

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

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Support rallies for Gotovina in U.S., Canada, Australia

Vecernji list
By Zoran Kresic

July 20, 2005

Croatian organizations in the United States, Canada and Australia will hold rallies on the anniversary of “Oluja” in support of “Croatian hero General Ante Gotovina and to commemorate the liberation of our Homeland.” The support rallies will be held in front of Croatian embassies and consulates, thereby expressing disagreement with the Zagreb government’s current view towards the Homeland war.

The rallies “Your voice must be heard” are jointly being organized by the lobbying group Croatian American Association (CAA), Croatian Youth of Sydney, Croat veterans, Croatian Association in Toronto and Croat Catholic parishes.

“We will insist that he is not to be sent to The Hague under any circumstances! We will stand together as one and tell the world and Carla Del Ponte, chief prosecutor of the International War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague: ‘You cannot have our General! You cannot have our dignity! You cannot have our Croatia! We paid for it with our blood!’” states the invitation published on the website www.freegeneralgotovina.com.

Croats around the world are being asked to come to Croatian consulates and embassies on Friday, August 5th at noon. Those gathered will remind the Government of Croatia that Carla del Ponte is currently trying to rewrite history. They warn of the danger that Serb aggression is being portrayed in a different light in order to create a new Greater Serbia.

Numerous American Croatians have announced their arrival to Knin August 5th. On the tenth anniversary of “Oluja,” support rallies will also be held in New York, Sydney, Toronto, Los Angeles, Chicago and Cleveland.

Interview: Ljubo Beslic, Mayor of Mostar

Dnevni list
By Sanja Bjelica

July 20, 2005

MOSTAR – The Old Bridge and Mostar’s historic old core have been added to UNESCO’s World Heritage list and if Mostar takes advantage of this opportunity, the city on the Neretva River should achieve significant progress and prosperity.

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Ljubo Beslic, Mayor of Mostar, explains what now awaits Mostar, what are our responsibilities and what do we receive from the UNESCO symbol.

What does it mean to be added to UNESCO's list? What awaits Mostar?

Joining UNESCO means entering a club known throughout world. It is a difficult goal to achieve. Fortunately, we have succeeded and now we need to fulfill the requirements for remaining under UNESCO's protection. The City needs to implement regulations and standards as stipulated by UNESCO, including conservation and restoration norms.

Also, we need to determine how to make everything financially sustainable. We will do our utmost to assure that the Old Bridge and old city core are an authentic locality and preserved as such for the future. Domestic and foreign experts who already worked on this project will oversee future restorations.

During the UNESCO preparations, there was disappointment with certain objects in the old city core because they do not satisfy authenticity requirements and are illegally built. What will the City do with these?

First, we need to prepare for an audit of all objects. Some we will attempt to resolve and rebuild in their original design and some, unfortunately, will be torn down. There will be some problems, but entry on UNESCO's list is too important to lose, because the City expects considerable financial profits in the upcoming period.

What is with the Agency for the old core?

On Monday we will sit down with the World Bank and discuss establishing the Agency and how it will function. The Agency should begin operations after summer vacations.

What kind of support can we expect from UNESCO?

We can expect certain financial support for projects. Also, we can expect assistance from UNESCO's experts who oversee our project.

Besides that, Mostar becomes a recognizable brand. The City will have material profits, as well as citizens because there will be more and more tourists arriving in Mostar. (Excerpt)