

Leaders to Follow

Special Edition

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*International Leadership Institute
Providing Leadership Development Services and Programs
in the US and Europe since 1985*

President's Remarks, 2002

by Jarda Tusek

The mission of the International Leadership Institute, founded in 1985, is to foster the transformation of emerging democracies in East and Central Europe through offering training programs for business and professional leaders that will help these countries overcome their past isolation, speed reforms and develop closer economic ties with the U.S.

Assisting the formerly closed Soviet-bloc countries of Europe in their transition into the 21st century world of open competitive transnational markets continues to be the main goal of the International Leadership Institute.

In 2002, our seventeenth year of operation, we still consider offering such assistance to be our prime area of expertise; developing and leading training programs that effectively offer this assistance continues to be our main focus.

KEY CHALLENGE

The key developmental challenge among the former Soviet-bloc countries remains one of transforming the previous command economies operating under authoritarian governments into open economies operating in democracies, without undue government restraint.

Crucial aspects of this kind of democratic government include transparent and open

political activities in strong civil societies that can develop social institutions promoting stability and prosperity.

EXECUTIVE ED PROGRAMS

Over the past eleven years, since 1991, the Institute has delivered 44 executive training programs for more than 300 East and Central European executives and professionals from seven former Soviet-bloc countries.

In the process of delivering these programs, it became increasingly clear to Institute officers that this political, social and economic transition has not proceeded at the same pace, or in the same way, from one country to another.

In recent years, the Institute has been working with the U.S. Department of State, which has provided assistance activities through U.S. AID to numerous former Soviet-bloc countries.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN TIERS

They are divided into several regions, among them the Europe Northern Tier (the Baltic republics, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Southeast Europe (Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, FRY, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Romania).



The International Leadership Institute

- WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 IN PRINCETON, NJ
- REMAINS DEDICATED TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- HAS RUN MORE THAN 40 EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE US, FOR EUROPEAN CLIENTS
- HAS PARTNERED WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA, THE JACKSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MORE THAN 700 OTHER BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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NORTHERN TIER PROGRESS

Several of the Europe Northern Tier countries have been able to proceed with changes and reforms at a considerably faster pace than most of the Southeast Europe.

One such country is the Czech Republic, the country in which the Institute concentrated its activities from 1991 to 1997.



Beautiful Konopiste Castle complex in Bohemia, Czech Republic

These countries have expanded their opportunities for U.S. trade and investment and are proceeding with economic and democratic reforms without significant delays.

Many of them are well along the way to accession to the European Union and can continue their transition without further bilateral assistance from U.S. AID.

SOUTHERN TIER CATCHES UP

At the same time, for several countries in Southeast Europe the ability to attract foreign investment remains below potential, and, as U.S. Aid suggests, will only improve as these countries do the following:

- restructure their economies

- develop key political and economic institutions
- reduce corruption
- improve formal legal systems
- demonstrate that disputes can be settled fairly
- engender respect for rule of law among citizens

Transforming the Southeast Europe previously totalitarian command economies into participatory democracies, with strong and viable market economies, cannot be perhaps accomplished as quickly as in the Northern Tier. In many cases these economies are polarized between a few very wealthy beneficiaries of change, and a great number of people who are left out of the process of accessing the benefits of transition.

INSTITUTE COMMITMENT

The turmoil and pain resulting from incomplete reform in Southeast Europe has discouraged many citizens, leading them to nostalgia for the certainty of the "good old days" of totalitarian rule.

However, the Institute recognizes the urgent need of these countries to move on with their transition, in spite of the dislocations of change.

In recognition of the emerging need for assistance in Southeast Europe, the Institute has focused its efforts on this region since 1997.

The Institute remains committed to providing training programs designed to bring together business and professional leaders from the former Soviet-bloc with their American counterparts, as it has since 1991.