

**ESTEEMED MEMBERS OF
THE 117TH US CONGRESS**

HONORABLE MEMBER OF CONGRESS,

I am writing you to express my disagreement with the proposed House Resolution 741, Expressing support for the designation of the month of September 2022 as "Macedonian American Heritage Month" and celebrating the Macedonian language, history, and culture of Macedonian Americans and their incredible contributions to the United States (hereafter referred to as Resolution 741).

This document is based on falsifications and manipulations and it aims at using the US Congress as a tool to re-write history and legitimize the claim that a "Macedonian" ethnicity and language existed before 1944. Adopting this resolution would be equivalent to an official approval by the United States of the policy of the USSR, the Communist International (Comintern) and Joseph Stalin personally to annihilate the millennia-old history and presence of Bulgarians in the geographic region of Macedonia and to create a "Macedonian" ethnic group out of the Bulgarians living in the geographic region of Macedonia. This is one of many examples of the policy of Joseph Stalin to create, annihilate or move geographically whole nations, in support of his visions of establishing a world communist state, dominated by Moscow. This policy is used by Joseph Stalin's political descendants to this day. It suffices to mention the falsifications of history, used by modern day Russia to justify the invasion in Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea.

The real instigator of the resolution - the organization "United Macedonian Diaspora" (UMD) – is a foreign agent organization, funded and directed from abroad with the aim of influencing the United States public opinion and institutions. The UMD skillfully uses the opportunities offered by the American democracy to peddle lies about the "history" of the "Macedonians", taking full advantage of the limited knowledge in the American society about the history of the geographic region of Macedonia. Actually, the UMD is trying to legitimize concepts and policies from the darkest times of the communist totalitarian regime, developed by the USSR under Joseph Stalin's leadership and enforced with reckless brutality by communist Yugoslavia. These policies cost the lives of tens of thousands of Bulgarians in the geographic region of Macedonia. Many more were compelled to leave their ancestral lands in order to save their lives. Those who stayed after 1944 had to adopt, or at least pretend that they adopted, the new "Macedonian" ethnic identity if they wanted to survive.

Now the UMD and its collaborators try to make the US Congress justify retroactively the results of the physical and cultural genocide of the ethnic Bulgarians that was carried out in the geographic region of Macedonia for the better part of the 20th century. This is morally unacceptable for millions of Bulgarians and for the Americans who are descendants of Bulgarians from Macedonia who immigrated to the United States in the search of a safe heaven. If the United States is to keep its moral high ground, it should be unacceptable for the US Congress too.

In addition, I would like to comment in more detail on some of the bombastic historic falsifications contained the draft Resolution 741.

Paragraph 3 of Resolution 741 states that after 1880 tens of thousands of "Macedonians" fled to America. This deliberately fails to explain that until 1944 there were no ethnic "Macedonians". Until 1944, a "Macedonian" meant somebody who came from the region of Macedonia, regardless of his or her ethnicity. A "Macedonian" could be an ethnic Bulgarian, Turk, Greek, Albanian or Vlach. And it is an indisputable scientific fact that the biggest ethnic group in the multiethnic geographic region of Macedonia was the Bulgarian. This is easily verifiable in contemporary sources, including those originating in the United States.

In 1944 the Socialist Republic of Macedonia (SR Macedonia) was formed as a part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. To predominant Bulgarian element of the population in the SR Macedonia was subjected to a brutal campaign of killings, deportations, propaganda and brainwashing in order to impose the "Macedonian" ethnicity and language created with decisions of the Communist International (Comintern) in Moscow.

As part of the measures to impose a "Macedonian" ethnic identity on the people living in the newly established SR Macedonia, only on January 7, 1945 around 1,200 prominent Bulgarians were killed in extra-judicial executions carried out by the communists on the basis of pre-prepared lists. This became known as the Bloody Christmas (according to the Orthodox calendar Christmas is on January 7 in many countries). Those who perished were doctors, lawyer, teachers, mayors, prominent intellectuals and entrepreneurs. Similar mass killings continued during the next years. The aim was to behead, literally, the Bulgarians in SR Macedonia so that they cannot organize in resistance to the communist policy of forceful change of the ethnic identity. This topic is a taboo in the modern day Republic of North Macedonia so no official statistics exist. However, according to the estimates of different researchers during the repressions of 1945 and the next several years no less than 23,000 ethnic Bulgarians were killed in SR Macedonia and another 130,000 ethnic Bulgarians were evicted, expelled from the country, sent to the concentration camps of Tito's Yugoslavia or subject to another form of severe repression.

In 1991 SR Macedonia declared its independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the Republic of Bulgaria was the first to recognize its independence. The newly found state passed through difficult moments but Bulgaria stood by its side in every moment of existential threat, providing armament, economic aid and diplomatic support. However, the Government in Skopje is still hiding the facts about the massacres in 1945 and the years after that. There is no condemnation of these atrocities. Nobody was compensated. Nobody was held responsible. People openly expressing their Bulgarian self-conscience, as well as their families, are still systematically harassed. As a result, ethnic Bulgarians in today's Republic of North Macedonia are still whispering and checking around with fear who is listening when these issues are discussed.

Returning to the text of Resolution 741, one cannot omit the laughable claim that "Macedonian presence" in the United States dates back to 1492. It is an easily verifiable historic fact that neither any Europeans reached the lands of today's United States in 1492, nor any ethnic

"Macedonians" existed prior to the start of the communist policy to create them in the 20th century. Such claims, if endorsed by the US Congress, will not only serve to justify some of the most violent communist crimes but will also deprive the study of history from any meaning.

The draft resolution also states that according to the UMD, there are "half a million Americans of Macedonian heritage living in the United States" without specifying anything about their ethnicity, period of arrival in the United States or the geographic scope of the term "Macedonian". This is despite the fact that parts of the geographic region of Macedonia are in the territories of several modern-day states and that the geographic region of Macedonia has been a multiethnic area for centuries.

The draft resolution states also that "the Macedonian Americans contributed to constructing of several dozen Macedonian Orthodox Churches throughout the United States". This is a flagrant example of falsification, as all the so-called "Macedonian churches" were built by Bulgarian immigrants from the region of Macedonia and were named "Bulgarian - Macedonian churches". This is a fact that is reflected in various US registers and could be easily verified with the local authorities.

Furthermore, the majority of the "prominent Macedonians", mentioned in Resolution 741 have unequivocally declared and demonstrated their Bulgarian ethnic origin during their lifetime. Changing posthumously the ethnicity of an individual is an unimaginable crime in a democracy but a routine practice in a communist dictatorship. The US Congress should not be associated with such Stalinist practices.

There is no reference in the draft resolution to the oldest organization of people from the geographic region of Macedonia in the United States - the Macedonian Patriotic Organization (MPO), established in 1922 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Since its foundation, the MPO defends the historic truth about the Bulgarian character of the majority of the population coming from the geographic region of Macedonia and opposes its forceful denationalization. From 1927 to this day, the MPO has published the Macedonian Tribune newspaper. Until 1992 the newspaper was published in the Bulgarian language. The MPO and its archives are the true history of the Americans from the geographic region of Macedonia, who are still very proud of their Bulgarian roots. These facts cannot be found in a document like draft Resolution 741, carefully prepared by foreign agents like UMD.

Draft Resolution 741 is another attempt of the corrupt elites in Skopje to invent a history of the "Macedonian" language and ethnicity before 1944. This is an attempt to use the US Congress in order to justify some of the most heinous communist crimes of the 20th century and to legitimize their goals.

The moral integrity and the public standing of the US Congress are at stake! In its essence, draft resolution 741 is a hybrid attack at the heart of American democracy. Without sparing means and funds, pro-Serbian and pro-Russian lobbyists have managed to submit for consideration by the US Congress a draft document that promotes the policies of Joseph Stalin and the Communist International. The eventual adoption of such a resolution would be a huge

disappointment for millions of Bulgarians and for many more millions of other Eastern Europeans, who suffered from the rule of the USSR and its proxy regimes, and who are still exposed to the falsification of history by the political descendants of Joseph Stalin with the aim to justify oppression and invasion, like in the case of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine.

As a loyal citizen of United States, voter and taxpayer, I believe that the American institutions must always be vigilant about such attempts.

HONORABLE MEMBER OF CONGRESS,

In the spirit of moral integrity, freedom, democracy, human rights, rule of law and historic truth, I sincerely ask you NOT TO SUPPORT draft Resolution 741.

Encl.: as stated.

Respectfully yours,



Dr. Peter T. George, DDS, a Columbia University trained orthodontist, includes Miss Universe, two Miss USAs, and Hollywood celebrities

and their children among his list of treated patients, but his list of interests and achievements range well beyond dentistry.

He served as an assistant clinical professor at the John H Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii School of Medicine and has lectured internationally. His findings and commentaries on various topics have been published in leading national and international medical and dental journals.

He invented and reported in the New England Journal of Medicine the first oral device to prevent severe obstructive sleep apnea and common household snoring, and is a founder of the American Academy

of Dental Sleep Medicine. His patented inventions to treat medical and dental disorders are extensively used world-wide.

Dr. George is an Olympic Gold Medalist in weightlifting and at the time of his retirement from competition had accumulated more international gold and silver medals than any other athlete in the history of the sport. He was a member of the International Weightlifting Federation medical committee and was selected to coach the 1980 USA Olympic team, which boycotted the Moscow Games.

His biography is in the Marquis Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare and Who's Who in the World. He is the only American weightlifter included in the "History's Greatest Olympians" trading card series.

Dr. George is the son of Tryan and Paraskeva Taleff. He has two sons Barton and Tryan and lives in Honolulu with his wife Lazarina.

Dr. Peter GEORGE considers himself Bulgarian. Resolution 741 claims he is "Macedonian"

Am I Macedonian?

By Dr. Peter T. George, DDS

When I was a boy and had to fill in a form asking my nationality, I didn't know what to enter: American, Macedonian, Bulgarian, Turk, Serb, Yugoslavian or Greek? All my ancestors that I'm aware of were born in or near what today is Bitola, Macedonia. So, you may say, "it's obvious, you're Macedonian." But my parents always said they were Bulgarians.

Was Bitola ever in Bulgaria? Yes, for centuries before the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans, Bitola was a city in Bulgaria. Then, for the next five centuries, Bitola was in Turkey. In fact, in 1906, when my father first arrived in the USA from Bitola his passport indicated he was Turkish.

In 1887, Russia declared war on Turkey and freed all of Bulgaria, from the Black Sea to Lake Ohrid. My ancestors along with the majority of the people in Macedonia rejoiced—they were now free and could

call themselves Bulgarians. But Britain and Austria-Hungary became alarmed—they worried that a large free Bulgaria might become an ally of Russia and upset the balance of international power. They quickly persuaded Russia to agree to the splitting off of the Macedonian area of Bulgaria and returning it to Turkey. All my ancestors again lost their freedom and again became Turks.

In 1912, in an attempt to reunite with the Bulgarians in Macedonia, Bulgaria joined forces with Greece and Serbia to drive Turkey completely out of the Balkans. Toward the end of their resultant war, while the Bulgarian army was concentrated at its southeastern border driving the Turks across it, the Serbian army occupied northern Macedonia and the Greek army occupied southern Macedonia. Afterwards, neither of these two armies would allow the Bulgarians to enter Macedonia.



Pictures of various Macedonian-Bulgarian churches and events in the USA.

Resolution 741 claims that they are "Macedonian"

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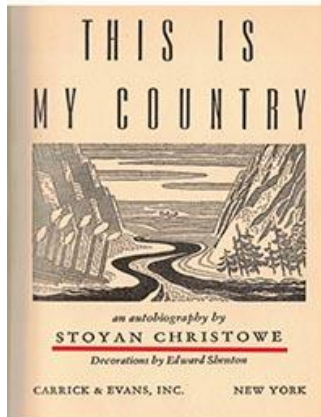
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Macedonia is the same country that St. Paul saw in his vision. There stood a man of Macedonia and begged him saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." - Today, 2000 years later, we pray to the world for help to come to Macedonia which is under Yugoslav and Greek rule, so we have the right to pray in our native Bulgarian language in our Churches and homes.





rose together and faced the inspectors. There were two of them, one seated and one standing. The one who sat was a ruddy man with folds of flesh at the nape of his neck. He was huge, with a protruding stomach that seemed to confirm the notion in Solo that the Americans were orbicular. He reminded me of the bloated Turkish officials who sometimes came to the village.

The other inspector snatched Nichola's papers from his hand and looked at the passport where the name, age and description were written in French.

"What's your name?"

The language in which he addressed Nichola was a kind of basic Slavic, intelligible to us, whose native speech was Bulgarian, as well as to Croatians, Serbs, Poles, Czechs, Russians. Nichola's eyes brightened with joy and his face opened in an innocent smile at the sound of familiar native words in this frightening place.

Before Nichola had a chance to reply, I piped out, "His name's written in the passport!"

"You shut up," barked the man.

"How do you call yourself?" the inspector asked again.

"Nichola Zlatin."

"How old are you?"

"Forty-seven."

"And you are going where?"

"To Santo Louis."

"Have you any friends or relatives there?"

"Yes."

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"Show us an address."

Nichola showed him the name and address of a cousin in East Saint Louis. All through the questioning I kept silent, as did the inspector who was seated at the desk. Apparently he was unable to speak Slavic, but from practice he seemed to know the questions and how they were answered.

"How much money have you?"

I was trying to make out from the way the man pronounced the words what Slavic nationality he belonged to and finally put him down as a Czech, but I was not sure. He could have been a Serb.

Nichola fished out his money-bag from his bosom, where it hung like an amulet, and took out all the money he had. It was twenty-seven dollars, all converted into American currency at Cherbourg by the steamship agents.

"Can you read and write?"

Nichola began to fidget and involuntarily turned toward me. I forgot my rebuff and said quickly, "Whatever reading and writing's to be done for him I'll do it. I've been to the first class in school."

This time the inspector did not shout at me. He just stared at me until I could feel myself shrivel in my skin and I sat back on the bench like a scolded child.

"Can you write?"

Nichola shook his head.

"Can you count?"

"Count?"

"Yes, can you count?"

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The famous book "This is my country" by Stoyan CHRISTOWE with excerpts proving that the author's relatives were Bulgarian

unconscious of my sensitiveness, and apparently indifferent to the curious stares of the Americans.

Somebody shouted from a doorway in Greek, "*Isté Hellinés, vré pedía?*"

"*Bolgari, Bolgari,*" exclaimed Nichola. "So they are here, too! You can't get rid of them Greeks no matter how far you go."

A trolley clanged impatiently behind a horse-drawn wagon that limped along the tracks in front of it.

"How much do they charge on the tramways?" I asked.

"Now listen to him," growled Gurkin. "He hasn't earned a penny yet and already he wants to ride on the street cars."

"He only asked what they charged," barked Nichola.

At Fourth and Market, Gurkin turned south. Here there were not as many people and the street was darker; the buildings, too, dwindled in size, with here and there a taller one, quite dark. When we approached Poplar Street a bell rang and two beams with red lights suspended from them fell athwart the street. We set down our baggage to rest our arms. With a kind of volcanic groan a locomotive came blasting through the darkness, its big round Cyclopean eye blinding us for a moment. Box cars issued from amidst the buildings, rattled on the steel and plunged ahead between more buildings.

When the last car with its two blinking red lights disappeared along with the rest, we lifted our baggage

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read the American newspapers and inform the immigrants of what was going on in the world of politics, a subject of profound interest even to the most ignorant Balkan peasant. Andon not only read what was in the papers but interpreted the news as well. And he was well aware of his unique position as disseminator of news and political oracle. He regarded his proprietorship of the coffee-house as something beneath his dignity, something which the exigency of America had forced upon him. It never occurred to me to wonder why he had come to America, for in those days I thought coming to America was a natural and inevitable thing, but now I believe there must have been some special reason for him to become a coffee-house proprietor in Saint Louis if he had been a man of consequence in the capital of Bulgaria.

Andon read the *Post-Dispatch* and the *Globe-Democrat*, translating as he went along. He used words which I had never encountered in the school books, such words as "status quo," "condominium," "protocol," "pogrom," "ukase." I used to sit near him and marvel at the knowledge that was in his head. To know English as he did was an achievement, but to read it from the paper directly into Bulgarian, as though it were written in Bulgarian, seemed like magic. I sat at his feet, as at the feet of an oracle, and drank from his knowledge.

Once a week Andon went to the Bank of Commerce on north Broadway to transact business for himself and for some of his patrons. On these occasions he wore his

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