

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

AMERICA AND SERBIA BETWEEN CENTURIES

Every Christmas and every new year are occasions for serious and profound reflections. As I have endeavored to write to you this message, I was simply overwhelmed with ideas and memories. I decided to share some of them with you.

The twentieth century history began and ended with gun shots in Sarajevo. The First World War started as a clash of empires. As the guns fell silent, the German, Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires perished. The victors, led by the young and vibrant democratic United States of America, sought to establish an international structure based on "justice and liberty." They declared in Versailles "all peoples and nationalities...have the right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety." However, the Age of Empires gave birth to the Age of Ideologies. The rest of this incomparable century was to be entirely consumed by the most destructive clash of three ideologies: Democracy, Communism and Nazism.

In the Second World War, two of them would join to defeat the third - - Nazism. With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, as embodied in the United States of America as the sole remaining world power, "democratic internationalism" triumphed.

The end of the clash of ideologies brought a profound crisis in part of Europe and heralded the innermost contradictions of the victorious ideology as mirrored by developments in Yugoslavia. As a Young Republican in the early 1960s, I recall now, all those fervent debates about the American future after the fall of Communism. The major concern was whether America and her Western allies would be able to define and to decide on the true purpose of our western Civilization. Even now I remember the profound statement of Whitaker Chambers who had warned that America could lose the Cold War even while "winning" if in the process she came to embrace some of the same materialistic and collectivistic and imperialistic goals and values of the defeated ideology.

During the President Clinton administration this crisis in America and Europe was brought into full focus. Two events in his presidency have defined the essence of the crisis. Domestically, it was the sordid Lewinski affair; internationally, it was his handling of the Yugoslav Civil war 1991-1999. Both

instances are characterized by countless lies and a new, unprecedented insidiousness conscientiously and deliberately initiated and perpetuated by the President and his inner circle. Indeed, it was a period of Arrogance of Power and Deceit whose true and full consequences are yet to be observed.

The gun shots in Sarajevo at the beginning of the past century, as we noted, brought the end of the Age of Empires and ushered in the Age of Ideologies; but the gun shots fired in Sarajevo by the Bosnian Moslems on the wedding party, killing several Christian Serbs in early 1992, may have ushered in yet another age of conflict. It is the clash between the secular democratic internationalism of the West with the theology, primarily of Islam but possibly of Christianity itself. The cruel war in Bosnia may not be explained fully and adequately without taking into consideration its religious character as manifested by the professed goals of its leader and the first President of Bosnia, Alia Izetbegovic and unequivocal support by Islamic countries. It is no accident that Bosnia was used as the training ground for bin Laden's Al Quaeda terrorists who later expanded their deadly activities in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia and then struck at America herself.

Primarily because of the ineptness and sick passion to rule of her communist leader Slobodan Milosevich, Serbia became the main stage of this nascent and evolving struggle. The Serbs have paid an onerous price. Nonetheless, to blame Milosevich alone is not right; neither is it right to blame the Turks, Tito, Americans or Moslems. Serbia lost her path at the end of World War I as she lost her spiritual and traditional values and her very identity.

My hopes and prayers for these holidays and beyond are that both the Serbs and the Americans will find moral courage and inner integrity to face this myriad of grave and, indeed, existential issues in the right manner and to seek right answers. To quote one of our distinguished members and past president of the San Diego Chapter, Dr. Samuel J. Mikolaski, "all this points to the fact that core issues are as much theological and ethical as they are political and economic. Without spiritual change there is no hope that purely political and economic measures can renew the nation. This calls for spiritual renewal - - renewal of the civic culture which is based upon re-commitment to Christian Kingdom principles."

None of us who read these lines shall see the end of this century. But let's pray that America and Serbia will, that they will be at peace with themselves and the world and that they will still celebrate Christmas, the Fourth of July and Saint Sava Day.

I wish you happy holidays and all the best in the New Year.
Miroslav Djordjevich

EDITORIAL

ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

How many times do we hear people say about negative conditions or difficult situations: "what can I do?" Yet, the histories of nations and public and private lives of individuals are abundant with instances of people who stood up and successfully fought for their beliefs and/or universal principles. The recent situation relative to aid

from the United States to Yugoslavia provides such an example:

The Appropriations Committee of the United States House of Representatives, which originates spending for the USA government, recently passed a bill for funding of monetary aid

to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Foreign Appropriations Bill #2506). Out of \$145 million, only \$85 million was allocated to Serbia and \$60 million to Montenegro. The bill went to the Senate for concurrence.

In the past, the Senate led by Senators Dole, Biden, Liberman and others was more hostile to the Serbs than the House. However, once again one man stood up, determined to correct this wrong.

Senator George Voinovich gathered evidence, did his homework and forcefully threw his hat into the Senate ring. He believed that the House version was detrimental to further reforms and improvements in Yugoslavia, and that it sent a very wrong message to the Montenegrin secessionists. Senator Voinovich delivered his well-articulated arguments on the Senate floor, convinced some key senators, such as Senator Helms, to support him and softened those Senators who had hitherto displayed more hostility. In the end, the Senate put forth

its own version which was much more favorable to Serbia.

On November 14, 2001, the House and Senate conferees met to consider the differences between the two versions of the Foreign Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2002. It was agreed that Serbia would receive \$115 million, as well as an additional \$43 million for debt relief for Yugoslavia. Apparently, Montenegro's share was reduced from \$60 million to \$30 million. (In fact, there was really no mention in the Conference Report of the specific amount being directed toward Montenegro.)

So when we think about giving up and asking, "what can I do?" remember that a handful of votes in Florida elected the President of the United States of America last year. Also, think what Senator Voinovich alone was able to accomplish.

Yes, indeed, each individual counts, if he or she wants to be counted.

EXCERPTS FROM "DANAS" (12/26/2001)

57th Anniversary of Liquidation of 105 Citizens of Belgrade THAT, WITHOUT JUDGMENT AND WITHOUT RIGHT TO MARK GRAVE

On 27th November 1944, exactly 57 years ago, the daily newspaper published a list of 105 people who have been executed. The citizens of Belgrade were terrified. This happened during the night in secrecy. The victims from the list were liquidated without any court hearings and establishment of their guilt. Among them were a number of university professors, poets, actors, media people and about ten former government ministers.

This execution of 105 people signified the beginning of communist terror on the disarmed and helpless people of Serbia. According to a very conservative estimate of Major Tresnjica, the commandant of OZNA (Secret Police), at least 10,000 people were summarily executed in Belgrade. The major is still alive and resides in

Belgrade. The real number is probably around 30,000. Throughout Serbia, there were tens of thousands of people murdered. The victims were thrown into pits, many were thrown into the rivers and some were buried in the forests of Topcider, Kosutnjak and Avala.

What was the goal of this insane program? It is clearly discernible, by whom the sword of the "liberators" cut the first. Mowed down by machine guns and the guns of the red liquidators were Serbian students, known merchants and businessmen from downtown Belgrade, a number of philanthropists and successful farmers. The new system had to destroy the upper and middle classes. They knew they were breaking the backbone of Serbia by accomplishing this, and most likely erasing its modern history.

In all civilized countries of the world, there has been a radical break with the autocratic and dictatorial past of Nazism, Communism and Chauvinism. In our country, however, the democratic government and most politicians, as well as a segment of intellectuals, have remained silent.

Today, on the anniversary of when the communist hatred reached its climax, the democratic movement "APEL 50" is not asking for any compensation, but rather wants to convey to the citizens and people that in democracy justice is obtainable and the responsibility of the government is inescapable.

"APEL 50" is an association of citizens' own governmental movement which is fighting for democracy and truth. It demands from the governments of Serbia and Yugoslavia and of their respective parliaments to reveal and inform the people of Serbia that all of those who had been massacred without legal establishment of any crime during the communist oppression are innocent until evidence is shown to the contrary.

Prijesda Popovic, Attorney
President of Association of "APEL 50"

Excerpts from

Terror Money Hard To Block, Officials Find

Al Qaeda Has Created Vast and Murky Web

By Kurt Eichenwald

....To support Al Qaeda, some operatives work like organized crime crews. Government officials exploring Al Qaeda's operation in Bosnia found operatives skimmed money from humanitarian charities and linked up with Bosnian crime bosses. The success in Bosnia made it a model for Al Qaeda to use in embattled countries around the world....

....Al Qaeda both produces and profits from mayhem. After the organization's creation in Afghanistan, Mr. bin Laden recognized that global unrest presented it with opportunities to expand its influence, as well as pump its financial machine.

Years of bloodletting in Bosnia, for example, allowed Al Qaeda to establish a beachhead in central Europe, government officials said. When the United States guided three rival Balkan states to a peace accord at a

meeting in Dayton, Ohio, in 1995, the stage was set for Al Qaeda and other militant group. "Various very militant groups who were mujahedeen-connected were involved in the Bosnia campaign and took advantage of the Dayton peace accords to set up shop." in the Balkans, one former intelligence official said. "They found a very hospitable environment," when a portion of Bosnia was placed in the hands of the Muslims.

The bin Laden financial machine blossomed, according to officials who have been informed of intelligence information on the matter. Charities around the Arab world proclaimed that they were raising money for humanitarian purposes in Bosnia, but in fact portions benefited Islamic extremist groups in the area, including Al Qaeda.

Militants linked to Al

Qaeda also established connections with Bosnian organized crime figures. According to officials who have seen intelligence reports on the matter, Al Qaeda and the Taliban found a route for the trafficking of heroine from Afghanistan into Europe through the Balkans.

Their presence in Bosnia proved so successful for Al Qaeda operatives, officials said, that it became an "off-the-shelf" model for fund-raising and recruitment used by the terrorist organizations again and again - in Kosovo, Albania, and Chechnya.

"There is a vast criminal network of these operating throughout Europe, that provides these groups with the financial revenue to buy military equipment," one former intelligence official said. "It is narco-terrorism all intertwined with organized crime"....

The New York Times, December 10, 2001

WILLIAM VLADIMIR JOVANOVICH BURIED IN COLORADO

On December 11, 2001, Bill Jovanovich was laid to rest at the oldest cemetery in Denver. At his express wish he wanted to be buried next to his father Ilija, at this modest cemetery for the early Serbian immigrants which is in the blue collar and industrial district of Denver.

Bill Jovanovich was born in a coal field camp in Colorado and as a child he absorbed from his father, a miner, and his Montenegrin friends the epic history of the Serbs of Montenegro fighting against the Turks. Bill attended school in Colorado, receiving a scholarship at the University in Colorado and then moving on to Harvard and Columbia University. He served as a naval officer in WW II. He had a stellar business career as Chairman of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, a major publishing house in the United States.

Bill Jovanovich never forgot his Serbian roots and the admiration for his father, as expressed beautifully in his book "Serbdom". Here is a man who reached the pinnacle of success in the American business and intellectual world, but who wanted to be buried next to his father in a modest immigrant cemetery. The burial service was conducted by Father Joseph of the Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, the same church the young Bill attended with his father. The burial took place on a sunny, crisp winter day, typical for Colorado. The two tomb stones of the father and son are facing the snow capped Rocky Mountains reminding them of their roots in Brda in Montenegro.

The burial was attended by Bill's widow Martha and her granddaughter, as well as Bill's sister Millie, a resident of Colorado. Present were also several childhood friends of Bill and his Serbian friends and admirers.
Vecna mu Pamjat!

Zika Petrovich

Washington Chapter Celebrated S.U.C. Slava St. Archangel Michael

The Washington Chapter organized for the first time celebration of the S.U.C. slava. By all accounts it was a great success. The celebration took place in our spacious and elegant church building acquired few months ago in Potomac, Maryland. Our priest blessed the gathering and cut "slavski kolac". Our Chapter envisaged the celebration as a cocktail and fund raising event. In spite of bad weather, cold and rainy evening, about one hundred people came, including Ambassador of BiH, Mr. Davidovic and Charge d' Affaires of the Yugoslav Embassy, Mr. Zivkovic, with their spouses and other embassy staff.

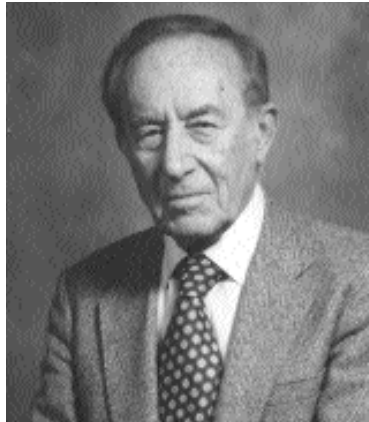
When organizing the event we had in mind unique position of our chapter, being in the nation's capitol, and the need to make our presence in the Serbian community in Washington area more visible. The event was organized by Ms. Dragana Krstic, Secretary of the Washington Chapter and myself. At the entrance hall donations were collected and information on the S.U.C. including membership forms were distributed. All the forms were taken and we do hope that this would contribute to better understanding of the S.U.C.'s main goals, while the membership should be expected to increase.

It was very encouraging for us to receive so many favorable reactions and we hope that the slava celebration after the good start is now well established for the years to come. However, next time we will need to broaden our invitation list and focus on inviting officials from Congress, various institutes and NGOs.

Miroslava Jovanovic
President of the
Washington Chapter

Ī ī ī ž öðêâè è øēī èè ó Ī èī í èöè

Āī ðààāžè ó Ńðáèĵè ñâī ðâī áðà ī ââ
āī àèī ā ĵââāī ī ä ī ñī èàà÷à Ēī í ãðãñà
ñðī ñēī ā óĵââèèâœà, āī ñī ī àèī
Āðãāī ñèàâ Ēī ð•ââèž çàĵâāī ī ñà
ñèī ī ī Ī èðī ñèàāī ī ī áèðâī ĵâ
Ī èī í èöè, ī ãñòī çà èī ĵâ âà ââçóĵ
óñī ī ī áī á èç äâðèœñðâà. Ī á•ó ðèī
óñī ī ī áī àī à ĵâ œâāī ā ñõñðâð, èâī
ââ÷âèà ñà āī ĵâī āī ī Æèâī ĵèī ī ī Ī èøèžâī .



Āī ñī ī àèī Ēī ð•ââèž ī ī ī áèèâñèó çàâè÷âĵâ, í àðī ÷èòī
Ī èī í èöè, èçðâçèī ĵâ æâš ó àà ī ī ī ī āī ā ī āī ī ī ãñòó, èī à÷â
ī ī āī •áī ī ī ĵâèèī çâī šī ððãñī ī ī ðã í áèī èèèī āī àèī à. Ēèâī àâ
èœèââ "Ī ðáèī āī ðà è ī ī ðà" ĵâ áèèâ äâèèèè ī ðãâī ðò ĵâāī ī ā
èī ðãðãñī àâœà.

Çàðōī ĵâ øēī èà ó Ī èī í èöè āī áèèâ ĵâāī ī èðâðī ó ī ī ã÷âī ó ī ī ī ī ž
ī ā āī ñī ī àèī à Ēī ð•ââèžâ èī ĵè ĵâ í áèàââ áèī •àè øēī èâ.

Óç óī, āī ñī ī àèī Ēī ð•ââèž ĵâ ī ðãâèī æèī, à ī ī ðèèī ñèâ àèâñòè
è äèðâèðī ð øēī èâ ñà çàðââèī ī øžó ī ðèðââðèèèè, àâ ī ī áóââ
ñī ī ī çī ð ī ðòī āī àèðœââ èī í èóðñà çà í àĵâī š è äâ÷èĵè ñãñðââ ī
Ńâ. Ńââè èī ĵè áè ñâ ī ðãâī èçī ââī ñââèâ āī àèī á. Ī ī áâāī èè áè
āī áèī ī ī ã÷âī ó í ãððââó ī à 100 àī áðè÷èèò āī èàðà, øðī ĵâ çà
ââóó ó Ī èī í èöè ĵââèī ñòâāī ñèó÷âĵ

Ī ī èðâī óó ī āī ī èâī ī ī èââĵī, Óī ðãâī è ī áâī ð Ēī í ãðãñà
ñðī ñēī ā óĵââèèâœà, èī ĵè áè ī áóðââðâī è äððââ øēī èâ øèðī ī
Ńðáèĵâ, ī āī áðèī ĵâ ī ðī ĵâèò ó èī ĵèī à áè ñâ ī ðãâī èçī ââèè
ñèè÷ī è èī í èóðñè.

Çàâóæáèī à "Ńðóââī èòà" í à ÷âèó ñà āī ñī ī àèī ī ī Ī èðī ñèàāī ī
Ēī ð•ââèžâī ñà ñâī ĵâ ñððâī á, ī ī èèī í èèâ ĵâ 2.000 àī áðè÷èèò
āī èàðà öðèâè ó Ī èī í èöè çà ī ī ÷âðâè Òðãñèī ñèèèâœà.

Ī èī í è÷èâ öðèââ ĵâ ī ī ÷âðâ ñà áðââœī ī 1856. āī àèī á è
çàâððâī à 1858, äâèèâ ñòâðâ ĵâ áâè è ī ī, àèè í âī à ī ī ī āī
ī ī äâðâèâ ī œī ĵñ ī áçèðī ī àâ í âī à ñâ÷ââāī èð èâðī ī èñâ. Çī à
ñâ àâ ĵâ àèâāī ī ðèī áð áóðâī ðè÷ī á ñðī ñèâ äððèòâèðððâ
Ī ī ðããñèī -ðàðèâ øēī èâ.

More Evidence of Terrorist Roots in the Former Yugoslavia

On December 14, 2001, the U.S. Treasury Department froze the assets of two Islamic "charities." One, Global Relief, is located in Chicago, while another similar "charity" operated in Texas. Its assets frozen a week before. Based on "credible intelligence information," it is believed that they were funneling money to al Qaeda and Palestinian terrorist networks. Both foundations raised \$8.5 million last year.

Interestingly enough, the lead for the FBI raids in Chicago and Texas came from far away. The action of the authorities in America resulted from a NATO-led raid on Global Relief's offices in Pristina, Yugoslavia. According to Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle, the NATO police detained several people "on suspicion that they are linked to the international terrorism."

Mr. Richard H. Solomon
President
United States Institute of Peace
1200 - 17th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

December 4, 2001

Dear Mr. Solomon,

In his recent interview with VOA Mr. Daniel Serwer, Director of Balkan Initiative at your Institute, made incorrect statement with regard to the US policy towards Yugoslavia. His interview was immediately cited in the renown daily newspaper in Montenegro "Pobjeda". The internet edition of the article (enclosed), printed on November 30, 2001, quoted Mr. Serwer as follows: "I am not aware that United States has any interest in survival or in disintegration of Yugoslav federation. I also believe that present Yugoslavia actually does not exists." This statement is totally out of line since President George W. Bush as well as the State Department have emphasized in a number of occasions that they want the preservation of Yugoslav federation.

Mr. Serwer's public statement is not only factually incorrect, but is deliberately misleading in particular to the people of Montenegro at this politically sensitive time when a referendum is in sight. While Mr. Serwer is entitled to his personal views, his public statement as director in the Institute funded by the US Government, brings into question his professional attitude and capacity to perform in his current position at the Institute.

Sincerely,
Miroslava Jovanovic
President of Washington Chapter
Serbian Unity Congress

UNITED INSTITUTE OF PEACE
December 27, 2001

Dear Mrs. Jovanovic,

I am responding to your Dec. 4 letter to Dr. Richard Solomon, President of the Institute, in which you took issue with some of Daniel Serwer's comments about US policy on Yugoslavia in an interview with VOA.

As you may be aware, Dr. Serwer was expressing his own views, not those of the Institute, which is independent of the administration and does not advocate specific policies or positions. While I did not hear the interview, it's my understanding that Dr. Serwer explicitly stated up front that this were his personal views and not those of the US Institute of Peace.

Following this letter is a fact sheet about the Institute and its mandates. We appreciate your interest in our efforts to help bring peace to the nations and peoples of the world and I encourage you to contact me with any further comments or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,
John Brinkley,
Director of Public Outreach

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Dear SUC:

I just published a book, entitled *Eight O'Clock Blues*. I am using the pen name, Candy Stevans, because it's about how one employee challenged a corporate giant and suffered the consequences. At the time of its publication, I was still in the automotive environment and wanted to keep my name confidential.

My book is available through Amazon.com. It is still not on Barnes and Noble's system, nor Borders'. So if members want to order it from Barnes and Noble or Borders, they may have to wait a couple of weeks.

Sincerely,
Anna Kutlich

Editorial Reviews - Book Description

Eight O'Clock Blues brings to light the mental and emotional cruelty imposed on an automotive giant's employees during the late 70s and focuses on the trials and tribulations of Sophia, who gets caught up in the vicious world of automotive bureaucracy, and is plagued in her personal life with her inability to find true love. Reared by religious parents in a modest environment, Sophia is at odds with people who are governed by stature and wealth rather than ethics.

About the Author

Candy Stevans worked for two of the big three automakers before acquiring a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in Journalism from Oakland University. She was a free-lance writer for the Oakland Press and also wrote for Leo Burnett Advertising. She lives in Michigan.

Serbian Unity Congress is the organization of Serbs and their friends in the Diaspora.

It was established in 1990. Its main goals are:

1. To sustain and nurture the Serbian heritage, culture and identity of Serbs in the Diaspora;
2. To garner the talents, experiences and abilities of all Serbs and their friends abroad in order to help economic, social, cultural and other positive changes towards a free political system and a moral society in Serbian lands;
3. To inform public opinion and key policymakers in the world about the true goals and aspirations of the Serbian people, as well as to endeavor to re-establish the Serbian good name and image damaged by the events of the past decade of relentless defamation.

S. U. C. Bulletin - Printed by the Central Office

Jelena Kolarovich, Director

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S.U.C. yearly membership: Single \$50 & Family \$75

Make a gift - sign up a family member or friend. Help us increase our membership!

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