

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

43/2019



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Hunor Kelemen and Ludovic Orban to sign parliamentary cooperation agreement

In Bucharest last Monday afternoon President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) Hunor Kelemen and Ludovic Orban signed a parliamentary cooperation agreement to support the PNL government. The RMDSZ has eleven preconditions to vote in favor of the inauguration of the Orban administration. Mr. Kelemen told news agency Maszol that settling the issue related to the military cemetery in Úzvölgy is not included in the agreement, but they are discussing the issue and agree that in this case compliance with the law is a priority. According to the document signed on Monday, the RMDSZ is promising parliamentary support to pass government bills, on which the parties can come to an agreement during weekly discussions between the two fractions. The PNL is committed to enforcing the laws and international contracts on minority rights, and will not enact laws by urgent Government Decree and liability.

Foreign Minister candidate fears that the Trianon centenary would damage Romanian-Hungarian relations

Romanian presidential foreign policy advisor Bogdan Aurescu – who has been nominated to the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs by Romania's prime minister-elect and President of the center-right National Liberal Party (PNL) Ludovic Orban – fears that the Trianon centenary could damage Romanian-Hungarian relations. Mr. Aurescu urged the establishment of a bilateral chamber of commerce, and indicated that the two countries face several important projects, including construction of the Bucharest-Budapest high-speed rail link. He said that “I have to mention the unfortunate case of the mixed minority committee, which has not had a meeting for a very long time, with the last protocol signed in 2009. We cannot ignore that the one hundredth anniversary of the Trianon Peace Treaty will take place on 4 June next year, and we hope that this occasion will not lead to a diplomatic confrontation in bilateral relations.”



No complete Hungarian collaboration in the parliamentary elections

The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), that had initiated and hosted discussions, has announced in a press release that five-party talks on the establishment of a single electoral list in Slovakia have been adjourned. The reason is that the MKP, the Hungarian Forum and the newly registered Összefogás rejected collaboration with the governing party, Smer, which is led by Robert Fico. Most-Híd (Bridge) and the Hungarian Christian Democratic Alliance (MKDSZ), however, share the view that a decision must be made on the issue by consensus after the elections. President of the MKP József Menyhárt said that everything must be done for the Hungarian community, but within a moral limit. He added that despite the events that have happened, he has not given up hope, and will do his best to create a “strong and



authentic unified list”, in which everybody can find their place. Béla Bugár, leader of Bridge, said that the discussions made clear that for the MKP and the Összefogás formation scoring political points is more important than a united Hungarian representation.



Commemorating innocent victims executed in 1944 and 1945

On Saturday, speaking at a commemoration ceremony remembering innocent victims executed in 1944 and 1945, István Pásztor – President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and Speaker of the Regional Assembly in Vojvodina – said that every year they must remember the horrors and what humankind is capable of committing out of revenge and ideological belief. He added that they must remember that, regardless of the horrors, seventy-five years have not been enough to break the community and make them forget the unforgettable. Mr. Pásztor said that sooner or later the time for justice and worthy tribute will come, but one must always remember that sooner or later persistence, conviction, the search for the truth and moral justice will come about. He concluded by saying that it is the responsibility of everyone to pass on the memory to emerging generations.



Szijjártó: Hungarian proposal for NATO-Ukraine statement adopted

At the very last moment, after the official deadline, the NATO member states and Ukraine adopted a Hungarian proposal on the NATO-Ukraine joint statement. In a statement to Hungarian news agency MTI on Thursday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that this means that Hungary’s stand in support of Transcarpathian Hungarians has achieved results. In the statement Mr. Szijjártó said that after all the parties eventually took Hungary’s proposal into account, and accordingly the joint statement now expresses support for the Hungarian community that has been stripped of its rights, and calls on Ukraine to abide by international law and the requirements of international organizations. In his statement Mr. Szijjártó stressed that this once again makes it clear that Ukraine must return the rights that it has taken away from national minorities in the fields of education and other areas of life. Mr. Szijjártó concluded by saying that the 150,000 members of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia can continue to count on the Hungarian government’s support as they have done so far, and that Hungary will never sacrifice them on “the altar of international power politics”.





In Canada a website is launched to present Hungarian heritage and other accomplishments

At the initiative of the Hungarian Embassy in Ottawa, a new website has been launched to present Hungarian heritage and other values. The Embassy said that collecting Hungarian cultural artefacts in Canada started in 2017, on the 150th anniversary of the founding of Canada. This major anniversary in Canada provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the achievements of the country's history, society and culture. This highlighted that the Hungarian communities are present in several areas of everyday life in the country. A comprehensive information net and a collection of memorabilia presenting this fact, however, were missing. As a result of the collection work carried out by Hungarian organizations, local Hungarian communities for nearly two years, over a hundred documented, in many cases illustrated with photos present the Hungarian values that can be found in Canada. The newly launched website (<https://hungarianheritageincanada.ca>) is aimed at presenting these values and the exchange of information.

Potápi: Rodostó/Tekirdag should be connected with the Hungarian remembrance

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Turkish-Hungarian Culture House in Rodostó/Tekirdag, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that Rodostó should be far more strongly linked with Hungarian remembrance and Hungarian tourism. The Culture House was opened behind the Rákóczi Museum on 11 Hikmet Cevic Street. At the renovated building, the State Secretary recalled, that it used to be the home of Count Mihály Csáky: one of the most loyal generals of Prince Rákóczi Ferenc II, who even followed him into hiding, and who was the leader of the Rodostó Kuruc emigration from 1738 until his death in 1757. Mr. Potápi said that two years ago he visited Rodostó for the first time, and was moved to see how much Turkish people and their leaders care about the Kuruc and Rákóczi tradition. He stressed that the former residence of Count Csáky was fully financed from the budget of the town's local government, in order to attract both Hungarian and local tourists.

