

Kosova

This Congress

- a) considering the situation in Kosova is critical as a result of the behaviour of the Serb-imposed regime which since 1989 has controlled Kosova by force, where 90% of the population are ethnic Albanians;
- b) considering that the Serb regime is exercising an extremely discriminatory policy against the Albanians of Kosova in all aspects of life, using inhuman methods such as staged political trials, torture and often killing (in August 1997, for example seven Albanian Kosovans have been killed);
- c) noting that over a year has passed since the signing, on 1st September 1996 by the President of Kosova, Dr Rugova and President Milosevic, of the Agreement on Albanian Education for the normalisation of the educational system, by which Albanian students would return to state schools, colleges and the university, and that it has not been implemented owing to the obstruction of the Belgrade regime, in spite of the demands of the Albanian students of the University of Prishtina;
- d) warning that further delay of the settlement of the Kosova issue will result in the escalation of the conflict in the region, with catastrophic results for this part of Europe.

This Congress therefore proposes the following concrete steps be taken to find a peaceful solution to the international problem of Kosova:

1. Kosova must be treated as a European and international problem, and a special international conference on Kosova be organised by the European Union, the OSCE, the United Nations and the United States;
2. free elections in Kosova should be organised during 1997, subject to international monitoring, whereby the people of Kosova would, through a free vote, elect its legitimate leadership, which would have the mandate to engage in negotiations on the Kosova issue;
3. the Agreement on Albanian Education must be implemented as the first step to the normalisation of life in Kosova;
4. the entry of Serbia, or of the so-called FRY, into European and international institutions should be postponed until an acceptable and just solution has been found, through negotiations and dialogue between the legitimate leadership of Prishtina and Belgrade, in the presence of, and with guarantees by, a third party or parties;

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5. pressure must be exerted on the Belgrade regime to start forthwith these peaceful negotiations with the legitimate leadership of Kosova, in the presence of an authorised third party, so that the human, civil, political and national rights and will of the people of Kosova be respected in conformity to international agreements and standards;

6. offices of the European Union, of EU member states, of the OSCE, and of the United Nations, must be set up in Kosova, like that already established by the United States in Prishtina.

This Congress instructs its Bureau to organise a conference on the Kosova issue as soon as possible, with the participation of democratic political representatives of Albania, Kosova, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, the European Union and the United States of America, and of other interested individuals and organisations.

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