

Kurir, July 5th 2004, page 2

Democratic Structures: Opening State Security Files

Belgrade. Participants in the round table „Public Discussions about the Past: Impact on Democratic Structures“ pointed out that it is necessary to open secret service files in order to establish responsibility for serious violations of human rights.

The Director of the Center for Human Rights in Belgrade, Vojin Dimitrijević, said that the task of the institutions dealing with lustration and establishing „some truth is to make public the material in order to produce what is often called catharsis“.

- A process of truth and reconciliation should precede lustration. Vojislav Koštunica as the President of FRY formed such a committee in March 2001, and it never gave any results, since there were immediately disagreements about its makeup, working method, and program. There is a double need for reconciliation in Serbia, the reconciliation between citizens divided along various lines, and with reconciliation with other nations – Dimitrijević said.