

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

11/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



Commemorations on the anniversary of the 1848-49 revolution in Hungary and abroad

Addressing the central state commemoration on the anniversary of the 1848-49 Hungarian revolution held in front of Budapest's National Museum, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that "Freedom and the nation's independence [...] are the twin guiding stars of [...] Hungarian history." The Prime Minister stressed that "the struggle for Hungary's sovereignty will never end." He added that over the past few years, a strong Hungarian nation has started to emerge. Mr. Orbán concluded his speech with the following words: "Faith in the truth and perseverance will lead us to victory. Only the strong survive. We, Hungarians are on the threshold of a great era. The name of Hungary will be great again, worthy of its old, great honor."

On the national holiday marking the 1848-49 Revolution, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán greeted Hungarians living abroad in a letter which was read out at a number of celebrations across the Carpathian Basin on Sunday. The Prime Minister wrote in his letter that after long years of oppression, 15 March 1848 showed what a spirited and courageous nation the Hungarians are. The Prime Minister underlined in his letter that "We still believe that the Hungarian freedom can only be won by the Hungarians: through solidarity, work and reconciliation."

Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and the president of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén participated in a commemoration organized by Hungary's Embassy in London on Thursday.

Addressing the event, the Deputy Prime Minister said that the Hungarian nation can remain only if every part of the nation survives – including Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin and those in the West.

On 15 March, commemorations were also held at several locations in the Carpathian Basin (in Transylvania, Slovakia, Vojvodina, Transcarpathia and Slovenia), as well as in the Hungarian communities of the diaspora.

Petőfi Program supporting dispersed Hungarian populations in the Carpathian Basin is launched

At a press conference held in Budapest on Thursday, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that the Hungarian Government's new program named the Petőfi Sándor Program would be launched on 15 March. The state secretary stressed that the aim of the program is to stop the assimilation of Hungarian communities living in dispersed populations in the Carpathian Basin and to strengthen their Hungarian identity. Mr. Potápi added that the program has been established on the basis of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program and its target areas will include the Carpathian Basin, Austria, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and the Romanian region of Moldavia. Under the program, fifty young Hungarians will have an opportunity to spend 6-9 months in dispersed Hungarian communities of the Carpathian Basin.



HUF 48 million is allocated for the collection of Hungarian national treasures abroad

On behalf of Hungary's Ministry of Agriculture, the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management Ltd. has announced a tender worth HUF 48 million (EUR 158,000) and is accepting the applications of Hungarian organizations abroad to collect Hungarian national treasures located outside Hungary. At a press conference held in Budapest on Thursday, State Secretary for Environmental Affairs, Agricultural Development and Hungaricums Zsolt V. Németh said that the collection of Hungarian national treasures abroad is equally important to those in Hungary. The state secretary added that national treasures located beyond Hungary's borders are part of Hungarian national heritage collected throughout history, therefore the organization and promotion of the national treasures collection movement abroad is of the utmost importance, and the Ministry of Agriculture is ensuring the resources necessary for its realization.

The Hungarian National Depository consists of exceptional national products and features of heritage (Hungaricums) which have a remarkable, distinctive value, represent the outstanding achievement of the Hungarian nation with its uniqueness, specialness and high quality, and are recognized nationally and internationally.



Hungarians commemorate the Day of Szekler Freedom

Commemorations were held at several locations across Hungary and Transylvania on 10 March to mark the Day of Szekler Freedom.

The largest gathering in Transylvania took place in the city of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş, where about 500 people paid their respects at the Memorial of Szekler Martyrs in memory of the leaders of an anti-Habsburg uprising of the Transylvanian Hungarian community, who were executed 161 years ago. After the commemoration and the singing of Hungary's and Szeklerland's anthem, the participants left peacefully. Earlier the Szekler National Council (SZNT) had planned a march and a demonstration for the Day of Szekler Freedom to protest against the Romanian Government's plans for regionalization, but the protest was banned by the town's mayor Dorin Florea. Instead of the planned march, the organizations of the SZNT (the so-called "councils") held protests in several towns in Szeklerland including Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe, Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc and Gyergószentmiklós/Gheorgheni. The participants in the protests adopted a petition in which they demanded autonomy for Szeklerland and protested against the restriction on freedom of assembly and the persecution of Szekler national symbols by Romanian authorities.

On the Day of Szekler Freedom, commemorations were also organized in several towns in Hungary, including Budapest, Székesfehérvár, Esztergom and Szolnok. In a statement issued on 10 March, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that his state secretariat supports the demonstrations



organized for the Day of Szekler Freedom, the aim of which is to draw attention to the issue of Szeklerland's autonomy.



Hungary adopts resolution on supporting Transcarpathian Hungarians

The Hungarian Government has adopted a resolution aimed at supporting Hungarian families in Transcarpathia. The planned support will be realized with the help of charity and social organizations. The resolution submitted by Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén states that "Bearing in mind that the Hungarian Government shall bear responsibility for the fate of Hungarians living abroad, it considers it important to support Hungarian families living in Transcarpathia." To this end, the Government has called on Minister of Human Capacities Zoltán Balog to enter into a cooperation agreement with Caritas Hungarica by the end of March, in order to launch a one-year program helping Hungarian families in Transcarpathia. For this aim, Minister of National Economy Mihály Varga needs to allocate HUF 85 million (EUR 280,000) in financial support.

