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Prime Minister Viktor Orbán: rebuilding the Carpathian Basin is one of Hungary's most important plans

In a speech delivered in Tusnádfürdő/Băile Tușnad on Saturday, the final day of the 29th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp (Tusványos), Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stressed that every European country has the right to defend its Christian culture and the traditional family model, and has the right to reject immigration. Before an audience of several thousand gathered in front of the central open-air stage, the Prime Minister reviewed the year which has passed since the last Tusványos event, highlighting that the Hungarian community in the Carpathian Basin broke through a psychological barrier when it welcomed its one millionth newly confirmed Hungarian citizen. He stated that after eight consecutive years in office, in April the Hungarian government was given the opportunity to work for another four years, and was mandated to build a new era. He said that the process of unifying the Hungarian nation has been transformed into the process of nation building, and the dress rehearsal for this was the general election in April. The Prime Minister stated that the election result confirms the fact that building the Hungarian nation is succeeding. Mr. Orbán declared that Hungarians are capable of understanding their complex and complicated situation, and that if necessary they are able to decide on their fate with one will and to move as one nation. The Prime Minister said: "From here, from Székely Land, I can say that Hungarians outside Hungary have stood alongside Hungarians in the motherland. Every vote cast here was a declaration of commitment to Hungary. With gratitude in my heart, I thank you for this commitment and support." Mr. Orbán described rebuilding the Carpathian Basin as one of Hungary's most important plans. He said that "Hungary's one hundred years of solitude is at an end. Once more we are strong, we are determined, we are brave, we have power, we have money, and we have our resources." He added that over the past few years Hungary has proved to its neighbors that "whoever cooperates with the Hungarians will prosper." Mr. Orbán said that Hungary invites its neighbors to create high-speed rail and road links connecting their countries, to link their energy networks, and to coordinate their defence policies and military developments. He cautioned that a joint building program requires mutual respect. Mr. Orbán noted that Hungarians realize that for Romanians this year's centenary (of the Romanian Assembly at Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia in 1918, which declared the union of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania) is cause for celebration. He asked them to understand, however, that for Hungarians "there is nothing to celebrate".

Leaders of Hungarian parties abroad voice support for Hungarian Government's policy for Hungarian communities abroad

Leaders of Hungarian parties in neighboring countries have voiced support for the Hungarian government's policies aimed at helping Hungarian communities abroad retain their national identity and prosper in their homelands. Speaking at a



roundtable discussion at the Bálványos Summer University and Student Camp in Romania's Tusnádfürdő/Baile Tusnad on Friday, head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics said that Hungary's solidarity was instrumental in the survival of his community "amid the Ukrainian state's anti-Hungarian attacks, efforts to curb education rights and incite hatred against the Hungarian minority". The chairman of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor highlighted the Hungarian government's economic program aimed at supporting Hungarian enterprises in Vojvodina and said that some 11,000 entrepreneurs had benefited from the scheme in the past two and a half years. The head of Slovenia's Hungarian community Ferenc Horváth referred to the same economic program as well as the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program and said that Hungarians in Slovenia have "for the first time in 100 years seen that being Hungarian is not a disadvantage but a good thing". Slovakia's Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) was represented by chairman József Menyhárt who highlighted the Hungarian government's scheme designed to save small Hungarian schools from closure. He also announced that his party would field a candidate for Slovakia's presidential election in the fall. The head of the Democratic Community of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) Róbert Jankovics said that funds from Hungary had been instrumental in improving his community's cultural institutions. He added that Hungarian farmers in Croatia had benefited from a total one billion forints in grants from the Hungarian economic program. Romanian senator Barna Tánczos who represented the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania said that Hungary's diplomatic assistance was very important at a time of recent Romanian court rulings "stigmatizing the whole community as terrorists".

Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén urges autonomy for Hungarians in Transylvania

Speaking at a roundtable discussion at the Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and head of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén called on Romania to fulfil pledges the country's first national assembly made in 1918, under which Hungarians should be granted autonomy. Mr. Semjén said that Romania should "honor that pledge and stop seeing it as extremism if Hungarians demand self-determination." The answer to the Trianon Treaty, which severed Transylvania from Hungary, is "national mourning, celebrating national unity and openly representing the Hungarian standpoint on such historical events," he said, criticizing the call for holding a "national consultation" survey on the revision of Trianon. Mr. Semjén said that Hungary is open to cooperation with Romania, citing the country's "historic reconciliation" with Serbia as an example of good relations. Hungary provides economic support for ethnic Hungarian minorities in neighboring countries, and such a cooperation is a win-win situation for both sides. The Deputy Prime Minister added that Hungary and Romania are cooperating successfully in setting up "Europe's north-



south infrastructural axis” and opposing the Ukrainian public education law, which Hungary says curbs minority rights.

The 1918 national assembly in Alba Iulia (Gyulafehérvár) and the declaration signed there created present-day Romania by uniting Transylvania with Bessarabia and Bukovina. It is that time of the year again when Hungarians mourn the great loss that the Treaty of Trianon. June 4 is the 98th anniversary of Hungary losing 2/3 of its territory and about 1/3 of its population.

Árpád János Potápi opens the 29th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp

Opening the 29th Bálványos Summer Open University and Student Camp (Tusványos), State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that Hungarians across the globe are now united, and today’s Hungarian parliament “essentially works as a national assembly”. The summer university dubbed “Tusványos” was held between July 24 and 29. Árpád János Potápi noted that the summer university is increasingly in the public eye, mostly thanks to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán who traditionally gives a speech there. Mr. Potápi added that “We often see what the prime minister has said in Tusnádfürdő echoed in European and international politics”. He added that “We are working to re-establish the freedom of our country to serve not only the nation but Europe as a whole and Christian affairs”, quoting Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II, leader of a Hungarian revolution against the Habsburgs in the 18th century. Potápi lauded the summer university’s influence on relations with Hungarian minorities, and the work of organizations registering Hungarian voters and collecting their ballots for the April 8 general election. He stressed that the ruling Fidesz-Christian Democratic Party (KDNP) alliance has the support of over 96 percent of Hungarians living abroad. The chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly, a founder of the Tusványos summer university Zsolt Németh said that the votes of Hungarians living abroad had contributed to the two-thirds majority of the Hungarian ruling parties. He added that one initial goal of the summer university is to “normalize Hungarian-Romanian dialogue”. He added that there is still room for improvement in this respect. Mr. Németh highlighted that “the program of the next years is to tell our Romanian and European friends that we are not against them but for them and our common goals. We have a responsibility not only for relations between the two countries but for the state and security of central Europe and, ultimately, for the success of the Transatlantic area.” Németh expressed hope that Romania would support central European development when it takes over the EU presidency in January 2019.

