



Easter
Greetings



Õðèñòîñ
Âoñêðàñà



SERBIAN UNITY CONGRESS - - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

INTRODUCTION

As one of the founders of the Serbian Unity Congress, its first president and an active member to the very present, I wish to share with you an important perspective. In my opinion, this perspective is critical and must be taken into consideration as we are deliberating about the future of the organization.

To say that the Serbian Unity Congress is now at a crossroads sounds as a cliché; but it is also a grave truth. Decisions we make between now and the Belgrade Convention in September will determine whether the organization becomes revitalized and continues its worthwhile and important work, or it withers away.

MISSIONS AND GOALS

From its inception in December of 1990 to the present day, our organization has had three distinct phases. The first was short, less than two years from our inception. It ended with the dissolution of Yugoslavia and with the start of the civil war in 1992; the second and much longer phase lasted until October 5, 2000 and finished with the fall of the Milosevic regime. Interestingly, this terrible period ended during our 11th annual convention in Toronto, Canada. Since then, we are at the beginning of the third period.

Our mission and our goals had to change to accommodate these realities of life. Each period has imposed different demands on our organization and dedicated members.

The First Phase: Fundamentally, the Serbian Unity Congress was established to accomplish two overarching goals - - one was to help the Serbian people achieve a rapid and meaningful transition from communism to democracy and freedom; the other was to endeavor to preserve Serbian heritage and avoid assimilation of Serbian people living abroad. In 1991 the urgency of the first goal was obvious. To assist the desired transition, the Serbian Unity Congress designed a very appropriate plan which was named the "Phoenix Plan." In May of 1991, we sent a delegation to Yugoslavia ("The Mission of Friendship and Good Will") to determine how best to implement the objectives of the Plan.

Obviously, all these initiatives had to be abruptly discontinued due to the war, sanctions and increasing anti-Serbian position of the governments of Europe and USA.

ÊÐÀÒÊÃ ÃÃÑÒË

6. Î áðò 2001.

■ Æèáñòè ó Àì áðèòè èðèòèèí áàèá nó çàèí í Ì ðáòáðáí áóí ó Óðíí% Æí ðè Ìí èíí á Ì í áçáàèííí ñòè Ì í æá ðáí ðè%ñèè àà í æéó÷è 25% áðá•áí á (è òí ñàì Ì í í èò èí%è æèáá ó Óðíí% Æí ðè), %ð ñó çà ðàèí í çáè\$ í á í èòáçè Ì Ì ððáí è àèòè ñòáí ááðàè. (Í í áñáòèì í àà ááèèèè ááí í á ðèò Ì Ì ððáí èò 25% ÷èí á Øèí ðáðè è áðòáè í áðòí í áí ðòè èí %è ñó ñá áí ñááá %áí í áðòí í èç%áòèááèè çà í ððáí \$ áçèá.) Í áðáí èò ááí á % ðáòí ðèèá ððí í áí ðñèò àèáñòè Ì í ððáí \$ áçèó áí áèèá Ì àèí áèáæá ðí í í áá, à í á%áá\$ áí í % è ñòááðáçèá èí áèèòè%á ñáèò ñòðáí áèá èí % ñó çà çá%áí èòò ñá Ñðáè%í .

7. Î áðò 2001.

■ Õðè %áí ñèí ááí ñèá áí % èèá Ì í àèí ðèá ñó ó ñáèò Ì ðáí áèòá èí á Ì ðáòááá, ááá è Ì í èèèí áòðá ááí çí í á èí í í á í á ááçáááí í ñòè, èááá % çèòí áí áí çèèí í áèáðáèí í á Ì èí ó. Ì í áèí óèè ñó Ì èèá €áí ááèí, Áá%áí Ì ááèí áèž è Ááí èèí Èáçáðááèž. Èí á ñáèá Ì ñèáðá % í ðáòí ÷áòáí ðí Ñðáá, à í áçááí è÷í ñá ñáçí á%á áá Øèí ðáðè ððáæá áá èò ðáçí áí á çá %áí í á ðáðí ðèñóó. Èí á áðáá ×áðááá%è èçáèí %á ñóèí á ÈÓÍ ðá è çèí ðáðñèò ðáðí ðèñá ó èí %è à ñó ááí %èòá Øèí ðáðá Ì í àèí óèá. Í áðáí èò ááí á % ðèçá Õáèè è, èèááð Øèí ðáðá ñá %áá Ñðáè%á, èç%áèí áá ñó "Í áí ððáí è \$ óáè" (èáèí í í çí áá ðáðí ðèñá) Ì í è èí %è í áðæááá% Ì èð è ðáá í á òí Ì í áðò÷%.

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9. Î áðò 2001.

■ Ì ðáí è%ð Ñðáè%á Çí ðáí €èí •èž í áèáçè ñá ó ááí í ááá\$ í %í %í ñáòè Ì áí á÷èá. Ì í ñá ñáñòáí ñá Ì ðáí è%ðí Ì ððáááðí è ðáòí áèí èí ì áòè%á Èí çáòí Ì Õèðáðí è áðí %èí í áí á÷èè Ì ðèáðááí èòèí á. Žèí •èž %á èç%áèí áá %á Ì í ñáòá Ì áí á÷èí % í á%ñí áðí è%á Ì í ñáòá ñòðáí í %çáí \$ è í á èáèí %á áí ðáí í á áèáñó. Ì í %á ðáèáí áá žá í áí á÷èá çáñòóí áòè èí ðáðáñá í áðá çáí \$ á í ðáá í á•óí áðí áí èí Õèí áí ñè%ñèè èí ñòèòóòè%áí á è áèòè ááðáí ó çá ðáí ðí ðáðí èðáçèá áóáí áá ÑÐÈ. Ì í ñááí á ñáðááçèá áí áí áí ðáí á %á ñá Ì í èðá%èí Ì í Ñáááðí á ðá%á à -Ááñó Õáèè%á.

The Second Phase: Our entire original mission and goals had to be changed practically overnight. The overriding task became to defend the truth about the war, to help the Serbian cause and to fight the ever increasing and intensifying defamation of the Serbian name and character. Various public relations activities, humanitarian and other demands on the organization and its members became overwhelming. We were not prepared for this; we lacked mature leadership, resources and unity within the overall Serbian Diaspora; and we increasingly realized that we had also a serious problem with the strategy (if any) and the poor conduct of the civil war by the Serbian leadership in Belgrade. It became apparent that the Belgrade government had retained most of the old communist structures and ideas and was conducting the war not in defense of national interest, but its own. Thus, long before the Dayton Accords took place, the leadership of the Serbian Unity Congress recognized the inevitable imperative: the regime must be urgently changed and a democratic government established in Belgrade for the sake of national survival. So our Mission became enormously enlarged, demanding and complex with the addition of this problem.

Considering tremendous limitations and great odds against our efforts, the Serbian Unity Congress has on balance done well in regard to all of the aforementioned goals. We truly should be proud of our many real, as well as intangible accomplishments.

The Current Phase: While we still have certain unfinished business from the previous phase, we now are practically back to the beginning. We have in a way completed a full circle. This means that our mission and goals are to reorganize ourselves to accomplish our original aims - - (a) preserving our national heritage among the Serbian Diaspora and fighting against our proven propensity for rapid assimilation into new cultures and people and (b) renewing our plans to earnestly assist the transition to democracy, freedom and national unity in the Homeland.

To these worthy and challenging goals, we must add one additional, the "unfinished business" from the previous phase. A decade long, unprecedented propaganda about the Yugoslav civil war and shameless defamation of essentially everything that is Serbian by well-heeled and relentless Serbian foes have incalculably damaged our people and now threatens their future. The truth about the Yugoslav catastrophe and our people must be presented and revealed. We also must continue to defend legitimate Serbian interests.

CONCLUSION

For all its limitations, missed opportunities and certain inadequacies, the Serbian Unity Congress has done a lot of good and worthwhile things in its existence. Its original mission and its original lofty goals, however, remain unfinished at this time. We who started and kept going this modern Serbian odyssey are a lot older and many of us are tired. Can we summon our residual energies and will to re-orient the organization to its original goals and to bequest it to younger leadership? This is the question before us. To move the Serbian Unity Congress forward from here is in the final analysis the individual responsibility of each one of us. Nonetheless, please bear in mind, that without compassion and consideration and concern for our suffering Homeland, we Serbs will not have a true community, neither in spirit nor reality.

Miroslav Djordjevic
March, 2001

12th CONVENTION - BELGRADE - SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2001

The following Resolution is the direct result of a position paper submitted by Fr. Irinej Dobrijevic, Executive Director of the Office of External Affairs of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada. In tandem with the research of Nuclear Physics, Dr. Vojin Joksimovich. Fr. Irinej Dobrijevic sits on the International Task Force of the Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of the Churches in the USA. For further information, please visit www.oea.serbian-church.net

The Resolution of the Executive Board
of the National Council of the Churches Of Christ in the USA

ON MILITARY ACTION INCLUDING THE USE OF DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN YUGOSLAVIA

Adopted February 27, 2001

WHEREAS the Executive Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, concerned with the good estate of God's creation, acknowledges that the environment is given unto our common stewardship. In order to be effective stewards, no one can act in isolation of or outside the realm of divine harmony in God's created world, including governments and military powers.

and

WHEREAS the harm caused to the environment by military action of all nations is well known and causes damaging consequences for present and future generations. Since we are a church council in the United States of America we are aware of these examples of US military damage to the environment that includes, but is not limited to: the recent NATO bombings of Yugoslavia; the testing of atomic bombs in the South Pacific Marshall Islands; the dropping of atomic bombs in Japan during World War II; the extensive use of "agent orange" in the Vietnam War; the use of depleted uranium (DU) to expedite the Gulf War; the fallout from the continued bombing of Iraq and the environmental damage; the adverse health affects attending the naval bombing of the island Vieques in Puerto Rico; and the toxic wastes left behind by the former US military bases in the Philippines.

and

WHEREAS the almost daily NATO attacks on the chemical and petrochemical plants, pharmaceutical factories, refineries, fuel storage tanks, and the electric power grid have caused numerous industrial accidents throughout Yugoslavia. Chemical substances, including depleted uranium (DU), have been released, and cause perilous consequences to human, plant and animal life. Substantial quantities of ammonium and ammonium elements, oil and oil derivatives, acids, and alkali have leaked into rivers-including the Danube River, Europe's most important waterway, which runs almost 2,000 miles through 11 countries, providing drinking water for some 10 million people

and

WHEREAS the Hague Appeal for Peace* calls for mechanisms to assess the impact of new weapons (e.g. depleted uranium) and technologies and to determine if new weapons violate international law. Depleted uranium weaponry has been listed among weapons of "mass destruction or with discriminate effect" by the United Nations Human Rights subcommittee on the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities. **

Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA:

- * Calls upon the United States and the international community to address the issue of banning the production, transfer and use of depleted uranium weapons and technologies.
- * Deplores the damage that the NATO bombing caused to the environment and the people of Yugoslavia;
- * Calls upon all NATO countries to repair the damage done to the environment and the people of Yugoslavia and calls upon the United States to lead in this effort in the spirit of the Marshall Plan after World War II.

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA:

- * Requests member communions of the NCCC to consider affirming this resolution.
- * Requests Church World Service and Witness to explore ways that it might participate in the restoration of the environment of Yugoslavia.
- * Requests the Education and Advocacy Committee of CWSW, the Faith and Order Commission of the NCCCC, and the Eco-Justice Working Group to explore the faith and ethical challenges brought about by war and warfare, small arms and conventional weapons, as well as new military technologies and weapons especially depleted uranium.

Recommended Resolution: Eco-Justice Working Group February 5, 2001

Policy Basis: Pillars of Peace, November, 1999

*Hague Appeal for Peace is a coalition of civil society organizations which held a peace conference at the Hague, Netherlands, on May 11-15, 1999.

**Paragraph is quoted from The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st. Century. The Hague Appeal for Peace is highlighted in the resource "Building a Culture of Peace with Justice" developed for Peace with Justice Week 2000, CWSW-NCC

MILITARISM AND ECOLOGY: NATO ECOCIDE IN SERBIA - Conclusion

By Vojin Joksimovic

Who Is Going to Clean-up Serbia?

Joan McQueeney Mitric has raised this issue [Mitric WP, 2000]. "Serbia, whose per capita income has fallen below that of Albania, long the poorest country in Europe, cannot....if we target factories, power plants and the rest of the infrastructure of modern society, we should be prepared to take responsibility for the environmental consequences."

The EU and unilateral U.S. sanctions have created an economic and humanitarian disaster in Serbia. Primary health care institutions lack most of the basic and essential medications. 70% of medications that used to be routinely found are nowhere to be found. Obtaining a simple blood count has become unavailable in more than half of healthcare centers. Old people have no means to purchase medications due to minuscule pensions. Early detected cancer cases have dropped from 35% in 1990 to 13%. In January, over 2000 people died from flu pandemic which doctors in non-sanctioned countries were able to treat [Veljovic, 2000]. These facts listed illustrate that indeed Serbia has no resources for cleanup of NATO ecocide. The Serbian Institute of Public Health (IPH) is fully aware of the risks posed to the public health but financial means are lacking.

UNEP BTF has prepared a feasibility study for urgent cleanup of above mentioned four hot spots [UNEP, 2000]. The cleanup is justified on humanitarian grounds. The budget requested is \$19 million. This proposed budget should be viewed as grossly inadequate and makes sense only as a starter. Confirmed pledges have been received from Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. Countries expressing interest to assist are Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Sweden. France and the U.K are contemplating [Slotte, 2000]. No U.S. and Canada! The countries which have caused 80-90% of the damage. Is it unreasonable to expect that countries that have caused the ecocide should have primary responsibility for cleanup?

Efforts of FOCUS countries are commendable. FOCUS has been implementing remediation works with respect to the mercury contamination in Pancevo as the top priority cleanup item. As a result, mercury in the wastewater canal has been

recovered. Most highly polluted soil has been treated with sulfur, excavated and shipped to Switzerland for treatment [Vukmirovic, July 2000]. Hence, regarding mercury Pancevo site has been cleaned up. Thus health consequences of released mercury now depend on the quantity which escaped into Danube and groundwater or the atmosphere. To my knowledge, no other cleanup activity is in progress at the time of this writing.

Conclusions

NATO's deliberate targeting and destruction of the environment in Serbia and the wider Southeast European region represents a new and deeply troubling escalation of man's inhumanity to man. The evidence in place makes a compelling that innocent lives of existing and even future generations have been shortened as a direct result of NATO's actions. "Collateral damage" explanation does not stand up to scrutiny. Rather than criminal negligence only, my assertion is that, NATO through use of contemporary precision weapons has caused ecocide as a pro-active instrument of war policy.

There seem to be three main conclusions:

*In the short-term Serbia needs and is entitled to environmental clean-up and reconstruction aid from the NATO member states; the U.S. and Canada in particular. NATO has a moral duty to make good the illegal destruction it caused. By refusing to assist the Serbian people out of concern that this boosts Milosevic is a cop-out. Western aid would change the political dynamics in Serbia. The Serbian people would interpret this as a signal that the West was able to see beyond Milosevic. The impact on Milosevic's credibility would be swift and dramatic.

*The economic sanctions against the Serbian people must be lifted immediately. Yugoslavia must be allowed to rejoin international organizations it legitimately belongs to.

*For the longer term, the world public opinion must unite to identify ecocide as a crime against humanity on a level with genocide and other war crimes. It is an imperative that the civilized countries of the world, undertake never to use ecocide again.

BALKAN CRISIS TESTS EU DIPLOMATIC MUSCLE

Brussels, March 27, 2001 (Reuters) - A new round of blood-letting in the Balkans is testing the credibility of the European Union's much-vaunted common foreign policy and has already exposed some of its weaknesses, diplomats and analysts say. The 15-nation EU, anxious to show the United States it is willing to shoulder more political responsibility to reflect its economic might, has led international efforts to defuse the conflict in ex-Yugoslav Macedonia.

"We will strengthen our engagement (in the Balkans), while the United States will generally reduce its presence in the area," EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana told the Sunday edition of Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine* newspaper. "We're not talking about Taiwan or Latin America here, That's why we are called on to take responsibility," said Solana, who headed back to Macedonia on Monday for the third time in a week.

This stance broadly accords with plans in Washington to tilt U.S. policy away from Europe towards Asia, where the Bush administration faces challenges over North Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and China's emergence as a regional superpower.

