

## Press Release

### **U.S. Embassy Meets with “Coordinative Body on Gradiste-Kale”**

U.S. Embassy officials met with four members of the “Coordinative Body on Gradiste-Kale” on April 21 to hear their views on the proposal to build a new American Embassy on Gradiste. The meeting was held at the American Embassy and was hosted by Ambassador Lawrence Butler. Professor Zivko Popovski, Georgi Hadzivaskov, Jasmina Aleksievska and Kalina Bunevska Isakovska represented the “Coordinative Body on Gradiste-Kale” at the meeting.

Ambassador Butler appreciated hearing directly from the group about its views and perspectives regarding the request of the U.S. government to construct a new American Embassy in Skopje. The meeting concentrated on U.S. standards and requirements for a new embassy, including security and safety measures, access and location for American and Macedonian employees and the general public, consolidation of the seven existing buildings currently housing nearly 300 American Embassy employees and the support of the U.S. Congress to authorize and appropriate sufficient funds this year to begin construction of a new American Embassy in Skopje.

Emphasizing his appreciation for the insights provided by “Coordinative Body on Gradiste-Kale” members, Ambassador Butler explained the need for expansion of the American Embassy's current facility.

“Just as the relationship between the United States and Macedonia has expanded and advanced in the past several years, so too have the requirements for a new embassy increased significantly. The American Embassy's present location on a major boulevard, in a residential neighborhood is inadequate, both in terms of security and overall Embassy operations,” he said.

On April 30, the Skopje Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Monuments will conclude its two-month archeological survey assessment for detection of significant archeological finds on Gradiste. The survey, which was requested and paid for by the U.S. government as part of the Conditional Sales Agreement signed with the Macedonian Ministry of Transportation on December 13, 2003, stipulates that the U.S. government would not purchase the proposed Gradiste site should significant archeological finds be discovered.

“The U.S. investment in building an embassy of the scope and caliber planned for Macedonia reflects our strong commitment to the territorial integrity of Macedonia. The

proposed location of 4.4 hectares on Gradiste, some 1.5 kilometers from the Kale Fortress, is a major investment in the future of Macedonia,” said Ambassador Butler.

The American Embassy will continue its longstanding support for the preservation of Macedonia’s cultural heritage, both in Skopje and throughout the country. In the past several years, the American Embassy has supported numerous cultural and preservation projects of historical significance, including excavations at Stobi and Vardarski Rid in Gevgelija, restoration work at Ilinden Monument in Krusevo, support for the Art Colony in Galichnik and the Manaki Film Festival in Bitola, and the restoration of the Faik Pasha Mosque door at the Skopje Museum. The American Embassy has supported the Skopje Jazz Festival for the past 15 years, and a Fulbright American scholar in archeology is in his second year of teaching at the University of Sts. Kiril and Metodij in Skopje.

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### **Ambasadata na SAD na sredba so Koordnati vnoto telo za Gradi { te-Kale**

Na 21 april, ofi cialni pretstavni ci na Ambasadata na SAD se sretnaa so ~etiri ~lena na Koordnati vnoto telo za Gradi { te-Kale za da gi sl i { nat ni vni te stavovi vo vraska so predlogot za izgradba na nova Ameri kanska ambasada na Gradi { te. Sostanokot, ~ij doma}i n be{ e ambasadorot Lorens Batl er, se odr` a vo Ambasadata na SAD. Pretstavni ci na Koordnati vnoto telo za Gradi { te-Kale na sostanokot bea prof esorot @ivko Popovski, \or|i Haxi vaskov, Jasmi na Al eksi evska, i Kal i na Bunevska.

Ambasadorot Batl er i ma{ e mo` nost di rektno da se zapoznae so gl edi { tata i pozi ci i te na grupata vo vraska so baraweto na vl adata na SAD za izgradba na nova Ambasada vo Skopje. Sredbata be{ e naso~ena kon objasnuvawe na standardi te na SAD i potrebata od nova ambasada, vkl u~uvaj}i gi tuka i bezbednosni te i si gurnosni te merki, pristapot i lokacijata za personal ot - ameri kanski i doma{ en - i za op{ tata javnost, konsol i di raweto na sedumte postoe~ki zgradi vo koi momental no se smesteni skoro 300 l i ca vraboteni vo Ameri kanskata ambasada, kako i poddr{ kata od strana na Kongresot na SAD da se odobrat i i zdvojat dovol no f i nanski ski sredstva ovaa godi na da zapo~ne izgradba na nova Ameri kanska ambasada vo Skopje.

Nagl asuvaj}i ja bl agodarnosta za prezenteri ni te stavovi od strana na Koordnati vnoto telo za Gradi { te-Kale, ambasadorot Batl er ja objasni potrebata za pro{ i ruvawe na Ameri kanskata ambasada.

“Kako { to odnosi te pome|u Soedi neti te Dr` avi i Makedoni ja se pro{ i ri ja i prodl abo~i ja vo izmi nati te nekol ku godi ni, taka zna~i tel no se zgol emi ja i

potrebi te za nova Ambasada. Segata lokacija na Amerikanskata ambasada, smestena na glavni bulevar i vo rezidencijalen del na gradot e neadekvatna, kako vo pogled na bezbednosta, taka i vo pogled na celokupnoto rabotewe na Ambasadata,” re~e ambasadorot.

Na 30 april, Gradski otzavod za za~tita na kulturnite spomenici }e go zavr~i svoeto dvomese~no arheolo~ko istra`uvawe na Gradite so cel da se otkriedali na taalokacija i ma zna~ajni arheolo~ki naodi. Istra`uvaweto, koe be~e pobarano i plateno od vladata na SAD kako del na Dogovorot za uslovna prodaba potpi~an so Ministarstvoto za transport i vrski na Makedonija na 13 dekemvri 2003, predviduva deka vladata na SAD nema da ja kupi predlo`enata lokacija na Gradite, dokolku se otkrijat zna~ajni arheolo~ki naodi.

“Investiraweto na SAD vo izgradba na ambasada od obem i kalibar kakov }e to se planiravo na Makedonija, ja odrazuvana }e ata silna zaloba za teritorijalni otintegritet na Makedonija. Predlo`enata lokacija na Gradite, na povr~ina od 4,4 hektari, okolu 1,5 km oddalena od Tvrdata Kale, e glavna investicija vo idninata na Makedonija,” re~e ambasadorot Butler.

Amerikanskata ambasada }e prodol`i so svojata dolgogodi~na podr~ka za zavuvaweto na kulturnoto nasledstvo na Makedonija, kako vo Skopje, taka i vo celata zemja. Vo izminatite nekolku godini, Amerikanskata ambasada podr~a brojni proekti za za~tita na kulturnata soistorisko zame, kako na primer i skopuvawata vo Stobi i na Vardarski Rid vo Gevgelija, restavracijate zafati na Spomenikot Ilinden vo Kru~evo, podr~kata za Umetnikata kolonija vo Galinik, i za Filmskiot festival Manaki vo Bitola, kako i restavracijata na vratata od Fajk-pa~inata Xamija, koja e izlo`ena vo Muzejot na Skopje. Ve}e 15 godini, Amerikanskata ambasada finansirawo podr~uva Skopskiot xez festival, a amerikanski profesor po arheologija na Fulbrajt programata ve}e vtora godina predava na Univerzitetot Sv. Kiril i Metodij vo Skopje.