

Serbia Turns Out For Parliamentary Elections

December 28, 2003



No party with majority votes.

Who will lead Serbia forward? (pp. 6-8)

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SRE]NA NOVA GODI NA



Fireworks above Belgrade Temple of St. Sava during the celebration of Orthodox New Year

Dear members and friends,

Hristos se rodi - Vaistinu se rodi!



On behalf of the Board of Directors I wish to all our members and friends a happy and prosperous 2004. We also wish that many refugees in Serbia will return to their homes this year in the Serbian Krajina and Kosovo & Metohija. Their return is long overdue and their inability to do so is a major human tragedy in the Balkans today.

During December we completed many important projects. We sent to US Government officials and NGOs in Washington a holiday greeting card with a booklet on the activities of the Serbian Unity Congress and a clear reminder that Serbian refugees from Kosovo & Metohija will not celebrate Christmas in their homes for the fourth straight year. Our web site features a virtual candle allowing visitors to our web site to join us in recognizing the suffering in Kosovo.

We also completed our end of the year fundraiser. I am happy to see that many of our members responded positively. Every penny counts for the projects we are undertaking this year.

Our members were proactively involved in the December elections in Serbia, promoting the rights of Diaspora in Serbia's society and government. We are happy to report that there was general support among political parties for Diaspora's requests for better integration of Diaspora in the homeland with most major parties publicly supporting a special Ministry for Diaspora.

Many of this year's Serbian Unity Congress programs and activities are underway. The St. Sava Literary Award program is nearing its final phase with more than 45 schools participating. Thus far, approximately 5,000 children have written and submitted essays on St. Sava and his teachings.

As we enter 2004, we have a number of important events that will require planning well in advance.

February - *Serbian Day on the Hill*

Board meeting
Meetings in Congress, the State Department
Possible Congressional breakfast, and more

More info will follow soon.

June - *BLAGO goes to Decani*

This year's Blago virtual archive project will feature the Decani monastery. Our team of experts will spend two weeks in Decani filming and otherwise documenting this treasure of Serbian history and culture to produce another virtual tour addition to our unique electronic library of Serbian monasteries.

June - *S.U.C. Tour to Serbian lands*

It was suggested at the last convention that we hold a Board meeting in Serbia sometime in June. We plan to combine the Board meeting with visits to Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, and the Republic of Srpska. Participation in the tour will be open to all members. We will provide more detailed information in future Bulletin issues.

October - *Convention 2004*

The location of our next convention will be finalized at our next Board meeting in February in Washington, D.C.

2004 - Throughout the year we will also be involved with numerous other issues.

Washington, D.C. Office - We will continue to expand the visibility of our Washington presence with policy makers and the media in D.C.

Other ongoing activities will include:

- fundraising
- new members
- promotions

Your cares and concerns for our people backed by your financial support have fueled our organization and work and will continue to do so. Let us include an even greater number of Serbs in this effort so that the benefits of our programs can continue to grow.

Let us start this year with a joint pledge to double our membership. We are asking our members to each bring in at least one friend as a new member. The easiest way to do this is to give your friends the gift of an SUC membership. Call the Central Office **(818) 902-9903** and charge the gift of membership or simply mail in a check with the form on the last page of this Bulletin.

Nenad Vukicevic
President



Our Washington Office: Busy and Responsive

There is an increasing awareness of our presence among the policy makers in Washington and the understanding that this office is the only representative office for the Serb Diaspora in this key policy making center of the world. Events that occupied our efforts most recently are a direct consequence of this fact.



Sister Cities Program We were recently contacted by a representative of the Urban Team of the World Bank Institute who informed us about a newly launched initiative to promote cooperation (culture, economy) between cities in Serbia and the United States. The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia (SCTM) and Sister Cities International (SCI) have set a plan to pair nine Serbian cities with nine cities in the US. The SCTM has identified three Serbian cities for the first year of developing sister-city relationships: Uzice, Valjevo and Vrsac. We have been invited to participate and assist in the process of selecting the US sister communities as counterparts.

Representing Serbs in Washington The US Department of State contacted our office to introduce US diplomats assigned to the US Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro prior to their departure to the Serbian community through the Serbian Unity Congress. The S.U.C. Washington Chapter invited the diplomats to the Chapter Slava celebration and a State Department representative did join the celebration and had the opportunity to meet with our Washington area members. Meetings are also being planned for the diplomats with our Belgrade Office upon their arrival there for their new assignments.

Mobilizing a Serb Response A November New York Post article entitled, Bloomberg And Mom Plan Dash to Israel, Kosovo announced that the New York Mayor was planning to be in Kosovo during which trip he would "celebrate Albanian Flag Day with the country's president and prime minister". The mayor's spokesman stated further "it's an opportunity to honor the contribution that the Albanian community makes in New York City and to remind people that

genocide can happen anywhere if you are not vigilant".

Together with a network of Serbs in New York we developed multiple letters and quickly proceeded to forward an appeal to Mayor Bloomberg directly. The letter along with contact information and a message containing suggested points to raise with the Mayor's office was released almost immediately across our **S.U.C. list-serve**, sparking a chain reaction through Serbian American communities nationwide. Simultaneously our office remained in close contact with the Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro, the US Department of State, and the Diocese of Raska and Prizren in Kosovo and Metohija. Exploring potential political consequences over the course of these four days, concerns about the impending trip had risen from very little to very serious. The main fear in this matter was that Mayor Bloomberg, a New York City official might be misperceived as representing US foreign policy during his trip to Kosovo. The result of our initiative and the resulting outcry was that the Mayor was advised by the State Department of the potential complications his trip (as planned) could create. In the end, the trip was rescheduled and received less publicity than anticipated.

The approach used in this initiative provided our subscribers the means to act collectively and quickly in a well-channeled and coherent manner and thus allowed us to affect an event. Our office is our eyes and ears and will continue to allow us to act preemptively and effectively on issues pertaining to Serb interests.

Steven Cupic
Interim Director

What is the S.U.C. List-serve?

Serbian Unity Congress' Information Mailing List

The Serbian Unity Congress has introduced a **A NEW MEDIUM, THE SUC LIST-SERVE** through which we disseminate news and information on issues pertinent to Serbs. Thousands of individuals and institutions are now subscribed to and receive reports, press releases, and select news articles (bi-lingual: English and Serbian) several times per month. Special announcements are also disseminated when pressing issues requires a timely Serb response. **OUR GOAL** is to have over 10,000 names on the list by the end of 2004. If you are not currently receiving these important news please take a moment to register your e-mail address. You can:

email request to info@serbianunity.net or register directly at <http://www.suc.org/News/infolist.html>
Please register your family and friends and help us reach our goal of 10,000 Serb names.

VOICES HEARD ARE VOICES HEDEED!



SUC Belgrade Office Role Grows

Recognized as the most comprehensive representative office of Diaspora Serbs, our involvement in events and projects grows.



ETF Alumni Donate Computers to the Surgical Clinic of Belgrade

Diaspora members of the Association of the Former Students of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, ETF Alumni, donated two highly advanced personal computers to the Surgery Clinic in Belgrade. The gift was presented at the S.U.C. Belgrade Office. We would like to express our gratitude to professor Jasmina Vujic for supporting this important donation to the hospital within the Clinical Centre of Belgrade.

Inauguration of a Computer Lab at I Beogradska Gimnazija

A gift to a high school alma mater



Beogradska High School inaugurated a new computer classroom in November. The computer facility was made possible by a donation by Miroslav Michael Djordjevic, founder and Chairman of the SUC Board of Directors and former student of the high school. The donation includes 8 personal Pentium 4 computers, one lap-top, a video-beam, accessory equipment and furniture. From now on, the students of the I Beogradska will have the opportunity to use and to be trained on the most advanced personal computer technology and have unrestricted access to the Internet. With this marvelous donation Mr. Djordjevic joins other renowned people who are former students of this school and whose names now adorn labs and classrooms of I Beogradska.

Expert Group for the Prosperity of Serbia

Belgrade, October 14th 2003 Representatives of the Serbian Unity Congress Belgrade Office participated in the

recent conference promoting the Expert Group for the Prosperity of Serbia (GEPS) held at the "Sava Centar" in Belgrade. The slogan of the conference was "I Believe in Serbia". SUC is one of the sponsors of GEPS, a non-party, non-governmental and non-profit organization which gathers experts who have returned from stays abroad, after having completed post-graduate studies and teaching at prestigious universities all around the world. GEPS members are attempting to create the conditions in Serbia which will enable young people to become included in the Serbian corpus of intellectuals.

In order to aid the reforms in Serbia, the GEPS experts, with the assistance of our fellow-countrymen from Diaspora, are working to develop the virtual expert network, and on projects such as the Serbian Virtual University and the Virtual Business Network in Serbia.

Annual Entrepreneurs Meeting

In December Serbian Unity Congress representatives participated in this year's annual entrepreneurs meeting sponsored by the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce. The attendance surpassed the most optimistic expectations. Over one thousand guests flooded the great hall of the City Assembly, where they were greeted by the president of the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, Milan Jankovic. Guests represented a wide range of professionals and businesses -- ranging from directors of major companies to hotel and gas pump owners and other small entrepreneurs.

2003/04 Studenica Foundation Awards

The SUC Belgrade Office presented the first set of Studenica Foundation scholarships for the school year 2003/04 on November 10th at a special award ceremony in the Belgrade headquarters.



Recipients of this year's awards

Slavka Draskovic
Director, Belgrade Office

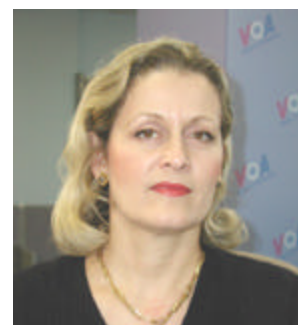
SUC Washington Chapter Celebrated Our Slava

The SUC Washington Chapter celebrated our slava "Sv.Arhandjel Mihajlo" on Sunday, December 7, 2003. The slava celebration has become our Chapter's tradition. This time the slava host was Mr. Predrag Pajic who brought the "slavski kolac" and "žito".

Our parish priest father Aleksa conducted appropriate service and cut the "slavski kolac". Like in previous years, the slava celebration was well attended. We welcome the strong presence of the Embassy of Serbia & Montenegro. There were five Serbia Montenegro Embassy officials led by Ambassador Ivan Vujicic. Bosnia and Hercegovina, B&H, Ambassador Igor Davidovic came together with Dr. Nikola Spiric, current President of Assembly of B&H Federation. An official from the State Department who is about to be transferred to the US Embassy in Belgrade was also present as well as Mr. Sreten Ugricic, Head of the National Library of Serbia (Belgrade).

The slava celebration was also attended by many SUC members including Mr. Cupic, Director of the SUC office in Washington, DC.

In a friendly atmosphere our guests and SUC members were engaged in interesting and useful conversation. Our slava celebration has also been a fund raising event. Part of the collected donation will be sent to an orphanage in Serbia which has been supported by the Washington Chapter for the last two years.



*SUC Washington Chapter
President
Mira Jovanovic*

Miroslava Jovanovic
President of the SUC Washington Chapter

Va{ i ngtonskog ogranka Kongresa srpskog ujedni wewa Mi ra Jovanovi }, o rezul tati ma i zbora u Srbiji

Branko Mi ka{ i novi }

M.J.: Di jaspora i Kongres srpskog ujedni wewa su veoma pa` qi vo pratili i tok i i shod i zbora u Srbiji. KSU te` i i` el i da Srbija ima demokratsku vl adu. Treba tako | e da nagl asi mo da su ovo bili i prvi demokratski i zbori posl e { esdest godi na u Srbiji. Smatramo da f ormi rawe vl ade Srbije mo` e da bude obavqeno na vi { e na-i na: mo` e da se stvori mawinska vl ada, tako { to bi u woj u-estvoval o neko i ko demokratski h parti ja, pa do takozvane koncentraci one vl ade, u kojoj bi bili i pri sutni predstavnici svi h parti ja. Nadamo se svi u di jaspori da } e taj probl em bi ti re{ en veoma brzo i povocno.



M. Jovanovic & B. Mikasinovic

B.M.: Da li postoji real na mogu} nost da se ustavno i pravno regul i { u odnosi izme | u matic e i di jaspore na dobrobi t obe strane?

M.J.: Svakako. Di jaspora i KSU smatraju da je prvenstveno va` no doneti novi ustav i zakon o di jaspori. Zakonom o di jaspori bi svi Srbi, koji ` i ve van matic e mogli da u | u u gl asa-ko tel o, zna-i mogli bi da gl asaju, a isto tako di jaspore bi trebal a da ima predstavnika u skup{ tini. Tako | e smatramo da treba da do | e do obnavqawa insti tucije pri vatnog vl asni { tva i denacional izacije i da treba osnovati mi ni stratsvo za di jaspore. To mi ni starstvo bi trebal o da odr` ava vezu sa srpski m organi zacijama u di jaspore

da bi se omogu} ili a { to bli ` a sardwa sa matic om kroz pri vredni, kul turni i i nformativni sektor.

B.M.: Da li bu u novi ustav Srbije trebal o ukqu-i ti kl auzul u kojem se rasejawe def i ni { e kao i ntegralni deo srpske nacije, i kao { to ste rekl i, da se to regul i { e posebnim zakonom, ukqu-uju} i osni vawe mi ni starstva za di sjaporu?

M.J.: Smatramo da je potrebno da se novim ustavom regul i { e da Srbi u di jaspore postanu i ntegralni deo srpske nacije i na taj na-i n mogu da dopri nesu i uti -u na pol i ti -ku si tuaciju u Srbiji. U di jaspore postoji i zme | u dva do tri mi li ona Srba i oni mogu da kroz organi zacije zemaqa, i to va` ne organi zacije zemaqa koji ma pri padaju, ostvare bli ` u vezu i mnogostranu saradwu i zme | u zemaqa u koji ma ` i ve.

B.M.: I na kraju, { ta se o-ekuje na pl anu daqe saradwe i zme | u Kongresa srpskog ujedni wewa i uop{ te di jaspore i Srba?

M.J.: Kongres srpskog ujedni wewa namerava da i daqe podsti -e i i zgra | uje mostove saradwe i da ti mostovi budu { to -vr{ } i i ja-i. Smatramo da Srbija ne sme da ` i vi u i zol aciji, i da isto tako kroz me | unarodne organi zacije bude veoma akti vna i sara | uje sa vel i ki m si l ama, kao { to su SAD, Ki na, Rusija i Evropska uni ja. Al i, i to da kroz tu saradwu prvenstveno { ti ti svoje dr` avne i nacional ne i nterese.

A Serbian Labyrinth

Serbia's parliamentary elections show a fractured and angry electorate.

by Sasha Grubanovic

8 January '04, *Transitions Online Intelligent Eastern Europe*
www.tol.cz),

BELGRADE, Serbia and Montenegro--Without a president and a clear majority in the new parliament, and with the strong electoral showing of right-wing populists and a bitterly split democratic parties, Serbia remains trapped in a political labyrinth from which there is no clear exit.

The results of the 28 December parliamentary elections showed the Serbian public's deep dissatisfaction with the three-year transition period that followed the ouster of Slobodan Milosevic in 2000 and the reformists' takeover of power in Belgrade. Some 3.5 million of the 4 million people who voted opted for the opposition--be that the populist nationalists of the Serbian Radical Party (SRS) or the reformist opposition led by Vojislav Kostunica and Miroljub Labus.

It is a dramatic, yet not at all surprising result for the parties in the ruling Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS) coalition--which ruled the country for three years before splitting in November--and its main party, the Democratic Party (DS) of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Zivkovic. For the government, the vote was certainly a drastic punishment meted out by the "losers of the transition" in a country where over one million are unemployed (the jobless rate is 32 percent and rising), where industrial output is expected to have dropped 3.8 percent in 2003, and where the average salary is only around \$215 a month.

The three years of reformist rule is therefore widely viewed as deeply unsatisfactory, despite clear progress in stabilizing the national currency, the dinar, and the macroeconomic environment. In the political sphere, apart from the March 2003 assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, the last year of DOS rule was marked by many government-linked scandals, including the manipulation of votes in parliament and allegations of corruption and links to the mafia.

But it was also a vote against the international community's pressure on Belgrade to cooperate with the Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which almost all Serbs consider as "unfair" and "humiliating." Of the 250 seats in the parliament, 179 were taken by political parties heavily critical of the ICTY.

It is also clear that every party that entered parlia-

ment--five single parties and one two-party coalition--is at one and the same time a winner and a loser.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

In becoming the strongest party in parliament, the Serbian Radical Party of Hague indictee Vojislav Seselj received 82 mandates (and some 1.1 million votes). This is a tremendous success for what is, in reality, an anti-system party of political outsiders, often isolated by the media and international community, but aware that, through political populism, they can convince the losers in Serbia's difficult transition to vote for them.

That said, the SRS cannot form a government, since no one wants to enter into a coalition with it, not least because international pressure would leave such a coalition isolated.

The Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) led for former Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica won 53 seats (some 700,000 votes) to confirm its status as the strongest party in the so-called reformist bloc. Yet, the DSS did not win enough mandates to be able to avoid talks with the SRS or Zivkovic's DS, both of which Kostunica excluded as possible coalition partners during the electoral campaign.

Zivkovic's Democratic Party gathered a solid 37 seats in parliament, succeeding at the last moment in avoiding a complete electoral defeat largely

thanks to Defense Minister Boris Tadic, who headed its list of candidates. But, nonetheless, the elections were a defeat for the DS: only a few months ago the DS claimed to have control of all institutions in the country, including parliament. On 28 December, less than 500,000 voters out of 4 million voted for it.

The G17 party led by liberal economist Miroljub Labus was taking part in elections for the first time and won 34 mandates--no small victory by any means. But it did not succeed in winning more seats than the DS and will not be, as it had expected, the DSS' sole partner in the future government coalition.

The coalition of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO) and New Serbia (NS) gathered 22 mandates--a victory for SPO leader Vuk Draskovic, for whom this represents a true return from the political wilderness. The SPO, which was Serbia's strongest opposition party throughout the 1990s, did not participate in the historic DOS coalition

Preliminary results



1. Serbian Radical Party - 81 seats
2. Socialist Party of Serbia - 22 seats
3. Democratic Party of Serbia - 53 seats
4. Democratic Party - 37 seats
5. G17 Plus - 34 seats
6. Serbian Renewal Movement -
New Serbia - 23 seats

Source: Serbian State Election Commission
(position after 90% of votes counted)

that dealt the final, fatal blows to the Milosevic regime in 2000. The party failed to enter parliament at the subsequent elections of December 2000. Draskovic, however, will now have to be satisfied with the role of weakest player in the reformist bloc, a true test for his proven political vanity.

Finally, Milosevic's Socialist Party of Serbia won 22 seats, a success credited largely to the enduring power of its leader's charisma among the voters of the "old regime" parties. The result helped the party stay in parliament, but the SRS' strong victory is also proof that the SPS has lost its authority among this section of the electorate.

THE CRYSTALLIZATION OF PARTY POLITICS

The entry of these six parties into parliament represents a crystallization of the Serbian political scene. Many small political parties, which, only weeks ago, as part of the DOS coalition, controlled key posts in the government and other state institutions, have been rudely erased from the political scene or submerged in larger parties.



Vojislav Kostunica

Negotiations on the future government began on 5 January and all cards are still on the table: from the formation of a minority or majority government by a "reformist" bloc, through a "technocratic," to an "all-party" government. The uncertainty is even greater since those who should negotiate over the formation of a new government have known each other for a long time, and are mostly unrelenting political opponents.

The SRS came out first with its proposal for a future government coalition, calling for a partnership with the DSS. "That would be a normal and modest government that would eliminate criminality and corruption. The people of Serbia want such a coalition and should get it," SRS General Secretary Aleksandar Vucic said.

Dusan Janjic, head of the Forum for Ethnic Relations [is this a think tank], argues that SRS leader Tomislav Nikolic's proposal is a provocation. "Kostunica's party is the most important target for the SRS. Nikolic offered them cooperation knowing they would not and could not accept it. The DSS and the SRS are natural adversaries, both in terms of their programs and tactics. For me, that coalition is out of the question," Janjic said.

Kostunica himself hinted he would not accept a coalition with the SRS. Instead, he proposed, among other options, to form an "all-party" government, which would include all parties in the parliament and "get Serbia out of its legal chaos." He argued that such a government would make it easier to change Milosevic's 1990 constitution--a

change urgently needed--and to adopt a series of electoral and other key laws, after which new general elections could be called as early as this fall.

However, most political parties rejected the idea, including the SRS. But political analyst Djordje Vukadinovic argues that the idea of an all-party government was the "most logical solution" and its rejection by the "reformist bloc" was "short-sighted." "It is much better to invite the SRS through a small door than to let them triumphantly enter through the main door alone in six months or in a year, if things do not radically change," Vukadinovic said.



Counting votes in polling station 17

Janjic agrees that the "best way to test the SRS is to include them in government." "Unfortunately, the West has not allowed the SRS into the government, thus prolonging their political life and allowing them to get a million votes the next time around," he argued.

In an interview with the daily Centar on 8 January, the coordinator of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe, Erhard Busek, supported the idea of an all-party government.

"Forming an all-party government is a good idea. I am talking about the experience of my home country of Austria following World War II. But all parties should have a common basis when it comes to democracy and the improvement of the situation in the country," Busek said.

Yet, the Belgrade press still sees a minority or majority government composed of "reformist" parties as the most likely outcome of negotiations.

Only two options arise here: a minority government of the DSS, G17 and the SPO-NS, supported by DS, or a majority government made up of all four parties.

Kostunica would certainly like to avoid having the DS in the government, but he could be tempted to give it a chance once again--but only if the party comes under the complete control of Defense Minister Tadic. The current defense minister is seen as uncorrupt, and has vowed to fight all those who have dramatically tarnished the DS image through corruption and links with Milosevic-era oligarchs and mafia.



To do that, he would need, analysts believe, to neu-

continued on page 8

continued from page 7 "A Serbian Labyrinth"

tralize the influence of factions gathered around Deputy Prime Minister Cedomir Jovanovic and former government spin-doctor Vladimir "Beba" Popovic. Both are allegedly closely tied to the country's most powerful oligarchs; but both are also allies of current Prime Minister Zivkovic.



THE KEY ISSUES

The election results will certainly have an impact on a number of key questions. The elections have shown that there is strong support for the State Union of Serbia and

Montenegro: its greatest opponent in Serbia, Justice Minister Vladan Batic of the Christian Democrat Party of Serbia (DHSS), received only some 50,000 votes.

Taken together with the results of the recent census in Montenegro, which showed that the number of those who declared themselves as Serbs in the republic has risen from 9 percent in 1991 to more than 30 percent today, the election results may suggest that the political momentum is

gearing toward a stronger, not weaker, federal state.

The objectives of European Union and Partnership for Peace (PfP) memberships are also not in danger, analysts believe. The chief of staff of the Army of Serbia and Montenegro even told the daily Politika on 8 January that "the latest signals from Brussels indicate that we could be accepted as full members of the Partnership for Peace program in mid-2004, during the NATO summit in Istanbul."

Some impact could be expected in relations with the ICTY and on economic policy. When it comes to the ICTY, the new government will certainly continue insisting on the need to allow the Serbian judiciary to process the latest indictments for war crimes in Kosovo against four Serbian generals, as well as any new indictments.

As for the economy, "the disappointment is great and all parties want to distance themselves from what went on in the past three years. Everyone is promising a new policy and a new beginning, which means they need time for it," economic analyst Vladimir Gligorov said.

Economist Stojan Stamenkovic argues that the formation of a new parliament and a new government will slow down the adoption of new laws in the first half of 2004. Also, he says, it is clear that there will be "a slowdown in the privatization process--which means in investment and industrial growth as well--because any new coalition will be split over the privatization model."

Ex-Bosnian UN Envoy to Fight Extradition

By Larry Neumeister, Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK - Dec 23, The former Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations (news - web sites) on Tuesday contested allegations he stole more than \$2.4 million from his home country, saying the accusations against him were politically motivated.

Muhamed Sacirbey, 47, portrayed himself as a champion of war crime prosecutions as he testified before a federal magistrate in an attempt to block his extradition to Bosnia. He suggested that an investigation into how money was spent while he served as ambassador from 1992 through 2000 was prompted by his refusal to help Bosnian authorities investigate his former boss, the late Alija Izetbegovic, former president of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian government has accused him of stealing about \$1.8 million from the nation's Investment Fund Ministry and more than \$600,000 from an account for Bosnia's U.N. delegation. Sacirbey testified that an investigator told him in 2001 that a criminal probe was targeting Izetbegovic, who stepped down as president in 2000, died in October. Sacirbey, who earlier had testified that he spent between \$600,000 and \$800,000 of his own money keeping the

country's U.N. office open during years of turmoil, said he rejected the appeal for help against his former boss, and the investigation turned against him.

Sacirbey also said he played an important role in providing information to investigators at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal, created in 1993 to prosecute violations of the war crimes conventions in the Balkans. M. Cherif Bassiouni, a DePaul University professor of law who represented Sacirbey, said Sacirbey was merely being investigated in his home country and no charges had been filed.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Danya Perry said prosecutors had provided enough proof of missing funds to satisfy the probable cause needed for extradition. Federal Magistrate Judge Frank Maas said he will decide soon whether to order extradition.



*Truth in Media Global Watch
Bulletins*

*To all members and friends of the Serbian Unity Congress, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Ivan Vujacic, Ambassador of Serbia and Montenegro in the USA and the Embassy staff*

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great pride that we share with you the news that Father Irinej Dobrijevic, SUC Board member, has been appointed to the Secretariat of the Holy Synod of Bishops and will be assuming his new responsibilities towards the end of January. Honor.



Diaspora Campaigns For Role In Serbia Future



Serb Diaspora in affecting positive changes in Serbia. It was agreed that a small delegation would meet with former President Vojislav Kostunica to further explore this matter as independent members of Diaspora and not of any specific organization.

Miroslav Djordjevic, Sofija Skoric and Olga Danilovic along with other Diaspora Serbs met with Mr. Kostunica and members of his Demokratska Stranka Srbije, DSS as well as with other parties. Members of this delegation brought public visibility to these issues in numerous press briefings and interviews and TV and radio appearances and put the issue of the Diaspora-Homeland relationship on the map during the parliamentary election campaign period. It was the very first time that several major and some minor political parties and their leaders openly committed to championing and

implementing the Diaspora demands in the new Parliament for a set of appropriate laws and a new Ministry for Diaspora.

To more effectively carry out the promotion of Diaspora interests during the campaign, some of the delegation members established a new non-governmental organization, United For Serbia - Diaspora and Homeland, and opened an office for the NGO. While there were many Diaspora and Homeland individuals and organizations who undoubtedly contributed to this significant shift in the public attitude of the Serbian politicians, the United For Serbia - Diaspora and Homeland certainly stands out for its active involvement in the campaign itself and its contribution to securing public support of key parties of the democratic block.

On December 23rd, five days before the elections, The Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church officially notified the NGO Director, Sofija Skoric, of its support for a legitimate and morally justified demands including a Ministry for Diaspora (see below). This indeed is a major success in the drive to secure a rightful place for the Diaspora in the Homeland. It squarely places the Church in the position of support for a Diaspora role in the future of Serbia.

VI ada Srbije I spravi I a Vi { edecenijsku Nepravdu SPC

BOGOSLOVSKI FAKULTET VRA] EN U UNI VERZI TET

Beograd - *Vesti*, Di asporsko i Otaxbi nsko i zdawe, 11, Januar 2004

VI ada Republ i ke Srbije poni { ti l a je 9. januara, re{ ewe VI ade Srbije od 15. februaara 1952. godi ne, koji m je Bogosl ovski f akul tet Srpske pravosl avne crkve bi o uki nut kao dr` avna ustanova i i skuqu-en i z sastava Uni verzi teta u Beogradu, saop{ ti l o je Mi ni starstvo vera. Vo | ena odgovorno{ } u prema sada{ wi m i budu} i m generaci jama i uva` avaju} i vel i ku akademsku prednost koju Beogradski f akul tet u Beogradu i ma za duhovnost, nauku, prosvetu, kul - turu i tradi ci ju gra | anskog dru{ tva Srbije, VI ada Srbije u-i ni l a je prvi korak u procesu wegovog povratka pod okri qe uni verzi teta , navodi se u obra- zl o` ewu odl uke. U saop{ tewu se napomi we da je na ovaj na-i n i spravqena vi { edecenijska nepravda Sropskoj pravosl avnoj crkvi i ogromnoj ve} i ni gra | ana Srbije od predhodnog komuni sti -kog re` i ma.



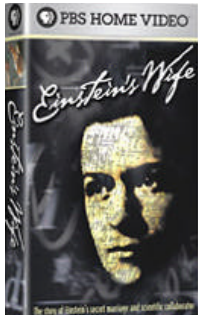
RECOMMENDED VIDEOS/BOOKS

Newly released sources on famous Serb figures: Mileva Maric, Albert Einstein's first wife and scientific collaborator; Nikola Tesla, Serbian wizard of invention who revolutionized the generation and delivery of electricity.

Einstein's Wife

The story of Einstein's Secret Marriage and Scientific Collaborator

Available at the PBS web site in DVD for \$29.98 and in VHS for \$24.98



Three decades after Albert Einstein's death in 1955, love letters revealed the existence of a carefully-concealed secret. When Einstein moved to America in 1933, his second wife, Elsa, was well-known to the public. But nearly erased from history was the

legacy of his university sweetheart and scientific collaborator-and first wife-Mileva Maric, who helped him win the 1921 Nobel Prize.

Follow the courageous life of a brilliant, forgotten mathematician, now seen as Einstein's soulmate-in this engaging documentary.

<http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=1413845>

Empires of Light

Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse, and the Race to Electrify the World

Jill Jonnes



In the final decades of the nineteenth century, three brilliant and visionary titans of America's Gilded Age-Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, and George Westinghouse-battled bitterly as each vied to create a vast and powerful electrical empire. In *Empires of Light*, historian Jill Jonnes portrays this extraordinary trio and their riveting and ruthless world of cutting-edge science, inven-

tion, intrigue, money, death, and hard-eyed Wall Street millionaires. At the heart of the story are Thomas Alva Edison, the nation's most famous and folksy inventor, creator of the incandescent light bulb and mastermind of the world's first direct current electrical light networks; the Serbian wizard of invention Nikola Tesla, elegant, highly eccentric, a dreamer who revolutionized the generation and delivery of electricity; and the charismatic George Westinghouse, Pittsburgh inventor and tough corporate entrepreneur, an industrial idealist who in the era of gaslight imagined a world powered by cheap and plentiful electricity and worked heart and soul to create it.

Edison struggled to introduce his radical new direct current (DC) technology into the hurly-burly of New York City as Tesla and Westinghouse challenged his dominance with their alternating current (AC), thus setting the stage for one of the eeriest feuds in American corporate history, the War

of the Electric Currents. The battlegrounds: Wall Street, the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, Niagara Falls, and, finally, the death chamber-Jonnes takes us on the tense walk down a prison hallway and into the sunlit room where William Kemmler, convicted ax murderer, became the first man to die in the electric chair.

Empires of Light is the gripping history of electricity, the "mysterious fluid," and how the fateful collision of Edison, Tesla, and Westinghouse left the world utterly transformed.

Other books on Nikola Tesla:

- *The Lost Journals of Nikola Tesla : Haarp - Chemtrails and Secret of Alternative 4* by Tim Swartz, Timothy Beckley (Editor) (Paperback)
- *Tesla: A Man Out of Time* by Margaret Cheney
- *Wizard: The Life and Times of Nikola Tesla: Biography of a Genius* (Citadel Press Book) by Marc J. Seifer (Paperback)
- *The Fantastic Inventions of Nikola Tesla (The Lost Science Series)* by Nikola Tesla, David Hatcher Childress (Paperback)
- *Empires of Light: Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse, and the Race to Electrify the World* by Jill Jonnes (Hardcover)
- *Occult Ether Physics: Tesla's Hidden Space Propulsion System and the Conspiracy to Conceal It* by William Lyne (Paperback)

Swimming: Cavic Sets World Record for Serbia-Montenegro

IN ADDITION TO WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL AND WORLD RECORDS, MILORAD CAVIC WON THE SILVER MEDAL (50m FREE STYLE).

**He is only 19 years old. He grew in the US, but swims for SCG.
He will be also swimming for SCG during the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004,
but expects to be in full power in 2008 Olympic Games in China,**

American-born Milorad Cavic put Serbia-Montenegro on the swimming map when he hurtled to a world short-course record in the men's 100 meters butterfly final at the European championships Friday.

Cavic, who collected a silver medal in the 50 freestyle final, clocked 50.02 seconds to beat the 100 butterfly world mark of 50.10 set by Germany's Thomas Rupprath in 2002.

Cavic seized control at the start and touched at the halfway mark more than half a second clear of Rupprath.

The German, winner of the event at the last three editions of the championships, battled in vain to catch him and lost his world record as well as the title as Cavic hit the

wall well clear. Rupprath took the silver in 50.43 and world long-course bronze medallist Andriy Serdinov of Ukraine the bronze in 50.88.

"I love competing in international championships with the Serbian team," said the 19-year-old Cavic.

PERSONAL: Undeclared major...parents are Dusko and Ljiljana Cavic...born May 31, 1984 in Anaheim, CA.



Guverner Blagojević dovodi američke kompanije u Beograd



Ako je sudi ti po posl ovnim rezul tatima, Milorad Rod Blagojević je danas jedan od najboljih guvernera u Americi. Kada je Lane dočao na -el o dr`ave Illinois nasledi o je def icit u buxetu od pet miliona dolara. Uspeo je odmah da sre`e buxetske tro{kove, uvede dodatne poreze i elimini {e def icit. Danas je dr`ava Illinois tre}a po ekonomskoj snazi u SAD.

Milorad Rod Blagojević je sin Srbina iz Kr-mara kod Kragujevca. Ro|en je u Americi, gde je postao ugl edni advokat. Na domovinu ni je zaboravio. O tome za NT govori i Desko Nikitović, generalni konzul SCG u ^ikagu: - Guverner Blagojević odl u-i o je da uspostavi direktne i jake poslovne veze dr`ave Illinois sa Srbijom. Saop{t io mi je da }e u aprilu u-estvovati na Sajmu srpskih bi zni smena u ^ikagu i da }e po tom, tokom prole}a, u Beogradu da otvori Pri vrednu Komoru dr`ave Illinois. Organizator ovog sajma sa 200 u-esnika bi }e Srpsko-ameri -ka pri vredna komora iz ^ikaga. U pl anu guvernera Blagojevića jeste da vremenom kancelarija Privredne komore dr`ave

Illinois preraste u trgovinsku misiju za Jugoslovenu Evropu. A to zna-i da }e svi posl ovi Illinois sa zemqama iz ovog dela Evrope i }i preko Beograda.

Jedan od posebnih posl ovnih projekata bi }e saradwa i zme|u ameri -kih i srpskih proizvo|a-a traktora i drugih poqopri vrednih ma{ina. Ameri -ke banke spremne su da podr`e projekat fiansirawa proizvo|we traktora firmi Ajant Diru u pogonima na{ih fabrika u Zemun i Novom Beogradu.

Jo{ jedan vrlo izgl edan posao jeste razvoj posl ovne saradwe SAD i Srbije u proizvodnji oru`ja. Velika ameri -ka kompanija Defense Arms, u kojoj vrlo vi soku f unkciju ima -ovek na{eg porekla Zoran ^ubril o, spremna je da skl opi ugovor sa kragujeva-kom fabri kom Zastava-oru`je.

Amerikanci su danas jako zainteresovani i za uvoz na{e kisel e vode, a takozvane etni -ke prodavnice za srpski kajmak, ajvar i {qivovica. Trenutno ajvar prodaju Hrvati i Poqaci, a {qivovica se uvozi iz Zadra!

Ameri -ki guverner Milorad Rod Blagojević ra-una na srpsku etni -ku zajednicu u SAD i Kanadi kao na vel iko tr`i {te, koje do sada nije bilo aktivno ukqu-eno u trgovinu. A u ovim zemqama `ivi oko 700.000 qudi na{eg porekla.

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**Light the virtual candle in support of displaced and discriminated
people of Kosovo!**

**Please visit our website at www.serbianunity.net
click on the candle and join thousands in this gesture of support.**