

Macedonian DIPLOMATIC BULLETIN



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT: ART COLONIES IN MACEDONIA
*An inspirational environment for new
spiritual forms and energy for painters from all over the world*

2nd AUGUST, NATIONAL HOLIDAY OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MARKED

**SEE REGION SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE
PRIORITY OF EU PRESIDENCIES**

*Interview with H.E. Ambassador Jovan Tegovski, Special Envoy of the Secretary
General of the Regional Cooperation Council*



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
No. 17 / August 2008

47th STRUGA POETRY EVENINGS
LAUREATE ARAPI: MACEDONIA IS POETRY REPUBLIC

Chief priorities remain our country's final objective

Considering the fact that the ruling coalition won the citizens' trust once again at the parliamentary elections held on 1 June this year, it is only logical that there are no changes in the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Macedonia. As a matter of fact, foreign policy is one of the rare spheres in which there is continuity in the realization of the priorities and objectives, regardless of which party and political group is in power, and this is one of the most important indicators of the maturity of a state.

So as we can see in the Government's program, the chief priorities have not changed and they remain our country's final objective: becoming a full member of NATO; intensification of the activities for fulfillment of the necessary criteria so that the European Union could adopt a decision to set a date for start of the negotiations for membership in the EU; developing good neighborly relations; establishing comprehensive relations of cooperation with all countries in the region, be it at a bilateral level or within the frames of the regional initiatives and projects; active participation in the work of all notable international organizations (at a global level – the UN and specialized agencies like the WTO – and regional level – OSCE, the Council of Europe, and so forth); developing an active economic foreign policy; taking care of the Macedonian diaspora, with special accent on the treatment of the Macedonian national minority in the other countries; and continuing the participation in the UN, NATO, and EU peace missions aimed at protecting global peace, security, and stability.

Some of these strategic objectives are in direct correlation and interdependence with certain preconditions, like, for example, resolving of the differences over the name with our southern neighbor, which proved to be a crucial factor in the rejecting of our candidature for full membership in NATO at the NATO Summit that was held in Bucharest on 1 April this year. As can be seen from the progress and intensity of the talks led under the mediation of Ambassador Matthew Nimetz, there are still big differences between Macedonia and Greece, even though both sides are interested in finding a mutually acceptable resolution as soon as possible.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively involved in the realization of the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Macedonia and it has engaged all its resources in the function of protecting the country's vital interests abroad. The enlargement of the network of diplomatic and consular missions and the restoring of the new quality – economic diplomacy – are just part of this new engagement, the aim of which is to improve the Republic of Macedonia's image as a propitious country for investment and a country that is actively involved in the search for new forms and ways of cooperation.

*Zoran Petrov,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs*

PRIME MINISTER GRUEVSKI PRESENTS MACEDONIA'S ECONOMIC POTENTIALS IN U.S.

Nikola Gruevski, President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, acquainted the American business community with Macedonia's economic potentials at the end of August. At the working lunch with representatives of 15 companies, potential investors, which was organized by the Business Council for International Cooperation of the United States of America, the Macedonian prime minister presented the possibilities for investment in the Republic of Macedonia, the Government's economic policy, and the measures for drawing foreign investments. Gruevski, together with representatives of the Federal State of Louisiana, also formally closed the trading day on the New York Stock Exchange. He met with the vice-chairman of the Stock Exchange and with David Harris, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee.

PM Gruevski also met with members of the Macedonian diaspora in New Jersey, where he, together with His Beatitude Stefan, Archbishop of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, attended the annual convocation in Totowa organized by the Macedonian-Canadian eparchy of the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

The Macedonian prime minister was also invited to attend the National Convention of the Republican Party, which was held in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and at which John McCain was nominated this party's candidate for future president of the United States of America. During the Convention, Gruevski met with a number of American congressmen and with former U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

Prime Minister Gruevski stated in his interview for the Macedonian-language program of Voice of America that he does not expect any serious change in U.S.'s policy toward Macedonia, regardless of who wins the presidential election. "Macedonia and the United States of America have strategic partnership, and judging by historical experience so far, it is obvious that the United States does not change its strategic partnerships overnight – it does not break the already established partnerships nor does it build new ones overnight," Prime Minister Gruevski stressed, among other things.

Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Milososki, at the invitation of the Democratic Party, attended the Convention on 27 August in Denver, Colorado, at which Barack Obama was nominated candidate for future president of the United States. Minister Milososki also met with former Secretary of State Madeline Albright.



MDB would like to give a warm welcome and wish a successful diplomatic mission in the Republic of Macedonia to the Ambassadors:

H.E. Mrs. **Ulrike MARIA KNOTZ**, Federal Republic of Germany

H.E. Mr. **Musthafa MOHAMED JAFFEER**, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

And to thank the following Ambassadors for their completed diplomatic mission in the Republic of Macedonia, wishing them success in their future career:

H.E. Mrs. **Ulrika CRONENBERG MOSSBERG**, Kingdom of Sweden

H.E. Mrs. **Gillian ARLETTE MILOVANOVIC**, United States of America

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MEDIATOR NIMETZ VISITS REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Matthew Nimetz, UN mediator in the Macedonian-Greek talks on the differences over the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia, visited Skopje on 21 August year 2008 where he met with President of the Republic of Macedonia Branko Crvenkovski and Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski.



“We held a serious and constructive discussion and we discussed some possibilities for resolving of this issue. I have clear signals with regards to what is possible and what not, and now I have a very good formulation from Skopje,” Nimetz said after the separate meetings. He noted that there is no time limit for the talks, but he stressed that the current period is important and that the opportunity for finding a resolution in this period should not be missed.

“We did not reach an agreement with Mr. Nimetz. I told him that the best thing would be for him to think about this one more time and to find a way to convince the other side that we should concentrate on that which already comprises a compromise, which is the double formula. One of the ideas that Nimetz presented is that one name be used in all international communication. This is unacceptable to us and this is where we stopped,” Gruevski said a few days after the meeting. The prime minister stressed that there are still differing positions on this issue between the two countries, and he underlined that the UN mediator, among other things, also showed interest for certain details related to the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

Prime Minister Gruevski sent a letter to mediator Matthew Nimetz on 12 August, asking that the issue of recognition of the Macedonian Orthodox Church be included in the talks on the name and that Greece restore the old name of the airport in Thessalonica, Omonia.

Following the meetings in Skopje, UN mediator Matthew Nimetz held a meeting with Greece’s representative in the talks on the name Adamantios Vassilakis in Thessalonica and he met with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on Mount Athos.

On 13 August, UN mediator Nimetz held separate meetings in the UN with the two countries’ representatives in the talks.

NAME ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE OBSTACLE TO MACEDONIA’S ACCESSION TO NATO

The name issue should not get in the way of the admission of Macedonia to NATO, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said at the press conference on the situation in Georgia in Washington on 13 August year 2008. “You know our position, which is that the Macedonians should be admitted into NATO. That was the position in Bucharest. The hope is that the name issue can be resolved very quickly now. I’ve spoken both to my Greek colleagues, the Macedonians were here,” Rice underlined.

Edward P. Joseph, former representative of the International Crisis Group for the Balkans and visiting fellow at the Center on Trans-Atlantic Relations of Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, also stresses in his text published in the International Herald Tribune on 11 August year 2008 that the Republic of Macedonia should be invited to join NATO without delay. Joseph writes that Washington should immediately send a decisive message to Moscow as regards the situation in Georgia by convincing NATO to invite Macedonia to join the alliance. Joseph underlined that, by inviting Macedonia to join now, NATO would be sending a three-part message. First, that it is determined to continue on the path of enlargement and that it would not let spoilers from inside or outside the alliance deter this process. Second, this would be a message about the integrity of small states. And third, it would be a clear signal about the West’s intolerance for “frozen conflicts”. Asking how Greece could be convinced that NATO’s solidarity is more important than the name of its neighbor, Joseph proposes a few possible ways for admission of the Republic of Macedonia to NATO, like admission under the temporary reference, in accordance with the Interim Accord signed by Skopje and Athens in year 1995. He notes that this temporary reference is humiliating to Macedonia, but that it is accepted as the price of admission to NATO.

ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES FROM MILITARY ACTIONS IN REPUBLIC OF GREECE DURING CIVIL WAR AND SECOND WORLD WAR

On 27 August the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia carried by acclamation the Resolution on the Refugees from the Military Actions in the Republic of Greece during the Civil War and Second World War. The resolution was proposed by 11 parliamentarians from all political parties.

This Resolution foresees that the Government of the Republic of Macedonia should assume activities to help the refugees, citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, assemble the documentation so that they can exercise their property rights before the authorized bodies in the Republic of Greece and the international organizations, and ensure free cross-border movement of people for this purpose. The Resolution also calls on the Government to support the international cooperation within the frames of the Conference on Private Real-Estate Organizations from the Balkan countries and to assume activities within the frames of the bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Greece to examine the property claims of these citizens.

Trajko Veljanoski, President of the Assembly, sent the text of this Resolution to his associates from the EU and NATO member countries, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Canada, Australia, and Brazil, and the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe, OSCE, the Western European Union, the European Parliament, and the Interparliamentary Union.

In mid August Assembly President Veljanoski also sent letters to the presidents of the Parliaments, Senates, and Houses of Representatives of 33 countries throughout the world. In these letters, he stressed the problems faced by the Macedonian ethnic minority in Greece, especially the fact that they are being denied the right to freely declare their national identity, and the systematic measures implemented by the Greek authorities for decades with the aim of forbidding the use of the Macedonian language and culture, changing the toponyms, and forbidding Macedonian activists from acting via organized groups, which is contrary to the European Human Rights Convention and the Framework Convention for Protection of the National Minorities, to which the Republic of Greece is a signatory as well.

SEE REGION SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PRIORITY OF EU PRESIDENCIES



At the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Ambassador Jovan Tegovski was named Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). Ambassador Tegovski will perform this international function in Brussels and his mandate will last two years. The Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin extends congratulations to Ambassador Tegovski on his election and wishes him successful work.

Your Excellency, you were National Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. At the start of this year the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) was officially promoted as successor of the Stability Pact. What was the motive for this transformation?

The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, which was promoted in the summer of year 1999, was in fact the first comprehensive preventive strategy of the international community, primarily EU and Germany as the country that had presidency of the EU at the time, intended for our region. Unlike the previous unsuccessful and late reactions of the international community that failed to prevent the tragic events on the territory of former Yugoslavia, the aim of the Stability Pact was to stimulate the processes of reconciliation, regional cooperation, stabilization, democratization, and economic revival, and thus prevent or reduce the risk of new violent conflicts. Its role was to assist and encourage the efforts of the regional countries to integrate in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures. Even though it faced numerous challenges, excessive expectations – some of them went as far as equating the Stability Pact with the Marshall Plan – and lack of readiness by the actors to carry out the political commitment expressed, in these 10 years since its formation the Stability Pact succeeded in establishing itself as one of the key factors in the development and progress of regional cooperation, which the EU defined as one of the most important criteria in the process for accession of the regional countries to the EU.

The general assessment is that our region has achieved notable results with regards to democratization, regional cooperation, and integration in NATO and the EU over the last few years, thanks to the activities of the Stability Pact, among other things. Precisely because of this positive assessment, at the start of year 2005 the countries in the region, in cooperation with the European Commission, started to think about transformation of the Stability Pact and establishing of a new institutional structure for regional cooperation. The main idea was that the countries in the region assume political leadership and responsibility with regards to regional cooperation, that is, that they gradually introduce and develop the principle of regional ownership. In practice, this meant that the center of management and coordination of the concrete activities should transfer from Brussels to the region so that people from this region could fill the positions in the new regional cooperation bodies, so that the states in the region could assume the responsibility of financing the budgets of these bodies, and so forth. As a result of this transformation, the new organization – Regional Cooperation Council – was officially established on 27 February 2008, with a Secretariat based in Sarajevo, with Croatia's Hidajet (Hido) Biscevic as Secretary General, and a small Liaison Office in Brussels.

As a career diplomat, you performed a number of significant functions. Since the declaration of Macedonia's independence, you performed the tasks of first Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to NATO and the EU and Ambassador to Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. You are also the second Macedonian diplomat to be appointed to a senior international function. From a professional aspect, do you consider this new appointment a challenge? What will be your priorities on this function?

For every diplomat who builds his or her career professionally, being appointed to a function in an international organization is great recognition, as well as a huge challenge and responsibility. This is especially important in the case of young diplomatic services and small countries, seeing as it is more difficult for representatives of small countries to be appointed to functions in international organizations. In this concrete case, I would say that the challenge is even bigger, considering that this is a completely new institutional architecture of regional cooperation, with new bodies whose activities and engagement will be followed and assessed very carefully, not just by the countries in the region, but also by the other members of the Board of the Regional Cooperation Council, primarily the European Commission and the other countries that participate in the financing of the RCC budget.

In accordance with the mandate defined for the function Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the RCC, my priority will be the countries that have presidency of the EU. At this moment this is France. But parallel with this, I will also work with the next two countries that will have presidency of the EU in year 2009 - the Czech Republic and Sweden. The main objective of this engagement is to ensure that the South Eastern European region is among the priorities of the agendas of the countries that have presidency of the EU, especially from the aspect of regional cooperation and the commitments for speedier integration of this region in the EU. In this sense, the activities include establishing of closer and direct interaction between the RCC Secretariat and the countries that have presidency of the EU, as well as continual cooperation on all issues that are important for regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe, the EU enlargement processes involving the countries from our region, and the activities and work of the RCC Secretariat. This function is especially important in the context of promotion of the RCC's most important objectives in the agendas of the countries that have presidency of the EU and securing of a higher level of complementarity between regional cooperation and the processes for European integration.

Over the last 15 years you have been actively involved in all processes related to Macedonia's EU integration. You will continue to work on the European agenda in Brussels. How important is this for the Republic of Macedonia in these crucial times?

First and foremost, my new function in Brussels has a regional dimension. Thus, my engagement will be focused, among other things, on speedier realization of the European perspective of the countries in the region that have the status candidate and the potential candidates for membership in the EU. In this sense, it is of great importance that the Republic of Macedonia and all other countries in the region continue with their efforts for fulfillment of the criteria – regional cooperation is one of the most important of these criteria – necessary for membership in the EU. In conditions when the region is still facing serious challenges, and when the EU is preoccupied with extremely sensitive issues like ratification of the Lisbon Agreement and new crises in other regions, it is of great importance that the processes for EU integration of the countries in our region remain high on EU's agenda. But the speed with which these processes will develop mostly will depend on the countries themselves. I believe that in year 2009 we will be able to make a serious step forward with regards to fulfillment of the set priorities.

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Lazar LICENOSKI, *Poppies*, 1955

From the national collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art Skopje.

ART COLONIES IN MACEDONIA

*An inspirational environment for new spiritual forms and energy
for painters from all over the world*

SUMMER, PERIOD OF ART COLONIES IN MACEDONIA

Many culture events related to fine art and the existence of a number of art colonies are held in the Republic of Macedonia every year.

These art colonies, which are usually held in environmental settings, have been on the world's art map for decades, thanks to the magic of the wonderful Macedonian regions and motifs and the centuries-old culture and spiritual tradition in Macedonia.

The international Strumica Art Colony is one of the oldest art colonies in Macedonia and its continuity is well known on the European art scene. The 45th edition of this art colony was held between 5 and 20 August this year, and its patrons are the Ministry of Culture and the local self-government.

Annemoon Van Sten (The Netherlands): *"It was wonderful to see a country that you had never visited before and to create in conditions that were not exactly easy, outside your studio and the settings that you are used to. The company was good and international. I had a chance to exchange experiences with people from various countries and learn a lot about their work. I will recommend this colony to my colleagues, and I would like to visit Macedonia again."*

Kolja Yordanova (Bulgaria): *"It was a great pleasure to be part of the Strumica Art Colony and to experience the warm hospitality of the Macedonian people. It is wonderful that such noble tradition has existed in Macedonia whole 45 years. I also learned that many other art colonies are held in Macedonia and I would like to take part in them, as well. It is a great experience for an artist to work together with other people and in a different atmosphere."*

Participants in the Strumica Art Colony, 5-20 August 2008.

A total of 22 painters and mosaic artists from eight European countries created within the frames of this year's colony. Their works were exhibited for the first time in Strumica on 11 September, Strumica Liberation Day, after which they will be exhibited in other towns in Macedonia and abroad.

The 16th mosaic studio, which is run by fine and mosaic artist Gazanfer Bajram, was an integral part of this art colony.

The art colony "Kumanovo", which is one of the oldest art colonies in the country, was held between 18 and 28 August this year. The art colony was held in a building that functions within the frame of the ASNOM Memorial Center in Pelince, and this is the second time that this colony was held in these premises. The 31st edition of the international art colony "Kumanovo 2008" gathered approximately 15 fine artists, sculptors, and painters from Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Hungary, and Poland. They worked in the joint studio and outside, in the picturesque nature and forest setting by the Pcinja River.

The 22nd international art colony "St. Joakim Osogovski 2008" is being held in the lodgings of the "St. Joakim Osogovski" Monastery near Kriva Palanka from 5 September till

15 September. Approximately 30 fine art works of artists from a number of countries will be exhibited in the monastery art gallery. The paintings made at the art workshop were done in various art techniques – the most dominant being the technique oil on canvas – and the motifs were obtained from the sacred buildings of the "St. Joakim Osogovski" and "The Birth of the Most Holy Virgin" churches, as well as the picturesque and mystic surroundings near the monastery. Dimitar Stojcevski and Nikola Ivanovski-Balton, well known Macedonian academic artists who established the Osogovo colony together with Petar Mazev back in year 1987, were guests of this colony and they presented some of their works.

"The Small Montmartre of Bitola" is an international children's art colony that gathers children and young people from all over the world every year, and it is one of the most successful events of such type in the Republic of Macedonia. France had the place of honor at this year's 27th edition of this art colony. The honorary consul to Bitola, the director of the French Alliance from Bitola, and the culture attaché attended the opening of this colony, while first Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov attended the bestowing of awards. This year "The Small Montmartre of Bitola" was also part of the event "Warm Culture Wave", which was organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia. The event "International photo and film Olympiad of young artists" was also held within the frames of "Warm Culture Wave" on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the formation of the Manaki brothers' photographer's studio.

The international children's art colony spent the first working day in Krusevo. The motto of this visit was "The Krusevo church bells for the angel", and it was dedicated to the Macedonian music legend Tose Proeski. Then the caravan left for Ohrid, Bitola, and the village of Malovista.

The humanitarian aspect of the Bitola Montmartre was confirmed once again via the holding of a humanitarian auction of paintings. The funds collected at this auction were intended for completion of the "Holy Transfiguration" Monastery in Krusevo.

Approximately 70 young fine artists from 30 countries took part in this year's seven-day colony.

The artists of the *Základná art school* from Slovakia won this year's Grand Prix award at the 26th edition of the International Exhibition.

Over 3,000 participants, art educators, and other guests have taken part in this culture event so far, and over 11,000 paintings have been painted on the theme "Old Macedonian architecture". The Children's Art Studio "The Pearls of the Small Montmartre of Bitola" has taken part in numerous exhibitions throughout the world and it has won many awards, like the first prize at the international art competition "For a safer world", which was organized by NATO and was held in Prague. This prize was won by then 14-year-old Stefan Popovski, while the award of the French Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia was conferred on Zoran Sekulovski, whose painting was exhibited in Paris.



St. Joakim Osogovski, Kriva Palanka, 13th century.



Part of the tradition of “The Small Montmartre of Bitola” is the constant participation in the Olympic Games, in cooperation with the Macedonian Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee with headquarters in Lausanne. So far it has taken part in three Olympic Games: in Sidney in year 2000, in Athens in year 2004, and the Olympic Games in Beijing in year 2008. A large number of paintings on the theme “The Olympic Games in the eyes of children” arrived from all over the world this year. A collection of paintings was selected for the representative exhibition in Peking.

Every year the international Kicevo Art Colony is held in the House of Art in Knezino. This year 27 artists from a number of European countries and the United States of America took part in this colony.

French artist Daniel Ponsard also took part in the 15th edition of this art colony this year, which is held near the “St. Gjorgjija” monastery complex. French Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia Bernard Valero also visited the art colony.

The international art and graphic colony in Makedonski Brod is also part of the August art summer. The 13th edition of this colony was held between 1 and 10 August. A total of 10 graphic artists from Serbia, Bulgaria, and Macedonia took part in this colony, working on their own handmade paper.

The magic of Nize Pole, as well as the mountain motifs, are “to blame” for the ninth edition of the art colony that is held in the Pelister tourist center at the foot of the Baba Mountain. The breathtaking surroundings of Papradiste, which is situated below the summit Solunska Glava, are a challenge for the participants in the international art colony that is held in this Veles village with the support of the local self-government. The peaceful valley at the foot of the Osogovo Mountain near the “St. Joakim Osogovski” Monastery is the main reason why the well known Paris painter, graphic artist, and professor Michel Raby, rests in Macedonia. This was his last wish, which was fulfilled by his family and friends, following his participation in the Osogovo Art Colony.



The group of art colonies that are held in the Republic of Macedonia also includes the traditional art colony “Vinice 2008”, which is held in the “St. Ilija” monastery complex in the village of Vinice; the international art colony “Karpino” in Kocani; the international art colony “Debarca” in the village of Belcista; the art colony in the “St. Ilija” Monastery in the Prilep village of Dren; the international art colony “Gjuriste 2008” in Kriva Palanka; and many others.

The international art colony Ramacoti was formed in year 2003. This colony is held in different places and locations each year. This year’s “Ramacoti 2008” art colony is held in Ohrid. A total of 17 fine artists from the country and abroad, as well as one sculptor, are taking part in this colony this year. Among those taking part in this colony in Ohrid are John Chapman, American painter and executive director of the Asolare Fine Arts Foundation; Jure Cekuta from Slovenia; sculptor Dragan Radenovic from Serbia; Desislava Deneva from Bulgaria; and Macedonian artists Gligor Cemerski, Emil Suljakovski, Robert Cvetkovski, Tome Misev, Ilija Kocoski, Jana Kunoska, and Maja Dzartovska.

The third edition of the art colony “Skopje 2008” was also held this year in the Skopje Old Bazaar. It was organized by the Culture

Department of the City of Skopje and the Museum of the City of Skopje.

The third edition of the international art colony “Hotel Feni” was also opened on 1 August this year. Approximately 40 artworks were exhibited at the opening of this colony. Approximately 15 eminent fine artists from Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Bulgaria took part in this art colony, which lasted until 10 August. They had the opportunity to work in the wonderful settings of the Mokliski “St. Nikola” Monastery.

The second edition of the art colony “Balkan Spirit” was held in Ohrid this year. It was organized by the “IKON” Culture Association and the “Kiro Gligorov” Strategic Research Foundation. Approximately 20 artists from the region took part in this art colony.

American painter Chapman: MACEDONIA IS REALLY EXCEPTIONAL IN THE NUMBER AND QUALITY OF THE COLONIES



Mr. Chapman, you are taking part in the international art colony Ramacoti 2008 in Ohrid. What are your impressions of this colony and the manner in which the art colonies in Macedonia function?

My impression of this Ramacoti colony is that it is an extraordinary experience for all of the artists involved. I believe everyone that I have talked to has said that they will go home and their painting will be changed forever because of the experience. It is as if we have become a group of painters intimately involved, mentally, with the way we think about our art. This is different

than a group of students with a teacher because many of those here are teachers and everyone here could be a teacher. We will certainly remain individual painters, but we have all been affected by, not just seeing the art of others, but seeing how they produced it. Talking about it at breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and in the evening. I think this is one of the most important things that can happen with an artistic community. When you think of extraordinary artistic communities before, in Paris or in the Renaissance, when there were groups of artists always working by themselves, but seeing how the others worked and talking about it, you had a flowering of the arts. And this colony and the other colonies in Macedonia are doing the same thing. I don't know if the Macedonians realize how extraordinary the colonies are in this country. There are other colonies around the world, but I think Macedonia is really exceptional in the number and quality of the colonies. I learned about this colony because I have three American friends who over the past decade had attended other colonies in Macedonia. They were so impressed that they got together and started a colony of their own in North Carolina, the "No Boundaries" colony, which has had artists from all over the world, and especially artists from Macedonia, come to it. And it was because of those Macedonian artists, whom I became friends with, that I knew about Macedonia and this experience. It's been quite wonderful.

In year 2006, your work of art was presented at the exhibition organized by the City of Skopje, in collaboration with the Asolare Fine Arts Foundation from North Carolina. What are your views on the cooperation between American and Macedonian artists in the future?

I am the executive director of the Asolare Fine Arts Foundation and we have had the great fortune of being able to make exhibitions in New York at Lincoln Center over the past 10 years, every year. We have included Macedonian artists, although our main focus is for North Carolina artists. But we saw the value of including Macedonian artists who had been to the artist colonies in North Carolina. Including them in the exhibitions, it was a great addition to that. With the help of Sergej Andreevski, we had an exhibition of just Macedonian artists in the Lincoln Center. I think that was a wonderful experience for everyone. One of the things that we always asked for in the exhibitions of artists in New York was that the artists themselves come. Of course, we couldn't expect every artist in the Macedonian show to come, but many of them did. It's surprising how few American artists have been to New York, experienced the gallery situations,

seen the museums, and been able to meet other artists who live in New York – and there are thousands of artists living and working in New York. So you always come away with a much more complete understanding of the art situation in the world from participating in it. We not only ask the artists to come and be in New York; we ask them individually to come and be responsible for the gallery. They had to stay there and meet the public, answer questions, and talk to the public about the art. Very good experience.

I see, having been at this colony, that there is more that we can do in working with international artists through our foundation. I see even more clearly the importance of having residencies, getting American artists together with Macedonian artists and artists from, well here we've had I don't know how many countries. I know there are artists from at least eight countries here and I am hoping to invite them all to America for residencies. I think that this will be an extremely valuable opportunity for us and for them. This colony, I think, is exemplary. We are given total freedom in schedule, in materials, anything we want to do, they provide. We were asked to bring our brushes and that's all we needed. Of course, an artist's brush is like an extension of his hand. But the canvases, the paints, and everything else, they have been very generous in providing. I believe that what the organizers have been doing with this colony over the last few years has been impressive. I can see it's a huge amount of work for them, which they do very well. I don't know if I would last for six years in doing this.

When you are doing an exhibition in another country one of the big problems is just the simple logistics of the transportation of the artwork. So for the exhibition that we did in 2006 we asked that the artists provide work on paper. I believe we had maybe, I can't remember exactly, 20 to 25 different artists and a number of those artists were not artists that usually work on paper. So this was something that was an opportunity that pushed their ideas forward in a different medium and a different format, which is, I think, always good for an artist. That's something that also has happened here. For example, I am used to painting on wooden panel that is not that big. Here we use large canvases. So I've enjoyed very much painting in a different way than I usually paint. Sergej Andreevski was having an exhibition in America. We asked him to bring back to Macedonia those 25 works in a portfolio under his arm. They were framed here, exhibited beautifully, and the next time he came to America, he brought them back. And this is something we are hoping to do again. That's the same thing that happened with the show of Macedonian painters in Lincoln Center. They were works on paper. They brought them there, we framed them, and then sent them back unframed. It's a good system.



MACEDONIAN MILITARY ATTACHÉ TO REPUBLIC OF CROATIA DECORATED

Lieutenant General Dragan Andreski, Defense Attaché of the Republic of Macedonia to the Republic of Croatia, was decorated with the Order of the Croatian Trefoil in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia on 18 August year 2008, for special merits in the development of the relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Macedonia.

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Croatia Stjepan Mesic, this prominent decoration was presented by Mate Raboteg, State Secretary in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia, in the presence of Macedonian Ambassador to Croatia Danco Markovski, senior representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, as well as representatives of the Macedonian Embassy in Zagreb.



General Andreski, doyen of the Military Diplomatic Corps in Croatia, stated that this decoration is the result of the fruitful cooperation between these two countries in the sphere of defense. In his address, the Macedonian lieutenant general also stressed the importance of the Republic of Croatia continuing its activities within the frames of the Adriatic Charter even after receiving the invitation for membership in NATO, emphasizing that this would be momentous support for the Republic of Macedonia for its speedy integration in NATO and the European institutions.

TURKISH STATE MINISTER YAZICIOGLU VISITS MACEDONIA

State Minister of the Republic of Turkey Dr. Mustafa Said Yazıcıoğlu, who coordinates the activities and work of the government Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), paid a working visit to the Republic of Macedonia on 20 August.

At the meeting with Antonio Milososki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, the two ministers expressed satisfaction with the successful development and significant advancement of the cooperation between the two countries. They stressed an interest for increase of the trade and further strengthening of the economic cooperation. Minister Milososki expressed gratitude for the support that TIKA provides via its office in the Republic of Macedonia.



Yazıcıoğlu and Milososki also stressed the importance of further strengthening of the co-

operation in the spheres of culture, science, education, and other domains of mutual interest.

Minister Yazıcıoğlu reaffirmed Turkey's principled support for the Euro-Atlantic integrations of the Republic of Macedonia.

The good cooperation between the two countries at multilateral level was also welcomed, and it was assessed that the Turkish community in Macedonia and the Macedonian community in Turkey are a bridge for strengthening of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

During his visit to the Republic of Macedonia, Turkish State Minister Yazıcıoğlu met with Deputy Prime Minister Abdylaqim Ademi and Minister without Portfolio Hadi Nezir.

CONSULAR OFFICE OF CZECH EMBASSY IN SKOPJE STARTS WORK

The consular office of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in the Republic of Macedonia started work on 4 August.

The consular office is going to ease the procedure of taking out Czech visas by Macedonian citizens, who previously filed their applications with the consular offices of the Czech Republic in Belgrade and Sofia.

Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin would like to wish a successful diplomatic mission to our colleagues:

Mr. Vasko GRKOV, Consul General

Consulate General of the Republic of Macedonia in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

Mrs. Maja APOSTOLOVA BALABURSKI, Minister Counsellor

Liaison Office of the Republic of Macedonia in Athens, Republic of Greece

Mr. Vasile ANDONOVSKI, Minister Counsellor

Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Beijing, People's Republic of China

Mrs. Melehat MUFTAROVSKA, Minister Counsellor

Mission of the Republic of Macedonia to the European Communities, Brussels

Mr. Sejdi DEMIRI, Counsellor

Consulate General of the Republic of Macedonia in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Vladimir KRSTEVSKI, Counsellor

Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

Mr. Gabriel ATANASOV, 1st Secretary

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia to the International Organizations in Vienna, Republic of Austria

Ms. Magdalena DIMOVSKA, 1st Secretary

Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in the Holy See, Rome

Mrs. Slavka JOVANOVSKA, 2nd Secretary

Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Bern, Swiss Confederation

Mr. Erol SADIKI, 3rd Secretary

Mission of the Republic of Macedonia to the NATO, Brussels

Mrs. Gordana GLIGOROVSKA, Consular administrative officer

Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Kiev, Ukraine

Mr. Betim FEJZULAI, Consular administrative officer

Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Tirana, Republic of Albania

Mrs. Ljubica VELICKOVSKA, Consular administrative officer

Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Podgorica, Republic of Montenegro

Mrs. Suzana TRAJANOVSKA, Consular administrative officer

Consulate General of the Republic of Macedonia in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

The Editorial Board of the Macedonian Diplomatic Bulletin expresses gratitude for the engagement and creative energy in the creating and developing of MDB, to members Vasile Andonovski, who left to tackle new professional challenges in the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Beijing, and Edvard Mitevski, who left for the United States of America to attend a masters program at the renowned University of Notre Dame.

2nd AUGUST, NATIONAL HOLIDAY OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, MARKED

The Republic of Macedonia marked the National Holiday 2nd August with a number of fitting ceremonies.

The two historic Ilindens – the 105th anniversary of the Ilinden Uprising and the 64th anniversary of the First Session of ASNOM (Antifascist Assembly of the National Liberation of Macedonia) – were marked with gatherings on Meckin Kamen in Krusevo and at the Pelince Memorial Center near Kumanovo. President Branko Crvenkovski attended the ceremony on Meckin Kamen, where Trajko Veljanoski, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, gave a welcoming address, while Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski gave a welcoming address in Pelince.

“Here on Meckin Kamen we pay tribute to the celebrated Ilinden generation that laid the foundations of Macedonia as an independent state,” Assembly President Veljanoski stressed in his address.

“Today we mark both Ilindens – the one from year 1903 and the one from year 1944. The first Ilinden, that of Goce, Jane, Karev, and

Pitu, is a symbol of Macedonia’s insubordination, manifested in the ideal of fight for freedom. The second Ilinden, that of Brasnarov, Cento, Racin, and Kuzman, united the generations and formed our contemporary state. On 8 September year 1991 Macedonia became an independent country and full member of the UN,” Prime Minister Gruevski underlined in his address.

The Macedonian prime minister also laid a wreath at the monument of Metodija Andonov-Cento in Skopje.

This National Holiday of the Republic of Macedonia was also marked with a large number of cultural and sports events, like the meeting of writers in Smilevo, the formal meeting in Gostivar called “Macedonia through Ilinden and ASNOM”, the traditional Ilinden swimming marathon in Ohrid, and the International Ilinden Regatta, also in Ohrid.

Ilinden was also marked outside the Republic of Macedonia, by the Macedonian diaspora abroad.

A number of world statesmen extended congratulations to the highest Macedonian state leadership on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of Macedonia.

MACEDONIAN CHIEF'S DEATH.
A Greek Spy Betrayed Deltcheff's Whereabouts to the Turks.
LONDON TIMES—NEW YORK TIMES Special Cablegram.
LONDON, May 26.—Detailed reports of the death of Deltcheff, the famous Macedonian chief, says the Sofia correspondent of *The Times*, show that he accompanied a band under Voivoda and Kirtchovsky, together with the poet Tavoroff, and entered the village of Banitzza, near Seres, where his presence was betrayed to the Turks by a Greek spy. A large force surrounded the village, and all the members of the revolutionary band were killed after a long resistance. It is stated that the inhabitants of the village, to which the Turks set fire, were also killed. Deltcheff was thirty-two years old. He was a schoolmaster, and practically created the present Macedonian organization, which has ramifications in all parts of the country.
The New York Times
 Published: May 26, 1903
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MACEDONIAN RISING LIKELY.
LONDON TIMES—NEW YORK TIMES Special Cablegram.
LONDON, June 29.—The Belgrade correspondent of *The Times* says that according to trustworthy information the Macedonian committees have not abandoned the idea of a general rising this year. Supplies of arms and ammunition stated to be sufficient are now being stored in the mountains, owing to the Turkish attacks on the villages. At an appointed time every village will receive its full quota of arms and ammunition for which the inhabitants already have paid. The majority of the chiefs are disposed to delay the action of raiding the villages throughout Macedonia and Adrianople until the harvest is reaped. The people are desperate, and it is believed that they will readily respond to a call to arms.
The New York Times
 Published: June 29, 1903
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NO FEAR FOR MISSIONARIES.
Up to Date They Have Fared Well in Turkey, Bulgaria, and Macedonia.
BOSTON, Sept. 15.—The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions does not feel any uneasiness as yet about any of its people in Turkey, Bulgaria, and Macedonia. Dr. E. E. Strong, speaking of the situation to-day, said that the board had property worth \$30,000 in Macedonia, at Monastir and Salonika, but so far everything had gone well with the missionaries at those places. At Beirut the missionaries, all Presbyterians, are not under the jurisdiction of the American Board.
The New York Times
 Published: September 16, 1903
 Copyright © The New York Times

Extracts from the CD containing 2,285 articles on Macedonia and Macedonians published in The New York Times between year 1851 and year 1922. This CD was promoted on the occasion of Ilinden. Producers of this civil initiative are movie director Milco Mancevski, journalist Marina Kostova, and Ein Sof.

MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE IN GLOBAL WORLD

The 41st International Seminar on the Macedonian Language, Literature, and Culture was held in Ohrid between 11 and 28 August. The seminar was organized by the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.

The main accent at this seminar, which was attended by over 90 participants from 22 countries and where topics concerning Macedonian history, culture, and nation prevailed, was put on Macedonian



language courses, proofreading exercises, and translation workshops held by professors and linguists from the “Blaze Koneski” Faculty of Philology in Skopje. The Zbornik of late academician Frantishek Vaclav Maresh, who was posthumously awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Macedonia last year by the President of the Republic of Macedonia, was also promoted.

A scholarly conference on linguistics and literature was also held within the frames of this seminar, and Macedonian literature lectures and courses in Macedonian folk dance were also organized. The participants also had a chance to talk with renowned Macedonian writer Goran Stefanovski and visit the archeological sites and cultural events that were held in Ohrid and the surrounding region.

At this seminar, Elizabeta Kancevska-Milevska, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia, promoted 45 volumes of the edition “Macedonian Literature”, a project of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia that foresees publishing of 130 volumes of books by the end of this year. The promotion was closed with a poetry evening of the members of the Association of Writers of Macedonia.

The International Seminar on the Macedonian Language, Literature, and Culture was founded on 22 December year 1967, and so far over 3,000 participants from over 45 countries have taken part in the same.

47th STRUGA POETRY EVENINGS

The 47th edition of the Struga Poetry Evenings was held between 21 and 28 August 2008. Approximately 50 domestic poets and 70 foreign poets from 45 countries took part in this international event.



The guests were addressed and welcomed by Elizabeta Kancevska-Milevska, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia. The event started with the traditional international poetry reading "Poetic Meridians" and the traditional "Night without Punctuation", at which the work of the young Croatian poetess Antonija Novakovic was presented. Novakovic won the UNESCO "Struga Bridges" award for best young poet.

The central event at the Struga Poetry Evenings was the presentation of this year's winner of "The Golden Wreath of Poetry", Albanian poet Fatos Arapi, who was in Skopje declared honorary member of the Association of Writers of Macedonia.

"This recognition, as well as the Golden Wreath, means a lot to me. Great honor is being paid to me by Macedonia, which became a poetry republic during this festival," Arapi said after receiving the recognition. He stated that he would commit himself to bringing the Albanian and Macedonian poets closer together.

The programme of the Struga Poetry Evenings also included the symposium "The language, poetry, and the identity", promotion of the books "Srede" (*In the middle*) by Risto Lazarov, who won the "Braka Miladinovci" award, and "Song between two flights", which includes poems of approximately 50 Macedonian authors, a poetry reading "Matinée" and a traditional picnic in St. Naum. The Evenings in Struga were closed with the international poetry reading "Bridges" and the presentation of the awards to laureate Arapi, poets Novakovic and Lazarov and poet Viktor Sekerovski who was presented with the "Diaspora Poetry" award.

An additional program called "Poetry on the road" was also organized for the participants. This program included visits and poetry readings in a number of cities throughout Macedonia.

SARAH CHANG CLOSES OHRID SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Ohrid Summer Festival was closed on 20 August year 2008 with a virtuoso concert by world-renowned violinist Sarah Chang. Chang, who was accompanied by the Slovenian Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra and who performed works of Pablo de Sarasate and Antonio Vivaldi, brought big applause and ovations from the audience.

Critics assessed that this year's 48th edition of the Ohrid Summer Festival, which is among the most renowned summer culture

festivals in Europe and the world, was one of the most successful editions in the history of this culture event due to the attractive program, the quality participants, and the record attendance of both domestic and foreign citizens.

Numerous renowned performers from the Macedonian and world music scene performed on the stage in Ohrid. The theater program of the festival was also quite rich, and it included the plays "Why, why" by world renowned author Peter Brook; "Caligula" by leading Slovenian director Tomaz Pandur; and the world premiere of the musical play "Four Seasons", which Macedonian director Ivan Popovski prepared with actors from the Moscow Theater of Music and Poetry "Elena Kamburova".

The Ohrid Summer Festival was held under the patronage of President of the Republic of Macedonia Branko Crvenkovski and it was financed by the Macedonian Ministry of Culture.

UNESCO DELEGATION VISITS OHRID

A senior UNESCO delegation consisting of Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning Hans d'Orville and Engelbert Ruoss, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE), visited Ohrid between 7 and 10 August year 2008, at the invitation of Elizabeta Kancevska-Milevska, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia. The UNESCO officials and Minister Kancevska-Milevska exchange views about Ohrid, as a world heritage city protected by UNESCO, and the significance of the cultural monuments that represent the Republic of Macedonia all over the world.

The delegation visited sights and archeological sites in Ohrid and they attended the event "UNESCO Night", which was held within the frames of this year's cultural event "Ohrid Summer Festival". Two concerts were held within the frames of "UNESCO Night" by UNESCO virtuosos of peace, Macedonian baritone Boris Trajanov and Croatian violinist Ino Marinkovic.

Violinist Marinkovic performed together with Macedonian pianist Marija Vrskovska. At the second concert, the world renowned baritone Trajanov performed together with the prima donna from the Republic of Albania, soprano Inva Mula, and one of the up-and-coming young performers from the Republic of Macedonia, basso Aleksandar Stefanoski. The three soloists, who were accompanied by the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Italian conductor Francesco Rosa, performed arias, duets, and overtures from classic operas of Verdi, Puccini, and Rossini.

"The arts is grand and it can connect. Prejudices should be broken. The Macedonian and Albanian peoples have artists who are respected and who should be enabled to create together," Trajanov said, commenting on his performance with his colleague Mula.



EVENT "TOGETHER HOME IN MACEDONIA" HELD IN OHRID

The event "Together home in Macedonia" was held in Ohrid between 1 and 7 August, on the occasion of the national holiday Ilinden. This event was organized by the Association of Macedonians from the World "Koreni (Roots)", and it was backed by the patrons Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia; the Agency for Youth and Sport; the Football Federation of Macedonia; the Ohrid Municipality; His Beatitude Stefan, Archbishop of the Macedonian Orthodox Church; and the Board of Directors of the team "Macedonia 2025".

The aim of this event was, via sport and entertainment, to strengthen the contacts among the Macedonian diaspora, to help form new friendships, to enable these people to get acquainted with the cultural and historical values of the Republic of Macedonia and its investment capacities, and to promote Ohrid as an attractive tourist destination.

For this purpose, a rich cultural and sport program was organized, with participation of approximately 50 guests from Macedonia and 150 Macedonians from all over the world. The main happening at this event was the football tournament "Koreni 2008". A total of seven teams composed of Macedonian emigrants from Great Britain, the United States of America, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Australia, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Serbia took part in this tournament. The team from Serbia won first place at this tournament.

During the tournament, a friendly match was also played between the football team of the Government, which was captained by Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, and a combined team of the diaspora, which was captained by Mike Zafirovski. This match ended in a draw.

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT "KORENI 2008"

A football tournament for members of the Macedonian diaspora "Koreni 2008" was held in Prilep between 20 and 27 August. This tournament was organized by the civil initiative for national, cultural, and European integration "We Exist" and the Prilep Local Self-government, and it was held under the auspices of the government Coordinating Body for Emigration and the Agency for Youth and Sport of the Republic of Macedonia. Approximately 100 Macedonian children who live in Bulgaria, Albania, Serbia, Croatia, and the Gora region in Kosovo took part in this sports event, which was organized for the first time in Dojran last year. The tournament was won by the team "Vidolina" from Serbia, which defeated the team "Sonce" from Bulgaria in the final.

Besides the sports matches, lectures on learning the Cyrillic Alphabet and Macedonian language were also organized for the Macedonian children. Prizes were given to the 10 children who were most successful in the testing.

This year's event will also be remembered by the fact that the Greek border officials did not allow the participants from the Republic of Greece to cross the border, with the excuse that their passports are old. The participants from Izmir, Turkey, also faced difficulties because the Bulgarian Consulate refused to issue them a transit visa.

MACEDONIAN CULTURE SUMMER "PRESPA 2008"

The event Macedonian culture summer "Prespa 2008" was opened on 2 August year 2008, on the occasion of the holiday Ilinden. This event was organized by the Association of Macedonians from Albania "Sonce" (Sun).

At this event, which was held for the first time and which should become a traditional event in the future, the Macedonians from Mala Prespa, Albania, had the opportunity to attend a number of plays staged by theaters from the Republic of Macedonia, follow the performances of the ensemble of folk instruments "Stefce Stojkovski", flute soloist Darko Mitev, and the ensemble of original folk instruments "Gora". They were also able to see the Macedonian film "Elegy for You" and the documentary film on Mala Prespa "Bestowing Sunlight".

This event was closed on 20 August year 2008 with a performance by the folklore group "Mala Prespa" from Albania.

IN MEMORIAM

IVAN (VANJA) TOSEVSKI

Well-known Macedonian diplomat, publicist, and journalist Ivan (Vanja) Tosevski, unfortunately, left us after a short illness on 2nd August, National Holiday of the Republic of Macedonia.

Ambassador Tosevski was born in Bitola in year 1929. He spent most of his career performing key functions in the sphere of diplomacy. In the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia Tosevski, as Macedonian cadre, performed the functions ambassador to New Zealand and Finland; head of the Yugoslav human rights delegation to the United Nations; chairman of the work group for missing persons; and member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Until year 2003 he also served as Macedonia's representative in the UN-led talks with the Republic of Greece on the differences over the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia.

Tosevski also worked as foreign editor of Radio Skopje and he performed the function of director of Televizija Skopje. As publicist, he published a number of articles and books, including the book "Macedonia" and the study "Nation or nations".

Ambassador Tosevski left quietly, and that is precisely how he will be remembered among his colleagues: as a quiet and modest man, an interlocutor who always listened carefully, gave advice, and always insisted on finding the most rational solution.

On the occasion of Ambassador Tosevski's death, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of EU Integration Ivica Bocevski, Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Milososki, and Srgjan Kerim, President of the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, sent telegrams of condolence to his family.

Deputy Prime Minister Bocevski and Foreign Minister Milososki paid final respects to Tosevski on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

OLYMPIC GAMES INSPIRE GREAT DEEDS

That the Olympic spirit lives not only in professional athletes and in Olympic arenas has been proven by Marijan Gjorgjiev, a 35-year-old amateur cyclist from Kocani, who went to China on a bike to attend the opening of the Olympic Games in Beijing.

Inspired by the idea of promoting sport and his country, Marijan without pausing a single day crossed 11,800 km cruising eight countries and arriving in China's capital on 1 August, four months after his departure in Macedonia.

His unforgettable and extremely hard adventure culminated on 1 July when he entered China, thus celebrating his 35th birthday in the most beautiful way possible. Gjorgjiev was welcomed by the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Beijing and attended the reception hosted by the Embassy in honor of the Macedonian athletes competing at the Beijing Olympics.