

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your letter concerning U.S. broadcasting to the Czech Republic and the future of Radio Free Europe.

My decision to reorganize and modernize United States international broadcasting will strengthen our ability to support new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe even as we realize some financial savings from the consolidation. Our reorganization proposal, which is before Congress, will place existing radios under a new bipartisan board of governors which will guarantee the independence, quality, effectiveness and professional integrity of all United States broadcasting services.

Furthermore, the United States will continue to provide technical assistance through the International Media Fund to help strengthen the electronic and print media in the Czech Republic.

You can be assured that the American Embassy in Prague will keep your government informed of any changes in broadcast services directed to the Czech Republic. No decision has yet been taken about which radio service will broadcast particular programs or languages. We have, however, determined that the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe will in the future provide both surrogate broadcasting and news on developments in the United States and other parts of the world.

I appreciate your interest in U.S. broadcasting to Central and Eastern Europe. Your views had a particular weight in our thinking about the reorganization. I am confident that our broadcasts will continue to serve as an important instrument in the consolidation of democracy in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

His Excellency Vaclav Havel
President of the Czech Republic
Prague

4999

Prague, June 24, 1993

Mr. William J. Clinton
The President
The White House
Washington, DC

Mr. President,

I have been deeply concerned at the indications that the United States authorities may consider discontinuing the Czech broadcast of Radio Free Europe. As I have repeatedly pointed out to American officials, this kind of independent reporting is something that our young democracy needs very much indeed. Competing with it is a tremendously important lesson for our emerging independent journalism. The coverage offered by the RFE broadcast in Czech, marked by a detached position vis-a-vis the domestic political influences and an extensive knowledge of international affairs, still remains a substantial enrichment to my country.

I am therefore turning to you with a plea that this matter be reconsidered before a decision is taken.

Sincerely,

(signed) Vaclav Havel
President of the Czech Republic

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(Translation)

LS No. 141976
PH/
Czech

Prague, June 24, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

I am very concerned by the news that consideration is being given in the United States to the possibility of abolishing the Czech broadcasting service of [Radio] Free Europe. As I have already advised various American officials on several occasions, our nascent democracy is in great need of precisely this other independent broadcasting service. The competition with it is an extremely beneficial school for our young independent journalism. A certain distance from internal Czech political influences and the good international survey of RFE's Czech broadcasting service are still a great enrichment for us.

I therefore urgently request that this decision be considered once more.

(signed) Vaclav Havel
President of the Czech Republic

His Excellency
William J. Clinton
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Praha, 24. června, 1993

Vážený pán
William J. Clinton
Prezident Spojených států
amerických
Washington, D.C.

Vážený pane prezidente,

jsem velmi zneklidněn zprávou, že se v USA uvažuje o možnosti zrušit české vysílání Svobodné Evropy. Jak jsem už vícekrát upozornil různé americké činitele, naše rodící se demokracie právě tento druh nezávislého vysílání velmi potřebuje. Soutěž s ním je nesmírně užitečnou školou naší mladé nezávislé žurnalistiky. Určitý odstup od domácích politických vlivů a dobrý mezinárodní přehled českého vysílání RFE je pro nás stále ještě velkým obohacením.

Prosím Vás proto snažně, aby toto rozhodnutí bylo ještě jednou uváženo.

(podepsán) Václav Havel
prezident České republiky

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES**

Translating Division

**LS No. 142770
Czech
TM/**

Dear Mr. President:

I was especially pleased to learn of your recent decision to preserve Radio Free Europe, an important instrument of American foreign policy, into the future.

I greatly appreciate the attention you paid to my comments on the subject and the fact that you took my views into consideration when deciding the matter, as was evident from your statement of June 15.

The continued existence of Radio Free Europe is not merely a financial or administrative matter. It is first and foremost a very strong signal from the new U.S. Administration to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, a signal that confirms the interest of the United States in maintaining its political presence and influence in this part of the continent. It is a signal whose true significance is all the greater, the more difficult it becomes for the post-Communist countries to make the transition to a market economy and a stable democratic political system.

Please accept once again my gratitude for your decision on Radio Free Europe, and at the same time point out that it would be a great loss to the Czech Republic if the Czech and Slovak broadcast were to be discontinued. Let me likewise applaud your

The President of the United States of America,
the White House
Washington, D.C.

patience and courage in fulfilling the objectives of your Administration both in domestic and foreign policy.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Václav Havel,
President of the Republic

Translation

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Prague, August 20, 1993

Dear Mr. President,

I have been very pleased to learn of your recent decision that Radio Free Europe, an important instrument of American foreign policy, should remain in existence in future.

I have greatly appreciated the attention you paid to my comments on the subject, and I have been gratified to see that, as was made clear in your statement of June 15, you took my views into consideration when deciding on the matter.

Continued existence of Radio Free Europe is more than just a financial or administrative operation. It is first and foremost a strong signal from the new U. S. Administration to the countries of central and eastern Europe, confirming the interest of the United States in maintaining its political presence and influence in this part of the European continent. This kind of signal takes on added significance in the light of the magnitude of the challenges faced by the post-Communist countries in the process of transition to a market economy and stable democratic political systems.

Let me therefore express to you my gratitude for your decision on Radio Free Europe, and at the same time point out that it would be a great loss to the Czech Republic if the Czech and Slovak broadcast were to be discontinued. You have my best wishes as you work with patience and spirit for the fulfillment of the objectives of your Administration in both domestic and foreign policy.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Václav Havel

The President of
the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Prezident republiky

V Praze dne 20. srpna 1993

Vážený pane prezidente,

s mimořádným potěšením jsem přijal zprávu o Vašem nedávném rozhodnutí zachovat rozhlasovou stanici Radio Svobodná Evropa, jeden z důležitých nástrojů americké zahraniční politiky, i do budoucnosti.

Vážím si toho, že jste přihlédl k mému stanovisku na toto téma a že jste je, jak o tom svědčí Vaše prohlášení ze dne 15. června, bral při rozhodování v úvahu.

Další existence Svobodné Evropy není jen finanční či administrativní záležitostí. Je to především velmi důležitý signál nové americké administrativy pro země střední a východní Evropy potvrzující zájem USA o trvalou politickou přítomnost a vliv v této části kontinentu. Signál, jehož skutečný význam je tím větší, čím náročnější se stává přechod postkomunistických zemí k tržní ekonomice a ke stabilnímu demokratickému politickému systému.

Přijměte, prosím, ještě jednou mé poděkování za rozhodnutí o Svobodné Evropě i s tím, že pro Českou republiku by bylo uvažované ukončení českého a slovenského vysílání velkou ztrátou. Zároveň si Vám dovoluji popřát trpělivost a odvahu při naplňování záměrů Vaší administrativy jak ve vnitřní, tak i v zahraniční politice.

S úctou

Václav Havel

Prezident Spojených států amerických
Bílý dům
Washington

5937

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

95 JUL 31 P3:21

Prague, 6 July 1995

Dear Mr. President,

Like you, I am pleased to note that Radio Free Europe / Liberty has recently been relocated to the Czech Republic. I perceive this step as an eloquent proof of the commitment of the United States to the strengthening of democracy in Eastern Europe and in the territory of the former Soviet Union as well as an expression of trust in the future of the Czech Republic.

In a letter addressed to you in early 1993, I stressed the importance of the role played by Radio Free Europe in our country. The programmes broadcast from its Prague studio in various languages continue to contribute significantly to the development of independent journalism, and consequently also of democracy, in the countries at which they are aimed.

In my view, according to my experience of a long-time correspondent of the Czech section of Radio Free Europe, the broadcasting station has maintained high standards and fostered the much-desired competition among broadcasting stations in a number of countries. One might say that despite the successes achieved on our way towards democracy, we still need Radio Free Europe.

I wish to thank you, dear Mr. President, for your personal contribution to the relocation of Radio Free Europe / Liberty to Prague; you helped to create another link between our countries.

Yours sincerely,

(Václav Havel)

7/31/95

Todd -

Should we send to
NSC for appropriate
action?

Yes

No

The Honorable
Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington

Prezident republiky

V Praze dne 6. července 1995

Vážený pane prezidente,

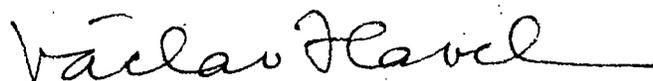
jsem stejně jako Vy potěšen tím, že se rozhlasová stanice Svobodná Evropa/Svoboda v minulých týdnech přemístila do České republiky. V tomto kroku spatřuji výmluvný doklad, že Spojeným státům záleží na posílení demokracie ve východní Evropě a na území bývalého Sovětského svazu, a zároveň projev jejich důvěry v budoucnost České republiky.

Počátkem roku 1993 jsem Vám v dopise zdůraznil, jak důležitou roli zde dosud hraje vysílání Svobodné Evropy. Pořady vysílané nyní z pražského pracoviště Svobodné Evropy v různých jazycích i nadále významně přispívají k rozvoji nezávislé žurnalistiky a tím i demokracie v zemích, kam vysílání směřuje.

Podle mého názoru a podle mé zkušenosti dlouholetého spolupracovníka českého vysílání Svobodné Evropy je tato rozhlasová stanice na vysoké úrovni a napomáhá k vytváření žádoucího konkurenčního prostředí pro rozhlasové stanice v řadě zemí. Mohu říci, že přes úspěchy, kterých jsme již dosáhli na naší cestě k demokracii, je vysílání Svobodné Evropy stále potřebné.

Děkuji Vám, vážený pane prezidente, za Váš osobní přínos k přestěhování rozhlasové stanice Svobodná Evropa/Svoboda do Prahy; pomohl jste tak vytvořit další spojovací článek mezi našimi zeměmi.

Se srdečným pozdravem



Prezident Spojených států amerických
Bílý dům
Washington

Photocopy Misc. Handwriting