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THE UNITED STATES DEMOCRACY FUND FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

A project of

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

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October 15, 1993

Dr. Gerald Hyman
Chief

Democratic Pluralism Initiative Division
Office of Development Resources
Agency for International Development
AID/EUR/DR/DPI
Room 4440-NS, 320 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20523-0053

GRANTEE: The German Marshall Fund
of the United States

REF: Grant No. EUR-0017-G-90-2040-00
Grant No. EUR-0021-G-00-2041-00

COUNTRIES: Albania, Bulgaria, The Czech
Republic, Hungary, Poland,
Romania, Slovakia

REPORTING PERIOD : July 1, 1993 - September 30, 1993
FISCAL YEAR: 1992

Dear Dr. Hyman:

This constitutes our quarterly progress report for the quarter ending September 30, 1993. We are reporting on both grants, identified above, in a single report.

BACKGROUND:

I. ACTIVITIES DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Implementation: In this our sixth quarterly report, we have made five grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$22,000 and totalling \$66,000. The average grant size is \$13,200. Grants made during this quarter cover the following countries: Albania, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania.

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A) Social Process and Cultural Pluralism Project
EUR-0017-G-00-2040-00

Albania:

\$4,000, Albanian Helsinki Committee
Tirana, Albania
Contact: Kujtim Cashku

A supplemental grant to adjust first year start-up and general operating costs for inflation.

Bulgaria:

No grants made this quarter.

Czech Republic:

\$15,000, National Civic League**
Denver, Colorado
Contact: John Parr

To support the continuation of Stephen McCormick's program in northern Bohemia with a series of problem-solving sessions between Roma and civic leaders. Because public participation skills are so rare in this region, the first grant focused on developing leadership skills (managerial, collaborative problem-solving, negotiation, conflict management) and community problem-solving processes among and between elected and appointed officials and Roma leaders.

The Roma in Northern Bohemia represent a serious and growing problem for themselves and for the communities in which they live as legals and illegals.

Through months of formal and informal meetings and training, the program focused on: (a) improving the ability of the Roma representatives to analyze their situation more comprehensively and represent their concerns more effectively and (b) strengthening democratic governance where discriminatory statutes have been promulgated, questionable law enforcement tactics have been used and where intolerance is growing and even sanctioned.

The main results of the first grant are:

- civic officials have come to understand that the situation of the Roma is an area of critical concern and that it cannot be addressed without the active participation of the Roma. For example, municipal social service delivery budgets are doing little else but addressing the needs of the Roma whose unemployment rates range up to 90%;
- the Roma have begun to understand that their internal divisiveness is hurting their cause greatly, and have begun to develop better skills for analyzing their problems, presenting

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their cases more persuasively to city officials, and for exploring the aspects of possible solutions which lie within their control.

Each side is taking small steps toward better cooperation. Progress will be slow. The issue is a tough one, but the skills learned and the processes engaged in will belong to the civic leaders and the Roma to use in addressing other issues in the future.

The Northern Bohemia Association of Municipalities (SESO) has scheduled a series of meetings to bring local and national officials concerned with minorities together to look at crime, jobs, housing and social service delivery. The county government of Usti nad Labem sponsors the program locally and provides office space and access to office equipment at low cost. A part-time staff person is assigned to work with Stephen McCormick.

Similarly, the grant supports, in Slovakia, the expansion of awareness in three cities of general principles of democratic governance with an emphasis in two of those cities on the rights of minorities. [**The total grant is \$15,000, of which \$7,681 is allocated for Slovakia. See Slovakia below.]

Hungary:

No grants made this quarter.

Poland:

No grants made this quarter.

Romania:

\$10,000, The League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADO)
Bucharest, Romania
Contact: Nicolae Stefanescu-Draganesti

A planning grant for LADO to develop a two-year program plan for both the national office and its chapters with an appropriate budget and staff. LADO needs to develop an effective active program that builds on its comparative advantage, namely its chapters. Ted Orlin and Ted Zang, under a grant from the GMF to provide technical assistance to human rights groups in Romania, will work with LADO to develop such a plan. [It should be noted that LADO has been suffering for some time from the leadership of an angry and autocratic president who has driven away most of the program staff which The Fund and others have been supporting since 1991. Many human rights groups in Romania and internationally believe that LADO is important to Romania because it is the only human rights organization there with chapters around the country and because LADO enjoys a good name as a result of its positive role in the election. In the last few weeks additional staff have left; it is not clear at this time

whether LADO will survive unless the leadership changes.]

\$22,000, Pro Democracy Association

Bucharest, Romania

Contact: Alina Inayeh

To establish Dialog programs, modelled on the successful experience in Poland, in Brasov and Sibiu. The aim is to build broad-based community coalitions in each city to identify and begin to solve community-wide problems. Pro Democracy's chapters in Brasov and Sibiu will act as the local sponsors including managing the Dialog process and staffing the planning group, the policy-setting arm of the coalitions. Pro Democracy's national organization will manage the funding and help coordinate activities between Brasov and Sibiu in order to be cost-effective and program-efficient. The national organization's role will allow it to spread the process to other cities as the Romanian model is shaped. The German Marshall Fund has made a separate grant of \$23,569 to Dr. Allen Kulakow to cover the costs of providing technical assistance over the first year.

Slovakia:

\$15,000, National Civic League**

Denver, Colorado

Contact: John Parr

To support, in Slovakia, democratic governance and community leadership training in three cities with an emphasis in two of those cities on the rights of minorities. The Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Slovak Republic (ZMOS) will host these activities.

Bardejov, Dunajska Streda, Liptovsky Muikulas and the Poprad region are under consideration as sites for the project. As in the project in Northern Bohemia described above in the Czech section, local officials tend to readily recognize they need to develop new "professional skills" and relations in order to meet the new realities they face. [****\$7,319 of the total grant of \$15,000 is allocated for The Czech Republic. See Czech Republic above.**]

B) Political Process Project

EUR-0021-G-00-2041-00

Albania:

\$15,000, Richard and Susan McClear

Sitka, Alaska

Contact: Richard McClear

Rich McClear, CEO and general manager of Raven Radio KCAW-FM in Sitka, chair of the Alaska Public Radio Network, Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission planning committee member and regional

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head of NPR's national policy group, will be a three-month senior residential advisor to Mr. Bardhyl Pollo, director of Radio Tirane, to help him with strategic management and organizational planning issues; and to help program directors and producers upgrade their management skills. Susan McClear, executive director of Sitkans Against Family Violence and member of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, will assist the Albanian Helsinki Committee in developing programs on women's rights. The McClears are both volunteering to undertake these full-time assignments.

Bulgaria:

No grants made this quarter.

Czech Republic:

No grants made this quarter.

Hungary:

No grants made this quarter.

Poland:

No grants made this quarter.

Romania:

No grants made this quarter.

Slovakia:

No grants made this quarter.

II. ACTIVITIES PLANNED

On-going proposal review and development.

III. ISSUES, PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the ups-and-downs in building local human rights NGOs in this region, the fact remains that much progress has been made both in building viable institutions and in building domestic capacity to protect human rights. These groups are beginning to have an impact on the police, courts, national parliaments, bar associations, the media and other NGOs. The tasks ahead are towering and in some countries rights groups have not succeeded in accessing the courts or finding remedies. Nonetheless, they have succeeded in making their points of view known and understood. They are acquiring democratic skills and practices

and they are no longer easy to ignore.

The Albanian Helsinki Committee, which sent a delegation to participate in the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights with funding from this grant, reports in its recent newsletter:

"The participation in the Human Rights Conference in Vienna was very important from the viewpoint of women's rights. The Albanian tradition lacks in this sphere because the former regime forbade the feminist fight...The Albanian NGOs for women are trying hard to work in the international context of women's rights. Topics like violence against women, legislation, women's leadership and participation in the social and political life will be discussed with Albanian organizations after the Conference."

IV. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPECTED

I plan on travelling to Poland and Hungary on German Marshall Fund business during October and to Bulgaria and Albania during November for the United States Democracy Fund for the purpose of reviewing and developing proposals and monitoring grants.

V. ACCRUED EXPENDITURES

Grants made this quarter by country:

<u>Country</u>	<u>EUR-0017-G-00-2040-00</u>	<u>EUR-0021-G-00-2041-00</u>
Albania	4,000	15,000
Bulgaria	0	0
Czech Rep.	7,319	0
Hungary	0	0
Poland	0	0
Romania	32,000	0
Slovakia	7,681	0
Region		
Total	51,000	15,000

Grants made by country to date:

<u>Country</u>	<u>EUR-0017-G-00-2040-00</u>	<u>EUR-0021-G-00-2041-00</u>
Albania	39,574	23,800
Bulgaria	135,609	0
Czech Rep.	48,687	0
Hungary	48,100	0
Poland	16,032	48,500
Romania	74,037	25,267
Slovakia	21,366	0
Region	11,000	0
Total	394,405	97,567

Program management expenses for this quarter:

<u>Country</u>	<u>EUR-0017-G-00-2040-00</u>	<u>EUR-0021-G-00-2041-00</u>
Albania	290	0
Bulgaria	33	0
Czech Rep.	178	0
Hungary	0	0
Poland	21	7
Romania	9	0
Slovakia	0	0
Total	531	7

Program management expenses to date:

<u>Country</u>	<u>EUR-0017-G-00-2040-00</u>	<u>EUR-0021-G-00-2041-00</u>
Albania	2,311	346
Bulgaria	1,611	223
Czech Rep.	361	125
Hungary	41	31
Poland	58	43
Romania	655	198
Slovakia	25	0
Total	5,062	966

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Harding

Deborah A. Harding

Program Officer

Political Development in Central and Eastern Europe

cc: AID Project Officer (3 copies)
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