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Towards the Transnational: The Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia and the Children's International Summer Villages Camp, 1955–1988

ABSTRACT: This paper aims to explore the intensive international cooperation between the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia (SPJ) and the Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) organization between 1955 and 1988. The partnership established between Yugoslavia and one of the world's most prominent international children's organizations proved mutually significant, as Yugoslavia participated in at least twenty-five camps across twelve countries between 1962 and 1988. These camps enabled children from all regions of Yugoslavia to come into contact and form friendships with peers from fifty-six countries around the world. This study will analyze the historical development of the relationship between CISV and Yugoslav children's organizations responsible for the social organization and participation of children, the significance of CISV, and the role of Yugoslav educational policy in implementing peace-oriented initiatives, as well as the participation of Yugoslav delegations in CISV camps. The research is primarily based on the reports of the leaders of Yugoslav pioneer delegations who took part in CISV camps.

KEYWORDS: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), The Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia, The Union of Organizations for the Education and Care of Children of Yugoslavia, The Children's International Summer Villages Camp, Doris Twitchell Allen, Peace, Internationalism, International Cooperation

The (Im)possible Peace

From the Pax Dei (Peace of God), a social movement whose origins can be traced back to the 10th century in southern France to early modern European "peace plans" – various ideas, initiatives, and projects aimed at establishing lasting peace among European states from the 15th to the 18th century, which eventually laid the groundwork for the League of Nations and even the United Nations – the idea of peace has often required its realization through more or less a "holy war." In other words, peace has always been a respected ideal, but there is a long tradition of its (un)successful reevaluation.[1]

The crisis of the 19th century, caused by a dramatic social transformation – the shift from a feudal to a capitalist social order – led to the collapse of many traditional social structures. The decline of formerly dominant imperial powers – like the Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg Empires – raised many questions about the future of the European and global order. Fear for the future was, at its core, fear of war – a war that, even before it broke out, was suspected to be greater and more devastating than any before. As a result, numerous peace initiatives were founded – not only in Europe, but also in the United States, which was becoming an increasingly relevant political force on the international stage. By the beginning of 1914, the European peace movement included 190 peace societies that published 23 journals in ten different languages.[2]

In addition to strengthening the peace movement, the crisis of the 19th century had a significant impact on debates about education. Education became one of the key battlegrounds of social, political, and ideological conflict. It can be said that the development of peace discourse often paralleled the development of educational discourse, as many supporters of progressive social movements – such as John Dewey, Maria Montessori, Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, and others – believed that education and peace were deeply inter-

1 See more in Tomaž Mastnak, „Unconditional Peace? The Idea of Peace in Political Context", in *Peace, Unconditional! Peace Policies and Practices in Yugoslavia and Beyond,* eds. Sanja Petrović Todosijević and Martin Pogačar (Belgrade: Institute for Recent History of Serbia, Ljubljana: Založba ZRC, Institute of Culture and Memory Studies ZRC SAZU, 2025), 29–43.

2 Petra Svoljšak, „The War to End All Wars: A Broken Promise of Peace", in *Peace, Unconditional*, 69.

connected. In their view, education had the potential to transform society to a point where war would no longer be possible.

Unfortunately, the vibrant social dialogue of the time failed to prevent the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, and later, the Second World War in 1939. However, the short period between the two world wars did leave some space for peacemakers in the field of education. The International League for New Education was founded in 1921, only three years after the end of the First World War. That same year, the famous Scottish educator Alexander Neill (1883–1973) founded Summerhill School near Dresden, Germany – the first school based on radical self-governance principles.[3]

Radical self-governing ideas in the field of education were also present in the newly established Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Kraljevina Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca, KSHS). The ideas promoted by the Work School Movement – particularly the concept of the school as a living and working community – found an opportunity for practical implementation in the Law on Public Schools (Zakon o narodnim školama) from 1929,[4] which represented a unique attempt at educational reform in the Kingdom. "Radical"

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[3] Ivana Momčilović, „Slobodne teritorije fikcije: politički potencijal utopije", u *Nepredvidiva prošlost budućnosti. O političkom potencijalu utopije,* ur. Ivana Momčilović (Beograd: Edicija Jugoslavija, 2024), 68; It is important to note that A. S. Neill's well-known book Summerhill: A Radical Approach to Child Rearing was published in Yugoslavia in 1979 as part of the XX Century Library (Biblioteka XX vek) by the publishing house BIGZ (Aleksandar S. Nil, *Slobodna deca Samerhila* (Beograd: BIGZ, 1979)). During the 1970s, several significant books were published within this same library series that critically examined the role of the school in society. This "trend" of the XX Century Library, initiated in the 1970s, reflected the then-prevailing educational crisis not only in Yugoslavia but globally. Faced with a major economic crisis, the global economy demanded a restructuring of society. As in previous historical periods, the rethinking of a "new social contract" was unimaginable without a "new school".
The first title published in the XX Century Library was Paul Lengrand's An Introduction to Permanent Education (Pol Langran, *Uvod u permanentno obrazovanje* (Beograd: Narodni univerzitet Braća Stamenković, 1971)). This was followed by: George Pickering, *Challenges of Education* (Džordž Pikering, *Izazovi obrazovanja* (Beograd: Narodni univerzitet „Braća Stamenković", 1971)); Ivan Illich, *Deschooling Society* (Ivan Ilič, *Dole škole* (Beograd: Duga, 1972)); Mosse Jørgensen, *The School Founded by the Students: The Experimental Gymnasium in Oslo* (Mose Jorgensen, *Škola koju su osnovali učenici. Eksperimentalna gimnazija u Oslu* (Beograd: BIGZ, 1977))

[4] Александра В. Илић Рајковић, „Радна школа у Србији (1888-1940)" (Докторска дисертација, Филозофски факултет Универзитета у Београду, 2013), 117–357.

and "self-governing" ideals were especially prominent in communist children's literature and press. In 1924 and 1925, Dragutin Vladisavljević, under the pseudonym *Mala Zora* (Little Dawn),[5] published the novel *A Walk Through the Future (Šetnja kroz budućnost)* in the first and only communist children's magazine in the Kingdom. This work is considered the first example of radical children's literature in Serbian and Yugoslav literature, as well as a unique example of early 20th-century children's socialist utopian science fiction.Vladisavljević's attempt to demystify authoritarian education – the kind that humiliates, abuses, and exploits children – was not isolated. In 1931, *Politika's Children's Supplement (Politikin Dečji podlistak)* published the poem *The Feat of the Five Chicks Gang* (*Podvizi družine Pet petlića*) by Aleksandar Vučo and Dušan Matić, two key figures of Serbian and Yugoslav surrealism, both close to the Communist Party of Yugoslavia. This work represents the second significant example of radical children's literature in the region.[6] Recent research by historian Aleksandar Matković draws attention to a forgotten manuscript by Edvard Kardelj (1910–1979), who in 1934 wrote the first children's novel on the economic history of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, titled *Journey Through Time* (*Putovanje kroz vreme*).[7]

Following the end of World War II, Yugoslavia experienced the victory of the communist revolution and began the process of building a socialist society. The reform of the education system emerged as a central issue in the new Yugoslav state for two main reasons. First, education reform was an integral part of a broader cultural revolution aimed at the complete transformation of Yugoslav society. Second, the call for a "new school" in Yugoslavia reflected a continuation of earlier efforts toward progressive education, now framed within an international context under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), specifically through its Agency for education, science, and culture – UNESCO, established on November 16, 1945. Yugoslavia became a full

5 Биљана Андоновска, „Будућност (без) Будућности: Први комунистички књижевни часопис за децу у Краљевини СХС", у *Часописи за децу: југословенско наслеђе (1918–1991)*, ур. Тијана Тропин и Станислава Бараћ (Београд: Институт за књижевност и уметност, 2019), 20.

6 Momčilović, „Slobodne teritorije fikcije: politički potencijal utopije", 37.

7 Aleksandar Matković, „A Tale of *A Journey Through Time*: On the Forgotten Children's Book on Capitalism in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and its Place in the Life of Edvard Kardelj", *Tokovi istorije*, no. 2 (2025): 73–108.

member of UNESCO on March 31, 1950, and was granted a seat on the Executive Board. At the end of 1953, the Yugoslav National Commission for UNESCO (Jugoslovenska nacionalna komisija za saradnju sa UNESKO-m) was established, taking over all responsibilities related to cooperation and technical assistance, in line with an agreement reached in November 1951.[8] As a participant in UNESCO programs, Yugoslavia carried out a major educational reform between 1953 and 1958, which resulted in the adoption of the General Law on Education (Opšti zakon o školstvu). This law introduced a unified education system across the entire territory of Yugoslavia, forty years after the state's founding.[9]

Children's International Summer Villages (CISV)

Thanks to its membership in UNESCO, Yugoslavia established contacts with various international organizations under UNESCO's auspices, which dealt with issues of child education and upbringing. This led to a connection with the organization Children's International Summer Villages (CISV),[10] which primarily focused on building friendship among children as a foundation for global peace.

The idea of promoting global peace through cooperation with the UN and its agencies was not unfamiliar to Yugoslav leadership. Integration of Yugoslavia into the international community through the UN was a key foreign policy goal throughout the socialist period. For Yugoslavia, the UN–as a newly created international organization (1945)–represented the main platform where the voice of "small" nations could be heard. Two factors contributed to this stance: Yugoslavia's emancipation from the USSR (1948) and

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8 Aleksandar Andonov, „Jugoslavija i UNESKO (1960–1974)", u *Nova istraživanja jugoslovenske prošlosti: perspektive sa postjugoslovenskog prostora* ur. Natalija Dimić Lompar, Ognjen Tomić, Nikola Koneski (Beograd: Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, 2025), 436–437.

9 See more in Сања Петровић Тодосијевић, *Отеѣемо свеѣлосѣ бучном водоѣаду. Реформа основношколскоī сисѣема у Србији 1944–1959* (Београд: Институт за новију историју Србије, 2018).

10 CISV had consultative membership with UNESCO; Archives of Yugoslavia (AJ), Association of Organizations for the Education and Care of Children of Yugoslavia (637), 94, Program of the Visit of CISV Secretary General – Dr. Joseph Banks in Yugoslavia from October 2 to 6, 1987.

the wave of decolonization affecting Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, which led to the emergence of numerous new states and liberation movements, present at every negotiating table and in the process of building world peace.[11] Especially after the break with the USSR, Yugoslavia sought through various initiatives and forums to define its foreign policy orientation in the context of securing peace in the world, respecting the following principles: equality among nations, the right to sovereignty and independence, the right to decolonization, providing economic aid to developing countries, peaceful resolution of disputes, and strengthening the UN.[12]

The first official meeting between representatives of the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia (Savez pionira Jugoslavije, SPJ), part of the Union of Organizations for the Education and Care of Children of Yugoslavia (Savez organizacija za vaspitanje i brigu o deci Jugoslavije, SOVBDJ), and the CISV organization took place in 1955, when a Yugoslav representative attended the first International Board Meeting (IBM) of CISV as a guest.[13]

CISV was registered as a non-profit organization in Ohio in 1950. The first Village program was held in Cincinnati in 1951, bringing together youth from Austria, the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, and the USA,[14] thanks to American psychologist Doris Twitchell Allen (1901–2002), who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her engagement. In the post-World War II years, Doris Twitchell Allen, a follower of Jacob Levy Moreno (1889–1974), the founder of psychodrama and group therapy based on the principles of spontaneity, creativity, and mutual encounter, developed the concept of an organization promoting intercultural understanding and friendship as a step toward world peace. Through her professional experience, Doris Allen developed several tools in psychology and education, including a social learning

11 Jovan Čavoški, „Yugoslavia, Formation of the Asian-African Group, and the Issues of Peace in the United Nations (1950-1953)", in *Peace, Unconditional,* 265–287.

12 Natalija Dimić Lompar, „Entering the Cold War 'Struggle for Peace': Yugoslavia and the International Forum for Peace, 1951–1954", in *Peace, Unconditional,* 233–263.

13 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milica Tarana, Representative of the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia, on her Attendance at the Annual Meeting of the CISV International Committee, September 1987.

14 CISV national committees were established in 1951 in Austria, the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Mexico, Norway, and Sweden.

project in schools based on psychodrama. The two most notable are Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) (1951) and the International School to School Experience (ISSE) (1971).[15]

CISV was founded as a social organization of children, youth, and citizens "with the purpose of bringing children together regardless of race, worldview, habits, or beliefs."[16] Since its establishment, CISV has operated worldwide through regional associations by continent. In member countries, CISV functioned through national and regional committees. The organization was funded by the resources of national committees, which collected donations from individuals, businesses, and political organizations. Although initially the organization's activities were mostly limited to organizing the international children's camp of the same name, CISV gradually expanded its activities. Besides the children's camp, aimed primarily at children around 11 years old, it began organizing youth seminar camps for young people aged 16 to 18, intended to train future educators for children's camps. Participants of youth seminar camps were often former children's camp attendees. In this way, CISV played a dual role: on one hand, it defined forms of educational models, and on the other, it organized an international network of educators coming from socially and politically diverse communities. Founded just a few years after the end of World War II under the patronage of UNESCO, the CISV educational model was based on the assumption that overcoming the tragic legacy of war and preventing future conflicts would only be possible if education was radically liberated and transformed.

From the early 1950s to the late 1980s, the CISV organization continued to expand its activities by developing various programs: children's exchange programs, winter and experimental camps, support for local initiatives, research programs, long-term planning, and the dissemination and strengthening of CISV ideas through publishing efforts. During this period,

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15 Sanja Petrović Todosijević, „International Children's Friendship Meeting (1976–1988). Social Organisation of Children in Socialist Yugoslavia and Education for Peace", in *Peace, Unconditional,* 481–511.

16 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers Delegation at the International Children's Summer Village (CISV) in Medea (Italy) from July 4 to July 30, 1979.

CISV operated through 43 national committees.[17] However, since its founding, CISV maintained intensive and wide-ranging cooperation with numerous countries, including those with communist political systems–Yugoslavia being just one among many. Official cooperation between CISV and the Comité international des mouvements d'enfants et d'adolescents (CIMEA), the International Committee of Children's and Youth Movements, which operated as part of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY),[18] was esta-

17 USA (1951), Mexico (1951), Austria (1951), Denmark (1951), France (1951), Federal Republic of Germany (1951), United Kingdom (1951), Norway (1951), Sweden (1951), Finland (1953), Argentina (1955), Costa Rica (1955), Guatemala (1955), India (1956), Canada (1957), Israel (1957), Japan (1958), Netherlands (1961), Philippines (1961), Italy (1962), Republic of Korea (1965), Spain (1967), Belgium (1969), El Salvador (1970), Portugal (1970), Turkey (1970), Brazil (1972), Luxembourg (1972), Lebanon (1975), Hong Kong (1977), Faroe Islands (1978), Thailand (1978), Egypt (1979), Australia (1979), Honduras (1980), Peru (1980), Jordan (1980), New Zealand (1980), Iceland (1981), Greece (1983), Chile (1984), Colombia (1988), Algeria (1989); „Our World", CISV International, accessed on 13 September 2025, https://cisv.org/our-world/

18 CIMEA was established as the Bureau des enfants (Children's Bureau) within the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) on February 15, 1958, in Budapest. It began operating under the name Comité international des mouvements d'enfants et d'adolescents (International Committee of Children's and Adolescents' Movements), as a separate committee within WFDY, in 1962. Similar to CISV, which functioned as a kind of Western counterpart, CIMEA advocated for: promoting the education of children and adolescents in the spirit of peace, friendship, and mutual understanding, and working toward humane and harmonious education, based on the principles of the UN Charter and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Through CIMEA, various campaigns, educational and propaganda activities, manifestos, gatherings, workshops, and other events were organized. Some of the main themes that guided the Committee's work in educating and raising youth included: advocacy for peace, opposition to nuclear armament policies, solidarity with children affected by war, anti-colonialism, and more.
During the Cold War period, the Committee had member organizations in 58 countries, some of the most active of which included: Vladimir Lenin All-Union Pioneer Organization (Всесоюзная пионерская организация имени Владимира Ленина, Soviet Union); Dimitrovist Pioneer Organization "Septemberists" (Димитровска пионерска организация "Септемврийче", Bulgaria); Sudanese Youth Federation (الاتحاد السوداني للشباب, Sudan); Young Pioneers of France (Les Jeunes Pionniers de France, France); Hungarian Pioneer Association (Magyar Úttörők Szövetsége, Hungary); United Democratic Youth Organisation (Ενιαία Δημοκρατική Οργάνωση Νεολαίας, Cyprus); José Martí Pioneer Organization (Organización de Pioneros José Martí, Cuba); Pioneer Organization of the Socialist Youth Union (Pionýrská organizace Socialistického svazu mládeže, Czechoslovakia); Ernst Thälmann Pioneer Organisation (Pionierorganisation Ernst Thälmann,

blished in 1968.[19] In addition to this, CISV actively collaborated with many pioneer and other children's organizations that were not members of CIMEA. The Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia was one such organization. The scope of CISV's international cooperation with children's organizations around the world is evident from the report of Milica Tarana, a representative of the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia, presented at the annual International Board Meeting (IBM) held in August 1987 in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany. This meeting was attended by 250 delegates from 48 countries. Along with the IBM members–representatives of all CISV national organizations–representatives of Associated Organizations (AO) were also present, including CIMEA (pioneer organizations from Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, and Romania), the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia, the Polish Scouting Association (Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego), and youth organizations from Czechoslovakia and the USSR.[20]

Cooperation Between the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia and the Children's International Summer Villages (CISV)

The first official meeting between representatives of the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia (SPJ), under the umbrella of the Union of Organizations for the Upbringing and Care of Children of Yugoslavia (SOVBDJ), and the CISV organization took place in 1955, when a Yugoslav delegate attended the first International Board Meeting (IBM) of CISV as a guest.[21] From the mid-1950s to the late 1980s, cooperation between SPJ and CISV went through several phases. The first phase, which can be considered the establishment phase, lasted from 1955 to 1962, when children from Yugoslavia participated for

German Democratic Republic); League of Democratic Pioneers of Finland (Suomen Demokratian Pioneerien Liitto, Finland); Sükhbaatar Mongolian Pioneers Organization (Сүхбаатарын нэрэмжит Монголын пионерийн байгууллага, Mongolia); Polish Socialist Youth Union (Związek Socjalistycznej Młodzieży Polskiej, Poland); Pioneers Organization of Colombia (Organización de Pioneros de Colombia, Colombia); Ho Chi Minh Young Pioneer Organization (Đội Thiếu niên Tiền phong Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam); Young Pioneers (Unge Pionerer, Norway) etc.

19 AJ, 637, 94, Report on Participation in the Seminar in Duino (Italy), June 28 – July 1, 1988, on the Topic *Education for Peace – Cooperation for a Better World*.

20 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milica Tarana, September 1987.

21 Ibid.

the first time in a Children's International Summer Village, held at the *El Salamlek Palace* Hotel in Alexandria, Egypt.[22] This was followed by a period of stagnation, which can be understood as a consequence of the expansion of the *Sutjeska Pioneer Camp* (1958–1989) within Yugoslavia[23] and a shift toward more intensive international exchange between UPY and other communist countries and their pioneer organizations.

The most active period of cooperation between SPJ and CISV lasted from the early 1970s to the late 1980s. This expansion of international outreach by SPJ can also be interpreted as a response to a growing internal crisis in Yugoslavia, which was, among other things, masked by a strong foreign policy presence. In the early 1970s, alongside rising nationalism, Yugoslavia was hit by the global economic crisis. The Yugoslav economy lacked the capacity for rapid transformation, leading to production losses and market difficulties. In an attempt to maintain political legitimacy, the state resorted to foreign loans, which paradoxically triggered a wave of investment – resulting in the construction of infrastructure such as hotels, sports halls, and libraries. In other words, the public witnessed signs of prosperity that did not correspond to the actual achievements of the domestic economy. This illusion of progress was reinforced by Yugoslavia's increasingly active foreign policy, which reached its peak influence during the early 1970s.[24] This foreign policy orientation also extended into other areas of social life – including the work of the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia was the first communist country to host a CISV camp, which took place from July 11 to August 8, 1972, in Velenje, in the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, under the patronage of the Association of Organizations for the Education and Care of Children of Yugoslavia (SOVBDJ). In addition to the Yugoslav delegation, participants came from Canada, the Philippines, Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United States, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, and Italy.[25] Five years later, from July 4 to 24, 1977,

22 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Draga Japundžić, Assistant for Pedagogy, 1962.

23 Igor Duda, *Danas kada postajem pionir. Detinjstvo i ideologija jugoslovenskog socijalizma* (Zagreb: Srednja Europa, Pula: Sveučilište Jurja Dobrile u Puli, 2015), 269.
Мари-Жанин Чалић, *Историја Југославије у 20. веку* (Београд: Клио, 2013), 314–316.

25 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Elfrida Ambrožič, Representative of the Municipal Association of Youth Friends of Velenje, on the International Children's Village held in Velenje from July 11 to August 8, 1972, October 3, 1972.

SOVBDJ organized a CISV youth seminar camp aimed at training future educators for CISV programs. The camp was held at the *Zvezdani Gaj* Children's Recreational Center near Belgrade. Alongside the Yugoslav delegation, participants included groups from Japan, Italy, Poland, Denmark, the Netherlands, England, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, and Finland.[26] From February 18 to 20, 1980, Mirko Zafirovski, President of the Council of the Union of Pioneers of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, and Zorka Mašin, an English teacher with previous experience in CISV programs, participated in a CISV seminar titled *International Camps for Peace and Friendship*, held in Fredensborg, Denmark. The seminar brought together representatives from nine CISV member countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Austria, England, the United States, and Denmark), as well as from three communist countries (Romania, Poland, and Czechoslovakia), whose pioneer organizations had shown interest in cooperating with CISV.[27]

By the late 1980s, SPJ had become a respected partner of the CISV organization. Milica Tarana, SPJ representative, met with the top CISV officials during the IBM CISC annual meeting in Hamburg in August 1987. These officials included Secretary General Joe Banks, President Ruth Lund, Vice Presidents Concha de Monroy and Jim Beaumont, and Treasurer Arne Lankoff. On this occasion, she invited Secretary General Banks to visit Yugoslavia in October 1987 during the Joy of Europe festival.[28] The arrival of the Secretary General in October 1987 was meant to mark the beginning of a new phase in the development of relations between SPJ and CISV. This phase involved SPJ's participation in a children's exchange program. According to the program, a group of ten children from Yugoslavia, aged 12 to 15, accompanied by an adult, would stay for three weeks with peers in one of the participating countries. The program was based on reciprocity, meaning that the visit would be reciprocated the following year.[29] The cooperation was very important because the CISV camp model influenced the creation of an international

26 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the International Summer Camp, Belgrade, November 1977.

27 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Mirko Zafirovski on Participation in the Seminar titled *International Camps of Peace and Friendship*, held from February 18 to 20, 1980, in Fredensborg, Denmark, June 17, 1980.

28 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milica Tarana, September 1987.

29 AJ, 637, 94, Program of the Visit of CISV Secretary General – Dr. Joseph Banks in Yugoslavia from October 2 to 6, 1987.

children's camp in Yugoslavia called the International Children's Friendship Meeting (MSPD). Between 1976 and 1988, around 2,000 boys and girls from all parts of Yugoslavia, 35 countries, and liberation movements participated in this camp.[30] Just as children from Yugoslavia participated in numerous CISV camps across Europe and the world through SPJ between 1962 and 1988, various foreign delegations also came to the MSPD in Yugoslavia through CISV from 1976 to 1988. This cooperation was also based on reciprocity. The participation of a certain number of CISV delegations at the camp in Yugoslavia implied the participation of an equal number of SPJ delegations at CISV camps.[31] CISV mediated the establishment or improvement of relations between SPJ and children's organizations from countries with which Yugoslavia did not have well-developed ties. Cooperation with CISV contributed to establishing dynamic relations with children's organizations in the USA, the United Kingdom, and Scandinavian countries.[32] CISV facilitated the participation of delegations from Greece, Spain, and Portugal at the Joy of Europe festival in 1987. It also ensured the participation of delegations from France, Belgium, and Sweden.[33] On the other hand, the arrival of children from various parts of Europe and the world through CISV at international festivals, such as the Joy of Europe festival or international camps, provided an opportunity for children sent by organizations without direct contact with CISV to meet in Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav Pioneer Association thus contributed to creating a "safe space" for communication among children from different parts of Europe and the world. Moreover, it played an important role in creating an environment where the transfer of knowledge and experience was possible among children who otherwise would never have met, gotten to know each other, or become friends.

30 East Germany (GDR), Finland, France, Italy, Cuba, Poland, Romania, the USA, the USSR, Egypt, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Algeria, Angola, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Norway, Spain, Chile, Grece, West Germany (FRG), Sweden, the POLISARIO movement (Frente Popular de Liberación de Saguía el Hamra y Río de Oro), Syria, Belgium, India, Iraq, Great Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands, Tanzania, the SWAPO movement (South West Africa People's Organisation), North Korea, Guinea, Zambia; Petrović Todosijević, „International Children's Friendship Meeting (1976–1988)", 494–495.

31 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milica Tarana, September 1987.

32 AJ, 637, 94, Program of the Visit of CISV Secretary General – Dr. Joseph Banks.

33 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milica Tarana, September 1987.

Children's International Summer Villages Camp: A Spatial Representation of a Different Vision of the World

The Children's International Summer Villages camp represented a spatial expression of a different vision of the world. The most significant form of cooperation between SPJ and CISV was the participation of pioneer delegations from Yugoslavia in this camp. CISV camps were intended for children aged 11. The camp could accommodate between eight and twelve countries. Each delegation consisted of up to four children (two boys and two girls) accompanied by one adult counselor. Besides the children and counselors, the camp included senior leaders (over 21 years old), camp administration, junior leaders (former CISV camp participants under 21), and support staff responsible for health care, hygiene, and food preparation. The number of participants varied depending on the number of delegations. For example, the CISV camp in Velenje, Yugoslavia (1972), had 44 children, 11 senior counselors, 4 junior counselors, 11 administration staff members, support staff, and one CISV advisor.[34]The camp lasted a minimum of three and a maximum of four weeks. It was held during the summer, most commonly in July. The CISV organization fully covered the costs of delegates' stay at the camp. Transportation costs (most often air travel) and delegation preparation expenses were borne by the organizations responsible for selecting children and adult leaders. In the case of Yugoslavia, these were the SOVBDJ and later the SPJ.

As a follower of Jacob Levy Moreno, Doris Twitchell Allen developed the concept of an organization fundamentally based on the idea of anti-geopolitics. The Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) camps, typically located on the outskirts of cities in school- or dormitory-type facilities and surrounded by meadows, forests, and rivers, represented a kind of "living monument" to a future meant to belong to the children who participated. By arriving at the camp, children symbolically distanced themselves from the realities that defined them–based on age, gender, social status, or political background. This process of "detachment" involved the construction of a collective identity, to be established in less than one month. The creation of this "new community" was intended to serve as a safeguard against future social and political breakdowns, including potential wars.The main goal of the CISV

[34] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Elfrida Ambrožič.

camp program was for children to acquire knowledge, information, and skills through means of communication such as voice, movement, and expression–tools that would support their growth, development, education, and upbringing toward the ideal of peaceful coexistence with individuals from other and different backgrounds. Although English was the official language of the camp,[35] delegates were not required to actively use it. A working knowledge of English was primarily expected from delegation leaders.

Work with children emphasized an alternative form of communication. The children's stay at a CISV camp was conceived and structured as "a full day of play and fun." Contrary to the notion of communication through a specific language, the program was designed to overcome language barriers. Children were encouraged to speak an "international language," that is, the language of play. The CISV camp program consisted of several components: preparations for the camp's official opening ceremony; preparations for the "National Day," during which each delegation presented its cultural heritage through various forms of interpretation; preparations for the "Open Day," when camp participants presented themselves to members of the local community; organization of the Family Weekend, during which children visited local families to better connect with the host environment; excursions aimed at introducing children to the cultural and historical heritage of the host country, as well as providing insight into the everyday life of the local population; the organization of a Children's Parliament; and regular meetings of the adult leaders, as well as joint meetings between children and their leaders.[36]

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35 AJ, 637, 96, Report by Radmila Jordanovska, Leader of the Yugoslav Group, on the Visit of the Union of Pioneers Delegation to West Germany in 1981; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Agron Bitiqi on the Participation of the Yugoslav Pioneer Delegation in the International Camp in Turkey (CISV – Bursa 85).

36 A typical daily program schedule: July 9 – Opening; July 10 – Park exploration, classroom visits, games; July 11 – Belgium National Day; July 13 – Guatemala National Day; July 15 – United Kingdom National Day; July 16 – Excursion to Bruges and the seaside; July 17 – Denmark National Day; July 18 – Turkey National Day; July 19 – Spain National Day; July 21 – Weekend with a Belgian family; July 23 – USA National Day; July 24 – Italy National Day; July 25 – Excursion to the Ardennes; visit to the Grottes de Han cave; July 26 – Yugoslavia National Day; July 28 – "Open Day"; July 30 – Finland National Day; July 31 – Excursion to Brussels; August 1 – Romania National Day; August 2 – Campfire; August 3 – Departure; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Prodan Bugarčić, Teacher at Dušan Jerković Elementary School in Inđija and Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation at the International Children's Summer Village in Jodoigne, Belgium, 1973.

Most of the aforementioned program components were implemented through the organization of sports, outdoor, musical, dance, visual arts, and drama activities. It was believed that sports, connection with nature, and artistic forms of play contributed most significantly to overcoming language barriers and fostering genuine friendships among children.

The organization of daily life in the Village was of crucial importance for the implementation of activities and the achievement of the camp's program objectives. The fundamental principle was living and working in mixed groups. In practice, this meant that children were divided into four groups for accommodation and for almost all daily activities throughout the duration of the Village. The only exception was the time allocated for preparations for the National Day. The daily life in the Village–despite frequent objections from the children–was based on the idea of a "fully structured" day.[37] A camp organized in this manner placed the child at the center–as an equal member of the wider community. Equality in the camp was realized through the implementation of gender equality principles and the establishment of children's self-governance. This self-governance was enacted through the work of the Children's Parliament, a regular feature of every CISV camp. Although the organization of camp life and activities was based on prior agreements, the Parliament allowed children to have partial influence over the rhythm and content of daily activities. The sense of equality was further developed through children's daily participation in practical tasks such as tidying rooms, cleaning, and assisting in the kitchen. CISV promoted equality as a prerequisite for cultivating a sense of equity. From the organization's perspective, "peaceful coexistence" could only be achieved through equal respect for both one's own and others' natural resources, as well as cultural, historical, and political heritage. Fundamentally, the program relied on the development of educational activities as key tools in raising and educating young people for peace. Prodan Bugarčić, the leader of the Yugoslav pioneer delegation from Inđija,

[37] Typical daily schedule of activities: Wake-up at 8:00 AM; Breakfast at 8:30 AM; Flag-raising and start of activities at 9:00 AM; Morning activities from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM; Mail time at 12:00 PM; Lunch at 12:30 PM; Quiet time after lunch until 2:00 PM; Afternoon activities from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM; Snacks (cake and Coca-Cola) from 4:00 PM to 4:15 PM; Continuation of afternoon activities from 4:15 PM to 6:00 PM; Dinner at 6:30 PM; Flag-lowering ceremony; National evening at 7:30 PM; Lights out and bedtime at 9:00 PM; Ibid.

recorded the following during the 1973 camp in Belgium: "The answer of one boy to the question 'What do you know about the International Children's Summer Village?' was quite interesting: 'Not much, I only know that if I'm the president of Guatemala, and my friend is the president of Japan, there will never be a war between us."[38]

The sense of equality, unity, and solidarity was further reinforced through the Organization's universal and supranational symbols: the CISV flag and anthem. The flag, still in use today, features a white background with a blue logo depicting a globe encircled by a laurel wreath, topped with figures of children holding hands. Each day at the CISV camp began and ended with a ceremonial raising or lowering of the flag. The day was officially opened by hoisting the flag while the CISV anthem was played, emphasizing a shared international identity and commitment to common values.

Here in this village you may see
Children living happily–
Different races, different lands,
Here we come to understand
One another's point of view,
Learning through the things we do:
How alike am I to you?
Here we live and eat and sleep,
Talk and laugh and sometimes weep.
Here we share our hopes and fears,
Build a bridge across the years.
Sow a seed and plant a tree,
Beneath whose shade there soon may be
All the nations gathered–free.
So our children too may grow
In a world we'll never know,
Sharing all they have to give,
Learning how to love and live.
In our hands the future lies–
Seize the moment as it flies.

38 Ibid.

Stamp the present with an act,
Dare to make our dream a fact.[39]

(Non-)Aligned

In addition to the previously mentioned children's camp held in Alexandria, Egypt in 1962, Yugoslav boys and girls, as members of the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia (SPJ), participated in at least 24 camps between 1972 and 1988, including those hosted in: Yugoslavia (1972, Velenje),[40] Belgium (1973;[41] 1976, Brussels;[42] 1988, Solières),[43] Denmark (1979, Hvidovre;[44] 1984, Copenhagen;[45] 1986, Roskilde;[46] 1987, Søborg)[47], Sweden (1979, Halmstad;[48]

[39] Since their inception in the early 1950s, CISV camps have promoted many anti-war songs, one of the most significant being "Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream," written in 1950, just before the start of the Korean War, by Ed McCurdy (1919–2000), a well-known American folk singer. The song was later performed by many famous artists, including Joan Baez and Johnny Cash. It became a symbol of the peace movement and non-violence, and has been translated and sung in 80 languages. Within the CISV community worldwide, it is traditionally sung at the end of camps and programs, serving as an emotional farewell and a reminder of anti-war values; „Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream", Wikipedia, accessed on 25 September 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Last_Night_I_Had_the_Strangest_Dream"

[40] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Elfrida Ambrožič

[41] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Prodan Bugarčić

[42] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milena Cvetić, director of Pera Popović – Aga Elementary School from Belgrade, on the stay of the Yugoslav Delegation at the International Children's Summer Village (CISV) in Brussels from July 2 to 26, 1976.

[43] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milica Mehmedović, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers Delegation Representing the Apatin Municipality at the International Children's Village Solières 88 in Belgium, August 1988.

[44] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Vanja Kovačević, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of the Pioneers Delegation at the International Children's Summer Village in Denmark, 1979.

[45] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Gordana Belamarić, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of the Pioneers Delegation in Denmark, October 1984.

[46] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Neda Zorman, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Participation of the Yugoslav Pioneers Delegation in the International Children's Village in Denmark – Roskilde from July 4 to August 1, 1986, September 1986.

[47] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Goran Joksimović, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers Delegation at the International Children's Summer Village (CISV) in Copenhagen from June 26 to July 24, 1987, November 12, 1987.

[48] AJ, 637, 94, Report by Hristina Bogdanović, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of the Pioneers Delegation from Smederevo at the International Children's Summer Village (CISV) in Halmstad, Sweden, from July 3 to 31, 1979.

1980, Stockholm;[49] 1981, Lidingö;[50] 1988, Halmstad)[51], Federal Republic of Germany (1980, Hamburg;[52] 1981, Höchst;[53] 1988, Alt Garge)[54], Italy (1979, Medea;[55] 1983, L'amante di Castel d'Azzano)[56], The Netherlands (1976, Schoorl;[57] 1983, Bakel),[58] United States (1981, Bronxville – New York),[59] Norway (1982),[60] England (1985),[61] Turkey (1985, Bursa),[62] and France (1986, Lyon).[63]

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49 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Vida Drašković, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of a Group of Students and their Chaperone from Braća Ribar Elementary School from Nikšić at the International Pioneer Summer Village in Stockholm, Sweden, 1980.

50 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Marija Kolesnikov, Leader of the Yugoslav Group, on the Stay of the Yugoslav Delegation at the International Children's Village in Sweden (Lidingö), 1981.

51 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Participation of the Union of Pioneers Delegation at the CISV Camp in Sweden (Halmstad, July 4 to August 1, 1988)

52 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Dragan Atonić, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of Yugoslav Children at the CISV Camp in Hamburg, 1980.

53 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Radmila Jordanovska, Leader of the Yugoslav Group, on the Visit of the Union of Pioneers Delegation to West Germany in 1981.

54 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Marija Kitanova, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of the Yugoslav Delegation at the International Children's Summer Village in West Germany, October 3, 1988.

55 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers in Medea, July 4 to July 30, 1979.

56 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Zagorka Spaseva, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Participation of the Yugoslav Pioneers Union Delegation at the International Camp in Italy, October 1983.

57 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Spasenka Mirčetić, Leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Stay of the Pioneers Delegation at the CISV Camp in the Netherlands from July 3 to August 1, 1976, October 1976.

58 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milja Kovačević, leader of the Yugoslav Delegation, on the Participation of the Delegation from SR Bosnia and Herzegovina, from Doboj, at the International Friendship Camp in the Netherlands, September 17, 1983.

59 AJ, 637, 94, Report of the Presidency of the Municipal Committee of the Union of Socialist Education and Childcare Organizations in Tuzla on the Stay of the Pioneers Delegation from Tuzla at the International Camp – Friendship Camp Bronxville, New York, USA, 1981.

60 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Rada Grubišić, leader of the Yugoslav pioneers delegation at the International Children's Summer Village in Norway from June 24 to July 20, 1982.

61 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Aleksandra Dafinić, leader of the Yugoslav pioneers delegation who stayed at the CISV camp in Leeds from July 14 to August 8, 1985.

62 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Agron Bitiqi.

63 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers Organization from Bor at the International Children's Summer Village Le Severin in Lyon (France) from July 28 to August 26, 1986.

With the exception of the camp held in the Socialist Republic of Slovenia (Velenje), delegations of the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia participated in CISV camps between 1962 and 1988 in twelve countries – Egypt, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United States, Norway, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and France – spanning four continents: Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia. However, by far the largest number of camps involving Yugoslav delegations took place in Europe (Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, FR Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK, and France), with Denmark and Sweden being the most frequent host countries. The environment created in the camps attended by children from Yugoslavia provided opportunities for interaction with peers from countries with different political systems and varying levels of political and social stability. Over the course of nearly two decades, members of Yugoslav delegations at CISV camps encountered representatives from 56 delegations[64] originating from all parts of the world – Europe,[65] North,[66] Central,[67] and South America,[68] Asia,[69] Africa,[70] and Australia.[71] Children from Yugoslavia participated in more than ten camps alongside delegations from the United Kingdom, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Norway. However, the most intensive communication through CISV camps was established with delegations from Denmark, Sweden, and the United States. Yugoslav pioneers met their peers from the United States at as

64 Out of 56 delegations, 52 represented sovereign states, while 4 came from autonomous territories under foreign sovereignty: the Faroe Islands (under Danish sovereignty), Greenland (under Danish sovereignty), Hong Kong (under British sovereignty), and Martinique (under French sovereignty).

65 Twenty-two European delegations: Austria, West Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, the United Kingdom, Finland, Spain, Turkey (a Eurasian country), Romania, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Portugal, France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, and Greece.

66 Two delegations from North America: Canada and the USA.

67 Four delegations from Central America (North American continent): Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Honduras.

68 Three delegations from South America: Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina.

69 Nine Asian delegations: the Philippines, Japan, Israel, India, Thailand, South Korea, Lebanon, Bangladesh, and Syria

70 Ten African delegations: Libya, Tanzania, Sudan, Zambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, and Algeria.

71 Two delegations from Australia: Australia and New Zealand.

many as 19 of the at least 24 CISV camps in which they participated between 1972 and 1988. Although the most dynamic exchanges occurred with delegations from countries with long-standing traditions of parliamentary democracy – such as the United States, Denmark, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Finland, FR Germany, Norway, France, the Netherlands, and Italy – Yugoslav delegations also had the opportunity to interact with children from other socialist countries, including Romania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Bulgaria. Among these, delegations from Romania were the most frequently present at CISV camps attended by Yugoslav pioneers.

It is noteworthy that the participation of Yugoslav pioneers in CISV camps between 1972 and 1988 largely coincided with the organization of the largest Yugoslav international children's camp – the International Friendship Gathering of the Children of the World (MSPD) – which, as previously mentioned, also welcomed numerous CISV delegations. Although smaller in scale compared to CISV camps, MSPD hosted children from at least 35 countries between 1976 and 1988.[72] Many of these countries – such as Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Belgium, Spain, Greece, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Cuba, the United States, Egypt, Algeria, Tanzania, Zambia, Syria, and India – were also regularly represented at CISV camps attended by Yugoslav delegations. On the other hand, for many children coming to MSPD through CISV – particularly from the USA, Scandinavian countries, and Western Europe – visiting Yugoslavia provided a rare opportunity to meet and interact with peers from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Angola, Guinea, Chile, Iraq, North Korea, and children delegated by liberation movements supported by Yugoslavia, such as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), POLISARIO Front (Frente Popular de Liberación de Saguía el Hamra y Río de Oro), and SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization).

At the same time, Yugoslav participation in CISV camps opened up opportunities to interact with delegations from countries that had never participated in MSPD. Among the few European countries in this category were Austria, Luxembourg, and Portugal. A greater number came from African

[72] Petrović Todosijević, „International Children's Friendship Meeting (1976–1988)", 494–495.

nations (Libya, Sudan, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Senegal) and Asian countries (the Philippines, Japan, Israel, Thailand, South Korea, Lebanon, Bangladesh). CISV camps also enabled contact with children from regions rarely represented at MSPD – such as Central American countries (Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras) and South American nations (Brazil, Colombia, Argentina). Delegations from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand never participated in the MSPD gatherings held in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavs in the Camp

The formation and preparation of Yugoslav delegations aimed to highlight the concept of Yugoslavia's resource sovereignty, expressed through several interconnected dimensions. The first involved the structure of Yugoslav society, in which, through the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia, each elementary school student was symbolically inscribed with an "ethical identity"[1], thereby granted both a voice and the status of an equal member of the community. The second dimension referred to the criteria of children's social organization, based on the idea of full equality (regardless of gender, social background, or national origin), as well as the child's right to education and to play. The third aspect was reflected in the investment of social, economic, and cultural resources in the representation of children's organizations of socialist Yugoslavia, through a highly selective, though relatively small,[73] group of children included in the work of the most significant international children's camp in the post–World War II period.

The selection of members of the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia, as well as the leader of the Yugoslav delegation for participation in CISV camps, was a relatively complex but well-organized process. The dispatch of Yugoslav delegates to CISV camps between 1962 and 1988 was carried out in nearly the same manner throughout the entire observed period.[74] Thanks to the regular

[73] According to available data, 104 Yugoslav pioneers (boys and girls) participated in CISV camps during the period from 1962 to 1988.

[74] The greatest discrepancy in the formation of the Yugoslav group occurred in 1962, when instead of four children, eight were sent to Alexandria, Egypt. Based on the report by Draga Japundžić, the leader of the Yugoslav group, it is possible to assume that, besides the eight children and the leader, there was also a representative of the Central Committee of the People's Youth of Yugoslavia (Narodna omladina Jugoslavije, NOJ) in the

contacts maintained between the SOVBDJ and the CISV organization, all Yugoslav delegations were formed upon invitation from the national CISV committees of the countries hosting the camps. After receiving the invitation, the Association would contact the appropriate republican-level organization, which then coordinated with the relevant municipal committee for socialist education and child care. The municipal committee, often in consultation with the Municipal Conference of the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia (Socijalistički savez radnog naroda Jugoslavije, SSRNJ), decided which local pioneer unit (typically an elementary school or pioneer center) would be entrusted with the task of selecting four children and one senior leader.

Between 1962 and 1988, Yugoslavia was represented at a minimum of twenty-five CISV camps, held in twelve countries across four continents, by eleven-year-old boys and girls[75] from all parts of the country.[76] Among them were students from: "Dušan Jerković" Primary School in Inđija (Belgium, 1973),[77] "Pera Popović Aga" Primary School in Belgrade (Belgium, 1976),[78] “Đura Đaković”, “Nikola Tesla”, “Vladimir Rolović”, and “France Prešern” schools from the Rakovica municipality in Belgrade (Netherlands, 1976),[79] “Kaptol”,[80] “Josip Račić”, and “Anka Butorac”[81] schools from Zagreb (Italy, 1979),[82] students from Belgrade[83] (Denmark, 1979), “Jovan Jovanović Zmaj” and “Dositej Obradović” schools from Smederevo, “Sava Kovačević”

Yugoslav group, who maintained intensive communication with representatives of the United Arab Republic (UAR) during their stay in Alexandria. On that occasion, an agreement was reached for eight Egyptian children to visit Yugoslavia.

75 The children were most often in the fifth grade of primary school. Sometimes they attended the sixth grade as well.

76 In the documentation used for the purpose of writing this paper, it was not possible to find data about the members of the Yugoslav delegation at the camps in Egypt (1962) and Yugoslavia (1972).

77 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Prodan Bugarčić.

78 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milena Cvetić.

79 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Spasenka Mirčetić.

80 Currently, Elementary School “Miroslav Krleža”, accessed on 27 September 2025, https://os-mkrleze-zg.skole.hr/

81 Currently, Elementary School “Matko Laginja”, accessed on 27 September 2025, http://www.os-mlaginje-zg.skole.hr/,

82 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers in Medea, July 4 to July 30, 1979.

83 Students: Mirjana Miljković, Tanja Malešević, Aleksandar Marinković, Milosav Boškovć; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Vanja Kovačević.

from Mihajlovac, and "Heroj Sveta Mladenović" from Saraorci (Sweden, 1979),[84] "Anta Bogićević", "Žika Popović",[85] and "Jovan Cvijić" schools from Loznica, and "Vera Blagojević" from Banja Koviljača (FR Germany, 1980),[86] "Braća Ribar" school from Nikšić (Sweden, 1980),[87] students from Skopje[88] (FR Germany, 1981), "Osma vojvođanska udarna brigada,"[89] "Ivan Milutinović", and "Marko Vuković" schools from Subotica, and "Pionir" school from Stari Žednik (Sweden, 1981),[90] students from Tuzla[91] (USA, 1981), students from Obrenovac[92] (Norway, 1982), students from Doboj[93] (Netherlands, 1983), students from Titov Veles[94] (Italy, 1983), students from Dubrovnik[95] (Denmark, 1984), students from Prizren[96] (Turkey, 1985), "Bane Šurbat",[97] "Alija Alijagić",[98] and "Boriša Kovače-

84 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Hristina Bogdanović.

85 At the beginning of the 1990s, "Žika Popović Elementary School" was annexed to the "Kadinjača Elementary School" from Loznica, accessed on 27 September 2025, https://oskadinjacaloznica.nasaskola.rs/

86 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Dragan Atonić.

87 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Vida Drašković.

88 The camp report doesn't have detailed information about the Yugoslav delegation members; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Radmila Jordanovska, 1981.

89 Currently, Elementary School "Majšanski put", accessed on 27 September 2025, http://www.osmajsai.edu.rs/

90 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Marija Kolesnikov

91 The camp report doesn't have detailed information about the Yugoslav delegation members; AJ, 637, 94, Report of the Presidency of the Municipal Committee of the Union of Socialist Education and Childcare Organizations in Tuzla on the Stay of the Pioneers Delegation from Tuzla at the International Camp – Friendship Camp Bronxville, New York, USA, 1981.

92 Students: Sanja Drakulić, Miroslava Nešković, Predrag Cerović, Branko Lazarević; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Rada Grubišić.

93 Students: Vera Filipović, Sanela Ibrahimefendić, Damir Matić, Edin Mulalić; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milja Kovačević.

94 Students: Vesna Gočeva, Bogdanka Dogramadžijeva, Toni Pajdakov, Svetozar Ristovski; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Zagorka Spaseva.

95 Students: Marija Ruso, Marija Troskot, Krešimir Cetinić, Ivo Skance; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Gordana Belamarić

96 Students: Lirije Gashi, Fethan Dervish, Bojan Furjanović, Naim Fatjani; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Agron Bitiqi

97 Currently, Elementary School "Kovačići", accessed on 27 September 2025, http://www.oskovacici.edu.ba/tradicionalno-u-nasu-skolu-2015-2016/

98 Currently, Elementary School "Malta", accessed on 27 September 2025, https://www.osmalta.edu.ba/historijat-skole/

vić"[99] schools from the Novo Sarajevo municipality, and members of the "Boško Buha" Pioneer Center from Sarajevo[100] (England, 1985),[101] "Janko Premrl – Vojko", "Pink Tomažič",[102] "1st Tank Brigade of the NOV",[103] and the Italian Primary School from Koper (Denmark, 1986),[104] "29. novembar",[105] "Branko Radičević", and "Vuk Karadžić" schools from Bor, and "Stanoje Miljković" from Brestovac (France, 1986),[106] "Milutin and Draginja Todorović", "Stanislav Sremčević", "21 October", and "Jovan Popović" schools from Kragujevac (Denmark, 1987),[107] students from Belgrade[108] (Sweden, 1988), students from Bitola[109] (FR Germany, 1988), and students from Apatin[110] (Belgium, 1988).

The first Yugoslav participants in a CISV camp–held in Egypt in 1962–were born in 1951. However, children born in the 1950s had limited opportunities to participate in international exchanges as pioneers. The situation changed significantly for generations born in the 1960s, as the Association for the Education and Care of Children of Yugoslavia established a much more intensive collaboration with CISV starting in the mid-1970s. The 1980s marked the peak of cooperation between CISV and Yugoslavia.As a result,

99 Currently, Elementary School "Grbavica I", accessed on 27 September 2025, https://os-grbavica1.edu.ba/historijat-skole/

100 Currently, the International Center for Children and Youth (Međunarodni centar za djecu i omladinu) Novo Sarajevo, accessed on 27 September 2025, https://mladi.ba/

101 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Aleksandra Dafinić

102 The elementary schools "Janko Premrl – Vojka" and "Pinka Tomažič" merged in 2006 into a school, which is now called Elementary School "Koper", accessed on 27 September 2025, https://www.os-koper.si/

103 Currently, Elementary School "Dekani", accessed on 27 September 2025, https://www.os-dekani.si/

104 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Neda Zorman.

105 Currently, Elementary School "Sveti Sava", accessed on 27 September 2025, https://os-svetisava.wordpress.com/

106 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers in Lyon (France) from July 28 to August 26, 1986.

107 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Goran Joksimović.

108 Students: Nataša Đurić, Aleksandra Dimitrov, Nikola Zafirović, Slobodan Obradović; AJ, 637, 94, Report on the participation of the Union of Pioneers delegation at the CISV camp in Sweden (Halmstad, July 4 to August 1, 1988).

109 Students: Jasmina Ilijevska, Leopoldina Kostovska, Dragan Atlagik, Jane Trajkovski; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Marija Kitanova.

110 The camp report doesn't have detailed information about the Yugoslav delegation members; AJ, 637, 94, Report by Milica Mehmedović.

CISV camps became most accessible to Yugoslav children born between 1965 and 1977. Yugoslav delegation leaders–referred to as senior leaders at CISV camps–were, on average, about ten years older than the children and were selected from among professionals engaged in education and child development: teachers, pedagogues, and occasionally school principals whose students were chosen for the delegations, educational advisors working in republican institutes for curriculum and instruction, and social workers involved in the activities of SPJ or SOVBDJ.

The Yugoslav delegation to a CISV camp was formed based on a dual set of criteria that were not mutually exclusive: CISV's general selection guidelines and the more specific standards established by the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia (SPJ) and the Association for the Education and Care of Children of Yugoslavia (SOVBDJ). CISV's criteria were uniform for all delegations. Participants were to be "eleven-year-olds who are communicative, friendly, and active in children's creative and civic life in their local communities," while delegation leaders were expected to be "young adults with experience working with children and fluent in English."[111]

Yugoslav criteria were more detailed, reflecting the country's principles of self-managing socialism and non-aligned foreign policy. Children selected to represent Yugoslavia at international camps were expected first and foremost to be in good health and excellent students. A report from the 1983 camp in Italy noted: "Children should be good students and active pioneers, communicative, able to adapt to camp life, and capable of presenting our country and the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia."[112] Special emphasis was placed on selecting communicative children. One report stated: "Children who cannot interact vividly with their peers are not desirable for the camp. They end up isolated and disappointed."[113] Social background was addressed throughout the observed period. In the 1962 Egypt camp report, it was written: "Children come from various social and cultural backgrounds, but it is best to select children from culturally developed environments, regardless of their family's social status."[114] In other words, although children from poorer families were encoura-

111 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Participation of the Union of Pioneers Delegation at the CISV Camp in Sweden (Halmstad, July 4 to August 1, 1988).

112 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Zagorka Spaseva.

113 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Elfrida Ambrožič.

114 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Draga Japundžić, Assistant for Pedagogy, 1962.

ged, it was considered most important to present children who came from a "cultured" environment. For the 1976 Netherlands camp, the Municipal Conference of the Council for Socialist Education and Child Protection of Rakovica, a working-class district of Belgrade, emphasized sending children of workers who were also members of the League of Communists. It was noted that "pioneers should be selected from families of manual laborers with low income, provided that the parents were party members."[115] In multiethnic regions such as Tuzla, additional selection criteria were applied. In a report from the 1981 camp in the USA, which included children from Tuzla, it stated: "We paid attention to the national, social, and gender composition of the delegation... One boy and one girl were Muslims, one boy was Croatian and one girl Serbian. The delegation leader was a female Muslim English teacher. Three children came from working-class families, one from an intellectual background."[116] Alongside factors children could not influence, much attention was also given to skills and knowledge. The 1986 France camp report emphasized: "Selection was guided by age, gender, social background, and achievements in academic and extracurricular activities."[117] The delegation to the England camp included children from the "Boško Buha" Pioneer Center in Sarajevo who were active in English and guitar sections. The report noted that all could play an instrument and sing, draw well, and were engaged in sports.[118] In some cases, artistic skills were decisive. All four members of the 1985 Prizren delegation to the Turkey camp were musically trained. Lirije Gashi, Fethan Dervish, and Naim Fatjani–students at the local music school–played the flute, harmonica, and violin, respectively. Bojan Furjanović stood out for his singing, dancing, and recitation.[119] All members of the 1988 Belgrade delegation to the Sweden camp were likely part of the cultural and artistic society "Abrašević."[120]

115 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Spasenka Mirčetić.

116 AJ, 637, 94, Report of the Presidency of the Municipal Committee of the Union of Socialist Education and Childcare Organizations in Tuzla on the stay of the pioneers delegation from Tuzla at the International Camp – Friendship Camp Bronxville, New York, USA, 1981.

117 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers in Lyon (France) from July 28 to August 26, 1986.

118 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Aleksandra Dafinić.

119 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Agron Bitiqi.

120 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the participation of the Union of Pioneers delegation at the CISV camp in Sweden (Halmstad, July 4 to August 1, 1988).

Preparations for the selected delegation's departure to a CISV camp typically began one month in advance. These preparations included developing the program for the "National Day" and the "Open Day", as well as creating gifts for the other camp participants. Program preparation involved organizing a stage performance and accompanying activities. The performances typically consisted of multiple segments, and Yugoslav pioneer delegations most often presented themselves through: national folklore from Yugoslav peoples – specifically traditional dances and songs emphasizing the cultural heritage of the region the children came from, patriotic songs focusing on the natural beauty and socialist symbols of Yugoslavia, classical pieces, pop songs, and choreographed dances. The accompanying content included exhibitions with display panels highlighting both general features of Yugoslavia and the specific region from which the children originated. These exhibition spaces were decorated with national symbols, images of Josip Broz Tito, anti-war messages, various decorations, and children's creative work. Delegations also presented themselves through children's games, traditional food, and other elements of cultural identity. Gifts for other participants – mostly handmade items – were created in Yugoslavia, with all members of the pioneer unit to which the delegates belonged contributing to their production. Part of the gift package included promotional materials. Tourism and trade organizations supplied delegations with brochures, flyers, pins, notebooks, and pens. The participation of Yugoslav delegations in CISV camps was financially supported by republican and municipal committees of various social organizations, republican institutions, local self-governments, and economic entities at both republican and local levels. Additional support was provided by tourism and cultural organizations, folk ensembles, and transportation companies. Travel expenses were considerably reduced thanks to the discounts provided by Yugoslav Airlines (JAT) for members of official Yugoslav delegations.

It can be said that the performances of Yugoslav delegations at CISV camps evolved between the early 1960s and the late 1980s. Insightful observations were made by Dara Japundžić, the leader of the Yugoslav delegation at the 1962 camp in Egypt: "Nations are represented through their national spirit – songs and dances – because this suits children. Our children, however, do not know our songs or dances. Those who play instruments only know foreign pop songs – American or otherwise – but not our own. The educator had to teach

them folk dances and songs. This is a matter for reflection – not just for these eight children, but as a broader phenomenon. It is incomprehensible that in an international camp, children do not even know our national anthem."[121]

Seventeen years later, at a camp in Italy, Yugoslav pioneers projected a more "state-building" and confident image – partly a result of increased centralization from the early 1970s and the growing cult of personality surrounding Josip Broz Tito.[122] "Yugoslav Day was organized under the theme of self-managed, non-aligned, Tito's Yugoslavia and the International Year of the Child, with pioneer activities throughout the day. The hall was decorated with the Yugoslav flag, posters and messages from Comrade Tito to children and pioneers, postcards, and banners. A special attraction was the exhibition of handicrafts and tapestries by students from the 'Kaptol' Primary School in Zagreb. The program included two folk dances and a short skit in national costumes, and in pioneer uniforms, we performed the songs Count on Us and Comrade Tito, We Swear to You, which other village children also learned. That day, many children learned our language, songs, and dances. Our delegation also served specialties from Yugoslav cuisine. During our stay, we produced 60 commemorative booklets about Yugoslavia and our delegation, which were given to all participants and hosts."[123]

By the mid-1980s, a report by Aleksandra Dafinić – leader of the Sarajevo delegation at the CISV camp in England – reflects a more relaxed, experience-based tone, perhaps mirroring the more liberal social atmosphere after Tito's death in 1980: "Before the evening program began, we treated all camp members to tufahije (baked stuffed apples), which I made early in the morning in the restaurant kitchen. The hall was decorated with small Yugoslav flags, crepe paper streamers in our national colors, brochures from across the country, posters of Olympic Sarajevo, handicrafts, children's artwork, and traditional folk items. The program started at 7:30 PM, after dinner. Yugoslav folk music played from a cassette. I opened the event in English with a brief overview of Yugoslavia – its location in the Balkans (with a map), its social system, natural beauty, and non-aligned policy. I also spoke about the lives and work of Yugoslav pioneers, our organization, and our hometown. Then we sang one folk

121 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Draga Japundžić, Assistant for Pedagogy, 1962.

122 Чалић, *Исто̄рија Југославије у 20. веку*, 317.

123 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers in Medea, July 4 to July 30, 1979.

song from each republic, which I introduced briefly. Tanja and Elma performed two children's songs accompanied by piano. Igor played a classical and a folk piece on guitar. I then led everyone in learning our folk song *Kiša pada* (*Rain is Falling*), using a large sheet with the lyrics – the melody and lyrics were simple, and everyone quickly learned it. Igor accompanied us on guitar. Afterwards, our children danced the Užičko kolo, and the entire camp joined in. Borisa played two classical pieces on the piano, followed by Elma, who also performed two. The evening concluded with two short recitations: Tanja's *Titov rođendan* (*Tito's Birthday*) and Elma's *Moja domovina* (*My Homeland*)."

Reports by Yugoslav leaders from CISV camps offer a partial but valuable insight into at least three key perspectives for understanding the educational outcomes of participation in international camps. These include how Yugoslav delegates perceived themselves and others, and how they reflected on how others perceived them. According to Yugoslav participants – who most often attended camps in Western European and Scandinavian countries – CISV, as an organization, "depended on the will of wealthy parents." However, it was not dismissed because it "promoted understanding among peoples" and thus "its influence could not be ignored."[124] A similar impression was left by the children from other delegations, who were noted to "come from upper and high social strata."[125] Despite such observations, Yugoslav participants were largely impressed by the natural beauty of countries like Norway,[126] the ecological food production in Denmark,[127] visits to shopping malls, McDonald's restaurants, video arcades, and the luxurious homes of host families. Host families often gifted Yugoslav children calculators, toys, and even jewelry.[128]

One of the dominant impressions was that foreigners held prejudices about Yugoslavia – about its political system and even its people. This perception became especially pronounced in 1972, when a CISV camp was held for the first time in Velenje, in the Socialist Republic of Slovenia: "Once we got to know each other better, they told us they had feared we would change the in-

124 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Marija Kitanova, leader of the Yugoslav delegation, on the stay of the Yugoslav delegation at the International Children's Summer Village in West Germany, October 3, 1988.

125 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers in Medea, July 4 to July 30, 1979.

126 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Rada Grubišić.

127 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Goran Joksimović.

128 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Stay of the Yugoslav Pioneers in Medea, July 4 to July 30, 1979.

ternational character of CISV, that we would try to impose a military-authoritarian system, and use CISV for our own propaganda. We worked hard to gain their trust. Eventually, they realized that democracy in our country is a reflection of the maturity of our people, not just political slogans. They understood that we live freely and well, and that the individual is a highly respected value in our society. At first, they thought we were showing only what was approved and polished, and that the program was strict in order to limit their freedom. So, we adapted it: we enabled contact with local children and adults, arranged bicycles, and left free afternoons and entire days for independent activities. We even organized a trip to the seaside without adult supervision. This helped them feel free – and then we had open conversations about our challenges and encouraged dialogue with local people. They were very curious about our history, spoke with respect about Comrade Tito, were surprised by our living standards, and enchanted by the beauty of Slovenia. But we didn't want them to be impressed only by our nature – we wanted them to feel the rhythm of life here."[129]

Yugoslav participants viewed themselves as equal members of the CISV camps. There was a strong belief that "our family upbringing and educational system are not unfamiliar with values such as peace education, tolerance, acceptance of difference and similarity, and love for all people." CISV goals were seen as "largely aligned with our educational aims," and "our children participated in them naturally and with ease."[130] Delegation leaders, without exception, wrote about the successful performance of Yugoslav pioneers, their friendships with other children, and the lasting contact they maintained even after returning home. Reports often described emotional farewells: "After the program, everyone approached us to congratulate the children and asked where they had learned all that. They were well-rounded: they sang, played music, danced. Everyone was amazed – especially by Igor, who was usually quiet and unassuming. The children formed strong friendships. They exchanged trinkets, souvenirs, badges, pens, t-shirts… Everyone loved our traditional costumes and wanted to trade, but we had to explain that they weren't ours to give. They exchanged addresses and still write letters and birthday greetings. Since we left the camp a day early, it felt like the end of the

129 AJ, 637, 94, Report by Elfrida Ambrožič

130 AJ, 637, 94, Report on the Participation of the Union of Pioneers Delegation at the CISV Camp in Sweden (Halmstad, July 4 to August 1, 1988).

camp for everyone. The night before our departure, the Israeli delegation had their national evening, but it couldn't be completed because everyone was sad. With Margaret's permission, all the children slept together in rooms with ours. Everyone cried, and no one slept that night. In the morning, everyone came to see us off, hugged us, and promised through tears to remember our time together forever. Margaret drove us to the airport, and Oliver from the British delegation came in the van just to be with us a little longer. The farewell was painful. Our children couldn't calm down – and once they stopped crying, they started singing the songs they had learned at camp."

Conclusion: The New Global

Although the number of children from Yugoslavia who participated in CISV camps was relatively small, the presence of Yugoslav groups at international children's camps around the world played a highly significant role. Above all, it was important for children as a social group, as the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia – through the selection of specific boys and girls – engaged in the spatial representation of an alternative vision of the world. With the founding of the International Children's Friendship Meeting – the first international children's camp organized in Yugoslavia – this representativeness was, in a way, brought "home," alongside other established camps (particularly the pioneer camp *Sutjeska*, and camps in the USSR and other communist countries). In doing so, Yugoslavia actively contributed to the development of educational models designed to bring solidarity and internationalism closer to the youngest generations. Through organizations responsible for the social organization of children (including their involvement in implementing domestic and foreign policy), as well as through economic and cultural institutions, the Yugoslav state invested substantial resources into building the resource-based sovereignty of its youngest citizens – which was meant to serve as the foundation of their patriotic identity, inseparable from an internationalist consciousness. Based on the analysis of cooperation between the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia and CISV, it can be assumed that this policy orientation reached its peak in the final two decades of the Yugoslav state, at a time when generations born between the mid-1960s and late 1970s were coming of age and entering the "stage of history." To that "golden generation," which would leave the stage far more quickly than it had arrived, the opportunity

was never given to explain why it mattered – during those long, warm summer days – to move through a completely different vision of the world.

Despite its successful involvement in international relations during the last two decades of its existence, the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia disappeared from the international stage along with the country–and the broader community–it represented both domestically and abroad. In practice, the dissolution of the Union meant that primary school children were left without their ethical role model, whose values were encapsulated in the notion of the "pioneer." The very existence of the Union, established during World War II in the context of the anti-fascist struggle, was further undermined by the outbreak of war in the former Yugoslavia–first in Croatia, and later in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many of the actors involved in these conflicts identified with the legacy and actions of military factions that, according to the very values promoted at international camps, were believed to belong to a past that was never supposed to repeat itself.

CISV continued to operate under the motto Building Global Friendship, largely without addressing the tectonic shifts on the geopolitical map of Europe and the world in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Today, CISV is active in over 200 countries, with 63 full member nations. Slovenia is the only successor state of the former Yugoslavia to have joined CISV, becoming a member in 1999 with its national office located in Nova Gorica. Aside from Slovenia, CISV has no presence in any other part of the former Yugoslavia, including Serbia. Bulgaria was the first post-communist country to join CISV, in 1990. It was followed by Hungary (1991), Romania (1993), the Czech Republic (1994), and Poland (1995). After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Baltic states also joined: Latvia in 1992, Estonia in 1993, Russia in 1995, and Lithuania in 1998.[131]

By accessing the websites of CISV's national organizations, it is possible to obtain basic information about the history of each organization individually. However, based on the content available in the About Us or Our Story sections, there is no information regarding the cooperation between former communist countries and CISV prior to the end of the Cold War–even though in some cases, such cooperation was long-term and quite intensive. Unfortunately, historical information covering the period before 1990 is largely absent even in the case of CISV organizations that belonged to other political blocs. An exception is the American CISV organization, from which

131 „Our World", CISV International

the entire initiative originally emerged. Nevertheless, the only historical reference currently available about CISV's activities in the United States is a black-and-white photograph showing boys and girls from Austria, the United Kingdom, Denmark, France, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, and the United States gathered at a CISV camp in Cincinnati–just six years after the end of the global catastrophe that was the Second World War–with the aim of building new global relationships that would leave no one behind.

Summary

Thanks to its membership in UNESCO, Yugoslavia established contacts with various international organizations dealing with issues of child upbringing and education. In this way, links were also created with the organization Children's International Summer Villages (CISV), whose primary focus was the building of friendship among children as a foundation for global peace. The idea of promoting global peace through cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies was not unfamiliar to the Yugoslav leadership. The integration of Yugoslavia into the international community through the UN represented one of the main foreign policy orientations of the Yugoslav state throughout the entire socialist period. Cooperation between the Union of Organizations for the Education and Care of Children of Yugoslavia, that is, the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia, and CISV lasted from 1955 to 1988. Between 1962 and 1988, Yugoslav pioneers participated in at least twenty-five CISV camps in twelve countries across four continents, where they encountered boys and girls from as many as fifty-six national delegations. Yugoslavia was the first communist country in which a CISV camp was organized, in 1972, in Velenje (Socialist Republic of Slovenia). The influence of CISV was significant for the development of certain forms of organization, upbringing, and education of children in Yugoslavia, above all through the establishment of the first international children's camp known as the International Children's Friendship Meeting. Between 1976 and 1988, more than 2,000 children from at least thirty-five countries around the world took part in this camp. Although the number of Yugoslav children who participated in CISV camps was relatively small, the presence of Yugoslav delegations was of exceptional importance for children as a social group. Through selected boys and girls, the Union of Pioneers of Yugoslavia actively participated in shaping a spatial representation of an alternative vision of the world.

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Резиме

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КА ТРАНСНАЦИОНАЛНОМ: САВЕЗ ПИОНИРА ЈУГОСЛАВИЈЕ И КАМП ДЕЧЈИХ МЕЂУНАРОДНИХ ЛЕТЊИХ СЕЛА, 1955–1988.

Апстракт: Циљ овог рада је да укаже на интензивну међународну сарадњу између Савеза пионира Југославије (СПЈ) и организације Дечјих међународних летњих села (ЦИСВ) у периоду од 1955. до 1988. године. Партнерство успостављено између Југославије и једне од најзначајнијих међународних дечјих организација показало се као обострано значајно, будући да је Југославија, у периоду од 1962. до 1988. године, учествовала на најмање двадесет пет кампова у дванаест земаља. Ови кампови омогућили су деци из свих делова Југославије да ступе у контакт и развију пријатељске односе са вршњацима из педесет шест земаља широм света. У раду ће бити анализирани: историјски развој односа између ЦИСВ-а и југословенских дечјих организација задужених за друштвено организовање и друштвену партиципацију деце, значај ЦИСВ-а, као и југословенске образовне политике у спровођењу иницијатива усмерених ка миру и учешће југословенских делегација на ЦИСВ камповима. Истраживање се превасходно заснива на извештајима вођа југословенских пионирских делегација које су учествовале на ЦИСВ камповима.

Кључне речи: Агенција Организације Уједињених нација за образовање, науку и културу (УНЕСКО), Савез пионира Југославије, Савез организација за васпитање и бригу о деци Југославије, камп Дечјих међународних летњих села, Дорис Твичел Ален, мир, интернационализам, међународна сарадња

Захваљујући чланству у Унеску, Југославија је успоставила контакте са различитим међународним организацијама које су се бавиле питањима васпитања и образовања деце. На тај начин је остварена и веза са организацијом Дечјих међународних летњих села (ЦИСВ), која је у

свом фокусу имала изградњу пријатељства међу децом као темељ глобалног мира. Идеја о промовисању глобалног мира кроз сарадњу са Уједињеним нацијама и њеним агенцијама није била непозната југословенском руководству. Интегрисање Југославије у међународну заједницу путем УН представљало је једно од главних спољнополитичких опредељења југословенске државе током читавог социјалистичког периода. Сарадња између Савеза организација за васпитање и бригу о деци Југославије, односно Савеза пионира Југославије и ЦИСВ-а трајала је од 1955. до 1988. године. У периоду од 1962. до 1988. године југословенски пионири и пионирке су учествовали на најмање двадесет пет ЦИСВ кампова у дванаест земаља на четири континента, где су се сусретали са дечацима и девојчицама из чак педесет шест делегација. Југославија је била прва комунистичка земља у којој је организован ЦИСВ кампа, 1972. године, у Велењу (СР Словенија). Утицај ЦИСВ-а је био значајан за развој одређених облика организовања, васпитавања и образовања деце у Југославији, пре свега кроз формирање првог међународног дечјег кампа под називом Међународни сусрет пријатељства деце, кроз који је, у периоду од 1976. до 1988. године, прошло више од 2000 деце из најмање тридесет пет земаља из целог света. Иако је број југословенске деце која су учествовала на ЦИСВ камповима био релативно мали, присуство југословенских делегација је имало изузетан значај за децу као друштвену групу. Посредством одабраних дечака и девојчица, Савез пионира Југославије је активно учествовао у креирању просторне репрезентације другачије визије света.