

# YUGOSLAVIA

## SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC ADDRESSES RALLY AT GAZIMESTAN

*Belgrade home service 1109 gmt 28 Jun 89*

*Text of live relay of speech delivered at 28th June rally celebrating the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo Polje (EE/04951)*

Comrades, comrades. At this place, at this place [repeats himself] in the heart of Serbia at the Field of Kosovo, six centuries ago, a full 600 years ago, one of the greatest battles of the time took place. As (?all great events) [words indistinct] many questions and secrets [words indistinct]. By the force of social circumstances this great 600th anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo is taking place in a year in which Serbia, after many years, after decades, has regained its state, national and spiritual integrity.

Therefore, it is not difficult for me to answer today the old question with whom [words indistinct]. Throughout the game of history and life, it seems as if Serbia has, precisely in this year, in 1989, (?gained) its state and its dignity and thus has celebrated an event of the distant past which has a great historical and symbolic significance for its future. Today, it is difficult to say what is the historical truth about the Battle of Kosovo and what is legend. (?Today) this is no longer important. Oppressed by pain and filled with hope, the people (?used to suffer and forget), as, after all, all people in the world do, and [word indistinct] and, glorified heroism. Therefore, it is difficult to say today whether the Battle of Kosovo was a defeat or a victory for the Serbian people, whether thanks to it we fell into slavery or whether thanks to it we [word indistinct] in this slavery. The answers to those questions will be constantly sought by science and the people. What has been certain through all the centuries until our time today is that disharmony struck Kosovo 600 years ago. If we lost the battle, then this was not only the result of (?social) superiority and the (?geographical) advantage of the Ottoman Empire, but also of the disunity in the leadership of the Serbian state at that time.

In that distant 1389, the Ottoman Empire was not only stronger than that of the Serbs, but it was [word indistinct] than the Serbian kingdom. The lack of unity and betrayal in Kosovo will continue to follow the Serbian people like an evil (?fate) through the whole of its history. Even in the last war, this lack of unity and betrayal led the Serbian people and Serbia into agony, the consequences of which, in the historical and moral sense exceeded fascist aggression. Even later, when a socialist Yugoslavia was set up, in this new state the Serbian leadership remained divided [words indistinct] to the detriment of its own people. The concessions that many

Serbian leaders made at the expense of their people could not be accepted historically and ethically by any nation in the world, especially because the Serbs have never in the whole of their history conquered and exploited others. Their national and historical being has been liberational throughout the whole of history and through two world wars, as it is today. They liberated themselves and when they could they also helped others to liberate themselves. The fact that in the region (?they are in the majority), is not a Serbian sin or shame, this is an advantage which they have not used against others, but I must say that here, in this big, legendary field of Kosovo, the Serbs have not used the advantage of being in a majority for their own benefit either.

Thanks to their leaders and politicians and their vasaal mentality they felt guilty before themselves and others. Disunity among Serbian politicians made Serbia lag behind and the inferiority of those politicians humiliated Serbia.

This situation lasted for decades, it lasted for years and here we are now at the field of Kosovo to say that this is no longer the case. Therefore, no place in Serbia is better suited for saying this than the field of Kosovo and no place in Serbia is better suited than the field of Kosovo for saying that unity in Serbia will bring prosperity to the Serbian people [words indistinct] and each one of its citizens, irrespective of his national or religious affiliation.

Serbia of today is united and equal to other republics and should do everything to improve its financial and social position and that of all its citizens. If there is unity, cooperation and seriousness, it will succeed in doing so. This is why the optimism that is now present (?in all the republic these) days is realistic, also because it is based on freedom, which makes it possible for all people to express their positive, creative and humane abilities aimed at furthering social and personal life.

Serbia has never had only Serbs living in it. Today, more than in the past, members of other peoples and nationalities also live in it. This is not a disadvantage for Serbia. I am truly convinced that it is its advantage. The national composition of almost all countries in the world today, particularly developed ones, has also been changing in this direction. Citizens of different nationalities, religions and races have been living together more and more frequently and more and more successfully. Socialism in particular, being a progressive and just democratic society, should not allow people to be divided in the national and religious respect. The only differences one can and should allow in socialism are between hard working people and idlers and between honest people and dishonest people. Therefore, all people in Serbia who live from their own work [words indistinct] respecting other people and other nations in their republic. After all, our entire country should be set up on the basis of such principles.

Yugoslavia is a multinational community and it can survive only under the conditions of full equality for all nations that live in it. The crisis that hit Yugoslavia has brought about national divisions, but also social, cultural, religious and many