

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Potápi: Whoever is against Hungarian communities abroad is against the whole Hungarian nation

In the Hungarian daily newspaper Magyar Nemzet, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi responded to a speech delivered in the Hungarian parliament on Monday by Tímea Szabó, leader of Párbeszéd (Dialogue for Hungary). Mr. Potápi said that “whoever is against Hungarian communities abroad is against the whole Hungarian nation.” Mr. Potápi emphasized that it’s not the fault of Hungarians abroad that have lived in those territories for centuries, and it is also not their fault that for the past hundred years the borders of Hungary are not the borders of our nation. In his opinion, delivering a speech of this kind in the Year of National Cohesion is shocking and outrageous, and we did not witness this kind of behavior even in the darkest times of communism. This is quite apart from the fact, he said, that the donation of protective equipment to Hungarian communities abroad was a symbolic gesture to assure them that the Hungarian government thinks of the nation as a whole, and that years of cooperation and work have proven to be fruitful.

Tímea Szabó’s comment has also been condemned by Hungarian party leaders. President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen pointed out that solidarity is seen through actions, and the Hungarian government has proven to be reliable. László Brenzovics, leader of the Transcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association (KMKSZ) said that Tímea Szabó has not only violated Hungarian national values, but also basic European values, as she has attacked the notion of solidarity and compassion. Gyula Bárdos, leader of the Czechoslovak Hungarian Workers’ Cultural Association (Csemadok) and former leader of Unity of Hungarian Community, has claimed that the vast majority of Hungarians in Slovakia condemn Tímea Szabó’s comments, and István Pásztor, president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), said that this kind of hatred is not welcome in Hungarian society.

Six hundred Hungarian students from the kin state and communities abroad participated in the grand final of the high school contest “Without Borders”

The State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has told the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) that approximately 600 Hungarian students from the kin state and communities abroad participated in the grand final of the high school contest “Without Borders”, which, due to the current state of emergency, was held online. The state secretariat stated that the contest related to the Without Borders! Program was announced in October 2019 and has become a glorious page in their history book, with more than 75,000 participants from Hungary and abroad. Every team which reached the final received HUF 100,000 and other prizes, and the winner received a prize worth HUF 1 million. The winners were the tenth graders at the János Hám Roman Catholic Theological School of Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare). The aim of the contest was to assure Hungarian communities abroad that we stand by them, and we



create the opportunity to keep in touch and deepen our knowledge of our history and culture.



The Romanian ambassador in Budapest defends Tímea Szabó, to which Péter Szijjártó says “he couldn’t sink any lower”

On his Facebook page Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó noted that the Romanian ambassador in Budapest has defended Tímea Szabó, co-leader of Párbeszéd (Dialogue for Hungary). As Hungarian daily newspaper Magyar Nemzet pointed out, the opposition politician criticized the Hungarian government for donating packages containing protective equipment to Hungarian communities abroad. Although Ms. Szabó later commented that her remarks did not concern the donation, her comments were very widely condemned. On Saturday Péter Szijjártó stated that after all this, the Romanian ambassador in Budapest has labelled remarks critical of Ms. Szabó’s behavior as “insults” and “threats.”



Gyimesi: The acceptance of the minority law is crucial

MP György Gyimesi (OLaNO) thinks the acceptance of the minority law is crucial regarding the question of minorities. In his opinion, minorities must not be regarded as security risks. He emphasized that minority interests will be represented in the parliament. Mr. Gyimesi talked about this on Thursday, in connection with a debate about the government’s program. In his opinion, the minority law must include a definition of the members of a minority group. He believes minorities must be granted the opportunity to participate in making decisions that concern them. Mr. Gyimesi also highlighted the importance of a planned minority office, which would take over the responsibilities of the Government Commissioner for minorities.



István Pásztor: The fight against coronavirus has been effective

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, István Pásztor pointed out that a new phase in the fight against the coronavirus has begun. After strict measures, the government has now made some concessions for the first time, indicating that the situation will gradually return to normal. The president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) stressed that markets would soon open, some services will be available again, and the curfew will be shortened. As he pointed out, “with regard to these decisions, I’d like to ask municipal leaders of the VMSZ to provide the conditions needed for the markets to be able to operate, respecting the law, of course. Today the preparations will be finished, tomorrow we can return to normal.”



8.5 tons of protective equipment arrives in Transcarpathia with the support of the Hungarian government

On its Facebook page the Hungarian Consulate in Berehove posted that 8.5 tons of protective equipment arrived in Ukraine on 18 April 2020. The action was initiated by Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA). The organization has been doing humanitarian work and developments in many Ukrainian regions and organized this action in response to an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In addition to the county hospital of Berehove, those of Uzhhorod (Ungvár), Mukachevo (Munkács), Vynohradiv (Nagyszőlős), Tyachiv (Técső), Rakhiv (Rahó), Khust (Huszt) and Irshava (Ilosva) will be supported, alongside the regional hospital, the infectious disease hospital, children's hospital, institute of cardiology, GPs and the regional ambulance service.

