

INTELLECTUALS IN THE DIASPORA

At the beginning of 1993 the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies of the University of Zagreb, in co-operation with the Croatian Homeland Foundation began to organise a series of discussions on the subject "Intellectuals in the Diaspora". The main aim was to stimulate widespread communication between Croatia and all the parts of the Croatian diaspora abroad ("classical" emigrants, new emigrants - former workers "temporarily employed abroad", members of Croatian minority communities in other countries).

At the first panel discussion the following participants introduced the theme of intellectuals in the diaspora: prof. Vinko Nikolić, at that time the director of the Croatian Homeland Foundation, whose role and activities among emigrants one cannot limit in time and space; dr. Nikola Benčić, a prominent intellectual among the Croats in Burgenland and a correspondent member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts; dr. Zdravko Sančević, the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Bosnia and Herzegovina, formerly a successful businessman and prominent scientist in Venezuela. Based on their own experience, they talked about the characteristics of intellectuals in the diaspora, about their activities in small and large contexts, on links with the homeland and its cultural workers, on the fight against assimilation and on other aspects regarding the work of intellectuals in ethnically and culturally diverse settings.

The second panel discussion emphasized publishing and the significance of written work in the promotion of Croatian culture and preserving the identity of Croats abroad. It is impossible to by-pass the question of the language used in publication, to ignore the problem of the public and its affinities in accepting the published content, to be silent about contributors who often remained anonymous or used pseudonyms (for their own safety) when publishing articles in journals proscribed by the then-official politics. The following persons discussed this topic (and likewise described their own publicational activities): Mrs. Ivona Dončević - an active publicist involved in many cultural services and institutions, the editor-in-chief of *Kroatische Berichte*, published in Germany; prof. Vinko Nikolić, known for his poetic and essay, and also the editor of the foremost Croatian journal abroad (*Hrvatska revija*); dr. Mijo Karagić, a cultural worker from the Croatian minority in Hungary and the secretary of the Union of Croats in Hungary. Once again it was proven that the picture of Croatian culture is not complete if one does not include that which has been created by Croats abroad.

The third panel discussion in the series dealt with journalism and freedom of the press in the Croatian diaspora. Its aim was to present relevant material on the place and role of Croatian newspapers in the diaspora, on their significance in preserving the Croatian language among emigrants, on the intergenerational and (spatial) integrative role of newspapers, and on corresponding media in cultural different settings. There was also discussion on editorial policies, newspaper distribution, financing, legal considerations in regard to publishing ethnic newspapers. Based on their own experiences, democratic societies, the participants also spoke on problems linked to freedom of the press. The participants included: Mrs. Nardi

Čanić - a returnee-migrant from Kanada, today the secretary of the Croatian Homeland Foundation and formerly involved in the publication of *Hrvatske novine* in Canada; Mr. Ivan Butković and Mr. Ante Babić, editors of *Hrvatski vjesnik* and *Hrvatska sloboda* in Australia, at present involved in the work of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mr. Babić as its director and Mr. Butković as a consultant); Peter Tyran, the editor of *Hrvatske novine*, the Croatian Newspaper of the Burgenland Croats in Austria, intended for all Burgenland Croats regardless of the country in which they live.

The thoughts expressed in the various panel discussions were based on the personal experiences of intellectuals who were, or still are, active in the diaspora, as well as on their interpretations of various questions posed during the panels. Some of the papers printed in this issue have been authorised by their authors, while others have been transcribed from taped recordings of the discussions.

Mirjana Domini