

Free Croatia from British control, says opposition

by Umberto Pascali

The continued resistance of Bosnia to Lord David Owen's partition plan has begun producing the emergence in Croatia of a determined opposition to the Anglo-French control of their country.

In a statement issued on Aug. 25, nine Croatian opposition parties denounced in the clearest terms any partition of Bosnia, exposed the activities of the extremist, chauvinist Mate Boban and his so-called Republic of Herzeg-Bosna as anti-Croatian, and denounced the Geneva "peace" conference run by Lord Owen as contrary to the most fundamental interests of Croatia. The statement reemphasizes the necessity for an alliance of the victims—Croatia and Bosnia—against the aggressors—the Greater Serbians and their international supporters, who are driven by their "geopolitical interests in the area." The statement calls for the end of the Boban adventure and the immediate withdrawal of Croatia from the Geneva talks.

Susak, Boban, and Owen's murderous game

The statement—which sources in Zagreb say has the agreement of significant layers inside the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) party—potentially breaks for the first time the control over Bosnia by the Anglo-French Entente Cordiale. "Croatia has been until now an occupied country," a Croatian political leader told *EIR*. "President Franjo Tudjman and his entourage, especially the defense minister, the sinister Goiko Susak, have not been acting in the interests of Croatia, but those of the international forces that they perceive as the power to be. Thus Croatia, shamelessly, has always said yes to any diktat of Cyrus Vance, David Owen, Boutros-Ghali, the French, the British, the Russians, and whoever gave an order with a loud enough voice. We have accepted the massacre of Vukovar, the surrender of our territory to the aggressor; we have accepted the activities and the manipulations of the British Military Intelligence 6.

"It was already known, for example, as the magazine

Danas has recently reported, that British intelligence was involved in provoking a confrontation between Bosnia and Croatia in order to support the aggression of the Greater Serbians [see *EIR*, Aug. 27, 1993, p. 32]. Many knew very well how dangerous for Croatia were the insane activities of Mate Boban in Hercegovina. Boban was trying to please Owen and the 'mediators' every step of the way. But Owen and the British will never be pleased enough, they are playing a game of destruction. So, while with the right hand they encourage the Bobanites to take over the territory 'assigned' to them by the so-called peace plan, with the left hand they are encouraging the campaign against Croatia, accusing Croatia of being like the Serbians and worse. A perfect example of the divide and conquer principle.

"But now we have reached the point where this power is demanding sanctions, and maybe a military intervention against Croatia, because of what the Croatia leaders did trying to please and propitiate it!"

Indeed, this is exactly what is happening. The British request to impose sanctions against Croatia has been blocked until now by Germany, but now the British are pushing further, threatening a renewed slander campaign equating the subdued Germany of Helmut Kohl to a resurgent "Fourth Reich."

On Aug. 24, Mate Boban went on Croatian state television and officially proclaimed the creation of "Herzeg-Bosna," with a capital in the southwest Bosnia-Hercegovina city of Mostar. The territory of the imaginary entity corresponds to the geographic lines the Owen plan adjudicates to the ethnic Croats. Boban's provocation was supposed to force through the realization of the ethnic partition nightmare demanded by the Owen plan. Yet its main target was not Bosnia but Zagreb, the Croatian capital. Here an intense faction fight has been developing at least since the archbishop of Zagreb, Cardinal Franjo Kuharic, publicly affirmed that a Christian and a Croatian could never use the methods of ethnic cleansing practiced by the enemy. Mate Boban personally responded with an insulting letter re-

'Lord Owen, save face: resign!'

Lord David Owen lost his nerve and screamed: "This is outrageous!" Then he abandoned the room of the international press conference. The scene took place on Aug. 25 in The Hague in front of reporters from all over the world after a question by a representative of the Schiller Institute. Owen and the other "mediator," Thorvald Stoltenberg, were in The Hague to try to "reassure the anxieties" of the Dutch government, which had indicated its non-support for the genocidal Owen plan.

"I have only 15 minutes," were the first words of the unpopular Dr. Death who was twitching nervously. Asked about the parallel of the Geneva conference with Munich 1938, he exploded: "I am tired of this parallel, which is not applicable. . . . I don't want to hear the word appeasement again." The Schiller Institute representative then brought up the request of U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey that Owen resign. "In the U.S. back in February, Owen, you went berserk on national TV, before millions of viewers, insulting U.S. congressmen who were proposing to save Bosnia with air strikes. Now, don't you think it is time for you to resign and save face?" Then the representative turned to the reporters: "And don't you think it is time to stop providing him with a cover? Why don't you tell the truth and force him to resign?" Many applauded while Owen hysterically babbled: "By your accent you sound American; if you don't like the policy of your government, why don't you complain to them?"

jecting the cardinal's moral authority.

Boban's methods were consistent with those of the British intelligence operative Norry Phillips who, as reported by the magazine *Danas*, tried first to goad the Croatians into war with the Bosnians in Mostar ("let us deal with the Bosnian Army in two days, and the world will accept it") and then "defected" to the other side, becoming a champion of the most ferocious methods against the Croatians. Boban — and Owen through Boban — had tried to use the method of the *fait accompli*: Grab the territory and provoke a surge of chauvinism and anti-Bosnian hatred in Zagreb, thereby hoping to again paralyze the patriotic reaction of so many political, intellectual, and military layers by the fear of "anti-Muslim" public opinion.

But Boban's strategy did not work. Instead, the opposition parties in Zagreb came out of the catacombs and after

three hours issued their statement. It "calls on all parties to join in declaring that what is happening in Bosnia is a Greater Serbian aggression against *both* Bosnians and Croatians." "We reject the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina as demanded by the Geneva peace plan. We condemn the HDZ in Bosnia-Herzegovina and reject the decision to proclaim the state of Herzeg-Bosna as illegal and against the interest of the Croatian people. We reject any responsibility if this entity will be actually created." Ten points then follow. Among them: "1) The present situation is *exclusively* the result of the Greater Serbia's aggression against both the Croatian and Muslim people. 2) We denounce the Geneva plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina as unacceptable for the Croatian people. The plan and the decision in Geneva will not be binding on the Croatian people because no legitimate representatives of the Croatian people of Bosnia are participating in the negotiations."

Kljuic, a true Croatian leader

This is a direct refutation of Mate Boban's claim to legitimacy. Boban, in fact, although he calls himself the leader of the Croatians in Bosnia, and has been illegally recognized as such by Owen and Owen's people, was never voted for and never elected. The same is true for the "leader" of the ethnic Serbians in Bosnia, the war criminal Radovan Karadzic — never voted for, never elected, just endorsed by Owen. The elected leader of the Croatians in Bosnia is a leader still much loved, Stjepan Kljuic. Kljuic was also a member of the collective presidency of Bosnia. It was the Croatian presidency, from Zagreb — still the question is, on whose behalf? — that forced Kljuic to resign "for health reasons" from both positions, opening the way for Boban power escalation and for the Croatian-Bosnian confrontation.

But recently the old leader again raised his voice publicly. In an interview on Aug. 13 with Sarajevo's *Vecernje Novine*, Kljuic stated that his ouster from the Bosnian presidency and his replacement with a non-elected individual were "illegal." And, according to the Bosnia Constitution, he is absolutely right. He also predicted that Tudjman will soon be replaced as President. If Kljuic does come back to public life — the rumor is that he has been subjected to constant threats on his life — few doubt in Bosnia that he will promptly regain the leadership of the Croatian minority, almost automatically sidelining Boban.

The ferment against Owen and the British schemes is increasing. The infamous Dr. Death is visiting a growing number of European governments — Holland and Germany to start — which are voicing their suspicions that his plan actually will prolong the war. In The Hague, Bosnia's attorneys, Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey and Prof. Francis Boyle, are arguing before the World Court that the partition negotiations conducted "with a gun pointed to Bosnia's head" should be declared "null and void." A high-level Bosnian official in Washington told *EIR*: "Sign the Owen plan? Well I tell you, God is merciful, and he can extend the deadline, the ultimata and the diktats for a long time. . . ."