OF -- AND I REAFFIRM IT TODAY: "IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND IT HAS BEEN MY POLICY EVER SINCE I ENTERED PUBLIC LIFE, TO SUPPORT THE ASPIRATIONS FOR FREEDOM AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE - WITH WHOM WE HAVE CLOSE TIES OF CULTURE AND BLOOD -- BY EVERY PROPER AND PEACEFUL MEANS. I STATED MY HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT MY VISITS TO POLAND, ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WOULD AGAIN DEMONSTRATE OUR FRIENDSHIP AND INTEREST IN THE WELFARE

AND PROGRESS OF THE FINE PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE.

OF ALL POLES.



MAY SAY OR WRITE

THIS REMAINS MY POLICY -- REGARDLESS OF WHAT

ANY WASHINGTON "EXPERTS" OR ANTI-WASHINGTON 'EXPERTS"

I SAID I WAS VERY PROUD TO BE IN A PLACE

SO RICH IN POLISH HISTORY AND SO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE POLISH HERO IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

-11-

DURING MY VISIT TO BELGRADE, I SAID THAT

AMERICANS PARTICULARLY ADMIRED YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENT

SPIRIT•

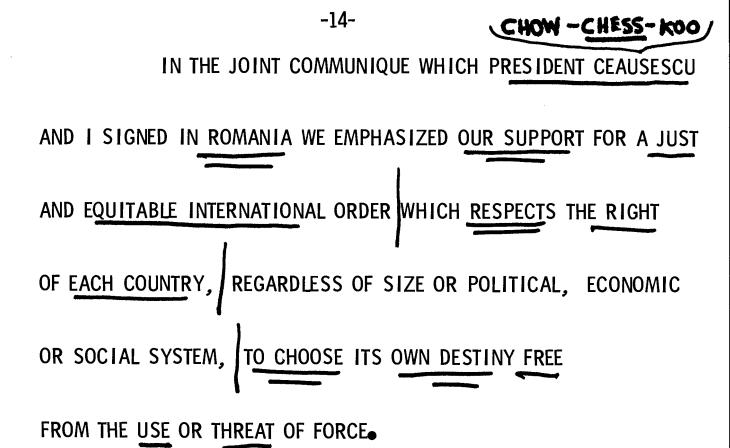
I SAID: "WHENEVER INDEPENDENCE IS THREATENED,

PEOPLE EVERYWHERE LOOK TO THE EXAMPLE OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE YUGOSLAVIAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY. THEY TAKE STRENGTH AND THEY TAKE INSPIRATION

FROM THAT EXAMPLE.

-13-

AMERICA'S INTERESTS IN YUGOSLAVIA'S CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY AND WELL-BEING, EXPRESSED OFTEN IN THE PAST, REMAINS UNDIMINISHED."



-15-

WHEN I RETURNED FROM EUROPE, I TOLD THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE THAT I WAS ABLE TO DELIVER IN PERSON A MESSAGE

OF ENORMOUS SIGNIFICANCE TO ALL EUROPEANS. MY MESSAGE

WAS -- AMERICA STILL CARES. THE TORCH IN THE STATUE OF

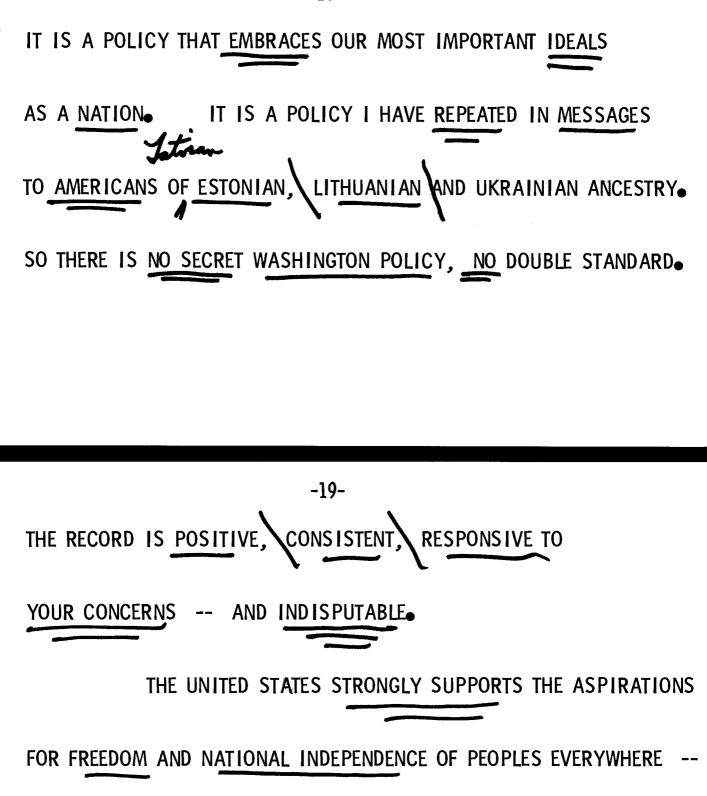
LIBERTY STILL BURNS BRIGHT.

I HAVE RECALLED THESE EVENTS BECAUSE THEY UNDERLINE THE FACT THAT MY POLICY - AMERICA'S POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE IS FULLY, CLEARLY, AND FORMALLY DOCUMENTED. IT IS A CREATIVE AND COOPERATIVE POLICY TOWARD THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE.

-17-

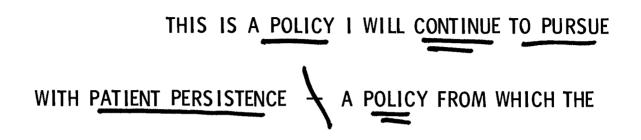
AS WE DID IN 1776.

WE STILL STAND FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE IN 1976



INCLUDING THE PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

I HAVE FOLLOWED THIS POLICY IN MY VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPE AND IN MY MEETINGS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN LEADERS **HERE** OUR POLICY IN NO SENSE ACCEPTS SOVIET "DOMINION" OF EASTERN EUROPE OR ANY KIND OF ORGANIC **UNION** -21-NOR IS IT IN ANY WAY DESIGNED TO PERMIT THE CONSOLIDATION ON THE CONTRARY, THE UNITED FOR SUCH "DOMINION." STATES SEEKS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO, AND TO ENCOURAGE AS RESPONSIBLY AS POSSIBLE, THE DESIRES OF EAST EUROPEANS FOR GREATER AUTONOMY, INDEPENDENCE AND MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.



-22-

UNITED STATES WILL NOT WAIVER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

