



# PAN-MACEDONIAN ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Παρμακεδονική Ένωση  
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Βραβείον Ακαδημίας Αθηνών  
Academy of Athens Award

<< ΣΤΗΝ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ 1947 >>  
"SERVING MACEDONIA AND HELLENISM SINCE 1947"

Honorary President  
Archbishop Demetrios

November 9, 2007

Mr. Matthew Nimetz  
UN Mediator

Honorable Mr. Nimetz,

We are very grateful to meet with you. As American citizens of Macedonian descent (Macedonians are the Hellenes originally from the Hellenic province of Macedonia) we are very concerned with the events unraveling in the Balkans, especially with the prospect of The FYROM joining NATO before the name issue is settled with Greece.

The FYROM is a small country in the southern Balkans with very serious external and internal problems. It is the only country in Europe that succeeded in having open serious conflicts, with no prospect of resolution, with each of its four neighbors. Incredibly however, they have an entirely different type of conflict with each one of these neighbors.

In the north with Serbia who is a member State with The Partnership for Peace and an aspiring new NATO member, they have an open conflict with their schismatic illegal church, the so-called "Macedonian Orthodox Church" and this fact has angered their Serbian northern neighbor.

On the eastern side Bulgaria, a NATO member, does not recognize the so-called "Macedonians" as a distinct nation, nor a "Macedonian" language and accuses the FYROM of stealing its history. Amazingly enough The FYROM currently seems to have claims either linguistically or ethnologically to approximately 20% of the territory of this NATO ally of ours, Bulgaria.

On the west side the citizens of Albania clearly do not consider, and rightfully so, that 25% of the population of The FYROM should be called "Macedonians." They consider them their Albanian brethren.

In the south they succeeded in angering Greece, and especially us, the true Macedonians, by using our identity and stealing our glorious history. After all Alexander the Great the Macedonian, spoke Greek, used the Hellenic alphabet, carried Homer's works with him and spread the Hellenic language and civilization throughout the then known world. He did not speak the Bulgarian dialect that The FYROM people speak; he did not use the Cyrillic alphabet, which had not even appeared till about one thousand years after his death. Alexander the Great is our Abraham Lincoln, as he united the North and the South of the Hellenic World under Hellas.

The Slavs cannot be ethnically, linguistically or culturally Macedonians simply because they did not exist in this area until the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD, when they descended from Siberia and settled there. The Hellenic name Macedonia, which had always identified the northern area of Greece, preceded the

introduction of the majority Slavic population of The FYROM in the Balkans by well over 2000 years. It is therefore of utmost importance that their nationality and language does not include the term "Macedonian."

Mr. Nimetz, if the name is positive for Greece, the FYROM people might be very upset, but there is absolutely nothing they can do to upset their relationship between their country, the US, NATO and the EU.

On the other hand a humiliating solution for Greece, totally unacceptable for the Greeks, such as "Republic of Macedonia-Skopje," would anger the people and this would tremendously limit the financial interaction between the two countries. This would be a big blow for the fragile economy of this unstable multiethnic country. If the Greeks will not be buying their products and visiting this neighboring state, the financial problems for the FYROM, will be tremendous. And your efforts, Mr. Nimetz, would totally fail to create good neighborly relations, trade and tourism and financial prosperity in the Southern Balkans.

In addition, the outcome of the last elections was the result of the arising nationalism in Greece due to two factors: one is the attempt to change Greek history in schoolbooks and the second one is the name issue of the FYROM. The ruling party right now is weak, having only 152 seats and there will not be a consensus from all political parties in the name issue, thus projecting destabilization.

As of the 2004 census only 62.5% of FYROM's population call themselves "Macedonians." Taking into consideration the very low birth rate of the Slavic inhabitants and the very high birth rate of the ethnic Albanians, it is likely that in the not so distant future, less than half of the population will be identifying themselves with the name of that country. Why would the US promote this false "Macedonian" identity, creating huge problems between the FYROM and Greece, especially in the way the two countries would be expected to work together within NATO?

We noted with interest the recent developments of the resignation of the President of the Constitutional Court, an Albanian, who disagreed with the majority democratic vote of the Court in reference to the usage of the Albanian flag (which is a flag of a foreign country) in the municipal buildings of the country.

These actions clearly indicate the profound ethnic division in the FYROM and the myth of the so-called stable multiethnic "democracy." It seems that it is neither stable nor democratic.

In reference to the assumption that there will be a unified "Macedonian" army to work "side by side" with its other NATO counterparts, we have this question: when the Slavic and Albanian youth do not play together, refuse to go to the same classroom, do not learn each other's language, what makes NATO and the US and the UN believe that there is any reasonable hope these people could work together?

There seems to be an increased defiance in the FYROM by armed Albanian elements and the fact that this country uses its constitutional name does not appear to be a stabilizing factor at all. We are in a position to know that the Albanian element of the FYROM truly wishes to be part of NATO and EU and understands that the intransigence of the majority of the Slavic government creates a huge problem for the Albanians' prosperity and Euro Atlantic integration.

In reference to your comments regarding the legacy of Alexander the Great, during your interview with Dnevnik's Zana P. Bozinvska, it appears that you are in the opposite side of the overwhelming

majority of scholars worldwide, who consider Alexander the Great an extremely important historical figure, truly the first leader in the history of mankind to introduce the idea of globalization.

It was during the Roman period that Alexander III, son of King Philip of Macedonia, was indeed referred as "Great" for the first time. His deeds are admired throughout the world and his military genius is taught in many contemporary military institutions globally, including the US military academy of West Point. Alexander of Macedonia created a massive empire and spread the Hellenic culture and thought. It is this legacy which allowed Christianity to be spread throughout the ancient world, using the Greek language as vehicle.

Mr. Nimetz, please advise The FYROM's leadership to stop the propaganda against Greece, to stop teaching their youth that their land is under Greek occupation and to find with Greece a mutually acceptable name for their country, which will be compatible with all its neighbors and will serve as a unifying force for all of its multifaceted population. This will then promote the Euro-Atlantic integration of The FYROM, entrance into EU and good neighborly relations.

Sincerely,

Nina Gatzoulis  
Supreme President

Maria Hatzinakos  
Supreme Secretary

Dr. Antonios Papadopoulos  
Supreme Vice-President