

Yugoslavia's final destruction: sifting through the ruins

by Christopher Deliso

Bottom line: The media's upbeat eulogy for Yugoslavia belies some disturbing contradictions regarding the West's role and motives in the Balkans

So it's official- Yugoslavia is no more. While few will shed tears over it's demise, many more will be deeply satisfied to attend the funeral. This is because Yugoslavia has long had far more enemies than friends. Against this reality is set the current mood of optimism and support- a bizarre about-face which has lent an air of the surreal to this "historic" event.

A critical reading of Western media reports reveals certain suspicious sentiments. The creation of a new state, "Serbia and Montenegro," proves yet again that no one in Europe likes Serbia- except, of course, for the European Union, which is really very concerned to preserve that beleaguered state in its full territorial integrity. Second, the event carries within it the seeds of promise for secessionists everywhere- from Kosovo to Montenegro, even to Macedonia and Vojvodina. Reading between the lines, Yugoslavia's

funeral seems to confirm the ascendancy of pro-Western Zoran Djindjic over Vojislav Kostunica, who will be gradually isolated and marginalized.

Despite everything the media has done to distract from these harsh realities, the "historic accord" will likely be remembered by future generations not for its stopping of irredentism and secessionism, but as an event which exacerbated the cantonization of the Balkans into weak, easily exploited principalities.

Contradictions in terms, deception in goals.

We begin with the bizarre. After ten years of anti-Serbian vitriol from the mass media, international organizations and Western politicians, we are suddenly expected to believe that the West is Serbia's best friend. The numbing repetition of anti-Serb themes in the media has ingrained itself in the collective subconscious to the extent that Westerners hearing the word "Serb" are now automatically flooded with all sorts of dark and disturbing images. How deeply anti-Serbian feeling has become lodged in

Western sensibilities is easily shown. Take an article, on a completely different subject, that appeared in the Los Angeles Times on 6 September, 2001. It quoted Mr. David Irvine (a loyalist politician in Northern Ireland), condemning a pro-UK terrorist bombing of Belfast schoolchildren. Irvine declared, "I am ashamed to be associated with these people... they are allowing themselves to be seen as the Serbs of Northern Ireland."

That such a statement could be written- and read- without anyone batting an eyelash shows how utterly Serbia has been degraded in the eyes of the world. Indeed, for readers accustomed to such rhetoric, it should be difficult to believe in today's overtures to yesterday's reviled enemy.

Yet recent reports from the Associated Press, CNN and others have trumpeted just such a happy theme. Most earnest of all was a story from Reuters ("Montenegrins see new union with Serbia as sell-out," 3/15/02):

"After a decade of Balkan wars, the West had a new priority- discouraging any further redrawing

of borders lest it encourage Albanians in Kosovo, a UN protectorate since 1999 but part of Serbia, or Macedonia to seek immediate independence too."

One wonders how they could say this with a straight face.

Considering that NATO's 1999 bombing was meant to "liberate" the Kosovar Albanians from Serbia, it is more than a bit rich to say that the West is really concerned with helping the latter state. This article drips with the kind of honeyed words that presuppose supreme ignorance on the part of the reader. It assumes that most people have been living under a rock for the past couple years, which unfortunately is somewhat correct. Oftentimes, the general reader takes it for granted that the major media's statements are by nature apolitical. Yet even the most benign coverage of events carries considerable political baggage. The Reuters piece in question, for all its apparent innocence, cannot entirely conceal that it is basically an apologia for European Union, United States and NATO intervention.

The one word that gives this away, of course, is "immediate." The restless Balkan sub-states are scolded for their impatience and ordered to wait for their number to be called, as if they were lined up in a deli. But the wait will be worth it, the article implies: Montenegro, Kosovo, and Western Macedonia should not be too upset, as they will be appeased with independence in the near future.

In the case of "Serb-friendly" Montenegro, the wait is prescribed- only three years until they can secede, according to the Associated Press ("Yugoslavia to get a new name," 3/14/02). Being more difficult customers, the Albanians are on an indefinite timeline, but a timeline nonetheless. No one believes that Kosovo will ever

return to Serbian jurisdiction, but since criticism of the interventionists' role has been stifled, there is no popular call for answers, either.

The management of conflict and the dissolution of states

Not that they would be provided, of course. Accountability has never been one of the chief concerns of the "international community." Nor has self-regulation. Aid groups, non-governmental organizations, and more overtly governmental bodies devote their efforts to exposing corruption and backwardness in their "host" countries- meaning the ones where they have showed up, uninvited. One imagines they would have their hands full already, with chronicling the severe corruption that has come part and parcel with every Western intervention in the Balkans, from Bosnia to Kosovo to Macedonia. Yet on these subjects there is but an embarrassing silence.

Despite the open antagonism, such groups also claim to be the staunchest allies of the nations where they come to reside. After all, the unseating of Slobodan Milosevic was a prime goal of the National Democratic Institute. This offshoot of the US Democratic Party is now honorarily headed by Madeleine Albright. Similarly, the International Crisis Group in Macedonia has repeatedly involved itself in Macedonian political affairs and is now denouncing the corrupt practices of the locals. Among the board members of this organization is General Wesley Clark, the leader of NATO's military campaign against Serbia in 1999. That two of the main architects of Yugoslavia's destruction should now claim to be great friends of the Serbians and Macedonians is rather outlandish, but- as recent events have shown- entirely predictable for the surreal Balkan peninsula.

In this light, the relationship

between Kosovo and the new federation of Serbia and Macedonia becomes clearer. After seizing control of the embattled province in 1999, the West has continually stated that Kosovo still remains a part of Yugoslavia. Within this non-nationalistic framework, mundane questions of legality and procedure could still be broached. Such topics as constituent peoples, devolved government, and multi-ethnic civil society could be discussed. The West likes to associate itself with such cozy and apparently well-meaning ideas; by removing the Kosovo question from the context of a greater Yugoslavia, the international administration also frees itself of all responsibilities. Now, however, the question can only be phrased in terms of the relationship between Serbia and Kosovo: is the latter a province of the former? We all know the divergent views of Serbs and Albanians on this subject. By stripping the debate of its benign Yugoslav context, the West has also ensured that bitter ethnic and nationalist feelings will predominate in the coming showdown. And since Balkan fights require the mediation of well-meaning foreigners, the West will be obliged to once again step in.

One need not wonder how the debate will end. Kosovo will become independent, and the Albanians will be (temporarily) appeased. The currently nebulous status of the province lends itself easily to the furtherance of this goal- and the avoidance of accountability from the "international community," especially the UN and the EU. The latter is a unique body in European politics: a phantom non-state capable of controlling sovereign states, while avoiding responsibility for its own actions. The EU, it seems, is at its finest when it spawns similar "official" organs, quixotically organized and impervious to all blame or responsibility. The benchmark of the EU's "success," of course, is Kosovo.

Other considerations.

There is another funny thing about the coverage of Yugoslavia's demise. According to all of the reports, this new arrangement signifies the final "break with the previous regime" of Slobodan Milosevic. Yet considering that the ones who were most adamantly opposed to the break-up were the Socialists, it is clear that we are dealing with a larger phenomenon here. Sure, Milosevic was the head of the Socialists; but his was not a one-man party, and anyway, he came on the scene rather late in the game. The dissolution of Yugoslavia is indeed a break with the past- yet it is a break not with Milosevic, but with Tito and his ideals. The West is quite comfortable opposing such activities as genocide, ethnic cleansing, and human rights violations; less so

when it is made to appear intolerant towards other political and social systems. That is not supposed to be part of "Western values;" the international community, however, is assuming that the world will be stupid enough to buy the Milosevic excuse. Yet though it is currently fashionable, scapegoating Milosevic for all of Yugoslavia's ills will come back to haunt the West and its intervention in the Balkans. Unfortunately, the damage has already been done, and there will be little solace in belatedly recovered truths.

Finally, we should return to the subject of Montenegro, and the implications of last week's devolution for its future. One fears that the Montenegrin clamoring for independence may drown out dialogue on the long-term viability of an independent Montenegro. It is well-

known that Albanian extremists, both in the Balkans and in the diaspora, would like to absorb parts of Montenegro by force. Without the still formidable Serbian army to protect it, one wonders how a tiny Montenegrin state of 650,000 people would defend itself. The answer, most likely, is that it wouldn't. An independent Montenegro would be weaker than even Macedonia, which has had major problems with Albanian separatists. In the case of a war in Montenegro, that "state" would ineluctably become yet another Western dependency, polarized and reliant on Western handouts and shadow administrations. Such seems to be the fate of all the countries of the former Yugoslavia; in this they remain united as one, even though the name has dissolved into many.

Serbianna.com - 03/02

Yugoslavia - Faced with a looming U.S. deadline to hand over war crimes suspects, the Yugoslav president blasted a U.N. war crimes court, saying he feels "sick" whenever it is mentioned.

President Vojislav

Kostunica (news - web sites), a moderate nationalist, frequently has criticized the tribunal, claiming it is anti-Serb and not based on the rule of law. He has regularly blasted his pro-Western political rival, Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, for wanting to extradite Serb suspects to the tribunal.

"There must be cooperation with The Hague (news - web sites) tribunal, but I have to admit that I feel sick to my stomach when I think about that court, with a horrific degree of its prejudices that are shown through its proceedings," Kostunica told Serbian state TV late Wednesday.

The U.S. Congress gave Yugoslavia until March 31 to cooperate with the Netherlands-based court or risk losing \$120 million in financial assistance.

Acting on a similar deadline last year, the Serbian government arrested former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic (news - web sites), who is now on trial in The Hague for atrocities his forces committed in Kosovo, Bosnia and Croatia in the 1990s.

"I've had enough" of the tribunal, Kostunica said in the television interview. "I can imagine how those who have to deal with that court feel."

Kostunica said he is "absolutely against the extraditions to The Hague tribunal," arguing they are illegal as long as no special domestic law has been passed.

But Serbia's government Wednesday defied

Yugoslav President Blasts UN Court

By **DUSAN STOJANOVIC**
AP March 28, 2002

Kostunica and a high court ruling that extraditions without a special domestic law are illegal. The government formally adopted the U.N. tribunal's rules that allow the extraditions, saying no local law is necessary as the world

body's rules surpass national regulations.

The Serbian government move indicates that it is ready to arrest and extradite at least some of 15 Serb war crimes suspects living in the republic and sought by The Hague. Kostunica said he had no power to stop the extraditions, which he considers illegal.

Zoran Zivkovic, the interior minister and federal police chief, said he found "the president's statement rather odd." "There will be extraditions. I don't know when and who will be extradited," said Zivkovic, a deputy in Djindjic's party. "Kostunica is playing fake patriotism. To say 'I'm sick' of something is not a vocabulary of a responsible politician."

Among the suspects sought by the tribunal are former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his wartime military commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic. Mladic is known to be hiding in Serbia; Karadzic's whereabouts are unknown.

Both have been indicted for genocide for the 1995 massacre of about 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica, Bosnia, and the three-year military siege and shelling of Sarajevo.

In Washington on Wednesday, Secretary of State Colin Powell (news - web sites) praised the transfer of about 150 ethnic Albanian prisoners from Serbian jails to U.N. custody, hinting that the step could help the region keep millions of dollars in U.S. aid.

March 29, 2002

The Honorable Colin Powell
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell,

I am writing to you at the eve of the upcoming crucial decision about continuing aid to the state of Serbia and Montenegro (formally still FRY).

Decisions such as the present one have been before our Administration and Congress in the past, and at each such juncture the choice - proper one in our opinion - to grant assistance was made, despite some debate. This was facilitated in no small part by your farsighted and objective stance, which we wholeheartedly respect and applaud.

It is our understanding, however, that there is some ambivalence in the Administration and Congress about the continuation of such aid. Our firm belief is that a negative ruling in this matter would have profoundly negative consequences for regional stability, and by extension, to American interests in general. First, as Serbian vice-premier Nebojsa Covic pointed out in Washington this week, most of what were often cited as individual conditions have been met by Yugoslav authorities. The one possible exception - cooperation with the Hague Tribunal - must be treated with statesmanship, however. The new government - despite vocal opposition - managed to establish true cooperation with the Tribunal, and to facilitate the processing of some key indictments. Its insistence on an acceptable legal framework to accompany future cooperation should not be viewed as obstruction, but as an honest attempt to live up to the very standards and advice that radiate from the United States - namely, the supremacy of the rule of law. Otherwise, the intended purpose of the Tribunal - to promote truth, justice and reconciliation among the belligerents of the Balkan wars - will have little chance of success.

Perhaps even more important, however, are the following points. The conditioning of aid on too narrow a set of requirements sends the wrong message regarding our motives to those most in need of our assistance - the people of FRY. Indeed, Ambassador Montgomery confirmed that, when he recently insisted that the US is more focused on the overall processes than specific conditions. Furthermore, we must seriously consider the effects of a possible negative ruling. This would discredit the pro-reform course of the

present coalition government in FRY, and jeopardize the considerable achievements it accomplished since October 2000 - in democratization, economic reform, minority rights, to name a few. Moreover, it would seriously damage the momentum of improving our bilateral relations and reestablishing American prestige in FRY - trends which the present Administration has painstakingly worked to foster following the tragic events and misunderstandings of the past decade. Serbia and Montenegro are the keys to the Balkan affairs, and supporting its current democratic government is crucial to regional stability. Finally, in the specific circumstances of our ongoing struggle against global terror networks and given the presence these have had in the southeastern Europe, the need for a stable and prosperous Serbia and Montenegro is greater yet.

As an organization intimately acquainted with the situation in the Balkans and dedicated to the improvement of bilateral relationship between the two countries, we respectfully urge you to consider the above factors and sincerely hope that the State Department recommendation will be a positive one. The United States needs to reinforce these positive trends by continuing to extend our hands in help - a policy with the breadth of vision and statesmanship.

Sincerely,

Nenad Vukicevic
Executive Vice President
Serbian Unity Congress

SPECIAL REPORT

Serbia Still at the Crossroads

March 29, 2002 - United States Institute of Peace

"Transformation of Serbian society depends on the outcome of the competition within DOS, not just between personalities but also over conflicting concepts of the nation and its role in the region, Europe, and the world."

Summary

Democracy in Serbia is crucial to the future of the Balkans. Economic reform has progressed well, but the military and security services remain almost as they were under Milosevic. The conflict between President Kostunica and Prime Minister Djindjic is slowing the pace of change and has stalled Serbia at the crossroads between its past and a European future. This new USIP Special Report describes Serbia's difficult situation and suggests policy options.

national community should focus on concrete measures, using economic levers to push reform. The US and the EU should focus in particular on security sector reform, pressing for not only cooperation with The Hague Tribunal but also for fundamental changes in the army, police and security services.

About the Report

The Special Report is the culmination of a series of public and private meetings of the United States Institute of Peace's Balkans Working Group and several visits to Serbia. Contributors include numerous Serb and Yugoslav officials and many U.S. based participants. Dr. Vladimir Matic of Clemson University, and formerly with the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry, prepared the report.

Avoiding taking sides between political personalities, the inter-

(Please view the attached link to view the entire report)

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr84.html>

Serbia offers to arrest president

US financial pressure leads to warrants aimed at extraditing leading players to war crimes tribunal

Julian Borger in Washington and Maggie O'Kane in Belgrade
Monday April 1, 2002 - *The Guardian*

Serbia issued arrest warrants yesterday for its president, Milan Milutinovic, and three other former aides to Slobodan Milosevic, hours before the US deadline for it to cooperate with the Hague war crimes tribunal or forfeit \$120m in aid.

The justice minister, Vladan Batic, said it was up to the police to decide when and how to arrest President Milutinovic, Nikola Sainovic, a former deputy prime minister and Mr Milosevic's top security adviser, Vljako Stojiljkovic, a former interior minister; and General Dragoljub Ojdanic, a former Yugoslav army chief of staff.

The four are named with Mr Milosevic in an indictment for crimes against humanity and war crimes in Kosovo.

Their arrest and extradition to the tribunal is seen in Washington as the price for continued US aid. The deadline set by Congress for its compliance was midnight last night.

The Serbian prime minister, Zoran Djindjic, was vague about when the arrests would be made. He told a press conference: "Maybe in the next three or four days someone will end up in the Hague."

Seeds of Hate: In Postwar "Bosnia" - Part 2

*Militant Islam Turns U.S. Allies to Enemies --- Mujahedeen Who Fought Alongside Muslim Militia Stirred Faith and Doubts --- A Pig Thrown Into a River**

By Yaroslav Trofimov

The Wall Street Journal - March 18, 2002

The potential threat of Islamic fundamentalism in Europe and some American casualties persuaded the U.S. and other Western nations to oppose the presence of foreign mujahedeen in "Bosnia" as part of the November 1995 Dayton peace agreements. The U.S.-brokered agreements specifically call for the expulsion of all foreign fighters. But the Muslim-controlled Bosnian government circumvented the rule by granting Bosnian citizenship to several hundred Arab volunteers - and eliminating their "foreign" status -- before the accord took effect. As of last year, many still lived in the country, often married to local women.

This tolerant attitude started to change after a new coalition of non-nationalist and moderate parties took control of the Bosnian government early last year. Then, after Sept. 11, the country went into overdrive to address terrorist threats on its soil. "We don't want to be held hostage by our past, and that is why we want to clean out the stables," says Ivica Misisic, the chairman of the "Bosnia"-Herzegovina Anti-Terrorism Team and the country's deputy foreign minister.

In the past six months, the government has revoked the citizenship of 94 former mujahedeen, prompting most of those still on Bosnian territory to go into hiding in recent weeks or abroad. The Bosnian passports of two Egyptian-born mujahedeen were found at an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan.

The Bosnian government also launched an inquiry into Persian Gulf charities, where several suspected terrorists arrested in recent months worked. U.S. peacekeeping troops carried out a high-profile raid at the Saudi High Commission for Relief to "Bosnia" Herzegovina in Sarajevo in late September. Computer files and other materials seized during that raid included information on making pesticides, photographs of U.S. military

installations and other material suggesting terrorist intentions, officials say. The Saudi commission has taken out newspaper advertisements to condemn the raid and to deny any link with terrorism.

Until January, "Bosnia"'s crackdown on terrorism elicited little visible opposition. The government would quietly detain Arab mujahedeen, strip them of citizenship, and then hand them over to foreign countries, disregarding protests by human-rights groups such as Amnesty International.

Initially, the same scenario unfolded after the arrest of six Algerians accused of trying to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo and of contacting al Qaeda's elusive military commander, Abu Zubaida, last year. Most of these Arabs worked at local branches of Persian Gulf-based humanitarian organizations, had Bosnian passports because of their participation in the war and were married to Bosnian women. All the detainees claimed innocence.

The legal proceedings were marked by confusion. Officials say the U.S. had intelligence data that could have secured a conviction, but to protect sources, it wasn't shown to the Bosnian courts. The courts ruled that there were no grounds for prosecution and ordered the six freed. "Bosnia"'s Human Rights Chamber, a state agency, issued an injunction to halt any deportation. The Bosnian government, which says it didn't receive the injunction in time, went ahead and handed over the Algerians to the U.S.

But on Jan. 18, the day of the handover, several hundred activists from Islamic youth organizations, including Ms. Ihsan, gathered at the Sarajevo jail. In video footage carried by local and Arab TV stations, Bosnian riot police clashed with the protesters, who lay in the snow and blocked police vehicles. The police

eventually beat their way through the crowd. "On that day, I was ready to die for the name of Allah," says Ms. Ihsan, who says she received several truncheon blows.

The six Algerians were shipped to the U.S. detention camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and President Bush publicly praised "Bosnia"'s cooperation in the State of the Union address. The Bosnian Prime Minister, Zlatko Lagumdžija, justified the decision by telling a local magazine called Dani that "Bosnia"'s statehood "would have ended" and the country "would have been treated like Afghanistan" had it refused to give up these suspects.

But Mr. Lagumdžija's comments didn't quell the angry reaction of Bosnian politicians and intellectuals, which went on for weeks. Leaders of "Bosnia"'s Helsinki Committee, the country's leading human-rights organization, said the government violated "Bosnia"'s own laws. The cover of a popular magazine showed Uncle Sam urinating on "Bosnia"'s constitution. Even Austria's Wolfgang Petritsch, the international community's high representative, who is the top arbiter of Bosnian affairs under the Dayton accord, remarked that "it remains to be seen whether [the deportation decision] is up to the highest human-rights standards."

The deportation also produced an unlikely symbol for "Bosnia"'s Islamists -- Nadja Dizdarevic, the blue-eyed wife of one of the Arab deportees, Boudella Hadj. Ms. Dizdarevic, a 28-year-old mother of four and the sister of a well-known Bosnian lounge singer, used her contacts as head of a women's self-help organization to organize an all-night picketing of the jail. She has become a familiar figure on Bosnian television and Arab satellite networks.

"The fight against terrorism is justified - but it becomes senseless if you take it to innocent people," Ms. Dizdarevic

says as she offers honey-soaked sweets in her Dobrinja apartment. The 94 former Arab mujahedeen who were stripped of Bosnian citizenship and deported or forced to flee have left about 300 Bosnian-born children behind. The wives often are denied health insurance and offered only 14 euros, or about \$12, a month per child in welfare payments, she says. "Who's going to maintain us -- America?" Ms. Dizdarevic wonders, breaking into tears.

"Every day, I keep asking myself, why did this happen to us?"

A far-fetched answer comes from posters plastered on the Sarajevo square facing the U.S. Embassy. They show Mr. Lagumdzija wearing a skullcap during a visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem and accuse him of being a Jewish agent "working to eliminate the last Bosnian Muslim." Saff, Sarajevo's glossy Islamist magazine, published the same picture to accompany a story about the anti-mujahedeen campaign.

The new radicalism worries the traditional leaders of Bosnian Islam. They see growing tension between *Bosnia*'s moderate Islamic establishment and the militant youths. Some of these youths beat up the mufti, or interpreter of Islamic law, of Sarajevo last month because they disapproved of his

choice for a new prayer leader at a mosque. "I can't understand those people. . . . Maybe their kind of Islam can pass in the Middle East, but here it's just weird," says Jusuf Ramic, the Egyptian-trained dean of the Islamic Studies Faculty, the country's main Muslim religious academy. "This is Europe and a multid denominational place," he notes, and the militant youths "are a thorn in the eye . . . causing damage to the Muslims who live here."

A key source of this mujahedeen influence is the tiny hamlet of Bocinja, a formerly all-Serb village that was conquered by the Bosnian army's predominantly Arab El Mudzahid brigade in September 1995, in one of the final offensives of the war. In the late 1990s, as many as 150 families of Arab and Bosnian veterans of the brigade lived there, blocking access to Western peacekeepers and imposing strict religious rules on nearby Muslim villages.

Now, the international community is helping Serb families return to their homes. The Arabs have left, and only a few Bosnian mujahedeen remain in houses they bought from the Serbs. That's not an easy coexistence. Serbs and mujahedeen recall an incident last year. As Serb villagers were roasting a pig at a funeral, the former mujahedeen broke up the ceremony and threw the

pig into the Bosna River.

Bocinja resident Semin Rizvic, a former lieutenant in El Mudzahid, is still visibly impressed by the Arab volunteers, who he says brought true Islam to the country. "In the Bosnian regular army, the commanders would follow the troops," he says, "while among the mujahedeen, the commanders would lead because they weren't afraid of death and actually yearned to become martyrs." Powerful loudspeakers attached to Mr. Rizvic's house beam the Muslim call for prayer through the hamlet five times a day. A ditch nearby is filled with debris and empty bags bearing the name of al Haramain, the Saudi charity that assisted local mujahedeen with money and food. This month, the U.S. froze the assets of al Haramain's Bosnian branch, saying it is linked with an Egyptian Islamic terrorist group.

Across a narrow lane, one of the uneasy Serb returnees, 71-year-old Bosko Jovanovic, peers from his property at the bearded Mr. Rizvic - so different in his clothes and demeanor from the prewar Bosnian Muslims he used to know -- with undisguised apprehension. "The Arabs are gone from here," Mr. Jovanovic sighs. "But they've left their seeds behind."



IN MEMORIAM

Bratislava "Beba" Bjelopetrovich died March 15, 2002, after a long illness. Funeral services were held at Monastery "Gracanica" on March 19, 2002.

She was president of National Federation of Serbian Sister Circles for America and Canada for the last 15 years. In addition to her husband Vlado, survivors include: daughter Natalie, son Dane, mother Kosovka and three grandchildren Aleksandra, Matea and Luka.

Desko Nikitovic
Pres. S.U.C. Chicago Chapter

Serbian Unity Congress is the organization of Serbs and their friends in the Diaspora.
It was established in 1990. Its main goals are:

1. To sustain and nurture the Serbian heritage, culture and identity of Serbs in the Diaspora;
2. To garner the talents, experiences and abilities of all Serbs and their friends abroad in order to help economic, social, cultural and other positive changes towards a free political system and a moral society in Serbian lands;
3. To inform public opinion and key policymakers in the world about the true goals and aspirations of the Serbian people, as well as to endeavor to re-establish the Serbian good name and image damaged by the events of the past decade of relentless defamation.

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