

Sarajevo's archbishop rejects partition plan

The archbishop of Sarajevo, Vinko Puljic, answered questions from reporters at the Milan conference of the Community of St. Egidio on Sept. 22.

Q: How can peace be achieved?

Puljic: That is a question that should have been asked at the beginning of the war, when it was the time to react.

Q: Do you think partition now is inevitable?

Puljic: The war has to be ended as a priority. Bosnia-Herzegovina should stay as it is, undivided. It is not an artificial entity, but has always been composed of three peoples.

Q: Are you opposed to armed intervention?

Puljic: I did not say I was opposed to an intervention. The war has to be ended; then we have to educate the population to the need for peace.

Q: Is it correct to place aggressors and victims on the same plane?

Puljic: Not only is it not correct, but it is a great injustice to compare one with the other.

Q: What role do religions play in arriving at peace?

Puljic: Religion has to educate the victims to be able to withstand the war and to persevere, and the politicians are those who seek other means for peace.

Q: What do you see as the political future of ex-Yugoslavia?

Puljic: There can be a happy future for ex-Yugoslavia if the borders are respected, and also human rights.

Q: What do you expect from Italy? You had a dramatic experience in leaving Sarajevo.

Puljic: Sarajevo is a city which is suffering in this situation, but it is not the only city. I expect those holding political positions to raise their voices ever more loudly to redress this situation. We thank you for all humanitarian aid you have provided.

are already 50,000 war invalids, including 10,000 children. This is happening every day, before our eyes.

What is more, now it is to be tolerated that Bosnia be divided up according to ethnic lines. Is there such thing as an ethnically pure nation anywhere in Europe?

The tripartition will not stabilize Bosnia. The European position, the Vance, Owen, Stoltenberg program, has only helped Serbia to realize its dream of Greater Serbia. I can state with absolute certainty, that the proposed Serbian Republic to be set up inside Bosnia, with Krajina, will join Serbia. Those who killed, burned, and murdered, will be decorated. There will be a great exodus of Macedonians, Muslims, and the whole weight of Serbian nationalism will fall upon the European institutions.

EIR: Perhaps Europe has done nothing because someone wanted this war. England attacked Germany, when it wanted to recognize Bosnian independence, as the "Fourth Reich."

Selimoski: Europe agreed when Bosnia declared its independence, as Croatia and Slovenia had done. The EC thereby gave its moral support, guaranteeing international recognition. Thus, the old European strategic alignments were reborn. That is why Germany was referred to as a country which wanted to extend its influence over Croatia and Bosnia, and thus control the Adriatic. But these declarations came from circles which had strategic interests there in World War I, i.e., France and England, which did everything possi-

ble, through the Serbians, to have direct influence in the Balkans.

Unfortunately, the Bosnian people are paying the price for these intrigues. We have been lied to, and Europe stabbed us in the back.

If Bosnia is divided, there is no doubt that the war will spread to Kosova and Sandjak. In that case, there will be another Balkans war, which will destabilize all of Europe, and draw it into that war.

The main reason for World War I was Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially Sarajevo. The real cause, was that Serbia wanted to rule Bosnia and colonize it. It had formed Serbian associations which were working at destabilizing Bosnia, by fomenting political discord. The murderer of the Austro-Hungarian Emperor, Gavrilo Princip, was a member of a Serbian extremist organization called Young Bosnia.

If Europe were to tell Serbia that Europe's interests are not served by the prosecution of a Greater Serbian project, the war would stop, because only Europe, along with the United States especially, has the economic and military power to stop this.

Europe is being destabilized. The forcible changing of borders cannot be tolerated. We, the citizens of Bosnia, especially we Muslims, are the conscience of Europe. The Serbians have not won. They have been able to prosecute the war longer, because they have a large army, while the Muslims and the Croatians had no weapons. Bosnia must be saved as