

To the Attention of Ms. Anne Marie Owens  
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A copy to  
S. Exc. M. Gavin Buchan  
Ambassador of Canada, accredited in Bulgaria  
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Dear Ms. Owens,

It was with great surprise that we read Meto Koloski's January 2, 2024 article in the Toronto Star and therefore would like to express our strong disagreement with a number of inaccurate statements and blatant lies about the past and present of the geographical area of Macedonia, parts of which today are located in four countries: Greece, North Macedonia, Bulgaria and Albania. The author falsifies the entire past of the Macedonian population and suggests the centuries-old existence of some „ethnic Macedonians“, although no official statistics had ever recorded the existence of such a population until 1944. What the author does corresponds to the spirit of the Yugoslav communist propaganda that has been forged in Belgrade and Moscow. M. Koloski makes baseless accusations against Bulgaria and Greece, which aim to deepen the instability and confrontation in the Central Balkans, and which serve the interests of Serbia and Russia in the region. At the same time, these falsifications are used to justify the systematic violation of the fundamental human rights of the Bulgarians in North Macedonia, which continues today.

In order not to remain misleading, we would like to emphasise that:

- After the Great Migration of Peoples, when the formation of the modern political and ethnographic map of Europe began, in the geographical area of Macedonia, at that time a part of the Bulgarian state, the Bulgarian nationality was formed based on the common state language and the accepted Christian religion;
- When Byzantium conquered the First Bulgarian state in 1018, it preserved the autonomy of the Bulgarian church, whose seat was in Ohrid, today in North Macedonia. This church, under the name „Archbishopric of Ohrid of the First Justinian and of All Bulgaria“, existed until 1767;
- When the Ottoman Empire ruled Macedonia, it recognized the existence of a Bulgarian people in Macedonia, which had its own schools and churches and published literature in Bulgarian;
- After the partition of the Bulgarian nation in 1878, when Macedonia remained in the Ottoman Empire, the Bulgarians in that area led a struggle – first for autonomy, and then for independence;

- When in 1913 the geographical area of Macedonia was conquered by several Balkan states, the territory of present-day North Macedonia was occupied by Serbia and all Bulgarian schools and churches there were destroyed and the population was not allowed to express its Bulgarian identity. Dissenters were repressed and killed.

Despite this tyrannical regime, those who emigrated from Macedonia and then settled in countries with democratic governments, declared themselves Bulgarians or Macedonians from Macedonia (Macedonian Bulgarians) and established their own Macedonian-Bulgarian organizations, schools and churches.

The first Macedonian-Bulgarian church „St. Cyril and Methodius“ in Toronto was founded in 1910 and since then the city has attracted more and more immigrants from Macedonia. In the 1960s, the Macedonian immigrants began to arrive. In the 1960s Toronto emerged as the largest overseas center of the Macedonian Bulgarians. They built four Macedonian-Bulgarian churches of their own. Libraries, halls and schools functioned alongside. They maintain their own radio and television broadcasts.

Scientists and politicians in North America have always defended the truth of the existence of a Bulgarian population in Macedonia, in confirmation of which we send you an additional reference (**Appendix 1**). When the 37th Congress of the Macedonian Patriotic Organizations (MPO) was held in Toronto in 1958, the main speaker was the Canadian Minister of Labor, Michael Starr. In his speech, he stated, „Macedonia, which gave the Slavic-Bulgarian alphabet, reading and writing to all Slavs, Macedonia, which was the cradle of Bulgarian enlightenment and culture, must be free. It is an honour to all of you... that you have not forgotten the fate of your ancestral homeland Macedonia and the slave fate of your brothers and sisters.“ (**Appendix 2**).

The Encyclopaedia Canadiana of 1960 states: “The number of Bulgaro-Macedonian immigrants increased after the Second World War and especially after the end of the civil war in Greek Macedonia. Thus, by 1960, the number of Bulgaro-Macedonians in Toronto was 16,000. Many of the immigrants adapted rapidly to the Canadian way of life.” (**Appendix 3**).

In 1978, the 57th MPO Congress was held in Toronto. At that time, the Toronto Star reported that “More than 6,000 Macedonian-Bulgarians in Canada and the United States gather in Metro during this Labor Day Holiday weekend for the annual convention of the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of North America at the Harbour Castle Hilton Hotel.” (**Appendix 4**).

The guest and main speaker of this congress was the Canadian Minister of Multiculturalism, Norman Cafik. On this occasion, one of the delegates stated: „We were... tremendously impressed with Mr. Cafik – his warmth, sincerity and obvious belief in the Multicultural policy of our Canadian Government – a policy which we, first as Canadians, and also, as Macedonian-Bulgarians, appreciate and benefit from so much – a policy which we wish was afforded to every society today.“ (**Appendix 5**).

Unfortunately, these human rights have not been granted to the Bulgarians in North Macedonia after its secession from Yugoslavia in 1991. Today, the struggle continues to recognize the human rights of those citizens of North Macedonia who, despite the ongoing repressions, still preserve their Bulgarian identity and wish to express it freely. Unfortunately, the authorities in Skopje continue to refuse to include in their constitution the part of the Bulgarian people that

lives on their territory. Moreover, this is the main condition that the EU sets as a must for North Macedonia to be able to start EU membership negotiations.

Given the facts presented here, we urge the Toronto Star to publish our position as a right of reply to Meto Koloski's propagandist text.

Signatories:

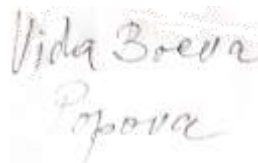
Lyubcho Georgievski - Chairman of the Bulgarian Cultural Club „Ivan Mihailov“ in Bitola, banned in 2023 by the authorities in North Macedonia.



Hristian Pendikov - Secretary of the Bulgarian Cultural Club „Tsar Boris III“ in Ohrid, banned in 2023 by the authorities in Northern Macedonia.



Vida Boeva-Popova, personal assistant of Ivan Mihailov, who died in 1990 in Rome, the last leader of the Macedonian Liberation Movement founded in 1893.



Bill George, chairman of MPO „Lyuben Dimitroff“, Toronto.



Pierre Gavrile, chairman of MPO „Todor Alexandrov“, Brussels.



Boshko Dobrevski, chairman of MPO „Strumishkata Petorka“, Brasil.



Georgi Zaharieff, chairman of MPO „Asen Avramov“, New York.



Elitsa Rizova, chairman of MPO „Simeon Radev“, London.



Tsanko Serafimov, chairman of MPO „Ivan Mihailov“, Gotse Delchev (Nevrokop).



Nikolay Yovev, chairman of MPO „Boris Sarafov“,  
Blagoevgrad (Gornda Djumaya).

Nick Bonev, representative of Macedonian Bulgarians  
in Los Angeles.

Alexander Dimitov, nephew of the secretary of MPO  
and editor-in-chief of „Macedonian Tribune“.

Iva Belitchka, chairman of Canadian-Bulgarian Center  
„Zornitsa“ and MPO “Montreal”.

Goran Serafimov – Chane, representative of the New  
political immigration from North Macedonia in  
Bulgaria.

Spas Tashev, Co-chairman of the Association of the  
Descendants of the Resettlers and Refugees from the  
territory of North Macedonia, Sofia, Bulgaria.

***The undersigned consent to be represented by:***

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January 26, 2024



## A P P E N D I X

### SOME FACTS AND PERSONALITIES BY WHOSE REMEMBRANCE WE EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION OF THE USA

1. We are thankful to the USA because It gave a shelter and opportunity for work and development of the abilities and talents of our ancestors who were compeled to leave Macedonia because of the atrocities of the Serbian (Yugoslavian) and Greek authorities.

2. We are grateful to the USA because due to American Democracy we can voice freely our opinion on any burning issue. The Macedonian Bulgarians in the Old Country are deprived of basic civil rights.

3. Many Americans who exposed the truth about Macedonia, used to encourage us to defend that, which our nation was deprived of by the occupiers.

4. Our hearts are gladdened because of the fact that almost simultaneously with the national-revolutionary upheaval of the American people during the second half of the 18-th century, the First Apostle of the Bulgarian National Revival — the monk PAISII (a Macedonian Bulgarian), enlightened and inspired the Bulgarians revealing in his famous "SLAVONIC—BULGARIAN HISTORY" the glorious past of our nation. He ardently appealed to our people to struggle for religious and political independence. There is a curious similarity in the context of Fr. Paisii's Appeal and the American Declaration of Independence.

5. Not only the Macedonian Bulgarians, but the whole Bulgarian nation is grateful to the American missionaries (Protestant pastors). These self-sacrificing American worked as enlighteners among our people begining as early as the 20-es of the 19-th century. They greatly helped in the shaping of the modern Bulgarian literary language in an era when all Bulgarian districts — Macedonia, Thrace, Moesia, Moravsko, Shopsko, Timoshko, Branichevo, Roupsko, and Dobroudzha, suffered under the brutal and barbarian rule of the Turks, in an era witnessing the tremendous efforts of the Greek alergy to hellenize the Bulgarians through the activity of the Orthodox Church.

The American missionary Dr. RIGGS was the first to choose the most suitable dialect for translating the Bible into Bulgarian language. Such translations appeared in 1827, 1840, 1858 and in 1871 and were spread in large circulation among the Bulgarians.

The magazine ZORNITSA, published by the missionaries for tens of years, played particularly beneficial role. Out of nearly 100 Bulgarian books printed in the course of the 19-th century, 70 were printed in the missionary printing shops in Izmir (Smyrna) and Istanbul (Constantinople).

The American missionaries sided with the Bulgarian population in Macedonia opposing the aspirations of the Greek clergy backed by the Athens government.

The magazine OUTLOOK in its issue of November, 7, 1903 prints the letter of the American missionary Luis BOND. This letter is an answer to the offer of the American Ambassador to Turkey that all US missionaries to withdraw immediately from the Bitolya district of Macedonia, where the Bulgarians rose in arms against the Turkish Sultan's despotic regime in 1903. An excerpt of the letter reads: "We would rather die in Macedonia, if it is the Will of God, than to continue living somewhere outside this land and despise ourselves."

The American ROBERT COLLEGE in Constantinople was of great help to the whole Bulgarian nation, including the Macedonian Bulgarians. Many future prominent Bulgarians were educated there.

Dr. G. WASHBURN, a long-time Head-Master of Robert College wrote

the book "50 Years in Constantinople" (Boston and New York, 1909). In his work, Dr. Washburn emphasizes (p. 132—134) the fact that the boundaries of the area populated mostly by Bulgarians encompass almost the whole of Macedonia and that the same boundaries were recognized unanimously by the ambassadors of all great European countries in the International Conference on the Bulgarian Question held in 1876 in Constantinople.

The missionary Dr. Edward B. HASKELL wrote in the magazine "Zornitsa" of July, 19, 1917 an article entitled "The Nationality of the Macedonian Population". It is stated that the author has lived in different regions of Macedonia for 21 years. Dr. Haskell stresses explicitly that the overwhelming majority of the Macedonian population is comprised of Bulgarians.

6. We should mention also that about 900,000 Macedonian Bulgarians live today in Communist Bulgaria itself. The major portion of them are emigrants from Serbia (Yugoslavia) and Greece and the lesser — constituting the population of the so called Pirin Macedonia, an integral part of Bulgaria since 1913. More than a quarter of million Macedonian Bulgarians live under Greek occupation in Aegean Macedonia and another 1,100,000 live confined within the frontiers of the ethnic conglomerate known as Yugoslavia.

Until 1912 Macedonia was under Turkish rule. The then Bulgarian population of this historical-geographic district numbered 1,200,000 according to objective European statistics. The Macedonian Bulgarians possessed their own schools, churches, monasteries and other social and cultural institutions and organizations set up by the means and the efforts of the local Bulgarians during the 19-th century. When the Serbian and Greek troops rushed into Macedonia in October, 1912, thousands of Bulgarian Orthodox churches, schools and libraries were closed or destroyed, or converted into Serbian or Greek ones correspondingly. The Catholic high school "Zeytinlik" in Thessaloniki (Solun) was also closed because the bulk of its students were Macedonian Bulgarians. Later, the Serbian and Greek occupiers expelled all Protestant missionaries.

7. We always pronounce the name of the outstanding American publicist Januarius Aloysius MACGAHAN (born in 1844 in Perry, Ohio), with a great respect.

Mr. MacGahan described the horrible massacres which followed the APRIL 1876 UPRISING of the Bulgarian people. This tragic but heroic episode from the history of our nation created favourable conditions for the liberation of part of the Bulgarian lands from the Turkish yoke in 1878. Unfortunately, due to the mutual enmity and rivalry between the Great Powers, Bulgaria was torn according to the cruel decisions of the July, 1878 Treaty of Berlin. The Treaty of Berlin eliminated the provisions of the well-known SAN STEFANO TREATY of March, 1878 envisaging the resurrection of the Bulgarian Kingdom, which was supposed to incorporate four fifths of Macedonia. And yet the Berlin Treaty prescribed certain reforms to be introduced, aiming to gain autonomy for Macedonia. However, they were never applied.

MacGahan travelled throughout Bulgaria accompanied by Mr. Schuyler — the American ambassador to Turkey. The name of MacGahan will be kept eternally on the pages of Bulgarian history.

8. Being unable to enumerate here all American scholars, writers, statesmen, newspapers etc., who sympathized with the plague of the Macedonian Bulgarians, we shall express our admiration and thankfulness to all of them mentioning only several names.

a) H. A. GIBBONS writes:

"In considering the Macedonian problem, it must never be forgotten that the great bulk of the population of Macedonia is Bulgarian, in spite of all the learned dissertations and imposing statistics of Greek and Serbian writers."

(Gibbons, H. A., "The New Map of Europe", New York, 1914. — p. 178)

b) W. M. SLOANE says:

"Beyond a question, the Slavs of Macedonia are Bulgarians."

(Sloane, W. M., "The Balkans: A Laboratory of History", New York, 1914, p. 210)

c) W. S. MONROE:

"The Bulgarians far outnumber all the other races in Macedonia."

(Monroe, W. S., "Bulgaria and Her People: With an Account of the Balkan War, Macedonia and the Macedonian Bulgars, Boston, 1914 — p. 369)

d) From one letter to Sir Edward GRAY, as well as to the prime ministers of the other Great Powers:

"After years of acquaintance with Macedonia, either through residence or travel, or both, mingling with the people and living in their home, we are fully convinced that the great bulk of population in the region which we have indicated as the Macedonian field of our work, is Bulgarian in origin, language, and customs, and forms an integral part of the Bulgarian nation."

(Samokov, Bulgaria, Aug. 5, 1913. Signed: J.F. Clarke, D. D., Missionary in European Turkey for 54 years; J. W. Baird, D.D., Missionary in European Turkey for 40 years; Robert Thomson of Edinburgh, Missionary for 30 years of Constantinople and European Turkey)

e) From the telegram to President Wilson:

"It is the testimony of our Mission which has worked without political aims among Balkan peoples for 60 years, that in the territory of our Macedonian field extending from Skopie and Ohrida to Drama, the great bulk of the population is Bulgarian in origine, language and customs, and forms an integral part of the Bulgarian nation."

(Samokov, Bulgaria; December 11, 1918. Missionary of the American Board. Signed: Lercy F. Ostrander, Lyle D. Woodruff, H. B. King)

f) Mr. Albert SONNICHSEN, an American writer and newspaperman, who was a guerrilla, member of a Macedono-Bulgarian revolutionary regiment fighting the Turks. He travelled in Central, Southern and Western Macedonia in 1907 together with his Bulgarian friends from the IMRO (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization). Later, in 1909, he published in New York his book "Confession of a Macedonian Bandit". He underlines on many pages in this book as well as in the Social Studies Encyclopaedia (1930 original edition; edited by Edwin R. A. Seligman and Alvin Johnson), that the Macedonian Slavs are Bulgarians.

g) In September, 1901, the Boston Missionary Miss Ellen M. STONE was kidnapped by Macedonian revolutionaries and spent several months among the revolutionary-minded Bulgarian people in Macedonia.

After her release, she depicted her dramatic experience in the American magazine "McClure". When speaking about her impressions of Macedonia, she praised the generosity, the tender and friendly attitude of her captors and of the common Macedonian Bulgarians. She did not mention any other nationality but Bulgarians in her lectures about Macedonia before the American public.

After World War II, in the Serbian-dominated communist Yugoslavia, a film was made devoted to Miss Stone's abduction. But the Serbian communist propaganda does not mention at all the numerous interviews and talks of Miss Stone which indicate the presence of Bulgarian population in Macedonia. Belgrade propaganda calls both the revolutionaries and the people who kidnapped Miss Stone and with whom she lived for a long time — "Macedonians". "Macedonians" are not only the Bulgarians, but also the Albanians, Aroumanians (Vlachs), Greeks and Turks living in the historical-geographic district of Macedonia. The Serbo-communists strive to "prove" that there is an independent South-Slavonic "Macedonian" nation. This is absolutely ridiculous! Until 1945 none spoke about any other Slavs in Ma-

cedonia but Bulgarians. The government of Yugoslavia headed by Tito decided after World War II to impose the geographic denomination of the district — Macedonia, as a basis for the national name of the Bulgarian people, who inhabited this ancient land for 15 centuries. According to the "logic" of the Yugoslav communists, we should consider for example that a man from the town of Tours in the French historic province of Touraine, or another from Montpellier in Languedoc, are not French but correspondingly of Tourainian or Languadocian nationality! The Bulgarians living today in communist Yugoslavia are subjected to brutal assimilation. They have two choices — to become either "Macedonians" or "Serbians".

h) The New York stationed "Geographical Society" published in 1917 the book of Mr. Leon Dominian "Frontiers of Language and Nationality of Europe". According to the author's data, 81.5% of the Christian population in Macedonia are Bulgarians totalling 1,172,136.

i) S. P. FOGDALL, Ph. D., wrote an interesting article on the Macedonian Question in the Geneva published newspaper LA MACEDOINE of April 24, 1931.

j) Prof. Rudolf BRODA delivered a lecture in Geneva on November 3, 1931, and defended the idea of an independent Macedonia.

k) Prof. Ferdinand SHERRIL from the University of Chicago published an article in "La Macedoine" (Geneva) on November 27, 1931 also recommending the idea of an independent Macedonia.

l) Prof. Dr. Fritz KRUGER, a specialist in International Law and American Diplomacy from Columbia University, spoke and wrote many times in Defence of the Macedonian Bulgarians suffering under Yugoslavian (Serbian) and Greek occupation. He was a frequent contributor to "La Macedoine" (Geneva) during 1931. He also promoted the idea of the creation of an independent Macedonian State.

m) Prof. John BAKELLES is a former editor of "The Forum" and "Living Age" and author of books on political and economic problems. In many of his articles and lectures presented in the USA between the two World Wars, he has defended the cause of the Macedonian Bulgarians enslaved by Yugoslavia and Greece.

On August 18, 1932 he gave a talk on the Macedonian Question in Williamstown, Massachusetts, before the local Political Science Institute. At this meeting Prof. Bakelles was joined by J. Fisher — doctor in political science from Columbia University, a former professor at Robert College in Constantinople and by Dr. Arnold Walkers.

On November 2, 1934, Mr. Bakelles spoke about IMRO at a meeting of the American Academy in Political and Social Studies. The professors Bernard Smith and Luigi Villari also delivered speeches devoted to the martyrdom of the Macedonian Bulgarians. This meeting was attended by many eminent Americans and was presided by the American Secretary of Treasury Mr. Morgentau, a former American ambassador to Turkey during the administration of President Wilson. The speeches of the three speakers were printed in the January issue of the Academy in question.

Mr. Bakelles also spoke in Troy, New York and in Providence, Rhode Island in 1930.

The newspaper MACEDONIAN TRIBUNE — Indianapolis, Indiana, in its issue of July 14, 1932 wrote about the meeting between John Bakelles and the IMRO leader Ivan Mihailov.

n) Dr. A. H. LYBYER is a scholar well acquainted with the Balkan problems, former professor at Robert College in Constantinople. He delivered a speech at the Convention of the Macedonian Patriotic Organizations (MPO) held in Cleveland, Ohio on September 3, 1944. He pointed out that the Macedonian Slavs are as much Bulgarians as are all others living in the Bulgarian state.



o) Prof Frederick Stanley RODKEY, Associate Professor of History at Miami University, published an article on the Macedonian Question in "La Macedoine", April 17, 1931, Geneva.

p) Dr. H. J. O'NEILL, Head Department of Economics, St. Louis University, delivered a speech at the MPO Convention in St. Louis, Sept. 7, 1942.

q) Dr. J. S. Roucek, author of many books including works on national minorities' problems. He was a professor at Hofstra College in Hempstead, N.Y. He delivered a speech on the Macedonian Question at the MPO Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, held in September, 1940.

r) Dr. R. A. LUHMAN, founder of the First Reform Church in Youngstown, Ohio, addressed the 17th annual MPO Convention on September 4, 1938, at Buffalo, New York.

s) Prof. Heinrich A. STAMMLER, specialist in Slavic languages in the University of Kansas, spoke at the 50th annual MPO Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, in September, 1971. He pointed out clearly that the Macedonian Slavs are Bulgarians.

9. There are cases when American organizations appealed for public support for the Macedonian Bulgarians. Here we give some examples:

a) In September, 1903 special committees were set up in New York and Philadelphia which appealed to the American people to help suffering Macedonia. In August, the same year an anti-Turkish uprising broke out in Western Macedonia.

b) Different resolutions and letters have been sent to CONGRESS in Washington. Their authors and/or signers were outstanding Americans as Bishop Bruster of Hartford, Connecticut; Senator Horr of Massachusetts; Prof. Fisher of Yale University; Bishop Potter etc. They have appealed for prompt support for the Macedonian Bulgarians.

c) In October, 1903 the Pan-American Bishops' Conference held in Washington, D. C. endorsed a special resolution, aimed at helping the Christian population in Macedonia.

d) In February, 1904 a group of senior Connecticut citizens, headed by the Governor endorsed a resolution on Macedonia, insisting that all clauses of the Berlin Treaty of 1878 be put into practice immediately. This resolution was dispatched to Congress in Washington.

e) We must underline the generous initiative and good will in which the work of the famous Carnegie Commission of Inquiry on the Balkan wars, was based. The report of the Commission was printed in Washington, D.C. in 1914. The American Dr. Samuel T. Dutton, Professor at Columbia University, was a member of the Carnegie Commission, besides the other participants — prominent scholars and politicians from 6 countries. Many pages of the final report are focused exclusively on the Macedonian Bulgarians and their martyrdom.

f) Dr. Arthur I. ANDREWS, Professor in Oriental and Slavonic history in the State University of Vermont. He was a lecturer in diplomacy in many European universities. He delivered a lecture entitled "The Possibilities for a Balkan Pact". In his opinion there will not be any pacification in the Balkans without a justful solution of the Macedonian Question.

g) The Chairman of the American Union for Civil Rights and President of the Political Prisoners' International Committee Dr. Roger N. BALDWIN voiced his protest on several occasions condemning the oppressive policy of the Yugoslav and Greek authorities against the Macedonian Bulgarians. He shared the idea of an independent Macedonia, an eventual member of a Balkan Federation. He spoke about the Macedonian Question at a meeting in Washington, D. C. This event was reflected in the Geneva newspaper "La Macedoine" of March 6, 1931. Before this, the same newspaper has quoted him repeatedly.

On January 19, 1928 Dr. Baldwin wrote an official letter to Sir Eric

Drumond, Secretary in Chief of the League of Nations. He emphasized openly that Bulgarian churches and schools are prohibited in Yugoslavia and Greece.

The letter reads that only the League of Nations is capable of putting an end to the terror in Macedonia. In this letter it is also added that some of the members of the Political Prisoners' International Committee have visited Yugoslavia and Bulgaria and sided with the protests of the Macedonian Immigrants' National Committee in Bulgaria against the violence of the occupational authorities of Yugoslavia and Greece.

Many distinguished American judges, professors, writers and statesmen were members of the International Committee for Political Prisoners; among them: John Holms, James Adames, John Lovejoy, Elliott, Alice Hamilton, David Star Jordan, Clarence De Rois.

h) Mable Saterly INGLASS published in the magazine "Foreign Policy Reports" of December 6, 1933 an article named "The Balkans and the World Crisis". The author concentrates on the idea of an independent Macedonia, on the Macedonian Bulgarians deprived of their civil rights etc. The magazine is an organ of the "Foreign Policy Association".

10. The American press has printed many times announcements and articles concerning the suffering of Macedonia under the despotic and brutal rule of inhuman regimes. The oppressors have been condemned and the heroic resistance of the Macedonian Bulgarians depicted. Our nation had as a slogan the often quoted phrase of Thomas Jefferson: "Resistance to tyranny is submission to God."

It is a pity but it is impossible to list here the hundreds of cases when the name of Macedonia has appeared in the pages of the American press since 1893. We shall mention only few of the American periodicals which have defended the violated rights of our nation.

a) The magazine "The Independent" of August 20, 1903 wrote about the rebellion of the Bulgarians in Macedonia and notes its surprise at the fact that the insurgents were being betrayed to the Turkish authorities by the Greeks.

b) The magazine "Outlook" of September 19, 1903 pleads for real reforms to be introduced in Macedonia and for the appointment of a Christian Governor.

c) The magazine "Harper Weekly", October 3, 1903 wrote in defence of the rebels and indicated that they were Bulgarians.

d) The same magazine writes again on October 31, 1903 about the Bulgarian uprising in Macedonia and pleads for the granting of autonomy to MACEDONIA. Many U. S. press announcements are devoted to this rebellion, known as "ILINDEN" ("St. Elijah's Day") UPRISING. There are plenty of details on the uprising in question kept in US libraries and archives.

e) Many of announcements about the Macedonian Liberation Movement have been published in the USA, still at a time when Macedonia was a part of the Turkish Empire. In this dark era, i. e. from 1893 to 1913, Macedonian revolutionaries used to have their weaponry in the American High School in Samokov (a town in the Bulgarian mainland, near the then frontier with Turkey).

f) Reuben H. MARKHAM, a correspondent of many years for "Christian Science Monitor" was an excellent specialist on Balkan affairs and problems. He was particularly well acquainted with Macedonia. He wrote much materials in favour of the Macedonian Bulgarians enslaved by Yugoslavia (Serbia) and Greece. Sometimes he used to publish his works in Bulgarian newspapers. He wrote mostly between the two World Wars, but continued to write sporadically on the Macedonian Question after World War II always emphatically defending the cause of the Macedonian Bulgarians.

We present some issues of "Christian Science Monitor" with articles on the Macedonian Liberation Movement:

In November issue of 1924 there appeared an American scholar's article; article of February 4, 1927; June 20, 1929; June 29, 1929; October 7, 1929; January 31, 1930; June 17, 1930; during March, 1931; during April, 1931. This issue contains an itinerary by Mr. Markham describing his journey in Southern Macedonia under Greek occupation and pointing out anew the Bulgarian ethnographical features and language of the Macedonian Slavs; article of October, 1931.

g) We also point out certain articles from "New York Times": April 20, 1927 article by Prof. G. P. Gooch of Cambridge University; article of May 1, 1927; June 26, 1927 article by the political writer Ann McCormick; of March 16, 1928; June 24, 1928; July 16, 1928 article by Dr. Henry Suzallo; April 9, 1929; July 11, 1929; November 11, 1929; of March 8, 1930; March 11, 1930; June 13, 1930; March 7, 1931; of April 12, 1931; of December 17, 1933 — about the rights of the Bulgarian minorities; of January 21, 1934; of May 5, 1935.

h) "New York Herald Tribune" article of August 19, 1928 — by Ann O' Hair McCormick; an article of May 5, 1935.

i) "Chicago Daily News" article of January 9, 1924; of December 5, 1927; of March 20, 1928; of April 22, 1928.

k) "Chicago Tribune" of March 10 and June, 1930.

l) "Detroit Free Press" of October 23, 1927; of November 1, 1927; of November 11, 1927; of January 15, 1928.

m) "Daily News Sun" of October 13, 1927.

n) "Springfield Sun" of September 17, 1932.

o) "The Nation" of May 23, 1925 — article by Mr. Paul Rowland; article of October, 1928 by the same author. Mr. Rowland writes here that all foreigners who have lived in Macedonia before 1912, including the American and French consuls and missionaries unanimously acknowledge that Macedonia is a Bulgarian land.

p) "Indianapolis Star" of April 12, 1928 and July 9, 1928.

q) "Cincinnati Inquirer" of January 13, 1929.

r) "Associated Press" of September 18, 1928; of June 25, 1929; February 4, 1930; of December 25, 1932.

s) "Daily News Sun" of October 13, 1929.

t) "Omaha Tribune" of April 25, 1930.

u) The magazine "The New Republic" of December 31, 1930 underlines that the Slavs living in Macedonia are of Bulgarian origin and are subjected to merciless assimilation by force.

v) "United Press" of March 17, 1931.

w) The magazine "The Town Crier", New York, November, 1932. It was published by the American Political Education League, by Town Hall and the Economical Club.

x) "New York Sun" of April 19, 1935.

y) In the memoirs of the famous Macedonian leader and revolutionary Ivan Mihailov, a Bulgarian by nationality, there are plenty of foreign press quotations between the two World Wars about the Macedonian Liberation Movement. The 45 American official witnesses revealed clearly that this is a struggle of the Bulgarian population against the brutal Serbian and Greek invaders; Another 53 American documents emphasize that there is hardly any other nation in Europe which is suppressed so much, and denied the rights of national minorities as the Bulgarian in Eastern and Southern Yugoslavia and Northern Greece. According to these American documents, the unfortunate Bulgarian population in Macedonia are subjected to an integral cultural-national genocide, to a gradual denationalization.

11. We shall mention some facts linked with the sympathetic attitude of

American foreign policy in regard to Macedonia:

a) The President Theodore Roosevelt and the Secretary of State John Hay expressed their sympathy with the Macedonian Bulgarians. The US Government assured Great Britain of its readiness to give all necessary support if needed to impose the fulfilment of article No 23 of the Berlin Treaty, an article prescribing autonomy for Macedonia.

b) When concluding the Peace Treaties after World War I, President Woodrow Wilson appointed a 3 member commission to prepare a report on Balkan Peninsula problems and to submit another report on conditions for settling down of the Balkan controversies. The commission was comprised of: S. E. Mases, David Hunter Miller and Walter Lippman. The commission's presentation was headed: "Outline of Tentative Report".

c) The former Bulgarian Prime-Minister during World War I, Vassil Radoslavov wrote that the Bulgarian neighbours and war victors Serbia, Greece and Rumania have stubbornly insisted at the Peace Conference in Neuilly, near Paris, that Bulgaria be divided between them. But the USA was the country that put a stumbling bloc before their nasty aspirations and greediness.

d) After World War I the USA reached a common agreement with England, Japan and Italy, that autonomy be given to Macedonia — concerning the counties which were to be incorporated in the newly created Serbo—Croato—Slovenian Kingdom (Yugoslavia). However other countries succeeded by cunning and insidious diplomatic manoeuvres in preventing the implementation of this project. Thus they continued with new impetus their denationalization campaign in Macedonia.

There is an interesting book by David Hunter Miller treating this project for autonomy—"My Diary at the Conference of Paris" (N. Y. 1925).

e) The USA has insisted vigorously that Serbia and Greece to sign a treaty for the protection of national minorities.

Mr. Robert J. Caldwell, an American delegate to the Peace Conference of Paris pleaded for ensuring civil rights for the Macedonian Bulgarians.

We are firmly confident that the Bulgarian population in Macedonia will be saved after all from the clutches of their torturers, that the Macedonian Question will be solved in the most just manner; that Macedonia will gain her independence which was the 1893 ideal of our ancestors — the founders of IMRO — the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization

## Речъта на министъра на труда М. Старъ

ПРЕДЪ ДЕЛЕГАТИТЪ И ГОСТИТЪ ПРИ ОТКРИВАНЕТО НА КОНГРЕСА НА МПО

Драги приятели,

Съ голѣма радостъ и задоволство присъствавамъ днесъ на това голѣмо ваше народно тържество — на тридесетъ и седмиятъ редовенъ конгресъ на Македонскитъ Патриотически Организации, за да мога, не само като официално лице, но и като чело на несправедливия украински народъ, да подчертая моятъ най-голѣми симпатии къмъ това велико дѣло — освобождението на Македония, което дѣло вие тукъ вече тридесетъ и седемъ години подпомагате по дегаденъ пжть.

Македония — тази древна историческа страна; Македония — тази свещена библейска земя, която първа отъ европейскитъ страни се удостои да чуе Христовата вѣра отъ великия и неуморимъ апостолъ Павелъ; Македония — която даде славно-българската азбука, четмо и писмо на всички славянски народи; Македония — която бѣ



люската на българската просвѣта и култура, трѣбва и ще бжде свободна.

Честъ прави на всички васъ, че следъ като станяхте гражданни на тѣзи велики и демократични страни — Канада и Съединенитъ Американски Щати —

вие не забравихте сжбата на първоначалната ви родина Македония и робската уишь на вашитъ братя и сестри.

Вашата любовъ къмъ Македония и вашата готовность да подпомагате по дегаденъ пжть справедливитъ искания на Македонския народъ за свобода и независимость, е най-голѣмата гаранция, че вие ще бадете аѣрни и предани на вторитъ ви отечества — Канада и Съединенитъ Американски Щати.

Держайте и работете съ искреность и твърдость за освобождението на Македония. Богъ е съ васъ, защото служите на Неговитъ божествени принципи — на правдата и истината. И Той ще увѣличи съ успѣхъ вашитъ благородни и хуманни усилия.

Дано скоро дойде денътъ, когато ще мога, като искренъ вашъ приятель, да ви поздравя съ свободата и независимостта на Македония.

Macedonian Tribune, September 4, 1958.

Translation of fragment from the Canadian Minister of Labor Michael Starr speech:  
 „Macedonia, which gave the Slavic-Bulgarian alphabet, reading and writing to all Slavs, Macedonia, which was the cradle of Bulgarian enlightenment and culture, must be free. It is an honour to all of you... that you have not forgotten the fate of your ancestral homeland Macedonia and the slave fate of your brothers and sisters.“

## A Bulgaro-Macedonians of Canada

A quote from the *Encyclopaedia Canadiana* (Volume 6, published by Groller, 1960).

'As early as 1896 a few young Bulgaro-Macedonian peasants left the regions of Kastoria (Kostur) and Florina (Lerin) in south Macedonia and migrated to Canada, to escape from Turkish oppression and extreme poverty. They were followed during the next decade by only scattered individuals.'

The article continues that the next influx of immigrants occurred after the Ilinden Revolt. The majority of these were men who found work and established homes to bring their families to. Very few Bulgaro-Macedonians came into Canada after the First World War due to the economic collapse of 1929.

The number of Bulgaro-Macedonian immigrants increased after the Second World War and especially after the end of the civil war in Greek Macedonia. Thus, by 1950, the number of Bulgaro-Macedonians in Toronto was 16,000. Many of the immigrants adapted rapidly to the Canadian way of life and improved their economic position. Many of their children went on to receive an university education.

In the city of Toronto, the Bulgaro-Macedonians have built two Bulgaro-Macedonian Eastern Orthodox churches. The *Encyclopaedia* also states

that many Bulgaro-Macedonians attend the Greek churches in Toronto. But, the *Encyclopaedia* does not give any reason why so many of these immigrants attend the Greek churches and leaves the reader to make his own conclusion. It would be reasonable to assume, under the conditions in Macedonia, that these newcomers feared Greek reprisals for their relatives still in Macedonia.

The *Encyclopaedia* has no reference for "Macedonian Language" or "Macedonian Nationality". On the contrary, under the heading "Macedonia" the *Encyclopaedia* has the reference 'SEE BULGARIAN PEOPLE AND ORIGIN'.

It is interesting to note that *Encyclopaedia Canadiana* is not alone in their views.

A. J. P. Taylor, in researching his book "The Struggle For Mastery in Europe, 1848-1918", had access to the British Documents on the Origins of the War, 1848-1918. In those chapters of the book dealing with the Balkan Peninsula, he writes: "The territory of which Bulgaria was deprived by the congress of Berlin was called "Macedonia" simply as a matter of administrative convenience.'

and

'... historically a Macedonian is simply a Bulgarian who was put back under Turkish rule in 1878.'

**George Mladeneff**

## 5,000 Macedonians gather in Metro this weekend

By **JOE SERGE**  
Star staff writer

More than 5,000 Macedonian-Bulgarians in Canada and the United States gather in Metro during this Labor Day Holiday weekend for the annual convention of the Macedonian Patriotic Organization of North America at the Harbour Castle Hilton Hotel.

The organization, founded in 1922, is committed to the creation of an independent, free Macedonia, brought about by the cession, through political pressures and public opinion, of lands now recognized as part of Greece, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

There are more than 60,000 Canadians of Macedonian origin in Metro. The convention was last held in Metro in 1965.

### FOLK DANCING

Highlights of the convention which ends Monday, include a Macedonian Day celebration at Harbourfront Saturday including displays, foods and folk dancers. There'll be gala dances Saturday and Sunday nights at the hotel's convention centre, and a banquet Sunday when Norman Cafik, minister of state responsible for multiculturalism, will be the guest speaker.

Louis Phillips, convention co-ordinator, said the patriotic organization encourages loyalty

among immigrants and their descendants to the respective countries where they live as well as to strive for an independent Macedonia.

"The membership is convinced that only the creation of an independent Macedonia, with guaranteed equal rights for all ethnic groups within her boundaries, will eliminate the friction between the neighboring nations and bring about a genuine peace in the Balkans," he said.

Macedonia has been ruled by various empires from the Roman to Byzantine and the Ottoman Turks. Territorial conflicts have continued throughout the last 100 years. In 1913 Macedonia was split among Greece, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

### 3-WAY SPLIT

In 1945 that part under Yugoslavia gained a form of independence in name, as the Republic of Macedonia. But Macedonians, including Canadian-born Phillips, see that only as a token gesture, a political and propaganda move.

"It's not what we want for Macedonia. The people still don't enjoy full human rights. We can't settle for second-best." The only solution to the "Macedonian question," he said, is complete independence, the creation of a Switzerland in the Balkans.

Toronto Star, August 30, 1978

**ANNABELLE PHILLIPS**  
**Introducery Guest Speaker**  
**(left) Andy Pandoff, (right) Mrs. Pandoff**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER**

Your Grace, Reverend Fathers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It was about a year ago that my husband and I were invited to Ottawa to attend the opening of an exhibition at the National Museum of Man. At that gathering, the Guest speaker was the newly - appointed Minister of State for Multiculturalism, the Honourable Norman Cafik. We were both tremendously impressed with Mr. Cafik — his warmth, sincerity and obvious belief in the Multicultural

policy of our Canadian Government — a policy which we, first as Canadians, and also, as Macedonian-Bulgarians, appreciate and benefit from so much — a policy which we wish was afforded to every society today.

There are many statistics I could read to you regarding Mr. Cafik's outstanding career from the time he was elected to the House of Commons in 1968, including appointments in various fields from external affairs to national defense. He played a



**The Honourable NORMAN CAFIK**

MINISTER OF STATE-MULTICULTURALISM, FEDERAL CABINET MINISTER OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT  
 ADDRESSES THE BANQUET

"We don't have the power to move boundaries," he said, "but we must work together to preserve basic human rights and freedoms all over the world."



**ГОВОРЯЩО ПИСМО-ПРИВЕТЪ**  
 отъ Иванъ Михайловъ до 57-я конгресъ на МПО

Драги брати и сестри,

Предъ нашия народъ и предъ чуждия святъ гласътъ на МПО имаше значение даже когато въ България бѣха налице надъ 750 легалини дружества на македонски българи; и действуваша отарити срещу несправдлтъ въ нашата родина. Колко има значение гласътъ на МПО, когато въ Стария край е забравенъ всъщъ гласъ на македонскитъ българи, естѣн отъ насъ нека постоянно се занитва и нека праведно си отговоря. Този въпросъ трѣбва да пресядна нашата съдѣбъ, така както съдѣбата на въ стариненъ день пресядна тѣлото ни.

Откриване на Конгресъ

„СВОБЕДИНИТЕТЪ“ е споделил сиромъ снаснитъ печина, аки на въ резултатъ на 57-я конгресъ на МПО г-ръ Иванъ Михайловъ, прекарващъ се понастоя въ македонския провинъ, самито имае привилегията 1978 — на денитъ в госта, дошло отъ Београдъ и далечна жѣста — съдействию на всички родолюбци на нашата емиграция, прѣсидна въ свѣтъ и обединена въ

Canada's Minister of Multiculturalism speaks to Macedonian Bulgarians in Toronto, September 3, 1978 (left). Leader of the Macedonian liberation movement Ivan Mihailov addresses Macedonian Bulgarians in Toronto with a speaking greeting, September 2, 1978 (right).