VUCIC SAYS TRUMP ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION TO VISIT SERBIA

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"When I invited him, I explained in detail why I think it's important that he comes to Serbia. I spoke about the attitude of all Serbian citizens toward him and the US policy, how people in Serbia would welcome him, why it's important, and that his presence would show how much Serbs want that friendship," Vucic told reporters.

He also said that during Tuesday's reception organized by Trump and his wife, Melania, for world leaders currently attending the UN General Assembly, he had the opportunity to shake hands with the US president "as many as four times."

"I invited him to come to Serbia and he said that he accepted, and that he wanted to come to Serbia, he said - it's a deal, and then he extended his hand the last time," Vucic stressed.

"I spent a little more time in his company than others, thanks to the story that we started, I guess because I come from the same region as his wife," he continued.

The conversation "very briefly" touched on politics, Vucic said, adding - "but I said all I wanted to say about Serbia."

Vucic said he spoke with Melania Trump "in a mixture of Serbian and Slovenian - so we understood each other just fine."

"She made an effort speaking Slovenian, a little bit Serbian, and I mostly Serbian and a little bit Slovenian, the little I can say in that language," Vucic said, and remarked that he was "well received" during the reception.

In a statement to Belgrade-based tabloid Kurir, the president said it was "realistic that Trump would visit Serbia during 2018."

Earlier in the day, Vucic shared with reporters that Trump told him he "reminded him of an NBA basketball player."

Vucic also said that he met with French President Emanuel Macron, who "gave his full support to the European path of Serbia" and announced he would "soon" visit Belgrade.

SOURCE: B92, O2, FILIP CUKANOVIC

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