

## The road to Bosnia

So it was the weapons taken out of the Croatian barracks, taken out by the direct order of the famous tandem, that enabled the Serbs to conduct a general attack on Bosnia. Of course the Bosnian government, led by Mr. Izetbegovic, observed silently the placement of these weapons at strategic mountain positions, and, just as Tudjman had, declared that they have no quarrel with Serbs, they're honest Yugoslavs, they have good relations with the federal Army, and there is no reason for this Army to attack them. It *won't* attack them, because it is basically a Croatian-Serbian war, and the Muslims don't have anything to do with it.

But the Muslims *did* have something to do with it, since all of Bosnia was serving as a logistical base for the attack on Croatia. Croatia was attacked from points throughout Bosnia. Without Bosnia, the Serbs would not have been able to create this kind of general war. Yet, the interpretation of Mr. Izetbegovic was, "I have nothing to do with it." He was very well warned what Serbs might do to Muslims—not only by the obvious example of what was going on in Croatia, but from his own historical experience. During World War II, Muslims suffered terrible casualties from Serbs. They committed genocide against Muslims during World War II. This wasn't enough for the Muslims; they said, "No, this won't happen again. It's not possible in these times; this is over."

We know, of course, what happened, immediately after the Unprofor [U.N. "peacekeeping" forces] took over in Croatia. The coming of Unprofor was a precondition for a general Serbian attack on Bosnia, because Unprofor kept guard over the Serbian occupied territory in Croatia, so the Serbs had a free hand to reconcentrate and regroup their troops for an attack on Bosnia, and also to use tanks and artillery otherwise needed in Croatia, to be transferred to Bosnia and start the offensive that is now going on.

In my opinion, there were two crucial moments. One was the cease-fire at Igalo, which interrupted the attack on military facilities, and the other, the siege of Vukovar and the Red Cross convoy. At these moments, Croatia had a clear victory in its hands. The federal Yugoslav Army was much overestimated. It was weak, in fact. It was very strong in appearance—plenty of weapons, plenty of everything. But it was weak in structure, because many officers were not Serbs, many soldiers were not Serbs and could not be trusted. Pilots, particularly, were not Serbs. And the motives were not clear. Milosevic was after an all-out war against Croatia and others in order to create Greater Serbia. The general commanding structure still had some "Yugoslav" thoughts in their heads—Kadijevic and others. It wasn't clear whether they were really, exclusively for the Greater Serbia idea, or did they want, perhaps, some kind of Yugoslavia. Perhaps some "Titoism" remained in their heads. The situation was rather unclear at these moments.

## Decisive action was needed

What was needed, then, was to react decisively. To attack the federal Army, not to give it the necessary time to transform itself into a Serbian Army, which would act only according to Milosevic's ideas. The Army was a mastodon. It appeared very strong, but was structurally very weak, very slow, and you had to attack it *swiftly*, not to give it time to accommodate to the war situation.

Unfortunately, the people who organized this war, Carington and others, knew this very well. They put strong pressure on Croatia to give this necessary time to the federal Army, to transform itself into a Serbian one. This happened, and when this transformation was finished, together with the successful pulling out of weapons from the Croatian barracks, then Serbia clearly had an advantage. But it could have been prevented from the very beginning.

The clear indication of a structural weakness of the Yugoslav Army was the removal of all former generals, of all former commanding cadres, the forced retirement of Mr. Kadijevic, Mr. Mamula, Mr. Blagoje Adzic, and other generals who perhaps were not quite adequately responding to Mr. Milosevic's views of how this war should be carried out. After they had done their duty, they were removed, and loyal Serbian officers replaced them. This is a pretty clear indication of the structural weakness of the Yugoslav Army. These generals were not trustworthy, for Milosevic.

## Bosnian Croats, Muslims declare their solidarity

*From a document issued in Ottawa on Feb. 3:*

The Bosnia Hercegovina Information Center Executive Committee (BH Exec), comprised of Bosnian-Hercegovian Muslims and Croats, deems it necessary to issue the following statements to show the Canadian and world public the truth behind the events in Bosnia and Hercegovina. The truth is all the more necessary because of the labels, clichés and deliberate distorting of the facts promoted by the world political community and the communications media.

We Canadians and residents of Canada of a Croat or Muslim descent, representatives of the BH Exec and with the full support of the Bosnian and Hercegovian community of Ottawa-Carleton declare:

- that we have come together and formed this Committee to publicly show and denounce the existence of hatred between our two peoples.

# Bosnians and Croatians must unite against Serbian aggression

*In January, the Bosnia-Herzegovina Information Office in Ottawa, Canada decided to react to the attempt to provoke a confrontation between Catholics and Muslims in Bosnia and between Bosnia and Croatia. The center created an executive committee that included four Catholics and four Muslims (see box p. 24). Below is an interview with Steven Corkovic and Djenana Veledar Campara, two leading members of the Ottawa Executive Committee, conducted by Umberto Pascali on Feb. 10.*

**EIR:** Your initiative coincided with the escalation of the propaganda on the so-called danger of Muslim fundamentalism in Bosnia. Recently, *EIR* published extensive quotes from a document prepared by Yossef Bodansky, the chief adviser of the Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional

Warfare of the House Republican Research Committee. The document, officially written as background information for Republican congressmen, justifies the genocide against Bosnia as "Iran's European Springboard." It is a clear attempt to provoke a conflict between Catholics and Muslims, and Croatians and Bosnians, and an explosion.

**Corkovic:** Yes, as a Croatian I can answer that I was aware, we were well aware of this machination. There is nothing further from the truth. I am a Catholic, a Croatian, and I cannot remember any Croatian ever saying anything about "fundamentalism" in Bosnia. I do not think many of us even knew the word before.

Yes, we got together and we discussed this attempt to provoke a split and a conflict. We decided to fight it. We issued a statement, where we outlined our opposition. We

---

- that hundreds of years of our history provide a testimony of a peaceful and respectful coexistence of our peoples, a veritable example for the world community, opposite to the picture portrayed by the western politicians and media.

- that throughout our beloved country Bosnia-Herzegovina one could witness numerous mosques and Catholic churches standing side by side for centuries until the Serbian aggressor destroyed them both;

- that "hatred" together with "warring factions," "ethnic cleansing" and other labels have been intentionally promoted by the world political bodies to deceive the public and cover up the world political bodies' unimaginable unwillingness to put a stop to a genocidal aggression in the midst of "cultured" Europe; moreover the world political bodies have spread these deliberate "hate"-lies and cover-ups because their own Charters and Final Acts are overflowing with statements of resolute actions when confronted with genocidal atrocities;

- that "hatred" statements are promoted by the leaders of the highest "democratic" world body, the U.N. Security Council, whose five permanent members have all perpetrated massive slaughters of Muslims in their

recent histories.

One of the purposes of these lies and labels is to withhold legitimacy from the Bosnian government as anything more than a caretaker for refugees, to allow and help Serbs to continue and "prove" with overwhelming military supremacy and heavy artillery, with genocide over children, women and elderly, that the Bosnian government is not capable to keep the law and order among the "ethnic clashes," and finally to mask the heroism of Muslims and Croats, defenders of Sarajevo and many other cities and villages of Bosnia, defending their homes against a ruthless aggressor, taught by its leaders and their advisers-psychiatrists the "art" of Goebbels's *Schrecklichkeit* to achieve its goals.

In view of all this the BH Exec demands from the Canadian and World politicians and media:

To put an immediate stop to referring to legitimate Bosnian government armies as "warring factions," thus equating them with terrorist factions that, with the help of the Serbian-Yugoslavian Army, took arms against the sovran state of Bosnia-Herzegovina. . . . This equates the legitimate defenders of a sovran state with the genocidal perpetrators of *Schrecklichkeit*. . . .