

Dear Mr. President of the Republic of Serbia, Dear Mr. Prime Minister,  
Dear Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers of the Serbian Government,  
Your Excellencies,  
Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome and to thank you for honouring us with your presence, on this Day of the Security-Information Agency, thus making this event greater. This Day, October 17th, has been celebrated for quite some time, and it marks the day when civil security and intelligence missions have been established for the first time in Serbia, as a modern state, with the objective to preserve internal state order and "general world security".

113 grave years have passed quickly since then, since that October 5, according to the old calendar and October 17 according to the new one, when King Alexander I of Serbia, acting by the divine grace of God and in compliance with the will of the people, addressed the public in Niš with his declaration and announcement that the National Assembly had adopted and his Royal Highness confirmed, the Law on the amendments concerning the organization of central state administration, by which a new article had been added - the Article 27a, which related to the establishment of a Department for confidential police affairs within the Interior Ministry.

In the time that followed we have had many accomplishments.

In the course of three centuries, in times of different state constitutions and under various historical and political circumstances, generation after generation of Serbian officers devoted their energy into this responsible, complex and above all, honourable profession of special significance for the State and its citizens.

All of them had one common goal – to defend and safeguard an entity called an organized human society, on this land which had always been an attraction for others also, guided by freedom and justice, moral values and faith, against lawlessness and injustice. The values we are called upon to defend and safeguard

The values we are called upon to defend and safeguard, as the generation of the present day Serbian civil security-information service members are striving to achieve, are faced with certain serious and realistic threats and challenges. These values being - the security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens, its territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty, the Constitutional order and the Rule of Law, and also we can freely add - Serbian history, culture and tradition.

One of the main characteristics of freedom lies in the fact that one does not harm anybody by one's deeds, i.e. the freedom of a man to exercise his own natural rights is limitless and it is conditioned only by the right of others to do the same. These limits can only be defined by law.

This is a difficult, responsible and compelling mission. It did not take me long to realize this. One of the possible reasons lies in the fact that this position that I now hold is a state function which is most vital for the legal security of its citizens. We are the first ones, and not the only ones, who are responsible for recognising the security threats and risks on time, which we are called upon to analyse and estimate the level of danger they represent, and finally to fight against them in an entirely specific way - by providing the politicians, i.e. the decision-makers with timely and accurate information.

This is what we are doing.

This is what we shall keep on doing.

The priorities in our work shall be to fight against major threats to the security the Republic of Serbia by implementing specific methods and procedures, based on legality, that are characteristic for specialized institutions such as this one. At present, these threats include: separatist and terrorist manifestations in certain regions of our territory, domestic and international terrorism, covert activities of external factors directed against vital national interests and serious organized crime which threatens to endanger the security of the state.

Profoundly convinced that security is a category that cannot be fragmented, the Agency will continue to build its position within the international security-intelligence community, as a trustworthy and credible partner,

representing the Republic of Serbia in the affirmative way and contributing to the regional and global security.

Our country's path and advancement towards European integration is irreversible, as is the progress of expanding and developing democratic control mechanisms referring to the security system, in keeping with the standards acknowledged by developed democratic societies.

In spite of the conspicuous challenges and threats to the security Republic of Serbia is faced with, the reform process will continue to advance further - in the building of a modern, implementable and functional legal framework, in the shaping of an efficient and rational system in the organizational sense, in attracting new personnel and in being open to the public – which will finally lead to the establishment of a contemporary, modern, security-intelligence service built on highest professional standards and kept under civilian democratic control by the elected authorities.

Honourable guests, dear friends, esteemed colleagues, I would like to express once more my great pleasure for your presence here today, and I shall look upon it as a doubtless sign of your support for the efforts our Agency is making in times as difficult as these are, and I would like to thank you all for that, on behalf of the Agency and in my own name.

Belgrade October 17, 2012.