



Two coaches with participants in the Olympiad and the team leaders visited the National Assembly at invitation of the new Speaker of the National Assembly, Tsetska Tsatcheva. The visit of the young programmers is part of their cultural heritage tour of Bulgaria. The National Assembly was their first stop in this educational tour.

"This building is a symbol of statesmanship. I am proud that the Bulgarian parliament is visited by the best young programmers in the world", said

Tsatcheva. In her opinion the fact that Bulgaria hosts this international competition for the second time is indicative of the young people's intellect.

In her words the future is defined by digital civilization and its foundations are already laid. "Every day we feel the advantages of the internet and

the free communication via technologies, which are child's play for you. You are way ahead of your parents, who look upon your work as a work of art", said Tsetska Tsatcheva in the address to the young programmers. She reminded

Bulgarian constitution contains a text which makes it one of the most democratic for its time. Back in the 19th century they wrote that anyone, whatever the lineage, sex or nationality shall become free the moment one steps onto Bulgarian land.



Speaking of democratic foundations, we cannot but mention the inscription "Unity makes us strong". Only when united can we withstand our positions", explained the Parliament Speaker. The youths and their leaders were awarded with mementos and pins. The Chair of the Bulgarian Organiza-

tional Committee of the 21st Olympiad, Kircho Atanassov presented Ms. Tsatcheva with a backpack with information materials and a cap as the ones every contestant received on arrival. Ms. Tsatcheva took the cue and put on the cap for a picture with the group in memory of the event.

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The replica of John Atanassov's first computer - ABC, should stay in Plovdiv. This has been demanded by the foundation "Mathematicians, programmers, cyberneticists abroad", whose first project was to make the first prototype of the invention. At the head of the organization is Alexander Chobanov, team leader of Chile in the Olympiad. After the end of the event he will stay in Plovdiv in order to set up an initiative committee consisting of local businessmen, representatives of software companies and university faculty, who shall provide the funds to carry out the initiative. The replica, now found in

the University of Iowa, where John Atanassov worked on his

project, is worth 230 000 USD.

"I hope we shall manage with 180 000. My ambition is that the computer stays in Plovdiv, which shall be a reminder of Plovdiv hosting the 21st world Olympiad. After sports events the stadiums remain in the cities. We must leave behind something significant to commemorate the Olympiad", said Mr. Chobanov. The Mayor, Slavcho Atanassov, recently organized an auction, at which the first EUR 3000 were raised.