

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE PUBLISHES BOOKLET DOCUMENTING PRESIDENT KIRO GLIGOROV'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY AND PEACE- KEEPING IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

An international committee recently published a booklet titled KIRO GLIGOROV: PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA. The purpose of the booklet is to document President Gligorov's achievements in areas of preventive diplomacy and peace-keeping in the former Yugoslavia. In addition to a map of the Republic of Macedonia, the text of the booklet includes a short biography and two letters nominating Gligorov for the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize. The text of the booklet follows.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA KIRO GLIGOROV

Kiro Gligorov was born into an urban family in the ancient Macedonian town of Stip on 3 May 1917. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of Belgrade University in 1939.

Immediately after the outbreak of the Second World War he began to take an active part in the anti-fascist and national liberation movements in Macedonia and participated in the National Liberation War from the year 1941. He was a member of the Anti-fascist Assembly of the People's Liberation of Macedonia, when the Macedonian state was declared, as well as of the Anti-fascist Assembly of the People's Liberation of Yugoslavia.

After the end of the Second World War and the proclamation of the Federal Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia, he was sent, by the then leadership of the People's Republic of Macedonia, to work in Belgrade with the Federal Executive authorities where he carried out the following specialist functions in the sphere of the economy and finances:

- Assistant Secretary General of the Government of the Federal Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia;
- Assistant Minister of Finance in the Ministry of Finance of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia;
- Deputy Director of the Federal Institute of Economic Planning;
- Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Federal Executive Council (the federal government);
- Federal Secretary (Minister) of Finance;
- Deputy President of the Federal Executive Council (the federal government).

During this period he was one of those leading economists who stood out for the introduction of a market economy in Yugoslavia. He was the leader of the Federal Government team which drew up and implemented the first economic reform on a market economy basis. This was the first such economic reform in the then "socialist world". Unfortunately, for political reasons, his reform was halted.

In the following period he worked actively on the development of theoretical and informative economic and social thinking concerning the need for the development of democratic relations and a market economy. During this time, Kiro Gligorov was:

- a member of the Council of the Institute of International Policy and Economics;
- President of the institute of Social Sciences;
- a participant in numerous specialist meetings of experts in Yugoslavia and throughout the world, and published several papers in specialist journals.

In the early 1970s, he was elected:

- a member of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;
- President of the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In the course of the 1980s, he was included in the Ante Markovic Government's team established to work on the implementation of a new market economy reform in Yugoslavia, and wrote several studies on economic and financial matters.

Kiro Gligorov declared himself in favor of multi-party elections and the introduction of a market economy. This culminated in his election as President of the Republic of Macedonia at the first independent, multi-party elections, held on 27 January 1991.

In the course of the period that commenced with his election as President, the Republic of Macedonia:

--proclaimed its independence through a universal referendum held on 8 September 1991. Thereby it became the only republic of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to gain its independence by a peaceful and legitimate route;

--adopted and proclaimed its Constitution on 17 November 1991, the document which laid the foundations of a civil society, a legal state, a parliamentary democracy and a market economy;

--was thus the one and only republic which did not take part in the war on the territory of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav National Army left Macedonia by means of an agreement in the Spring of 1992;

--achieved its centuries-old ideal of an equal place in the international family of nations by becoming a member-state of the United Nations Organization on 13 April 1993.

At the general presidential election held in October 1994 Kiro Gligorov was once more elected as President of the Republic of Macedonia with a five year mandate.