

Let Not The Light  
Of Freedom  
Be Extinguished!

AMERISKA DOMOVINA

AMERISKA DOMOVINA

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## Memo from Madeline...



by Madeline D. Debevec

The people at the Fine Arts Association in Willoughby, Ohio are gearing up for a huge celebration of the facility's 35th anniversary this weekend.

One of the featured attractions at the celebration, 38660 Mentor Ave., will be an 8 p.m. Oct. 3 benefit concert by former Fine Arts student and current Metropolitan Opera performer **Heidi Skok**, daughter of Lake County Probate Court Judge **Fred V. Skok**.

A champagne reception will follow the concert in the Corn- ing Auditorium. For further information call 951-6637.

Announcement is made of the engagement of **Mary Beth Delaney**, daughter of Janet M. Delaney, 5158 Chestnut Hill, Willoughby Rd., Willoughby Hills, Ohio, to **Steven Rus**, son of Joe and Irena Rus, 30821 Meadowbrook Dr., Willoughby Hills.

The bride-to-be is a 1985 graduate of South High School in Willoughby and 1991 graduate of Kent State University. She is a customer service representative for Progressive Insurance Co. Her fiancé is a 1985 graduate of St. Joseph High School in Cleveland and 1992 graduate of the University of Akron. He is a Hardware Engineer for Micro Dimension's in Mentor.

The wedding is November 14 in St. Noel's Catholic Church in Willoughby Hills.

Received the following post card from Slovenia with a beautiful picture of Marija Pomagaj, Brezje na Goren- skem church, "Best regards to both of you from Brezje. Tina, Tony, Eddie and Mary (Stepec)."

**Mark Hull** of Lakewood, Ohio has been named the National Winner of Mars Settlement Illustration contest, that is, the 1st place in the NASA/NSTA Space Science Student Involvement Program in general illustration category. NSTA is National Science Teachers Association.

As a result, Mark has been invited to attend the symposium of this organization in Orlando, Florida (Cocoa Beach) along with his Lakewood High art instructor and Mr. A. Alan Penn, vocational director of West Shore Vocational District, with all expenses

(Continued on page 5)



## Los Angeles rally supports Bosnia

On Monday, August 10, a rally in support of Bosnia-Herzegovina was held before the Federal Building in Los Angeles. Leading the support were the Croatian-Americans largely from the San Pedro area. The speakers represented many religions: the Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and many ethnic groups, the Croatian, Slovenian, Bosnian, being in the majority. Mark Ryavec spoke for the Slovenian Americans in support of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Picture shows Ernest Ryavec, right, with an United States of America flag and his friend, Steve Cataudella with a Slovenian flag which he volunteered to carry at the rally. Steve came to support Bosnia and to show support for his Dalmatian neighbors against Serbian terror.

Steve was born in Calabria, served in the Italian Army in WWII and is retired from TRW, Los Angeles.

—Ernie



Mary Beth Delaney is engaged to Steven Rus

## Iz Clevelanda in okolice

### Obisk Slovenije—

Urednik namerava 14. oktobra odpotovati na dvotedenski obisk Slovenije. Za številko AD, ki bo izšla 22. oktobra, bo moral nekaj slovenskih strani pripraviti precej vnaprej. Tisti, ki bi želeli dopise za tisto številko, so naprošeni, da jih pravočasno dostavijo. Če bo možno, bo urednik za omenjeno številko poslal preko faxa poročilo o najnovejših vesteh iz Slovenije.

### Občni zbor—

Balincarski klub Slovenske pristave naznanja, da se bo to nedeljo ob dveh popoldne na SP pričel občni zbor. Članstvo je vabljen, da se občnega zbora udeleži. Po zboru bo večerja. Na občnem zboru bo klub počastil letošnje zmagovalce, ki so pri moških Jože Sojer in Milan Pezerovic, pri ženskah pa Rozi Pezerovic in Angelca Hribar.

### Skupno sv. obhajilo—

Oltarno društvo sv. Vida ima skupno sv. obhajilo to nedeljo pri osmi sv. maši. Popoldan ob 1.30 bo sestanek v družabni sobi. Članice vabljen!

### LILJA ima občni zbor—

Dramatsko društvo Lilija ima svoj redni občni zbor v ponedeljek, 5. oktobra, ob 7. uri zvečer v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Avenue. Članstvo vljudno vabljen.

### Krofi—

Oltarno društvo pri Sv. Vidu bo imelo prodajo krofov v soboto, 10. oktobra, od 8. zj. dalje, kot običajno v društveni sobi avditorija.

### Bush se zahvalil—

Iz veleposlaništva Slovenije v Washingtonu smo prejeli kopijo zahvalnega pisma, ki ga je bil predsednik George Bush naslovil na slovenskega predsednika Milana Kučana. Kučan je bil izrazil sočustvovanje vsem prizadetim zaradi divjanja orkana Andrew na Floridi, v Louisiani in drugih državah.

### Izredna podpora—

G. Bogomir Pfeifer, Sedona, Arizona, je poklonil \$100 v podporo Ameriški domovini in sicer v spomin pok. Jožeta Melaherja. Prav tako je g. Pfeifer poklonil \$100 našemu listu, v spomin svojega brata in domobranca, Dragota Pfeiferja. Za podporo se iskreno zahvaljujemo.

### Ali bi pomagali?—

Slovenski dom za ostarele potrebuje prostovoljke(-ce) za pomoč pri različnih delih. Ako bi bili pripravljena žrtvovati nekaj svojega časa v dobrodelni namen, pokličite za več informacije Kit Meister na 486-0268, med delovnikom seveda.

### Koncert Fantov na vasi—

Moški zbor Fantje na vasi vas vabi na koncert to soboto zvečer v SND na St. Clairju. Zbor praznuje letos 15-letnico. Ob 5. pop. bo sv. maša v cerkvi sv. Vida. Vrata pri SND bodo odprta ob 6.15 in bo na voljo pred koncertom prigrizek. Koncert se bo pričel ob 7.30, sledil bo ples, za katerega bo igral Alpski sekstet. Proste mize bodo pripravljene pred in po koncertu. Vstopnice za koncert boste lahko dobili pri vhodu v dvorano.

### Obisk—

Preteklo soboto in nedeljo so Cleveland obiskali slovenski zunanji minister dr. Dimitrij Rupel z ženo, dr. Ernest Petrič in nekateri drugi uslužbenici zunanjega ministrstva. Namen obisk je bila želja dr. Rupla, da se zahvali tukajšnjim rojakom za njih podporo v kampanji za ameriško priznanje Slovenije. To željo je tudi izpolnil. O negativnem obnašanju nekaterih ne bomo tu pisali, bo pa to imelo prav tako negativne posledice za našo skupnost, kajti je to bilo za nekatere svojevrsten »rubikon«.

### Zahvalna sv. maša—

Obveščeni smo, da bo v nedeljo, 8. novembra, popoldne ob dveh v katedrali sv. Janeza zahvalna sv. maša za neodvisno in od ZDA priznано Slovenijo. Glavni celebrant slovenske maše bo prevz. škof A. Edward Pevec.

### Martinovanje—

Štajersko in prekmursko martinovanje bo v soboto, 24. oktobra. Za vstopnice in več informacije, telefonirajte ali 731-5826 ali 261-5277.

Belokranjsko martinovanje bo pa v soboto, 14. novembra. Tudi pri Belokranjcih so vstopnice že v predprodaji. Za rezervacijo in več informacije, pokličite 481-3308 ali go. Vido Rupnik, tajnico kluba, na 289-0843.

### Spominski darovi—

Mary R. Zgonc, Cleveland, O., je darovala \$25 v podporo našemu listu, v spomin moža Franka (Ziggy) Zgonc.

Rose Komochar, Chagrin Falls, O., je darovala \$15, v spomin 4. obletnice smrti moža Martina Komochar.

Frances Mavko, Marblehead, Mass., je pa poklonila \$10, v spomin očeta Valentina Mavko.

Darovalkam naša iskrena hvala!

### Cenejši telefon—


AT&T sporoča, da je podaljšala najnižjo ceno za poklice v Slovenijo za dve uri in sicer od polnoči do 7. ure zjutraj.

# 100 WORDS

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by  
**John Mercina**

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6. PRAISE AND HONORS FOR THE NON-PARTICIPANTS - SPET NOVI HEROJI !
7. START THE PROJECT AGAIN - Z BOŽJO POMOĆJO !



## Ski Colorado

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Sample Colorado: ASPEN. If you're looking for over 3,500 skiable acres, glitzy nightlife, spectacular scenery and celebrity-watching, try Aspen. Aspen is also famous for its downhill and cross-country trails, snow shoeing, shopping and the World Cup races, gallery hopping, theater and restaurants. It was rated No. 1 for apres-ski and nightlife activities by SKI magazine readers.

Sample Colorado: STEAMBOAT SPRINGS. Two new quads, an 8 passenger gondola, 7 double chairs, 6 triples and the Elkhead Quad transport passengers to over 100 trails quickly and comfortably. Downtown Steamboat sports 100 years of Western history, from summer cattle drives to winter ski jumping and snow carnivals. Skiers of all ages and abilities, including 30 Olympians, have chosen Steamboat's famed 27 feet of "Champagne Powder" to train in.

Sample Colorado: BRECKENRIDGE offers three spectacular mountains amid Victorian ambience, 1,600 acres and 16 connected ski lifts to speed skiers to the peak. Twenty-four kilometers of groomed cross-country trails, ice skating, snow mobiling and popular walking tours of the historic district are just a few of the activities Breckenridge has to offer. American, German and French restaurants and apres-ski lounges draw skiers when the sun goes down.

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Sample Colorado: VAIL. One of the largest and most popular resorts, Vail boasts 4,000 skiable acres and 20 lifts which mean a quick trip to the top. The Austrian flavor of Vail Village promises everything from continental cuisine to home-brewed beer and brats.

There's plenty more Colorado. Call the travel professionals at Euclid Travel to choose the Colorado you want to ski this winter. Call on Donna, Pat and Sandy at 261-1050 and start waxing those skis!

### Correction

Two additional names that were omitted by this writer in the special "Freedom" edition set for distribution on October 1 are Frank and Toncka Urankar.

Both Frank and Toncka played significant roles when activities occurred in late June, 1991 and until its resolution in April 1992.

Both are active members at St. Mary's parish (Cleveland, Ohio) and Slomšek Krožek plus other activities. My apologies.

I also note the untiring and continuing roles played by Jim and Madeline Debevec and that of the Ameriška Domovina. Both Jim and Madeline and the AD have never waived in their support for a true democratic form of government in

Slovenia and continue to provide a tradition of informing the public, whether one agrees or disagrees, of events occurring at home or in Slovenia.

S.J. Kuhar

### Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to express our THANKS for a pleasant afternoon spent at the past Sunday Brunch sponsored by the Friends of the Slovenian National Home.

We believe this was one of the best buffets prepared by Jean Krizman and her crew of volunteers and we definitely had generous servings.


We understand that due to a last minute cancellation by the advertised group of singers that the Friends were very fortunate to obtain the services of the Cleveland Lake Erie Button Box Players, and the vocal renditions by Delores Mihelich and her daughter, Chrissy Mihelich-Hibbs and Edward Kenik assisted by the popular Don and Rose Slogar ensemble.

We are looking forward to the Spring Brunch and will certainly try to interest more of our church members to attend.

Just to say in closing we really enjoyed the afternoon and found the entertainment to be most professional and musically pleasing to the enthusiastic audience of almost 300. Thank you, Friends.

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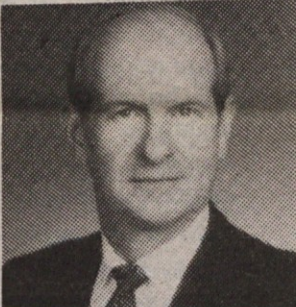


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# Another Escapee's Version of Slovenian Holocaust

A lot has already been written about the last days of May in '45 when the English Army treacherously delivered us to Tito's partisans. I, too, as a student in the 4th grade went by foot from Velika Gaber to the fields of Vetrinj in Carinthia.

The first night on this journey I spent sleeping in Brdo near Kranj. A mansion was open and empty. With my younger brother we chose a room and spent the night on the floor.

After about a week of difficult traveling, we beat our way to the camp in the fields of Vetrinj. The grass was our bed, the sky our covering.

When the Slovenian Homeguardsmen started to be returned to the so-called "Italy," my brother, Joe, came on the eve of departure and invited me to go along with him, so that I would continue my studies in Italy.

Without thinking, I reported to him the next day. They got me dressed in a Homeguard uniform so that I would travel more easily as a soldier. That very same day we were brought on trucks to the railroad station. After a thorough inspection we were loaded into cattle freight cars and locked in. One of the Homeguardsmen luckily succeeded in hiding his gun in a little military canteen. The train departed.

Soon it stopped. Partisan rifle butts began beating through the freight car. "White dogs, now you're in partisan hands!"

The young men looked at one another. A silent sadness settled on them. Yet still with the hope that the English had not betrayed them.

The freight car doors opened. Two partisans climbed inside. For a while the two stared silently. Then a sharp voice was heard.

"Got a watch or gold jewelry? You won't need that anymore."

My brother took the watch off of his hand, looked at me and said:

"I'd give it to you, but they'll take it from you."

He handed it to the partisan. The tovarish forgot to say thank you. The two collected an even dozen. Visibly satisfied they closed the freight car.

Slowly the train began the way of the cross towards Kranj. The same kind of spectacle was repeated at each station, except that everything was becoming worse. They beat and humiliated the Homeguardsmen.

In Kranj we stepped out onto the railroad station. With a "trudging" step we ran towards the barracks in the northern end of the city. Kranj "dames" stood in lines along the street. They spat at us, threw stones and screamed that it was necessary to kill the white occupation traitors. This soon happened.

On arrival at the barracks the soldiers were immediately separated from the civilians. Luckily I had civilian pants in my backpack. I had lost my jacket during the run. I quickly changed clothes and mingled among the civilians.

For a few days we lived

beneath the open sky: in the sun, the rain and the wind. The nights were cool, while the May sun roasted us in the daytime. After several days we even received our first food: brown water in which tiny pine needles were floating. Since I did not have my ration I remained without the cooked water.

The next day I scrounged up a rusty tin can in the bushes. Luckily it was still whole. I also found a piece of a spoon in the leaves. It was without a handle. Thus the "piksna" and crippled spoon nourished me the entire time of my partisan encampment. In addition to this, lice and bedbugs molested us.

After living some three weeks in Kranj, we were led away one night on foot towards Šentvid to the diocesan institution. I found myself in a large room, where we were packed like "sardines." Here we received food once a day. Sometimes in the morning, and then the next day in the evening. Towards the end we were also entitled to a bit of corn bread.

I always remember the Jesuit Brother Sušnik gratefully. At times he gave up a piece of his

bread for me. He said:

"You're still young, you need it more than I do."

Well, he needed it, too, for he was just skin and bones.

Thanks, Brother Joe!

After some interrogation by an officer of OZNA, having said, "You didn't know about us partisans?" I found myself at an assembly place. From there every night Homeguardsmen and civilians were being carted away into the night. Only their clothing was coming back.

As dusk was falling a partisan came and took me to a room among other fellow-sufferers. I shall probably never find out who my rescuer was. I would like to thank him.

To return to Kranj. There were six of us brothers in the partisan woods at Kranj. Only I and Milan survived; Milan who had saved himself from the embrace of the abyss at Rog, in a miraculous way after three days, after he had tried to eat human flesh and lick stones to cool his parched and swollen tongue.

He now lives in Cleveland, in America. The other four brothers found their silent home along with thousands of

others in the Kočevje depths.

I saw my brother, Anton, for the last time in Kranj. He stood in line with other Homeguardsmen, the policemen, since he was in the police service. With our brother, Ignatius, he had guarded Ljubljana's Bishop Rožman during the war.

He was barefoot and had a pair of torn partisan shoes hung around his neck. One of the partisans had taken his from him and given him his own. He had to hang them around his neck because he could not wear them; they were too large.

That is how he continued his way of the cross, barefoot, all the way to the pit of death. For a moment our glances met. He grinned at me with his characteristic smile as though he wanted to encourage me.

Thanks, dear Tony, for your last brotherly smile, which has been accompanying me for 47 years already. How much I would have liked to return it, but I did not have it. I know how difficult and thorny a path it must have been for a barefooted pilgrim from Kranj

to Kočevski Rog.

Your graves, dear Slovenian Homeguardsmen, are becoming holier and dearer every day. We like to make the pilgrimage, so that from your sacrifices we get new strength and we deepen our faith in God and in a more beautiful future because of which you, our Slovenian martyrs, rest in the pits and forests.

—Ciril Zajec

Translated from the Slovenian by Joseph Zelle.

Source: Slovenec

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## Death Notices

### PAULINE BUBNICK

Pauline Bubnick (nee Dekleva) passed away on September 20th at her home in Independence, Ohio. She was 90 years old.

Mrs. Bubnick was born in Yugoslavia and came to the United States when she was 28 years old.

She is the wife of the late Frank Bubnick. She is survived by her daughter Pauline (Mrs. George) Englehart; grandchildren Thomas (wife Mary Jo), Laura, Richard (wife Susan); and great-grandchildren Julia and Daniel.

She is the daughter of the late Anton and Ursa (nee Tomazic) and sister of the following, all deceased: Ursa Bubnick, Maria Samsa, Anton, Antonia, Alojz, Franc and Zdravko.

Mrs. Bubnick was a member of Newburgh and Maple Heights Pensioners, SNPJ Najutrovem No. 139 and Danica No. 34 AMLA.

Funeral services were held at St. Lawrence Church on September 20th at 9:30 a.m. Interment was in All Souls Cemetery.

Arrangements were handled by the Fortuna Funeral Home, 5316 Fleet Ave., Cleveland.

### CECELIA MRSNIK

Cecelia Mrsnik (nee Bam-bic), 84, passed away in Richmond Heights General Hospital on Saturday, September 26. Cecelia was born in Slovenia. She was a 50-year resident of Euclid.

Cecelia was a member of PSWA No. 3, SNPJ No. 53, and the Slovenian Pensioners of Euclid.

She was the widow of Tony who died in 1973; the mother of Stana Grill; grandmother of three; and great-grandmother of four.

Visitation was held at Zele Funeral Home. Funeral services were Monday at St. Mary Church. Burial was in All Souls Cemetery.

### FRANCES MAROLT

Frances Marolt (nee Srakar), 76, a lifetime resident of Cleveland, died Thursday, September 24 in Wickliffe Country Place.

Frances was the widow of Edward who died in 1989, the sister of Mrs. Anthony (Alice) Laurich; aunt of many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Frank and Adolph.

Frances was a member of St. Mary Altar and Rosary Society, Waterloo Pensioners, AMLA No. 45 Modern Crusaders.

Visitation was at Zele Funeral Home. Funeral services were Saturday, September 26 at St. Mary Church. Burial was in All Souls Cemetery.

Contributions in her memory to St. Mary Church would be appreciated by the family.

## Meeting with Rupel, Petric

(Report and Commentary)

On September 26 at the headquarters of the fraternal organization, American Mutual Life Association (AMLA aka SDZ) in Cleveland, Ohio, three Slovenian governmental officials met with representatives of the United Americans for Slovenia (hoc committee) (UAS) and invited officers and members of AMLA.

The three officials were Dr. Dimitrij Rupel, foreign minister, Dr. Ernest Petrič, designated Slovenian Ambassador to the United States of America, and Andrej Logar, office of Foreign Affairs. Absent was Jelko Kacin, minister of information.

The primary purpose of the trip to Cleveland, said Dr. Rupel, was to personally thank on behalf of the entire Slovenian government, the UAS, and all other involved individuals and organizations for the efforts to have the United States government recognize an independent and sovereign country of Slovenia. After nine months of work this act was accomplished in April 1992.

The officials were introduced by Edmund Turk, chairman, UAS, and then by first vice-president of AMLA, Anna Mae Mannion. Mr. Stanley Zihel, president, AMLA, was not present due to out-of-town obligations.

Dr. Rupel gave an extended overview of past and current developments in Slovenia, such as acceptance into the United Nations as a bona fide new member plus the announcement of honorary consulate in Cleveland for Dr. Karl Bonutti until a permanent position is established with a target date in 1993.

Slovenia's economy, according to Dr. Rupel, is doing fairly well compared to the remaining republics of ex-Yugoslavia. He stated that Slovenia has a \$1.0 billion in foreign currency reserves and that unemployment is at 10%. He also noted that the Slovenian currency, tolar, was initially on a 1:1 ratio with the Yugoslav dinar while currently the ratio is 1:50.

Inflation is at two percent (2%), stated Rupel, without explaining whether it is a two percent annual rate or two percent per month which would mean a 24% annual rate of inflation.

Rupel's last comments prior

to a question and answer session were that Slovenia, in the eyes of the USA, is "a success story" in the terms of having "close cooperation" with the USA and other, mainly European countries, with a "moderately led democratic form of government."

Two points of concern were raised by this writer:

First was the question of dual citizenship, particularly those forced out of Slovenia due to their religious and/or political beliefs that were contrary to those of the Slovenian Communist party who governed Slovenia from the mid-1940s until 1990.

Both Drs. Rupel and Petrič stated that while dual citizenship is not the most desired nor advantageous allowance for a government, Slovenia is allowing for dual citizenship provided a person requests citizenship. Dr. Petrič also stated that his office in Washington, D.C. would be more than accommodating to those interested in the matter.

It is also noted that this request will not bear an expense to the applicant(s). And one will NOT lose current citizenship nor be required to renounce their current citizenship if residing in another country. This matter has significance for the second and more sensitive concern.

This is, the question of compensation and reparations for those individuals (or organizations, such as the Catholic Church) that had their property confiscated and/or seized by the government prior, during, or after World War II and the civil war inside Slovenia.

Current Slovenian law does NOT allow ownership of land with property (i.e., building, et al) unless one is a citizen of Slovenia. Therefore, the first concern is directly tied to this concern.

Both Drs. Rupel and Petrič indicated that there are currently two legislative enactments regarding this matter. That is, denationalization and privatization (of property). The primary purpose is to have a compensating mechanism in place through legal channels that will allow for funding of those persons or entities that had property seized illegally by the former regime. The current formula is to have 10% of all proceeds through these two acts available for reparations.

This writer again restated the concern as in all terms of

fairness, equity and justice these two methods will not be of much practical value as those most affected by the seizures are now in their late 60s, 70s, or 80s, and would most likely die prior to receiving a just and fair settlement.

This writer stressed to both Drs. Rupel and Petrič a more fair and just resolution would be a "blanket" funding to meet mainly the medical and spiritual needs of the elderly plus a means of concrete demonstration to reconcile the lingering differences and bitterness left since World War II within our own respective communities and with the new government.

While Dr. Rupel kept stressing "close cooperation" it has mainly been a one-way street with the American Slovenian communities providing support continuously for various endeavors for nearly five decades without receiving much from Slovenia; in especially the last three years.

The question here is really one of credibility and substance.

In Dr. Rupel's own book of essays entitled "Slovenstvo-kot politično prepričanje (1992)" Dr. Rupel gave a rather unique and soap opera perspective of the Greater Cleveland American Slovenian communities through an article entitled "Emigranti," (pgs. 149-170).

A very superficial understanding of the needs and concerns of the many individuals and organizations appear in Dr. Rupel's perspective, deriding rather than seeking to understand the many efforts made for over 100 years where culture and heritage still exists.

A second concern is how committed is the new government toward resolving a moral wrong as has been accomplished already by the German government toward Jewish

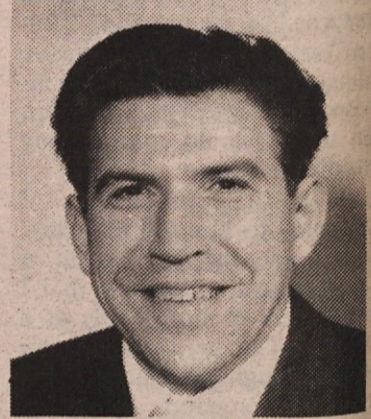
people and our own USA government toward those of Japanese descent whose property and goods were confiscated and seized by the USA while at the same time placing various USA citizens of Japanese descent in concentration camps in the USA during the Second World War.

The same thing occurred in Slovenia: a ruthless and senseless seizure of property, land, and goods by a country against its own people. The only difference between the

(Continued on page 5)

## In Loving Memory

of the  
Fourth Anniversary  
of



**Louis M. Krivacic**  
who died October 3, 1988

*Before our eyes he faded,  
growing weaker every day,  
doing all we could to save him,  
until God took him away.  
Never shall we cease to love him.  
Never shall his memory fade.  
Sweetest love forever lingers  
around his sweet and peaceful  
grave.*

Devoted wife — Janet  
Loving father of  
Louis, wife Jeannette  
Beloved grandfather of  
Louis, David and Katherine


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# Memo

(Continued from page 1)

paid. His illustration depicts an elaborate planet Mars settlement in a graphic form, which will be displayed throughout the country in the near future. Mark is the son of Gary and Mara (Cerar) Hull and the brother of Annamaria of Lakewood. He is a graduate this year of Lakewood High School and is planning a career as either illustrator or graphic artist, just as his dad is. His mother, Mara, is active in Slovenian events and has written articles for Ameriška Domovina.

Mark, your family, uncles, aunts, and numerous cousins want you to know how proud they are of you, and wish you full success in your endeavors.

\* \* \*

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School announces the nominees for induction into the school's Hall of Fame which will take place Friday evening, November 6 at The Manor in Euclid, Ohio.

Among those to be honored is **Mrs. Sally Furlich**, who will be enshrined posthumously. She served on the staff of St. Joseph High for 13 years and continued to be a loyal and faithful supporter of VASJ until her death this past March.

Also being inducted into the Hall of Fame is **Ronald J. Suster**, State Representative. Ron earned a BA degree in '64 and from Western Reserve University, and his JD degree in 1967 from Case Western Reserve.

His previous posts include Ass't Law Director, City of Cleveland; Ass't. County Prosecutor for Cuyahoga County; and part-time Ass't. Attorney General for the State of Ohio, a position he held until his election to the State Legislature in 1980.

Ron served as Law Director of the City of Highland Heights in 1975 through 1976. He was a member of the Ohio Board of Bar Examiners from 1977 to 1982, and was its Chairman in 1982.

In 1980 Suster was first elected to the Ohio House of Representatives where he has continued to this day.

Ron has been an outspoken advocate against abortion and has sponsored numerous pro-life bills, including Ohio's parental notification law which restricts a minor's ability to have an abortion without notifying her parents. In addition, Ron has worked hard to ensure adequate state funding for private education.

He has been married to the former Patricia Hovevar since 1974. They live in Euclid with their three teenage children: Jennifer, Joseph and Michael.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zalar, 7662 Hidden Valley Drive, Kirtland, announce the engagement of their daughter, **Tanya**, to **Dale Boling**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Boling of Port Clinton, Ohio.

The bride-to-be is a 1986 graduate of Lake Catholic High School in Mentor and a 1991 graduate of Ohio University in Athens. She is a programmer/analyst for Lubrizol



Mark Hull

Corp. in Wickliffe. Her fiance is a 1986 graduate of Danbury High School and a 1990 graduate of Ohio University. He is an electrical engineer for Ohio Power Co. in Canton.

The wedding is Nov. 21 in Chapel of the Divine Word Catholic Church in Kirtland.

\* \* \*

Announcement is made of the engagement of **Denise Anne Letnik**, daughter of Anice Brumen of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, and John Letnik of Toronto, to **Lt. Robert John Cable**, son of Joan J. Cable, 932 E. 218th St., Euclid, Ohio.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Seneca College and is executive administrator of Captain John's in Toronto. Her fiance is a 1982 graduate of Euclid High School and a 1987 graduate of Cleveland State University. He was commissioned into the Navy from Aviation Officers Candidate School in Pensacola, Fla. in 1988. He is a lieutenant in the Navy stationed in Jacksonville, Fla.

The wedding is Oct. 24 in St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto.

\* \* \*

Received the following beautiful post card from Šmarješke Toplice (health spa) in Slovenia: "Dear Madeline and Jim, Super, super tour. Absolutely beautiful weather every day. Visited many cities, villages. Almost all the people we talked to were satisfied and happy. We are spending a week at this spa — this is the place for you two: swimming, massages, therapy tea, baths, etc. Much construction and renovation going on everywhere. Nasvidenje — **Ann and Sophie O. (Opeka)**

# Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

Slovenians and those of Japanese descent is while Slovenians were forced to renounce their rights and leave their homeland, Japanese Americans were at least allowed to stay in the USA.

The time has come for the new government to move; and move quickly, toward resolving this concern rather than establishing legal roadblocks and an impractical means to satisfy a moral wrong and injustice.

In conjunction with this meeting an announcement of profound magnitude that will affect all American Slovenian communities will be made in late October or early November 1992 and challenge the new Slovenian government to act in a concrete manner on this and other related concerns.

Without a resolution to this and other concerns a continuation and renewed effort to eliminate most-favored nation status for Slovenia and other available means through the legislative and executive branches of our federal government could be pursued by interested parties.

With \$1 billion in foreign currency in reserve, the means are available to resolve this concern. All that remains is the will and moral commit-

ment of Slovenian government officials to dialogue and meet with representatives of the affected individuals and related organizations of Slovenians and their offsprings living abroad.

—Stane J. Kuhar

## Freedom Issue In This Edition

The Freedom section of the American Home newspaper is included in this edition. It consists of 24 pages on 50-pound offset (heavier) newsprint.

The front page has three colors on it, making it a first for American Home. The articles are informative and interesting. We think it's one of our best efforts — ever — and hope everyone enjoys it. It's a definite keepsake.

Thanks to the advertisers who made it all possible!

James V. Debevec  
Publisher

## St. Vitus History

Enclosed please find check for which I would greatly appreciate 5 copies of the St. Vitus insert in the August 20 issue of American Home. My grandchildren will be delighted to read the history of St. Vitus and the Slovenian people.

Heartfelt congratulations to all who participated in this project. God bless and reward you all abundantly!

Frances J. Cimperman  
Cleveland, Ohio

# Events...

Saturday, Oct. 3

Fantje na Vasi 15th anniversary concert at the St. Clair Slovenian National Home. For more information call (216) 352-7455.

SUNDAY, OCT. 4

Slovenian Women's Union Branch 47, Wine Festival and Bake Sale at the Slovenian National Home in Maple Hts. Continuous music 2 to 8. All invited.

Sunday, Oct. 4

Upstairs, Downstairs dance at Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Ave., Euclid. Benefit the Polka Hall of Fame. Donation \$6.

Friday, Oct. 9

P.S.W.A. Circle 7 Fall Card Party, Waterloo Workmen's Hall, 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets \$2.50. Door prizes & refreshments.

Sunday, Oct. 11

St. Mary's School Alumni, 2nd Reunion. For tickets write Bea Jerkic, 414 E. 274 St., Euclid, OH 44132 and enclose a self-addressed envelope and check for \$15 made out to St. Mary's School Alumni.

Sunday, Oct. 11

Newburgh-Maple Hts. Pensioner Club dinner and dance. Serving at 2 p.m., music 3 to 7 at Slovenian National Home on E. 80th St. Donation \$13.

Sunday, Oct. 11

Annual Card Party and Raffle of Maximilian Court 2268 Catholic Order of Foresters in St. Vitus auditorium, 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 18

Annual Artists and crafts Show and Sale sponsored by Slovenian American National Art Guild at the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio.

Sunday, Oct. 18

Sunday afternoon dance, 4 to 8 p.m. at the West Park Slovenian Club, 4583 West 130 St., Cleveland. Music by Joey Tomsick.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Zarja Fall Concert beginning with sit-down dinner served 5 - 6:30 p.m., concert at 7 p.m., followed by dancing to Ray Polantz Orch. Tickets \$15 call 382-2258, 531-5542, or 531-8402.

Sunday, Oct. 25

St. Vitus Alumni Fifth Annual Honoree Day with noon Mass followed by family-style dinner in auditorium at 1:30. Reservations \$15 to Mr. F. Raymond Gobec, 10762 Wilson Mills Rd., Chardon, OH 44024. Call 431-3590 or 383-0701.

Nov. 14

Jadran Singing Society presents "Na sončni strani alp" at Slovenian Workmen's Home, 15335 Waterloo Rd. Dinner 5 to 6:30 p.m., program 7 to 8, dancing 8:30 to 12:30 a.m. Donation \$15.

Sunday, Nov. 15

Sunday afternoon dance at West Park Slovenian Club, 4583 West 130th St., Cleveland. Music by Al Markic.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Pre-Thanksgiving Jam Session, Club of Association, Slovenian National Home, lower hall, 6417 St. Clair Ave., 7 p.m. until ???

Thursday, November 26

Tony's Thanksgiving Polka Party at Marriott Society Center, 127 Public Square, downtown Cleveland. For further details call 1-800-800-5981.


## IN CONCERT



### FANTJE NA VASI,

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 — 7:30 p.m.**  
Slovenian National Home, St. Clair.


**MASS OF THANKSGIVING 5:00 p.m., St. Vitus Church**  
Doors open 6:15 for dinner or sandwiches.  
For reserved seating or more information contact  
**Tom Stepec (731-5011), Tom Slak (881-1725),**  
or **John Srsen (946-9607)**



# Tanya Griffih

as

# Amelia Earhart



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## Surprise birthday, retirement party

Is a surprise ever a complete surprise? I had reason to suspect that something was being planned for my birthday and retirement, but it was all I knew. Can you believe my grandchildren Steven and Luke, 8 and 5 never gave it away. Christine (20 months) probably would have if her vocabulary was more than "Mommy, daddy, and grammy".

What a day! What a party! I'd been instructed not to find any excuse to go north of the house after 2 p.m. Friday and only when instructed on Saturday, August 29.

There were early morning arrivals on Saturday. Mary Yanick and Ken, Adele and Dave Hansen all there to assist my daughter and my son-in-law, Steve and Linda Demanett with all the preparations "north of the house."

Delicious aromas coming from the kitchen. Sarma, Slovenske klobase, etc., all the typical Slovenian dishes. And I'm sure the same was happening at Roy and Judy Stainfields house where Sherry too was filling the oven.

Around 2 p.m. guests started to arrive. I was invited out of "seclusion" (from my separate residence on the farm). My first tears of joy: Hank and Jane Schley from Arizona, Dave (nephew) and

his wife Doreen (nee Gorup) from Texas, Dale Popic, daughters, and Vanessa from Florida. The aforementioned are all former Greater Clevelanders.

With these earliest guests I was allowed north of the house. What a beautiful set-up. A huge canopy sheltering several tables at which all would feast. On each table not one but a bouquet of red carnations. The Slovenian Nagel! My eyes welled up again. And what an elegant set-up for serving the food. Thanks, Bess Krashoc for the splendid food warmers.

By five or so there seemed to be late comers, several had large black cases. It couldn't be? An embroidered button box on the back of a jacket assured me I was right. An entire Button Box group! — The Fairport Polkateers, what a marvelous friendly ensemble of musicians. Buckets of tears. Fortunately a guest, as a joke, brought me a box of tissues. Someone knowing the sentimental person I am.

Besides out-of-state relatives and friends, thanks to Harry Brule and in spite of handicap my friend Mary Ster and her family for being there. Former neighbors Bill and Evelyn Globokar, their son Billy Jr., and his friend Clare. Also Thelma and Art Ott, Bess

Krashoc and her entire family with spouses and grandchildren, my sister-in-law Erma Schley, her daughter and sons and grandchildren, Danita Prvec and son, Barb Evans from Vienna, Jim and Dianne Sowry and children from Jefferson, Bob and Mreci Spring from Burton, my former supervisor Mary Ann Jordan and co-worker Virginia Buona from Ashtabula, then late, but not least Jimmy and Roseanne Bass.

Thanks to my son-in-law, Steve Demanett, for taping the music. Steve is from Kansas and I know a stranger to our beautiful Slovenian music played authentically on my favorite button boxes. And Dave Hansen I can't wait to view the tapes you filmed shouldering your video camera the entire afternoon. Dale Popic, too, did likewise with his compact little video. How nice it will be to relive the day again.

Many left before we remembered there were gifts to open. Such lovely cards and generous gifts. Greetings still coming from those who could not attend.

Thanks to our Creator for a beautiful afternoon (It might have been the down-pour we had on Sunday, the day after).

Why write this? To thank my son Terry Schley for making this all such an unforgettable day. And for making it possible. He is on the Island of Aruba where he is with "Air Aruba Airlines." Can you imagine planning this via International Phone calling or contacting him long distance in Miami if he happened to be there. As a matter of fact, Hurricane Andrew almost interrupted his flight home.

Terry, you must have said the sky is the limit. I couldn't have had a more perfect day. Friends I hadn't seem for ages. Relatives coming great distances to celebrate. To top it off, the refrains of button boxes and thanks to Adele Hanson, red carnations. Food and drink fit for royalty.

To Terry and Linda, "Hvala lepa" translated for you, Thanks. My heart is full for giving me a special Slovenian Day for my 73rd.

From Terry's and Linda's mom, Olga Schley, my parents were Martiņ and Josephine Pojanec who instilled in me my love for my Slovenian Heritage.

Olga M. Schley  
Dorset, Ohio

### Meeting

St. Vitus Mothers Club monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7th at 7 p.m. Our speaker will be Rebecca Jewel from VA and her topic will be nutrition. There will be refreshments, split-the-pot and door prizes.

—Sharon Fakady

### Correction

In the special "Freedom" issue accompanying today's paper, in Sec. 1, page 3, col. 4, 2nd par., line 5, is an error. The correct date is 1945 and not 1950. Our sincere apology.

### Mass of thanksgiving

There will be a Slovenian Mass of Thanksgiving at St. John Cathedral, downtown Cleveland, at 2 p.m. to celebrate Slovenia's independence.

Bishop A. Edward Pevec will be the main celebrant.



John and Jan Telich enjoy the brunch at the Slovenian National Home on Sunday, September 27.

## Kres says thanks

The Slovenian dance group Kres would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who made our picnic and dance presentation on August 30th at Pristava a success.

First, we would like to thank all those who attended the picnic. Your interest and confidence in Kres was well appreciated.

Next, we would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Zagar and Mrs. Krulc for the time they spent cooking for the picnic. We would also like to thank all the volunteers and parents who gave up their time to help us. The picnic would not have been possible without the time and help of all these individuals.

The Kres dancers would like to extend a special thank you to our teachers, Suzi Krulc, Vera Marsic, Adriana Pust, and Maggie Gobec, for all the time they spent to make our presentation and picnic possible and for their dedication and patience in teaching.

Finally, Kres would like to extend their gratitude to the Frances and Jane S. Lausche Foundation for their generous donation.

—Diana Pugel  
Secretary

### Fall Festival

The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes is holding its Annual Fall Festival and Bazaar on Rosary Sunday, October 4.

### Flu Shots

The St. Clair Health Center, located at 6407 St. Clair Ave., will be offering FLU SHOTS to anyone interested for \$12 payable at the time of visit. We are open from 8:30 until 4:30 Monday thru Friday. We look forward to meeting you.

### Proud of Slovenian heritage

Enclosed find 2 checks — both are donations to continue the work of the paper. One should be attributed to AMLA Lodge Kras No. 8 which sent me a remembrance check in lieu of flowers. The other one is to be attributed to my father's grandchildren: Greg, Margaret and Brian Sunkel.

My dad, John Lokar, was so proud of his Slovenian heritage, I'm sure he would have wanted us to keep supporting the paper.

Sincerely,  
Arlene Lokar Sunkel  
Wilmette, Ill.

### In memory of Joseph Melaher

Bogomir Pfeifer, Sedona, Arizona donated \$100.00 to the Ameriška Domovina in memory of Joseph Melaher.

### In memory of Drago Pfeifer

Bogomir Pfeifer of Sedona, Arizona also donated \$100.00 to the Ameriška Domovina in memory of his brother, Domobranec Drago Pfeifer.

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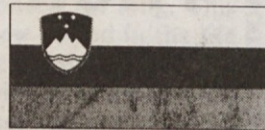






# Americans Supported

## Fight for Slovenia's



1991

# FREEDOM

This "Freedom" edition was edited and composed by James V. Debevec.

## United Americans for Slovenia Make a Difference

by Joseph Valencic

United Americans for Slovenia

*"If klobase were oil, the U. S. Marines would have been in Slovenia on June 26."*

-A bumper sticker seen at the SNPJ Slovenefest in Pennsylvania, July, 1991

That sentiment summed up the frustrations of Slovenian-Americans from coast to coast. No sooner had our homeland declared independence on June 25, 1991, when it was torn by violence and bloodshed. No one could believe what was happening to our beloved Slovenia--and it seemed the world was letting it happen. The homeland's nationhood had been legitimately decided six months earlier in a democratic plebiscite vote. Yet America was not responding to Slovenia's declaration of independence.

Television reports showed tanks barreling down Ljubljana streets strewn with glass and debris. Anxious phone calls told of cousins called up for duty by Slovenian defense forces, or vacationing relatives, missing but probably hiding from shell attacks in cellars. Closer to home, in Euclid, Ohio, the signpost for Ljubljana Avenue disappeared. Was it plucked by an over-zealous Slovene? Or was the theft a more sinister gesture?

Slovenia's very survival was at stake. Most officials in Washington and Belgrade gave no

indication of support, nor did they immediately condemn the Yugoslav Army's invasion. Heads of state were not even mentioning Slovenia by name--an ominous omission.

America's Slovenian communities reacted quickly, uniting as one voice to appeal to U. S. and world leaders to accept Slovenia as a sovereign and democratic nation. On Monday, July 1, 1991, at the height of the aggression against the Slovenian people, representatives from our country's leading Slovenian fraternal societies, parishes and cultural groups met to organize United Americans for Slovenia

(UAS). For nine months, the committee met nearly every week with a single purpose, to urge the United States to give immediate recognition to Slovenia. Any "politics" were checked at the door. Only a unified effort could make a difference for our homeland.

"The people of Slovenia have shown their commitment to a peaceful and democratic future with free and open elections," said attorney and former judge Edmund Turk, chairman of the UAS. "We feel the U. S. should now take the lead in recognizing Slovenia."

The United Americans for Slovenia grew to represent 659 organizations across the country, along with the estimated one million Americans who trace their roots to Slovenia. Support extended beyond Slovenian-American

communities, with interest from network media, national organizations like the American Red Cross, and even groups overseas. National fraternal groups, like the Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ), the American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ), the American Mutual Life Association (AMLA), Progressive Slovene Women of American (PSWA), and the Slovenian Women's Union (SWU), delivered the UAS message to outlying communities for a true grass-roots effort. From Maine to Texas and Minnesota to Hawaii, thousands of UAS postcards, petitions, national ads and calls to the White House helped Americans get President Bush to take notice of Slovenia.

Information campaigns were a critical strategy to getting the word out on Slovenia. Over the Independence Day holiday, volunteers assembled at AMLA headquarters to assemble the first of many mailings to senators, congressmen and the President. Meetings with officials soon followed. After sessions with the UAS, Senator John Glenn and Congressman Dennis Eckart sent a joint statement to President Bush supporting Slovenia. "I am profoundly disappointed that the United States continues its misguided policy of non-recognition," commented Glenn to Jim Debevec, publisher of *American Home*.

(Continued on 1B)

## Two Years of Democracy in Slovenia

*On April 25, the Slovenian Heritage Committee of Washington, D.C. sponsored its 21st annual "Know Your Slovenian Heritage" program. It was held at St. Ann's Church in Washington. Master of Ceremonies was James Cesnik the Washington Slovenian Choral Society, under the direction of Vladimir Pregelj, performed a number of Slovenian songs, and Mr. Pregelj read a number of aphorisms in Slovenian, with English translations read by Mr. Cesnik. Mr. Gregor Zore of the Office of Slovenia in Washington made brief remarks about Slovenia, this in the absence of Dr. Ernest Petrič, who was attending the Slovenian Day in New York City. American Home Slovenian editor Dr. Rudolph M. Susel was guest lecturer and spoke on "Two Years of Democracy in Slovenia." The text of his remarks follows.*

Ladies and Gentlemen!

First, let me say how pleased I am to be here with you tonight. All of us, whether we are American-born or of the immigrant generation, share one very big interest in common. And that is Slovenia, the land from which we or our ancestors came.

Over the last several years, as we all know, very big, historically decisive events have been taking place in Slovenia, not to mention in what had been Yugoslavia and, indeed, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union as a whole. There are some interesting parallels between what has been going on in Slovenia and

the other nations and countries of the region. But that is a subject for another discussion.

I want to focus briefly tonight specifically on Slovenia. In spite of all the very serious political disputes that are under way there, disputes reflected just this week in the removal of the government of Prime Minister Lojze Peterle, my overriding premise is one of great optimism about Slovenia and its future. We have to look beyond transitory and even normal developments to the larger picture.

In Slovenia's case, that larger picture means a country and a nation that has in a re-

(Continued on page 4)

## American Slovenians Supported the Struggle for a Free Slovenia

Cleveland, Ohio — In the 1980's the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe found their countries in a crisis which they could not resolve themselves. Not only was there an economic crisis, there was also a fundamental loss of trust in the communist system and its economic and social order.

The movement began in Poland, but it quickly spilled over the Polish border into Soviet Union itself. In

Yugoslavia the Slovenians were the first to experience this crisis when they perceived in the attempted implementation of "nuclear school programs" a real threat to the Slovenian languages and to Slovenian national identity.

The Society of Slovenian Writers responded to the threat and touched off a wave of resistance which quickly embraced almost everyone in Slovenia who was attuned to

nationality and cultural issues, but especially both Slovenian Universities and the Academy of Arts and Sciences. Attempts from Belgrade to foil this Slovenian resistance in the bud, by force if necessary, instead advanced the resistance to the political arena.

The Society of Slovenian Writers, Slovenian Democratic Union, Slovenian Farmers' Union, Slovenian

(Continued on 1C)



Americans such as Congressman Dennis Eckart, left, helped Slovenia in their quest for United States recognition. At right is Slovenia's first Prime Minister, Lojze Peterle.

# Slovenian Emigrants in America Their Contacts and Relationship with Their Native Land

Cleveland, Ohio — Slovenians began leaving their homeland in increasing numbers in the second half of the previous century. At that time, the improvements in health care and general living conditions and several decades of peace all contributed to an increasing population growth in the Slovenian lands, even though this rate of growth was still slower than in the older countries of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

A Slovenian poet said: "If things are not right at home, the cranes fly across the sea." And in truth, the majority of Slovenians who could not find employment at home went to find it elsewhere, mainly across the sea to America, "the land of a thousand opportunities." The first emigrants were increasingly followed by new arrivals. The Slovenian emigration reached its peak in the last two decades before World War I. In those two decades alone about 110,000 people left the Carniola region (Kranjska) (Dr. J. Mal., History of Slovenian Nation (Zgodovina Slovenskega Naroda), Ljubljana 1939, pp. 1198-1201).

The Slovenian communities in America continued to grow until the 1920's when America rather abruptly closed the door to new immigrants. (Geographic Bulletin (Geografski vestnik), 1950 -Slava Lipoglavsek, Slovenian Immigrants (Slovenski izseljenci).

The Slovenian immigrants were quick and successful in finding their way in the new country. The vast majority found employment in mines and mills which were growing quickly after the end of the American Civil War in 1865. They followed the example of newcomers from other nations and joined in various societies and, later, especially in mutual benefit associations. Priests also followed Slovenians into the new world. Slovenian religious organizations, Slovenian parishes with their own churches and church halls were established where compatriots could gather even for secular meetings and performances.

Those Slovenians who became estranged from the church in their new surroundings and who came under the influence of the freethinking ideas around them, joined and began to think about their own meeting places because the church halls did not meet their needs. The churches and church halls, after all, did serve specific, but limited purposes. A thrust to establish and build National Homes developed when the life of these Slovenian immigrants became livelier, especially in the cultural and social sense. In the beginning of this century there was scarcely a Slovenian community in America that did not have at

least one National Home.

Even though those Slovenians who remained faithful to their faith and the Church gathered primarily in the church and church halls, nonetheless they too sacrificed and helped with the development and building of the National Homes. In some communities the church and National Home cooperated to the common benefit and a livelier, socially and culturally richer, community life. Stresses developed elsewhere, as the religious who, where involved with their churches, had less time to participate in the work and life in the National Home. This led to the estrangement between the faithful and the free-thinkers, which in some Slovenian communities developed into a real conflict.

In Cleveland this became very evident in the 1930's during the development of the "Yugoslav Cultural Gardens" and at the time of the visit by Bishop of Ljubljana, Dr. Gregory Rozman, and the visit of the Mayor of Ljubljana, Dr. Jure Adlesic. The separation in spirit was especially evi-

dent in the two daily newspapers: the Catholic side subscribed and read the "Ameriška Domovina" and the progressive side chose "Enakopravnost." A major number of societies, organizations, and establishments tended to support either one side or the other. A similar spiritual divorce gradually developed also in other Slovenian communities across America (and partially also in Canada).

In spite of continuing assimilation into their new world, Slovenians did not lose interest in Slovenia or break their contacts. The first generation of immigrants was firmly connected with their land of birth. Many of them were thinking about returning home when "the time was right." Some of them did indeed return, but the majority who established families in their new home stayed. Those who were born in America rapidly adapted to the new situations. "The melting pot" transformed the children of Slovenian parents into "Americans." More than one of these, especially in the years past, tried to forget as quickly as possible, or even obscure, their Slovenian "roots."

The Slovenian emigrants in  
(Continued on page 3)



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# Slovenian Emigrants in America —

(Continued from page 2)

America demonstrated their strong ties with the mother country during the First World War. A sizeable number among them chose to support the efforts for a new state of Slovenians, Croats and Serbs, and several of the most enthusiastic among them even became volunteer soldiers. The "Austrian" faction tried to hinder these efforts, but it lost all support from their countrymen when in 1917, America joined the forces of the Allies against the Central powers.

The contacts between the Slovenian emigrants in America and the motherland were also quite lively after the First World War. The nationalist and political contacts soon expanded especially in the cultural areas. An example of this development in Cleveland are especially the Dramatic Society Ivan Cankar, as well as Cultural Society Triglav and gymnastic society Orel, each of whom maintained strong ties with like institutions in Ljubljana.

All these multiple ties, especially between Cleveland and Ljubljana, led to the situation during the Second World War where the Slovenians in America immediately started supporting the mother country after the attack, occupation and partition of Slovenia by Germany and Italy.

All Slovenian organizations, societies, and institutions joined in the Slovenian American National Congress (SANS) for a united support of the mother country until she was free and reestablished. Representation on the board of SANS included both the Catholic and progressive wing. The situation was in control as long as SANS worked only for the humanitarian aid and support of the beleaguered country. Tensions, conflicts, and eventual disintegration of SANS ensured when the progressive wing under the able leadership of Louis Adamic and Etbin Kristan decided to support Tito and the partisan movement. The Catholic wing rebelled at this, because they

recognized in Tito and the partisan movement a Communist revolution.

"Union of Slovenian Churches in America" collected articles and essays from Ameriška Domovina and published them in an English translation in a small book titled "Shall Slovenia be sovietized?" The collection disclosed the activities and goals of the "Liberation Front (Osvobodilna Fronta)" and the "fight for national liberation" in Slovenia.

This booklet and its disclosures were the target of a reply by SANS in April, 1945, in a similar booklet titled "Slovenia in a Fight for Freedom," written by Mirko G. Kuhel and published in Chicago. The writer emphatically denies that the "Liberation Front" was Communist, or that the members of the national liberation army and the partisan units in Slovenia were only Communists. "It would even be an overstatement if we said that 10% of the members of the Liberation Front were Communist... Slovenia will not follow the Soviets after the end of the war... real Communism cannot succeed in Slovenia... The Communist elements that are there are included in the Liberation Front and they are all fighting to ensure Slovenians those rights which are envisioned in the American 'Bill of Rights'... in the new Slovenia, the Communist party will play a rather meager role, therefore more realistic and nationalist in character, and as such will not be dangerous." (Slovenia in a Fight for Freedom, pp. 11, 16-17)

This division among the Slovenians in America reached into every Slovenian community in America. The communities were divided so deeply that until last year cooperative efforts in the interest of the Slovenian nation in the homeland were not possible. The progressive wing continued to support the Liberation Front and afterwards the Tito regime in Slovenia. The Catholic wing, led by the Union of Catholic Parishes of America and the League of Slovenian American Slovenians which they sponsored, supported the Slovenians who fled their homeland escaping the Communist oppression to seek opportunity and freedom in foreign lands. The League helped thousands to emigrate to America and Canada and supported the move of other Slovenian refugees to South America and Australia. Both the "Ameriška Domovina" and "Amerikanski Slovenec - Glasilo KSKJ" supported the work of the League of American Slovenians.

In the years following the Second World War the progressive faction of the Slovenian settlers continued to support the Tito regime and maintained regular contacts. The Catholic wing, meanwhile,

repudiated the Tito regime and continued to inform the American public and the world at large about the Titoist oppression, lies and deceptions.

Over time some of the new settlers, especially those who came to America because of economic and not because of political reasons, began to pursue contacts with the Tito regime in the conviction that the regime would be in power "for decades, if not centuries." The majority of the political emigration firmly maintained a position of principle and refused all dealings with the Titoist regime in Slovenia.

The political emigration, the countrymen and women who fled their Slovenian homes escaping the Communist oppression in the spring of 1950 and later, did not let their anti-Titoist principles preclude an attentive watch of the developments in Slovenia and the life of the Slovenian minorities in Austria, Italy, and Hungary. With the cooperation of the Slovenian American institutions and organization, this group repeatedly intervened with the government of United States in the interest of the minorities in Trieste, Gorica, and Carinthia. It is sad to say, but ef-

orts to include in these initiatives other Slovenian institutions and organizations were, with few exceptions, unsuccessful.

Among us the signs of disintegration of the Titoist power in Slovenia did not remain unnoticed for long. This begins a new period in the life of American Slovenians and Americans of Slovenian heritage.

—V.L.



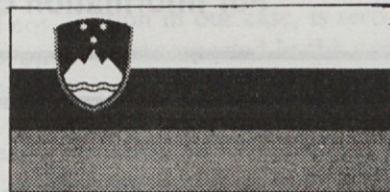
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# Two Years of Democracy in Slovenia

(Continued from page 1)

markably fast and peaceful way overthrown a 45-year long Communist dictatorship and introduced a parliamentary democracy that, in my view, is growing stronger with every day. And on top of this, Slovenia has managed within the last year, in the time since Carole Rogel spoke to you, to declare its independence of Yugoslavia. It was able to defend its independence against the Yugoslav Army late last June and early July, an event I, the Pregeljs, and possibly some others here had the opportunity to witness and experience at first hand. And, finally, Slovenia was able to win international recognition of its independence after months of delay and uncertainty, first from the European Community last January and then, importantly, on April 7, from the United States.

We should not minimize the enormity of these changes. In barely two years, Slovenia has passed from being a subordinated republic of Yugoslavia under a one-party dictatorship to a democratic country, internationally accepted as inde-

pendent.

This has been a true revolution. It is something not one of us would have believed possible as little as three or four years ago. As the chairman of the United Americans for Slovenia, Edmund J. Turk, declared at our celebration of U.S. recognition in Cleveland on April 10, Slovene Americans now for the first time in their history do have a real country they can point to as their own: independent, democratic Slovenia.

But there is one thing we have to keep in mind about revolutions of the kind Slovenia is experiencing. They do not happen in a day, week, month, or even a year. Especially not when what is involved is not just a political transfer of power from one group to another, but a transformation not only of the entire system of government, but as well the transformation of an entire social system, economic system, indeed of the philosophical basis of a society.

In a conversation with Dr. Dimitrij Rupel, Slovenia's Foreign Minister, last year, he said getting rid of the Communist regime was the easy thing, establishing a truly Western

society would be much more difficult. His view in this respect has been echoed by many others in Slovenia. And it is true. The change Slovenia has undergone from a one-party dictatorship to a multi-party pluralistic democracy is an incomparably more profound development than, say, Democrats taking the White House from Republicans, and vice versa.

I say these things because it seems to me too many of us Slovene Americans have not brought the perspective necessary for evaluating developments in Slovenia during the last two years. This is the time since April, 1990, when Slovenia through its first democratic election since before World War II voted out the Communists and their allies and gave a solid majority in parliament to

a group of non-Communist parties, grouped in an admittedly hybrid coalition known as Demos.

As a result of the Demos victory, the parties of that coalition were able to form a government under the leadership of Lojze Peterle, who was the leader of the party in the Demos coalition which won relatively the most votes, although...  
(Continued on page 5)

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The Federation of Slovenian National Homes congratulates the Republic of Slovenia in the celebration of the first year of independence. We are very proud of the fact that we gave support of this independence for Slovenia at the beginning stages of the movement. The Republic of Slovenia is now well on its way to becoming a full member of the World Community as a free and sovereign nation, having been recognized by the United States of America and virtually all other countries; having been admitted to membership in the United Nations; and each day we learn that the Republic of Slovenia has been admitted to membership in various international organizations and funds having to do with monetary and commercial opportunities for the government and especially important, the business ventures of Slovenia.

A monumental effort was undertaken, by the United Americans for Slovenia to gain recognition of the Republic of Slovenia and which efforts resulted in Slovenia being recognized by the United States at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 7, 1992. The Federation of Slovenian National Homes participated and cooperated fully in the efforts for recognition.

In addition the Federation of Slovenian National Homes also contacted many of the Slovenian Homes within the United States to urge them directly to support the push for recognition. Further, Slovenian Homes in other countries were contacted suggesting that their members and organizations urge their governments to recognize Slovenia.

We are delighted that the efforts of this Federation, of the United Americans for Slovenia and all of the individuals and organizations, came to fruition and that the Republic of Slovenia has been accepted as a free, sovereign, independent and democratic nation.

" ŽIVIJO REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA "



# 5 Democracy in Slovenia

(Continued from page 4)

though even Peterle's party, the Slovene Christian Democrats, took a relatively small percent of the overall popular vote.

Within months of coming to power, the Demos coalition began to fracture, in part because of personality differences among some of the coalition's key leaders, principally Lojze Peterle and Dimitrij Rupel, but primarily because of fairly profound ideological differences. The long-term end of this process of disintegration was the collapse of the Demos coalition and the fall of the Peterle government earlier this week and its replacement by what looks to be an essentially caretaker government under Dr. Janez Drnovsek, leader of the Liberal Democrats and a man whose past record includes service as Slovenia's representative on the former Yugoslav Federal Presidency, and indeed one year as president of that body, in effect as Yugoslavia's president. During that year Drnovsek made many contacts with the leaders of countries around the world and the apparently positive impression he made on them likely will work to Slovenia's advantage.

Just a minute to summarize what took place earlier this week. A group of parties represented in Slovenia's parliament proposed that Drnovsek be elected Prime Minister and authorized to form a new government and present it to parliament. Under Slovenia's new constitution, adopted last December, this parliamentary maneuver was perfectly legal.

Although Slovenia has its own particulars, in fact the vote in parliament last Wednesday (April 22, ed. note) reflected the fact that an absolute majority of parliament members no longer supported the Peterle government, but did support Drnovsek and the new coalition he proposed to put forward. Under the constitution, the Peterle government is to continue in office until Drnovsek forms his government and it is sworn into office. (This occurred May 14, ed. note.)

I might add that Peterle, although clearly unhappy about his removal, expressed his acceptance of the results. However much some of us may have preferred Peterle to Drnovsek or any of the others who in the last several months were put forward as alternatives to Peterle, we ought to accept the outcome too, without weakening our commitment to support Slovenia and doing what we can to assist it.

What happened in Slovenia this week was something that is quite normal in parliamentary democracies and of one thing we can be sure with respect to Slovenia: it will happen again. Our concern as Slovene Americans should be much more in wanting Slovenia to preserve and strengthen, and indeed to extend, its democratic institutions, rather than in

which person or party may be momentarily in charge of its government. And I say this as one who is in no sense friendly to or supportive of the sort of left-of-center government and attendant philosophy that Drnovsek is likely to establish. But if he and his ministers go too far left, the same parliamentary mechanisms that ended the Peterle government will work against Drnovsek.

The key to the problems the Peterle government has faced during the last two years has been the fact that there simply has not been a sufficiently strong majority in parliament to adopt the bulk of the program the government has put forward. This has been due in large part to the strong opposition provided by the so-called Reformed Communists and the former Socialist Youth, or Liberal Democrats, but also in important part to the opposition of some of the parties of the former Demos coalition, parties that were and are ideologically far to the left of Peterle's Christian Democrats.

Most of the basic laws that need to be adopted require more than a simple majority, they must have at least two-thirds support. When it was elected, Demos won about 55 percent of the vote. This has led to considerable paralysis, because there has not yet been the ability to reach acceptable compromises.

In statements he made before and after the vote last Wednesday, Drnovsek among other points committed himself to working to bring about new national elections as soon as possible. The 1991 constitution mandates such elections for no later than December of this year, but there is a broad consensus among Slovene political parties across the spectrum, as well as Slovene public opinion in general, that the elections need to be held as soon as possible. Here again the problem has been the parliament's inability to agree on an election law, which also needs at least a two-thirds vote in favor. Briefly put, the key issue is whether to focus on proportional representation, which will tend to favor smaller parties, a winner-take-all system somewhat like our own system, or a combination of the two. I am frankly not familiar with all the details of this debate, but until the parliament can agree on an election law, national elections will be delayed. And that is particularly unfortunate for Slovenia.

If we just keep in mind our own United States, for example, we can grasp how quickly public opinion can change. If we think back to this time last year, in the aftermath of the Gulf War, we will recall how President Bush's approval rating was in the 70 to 80% range. Commentators were wondering if the Democrats should even bother fielding a candidate in this year's election. And look at the situation today. It seems now that if

Bush wins reelection, he will do so mostly by default, as the least of the evils.

If we can see such a shift in the United States in less than a year, why should we assume Slovenia would be any different? It has been two years since the election in Slovenia. Look at how much has happened in these two years. And we need to remember something about those 1990 elections. They were democratic, but not as democratic as they could have been. At the time of the elections, the Communists were still in power. They had dominant control over the media. The Communist party and affiliated parties could draw on all sorts of resources. These resources were not generally available to the parties in the then Demos coalition, or they were to a much lesser degree.

This imbalance, really this unfairness, surely affected the outcome, and to the detriment of the Demos parties. I was in Slovenia during the last ten days of March, 1990, just a week or so before the first round of elections. Among others, I spent a fair bit of time with Dr. Hubert Pozarnik, then president of the Slovene Democratic Union, and with Rupel. Especially with Pozarnik I saw how he and other candidates were having to campaign hand-to-mouth, using their own money, their own cars, and so on. This while the Communist party and its allied parties, like Smole's Socialists and others, could in various ways, as noted, draw on the resources of the state.

New elections will in this respect be much more fair, much more democratic if you will. The results will reflect much more accurately the will of Slovenia's people. Also, the voters will have two more years of experience of democracy. They will have more perspective in terms of evaluating the philosophies and conduct of the various parties, and of the leaders of those parties. The government that will emerge from those elections will, accordingly, reflect the will of the people.

Given the huge number of parties active in Slovenia — and new ones are still being formed, while established ones from time to time split apart, individual personalities switch from one party to another, and so on — it is a certainty Slovenia's next government will be some kind of coalition. In philosophy it likely will be either center-left or center-right. Because, in my strong opinion, one thing is more or less permanently excluded with respect to Slovenia: a return to dictatorship, whether of the right or the left. I simply do not believe there is in Slovenia anyone able to play the role of a Fujimori, as we see today going on in Peru.

When you read the statements of some leaders of leftist parties, who talk about a rightist, clerical dictatorship emerging in Slovenia, it is ridiculous. Equally ridiculous are



Dr. Rudolph M. Susel addresses the large gathering in the Slovenian National Home on April 10 at the celebration of the U.S. recognition of Slovenia. The victory party was sponsored by the United Americans for Slovenia.

the assertions of those on the rightist, or conservative side of the spectrum who talk about a Communist plot to return to power. I am convinced the people of Slovenia would not support one or the other, even if economic circumstances were to deteriorate sharply.

The fact is that everyone in Slovenia has emerged from a two generation long experience with dictatorship. You were either for the regime or against it. There was not the broad middle ground we are so used to in parliamentary democracies, not the toleration and respect for differing points of view. The residue of this absolutist mentality, this mind-set, has remained to the present. To change it will be a gradual process. The longer Slovenia's practical experience with democracy becomes, the greater will be the sense of tolerance of others.

Many have commented about this in Slovenia already. Among the most eloquent on the point has been Lojze Peterle himself, who remarked on one occasion recently that in his view it would take two or three Slovene governments, two or three elections in Slovenia, before there would be the acceptance that just because this or that person became prime minister, or this or that party came to power, it did not mean that democracy was on its way out. But to understand something intellectually is one thing, to believe it and really act on it is quite another.

There is no way to gauge reliably at this point what will be the results of the next election in Slovenia. As a fundamentally democratic country, in essence not dissimilar to democratic Western European countries, my view is that opinion will coalesce very broadly around two perspectives, one liberal and the other conservative. Without drawing the analogy too closely or carrying it too far, sort of like Democrats and Republicans in our country.

Slovenia does seem committed — unwisely in my view — to a system that permits a multitude of political parties, much like Italy. Even so, these parties will for the most part fall into either the liberal or conservative camp, committed however to democracy and forming part of that great middle, or center, that is so

essential for the survival of democratic government. There will of course be parties and individuals on the fringes, extremists, but these will remain just that, on the fringe. They will not be able to destroy what Slovenia has finally achieved: democracy.

In summary, then, while we as Slovene Americans can and indeed should remain concerned about what goes on in Slovenia, our concern needs to be constructive, in no sense pessimistic. The people of Slovenia have taken the first crucial steps toward stable, permanent democracy. They will continue. We need in whatever ways make themselves available to us to do what we can to encourage and to help them.

And what we especially need to do in precisely what you here tonight are doing in the Washington area: to stay together as an active Slovene American community, diverse as we are in so many other ways, but one in terms of our identification with our common heritage, and one in our commitment to a free and democratic Slovenia, a country that in the next few years will be making its appearance on the maps in American classrooms, in the United Nations, and in every other way a sovereign nation, the Slovene nation in our case, is recognized and respected in the world.

Let us do what we can to ensure that the news about Slovenia in the coming several years will be as positive as it has been in the past several. Hopefully, the person you invite to speak to you next year at about this time will be able to be even more optimistic than I have been. Thank you very much for your kind attention.



## Slovenian Americans in action — commentary and perspective

by Stane J. Kuhar

The headline read: "Cleveland, Wednesday, June 26, 1991. Croatia, Slovenia declared free."

Those simple words revealed the result of determination and resolve by the Republic of Slovenia to achieve its independence after being consolidated into Yugoslavia 73 years ago; and after nearly five decades of control and rule by the Yugoslav and Slovenian Communist Parties.

What role Americans of Slovenian descent played in this struggle to attain and nurture democracy will later be debated and studied by historians and academicians.

Nonetheless, this summary is but one short overview and perspective of persons and events that helped shape and play an important factor in Slovenia's lead toward democracy.

In late December 1989 representatives from various organizations in northeast Ohio met to form and provide leadership for the eventual move from a communist system in Slovenia to that of a more Western style democracy. The winds of change were blowing throughout Central and Eastern Europe as Communism was playing its last concerto.

By January 1990 the Slovenian American Council was

formed with the overall intention and drive to provide the necessary resources and moral support for the first free democratic elections in 45 years in Slovenia. The Council also sought input and affiliation from other Slovenian communities in the USA and in Canada.

The Council's first mission was to coordinate and facilitate a national fund-raising drive for the co-called coalition of DEMOS in Slovenia. That is, a coalition of various political parties only recently legalized in Slovenia. By April 1990 the results were known. The first non-communist government was elected with Lojze Peterle, a Christian Democrat, elected as Slovenia's first Prime Minister. Slovenia chose to use a parliamentary form of government. It did, however, retain a three-chamber rather than a two-chamber government. This would prove to be a major obstacle toward an efficient form of government as 240 "delegates" represented two million people. In contrast, 535 representatives serve over 252 million people in the U.S.A.

The Council raised approximately \$87,000 for the DEMOS coalition. This financial support, plus that of many Slovenian communities around the world, proved a

(Continued on page 7)



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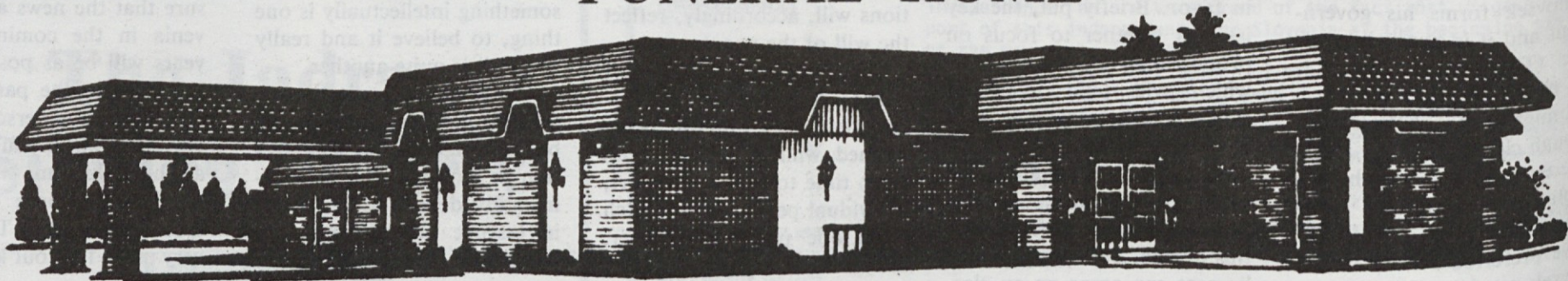
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(Continued from page 6)  
 compensating factor to the resources available for the former Slovenian Communist Party and its affiliated political partners.

The collection of signatures for the plebiscite in December, 1990 and the collection for the Catholic Relief Service, Slovenska Karitas (outlawed for over 40 years by the Slovenian Communist Party), plus speakers for the general public, were other tasks completed by the Council over the next few months.

The announcement of independence by Slovenia on June 25, 1991 caused a joyous and cheerful response around the world. The joy was, however, tempered by the sounds of mortar fire, bullets, tanks, and jets within the next day as the Yugoslav People's Army attacked Slovenia due to

its decision.

By June 27, 1991 Council members in Cleveland and other cities moved quickly and responded with good leadership. By July 1, 1991 the following was completed: a major news conference; Mail-O-Grams to all Congress members, plus President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker III; Mass service for peace and justice; initiate an extensive national fund-raising campaign.

The highlight of the Mass service in Cleveland, Ohio proved much with little could be accomplished with good effective leadership. Directed by Father John Kumse and Father Drago Ocvirk over 1,100 persons crammed the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist with less than three days preparation. The spiritual encouragement and

moral support of this service acted as the moving force for Greater Clevelanders to sustain their efforts for the next nine months.

By April 1992 the United States finally recognized the independence and sovereignty of Slovenia. The work and efforts of many people in the USA of Slovenian descent proved the major factor for this success.

Over \$250,000 was raised between the coordinated efforts of LIGA (Slovenian Americans in the New York area), the Council, and one generous benefactor who anonymously donated the first \$100,000 for humanitarian and charitable efforts to Karitas and related entities due to the 10 day war in Slovenia.

Much credit is extended to the following individuals/-groups who provided good

leadership and persevered despite many obstacles. They are: Auxiliary Bishop A. Edward Pevec, Fathers Joseph P. Božnar, John Kumse, and Drago Ocvirk, Drs. Joseph Bernik, Mate Roesmann, Cyril Mejac, Peter Millonig, Milan Pavlovčič, Stane Susterčič, and John Vidmar; Paul Barbarich, Lojze Bajc, Victoria Bobence, Pavel Intihar, Rudi Kolarič, Corinne Leskovar, John Nemec, Peter R. Osenar, Anton Oblak, Branko and Maruska Pogačnik, Mark Ryavec, Frank Šega, Lilija and Korotan, KSKJ lodges, Catholic parishes, and other individuals and entities too numerous to name.

One cannot also forget the support of many media outlets and persons who provided information on the changing events.

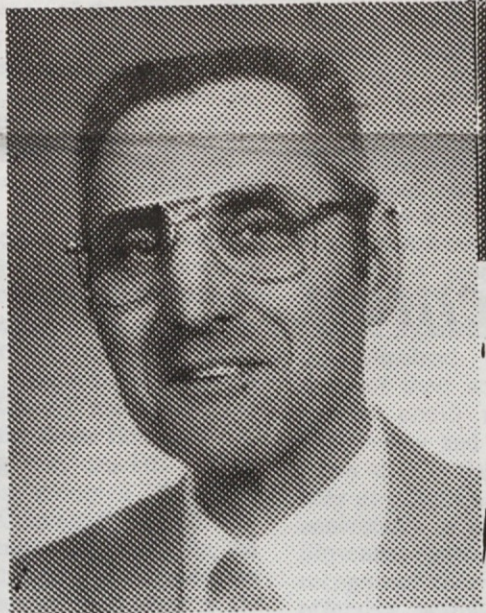
The question now is, where

do we go from here?

Good leadership provides good direction. Leadership means providing the skills, time, encouragement, and vision of what we seek to make in our respective communities, and nationally, across the United States. One needs only review the past events since January 1990 to see how much can be accomplished with good direction.

Do we seek to develop priorities or do we simply respond to each event or crisis in a haphazard manner. The choice is truly ours.

Leadership and good works. Or indifference and self-service. These are our choices for the present — and also the future.

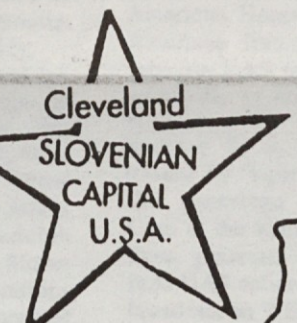


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November 14, 1895

April 21, 1990

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## United Americans for Slovenia Make a Difference

(Continued from page 1)

Senator Robert Dole provided the UAS with updates on his resolution for recognition. Each week brought letters and calls of support from members of Congress--and the American people.

The biggest boost the UAS received was a four-hour radio marathon on August 3 that generated calls from around the country, Washington, London and Ljubljana. Radio personality Tony Petkovsek hosted the fund-raising effort on WELW with John Pestotnik leading volunteers from the United Slovenian Society and the Slovenian-American Radio Club to field calls and donations at Kollander Travel. The power of the telephone could not be underestimated. On October 7 and February 12, the UAS sponsored national call-ins to the White House, asking the President to welcome Slovenia among the world's democratic nations. Callers took advantage of the opportunity to respond directly, keeping the White House operators busy each time. In October, Slovenia was the leading topic, next to the Judge Thomas hearing.

Petitions and postcards were especially effective to circulate among concerned Americans everywhere. Enough signatures were collected to deliver petitions with 500 names each day to the President for a month. Fifty thousand UAS postcards were printed and distributed nationally for mailing to the White House.

Timing was crucial. When word was received that the European Community would consider recognition in December, the UAS contacted the *Washington Post* to place an open letter to the President and Congress on the newspaper's Federal Page. "Since the American Revolution, generations of Slovenian-Americans fought to preserve and protect our nation's independence," said Joseph Valencic, director of the committee's communications programs. "The U. S. has a moral commitment to uphold democracy and welcome Slovenia's independence." The appeal appeared on December 17; the EC announced recognition plans the next day. The message was reprinted in the Slovenian-American press.

When U. S. recognition was finally announced on April 7, 1992, the UAS responded immediately and called a press conference with Zoran Thaler, the deputy secretary of Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Committee members raised the U. S. and Slovenian flags in front of the AMLA building. "It's like the birth of a baby," said Betty Rotar, SNPJ representative to the UAS. "It took the United States nine months to recognize Slovenia. I'm glad they did it." "Slovenia finally stepped into the family of the world's nations as an equal member," said Rev. Joseph Boznar, pastor of Cleveland's St. Vitus Church, America's largest Slovenian parish. "This is a great day," added Fran Mauric from the

PSWA. "But all the fighting could have been avoided if the U. S. had acted sooner."

More than 800 attended the UAS celebration on April 10 in Cleveland's Slovenian National Home. Guest speakers included Ohio Governor George Voinovich. Cecilia Dolgan conducted more than 100 singers from ten local Slovenian choruses --three generations of adults and children. "It was gratifying to see how this struggle for recognition united the Slovene forces in America," said Dr. Ernest Petric, new Slovenian Ambassador. Slovenian leaders Lojze Peterle, Milan Kucan and Dimitrij Rupel expressed their gratitude to the UAS for calling national attention to the situation. Slovenian newspapers and media also noted the committee's successful strategies. A Washington reception on April 28 honored Dole, Eckart and Glenn with plaques. "We are proud of these leaders' response on behalf of Slovenia," said UAS's Stanley Zihelr, AMLA President.

Historically, whenever Slovenia's existence was threatened, Americans mobilized. During World War I, the Slovenian National Alliance petitioned U. S. leaders. A generation later, the Slovenian American National Council organized to assist the war-torn homeland. Unfortunately, in spite of their achievements, the groups could not rise above controversy and internal dissent. From that initial UAS meeting, only days before our own nation's anniversary of independence, our Slovenian-American organizations recognized that our single-most effective action in support of Slovenia would be harmony. Like the story goes, put three Slovenians together and get a sing-along. No individual or single organization can claim credit for this broad-based show of solidarity for Slovenia. From the mainstream national societies, like KSKJ, SNPJ and AMLA--100,000 strong--to local parishes, choruses, clubs and action committees, it took concerned citizens, proud of their heritage, to impress upon our leaders the sincerity of the Slovenian people in their quest for self-determination.

What new challenges await the UAS? Representatives enjoyed attending the committee's congenial sessions and seeing the positive results of their hard work. Dr. Rudolph Susel, Slovenian editor of the *American Home*, may have a clue. "We Slovene-Americans should focus our efforts on promoting a positive image of Slovenia to the broader American public." Whether the members choose to disband or pursue a new direction, one thing will be remembered. The United Americans for Slovenia brought a new sense of understanding, unity and camaraderie among our Slovenian-American organizations that will embolden our future endeavors like never before in our history. \*



United Americans for Slovenia, representatives from the country's leading Slovenian-American fraternal societies, parishes and cultural groups.

## United Americans for Slovenia: Historic Year

by Joseph Valencic  
*United Americans for Slovenia*  
1991

**June 25** Slovenia declares independence from Yugoslavia, six months after Slovenians vote for secession in a democratically-held plebiscite vote.

**June 26** The Yugoslav Army attacks Slovenia, closing border posts and halting communications with the outside world. American visitors are trapped. Jets and tanks shell towns and Brnik Airport. Slovenians resist the occupation. Over the next ten days, 60 are slain, with many more wounded and \$3 billion in damage. Slovenian-Americans and their organizations express concern to President Bush and officials and begin war relief efforts.

**June 30** Attorney Charles Ipavec and Cleveland Yugoslav Consul General Matjaz Jancar call an emergency meeting of community leaders at Cleveland's Slovenian National Home. Representatives of the country's leading Slovenian-American fraternal societies, parishes, cultural groups and action committees are chosen to serve on a special board, led by attorney and former judge Edmund Turk, to call U.S. attention to the situation in the homeland.

**July 1** The United Americans for Slovenia establish its mission: to unite America's Slovenian organizations to seek U. S. recognition of Slovenia's declaration of independence and establishment of full diplomatic relations. American Mutual Life Association President Stanley Zihelr offers his offices for meetings. A letter is drafted to President Bush and members of Congress to recognize Slovenia. Representatives meet weekly.

**July 4** UAS volunteers send letters and information packages to the President, senators and congressmen, along with special editions of the *American Home* newspaper by Publisher James Debevec and Editor Rudolph Susel. Mailings to 1,200 Slovenian-American organizations and clubs distribute thousands of postcards and petitions asking President Bush to accept Slovenia. Joseph Valencic prepares all communications and publicity. John Pestotnik coordinates mailings and special projects.

**July 5** Jancar is the first Yugoslav diplomat to declare allegiance to Slovenia and becomes the first representative to the United States from the new nation. Without accreditation, he soon must return to Slovenia.

**July 10** The European Community brokers a cease-fire in Slovenia. Yugoslav Army troops begin to withdraw.

**July 27** Congressman Dennis Eckart announces support for Slovenia at a UAS session.

**August** The UAS continues mailings to U. S. officials and monitors recognition efforts in Washington and Ljubljana. Similar overseas organizations are in contact with the UAS. American and Slovenian community leaders meet with the UAS. The *American Home* and Slovenian-American fraternal publications promote UAS recognition efforts nationally to members and subscribers.

**August 3** A radio marathon, hosted by Tony Petkovsek and the American Slovene Radio Club at the Kollander Travel offices, generates 600 donations to fund UAS actions. The four-hour broadcast on WELW-AM receives calls from around the country, London and Ljubljana.

**August 5** Senator John Glenn announces support for recognition of Slovenia at a UAS press conference. Glenn and Eckart send a joint statement to the President to recognize Slovenia.

**September** The last Yugoslav Army troops withdraw from Slovenia. Slovenia opens an office in Washington D. C., headed by Dr. Ernest Petric.

**September 13** Through October 8, the UAS sends petitions with 500 names each day to the White House asking President Bush's acceptance of Slovenia as a democratic nation.

(Continued on page 10)



Senator John Glenn of Ohio (right) expresses his concern for U.S. recognition of Slovenia at a special UAS press conference, August, 1991. Stan Zihelr and Chairman Ed Turk are at left and center.

(Continued from page 9)

**October 7** Thousands call the White House in a UAS-sponsored phone-in. The volume is second only to calls about the Judge Thomas hearing. The phone-in receives national and local media attention. UAS postcards target the President for U. S. recognition. Eventually he receives 50,000 postcards from Americans and UAS member-societies coast to coast.

**November** UAS members monitor resolutions being drafted in Congress for U. S. recognition of Slovenia.

**November 2** Petric and Janez Dular of the Slovenian Foreign Ministry meet with the UAS. Both express Slovenia's gratitude for the recognition efforts by Americans. Slovenian newspapers, TV and radio affirm successful actions by the UAS.

**December** Editors of Slovenian-American fraternal groups, AFU, AMLA, KSKJ, PSWA, SNPJ and SWU, step up White House contact efforts by their members, following UAS's lead.

**December 6** President Bush imposes economic sanctions against Slovenia, Yugoslavia and the former republics, canceling aid and trade benefits.

**December 17** The UAS publishes an appeal on the Federal Page of the Washington Post

asking the President and Congress to recognize Slovenia. Petric and Chairman Turk receive many calls and letters of support.

**December 18** The European Community announces plans to recognize Slovenia.

**1992**  
**January** The UAS contacts members of Congress to support Senator Robert Dole's resolution for recognition of Slovenia.

**January 15** The European Community recognizes Slovenia. Canada, Australia, Latin America, Japan and many other nations soon follow. President Bush refuses.

**February 12** A second national White House phone-in is organized by the UAS. Busy lines extend the phone-in two more days.

**March** The UAS tracks rumors of impending U. S. recognition.

**April 7** President Bush recognizes Slovenia and lifts sanctions. Slovenia now has access to membership in the United Nations and the World Bank. The UAS holds a press conference with guest Zoran Thaler from the Slovenian Foreign Ministry.

Representatives raise the flags of Slovenia and the United States in front of the AMLA building.

**April 10** The UAS hosts a special celebration at the Slovenian National Home with several guest speakers including Ohio

Governor George Voinovich. More than 100 singers from ten local Slovene choruses perform for the 800-plus audience.

**April 21** The UAS recognizes Dole, Eckart and Glenn with plaques at a Washington reception in honor of Slovenia.

**August 6** President Bush grants full diplomatic relations between the United States and Slovenia.

**August 25** The U. S. opens an embassy in Ljubljana.

**September 7** The UAS delivers a U.S.-made flag of Slovenia to the President in gratitude for his full acceptance of Slovenia as an independent nation.

From ST. VITUS LADIES AUXILIARY 1655  
Cleveland, Ohio — Best Wishes on the Recognition  
of Slovenia. We Thank the U.S.A. Government!  
—Mary Babic, President

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Slovenia: Peace, Harmony and Happiness. And we are  
Happy that the Catholic Church in Slovenia is free.  
— Chief Ranger Frances Pryatel

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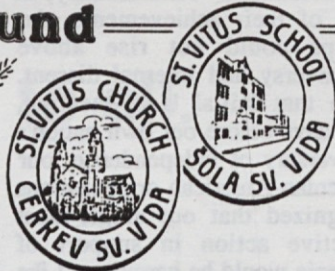
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 Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ) • Slovenian American Council • Slovenian American Heritage Foundation  
 Slovenian Choruses of Cleveland • Slovenian Pensioners of Barberton, Ohio • Slovenian Women's Union • St. Lawrence Church, Cleveland  
 St. Mary Church, Cleveland • St. Vitus Church, Cleveland • United Slovenian Society

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the following members of this committee and their alternates for their attendance at more than 50 committee meetings and their contribution to the success of our mission.



Edmund Turk, Chairman and Legal Advisor  
 John Pestotnik, United Slovenian Society and Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club  
 Father Joseph Boznar, St. Vitus Church  
 Father John Kumse, St. Mary's Church & Treasurer  
 Father Anthony Rebol, St. Lawrence Church  
 James Debevec, American Home Newspaper and Lausche Foundation  
 Stanley Zihel, American Mutual Life Association, A.M.L.A.  
 Eugene Kogovsek, American Slovenian Catholic Union, K.S.K.J.  
 Betty Rotar, Slovene National Benefit Society, S.N.P.J.  
 Joseph Valencic, American Slovene Committee & Public Relations  
 Joyce Plemel, Progressive Slovene Women of America, P.S.W.A.  
 Anthony Hiti, Alliance of Slovenian Americans  
 Stane Kuhar, Slovenian American Council  
 Helen Konkoy, Federation of Slovenian Homes  
 Ann Opeka, Slovenian American Heritage Foundation  
 Dr. Karl Bonutti, Primorski Klub  
 Tony Petkovsek, Radio Media Advisor  
 Dr. Rudolph Susel, Print Media Advisor  
 Linda Cimperman, United Slovenian Society  
 Edwin Polsak, Slovenian Choruses  
 Cirila Kermavner, Slovenian Women's Union, S.W.U.  
 Frances Mauric, Progressive Slovene Women of America, P.S.W.A.  
 Jean Krizman, Red Cross  
 Martin Kumse, Slovenian Pensioners of Barberton  
 Joseph Petric Jr., Federation of Slovenian Homes  
 Gene Drobnic, American Slovene Club  
 Joseph Baskovic, American Slovenian Catholic Union, K.S.K.J.  
 Florence Unetich, Progressive Slovene Women of America, P.S.W.A.  
 Frank Segal, Slovenian American Council  
 Anne Tercek, Slovenian Women's Union, S.W.U.  
 Dorothy Gorjup, Progressive Slovene Women of America, P.S.W.A.  
 Joseph Lach, Federation of Slovenian Homes

In addition to thanking the many fine organizations and their representatives to this ad hoc committee, I must give special thanks and gratitude to Tony Petkovsek, Kollander World Travel, Station W.E.L.W., Joseph Valencic, John Pestotnik, James Debevec, and Stanley Zihel and the American Mutual Life Association for their extraordinary commitment and valuable assistance in our endeavors.

Edmund J. Turk, Chairman



The United Americans for Slovenia could not have been successful in its mission to achieve recognition for the homeland without the sup-

port of our generous donors, dedicated organizations, attentive media, and, of course, our devoted, hard-working volunteers.

Joseph Baskovic  
 Angela Bolha  
 Dr. Karl Bonutti  
 Father Joseph Boznar  
 Lillian Bratina  
 John Brodnik  
 Mary Brodnik  
 Dale Bucar  
 Dennis Bucar  
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American Slovenian Committee for Cultural Exchange Richmond Hts... \$50	Andrew & Mary Champa Euclid... \$100	John & Ann Goryance Willowick... \$25	Michael & Albina Jordanek Sebring, Fla... \$10
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Jack Avcin Jr. Euclid... \$20	Joe Cvetas Enon Valley, Pa... \$50	Mary Grze Euclid... \$25	Mirko & Josephine Klamic Wickliffe... \$50
M/M Frank Batis Cleveland \$25	Anne Cvitko Parma... \$10	Stan & Irene Gulik Euclid... \$20	Bob & Olga Klancher Richmond Hts... \$20
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Marion & Marie Belle Euclid... \$50	Dallos-Spies Builders Inc. Euclid... \$100	Marlene Harris Euclid... \$100	Carl & Angela Klun Lowber, Pa... \$5
Mrs. Frank Berkopec Euclid... \$10	Louis & Angela Debeljak Willoughby... \$200	Harris Children Euclid... \$100	Josephine Knific Cleveland... \$25
Dr. Jay & Yvonne Bermani Hemet, Calif... \$25	Willoughby... \$200	Gillian Harris Euclid... \$2	Frank & Mollie Kocjancic & Amelia, Euclid... \$20
Ed Bernik Aurora, Minn. \$10	F P Debevec Euclid... \$10	Ann (Klaus) Heckman Wickliffe... \$20	Marjan Kodric Garfield Hts... \$100
Willian Bitenc Cleveland... \$25	Josephine Debevec Cleveland... \$50	Dr. Anna Hirsch Cleveland Hts... \$100	Kollander World Travel Cleveland... \$500
Joe & Mitzi Blatnik Wickliffe... \$25	Tony & Mary Delost Euclid... \$50	Anthony Hiti Euclid... \$25	Joe & Ruth Koman Cleveland... \$10
Ljudmila Bohinc Cleveland... \$40	Delphi Associates - Mark Ryavec Marina Del Rey, Calif... \$100	Frank & Mary Jane Hiti Euclid... \$50	Donna & Max Kosec South Euclid... \$50
Louis Boldin Garfield Hts... \$25	Laura Dolenc Richmond Hts... \$25	Dr. Frank & Joan Hiti North Ridgeville... \$25	Frank M. Kosich Bratenahl... \$100
Anthony Boltezar Euclid \$25	Matt & Lil Dolenc Richmond Hts... \$75	Jeanette Hiti Euclid... \$15	Frank & Mary Koss Cleveland... \$5
Dr. Karl & Hermine Bonutti Pepper Pike... \$100	Joe & Bertha Dovgan Cleveland... \$250	John Hocevar Cleveland... \$100	Frances Kovac Cleveland... \$5
Thomas Bracik Indianapolis, Ind \$25	Mary Drobnik Euclid... \$25	Joseph Hocevar Cleveland... \$100	Edward & Marie Kovacic Euclid... \$25
Millie Bradac Cleveland... \$25	Edward & Mary Eckart Euclid... \$25	Frank & Millie Hoegler Euclid... \$25	Frank Kovacic & Dorothy Bogovich Willowick... \$100
Frank & Sophia Bradach Euclid... \$50	Stan & Fran Erzen Euclid... \$10	Louis & Olga Horvath South Euclid... \$25	James & Victoria Kozel Euclid... \$20
Chuck & Rose Bratush Euclid... \$20	Fanny's Restaurant Cleveland... \$25	Marie (Seme) Hosta Cleveland... \$25	Anton & Marija Kozelj Mayfield Village... \$50
Florence Brichta Euclid... \$15	Thomas & Ann Felz Highland Hts... \$100	James & Mary Howard Cleveland... \$25	Frank Kozuh Parma... \$25
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# UNITED AMERICANS FOR SLOVENIA

Alliance of Slovenian Americans • American Home Newspaper • American Mutual Life Association • American Slovene Committee for Cultural Exchanges  
 American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ) • American Slovenian Polka Foundation • Cleveland Federation of Slovenian National Homes  
 Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club • The Frances and Jane S. Lausche Foundation • Primorski Klub • Progressive Slovene Women of America  
 Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ) • Slovenian American Council • Slovenian American Heritage Foundation  
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## Thank You...

Stane & Margaret Kuhar Wickliffe...	\$10	Robert Novak Cleveland...	\$100	Joseph Przeracki Westlake...	\$20	J. J. Smith Warren, Pa....	\$25
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Frank & Violet Kutnar Euclid...	\$25	Marie Orazem Euclid...	\$25	Gloria Pust Euclid...	\$50	St. Clair Suburban News Highland Hts...	\$25
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John & Donna Leonard Cleveland...	\$50	Edward Ozanich Pepper Pike....	\$25	Recher Hall Ladies Auxiliary c/o Mary Stir, Richmond Hts..	\$200	Bart Stare Paradise Valley, Ariz...	\$100
Pat Leoni Maple Hts...	\$100	Dan & Helen Pavsek Richmond Hts...	\$25	Norman Reser Cleveland...	\$50	Dorothy Stanonik Euclid...	\$25
Josephine Leufkens Mentor...	\$25	Joseph & Frances Penko Willoughby...	\$100	Robert & Dorothy Rhodes Willowick...	\$10	Joseph & Frances Stariha Euclid...	\$100
Joseph & Peggy Lipovec Euclid...	\$100	Elmer & Vida Perme Euclid...	\$50	Al & Millie Rigenbach Parma...	\$20	Stan Stepec Euclid...	\$100
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Richard Lovsin Euclid...	\$9	Al & Ronnie Pestotnik Euclid...	\$50	Frank Rot Cleveland...	\$200	John & Hermine Strancar Cleveland...	\$25
M/M John Lunka Euclid...	\$50	Allan & Kathy Pestotnik Lyndhurst...	\$50	Jack & Betty Rotar Euclid...	\$50	Frank & Stella Strauss Euclid...	\$25
Jean Lutheran South Euclid...	\$5	John & Bea Pestotnik Richmond Hts...	\$100	Frank & Diana Rote Alta Loma, Calif...	\$10	Louis Stromsky Cleveland...	\$25
Anthony & Olga Maizel Richmond Hts...	\$100	Olga Petek Cleveland...	\$25	Skip Rudolph Mentor...	\$25	Herman & Ilse Strmisha Rocky River...	\$200
Gene & Marie March Mayfield Hts...	\$30	Joe, Mary & Bob Peterlin Euclid...	\$100	Stella Rupe Willoughby...	\$25	Barbara Strumbly Willoughby...	\$25
Mamie Marin Euclid...	\$100	Stanley Petric Cleveland...	\$25	Willoughby... Frank & Vida Rupnick	\$25	Andrew Stupica North Royalton...	\$25
Albert Marolt Mentor...	\$25	Helen Petsche Eastlake...	\$10	Richmond Hts... Ivan & Josie Rus	\$100	Frank Suhadolnik Cleveland...	100
Mary, Vera & Dusan Marsic Eastlake...	\$300	Albert Perktekel Highland Hts...	\$25	Mentor... Stella Rupe	\$25	Chuch & Helen Sumrada Willoughby...	\$25
Ron & Carol Matetic Highland Hts...	\$25	Tony Petkovsek Jr Cleveland...	\$250	Willoughby... E. A. Ryavec	\$100	Jack Susel Cleveland...	\$50
Ivanka Matic Euclid...	\$25	Tony Petkovsek Sr. Cleveland...	\$250	Santa Monica, Calif... Frank & Julia Sadar	\$25	Dr. Rudolph Susel Euclid...	\$100
Mike & Sophie Matuch Euclid...	\$25	Frank & Justine Picman Euclid...	\$100	Cleveland... Jean Samsa	\$100	Victoria Sustersic & Josephine Turner Cleveland...	\$50
Frances Mauric Richmond Hts...	\$10	M/M William Pike Cuyahoga Falls...	\$20	Cleveland... Joseph & Jo Eileen Samsa	\$25	John Snyder Mayfield Hts...	\$50
Don & Mickie Mausser Willoughby Hills...	\$10	Sylvia Bronko Pisorn Euclid...	\$50	Wickliffe... Ella Samanich	\$100	Mary Strazisar Cleveland...	\$50
Josephine Mayer Newton, N.J.	\$15	Rudy & Marie Pivik Middleburg Hts...	\$100	Middleburg Hts... Joseph & Irene Sankovic	\$25	John & Mary Taucher Maple Hts...	\$10
Robert Meglich Euclid...	\$20	Edmund Plona Cleveland....	\$20	Mentor... Frank & Vera Sebenick	\$25	Al & Agnes Tercek Hudson...	\$250
M/M Marjan Merala Davis, Calif...	\$500	Joseph & Joyce Plemel Cleveland...	\$25	Euclid... M/M Joseph Selan	\$40	Charles & Anne Tercek Euclid...	\$100
Stan F. Mezc Insurance Euclid...	\$500	Timothy Pogacar Bowling Green...	\$5	Wickliffe... Charles & Marie Shaver	\$500	Andy Thomas Euclid...	\$5
Rev. Leopold Mihelich Denver, Colo...	\$10	Jennie Polk Euclid...	\$25	Cleveland... James Slagle	\$25	Albina Tichar Cleveland...	\$10
Tony & Dolores Mihelic Euclid...	\$25	Edwin & Stephanie Polsak South Euclid...	\$100	Merion Station, Pa... Antoinette Simcic	\$50	Ken & Ann Tomsick Euclid...	\$25
Mary Milavec & Emma Laurich Euclid...	\$100	Stanley & Margureite Poropat Euclid...	\$25	Cleveland... Frank & Ella Skoda	\$100	Cy & Mary Traven Willoughby...	\$50
A. Mlakar Canada	\$45	Olga E. Pozar Mentor...	\$100	Cleveland... Albina Skocaj	\$50	Louis & Ann Trebar Cleveland...	\$50
Louis & Mary Mohar Wickliffe...	\$100	Anthony Pozelnik Cleveland	\$25	Maple Hts... Ronald & Sophia Skopitz	\$50	David & Amy Trenton Cleveland...	\$15
Arlene Mole Euclid...	\$30	Tony & Ann Praskavich Euclid...	\$10	Euclid... Frank Skraba	\$20	Bruce Trolli Willoughby...	\$25
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Jennie Mramor Euclid...	\$25	Jack & June Price Broadview Hts...	\$25	Cleveland... Stan & Marion Slejko	\$50	Edmund Turk Cleveland...	\$225
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Mary Noggy Euclid...	\$25	Primorski Klub Cleveland...	\$500	Cleveland... Slovenian Home E. 80th St.	\$25	Darien, Ill... Drago & Vera Udovic	\$100
Joseph & Jane Novak Highland Hts...	\$25	Judge August Pryatelj Solon...	\$25	Cleveland... Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club	\$500	Euclid... Mary Umek	\$100
				Cleveland... Cleveland...		Kenosha, Wis... Kenosha, Wis...	\$25

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## Thank You...

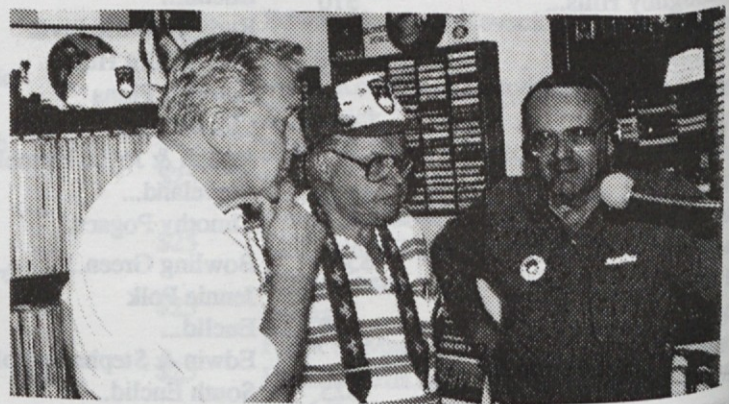
Florence Unetich Cleveland... \$50	Srecko & Alenka Vujinovic Richmond Hts... \$200	Frank & Dorothy Zitko Willoughby Hills... \$25	Progressive Slovene Women of America PSWA, Cleveland, OH \$500
Stanley & Donna Unetic Eastlake... \$100	Nancy Walden South Euclid... \$200	Mary Znidarsic Euclid... \$100	Circle No. 1 \$500
Dorothy Urbancich Euclid... \$25	M/M Victor Whalley South Euclid... \$50	M/M Joseph Zlatopir Moreland Hills... \$100	Circle No. 3 \$200
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Christine Verbic Cleveland... \$100	Ciril & Shgaron Zagar Wickliffe... \$50	FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS:	Lodge No. 153 \$25
Edward Vertovsnik Willoughby... \$100	Frank & Vida Zak Euclid... \$50	American Fraternal Union (AFU)	Lodge No. 158 \$50
Jack Videtic Cleveland... \$5	Maryann Zajc Kirtland... \$10	Lodge No. 21 \$100	Lodge No. 314 \$10
Edward & Millie Vidmar Willowick... \$10	John Zakelj St. Paul, Minn. \$100	Lodge No. 44 \$50	Lodge No. 446 \$25
James Vidmar Richmond Hts... \$25	M/M Joseph Zakelj Cleveland... \$50	Lodge No., 71 \$25	Lodge No. 497 \$5
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Joe & Josephine Verdi Highland Hts... \$25	Joe & Jennie Zaman Richmond Heights... \$25	American Mutual Life Association	Lodge No. 407 \$5
Karl & Margaret Virant Canton... \$10	Arthur & Florence Zanutic Brecksville... \$25	A.M.L.A., Cleveland, OH \$1000	Cleveland SNPJ Federation \$100
Tony & Mimi Vitulich Wickliffe... \$50	Zelev Funeral Home Cleveland... \$250	Lodge No. 2 \$100	Federation of SNPJ Lodges \$100
Rudy & Josephine Virant Highland Hts... \$100	Stanley Zelko Lindenhurst, N.Y. \$50	Lodge No. 7 \$50	Western Slavonic Association Lodge No. 32 \$50
Marilyn & Angelo Vogrig Cleveland... \$25	Frank Zgonc Cleveland... \$25	Lodge No. 9 \$50	Musical Groups:
Josephine Voinovich Bratenahl... \$25	Frank Zalar Mentor... \$20	Lodge No. 11 \$25	Fantje na Vasi \$100
Frank Vovko Euclid... \$25	...Zaleak Bedford... \$20	Lodge No. 12 \$100	Glasbena Matica \$25
George & Angeline Voytko Lorain... \$10	Joe Zigman Euclid Sunoco... \$100	Lodge No. 14 \$50	Jadran \$100
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		Lodge No. 26 \$100	West Park Button Box Club \$100
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		Lodge No. 40 \$25	
		Lodge No. 45 \$100	Pensioners Clubs:
		Lodge No. 51 \$25	Slovenian Pensioners of Euclid \$100
		Lodge No. 59 \$25	Newburgh-Maple Hts. Pensioners \$50
		Lodge No. 60 \$20	St. Clair Pensioners \$50
		Lodge No. 62 \$25	
		American Slovenian Catholic Union	Also:
		KSKJ - Joliet, IL \$100	Bishop Baraga Society \$50
		Lodge St. Joseph, PA \$100	Slovenska Društva \$100
		Lodge St. Joseph, CA \$100	United Slovenian Society \$1000
		Lodge St. Aloysius \$100	
		Lodge St. Vitus \$100	
		Lodge No. 156 \$25	
		Lodge No. 181 \$10	
		Lodge No. 225 \$25	
		Joliet KSKJ Lodges \$50	



More than 100 singers from ten Slovenian choruses performed for 800 at the UAS celebration for United States recognition of Slovenia April 10, 1992. Cecilia Dolgan directed. Special guests included Ohio Governor George Voinovich. (Photo by Tony Grdina)



The United Americans for Slovenia raise the U.S. and Slovenian flags on the day President Bush recognizes Slovenia, April 7, 1992. The location was the AMLA headquarters in Cleveland where almost all of the meetings of the group were held.



Tony Petkovsek hosted a special radio marathon for the United Americans for Slovenia on August 3, 1991. Chairman Ed Turk, left, and Duke Marsic, center, were interviewed by Petkovsek, right, on the four-hour WELW broadcast. Calls came from London and Ljubljana. (Photo by James V. Debevec)



Cirila Kermavner, Angela Bolha, Bea Pestotnik and Dom Cekada prepare a UAS mailing.

# Slovenia: the economics of independence

by Jeremy Keller  
U.S. Department  
of Commerce

On April 7, 1992, the United States recognized the independence of Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia. At the same time, it lifted the trade sanctions that had been in place on these three republics and on Macedonia since Dec. 24, 1991. Thus, a critical page in the tormented history of the Balkans was turned.

While U.S. recognition completes the arduous struggle for political autonomy by these republics, it does not bring the drama to a close. They must now shift their efforts from the diplomatic front and, in Croatia's and Bosnia's case, from the military front to the economic front.

Bereft of the trade ties that anchored them within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, each republic must now simultaneously reorient its trade internationally and rebuild trade ties with its former partners in Yugoslavia.

These republics may have won their political freedom, but their economic freedom will depend on how well they rebuild trade.

At present, it is Slovenia that will be of greatest interest to U.S. business, both because it is relatively developed and because it has clearly managed to leave the carnage of Yugoslavia's dissolution behind. Croatia comes next; it will be the focus of a massive reconstruction program once peace returns. Bosnia is in third place. It is among the poorer regions of the former Yugoslavia and, given the proximity of its three ethnic groups, risk of continuing ethnic strife is high.

Slovenia established itself in Titoist Yugoslavia as the country's economic powerhouse. In 1990, its per capital income, at about \$5,000, was ten times

higher than that of Kosovo, the poorest region of Yugoslavia. Its GNP amounted to \$20.3 billion, just \$5 billion less than Serbia's, whose population is five times as large.

For decades, however, the Slovenians were denied the opportunity to profit from their industriousness, as profits were siphoned off by the Yugoslav Federal Government to pay for vague, ill-defined development projects in less advanced republics. These transfer payments, which annually disappeared from Slovenia's coffers to little or no apparent effect, were a perennial source of Slovenian discontent with the Yugoslavs.

Slovenia specialized in value-adding by importing raw materials and labor from other Yugoslav republics and exporting finished goods, chiefly to its neighbor, Croatia. Thus, the collapse of the Yugoslav Federation, while it has spared Slovenia further transfer payments, has imposed a large economic penalty. Slovenians are working diligently to restore trade with the other ex-Yugoslav republics, but they acknowledge they must find new trade partners, and especially, new investors.

Slovenia is efficient, industrialized, and very experienced in doing business with market economies. Its privatization process is not complete, but at least the Slovenians understand what it means and why it is needed.

Slovenia has issued its own unit of currency, the tolar, which is pegged to the German Mark and which has held its value better than other Balkan currencies thanks to a tight money policy. While Slovenia has experienced double-digit inflation since late 1991, it has also started to rebuild its foreign exchange holdings, which are now worth about

\$500,000.

Slovenians have considerable purchasing power. Austrian exporters sold over \$200 million worth of goods to Slovenia in 1991. Austrians are currently working in Slovenia on projects devoted to power generation, pollution control, and road building.

Austria has invested over \$100 million in 219 joint ventures in Slovenia. This figure does not include a projected \$600 million investment to build a hydroelectric power station on the Sava River.

However, this does not undercut Slovenia's interest in improving trade ties with the

United States.

Slovenia was already on the upswing before official U.S. recognition occurred. In March, for example, Westinghouse announced the sale of its 2PS70 ground-based radar system, worth \$13 million, to Slovenia for installation at Ljubljana Airport.

(Continued on 1C)

## Čestitamo Republiki Sloveniji

ob njenem uspehu pri ustanovitvi res  
samostojne države po skoraj tisočih letih,  
in še ob njenem mednarodnem priznanju  
ter sprejemu kot članica Združenih narodov!

DRAGI SLOVENC I IN SLOVENKE V DOMOVINI!

ISKRENO VAM ŽELIMO OBILO USPEHA, KO SEDA  
URESNIČUJETE SANJE DANES ŽIVEČIH IN TOLIKO  
ŽE POKOJNIH NARODNO ZAVEDNIH ROJAKOV  
IN ROJAKINJ. BILE SMO IN VEDNO BOMO Z VAMI!

Progresivne Slovenke Amerike  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

### THE UNITED SLOVENIAN SOCIETY

The founding leaders of the United Slovenian Society established this organization in 1970 to promote Slovenian Cultural activities in the State of Ohio, to promote better understanding among American-Slovenes and other people, to encourage cultural exchanges between the United States and Slovenia, to perform charitable works for the good of the Slovenian and Ethnic Communities in the United States, and to provide educational events.

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The UNITED SLOVENIAN SOCIETY donated \$1,000 to the United Americans for Slovenia Committee, and \$500 to the Slovenian Flood Relief Fund. Our members wish to sincerely thank everyone for their generous support, and most especially for attending the 14th Annual Band Concert under the direction of Mr. Norman Novak.

**Congratulations to Slovenia  
on Worldwide Recognition  
as an Independent Nation!**

**Dr. Sonja K.  
GLAVINA**

**27127 Chardon Road  
Richmond Heights, Ohio  
943-1117**

**Best Wishes for Success**

TO

**The Republic of SLOVENIA**

FROM

**Slovenian Singing Society**

**“ZARJA”**

Euclid, Ohio

**Fall Dinner/Concert**

**Saturday, October 24, 1992**



# American Mutual Life Association



19424 S. Waterloo Road

Cleveland, Ohio 44119

(216) 531-1900

The American Mutual Life Association, founded in 1910 as the Slovenska Dobrodelna Zveza, is proud to have been a part of the United Americans for Slovenia, whose concerted efforts culminated with the recognition of the Republic of Slovenia by the United States of America. We are certain that our contribution in this effort is in keeping with the ideals that our Founders established, and that they would have performed likewise if they had the opportunity.

We are grateful for the occasion to work together with the many Slovenian-rooted organizations in Cleveland and their respective representatives. We take this opportunity to again thank the United Americans for Slovenia, and also all the representatives and citizens of Slovenia, whose valor and conduct throughout their quest for freedom, democracy and independence was a shining example to the whole world. Their exemplary performance certainly magnified the pride we have in our heritage and culture. God Bless America... God Bless Slovenia!

Ameriška Dobrodelna Zveza, ustanovljena 1910. leta kot Slovenska Dobrodelna Zveza, je ponosna, da je sodelovala kot del Združenih Amerikancev za Slovenijo, katerih koordinacija prizadevanj je kulminiralo v priznanju Republike Slovenije s strani Združenih držav Amerike. Prepričani smo, da je bilo naše sodelovanje v tem prizadevanju v skladu z ideali naših ustanoviteljev, in da bi bili oni isto storili, če bi bili imeli priliko.

Veseli smo, ker smo mogli skupno delati s številnimi slovenskimi organizacijami v Clevelandu in njihovimi predstavniki. Ob tej priložnosti se zopet zahvaljujemo Združenim Amerikancem za Slovenijo, kakor tudi vsem predstavnikom in državljanom Republike Slovenije, katerih pokončnost in dostojnost v prizadevanju za svobodo, demokracijo in neodvisnost sta bili vzor celemu svetu. Njihovo izjemno vedenje je gotovo povečalo ponos, ki ga imamo do naše dediščine in kulture.

Bog živi Ameriko ... Bog živi Slovenijo!



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## American Slovenians Supported a Free Slovenia

(Continued from page 1A)

Christian Social Movement and the Social-Democratic Union of Slovenia signed a MAY DECLARATION 1989 on May 8, 1989. It reads as follows:

Misunderstandings, provocations and also open hostility, which Slovenians are experiencing in Yugoslavia today, are convincing us that this is a breakpoint for our current history and obligate us that we clearly communicate our will which will guide our future actions.

The signers of this declaration declare and announce:

1. that we want to live in a sovereign state of the Slovenian nation;

2. that as a sovereign state, we will decide independently about our ties with the Eastern Slavic and other nations in the context of restructured Europe;

3. that in view of the historical aspiration of the Slovenian nation toward political independence, a Slovenian state can only be founded on:

— respect for human rights and liberties,

— a democracy which embraces political pluralism,

— a social structure which ensures spiritual and material prosperity in harmony with the nature and in harmony with human capabilities of the citizens of Slovenia."

This declaration shortly became the program which was adopted by additional new groups of the Slovenian people until this declaration became the general cry of the Slovenian nation at home and around the world for total freedom in a sovereign, democratic state. We, Slovenians in America, supported this movement in great numbers.

It became clear, however, that the realization of the declaration demands would require the effort of all Slovenians. An attempt to unify all American Slovenians into a coordinated effort collapsed because the individual organizations held different perspectives concerning the situation in Slovenia and differing opinions about these, and because of interpersonal mistrust.

In order to help the Slovenian homeland succeed, the Slovenian political emigrees initiated the establishment of the Slovenian American Council, which brought together those organizations, institutions, and other communities among the American Slovenians who share a Christian world perspective. The Slovenian American Council acted quickly and decisively to provide moral and financial support to those forces in Slovenia which were fighting for the realization of the demands embodied in the May Declaration of 1989. With the help of the Slovenian American Council and similar

institutions in Canada, Europe, Argentina, and Australia, the democratic forces prevailed in the 1990 elections, but unfortunately not completely.

The new coalition government (DEMOS) under the presidency of Lojze Peterle approached the realization of the demands of the May Declaration of 1989 decisively and quite competently. In spite of obstacles which were placed by the members and supporters of the previous communist regime, the Slovenian nation was almost unanimous in a vote for an independent and sovereign state of Slovenia. The new government was looking for ways to effect this decision peacefully through negotiations with Belgrade. The government in Belgrade was not willing to listen. When Slovenia pronounced its total sovereignty and independence on Wednesday, June 26, 1991, the "Yugoslav Peoples Army" wanted to punish Slovenia by force.

In the midst of this adversity and the uncertainty about the developments of a conflict with the Yugoslav Peoples Army, the Slovenian American Council received an urgent plea from the Slovenian government for all available aid and support.

Already on Thursday, June 27, 1991, the Slovenian American Council called on its membership and also on other Slovenians in America and urged that they call the White House, the State Department, and members of Congress and plead for timely intercession with Belgrade. We asked that the government of United States demand of the government in Belgrade that all military intervention against Slovenia cease immediately, and in support of this demand we asked that USA immediately recognize the Slovenian official status as an independent and sovereign state.

At the same time the Slovenian Council also contacted the American Conference of Bishops and the office of the Papal Nuncio in Washington, DC, to ask their intervention on behalf of Slovenia. Both organizations acted the following day.

In order to inform the Slovenian public as quickly and as thoroughly about Slovenia and the current situation, the Slovenian American Council asked the owner of Ameriška Domovina, who had just published his last edition before a scheduled vacation, to issue a special edition of the paper. This edition was published on July 1, 1991.

Announcements and requests of the American Slovenian Council were also announced on Sunday, June 30, 1991, by Dr. Milan Pavlovic during his Slovenian radio program "Songs and Melodies from Beautiful Slovenia."

The Slovenian American Council held a press con-

ference in the St. Vitus Parish Auditorium on Friday, June 28, 1991, at 11 a.m. which was attended by three major TV networks, radio and Cleveland area newspaper reporters. The Council explained the Slovenian position and the situation in Slovenia with an appeal to the American people that they support Slovenia, especially since Slovenia decided for a separation from Yugoslavia on the basis of the very same principles which guided USA to the separation from Britain in 1776.

Hundreds of Slovenian patriots and also their American friends sent telegrams or called the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and their state Congressmen and Senators. The appeal quickly reached all corners of the United States. These calls and appeals were followed up with more extensive resolutions which outlined the vision and foundation of Slovenian decisions.

On Saturday, June 29, 1991, Slovenians joined Croatians as they demonstrated in Washington, DC, in front of the White House and the Capitol in support for US recognition of Slovenia and Croatia and also in support of the demand by US government with Belgrade that the Yugoslav Peoples Army immediately cease hostile actions in Slovenia and Croatia.

On Friday, June 28, 1991, the Slovenian American Council forwarded the first major financial contribution to Klagenfurt (Celovec), Austria, and made it available to the president of the Slovenian government, Mr. Lojze Peterle.

On Sunday, June 30, 1991, the Slovenian American Council initiated special prayer services in the Slovenian parishes in Cleveland. On July 1, 1991, there was a special Mass in St. John's Cathedral for Slovenia with the concelebration of the majority of Slovenian priests from Cleveland and environs and the attendance of Rt. Rev. Bishop Edward Pevec, the Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland. Over 200 Slovenians in nationality dress attended the Mass at the Cathedral.

As activities to help Slovenia were in full swing, Charles S. Ipavec suggested a meeting of all Slovenian societies and organizations which was called on Sunday, June 30, 1991, at 7:00 p.m. at the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue. At this meeting a special "ad hoc" committee was formed that would integrate in the activities for aid to Slovenia, and especially in support for recognition by US government, all Slovenian societies, organizations and institutions in the United States. The board of this committee included a representative of the Slovenian American Council

and also representatives of KSKJ, ADZ, SNPJ, SZZ, Slovenian Progressive Women in America, the Union of Slovenian National Homes and the three Slovenian Catholic parishes in Cleveland.

On July 3, 1991, the board of this committee adopted the name "Americans United for Slovenia," and Edmund Turk assumed responsibilities as the president of the committee from its inception. Gradually this board attracted the major portion of Slovenian organizations throughout America to a unified effort and work toward recognition of Slovenia.

In January of this year the countries of the European Economic Community recognized the independent Slovenian state; they were followed by a number of other countries from all parts of the world, and then finally, last month, also by the United States of America.

When Slovenia was accepted as a member of the United Nations on May 23, 1992, we have to conclude that the work toward recognition of a sovereign Slovenian state has been accomplished. The "ad hoc" committee has completed its mission.

\*

The Slovenian American Council was the initiator and organizer of the moral and material support to the democratic forces in Slovenia as these were preparing for the first "semi-free" elections in more than half a century to end the oppressive communist regime and replace it with a free democratic government.

The Slovenian American Council responded to the ap-

peal for aid when severe floods in the fall of 1991 caused catastrophic losses. Almost \$50,000 was raised in several short weeks in response to this appeal. When Slovenia found itself in dire straits during the attack by the "Yugoslav Peoples Army" and issued an emergency call for help to the Slovenian American Council, the Council immediately collected and forwarded a substantial sum of money to Klagenfurt, Austria, to support the government of Lojze Peterle. In the following weeks, the Slovenian American Council collected more than \$200,000 in total in support of this appeal.

Slovenia appears a truly democratic and law-abiding state; in reality, however, the majority of the decision makers in commerce, communications, and even in public government, are members or supporters of the previous regime. Last month when some of the DEMOS parties reneged on their support of a common program, these supporters of the previous regime forced the government of Lojze Peterle from power and replaced it with Drnovsek as premier. Key ministerial positions in this new government are held by former and current communists as well as their supporters.

The Slovenian American Council undertook the task to promote the realization of the demands expressed in the May Declaration of 1989. The work is not done because the goals of the declaration have not been fully met. We have to persevere until the goal is met!

—S.A.S.

## Slovenia: the economics of becoming independent

(Continued from 7B)

As part of the Yugoslav Federation, Slovenia enjoyed a reputation as an excellent venue for joint ventures. Having won its independence, it will do whatever it can to preserve this reputation. There are significant U.S.-Slovene joint ventures in power tools, buses, and computer software that have survived the recent upheaval. Many more Slovenian companies are advertising for investors and partners. A list of these is available through the Commerce Department's Eastern Europe Business Information Center (tel. 202-377-2645).

For the future, Slovenian tourism is clearly destined to get much more attention. There is a need for further development of Slovenia's excellent ski industry, and, with much of the Dalmatian Coast heavily damaged by war, Slovenia's smaller segment of the Adriatic shore will be an important magnet for vacationers from Western Europe.

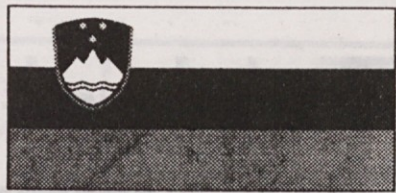
A U.S. firm has already signed a bilateral tourism agreement with Slovenia. To support increases in tourism, Slovenia will devote major resources to improve its roads, energy, and telecommunications.

Croatia's progress will be slower than Slovenia's and it will require greater international financial support.

Many of the reasons for the civil war that has brought about Yugoslavia's fragmentation lie beyond the scope of economic analysis. However, one factor that rendered Slovenia's and Croatia's struggle for independence inevitable is that they were determined to gain control of their own economic destinies. Unlike their neighbors to the south, they committed themselves to begin to transform their economies using Western European models.

However, as long as Slovenia and Croatia remained part of Yugoslavia, they were limited in what they could achieve. Now, the limitations are gone.





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**JUNE 25, 1991**

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naša Slovenska domovina,  
vse najboljše!**

**Nosimo te v naših srcih,  
vedno smo tvoji — udje  
tvojega narodnega telesa!**







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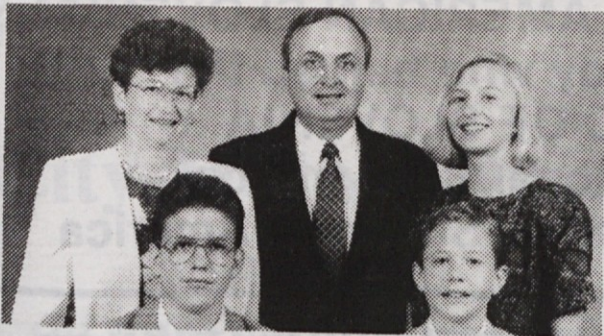
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## SLOVENIAN-AMERICAN COUNCIL

(Slovenski Ameriski Svet)  
503 East 200th Street, Suite 103  
Cleveland, Ohio 44119  
(216) 531-8600

July 3, 1991

President George Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The Slovenian American Council, representing thousands of Slovenian-Americans, hereby urges you to immediately undertake any and all possible measures, by exerting the influence of your office to stop the aggression against Slovenia by the Yugoslavian Peoples Army, led by its Stalinist generals. The actions by this army are illegitimate and have no constitutional basis whatsoever.

We are informed that the Yugoslav army is moving 180 additional tanks toward Slovenia as well as readying additional aircraft and other weapons of war. The amassed forces could threaten genocide of the Slovenia people and the country's total annihilation.

Mr. President, the Slovenian people exercised their right to self-determination in a democratic way. One year ago, the citizens of Slovenia held a free and democratic election which was internationally observed. Furthermore, on December 23, 1990, the Slovenian people, in a referendum vote, overwhelmingly elected to pursue their sovereignty. The Slovenian people made this choice in a democratic way without any force. If democracy is to prevail, then such decisions of the people must be recognized by all democracies of the World Community.

Therefore Mr. President, we urge that the United States give immediate diplomatic recognition to the Independent State of Slovenia, that the United States initiate an international commission of observers in order to bring into effect the truce, which has already been declared by Slovenian authorities. We further ask that the United States, in concert with other western nations, prevents arms shipments which would get into the hands of the Yugoslav Peoples Army, and also ask that any economic assistance to the Yugoslav government immediately be stopped. In the event that the Yugoslav Peoples army does not stop the aggression and unnecessary bloodshed, the United States should break off diplomatic relations with the Central Government in Belgrade.

Mr. President, decisive, immediate action on your part is essential. Slovenians all over America and the world look toward your leadership in turning the tide in this crisis. Only then, will we be able to joyfully celebrate with other fellow Americans, our July 4th Independence Day.

We thank you for your anticipated immediate intervention.

Slovenian-American Council

By: *John A. Hocevar*  
Acting President

JAH:mp

*Thanks to All Our Supporters*

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drugimi Slovenci in Slovenkami,  
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iz prav vseh krajev in koncev  
naše skupne in prelepe, sedaj svobodne  
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Mother of God protect her. All her citizens should  
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**The problems  
in Yugoslavia**

Fighting in Yugoslavia began last June after the two wealthiest republics, Slovenia and Croatia, seceded. The Slovenians were allowed to leave after a brief skirmish with the Yugoslav National Army, but Croatia, with 600,000 Serbs, became a battleground.

When Croatia declared independence, Serbs said they would never live as a minority in a foreign country, and seceded. The army moved into Croatia soon after, helping Serb irregulars take control over about one-third of the country.



*Congratulations on U.S. Recognition and the  
Successful Fight for Independence!*

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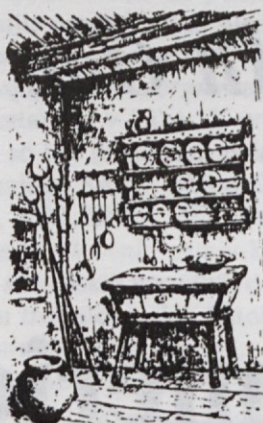
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**We want to thank all AMERICAN-SLOVENIANS  
and everybody who helped the  
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on its International Recognition —  
Especially the United States of America**



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**Želimo vsem Slovencem in Slovenkam  
SREČNO BODOČNOST!**

**Frank and Angie Fujs**



## The Slovenian American Heritage Foundation

is proud to join with other Slovenian American organizations in celebrating the recognition by the United States of the **REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**, the land to which we trace our heritage, as a full and equal partner in the world community of nations.

We of the SAHF express our congratulations to the "United Americans for Slovenia" — of which we too, as so many other groups, were an integral part — on achieving the goal for which the organization was established. Only in the years to come will we appreciate how truly historic these times have been.

Let us resolve to continue our work in the preservation of the Slovene heritage common to us all, and to redouble our efforts to work together in this cause, never forgetting the wisdom of the saying:

**"In Unity there is Strength"**  
(V slogi je moč)

Dr. Karl B. Bonutti, President

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United Americans for Slovenia Chairman Edmund J. Turk and Ohio Governor George V. Voinovich at the April 10 celebration of United States recognition of Slovenia, held at the St. Clair Slovenian National Home.



Joseph Valencic, who did most of the publicity work for the United Americans for Slovenia.

## The Alliance of Slovenian Americans

(Zveza slovenskih Amerikancev)

Proudly Congratulates  
the new

**REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

on its recognition by the United States and its acceptance as a member of the United Nations.

We express our appreciation to the "United Americans for Slovenia" for its untiring work in behalf of helping secure United States recognition of the Republic of Slovenia.

We were honored to be able to work with you in this campaign.

The Alliance of Slovenian Americans remains committed to the principles expressed in its Mission Statement. We stand ready to work with all Slovene Americans who share those principles and remain prepared for dialogue with all democratically elected representatives of Slovenia and their institutions.

Florence Unetich  
President

Dr. Rudolph M. Susel  
Executive Director

## RECOGNITION OF SLOVENIA

On behalf of AllSlovenian Committee, Slovenian Organizations and Establishments in Southern Ontario, I extend sincerest congratulations to Slovenian people.

International recognition of Slovenia is a remarkable and historic achievement.

On January 15, 1992, we Canadian-Slovenians proudly celebrated Slovenia's recognition by Canada and over 30 other countries.

We are very grateful to Canada for being among the first nations to recognize Slovenia. Thanks to Prime Minister Mulroney, External Affairs Minister Honourable Barbara McDougall and many other Canadians. Special thanks to Canadian-Slovenians for their persistent and diligent work towards Slovenian Freedom, Democracy and Recognition.

Sincerest congratulations to the government of the U.S.A. and its people for their recognition of the Independent Republic of Slovenia. Special thanks to American-Slovenians for their contributions toward this great achievement. Recognition of Slovenia is now complete.

We feel confident that Slovenia will develop its economy, culture and statehood according to the desire of its people and with respect for the rule of the law. We also feel Slovenia will become a reliable and valuable partner in international relations.

The Old Country is now a New Country Slovenia, free and independent at last.

Stan Kranjc



President  
AllSlovenian Committee  
Ontario, Canada

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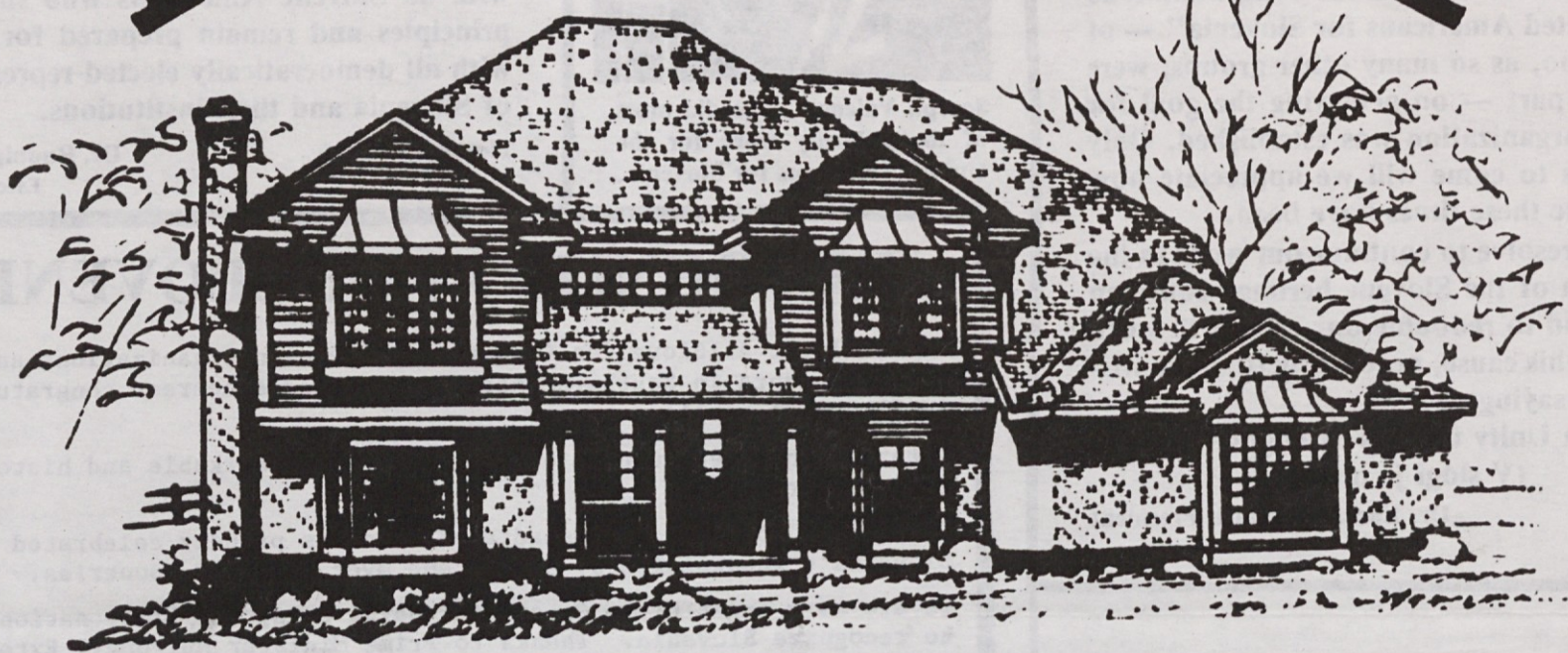
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