

DECLARATION

on the meeting of the leading officials of the Serbian-Hungarian Academic Committee from the 30th of May 2011

The following has been stated by chairmen of the two academic committees:

1. The aims which had been set on the 10th of December 2010 by the two academic committees have proved to be well chosen. The memory of the mass murders which had been committed during and after the Second World War (1941-1948) and the lack of their adequate processing have hindered up until the present the reconciliation between the Serbian and Hungarian people. During the past months the committee has elaborated a proposal on the institutionalization of the disclosure of the past: within the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences the institutional background for the organization of research was set up, namely the Department for the History of South Eastern Europe, its head being the secretary of the Hungarian section of the Committee. The first few months were used for the assessment of the current situation, the setting of tasks and the establishment of the research organization. It has been acknowledged that the public expectation linked to the research is that it should make up for the period which began in 1941-1948; however long-time inaction cannot be replaced by feverish and unprofessional haste.

2. The leading officials of the Committee were presented the reports on the setting up of the Hungarian section on 6th of January 2011 and of the Serbian section on 25th of March 2011. The action plan of the Hungarian committee has been presented to and discussed with the Serbian side. The Committee is aware of the fact that the disclosure of the past is primarily the task of the Hungarian researchers, but this can only be achieved by the effective co-operation with the Serbian colleagues. The Hungarian committee conceives that since the setting-up of the academic committee an affirmative support for the disclosure of the past from the side of the Serbian authorities and archivists can be perceived.

3. On the disclosure of the archive sources. The assessment of the archival disclosure tasks has been undertaken. It will be necessary to investigate the respective files amounting to a length of 1300 metres before exact data on the number of Hungarian victims killed in 1944-1945 and whose names are mentioned in the written memorials can be obtained. The lists which are available at present will in accordance with the agreement of the Committee be published in the coming months. (This is in accordance with the statement issued at the expert forum organized by the Hungarian committee in Szabadka/Novi Sad on the 12th of February 2011 which had been agreed upon fully by the Serbian side.)

Research done by researcher in Serbia, particularly in Voivodina (by Serbian and Hungarian researchers) for the period of 1941-1948, are collected and some of them published (or printed but in small number of copies). But, there are new resources in archives now which were in secret police Offices (OZNA, KNOJ) which are now available for research and that will be done. And discovered facts compared. All these facts in our view should be reviewed by independent scholars before the publication, and in the course of reasonable terms (of a couple of months).

4. On the collection, preservation, and processing of oral histories. At the expert forum of the Hungarian committee organized on 25th of March 2011 a decision was reached on the organized collection of recollections. On the Serbian side the most of the work and data

could be accomplished in the course of 2011, but final results should be made public and published in the course of the year 2012.

5. On the research-organization. The Serbian-Hungarian Academic Committee acknowledged agreeingly that the Hungarian side entrusts the organization of research on the Serbian events in Vojvodina on the Hungarian Institute of Culture in Zenta/Senta which is capable of providing the necessary local research-organization, for the processing and recording of materials and for the level of professionalism.

The SANU part of Commission and researchers will be obliged to do the similar research on the Serbian side, in Serbian and Voivodina, but could also be in Yugoslav archives.

6. On the establishment and attendance of memorial places. The Serbian-Hungarian Academic Committee has been acquainted with the point of stand of the Hungarian committee on the establishment of the memorial places for commemorating the victims of the mass murders. The Hungarian committee presented the map which shows the venues where the mass murders were committed and the also number of victims of the single places known so far. The academic committee agrees that several local memorial places and one national memorial place in Serbia shall be set up. There is also an agreement with the Hungarian side that the Serbian authorities shall provide all necessary means for the inviolability of these memorial places and also that the institutions of the Hungarians in Serbia shall be given a priority role in attending them.

It has been agreed upon that within the massgrave-committee which has been set up by the Serbian government, there shall be a subcommittee in Vojvodina established which would be kept up and financed by the government (parliament) in Vojvodina.

7. The Serbian and the Hungarian sides agreed that the current situation of research shall be assessed at a workshop conference for Serbian and Hungarian researchers to be organized in this academic semester. An agreement has been reached that by fall this year a collected edition shall be compiled in English, Serbian and Hungarian languages which presents the actual stand of research.

8. The Serbian side acknowledges with content that the Hungarian committee is about to launch its homepage recently, which will report on the latest outcomes of the research on a regular basis, it will make the list of the names of the victims and the registers of the venues of the tragic events public, and also scientific essays, statement, discussion papers and personal, emotionally based comments on the Serbian-Hungarian historical conflicts will be published here. Also the proposal was acknowledged according to which the report of the Anquet Committee, which has been established by the Parliament in Vojvodina in 2002 shall be published in Hungarian.

9. The Hungarian committee has also announced that it shall launch two publication series in the course of the following months. One on the progress of the continuous disclosure of sources, first of all on the fond-register of the Serbian archives on the bloody events of 1944-1945. Parallel to this a monograph series shall be started which shall include essays that shall disclose the common history of Serbia and Hungary during the Second World War. Two books of both series are already about to be printed.

Serbian side agrees with publishing discovered facts, and we will also publish very reliable results, but after reviews of competent scholars, and after providing financial

support. The Committee reviewed and stated from both sides its arising difficulties in financing.

10. The Serbian side is willing to issue a letter of support that is signed by the President of the Serbian Academy of Sciences for supporting research in Serbia which emphasizes the Serbian-Hungarian co-existence and especially the research for the disclosure of mass murders. That will be sent to researchers to support in many ways. They are already appointed by the decision of the Executive Board of the Serbian Academy.

11. The Committee agreed that the next meeting shall be summoned for the 15th of September 2011 when an international conference entitled „From Multiculturalism to Mass Murders” shall be organized.



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