

Dijaspóra

otadžbina u rasejanju

Srbija i Crna Gora ne postoje samo u njihovim zvaničnim državnim i političkim granicama. One se nalaze u mnogobrojnim domovima širom sveta, u domovima onih koji su otišli zbog različitih razloga. To je, zaista, otadžbina u rasejanju koja nije mala i predstavlja deo srpskog naroda. Istina, ne postoji tačna informacija o veličini srpske dijaspore, mada se pretpostavlja da nju čini tri do četiri miliona ljudi. Oni predstavljaju istinski deo Srbije i Crne Gore i njihovu podršku.

Diaspora

The Dispersed Homeland

Serbia and Montenegro exists not only within their political and state borders. They are to be found in many homes worldwide, in the homes of those that left the countries for various reasons.

This is actually the dispersed homeland; it is not small and it represents a great part of the Serbian people. True, there is no precise information on the size of the Serbian diaspora, but it is estimated to be between three and four million strong. They represent a significant part of Serbia and Montenegro and their great support



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Srpska dijaspora u SAD najveći srpski lobi

Serbian Diaspora in US: Largest Serbian Lobby

Veliki rad srpske dijaspore u SAD za vraćanje Srbije u Ameriku. – Mnogo mogućnosti za poslove u Srbiji

Great efforts by Serbian diaspora to reinstate Serbia in the US – Many opportunities for business in Serbia

Ministarstvo za dijasporu Vlade Republike Srbije je najmlađe ministarstvo u sistemu izvršne vlasti. Ono je formirano 2004. godine, kao rezultat potrebe da se veze između matice i Srba u rasejanju razvijaju mnogo sistematičnije i temeljnije. Za tim je, zapravo, postojala obostrana potreba: u rasejanju – patriotska i rođačka potreba da se mnogo plodotvornije pomaže svojim, a u matici – da se u svetu traži stabilan oslonac među svojim, naročito u Americi.

Profesor dr Vojislav Vukčević, ministar za dijasporu u Vladi Republike Srbije, procenjuje da će značaj srpske dijaspore u Americi za potrebe otadžbine u perspektivi biti sigurno veći nego do sada.

Kakvu ulogu je imala srpska dijaspora u Americi u promeni stava SAD prema Srbiji?

– Američka dijaspora je brojna i značajan procenat srpske dijaspore uopšte i ima veliki značaj za preokret odnosa SAD prema Srbiji. Od prošle, 2004. godine, američka dijaspora zaista radi za Srbiju. U pitanju je ozbiljno i veliko angažovanje na ponovnom prisustvu Srbije u Americi. Sankcije SAD prema Srbiji bile su na snazi do 2000. godine, ali je kasnije ljude u Americi bilo teško pridobiti za naše interese jer je o Srbima i Srbiji stvorena veoma ružna slika. Jako je teško ispraviti krivu predstavu o nekome, ali to srpskoj dijaspori u Americi polako, ali sigurno uspeva.

Kakvi su naši novi odnosi sa Amerikom i koliko je tim odnosima doprinela srpska dijaspora u SAD?

– Uvek smo imali interes da sa Amerikom budemo u dobrim odnosima, kao što je to decenijama bilo, i nismo imali nikakav interes da te odnose poremetimo i učinimo lošim, ali je do toga došlo. Srpska dijaspora u Americi se stvarno napregla i učinila sve što je u njenoj moći da uveri Ameriku u valjanost srpskog naroda, da je uveri da se on nije promenio i da je isto toliko valjan kakav je bio i onda kada je bio hvaljen i slavljn, i da i sada treba da se ponaša prema Srbiji onako kao što se ranije ponašala. Nije lako promeniti predstavu o nama. Zlo na krilima dolazi, a odlazi



The Serbian Ministry of Diaspora is the youngest ministry in the executive government. It was established in 2004, as the result of the need to develop ties between the motherland and expatriate Serbs in a much more systematic and thorough manner. The need for this actually existed on both sides: in the diaspora it was the patriotic and kinsman need to help their own in a much more effective manner, and in the homeland – to seek a stable support among their own, particularly in the US.

Professor Vojislav Vukčević, Minister of Diaspora in the Serbian government, estimates that the importance of the Serbian diaspora in America for the motherland's needs will certainly increase in the future.

What role did the Serbian diaspora in America play in changing the US viewpoint on Serbia?

“The American diaspora represents a numerous and significant percentage of the Serbian diaspora in general, and it had great significance in changing the US position on Serbia. As of last year, 2004, the American diaspora is truly working for Serbia. This was serious and great effort to return Serbia to America. The US sanctions against Serbia were in effect until 2000, but it was difficult to win over people for our interests, because a very bad image of the Serbs and Serbia had been created. It is very difficult to repair a wrong image of someone, but the Serbian diaspora in America is slowly but surely achieving this.”

What are our relations with America and how much of a contribution does the Serbian diaspora in the US have?

“It was always in our interest to have good relations with America, as they had been for decades, and we did not have any interest in disrupting or degrading them, but that did happen. The Serbian diaspora in America made a great effort and did everything in its power to convince America in the properness of the Serbian people, to convince it that nothing had changed and that (the Serbs) are proper, as they had been when they were praised and celebrated, and that now it should treat Serbia as it had before. It is not easy to change our image. Evil flies when coming, but leaves at a slow pace, on foot. They had to win over



peške, sporim hodom. Naši ljudi su morali za naše potrebe i interese da pridobiju one koji utiču na kreiranje američke politike. Tako se nekoliko senatora, kongresmena, pod uticajem naših uglednih ljudi u Americi opredelilo da predstavlja i brani interese srpskog naroda i države, odnosno da se suprotstavi onim interesima koji idu na štetu srpskog naroda i države. I stvarno su u tome uspeli, najviše koliko se moglo u kratkom vremenu. Nije bilo jednostavno formirati taj lobi ili grupu istaknutih predstavnika američkog naroda da u Senatu govore u interesu srpskog naroda, ali su to naši ljudi ipak uspeli. Za to im treba odati priznanje i to je rezultat aktivnosti naše dijasporu u SAD.

Da li može da se očekuje dinamičnije poslovno povezivanje Srbije s američkom dijasporom u budućnosti?

– Takve odluke donose poslovni ljudi u skladu sa svojim interesima. Svi znamo da Srbija veoma mnogo uvozi iz sveta, pa samim tim i iz Amerike, mada bi dobar deo mogao da bude proizveden i kod nas. Da li će se uspostaviti sarad-

to our needs and interests those that influence the creation of American policies. Thus several senators, congressmen opted in favor of the interests of the Serbian people and state, influenced by our reputable people in America, and will represent and defend these interests, i.e. they will oppose those interests that would harm the Serbian people and state, and they truly did achieve the maximum that could be achieved in such a short period of time. The creation of this lobby or group of prominent representatives of the American people to speak in the Senate, in the interest of the Serbian people, was not simple, but our people still succeed. They should be acknowledged for this. This is the results of the activity of our diaspora in the US.

Can the more dynamic creation of commercial ties between Serbia and the American diaspora be expected in the future?

“Such decisions lie with business people and their interests. We all know that Serbia imports many items from around the world, which includes from America, although a great portion of them could be produced domestically. Whether cooperation will

Kupovina nekretnina u Srbiji - najveći patriotski doprinos dijasporu

Kakva je Vaša poruka srpskoj dijaspori u Americi u pogledu investiranja u Srbiju?

– Nećemo od dijasporu da tražimo novac. Nećemo da zovemo dijasporu iz Amerike da ulaže novac u biznis jer je to stvar poslovne politike i procene svakog poslovnog čoveka. Međutim, želimo da poručimo našim ljudima u Americi da kupuju pravo vlasništva na nepokretnostima u Srbiji - da kupuju stanove, lokale, zgrade, fabrike, šume, oranice, rudnike - da se sutra ni oni ni njihovi potomci ne bi došli na tuđe, već na svoje, u zemlju u kojoj su oni vlasnici, zemlju koja je njihova kao što je to bila i kad su iz nje otišli.

Buying Serbian real-estate – greatest patriotic contribution

What is your message to the Serbian diaspora in the US, as far as investments in Serbia are concerned?

We will not ask the diaspora for money. We will not invite the diaspora from America to invest in businesses, because that is a decision based on business policy and the estimation of each businessman. However, we want to tell the Serbian diaspora in America to buy real estate ownership rights in Serbia, from apartments, shops, buildings, factories, forests, fields, mines, so that they would be the owners, and that their descendants would not one day come to another's country, not their own, such as it was when they left.

nja s nekom našom fabrikom, to zavisi od obostranih interesa. Ali, sigurno je da postoje velike mogućnosti za razvoj poslovnih odnosa u oblasti turizma, na primer. S druge strane, postoji mnogo starih ljudi u dijaspori koji bi želeli i mogli da svoje poslednje dane provedu ovde – među svojim – u apartmanima nekog naselja namenjenog samo njima, sa odgovarajućom zdravstvenom negom, kulturnim sadržajima, među svojim. Domovi za stare ljude jako su atraktivna oblast za srpsku dijasporu uopšte, pa i onu u Americi, i mogu privući pažnju naših ljudi, a njih je u inostranstvu mnogo.

Šta Ministarstvo za dijasporu može da učini da se patriotski odnos prema matici pokaže i u ekonomskim sferama?

– Ministarstvo za dijasporu nema izvršnu vlast. Ono samo prima određene informacije i prenosi ih dalje. Ministarstvo ne može doneti nikakav opšti ili pojedinačni akt o nečijem predlogu ili zahtevu. Predloge iz dijasporu prosleđujemo nadležnim službama, odnosno ministarstvima, a oni tome mogu da posvete, manju ili veću pažnju.

be established with some of our factories depends on the interests of both sides. However, it is certain that there are great opportunities for developing commercial relations in the area of tourism, for example. On the other hand, there are many elderly people in the diaspora who would want and could spend their late years in some community for them, with buildings and apartments, with proper healthcare, cultural events – among their own. Homes for the elderly are a very attractive area for the Serbian diaspora in general, including that in America, and they could draw the attention of our people, and there are many of them abroad.”

Can the Ministry take any further steps for the patriotic views of the diaspora to be transferred into the economic sphere?

“The Ministry of Diaspora does not have any executive power. It only receives certain information and forwards it. The ministry cannot pass any general or individual act about someone's proposal or demand. We forward proposals from the diaspora to the competent institutions, i.e. ministries, and they can give them lesser or greater attention.

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