

January 18, 1969

Dear Mr. President:

As I prepare to leave office, I want not only to say good-bye but also to express the hope that through cooperation based on the spirit of friendship and mutual respect the peoples of both our nations will continue to make progress toward peace and a better life.

As the enclosed photographs of our recent lunar flight suggest, this shrinking globe is rapidly becoming a single neighborhood. Even the most distant nations now live closer to each other than villages in a single nation did only a few centuries ago. Countries are learning that they must work together for common ends if any are to survive and prosper in the new world of interdependence which science and technology are helping to create.

We have made some progress to this end in recent years. New forms of international cooperation are evident in many areas. I believe that this progress will continue and that one day an international community will come into being which is solidly grounded in common interest.

Despite my retirement from the Presidency, my interest in Czechoslovakia and my friendship for its people will remain strong and undiminished. It is my hope and acute concern that the future of Czechoslovakia will brighten. I shall remain dedicated to the goals which the peoples of our countries share.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Ludvik Svoboda
President of the Czechoslovak
Socialist Republic
Prague

LBJ:State:ERF:mm