

# OPERATION RASKA NEWS.

Monthly newsletter of the joint convoy initiative to Southern Serbia – April 2003.

Issue 2

February 5<sup>th</sup> 2003.

## We take aid-not sides.

Back from coldest Serbia.

I returned home last night from a very successful fact finding trip albeit long and tiring. On Sunday morning, I was almost stranded in deep snow in Grdelica, and then on Tuesday morning was having coffee with the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Belgrade. I am pleased that the major part of the planning when in Serbia is now complete.

### **STOP PRESS.**

#### **CHOCOLATE CRÈME EGGS.**

Easter in Serbia will be the week after we are there, just as well in some ways, because the Serbian Customs have like many other East European countries now introduced a ban on milk chocolate coming in as humanitarian aid.

Having visited several collective centres last week, I have come to realise that fresh fruit such as oranges and bananas would be a wonderful alternative.

#### **Who is involved update?**

##### **The following organisations.**

Somerfields Supermarkets have offered us a 38tonne artic and trailer; I visit their HQ near Bristol next week to discuss details.

YU Embassy in London, we now have a named contact, and full support from the Ambassador. Passports will be needed ASAP, free visas will be provided by the Embassy. **Mike can you action please.**

The Rotary Club of Kraljevo. Last Tuesday evening I attended the clubs meeting. Several of the members are key members in the various city institutions we will be supporting. They hope to work with us on the Saturday when we deliver to all the collective centres. On Saturday evening, they will be hosting a convoy dinner.

#### **Who will be involved in Serbia?**

The two recipient NGO's will be;

- ForumNVO-LINGVA, in Kraljevo and the surrounding villages
- Love Your neighbour, in Vrnjacka Banja and Leskovac area.

#### **Who will be helped in Serbia?**

Hospitals in;  
Kragujevac. Kraljevo, Vrnjacka Banja.

#### **Who will be helped in Serbia? continued.**

Physically Disabled Rehabilitation Unit in Mataruska Banja.

An OAP home of 280, which also supplies a hot meal every day for 760 refugees again in Mataruska Banja.

Cerebral Palsy Unit and Social Services department in Trstenik. Village schools.

Musical High School in Kraljevo.

22 collective centres/refugee camps in Kraljevo and Leskovac.

**Supplies left with both charities to help as and when needed for poor families in the region.**

#### **Still in discussions.**

The Rotary Clubs of Jersey.

The Rotary Club of Downtown Kansas City.

Radio Serbia. Chicago.

Princess Katrina of Serbia Foundation.

#### **Proposed vehicles to date**

4 x 38 tonne artics.

10 to 15 7.5tonne trucks.

Staff car from Blythwood-Hungary.

The Commissioner of Raska County is aiming to supply us with a mini bus.

#### **PROJECT CARPENTER.**

Whilst in Grdelica last weekend I met Sergean Rancic the young man whose business we are trying to kick-start. He was working 7-00 am to 7-00 pm whilst I was there in an open sided workshop, in freezing cold conditions and with the snow falling. He will bring his truck up to Leskovac to meet us.

#### **Full details of convoy plans.**

I have sent Mike and Charles a draft schedule for the convoy, I still have to discuss some issues but hopefully when we meet, I will be able to issue everyone a copy for discussion.

#### **Sweat shirts.**

Mike has this in hand.

#### **My contact;**

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