



SERBIAN UNITY CONGRESS

КОНГРЕС СРПСКОГ УЈЕДИЊЕЊА

1 INFORMATION & ANTIDEFAMATION

2 PRESERVE YOUR HERITAGE

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DECEMBER 2004

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SERBIAN LADY IN US CONGRESS

Melissa Bean was born in Chicago and resides in Barrington, Ill. She graduated from Maine East High School in Park Ridge, and received an associate's degree in business from Oakton Community College and a bachelor's degree in political science from Roosevelt University.

Bean has worked for 20 years in the high-tech industry. She is president of Sales Resources Inc., a consulting firm serving high-tech clients internationally. Before founding the company in 1995,

Bean worked in management positions at technology companies that include Arrow Electronics, Motorola, SynOptics (now Nortel) and Dataflex.

Bean has been married for 19 years to her husband, Alan. They have two daughters.

Melissa Bean



CONGRATULATIONS MELISSA!
ZIVELII!

San Francisco Bay Area

Holy Trinity Cultural Center
1700 School Street
Moraga, CA 94556



New Year's Eve Gala

Dinner and BLAGO Program

Dec 31st, 2004

5:30 pm - 1:00 am

For the benefit of the BLAGO Fund projects in Kosovo & Metohija. See the last page for more information.

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IN FOCUS

THREE ETHNIC ALBANIANS CONVICTED FOR BURNING OLD SERBIAN CHURCH IN KOSOVO RIOTS

NOT!



PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro (AP) _ A Kosovo court sentenced three ethnic Albanians for participating in the burning and the looting of a Serb Orthodox church, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday. The three were part of a crowd that burnt and looted the 14th-century Holy Virgin of Ljevis Church in Prizren, 80 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of Pristina, during anti-Serb riots that rocked Kosovo in March, said Neeraj Singh, a U.N. spokesman.

A panel presided by an international judge sentenced Bekim Moskov, Ibrahim Buleci and Talat Pula on Tuesday to two years suspended imprisonment, he said.

"This means that the sentence will not be enforced, unless they commit another criminal act in the next five years," Singh said.

An international prosecutor indicted Friday another ethnic Albanian, Naser Shatri, for his role during the March riots in the western town of Pec, Singh said.

DIASPORA ACTIVATION CAMPAIGN

KNOW YOUR CONGRESS

As part of our work in activating our member to strengthen the Serbian American constituency as a voting bloc we are mounting a "Know Your Congress" campaign.

A Serbian Unity Congress goal is to promote and protect the human rights of Serbs in their lands. These rights are endangered in Kosovo, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Croatia. We want to communicate the plight of our people to our legislators and help them (with credible information) protect these rights. As constituents we have the right to let our representatives know what is important to us and what we want from them. We can best do this by being properly informed and professionally engaged in this process.

Look for your package. Talk to your friends and local priest. Invite your representative to the church hall and gather as many members of your community as possible to meet him or her. We will provide you with information.

BEING WELL INFORMED

We are creating teams of members who are interested in working on data gathering, and analysis on subjects related to the rights of Serbs in certain areas of the former Yugoslavia. These teams will monitor these situations to allow SUC to inform our policy makers. We invite you to join. Just call our Washington Office and express your interest (202) 463-8643.

We will share our findings with you to help you stay informed so that you can also play an important role in our common goal to help protect the rights of the Serbian people.

BEING AN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE CONSTITUENT

For the Serbian voice to be heard it needs to be communicated clearly and to be heard in numbers. We are starting a project with which to activate our members to have their voices heard and heard in large numbers, with a message that is clear and consistent.

As a first step our objective is to help our members contact their representatives in both the House and the Senate to acquaint them with the Serbian American community in their districts. We will be mailing to our members packets with contact information for their representatives and information on issues of major concern to us. We will be asking you to make appointments with and/or invite your representatives to your communities to meet you, to hear your issues as his/her voters. We will provide you with interesting Census data showing that the Serbian American population is the largest of the ethnic groups from the former Yugoslavia in the US today.

Indicted War Criminal to be Appointed Prime Minister of Kosovo

November 29, 2004

WASHINGTON - The Serbian Unity Congress is hereby expressing its deep disappointment with the proposed appointment of Ramush Haradinaj to the post of Prime Minister of the provisional institutions of self-government (PISG) in the UN-administered Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija.

Such a move threatens to undermine any attempts at ethnic reconciliation or achievement of standards in the province. More importantly, it represents yet another signal that the entire political process in the province is deeply flawed and in urgent need of our attention. It is vital that there be a realignment with UN SC Resolution 1244, standards of civilized conduct in general, and US national interests in the area in particular.

For the record, these are some relevant facts:

- Mr. Haradinaj is a former commander of the extremist organization UCK ("KLA") and former right-hand man of Agim Cheku, the head of the Kosovo Protection Corps and a convicted war criminal
- KLA has been labeled as a "terrorist organization" by US envoy to the Balkans Robert Gelbard in 1998, and Sen. Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Security Commission, has stated that the USA had evidence on the connections to the KLA with Osama Bin Laden, as well as on the involvement of KLA members in illicit drug trade
- Speaking of Haradinaj, EU foreign affairs chief Javier Solana succinctly stated that a former ethnic-Albanian rebel leader under investigation for war crimes might not be the "most appropriate"

Serbian Unity Congress

ate" man to lead Kosovo

This is alarming.

"The only way to change something is not only to find and punish those who committed the crimes, but also the ones who stand behind them; if that was not to be possible, then we could not speak of any kind of future whatsoever", stated Marek Nowicki, the Ombudsman for Kosovo, following the March pogrom of Serbs and other loyalist population by Albanian extremist mobs. He went on to say that "[...] further development of the situation will depend whether there will be changes in the views of the Albanians, as well as in the policies of the international administration. Now is the time to make it known that Serbs must be provided with conditions to survive in Kosovo".

The Haradinaj nomination makes it painfully obvious that this is not occurring, thus dispelling all illusions of "any kind of future whatsoever". It also fatally discredits the "moderate" elements of the Kosovo Albanian body politic that have supported such a nomination. Taking further into account both the March violence (which clearly exposed all the faults of the five years of UNMIK and PISG misrule), and the complete boycott of recent Kosovo general elections by the Serbian population, all of these points emphasize the urgent need to abandon the current flawed political experiment and find real working solutions.

Therefore, the SUC urges taking immediate measures that will facilitate the creation of a just and sustainable environment on the ground in effective alignment with UN SC Resolution 1244.



On behalf of the Board of Directors I am using this opportunity to extend to you and your families my best wishes for the upcoming holidays, and at the same time give you an update on some of the activities since our last convention in Washington.

The convention was straightforward in emphasizing our focus points. First - public relations in Washington, with a specific strategic goal of preserving Kosovo, politically as well as culturally; our panel discussions featured various experts, and explored many aspects and views. Next - continuous efforts to bring Diaspora and Homeland closer together - in all spheres, but above all economically, as evidenced by a vibrant Economic Forum that brought many visitors from Serbia and RS. And finally - the cultural content and program showcased our work and objectively surpassed even last year's high mark.

To summarize then, our main accomplishments in 2004 are the following:

- (1) The Congressional Serbian Caucus was formed in the US House of Representatives. A year ago, this was exactly what we set as our goal in Washington. The "P3" - presence, persistence, professionalism - did pay off. The Serbian Caucus should help us open more channels for effective information flow and idea promotion throughout all relevant branches of US Government.
- (2) Our key cultural projects - the BLAGO Fund and St Sava Literary Award - have achieved new milestones, and increasingly allow our members to participate in preserving and promoting Serbian heritage, as well as fostering further original cultural development.
- (3) Our work in the Homeland produced concrete and important results: Di-

aspora members can finally vote in their countries of residence; we have laws on the books regulating Diaspora issues; the Ministry for Diaspora is real – and its head was an honored guest and an active participant at our convention.

Looking forward, this is what we can expect in 2005:

Washington: The future of Kosovo and Metohija might be decided in 2005 and placed on an irreversible path of separation from Serbia. The planned Standards Review for the province by UN and the Contact Group – to be possibly followed by the opening of the final status deliberations - is coming up next year. As before, we keep informing Washington on three simple issues: (1) safe, sustainable and complete return of refugees to Kosovo is a key benchmark of elementary civility, and a minimum prerequisite for any status talks, (2) basic but firm security in conducting everyday life in the province is in turn a precondition for the above, and a key goal in itself, (3) accountability and justice are, yet in turn, further preconditions for both of the above: ethnic crime perpetrators must be vigorously prosecuted and punished, and Albanian politicians and leaders who inspired the March pogrom – as well as the rest of ethnic terror during the 5+ years of UNMIK rule - must be held fully accountable, politically and criminally. There are other elements to our information campaign, but by consistently pressing these clear and simple points in the key we can help Serbs in Kosovo to better pursue their immediate objectives: self-governance for Serbian-inhabited areas and firm institutional ties with the rest of the country.

Homeland: We will continue our efforts towards a better understanding between Homeland and Diaspora. As we have continually emphasized, the paradigm must not be "us against them" - Diaspora is an integral part of the Serbian national corpus, it as an asset, not a liability. This finally seems to be better understood in the old country, though our continued efforts here are certainly needed.

Heritage: BLAGO will go back to Decani Monastery, to complete the archive started in 2004. Creation of the first BLAGO DVD is in progress - we are really excited about it, as it represents the work where

Diaspora and Homeland cooperated with mutual understanding and the same goal: preserve and promote our rich heritage.

To support the program outlined above we have streamlined our operations. We completed the transfer of our central office to Washington, and our Belgrade office is now more functional, being managed on a project basis.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our loyal members and supporters. Please seek out new members, and make sure that your friends keep their memberships current. We are going through a process of aggressive renewal, as we need to at least double our membership base to be more effective. Moreover, strong local organization is one of the keys to success here; we have recently undertaken to revive a number of dormant chapters and start up some new ones. The advantages of such a distributed organization are many-fold – if your local membership is ready for organizing a chapter, please inquire about the steps needed to establish one. Finally, since this is the end of the year, you might also be thinking of charitable contributions. If you are considering tax-deductible donations, please remember the Serbian Unity Congress, and help us create a better future for Serbs no matter where they live.

LOOK FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ENVELOPE

Since June of 2004 our operations group is sending membership renewals every month. If your membership is about to expire, you will receive at least three reminders about it. The first one will go out two months ahead of your expiration day, the last one in the month of your expiration. You can renew your membership in one of three ways: return the enclosed form together with your check, renew it on-line on our web site, or call our office in Washington for additional help.

Please try to renew the membership on a first reminder, it will save us money and effort.

HELP US RENEW MEMBERS WHOSE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED

At this time we are going through a campaign to renew members that for one reason or another didn't keep their membership up to date. Check with your friends if they received the package and urge them to renew.

SUC Washington office plans its strategy for the 109th Congress.

Now that the November 2004 elections are over and the results are in, the Serbian Unity Congress Washington office is already busy reaching out to newly elected members of government, and ready to work with our existing friends who were reelected to office. In addition, the newly established Congressional Serbian Caucus is growing. As of print, the following members of Congress have joined the Caucus:

Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN) - Co-Chair
Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) - Co-Chair
Rep. Dennis Kucinich D-OH
Rep. Joe Wilson R-SC
Rep. Steve Chabot R-OH
Rep. Curt Weldon R-PA
Rep. Tom Tancredo R-CO
Rep. Howard Berman D-CA
Rep. Robert Wexler D-FL

The Washington office and members of the Congressional Serbian Caucus are busy discussing future activities for the 109th Congress. Congressman Wexler (D-FL) took the opportunity to visit Belgrade this week and additional members of Congress have scheduled their calendars for a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) made up of members from the Serbian Caucus to inspect first hand the suffering of the Serbian people in Kosovo – Metohija.

Protests to Appointment of Ramush Haradinaj as Prime Minister of Kosovo

The SUC Washington office is conveying strong objections to the U.S. Government to the proposed appointment of Ramush Haradinaj, former KLA and war criminal, to the post of new Prime Minister of Kosovo. The appointment threatens to undermine any attempts at ethnic reconciliation or achievement of standards in the Province, and presents an alarming signal that the entire political process in the province is deeply flawed and in urgent need of realignment with UN SC Resolution 1244, standards of civilized conduct in general, and US national interests in the area in particular. The SUC is urging the Congress and the Administration to take steps to facilitate necessary changes through

institutions of UMNİK.

The Congressional Serbian Caucus is also alarmed with the implications of the appointment for stability in the region and is preparing a position. Mr. Haradinaj is widely acknowledged by local news media and Western officials to be under investigation by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia over killings of Serbs and Albanians in western Kosovo in the conflict between the K.L.A. and Serbian security forces from 1997 to 1999. Staff from the Serbia – Montenegro Embassy in Washington, have been actively informing members of the U.S. Government of the alarming developments coming from the Kosovo Provisional Government.

Congresswomen Zoe Lofgren (D-CA, 16th District) writes a letter to Collin Powell

WASHINGTON – Following letters and meetings initiated by SUC members, Congresswoman Lofgren sent a letter to Secretary of State Collin Powell to urge him to take additional steps to improve the conditions to allow Serb refugees to return.

“Given the March violence, I am concerned that Kosovar Albanian authorities fail to understand the necessity of implementing the standards not only for the sake of Comprehensive Review in 2005, but for the sake of a democratic Kosovo regardless of its status.”

Congresswoman Lofgren cosponsored H.RES.596 Condemning violence against Serbs in Kosovo in June of 2004.

Religious Liberty Working Group in the U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON - The SUC Washington office participated in a working group to discuss strategy for the 109th Congress, focus on legislative priorities, appointments affecting international religious freedom issues, human rights, and other priorities for the coming year. Persecution of Serbs in Kosovo – Metohija was one of the topics selected for discussion.

Present during the discussion were staff members from the offices of Senators Santorum (R-PA) and Brownback (R-KS). Present were Joe Grieboski along with



other members of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy (IRPP), members of Religious Freedom Coalition (RFC), and various ethnic groups from Iran, China, Vietnam, and other regions where religious and ethnic persecutions take place. William Murray, leader of the RFC spoke of his recent trip to Kosovo to inspect the Serb Orthodox Holy Sites destroyed during the March 2004 pogrom.

SUC was invited to submit talking points for the Rice confirmation hearings and will be preparing them for both the House and the Senate regarding human rights of Serbs and US policy in the Balkans in general.

The Religious Liberty Working Group is organized by the Senate Republican Conference.

HRH Princess Jelisaveta visits Washington

WASHINGTON - On November 18, 2004, HRH Princess Jelisaveta Karadjordjevic visited Washington, DC after a visit to New York. In Washington she held a meeting at the office of TSM Consulting. Participants in the meeting included Dragan Babic, Director of HRH Princess Jelisaveta's Belgrade office, Drina Rajic, Partner, TSM Consulting; Bertram Braun, Director for Southeast Europe National Security Council (NSC) at the White House, David Binder, Journalist and former New York Times writer; Dr. Steven Meyer, former Balkan Analyst at CIA; James Jatras, Partner, Venable, LLP, Predrag Pajic, President of the SUC Washington Chapter, Xenia Wilkinson, member of SUC, and Andy Verich, Director of the SUC Washington office.

During the meeting, Princess Jelisaveta listened to all of the participants' perspectives on recent events in Serbi and Montenegro. Bertam Braun of the National Security Council, NSC, indicated that the recent elections in Kosovo will make the situation more tense in the region. particularly with Ramush Haradinaj taking the post as the new Prime Minister of the Kosovo Provisional Government. Dr. Meyer reiterated points in his presentation on the future of Serbia at the recent SUC Convention in October 2004 saying that Serbia behaves too much as a nation that has capitulated. James Jatras agreed explaining that Serbia needs to establish a stronger position. Andy Verich discussed SUC activities and accomplishments in Washington in the last year. The Princess was very pleased to learn about the establishment of the Congressional Serbian Caucus and sent her greetings to the Serbian Unity Congress. The Princess also discussed her recent activities in Belgrade. Her company which produces perfume products has moved its entire production operations to Serbia which all agree will bring additional needed jobs to Serbia.

Senate Briefings

WASHINGTON – November 19 – 20 The Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights held briefings and presentations in the U.S. Senate Capitol Building.

Friday's briefings were presented by various groups of Orthodox and Chal-dean Catholics from Iraq. Although they were severely oppressed by the regime of Saddam Hussein, the post Iraqi government is now threatening their very existence with the imposition of Islamic Sharia law on all Iraqis. Testimonials of the plight of the Christian minorities showed many similarities to the plight of the Serbs throughout the Balkans. Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) was a region inhabited by Christians, Jews, and other faiths. However, centuries of Ottoman rule saw the arrival of Muslim Arabs to the region and slowly the percentage of non-Muslims has decreased whereas Muslim populations are increasing. Even during the time of Saddam Hussein, non-Muslims made up the majority of various Assyrian villages. However, during the recent upheavals, their ancient Byzantine era churches

and monasteries that graced their villages have been destroyed. Now there is rapid construction of Saudi funded mosques encircling their destroyed churches! The parallels were remarkable: As with Yugoslavia under communism and Milosevic, Iraq was a multi-ethnic country dominated by a dictator. Other parallels were cited: the U.S. tried to remove Milosevic in order to prevent "genocide" in Kosovo by aligning with the Albanian KLA; Saddam Hussein was removed resulting with power in the hands of Islamic extremists.

Andy Verich presented to the coalition the current situation of Serbs in the Balkans citing the similarities Serbs share with other persecuted Christians in Iraq and elsewhere. Information about the human rights of Serbs was distributed during the meetings. The Rev. Dr. Keith Roderick, Secretary General of the Coalition for Defense of Human Rights was a member of the religious delegation to Kosovo in October and had met with Bishop Artemije. He also addressed issues of suffering and persecution of Christian minorities living in various Muslim countries citing many similarities between the Serbs and Christian minorities elsewhere that are being ethnically cleansed by Muslim dominated regimes.

The Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights is an umbrella coalition representing various organizations from the following communities: Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Bahais, Humanist Muslims, Copts, Assyrians, Syriacs, Southern Sudanese, Maronites, Philipinos, West Africans, Ibos, Slavic Christians, Armenians, Arab Christians, Nubians, secular intellectuals, and women's groups. For more information visit their website: <http://www.dhimmi.com>

Patton Boggs LLP to represent SUC in Washington

WASHINGTON – Patton Boggs, LLP is a distinguished law firm that specializes in political activities and international business. Thanks to Dusan Stojkov, tax attorney at Patton Boggs and SUC member, the SUC has entered into a pro bono relationship in November that will provide the SUC with proper legal guidance to enable our Washington office and SUC activities to be conducted professionally and legally.

St. Archangel Michael Slava Celebration in Washington

WASHINGTON – On Saturday, December 4, 2004 the SUC local Washington chapter will celebrate the SUC Slava and fundraiser at the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church property in Potomac, MD. All are welcome to attend.

DEFIANT KOSOVO ELECTS EX-REBEL AS PRIME MINISTER

PRISTINA, Serbia and Montenegro, Dec 3 (Reuters) - Ignoring Western concerns over a possible war crimes indictment, Kosovo's mainly ethnic Albanian parliament on Friday elected former rebel commander Ramush Haradinaj as prime minister.

Haradinaj, who was twice questioned recently by the U.N. war crimes tribunal, was elected under a coalition deal which returned veteran leader Ibrahim Rugova for a second three-year-term as president of the province.

The European Union had cautioned against Haradinaj's election, amid speculation he could be indicted for war crimes committed during the 1998-99 rebel insurgency against Serb rule.

Western powers whose forces intervened in Kosovo five years ago to wrest the province from repressive Serb control are worried at the prospect of Haradinaj representing Kosovo's independence demands in negotiations expected next year.

Serbia has accused the 36-year-old of being a war criminal and says his appointment would be unacceptable.

Western diplomats had warned of a violent backlash should he be made prime minister and later arrested for extradition.

Kosovo for the moment remains a U.N. protectorate. Its U.N. governor, Soren Jessen-Petersen, ruled out blocking Haradinaj's appointment, saying it represented "democracy at work."

But the European Union is less keen.

"If, in the end, the prime minister is somebody who has to go to The Hague, he may not be the most appropriate person to work towards those standards," EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said last month.

Економски повезати матицу и дијаспору

Економске странице на сајту

У 2005. години Србије се очекује изузетно интензиван процес приватизације. Према неким најавама, од 60 предузећа у процесу реструктурирања могло би се приватизовати 30. Такође, аукцијска продаја малих предузећа биће значајно већа у односу на 2004. Повећано интересовање за економска догађања у матици одражава интерес пословних људи у дијаспори да се укључе у ове процесе.

Статистике које се у Београдској канцеларији раде о посећености сајта www.serbianunity.net показале су да се месечна посећеност економске странице последњих годину дана вишеструко увећала и да је све више интереса за економске вести из Србије, Црне Горе и Републике Српске.

Економске странице (www.serbianunity.net/projects/Economy) пружају квалитетне информације о економским догађањима у Србији и њихова посећеност расте. Пратите их и ви!

Листа фирми чланова и пријатеља КСУ

Београдска канцеларија КСУ прави листу фирми које су у власништву или њима управљају чланови и пријатељи КСУ. На листи је сада 60 предузећа, и ширимо је и даље. Ову листу КСУ намерава да да Привредној комори Републике Српске као и великим банкама и предузећима у Србији којима је интерес сарадња са дијаспором а спонзори су и пријатељи КСУ.

Уколико сте заинтересовани да се и ваш бизнис, име или име ваших пријатеља и њихових компанија нађе на овој листи – пошаљите податке на office@serbianunity.net или уредницима овог Билтена на адресе у Америци или на факс наше канцеларије у Београду +381 11 3282 960

Порука Министра за дијаспору

Министар за дијаспору у влади Србије, др Војислав Вукчевић по повратку из Америке и Канаде посетио је



Економска страна КСУ на адреси:
www.serbianunity.net/projects/Economy/

канцеларију Конгреса у Београду. Он је изразио задовољство радом и резултатима Конвенције. Ми смо са своје стране захвалили министру Вукчевићу на Захвалницама које је уручио члановина Управе КСУ јер у томе видимо да Министарство препознаје и цени рад Конгреса српског уједињења.

Из разговора са Министром преносимо и поруку да с обзиром да је Министарство за дијаспору формирано после много година лоших веза матице и дијаспоре он жели да се захвали бројним појединцима који су радили годинама па и деценијама у дијаспори и овим признањима жели да надокнади пропуштено. Број захвалница се односи на заслуге које су настајале свих ових претходних година када о дијаспору нико није водио рачуна.

Војна обавеза

Предлог који је иницирало Министарство дијаспоре да војни обвезници из дијаспоре могу откупити војни рок није прихваћен, јер би био у супротности са Уставом Србије. То је изјавио министар војске СЦГ Првослав Давинић и додао да је најважније да полиција више неће хапсити младиће који стижу из иностранства, а нису регулисали војну обавезу - таква инструкција је дата полицији. Од војних обвезника који живе у иностранству тражи се више придржавања реда. Значи, млади треба да оду у конзулат и поднесу молбу за одлагање служења војног рока. Ако сте донели боравишну дозволу, потврду да тамо студирате, радите или имате

неки други легитиман разлог боравка, у конзулату ће ударити печат и то ће важити годину дана, не више од тога. То ће бити продужено за годину дана, и тако до 35. године, а после тога прелазите у резерву. Али, ако неко дође у конзулат и каже да сада пере судове у неком ресторану, али има могућност да ускоро добије легалан посао, наравно да неће бити изузет од обавезе према Војсци - објаснио је министар Давинић.

Сарадња са UNESCO-м Промоција српске културе уз промоцију културе региона

Провинција Ферара у Италији позната по мозаицима из 5 и 6. века, била је од 11 -13. новембра ове године домаћин семинара чија је тема била UNESCO заштићени споменици културе у јадранској регији. Циљ семинара је да се институције са подручја Србије и Црне Горе, Хрватске, БИХ и Албаније упознају са потребом и могућностима сарадње земаља јадранске регије на промоцији културне баштине и да се покрене заједнички пројекат регионалне сарадње за који организатори сматрају да би лако добио средства у оквиру неког од програма ЕУ или UNESCO-а.

Конгрес српског уједињења позван је из Србије као највећи промотер српске културе и то је велико признање за нас. Поред делегације КСУ Београд, присутни су били стручњаци из Завода за заштиту споменика из Пуле, Котора, Сарајева, Цетиња и Дубровника и бројна италијанска делегација. Куриозитет је да је КСУ био једина невладина организација – а било је речи и о значају НГО у реализацији сличних пројеката

Следећи корак је да организације учесници семинара на основу добијених информација одлуче како даље у формирање регионалног пројекта. Конгрес српског уједињења ће озбиљно размислити све могућности и наставити свој рад на промоцији српске културе и кроз овакве регионалне пројекте.

ST SAVA LITERARY ESSAY



Two years ago SUC accepted the initiative of Mr. Dragoslav Djordjevic and established a special project: St. Sava Literary Essay Contest to be administered for three years. We are happy to report that the project has been enlarged thanks to your support and the diligent work of our Belgrade office. This year we had 43 schools in Serbia and Republika Srpska involved. It means that about 50,000 students in those schools were enlightened and inspired by the mission of St. Sava, with our precious religious, cultural and historical heritage. Usually donors name a school that they or someone from their family attended, but we also have donors who awarded prizes to schools in Kosovo, in order to encourage those children to persevere. We would like to point out and highly praise the Pantic family from California who donated for seven schools, among them two are in Kosovska Mitrovica. Unfortunately, we were not able to place three awards of Mr. Bo Drazevic in Montenegro, as contacted schools refused, and we were informed that St. Sava is not officially recognized and celebrated as schools Slava in Montenegro.

This year we have chosen as the best literary essay the work of Natasa Knezevic from Karlovacka gimnazija. Donor was our late member Mr. Djordje Kolarovich. This inspiring essay was recited at the Annual Convention with Serbian religious music as the background and received a well-deserved praise of the entire audience.

At the Convention Mrs. Sofija Skoric presented a report prepared by Mr. Kosta Papich and Mrs. Skoric in which they pointed out the great contribution to the Serbian youth education as well as

some of the existing problems, such as administrative cost and the obvious non-cooperation of schools in Montenegro.

In his letter to the Convention Mr. Papich explained how useful it is for a school to be involved, also students and their parents. But most importantly, he pointed out that such a prize, beside an honour and encouragement, also means that the young person will understand the true meaning of Orthodoxy and Christianity and will accept this to be his credo for the rest of his or her life. That this is true it could be witnessed by Mr. Kosta Papich, one of our great church donors, and Mr. Dragoslav Djordjevic, one of our SUC founders, as well as many others. They were in their youth recipients of St. Sava prize. They can also tell us that the pleasure of receiving is great, but the pleasure of giving is even greater. The names of donors are in this way recognized, and at the same time the cultural and educational work of our organization.

At the Convention the members voted to continue the project if enough donors are willing to do so. At that time they have sent their best wishes to Mr. Dragoslav Djordjevic, who celebrated recently his 94th Birthday and expressed their thanks to co-chairmen Mrs. Sofija Skoric and Mr. Kosta Papich for their work.

In the name of the Co-chairs and the entire Board we would like to thank Jelena Kolarovich, the Belgrade office and our students volunteers in Belgrade, and most importantly to all donors without whom the project would not be possible.

Very soon all donors will be contacted in writing to be asked if they are willing to continue with the project. Those who would like to join should get in touch with Sofija Skoric: 416-503-8334 or by E-mail: sofija.skoric@utoronto.ca

BLAGO 2004 REPORT

The importance of our efforts related to Serbian heritage are two-fold: on the one hand, we are helping preserve it through steps like the specific BLAGO Fund field projects; on the other, we also spread awareness of this heritage through a range of promotional efforts both in Serbia and abroad. The more other people know about our heritage, the better they will understand Serbs. The more our own people are aware of the cultural riches they have



inherited, the more inspired they are to build on these treasures in their own creative way. The intention of this workshop was to provide an update on the progress we are making, as well as future plans for our BLAGO projects.

Nenad Vukicevic provided reports on the last year's efforts with emphasis on the summer field trip to Decani, Sopocani, and Sokolica. The original plan for the field expedition fell through and the crew was able to archive only the lower level of the Decani church. However, this enabled our team to perform archiving of other precious places in Novi Pazar area: Sopocani, Djurdjevi Stubovi, and Petrova crkva. All the material will be available on our web site by the end of the year.

Mika Radakovich gave a short report on fundraising activities in the Bay Area for our BLAGO efforts and help to Sokolica Monastery. Through personalized fundraising more than \$20,000 was raised in matter of weeks.

Being part of the BLAGO filed team is an obligation, but at the same time a privilege. Jelena Vukicevic gave a report on her personal observation related to life in Kosovo monasteries, as well as life of ordinary people. It was suggested that every church in US should adopt one of the monasteries in Kosovo and support them.

With a pastoral blessing of Bishop Longin, the BLAGO Fund of the Serbian Unity Congress will present its work at the New Year's Eve Gala in San Francisco Bay Area. See the last page for more information.

DIASPORA AND HOMELAND

The panel "Diaspora and Homeland Relationships" was organized during the 14th SUC Convention in Washington with a goal to summarize what was accomplished since the October 2000 democratic changes in Serbia and Montenegro, and how the relationship between the Serbian Diaspora and Homeland can be further improved.

The panel participants were Dr. Vojislav Vukcevic, Minister for Diaspora in Serbia, Dr. Edita Kronic, Vice-President of SUC and Manager of the SUC Belgrade office, Olga Danilovic, MSc, Vice-President of SUC and President of the SUC Chapter in Austria, and Dr. Jasmina Vujic, Vice-President of SUC and a panel organizer.

After introduction by Jasmina Vujic, Edita Kronic presented the SUC activities on promoting the rights of the Serbs abroad. Proposals were prepared and submitted to the various Ministries, Parliament groups and committees, government officials and the media, regarding the changes in citizenship law, voting rights, military duty exemption, denationalization, and rehabilitation of wrongly accused. The SUC also proposed formation of the Ministry for Diaspora and a new Diaspora Law. Regarding the citizenship, the SUC strongly believes that all Serbs living abroad should have the right to Serbian citizenship and to all privileges and obligations constituted under the law. This privilege must be given to all Serbs, regardless of when and where they were born, where they now live and which citizenship they now hold. The SUC requested that the application procedure for citizenship be simplified and processing speeded-up. The granting of citizenship is the first step in obtaining the right to vote. The SUC requested that all citizens of Serbia and Montenegro (SM) should be granted the rights to vote abroad, in the countries where they live, either in the SM embassies and consulates, by absentee ballot, or by proxy. Having in mind large distances in the USA, Canada and Australia, the SUC recommended that the best and simplest way to organize voting abroad is by absentee ballot (letters) that should be mailed to the closest SM embassy and consulate. The application forms for voting should be simplified by eliminating the requirement for people to provide

any unnecessary information. It should be enough to specify the name, the SM passport number and the current address. The SUC also proposed the formation of the Ministry for Diaspora, with three basic functions, regarding: (a) ECONOMY, (b) CULTURE, and (c) EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. It was also suggested that the Ministry for Diaspora should also prepare the Diaspora Law, that will contain all the rules and regulations pertinent to the rights and obligation of the Serbs living abroad. With these defined goals, the Ministry for Diaspora could become a central place to garner the talents, experiences and abilities of Serbs abroad in order to support economic, social, cultural and other positive changes toward a free political system and a moral society in Serbia.

Olga Danilovic pointed out that there are large differences between the Diaspora in the North America and in Europe. The Serbian Diaspora in Austria has not yet established itself - not even the basic elements of integration into society are present. This situation puts the Serbian ethnic group in a position in which they have to struggle with basic issues of survival. Often faced with a degrading stance from the part of the host country, and neglected for decades by the Homeland, the Serbian Diaspora in Austria (and in other European countries) can only rely on the help of an organization of the Serbian Diaspora in order to improve its status in its host countries as well as in the Homeland. The SUC in Austria has defined the following scope of action for each diverse community in this country, and will continue pursuing these goals: (a) Providing support for all SUC projects and implementing experiences of the North-American Diaspora into the Austrian community, (b) Work on improving position of the Serbs in Austria, (c) Work on improving the relations with the Homeland, (d) Defining relations of the Serbs from the newly established countries of ex-Yugoslavia with the Homeland and relations with the countries of which they hold citizenship, (e) Work on informing the public about the truth regarding the events in Serbia both through the media and in public appearances, (f) Cherishing tradition, spiritual life and national identity of the Serbs, and (g) Work with Serbian youth.

For example, based on the extensive lobbying experience of Serbs in America, the SUC has initiated the issue of lobbying in Austria, which will serve to articulate to Austrian officials the issues of a relatively large voter group, comprising of Serbs in Austria (there are around 200,000 Serbs in Austria, 1/3 of whom are Austrian citizens, according to unofficial data). We had many meetings with representatives of Serbian Diaspora organizations in Vienna, during which we tried to explain the importance of establishing a Serbian lobby in Austria, and transferred the experience of our North American counterparts. In connection with this, a Serbian delegation participated in the pre-election campaign of presidential candidate Dr. Heinz Fisher (Mr. Fisher is now the official president of Austria). We had preliminary talks about our mutual collaboration in the case of his electoral victory. In addition, the SUC in Austria works with Serbian immigrants who often tend to suppress their own identity and values of their nation of origin, aspiring to be accepted as full fledged citizens of the host country. We, as a Congress, are trying to explain to our countrymen that we can become good Austrians only by having first established ourselves as good Serbs. We are also helping in organizing various cultural events in collaboration with the Serbian Orthodox Church and with the Association of Serbian Clubs in Austria in order to cherish our cultural identity and tradition, as well as in order to involve more young people in our work.

Dr. Vojislav Vukcevic expressed his happiness that he was able to attend the SUC Convention as the first Minister for Diaspora. He repeated his word that he spoke in front of the cameras of Serbian television only few days before coming to Washington: "The Diaspora both feeds and protects the Fatherland. It feeds the Fatherland by donating several billion dollars to families and friends every year. It is also said that the Fatherland only takes from Diaspora and never gives anything back. Finally, I came here to tell you that the Fatherland has not forgotten you." Dr. Vukcevic then pointed out what was accomplished so far.

With the new elections in December 2003 and the new government, relation toward the Diaspora changed rapidly. The new Ministry for Diaspora was established, and Dr. Vojislav Vukcevic was

SERBIAN VOICE IN WASHINGTON

appointed as the first minister. The SUC has established excellent relationship with the Minister Vukcevic and the Ministry for Diaspora. The modifications to the Citizenship Law, worked on by the Ministry for Diaspora and the Ministry of Interior in collaboration with the SUC, are currently under consideration in the Serbian Parliament. The Ministry for Diaspora also submitted a draft for military duty exemption (including the buy-off option) for the Serbs living aboard, and the Ministry of Defense agreed to take it into a consideration. The Serbian government has started to work on the denationalization and restitution law, which will permit return or reimbursement for the property that was unlawfully taken from the original owners, including the Serbian Orthodox Church. The current Serbian Government, although allowing the Diaspora to vote abroad in the latest presidential elections this spring, did not provide the required conditions for a larger turnout of voters, namely the absentee ballot system that SUC requested was not allowed.

Minister Vuckovic also announced that the Ministry for Diaspora moved into a new beautiful building in the center of Belgrade. The ground floor of the building will be a business-information center for the Diaspora, while the space in the attic will house the representative Diaspora offices.

Mirjana Samardzija, Radmilo Bozinovic and DC Office Director Andy Verich presented to the guests of the convention the work to date of the SUC Washington Office.

Our DC Office is now essentially the Serbian voice in Washington. Through the office we carry out the SUC mission to inform public opinion and key policymakers about the true goals and aspirations of the Serbian people and garner the talents of all Serbs to help towards a free political system and moral society in Serbian lands. We work to carry out our objectives to protect the rights of the Serbian people and represent the validity of the aspirations of the Serbian people

To be the Serbian voice in Washington our work involves the formulation of our message, building relationships with those to whom we deliver our message, and building and activating our member-

ship base as Serbian American constituents and voting bloc.

Formulating our message

How does this work? What is our Serbian voice or message and what do we do with it? Our message is driven by both our SUC goals as e.g., protecting the rights of the Serbian people or events. A good example of how this works was our work triggered by an event - the March pogrom in Kosovo. In that case, SUC formulated a position about Kosovo and what we, Serbian American voters, expected our lawmakers to assure: security, returns and accountability. Simple and straightforward, this message was communicated in person and by letter, email, fax etc. to our lawmakers and the Executive branch. A House resolution was presented in Congress condemning the ethnic violence and its perpetrators. We mounted a targeted campaign activating our members in the districts of congressional reps key to the success of the resolution. A kit was prepared that informed our members of the issue, the way to contact their representatives, etc. Our Washington Office and members called our members to answer their questions and explain to them the importance of the action. As a result our members were effective in communicating the validity of our position and numerous representatives signed the resolution who otherwise would not have done so.

Another example of packaging our voice was our work with both the Bush and Kerry presidential campaigns. Some of you may have seen our position paper on our web site and on other Serb web sites. SUC informed both campaigns about the Serbian American constituency: who we are, where we are and what issues are most important to us. A number of conversations with the Kerry campaign resulted in modifications to the beginning position on Kosovo with the inclusion of support for UN Resolution 1244. Additionally, the direct relationship between Serb lack of support and the possible inclusion of Richard Holbrooke and Madeline Albright became clear to the Kerry campaign and the potential of a future role for them was damaged.

Building Relationships

In order to be heard however, we need to have opinion and policy makers be receptive to our message. We must build relationships with these people at both the Washington and district levels. This is a key responsibility of Andy Verich, our Director in DC. He constantly expands his base of contacts and through those builds additional contacts. Additionally, information about issues and events is filtered in the Washington Office and communicated to our membership base through the Bulletin, weekly electronic reports and event-specific announcements. Our information is directed to government officials in the legislative and executive branches, think tanks, NGOs and media. As an example, our continuation of the relationship built by Father Irinej through the OEA office, with some of the religious liberty groups has resulted in the inclusion of SUC in the Senate working group on religious freedom and the addition of Kosovo as an area for this Senate group to monitor for violations of religious freedom. Our relationship building will expand to include other embassies and other organizations with which we have already started to build strategic alliances

Activating our members

We, members of SUC have an as yet not fully tapped strength -- our numbers as American constituents and a unique voting bloc. That strength is best manifested at the congressional district level. To activate our members we need to communicate to them about events and issues that affect our interests as Serbian Americans, assist them in communicating with their respective representatives as we did in the case of the March pogrom this spring and the subsequent resolution.

EKONOMSKI FORUM

Treci godisnji Ekonomski Forum (EF) organizovan je u Washingtonu 22 Oktobra u sklopu godisnje Skupstine Kongres Srpskog Ujedinjenja (KSU). Prvi EF održan je 2002 u Cikagu a drugi 2003 u San Franciscu.

Ove godine na EF učestvovali su gosti iz Srbije i RS, kao i predstavnici Američke Vlade, vodeći biznismeni iz dijaspore, Amerikanci koji su zainteresovani za ulaganje u Srbiju i članovi KSU.

Delegaciju vlade Srbije predvodili su Ministar za Dijaspору, Prof. Dr. Vojislav Vukcevic kome je put za Washington bio prvo susretanje sa dijasporom van Srbije. Savetnik Ministra za ekonomska pitanja Vukman Krivokuca, Predsednik Privredne Komore Beograd Milan Jankovic, (koji nazalost nije uspeo da dodje u zadnjem momentu radi bolesti), i Milica Aksentic iz SIEPA (Srpska Agencija za Medjunarodne Investicije). Iz privrede gosti su bili Veselinka Milosevic zamenik direktora Yubanke, Bojan Stanivukovic Direktor Nacionalne Stedionice, Veselin Sjekloca iz Omnistock, Slobodan Petrovic iz Salford Investicionog Fonda i Nebojsa Arandjelovic iz Connect Correct.

Iz Republike Srpske delegaciju je vodio Premier RS Dr. Dragan Mikerevic, zajedno sa Ministrom Financija RS Dr. Brankom Krsmanovicem, i Predsenikom Privredne Komore RS Mladen Micic. Privredna Komora RS je predstavljala nekoliko firmi iz RS. Direktor Nove Banjalucke Banke Dragoljub Lekic iako najavljen kao jedan od panelista nije mogao da dodje.

Ispred Američke vlade govorili su Dr. Kent Hill, zamenik glavnog administratora USAID zaduzenog za Balkan, Christopher Williams iz konsalting firme Booz Allen Hamilton koja u ime USAID sprovodi program SEDP (Srpski Projekat Razvoja i Preduzetnistva), Sandra Goshgarian, ispred USAID programa garancija za lokalne investicije, Scott Greenpin manadzer za Srbiju iz Ministarstva Trgovine i Jennifer Gothard iz Ministarstva Privrede.

Ovogodisnja tema EF bila je "Uloga Srpske dijaspore u ekonomskoj revitalizaciji Srbije i Crne Gore".

Predstavnici Crnogorske Trgovinske Misije iz Washingtona su bili pozvani da učestvuju ali se nisu odazvali.

Pored prezentacija organizovane

su i dve panel rasprave. Prvi panel je vodio Miroslav Djordjevic koji je sa bankarima iz Srbije diskutovao njihove programe i sta banke u Srbiji mogu da ponude poslovnim ljudima iz dijaspore.

Moderator drugog panela je bila Edita Krunic u kome su predstavnici Američke vlade razmatrali "Kako srpska dijaspora moze da postane glavni partner u rekonstrukciji i razvoju srpske privrede kroz saradnju sa institucionalizovanim programima".

Forum je imao nekoliko ciljeva. Prvo da privrednici srpsko-američkog porekla dobiju realne informacije o privrednom stanju i investicionoj klimi u Srbiji i RS.

Drugo da se razmotre ekonomski programi koje je osnovala Američka vlada u Srbiji, i trece da se utvrdi stepen zainteresovanosti kod srpsko-američkih poslovnih ljudi za programe koji ce omogućavati kontakte i razmenu informacija sa srpskim poslovnim ljudima.

Zoran Drakulic nije mogao da učestvuje u Ekonomskom Forumu, ali se obratio skupu pismom koje je procitano tokom poslovnog rucka. Gosp. Drakulic savetuje privrednicima iz dijaspore da slede njegov primer, i da pored veoma ozbiljnih prepreka afirmisu svoju veru u Srbiju kroz poslovne investicije. Jer kako istice drugi ne cekaju, vec koriste priliku da udju u srpsku privredu i ostvare znaacajne poslovne rezultate.

Miroslav Djordjevic je ove godine izabran za dobitnika nagrade "Izuzetne poslovne osobe iz dijaspore" za svoje investicije u bankarskom sektoru u Republici Srpskoj.

Zakljuci sa EF su sledeci:

- Dijaspore mnogih zemalja su veoma uspesno pomogle da se ubraza ekonomski razvoj u svojim otazdbinama. Posebno su u tome bile organizovani Jermeni, Irci, Grci, Israelci, Meksikanci Indusi i Kinezi. Kroz pojedinačne kontakte ostvaruju se poslovni odnosi, ali su nedovoljni dabi pokrenuli znacajna ulaganja u maticu. Zato je neophodno razvijati bliske odnose izmedju dijaspore i vlade iz maticice, koji ce kroz zajednicko definisane ciljeve, obezbediti jasan i konstantan protok informacija, kreiranje podsticajnih mera i implementiranje specijalnih programa.

- Veoma je znacajna zainteresovanost srpske dijaspore u Americi za investiranje u Srbiju i RS, posebno kod mladnjih generacija i pripadnika tako zvanog brain-drain, koji su spremni da kada se pobaljsaju privredni uslovi u zemlji ne samo investiraju nego vrata se nazad.

- Istaknuto je da postoji vise vrsta investicija i da su finaciske investicije zapravo kapitalne investicije samo jedna vrsta, a za Srbiju isto tako dragocene su investicije koje nasi ljudi iz rasejanja donose svojim znanjem, iskustvom, idejama i kontaktima. Predstavnici Američke vlade su izneli rezultate ankete stranih firmi u Beogradu koja je identifikovala mnostvo problema sa kojima se susrecu pri otvaranju predstavnistva u Srbiji. Medju najvećim je nedostatak kadrova koji su obrazovani u skladu sa standardima i potrebama zapadnog nacina poslovanja. Zakljucak je da srpska dijaspora u Americi moze pozitivno uticati na unapredjenje strucnosti i



Mother Makarija with Bishop Artemije, Father Simeon, and SUC President, Nenad Vukicevic

MOTHER MAKARIJA IN WASHINGTON

A special guest of our Washington Convention was Mother Makarija from Sokolica Monastery. Her exquisite exhibition of paintings of Gracanica angels was very well received. After Washington, she continued to San Francisco for another exhibition organized by KOLO from Saratoga church.

usavršavanje poslovne etike zajedno sa Americkim institucijama kroz kreiranje novih edukativnih programa.

- Iz dijaspore realnije je očekivati mnoštvo malih i srednjih investicija od \$ 20.000 do \$ 250.000 nego veliki broj multilionksih investicionih programa, zbog nesigurnosti trzista, zakonskih i regulativnih prepreka i poteskoca pri vođenja poslova iz daleka, a i zbog profila srpske dijaspore.

- Zaključeno je da srpska dijaspora zbog nedostatka informacija veoma tesko identifikuje programe u matici u koje bi mogla investirati. Cesto se oslanjaju na savet rodjaka ili prijatelja koji moze biti nekompetentan, neobjektivan i netacan. Zbog toga predlazemo da vlada Srbije formira posebnu instituciju ili biro koja ce sluziti kao "clearing house" kao na primer Agenciju za investicije iz dijasore koja ce pripremati inovativne programe i proveravati postojece ponude. Programi trebaju biti predstavljeni dijaspori kroz sistematsko informisanje putem interneta, medija i licnih kontakata. Programi koji su ponudjeni a pri tome i provereni brzo ce steci kredibilitet kao sigurne investicije.

- Dabi pojacali izvoz iz Srbije u Ameriku a pri tome da dijaspora odigra patriotsku ulogu neophodno je prilagoditi ponudu i proizvode Srbije sa potrebama i zahtevima ciljnog trzista u pogledu kvaliteta, pakovanja i svih neophodni standarda. Firme koje zele saradnju sa dijasporom pre nego sto zapocnu svoju marketing kampanju trebaju pazljivo da osmisle sta one nude dijaspori spacificno i kako se razlikuju od drugih na trzistu.

- Dabi srpska dijaspora stedila u bankama svoje matice neophodno je usvojiti politiku stimulatvinih kamata koje ce biti vece nego u Americi. Naprimer na dugorocno orocena sredstava u Srpskim bankama predlazemo da kamatna stopa bude izmedju 5-7% na godisnjem novou, a za vece sume i do 10%.

- Zaključak veoma produktivnog rada EF je da se skupovi poput foruma trebaju održavati redovnije i cesce, i da ce se jedan skup održavati u prolece u Srbiji a jedan u jesen svake godine u Americi.

Sa dalje informacije i pitanja mozete kontaktirati Editu Kronic organizatora Ekonomskog Forumu i potpresednika Kongresa Srpskog Ujedinjenja, sales@select-intl.com, 908-412-0044, fax 908-412-0099.

Clinton's Kosovo failures

Stella L. Jatras

THE WASHINGTON TIMES
Editorials/Op-ed

LETTERS
29 November 2004

In response to your article "Kosovo a model for U.S. in Iraq" (Page 1, Nov. 15), here are some facts that suggest a different picture, one that considers the results of President Clinton's flawed policies in both Bosnia and Kosovo.

I have no doubt that American soldiers are doing whatever they can, or are allowed to do, to help make life better for the people of Kosovo. However, the rosy picture the writer paints does not reflect the fact that although Serbs once were the majority in Kosovo, Serbian culture, society, language and religion are being eradicated. Of the latest disturbance in March of this year, which the writer briefly mentions, the National Review Online of March 19 writes, "A pogrom started in Europe on Wednesday. A U.N. official is quoted as saying that Kristallnacht is under way in Kosovo. Serbs are being murdered and their 800 year old churches are aflame. Much of the Christian heritage in Kosovo and Metohija is on fire and could be lost forever." In fact, more churches have been destroyed since NATO's Kosovo Force entered Kosovo than under 400 years of occupation by the Ottoman Turks.

Is this what the author calls a success in Kosovo, a model for Iraq? Deutsche Welle wrote on Nov. 15: "In Kosovo, human trafficking paid for much of the fighting. For the first time this year ... the world wide profits from human trafficking will exceed those of the drug trade." The Washington Times' own Jerry Seper reported as early as 1999, "Some members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which has financed its war efforts through the sale of heroin, were trained in terrorist camps run by international fugitive Osama bin Laden."

In November 2001, a Wall Street Journal Europe article said that in the past 10 years, al Qaeda's most senior leaders visited the Balkans. Osama bin Laden himself did three times between 1994 and 1996.

While the Clinton administration underwrote the Bosnian Muslim government of Alija Izetbegovic, his embassy in Vienna gave bin Laden a passport in 1992.

Why did we go to war against the Serbian people? As Cliff Kincaid of Accuracy in Media wrote on Feb. 19, "Clinton went to war on behalf of the Muslims, in Bosnia and then Kosovo. He wanted to appease the powerful Arab/Muslim bloc of nations and the Europeans who wanted to call the shots on U.S. foreign policy."

The first commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia, Canadian Gen. Lewis MacKenzie, wrote on April 6 in the Canadian National Post, "We bombed the wrong side?" He continued: "The Kosovo-Albanians have played us like a Stradivarius. We have subsidized and indirectly supported their violent campaign for an ethnically pure and independent Kosovo. We have never blamed them for being the perpetrators of the violence in the early '90s, and we continue to portray them as the designated victim today in spite of evidence to the contrary. When they achieve independence with the help of our tax dollars combined with those of bin Laden and al-Qaeda, just consider the message of encouragement this sends to other terrorist-supported independence movements around the world."

Our soldiers are to be commended for trying to bring comfort to those suffering today because of the policies of the Clinton administration. But make no mistake: Because of Mr. Clinton's policies in the Balkans, Bosnia has become al Qaeda's corridor into Europe, and we have handed Kosovo over to the KLA terrorists.

Yet Mr. Clinton, in his book "My Life," has the audacity to call Kosovo a success.

STELLA L. JATRAS
Camp Hill, Pa.

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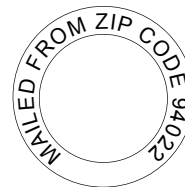
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