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Árpád János Potápi: the secret of Szeklers is their insatiable desire for freedom

Speaking at a commemoration in Hungary's Bonyhád marking the 254th anniversary of the Siculicidium, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that "the secret of Szeklers is their insatiable desire for freedom and self-determination." In Latin Siculicidium means the "murder of Szeklers": it was a mass murder committed against Szeklers by the Habsburg army at Madéfalva/Siculeni in Romania in 1764, under Maria Theresa. Speaking at the Székely Memorial Park of Bonyhád, Mr. Potápi highlighted that 7 January 1764 has become known in history as the day of the "massacre of Szeklers", when more than 200 people – including women and children – were killed in Madéfalva. The State Secretary – who is a descendent of Bukovina Szeklers – said that on "that day a part of the Hungarian nation was lost", stressing that, throughout history, whatever power has tried to oppress Hungarians, they have always stood firm and have been able to preserve the legacy of their ancestors.

István Grezsa: Hungary will launch diaspora internship program for priests

Speaking at the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program's closing conference for scholarship holders who have arrived back in Hungary after spending six months in Hungarian communities in Southern Hemisphere countries, government commissioner István Grezsa said that the Hungarian Government is planning to launch a similar scholarship program for priests. Mr. Grezsa said the feedback from Hungarian communities abroad – and Hungarian historic churches in the diaspora – is that there is a huge need for priests and pastors in the diaspora, who could greatly help in these communities. The government commissioner expressed his thanks to those who worked in the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program in the Southern Hemisphere. He added that ties between the kin-state and Hungarians living abroad have strengthened a lot in recent years, and this is also due to the service of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program's scholarship holders.



The RMDSZ, MPP and EMNP sign joint resolution on the harmonizing of Szeklerland's autonomy concepts

On Monday the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) and the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) signed a joint resolution in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca on harmonizing the autonomy concepts of Szeklerland. Speaking at a press conference held as part of the event, the parties stressed that on the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Kolozsvár Declaration, which first laid out Transylvanian Hungarians' demands for autonomy, they wanted to confirm that these demands still exist. The leader of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that the centenary of the 1918 Gyulafehérvár Declaration provides a



good opportunity to start a dialogue with the majority nation on Szeklers' efforts for autonomy. He stressed that autonomy is a good solution in several European countries, and therefore it must also be a good solution in Romania. Mr. Kelemen added that they believe that Transylvanian Hungarians living in a bloc are entitled to territorial autonomy; isolated towns in which Hungarians form the majority of the population are entitled to municipal autonomy; while Hungarians living regions of mixed population are entitled to cultural autonomy.

Commemoration in Madéfalva marking the 254th anniversary of the Siculicidium

More than 500 people commemorated the 254th anniversary of the Siculicidium in Madéfalva. The commemoration began with a holy mass in the newly-built Siculicidium chapel and continued at the memorial of the massacre. The event was addressed by: Károly Pánczél, the Chairman of the Hungarian National Assembly's Committee on National Cohesion; Consul General of Hungary to Csíkszereda/Miercuria Ciuc László Tóth; and the head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen. After the speeches, it was announced that the Hungarian Government will provide HUF 142.5 million (EUR 462,000) for the building of a new church kindergarten in Madéfalva.



Commemoration is held in Vojvodina's Csúrog

Speaking at a commemoration paying tribute to the victims of the 1942 Hungarian massacre in Csúrog/Čurug, the chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and head of the Provincial House of Representatives István Pásztor said that "there is no reconciliation if we do not talk about the victims, and there were many victims on both sides." Mr. Pásztor added that "if we do not remember the victims of others, we also offend our victims." According to historians, about 900-1300 innocent Serbs and Jews were executed during the massacre committed by the Hungarian occupying forces in 1942.



KMKSZ: Ukraine should consult national minorities before adopting laws affecting them

The chairman of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics has written an open letter to Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, asking him to consult the representatives of national minorities on Ukraine's draft concept on ethnicity policy and to send the draft to the Venice Commission. According to the organizations of national minorities living in Ukraine, the current form of the document contradicts Ukraine's constitution and laws and "degrades citizens belonging to national minorities to secondary citizens." Some days



ago, the leaders of Transcarpathian Hungarian organizations and historic churches have issued a joint statement, expressing their concern regarding the concept on Ukraine's ethnicity policy since during the preparation of the document no consultations were held with the representatives of national minorities.

