



# SERBIAN UNITY CONGRESS

КОНГРЕС СРПСКОГ УЈЕДИЊЕЊА

YOUR VISION IS OUR VISION, YOUR GOALS OURS.

AUGUST 2004

No. 262

## REPRESENTING SERBS IN WASHINGTON

During the month of June, SUC members continued to organize meetings with their Congressional representatives and sending letters to urging them to sign House Res. 596 that condemns the March ethnic violence that was orchestrated by the Kosovo Albanians against Serbs and non-Albanian minorities.

Originally introduced by Rep. Burton (IN), H Res 596 is sitting in the Europe Sub-committee. However, Serb-Americans in California, Florida, Wisconsin, and elsewhere have been actively contacting their representatives. Currently there are 29 House members co-sponsoring this resolution and the number is climbing. However, Serbs must become more active or the anti-Serb lobbyists will reach these Congressmen before we do.

The results show: In districts where Serb-Americans contacted their representatives they had successes. Unfortunately, there are still significant Serbian populated districts that need to contact their representatives. (Find out more how you can make a difference by contacting the SUC Washington Office by telephone: 202-463-8643)

Our Washington office provided up-to-date information on the situation in Kosovo to be presented at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 5 - 9 July, 2004 in Edinburgh, Scotland. During the OSCE Parliamentary meetings, Rep. Tancredo (CO) contributed to a resolution to condemn the violence against Serbs in Kosovo. The Resolution asks for the severe punishment for perpetrators of the violence and expresses a great concern over the blocking of return of some 200 thousand displaced Serbs and other non-Albanians, as well as the destruction of more than 100 Serb religious facilities since 1999. The OSCE member-states were invited to assure a

thorough investigation of the March violence, and that perpetrators are delivered to justice, as well as to enable the security for the returnees.

To assist in our efforts to mobilize Serbs and spark an interest in their representatives, the SUC Washington office spent tremendous efforts to gather data from the United States 2000 Census report to build a database of Serb demographics for every Congressional district in the United States and its territories. This information allows us to target certain members of Congress and to inform them with valuable statistics of the presence of Serbs in their districts combined with information on Serbian contributions to their community and identifying Serbian Orthodox Church parishes. In many cases, a member of Congress may not be aware of the presence of a Serb community in their district. Just a few thousand Serbs in a district is enough to encourage a Congressional staff office to place Serb issues on their radar screen.

### Mobilizing a Serb Response

The SUC learned of a letter authored by Rep. Lantos and circulated in Congress, addressed to the Serbia and Montenegro government in protest of the treatment of Hungarian minorities by Serbs in Vojvodina. However, the SUC continued to inform members of Congress and the State Department about the situation in Vojvodina and the letter did not gain additional signatures. Furthermore, the EU selected Vojvodina for Region of the Year

(2006) for its stability and ethnic diversity despite violence in other Balkan areas.

In addition to the Kosovo and Vojvodina issues, the SUC has protested the recent sacking of Republika Srpska officials by OHR Paddy Ashdown. We will continue to monitor and inform about the rights of ethnic Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia – Hercegovina as well as in Serbia and Montenegro. To assist this aim, the SUC appeals to all Serbs and friends of Serbs to help us by volunteering or donating to our projects. To meet our growing needs in Washington, the SUC is requesting donated computer and office equipment in order to keep up with the pace on Capitol Hill.

For more information about volunteering, student internships, and donating office equipment, please call our office today!

Andy Verich  
Washington Director



Rep. Tom Tancredo (CO) discussing the Kosovo crisis and lack of progress of UNMIK with Bishop Artemije and SUC Washington Director Andy Verich on July 23, 2004.



After returning from an eventful and tiring trip to Serbia, I made a promise not to work on Serbian issues for at least a month. You should have seen my wife's face when she found me drafting SUC letters

a couple of days later. Anyhow, our journey to the homeland this year was very emotional and fun at the same time. Our BLAGO team spent a week in Kosovo, going to the monasteries of Decani and Sokolica, followed by a few days in Monastery Sopocani, finally moving on to complete work on St. Peter's church in Novi Pazar, as well as Monastery Djurdjevi Stupovi. The rest we spent in Belgrade, going from one meeting to another, observing the Serbian presidential elections, as well as the general atmosphere.

To summarize our impressions:

- (a) Monastery Decani, the most beautiful of them all, remains an island and beacon of the Serbian spirit.
- (b) Overall, things in Serbia definitely seem better; however, you can't take that to the grocery store - most people are still unemployed.
- (c) Democracy is objectively strengthened in Serbia, as two rounds of presidential elections passed in very orderly fashion, with no complaints even from the "usual suspects"

On the way to Decani, the road takes you through Nis, Prokuplje, Kursumlija, Pristina, Pec. After crossing the province's administrative boundary post, you are hit with a striking difference: there are people on the other side of it. While roads through villages, and the villages themselves, around Prokuplje and Kursumlija appear empty, the other side is full of kids going to schools or playing in the field. This is indicative of a fundamental problem - one we began addressing at last year's convention: you cannot live in Belgrade and keep Kosovo-Metohija, with a population shift north creating a vacuum on the southern end; a long-term and deliberate

program is needed to address this issue. Once we entered Kosovo-Metohija, we've been escorted by UNMIK police composed of Jordanian soldiers. The good news: they did their job, we are still here; the bad news: traveling through your country and the Holy Land of Kosovo requires Jordanians!? The brotherhood of Decani received us with their traditional hospitality, and we again met familiar faces, including the tireless Father Sava, the Deputy Abbot and celebrated "cyber monk". The Abbot of Decani, Father Teodosije, was consecrated as Bishop of Ljiljan only a week after we left, thus giving this thriving center of Christ's faith an added edge of well-deserved importance.

The presidential election in Serbia came down to two candidates: Tadic and Nikolic. We saw both election rallies in Belgrade. At the the end Tadic won; however, it is clear that there is a split in Serbia among "liberals" (Tadic) and "conservatives" (Nikolic), with half the electorate skipping the polls altogether. I deliberately avoid using words "pro-Western" and "nationalist", since they often tend to have a polarizing, and thus negative effect. I honestly believe both factions want good and prosperity for Serbia; finding the right policies that will achieve that in today's world - in a way that will not mortgage our children's future - is very challenging indeed, though I see some form of Serbia's further move towards free market economy and the European Union as unavoidable.

Our meetings and contacts with key American and international representatives in Serbia-Montenegro - starting from the recently appointed Ambassador Michael Polt, followed by USAID Mission Chief Keith Simmons, and several UNMIK, OSCE representatives and others - gave a heartening sense that these individuals, and the general policies that they are tasked to implement, are genuinely bent on helping the country and promoting its prosperity. To be fair, these meetings highlighted some of the difficulties that remain in the long process of Serbia restoring its economic viability, as well as full sovereignty and rightful place in the world community of nations, but at the same time pointed at specific areas where improvement can be expected, and in which SUC can help as a meaningful and constructive player.

At same time and in the subsequent weeks,

several other of our Directors that also spent time in Serbia's capital, followed up on some of the mentioned contacts, and, engaging our Belgrade office staff full-throttle, held a series of other important meetings with local Government, NGO and media officials. The results of some of these are to be detailed in our further communications.

Back in the US, the presidential and other November elections will dominate our efforts in the upcoming months. We need to reach both candidates and introduce them to our views on Southeastern Europe. We believe that Serbia is a crucial factor of stability in the region, and as such must become a properly recognized partner for peace and in the war on terror. Eradicating the terrorist networks in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Kosovo & Metohija is a goal fully shared by the US and Serbia-Montenegro. The series of policy errors made the previous US administration that allowed the creation of this springboard to Europe for Islamic radicals is by now well-documented, and we must work on reversing it. Serbia was, and remains, a bulwark against the radical Islamic thrust.

Finally - need I remind - we continue our busy preparations for the upcoming Convention, to be held in the nation's capital, Oct. 21-4. This promises to be a most worthwhile event, yet many things remain to be done by then. Not least of which - make good on our promise of doubling the membership, so: please go out, talk to your friends, and get them on board!

Nenad Vukicevic

**LOOK AT THE LAST PAGE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT OUR UPCOMING  
CONVENTION**

**WASHINGTON 2004  
OCT 21st - 24th**

**ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO  
JOIN YOU.**

**JOIN US FOR THURSDAY MORN-  
ING CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST.  
INVITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO  
JOIN US.**

**202-463-8643**

## ON CAPITOL HILL

### SENATOR SAM BROWNBACK (KS): RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON, DC.

During the March 17 pogrom directed against Serbs in Kosovo, Senator Brownback wrote a letter to President Bush which he concluded, "We should not consider advancing the cause of independence of a people whose first act when liberated was to ethnically cleanse a quarter of a million of their fellow citizens and destroy over a hundred of their holy sites." He also cosponsored S Res 326 introduced by Senator Voinovich.



June 2, 2004, members of the SUC Washington office and SUC DC Chapter with Senator Brownback.

### SENATOR SANTORUM (PA): RELIGIOUS LIBERTY WORKING GROUP MEETING

The Senate Conference is made up of 51 Senate Republicans and its mission is to inform its members and the media the opinions and policies of Senate Republicans. Senator Santorum chairs this conference and is focused on religious liberty. Following the March attacks in Kosovo against Serbian Orthodox Church, and following the meetings held with the SUC and His Grace Bishop Artemije, members of the Senate Conference seeks to end such persecution and to make the perpetrators held accountable.

June 15, 2004: The agenda included a discussion of current priority items that the coalition would like to weigh in on with Senators and staff. The SUC Washington office presented items about the persecution of Serbian Orthodox in Kosovo that the group could address in Congress to advance our cause for the upcoming visit by Bishop Artemije of Kosovo - Metohija.

### WOODROW WILSON CENTER: NEXHAT DACI, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOSOVO

June 22, 2004, Nexhat Daci stated during his presentation that the March violence in Kosovo is an indication of the frustration of Albanians. Daci warned that if the Albanians do not get independence their people will fight for it like they have in the past. He said that Serbia must accept that it has people outside its borders and interestingly, compared the problem of Albanian minorities with Hungary. This may be

a signal that the Albanian lobby strategy is to use the Hungarian minority situation in Vojvodina to their advantage.

### CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS BRIEFING: VIOLENCE AGAINST HUNGARIANS IN VOJVODINA.

July 14, 2004: The briefing was organized by the Center for Hungarian American Congressional Relations and the National Federation of Croatian Americans. Panelists included Charles English, U.S. State Department; Nenad Canak, President of the Vojvodina Parliament; and Ivan Vujacic Ambassador of Serbia and Montenegro. The members of Congress included Dennis J. Kucinich (OH), Mrs. Annette Lantos (wife of Tom Lantos), and Congressman Eliot Engel (NY). The briefing was attended by members of the Serbia Montenegro Embassy, SUC Washington office, Snezana Radjan (Serb National Defense), and journalists.

Despite a negative briefing given by the State Department that there is violence directed towards ethnic Hungarians, Ambassador Ivan Vujacic presented an informative briefing with actual figures and facts including a chronology of events. In addition, he noted that Vojvodina has substantial autonomy and self-rule already. Furthermore, the standards of Vojvodina are higher than what the EU requires. Rep. Kucinich asked for specific persecution but

the State Department did not have data on attacks but indicated there are reports that verbal attacks on the street take place.

### SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS HEARING ON THE BALKANS:

July 14, 2004: Led by Senator Voinovich and Senator Biden, the Senate Hearing included Ms. Kathy Stephens, Deputy Assistant Secretary, South Central Europe (State Department) and Ms. Mira Ricardel, Assistant Secretary (Acting), International Security Policy, Department of Defense gave a report about prospects for bringing lasting peace and democracy to the long-troubled Balkans region.

During the hearing Ms. Stephens said, "I believe we're making slow but steady progress." Senator Voinovich who has traveled to Kosovo three times since 1999 responded: "We need to do more and that the situation on the ground remains tense." He also asked about the presence of Al-Qaida and Islamic extremists in the Balkans. Stephens admitted there are still Islamic groups and that she is monitoring the Islamic charities still operating in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Senator Voinovich also told the panel that although there are success stories about some minorities returning, by far more leave Kosovo than return. He said in 1999, Rugova and Thaci ruined a great opportunity to make a better future for Kosovo.

He told them directly that they cannot take over Kosovo after what has happened since 1999.

Ms. Ricardel also announced that the Defense Department and the government of Serbia-Montenegro have agreed to establish a state partnership program with the Ohio National Guard. The program, designed to improve relations between the United States and other nations, links the National Guard in various states with agencies in partner countries.

**BISHOP ARTEMIJE: "MISSION OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING"**

Three Day Celebration of Serbian Heritage in Pittsburg Pennsylvania took place on July 16-18, 2004. During the Sunday picnic, Dan Pyevich, President of the Serb National Federation welcomed Andy Verich, Director of the SUC Washington office and thanked the SUC for its hard work in Washington urging Serbs to participate in all Serbian organizations. Bishop Artemije urged all Serbs to contact their representatives in Congress about Kosovo. He emphasized that it is important for the US Congress to receive letters from individual Serbian Americans and that more the letters the better.

His Grace Bishop Artemije of Rasika and Prizren, Kosovo and Metohija and Hieromonk Mihajlo (Tosic) Abbot of Sopotchani Monastery with Andy Verich, at the SUC Washington office on M Street. The SUC organized another "whirlwind" visit with Bishop Artemije that included meetings in the Senate, House, State Department, press conferences and a meeting with President Boris Tadic who was also in Washington. The meetings took place July 19 - 23, 2004.

On July 20, 2004, Bishop Artemije and SUC Washington Office Director, Andy Verich discussed the crisis in Kosovo with Rep. Henry Hyde (IL), Chairman of the House International Relations Committee. The SUC has been in regular contact with the House IR Committee in regards to the March 2004 pogrom in Kosovo and H Res 596 which condemns the ethnic cleansing of Serbs by extremist Albanians. Additional meetings were made with Rep. Rahm Emanuel (IL), and Rep. Joe Pitts (PA) who are both consponsors for H Res 596 condemning violence against Serbs in Kosovo.

Following a fruitful meeting with



Serbian President Boris Tadic July 20, 2004, Senator George Voinovich (OH) discussed the Kosovo crisis. Senator Voinovich will be working with the SUC in order to counter the positive reports made by State Department in regards to the security and refugee situation in Kosovo and Metohije. Senator Voinovich stated he does not believe UNMIK and the Kosovo Albanian leadership is doing its job nor is the U.S. State Department reporting an accurate assessment to the U.S. Government of the actual situation.

SUC Washington Director Andy Verich thanked Rep. Steve Chabot (OH) for his strong support of H Res 596 and his interest in Serb issues. Rep. Chabot met with Bishop Artemije and Andy Verich July 23, 2004.

Bishop Artemije addressed members of various think-tanks and members of the SUC Washington DC chapter about the situation in Kosovo and the sense of urgency of this crisis. Joe Grieboski, President of the Institute of Religion and Public Policy (IRPP) hosted this reception near the Capitol for His Grace on Thursday, July 23, 2004 with Damjan de Krnjevic-Miskovic, Senior Fellow from the Institute. The IRPP has been working with Senator Santorum (PA), Senator Brownback (KS) and the SUC to bring more attention to the persecution of Serb Orthodox in the Senate Conference on Religious Liberty.

Rep. Tancredo first learned about the persecution of Serbs from members of the SUC in Colorado's 6th District and has recently made a trip to Europe for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 5 - 9 July, 2004 in Edinburgh, Scotland. During the OSCE Parliamentary meetings, Rep. Tancredo (CO) contributed to a resolution to condemn the violence against Serbs in

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Kosovo. The Resolution asks for the severe punishment for perpetrators of the violence and expresses a great concern over the blocking of return of some 200 thousand displaced Serbs and other non-Albanians, as well as the destruction of more than 100 Serb religious facilities since 1999. The OSCE member-states were invited to assure a thorough investigation of the March violence, and that perpetrators are delivered to justice, as well as to enable the security for the returnees.

Bishop Artemije wrapped up his visit with a meeting at the Senate Republican Conference on Religious Liberty.

The 2000 United States Census reports 134,110 persons (US citizens) reporting Serb ancestry, in addition to 379,052 persons defining their ancestry as Yugoslavian.		
State	Serbs	Yugoslavs
Pennsylvania	18,316	12,896
Illinois	17,893	25,853
Ohio	16,859	12,287
California	12,760	49,560
Indiana	9,238	4,864
*NOTE: In 2000, Yugoslavia still existed and therefore it is assumed many Serbs identified themselves as Yugoslavs. These statistics do not include large numbers of ethnic Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia or many American born Serbs who identify themselves as Americans although they are members of the Serbian Orthodox Church.		

**THE BLAGO FUND COMPLETES FOUR FIELD ARCHIVES: MONASTERIES DECANI, SOPOCANI, AND DJURDJEVI STUPOVI, AS WELL AS PETER'S CHURCH**

June 21, 2004, Belgrade – Decani - Novi Pazar – This year's BLAGO expedition has visited and completed field archives in three monasteries that are important in Serbian cultural heritage.

**MONASTERY DECANI**

Due to the upcoming elevation to bishophood of Bishop Teodosije, the BLAGO team's visit to Decani was shorter than originally planned. However, with the complete support of Bishop Teodosije (Iguman of Decani at the time) and the whole brotherhood of the monastery, the team was able to accomplish much of the original plan, including a complete virtualization of the church and surrounding areas and fresco details of the lower levels of the interior church walls. Plans were also created for a future more extensive visit. More than 10 GB of materiel was collected. The Serbian government's Coordination Center for Kosovo provided transportation for the crew and equipment to Decani, with UNMIK providing an armed escort. The brotherhood of the Decani Monastery was also instrumental in the success of the visit.

**MONASTERY SOPOCANI**

Situated in the Raska region near the city of Novi Pazar, the Sopocani monastery is a masterpiece of 12th century architecture and art. It is designated by UNESCO as a world monument, one of

the few located in Serbia. With the help of the friendly brotherhood of the monastery, the BLAGO fund was able to create a complete archive of the church, including detailed images of all the interior frescoes. Due to the high number of visitors to the monastery, the team often worked during the night. Iguman Mihajlo was happy to accommodate the team, and helped to ensure completion of the work.

Father Vasilije of the Sopocani Monastery demonstrated his "Spiritual Internet" work, a book in progress, consisting of drawings to introduce the scriptures to individuals. It was a welcome reminder that sophisticated equipment is not necessary to create meaningful contributions to the Serbian cultural heritage.

**PETER'S CHURCH (PETROVA CRKVA) AND MONASTERY DJURDJEVI STUPOVI**

Situated in Novi Pazar, Petrova Crkva dates from the 9th century A.D. and is a symbol of Serbian Christian faith. St Nemanja, the founder of the Serbian medieval dynasty, was baptized in this church in the 12th century. The church is surrounded by a dense 18th century graveyard. An archive of the few remaining interior frescoes and surrounding area was completed.

Monastery Djurdjevi Stupovi has only been inhabited by monks since the year 2000. It represents a rebirth of the Christian faith after 300 years, and has received much media attention in the last few years due to high profile fundraisers and appeals for restoration of the Monastery. The BLAGO team ar-



chived the current state of the monastery and church, including the frescoes and surrounding architecture.

Cable Factory (FKS) from Jagodina provided transportation for scaffolding and some other equipment. New BLAGO Archive: St Peter's Church.

**THE OLDEST SERBIAN CHURCH ONLINE**

<http://blago.serbianunity.net/>

Washington-Belgrade-July 30,2004 - The BLAGO Fund of the Serbian Unity Congress is pleased to announce an addition to its on-line archive of Serbian heritage. Dating from the 12th century, St Peter's Church in Ras (Novi Pazar) is the oldest Serbian Orthodox church in existance.

Through the BLAGO Fund, it is available for public viewing on the BLAGO web site at [blago.serbianunity.net](http://blago.serbianunity.net). In addition to a virtual walkthrough utilizing Apple QuickTime VR technology, over two hundred high quality digital images of frescoes and architectural details are available for examination and study. This archive is the first result of the BLAGO field expedition during June of 2004. For more information regarding the BLAGO Fund, including past and present projects, contact BLAGO Fund at [blago@serbianunity.net](mailto:blago@serbianunity.net).

The latest: The Serbian Ministry of Culture decided to co-sponsor a special presentation of the work done by our BLAGO Fund. This is yet another example how Homeland and Diaspora work together in promoting Serbian heritage. We hope to have this completed by our convention in October.



**MIROSLAV STAROVLAH VISITED  
WASHINGTON DC**

WASHINGTON, Aug 6 – Miroslav Starovlah, son of Father Jeremiah Starovlah and brother of Aleksandar Starovlah who were recently attacked by SFOR troops in Pale, Republika Srpska, visited Washington DC on July 30, 2004. Along with Andy Verich, Director of the S.U.C. Washington, office Mr. Starovlah presented testimonies to U.S. State Department to desk officers of the Bosnia-Herzegovina section, the OSCE Ambassador Robert Beecroft (Head of Mission to BiH) and to the U.S. House Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

On April 1, 2004, SFOR soldiers serving under the command of U.S. Major General Virgil L. Packett in Bosnia-Herzegovina, raided the home of a Serbian Orthodox priest, Father Stavrophor Jeremiah Starovlah. Both the priest and his son were critically wounded by the NATO soldiers and are currently in rehabilitation and not expected to recover fully from their injuries. The SFOR units reportedly consisted of troops from the United States, Great Britain and Slovenia.

**ASHDOWN ATTACKS DEMOCRACY IN  
REPUBLIKA SRPSKA**

WASHINGTON, DC, Jul 7 — The Serbian Unity Congress (SUC) strongly protested the recent wholesale dismissal of 60 high officials of the Republika Srpska government - including Speaker of the Parliament Dr. Kalinic and Minister of the Interior Djeric - by the international High Representative (OHR) for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Paddy Ashdown.

These draconian measures based on unsubstantiated claims represent yet another - though stronger than ever before - attack on democracy in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its very foundations stemming from the Dayton-Paris accords. HR Ashdown's attempts to effectively destroy the Bosnian Serb state entity represent an unacceptable revision of the carefully balanced political solutions built into the Dayton agreement, as much as a dangerous security gaff in present realities of ongoing global war on terror and the relationship of Bosnia-Herzegovina to it.

In a broader sense, the SUC strongly supports the principles of truth, justice and reconciliation that were behind the creation of the ICTY, and the ICC in general. However, these principles - as well as the actual bodies tasked with implementing them - are continuously being compromised by the blatant application of double standards, exemplified by the latest move of the OHR. Only genuine even-handedness can achieve these goals in a real and sustainable way.

**H. RES. 726: DOUG BEREUTER AND  
RAHM EMANUEL INTRODUCED A  
RESOLUTION TO COMMEND SERBIA  
ON ITS RECENT DEMOCRATIC ELEC-  
TION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE USA, AUG 12**

**H.RES.726**

Doug Bereuter (R-NE) and Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) introduced a resolution (H.RES.726) to commend Serbia on its recent democratic elections. U.S. Representatives Robert Wexler (D-FL) and Dan Burton (R-IN) were original cosponsors of the resolution.

Congratulating the people of Serbia and government of Serbia for conducting democratic, free and fair presidential elections and for reaffirming Serbia's commitment to peace, democracy and the rule of law.

WHEREAS the democratic revolution in Serbia on October 5, 2000 resulted in the overthrow of President Slobodan Milosevic.

WHEREAS Prime Minister of Serbia Zoran Djindjic, a leader of the Democratic Party, was assassinated in March 2003, threatening Serbia's democratic reforms.

WHEREAS Mr. Boris Tadic, a close friend and colleague of Mr. Djindjic, was elected President of Serbia on June 27, 2004 by a majority of Serbian voters who chose his path of reform and opportunity over radicalism, isolation and conflict.

WHEREAS as Minister of Defense of Serbia and Montenegro, Mr. Tadic demonstrated courage, composure, dignity and wisdom, during the outbreak of ethnic violence in Kosovo between March 17 – 19, 2004, by not deploying Serbian military forces in reaction to the violence, and

by working with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Kosovo Force (KFOR) to resolve the crisis.

WHEREAS as Minister of Defense of Serbia and Montenegro, Mr. Tadic achieved significant reforms of the Serbian military and security organizations.

WHEREAS the 2004 Serbian presidential election signifies a turning point for Serbia, and offers hope and opportunity to the Serbian people.

WHEREAS, President Tadic has affirmed that full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is a pre-condition for Serbia's political and economic integration with the west.

WHEREAS, Serbia and the Serbian people remain committed to democratic reforms and the path toward regional cooperation and integration into Europe and Euro-Atlantic institutions, including NATO and the European Union (EU);

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives that the House –

(1) commends the government of Serbia and the Serbian people for conducting a democratic, free and fair election;

(2) supports continued democratic reforms in Serbia and urges President Tadic and Prime Minister Kostunica to continue the reform processes begun in October 2000;

(3) recognizes the importance of strengthening regional stability and democracy in the Balkans and encourages and supports Serbia and Montenegro's integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

**CONGRESSMAN DAN BURTON (IN)**



President of Serbia, Boris Tadic, and Senator George Voinovich

Mr. Boris Tadic  
President of Serbia

Dear President Tadic:

I would like to offer you my heartfelt congratulations on your victory to serve as the next President of Serbia. This is a significant and welcome development, and I look forward to working with you to further relations between the United States and Serbia and Montenegro in the coming months.

As we discussed during your visit to Washington in April, I believe it is crucial that Serbia continue democratic reforms as it moves toward membership in Europe's democratic institutions, including NATO and the European Union. It is also important that Belgrade further cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). You stressed the importance of these themes throughout the presidential campaign, and I am delighted that the majority of Serbia's voters endorsed your vision for reform and progress when they went to the polls yesterday.

As a member of the United States Senate, I have long held an interest in South-east Europe, and I will continue to pay

close attention to developments in this part of the world. I am hopeful that your government will soon take action with regard to cooperation with The Hague, and that certification will soon be forthcoming. As we discussed during your visit earlier this year, I also remain very concerned with developments in Kosovo—particularly following the ethnic violence that erupted on March 17. I would be interested in your assessment of the situation in Kosovo, including refugee return, progress on the reconstruction of homes and churches destroyed in March, and the human rights environment in general.

While we face challenges in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world, I believe it is important that the United States remain engaged in the Balkans, and I look forward to working with you to address challenges in Serbia. Again, I offer you my sincere congratulations, and I wish you and your family all the best.

Sincerely,

George Voinovich  
United States Senator



Dan Burton is serving his eleventh term as a United States Representative from Indiana's newly configured Fifth Congressional District. His first term in Congress began in January of 1983. The Fifth District lies in the heart of central Indiana and includes all of Tipton, Grant, Miami, Wabash, Huntington, Hamilton, and Hancock Counties, and parts of Marion, Shelby, Howard and Johnson Counties.

When Congressman Burton assumed the Chairmanship of the House Committee on Government Reform in the 105th Session of Congress, he became the first Hoosier Republican to Chair a Full House Committee in more than sixty years. The last was Congressman William Robert Wood, who chaired the Committee on Appropriations during the 71st Congress (1929-1931).

Dan Burton was born on June 21, 1938, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He attended Shortridge High School, Indiana University, and the Cincinnati Bible Seminary. He served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Reserves (1957-1962). Before his election to Congress, Mr. Burton held office in the Indiana State Senate (1969-70 and 1981-82), as well as in the Indiana House of Representatives (1967-68 and 1977-80). The Burton Family resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**HELPING SERBS:**

Standing up for Serbs and ensuring the Serbian side is presented is a top priority for Congressman Burton as a legislator serving on the House International Relations Committee. Congressman Burton introduced H.Res. 596 (108th) condemning ethnic violence against Serbs in Kosovo and is cosponsor to H.Res. 726 (108th which congratulates Serbia on its free and fair Presidential elections. He was also a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 158 (105th), which condemned the deployment of U.S. troops in the service of the UN in the former Yugoslavia. Congressman Burton also cosponsored H.R. 1172 (105th) which would bar funds to the DoD for deployment of troops to Bosnia.



**14th Annual Convention  
Washington D.C.  
October 21-24**  
reserve your space today!

**RESERVE THE DATE!  
JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL CONVENTION  
IN WASHINGTON DC**

**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY DAY ON THE HILL**  
8-10 a.m. Congressional Breakfast  
10-noon Serbs in Congress  
2-5 p.m. IAB Meeting  
6-8 p.m. Reception

**FRIDAY ECONOMIC FORUM**  
9 – 9:30 am Opening  
9:30-noon Economic Forum  
Noon – 2 p.m. Economic Forum Lunch  
2-5 p.m. Economic Forum  
6-7 p.m. Cocktails  
7-midnight Evening Cultural Program

**SATURDAY GENERAL SESSION**  
10-noon Future of SaM-US  
Noon – 2 p.m. Lunch with Speaker  
2-5 p.m. OUR MISSION  
Culture & Heritage  
Diaspora & Homeland  
Washington Efforts  
7:00-Midnight Dinner and Program

**SUNDAY SUC BUSINESS**  
9-12a.m. Reports, Resolutions  
Nominations, Elections  
12-2p.m. Board Meeting

**INVITED GUESTS**

Boris Tadic, President of Serbia  
Vojislav Kostunica, Prime Minister of Serbia  
Bishop Artemije, Kosovo & Metohija  
Vojislav Vukcevic, Minister for Diaspora  
Dragan Mikerevic, Prime Minister RS  
Aleksandar Popovic, Minister for Technology  
Ivan Vujacic, SaM Ambassador  
Igor Davidovic, B&H Ambassador  
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