

Ambassador Richard Grenell Meets With Serbian-American Representatives

by Milos Rastovic

On October 6, 2020, Ambassador Richard Grenell, Special Presidential Envoy for Belgrade-Pristina Peace Negotiations, virtually met with representatives of Serbian-American organizations, societies, and distinguished individuals. At the event representatives of Serbian-American Business Council, Serb National Federation, Serbian-American Leadership Conference, Serbian National Defense Council, Serbian Bar Association, His Grace Bishop IRINEJ, Eastern American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Honorable Bran-

ko Terzic, and others were present. Initiated by the Serb National Federation, the event was hosted by the Serbian-American Leadership Conference.

In his introductory speech, Ambassador Grenell stressed that it is an honor to meet with the Serbian-American group. According to him, the Washington Agreement between Serbia and Kosovo from September 4, 2020, will enable development of economies and encourage young people to stay in the region instead of emigrating to other countries. Ambassador Grenell concentrated more on economic development, emphasizing



that the area was ignored for 20 years, and the new objective will emphasize development. The US Government will work hard to implement this Agreement.

His Grace Bishop IRINEJ pointed out that the region is “economically under” and needs a lot of transparency and improvement. “When we economically stabilize, we will be able to retain our youth and economic and political prosperity.” He said that the Serbian Orthodox Church is not in favor of Kosovo’s independence because it was always an integral part of Serbia.

Ambassador Grenell commented that

”We [the US Administration] want Kosovo and Serbia to be independent, free, and separate. That was the United States’ policy, and that is a current policy of the United States.” In comparison with previous US Administrations, we do not push both parties to do something that they do not want to do.

Although Ambassador Grenell has not yet visited the Serbian historical sites in Kosovo and Metohija such as Serbian Orthodox Churches and monasteries, the conversation emphasized the importance of protecting Serbian historical sites.

From Wikipedia: Richard Allen Grenell (born September 18, 1966) is an American diplomat, political advisor, and media consultant and the Special Presidential Envoy for Serbia and Kosovo Peace Negotiations. He was the U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 2018 to 2020 and Acting Director of National Intelligence (DNI) in the Trump cabinet in 2020.

BISHOP VISITS SALT LAKE CITY

His Grace Bishop Maxim of the Western American Diocese served Holy Hierarchical Liturgy at St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church in Salt Lake City, Utah on November 15th. The arrival of the Bishop and joy of the holiday gathered the faithful people of the city in considerable numbers, according to the Western Diocese website. Bishop Maksim addressed those gathered with paternal love with an arch-pastoral sermon explaining the meaning of the angelic story in which Christ healed a helpless young man. He congratulated the parishioners on the glory of the temple and especially thanked the Domacina for this year’s celebration, Spaso and Vernesi Krnjojelac. Archimandrite Nicephorus served with Bishop Maxim



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

BELGRADE – In early December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is marked to raise awareness of the challenges this social group faces every day.

The task of society is to fight together for equality and to enable people with disabilities accessibility, unhindered movement, as well as the full extent of human rights and active participation in the community. HRH Crown Princess Katherine’s Foundation in Belgrade, together with Lifeline Humanitarian Organizations under Her patronage in Chicago, New York, Toronto, London and Athens has been helping people with disabilities thanks to the donations received.

So far, more than 700 wheelchairs have been donated to specialized medical institutions throughout Serbia, an elevator for children with special needs in Kikinda, tactile trails in Krusevac, hearing screening equipment, interactive whiteboards for children with hearing impairments in Belgrade, trips for hearing impaired children training at a camp in Detroit, Michigan, and much more.

“People with disabilities deserve equality and equity in society. We are happy that we can help and make their lives and daily activities a little easier with these donations,” said Her Royal Highness. “Disability has not prevented many great people from reaching great achievements in various fields. The United States president who led his country during World War II, Franklin Roosevelt, the famous physicist Stephen Hawking, the painter Frida Kahlo, one of the most famous composers Ludwig Van Beethoven and the writer and activist Helen Keller, are just some of the world’s amazing minds with disabilities whose successes will be celebrated in the future as well. By mutual acceptance and respect for diversity, together we will turn the world into a better place to live in,” Princess Katherine added.

Health and Travel Alert

The U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, said on December 4th the Serbian Ministry of Health announced 199,158 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Serbia and 1,765 deaths; 22,243 people were tested in the 24 hours prior to the announcement, with 7,802 confirmed cases among them. In total, there are an estimated 7,726 hospitalized cases.

The Embassy said country-wide measures effective at the time included but were not limited to:

- Restaurants, cafes, bars, clubs, shopping malls, betting shops, stores and services such as hairdressers, beauty salons, fitness centers, spas, gyms, and swimming pools will close at 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, and completely on weekends (starting from 5:00 p.m. on Friday until 5:00 a.m. on Monday).
- Supermarkets and grocery stores can remain open until 9:00 p.m. every day, including weekends.

- Pharmacies, gas stations, and food delivery services will operate without restrictions, seven days a week.

- Theaters and movie theaters will close at 5:00 p.m. every day, including weekends.

- Green markets will operate regular hours on workdays, and from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekends.

Restrictions and guidelines change frequently as the government responds to the best action to prevent further spread of the virus. Travelers are encouraged to check with local authorities or their country’s embassy to Serbia website for up-to-date information.