

BASIC peddles U.N. protectorate for Bosnia

by Scott Thompson

One of the agencies that assisted Britain, France, and Russia in deflating U.S. action against the ongoing genocide against Bosnia, which was signalled by Secretary of State Warren Christopher's six-point program issued on Feb. 10, is the British American Security Information Council (BASIC). The British-dominated BASIC has been lobbying, since at least the Clinton transition period, to see that President Clinton would drop his view that military action might be an integral part of the solution to the crisis in the Balkans. BASIC's director, Daniel T. Plesch, told a journalist that his group had sent Clinton's team a document calling for the creation of a U.N. protectorate in Bosnia-Herzegovina—paralleling the Vance-Owen "peace plan"—and that members of BASIC had been in discussion with transition team members on non-military solutions.

'Moderates' defend Milosevic

On Feb. 11 in Washington, BASIC sponsored a press conference, followed by a luncheon on Capitol Hill, by a self-proclaimed "Experts' Committee on Ex-Yugoslavia," who were billed as "moderates" from the former republics of Yugoslavia. In reality, BASIC pulled off a fraud on the press and on Congress, since the committee consisted of devil's advocates for a Greater Serbia. Included on the committee was Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic's agent Milorad Pupovac (founder of the Serbian Democratic Forum in Zagreb), who has been a propagandist for the Serbian nationalist minority in Croatia and who has received severe criticism from the Tudjman Croatian government for promoting Belgrade's goals. The only thing moderate about the committee members was that Pupovac, along with other members, proposed a list of impotent gestures that complement the pro-Serbian Vance-Owen "peace plan" to carve up Bosnia.

The fact that BASIC was trying to pass off a tiger for a kitten emerged when a reporter for *EIR* confronted committee members and stated that no one could find any real solution to the crisis as long as they avoid naming Milosevic as a mass murderer. The entire panel of moderates went into a defensive diatribe. BASIC shut down the press conference, lest the real nature of the "committee of experts" be exposed further.

A few hours later, at a luncheon on Capitol Hill, Plesch made a surprising reference to political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. In the context of a discussion of the problem of the media inflaming the populations of both Croatia and

Serbia, Plesch said the problem could be compared with "what would happen if the whole of the American media were taken over by LaRouche for five years. It would be easy, then, to get everybody killing each other." Plesch's wild slander ignored the fact that LaRouche was the first statesman to warn during his 1988 presidential campaign about an imminent war in the Balkans, which could be a potential trigger for World War III, and the fact that many thousands of slain Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians would be alive today had LaRouche's warning been heeded.

An anti-nuclear bias

BASIC was founded in 1987 by Daniel Plesch, who had been serving as vice chair of Great Britain's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), which had been founded in large measure by the evil Lord Bertrand Russell. Today, BASIC works closely with such Russellite groups as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), SANE, and Freeze. The two most powerful and influential members of BASIC's council are Denis Healey, who is a former member of the Communist Party of Great Britain, a Labour Party Member of Parliament, and former defense minister; and Labour Peer Lord Jenkins of Putney. Frank Blackaby, who was a former director of SIPRI, is also on the council.

Despite claiming to be defense experts, BASIC advocates total (or near total) de-nuclearization. In effect, it would like to see the dismantling of NATO, which would be replaced by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. There is good reason to suspect that BASIC prefers the CSCE, which combines eastern and western nations, because it is wedded to the age-old British geopolitical goal of containing Germany. For example, BASIC argued strongly against the creation of a Franco-German military force as the core of a European Community army.

BASIC was able from a very early point in the election to establish an "in" with the Anglophile Clinton administration. On Nov. 20, 1992, Plesch and his associate David Schorr completed a policy memorandum for the Clinton transition team on the Balkan crisis. Apart from a list of "do nothing" suggestions, its main proposal was: "The international community should be prepared to establish a U.N. protectorate in Bosnia, perhaps even limited to metropolitan Sarajevo."

In an interview with a journalist on Feb. 9, Plesch insisted that Serbian nationalists would not attack U.N. forces over-seeing a protectorate, so that a Greater Serbia could be built. Plesch suggested that a large number of Russian and eastern European troops should be part of the U.N. force. Asked if he were not aware of a growing Moscow-Belgrade Orthodox religious axis, Plesch first denied this, then said, if it were true, "it would mean World War I without the czar." In short, BASIC has been telling the Clinton administration that the Serbs are not the "enemy image" and that the United States should let the U.N. take the lead in solving the crisis of Balkan genocide.