



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 267 - March 2005

### SUC welcomes the long awaited indictment by ICTY of Ramush Haradinaj

Hopefully, the Haradinaj indictment will be the first step in this direction.



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Above all, a necessary precondition for stability, human rights protection, and sustainable refugee return is security. In turn, this requires accountability and justice.

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Full report on accomplishment in achieving the rights.

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### Otvorena kuca Dijaspore

Ministrastvo Dijaspore je dobilo novu zgradu u Vasinoj ulici. Otvaranju ovog zdanja prisustvovali su mnogi iz Dijaspore, ukljucijuci i prestavnike Kongresa.

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# President Tadic visits Kosovo

Feb 15, Gracanica - Serbian president Boris Tadic sent a message to the international community from Gracanica, saying that Serbia wants a peaceful solution for Kosovo and Metohija but that it is asking that its legitimate state and national interests be respected.

"Serbia does not wish anyone ill. Serbia wants peace for its people," said Tadic during his visit to Gracanica.

He sent a message to the international community that he wants European values for Kosovo and Metohija.

"These values are that everyone has the right to his identity, and that no one has the right to be endangered for simply respecting his state and his church. Those who endanger this right are endangering Europe," said Tadic.

He emphasized that he wants to fight for the European future of Serbia, including Kosovo and Metohija.

"I did not come to Kosovo and Metohija to threaten anyone. I came to say that if other people have the right to their state, their symbols and their national identity, we as Serbs have the right to the same thing," said Tadic,

adding that this is why he is carrying the state flag of Serbia throughout Kosovo and Metohija.

Tadic's message to the Albanian people was that if they have the right to fly flags

on their houses, no one can take away the right of Serbs to fly their flag on their houses, schools or institutions.

The Serbian president symbolically presented Bishop Artemije of Raska and Prizren, the head of the Kosovska Mitrovica district and a Serbian boy with the flag of Serbia.

Several thousand Serbs took part in the welcome and address of president Tadic in Gracanica. His stay was protected on the ground and in the air by dozens of international police officers and the Kosovo Police Service.



**SUC welcomes the long awaited indictment by International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) of Ramush Haradinaj**

WASHINGTON - The Serbian Unity Congress (SUC) welcomes the long awaited indictment by International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) of Ramush Haradinaj for numerous hideous crimes committed against fellow citizens of Serbia during 1998-9. Credible evidence of Mr. Haradinaj's terrorist activity has been compiled by courts in his native country long ago, and this indictment, though long overdue, is a positive indication of the growing awareness of the need for accountability as a prerequisite for stability in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija.

At the same time, the inexplicable delay of six years in bringing this prime suspect to justice have once again highlighted the inappropriateness and ineffectiveness of the ICTY as the vehicle of the necessary quest for truth, justice and reconciliation in the former Yugoslavia. "There is a very real risk that the (tribunal) prosecutions will not resolve the situation in the Balkans but will create new animosities that lead to tensions" - as was recently pointed out by John Bolton, Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and President Bush's nominee for US ambassador to the UN. Transferring cases to the local judiciary is the only real way to strengthen these institutions, dispel the victim psychology and make each community openly confront its past.

Furthermore, the SUC believes it is high time to re-examine the role of the UN administration in the southern Serbian province. The problems are but exemplified by yesterday's statement from SRSG Soren Jessen-Petersen, where he refers to the indicted as a "close partner and friend" and his resignation as an "example of Kosovo's growing political maturity as a responsible member of the international community". The fact is that there is no evidence of such maturity, and UNMIK bears most of the responsibility for that. Last month, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan indicated that none of the province's eight standards have been fulfilled; shortly before that, Kosovo Ombudsperson Marek Nowicki flatly stated that, "The general level of human rights protection is still far below minimum international standards". All this follows almost

six years of an international protectorate brought in precisely to make it happen, and by allowing Ramush Haradinaj to become the Prime Minister of the Kosovo Provisional Government, the UNMIK in fact made a mockery of democracy.

Finally, the SUC firmly believes that much needed reconciliation between the Albanian and Serbian communities in Kosovo is not possible without a comprehensive reckoning of past events, or with former belligerents still in power. While Serbia has eschewed its confrontational past in October 2000, Kosovo Albanian politics continue to be dominated by ideologues of conflict - or worse yet, outright terrorists. This is clearly exemplified by the case of what should be the provincial civil emergency organization, the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). In the succinct words of former US ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro, William Montgomery: "The former KLA has been reorganized into the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) under the leadership of general Ceku and other higher commanders of the KLA. Members of this organization, have been found responsible for violence in Kosovo and Macedonia. It could not be clearer that the ultimate goal of gen. Ceku is to have it become the army of an independent Kosovo. He frequently states that publicly. It is equally clear that no Serb will feel secure or comfortable with such an army. Everybody really knows that, but nobody is ready to take the bull by the horns and disband this organization, fearing that once unemployed, former KLA members would be an even bigger problem. Nevertheless, prolonging the life of the KPC dooms the idea of a multi-ethnic Kosovo."

It is about time we start grabbing the bull by the horns and deal with the crisis at hand. With some vital interests at stake, the US should take the lead in shepherding these changes. Hopefully, the Haradinaj indictment will be the first step in this direction.



After more then five years in Kosovo and Metohija, still no security for Kosovo Serbs.

**Original response to "The War We Haven't Finished," by Frank C. Carlucci (Op-Ed, Feb. 22):**

Letters to the Editor, The New York Times

Frank Carlucci's op-ed "The War We Have Not Finished" (2/22/05) is entirely misleading. First, there are errors in the basic facts - e.g., the alleged 700,000 people said to have fled primarily did so after NATO started the air campaign, not as a result of Belgrade's prior action. But the greatest problem lies with his faulty conclusions.

In the 21st Century, Albanian extremists in Kosovo simply cannot be awarded independence through threats of violence. Even prior to their March 2004 racist rampage - termed "Kristallnacht" by UN officials on the ground - Senator Brownback wrote to President Bush, concluding, "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." Following March, NATO Secretary General Scheffer plainly said: "I don't believe that the unresolved status has anything to do with this. This has to do with people who think wrongly, who have illusions that by carrying out these criminal acts of ethnic violence they get closer to their ambitions but they must understand that the international community will never accept this". Succumbing to blackmail and granting such anomalous independence would only hurt stability in the region, while sending the

wrong message to extremists everywhere.

Mr. Carlucci mentions that the Albanian population would sooner go to war than submit to Belgrade's rule. Does that mean the Serb, Roma, and other minorities who were victims of Albanian reprisals should submit to an Albanian-dominated government led by a prime minister who is an indicted war criminal in his native country, with documented Al-Qaeda ties?

Legitimate grievances of the Albanian minority in Yugoslavia were tied to a regime that was voted out more than four years ago. Today Serbia is a democratic country and the most multiethnic of all former Yugoslav states. Perhaps Mr. Carlucci should visit the region. He would find Serbia's capital city Belgrade to be a vibrant, multiethnic and cosmopolitan city. On the other hand, Kosovo's capital Pristina is today a monoethnic Albanian city, fully cleansed of its other ethnicities and rampant with drugs, human trafficking and mob rule.

It is true that Kosovo has been left hanging long enough and needs to be addressed - for the sake of regional stability, as well as our moral investment. The first step is refugee return and basic human rights. If NATO could facilitate the return of those 700,000 Albanian refugees five years ago in weeks, surely it can do so with half that many non-Albanian ones, still displaced five years later. However, that requires enforcing security, and in turn accountability. As for the longer term - once the misguided independence option is taken off the table, negotiations can focus on workable solutions of substantial autonomy, as envisioned both by UN SC Resolution 1244 and accepted European standards.

Sincerely,

Andy Verich



Dr. Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
U. S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.20520  
Feb. 15, 2004.

Dear Madame Secretary:

On behalf of Serbian Unity Congress (SUC) and myself personally, I congratulate you on assuming the office of Secretary of State, and wish you every success in this challenging task.

A primary concern of our organization since its inception has been the development of democracy, human rights and stability in the territories of former Yugoslavia, through a constructive American involvement. As you are aware, the key remaining regional issue is that of the Serbian province of Kosovo, under UN administration since 1999. Despite obvious foreign policy priorities elsewhere, this flashpoint remains relevant and requires a decisive American role and leadership now, if we are to avoid costly consequences later.

Specifically, the past five and a half years of UN administration - and above all the deadly March 2004 pogrom, where our return programs and tax dollars went up in flames along with Serbian shrines and settlements - underscore the need for adjustments in policy to ensure the integrity of our material and moral investment, as well as regional stability. However, any solution - as you have eloquently argued during recent Senate confirmation hearings - must be sought within the framework of the current "standards before status" policy. Indeed, it is imperative not to budge before separatist lobbyists and terror apologists - any reversal of that approach would signify a lack of resolve and firmness on the part of the US in the face of terrorist threats and danger.

Stability in the long term hinges on an equitable final settlement that might be years off, but in the short term it must be achieved by other means, along with achieving standards. Above all, a necessary precondition for stability, human rights protection, and sustainable refugee return is security. In turn, this requires accountability and justice. No final status can be discussed until elementary security and standards of civilized conduct are established, perpetrators and mentors of these egregious racist crimes prosecuted, and their effects rolled back. Kosovo Albanian leaders should be held responsible for their misdeeds, not rewarded with more power and responsibilities.

A practical step to achieve stability must include decentralization, as this has proven effective regionally (Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina), as well as in the relationship of Kosovo as a province within Serbia and Montenegro itself. Indeed, without prejudging "final status", a form of conditional reintegration of the province within its parent state is needed to eliminate some of the present socioeconomic limbo, practically implement key aspects of UN SC 1244, and prepare the ground for workable longer term solutions within the framework of that resolution and accepted European standards of "substantial autonomy".

In all these processes, the democratic governments of Serbia and the state union of Serbia and Montenegro are to play a key role, as these entities remains the linchpin of stability in southeast Europe, and potentially a key regional US ally. In particular, since the momentous changes of 2000, a democratic Serbia has shown a firm and sincere commitment to Euro-Atlantic integrations and Western values in spite of many objective difficulties, and it needs our support in that process, to the mutual benefit of both parties.

Our organization remains committed to the goal of building these bridges. The enclosed analysis develops the points raised above in more detail, with specific policy recommendations that we find prudent and necessary. Please feel free to contact me if we can be of further help in contributing to the optimal realization of American interests in this part of the world.

Respectfully,

Nenad Vukicevic,  
President

WASHINGTON – The Serbian Unity Congress Washington office has placed a significant focus on the Congressional Serbian Caucus in the United States House of Representatives. Since last month’s report of ten members joining the Caucus from the year prior, the Serbian Caucus is now up to fifteen members as a direct result of Serb-American voters contacting their local Congressional representatives and requesting them to join the Serbian Caucus.

The next few months will be important for the Serbian Caucus and our work on the Hill. H.RES.24 (Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should declare its support for the independence of Kosova.) was introduced by Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) has was recently co-sponsored by the House International Relations Chair, Henry Hyde (R-IL).

## On the Hill

Therefore, the more members added to the Serbian Caucus, the better Congress will be informed and will oppose any such resolution put forth by Congressman Lantos.

For any information on how you can get involved, please call or email the SUC Washington office: 202-463-8643 or andy@serbianunity.net.

### Public Relations

Recently, we are witnessing a well financed and coordinated campaign to garner support for Kosovo’s independence. Nearly ever week the International Crisis Group (ICG) or the likes of General Wesley Clark are publishing reports and op-eds to pro-



mote independence of Kosovo. These people do not sit down to compose these editorials and reports on their own initiative. The Serbian Unity Congress takes this campaign seriously and is responding to every op-ed and report possible.

## Events

### Serbian Unity Congress Washington Director Challenges ICG Kosovo Report

WASHINGTON – On January 26, 2005 the director, Kosovo Program, International Crisis Group Alex Anderson, held a briefing on “Kosovo: Toward Final Status.” During the briefing, Mr. Anderson admitted that the idea of independence is a difficult choice but the ICG advocates that there are no alternatives. He also argued that the Belgrade plan also is not a viable alternative and the ICG report buffers this argument by revealing the lack of unity in Belgrade over what Serbia desires for Kosovo.

Furthermore, Anderson stated that partition of Kosovo is a bad idea citing that this promotes dividing among ethnic lines. Several participants were quick to point out that this could be the same argument why granting independence of Kosovo is the wrong idea. SUC Washington Director Andy Verich challenged the ICG Kosovo Director Alex Anderson that in during this entire briefing, there is no mention of destroyed churches, violence, nor return of refugees who have fled Kosovo due to Albanian violence. Not only does the ICG avoid any real data or statistics, the argument ICG uses for independence of Kosovo is by stating the “Kosovar” Albanians have

bad “feelings” towards living with Serbs and have expressed “feelings” of having their own state.

Verich then described statements that were made by U.S. lawmakers in Washington. Firstly he mentioned that Senator Voinovich (R-OH) just recently reiterated several times during the Rice Hearings that over 4,000 Serbs had fled, and 900 homes and 30 churches burned and destroyed by Albanians during March of 2004. Verich also mentioned a recent meeting he had with Congressman Wexler (D-FL) who recently visited Serbia. Congress Wexler had told Verich that independence of Kosovo now does not create a viable economic unit to develop economically. Verich then argued that reports and calls of independence from groups like the ICG may bring good news for young unemployed Albanians who are idealistic. “But what does granting independence to Kosovo do for putting food on tables of ordinary families including the Albanians?”

Mr. Anderson responded that he also agrees that refugee returns must be addressed and that these are good points, but he disagreed that Kosovo cannot be a viable economic unit separate from Serbia mentioning that some reports from IMF and World Bank seem to indicate likewise. Interestingly, he even admitted Serbia is more multi-ethnic than Kosovo or than most other countries in the region.

### His Royal Highness Mihailo Karadjordjevic, Fr. Irinej Dobrijevic, and Andy Verich meet with Senator Voinovich to discuss upcoming trip.

WASHINGTON – Following the annual Prayer Breakfast, HRH Mihailo, Fr. Irinej, and SUC Washington Director Andy Verich met with Senator Voinovich (R-OH) to discuss the objective of the upcoming delegation from the Holy Synod and report on the status in Kosovo-Metohija from the Serbian Orthodox Church perspective.

During the meeting It was agreed, the fact there is a lack of progress in returning refugees and reconstructing Church property. Senator Voinovich is aware of the situation and will continue bringing up this issue to the State Department.

### Fr. Irinej Dobrijevic, and Andy Verich visit the United States State Department

WASHINGTON – On February 3, 2005, discussions were held at the Serbia Montenegro Desk Office on the upcoming delegation from the Holy Synod. Present were Fr. Irinej, Andy Verich, and Troy Pederson, the SaM Desk Officer of the U.S. State Department.

Although the meeting concluded without a definite date of the proposed visit, Mr. Ped-

erson mentioned he is looking forward to looking towards the future for Serbia Montenegro and the positive role the Serbian Orthodox Church can take in this.

**Congressional Working Group on Religious Freedom**

WASHINGTON – On February 16, 2005, staff from the office of Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) and the Institute on Religion & Public Policy led a working group meeting at the U.S. Senate. A special guest speaker introduced by James Jatras was Bat Ye’or, an analyst and author of “Eurabia: the Dhimitude of Europe.” Her book discusses the merger of Europe and the Muslim world into a new socio - political entity. Bat Ye’or introduced this merger as a new concept which she coins as “Eurabia.” Eurabia she argues is a strong political alliance of the European Union with the Arab world that has been developed for approximately thirty years by European and Arab politicians and intellectuals. This political, cultural and demographic integration will finally reach the potential to isolate the United States as it can be traced in current EU policies. The book also mentions that the alliance between Islamic and European causes can be traced to World War II when the Bosnian Muslims and Albanians joined the Axis Powers.

**CONGRESSIONAL SERBIAN CAUCUS**

cuurent membership

IN	2
FL	2
IL	2
SC	1
OH	3
WI	1
CA	6
MD	1
CO	1
AZ	1
PA	1

**DIASPORA RIGHTS**

For more than 60 years a regrettable situation persisted, whereby the Homeland was not substantively interested in learning more about, nor collaborating with the over 3 million estimated Serbs of the Diaspora. This occurred for a variety of mainly political reasons, exemplified by a general suspicion by the Yugoslav political establishment of all “emigrations” intentions, which carried over to the distinct Serbian Diaspora even throughout the turbulent 1990s. Reversing this counterproductive attitude has been one of the key goals of the SUC from its very inception. Following the political changes of October 2000, the SUC worked very hard with the new Serbian governments to convince them that the Diaspora must be considered an integral part of the Serbian national corpus, with rights and obligations - stemming from Serbian citizenship and other formal indicators - that should be brought as close as possible to those of Serbs living in Serbia.

Now, we can report that our efforts paid of in a number of tangible ways:

1. The New Citizenship Law Passed in December 2004. The law considerably simplifies the procedure of obtaining the citizenship for the Serbs who live all over the world. For example, for emigrants and their children older then 18, citizenship can be obtained by naturalization, if they can show that they can support themselves and if they sign a written statement accepting Serbia as their home country. Also, the residency on the territory of Serbia is not required, and the renouncement of previous citizenship is not enforced. The text of the new Citizenship Law can be found on [http://news.serbianunity.net/bydate/2004/December\\_30/22.html](http://news.serbianunity.net/bydate/2004/December_30/22.html).
2. The New Election Law Passed in Spring 2004. This law allows Serbian citizens to vote abroad (i.e. in countries of residence) in Serbian elections, though currently only in consulates and embassies of Serbia and Montenegro. This limitation effectively prevents larger numbers of Serbs effectively participating in the voting process due to large distances to the nearest consulate or embassy (particularly in areas like North America and Australia). The SUC requested modifications to the law that would alleviate this problem, by allowing

for voting by absentee ballot (or similar procedures already practiced by other diasporas in the US), and to simplify the voting procedure altogether.

3. The New Ministry for Diaspora Established in Spring 2004 - The basic mission of the Ministry is to work on bringing together Fatherland and Diaspora, preserving Diaspora cultural and national identity, promoting the Diaspora rights and on establishing economical, cultural, educational and religious collaboration with Diaspora organizations. The Ministry for Diaspora has just moved to new premises located at Vasina 20 in Belgrade, to an impressive building named «The House of Diaspora». (More on the opening ceremony to be found elsewhere in this and our next bulletin issues.)

4. The Denationalization Law – The Serbian Government recently adopted, at long last, the Law on Reporting and Registering Confiscated Property (after WW II). Popularly referred to as the “Denationalizatoin Law” - as it seeks to reverse the effects of wave of “nationalization” of private property following 1945 – it will specifically help establish the value of such confiscated property, and the practical conditions and modalities of return to previous owner(s), and/or the value of appropriate compensation. It is important to understand that this is a complex issue, and this legislation is only the first step towards a comprehensive Denationalization, as disentangling property rights in an equitable manner decades later remains objectively difficult. Nevertheless, it is still objectively needed and the SUC remains committed to monitoring and assisting lawmakers in Serbia in completing this important task.

5. The New Serbian Constitution – The SUC continues to insist with the Serbian Government and other bodies that are working on draft versions of the proposed new Constitution of Serbia to include the Diaspora’s status in an explicit and constructive way.

6. New Diaspora Law - SUC will continue to press the Serbian Government to pass a new Diaspora Law, in which all legal rights of Diaspora will be regulated in a comprehensive and consistent way.

Compiled by Jasmina Vujic

**УСПЕШНИ ТРИ ГОДИНЕ**

*Завршен први трогодишњи циклус Конкурса за најбољи литерарни рад о Светом Сави*

Литерарни конкурс за најбољи рад о Светом Сави, који смо пре три године покренули у школама Србије и Црне Горе, ове године је завршио трогодишњи циклус. Број школа које су учествовале ове године попео се на 40 (почели смо са 20 школа прве године), а награђено је 150 најбољих од око 15.000 ученичких радова.

Београдску канцеларију Конгреса током фебруара посетили су награђени ђаци, да би подигли новчани део награде и донели нам своје радове. Награда је, да подсетимо, специјална повеља КСУ и чек од 100 америчких долара за ученике гимназије, а у случају основних школа додељиване су две награде, прва у износу од 60 америчких долара, а друга у износу од 40 америчких долара, које су добили на Академији за Светог Саву у својим школама. Чек су уновчили током фебруара у Београдској канцеларији, питали за дародавце, упућивали им речи захвалности. Имена свих награђених ученика објавићемо посебно а можете их наћи и на Сајту КСУ на коме можете и погледати фотографије са Светосавске прославе у појединим школама из којих смо добили фотографије и радове:

<http://www.serbianunity.net/projects/StSava/>



*добитница награде Свети Сава О.Ш. "Јелена Ћетковић", Београд*

**ОТВОРЕНА КУЋА ДИЈАСПОРЕ**

*Освештање зграде министарства за дијаспору и додела одликовања*

Представници КСУ присуствовали су у суботу 12. фебруара 2005. свечаном чину освештања зграде Министарства за дијаспору, у улици Васе Чарапића 20 у Београду, које је извршио Његово Преосвештенство Епископ шабачко-ваљевски господин Лаврентије уз саслужење свештенства Саборне цркве у Београду. Потпредседник КСУ Олга Даниловић допутовала је из Беча специјално за ову прилику.



*Потпредседница КСУ Олга Даниловић и директор београдске канцеларије КСУ Славка Драшковић на додели награда у просторијама Министарства за дијаспору*

Међу многобројним званицама били су високи функционери Државне заједнице Србије и Црне Горе, Републике Србије и Њ.К.В. Принц Александар Карађорђевић. Поздрављајући присутне проф. др Војислав Вукчевић, министар за дијаспору у влади Републике Србије истакао је значај министарства за дијаспору, и позвао све Србе из расејања да дођу у Министарство, јер зграда у Васиной 20 је сада њихова, тј. наша кућа. Одмах на улазу у зграду госте су дочекале девојке са погачом и сољу, испред упечатљиве статуе младе жене која држи погачу у рукама, у људској величини, која симболизује мајку Србију како дочекује своју децу.

«Ми у Министарству дијаспоре смо, рекао је овом приликом министар Вукчевић, слуге народа који живи и ради далеко од отаџбине».



*Потпредседница КСУ Олга Даниловић и добитница награде из Норвешке, Љубица Биби Марисављевић*

Министар Вукчевић овом приликом уручио је и одликовања истакнутим појединцима иу дијаспоре међу којима су: Јеромонах Иринеј Добријевић (САД), Милан Брајовић (Албанија), Петар Ластих (Мађарска), др Славомир Гвозденовић (Румунија), Љубица Биби Марисављевић (Норвешка), Љубомир Гушатовић (Данска), проф. др Стојанка Алексић (Немачка) и други.

Овај свечани догађај увеличали су браћа Теофиловићи, певајући химну "Боже правде" и изводећи мали уметнички програм.

**ДЕО ИЗ ОБРАЋАЊА ПРОФ. ДР. ВОЈИСЛАВА ВУКЧЕВИЋА, МИНИСТРА ЗА ДИЈАСПОРУ**

*Са свечаности одржане 12. фебруара 2005. у згради министарства*

«Окупили смо се да кажемо, и покажемо, да је део Србије који је бројан, па и многобројан, и који се, често, без своје воље налази расејан по свету, сада, након што је добио своје Министарство, добио и - своју кућу! У тој, односно овој, кући део расејане и расуте Србије-неће бити странка и гост, него ће бити домаћин! И зато сви ви који сте дошли и који ћете долазити из тог далеког, и не увек белог, света - осећајте се као у својој кући!

...

“Али брига о отаџбини није почела са нама. И пре нас неко је бринуо о земљи својих отаца без да га је ико позвао и прозвао.

“Међу њима су и данашњи лауреати, односно људи којима је Србија казала једно велико- “Хвала”! Они нису једини. Некоме је то “Хвала” раније казано. Многим, и великом броју - није! Али ће бити! Нека нам опросте што их данас нема. Хоћу да нам верују да ће их бити у некој од следећих оваквих прилика. Трудимо се да никог не заборавимо али вас молим да нам у томе помогнете. Имајте на уму да су многи заслужили да буду споменути а да нико није заслужио да буде заборављен.

...

“Моји сарадници обишли су скоро сваку државу Европе где су видели и чули наше људе. Били смо у Канади и Сједињеним америчким државама на Конвенцији Конгреса српског уједињења. Када ову организацију спомињемо, важно је рећи да су они, пре неки дан, закључили уговор о закупу дела простора овог здања и тако постали - први укућани! Простор је у поткровљу. То свакако није случајно, јер је, можда, овој организацији дато - да буде кров под којим ће се Срби коначно - скупити односно ујединити.”

...

## ЗАЈЕДНИЧКИ ПРОЈЕКТИ КСУ СА МИНИСТАРСТВОМ

Представници Београдске канцеларије КСУ срели су се са замеником министра дијаспоре Чотрићем и усагласили рад на неколико заједничких пројеката: први је Медијска кампања КСУ и Министарства по питању гласања дијаспоре поштом и очекивања од дијаспоре на изборима. Други је пројекат пописа становништва које је Министарство за дијаспору ставило у свој план рада за 2005. годину; и трећи је пројекат Манастири Србије на којем је већ прошле године започет заједнички рад. У развоју сваког од ових пројеката ћемо вас редовно информисати. Драго нам је да је “наше” министарство препознало значај ових пројеката као и да је г. Чотрић спреман да упорно ради на питањима важним за дијаспору.

## ИНТЕРНЕТ: ВЕЋА ПОСЕЋЕНОСТ, ПОБОЉШАНА СИГУРНОСТ И НОВА БЛАГО АРХИВА

Пред крај 2004. број посета нашим сајтовима се, у односу на претходни квартал, умногоме повећао: 22% за [www.serbianunity.net](http://www.serbianunity.net), 38% за [news.serbianunity.net](http://news.serbianunity.net) и целих 73% за [blago.serbianunity.net](http://blago.serbianunity.net). У јануару је чак (на сајту [news.serbianunity.net](http://news.serbianunity.net)) забележена највећа посећеност икад: просечно скоро 3000 посетилаца дневно, а појединих дана је била и преко 6000. Томе је сигурно допринело редовно постављање дневних вести чији се број креће око 30 дневно, а осим тога, на наше мејлинг листе, чији је број претплатника порастао за скоро 3000, редовно се шаље двојезичник *SUC Weekly* са недељним избором вести из Вашингтона и Београда.

Урађена је БЛАГО архива манастира Сопоћани са преко 1300 фотографија прелепих фресака снимљених у лето 2004. године. Осим овог успеха, претходни период ће бити запамћен по интензивним хакерским нападима на наше сајтове. То је био повод за инсталацију најновијег софтвера на наше сервере чиме је значајно повећана сигурност и безбедност. Ова прилика је искоришћена и за инсталацију Horde сис-

тема, који омогућује безбедан приступ електронској пошти путем интернета, размену фотографија и података, заједничке календаре и многе друге опције које ће побољшати и убрзати рад.

## КАКО ПОПИСАТИ СРБЕ У ДИЈАСПОРИ

Чињеница да никада није тачно утврђен број наших људи у расејању, и да се процене крећу од 2,5 до чак 4 милиона, указује на потезу да се овај велики и од националног значаја, посао најзад обави. Министарство за дијаспору ставило је овај задатак као један од приоритетних послова Министарства у 2005. години.

КСУ је, као допринос и помоћ Министарству да овај процес започне, дао своје виђење пројекта. Предложили смо да у целом пројекту учествују заједно са Министарством за дијаспору и Црква, конзулати и организације у расејању, а да пројекат мора носити сама Влада како би се окончао са успехом.

Попис који је Министарство планирало треба да утврди број наших људи у свету, Срба и других држављана СЦГ, занимање, њихов пол и старосну доб, припадност националним организацијама, као и да ли желе да учествују у политичком и економском животу матице – да гласају или да улажу у њу.

Попис Срба у расејању има своје специфичности и посебне захтеве у односу на обичан попис становништва. Прво, врло је тешко са стопостотном сигурношћу обавестити људе у расејању, нарочито у удаљеним крајевима. Поред тога, за разлику од Србије и Црне Горе где је попис на неки начин обавезан, он то у дијаспори није, па је потребно на сваки начин «анимирати» људе и охрабрити их да се одазову попису.

Додатну тешкоћу представља својеврсна мимикрија Срба у дијаспори, из више различитих узрока, тако да презваничног пописа треба обавити истраживање о нашим људима у дијаспори како би се направио план пописа и омогућило да сви који су српског порекла могу да се евидентирају овим пописом. Планира се да Попис буде спроведен до краја 2007. године.



Секретар КСУ Маја Арежина и заменик министра за дијаспору Александар Чотрић

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## HELP US CONTINUE WITH OUR PROGRAMS



We hope that you find the material in this bulletin satisfactory. We plan to continue and achieve more in this year. However, none of it is possible without your active participation in our programs and your financial support. To donate to our programs send check to:

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