

THE FACTS ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 28

On Jan 27th US Congress Representative from California Mr. Lantos (for himself and Mr. Hyde) submitted the resolution 28 (modified version of the previous resolution 11 introduced earlier) with the title: “Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should declare its support for the independence of Kosova”.

HR 28, supporting an independent Kosovo, is a dangerous, poorly timed and ill-conceived measure that will lead to short and long term problems throughout the Balkans.

Passage of HR 28 would...

Encourage political destabilization and geographic fragmentation in the region.

At a time when peace in the region is so very fragile, Passage of HR 28 would send all the wrong signals to nationalistic leaders who seek the further fragmentation of the region. It would suggest that the United States is supportive of those who are fighting for a "Greater Albania," a swatch of land that advocates proclaim will ultimately include not only Kosovo, but also parts of Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and possibly even Greece. Moreover, it would send a dangerous political signal to Croats and Serbs in Bosnia, as well as others in the region and beyond, that their demands for ethnically based sovereignties should be honored.

Fly in the face of UN Resolution 1244.

UN Resolution 1244 wisely makes it clear that it respects the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, which includes Kosovo. Sadly, Kosovo today is a testament to crime, corruption, intimidation, repression and lawlessness. Since 1999, the vast majority of non-Albanians living in Kosovo have been systematically driven from their homes, with more than 300,000 non-Albanians refugees now living outside Kosovo, unable to safely return and live in peace. Until basic democratic institutions and the rule of law become the norm in Kosovo, the final status of the province should not be determined.

Belie the historical significance of Kosovo's relationship to Serbia.

Kosovo is to Serbs what Jerusalem is to those of the Jewish faith. It is the cradle of the Serbian Orthodox Church, a faith that has, since 1999, seen well over 100 of its churches - many of priceless cultural value -- wantonly destroyed in Kosovo by those seeking to drive non-Albanians out of the province once and for all. To reward those who seek an ethnically pure and independent Kosovo by passing HR 28 would fly in the face of every principle of religious tolerance we Americans hold dear.

Ignore the very real progress being made in the democratization of Yugoslavia.

In November of 2000, the people of Yugoslavia rose up and democratically ousted former President Slobodan Milosevic. Since that time, the governments of both Yugoslavia and Serbia have worked tirelessly to become a partner in peace with the West and to institute much needed political, economic and legal reforms. Passage of HR 28 would send exactly the wrong message to those pressing for these much-needed reforms, as well as those extremist forces that seek to destabilize this emerging democracy.

Editor's note:

It is peculiar that there were three resolutions introduced in the House calling for independence of Kosovo:

H. RES. 467: Mr. GILMAN, JUN 28 (Vidovdan)

H. RES. 11: Mr. LANTOS, JAN 7 (Bozic)

H. RES. 28: Mr. LANTOS, JAN 28 (Sveti Sava)



SERBIAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS

31 January 2003

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde
Chairman, Committee on International Relations
The United States House of Representatives
2110 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1306

Re: HRES 28

Dear Chairman Hyde:

On behalf of the Serbian-American Congress, as representatives of the three most prominent Serbian American organizations in the United States of America, and as duty bound citizens of this noble country, we write out of grave concern regarding the aforementioned House Resolution 28, which has been introduced by Mr. Lantos on both his and your behalf, dated 27 January 2003, in the House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on International Relations.

With all due respect, the entire premise of HR28, which is in fact a revamped and even more extreme version of the previous HR467, Mr. Lantos has now entered into the document, among else, a decree of 2 January 1944 by the Albanian Fascists of Kosovo favoring the secession of Kosovo from the then Royal Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

As Americans of Serbian decent, who fought alongside the United States of America, as Allies, who rescued over 500 American Airmen from Nazi extermination, the admission of such evidence before the United States House of Representatives to serve as part of a contemporary argument for the continued dissolution of Yugoslavia is inconceivable. Our Serbian-American community numbers approximately 1.2 million persons, and in the Greater Chicagoland area, there are nearly 300,000 Serbian-Americans, including newly elected Governor Rod Blagojevich. For that matter, Chicago is considered to be the second Serbian city, in terms of its population, after Belgrade.

As ardent opponents of dictator Slobodan Milosevic, we must also inform you that the premise of HR28 on his rise to power predicated on "anti-Albanian racism" is absolutely false. That which gave rise to Milosevic in 1987, was the extreme anti-Serbian violence of the Albanians of Kosovo, which included the pillaging and burning of the ancient Serbian Orthodox Patriarchate of Pec, and the raping of its nuns. This exact pattern of domestic terror against the indigenous Serbian and other non-Albanian populations continues to this day, the destruction of 120 churches notwithstanding.

Today, none of the benchmarks allocated by the United Nations Protectorate are being met. Rampant human and property rights violations continue to occur on a daily basis, and over 200,000 internally displaced persons remain outside of Kosovo. According to UN Administrator Michael Steiner, there can be no discussion of status without the meeting of standards. HR28, which is being co-introduced, on your behalf will only serve to solidify this extreme violence and reward wanton hostility.

Advocating independence for Kosovo will only serve to violate sovereign borders, and ultimately give rise to a Greater Albania, which would destabilize the entire region of Southeast Europe. The right of self-determination is not envisaged by international law for ethnic minorities no matter how large they might be. The Albanians are a minority within Serbia and in Yugoslavia.

As Serbia is the obvious key to regional peace, stability, and economic prosperity, the only logical and ethical solution remains complying with and fully implementing UN Resolution 1244. This would not only guarantee a just and equitable solution to the problem of Kosovo, but also facilitate its reintegration into Europe through Serbia. This can and must be accomplished, not in the United States Congress as recently argued by Representative Curt Weldon, but through dialogue with the government in Belgrade.

Sincerely yours,

Serb National Federation

Dusan J. Ljubenko, President
President of the Board

Serbian National Defense

Slavko Panovic, President

Serbian Unity Congress

Michael Djordjevic,
Chairman of the Board

FOUNDATIONS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF SERBIA

BY
MICHAEL DJORDJEVICH



Serbia urgently needs new social, economic and political order. For this, among other things, she needs right now a rational VISION of this order and how it should be achieved and two types of capital, HUMAN and FINANCIAL. The first prerequisite she has not, the other two she has in a limited amount.

A common denominator for societies who have prospered and have been stable and strong is found in these six conditions: LAW AND ORDER, WORK ETHICS, CREATIVITY AND INVENTION, PROFIT, SAVINGS and INVESTMENTS. These societies have purposely advanced and perseveringly nurtured these determinants of progress and prosperity.

*

Establishment of foundations of a new social, economic and political order demands standards, norms and bench-marks. The overriding problem with Serbia, as with most countries in transition, is a definite absence of right standards, or norms of behavior and attitudes.

In Serbia, during the past century, two World Wars and two internecine civil wars and the absolute rule of communism during the Cold war have taken a heavy toll. First and foremost, these tragic events have all but destroyed the national elite* and basic standards commonly understood and applied in everyday life of the country and its people. To return to the mainstream of Europe, the Serbs must most urgently re-establish a new set of values and new attitudes towards LAW AND ORDER, WORK ETHICS, CREATIVITY AND INVENTION, PROFITS, SAVINGS and INVESTMENTS. From the foregoing postulates and assertions, it is rather obvious then that the journey to Serbia's well-being, strength and prosperity will not be successfully initiated and eventually completed by providing financial capital, or INVESTMENTS, alone.

*

In nature, the quickest way to restore a frail or dying tree is by grafting new, healthy tissue. Imagine Serbia

being a vast vineyard that has been struck with a debilitating disease. Grafting saved French vines and later California's.

*

To jump-start Serbian recovery, most likely the best and most effective way, in view of the aforementioned discussion and the ongoing deep crisis of Serbia, would be to "graft" at least one major, strong, private and profit-making institution into at least seven most consequential or "commanding sectors" of society and economy. These sectors are: HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, FINANCES, MEDIA-COMMUNICATIONS, HIGH TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURE. These thusly established or "grafted" institutions would then be the standard-setters in each of the seven commanding sectors. Like torches in darkness, they would literally blaze new trails to progress and prosperity.

*

How and why would this work and succeed in laying down the corner stones of new foundations for permanent social and economic recovery? Let's take one example.

The need for good and quality health care in a nation is indisputable. From the funds we plan to invest, we allocate a needed sum to finance building/establishing a mini Mayo clinic in Serbia. It would be strictly an investment venture, which would provide adequate returns in addition to serving the larger purpose discussed above. The venture could also involve Serbian doctors and other investors from abroad for a number of other various reasons (e.g. "human capital").

This clinic would immediately set standards of performance for the health care sector and medical profession. It would be staffed with "the best and brightest" doctors, nurses and other medical and administrative professionals from within the country and from among the Serbian Diaspora. It would take in the best achievers from the medical schools in the country for internship, bring in as visiting or residence doctors from abroad, send its interns and staff to the western world countries with the best medical facilities and tradition for higher training, etc. Thus, in a matter of several years, this hospital would become the raw-model for

the profession and this field-"commanding sector." Importantly, it will also begin to create a nucleus of the new medical elite.

This new institution founded on sound principles of business and investments would be also profitable and would reward investors and its employees with more than adequate monetary returns.

This same rationale underlines VISION for the other commanding sectors as well. Therefore, instead of institutions that are now inadequate, failing and operating by flawed standards and methods of yesteryear, Serbia will have for a start a healthy, modern, successful institution and the model of norms, attitudes and work ethics in each of these key sectors. It will have that indispensable "bench-mark."

*

To close the circle. Serbia, as any country in transition, must urgently engender conditions for flourishing of the six determinants of progress and prosperity: law and order, work ethics, creativity and invention, profit, savings and investments. However, if we just invest our financial capital, and do not pay attention to development of human capital and the right set of values and standards conducive to establishment and growth of the

six aforementioned determinants of progress and prosperity, we will not optimize our efforts in the intermediate and the long run. In fact, we will waste this great potential to build something permanent and good and valuable.

Of course, we can and should make money; but this money will also have a higher purpose and permanency - it is the best money to be made!

* "elite" as used here denotes not only its usual dictionary definition: "the choice or best of a group, class or the like." More importantly, it defines a group of people who have a high degree of identification, or social empathy, in regard to the well-being of the entire community. It is viewed as a "vertical" phenomenon rather than "horizontal" - that is, members of the elite are to be found within all strata of the society. At the top, the politically and economically powerful exhibit a high and sincere degree of concern for the needs and aspirations of the masses, more often than not sublimating their personal gain or interest for the good of the whole. Serbs from the Diaspora could and should meaningfully contribute to this process of revitalizing Serbian elite.

MOBA 2003: FRIENDSHIP BUILDING AMONG SERBIAN CHILDREN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Next summer for the third time "MOBA" will be organized. This wonderful activity sponsored by the Serbian Orthodox Church, with cooperation of Council of Diaspora (Savet Dijaspore) at the Federal Government level, and several ministries of both Serbian and Yugoslav governments, brings together youth from Diaspora and from homeland.

The goal of this action is for young people who live outside of Serbia to visit the country from which their parents and grandparents originated, about which they may not know enough, maybe not really understand its people and customs, and may not even speak the Serbian language. The Serbian youth will congregate in Serbia where they will spend a month with peers from their fatherland. Through the "work" on building sites, through companionship and fun, the young people will learn the Serbian language and history, earn about their religion, culture and traditions. They will exchange ideas and experiences and form long-lasting friendships. New relationship will be formed which may last a lifetime, bringing closer Serbs in Serbia with those who live outside its borders. The bridge of friendship and perhaps first young love will be formed between Serbs everywhere, as hundreds of youth come home to the country of their heritage. They will earn about their religion, culture and traditions. They will exchange ideas and experiences and form long-lasting friend-

ships. New relationship will be formed which may last a lifetime, bringing closer Serbs in Serbia with those who live outside its borders. The bridge of friendship and perhaps first young love will be formed between Serbs everywhere, as hundreds of youth come home to the country of their heritage.

"MOBA" has grown from one location in Soko grad in its first year, to four locations and over 150 participants in its second year: in Niksic (Eparchy Budimljansko-Niksicka), Milesevo, Zlatibor (Eparchy Zicka) and at the Monastery of Holy Father Nikolaja, by Ljubovije (Eparchy Sabacko-Valjevaska). Last summer, at these sites, the youth worked on restoration of bombed and damaged buildings and churches from the NATO attack on Serbia, and on building of new churches and monasteries. At the location of St. Nikolaja Monastery, the youth assisted in archeological digs of Soko grad, last stronghold of the Turks, which they left after centuries of occupation. In addition to working 3-4 hours per day, the participants have programs of cultural and sport activities. The emphasis is on friendship and fun, and the sites are visited frequently by well known Serbian authors, actors and teachers who came to share their experiences and talked about language, literature, history, religion, traditions and Serbian historical figures.

All participants of "MOBA 2002" had an audience in the Patriarchy and were blessed personally by His Holiness Patriarch Pavle. His Royal Highness Prince Aleksandar was also one of the supporters of "MOBA 2002" and has pledged his future support. Prime Minister Djindjic hosted all the participants in the reception room of the Government of Serbia, and promised financial assistance for future "MOBA".

More information about "MOBA 2003" can be found on their site www.moba2003.spc.org.yu.

This year "MOBA 2003" will be organized from July 19 to August 19 and will last a month. As in the previous years, participation in MOBA is free of charge. Participants are responsible for their travel costs, health insurance, visas, spending money and perhaps a small registration fee.

This year there will be five "MOBA" sites:

Archeological site of Soko Grad, by the Monastery of St. Nikolaj (Eparchy Sabacko-Valjevska); building of new church on Zlatibor (Eparchy Zicka); site near Niksic (Eparchy Budimljansko-Niksicka); Fruska Gora near Sremski Karlovci (Eparchy Sremska); and site near Sombor (Eparchy Backa).

We anticipate over 500 young people from United States, Canada, Australia and Western Europe to join in the activities along with

the same number from Serbia. Space will be limited to first come basis. For further information you may contact "MOBA 2003" office at the Patriarchy Ulica Kralja Petra I # 5, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia. Tel no. 011-381-11-328-50-98 or e-mail moba2002@eunet.yu

In order for participants to register and obtain information more conveniently, as well as travel together as a group, tour company Select International, from New Jersey has been named the Official Tour Agency of MOBA 2003, for USA and Canada. You may obtain registration certificates and travel information by calling them at:

Select International, 800-842-4842, e-mail: sales@select-int.com

Although Diaspora Council has secured 10,000 Euros, and Serbian Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry for Economic Relations with Foreigners have both allocated 5,000 Euros apiece, all additional financial support is most welcome for this worthwhile program. The Association of Serbian Electrical Engineers in the USA has donated a computer to the "MOBA" office in Belgrade for better and more efficient communication. All other donations are welcome.



IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Directors of the Serbian Unity Congress wish to express condolence to the family of **VOJIN MALESEVIC**, wife Anna, father Konstantin, mother Karmela, and sister Nada, on his untimely death. Vojin was born on October 6, 1958, in Drnis, Dalmatia, and died on January 8, 2003, in Cleveland, Ohio. As a young boy, he came to America with his parents, and was very active in the Cleveland Serbian community, serving as an altar boy, played soccer on the Serbian soccer team, "Karadjordje", and danced in the local Serbian folklore group. Vojin will be dearly missed as he was the only son of Karmela and Konstantin. Konstantin has been a member of SUC since its inception. Vecnaja Pamjat!

MILENKO MRVOS, Long time member of Serbian Unity Congress, and LA Chapter Secretary, passed away January 28, 2003 in his home in California. Vecnaja Pamjat!

MILOS MILUTINOVIC - Died on January 28, 2003 at the age of 70. Milos was one of the greatest soccer stars of Yugoslavia, and a great Serbian patriot. He was Bora's older brother who participated in five finals of the soccer world cups. He played for the Partizan club of Belgrade and for Racing Club of Paris. He coached several soccer clubs of Yugoslavia, Besiktas, Altay Izmir, of Turkey, Atlas of Mexico, and was the head coach of Yugoslavian national soccer team 1984-1985.

Serbian Unity Congress and its membership wish to express sincere condolences to BORA, our lifetime member and supporter, and to the members of Milutinovic family. Vecnaja Pamjat!

The Board of Directors also wishes to express their condolences to the family of **MILOJE ILIC**, his wife Verka, sons Aleksandar and Dragutin, and daughter Tiana. Mr. Ilic passed away on January 4th in his home in Sherman Oaks, California.

In 1990 Miloje Ilic became one of the first supporters of Serbian Unity Congress. Vecnaja Pamjat!

SERBIAN UNITY CONGRESS

<http://www.serbianunity.net>

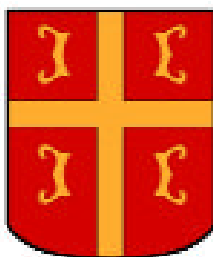
Another eventful calendar year is gradually coming to a close, as we have once again entered December - a month of summing-up, reflection and planning ahead. Of course, this is also a time of joyous and earnest celebration, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing winter holiday season, as well as much health and prosperity in the year to come.

December is also traditionally a month of giving. As the year ends, those among us that had the good fortune - despite some difficult times - to retain a certain financial surplus, continue to seek ways to share some of that, through donations to charities and other non-profit organizations. Understandably, this is often a hard choice; our goal here is simply to remind you all to keep our organization in mind, and understand why this is important.

In short, for the last 12 years, the Serbian Unity Congress has been in the forefront of protecting the Serbian national interests, dignity and consciousness. Despite the fact that virtually that entire period was one of trials and tribulations for our nation, Serbian Unity Congress managed to undertake and successfully complete many projects with tangible results. To cite but a few examples - our presence in Washington, D.C. allowed for steady contacts resulting in a generally increased appreciation for the Serbian position among US policy-makers; work on the ICTY war crimes tribunal allowed some, however modest, real justice to be served where it otherwise would not have been; efforts of the BLAGO fund preserved some invaluable old Serbian cultural treasures, while encouraging the young talent poised to create yet new ones.

In your year end donation please remember the Serbian Unity Congress. As a non-profit organization, all your donations are tax deductible. They will go directly towards projects that would benefit us all, both in the homeland and abroad.

Nenad Vukicevic, President



SUC Efforts

PUBLIC RELATIONS

For years to come, Washington D.C. will be the place where all the major decisions will be made. Our constant work there - with Congress, the White House, State Department - must continue and expand. Old friends must be nurtured and new ones found.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Nurturing and expanding economic ties with Serbia is one of the priorities. A healthy economy will enable Serbia to better position itself in the new world market. The Diaspora, especially the one in the US, is uniquely positioned to help with its knowledge and expertise.

ST. SAVA LITERARY AWARD

The Serbian Unity Congress enabled its members and friends to contribute to this unique program in teaching the young generation the moral values and wisdom of our ancestors. Many schools in Serbian lands are taking part, and with a blessing from the Church we are approaching our first annual award.

DISAPORA-HOMELAND RELATIONS

The goal of every nation is to expand and prosper. The same must be with the Serbian nation, and our homeland must encompass all Serbs, no matter where they live. Only by establishing the sense of belonging to the same body of the Serbian nation we will be able to progress, both in the homeland and abroad.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

By promoting the Serbian culture and heritage we will set an example to follow. Our BLAGO fund continues to promote our national cultural treasures to wide audiences around the world, and likewise, to support the up-and-coming generations of promising artistic talent.

EDUCATION

Ten years ago our members formed the STUDENICA Foundation. Today, almost one hundred students have their academic excellence further encouraged through financial aid from the foundation.

I am enclosing my donation.

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VISA MC # _____ Exp/Dt ___/___

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____

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.

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

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

VOJIN JOKSIMOVIC will teach a course on Balkan 20th century history at the Continuing Education Center in Rancho Bernardo (affiliated with SDSU) on the 18th, 25th February and 4th of March, 2003, from 1:15 pm till 3:15 pm. The price for the course is (\$25) \$29 for non-members. For more information please check out www.neverstoplearning.net

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