

U.N., Owen push 'final solution' against Bosnia

by Umberto Pascali

Britain's Lord David Owen has decided that the moment to implement the "final solution" against Bosnia-Herzegovina has arrived. In a report distributed to members of the U.N. Security Council on July 12, the so-called European mediator and his colleague Thorvald Stoltenberg, the U.N. mediator, announced a brutal ultimatum to Bosnia: Either the leadership of the country signs its own ethnic partition, or it will be starved into oblivion.

The Security Council, the report reads, "should consider the deteriorating situation on the ground against the prospects for a negotiated settlement. There is a real risk that, if the present downward spiral continues, it will be impossible for the United Nations to remain in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The humanitarian organizations . . . can hardly meet the needs of this summer, much less the needs of the coming winter. Humanitarian agencies advise that many civilians, having exhausted their savings and food stocks over the last winter, are destitute." The report stresses that attacks against U.N. aid convoys have escalated, and thus it is not clear whether the U.N. can keep the relief supply pipeline going. Finally, the two "mediators" repeat their blackmail: "The war will escalate if the parties [sic] turn their backs on the search for negotiated solutions."

Surrender or starve!

The Owen report is a direct attack against the heroic resistance of the legitimate and recognized Bosnian authorities. "This blackmail did not take place in a vacuum," a high-level Bosnian source explained to *EIR*. "There has been an intensification of the blockade against Sarajevo, water and electricity have been cut, and the Chetniks [Serbian irregulars] are killing people who wait in the street to collect some water. Epidemics are beginning to explode. The Chetniks are blocking the few U.N. convoys that supply Sarajevo, while the other so-called U.N.-protected areas are literally starving. What have Owen and Stoltenberg done to honor their

guarantees to protect the civilian population? Nothing! Or worse, many Bosnians are convinced that this plan of cutting the supplies to the population has been coordinated with Owen and company as part of the pressure to make our leaders sign the partition. Do you remember the situation before Bosnia signed the Vance-Owen plan? It is very similar. Think about the assassination of Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic on Jan. 8, 1993. It was part of the pressure."

Turajlic was killed by Chetniks with the complicity of the U.N. "protection forces" (Unprofor) while under their safeguard. He was killed while riding in a U.N. armored car that could be opened only from the inside. The political murder took place while Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic was resisting the Vance-Owen plan. At the beginning of February, Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, speaking to U.S. congressmen in Washington, stated that "the Serbian ultranationalists have been unable to achieve two objectives: the overthrow of the government and the ethnic partition of the country. Tragically, this will occur if my government agrees to the Vance-Owen plan." U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali answered that the Bosnians were "sabotaging peace." His spokesman, Fred Eckhard, then stated that if Izetbegovic "does not want to sign, we will look for somebody else to do it."

Evidence of treason

Now, Owen thinks that he can break the last resistance. He is demanding that the Bosnian leadership sign the so-called Karadzic-Boban plan—named respectively for the leaders of Bosnia's Serbs and Croats—which proposes the open dissolution of Bosnia. "On the table is a clear proposal now from the Serbs and the Croats," he said on July 11, before meeting several members of the Bosnia presidency in Zagreb. "They [the Bosnian leaders] must decide whether they will go forward to talks in Geneva and lift the appalling situation for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the

ground. This is the way forward that deserves the most serious consideration.”

Owen and Stoltenberg denied the charge, seconded by the mayor of Sarajevo, that the U.N. was using the threat of starvation against Bosnia. But, unfortunately for them, a couple of classified U.S. government documents surfaced in the press. On July 10, the *New York Times* published quotes from a secret State Department cable. It proved that the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata was told by Owen and Stoltenberg that “if the Bosnian Muslims did not agree soon to negotiate on the basis of the Serb-Croat partition plan,” they would recommend that the U.N. pull out completely from Bosnia.

Finally, in an interview with British Sky News and the French weekly *Le Journal du Dimanche*, Owen publicly re-gurgitated the Serbian propaganda. “It’s not aggression, it’s a civil war,” he said. When asked whether what happened in Bosnia couldn’t be called “ethnic cleansing,” Owen stated: “Ethnic cleansing? If we talk about ethnic cleansing then we ought to talk about the ethnic cleansing the Serbs suffered in the 1940s of this century, the worst after the one suffered by the Jews.” Regardless of the fact that the statement is factually incorrect—6% of the Serb population, 6.8% of the Muslims, and 5.4% of the Croats died during World War II—or that Belgrade was proudly presented to the Nazi government of Germany by the Serbian authorities as the first “Jew-free” city in Europe, Owen is providing justification to the proponents of Greater Serbia, an asset of the British Empire, for their ongoing genocide.

When asked about the territory taken by force by the Chetniks and the Yugoslav Army, Owen reacted: “You are now discussing a map, and when you say, ‘This is a Muslim village,’ a Serb will tell you: ‘This was not a Muslim village in the ‘40s.’ ” Of course, this is another lie, as Serbia expanded through conquests and ethnic cleansing for more than a century. Between 1875 and 1878, using the resolution of the Congress of Berlin, Serbia destroyed every ethnic minority on the territory assigned to it and expanded to incorporate Kosova, Sanjak, Vojvodina, and Montenegro. Horrible genocide was committed during the Balkan Wars.

Owen go home!

Immediately following the release of Owen’s report, the elements based in Croatia of the ruling party of Bosnia, the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), demanded the immediate resignation of Owen as mediator: “The word ‘mediator’ has a very precise meaning. The duty of Lord Owen as a peace mediator is to find out the attitudes of the opposite sides and establish a solution which he believes all three sides would voluntarily accept. A mediator does not decide. Lord Owen does the opposite. He continuously pressures Bosnia, and sometimes Croatia. He even blackmails Bosnia with humanitarian aid in order to force Bosnia and Hercegovina authorities into ‘negotiations,’ and even to negotiate about a confederation without previously consulting the Bosnia delegation.

“Lord Owen acts as a judge who imposes a solution, not as a mediator. Thus, Bosnia cannot accept him as a mediator in further negotiations. He also acts as a Serbian lawyer. . . . His attack on Ejup Ganic, member of the presidency, who systematically defended the Constitution and the principles which made Bosnia a member of the international community, provides us all the necessary reasons to request that Lord Owen leave his post of peace mediator, for which he is obviously not suited.”

Documentation

The following are excerpts from a document issued by the Bosnia Press agency TWRA on July 11.

Bosnia-Hercegovina became a U.N. member state on May 22, 1992. On that day the war of aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina began. . . . In case of aggression against a U.N. member, the U.N. Charter clearly specifies the responsibility of the U.N. to ensure the right to self-defense. . . . However, the Security Council . . . adopted different measures which . . . were not directed against the arsenal of the aggressor. . . . De facto the sanctions released the aggressor from the fear of the implementation of the U.N. Charter. Therefore, they helped the war of aggression. . . .

The Security Council turned to institutions which had no legal authority. . . . Under the aegis of the U.N., it started negotiations through international conferences and deployed international mediators. . . . This approach has undermined the meaning of international law and its implementation. Through an arbitrary decision of the U.N. secretary general and the Security Council, the legal and legitimate institutions of international law were replaced by illegal ones. . . . Representatives of legal governments were put at the same level as quislings and collaborationists. International mediators adjusted their terminology. Genocide became ethnic cleansing, aggression became civil war, aggressors and their victims became “warring parties.” . . .

The basic duties of Unprofor . . . to bring the aggressors’ heavy artillery under supervision and to ensure the viability of the humanitarian aid convoys . . . have not been fulfilled. . . . The highest Unprofor officials accepted the aggressor’s blackmail and blockade. . . . The Unprofor troops are responsible for taking part in expelling non-Serbian populations by force (Bosanska, Krajina, eastern Hercegovina), their inefficiency when Hakija Turajlic was assassinated . . . in an Unprofor vehicle, the rapes committed by Unprofor soldiers in Brosanska-Gradisca who were never punished, the coverup for the crimes committed by U.N. General MacKenzie who took part in the raping and killing of Muslim girls imprisoned in Vogosca, [and] illuminating the runway of the Sarajevo Airport to allow the aggressor soldiers to kill civilians who attempted to escape. . . .