

## State of the SVU in the Year 2003

*Report of SVU President Dr. Miloslav Rechcigl*

Presented to the SVU General Assembly, Cedar Rapids, IA, 26 June 2003

It is a pleasure to present this year's report on SVU activities. Considering the time pressure under which we are, I have planned this report to be brief and to the point.

First, I would like to thank Kacenska Oslzly and the Nebraska SVU Chapter and our Iowa friends for making the necessary arrangements for the SVU Annual Meeting and the accompanying SVU Conference. Upon my re-election to the SVU Presidency at the SVU General Assembly Meeting in Plzen in June 2002, I made several commitments which have become the blueprint for the action plan for the newly elected Executive Board. „Accent on Youth“, assisting with the re-establishing civil society in the Czech and Slovak Republics and enhancing cooperation with their institutions, preserving Czech and Slovak heritage abroad and continuing publishing monographs have become our top priorities.

Among specific tasks that I pledged to carry out was the activation of the SVU Fellows program, the reactivation of the SVU Research Institute and finding of a suitable repository for SVU archival material. Faithful to these commitments I am pleased to say that we have made considerable progress in most of these areas. Other than that, we have given great attention to the preparation of our 2003 Conference in Iowa and to improving the management and administrative aspects of SVU periodicals.

Let me now turn to specifics. As far as our finances are concerned, thanks to the sound fiscal management policies, we are in the black and, as a rule, have drawn primarily on interest rather than on the principal. Being an SVU Treasurer is not an easy task and Frank Mucha deserves our sincere thanks for the job well done.

As for the new initiatives, we have established a new Civil Society Issues Committee which has among its members a number of important personalities, such as Ambassadors Martin Palous and Martin Butora and Senator Jaroslava Moserova. Thanks to Lois Herman, we now have a very active Women's Issues Group, comprised of some twenty activists from the US, Czech Republic and Slovakia. You can view their regular postings on the SVU Website, including news releases, statistical and research reports on the women's status in the Czech and Slovak Republics, job openings, conferences, etc. We have also reactivated our Youth Committee which has the responsibility for the SVU initiative Accent on Youth. Furthermore, the Executive Board appointed a special SVU Leadership Search Committee with the responsibility to search for new leadership, especially among the younger people.

SVU Website: [www.svu2000.org](http://www.svu2000.org)

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One of the pressing SVU problems has been the question as to where the Society should deposit its archival material for safe keeping. This was a high priority for us since most of the SVU documents had been kept in cellars, attics and garages of various people for years and there was an imminent danger that they would deteriorate or inadvertently be destroyed. I am delighted to report that, after some negotiations, we successfully deposited most of SVU early documents at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center (IHRC). I would like to express my appreciation to Daniel Necas, who is at this meeting, who kindly transported a big load of countless boxes in the University van to Minneapolis.

Another unresolved problem was the SVU Fellows program which, according to our bylaws, falls under the jurisdiction of SVU Council. Although it had been on SVU books for years, the Society was unable to get it off the ground. The main reason for the failure had been a somewhat tedious selection

process, based on the nominations of candidates by their peers, requiring laborious documentation. I am pleased to report that we overcame this difficulty by appointing a special Fellows Selection Committee whose function was to go through the SVU rolls and select suitable candidates for Fellows whose names were then presented to the SVU Council for voting. The outcome of the vote was the election of 41 SVU Fellows.

Emphasis on publications has always been an SVU imperative. The recent two SVU monographs, the Anthology of Czech and Slovak Exile Poetry and Zdenka Fischmann's Essays on Czech Music, edited by Vera Borkovec and Dagmar White, respectively, came off the press at the time of our SVU World Congress in Plzen. Copies of these two important publications can still be purchased and are available at the Registration Desk. We are in the process of preparing two other monographs, one relating to Czech and Slovak Theater Abroad and the other on Czech and Slovak Opera Abroad, under Vera Borkovec's and Dagmar Hasalova White's editorship, respectively.

You will be also pleased to know about the progress we have made regarding the Plzen SVU Congress Proceedings. Thanks to the efforts of Dean Ivo Budil, two volumes, containing selected Czech and Slovak papers, have just been published by the University of West Bohemia Press and can be ordered from there. As far as the English papers are concerned, Jan P. Skalny has edited and formatted all papers he has received. Unfortunately, they represent only a fraction of the papers presented. It is imperative that those speakers who have not submitted their papers yet, do so immediately, otherwise their papers won't be published.

I am sure you had an opportunity to see the new SVU Directory which is available for sale at the Registration Desk. This voluminous publication, containing basic information about our Society and biographies of over three thousand members throughout the world, is the result of very hard work and which would not see the light of day without the efforts and technical skills of Jiri Eichler. I would like to thank him publicly for all his assistance and devotion. SVU Directory has always been our top best seller and this edition won't be an exception, I am sure.

Thanks to our editors, Andrew Elias and Clinton Machann, respectively, the newsletter Zpravy SVU and scholarly periodical Kosmas are excellent, both in terms of their content and quality. We have made significant changes on the Kosmas Editorial Board, including the appointment of a new Associate Editor, Charles Townsend. In an effort to increase our subscriptions in Europe, with the help of Dean Budil, we are planning to send out sample copies to some five hundred addresses in the Czech and Slovak Republics. I hope this effort will bear some fruit.

The most important public activity the SVU has undertaken in the current administrative period was the organization of the present SVU Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The site was selected following my wife's and my visit to Nebraska and Iowa last October. Accompanied by Kacenska Oslzly, who made the necessary arrangements for meeting the key people, we visited all the important places and negotiated the necessary details. As you have been able to see and experience, this is a great event and everything is going smoothly or, as we say in Czech, "jede to jako po masle". The success is unquestionably due to the one and only person Kacenska. Let's give her a big hand of applause.

I am also pleased to be able to convey to you the latest news about our 2004 World Congress. Upon exchanging correspondence with the Rector and other responsible officials of Palacky University, I am delighted to report that SVU Executive Board decided to hold the next SVU World Congress in Olomouc, Moravia with the general theme "Moravia from a World Perspective." There are lots of Moravians among our midst so I hope you will be delighted both with the site selection as well as the Congress theme.

I would be amiss if I wouldn't say a few words about our local chapters. You will be pleased to hear that our Cleveland Chapter has reactivated, under the Presidency of Dr. Stanislav Bohonek. Efforts are also afoot to establish a new Chapter in Spillville, Iowa, through the initiative of Michael Klimesh. Among the existing chapters - a big surprise - the Nebraska Chapter, under the leadership of Kacenska Oslzly, is again Number ONE, in terms of the number of activities and variety of programs.

A mention needs to be also made of the SVU part, in the Masaryk dedication ceremony in Washington, DC and in the farewells to Ambassador Martin Butora, on which occasion SVU presented him a special citation for his accomplishments during his tenure as Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the US.

Last but not least, I would like to say a few words about the SVU Website. The Website which is in the third year of operation flourishes and, in the opinion of many, is the best business card SVU has ever had. It brings information on just about everything you need to know about our Society and more. For many, it serves as an encyclopedia and Vade mecum on everything relating to Czech and Slovak history and culture, Czechoslovak Americana, Czechoslovak Genealogy on the Net, news releases, grants and aid and much more. Those of you who have not yet seen it please do so. Among the existing media, SVU website is clearly the most effective means

of communication with SVU members and the outside world. Thanks to our diligent Webmaster Jiri Eichler, the website is systematically updated. He deserves our thanks and appreciation.

In conclusion, let me thank again our Nebraska Chapter and especially their President Kacenka OSI zly for all they have do ne to make this meeting a success.

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**Embassy of the Slovak Republic  
WASHINGTON, DC**

Mr. Miloslav Rechcigl President SVU

June 2, 2003 Washington, DC

Dear President Rechcigl,

dear members of Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, dear conference participants, I regret that I am unable to participate at SVU conference in Cedar Rapids. I know I will be missing a wonderful time! After four years mission here in the United States I am coming back to Slovakia. I have always admired your activities and your assistance to Czech and Slovaks in America. I think it is extremely important you will be discussing Czech and Slovak heritage in America, but also discuss the future relations between our countries and the United States.

After decades of communist's tyranny our countries are not only free, but they are allies of the United States in its fight

for freedom and democracy worldwide. We have started a completely new chapter in our relations with America and I hope it will be successful and mutually beneficial one.

I and my wife Zora thank you for most wonderful time we have spent together and wish you successful conference.

I hope to see many of you in Slovakia.

Best regards, Martin Butora, Ambassador

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## General Assembly Meeting

The 44th Annual Meeting of SVU General Assembly was held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 26, 2003, in conjunction with the 2003 SVU Conference.

The meeting was scheduled for 4 PM but because of insufficient members present, it was reconvened one hour later, as the SVU Bylaws prescribe. After opening the meeting, SVU President Mila Rechcigl welcomed the members and thanked the Iowa organizers for making the necessary arrangements for the meeting. He then asked Layne Pierce to serve as Recording Secretary and Vera Borkovec and Dagmar White the verifiers of the Minutes. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the last year's annual meeting held in Plzen in June 2002. Rechcigl then named the Resolution Committee, consisting of John Fiala, Chair and John Rocarek and Layne Pierce, members. He then asked the members to briefly stand to honor the deceased members.

SVU President then proceeded to present his traditional annual report on the State of SVU in 2003. He recapitulated various commitments made last year and summed up the progress made in each area during the last year. Among the new initiatives, he mentioned the establishment of Women's Issues Group, Civil Society Issues Committee, SVU Leadership Search Committee and the reactivation of the Accent on Youth initiative. Among specific tasks accomplished he referred to the successful transfer of the SVU archive to University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center and the activation of SVU Research Fellows.

With reference to new publications, the greatest news was the publication of the new SVU Directory, containing some 3000 biographies of SVU members and other important information about the Society. Other good news was the publication of two volumes of selected Czech and Slovak papers from the 2002 SVU World Congress in Plzen, thanks to the diligent work of Dean Ivo Budil. The selected papers by the American speakers at the Congress are being edited and readied for publication. Effort is also made to publish, at least electronically, the

papers from some of the other SVU conferences. Among the planned publications are two monographs, one on Czech and Slovak theatre abroad and another on Czech and Slovak opera abroad.

The greatest effort in the last year was afforded to the preparation of the 2003 Conference whose successful outcome has gone beyond any body's expectations. Similar effort will now focus on the organization of the next SVU World Congress to be held at Palacky University in Olomouc.

There was considerable debate about the dates for the Congress, the majority expressing preference of holding the meetings in June rather than in September, as was originally proposed by the representatives of Palacky University.

There have also been significant developments regarding the SVU local chapters, i.e., the Cleveland chapter has been reactivated, while a new chapter in Spillville, IA is in process of being formed. Of the ongoing chapters, the Nebraska Chapter is most productive.

Rehcigl also favorably commented on the status of finances, the quality of two SVU periodicals, Kosmas and Zpravy SVU, and the effectiveness of the SVU Website.

SVU Treasurer Frank Mucha then gave a favorable report on the status of finances which collaborated the statement of SVU President. Then followed reports of other officers, including David Chroust's report on Kosmas, Kacenska Oslzly's comments on the organizational aspects of the Iowa conference, and the reports on the activities of several local chapters, namely that on Nebraska (by C. Oslzly), Chicago (by Jana Tuzar) and Pittsburgh (by Caral Hochman).

By this time, the Resolution Committee was ready with their resolution which was subsequently read and approved by the Assembly.

SVU President thanked again the local organizers, especially Kacenska Oslzly, for their splendid work and adjourned the meeting.

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (SVU) ON THE OCCASION OF THE 44TH ANNUAL MEETING IN THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS IN THE STATE OF IOWA 27 JUNE 2003

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (SVU) held its Annual Meeting on the theme "Czech and Slovak Presence In North America: A Retrospective Look and Future Perspectives". The following Resolution, amended by the Executive Board, was passed and is here presented:

WHEREAS the Czech and Slovak people have been making significant contributions to the culture, history, and fabric of North American life since the 16th century, and WHEREAS the recording and preservation of the remembrances and memorials of Slovak and Czech contributions to North America are a priority of the SVU, and

WHEREAS the happy events of November 1989 have made it possible for a strengthening of the ties between Czechs and Slovaks in North America with our countrymen in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, and

WHEREAS these same events have made it possible for there to be a reinvigoration of all aspects of Czech and Slovak culture on both sides of the Atlantic, and

WHEREAS it is clear that Slovak and Czech culture continue to grow, evolve, and thrive in North America,

BE IT RESOLVED that SVU does commit itself anew to

- 1) providing for the preservation of the past history of the Czech and Slovak people in North America,
- 2) providing a gathering place for the Slovak and Czech people as well as those interested in these peoples, cultures and achievements,
- 3) providing specific programs to disseminate Czech and Slovak intellectual accomplishments, and

SE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SVU does commit itself to seeing that the richness of the Czech and Slovak experience in North America be passed on to the youth of North America as well as to the youth of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic towards the goal of furthering Civil Society throughout the world.

Done in Cedar Rapids this 27th day of June 2003.

## From Executive Board Meeting

SVU Executive Board had its regular meeting on Saturday, July 19, 2003 at SVU President Mila Rechcigl's house in Rockville, MD. More than half of the members were present, thus fulfilling the requirements of the quorum. In the absence of Secretary General Safertal, VP George J. Glos was appointed Secretary General pro tempore. SVU Treasurer Frank Mucha brought the Board members up to date on the status of finances and the payment of the membership dues. A detailed report was presented at the 2003 SVU General Assembly Meeting in June. Reminder letters will be sent to the members in arrears together with the offer to purchase the new SVU Directory.

Since a detailed report on the English periodical *Kosmas* was given at the General Assembly meeting, there was no new progress report. Suggestion was made to publish the contents of the last issue in the *Zpravy SVU*. Since no new information was provided on the status of the *Garver* issue (Vol. 14, no. 2, Spring 1999), the Executive Board asked for an immediate corrective action as specified at the previous Board meeting. There were also concerns expressed over the recurrent delays in implementing the Board efforts to increase the subscription in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Because of the difficulties in providing an electronic version of the selected material to be sent out with a promotional letter, it was proposed that the material be simply copied in sufficient copies or have the material sent to SVU Webmaster who volunteered to put it in electronic form.

As was already announced at the Cedar Rapids Conference, the long awaited SVU Directory has been published in Prague. Credit for this impressive publication, with some 3000 biographies, goes to the Rechcigl and Jiri Eichler. Distribution among the members who previously ordered it and paid for it will be made as soon as the shipment arrives in the US. Members may order the publication from SVU Treasurer for \$22.

Thanks to the efforts of Oean Ivo Budil, two volumes of selected papers from the 2002 SVU World Congress in Plzen, in Czech or Slovak languages, have just been released. They can be ordered from the University of West Bohemia or from the publisher, as indicated in a separate announcement. As far as the English papers are concerned, all the papers that have been received have been edited and formatted. Unfortunately, they represent only a fraction of papers actually presented. The delinquent speakers are admonished to send in their papers as soon as possible, because otherwise their papers won't be published.

J. P. Skalny also reported on the diskette he has been preparing, containing selected papers from the Washington O.c. Congress. Inasmuch as these papers dealt with autobiographical accounts of prominent scientists of Czech and Slovak descent, the Board recommended that comparable papers presented at the Plzen Congress be added to them.

No news has been received on the status of papers from the previous SVU Conferences (Minnesota and Nebraska). The Board plans to contact the previously appointed editors of these proceedings to get some action. Every effort will be made to avert anything comparable happening with the papers presented at the recent conference in Cedar Rapids. It was recommended that Prof. Charles Townsend be appointed the Editor of Iowa papers which would assure high quality publication.

With reference to new initiatives, as announced earlier, Vera Borkovec and Dagmar White, respectively, are working on two monographs, one on the Czech & Slovak Theatre Abroad and another on Czech and Slovak opera.

Considerable discussion was devoted to the recent conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There was consensus that this was a great event which will be difficult to emulate. The Board members were in general agreement with the sentiment expressed by SVU President in his recollections and assessment, "Reliving the New World Symphony," which appear elsewhere. The Board members went on record to express their appreciation to the organizers, especially Kacenska OsI zly and Mila Rechcigl, for the work well done.

SVU President informed the Board of the latest communication he received from Olomouc from Dean Ivo Bartecek. At President's request, the University has changed the dates of the planned SVU World Congress from September to June 26-July 2, 2004. This was a good news because it will now enable many academics to attend which they would not have been able to do if the meetings were held in September. The central theme of the Congress will be "Moravia in the World Context." This news should certainly please SVU members who are natives of Moravia or descendants of the early Moravian immigrants in North America.

There has also been some good news regarding SVU Local Chapters, including the reactivation of the Cleveland Chapter under the Presidency of Dr. Stanislav Bohonek and the efforts to establish a new chapter in Spillville, Iowa.

The Executive Board also selected a winner of this year's Andrew Elias Humanitarian Award. The lucky winner is Ing. Jan Figel, Chairman of the Foreign Committee of the National Assembly of the Slovak Republic. Details will be provided elsewhere.

Rehcigl also announced two special conferences. First, to be held at the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC, of which SVU is a co-sponsor, relates to the Czech and Slovak archival materials and other memorials in the US and their preservation. The conference will be held on November 22 and 23, 2003 for invitees only.

The second conference, organized by the Academy of Sciences of ČR and scheduled for November 11-12 in Prague, will deal with the subject of "Science in Exile." SVU members interested in participating in any of these conferences should contact SVU President: [SVU1@comcast.net](mailto:SVU1@comcast.net)

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### **New SVU Biographical Directory is Out**

A long-awaited SVU Directory has just been published in Prague. It is a product of Mila and Eva Rehcigl and Jiri Eichler who have diligently worked on it for years. It is an impressive publication comprised of some 3000 biographical entries of individual members, listing their addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails, apart from information on their education, publications and areas of expertise. Besides alphabetical listing, the directory also provides a classification of members by subject and by geographical location.

The SVU Directory, which has now reached its 8th edition, has always been the bestseller among SVU publications, and there is every expectation that this will also be true about the current edition. In many respects it represents the cream of the crop of the Czech and Slovak intellectuals and professionals throughout the world and thus it is the best business card SVU has to offer to its members.

Members who have ordered the Directory earlier and paid for it will receive it automatically as soon as the shipment has been received in the US. Other members living in America may order it for \$22 from SVU Treasurer: F. Mucha, 36 West 88th St., New York, NY 10024.

### **Papers from Plzen Congress Published**

We are pleased to announce the publication of two volumes of selected Czech and Slovak papers from the 2002 SVU World Congress in Plzen.

Transformace ceske a slovenske spolecnosti na prahu noveho milenia. a jeji uloha v soucasnem globalnim svete. Sbornik vybranych prispevku 21. svetoveho kongresu Spolecnosti pro vedy a umeni. 24.-30 cervna 2002 Plzen. Pod zastitou prezidenta Ceske republiky Vaclava Havla. Plzen: Zapadoceska univerzita v Plzni. Fakulta humanitnich studii, 2003. Publisher: Ales Cenek, Dobra voda 44, 394 02 Dobra voda u

Pelhrimova. Print: Jaroslav Samek, Dolnokubinska 1451, 393 01 Pelhrimov. ISBN 80-86473-39-2. Price: \$20.

Evoluce c/oveka a antropologie recentnich populaci. Sbornik panelu 21. Svetoveho kongresu Ceskoslovenske spolecnosti pro vedy a umeni. Plzen, 24.-30. cervna 2002. Editori: Vladimir Sadek, Patrik Galeta, Vladimir Blazek. In: Biologicka antropologie Sbornik I. Katedra socialni a kulturni antropologie, Fakulta humanitnich studii ZCU v Plzni. Publisher: Ales Cenek, Dobra voda 44, 394 02 Dobra voda u Pelhrimova.

Print: Jaroslav Samek, Dolnokubinska 1451, 393 01 Pelhrimov. ISBN 80-86473-34-1. Price \$10.

Both volumes can be ordered from: Ms. Jana Jantschova, Faculty of Humanities, University of West Bohemia, Sedlackova 38, 306 14 Pilsen, Czech Republic or from the publisher: Ales Cenek, Dobra voda 44, 394 02 Dobra voda u Pelhrimova, Czech Republic.

## 2004 SVU World Congress

Preliminary Announcement and Call for Papers Location: Palacky University, Olomouc, Moravia, Czech Republic

Dates: June 26 - July 2, 2004 Central Theme: Moravia in the World Context Papers on other topics will also be accepted We would welcome volunteers to organize specific panels or symposia

US Contact: SVU President Mila Rechcigl: [SVU1@comcast.net](mailto:SVU1@comcast.net)

Olomouc Contact: Dean Ivo Bartecek: [bartecek@ffnw.upol.cz](mailto:bartecek@ffnw.upol.cz)

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### "Muži nestárnou"

According to this Czech saying "men don't age." This conclusion is certainly true about two SVU personalities who have reached the venerable age of eighty and seventy, i.e., Zdenek Slouka and Jaroslav Folta, respectively.

**ZDENEK SLOUKA**, a political scientist of international repute, who held a number of distinguished university positions, including the Cohen Chair of International Law and Relations at Lehigh University, has now returned to his first love - journalism. After World War II till 1948, he was Editor of Svobodne (Lidove) noviny and later, after coming to the US, he became a commentator for Radio Free Europe. Even though he has lived abroad for many years, he has retained his superb knowledge of Czech style and idiom and, in my opinion, he writes far better than many of his contemporaries who have lived in the Czechlands all their lives.

I have known Zdenek for many years, probably since the early seventies when he lived in Washington or maybe even earlier. I remember him frequently visiting me in the State Department and AID where I then worked. This was the beginning of our close friendship.

After the demise of communism, Zdenek resigned his prestigious position of Director of the Lehigh University's Institute for International Relations which he founded so that he could devote all his energies to assisting the new democratic Czechoslovakia. Simultaneously he became very active in SVU, starting as its Vice President in 1990. After a year, he relinquished the post to accept the appointment of the first Executive Director of the newly established SVU Research Institute. In this capacity he fostered collaboration between the US and the Czech and Slovak universities and also found financial resources for organizing a series of seminars and workshops. I had the privilege of participating with Zdenek in a number of these workshops relating to the art of writing grant proposals and the "grantsmanship," in general, which we organized at Charles University, the Academy of Sciences, Masaryk University, Safarik University and elsewhere. These workshops, which belong to the best years of my life, played an important role in bringing the Czech and Slovak scientists and scholars on par with their counterparts in the Western world.

In 1992, he was awarded a Silver Medal by Charles University and in the same year also Josef Hlavka's Medal from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences for his contributions to science. I have not kept up with a number of other medals and recognitions he received later.

With such credentials, it was only natural that Zdenek Slouka was elected President of SVU in 1992-94. Had it not been for his sudden illness he would have been most certainly elected for another period.

He now lives in Prague with his lovely wife Blanka and spends his time writing editorials, political analyses and whatever strikes his fancy. Talking about Blanka, my wife Eva had the pleasure of actually arranging their marriage during one of their short stays in the Washington area. Perhaps, it is time for renewal of their vows. We are ready and waiting.

**Mnoga Ljeta Zivijo!**

**JAROSLAV FOLTA**, a mathematician and science historian, who has been in charge of the department of history, science and technology at the National Technical Museum in Prague, is still working, busily organizing conferences and editing their proceedings.

I have known Jaroslav, as he likes to be called, for a long time, could it be thirty-five years or so? I was then employed by NIH and apart from my official responsibilities, I became keenly interested in history of science, especially Czechoslovak science and that's how I came in contact with Dr. Jaroslav Folta who was an officer of the Czechoslovak history of Science and Technology. He was very kind in sending me various materials about

which I then periodically wrote abstracts for the periodical Isis. As a "reward" I send him a copy of the SVU publication, The Czechoslovak Contribution to World Culture which I edited. We then lost contact with each other.

On my first trip to Czechoslovakia after the Velvet Revolution in 1990, I made sure to get in contact with Dr. Folta. It was fortuitous, as Jarda subsequently helped me a lot in making contacts with various Czech and Slovak scientists and institutions. I remember how proudly he took me to their Society's small office to show me our "precious" book that I sent him many years before and which they kept safely during the communist era under lock and key.

Dr. Folta was instrumental in getting me in touch with the Council of Czechoslovak Societies, especially prof. Jaroslav Valenta, with whose help we then organized the first SVU Congress in Prague in 1992 and another in 1994. Dr. Folta played a pivotal role in both congresses. It was also he, who arranged a trip for me and my family to Slovakia where I met leading scientists associated with the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Jarda is not a headline man. He prefers to stay behind the scenes, do all the work, while others get the credit. Albeit almost invisible, in my mind, he is the most active and most dependable person I ever met on the territory of Czechoslovakia. I am glad I can count him among my closest friend.

**Mnoga ljeta!**

MILOSLAV REHCIGL, SVU president

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## Winner of 2003 SVU Student Award

This year's winner of the Joseph Hasek SVU Student Award is an undergraduate student from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Dana Copithorne was awarded this prize for her outstanding essay entitled "Disordered Borders and Border Crossings: Articulations of the 'Inside' and 'Outside' Worlds in Twentieth Century Czech Literature."

The Student Awards Committee, composed of Prof. Ivo Feierabend (University of San Diego), Prof. Milan Hauner (University of Wisconsin) and Prof. Vera Borkovec (American University), unanimously agreed that her paper was the most original, her argumentation strong and consistent and well documented for a topic which was complicated and many leveled. She should also be commended for her excellent and lucid writing style which made the reading most pleasurable.

Miss Copithorne will receive a check for US \$250, a Certificate of Merit, a year's free membership in SVU and the bimonthly newsletter Zpravy SVU. The announcement of this award was made at the General Assembly meeting of the Society on June 27, 2003 during the SVU Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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## Tribute to Ambassador Butora and Dr. Zora Butorova

Dear Friends:

As you know, the tenure of Slovak Ambassador Martin Butora and his lovely wife Dr. Zora Butorova is rapidly coming to an end. We feel this is the right place and the right time to express our appreciation to them for all they have done during their sojourn in the US.

I am sure that all of you will agree with me, thanks to the Butoras, Slovakia has been placed on the world map. They have made everybody feel at home at their chancery, as well as at their residence in McLean, VA. As a rule, they awaited every visitor in front of their house and individually welcomed every one of them to make him or her feel that they are the most important persons among the invited guests. They would then proceed to discuss with you some personal matter or item that would be of special interest to you. This always had all the elements of sincerity and not just a diplomatic brush.

The Butoras have truly brightened the Washington diplomatic scene in which they have had no rivals. Frankly, the new Slovak Republic could hardly have better official spokesmen and I doubt they ever will.

Martin Butora and Dr. Zora Butorova, both of whom have been active SVU members for a number of years, have been our Society's close friends and collaborators. They were always there when we needed them and frequently have come forward with their own initiative.

Apart from putting Slovakia on the international pedestal of the closest American allies and establishing the best relations with the United States, in my opinion, the Butoras' greatest contributions have been in fostering close ties with the Czech Republic and with the Czechs, generally. This is the reason why the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences selected the premises of the Czech Embassy for making this presentation.

**The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences  
Společnost pro vědy a umění  
Spoločnosť pre vedy a umenia**

Be it Known to you by these Presents that  
The President and Executive Board of the

**Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)**

does extend to

**His Excellency Martin Butora and Dr. Zora Butorova**

recognition and gratitude for their outstanding efforts to strengthen the ties between the Slovak Republic and the United States of America. They have consistently worked to further the aims of SVU and to enrich the cooperation between the members of SVU, at home and abroad during Martin Butora's tenure as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America.

In gratitude, the Executive Board of SVU has caused this Certificate to be issued this 26th of April in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Three.

In witness thereof, the signature of the President of the Society has been hereunto affixed in the City of Washington in the District of Columbia.

MILOSLAV RECHCIGL, Jr., Ph.D. SVU President

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**WORKING CONFERENCE  
on CZ & SK American Archival Materials**

**Washington, DC, 22-23 November 2003**

**under the auspices of H.E. Martin Palous, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to US  
and**

**H. E. Rastislav Kacer, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to US**

**Location:**

Sat. November 22 - Czech Embassy, 3900 Spring of Freedom St., NW, Washington, DC 20008

Sun. November 23 - Slovak Embassy, 3523 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Organizers/Sponsors: Czech and Slovak Embassies with SVU General Theme: Archival Materials Bearing on the Czech and Slovak

Presence in America and their Preservation

**Language:** English; Czech and Slovak during discussion possible

Participants: Invited persons and organizations from US, CR and SR i.a., archivists, historians, heads of archival and comparable institutions, government representatives and spokesmen for major Czech/Slovak organizations in the US

**Tentative Program:**

Saturday November 22

9-10 AM Official Opening and Introduction

10-12 AM Presentation and Discussion of Various Issues and Topics 12 Noon Lunch

1-5 PM Presentations and Discussions of Various Issues and Topics

6 PM Reception

Sunday November 23

9 -12 Noon Summation of the Problems and Agenda for the Future

12 Noon Buffet Lunch

1 PM Open and Free Discussion

3 PM Recommendations and Conclusion

### Issues to Be Discussed:

1. Status of archival materials in existing depositories in US and CR and SR and their inventory
2. Status of other archival materials, including those in private hands, and their inventory
3. Placement and establishing standards for preservation of documents held in private collections
4. Inventorying and cataloging of the archival materials in existing archives
5. Setting up information system about these archival materials and depositories
6. Fostering cooperation between professionals and archival institutions
7. Concrete steps for the future

### Conference Proceedings:

The plans are to publish the proceedings Contact: Interested persons should contact SVU President Mila Rechcigl: 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; Phone: (302) 8817222;

e-mail: [SVU1@comcast.net](mailto:SVU1@comcast.net)

Czech Embassy: [broskevic@yahoo.com](mailto:broskevic@yahoo.com)

Slovak Embassy: [wlachovsky@slovakembassy.us.org](mailto:wlachovsky@slovakembassy.us.org)

General Comment: There is a prevailing view that this conference is extremely important and timely, considering the dismal state of the Czech and Slovak archival materials in America. The conference could have a tremendous impact on the fate of these materials and the future efforts to preserve them and make them available to scholars.

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## Anketa "Česká věda v exilu 1939-1989"

Vážení přátelé,

obracíme se na Vás s následující prosbou:

11.-12. listopadu 2003 se bude konat v Praze vědecká konference Věda v exilu, která se zaměří jednak na úlohu Československé republiky při poskytování exilu zahraničním badatelům v období první a druhé republiky, jednak na odchod československých vědců do ciziny v období nacistického a komunistického režimu. Jako podklad pro jednání konference bychom rádi uspořádali anketu mezi osobnostmi pocházejícími z České republiky, které v letech 1939-1989 odešly do zahraničí a dlouhodobě tam působily v oblasti vědy.

Byli bychom rádi, kdybyste nám mohli v rámci této ankety odpovědět na následujících pět otázek:

1. Při hledání motivací pro odchod lidí z někdejšího Československa do exilu či do emigrace bývají zpravidla zdůrazňovány jednak politické, jednak sociálně-ekonomické důvody. Jakou roli při Vašem odchodu sehrál fakt, že jste si pro své životní působení vybral vědeckou činnost?

2. Na vědeckou činnost lze nahlížet v širokém spektru pohledů, od jejího hodnocení jakožto jednoho z mnoha způsobů obživy či získání vhodného sociálního statusu až po její chápání jakožto poslání a nalézání prostoru pro tvůrčí činnost a myšlenkovou svobodu. Změnil se Vaším odchodem do ciziny Váš pohled na to, co věda vlastně je?

3. Vědecká činnost bývá obecně považována za internacionální záležitost, do níž různé státy a národy vstupují zpravidla jen rozdílnou mírou podpory a uplatňováním odlišných vzorců vědní politiky. Ovlivňuje podle Vašeho názoru národnost badatele a kulturní zázemí, ve kterém vyrůstal, podstatnějším způsobem i jeho badatelské metody a výsledky?

4. Jakou roli sehrála věda při Vašem rozhodování o navrácení či nenavrácení do vlasti po listopadu 1989?

5. Které největší rozdíly v postavení vědce dnes podle Vašeho názoru existují mezi Českou republikou a zemí, která se Vám po Vašem odchodu stala novou vlastí?

Budeme rádi, když nám odpovíte na tyto otázky třeba jen několika slovy, uvítáme však samozřejmě, pokud se rozhodnete zaslat nám obšírnější odpověď (maximum je 15 stran). Odpovědi nám laskavě zasílejte do 30.9. 2003 buď e-mailem na adresu [kostlan@cesnet.cz](mailto:kostlan@cesnet.cz) nebo písemně na adresu: Dr. Antonín Kostlán, Výzkumné centrum pro dějiny vědy, Legerova 61, 12000 Praha 2, Česká republika.

Děkujeme za pomoc a těšíme se na další spolupráci!

PhDr. ANTONÍN KOSTLÁN Výzkumné centrum pro dějiny a vědy

Text této ankety je rovněž k dispozici na webové stránce <http://www.vcdv.cas.cz/new/Anketa.htm>

## *The Novaks Celebrate 40 Years of Marriage*

Michael and Karen Laub-Novak will observe their 40th anniversary on June 29th at a celebration in Washington, DC. The Novaks were married June 29, 1963, in Assumption Catholic Church in Cresco, Iowa, Karen Laub-Novak's childhood home, located near where one of Mr. Laub-Novak's commissioned sculptures commemorating Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Borlaug would later stand. Mrs. Laub-Novak, who received her degrees from Carleton College (where she later taught) and the University of Iowa and studied under Oscar Kokoschka in Salzburg, has continued her artistic work throughout their marriage, working in oils, lithograph, bronze and clay, and exhibiting paintings and prints in America and Europe.

Mr. Novak studied theology at Notre Dame, Stonehill and the Gregorian University, as a seminarian. He has written some 25 influential books in philosophy, theology, economics and sports. One of these books he had the pleasure of co-authoring with his youngest child, Jana, in 1998. Catholic theologian, author, and former U.S. Ambassador, Michael Novak currently holds the Jewett Chair in Religion and Public Policy at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. The Novaks have received many academic, national and international awards, including the Templeton Prize for Mr. Novak in 1995.

After Michael left the Seminary in 1960, he accepted a teaching fellowship at Harvard, where two years later he met Karen who was considering a Boston Studio as a good starting place for a professional artist. Although the Novaks have lived in Washington, DC for the last 25 years, they have also lived in Rome, Italy, California, Long Island and Upstate New York. Michael and Karen have three children, Richard of Des Moines, Iowa, Thya Holton of Boston, Massachusetts, and Jana of Washington, D.C. They also have three grandchildren.

During their 40 years, the Novaks met with and were honored by political and cultural leaders worldwide, from Vaclav Havel to Margaret Thatcher and Pope John Paul II. Many of their closest family and friends will join in commemorating this vibrant couple who shared their international, artistic and philosophical passions with each other, their families and their many friends.

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## *ANDREJ ELIÁŠ - 15 rokov redaktorom ZPRÁV SVU*

Andrej Eliáš bol prvýkrát redaktorom ZPRÁV SVU v rokoch 1975-76. Po svojej rezignácii zastával v SVU niekoľko iných funkcií, keď ho roku 1988 na návrh dr. Milu Recheigla vtedajšieho predsedu SVU, prof. Igor Nábělek, znova menoval redaktorom ZPRÁV. V tejto funkcii dovŕšil tohto leta patnásť rokov. Materiál, ktorý nasleduje a ktorý má informovať najmä novších členov SVU, ktorým je redaktor ZPRÁV neznámy, bol vybraný hlavne zo slovenských publikácií, predovšetkým z prejavov prednesených počas prezentácie jeho knihy spomienok AKO SOM OBJAVIL AMERIKU. Kniha bola na Slovensku bestsellerom a obidve vydania sa vypredali behom niekoľkých týždňov.

Dr. Andrej Eliáš je rodákom z Hanušoviec nad Topľou (i keď sa technicky narodil v Prešove). Hneď po maturite bol povolaný do slovenskej armády a po základnom výcviku v Ružomberku odvelený do vojenskej akadémie školy pre výchovu dôstojníkov v zálohe - v Bratislave. Po jej úspešnom absolvovaní bol pridelený k takej eskadrone druhého jazdeckého pluku v Michalovciach ako zástupca veliteľa horskej kanónovej batérie. Celá jeho jednotka sa zúčastnila Slovenského národného povstania. Po oslobodení bol navrhnutý vtedajším majorom (neskoršie generálom) Milanom Veselom na povýšenie a na štyri vyznamenania (vojnový kríž, za chrabrosť, za zásluhy II. stupňa a rad SNP II. triedy), ktorých sa z komunistami kontrolovaného MNO nikdy nedočkal. (Roku 1992 ho minister obrany ČSFR povýšil do hodnosti kapitána v.v. československej armády a roku 1995 ho minister obrany SR povýšil do hodnosti majora v.v. slovenskej armády.)

Po príchode do Ameriky pracoval tri roky ako "drotár" s inými slovenskými prisťahovalcami v New Yorku. Po zložení diferenciálnej skúšky matrikuloval sa na Columbijskej univerzite, ktorú absolvoval za tri roky s akademickou hodnosťou bakalára vied (odbor ekonomia.) Nasledujúceho roku obdržal na tej samej univerzite hodnosť magistra umení. Počas svojich štúdií mal niekoľko príležitostných zamestnaní, písal do krajanskej tlače a za čas bol redaktorom dvoch slovenských periodík. Ešte pred skončením štúdií na (americký) vyšší doktorát (Ph.D.), urobil prijímaciu skúšku do zamestnania (profesionálne kategórie) vo Federálnej vláde na jednotku. Po obdržaní ponúk z niekoľkých ministerstiev, rozhodol sa pre miesto v zahraničnom oddelení Federálneho ministerstva obchodu vo Washingtone, kde sa špecializoval na stredovýchodnú Európu a ZSSR. V tomto zamestnaní, napriek neskorším ponúkam z akademického aj privatného sektora, sotral až kým neodišiel predčasne do výslužby, aby sa mohol viac venovať svojim investíciám.

Dr. Eliáš sa vypracoval vo svojom odbore na špičkového odborníka vo Federálnej vláde. Jeho analytické publikácie, prvé svojho druhu kdekoľvek, o pracovných silách a komerčných potenciáloch medzi Východom a Západom boli veľmi priaznivo hodnotené jak univerzitnými (Harvard, Yale) tak aj vládnymi a zahraničnými odborníkmi. Väčšinu jeho publikácií vydalo Federálne ministerstvo obchodu, ale niektoré štúdie pripravil na žiadosť amerického kongresu, ktorý ich potom vydal vo svojich komprehensívnych regionálnych publikáciách. Andrej Eliáš vo svojej funkcii direktora výskumu trhu v Úrade pre rozvoj obchodu medzi Východom a Západom, zastupoval Federálne ministerstvo obchodu na početných konferenciách, rokovaníach a diskusiách v mnohých mestách v USA i v zahraničí, s výnimkou konferencie "sovietsko-amerických ekonomických expertov" v Moskve r. 1975, kde reprezentoval Federálne ministerstvo financií.

Popri svojom hlavnom zamestnaní prednášal dr. Eliáš za čas (ako docent) na jednej washingtonskej univerzite a neskôršie sa venoval podnikateľskej činnosti, cez ktorú nadobúdol vyše tucta podnikov a nehnuteľností. Z jeho početných uznaní a vyznamenaní si najviac cení čestné občianstvo mesta Hanušovce nad Topľou, kde prežil roky svojho detstva a dospievania.

A. Eliáš je ženatý s Enkou Gregovou, v New Yorku narodenou Američankou, slovenského pôvodu. Mali spolu troch synov a jednu dcéru.

\*Anglická verzia tejto knihy I CHOSE AMERICA je k dostaniu-NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY v Cedar Rapids. Iowa 52404-5904.

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## **SLOVO OSOBNOSTI**

***Miloslav Rechcigl, B.S., M.N.S., Ph.D. předseda Společnosti pro vědy a umění***

### **POZDRAV Z ČESKÉ AMERIKY**

Začnu trochu osobně. Pokud jde o český Senát, chovám k jeho představitelům nejvřelejší city a přátelská pouta. S předsedou Pithartem jsem se poprvé osobně seznámil na našem historickém světovém kongresu v Praze r. 1992. Navštívil jsem ho tehdy společně s bývalým předsedou Společnosti pro vědy a umění Janem Třískou v jeho kanceláři, poslední den v jeho funkci. Vzpomínali jsme spolu na staré časy a hovořili o budoucnosti i o tom, jakou roli může ještě Společnost sehrát v souvislosti s událostmi v Československu. Udržoval jsem s ním styk od té doby, kdy se opět vrátil do politického života jako senátor a později jako předseda horní komory českého Parlamentu. Tehdy jsem již opětovně zastával funkci předsedy Společnosti.

Na naše pozvání se P. Pithart účastnil několika našich zahraničních akcí, jmenovitě konference v Minnesotě r. 1999, u příležitosti návštěvy prezidenta Havla, i našeho jubilejního světového kongresu ve Washingtonu v roce 2000. Dodnes vzpomínám na příjemnou autobusovou výpravu do sídla amerického prezidenta Thomase Jeffersona v Monticelu ve státu Virginia, která nám dala příležitost prodebatovat celou řadu otázek týkajících se české Ameriky a vztahu zdejších Cechů se starou vlastí.

Za svůj počáteční kontakt na Senát vděčím především bývalému poslanci Jaromíru Šlápotovi, nynějšímu předsedovi Československého zahraničního ústavu v Praze. Jeho prostřednictvím jsem se seznámil se senátorem MUDr. Milanem Špačkem, předsedou Stálé komise Senátu pro krajany žijící v zahraničí. Bylo to přibližně tehdy, kdy jsem se zmínil Jaromíru Šlápotovi o svém rukopise o významných Američanech českého původu a o tom, že bych rád ze symbolických důvodů vydal knížku v České republice. Ten o věci informoval senátora Špačka, který projevil knížku značný zájem, a netrvalo dlouho a dostal jsem vyrozumění od Stálé komise Senátu pro krajany žijící v zahraničí, že jsou ochotni publikaci podporovat za finanční pomoci Senátu. Knižka skutečně vyšla roku 2000 pod názvem Postavy naší Ameriky a dokonce se i dostala na český "bestseller list".

V této souvislosti jsem opět dlužníkem senátora Pitharta za prodtěnou předmluvu, anebo spíše studii, kterou charakteristicky nazval "Náš člověk v Novém světě". Vděčím také senátorovi Špačkovi, který zorganizoval při jejím vydání v Senátu zvláštní tiskovou konferenci.

Senátor Špaček se též zúčastnil, společně s předsedou Šlápotou, několika akcí pořádaných naší Společností, a sice konference v Texasu r. 1997 a konference v Nebrasce r. 2001. Z ostatních senátorů bych ještě rád připomenul senátora Prof. PhDr. Josefa Jařaba, CSc., Prof. PhDr. Františka Mezihořáka, CSc., senátorku Doc. MUDr.

Jaroslavu Moserovou, DrSc. a senátora a bývalého velvyslance v USA Michaela Žantovského, kteří se aktivně zúčastnili některých našich kongresů. Většina je též našimi členy. Rád bych všem vyjádřil srdečný dík za jejich zájem a přínos.

Pokud jde o naši Společnost, máme zájem o udržování styků a navazování nových vztahů s představiteli České republiky nejen ze společenských důvodů, ale hlavně z důvodů profesionálních.

Jsme přesvědčeni o tom, že takové kontakty mohou být užitečné pro obě strany. Mezi našimi členy, které najdete na každé větší univerzitě či jiné instituci, soukromé či vládní, jakož i v průmyslu, jsou experti takřka na každém poli lidské působnosti. Jejich znalostí či kontaktů bylo však až dosud velice málo využito. Člověku to někdy připadá, že naši partneři v České republice o naši spolupráci nestojí, anebo o nás ani nevědí. Nejlépe je to patrné z oficiálních návštěv představitelů České republiky, při nichž se jen zřídka stává, že by někdo projevil zájem se sejit s našimi zástupci. V této věci by měly hrát větší roli české zastupitelské úřady, které se až dosud koncentrují pouze na kontakty politické. Pokud jsme mohli pozorovat, není zde ani snaha, aby se oficiální návštěvníci z České republiky objevili před americkou veřejností, nemluvě o tom, aby někde přednesli přednášku, anebo se zúčastnili veřejné debaty. Propáslo se tak mnoho příležitostí k propagaci Čech a Moravy.

Československá republika měla v předválečných letech vysoké renomé po celém světě a to se jí opět vrátilo v době sametové revoluce. Bohužel, postupem času celková image nové České republiky začala rapidně upadat, obzvláště pokud jde o její duchovní a morální podstatu. Projevuje se to mnohdy přímo v negativních člancích, které jsou uveřejňovány v předních amerických novinách, jako je Washington Post či New York Times. Některé reportáže a úvodníky jsou založeny na pravdě, mnohé však ne. Udivuje nás, že řada těchto neopodstatněných zpráv je ponechána bez odpovědí z oficiálních kruhů České republiky. Výsledkem toho je, že mnozí Američané začínají takovým zprávám věřit, v což počítám i významné členy amerického kongresu. Sice se stává, že čas od času se objeví v novinách protestní komentáře od našich lidí žijících v cizině, ale takové dopisy nikdy nemají stejnou váhu jako odpověď z oficiálních českých míst.

Snad by v této věci mohl hrát určitou roli český Senát a založit pro tento účel zvláštní komisi, která by se soustavně zabývala otázkou image českého státu ve světě, a zvláště dezinformacemi o něm. Nemluvíme o nějaké propagandě, ale o šíření pravdy. Jistě jsou situace, kdy zahraniční kritika je namístě, což by zasluhovalo přiznání z české strany, doprovázené ujištěním, že bude chyba napravena, popřípadě uvedením konkrétních kroků k nápravě. Společnost pro vědy a umění ráda v této věci pomůže, pokud se Senát pro takovýto krok rozhodne.

Dezinformace o České republice a o Čechách vůbec je do jisté míry způsobena nedostatkem vhodných informací o naší zemi ve světových jazycích, zejména v angličtině. Z bibliografie o anglických publikacích týkajících se českých záležitostí, kterou jsem nedávno připravil, vím, že neexistuje ani jedna soustavná anglicky psaná publikace o české historii, nemluvě o literatuře, hudbě či české kultuře vůbec. Toto by měla být prioritou České republiky. Společnost je opět ochotna pomoci, ale nemůže to dělat sama.

V této souvislosti se musím též zmínit o překladové problematice v České republice. Nevím, kolik lidí v České republice si je vědomo toho, že podstatná část anglických publikací vycházejících v Čechách není psána dobrou angličtinou. Největší problém je v tom, že tyto publikace nejsou psány idiomatically a dělá to dojem, že jsou překládány slovo od slova z češtiny. Zase další oblast, kde by mohla naše Společnost být nápomocna.

Rád bych ještě připomněl, že českoamerická komunita, jejíž intelektuální složku do jisté míry reprezentují, je největší ze všech českých komunit ve světě a že jako taková si jistě zaslouží větší pozornost u vás, než tomu tak ve skutečnosti je. Mám na mysli pravidelná setkání zahraničních Čechů sponzorovaných Senátem, na jejichž organizaci nejsme nijak zúčastněni a o nichž se dozvídáme buď náhodou, nebo pozdě. Uvítali by chom, kdyby v této věci došlo k nápravě. Česká Amerika a Amerika vůbec hrála důležitou roli při zakládání Československa a i v letech pozdějších při různých osvobozovacích akcích a při návratu staré vlasti do demokratického světa.

Účast Ameriky při zakládání Československa byla důstojně připomenuta ve zvláštním atributu Americe na našem nedávném světovém kongresu, který SVU uspořádala pod záštitou prezidenta V. Havla ve dnech 23.-30. června 2002 v Plzni za aktivní časti amerického velvyslance v Praze Craig R. Stapletona a českého velvyslance ve Spojených státech Martina Palouše. Po něm následovalo sympozium o působení české Ameriky ve prospěch staré vlasti za časti představitelů nejdůležitějších českých organizací v USA a Kanadě. Závěrečné plenární zasedání bylo věnováno otázce vztahu mezi Českou republikou a zahraničními Čechy, kde mimo jiné vystoupili senátor J. Jařab a senátorka J. Moserová. Za českou vládu se však bohužel nikdo nezúčastnil, na což bylo veřejně poukazováno. Škoda, neboť to jsou právě takovéto situace, které negativně ovlivňují vztahy mezi Českou republikou a Čechy, kteří žijí v zahraničí.

Náš kongres byl jinak velkolepou událostí: 80 akademických panelů, zpravidla o šesti účastnících z obou stran Atlantiku, veliké množství různých kulturních a společenských akcí, atd. Co však bylo nejpřekvapivější a stalo se

pro tento kongres nejcharakterističtější - aktivní účast mladých lidí plných nadšení a energie, kteří hráli podstatnou roli při všem dění.

Na závěr bych ještě jednou rád poděkoval Stálé komisi Senátu pro krajany žijící v zahraničí, která se nezištně snaží o spolupráci s českou zahraniční komunitou, za její oddanou práci a efektivní činnost. Pokud jde o české Američany, buďte ujištěni o tom, že většina našich lidí si uchovala trvalou lásku ke své rodné zemi a že je ochotna v mnohém pomáhat bude-li o jejich pomoc zájem. Tak jako v tanci je třeba dvou partnerů, taktéž i spolupráce mezi dvěma stranami musí být oboustranná a vzájemná.