

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAM

EGYPTIAN MFA AMR OPENED NAM MINISTERIAL MEETING

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Fifty years since its establishment, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is now in need of a more progressive vision to achieve its goals, Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Kamel Amr said Monday while opening a NAM ministerial meeting in Belgrade held on the occasion of half a century since the establishment of the movement.

We are gathered in Serbia today to celebrate the anniversary of the founding conference of the Non-Aligned Movement and historical leader Josip Broz Tito and his colleagues who founded the Movement, Amr said. At the solemn session held in the House of the national Assembly, the foreign minister of Egypt, which is currently chairing the Non-Aligned Movement, said that NAM had successfully realized many of the aspirations of developing countries.

Amr recalled the role of the Movement at the time of its creation, namely, to support the independence of developing countries, to struggle against colonialism in the fields of politics, economy and social issues, as well as to strengthen the capacities of countries in facing changes. Even though the bloc-oriented division has failed, with the world becoming a unipolar one, the Movement has evolutionized and developed even further, Amr said, recalling the fact that NAM only had 25 members in 1961, while now it comprises two thirds of the entire world. The movement is based on noble principles that it managed to deepen and consolidate, he added, pointing out that the time was ripe for NAM to become a genuine forum for interaction with other powers, particularly now that the UN were undergoing reforms. Amr noted the Movement was aware of the growing importance of groups and alliances outside the UN, as well as of the practice of double standards in an atmosphere characterized by a lack in political will. In his address, Amr touched on Palestina, calling on all former Yugoslavia countries not yet having recognized its independence of Palestina to do so.

The Movement will hold a meeting on Palestina at the sidelines of a UN General Assembly session in order to coordinate efforts aimed at bringing about the recognition of the country's independence, Amr said. He also commented on the situation in Egypt, pointing out that the revolution in early 2011 saw the involvement of Egypt's entire society, but the young people in particular, who wanted a peaceful democratization of the country, freedom and social justice. The revolution brought about significant changes in the country and made it possible for Egypt to assume greater responsibilities both internationally and regionally, he said.

TADIC: NAM PRINCIPLES ARE TIMELESS

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Serbian President Boris Tadic said Monday addressing the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Conference in Belgrade that the Movement's founders crafted a vision of a more equitable world community, predicated on the establishment of a new type of international relations - one that scrupulously respects the sovereignty and territorial

integrity of states.

Their aim was to establish a lasting and universal peace; an inclusive system of collective security; a general disarmament regime; a fair and just mechanism to transcend the gap between developed and developing; social justice, human rights and environmental protection; and coexistence amongst countries, regardless of their size and political system, Tadic said. Serbia is not a member of NAM, but an observer state, but in our foreign policy, the values we embrace as we engage with all other states in the global arena, are still predicated on continuing to respect the universal principles of Non-Alignment, an elaboration of the UN Charter, he said. We feel that it is in Serbia's national interest to deepen and renew the historical friendships that were cultivated over decades. Our intention is to further intensify the present level of political and economic cooperation with the proud nations represented here today, Tadic said.

Opening the commemorative meeting celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement, Tadic said that in today's world, general stability and prosperity cannot be consolidated without taking into account the views of the majority of the global family of nations. That is why we will keep extending our active engagement with the NAM member states, he said. Fifty years ago, the statesmen who gathered in Belgrade from all corners of the globe saw themselves as the collective embodiment of the "consciousness of mankind." They fervently rejected the ambition to divide the world into two antagonistic Blocks, through the politics of colonial domination and economic exploitation, Tadic said.

Representing the majority of mankind, they stood tall and united to announce the birth of a powerful, new alternative to the hegemonic ambitions of the great powers, he said. In effect, this was a political declaration of war against an outdated, zero-sum approach to international relations-one that had brought the entire human race to the brink of nuclear annihilation. The basic message coming out of Belgrade in 1961 was this: 'no longer would we accept the virtual monopoly of the few and the wealthy to make decisions that affected the whole world', Tadic said. It was a grand historical moment, one that helped usher in a more hopeful era characterized, over time, by the end of colonialism, a reduction in superpower tensions, détente, fairer trade and debt-relief regimes, the end of the Cold War, and the dawn of a truly multipolar world, he said. In short, the results of NAM's five decades of work represent a rich, progressive harvest for all of humanity.

There is still so much to be done, of course. But we must not forget how dramatically the world has changed since 1961 - in no small part thanks to the Non-Aligned Movement, Tadic said. In fact, no multilateral body has fought so consistently for a more harmonious international environment, he said. It is precisely in this parliament building that our predecessors came together to adopt the Belgrade Declaration, exactly fifty years ago, he said. The timeless principles of NAM are formulated in that historical document. It contains a solemn resolve to make the policy of Non-Alignment an essential contributor to peace and stability throughout the globe, Tadic said. In the time before us, therefore, my country will maintain its "sincere desire to work with any country which seeks to contribute to the strengthening of confidence and peace in the world," to echo the language of the Belgrade Declaration, Tadic said.

To see more than one hundred delegations in attendance is both gratifying and humbling, he said. The presence of so many of you here today should not be interpreted as nostalgia, but rather as a clear testament to the enduring attraction of the universal principles of Non-Alignment, Tadic said. Serbia, the largest of six successor states to Yugoslavia, a co-founder of the Movement, has traditionally been part of global movements. This will not

change, he said. Already, we have enhanced our presence in UN peacekeeping operations in a number of NAM countries. We have also established a "World in Serbia" Scholarship Fund for students for Non-Aligned nationals, enabling hundreds each year to study at the University of Belgrade. This is a continuation of the tradition that was established here, in Belgrade, fifty years ago. Tens of thousands of your countrymen were educated in this city, and went on to contribute to the development of your proud nations, Tadic said.

At the entrance to this Parliament building, there hangs a large engraved bronze tablet in commemoration of the First NAM Summit. I leave you with the message inscribed therein: "Confident of the strengths of peace, justice and progress, here in 1961 was established the policy of Non-Alignment; thus was mankind provided with a new global vision, instilling hope in a better and safer future for the generations to come." Let those words serve as a moral signpost to the Movement as it embarks on its next fifty-year journey-again from its home port of Belgrade-to act for the good of the world, Tadic said.

JEREMIC: RENEWAL OF RELATIONS IS NOT OUT OF NOSTALGIA

BELGRADE, Sept 6 (Tanjug) - Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic stated Tuesday that Serbia is not reviving the relations with the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) out of nostalgia, but rather because it believes that international stability and prosperity can be gained only by recognition of opinion of the majority in the global family of nations.

In his opening address at the first panel of the NAM Ministerial Conference, Jeremic said that Serbia will continue to honor the role which Belgrade had in the strengthening of solidarity and cooperation with the NAM.

"We have actively and consistently supported anti-colonialism and the fight for the national liberation of a great number of NAM member states for decades. Moreover, we have granted billions of dollars of aid for our non-aligned friends," he said. Representatives of 26 states applied to address the first part of the plenary meeting.

TADIC SET FOR SERIES OF MEETINGS DURING NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Serbian President Boris Tadic started Monday a series of meetings with officials taking part in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) two-day summit in Belgrade by meeting with South Africa's Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. Tadic will then have separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon and Iraq, as well as with the speaker of the Finnish parliament. The summit marks the 50th anniversary of NAM.

The first summit 50 years ago was also held in Belgrade. NAM mostly focused on politics and security in its early years, but today it is more dedicated to economy, which will be at the centre of attention during the Belgrade meeting. This is the first time in NAM's history that an observer country is organizing a ministerial meeting.

That is why there will be no political topics on the agenda. The arrival of 106 delegations in Belgrade poses an opportunity for bilateral meetings, which Serbia started with a series of meetings by its Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and his colleagues from 7 countries.

CVETKOVIC: SERBIA WANTS BETTER ECONOMIC RELATIONS

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Serbia's Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic met separately with foreign ministers of Cambodia, Laos, DR Congo, Mauritius, Fiji, Bhutan, India, Spain, Comoros and Eritrea on Monday and told them Serbia was interested in improving its economic relations with them.

The foreign ministers are in Serbia attending a two-day conference that marks the 50th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and its first summit in Belgrade 1961. During the meetings, Cvetkovic stressed that Serbia's top priority was to preserve its territorial integrity and sovereignty, while its foreign policy focused on EU integration.

According to the government office for media relations, Cvetkovic also pointed out that Serbia respected the contributions made by NAM and its decision to turn to social and economic issues. The prime minister will have more meetings with conference participants on Tuesday, says the announcement.

DACIC: SERBIA, IRAQ TO SIGN AGREEMENT ON POLICE COOPERATION SOON

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Serbian First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Ivica Dacic met Monday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari who is attending a ministerial conference marking the 50th years since the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The talk focused on bilateral cooperation. Iraq is one of the countries with which Serbia has very good and friendly relations, with prospects to make them even stronger, Dacic said. Dacic expressed his appreciation for the principled stance of Iraq concerning non-recognition of the unilaterally proclaimed independence of Kosovo-Metohija. In accordance with current good relations between two countries, both sides expressed readiness to promote international police cooperation in the form of joint training of police officers.

They also announced the signing of an agreement on police cooperation between the two countries soon. Zebari recalled that 50 years ago, Yugoslavia and Iraq were among the countries that led the progressive part of humanity, adding that it is very significant that 50 years later Belgrade is hosting such a large gathering attended by more than 100 delegations.

SUTANOVAC MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF IRAQ AND ALGERIA

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Serbian Defense Minister Dragan Sutanovac said Monday he believed that Serbian defense industry products, as well as military education and medical institutions would be of interest to most of the countries taking part in the Conference of the non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Belgrade.

According to the website of the ministry, Sutanovac said that cooperation in defense with some countries participating at the 50th Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement was the pillar of Serbia's intergovernmental cooperation.

After meeting with Foreign Ministers of Iraq and Algeria, Hoshyar Zebari and Mourad Medelci, respectively, Sutanovac said Serbia's cooperation with the two countries was especially good. Sutanovac expressed his satisfaction with the fact that all the agreements Serbia had with Iraq had been fulfilled, singling out the delivery of 20 trainer aircraft type Lasta to Iraq. He also said he was pleased that officers from Algeria would be continuing their MA and PhD studies at the Military Academy in Belgrade.

Over the next two days, the delegation of the Serbian Defense Ministry will have meetings with more than ten delegations of participating countries in the Belgrade NAM Conference, according to the website of the ministry.

BAN KIMOON: NONALIGNED MOVEMENT NATURAL PARTNER OF U.N.

GENEVA, Sept. 05 (Beta) - U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said on Sept. 5 that the Non-Aligned Movement was a natural partner of the global organization for the advancement of cultural dialog in the world, and appealed for continuing cooperation between the movement and the U.N.

Ban Ki-moon's message read at the Non-Aligned Movement congress in Belgrade by the director general of the U.N. office in Geneva, Kassym Jomart Tokayev, said the movement has always worked to resolve existing conflicts politically.

Tokayev said Ban attached a great deal of importance to the cooperation between the U.N. and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Ban said the Non-Aligned Movement was the U.N.'s key partner in building long-term world peace. He said that, when it was founded, the Non-Aligned Movement became an alternative global voice affirming justice and peace in international relations.

CROATIA SEES OBSERVER STATUS IN NAM AS BENEFICIAL

ZAGREB, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - As a NATO member and soon-to-be an EU member, Croatia considers the observer status in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and fostering of relations with NAM members as a possibility to gain a certain economic or political benefit, State Secretary at Croatia's Foreign Minister Mario Nobile has stated.

As a NATO member and soon-to-be an EU member, Croatia belongs with its Western allies, but wishes to gain a certain economic or political benefit through the observer status in the NAM, and continue comprehending the world we live in, Nobile told Tanjug.

Nobile represents Croatia at the event marking the 50th anniversary of the NAM. According to him, the NAM now has a different role in the multipolar world compared to earlier decades. Historically observed, Croatia is considered one of the NAM's successors.

From today's point of view, it has helped us understand those countries and get to know them better than we would have if it had not been for the NAM, Nobile stressed. Both individually and as a region, we are following in the footsteps of what Serbian President Boris Tadic and Prime Ministers of Croatia and Slovenia Jadranka Kosor and Borut Pahor respectively agreed in Smederevo, central Serbia, and that is the penetration of third markets. In that sense, we have been preparing individually, but together we can do a lot more, Nobile said.

COUNTRIES OF FORMER SFRJ TO CREATE LINKS BETWEEN EUROPE AND REST OF WORLD

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Former ranking official of SFRJ and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the Non-Aligned Movement Budimir Loncar said Monday that all countries of the former Yugoslavia are in the middle of the Euro-integration process, but that as former members of the Non-Aligned Movement they would create special links between Europe and the rest of the world.

Addressing the ministerial conference held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade, Loncar said that one of the challenges of NAM was to return to its original conception and carry out a progressive policy.

"The world has changed and the non-aligned (countries) have to adjust themselves, but we are as important as we were when the Movement was first set up. Disarmament, international law, a peaceful coexistence of small and big countries - those are still the main values of the Movement," he underlined.

LONCAR: NAM SURVIVED DESPITE WEAKNESSES

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Former SFRJ foreign minister Budimir Loncar said Monday that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had survived despite its weaknesses, and that today it had its role in the world.

The fact that the number of NAM member states has increased from 25 in 1961, when the movement was first founded in Belgrade, to the present 122 proves how important the Non-Aligned Movement is, he said. Loncar, who is a special guest at the ministerial conference marking NAM's 50th anniversary, said it is true that certain non-aligned countries had made "authoritarian moves," but underlined that in general the prevailing principles had been those of democratic nature.

"The movement had its problems, but it managed to resist them, and it is committed to peace, democracy and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations," Loncar told Tanjug, at a reception held for the participants of the NAM ministerial conference organised by Belgrade Mayor Dragan Djilas.

ROCEN: NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT STILL HAS IMPORTANT ROLE

BELGRADE, Sept 6 (Tanjug) - Montenegrin Foreign Minister Milan Rocen stated Tuesday that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has an important role in the world, adding that its future position will depend on the values fostered within the UN and other international organizations, as well as on the bilateral level.

At the first panel of the NAM Ministerial Conference marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of NAM, Rocen underscored that Montenegro is one of the youngest countries in the world, whose strategic goal is NATO membership. Montenegro, as a multi-confessional and multinational country, wishes to contribute to a better world and modernization, Rocen stressed.

According to him, NAM has significantly contributed to the strengthening of solidarity, reduction of poverty and the establishment of new economic ties. Today, NAM is important in the solving of topical issues, such as fight against terrorism, and it has a chance to strengthen its role in initiating democratic processes around the world.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong also pointed to the significance of NAM, assessing that, in five decades since its establishment, the Movement has achieved a lot, primarily in putting an end to the marginalization of countries and confronting the bipolar world.

Laos Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulith pointed out that NAM above all contributed to the liberation from colonialism. According to Prince Mohamed Bolkiah of Brunei, this country is committed to NAM's main principles, which have contributed to the world's development.

DIANEZ: NAM CONFERENCE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOBBY FOR KOSOVO

BELGRADE, 5th (Tanjug) - Secretary of State in Spain's Foreign Affairs Ministry Juan Antonio

Dianez said Monday that the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Conference is the right place in which Serbia could lobby with member-states not to recognize Kosovo's independence. However, it is a matter for Serbia to decide, he said in a statement to Tanjug at the reception for the participants of the conference at the Belgrade City Hall. When asked whether the abolition of parallel institutions in Kosovo, a condition set to Belgrade by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, expresses the attitude of the whole EU, he replied in the negative. Noting that it is good that direct negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina are continuing, Dianez said that progress has been made, but that both sides must do more.

Asked if he expects Serbia to get EU candidate status by the end of the year, Dianez said that Spain hopes for a positive opinion of the European Commission on Serbia's progress in this regard. Dianez pointed out that Spain has attended Non-Aligned Movement's meetings and conferences for the past 30 years and longer.

Spain appreciates and keeps the network of friendship with many countries members of the movement and sees the movement as an important force in international politics, especially in multilateral relations and the United Nations system, he said.

MOVEMENT STILL IMPORTANT TODAY, BALKANS AS A BRIDGE TO EU

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) continues to be important today for solving the problems of Third World countries, and the Western Balkan countries could be a bridge to the EU for the movement, participants of the NAM ministerial conference in Belgrade agreed in statements for Tanjug.

Republic of South Africa's Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane told Tanjug that her delegation came to Belgrade to renew ties with the Serbian people and government. She added she expects bilateral ties between South Africa and Serbia to develop, and noted that the meetings with Serbian President Boris Tadic and Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic were successful in this regard. She said she was enjoying Belgrade and was especially looking forward to visiting monuments dedicated to Josip Broz Tito.

Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Dago Tschering and Sierra Leone's Deputy Foreign Minister Eburn Jusu pointed out the NAM is still important for developing countries and plays an important role for the stability of member states. Tschering said Belgrade was a historic and beautiful city, noting he first visited it in 1978 during a NAM foreign ministers conference.

Ghana's Deputy Foreign Minister Chris Kpodo pointed out the conference held 50 years ago in Belgrade was the sign of a new era for the developing world. Today we are here to see what we have achieved and what challenges lie ahead. The goal is to bring developing countries and developed countries together, Kpodo said.

SOLVE CONFLICTS THROUGH DIALOGUE

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - The fight for multilateralism in foreign policy and solving conflicts through dialogue are the basic guidelines of the work of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the foreign minister of Indonesia, Algeria and Columbia pointed out Monday at the NAM conference in Belgrade.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Marty Muliana Natalegawa said NAM member countries needs to accept its work is different now than 50 years ago, because the balance in the world has changed, the world is not bipolar and new centers of powers rise, brining new challenges. One country cannot fight this, but it is a challenge for NAM, said the Indonesian FM. He proposed three modes of operation for NAM - achieving stability in individual countries, achieving stability in regions and implementing a comprehensive principle of resolving conflicts through dialogue.

The Indonesian FM also said this is also a factor that should further political stability in the world, pointing out that working on partnership between develop and developing countries would help achieve prosperity for all nations.

Among the first to address the conference were also Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci and Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin Cuellar. Before the speeches, participants were shown a film on the NAM Summit held 50 years ago in Belgrade.

PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT REMAIN VALID

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - The Non-Aligned Movement has in the past 50 years achieved considerable results, and member-states will have to insist on their principles in the future because the world is facing major problems, the foreign ministers of Malaysia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and India said Monday.

Attending a Non-Aligned ministerial conference in Belgrade on the occasion of the 50 anniversary of the movement, the ministers agreed that the non-aligned must foster their unity. Foreign Minister of Malaysia Datuk Seri Anifah Aman said that the Non-Aligned Movement has achieved much in the past 50 years, but it is very important that it becomes proactive in the future and that member-states do not permit themselves to be excluded from decision making about the essential problems.

South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane said that it is particularly important that the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement be consolidated, as the world is facing similar problems today as it did 50 years ago. She pointed out that South Africa is very grateful to the Non-Aligned Movement for its contribution to the struggle against apartheid, and that it will work on strengthening the movement, with the conviction that the principles on which it was formed are today more relevant than ever.

Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Simbarashe Simbanenduku Mumbengegwi noted that member countries of the Movement should not allow themselves to be marginal players in the fight for global security, saying that the movement is still very important, since there are far greater threats now than at the time of its founding. Maybe we are weak individually, but together we

are still very strong, he said.

Minister of State for External Affairs with the Government of India Preneet Kaur said that much has been achieved over the past five decades, but that still much more remains to be done, adding that rapid social and economic development has to be a key priority. The voice of developing countries is not sufficiently heard, she said, adding that the international community can help in the process of reform but must respect the sovereignty of each state involved. She said it is necessary to make great efforts to have democracy reign on the planet. India is convinced that until a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council is implemented the objectives of the Movement cannot be achieved. Kaur pointed out that the African continent is facing major problems and has to be helped, while it is also necessary to support the peace process in the Middle East to help Palestine, whose citizens suffer terribly.

The four countries's foreign ministers agreed that the Non-Aligned Movement should be more engaged in solving the Palestinian question. The speech by India's minister marked the end of the first day of the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Conference held to mark the half century since its establishment.

On the second day of the meeting, two panels will be held in the Palace of Serbia. The first will be opened by Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic.

In addition, Chambers of Commerce of Serbia and Belgrade, Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA) and 18 leading companies in the country will present Serbia's potentials and opportunities for cooperation with countries-members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

NAM DELEGATIONS VISIT TITO'S TOMB

BELGRADE, Sept 6 (Tanjug) - Several delegations of the Non-Aligned Movement member states paid respects to Josip Broz Tito, one of the movement's founding fathers and Yugoslavia's life-long president, by visiting his tomb at the House of Flowers in Belgrade Monday evening.

A visit to the House of Flowers was not a part of the official schedule, but some delegations expressed a wish to see it. The inaugural summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in Belgrade in September 1961 at the National Assembly building. Apart from Tito, other NAM founding fathers were then prime minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and president of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser.

SERBIA'S ECONOMY FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH NAM

BELGRADE, Sept 6 (Tanjug) - Eighteen large Serbian companies operating in various fields such as agri-food, defence, construction, electrotechnic, information and communication

technologies, pharmaceutical and chemical industry presented their potentials to their possible Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) partners.

At an exhibition in the Palace of Serbia marking 50th anniversary of the NAM, representatives of these companies expressed expectation that the Tuesday meetings will contribute to the renewal and promotion of cooperation with the countries which participate in the conference.

Serbian Chamber of Commerce Deputy President Mihajlo Vesovic underlined that there are huge unused potentials in the cooperation between the Serbian economy and the NAM countries, given that Serbian companies are highly appreciated in these countries based on earlier experience. Vesovic said that it is possible to promote cooperation in the domain of agri-food industry, military and automotive industry, agricultural engineering and mechanization, and chemical industry, adding that there is also a great likelihood of prosperity in the service sector cooperation. Out of all NAM countries, India is Serbia's largest foreign trade partner, and according to Vesovic, there are huge possibilities of promotion of cooperation with African and Asian countries, while the Latin American market is particularly neglected.

The Tuesday encounter should contribute to the establishment of first contacts, and I believe that these meetings will be followed by a number of new visits and exchange of business delegations, Vesovic underscored. The Tuesday meeting included the following companies: The Maize Research Institute Zemun Polje, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops Novi Sad, Agricultural Corporation Beograd (PKB), Industry of Machines and Tractors (IMT), Industry of Engines Rakovica (IMR), defense industry company Yugoimport-SDPR, The Institute for Manufacturing Banknotes and Coins (ZIN), ENERGOPROJEKT Building & General Contracting Co. Ltd, road construction company Putevi Uzice, production, design and construction company Amiga, Wagon Factory Kraljevo, furniture factory Ktitor from Belgrade.

At the exhibition organized by the Chambers of Commerce of Belgrade and Serbia, and the Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA), the following companies also presented their potentials: The Institute of Virology, Vaccines and Sera Torlak, home-care and beauty products producer Beohemija, pharmaceutical plant Galenika, as well as the institute for manufacturing various computer systems Mihajlo Pupin, Pupin Telekom and authorized distributor of Motorola in Serbia Vlatacom. The NAM is now composed of 118 fully fledged member states, which have around two billion inhabitants.

The movement, which comprises the most of Arabian countries and almost all large manufacturers and exporters of oil, gas, minerals and other raw material in Africa, Asia and Latin America, is an important partner of the most developed countries - the USA, Japan, Canada and the countries of the Western Europe. China and Brazil are among the observer countries. Several NAM member states and observer countries are among the most powerful states in the world, the Group of Twenty, which are the key factor for overcoming of the global economic crisis and future economic stability of the world.

SERBIA

HEINALUOMA: SERBIA SHOULD GET DATE OF TALKS TOGETHER WITH EU CANDIDATE STATUS

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Finnish Parliament Spokesman Eero Heinaluoma stated on Monday that his country hopes Serbia would hear a positive decision by the end of the year with regard to its EU candidate status application, and assessed that it would be very positive if Serbia obtained the date of talks together with the candidate status.

Attending the ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade as part of the Finnish delegation, Heinaluoma told Tanjug that Finland has always been supporting Serbia and is now waiting for the European Commission to issue its opinion on Serbia's application in autumn.

Finland has always been committed and supportive to EU membership for Serbia and other Western Balkan countries and it believes that this would be positive both for the EU and the Western Balkans, Heinaluoma said and added that his country hopes the EC opinion would bring about a positive decision regarding this matter in autumn.

When asked whether Serbia could get the date of accession talks with the EU at the same time as the candidate status, Heinaluoma said that Finland believes this to be feasible. Still, this will depend on the EC opinion which we are currently waiting for, and we hope that we will see Serbia as a full EU member as soon as possible, the spokesman said and added that this is the reason why setting the date of talks would be very positive.

Speaking about the anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement, Heinaluoma underscored that this is an excellent chance to meet people and conduct talks with representatives of different countries. Pointing out that he is very proud to have been given a chance to visit Belgrade for the first time, Heinaluoma said that the Non-Aligned Movement has always been an important factor in global politics. He expressed expectation that the Finnish delegation in Belgrade would assess the possibilities for further cooperation and identify the benefits which Finland could derive from cooperation with non-aligned countries.

SERBIAN RESEARCHERS OF BYZANTIUM RECEIVE RECOGNITION

BELGRADE, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Serbian researchers who study the Byzantium Empire have received a great recognition by having Belgrade selected for the next international meeting of Byzantium researchers, set for 2016, the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts announced Monday.

The decision was made in Sofia, where the 22nd meeting was held August 22-27, sponsored by Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov and UNESCO, the announcement states. This is the third time the Belgrade centre for Byzantium research has been selected to host this event. The second meeting was held in Belgrade 1927 and the 12th in Ohrid 1961. Serbia is the only country besides Greece to have been selected to organize the event three times.

KOSOVO AND METOHIIJA

STEFANOVIC: PRISTINA AUTHORITIES DEPLOY CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT CHECKPOINTS

BELGRADE, Sept 6 (Tanjug) - The Pristina authorities are planning to deploy their customs officers at administrative checkpoints, however, neither is Serbia willing to accept it, nor was it agreed in Brussels, Head of Belgrade's negotiating team Borislav Stefanovic has stated. Serbia has received information that Pristina is planning to send their customs officers in the next few days at the administrative checkpoints in northern Kosovo and Metohija, Stefanovic told the Belgrade-based daily Press. He warned Kosovo authorities that this is unacceptable for Serbia, adding that such Pristina's move could cause dangerous consequences. Stefanovic underlined that neither is Serbia willing to accept it, nor was it agreed in Brussels, adding that the administrative crossings were not even one of the topics discussed between Belgrade and Pristina. When asked what Belgrade's response would be if Pristina deployed its customs officers, Stefanovic said that the Serbian government will continue to support any peaceful activities of Serbs from northern Kosovo who are defending their national interests. That is why the citizens of northern Kosovo should focus on real problems ahead, rather than stir up intolerance and mutual conflicts. It is important that peace and unity of Serbs be preserved, he stressed.

Stefanovic dismissed the statements of Pristina and certain opposition parties in Serbia that by signing the agreement on customs stamps Serbia has recognized Kosovo's independence. It is quite the opposite. Customs stamps have no elements of statehood, and the accompanying documentation is status neutral, Stefanovic pointed out, adding that the agreement is the best possible solution for Serbia and Kosovo Serbs, and Kosovo's independence is out of question.

CALLS FROM NORTHERN KOSOVO FOR STEFANOVIC'S DISMISSAL

ZVECAN, Sept. 05 (Beta) - The mayors of Zvecan, Kosovska Mitrovica and Zubin Potok on Sept. 5 called for the dismissal of the head of the Serbian negotiating team in talks with Pristina, Borislav Stefanovic, because his agreements were damaging for Kosovo Serbs.

"Since he started negotiating with Pristina, Stefanovic has inflicted more damage on the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija than the international community has over the last 12 years," the mayors told a news conference in Zvecan.

Another reason given for his replacement was that Stefanovic did not have the respect of either Kosovo Serbs or their leaders in northern Kosovo.

"We are expecting an invitation from President Boris Tadic, to clearly say at a meeting in Belgrade that we no longer want to cooperate with Stefanovic," said Kosovska Mitrovica Mayor Krstimir Pantic.

"We want the government to tell us whether it is with the people and Stefanovic to come and

explain to the citizens what to do if Pristina attempts to impose customs by force," the mayors said.

The northern Kosovo municipal leaders said that Stefanovic had made the agreement in Brussels in his own name and announced that they would ask that the government and the Serbian parliament make a statement on the matter.

STEFANOVIC: CRITICISM EMOTIONAL AND IMPULSIVE

BELGRADE, Sept. 05 (Beta) - Borislav Stefanovic, the head of Belgrade's negotiating team, reiterated on Sept. 5 that the agreements reached in Brussels were best for Serbia and Kosovo Serbs and said that criticism of the status neutral solutions was emotional and impulsive.

"This criticism is an emotional and impulsive reaction to something that regulates life without prejudicing the status of Kosovo. I am a Serbian government negotiator and therefore I try to get the best solution for Serbia, its citizens and especially the Kosovo Serbs," Stefanovic told BETA following a call for his dismissal.

He reiterated that the agreement reached in Brussels on stamps and customs documentation had no implications for Kosovo independence, underscoring that the agreement regulated "the transportation of goods within one sovereignty, not two."

"The solution is status neutral, maintains Serbia's position, renders Thaci's blockade useless and is not related to the agreement on administrative crossings, which will be a topic later on in the dialog as far as the north of the province is concerned," he said.

SERBIA WILL NOT ACCEPT PRISTINA CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKPOINTS

BELGRADE, Sept 6 (Tanjug) - Serbian Minister for Kosovo-Metohija Goran Bogdanovic stated on Tuesday that Serbia will not accept deployment of Pristina customs officers at the administrative crossings, but that it is ready for such a scenario.

Bogdanovic said that the deployment of customs officers is a great threat, and that Serbs in Kosovo-Metohija want to prevent such unilateral moves by Pristina. The Tuesday protest, as well as all those which will be held in the next couple of days, will send a message that Serbs do not want to accept the so-called independence of Kosovo-Metohija in the northern part of the province, Bogdanovic stated for Radio and Television of Serbia.

Bogdanovic expressed Belgrade's readiness to negotiate on all issues in order to find solutions, adding that Serbia cannot accept Pristina's attempt to resolve problems in Kosovo by means of blackmail and violence. According to him, KFOR is still at the administrative checkpoints in line with the agreement which will be in force by September 15. KFOR will remain at the checkpoints until an agreement with Pristina is reached in respect of the crossings and who will

have control over them, Bogdanovic announced.

KFOR should take care of all citizens and security in Kosovo. Moreover, the mission should be status neutral and act in line with UN Security Council 1244, Bogdanovic said, adding that KFOR Commander Erhard Buehler has promised that KFOR will act in such a manner.

Bogdanovic warned that KFOR can transport Kosovo customs officers by air, but added that in such a case the mission will step out of its mandate, and Serbs will see it as an organization which promotes the statehood of Kosovo-Metohija. He added that Serbia wants to have good cooperation with all international institutions in Kosovo which act in a status neutral way and do not take anyone's side.

TAHIRI: ACCEPTANCE OF STAMPS MEANS RECOGNITION OF KOSOVO

PRISTINA, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Head of the Pristina team in the dialogue with Belgrade Edita Tahiri claims that, by accepting the stamps of Kosovo customs, Serbia has recognized Kosovo's independence.

The agreement on the recognition of customs stamps has huge importance, both from the political, economic and the aspect of regional cooperation. The agreement represents a reciprocal recognition between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia in this area, Tahiri said in an interview for the Pristina daily Epoka e Re. Tahiri said that the EU and the US are the guardians of the agreement.

Commenting on the protests of the opposition Self-Determination Movement over the reached agreement, Tahiri said that the representatives of that movement are power-hungry, and that they urgently need lessons on Democracy.

There are opposition parties that put their own interests before those of the state. That is precisely what the members of the Self-Determination Movement did. We are a democratic state and we accept different opinions, as well as rejection, but the way they protested is not at all democratic, Tahiri added.

PRISTINA TO GET GOOD NEWS FROM VATICAN SOON, SAYS NUNCIO

PRISTINA, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - Apostolic delegate to Kosovo and Nuncio to Slovenia Julius Janus met Monday in Pristina with Kosovo's Foreign Minister Enver Hodzaj.

Commenting on the fact The Holy See is yet to recognize Kosovo's independence, Janus said he would return to Kosovo soon with good news from the Vatican, Kosovo Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a release. In Pristina, Janus will attend the celebration of Mother Teresa Day at the Catholic Church in Pristina. The apostolic nuncio to Slovenia took part in a mass in Prizren on Sunday.

VATICAN: NO CHANGE IN STANCE ON KOSOVO

ROME, Sept 5 (Tanjug) - The Vatican has not changed its position on recognizing Kosovo, Tanjug was told Monday evening by the press service of the Holy See on the occasion of speculations that good news from the Vatican would reach Pristina.

There is no change in the attitude of the Holy See toward Kosovo, the director of the Vatican press service Father Federico Lombardi said in a telephone statement for Tanjug. The Vatican has not recognized the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo.

Kosovo Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a release earlier in the day that Apostolic delegate to Kosovo and Nuncio to Slovenia Julius Janus met in Pristina with Kosovo's Foreign Minister Enver Hodzaj and told him he would return to Kosovo soon with good news from the Vatican. Janus is attending the celebration of Mother Teresa Day at the Catholic Church in Pristina.