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2. When will the President visit Yugoslavia?

GUIDANCE: We confirmed yesterday afternoon reports from Yugoslavia that in a recent letter to President Tito the President accepted in principle an invitation to visit Yugoslavia extended recently by President Tito. The date of such a visit remains to be worked out at a mutually convenient time.

1/16/75

2. White House Announcement of Bijedic Visit: -- Qs & As attached.

His Excellency Dzemal Bijedic (JEM-all Bee-YEAH-ditch), President of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, will visit the United States from March 19-22 at the invitation of the United States Government. President Ford will host a luncheon for Prime Minister Bijedic on March 19. Prime Minister Bijedic will also meet with Secretary Kissinger and other United States Government officials in the course of his visit. END TEXT.

3/6/75 Let me add to the official statement that Prime Minister Bijedic is here to review U. S. - Yugoslav bilateral relations, particularly those in the economic sphere and to discuss international issues of mutual interest.

BIJEDIC VISIT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q:** What is the purpose of Prime Minister Bijedic's visit?

**A:** His purpose is to review US-Yugoslav bilateral relations, particularly those in the economic sphere, and to discuss international issues of mutual interest.

**Q:** Whom will Prime Minister Bijedic see here?

**A:** In addition to his luncheon meeting with the President, we anticipate that Mr. Bijedic will meet with officials at the Department of State and Commerce. He will also meet with American businessmen.

**Q:** What other cities will he visit?

**A:** He also plans to visit New York City.

**Q:** When did the last high-level US-Yugoslav visit take place?

**A:** Secretary Kissinger visited Belgrade on November 4, 1974. Prior to that, President Tito visited the United States in the fall of 1971 and President Nixon visited Yugoslavia in the fall of 1970.

**Q:** Hasn't President Ford accepted President Tito's invitation to visit Yugoslavia?

**A:** Yes, President Ford has accepted President Tito's invitation in principle, but no dates have been set.

## YUGOSLAVIA

"I have maintained from the beginning of my campaign that I would never go to war or become militarily involved in the internal affairs of another country unless our own security were directly threatened, and I don't believe that our security would be directly threatened if the Soviet Union went into Yugoslavia."

Carter's comments on Yugoslavia are naive.

The time-honored practice of American diplomacy is that the President of the United States never tips his hand in advance to our adversaries. To do otherwise - to tell the Russians precisely what we will do - would only invite them to take actions which can jeopardize the peace of the world.

This was the point that President Ford made in rebuttal last night as he said it was unwise to signal in advance what the United States will do or not do in the face of an international crisis.

By his statement, Mr. Carter is explicitly telling the Soviet Union that it can have a completely free hand in Yugoslavia.

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