

The Federal delegation had included President of the SFRY, Presidency Janez Drnovsek and several members of the Presidency, LCY Presidium President Milan Pancevski; SFRY Assembly President Slobodan Gligorijevic; FEC President Ante Markovic; Col-Gen Veljko Kadijevic, Federal Secretary for National Defence; Budimir Loncar, Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Petar Gracanin, Federal Secretary for Internal Affairs, and Serbian LC President Bogdan Trifunovic. In the afternoon, Tanjug reported (in English 1854 gmt 28 Jun 89), Patriarch German had officiated at a requiem in memory of those who had fallen in the battle.

## SLOVENE COMMENT ON KOSOVO CELEBRATIONS

Ljubljana: 1700 gmt 28 Jun 89

*Text of report from Kosovo by special correspondents Marjan Rogelj*

The plain near Pristina is again sinking into silence and solitude this evening, as it did 600 years ago after the celebrated Battle of Kosovo. There are no unanimous historical explanations of the battle, whether the Serbs lost it or won it; just as at this moment it is not possible to reliably predict the consequences of the gathering at Gazimestan today [28th June]

The facts indisputably indicate an obvious national rallying of the Serbs and an emergence of their leader whom they celebrate like the legendary Prince Lazar. It is difficult to believe any event connected with the situation in Serbia to be accidental, and one begins to understand that what we have is an excellent programme worked out in detail, with all the political and other consequences.

If the Serbs lost their identity at Gazimestan here 600 years ago, they restored it most certainly to their own satisfaction with all the glitter again today, numerous actions of course preceding. We cannot remember any moment in the recent history of this republic when the Orthodox Church was as active and as close to the official policy as it happened at the Kosovo battle festivities.

Why did I say, to their own satisfaction? They have a united leadership enjoying blind support of the entire Serbian people. This year they amended the Constitution and, as they say, achieved statehood. With their loan, they opened numerous hopes for a better tomorrow. And all in all, they revived the feelings of power, of greatness and of historic messages that push them into euphoric and even harsh treatment of others.

Nobody would dare to utter any reproaches had the increase of the internal power and unity of our largest republic not begun to trouble the relations in the federation, and had its politics not splashed so obviously and ruthlessly over the brink of its own borders, say, to Montenegro, and had it not, within its borders, inundated Kosovo with a single wave, and Vojvodina with another, more considerate wave.

Is it, therefore, a coincidence that Slobodan Milosevic spoke today in a tolerant way - many expected fresh attacks - but nevertheless as a state leader, and not just President of the

Presidency of Serbia? It is perhaps the result of an error of the reporter, or of his inattention, that he did not see a single picture to Tito in the entire field, but thousands of Milosevic's pictures? Is it right that this celebrated leader did not mention the Albanians with a single word in Kosovo today? And how is one to understand his words toward the end of his speech, I quote: Six centuries later we are again engaged in battles and facing battles. They are not armed battles, although such things cannot be excluded yet.

And whatever significance the Kosovo battle may have in the national and intimate consciousness of the Serbs, the festivities at Gazimestan again confirmed that it will be more and more difficult to face Serbian conduct and wishes, for it seems that the Serbs won a significant victory in Kosovo today and they made it known that it was not the last one. The feeling of belonging, of unity, power and almost blind obedience of the million-fold crowd and all the others from this republic of Serbian or Montenegrin origin who may not have attended the gathering, are the elements in shaping a sharp and unyielding policy.

## CONGRESS OF SLOVENE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

*Abstract of reports*

The recently established Slovene Democratic Alliance convened its first congress in Maribor on 24th June. Opening the meeting, the President of the Executive Council of the Slovene Democratic Alliance, Dimitrij Rupel, said: "We renounce the struggle for power since our job is to fight for democracy. We will primarily advocate strict democratic procedures and the emergence of an opposition to the regime. We are highly distrustful of those theories which associate freedom with Yugoslav statehood alone. The principle political ground of the Slovene Democratic Alliance is the Slovene state", he stressed among other things as he made several criticisms of "the humiliated Slovene officials". They, Jozef Smole and the rest, had been chosen by the forces from above, nevertheless they are trusted by little gentle Slovene souls and private owners. Therefore, Rupel stated, the task of this congress is to consider whether one can accept the socialism which on the one hand is based upon words and on the other hand on tanks.

Delegates greeted with stormy applause Rupel's proposal that "a Slovene national programme should be made which could enable the Slovene state to find its appropriate place in the renovated Europe of nations."

The Slovenes will not join Europe via Belgrade, and depending on its will and whims. We must contact directly other European nations. It is meaningless to present our ideas to the Germans or the English in Serbo-Croat, in a Russian alphabet. The precondition for the multi-cultural environment of the post-modern European variety is, Rupel maintained, "the establishment of a complete nation with its national parliament, language, TV, judiciary and army". Concluding his address he appealed that "one should not take as an example those who celebrate their 600 years-old defeats as a victory".