

# BULLETIN

## SERBIAN UNITY CONGRESS

Year XI - Issue 260

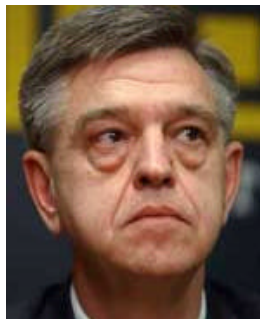
[www.serbianunity.net](http://www.serbianunity.net)

May 2004

### Diaspora to Vote in June Elections for President of Serbia and Montenegro



Tomislav Nikolic



Dragan Marsicanin



Boris Tadic



Branislav Ivkovic



Ljiljana Arandjelovic



Bogoljub Karic



Borislav Pelevic



Ivica Dacic

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#### *Post-Kosovo Violence*

*The repercussions of the Kosovo Albanian campaign of terror in March continue to reverberate. Politicians position on the resolution in Congress. The international community seems to want to hold Albanian leadership accountable. You have a role to play if you care to try. See how you can on page 4.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

In April we saw two very important developments, one in the US Congress and the other in our Homeland. Both of them are products of our long and tedious work.

First, for the first time in decades there are resolutions in the US Senate and House of Representatives that recognize the suffering of non-Albanian populations in Kosovo and Metohija. We are constantly following developments on both issues and you will find enclosed in this bulletin ways to help us make those resolutions be given full attention by both houses of Congress. Our Washington office has already actively contacted people who can be of the most help. However, you can also contribute by contacting your representatives. Often we hear that they really don't care, that they'll toss your information in the garbage, that template letters don't work. Well, this is not quite true. Several hundred letters and calls from constituents will get their attention.

Expressing original thoughts is certainly valuable, but even a signed form letter means that we are able to mobilize people. So, please keep writing and calling, visit our web page for the latest updates on the issue, follow developments in Kosovo, send interesting news to your representatives. Also, don't forget the media. Our issues may be on the back burner at the moment, however, this will change and we must lay the groundwork for then, acting, for once, as a team.

Second, the deadline for registering to vote in the upcoming Serbian presidential elections is May 20th. For the first time broad segments of the Diaspora will have the right and opportunity to vote abroad, upon having properly registered. So, visit our web site, call your respective Serbia-Montenegro embassy or consulate to get the paperwork and any further information. Being a first time, there are many rough edges left, and rules for practically exercising this right additionally vary by host country. It currently appears that in practical terms, voting in the US and Canada will be possible only in person at the couple of Embassy and

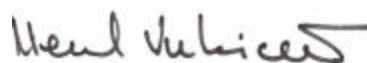


Consulate locations, limiting its practicality to those living in physical proximity.

Once off to a fragile start, there are many ways this system can be improved, and I am confident that this will take place in due course. Understandably, not all of our members care about participating in homeland elections; but in case you do, please make sure to register for this vote no matter where you live, as that will give impetus to further positive changes to the system.

In fact, the discussed development objectively marks a major milestone for our organization. For quite some time, the Serbian Unity Congress had a project called "The Right of Diaspora" that included various issues, among others the right to vote. After several years we accomplished this and in this context I would like to recognize people from the organization's leadership who were instrumental in achieving this: Miroslav Djordjevic, Jasmina Vujic, Sofija Skoric and Edita Kronic. Their vision and perseverance was complemented by the hard and effective work of our staff at the Belgrade office headed by Slavka Draskovic-Jovanovic.

At this time, I also like to extend a special recognition to Jelena Kolarovich for the tremendous work she did in last fifteen years of the Serbian Unity Congress. Her name and picture pops up from time to time. However, remember that since our inception, she was behind every issue of the bulletin, special mailings and communications, conventions, and more. Many of our members would call her for a chat, to exchange ideas, and thus appreciate the human face of our organization. Thank you Jelena.

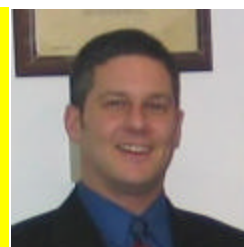


Nenad Vukicevic  
President



## Continuing to Gain Visibility

Our Washington Office continues to monitor developments in Washington and to develop relations with representatives of Government



### Representing Serbs in Washington

With the war in Iraq and other events now taking central stage in the world arena, it is now even more important for the SUC Washington Office to keep Serb issues alive here on Capitol Hill. To keep these issues alive, our SUC team here in Washington continues to maintain contacts with the Senate, House and State Department as well as participating in various forums to keep the media and policy makers informed.

By maintaining our contacts on Capitol Hill, we were able to monitor and report the status of two resolutions (Senate Res. 326 and House Res. 596) that condemn the March violence that was orchestrated by the Kosovo Albanians against Serbs and non-Albanian minorities. Although these resolutions clearly condemn the violence, we now must keep the momentum going in order to ensure that the Kosovo Albanians are not awarded, the perpetrators of violent acts are brought to justice, and that U.N. Resolution 1244 is fully implemented.

During our meetings with House staffers, we learned first hand that while attention is focused on Kosovo, some Hungarian groups are already advocating more autonomy in Vojvodina. We attended the press conference for Ibrahim Rugova during his visit to Washington to promote Albanian independence. Although talks of independence are at least temporarily on hold, former Senator Bob Dole was present to give false hopes of independence to the audience. We will continue to report these and other developments as well as the status of the resolutions condemning the March Kosovo violence and the status of Kosovo.

### Changing the mood in Washington

The Voice of America conducted a television interview with me to be broadcast in Serbia and Montenegro in the very near future. This was a good opportunity to show the Serbian audiences how the SUC is working to turn around the defamation of Serbs that was so prominent during the 1990's and to report on the changing mood in Washington towards the government of Serbia and Montenegro. It was pointed out that the United States foreign policy is like a huge ship. The events of September 11, 2001 and a different administration is beginning to slowly turn the rudder of foreign policy. Whereas just a few years ago, NATO planes were bombing Serbs and siding with

known terrorists from Albania, today U.S. policy makers are losing faith in UNMIK and the Albanian leadership.

Thanks to the cooperation of the SUC, and the staff of the Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro, Serb Diaspora and Serbs of Serbia and Montenegro are finally speaking with one strong and united voice in Washington!

### Mobilizing a Serb Response

Although U.S. leaders responded negatively towards Albanian violence in Kosovo, other events took place that required a quick Serb response. SUC responded almost immediately to the failed NATO raid in Republika Srpska that resulted in NATO soldiers beating an innocent Serbian Orthodox priest and his son into a coma. We called on NATO-led SFOR commanders to immediately conduct a thorough investigation of this incident, and determine full command responsibility. Our position is that the United States cannot allow such actions to go unpunished while U.S. military officers such as Major General Picket are in command of SFOR.

We also reacted strongly against the establishment of the Kosovo Office for International Cooperation and Dialogue in Pristina by Mr. Harri Holkeri, Special Representative to the Secretary General to the UN Mission in Kosovo, (UNMIK) and Kosovo Provisional Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi. The establishment of this office runs counter to international laws and principles governing Kosovo and to all indications that under the current Albanian Kosovo leadership and lack of rule of law, no such institution can or should be established.

In addition to the efforts to respond with press releases, the SUC Washington office is also coordinating its efforts with members outside of Washington in order to establish a more active grass roots approach. Various members are taking the initiative to reach out to their own government representatives and their local offices to get in contact with their staffers and our SUC Washington office. This approach not only helps to inform the policy makers on foreign policy issues concerning human rights for Serbs, but it also creates an awareness of their own Serb communities that they are representing in Washington.

Andrew Verich  
Director  
Washington Office

## KOSOVO: Status Update On Senate And House Resolutions

Members of the US Congress were quick to react to the March violence launched by Kosovo Albanians against the Kosovo minority communities. Three resolutions condemning ethnic violence in Kosovo were issued, two in the House and one in the Senate: Senate Resolution 326 and House Resolution 596 are the same. If adopted by both houses it will become an act of Congress.

*Senate Resolution 326* introduced by Senator Voinovich (Ohio) with seven cosponsors and referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on March 31 was agreed to in the Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent on April 8.

*House Resolution 596* was referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which referred it to the Subcommittee on Europe. This resolution is now on hold in the subcommittee. It appears that certain subcommittee members have stopped the process and seem to strongly oppose any condemnation of terrorism when perpetrated by Albanians. It must be also noted that some of the members of the subcommittee are also members of the Kosovo Albanian Caucus. It needs to be reactivated by the subcommittee members who need to vote for it.

**What can we do?** First it is important to understand this legislative procedure. For your edification we have enclosed a brief summary of this legislative process in the box below. Second, every American citizen has the right and the obligation to participate in the political process by having their voice heard. Your representative will hear you. If he or she is on the subcommittee they need to know why they should approve this resolution. (See below)

**How do we present our case?** Be clear on what

you want and why. SUC's position is that every representative should sign the House Resolution 596 because:

1. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations supported similar Senate Resolution 326 unanimously.
2. On March 18 and again on April 30 the UN Security Council condemned the March violence, warned the Albanian leadership about its role in that violence and demanded that the Albanian leadership assure
  - the returns of those displaced;
  - the rebuilding and reconstruction of the destroyed and damaged properties; and
  - compliance with standards set out in "Standards for Kosovo".
3. The European Union has done the same.
4. The March violence of murder, ethnic cleansing and destruction is in violation of values and principles of democracy that Americans share and cherish. It is the policy of our country not to condone this kind of violence.
5. There is no acceptable rationalization to make this an exception.

**How can we do this?** You can go to our web site [www.serbianunity.net](http://www.serbianunity.net), click on "Contact Your Representative in Congress" in the right column and on that page, mid-right column, enter your zip code. This will allow you to enter a site that will lead you through the steps to allow you to contact your representative.

### Resolution Procedure

1. A resolution or bill is referred to committee, which can refer it to a subcommittee for review.
2. Upon review a subcommittee can "mark up" the bill, i.e., make changes before recommending to full committee. Or, if it votes not to report to full committee, the bill dies.
3. Back in committee, there can be further study and hearings followed by a vote on its recommendations to the House of Senate. This is "ordering a bill reported."
4. The committee prepares a written report on the bill describing intent and scope, impact on existing laws, position of the executive branch and dissenting member views.
5. When reported back to the chamber, it is scheduled for debate and a vote.
6. When passed by one chamber it is referred to the other chamber to go through the same process, unless the same bill has already been through the process.
7. If actions of the other chamber alter the bill significantly, a conference committee is formed to reconcile the differences.
8. Both the House and the Senate must approve the conference report.
9. After approval by both chambers in identical form, the bill is sent to the President who can sign it into law or take no action for ten days making it automatically a law. Or, he can veto it, in which case Congress can try to "override the veto with a two thirds roll call vote of present members, given a quorum.

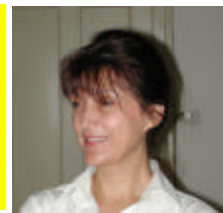
#### House Subcommittee on Europe Members and Districts

Doug Bereuter, Chairman, NB, 1st			
Dan Burton, IN, 5th	Elton Gallegly, CA 24th	Peter King, NY, 3rd	JoAnn Davis, VA, 1st
Thaddeus McCotter, MI, 11th	Roy Blunt, MO, 7th	Robert Wexler, FL, 19th	Eliot Engel, NY, 17th
William Delahunt, MA, 10th	Barbara Lee, CA, 9th	Joseph Hoeffel, PA, 13th	Earl Blumenauer, OR, 3rd



## Building on Past Efforts While Introducing New

Old efforts yield major results while the Belgrade Office continues to introduce new programs and solidify the role of Serbian Unity Congress as a major Diaspora factor.



### SUC and Diaspora Efforts Pay Off A Ministry for Diaspora Becomes Reality

Following three years of continuous efforts by the Serbian Unity Congress and other Diaspora organizations the Ministry for Diaspora in the Republic of Serbia is now a reality. Through our office in Belgrade Serb organizations worldwide (USA, Canada, Luxembourg, Austria, Australia, Romania, etc.) worked diligently to bring this dream to fruition. Coordination of input from such geographically diverse efforts was facilitated by our office and staff in Belgrade.

Our Belgrade staff scheduled interviews, carried out and published the results of research that compared the voting rights and the Ministry rights of 10 countries, and issued press releases and letters to the Parliament, Parliament club members and government. These efforts and the research paper were made public through media coverage of the efforts. What seemed impossible and without political backing turned out to be a solid example of how a well conceived, clearly articulated, planned and executed goal can be achieved with consensus. Diaspora team work was critical and exemplary in this effort.

Our work on this project is not finished. We will follow the work of the Ministry. Our Belgrade Office can and should be a valuable source of input into the Ministry's work. We see as the first area of cooperation the development of the new Law on Diaspora. We look forward to a future cooperation with the new Ministry for Diaspora.

### Voting Rights - Reality Or Formality

Did the changes in the law that gave voting rights to Diaspora crucially change the voting body of Serbia or are the rights to vote just a formality for majority of Diaspora?

The current law provides for votes to be cast only at a given Embassy or consulate effectively preventing an overwhelming portion of Diaspora to exercise this right. While pleased to see the Serbian government reactivating the Diaspora right to vote, the SUC continues to work to make the right a reality for all of Diaspora. SUC has submitted our proposal for an amendment to the Law recommending ways to allow for a maximum possible Diaspora participation in the voting process. Our Belgrade Office has held special consultations with Mr. Mihajlov, sponsor of the Law (DSS), and members of Nova Srbija (SPO) appointed to administer the Ministry for Diaspora and distributed the recommendation to various Parliament clubs.

Although our recommended amendment did not

reach the Parliament in time for a vote, it is receiving critical political review. We are also continuing to work on the simplification of the citizenship process for Diaspora.

### For Continuous News Visit the SUC Web Site

WWW.SERBIANUNITY.NET SUC's website is a rich source of information on SUC programs and news as well as both current and historical information on Serbia's culture and society. The SUC Internet Department (Belgrade Office) is now publishing an SUC e-mail Newsletter (Cyrillic). Currently there are over 2,000 subscribers, including all media organizations in Serbia. The end goal is 10,000 subscribers. The E-mail Newsletter can be accessed via the Belgrade Office web site.

- > There are numerous other interesting features on our web site.
- > Information on the establishment of the Ministry for Diaspora, including the draft laws, the law establishing the Ministry, and the SUC's amendments to the law, voting and citizenship for the Diaspora;
- > Lists of St. Sava Literary Contest donors and winners with photos from the awards ceremony (around 80 photos from 30 schools, the awarded works (about 30 of them); and
- > A full collection of articles on Serbia and Kosovo by USA Today reporter Jack Kelly who was discredited with unsubstantiated and false reporting.

We are also making it easier for our members to have their voices heard by our government. By the next convention you will be able to access all pertinent information for contacting your congressional representatives at our web site simply by typing in your zip code.

### SUC and Business Networking

The Belgrade Office of the Serbian Unity Congress has implemented a marketing campaign as part of our SUC Sponsorship Program (started last year) for potential donors in Serbia. The marketing targets the most reputable companies and gives them an opportunity to advertise in our Bulletin and our web site.

The majority of the over 50 companies contacted by the marketing manager of the Belgrade Office in February expressed a willingness to cooperate. We are pleased to have also received the endorsement letters from last year's donors OMNI STOCK and ZEPTER BANK. WESTERN UNION is also interested to continue cooperation.  
Slavka Draskovic  
Director, Belgrade Office

## Upcoming Presidential Elections in Serbia Serbs Throughout the World Can Vote

### Serbia to Hold Presidential Polls in June

Belgrade, April 4, AFP -- Serbia will hold presidential elections in June, in a fourth attempt to elect the top official in the republic, with voters expected to choose between pro-European and nationalist candidates.

Serbia has been without an elected president since December 2002. Three subsequent attempts have failed due to insufficient turnout in the past 17 months, prompting calls for the Milosevic-era electoral laws to be changed. In February, the parliament removed a 50-percent turnout threshold that had scuppered previous elections, and analysts said the poll would be successful this time.

The winning candidate must obtain the majority of the votes cast in the polls. Some 6.5 million voters are eligible to cast their ballots. If no candidate wins the majority, a run-off between the two candidates who obtain most of the votes cast will be organized two weeks later.

The neo-liberal G17 Plus party, a member of the ruling coalition, called all "democratic forces" to start talks on a joint candidate on Monday. "I believe that Serbia will have a possibility to chose between one democratic candidate and his other rival," said Goran Paunovic of G17 Plus.

### Nikolic Tops Opinion Polls of Presidential Hopefuls

Belgrade, SCG, May 6 -- According to the opinion poll dubbed 'Whom Serbia wants for president', the candidate of the Serbian Radical Party, Tomislav Nikolic, is on the top of the list of presidential hopefuls in Serbia.



According to the results of the opinion poll, conducted by the firm Marten Board, Tomislav Nikolic enjoys 30-percent confidence of the respondents, the candidate of the Democracy Party, Boris Tadic enjoys 19.3 percent support of the population and Dragan Marsicanin, the candidate of the ruling coalition, 18.4 percent.

Bogoljub Karic has garnered 9.6-percent of the vote, Ivica Dacic, the candidate of the Socialist Party, 1.8 and Borislav Pelevic of the Party for Serbian Unity, 1.1 percent. The political analyst Dejan Vuk Stankovic said there was no doubt

that Nikolic will compete in the runoff poll.

A total of 1,521 respondents in Serbia, excluding Kosovo, were included in the poll, conducted in the period from April 28th till May 4th, 2004

### Serbia-Montenegro Reshuffles Top Cabinet

Belgrade, April 17th, AFP -- The parliament of Serbia-Montenegro elected new foreign and defence ministers, as well as a minister for international economic relations, in a reshuffle expected since the new government in Serbia took power in March.

Serbia's Vuk Draskovic was elected foreign minister while Prvoslav Davinic was voted in as new defence minister in a majority vote by the 126 deputies of the parliament. Draskovic's party is a member of the Serbia's governing coalition while Davinic is a member of another ruling coalition party, G 17 Plus.



*Vuk Draskovic*

Predrag Ivanovic, a 50-year-old Montenegrin, was also appointed minister for international economic relations. Ivanovic, a prominent economist and university professor, is a member of Montenegro's ruling Democratic Party of Socialists.

The reshuffle follows the formation of a new government in Serbia on March 4, following early polls last year. "The change was conditioned with the results of the elections in Serbia. It came after a series of consultations with political representatives from both member states," Serbia-Montenegro President Svetozar Marovic told deputies.

Former foreign and defence ministers, Goran Svilanovic and Boris Tadic, resigned before Friday session of the parliament. Their parties are not members of Serbia's ruling coalition.

Davinic, 66, is a member of another ruling coalition party, G 17 Plus. A lawyer by training, he holds a doctorate in international law related to nuclear disarmament. He worked previously for the United Nations. Following the ouster of Milosevic in 2000, he joined Serbia-Montenegro's foreign ministry.

## Diaspora Can Vote for President of Serbia An Announcement by the Government of Serbia and Montenegro

### ИЗБОРИ ЗА ПРЕДСЕДНИКА РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРБИЈЕ

- ИНФОРМАЦИЈА О ИЗБОРНОЈ ПРОЦЕДУРИ У САД -

Амбасада Србије и Црне Горе у Вашингтону обавештава да су у Републици Србији расписани избори за председника Републике, који ће се одржати 13. јуна 2004. Грађани Републике Србије са борабиштем у САД ноћи ће да гласају у Амбасади СЦГ у Вашингтону, Генералном Конзулату СЦГ у Чикагу, као и на другим бирачким местима у САД које евентуално буде одредила Републичка изборна комисија, о чему ће бирачи бити благовремено упознати.

Амбасада Србије и Црне Горе у Вашингтону позива бираче који су уписани у бирачки списак у Републици Србији а имају борабиште у САД да, ради остваривања свог бирачког права, доставе попуњену Пријаву за гласање, заједно са копијом документа који потврђује пријаву борака у САД (нпр. фотокопија странице пасоша са важећом визом, фотокопија зелене картице, радне дозволе и сл.), најкасније до 20. маја 2004. г. Потребни подаци се могу доставити лично, путем поште на адресу односно факс Амбасаде СЦГ у Вашингтону или Генералног конзулата СЦГ у Чикагу.

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#### **ГЕНЕРАЛНИ КОНЗУЛАТ СЦГ У ЧИКАГУ ЈЕ НАДЛЕЖАН ЗА СЛЕДЕЋЕ ДРЖАВЕ У САД:**

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E mail: serbmontchicago@aol.com

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ВАШИНГТОН - САД  
КОНЗУЛАТ СРБИЈЕ И ЦРНЕ ГОРЕ  
ЧИКАГО - САД**



## Stability Pact supports Serbia-Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic integration

Belgrade, April 29, 2004 - Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Miroljub Labus met today with Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe Erhard Busek to discuss regional cooperation, revitalization and development of infrastructure and industry, and ways to encourage foreign investment in Serbia.

Busek stressed the significance of a regional free trade agreement and pointed out that the Pact will continue to support Serbia-Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic integration, reads a statement. He added that he will do everything to promote Serbia's economy in upcoming European business forums, so as to encourage foreign investors to invest in this market.

Labus and Busek welcomed the results of talks between the Serbian government and representatives of the World Bank

and the International Monetary Fund during the spring meeting in Washington between April 23 and 26, which they said brought the country back to the reform path and provided assurances that Serbia is a safe country to invest in. Busek also promised assistance in the implementation of agreed infrastructure projects, notably in the areas of oil, gas, energy, and electricity supply.

The two officials also agreed that the development and implementation of projects within the REBIS programme, initiated by the European Commission, should be sped up. The REBIS focuses on the development of the multimodal Core Regional Transport Network for the Western Balkans, the statement added.

■

## LEGIJA IN POLICE CUSTODY

Djindjic Assassination Mastermind Turns Himself In

Belgrade, Executive News, May 2 -- According B92, Milorad "Legija" Lukovic, sought for months in connection with the March 12, 2003 assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic Lukovic was picked up on Sunday night in Belgrade after phoning in location to the special forces commander.

Milorad "Legija" Lukovic headed the Zemun Clan and was accused by the Serbian police of organizing and committing the murder of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic.



tries worldwide have uncovered one of the largest organized criminal groups of cocaine and heroine traffickers. In this group, the Zemun Clan is the exclusive arm for this part of Europe. The wealth of Clan members is estimated at hundreds of millions of euros said the statement. Clan members would travel to attractive world destinations and present themselves as successful businessmen and members of the "world elite". In Serbia, they simulated the role of patriots, honorable fighters for the Serbian national cause with close ties to key figures in the Milosevic's regime.

According to a police statement, information collected from police and intelligence services from a number of coun-

The statement issued by the Serbia's Ministry of Interior says further that all members of the Clan will be arrested.

## Serbia Sees 2004 Growth Of 6 Percent

Belgrade, Apr. 29 (UPI) -- Serbian Finance Minister Mladjan Dinkic said Thursday he expected his country's economy to grow by around 6 percent year-on-year in 2004. Most economists had forecast growth of 4.5 percent for Serbia this year. But Serbian officials said such fore-

casts would have to be raised following much stronger than expected industrial production figures. Latest figures put Serbian industrial growth in March at 17.6 percent.

## U.N.: March Violence Hurt Kosovo Progress

UNITED NATIONS, May 5 (UPI) -- U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday the deadly onslaught, led by Kosovo Albanian extremists to drive out Kosovo's Serb, Roma and Askhali communities, was "an organized widespread and targeted campaign" which had seriously damaged the process of normalization and reconciliation.

What is now needed is concrete action by the leaders and

people of the province to not only ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice, but to rebuild the confidence among minority communities, and most of all, to address the root causes of the violence, he said in a report to the Security Council on the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.



## UN Tells Kosovo What It Wants

United Nations, UPI, April 30 - The U.N. Security Council served notice the future status of Kosovo will only be taken up after the province meets the panel's benchmarks.

Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-Government must first attain such goals as free, fair and regular elections, free media and a sound and impartial legal system, the Security Council said in a statement. "The Security Council reaffirms its strong support for the 'Standards before Status' policy that was devised for Kosovo ... in order to reach the goal of establishing in Kosovo a multi-ethnic, stable and democrat-

ic society," said the statement read aloud by Ambassador Gunter Pleuger of Germany, the Council President for April.

He said the U.N.-administered Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan unveiled last month should serve as a basis for assessing progress of the PISG in meeting the benchmarks. The plan is a detailed guide that sets specific goals in such areas as the building of democratic institutions, the enforcement of rights for minorities and the creation of a functioning economy.

## Lawmakers Unanimously Approve Serbian Government's Plan for Kosovo



(PHOTO: Tanjug)

Belgrade, April 29, 2004 - The Serbian parliament voted unanimously to adopt a government-proposed plan for a political solution to the situation in Kosovo-Metohija. Seven deputies out of the 215 present did not vote.

Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica addressed the parliament to expound the document, saying that the

proposed plan for a political solution to the current situation in Kosovo-Metohija calls for power decentralisation and territorial autonomy in order to protect Serbs and other non-Albanians in the province.

From now on, Serbia's policy on Kosovo-Metohija should be based on the plan which guarantees the status of local Serbs, their survival and return to the province, said Kostunica. The plan, which fully complies with international and domestic documents on Kosovo-Metohija, also proposes a system of legal and institutional guarantees for the local Serb population, the Prime Minister added.

The plan is also in line with a resolution on Kosovo-Metohija which the Serbian parliament adopted on March 26, Kostunica said, noting that the resolution describes three basic guidelines for drafting a political solution to the current situation in the province. The guidelines confirm that

Kosovo-Metohija is an integral part of Serbia and Serbia-Montenegro, call for securing conditions for the survival, safety and return of Kosovo-Metohija Serbs, as well as for new institutional guarantees for local Serbs and improved protection of their rights.

According to the Prime Minister, the plan is also in line with relevant international conventions for the protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and minority rights, particularly Europe's vast experience in protecting minority rights through territorial autonomy.

If it has failed to prevent ethnic cleansing in Kosovo-Metohija and remained deaf to frequent demands from Belgrade and Kosovo-Metohija Serbs that institutional protection of provincial Serbs must be improved, the international community now has the chance to demonstrate determination to resolve this problem, said Kostunica. The plan's implementation, as well as the entire policy in Kosovo-Metohija, is largely in the hands of the international community, he explained.

The plan may be subject to changes, but its essence must remain unchanged, the Prime Minister concluded. Stressing that it is of great importance that the parliament approves the plan, Kostunica added that it cannot be instantly implemented. If there is an issue that is of state importance in every sense of the word, Kosovo-Metohija and the survival and return of Serbs in the province is it, Kostunica said.

**Children from Serbia to participate in the International Children's Games in Cleveland**



Children's Games (ICG) in Cleveland, Ohio, to take place July 29 - Aug. 2 2004. The ICG are the world's largest international multi-sport youth games, with over 4000 athletes, ages 12 to 15, from over 40 countries expected to attend this year.

Miroslav Djordjevic, Chairman of the SUC Board of Directors, and Alex Machaskee, an SUC supporter and prominent Serbian-American businessman, recently suggested that children from Serbia take part in the International

opportunity it presented to show the world a positive, uplifting image of Serbia. Through our Belgrade office, the SUC contacted the Ministries for Diaspora, and of Education and Sports, submitting letters of recommendation from Djordjevic and Machaskee. Shortly thereafter, The Minister of Education and Sports, in conjunction with the mayor of Belgrade, sent an official request for participation to the organizers, and upon its acceptance the delegation to represent Serbia was selected - the children's basketball team.

To date, cities of Serbia have participated four times in the games. Interestingly, the first international youth games and culture festival were organized by a Yugoslav teacher, Metod Klemenc, in 1968. Since then, over 24,000 children took part, representing some 200 cities from 50 different countries.

SUC immediately embraced the idea, realizing the

**History of the ICG**

Having seen his own childhood disrupted by World War II, Yugoslavian Professor Metod Klemenc had a vision to promote peace and friendship through sports to the world's youth. Based on this dream, he organized the first International Children's Games and Cultural Festival in 1968 with the participation of teams from nine European cities. Since that time, 24,000 children ages 12 to 15 have participated, representing nearly 200 cities and 50 countries. The International Children's Games and Cultural Festival has become the world's largest international multisport youth games and is a recognized member of the International Olympic Committee.

Now, in 2004, in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, three thousand young athletes will join teammates and coaches from around the world by representing their cities as ambassadors of cultural exchange.

**Microsoft prepares localized version of Office 2003 in Serbian**

Belgrade, April 28, 2004 - Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica met today with representatives of the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences (SANU), Belgrade University, Matica Srpska Society and US software giant Microsoft.

As part of cooperation with the Serbian government, Microsoft has prepared a localised version of Microsoft Office 2003 in the Serbian language.



During the meeting, the participants reviewed the status of the localisation of software in the Serbian language, both in Cyrillic and in Latin scripts and the ways to constantly improve the quality of Serbian translations of software .

The cooperation between the Serbian government and Microsoft also includes a donation of 50,000 licences for Microsoft's applications in Serbian to the country's academic institutions.

**A historical reminder:** At the time of the negotiations with Microsoft, the Serbian government had been ready to conclude the agreement with Microsoft for the localization of the Windows XP operating system for the areas of Serbia and Montenegro but only to the Latin alphabet. In the spirit of the Serbian Unity Congress mission of preserving cultural heritage, SUC joined SANU in a campaign to protest the omission of the Cyrillic script gathering 14,000 signatures for a petition demanding the inclusion of cyrillic effectively changing the course of software development history in Serbia. Given that precedent, future developments as the Microsoft Office 2003 program are being developed for Serbian in both Cyrillic and Latin scripts.

## SUC Children Carry on the SUC Tradition

### Adriana Klompus

In 1972 a non-profit medical operation poster reading 'If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.' inspired Dr. Irwin Redlener, a New York pediatrician, to found the New York Children's Health Project, a branch of Children's Health Fund. An article about Dr. Redlener inspired Adriana Klompus to develop and submit a project proposal for a summer fellowship in Serbia.

Adriana is a 17 year old high school junior at the Branson School in Ross, California. Three Branson alumni families offer to every junior class summer fellowships for programs of the students' own creation in the areas of culture/society, literature and science. The mission of the fellowship program is to provide students an opportunity to grow intellectually, creatively and spiritually. Fellowship proposals are selected on the basis of originality, substance and quality of presentation. This year Adriana was one of 5 candidates in a junior class of 82 students who were honored as fellowship recipients for the summer of 2004.

Daughter to Mirjana Samardzija, Vice President of SUC, and Dr. Joel Klompus, Adriana has a sensitivity to the needs of the Serbian people and an inclination to medicine. Adriana hopes to become a pediatrician. The project Adriana proposed for the Branson fellowship, "Delivering Care to Medically Underserved Serbian Children", involves spending one month in Serbia working as a volunteer with the humanitarian organization Family Care in the delivery of medical care to children, including refugees. Family Care collaborates with the Mother and Child Institute. She will be working under the supervision of Dr. Ljiljana Avramovic Savic, Director of Family Care. The project also includes continuous lessons in Serbian during her stay.



The fellowship requires a report on the experience to be presented to the school and the family awarding the fellowship. Adriana plans to film the volunteer work with children. She will also do some research on the delivery of medical care to children by Family Care and the role of other humanitarian organizations. These will be combined into a video presentation.

Adriana's special love is music. She is a composer and a student at the San Francisco Conservatory. As part of her project she will also compose a score for the video incorporating the regional sounds.

Upon completion of this video report Adriana plans to approach foundations with a recommendation that they set up similar summer volunteer fellowship programs.

In stating her reasons for the volunteer opportunity she wrote: "I realized that for those of us who are lucky enough to have copious opportunities to do something small to maybe change the world ... taking advantage of these opportunities is a responsibility. If people who have the possibility of reversing the health care problem in impoverished countries ignore this responsibility and ignore the issues that are so present in delivering adequate care to those less fortunate, who will take the first step forward to grasp the privilege before him or her and use it to address this issue? Who will be part of the solution?" Adriana hopes that "Through this process, I can make myself part of the solution."

Prior to the volunteer project in Serbia Adriana will be participating in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in Phoenix. She was nominated as a participant to this Forum by the Branson faculty. She is also one of two recipients of this year's Branson School Chemistry Award.

CULTURE

## UNESCO Delegation of Experts Reviews Destruction in Kosovo

Shortly after the March violence in Kosovo UNESCO assembled a delegation of experts to go to Kosovo and review the damage to churches and monasteries. The delegation visited 27 of the 38 destroyed monuments because KFOR was unable to secure safe passage for the delegation to the other sites. Damages were assessed at \$30 million.

Following the UNESCO review it was agreed that Decani will become a world cultural monument and will be under

constant military and police protection. It is also expected that the monuments of the Patriarchate of Pec, Gračanica, Bogorodica Ljeviska, St. Archangel Monastery and Monastery Banjska will be added to the list.

The UNESCO assessment coincided with another review of damages to houses. A Kosovo inter-ministerial commission assessed that damages caused on March 17 and 18 and concluded that the cost of houses destroyed in the riots was 12 million Euros.

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