

ASSOCIATION

DESCENDANTS OF THE REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM THE
TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA AND FRIENDS

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TO THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON OF THE UNITED
STATES SENATE PATTY MURRAY

TO US SENATE VICE CHAIRPERSON KAMALA
HARRIS

TO SENATOR MIKE BROWN, AUTHOR OF DRAFT
RESOLUTION S.RES. 311

TO THE US EMBASSY IN SOFIA

A COPY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BULGARIA, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE PRIME MINISTER
AND THE MASS MEDIA

Subject: Inaccuracies about the history of the geographical region of Macedonia in draft resolution S.Res. 311 submitted to the US Congress which threatens the good partnership relations between the United States and Bulgaria.

DEAR MRS. MURRAY,
DEAR MRS. HARRIS,
DEAR MR. BROWN,
DEAR SIRs,

On 26.07.2023, a draft S.Res 311. resolution was submitted to the United States Congress by Senator Mike Brown, proposing that September 2023 be declared "the month of the Macedonian-American heritage" along with a celebration of the language, history and culture of Macedonian Americans and their incredible contribution to the United States.

Such an initiative is being undertaken for the third time because draft resolutions H. RES 741 and S. RES. 758 were tabled on 22 October 2021 and 13 September 2022, which were rejected by the US House of Representatives and the Senate respectively because of their falsifications and manipulations related to the history of the geographical region of Macedonia.

The current version is much shorter than the previous ones and has been purged of a number of false statements. However, in this form it still contains completely provable lies and is an example of another theft of foreign socio-cultural heritage. Draft resolution S.Res.311 once again claims that "since the 1880s, tens of thousands of Macedonians have immigrated to the United States in search of civil liberties, human rights, religious freedom, economic opportunity and security in response to the Ilinden Uprising of 1903 against the Ottoman Empire, the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913, the First and Second World Wars, the Civil War in Greece from 1946 to 1949 and the Communist policy of Yugoslavia." This affects not only to the socio-cultural heritage of Bulgaria, but also of Greece. At the same time, while ostensibly criticizing "Communist Yugoslavia", it supports the propaganda theses developed by it and by Moscow about the centuries-long existence of ethnic Macedonians and the Macedonian language – statements that do not correspond to objective facts.

Our association was created by individuals who originate from the group of over 400,000 Bulgarian citizens, descendants of refugees or migrants from the territory of today's Republic of North Macedonia, who form part of about 1.3 million Bulgarian citizens whose origin is from the geographical area of Macedonia. As an interested organization which directly expresses the interests of part of the population which originates from today's North Macedonia, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that during the period after the 1880s, it would not have been possible for the United States to have ethnic Macedonians, since the existence of such was not recorded in the geographical area of Macedonia itself. According to the data from the last census in the Ottoman Empire in 1906, which is official, since the Ottomans ruled Macedonia for over 500 years, the total number of Bulgarians therein was 762,754. At the same time, the Bulgarians represented the majority of the population in most of the territory which today forms part of North Macedonia. Prior to 1912, when the Ottoman Empire ruled the geographical region of Macedonia, there were more than 1,300 Bulgarian churches with 73 Bulgarian monasteries, 7 Bulgarian bishops and 1,310 Bulgarian priests, as well as 1,370 Bulgarian schools with 2,266 teachers. At the same time, there were no "Macedonian" schools or churches, and not a single ethnic Macedonian was recorded. During this period, the name "Macedonians" was not an ethnographic, but a geographical concept, such as the Texans in the United States, for example.

It should be emphasized that the "Ilinden Uprising of 1903" described in resolution S.Res.311 as Macedonian covered not only the territory of Macedonia, but also the territory of Adrianople Thrace, where no "Macedonian" has ever lived. The uprising in question was initiated by one organisation – the Internal Macedonian-Adrianople Revolutionary Organization (IMARO) and had one goal – the introduction of common territorial autonomy in Macedonia and Adrianople Thrace. On the current territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, the uprising completely covered today's Blagoevgrad, Smolyan and Kardzhali districts and parts of Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Haskovo and Burgas districts. Their total area is approximately the same as the territory of today's North Macedonia, and Bulgaria has every reason to be the main successor of the work of the former IMARO, especially since only in Bulgaria its ideas remained untouched.

The concept of the presence of ethnic Macedonians was developed in Serbia in the second half of the 19th century, in order to serve as a transition stage to the denationalization of Macedonian Bulgarians and their gradual rapprochement to Belgrade. However, this idea began to gain popularity only in the 1930s, when a special resolution of the Comintern was adopted in Moscow in 1934. For the first time in history, the existence of a separate Macedonian nation and a Macedonian language was referred to. In practice, these ideas began to be imposed with force after 1944, when a new written

Macedonian language was created in Yugoslavia, on the basis of local Bulgarian dialects, written in a modified Serbian alphabet with the artificial insertion of Serbisms.

The available documents show that prior to 1944, in the immigration registers and in the censuses of the population of the United States, the majority of those born in Macedonia were recorded as Bulgarians whose mother tongue was Bulgarian. The oldest Macedonian organisation that exists in the world today is the Macedonian Patriotic Organization (MPO), founded in Fort Wayne, USA in 1922 by emigrants declaring themselves as Bulgarians. Their newspaper "The Macedonian Tribune" is written in literary Bulgarian and defends the idea of equal rights for all ethnic communities in Macedonia, the most numerous being Bulgarian. In America, the organisation has established a number of Macedonian-Bulgarian churches, where a number of schools provide the study of the literary Bulgarian language.

Prior to 1944, the adherents of the idea of Macedonian nationalism were a negligible minority mainly among Communist circles. This is precisely the nature of the first Macedonian manifestations in the United States. Since at that time there was no Macedonian language, their documents were also written in literary Bulgarian. Their activities were financed by the Soviet, Bulgarian and Yugoslav communists, which is why on December 5, 1947, the US Department of Justice announced a list of 90 organizations that the US government considered anti-state and disloyal to the ideas of freedom and democracy. This list also includes the Macedonian-American People's Union and its publication Narodna Volya (People's Will), the first and only propagandist of Macedonian nationalism at that time. On May 28, 1948, the list of anti-state organisations operating in the United States was supplemented by 32 more. This was the result of a special investigation by the FBI which found that the 122 organizations in question had assisted the Communist dictatorship in Eastern Europe. Thus, the few Macedonian nationalists who had never written in "Macedonian", but in literary Bulgarian, were expelled from the United States. For this reason they did not make any "incredible contribution to the United States", but destroyed American democracy.

By 1960, the number of Canadians and Americans originating from the geographical area of Macedonia was between 50,000 and 75,000, and over 90% of this number consisted of Bulgarians. In the 1980 Harvard Encyclopaedia of Ethnic Groups in America, it is stated that "prior to World War II, almost all of them (immigrants from Macedonia to America) considered themselves Bulgarians and identified themselves as Bulgarians or Macedonian Bulgarians. Lately, however, all that has started to change. However, about 50,000 Macedonians still identify as Bulgarians and Macedonian Bulgarians. "

The first Macedonian nationalist organisation on the American continent was founded only in 1959 in Toronto with the assistance of the dictator J. B. Tito who led Communist Yugoslavia. It later adopted the name United Macedonians. It was a product of Bulgarian state nihilism, imposed by pressure from Moscow and Yugoslav propaganda. At that time, a small group split from the Hristo Botev Bulgarian organisation to join the Macedonian People's Union. The connection with Bulgarian ethnic awareness had not yet been broken and the goal was, as officially stated, to unite the Macedonian-Bulgarian émigré community in Canada on a "progressive-democratic basis" and include it in the struggle of the left-wing forces. Very soon this new organisation came under Yugoslav influence, and the leadership was replaced by newly arrived immigrants from Yugoslavia and Greece. In 1962, it established official ties with the newly proclaimed and non-canonical Macedonian Orthodox Church. Then with Yugoslav funding, the first Macedonian church of St. Kliment Ohridski was built in Toronto. At that time, the members of the "United Macedonians" were few in number, and even in the 1970s their number did not exceed 500 people. However, soon after with the active support of the

Matica (Community) of émigrés from Macedonia in Skopje, they began to develop a wide propaganda activity.

The Macedonian liberation movement after 1944 called the official state doctrine of Skopje "Serbo-communism". After 1991, when the independence of today's North Macedonia was formally declared, the communist component in the ideology began to disappear, but dependence on Serbia remained. The referendum asked an ambiguous question about the right of the future state "to enter into a future union of the sovereign states of Yugoslavia". Nowadays, this perspective is expressed in the total imposition of the idea for North Macedonia to be part of the Serbian "Open Balkans". The sole aim of the project is with the help of China to build a communication infrastructure to the north towards Serbia. As a result, today the political system in Skopje functions in conditions of increasing dependence and total control of Serbia.

When draft resolution S.Res. 311 was submitted, it was unlikely that the facts presented here were taken into account. We believe that Senator Mike Brown's team was misled by the so-called United Macedonian Diaspora. This is Washington-based proxy organization created with the assistance of the authorities in Skopje who have long sought to ignore the contributions of Macedonian Bulgarians who immigrated to America before World War II. They also fall into the group of Macedonian-Americans, but their contribution and that of their American-born descendants not only is not taken into account, but is undermined by declaring it to be non-Bulgarian.

We enclose two documents of the Macedonian Patriotic Organisations which provide information on the repressions and political processes that have taken place since 1944.

In view of the presented facts, we appeal for draft resolution S.Res.311 to be rejected due to the falsifications and manipulations contained therein. They offend the Bulgarian people and open the way to destabilization of the Central Balkans. We appeal to the international democratic community to support the democratic circles in North Macedonia, to create democratic media independent of Belgrade, in which it is possible to discuss freely and without prejudice issues related to the past, present and future of Skopje, thus interrupting the vicious Yugoslav totalitarian practices inherited from the past, and finally achieve national reconciliation.

Co-PRES



(Prof. Trendafil Mitev)

Co-PRES



(Assoc. Prof. Spas Tashev)

SECRETARY:



(Dimitar M. Dimitrov)

Sofia, August 31, 2023

The Declaration on the Situation in Yugoslavia Presented by the Croatian and Macedonian Liberation Movement to: U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations in New York, N. Y.

FOR THE RIGHTS AND DEMANDS OF THE CROATIAN AND MACEDONIAN BULGARIANS UNDER THE RULE OF YUGOSLAVIA

March 27, 1969

His Excellency
U THANT
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, New York

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

Confident that we are expressing the will of our people, we deem it our duty to submit to the United Nations Organization and its constituent member states, and also before the world public opinion, the following statement:

"It is well known that in Yugoslavia, since its creation after the first World War in 1918, and also, prior to that, when Serbia existed as an independent state, there have existed acute irreconcilable national conflicts.

"The present chief of state in Yugoslavia, the Communist dictator Joseph Broz Tito, does not hesitate to publicly announce that the single-party system in the country, that is, the deprivation of dissent, must be preserved, since this is the only way to guarantee the existence of the state; otherwise, there would immediately appear nationalist parties of the different national groups in the country, and thereby signify the end or eventual downfall of present Yugoslavia. Thus, Tito has vividly described the 'strength and worth' of his artificially created mosaic state which would disintegrate if it were not for its dependence on the harsh police power and certain foreign economic assistance. Foreign powers are helping a brutal Communist tyranny in complete contradiction to the elementary principles of international law, as well as the obligations under the provisions of the U. N. O. charter.

"The national suppression within the borders of today's Yugoslavia is well known ever since 1912, when Serbia occupied the Macedonian province with a predominantly Bulgarian population.

"Many books have been published and many newspapers have carried reports on the frightful acts of the Serbian authorities against the Bulgarian people living in this province.

"The lawlessness committed by the Serbian administrative authorities is amply described by competent foreign observers of cultural nations. We shall mention only the famous 'Report of the Carnegie International Commission of Inquiry into the Causes and Conduct of the Balkan Wars,' published in Washington, D. C., in 1914. Details of Serbian lawlessness are also found in the archives of the diplomatic chancelleries of all Great Powers.

"Long is the list of names of Macedonian Bulgarians that have been either killed or thrown into prison or completely impoverished in the effort to Serbianize them. The schools, the churches and every sign of social and cultural life among the Macedonian Bulgarians were either taken over or destroyed.

"After the first World War by the arbitrary will of the victorious Powers, instead of resurrecting Serbia, there came into being in 1918 the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Later on the Serbian King Alexander arbitrarily renamed the country with its present name: Yugoslavia.

"But in this state, which is in reality an expansion of Serbia, as far as the Macedonian Bulgarians are concerned, lawlessness and coercion have become the law of the land. Nowhere in Western or Middle Europe (except the Macedonian provinces occupied by Greece in 1912) could one find anything to resemble the oppressive action of the Yugoslav regime.

"In Croatia, which was illegally included in the Yugoslav state in 1918, that is, without the free will of the people, there, too, was inaugurated the reign of lawlessness and harsh police power, and economic plunder.

"For a quarter of a century the tyranny of King Alexander's regime raged over the Croatian people. While after the second World War, as a result of the Yalta agreement, our peoples were deprived of their national rights by the brutal Communist dictatorship. And with no right or delegated authority, there currently speaks in behalf of our people a conspiracy and adventurous group which relies on police power and the single party apparatus.

"Yugoslavia is a typical state that is greatly disliked by the vast majority of its constituencies.

"The Croatian people have never voted for the creation and existence of this state. The Macedonian Bulgarians on the other hand despise her and always curse Yugoslavia. And there is hardly a case among the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, or the German, the Hungarian, the Romanian or other national minority, to have expressed itself in favor of Yugoslavia.

"Many Western authorities admit and know that this mosaic satrapy state would have been dissolved long ago by the oppressed peoples themselves, if it had not been for the foreign help which she receives.

Favorable for her existence, Yugoslavia has always stood for the principle of non-interference in her internal affairs; and that for very good reasons. She is worried and attempts to conceal officially the fact that the included nationalities are against her. The government of Yugoslavia is fearful of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the promises of the Atlantic Charter. She trembles by the very idea that the people should be given the right to decide their political destiny and also elect their national representa-

The Declaration on the Situation in Yugoslavia Presented by the Croatian and Macedonian Liberation Movement to: U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations in New York, N. Y.

tives.

"Since they were included in the borders of Yugoslavia, our people have at numerous times presented reports and memorandums concerning their political situation. Complaints of violations of their Human Rights and demands for rectifications have formerly been sent to the League of Nations in Geneva, and after the second World War to the United Nations in New York; but all of this without any effect.

"The peoples there have fought with every possible means against the imposed political misfortune.

"The national question of our peoples stand above everything else. The only salvation they can visualize is secession from Yugoslavia in which country they were incorporated against their will. It would be desirable that this separation take place by peaceful means. Such a solution would not only be in the interest of Balkan, and even world peace, but also in the harmony with human justice.

"It is the right of the Croatian people to create an independent and sovereign state of their own not only on the principle of self-determination, but also on the basis of the 10-century-old historical state right from which the Croatian people have never renounced themselves.

"Although geographically connected with their brothers in the Bulgarian state, the Macedonian Bulgarians during their nearly seven decades of fighting for liberation have often declared that they would, in the name of Balkan peace and harmony, make sacrifices by accepting the creation of an independent Macedonia organized on the example of Switzerland, with equal civil rights of all nationalities living in the country — Bulgarians, Turks, Greeks, Romanians, Albanians and others.

"Recalling that the Yugoslav Constitution itself provides for self-determination of its peoples, and also stipulates the right to secede — but let anyone speak of secession and he would be exposed to a death penalty.

"The division of Yugoslavia into six republics and two autonomous provinces, even though subjected to the rigid Serbian government in Belgrade, in itself points out that there exists no such a thing as a Yugoslav nation. Conversely, in the Yugoslav state there exist well-established historically, ethnographically and culturally separate nationalities — Croats, Slovenes, Serbs, Macedonian Bulgarians, and others, with their own national aspirations.

"There should be a cure for the active and open wounds in the body of Europe, as there are still unsolved national questions, among the foremost those of the Croats and the Macedonian Bulgarians.

"A happy future of the world would be assured only by removing the existing national injustices, since there would always be danger of despair and a resort to means of violence.

"For the cause of justice and Balkan peace, the dissolution of Yugoslavia is indispensable.

"In an eventual unified Europe, our people should figure as members of rightful national independent states rather than be represented by Belgrade, Serbia or some kind of Yugoslavia.

"On this anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the name of the principle of freedom, equal justice, and the national right of self-determination of nations, we are presenting to the United Nations Organization and of all its member nations, and world public opinion, our demand for a peaceful separation from Yugoslavia of all historical and ethnic territory of the Croatian people (the present republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina), and of the Macedonian Bulgarians and the creation of independent and sovereign states of Croatia and Macedonia."

FOR THE CROATIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT:

DR. STJEPAN HEFER, President

The Central Committee of the Croatian
Societies in Europe

DR. ANDRIJA ILIC, Pres.
JOSIP BIOSIC, Secy.

The Central Committee of the United
Croats in Canada

OTO NEGOVETIC, Pres.
GOROSLAV MANDIC, Secy.

The Central Committee of the Croatian
Societies in South America

ING. IVAN ASANCAIC, Pres.
EMIL KLJAC, Secy.

The Central Committee of the Croatian
Guardians of Liberty, Inc., in
the United States

DR. ANTE BONIFACI, Pres.
ING. MILAN M. SEGA, Secy.

The Central Council of the Croatian
Association in Australia

P. LAVOKOVIC, Secy.

FOR THE MACEDONIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN SUBJUGATED MACEDONIA

IVAN MIHAILOFF

The Central Committee of the Mac-
edonian Patriotic Organization of the
United States and Canada

PETER G. ATZEFF, Pres.

CHRIST ANASTASOFF, V-Pres.

BLAGOV. MARKOFF, V-Pres.

CLEMENT G. NICOLOFF, Secy.

THEODOR TCHOUKALEFF,

Treasurer

IVAN A. LEBAMOFF, Adviser

DR. A. P. ISAKOV, Adviser

TELEGRAM

October 26, 1979 To His Excellency Hua Kuo Feng
Prime Minister of Peoples Republic of China
Peking, China

Reading your statements which recently appeared in Skopje on Macedonian culture, language and nationality of the Slav population living in Macedonia we wish to respectfully state the following:

History, ethnography, slavie studies as well as the manifestations of this population show undisputedly that no separate Macedonian nation has been in existence for the past twelve centuries.

Macedonia was part of Byzantium in the 11 & 12th centuries and the Turks ruled it from the 14th to the end of the 20th century.

Yet no word has been mentioned about the existence of a Macedonian nation, language and culture while the Slavs in Macedonia have always been described as Bulgarians.

There is no Macedonian nation in the ethnographic meaning of the term: in Macedonia there are Bulgarians, Greeks, Albanians, Turks, Romanians and all of them use the name Macedonian as a geographical appellation only even as there is no Belgian nation in Belgium.

The Yugoslav Encyclopedia of 1955 also acknowledges the truth and it emphasizes that the famous Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization is a part of Bulgarian history.

Dr. Evalde Amende, the Secretary-general of the association of ethnic minorities in Europe between the two world wars, explicitly states in his important book on minorities of deprived Bulgarians by Yugoslavia in Macedonia and does not mention a word of any Macedonian nation.

American missionaries worked for decades in Macedonia and brought out the complete truth in defense of the Bulgarians in Macedonia even in their memoranda to the great powers.

The British Labour Party mentions only Bulgarians in Macedonia in its memorandum at the end of the First World War.

Prominent members of that party among them historians, slavists, ethnographers and politicians have studied the situation in Macedonia for months.

The Bulgarian nationality of the Slavs in Macedonia has also been emphasized by many prominent world personalities, among them the Pope and the Turkish Sultans.

We will be grateful if you show us at least one authoritative witness of the historical existence of a Macedonian nation among the family of the Slav nations in Europe.

We are writing this on behalf of the 57th Annual Convention of the Macedonian Patriotic Organizations in the United States and Canada which took place in the beginning of September of this year. Almost all members of our organization are Bulgarians from Macedonia. Our Union has nothing to do with the regimes in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria and it criticizes them very often. Close to a million Bulgarians from Macedonia live in Bulgaria, too. You could not have known the number of Bulgarians who welcomed you in Skopje.

Most respectfully

Central Committee of the MPO of the USA and Canada
President, Dr. Asparuh Isakov
Secretary, Anton Popov
