

many Croats had gone over into open rebellion." On Feb. 7, an Assembly of Croats of Bosnia was formed at Sarajevo to oppose tripartition; on Feb. 9, the head of the Liberal Party of Croatia called for the dissolution of the so-called Republic of Herceg-Bosna.

Encouraging as that may be, a Croatian-Bosnian agreement will not suffice to stop the war, because both nations are pawns in the geopolitical Great Game. Precisely as LaRouche has warned countless times since the outbreak of the Balkans conflict in 1991, it is U.S. alignment on British policy which has led us down the path toward a confrontation with Russia implying the greatest perils. Now again, the British have succeeded in maneuvering the U.S. administration into a Catch-22: If Clinton, seeking to avoid in the short term a confrontation with Russia, takes no action to save Bosnia, a pan-Balkan war will erupt. If Clinton does take military action, he may find himself in a Cuban missile crisis-style situation. In the midst of that crisis, Kennedy had the wisdom to consult General MacArthur. Before things go that far wrong, one hopes someone around the U.S. administration will have the wisdom to consult Lyndon LaRouche.

## Croatia trapped by compromise

by Elke Fimmen

*The author recently toured Croatia, and addressed two public forums there on Lyndon LaRouche's policies over the weekend of Jan. 29-30.*

The pedestrian walking around in downtown Zagreb these days, as I observed on a recent visit there, will frequently pass by newsstands displaying front pages sporting a picture of the American opposition politician Lyndon LaRouche. Indeed, in no other country in Europe is there such open and intensive discussion of LaRouche's strategic analyses of the Anglo-American role in destabilizing Europe through the Balkan war, as well as of LaRouche's economic programs and philosophical ideas. During the past three weeks alone, the Croatian magazine *Hrvatski Rukopis* printed a multi-paged interview with LaRouche, followed up by two extensive reports on LaRouche's political ideas in the Sunday issues of the big daily paper *Vecernji List*, dealing among other things with the issue of whether national sovereignty should be defended.

Sovereignty has become a burning issue for people in Croatia, following their bitter experience with Serbian aggression, the West's support for Serbia, the United Nations

occupation policy, and the recent "normalization agreement" which the Croatian government made with Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic. That agreement provides not only for the establishment of mutual diplomatic contacts, but also for the reopening of the superhighway to Belgrade and Croatian shipments of oil to Serbia. Many Croats fear that they will once again entirely lose their hard-fought independence, and that if the rapprochement continues any further, the one-third of Croatian territory currently occupied by Serbs will permanently remain under Serb control. This fear has prompted the bitter comment that "maybe Milosevic will get a medal soon for having liberated Croatia."

Nobody believes that "peace" with Serbia is possible, or that Milosevic is seriously willing to make concessions to Croatia, such as pulling out of the occupied areas. On the contrary, following the relative lull which Milosevic has created in Bosnia and in the internal Serbian situation, the Serbs are expected to launch new military actions within Croatia. "There have been countless agreements, and what has come of them?" we were told. All of the refugees who cannot return to their homes in Croatia, and people living in the war zones themselves, are most realistic in their pessimism.

### Nose-to-nose with the Serbs

One can get a peek at this reality by visiting the Croatian-controlled area on the northern bank of the Sava River in Slavonia. This is an extremely fertile agricultural area with villages dotting the river's shoreline. For more than two years, people have been living there nose-to-nose against the Serbian Chetniks, who control the entire Croatian area from the Sava southward to the Bosnian border. A young priest showed us the two shut-down churches he is in charge of. In one of them—a beautiful old church—the steeple is missing, the sanctuary is burned out and blackened with soot; only the words "*gloria in excelsis Deo*" have been painstakingly restored above the choir. Elderly ladies showed us the shot-out windows and other damage to their homes, which are situated directly opposite the Serbs. Ongoing individual incidents are frequent.

In another area, a Croatian bridgehead on the Sava's southern bank, the situation is even more tense. This was the scene of recent Serbian attacks in which many people were killed. Serbian troop reinforcements have also been observed there. Here, the Serbian Chetniks are only 20 meters away on the other side of the railroad tracks. The destruction of the houses located directly on the front line is indescribable, spooky. It must look a lot like this in Vukovar.

The mood in Croatia these days is gloomy, and is marked by feelings of helplessness over the "realpolitik" driving the rapprochement with Serbia, a process which came about mostly because of pressure from the West and the intensification of the warfare in Bosnia. Nevertheless, in some parts of Bosnia—around Tuzla, for example—Croats and Muslims continue to fight side-by-side against the Serbian aggressors;

Croatian and Muslim relief organizations also continue to act jointly. I.e., among the population there is no hysteria against the Muslims. Humanitarian organizations report that the Bosnian refugees in Croatia, be they of Croat or Muslim heritage, continue to be treated well, even under the reduced economic circumstances. Representatives of the Bosnian government continue to work in the Croatian capital city Zagreb, though under increasingly difficult conditions.

So all is not yet lost. But the internal dynamic of the war in Bosnia set into motion by the Vance-Owen "peace" plan will be difficult to stop, unless the West establishes a completely different set of international ground-rules.

### **Isolated internationally**

On top of this, the country is becoming increasingly isolated internationally, which hits especially hard in the economic sector. The bitter irony of the situation is that precisely because it agreed to the Vance-Owen plan, thereby acknowledging the western and Russian position of assigning Serbia the role of "regional policeman" in the Balkans, Croatia now finds itself in a trap. For, now it is an easy matter to attack and isolate the country because of its "complicity" in the same aggression that has victimized Croatia itself.

There remains some hope that the government will be able to quickly extricate itself from this psychological spider's web spun by the geopolitical string-pullers in London, and will not grasp at pragmatic "advantages" which do not in fact exist—not for the political establishment, and certainly not for the Croatian people.

The Croatian people already possess the moral basis for a constructive policy. It is amazing to see that despite their difficult circumstances, the people we met radiated a sense of inner peace, dignity, and humor—qualities which one finds much less frequently in my home country Germany. Unlike in the largely "de-Christianized" western European countries, the Croats are inspired by deep-seated Christian faith, which is expressed in a special warmth and readiness to share what little they still have.

As a result of this visit, it became much clearer why the destruction of Croatia, along with its huge cultural, political, and economic potential, is high on the geopolitical strategists' agenda. In addition to its rich, 1,000-year-old cultural tradition, historically this country has always been a special bridgehead in defense of the Christian image of man, and continues even today to perform that service. It is no accident that the loudest public criticism of Croatia's policy toward Bosnia has come from the Catholic Church, particularly from Cardinal Kuharic in Zagreb. And just as Bosnia is to be destroyed as a paradigm of a multicultural state and a community of religions, so in Croatia the moral, cultural, and closely related economic motor for peaceful reconstruction in the Balkans will hang in the balance. It is therefore in everyone's interest that the West help Croatia to play a constructive role in putting an end to the conflict.

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## Interview: Paul Hebert

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# Haiti must determine its own destiny

*The embargo imposed by the international community on Haiti, although under cover of defending democracy, has placed an entire people at risk. Paul Hebert, delegate at large of the National Campaign for Unity, Peace, and Reconciliation, granted Nouvelle Solidarité the following interview while in Paris, where he put out an appeal to the French. The Campaign for Reconciliation was born from the idea that the interest of the Haitian people, above parties, lies in uniting and being able to deliberate in a sovereign manner the direction of their future, without international interference, with a national priority being to end the embargo.*

*In early February, a Clinton administration official said that the United States was now pushing for a tightening of sanctions. Working with Canada, France, and Venezuela, the United States will urge the U.N. to make mandatory a ban on all nonscheduled commercial flights, which would presumably hit the wealthy and military the hardest. The New York Times wrote that the decision came "after a wave of reports about a surge of malnutrition to the most destitute parts of Haiti. Nonetheless the United States continues to claim that Haiti was already poor, making it "unfair" to blame the new, horrifying reports on the sanctions.*

**Q:** The oil embargo has just been reimposed on Haiti. What are the effects?

**Hebert:** The Haitian people think it their duty to reiterate their concern over the rapid rate of degradation in the national economy and state of health in the country, as a result of the unjust and criminal sanctions imposed by the OAS, U.N., France, the United States, Canada, and Venezuela.

Therefore, Haitians see the reimposition of the oil embargo as a grand deception against Haiti. The shortages which have already been felt are leaving in their wake the complete ruin of an economy which has already been strangled, as well as social dislocations, affecting above all the most deprived strata of the population.

**Q:** How has the economy been affected?

**Hebert:** First of all, transportation of foodstuffs, irrigation networks, public transportation have been paralyzed, and numerous commercial and industrial enterprises have been closed, which is going to give rise to a return of unemployment, hunger, and poverty in the cities, especially the