



MACEDONIAN PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION

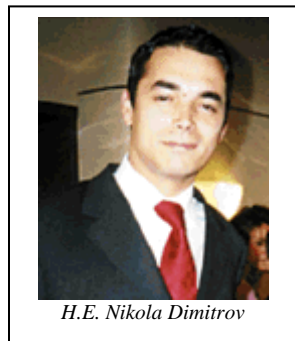
of the United States and Canada

2002 MPO Convention Address

Macedonian Ambassador Urges Macedonians to Look Forward

Below are the remarks of His Excellency, Nikola Dimitrov, the Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to the United States of America to the Delegates at the 81st Annual MPO Convention held over Labor Day Weekend at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan in September 2002.

It is my pleasure and honor to greet you on the occasion of the 81st Convention of the Macedonian Patriotic Organization – an organization with such a long and important tradition in promoting the truth about Macedonia. I salute the ongoing efforts of this organization in promoting Macedonian interests and values in this great country – the United States of America.



H.E. Nikola Dimitrov

Our country, the Republic of Macedonia, has a very long and rich history, and we are right in being proud to be Macedonians. The history is tragic because it is comprised of immense pain and injustice. However, this history is also heroic by reason of the great determination of the Macedonians to persist.

Yet, this does not mean that your organization should live in our history. The Republic of Macedonia, a country born as a result of the sacred Ilinden tradition, has been facing its biggest challenge since independence. Therefore, I believe that those of us who love Macedonia and its tradition should focus on the present and on the future.

In these difficult and challenging times in our country's history we must all stand united, strong, and determined to protect what so many generations before us had only dreamt of – a free and independent Macedonia. We must follow the good example of this fine organization and as good Macedonians be truly patriotic and well organized.

I wish you all good health, prosperity, and success.