

NEWS



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Bulletin of the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR) – Association of Antifascists

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“The Balkans - a zone of peace, understanding and cooperation”

Under this title took place on May 5/6 2018 an international anti-fascist conference in Belgrade invited by the Serbian veteran association SUBNOR. Among the approximately 100 guests of the conference were eleven different national delegations from all states of former Yugoslavia, from Albania, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria and representatives of the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR).

The importance of this meeting in Serbia was demonstrated by the presence and greetings of two ministers of the Serbian government at the opening of the conference, as well as a broad response from television and print media. The presence of the Guards Regiment of the Serbian army at the joint wreath-laying ceremony at the “Monument to the Liberators” of 1944 was also a great recognition of this meeting.

Dušan Čukić, President of SUBNOR and Vilmos Hanti, President of FIR, spoke at the opening of the conference. The memory of the common historical and political fate shaped the debate. Most of the speakers reminded of NATO and the Bundeswehr’s attack in 1999 breaking international law and of the partisan struggle and the political conclusions to be drawn from these events for today. Almost all delegations endeavored to highlight their “national share” in the liberation struggle. At the same time, it was clear that the anti-fascist traditions of Yugoslavia are still alive, despite all efforts to transcribe history. Thus, the “Final Declaration” rejected all attacks on this memory and the many forms of historical revision in the various countries.

Related to the issues of the present, the cooperation was much more complicated. The comrades of SUBNOR tried to find a balance between different positions. That this was at the expense of the political clarity of the final declaration cannot be surprising. Its political value was more in the joint signing by all eleven delegations. The continuation of these contacts was agreed. That would be a big win for a more peaceful development in the Balkans.

