
OPENING ADDRESS

**BY BUDISLAV ŠOŠKIĆ, PRESIDENT
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It is a great honour and pleasure to be able to greet this meeting of eminent experts, cultural, scientific and public workers from all over the world and to wish you success in your work and a pleasant stay in our country.

We are delighted that this important international meeting is being held in the Socialist Republic of Montenegro, in this Centre in Herceg Novi which has become the site of frequent meetings and useful and stimulative talks between scientists, experts and cultural creators from different corners of the world who consider topics of relevance to mankind's today and tomorrow.

The questions which you will consider at your meeting are of great importance and relevance to both our own country and others. We are aware of the fact that the future of each society, the rate and breadth of its development, depend on overall cultural and scientific-technical progress. Culture has become the driving force of the dynamic development of productive forces and modern civilization. And it can also be, even more than it is now, a powerful means in the humanization of relations between people, in the emancipation of work, in enriching man's personality, in attaining new qualities in the content and way of life.

The freedom and independence of nations, equality in their relations, active and peaceful co-existence, lasting and just peace are all the fundamental assumptions of the free and rich development of the culture of each nation. Equally, each step taken in developing culture extends the borders of the freedom of men and nations. Each country's role and place in the social and historical context of today will increasingly depend on its contribution to the creation and development of true cultural values.

The being and individuality of each nation is reflected, affirmed and developed in culture. But, any artificial enclosure of a culture within state borders is contrary to its humanistic nature and universally humane significance. A mutual interconnection of national cultures, on the basis of full equality and creative cooperation among them, is a sure road leading to the enrichment of each national culture and ever-deeper knowledge, understanding and rapprochement among nations, regardless of the differences in their social systems, in their ideological and political orientations.

I think you will agree with the statement that cultural policy and financing reflect the relationship of the organized subjects of a society towards culture.

Certainly, the degree of economic and social development in each given country and its real possibilities set the objective limits in determining the scope of resources allocated for the material basis and needs of cultural development. Similarly, the social content of cultural development policy and the way in which cultural activities are financed largely depend on the distribution of political and economic power, on who are the real and decisive subjects in the programming and development of culture.

Differences in the conditions and possibilities of the development and financing of culture do not detract from, but in a sense even increase the need for joint research on and comprehensive clarification of these problems, for an exchange and confrontation of experience and knowledge attained in countries with different degrees of development and different social systems. For, it is in the true and long-term interest of each modern society to find the best possible solutions which will ensure the successful and accelerated development of culture and corresponding sources for strengthening its material base and realizing its humanistic role. The noble efforts exerted by UNESCO in its cultural and educational mission to cultivate spiritual communication among nations, to bring the cultural treasures and cultural, artistic and scientific achievements of other nations within reach of people across the world, are serving these aims. I am convinced that this international meeting will also give a certain contribution to the realization of these aims.

The Yugoslav socialist revolution marked the beginning of a profound cultural revolution, in which the conditions are being created for all that is valuable and lasting in the achievements of the contemporary development of civilization, science and culture to become the property of the people.

The free development of national cultures under conditions of full equality in our multinational community, freedom of artistic, cultural and scientific creativity, the development of universal cultural cooperation with other countries, mark the basic principles and lasting basis of our country's cultural policy.

By linking up work with ownership, work with the management of social affairs, socialist self-management in our country is increasingly becoming the driving force in developing cultural needs, in the socialization and democratization of culture and the realization of its humanistic essence. We are in favour of building social relations and practise in which cultural creators and producers in material production and other social activities effect a free exchange of labour and associate their efforts in the joint task of determining cultural policy and priority needs in this field, in the programming of the development of cultural activities. Organized within self-management interest communities of culture, they jointly and equitably decide on the means and ways of allocating resources for the needs of cultural development, on the distribution and use of these resources. We are striving to make all productive and creative forces of society the subjects of cultural policy and the vehicles of responsibility for reinforcing the material basis of culture and for carrying out its social functions.

We are not completely satisfied with what we have so far achieved in the development of cultural activities. We realize the opportunities we have missed and the oversights we have made. There is still a gap between adopted principles and the actual state of affairs. We are convinced, however, that the underlying orientation adopted in the development of culture has withstood the test of practise because it answers the needs and conditions of our society.

Once again let me welcome you here in the desire that your talks be fruitful.

I apologize for having taken up part of your valuable time.



DŽOJA RATKOVIĆ