

TO: Norwegian Nobel Committee OSLA
The Kingdom of Norway

FROM: Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences University
"St. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje University
"St. Clement of Ohrid", Bitola

Dear Sirs,

We have the honour, in the name of the institutions we heard, the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts, the University of SS Cyril and Methodius, Skopje and the University of St. Clement of Ohrid, Bitola, of nominating the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Kiro Gligorov, as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, 1996.

We do so with a high sense of responsibility as people from the world of science and scholarship and in the profound conviction that the candidature of Mr. Kiro Gligorov for the world's highest award for services to the cause of peace is of a wider significance for the process of peace in the world and at the same time recognition of a personality who has made an outstanding contribution to this process both in the Balkans and beyond its limits. He has demonstrated through the example of Macedonia that in the unraveling of the Yugoslav crisis and the tragic misunderstandings among the peoples and states in the south of the Balkans only a strategy of peace and political dialogue can lead to their real and lasting understanding.

In the first half of the twentieth century, Macedonia was frequently a theater of wars, destruction, genocide and exoduses. The two bloody Balkan Wars were fought on its territory, which was utterly devastated by them, its towns and villages reduced to ruins. Hundreds of thousands of refugees at that time had to abandon their homes, seeking shelter in the neighboring countries of the Balkans, throughout Europe and in America. Macedonia was also the victim of tragic divisions among the Balkan states which in continuo aspired towards its annexation. President Kiro Gligorov built up his new peaceful Balkan vision starting out from the tragic experience of our people and our country in the Balkans.

For five decades the Republic of Macedonia existed as a state within the framework of the Yugoslav Federation. And when, in the post-communist era, the collapse of this federation took place; when the wars among the peoples who had constituted it began; particularly when the war escalated in Bosnia and Herzegovina into the most brutal and monstrous one waged in Europe, and that at the very end of the twentieth century; and when this danger loomed over Macedonia too, President Gligorov achieved what was virtually impossible: he

saved his country from a fresh war and from new fratricidal massacres of the type which had occurred more than once in its history, and this in the presence of the then Yugoslav National Army which had at its disposal a vast military arsenal. He was successful in this because in these troubled territories he stood firmly by his new statesmanlike strategy for the Balkans in which he exalted peace as the highest quality in international relations and in the system of ethical human values.

Rejecting war as a method of solving the dissension among peoples and states, President Kiro Gligorov invested all his energy as a statesman in the service of peace in these Balkan regions, pregnant with their baleful historical and political controversies so that Macedonia, with him at the helm, became the one and only country of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which managed to avoid the ravages of war, thus inaugurating the historic process which he himself was to style the Europeanisation of the Balkans. He delivered a message to the leaders of the Balkan peoples: For too long have we built our present while fixed upon the myths of the past; let us turn for once to the future, and in the name of that future embark on the building of a new Balkan architecture, that of Europeanisation.

For more than five years, President Kiro Gligorov has been at the helm, guiding Macedonia in accordance with the historical imperatives of his peace-loving and European, statesmanlike strategy, and has succeeded not only in saving the country from all the potential incitements to war and destruction but also in achieving its independence and sovereignty solely by a democratic and legitimate route. Thus the Republic of Macedonia, with him at its head, had been the only republic of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to proclaim its independence by means of a national referendum, through the will of its people expressed in free election and through the declaration of a new Constitution based on the lasting principles of the developed European parliamentary democracies.

From the very first moment and consistently right up to the present day, President Kiro Gligorov has stood out for political dialogue and agreement without the use of force in the events which have overtaken the former Yugoslav community. He has raised his voice against war and the changing of frontiers by means of force, condemning each and every policy of genocide or ethnic cleaning. With his insistence on patience and tolerance, on joint and equal dialogue and on a peaceful solution of the numerous problems, even those which are the most controversial and elicit, President Kiro Gligorov has played a decisive role in the military conflict's not flaring up and spreading throughout the entire Balkans. In the recent period he has played a very large and key role in the intensification of peacekeeping cooperation, good-neighborliness and the coming together of the peoples and the countries of the Balkan region. His example has shown that for the securing of peace and the rejection of violent military solutions in the conditions such as prevailed of late in the Balkans a much higher degree of courage is needed

than for killing people and destroying material and spiritual goods created over centuries. And precisely such courage has been the supreme moral virtue in the character of President Gligorov.

Starting out from the essence of his political dialogue and without any use of violence whatsoever, endeavoring to ensure that the peoples of the Balkans be released from baleful national hatreds and that they turn over a new leaf in their history, immediately upon the proclamation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Macedonia President Kiro Gligorov through his peace-loving and peacemaking initiatives achieved the following:

- the building-up of the Republic of Macedonia as a modern Balkan state with a market economy, parliamentary democracy and respect for the human rights and freedoms of all its citizens regardless of their national or confessional affiliation;

- the leaving of Macedonia by the one-time Yugoslav National Army with all its strength of arms by way of mutual agreement;

- the stabilization of the peaceloving policy of the Republic of Macedonia involving the application of a policy of goodneighbourliness and mutual understanding, and respect for the territorial integrity of all countries, equal and friendly cooperation and a spirit of goodwill and understanding;

- the achievement of a historic turning-point in the political status of the Republic of Macedonia in the Balkans, from having been in the not so distant past an "apple of discord" to becoming a key factor in the peace of this neuralgic region;

- the normalization of relations between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece by way of tolerant political dialogue between equals, which act brought about the relaxing of the situation in yet another potential trouble-spot in the region;

- the securing, by means of the application of international standards in the matter of the rights of national minorities, of inter-ethnic understanding, coexistence and national toleration in the Republic of Macedonia which is of a not merely internal, but also regional and international significance;

- the anticipation, with his initiative in favor of what has been styled the preventive diplomacy of the United Nations and with his request for the presence of security forces (UNPREDEP) in the Republic of Macedonia, of a

new peacekeeping strategy on the part of the United Nations Organization which has contributed extremely to the prevention of the escalation of war in the southern Balkans.

President Kiro Gligorov's very considerable, and radical, new peaceloving and peacekeeping Initiatives regarding anew European Balkans, as also his entire strategy for peace as the highest international and human value, aroused strong opposition and once more stirred the dampened embers of Balkan reckonings all too well known in the past. On 3 October 1995, proceeding calmly to his office, President Kiro Gligorov was the victim of a mindless act of terrorism. An assassination attempt was carried out against him in which it was only by good fortune that he escaped death. Seriously injured and having undergone surgical interventions he has survived the assassination attempt and after only a matter of a few months of convalescence has returned once more to the complete carrying-out of his political functions. The assassination attempt, the aim of which was the destabilization of Macedonia and the halting of the President's peaceloving and peacemaking policy, has been widely and unanimously condemned by the entire international community. There then, gentlemen, are some of the more essential features of the peaceloving, statesmanlike strategy of President Kiro Gligorov on the basis of which the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the University of Ss Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, and the University of St. Clement of Ohrid, Bitola have the honor of proposing him as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996.

In the hope that the motives from which we are approaching you are close and acceptable to you, please accept the expression of our profound and Sincere respect.

Yours faithfully,

Academician Ksente Bogoev
President of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Professor Dr. Radmila Kiprijanova
Rector of the University of St. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje

Professor Dr. Dimko Kokaroski
Rector of the University of St. Clement of Ohrid, Bitola