

UPDATE ON S.U.C. KEY 2002 PROJECTS

Our support of the democratic changes in Serbia

Project #5

Report of the Project leader
Sofija Skoric

The SUC supported for a long time, actually from our very founding, development of democracy in Serbia, believing this to be the only road for a prosperous future of the Serbian people. On this new road to democracy we can help and we should help. I always believed that we, Serbs in Diaspora, should help our mother country whenever possible, with our expert knowledge, professional advice and very practical help. Providing humanitarian help is great and we should continue, but for how long will the Serbian nation depend only on foreign aid and our charities?

Thanks to the special financial support of the Canadian International Developmental Agency (CIDA), who provided a grant of \$ 100.000, I was given an opportunity to head the project of modernizing the Federal Parliament Library in Belgrade. As you may remember, the Parliament building was stormed by the people on October 5, 2000 and a great damage was done by vandalism and fire. It is very unfortunate that this occurred but we have to be grateful that at that dramatic time Serbian blood was not spilled.

The Parliamentary Library was partially burned and books and periodicals destroyed. In addition the Library had no computers, no connection to the world, and due to poverty no new or foreign books. The CIDA grant provided for technological improvements, new reference books and for proper training of the staff. I spent seven weeks working in that Library, thanks to the University of Toronto Library that granted me the paid leave. The first phase is done and I expect to go back in September to finalize the project.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was also actively supporting this project especially in the badly needed training of the staff. They sent me to Montenegro in order to make the evaluation and recommendation for the Montenegro Parliament Library. I am hopeful that this fall we will be able to establish proper services, establish cooperation between Belgrade and Podgorica, as well as make connection with the rest of the world.

In the new democracy in Serbia and Montenegro, transparency is extremely important, so that the people in power and those representing the people in the parliament do take proper responsibility for their actions and proper credits for their achievements. In this new way of life, libraries, especially parliamentary libraries, have a great role to play in disseminating information and literature.

As a vice president of the SUC and someone who is greatly interested in providing a cultural bridge between Serbian people and our adopted countries, I am very happy to have this opportunity of providing a concrete and valuable professional help. Also I had chance to talk to the Serbian people and to give interviews for "Politika", "Glas Javnosti" and the Belgrade Television.

Under the leadership of our Board Director and Treasurer Mirjana Samardzija and able assistance of our Belgrade Office Director, Slavka Draskovic, a substantial progress has been achieved in setting up a framework for a modern association of women in Serbia. The report follows.

VIZIJA I AKCIJA, VIA - Vision and Action)

Vizija I Akcija, VIA is a non-governmental organization which has been created to optimize the role of women as a resource in the building of the nation's future. VIA was registered as an NGO with the Ministry of Justice in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on July 12, 2001.

VIA's Mission is to facilitate the increased involvement of Serbian women in the building of a democracy, civil society and economic reconstruction. Also, it will help Serbia's regional reintegration and efforts toward peace and reconciliation. VIA plans to put to work the most concentrated sources of women's capabilities, the professional women of Serbia. To achieve its mission, VIA will:

- a) Establish women's professional associations;
- b) Create networking mechanisms and multidisciplinary approaches to problem assessment and solving; and
- c) Build a broad base of support among women with accessible media such as a woman's journal, web site, etc.

Organization - Its organization will have headquarters in Belgrade with regional centers in major cities of Serbia. An interdisciplinary council with representatives from the professional associations will prioritize issues and approaches to resolving them. A Diaspora network will serve as a bridge to international organizations and activities and reintegrate Serbian women professionally and individually into the international professional community by participation in various conferences, associations, internships, mentorships, etc. An International Advisory Board comprised of women from around the globe from key women's organizations, foundations, politics, etc. will guide and mentor the organization. VIA's membership will consist of associations as well as individuals in Serbia and abroad. YOU CAN ALSO JOIN.

VIA plans to procure financing for its operations from a number of sources: foundations, membership dues, corporate sponsors, foreign government programs, its journal subscriptions and sales, Resource Center revenues, and journal and web-site ads, and YOU.



Project # 4

VALUABLE MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT IS ADDED TO THE BLAGO FUND ARCHIVE

The Serbian Unity Congress Blago Fund team, headed by **Nenad Vukicevic**, Director of the Board, visited the Manasija Monastery and its library where they discovered a priceless medieval manuscript. The first copy of the manuscript has been digitalized and will be added to the Blago Fund Archive.

Last year the Manasija Monastery received from SUC computer equipment to facilitate their library cataloging.

Project # 2

The Serbian Business Handbook

Edita Kronic, Director of the Board reports that work is moving along. The project is important, since Serbian business people have been isolated due to sanctions and a war for a decade, and, moreover, still suffer from the legacy of communism. The dictionary is aimed at the small and medium size companies in the Serbian private sector. It will have basic business concepts and terms, as well as explanations of words used in the current business world.

Project #3

BE A DONOR! PARTICIPATE IN THE RENEWAL OF SERBIAN SPIRITUALITY AND MORALITY! LITERARY COMPETITION DEDICATED TO SAINT SAVA'S LEGACY

With the blessing of the Serbian Patriarch His Holiness Pavle and the Holy Sinod, the Serbian Unity Congress announces a literary competition for the best essay dedicated to Saint Sava and his teachings. Starting from 2002/2003, selected schools in the territory of the former Yugoslavia will participate in the competition for the next three years, with the aim of the renewal of Serbian youths' spirituality and national awareness. Over the duration of the program, some 50,000 young Serbs will learn about Saint Sava and the legacy he left us.

BACK TO YOUR OWN ROOTS

The Serbian Unity Congress is asking its members and the Serbian community at large, to financially help this program by becoming a donor. For one time donation of US \$ 300, a donor can nominate the school where he/she wants the award to go to. The donated funds will be placed in the special fund named after this donor (or In Memoriam), and from which the award will be delivered for the next three years.

Saint Sava's Award, amounting to US\$ 100, together with a special SUC Charter with the name of the individual donor, will be presented to the award winner on the Saint Sava's Day. Donor does not need to be a member of the Serbian Unity Congress, and will have the opportunity to personally deliver the award. In his absence, a donor can nominate a relative or a friend to present the award. Several donors can join to provide one or more awards. A donor that provides the greatest number of awards will receive a special Serbian Unity Congress Saint Sava's Charter.

RULES

Competition participants can be all the pupils of the last grade of primary or secondary schools (osnovna i srednja skola). The essay should not exceed 700 words and must be written in Cyrillic letter. A special jury selected by the school and the Serbian Unity Congress will decide on the competition winner for selected school. The Award cannot be shared and only one Award will be presented to one school. The winning essay must be read in public, before other pupils and, if possible, published in a local newspaper. A copy of the text must be delivered to the Serbian Unity Congress, which has the right to publish the awarded text.

For any further information relating to this competition, feel free to contact the Serbian Unity Congress Board, Ms. Sofija Skoric (416-503-8334) and Mr Kosta Papic (330-753-0052) or you can call the Central Office at (818) 902-9903.

Saint Sava Literary Competition

Herewith I would like to apply as a donor for the next three years

Donor

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

The school I would like to nominate is:

City:

I would not like to nominate the school, but to select the location:

I nominate my relative/friend to make the presentation:

I leave it up to S.U.C. Board to select the school and the location:

I send the check with the amount US\$ _____

VISA or Master Card: #

Exp.Date:

Date:

Signature:



Initial St. Sava Essay Donors for 2003

I Muska - Belgrade - Mike Djordjevich
II Muska - Belgrade - Boba Stefanovich
III Muska - Belgrade - Dr. Mihailo Petrovich

Srem Karlovci - George Kolarovich
Becej - Alex Dzigurski
Srbobran - Jelena Kolarovich
Mionica - Dragoslav Georgevic (2002)



June 17, 2002

Dear Delegates and Guests:

On behalf of the Chicago Chapter, I am pleased to welcome you to our city for the 12th Annual Convention of the Serbian Unity Congress. We are excited that the home of the largest Serbian population in the Diaspora will host the Convention which marks a new beginning for our organization.

As we celebrate the second anniversary of the significant date in our history when our Serbian brothers and sisters achieved a peaceful revolution to democracy, we know that much work is yet needed to improve the lives of the people in our Homeland. Serbian Unity Congress has remained a strong and active organization throughout these trying times for our people. This Convention will focus on the work ahead as we set a new direction for Serbian Unity Congress and all of the Diaspora. Because of the noteworthy contributions made by our organization since its inception, we are now able to reflect on over a decade of accomplishments as we establish our overall direction and our specific objectives for the future.

In addition, the Convention will attempt to provide a unique perspective of how we can direct our future activities by providing a platform for our young people. Only with their input and support can we continue our mission to preserve the Serbian identity in the Diaspora.

I look forward to working with you to make the 12th Annual Convention a great success for the future of the Serbian Unity Congress and our people.

Sincerely yours,

Desko Nikitovic, President
Serbian Unity Congress
Illinois Chapter



Serbian Unity Congress
12th Annual Convention

The New Beginning

October 4-6, 2002



Hyatt Regency O'Hare
9300 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue
Rosemont, Illinois 60018

Room Rate \$124
Make your own reservations
847 696-1234



Delegate & Guest Registration \$250

Full Registration includes:

- Friday Dinner
- Saturday Lunch
- Saturday Gala Dinner
- Delegate Folder with printed material
- Badge & Ad Book

No. of People _____ x \$250 _____

You may wish to order extra tickets for your family or friends

Lunch _____ x \$ 35 _____

Friday Dinner _____ x \$ 35 _____

Gala Dinner _____ x \$ 65 _____

Total _____

If you have credit from 2001 registration you can deduct the amount _____

If you wish to donate the credit to SUC, please mark here _____

TOTAL DUE _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE : _____ ZIP: _____

CHECK ENCLOSED: _____ CREDIT CARD: Visa or Master Card (Circle)

_____ Exp. Dt. ____/____

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

**Make checks payable and mail to S.U.C.
PMB 352 - 17216 Saticoy Street - Van Nuys, CA 91406 - (818) 902-9903**

12th ANNUAL CONVENTION COMMEMORATIVE AD BOOK CHICAGO, OCTOBER 4-6, 2002

TAKE PART IN THIS HISTORIC EVENT!

The Board of Directors of the Serbian Unity Congress acted upon the membership decision to organize the 12th Annual Convention in Chicago. This is a chance for all our members and friends to get together, analyze and discuss many issues. Our organization is dedicated to preserving our rich Serbian heritage through many projects. Every Serb can help us with our organization's purpose by participating in this year's Convention Ad Book. This year's Ad Book will be widely distributed. By placing an ad you are showing your support for the Serbian people and many successful efforts of the Serbian Unity Congress.

To purchase your ad please fill in the form below:

- 1 Enclose your check made out to Serbian Unity Congress or use your credit card
- 2 Please make copies and use a separate form for each ad
- 3 Your message can be in Serbian (Cyrillic) or English. Photos & artwork accepted
- 4 Send this form to the Central Office or fax to (818) 902-9891
- 5 If you have placed and paid for an ad last year, you will not be charged again, unless you wish to make changes to your ad

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE, FAX, E-MAIL: _____

YOUR MESSAGE:

BUSINESS

PRIVATE

COLOR \$50 Extra/Ad

Full Page	\$400
Half Page	\$200
Fourth	\$100
Eighth	\$ 75
Patron	\$ 50

Full Page	\$250
Half Page	\$125
Fourth	\$ 75
Eighth	\$ 50
Patron	\$ 30

Check Enclosed	_____
VISA	_____
MASTER Card	_____
Color	_____

Card # _____ Exp.Dt ____/____

Signature: _____

Mail to : Serbian Unity Congress
PMB 352 - 17216 Saticoy Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406

YOU CAN HELP
SERBIAN UNITY CONGRESS
BY APPLYING FOR THE

SERBIAN HERITAGE CREDIT CARD



The Serbian Unity Congress is pleased to announce that it has formed an agreement with MBNA Bank to produce a Master credit card directed specifically at Serbian people. The card will be known as the **Serbian Heritage** credit card.

EASY WAY TO DONATE AND SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS!

For every account that is opened and charged at least once, Serbian Unity Congress will get \$15.00.

CONTINUING SOURCE OF FUNDING!

Subsequently, for each purchase on the card the Bank will give to our organization approximately 1% of the order.

IT ALL ADDS UP!

Let's assume that 1,000 of our members sign up for the card, SUC will receive \$15,000

If each member spends/charges approximately \$5,000/yr on the card, SUC will receive \$50,000

MAKE A DECISION NOW TO HELP!

Sign for the card NOW. If you need additional applications, call our Central Office (818) 902-9903

To obtain a Serbian Heritage business card you need to call
1 888 655-6262

PROJECT # 6

Citizenship and voting rights of the Serbian Diaspora.

Over 14 Serb Diaspora organizations from Europe, Canada and the USA supported the initiative of the Serbian Unity Congress to extend basic rights to the Serbs in Diaspora. The letter was sent to President Kostunica, Premier Djindjic and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Goran Svilanovic. It was requested and recommended that the Homeland immediately undertakes steps to give all its people abroad passports, the right to vote and to be voted upon, and citizenship to all who want and can prove their origin. According to **dr. Jasmina Vujic**, SUC Member of the Board and one of the two representatives for America at the newly formed "Diaspora Council" in Belgrade, these recommendations were presented to the Council and were essentially accepted. They were later incorporated in the position paper and request to the Yugoslav and Serbian governments.

THE STUDENICA FOUNDATION DONATES A MODERN COMPUTER TO SERBIAN COMPOSERS

The Studenica Foundation donated a computer specially equipped for composing music to the Association of Composers of Serbia. Mrs. Slavka Draskovic presented the computer on behalf of the Endowment. Several distinguished composers attended the presentation, Mica Markovic, President of the Association, Kosta Babic, Rajko Maksimovic and Kornel Kovac.



Pipeline Linkage To Empower Russian Companies

Strategic Pipeline - 2 May 2002

Summary

Croatia and Russia have cut a deal to link two of their oil transport networks together. The agreement not only will increase the export capacity of Russian oil companies but also expand Russia's economic presence throughout the Balkans.

Analysis

The state-owned oil transport firms of Croatia and Russia, JANAF and Transneft, signed a final protocol April 29 to link their Adria and Druzhba oil pipeline networks together. The agreement now only awaits final approval from the five states involved in the networks' management. Croatia, Russia and Ukraine already have signed off on the changes, and approval from Belarus and Hungary is expected shortly.

Once formal approval is in hand, the actual process of linkage will be quite simple. The Adria line will need to be widened at a few strategic bottlenecks and the flow of oil reversed. Yukos, the Russian oil firm most interested in the project, believes its share of the total cost will be a mere \$20 million -- a pittance compared to the multi-billion dollar cost of building the original networks. These simple changes will redraw the region's energy map, allowing Russian companies to expand their presence by gobbling up local market dominance in the Balkans and global market share.

The agreement raises the possibility of direct, large-scale shipments of Russian oil to the United States. That is a particularly welcome development for a country seeking to reduce its energy dependence upon the ever-volatile Middle East and politically complicated Venezuela.

The Druzhba oil export network was built in the 1960s to supply the Soviet Union's satellite states in eastern Europe. Since the Soviet collapse, all of the former satellites have endeavored, with some success, to lessen their dependence upon Russian energy supplies. Western Europe, however, does not share this fear of Russian energy and has picked up much of the slack,

with Germany absorbing much of the spare capacity. Still, the Druzhba pumps at less than maximum capacity and Russian oil companies -- always a bit short of capital -- are continually seeking new markets.

The Adria network, by comparison, is an import network that supplies much of the former Yugoslavia.

Moscow has wanted to link the two sys-



tems since the Adria network was built in 1979. Initially, a then-united Yugoslavia opposed the linkage because it would have meant energy dependence on Moscow, something the "non-aligned" Yugoslavia strove to avoid. After the Soviet breakup, the Balkan wars shut down the bulk of the network for years, putting a halt to any serious linkage negotiations. More recently, the United States sought to limit Russian export opportunities as part of its efforts to promote Caspian energy export corridors through Georgia and Turkey. Since Croatia and Hungary were firm U.S. allies, it was easy for the United States to stall progress by applying diplomatic pressure.

The U.S.-Russian détente following Sept. 11 has changed this equation from both sides. First, the United States has largely gotten what it seeks in the

Caspian region, and construction on such large projects as the Baku-Ceyhan oil and Shah Deniz natural gas pipelines should begin this summer. Second, Washington has dropped its quiet opposition to Russian export routes, opening a number of doors to Russian companies.

The pending linkage of the networks is a quadruple coup for Moscow.

First, it would mean an almost wholesale switch for Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia from Middle Eastern to Russian oil supplies. Total oil demand for these states is approximately 250,000 barrels per day (bpd), a number expected to increase quickly as the states recover from the Balkan wars and queue up for European Union membership.

Second, the flow of the Adria will need to be reversed. This will give Russian producers permanent access to the Adriatic Sea. The agreement envisions initial average Russian exports of 90,000 bpd via the Croatian port of Omisalj, eventually ramping up to 275,000 bpd. That means more hard cash for Russian companies, more market share for Russia in general and more tax revenues for the Kremlin.

Third, Omisalj is a deepwater port capa-

ble of supporting ships larger than those that anchor in any Russian port, especially supertankers. Since Russian oil can compete on the U.S. market only when delivered in supertanker-sized quantities, the Adria-Druzhba linkage raises the possibility of Russia directly supplying the United States.

Finally, this mix of U.S. acquiescence, new export opportunities and access to the full Adria network gives Russian firms a leg up in competing for ownership of the region's dominant petroleum assets.

The two major players are LUKoil and Yukos. LUKoil already holds supply agreements with Yugoslavia's Pancevo

and Novi Sad refineries, and eventual ownership is now a strong possibility as Belgrade seeks to raise cash and impress the EU with its pro-market leanings. Meanwhile, Yukos on April 29 acquired a 49 percent stake in Slovakia's Transpetrol, which counts among its assets the Slovak section of the Druzhba pipeline. Such an asset is essential not only to expanding its presence in Central Europe, but in obtaining a network capable of directly supplying crude to Germany, the cash cow of European energy markets.

In the best case, this scenario even could lead to Russian participation in Italy's Trieste refining hub, located a mere 50 miles from the Omisalj.

While a rapid expansion in international holdings involves a certain level of risk, that risk is generally less in the countries where Russian companies are seeking acquisitions than it is on their own turf. Such growth therefore is not healthy only for the asset lists of LUKoil and Yukos, but for their overall cashflow and corporate performance. As Russian firms develop and grow their participation in global energy markets, they will become stronger players that ultimately could challenge both the Western supermajors and OPEC state-run producers alike.

A free country? *Daily Telegraph, London - 31/05/02*

This month, President Bush signed into law an Act that will ultimately force UK passport holders to be fingerprinted. The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act will ensure that everyone travelling to America must be "biometrically" scanned. A Biometric is an electronic scan of a body part. Governments believe it is far more accurate than conventional identification methods, such as a photo or identity papers.

Immigration departments in Europe and America are salivating at the prospect of biometric technology despite evidence that the technique is unreliable. The act does not specify whether the biometric should be a fingerprint, a retina scan or a handprint, but it makes clear that by 2003 all entry points to the US should be equipped with the technology to read such data.

The American legislation specifies a harmonious global approach to identification, but does not stop there. It

requires the transmission of passenger information prior to arrival in America, mandates increased questioning and security of travellers, and authorises a global information sharing system on all travellers.

The motivation behind the legislation may be commendable, but it carries enormous dangers for individual freedoms. A global identification and data system on all travellers will ultimately be linked to national security and police databases. Such systems are notoriously flawed. Both UK police and the FBI have been repeatedly criticised over the high level of inaccuracies in their intelligence systems.

At the moment, every traveller is considered a potential threat to security. If the intent of the US legislation becomes reality, authorities will have the power to carry out unaccountable and unfair practices on innocent travellers.

Israeli arms makers 'evaded UN embargo'

By STEFAN WAGSTYL - *Financial Times* (London) June 20, 2002

Israeli military equipment makers continued trading with companies controlled by the regime of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic right until the run-up to the Kosovo war, according to UN war crimes investigators.

The Israeli suppliers continued to do business with their Yugoslav-managed counterparts after the imposition of a United Nations arms embargo in March 1998, according to a report prepared for Carla del Ponte, the prosecutor at the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

The equipment supplied included night-vision sets, special goggles and armour plating for vehicles.

The deals highlight the difficulties of enforcing arms embargos, particularly for so-called dual-use technology - equipment which can be used for both military and civilian security purposes.

While embargos bind all UN members, their precise implementation is left to individual governments.

Israel has often been accused by arms trade campaigners of being flexible in its embargo enforcement. But Israeli government officials last night said that in the case of Yugoslavia policy had been "very tightly enforced".

The report lists 16 transactions totalling about Dollars

2m for the year between the start of sanctions and the beginning of Nato bombing in April 1999.

One involves a US group, Bell Helicopter Textron, which through its Dutch subsidiary carried out helicopter maintenance work worth Dollars 155,000.

Another concerns Aerodromos Aviation, a Cyprus company that was paid Dollars 795,000.

Four Israeli companies account for the remaining 14 deals. They are Elop, a subsidiary of Elbit, a diversified group, specialising in optical systems, Noga Lite, a privately-owned maker of night vision equipment, Afid SPE, which supplies goggles, and MDT Protective Industries, an armour plating maker.

These 16 transactions are only a small part of a complex web of financial links through which allies of Mr Milosevic diverted money from Yugoslavia into Cyprus-based trading companies that imported supplies, including equipment for the security services. Russia and Ukraine figured as major suppliers.

But these 1998-99 deals are particularly controversial because UN sanctions were then in force. The four Israeli companies declined to comment, as did Bell Helicopter. Aerodromos Aviation could not be contacted for comment.

Siemon Wezeman, an arms trade researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, said yesterday that dual-use technology was covered by embargos but individual governments were free to define what was banned as military equipment and what was not. Israel had in the past supplied equipment to states on which sanctions had been imposed, notably South Africa under apartheid, and more recently Sierra Leone. "It's a problem with Israel," said Mr Wezeman.

Ambassador Alan Baker, an Israeli foreign ministry legal adviser, said: "Israel has always taken Security Council decisions seriously and has always implemented them."

Holbrooke won't testify in open court

The Washington Times - June 13, 2002

The United States is refusing to permit Richard C. Holbrooke, former ambassador to the United Nations, to testify in open court before an international tribunal prosecuting former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, a State Department official said yesterday.

The official said Washington was demanding Mr. Holbrooke, the architect of the Dayton peace accords that ended Yugoslavia's wars of secession, and other former U.S. officials testify in a closed session before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia or not at all.

"They either won't testify or they will have to testify under these rules," the State Department official told *Agence France-Presse* on the condition of anonymity.

The official said the U.S. condition has been set to protect intelligence assets.

The Financial Times said the U.S. position also was based on fears that Mr. Holbrooke's appearance in open court would set a precedent for senior officials testifying before international courts like the coming International Criminal Court, which Washington ardently opposes.

The State Department official declined to discuss that aspect of the U.S. position. The International Criminal Court officially opens July 1.

The Financial Times also reported that negotiations over the testimony of Mr. Holbrooke and others had grown so difficult that the chief U.N. war crimes prose-

cutor, Carla Del Ponte, was considering not even calling him to the stand.

In The Hague, Mrs. Del Ponte's spokeswoman Florence Hartmann declined to comment on the report. "These are confidential matters," she said.

The official said secret negotiations over the testimony had been going on for some time under a so-called "silence procedure" — a way to keep discussions private under a temporary gag rule.

The silence procedure expired on Tuesday, the official said.

If the prosecutors fail to call Mr. Holbrooke as a witness, Mr. Milosevic himself could call him as a defense witness — meaning his testimony would be shaped far more by the accused, who is defending himself.

Meanwhile at the war crimes trial yesterday, Mr. Milosevic challenged the testimony of an American ambassador, reaching back to the Iran-Contra scandal of the late 1980s in an attempt to discredit the U.S. envoy.

Mr. Milosevic cross-examined William Walker, the former U.S. head of a Kosovo peacekeeping mission, about his testimony that he saw piles of bodies at Racak, a massacre that focused world attention on atrocities by Serbian forces.

As head of the mission for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the late 1990s, Mr. Walker was charged with monitoring human rights abuses.

Before joining the OSCE, Mr. Walker dealt with Central American issues at the State Department from 1985 to 1988 and later served as ambassador to El Salvador from 1988 to 1992.

Pre-election Poll: Petrification of Ethnic Divisions?

AIM Banja Luka, April 29, 2002

In the middle of February, on the territory of Bosnia & Herzegovina, American National Democratic Institute (NDI) carried out a general public opinion poll designed to evaluate the stands of the citizens concerning the forthcoming general elections scheduled to take place in October. The investigation involved 3,700 citizens, 200 from each of the 12 electoral districts in B&H Federation (FBiH) and of 6 electoral districts of Republika Srpska (RS), and 100 subjects from the territory of Brcko District. The project of this investigation did not include the citizens of B&H who have the right to vote but live abroad (mostly as refugees and displaced persons) the number of whom according to official estimates reaches about 240 thousand.

Judging by the results, the biggest surprise of the investigation is the fact that 90 per cent of the subjects intend to go to the polls. If this result reflects the intention of the total electorate in B&H, a record number of the citizens of B&H will vote in October elections, which might have double meaning. First, it might reflect the decisive intention of ethnic communities to petrify the divisions, or, second, the resoluteness to punish the ruling elite for the catastrophic economic policy, unemployment and metastasis of corruption. In view of the general results of the poll, the first possibility is more probable.

The three major ethnic groups (the Bosniacs, the Serbs and the Croats) expressed their devotedness to ethnic divisions in their answers to the question on the importance of the level of the elections. For the Bosniacs, the elections for the Presidency of B&H and the state parliament were the most important ones, while for the Serbs the elec-

tions for the People's Assembly of RS and the president and vice-president were of major importance. The Croats also consider the elections for the parliament of B&H Federation and the Presidency of B&H the most important ones, but not those for the state parliament.

In making the choice among four offered answers to the following questions: "What is most important for you when you consider which party or politician you might vote for?", 63 per cent of the subjects, regardless of ethnic affiliation, selected the party or politician capable of improving the quality of their lives. However, the answer that ranked second revealed the differences that are a postwar constant. For 31 per cent of the Bosniacs, it is of major significance that a politician or a party protect and strengthen B&H as a state, 19 per cent of the Serbs believe that the most important thing is if a politician or a party strengthens and protects the entity they live in, and 24 per cent of Bosnian Croats rank the question of protections and promotion of their ethnic interests the highest.

Inclination towards ethnic options was also manifested in the answers of the subjects to the following question: "If the elections were tomorrow, what party would you vote for?" In the election of a member of Presidency of B&H, the biggest number of the voters of Serb ethnic origin (45 per cent) would give their votes to a candidate of the Serb Democratic Party (SDS), 16 per cent to a candidate of the Party of Democratic Progress (PDP), and 15 per cent to a candidate of the Party of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD). For this level of the elections, the largest number of Bosniac voters (37 per cent) would vote for the Party of Democratic Action

(SDA) and 21 per cent of them for the Party for B&H. If one has in mind the ideological closeness between the SDA and Party for B&H, it is clear that the majority of the Bosniac electorate is also in favour of rightist parties. The Croat electorate is also still faithful to its ethnic parties: 67 per cent of them would vote in favour of HDZ, and New Croat Initiative and Croat Party of Right would get an equal number of 7 per cent of the votes each.

The inclination towards ethnic parties is also quite clear from the results of the poll on other levels of the elections. In the Serb part of the electorate SDS has the support of 43 per cent of the voters in the elections for the parliament of B&H and 40 per cent both in the elections for the deputies of the People's Assembly of RS and president and vice-president of RS. Among Bosnian Croats HDZ has the support of 60 per cent of the voters when the parliament of B&H is concerned, while 36 per cent of the Bosniacs would choose SDP. Among the Bosniacs, SDA and Party for B&H rank second and third with 31 and 19 per cent of votes, respectively.

In comparison with the elections in 2000, it is evident that the voters are turning towards big parties and that minor parties are losing support. SDS, PDP and SNSD have bigger support than in previous elections. In B&H Federation, the support SDP has increased by 7 per cent, while the popularity of SDA, Party for B&H and HDZ has insignificantly gone down.

The presented NDI's investigation took place before the debate on Constitutional amendments got into full swing provoking an increase of national passions and decisive eth-

nic homogenization, according to many analysts. This is illustrated by the facts that SDA and HDZ have abandoned political negotiations on Constitutional amendments, while political parties from RS, the ones in power and the opposition, were united in the defence of entity jurisdiction and the existing Constitutional status.

The actual choice of the voters and the relevant measure of the support

of the voters to political parties will be shown by the investigation NDI is announcing for the month of June. The election campaign that is gaining momentum will additionally orientate the choice of the electorate. It is possible to expect that political marketing in B&H Federation will be focused on the promotion of new Constitutional amendments which will announce a new limitation of the jurisdiction of entities and strengthening of the central state that will fur-

ther homogenize ethnic parties. It is hard to believe that political parties will take care about the frustrations of the electorate of the others and be wise enough to build their promotion on different principles. Should they take this road, B&H could become a paradigm of petrified ethnic divisions.

Branko Peric (AIM)

Iran Looking To Re-Establish Bosnian Presence

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING by STRATFOR - 17 June 2002

The Iranian energy firm Petropars plans to invest in oilfields in Bosnia in the near future, the company's managing director told the Persian daily Asia June 11. The paper reported that economic delegations from Bosnia and Herzegovina had met with Petropars officials already.

But such an arrangement appears odd, considering the dearth of hydrocarbon deposits in Bosnia and the fact that partially state-owned Petropars participates in few, if any, overseas activities. Instead, the deal appears to be a cover to allow large numbers of Iranians -- possibly intelligence agents -- to re-establish operations in the Balkans.

Petropars was set up in 1998 to serve as an intermediary between foreign companies and Iran's Oil Ministry in handling development work at the country's giant offshore South Pars gas field. Since 1997 it has mediated \$7.5 billion in contracts between the National Iranian Oil Company and companies like Shell. But Petropars has

virtually no overseas projects and doesn't have a reason to be in Bosnia anyway. The country produces no oil or gas, and its underlying geology suggests few if any untapped reserves.

But Iran does have a history in Bosnia. Iranian intelligence agents -- known as the Pasdaran -- were stationed in Bosnia during the Balkan wars in the 1990s. Hundreds of Iranians fought with Bosnian Muslims in that time period, and Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia were credited with saving the government from collapse in April 1994 when Western weapons deliveries were blocked.

By November 1995 Washington made the removal of Iranian-backed foreign forces from Bosnia a central provision of the Dayton peace accords that ended the civil war. But elements remained, and the Pasdaran used Bosnia as base to support the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Many of these agents were withdrawn late last year when Iran's Supreme National Security Council

tried to show solidarity with the U.S.-led campaign against Osama bin Laden, according to Western intelligence sources cited in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, a German daily.

But relations between Washington and Tehran have gone south over the past six months, and it appears as though Iran's intelligence services are trying to re-establish their presence in the Balkans.

The move comes at an opportune time for them, as the United States continues to look for an opportunity to redeploy its military force from the Balkans into other more pressing areas.

NATO announced plans in early April to significantly reduce the number of peacekeeping troops in the Balkans beginning this summer. Various NATO sources estimate the 18,000-troop deployment in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be shaved by one-third, *Agence*

France-Presse reported.

Speech by former ACC Commander, Gen Hawley USMC

"Since the attack, I have seen, heard, and read thoughts of such surpassing stupidity that they must be addressed. You've heard them too. Here they are:"

1) "We're not good, they're not evil, everything is relative."

Listen carefully: We're good, they are evil, nothing is relative. Say it with me now and free yourselves. You see, folks, saying "We're good" doesn't mean, "We're perfect." Okay? The only perfect being is the bearded guy on the ceiling of the

Sistine Chapel. The plain fact is that our country has, with all our mistakes and blunders, always been and always will be, the greatest beacon of freedom, charity, opportunity, and affection in history. If you need proof, open all the borders on Earth and see what happens. In about half a day, the entire world would be a ghost town, and the United States would look like one giant line to see "The Producers."

2) "Violence only leads to more violence."

This one is so stupid you usually have to be the president of an Ivy League University to say it. Here's the truth, which you know in your heads and hearts already: Ineffective, unfocused violence leads to more violence. Limp, panicky, half-measures lead to more violence. However, complete, fully-thought-through, professional, well-executed violence never leads to more violence because, you see, afterwards, the other guys are all dead. That's right, dead. Not "on trial," not "reeducated," not "nurtured back into the bosom of love." Dead. D-E-Well, you get the idea.

3) "The CIA and the rest of our intelligence community has failed us."

For 25 years we have chained our spies like dogs to a stake in the ground, and now that the house has been robbed, we yell at them for not protecting us. Starting in the late seventies, under Carter appointee Stansfield Turner, the giant brains who get these giant ideas decided that the best way to gather international intelligence was to use spy satellites. "After all," they reasoned, "you can see a license plate from 200 miles away." This is very helpful if you've been attacked by a license plate. (Personally, I thought this line was very funny!) Unfortunately, we were attacked by humans. Finding humans is not possible with satellites. You have to use other humans. When we bought all our satellites, we fired all our humans, and here's the really stupid part. It takes years, decades to infiltrate new humans into the worst places of the world. You can't just have a guy who looks like Gary Busey in a Spring Break '93 sweatshirt plop himself down in a

coffee shop in Kabul and say "Hi ya, boys. Gee, I sure would like to meet that bin Laden fella." Well, you can, but all you'd be doing is giving the bad guys a story they'll be telling for years.

4) "These people are poor and helpless, and that's why they're angry at us."

Uh-huh, and Jeffrey Dahmer's frozen head collection was just a desperate cry for help. The terrorists and their backers are richer than Elton John and, ironically, a good deal less annoying. The poor helpless people, you see, are the villagers they tortured and murdered to stay in power. Mohamed Atta, one of the evil scumbags who steered those planes into the killing grounds (I'm sorry, one of the "alleged hijackers," according to CNN. They stopped using the word "terrorist," you know), is the son of a Cairo surgeon. But you knew this, too. In the sixties and seventies, all the pinheads marching against the war were upper-middle-class college kids who grabbed any cause they could think of to get out of their final papers and spend more time drinking. At least, that was my excuse. It's the same today. Take the Anti-Global-Warm-ing (or is it World Trade? Oh-who-knows-what-the-hell-they-want demonstrators). They all charged their black outfits and plane tickets on dad's credit card(!) before driving to the airport in their SUV's.

5) "Any profiling is racial profiling."

Who's killing us here, the Norwegians? Just days after the attack, the New York Times had an article saying dozens of extended members of the gazillionaire bin Laden family living in America were

afraid of reprisals and left in a huff, never to return to studying at Harvard and using too much Drakkar. I'm crushed. I think we're all crushed. Please come back. With a cherry on top? Why don't they just change their names, anyway? It's happened in the past. Think about it. How many Adolfs do you run into these days? Shortly after that, I remember watching TV with my jaw on the floor as a government official actually said, "That little old grandmother from Sioux City could be carrying something." Okay, how about this: No, she couldn't. It would never be the grandmother from Sioux City. Is it even possible? What are the odds? Winning a hundred Powerball Lotteries in a row? A thousand? A million? And now a Secret Service guy has been tossed off a plane and we're all supposed to cry about it because he's an Arab? Didn't it have the tiniest bit to do with the fact that he filled out his forms incorrectly three times? And then left an Arab history book on his seat as he strolled off the plane? And came back? Armed? Let's please all stop singing "We Are the World" for a minute and think practically! I don't want to be sitting on the floor in the back of a plane four seconds away from hitting Mt. Rushmore and turn, grinning, to the guy next to me to say, "Well, at least we didn't offend them."

SO HERE'S what I resolve for the New Year: Never to forget our murdered brothers and sisters. Never to let the "relativists" get away with their immoral thinking. After all, no matter what your daughter's political science professor says, we didn't start this. Have you seen that bumper sticker that says, "No More Hiroshimas"? I wish I had one that says, "You First. No More Pearl Harbors."

Semper Fi!

Serbia plagued by unemployment and insolvency

Deutsche Presse-Agentur - May 30, 2002,

There are more than 800,000 registered unemployed people in Serbia and nearly as many are either unemployed and not registered or are facing the prospect of losing their jobs, Serbia's unemployment bureau head, Edvard Jakopin, said Thursday.

Jakopin was quoted by the *Tanjug News Agency* as saying that between 5,000 and 6,000 people register as unemployed each month.

In addition to those already unemployed, some 760,000 work in 45,000 permanently or temporarily insolvent firms, he said, presenting the spring analysis of economic developments in Serbia.

Separately, the Belgrade-based Institute for Market Research (IZIT) said Thursday that 26,255 Serbian firms, employing 339,000 people, could not meet their commitments at the end of April.

According to IZIT, the combined amount of corporate debt in arrears comes to 102.5 billion dinars (1.57 billion dollars).

The figure is 90 per cent larger than in September

last year and exceeds the total money supply in Serbia by 28.9 per cent.

Financial authorities in Serbia have so far ordered the liquidation of 25,535 financial entities with around 286,000 employees and 94 billion dinars in debts.

Financial illiquidity spreads in Serbia

Financial illiquidity is spreading in Serbia and is threatening to fully block the economy, a leading institute warned Thursday.

According to the Institute for Market Research (IZIT), 26,255 firms, employing 339,000 people, could not meet their commitments at the end of April.

The combined, matured but unpaid debt of those companies amounts to 102.5 billion dinars (1.57 billion dollars), IZIT said.

The amount was 90 per cent larger than in September last year and exceeds the total money mass in Serbia by 28.9 per cent.

Financial authorities in Serbia have so far ordered the liquidation of 25,535 entities with around 286,000 employees and 94 billion dinars in debts.

Serbian language calligraphy by Karina Avagyan Jevtic i Miroslav Cenic

For more details visit www.serbianunity.net

The cultural heritage of all nations sets its foundations in the material values as well as the spiritual ones which are handed down from generation to generation. The heritage of the Serbian people is kept due to the survival of material reminders and lies on three important things which connect our generations to those before us : our language, our script and our monasteries with frescoes which are an inseparable part of European art during the middle ages.

Our idea is to show you the beauty of the Serbian middle age handwritten script. The Cyrillic script finished its natural development in the 15th century and since then is not progressing towards the cut syllable.

With this exhibition we wished to show several forms of Cyrillic script. Along with the scripts we have also displayed several ornaments which are a part of this page and represent a specific art discipline in the workshops of middle age Serbia. Also a part of these works are drawings of icons and monasteries as an inseparable unity of calligraphic art and Serbian cultural heritage.



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

PMB 352 - 17216 Saticoy St. - Van Nuys, CA 91406 - Fax (818) 902-9891

E-mail: jknapa@pacbell.net - visit SUC Home Page: <http://www.serbianunity.net>

Some articles provided in this bulletin do not have the permission of the copyright by owner, but are being offered for comment, criticism, and research under the "fair use" provisions of the federal copyright laws.

The SUC Bulletin is distributed in the following countries:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, BiH, Brazil, Canada, Montenegro, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Macedonia, Mexico, Norway, Peru, RS, Serbia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela & USA

S.U.C. yearly membership: Single \$50 & Family \$75
Make a gift - sign up a family member or friend. Help us increase our membership!

Serbian Unity Congress
PMB 352 - 17216 Saticoy Street
Van Nuys, CA 91406