

## ANNOUNCEMENT

On November 15, 2002, the representatives of the three leading Serbian organizations in the North America, Serbian National Federation, Serbian National Defense, and Serbian Unity Congress, held a meeting in Chicago, IL.

They unanimously agreed to accept the proposal of the Serbian National Defense, and establish the Serbian-American Congress as a permanent coordinating body.

The Serbian-American Congress will work to preserve the nation's unity, defend our national interests and our church.

The meeting was attended by:

In the name of SNF:	Dusan J. Ljubenko, President Ljubisa Milicic, Vice-President
In the name of SND:	Slavko Panovic, President Branko Tupanjac, Member of the Executive Board Prota Uros Ocokoljic, Member of the Executive Board
In the name of SUC:	Miroslav Djordjevich, Chairman of the Board Jasmina Vujic, Vice-President

Also present was Father Irinej Dobrijevic, Executive Director of the Office of External Affairs of Serbian Orthodox Church for USA and Canada.

Српско-амерички конгрес ће радити на очувању српског јединства, заштити српских националних интереса и правослања.

Овом састанку су присуствовали:

У име СНС  
Душан Ј. Љубенко, председник  
Љубиса Миличић, потпредседник

У име СНО  
Славко Пановић, председник  
Бранко Тупанџац, члан Извршног одбора  
Прота Урош Оцокољић, члан Извршног одбора

У име КСУ  
Мироslав Ђорђевић, председник Управног одбора  
Јасмина Вујић, потпредседник

На састанку је, такође, био присутан Јероним Иринеј Добријевић, извршни директор Канцеларије за спољне послове Српске православне цркве у САД и Канади.

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## SLAVA CELEBRATED IN SAN FRANCISCO



Our patron day, St Archangel Michael, was celebrated in San Francisco. Among many others, our President Nenad Vukicevic, Vice President Jasmina Vujic, and local chapter president Savo Prica, participated. Father Marko from San Francisco broke the traditional Slava cake.

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December 2002

**SERBIA'S GOVERNANCE CRISIS**

Predicting the time of the final demise of the ruling democratic coalition (DOS) has become a popular guessing game in Serbia. Speculation abounds about the post-DOS Serbia, but it misses the overarching issue: Serbia is in a deep crisis of governance.

In most cases, the capacity to govern is best assessed by performance in three key areas: how successfully the government has mobilized political support of the people; how well it is providing essential public goods and services; and how adroitly the government manages internal tensions. Measured against these three functions of successful governance, the DOS government does not pass the test. Moreover, many DOS leaders have wanted to rule and not govern, oblivious to the fact that good and successful governance serves the people.

The current crisis results from this impossible attempt by the DOS to have a three-way marriage among communist ideological legacy, new and powerful crime structures and a nascent, fragile democracy. Contradictory in itself, this marriage had to fail.

The DOS leadership just could not understand the inherent incompatibilities among the current political and social system, and the essential requirements of the rule of law, a market economy and an open society. The malignant and still powerful legacy of a communist system and world outlook, together with pervasive corruption and well-entrenched crime structures have rapidly asserted themselves to a point where Serbia's governance is now all but dysfunctional.

While progress and improvements have been perceived in certain areas, Serbia is still in an all-encompassing crisis. The continuation of this inability to govern can be seriously threatening to her future. Restructuring the political system must have the highest priority. The need for fresh faces and fresh ideas, for basic honesty and competence is starkly obvious. So is the need for waging a decisive fight against the moribund legacies of communism, powerful crime structures and pervasive corruption. Without these commitments and actions, the chances for Serbia to soon gain the right institutional framework, competence and ideology of governance are virtually non-existent. Being a pivotal country in Southeast Europe, Serbia's crisis of governance already has and will increasingly have detrimental implications for peace, stability and prosperity of the entire region.

Michael Djordjevic  
Chairman of the Board

Dear friends and members,

The end of the year is a perfect time to summarize our actions, applaud our successes, and to learn from our failures.

This year was a difficult one. We began it without having our regular annual convention in Belgrade, which was supposed to herald a new era -- the unification of the Serbian nation into one, crossing political boundaries. However, the tragic events of September 11th shocked the world. Priorities shifted, and relationships were chilled in the absence of the necessary creativity on the part of the policy makers.

- United States policy towards Serbia has not changed in any substantial ways. While diplomatic ties have been normalized, we have seen arm twisting on many issues.
- The Tribunal in The Hague continues to divert attention away from overriding issues of democratisation and economic stability and growth.
- After more than three years in Kosovo, the UN and its occupation army have only succeeded in keeping who call Kosovo home out. They have compelling reasons to stay - - the lowest-paid member of the UN administration in Kosovo makes US \$50,000 per year, tax free!
- Internal bickering in Serbia's ruling coalition prevented the country from having an effective diplomatic push for solving problems in the Balkans. While an ambassador was finally sent to Washington, this action was long overdue in coming.
- Republic of Srpska still struggles, and Serbs are not yet back in Krajina.

As you can see, there remains much to be done. We must nurture and expand our base of friends in Washington. World politics will continue to be driven by Washington's actions for the many years. Ironically the Serbs have, during the last decade, faced many of the same enemies that the United States, Russia, and other Western countries are facing now. Can the Serbs use this opportunity to bring lasting peace to the Balkan peninsula? We can only hope. To achieve this, Serbia must ultimately become stable and prosperous with strong international allays.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Happy Holidays to all our members and friends. Let the year 2003 be prosperous and fruitful for us all.

Nenad Vukicevic, President

By Nebojsa Malic

Almost as soon as the news of Republican victory in the '02 election reached the occupied Serb province of Kosovo, "president" Ibrahim Rugova made a grand gesture to his old friends and appointed former Senator Robert Dole as "Kosovo's honorary ambassador" in the United States.

The appointment was immediately overturned by Kosovo's international governor, Michael Steiner, as even Rugova must have suspected it would be. A month ago, Steiner blocked Rugova's attempt to open a diplomatic office in Tirana, making it clear that only the UN authority could conduct "foreign policy." Honoring Dole was most likely not meant as an exercise in serious diplomacy, but rather as a political and public relations move, aimed at the Albanians' allies abroad. Both attempts sent a ringing message to NATO and UNMIK that Kosovo's Albanians remain intent on declaring independence, in a clear bid to influence the eventual final status of the occupied Serb province. They are also a reminder that there is no shortage of sponsors and advocates of the Albanian cause in the United States, of which Robert Dole has been the most prominent.

A substantial faction within the US government openly supports Albanian claims. Just a few months back, Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) was a guest of honor at a fundraiser hosted by a major Albanian advocacy group, one which openly posts a map of Greater Albania on its Internet portal ([www.aacl.com](http://www.aacl.com)). Representatives Ben Gilman (R-NY) and Tom Lantos (D-CA) sponsored a House resolution this June (HR 463) supporting the "independence of Kosova" (sic). Many so-called NGOs with close ties to Washington policymakers also stump for Kosovo Albanians. For example, the International Crisis Group has openly advocated independence for Kosovo. It also called for and cheered on the 1999 NATO bombing.

It was believed that the fall of Slobodan Milosevic and a Republican victory in the fall of 2000 would mark a turning point in US-Serbian relations. Such a turn never materialized, as the new administration embraced old policies. Now, as Republicans have solidified power in all branches of the US government, it is worth remembering that the man whom Ibrahim Rugova appointed "Kosovo's honorary ambassador" in Washington ran on a Republican presidential ticket just six years ago.

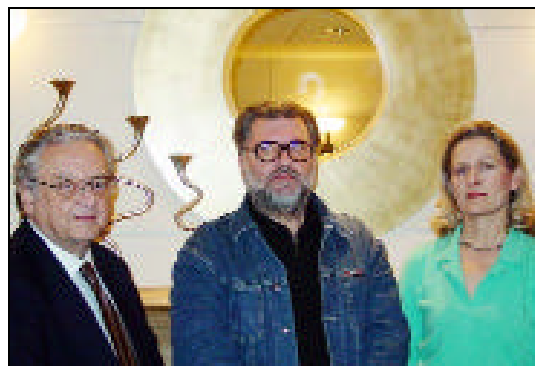
Some old dogs just can't learn new tricks. But it's not as if they even tried.

*Nebojsa Malic is a Vice President of the Washington chapter of the Serbian Unity Congress. He regularly writes for the Serbian Unity Congress' web page, as well as Antiwar.Com.*

By Miroslava Jovanovic

During his three-week visit to the US, Mr. Milan Djukic, President of the Serbian National Party (SNP) and the only Serbian member in Croatian Parliament, met with Washington Chapter on November 18. As a Chief Executive of Donji Lapac County, Mr. Djukic has been invited to study governments functioning at local county levels.

From left: Predrag Pajtic, VP Washington chapter, Mr. Milan Djukic, Miroslava Jovanovic, President Washington chapter



Mr. Djukic attended two of our conventions and is familiar with our organization and he gave us a presentation of the present status of Serbs in Croatia. In the recently published results of 2001 census in Croatia, he stressed, the official number of 4.5% did not correspond to the real presence of Serbs. There are about 420,000-450,000 Serbs present in Croatia and that should make over 8% of the total population. Before the war, Serbs comprised 18% of the total Croatian population: 600,000 declared Serbs made up 13%; in addition, there were also 300,000 "Yugoslavs." Also, 5,673 Serbs perished in urban areas alone during the period between 1991-1996 in comparison to 2,700 Croatians.

He underlined that there is no difference between Tudjman's and Mesic's government and policies towards Serbs in Croatia. Since the process of return of refugees has started, only about 70,000 Serbs came back to their homes in Croatia. Mr. Djukic also stated that about 60,000 Serbs from urban and 90,000 from rural areas have been unable to return to their homeland.

Mr. Djukic is disappointed in the lack of activity of international community which has been hesitant to take more assertive action in Croatia. Also, the assistance from Serbia and its government has been negligible, while the presence of the Serbian Orthodox Church has been inadequate. In his view, problems of return of Serbian refugees to Croatia and hardships that they encounter, have been low priority for Serbian diaspora.

The truth behind the civil war in Croatia has not been unveiled yet and he indicated that SNP has a significant amount of documents on the matter. At the end, Mr. Djukic concluded that the Serbian status in Croatia has not been resolved yet and that Serbs could reach equal legal and economic status with the rest of the population in Croatia only through cantonization.

## SERBIAN YOUTH: The Next Generation at the Helm

By Jasmina Vujic

The panel "Serbian Youth: The Next Generation at the Helm" was held in Chicago on Saturday, October 5, 2002, as a part of the 12th Convention of Serbian Unity Congress. It has been estimated that over the last 10 years more than 100,000 young people left the Fatherland in a search of a better life. There are at least that many young people that were born and/or educated in the USA and Canada in the same period. Who are they? What is their vision? How will they achieve it? How do they envision the Serbdom in the 21st century: the preservation of authentic national identity, including language, culture, religion, and history? Why is it that significant numbers of young Serbs, especially the highly educated, are not engaging in Serbian causes and organizations in Canada and the USA? The future of the Serb people depends on the next generation: young brilliant Serbs studying abroad and Diaspora youth. Can there be synergy between them in the shaping of a better future for themselves and our nation?

These and many other questions prompted the SUC Board to initiate this panel, and asked Prof. Jasmina Vujic to organize it. She contacted 10-15 young Serbs, who were at the same time excellent students and very active in the Serbian student organizations in the USA and Canada. They were invited to participate in the panel and submit a short essay about their thoughts and suggestions regarding these important questions. All were eager to participate. Some of them were not able to come this time due to the previous commitments and obligations, but expressed their willingness to participate in any future panel/conference about and for the young educated Serbs.

The final list of panelists included: Mike Vucenovic, a young lawyer from Canada, Mdrjan Mladjan, an undergraduate student at MIT, who heads the MIT Organization of Serbian Students - MOST (<http://web.mit.edu/most/www/>), Sava Marinkovich, an MBA student at Harvard Business School, and an initiator of a Young Serbian Professional Association (<http://www.aysp.org>), Vesna Dimitrijevic, a PhD student at University of Illinois, who was a president of the UIUC Serbian American Students Organization- SASO (<http://www.uiuc.edu/ro/saso/>), and Zoran Radisic, an MSc student at Brandeis University, and a co-chair of SANE (Serbian-American Alliance of New England) Education Committee (<http://www.sane-boston.org/>). We were also lucky to have Prof. Jovan Filipovic as one of the panelists. He is currently a director of the Institute for Management of Serbian Chamber of Commerce, the executive director of GEPS (Group for Prosperity of Serbia), and advisor to the Prime Minister of Serbia for Expert Resources.

All participants of this well-attended panel expressed their satisfaction with the discussions and questions raised, and suggested that similar meetings/conferences of young Serb professionals should be organized regularly in the future. All



could establish the synergy between the Diaspora and Fatherland, and help foster fellowship in the Serbian community as a whole. The main conclusions and recommendations include:

- The SUC and other Serb organizations should establish the youth sections and help the youth leadership to broaden their membership by using already existing infrastructure. This includes helping financially Serb student organizations at various university centers, as well as organizations of young Serb professionals in the USA and Canada. It also means setting up various scholarship funds for Serbian students in both Diaspora and Fatherland.
- The SUC and other Serb organizations should invest much more in the personal, academic and professional development of Serbian youth. A mentoring program should be established where various professionals in the community mentor young people on resume writing, interview skills, on how to attain a particular professional degree and/or career, and what "networking" means. A list of such mentors should be posted on the SUC Web page.
- Successful youth recruitment means organizing events and services: (a) a part of every convention should be a youth conference, where Serbian students and young professionals could present their scientific, professional and/or community work; (b) similar Serb youth conferences should be organized at university centers with the involvement of local Serbian student organizations.
- Summer camps for children, teenagers and young adults should be organized together with the Church in both Diaspora and Fatherland that, through a playful environment, teach language, culture, tradition, Orthodoxy and history, with a main goal of preservation of Serbian heritage and family values. Another goal of these summer camps is establishment of personal connections between the Serbian youth in the Diaspora and Fatherland that latter in their life may lead to the professional collaboration.

**HELPING THOSE IN NEED**

Serbian Unity Congress' members helped a family of eight.



A month ago, two of the Serbian Unity Congress's associates in Belgrade met a girl, Ana, selling postcards in a restaurant after midnight. After exchanging few words, they spent some time talking to her. She is one of seven children, living in an apartment of 400 sq. f. Their father left them when they were little, and their mother is the only one providing for them, even though she doesn't have a regular job. All of the children are good students and go regularly to the church. She has to sell flowers and postcard in order to help he family. She is only 12.

Filling a profound need to help, our associates started assisting them in any way they could. Small financial help for children, free computer classes for older children, etc. were only the first steps. They also asked for help from few of our members from the San Francisco Bay Area. \$500 was collected and sent to the family in need. We at the Serbian Unity Congress understand that there are many other organizations dealing with humanitarian assistance, including our church, and that we are not primarily set up for this. However, we always rise to the occasion.



**WASHINGTON CHAPTER  
DONATION TO THE ORPHANAGE  
"ANGELINA KOJIC", ZRENJANIN**

In fulfilling one the Serbian Unity Congress' goals and with the intention to help orphanages throughout Serbia, the SUC Washington Chapter donated \$500 to the orphanage "Angelina Kojic" in Zrenjanin,

This donation was presented by our member Mrs. Dana Jekich. It will be used towards the purchase of shoes and other necessities.

The Chapter made a commitment to provide continuous assistance to the orphanage with sincere hope that other SUC chapters will follow with similar action.

**Miroslava Jovanovic**  
President,  
Washington Chapter.



**COME OUT AND VOTE!**

There are many ways for people to loose democracy, and one of the most profound one is if they don't exercise it. Right to vote and be elected are fundamental principles of democracy. It is imperative that Serbia gets a new President, delaying the decision only prolongs the agony, investments are not coming in, they are going somewhere else.

**Please, call your friends and family in Serbia and urge them to come out and vote in the upcoming Presidential elections.** Failure to elect the President sends wrong signals for Serbia's image and its ability to rebuild and prosper. In the absence of political framework the most negative aspects of the society flourish.

**CALL THEM NOW!**

**SAVE CYRILLIC ALPHABET**

There is a petition at <http://www.nasepismo.da.ru/>. It has over 1000 signatures that were collected within a week regarding localization of Microsoft software and operating system in Serbian language using Cyrillic. DANAS published an article about it on 11/4/2002

**The ETF Alumni and Friends Association - USA**, i.e. the Association of electrical engineers that graduated from Belgrade University and now work in this country, supports this action and sent a letter to the media and various government agencies. They properly pointed out that there is no technical issues regarding this localization, because it has already been done for Japanese, Korean, and other countries that do not use English and Latin characters.

The Serbian Unity Congress joined in the effort by writing numerous letters to Microsoft, both in Europe and US.

## ECONOMIC FORUM UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR BETTER INFORMATION

By Edita Kronic

The Serbian Unity Congress 12th Annual Convention in Chicago, was for the first time, the venue for a half a day Economic Forum co-chaired by Edita Kronic, Vice President of SUC in charge of Economic Projects and Mirjana Samardzija Treasurer of the organization. The idea of the Forum evolved from the work Edita Kronic, as the US representative to the Serbian Chamber of Commerce Diaspora Business Council.

The organizers concluded through conversations with Serbian-American business people that although there was a great deal of interest in doing business in Serbia, there was also lack of current, accurate and relevant information.

The Forum on October 4 followed a very successful luncheon, where SUC delegates and local Serbian leaders had the opportunity to hear two outstanding speakers with strong messages. Fr. Irinej Dobrijevic of the Office of External Affairs of Serbian Orthodox Church and a new board member of SUC, spoke about the need for a united, cohesive approach to Serbian issues. John Saylor, Director of Government Relations for Cargo Transport International and a supporter of Serbian trade and business issues in Washington, spoke about the need for a constant, organize presence in Washington. Mr. Saylor felt the work was only the beginning and was puzzled why the Serbian government refuses to undertake the organization and funding of a DC Serbian lobby office, which can cost as little as half a million dollars annually.

The luncheon discussion was a lead in to the Economic Forum, where the lack of presence from Mr. Vlahovic, the Minister of Privatization was felt, as he accepted the invitation and was scheduled to be the main speaker, but pulled out at the last moment without an explanation. The void was discernable, as most participants had questions about privatization law, and the ability of foreign citizens to buy Serbian companies.

The second speaker was Mr. Sasa Zivanovic from Privredna Komora of Serbia (Serbian Chamber of Commerce), who presented Chamber Programs and the mission of the Diaspora Council.

Dr. Jovan Filipovic, advisor to Prime Minister Djindjic spoke about the plans for a Management Institute, with state of the art technology and courses teaching about latest business trends and methods. Mr. Mirko Stojicevic, the new economic attaché from the Yugoslav Embassy spoke about economic and banking reforms. Mr. John Saylor, also spoke at the Forum about the various experiences he has had as a representative from an American company already doing business in Serbia, and the multitude of programs available in Washington which support economic growth and free market orientation of Serbia.

The Forum was well attended, and the participants most excited about the presentation by Edita Kronic which highlighted the need for a Serbian Business Network. The SDN will be a loosely formulated network of Serbian Business people from United States, Canada, Europe and Serbia, establish to foster and exchange of ideas, contacts and flow of information.

The Serbian Business Network is scheduled to be formally constituted at the MADE IN SERBIA- EXPO which will be organized by Diaspora Business Council and Serbian Chamber of Commerce in May of 2003. The Expo will be organized in Belgrade and will highlight Serbian products and services, created by Serbian owned companies and conducive to exports.

The Economic Forum, attracted many younger second generation Serbian American business people. Their presence demonstrates that these younger people are interested in business opportunities unburdened by political issues.



Serbian Chamber of Commerce from Belgrade, is inviting all Serbian-Americans interested in doing business with Serbia or obtaining information on current laws, reforms and privatization efforts to contact Edita Kronic who has been named their US representative at 908-412-0044, fax 908 412-0099, e-mail [sales@select-international.com](mailto:sales@select-international.com).

Please check for frequently updated economic news, and lots of pertinent business information the new economic page at [www.serbianunity.net](http://www.serbianunity.net). Special section on economy is coming soon.

**INVOLVING WOMEN IN THE REBUILDING OF THEIR NATION**

By Mirjana Samardzija

The Serbian Unity Congress has once again demonstrated its leadership role in Diaspora's contribution to the efforts of our people to rebuild their nation. Understanding that the job ahead in the building of a democratic Yugoslavia is immense and cannot be handled by the government sector alone, the Serbian Unity Congress' women has joined women of Yugoslavia in their efforts to organize in the civil sector to increase and improve the way women can contribute to the betterment of their nation and the building of a democratic civil society. On July 12, 2001 the non-governmental organization, NGO, **Vizija I Akcija, VIA**, was born.

To help launch this effort the Serbian Unity Congress is providing the use of office space in Belgrade and covering some of the operating costs for the initial start-up period while VIA goes through the process of procuring financing from international donors. In a recent article, the newspaper Politika has called this a model approach for Diaspora's role in the democratization of Yugoslavia.

VIA's vision calls for the maximization of the expert potential of Yugoslavia's professional women in the forging of a new democratic society -- the involvement of women doctors, lawyers, scientists, engineers, businesswomen, etc. To achieve its mission VIA is using the following strategy: an organizational structure national in scope, working through a network of women's professional associations, with networking mechanisms and multidisciplinary inter-association approaches to problem solving, building a broad base of support among women with its own publications and web site as well as its members' own PR channels. Its work will stress team- work and volunteerism. A key ingredient to its effectiveness will be Diaspora members who will become the bridge to reintegration with the world after 10 years of isolation.

VIA is headquartered in Belgrade, building regional centers in major cities. Some features of VIA are and will be:

- + Membership - VIA's membership will span the globe.
- + Women's Professional Associations - VIA women's professional organizations will tap experts for solutions.
- + A Diaspora Network - Diaspora membership will serve as a bridge to international organizations.
- + Women's Association Council - The inter-association council will prioritize issues and approaches to solutions.
- + An International Advisory Board -- This body will guide and mentor the organization.
- + A VIA Professional Resource Center - The Center will provide a library of professional journals, books, etc, workshop and conference facilities, Internet access, and employment resources to VIA members.

**What is the VIA Professional Resource Center?**

VIA is planning to establish the Via Center - a facility that will provide a physical infrastructure to help women realize

the VIA mission. The Center will provide members with a place where they can gather, meet, learn, and produce - an incubator where women can maximize their potential.

**The VIA Center will house:**

- + Professional Library
- + Computer Training Center
- + Workshop & Seminar Rooms
- + Conference Room
- + Administrative Center for women's professional associations

**The Women of Yugoslavia Need You**

VIA has organized or is in the process of organizing founding groups for and registering professional associations in the areas of health, law, education, business, media, PR/marketing, culture, social welfare and politics, sciences and engineering. The associations are in the process of defining the projects each will handle individually and projects that they will approach on an inter-disciplinary basis. One of the first programs currently being developed is a mentorship program between the established professionals and students in specific fields.

One of the key elements to reintegrating Yugoslavia with the world, is through the Diaspora. In the case of VIA, the members need professional Diaspora women to join them in the role of advisors, mentors, links to international professional opportunities or simply financial support.

**PLEASE JOIN US: BRING YOUR EXPERTISE TO BEAR!**

Vision & Action, VIA  
PO Box 470836  
San Francisco, CA 94147-0836  
Fax: (415) 380-9193

Name \_\_\_\_\_

SUC Member: \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group: under 20 \_\_\_\_; 20-40 \_\_\_\_;

40-60\_\_\_\_; 60 +\_\_\_\_

For more information please email us to:  
**uprava@via.org.yu.**

We hope you will join us in this wonderful program.

## THE ACTIVITY OF LOCAL SUC ORGANIZATIONS VANCOUVER CHAPTER (CANADA)

By Natasa Milovanovic

During the Chicago Annual Convention it was agreed that local Congress chapters in Diaspora around the world should organize their activities autonomously. The proposal to adapt these activities to the specifics and needs of each Serbian community in particular was also accepted. At the same time, it is expected these organizations would connect with each other, get acquainted, exchange experiences and ideas, and join forces on some of the projects, without simply awaiting for the Board of Directors initiatives.

We believe this decision is very beneficial and will contribute to a better, more diverse and successful activities of KSU in general. Our twelve-year experience confirms this belief, as we shall illustrate here, in short excerpts.

During the last decade of the 20th Century Serbian community in Vancouver has been greatly enlarged by the influx of Serbian immigrants who came from all parts of former Yugoslavia, especially from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Krajina. This large number of Serbs necessitated new and more complex obligations and tasks of KSU regarding preservation of national identity, language, culture and tradition, as well as in regards to lending help over becoming accustomed to the new society, presentations of the Serbian community and its interests to Canadian public.

Here, we shall present some of the projects we have been working on and are still actively pursuing; we consider these undertakings successful and, therefore, good examples of possible venues that can help achieve above-mentioned goals.

- The preservation and cultivation of the national identity within Serbian community, especially among the younger members of the community, is our priority and many of our activities are directed towards this objective.
- Aiming to help and support Serbian school children and students that are achieving significant results regarding sports and arts, in 1997 we have established "Cika Jova Zmaj" fund.
- Under the fund's umbrella, for four years in a row, we have a continuation of a successful Annual Prize Contest "Srpska Bastina" (Serbian Heritage). Visual and literary artwork of young Serbs from Canada are a testimonial to their strong connections to tradition, language and a complete cultural heritage from the homeland.
- We have organized guest appearances of renowned theaters from the homeland, as well as literary events with the prominent Serbian writers (Ljubivoje Rsumovic, Matija Beckovic, Danko Popovic, etc.)
- Also, we have been inviting eminent intellectuals (Srdja Trifkovic, Rados Ljusic) to speak on various historical and other subjects of importance for Serbian nation. Working on these projects, we have successfully cooperated with Serbian organizations from other Canadian cities.
- On many occasions, to the pleasure of those who appreciate literature and arts, we have organized the evenings of Serbian poetry and music.

- The organization of the Exhibition of photo-reproductions of Frescoes from Monasteries of Kosovo and Metohija was an important success. These exhibits were received through our Embassy in Ottawa, and the Exhibition was held in the Main Branch of Vancouver Public Library. We organized the Exhibition in cooperation with Vancouver Public Library and Vancouver Multicultural Society.

- Through the Vancouver Multicultural Society we have prepared one issue of their Newsletter, which was, in its entirety, dedicated to the Serbs in British Columbia, and to Serbian nation in general.

The tragic chain of events in the homeland during past 12 years demanded that we dedicate a lot of energy and direct many activities towards Canadian public, with the purpose of defending Serbian national interests. To that end, we have been doing the following:

- Organization of protests and demonstrations over the war in Krajina, Bosnia and Herzegovina and over the bombing of Yugoslavia.
- Organizing and sending charitable donations to Serbian people and homeland.
- Establishing the informative Newsletter with the intention to procure truthful and timely reports about the events in the homeland.
- Organization of the Exhibition of Photographs on the consequences of bombardment of Yugoslavia.
- Procurement of video-tapes "Yugoslavia - an avoidable war", and their distribution to eminent Canadian university libraries.
- Obtaining the books that truthfully represent the last civil war in the Balkans, those that are showing Serbian nation through its historical tragedy, and the distribution of these books to Canadian libraries.
- The visitations with local politicians in an attempt to influence their views regarding the war in former Yugoslavia, and the role of Serbian nation in it.

We wish to underline that, in order to secure success of many of these actions, we have often concerted efforts with the Congress' Toronto Chapter, as well as with other Serbian organizations in Vancouver and other Canadian cities.

On this occasion, we invite all the local chapters of KSU worldwide to get in touch and create a continuous wide network (Internet is probably the best way to achieve this), to get to know each other, to exchange experiences, suggestions and ideas for new actions. Also, we propose a plan of joint efforts, actions and projects, based on the previous experiences should be made. We are certain in this way we shall, together, achieve more and attain greater successes regarding preservation of Serbian national being, and be able to reach the goals and objectives outlined in the KSU Program.

For more information please write to the local chapter of SUC from Vancouver at e-mail: [KSU\\_SUC\\_VAN@shaw.ca](mailto:KSU_SUC_VAN@shaw.ca).

By Sofija Skoric

I have already spent two and a half-months in Belgrade working on the modernization of the Parliamentary Library in the Federal Parliament. The entire building is in the stage of renovation including the book stacks, which were badly burned in the fire on the 5th of October. We already created an on-line catalogue, worked on inventory, provided and installed computers and trained librarians on how to use the Internet. Now I am trying to introduce new services, similar to those in the West. For that reason it was necessary to prepare and distribute a special questionnaire to all parliamentarians. On the basis of their responses we will be able to design our future services.

A number of foreign visitors came and are very impressed with this CIDA Library project. In addition to this I was asked by OSCE to choose and train five university students from the political science department at the Belgrade University as Interns in the Parliament. These young ladies and men are very bright, eager and highly motivated to learn, work and perform. I am hoping to have permission to open the Federal Parliament Building to all citizen, especially targeting Serbian youth, tourists, and other foreign visitors.

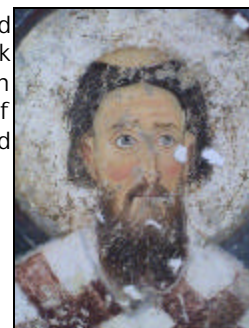
The building is being renovated and restored to its 1936 look, full of art work and state symbols. Working with youth I came to conclusion that the real change in Yugoslavia might be expected only when Serbian young generation, differently educated and open to the world, become active on the political scene of this country.

I spent ten days in the Parliament of Montenegro and strongly recommended the establishment of a special library and information services. When established and working, I hope to connect them to the Federal Parliament as well as to other similar libraries of the world, to improve communication, information and cooperation. The main sponsor of this project is OSCE, but most likely other organizations or countries might contribute, since a large amount of money is needed. It would be very nice if SUC or some of our members, especially Serbs from Montenegro, would be interested and motivated to contribute to this worthy project.

I accepted these challenges and have devoted a lot of my time and expertise, because the work represents concrete and very much needed contributions to the development of parliamentary democracy. In the time of transition there are two great problems, as I see them: one is simply a terrible level of poverty and lack of financial means. The other, even more important, is a general lack of know-how. It is easy to introduce modern technology but it is difficult to change their frame of mind. For too long the people were under Communist system and then more than a decade were isolated from the rest of the world. The rapid changes that are needed seem to older people drastic and painful. However the changes are understood and accepted more easily by the young population.

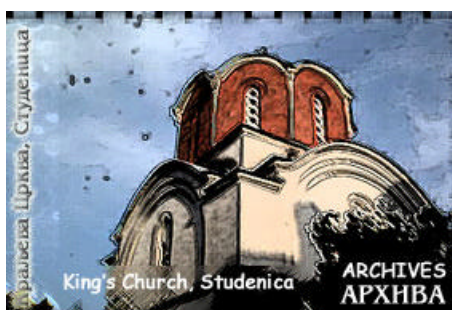
## SAVE THE WHITE ANGEL COMPLETED

In spring of 2001 BLAGO Fund went on a very important mission: to save the frescoes of Monastery Mileseva. The work included the detachment from the wall of the fresco "The Last Supper", cleanup and fix of the frescoes "The White Angel" and "Nemanjic Composition". A fundraiser brought in enough funds to complete the project, more than 60 people donated for this noble action. All the work was performed by the experts in Serbia, and blessed by the Bishop of Mileseva. The work was completed in September of this year.



The Serbian Unity Congress and the Serbian Orthodox Church wished to express their profound gratitude to all of our members who participated.

## STUDENICA: KING'S CHURCH ON-LINE



BLAGO Fund completed its work on the archive of the King's Church in Studenica. Serbian King Milutin had the King's Church built in 1313 or 1314 within the walls of the

Studenica Monastery. The church is devoted to saints Joachim and Anna, the parents of the Most Holy Theotokos, Mother of God, but it has become more famous for its founder and has come to be known as "King's Church". The archives were recorded in June of 2002 and it took two months of tedious work to complete and present it.

The archive is available on the BLAGO Fund site:  
<http://blago.serbianunity.net/>



Beside the King's Church archive, the pictures of the main church and those of the St Sava's sanctuary in the mountains above Studenica are also available on our web site.

## MEDIEVAL BOOK FROM MONASTERY MANASIJA ON OUR WEBSITE

In the first of its kind effort, a medieval book from 14th century was digitized and presented on our web site. It can be found on our web site <http://blago.serbianunity.net/Archives/Manasija/>





**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER CELEBRATES SLAVA**

This year our Slava, St. Archangel Michael, was celebrated at the St. Petka Serbian Orthodox Church in San Marcos, California, on Sunday, November 17th. Close to 100 people attended the ceremony which was followed by lunch, live music and about 30 young dancers in costumes who entertained the audience with a folklore performance. Past President, Vojin Joksimovic, gave an overview on the recently held SUC convention in Chicago, on past achievements and future activities of the organization. Our thanks go to Anka Porobic who was the kuma this year. And special thanks to the Chapter President, Ljilja Pantovich, who so graciously organized the event.

**PRESIDENT'S LETTERS**

**To: Congressman Dennis Kucinich**

On behalf of the members of the Serbian Unity Congress, both in America and abroad, I would like to offer our congratulations on your recent victory. Your support for the people of Yugoslavia and your interest in the region over the years has been so very important to us. We are also deeply appreciative for your serving as keynote speaker in Chicago just before your election. We know that was a tough time for you to attend, and all of us are grateful for the stirring remarks you delivered that evening to our members and friends.

If there is any way our organization can assist you, please do not hesitate to call. As you know, we have a strong and active group of members in Ohio and elsewhere who are eager to help you in any way.

**To: Governor-Elect Ron Blagojevich**

On behalf of the members of the Serbian Unity Congress, both in America and abroad, I would like to offer our congratulations on your recent victory. How appropriate it is that as an American of Serb origin, you are now the Governor of the State that includes Chicago, home to more Serbs than any city save Belgrade!

If there is any way our organization can assist you, please do not hesitate to call. We have a strong and active group of members in Illinois who are eager to help you in any way.



**LAST CALL!**

Sign up now for sponsoring the 2003 award. Call our central office: 1-818-902-9903.

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 \$350, 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/year for three years, 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.

**For 2003 we have 23 school all around Serbia. Donate for your own school and become a supporter of this fund.**

**ST SAVA LITERARY AWARD DONOR**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**School, City** \_\_\_\_\_

(leave blank if you wish SUC to select)

I am enclosing a check for \$350 for the next three years awards.

Please charge my credit card

No: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA, MC                      expire: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

OEBS zabrinut za izbeglice cije su kuce  
još zauzete  
**POZIV SRBIMA DA TUZE  
HRVATSKU**

Vlasti u Zagrebu duzne su da plate  
naknadu za korišćenje tude imovine

ZAGREB (Srna) - Portparol Misije Oebsa u Hrvatskoj Alesandro Frakaseti pozvao je Srbe, cija je imovina oduzeta u Hrvatskoj, da podnesu tuzbu protiv drzave radi zaštite vlasnickih prava i izbegavanja mogucih pravnikih komplikacija u buducnosti.

"Srbima koji su podneli zahtev za povratak kuca do 1. avgusta ove godine Hrvatska je duzna da placa odgovarajucu nadoknadu za sve vreme korišćenja njihove imovine", rekao je Frakaseti za nedeljnik srpske zajednice u Hrvatskoj "Glas".

On je dodao da onima, koji su podneli zahtev nakon 1. avgusta ili to još nisu ucinili, isplata nadoknade treba bi pocne od 31. decembra ili kada vlasnici zatraze vraćanje imovine. Frakaseti je upozorio da je prema hrvatskom ustavu drzava duzna da plati nadoknadu za korišćenje privatne imovine po tržišnoj ceni.

Misija Oebsa predlaze vlasnicima oduzete imovine da svi oni koji su zahteve za njen povracaj podneli pre 1. avgusta odmah preduzmu odgovarajuće radnje kako bi imali koristi od vladinih obaveza za nadoknadu.

**COORDINATING CENTRE CALLS FOR PROTECTION OF  
SERBIAN SACRED SITES IN KOSOVO**

Pristina, Nov. 17, 2002 - President of the Coordinating Centre for Kosovo-Metohija Nebojsa Covic condemned in the harshest terms the latest destruction of Orthodox churches in Djurakovac and Ljubovo.

Covic told the Tanjug news agency that the two churches had been under the protection of Spanish KFOR soldiers until two months ago, but were removed under the unfounded pretext that safety in Kosovo had improved. "Two Serbian churches were torn down in just one night. Over 138 Orthodox objects in Kosovo-Metohija have been torn down, with not a single perpetrator caught, interrogated or jailed. What kind of safety are we talking about here?" Covic said, adding that such crimes deserve the severest condemnation.

He announced that he will urge UNMIK head Michael Steiner to bring back KFOR troops responsible for guarding Serbian sacred sites in Kosovo-Metohija. Covic added that safety in Kosovo has deteriorated since the elections, and that Belgrade will request that KFOR again start guarding Serbian pupils who live in enclaves and need to be protected on their way to school.

**SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF RASKA AND PRIZREN  
KOSOVO AND METOHIIJA, INFORMATION SERVICE**

October 31, 2002

Student bus escorts discontinued, SNC of Kosovo and Metohija strongly protests against decision of UNMIK and KFOR

Approximately 1,200 Serb students who live in enclaves in central Kosovo have not attended school for the past 10 days because of safety considerations after the discontinuation of escorts for transportation to their schools. The Serb National Council of Kosovo and Metohija issued a statement yesterday saying that despite appeals to UNMIK and KFOR international peacekeepers have nevertheless decided to discontinue all student bus escorts, claiming that the security situation has improved significantly. However, the safety of students who live in enclaves and who go to school each day in this manner is by no means guaranteed because attacks continue to occur on the ground. As a result, a silent exodus of Serbs continues before the eyes of the international community, whose mission has failed to ensure freedom of movement.

**TWO SERB ORTHODOX CHURCHES DESTROYED IN KOSOVO**

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, (AP) Nov 14 - Explosions ripped through two Serb Orthodox churches in western Kosovo, marking the first such attacks in more than a year, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday.

Explosives damaged the interior of a church in Djurakovac, 50 kilometers west of Pristina and completely destroyed a second church in the nearby village of Ljubovo, U.N. spokesman Andrea Angeli said.

No one was injured in the explosions late Saturday and early Sunday, Angeli said. An investigation was under way.

Churches in Kosovo have often been targeted in the past, in part because they are symbols of the years of Serb dominance under former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic (news - web sites). Most ethnic Albanians in Kosovo are Muslim, although the southern Yugoslav province is largely secular.

Bishop Artemije, the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo, blamed the United Nations (news - web sites) and NATO (news - web sites) for the attacks, charging that lax security measures made it possible for attackers to act.

Though NATO-led peacekeepers had routinely guarded the churches, the alliance recently removed many checkpoints near such buildings as part of an alliance restructuring strategy. The troop rotations were intended to take advantage of an overall decrease in ethnically motivated violence.

Serbian Unity Congress is the organization of Serbs and their friends in the Diaspora.  
It was established in 1990 with the following main goals:

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.

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