

# Federation, or a new Yugoslavia?

by Paolo Raimondi

On March 31, the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping (Unprofor) forces deployed in the Serbian-occupied regions of Croatia (East Slavonia, Krajina, and Dalmatia) expires again. The next step will reveal whether western pressures for a new Balkan confederation are genuinely motivated, or are just a revived version of Yugoslavia in a context of a "little Yalta" with Russia. At the end of September 1993, when the Unprofor mandate expired, the U.N. refused to change its role of tolerating the Serbian occupation, and ignored completely the Croatians' concerns.

Either the United Nations will change its mandate and decide to deploy the Unprofor troops at the historic borders between Croatia and Serbia before the Serbian aggression, or it will maintain the status quo of tolerating, i.e., protecting, the Serbian occupation. Deployed at the border, the Unprofor troops would finally fulfill their original mandate: to create the preconditions for restoring the occupied area to Croatian jurisdiction and returning refugees to their homes. They could also prevent Serbian military infiltration and transport of weapons and heavy artillery, used to consolidate the occupation and to launch attacks against Croatian positions. If this shift is not made, all the ongoing negotiations will become irrelevant.

## Hitler at the negotiating table?

Let us take a sober look at the present federation-confederation talks between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. A political and military agreement between the so-called Bosnian Muslims and the so-called Bosnian Croats is long overdue. The internationally recognized independent and sovereign nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in spring 1992 was militarily attacked by the Greater Serbian communist Chetniks of Milosevic and Karadzic, and was victimized in a brutal Nazi-communist manner. Then it was Lord David Owen's partition plan, combined with effective British intelligence psychological warfare, which ignited a conflict between those Bosnians of Herzegovina whom the chauvinist Mate Boban induced to split away and join Croatia, and the other Bosnians in the territories not occupied by the Serbs (Muslims in majority) who insisted on their national integrity.

To get out of this British trap, these two parties should agree to a cease-fire (which has been done) and set up an effective military alliance (which is in the works) with the intent of immediately relieving the long victimized, neglected, and starved population in the war zones, and freeing the

Serbian-occupied territories. Politically, the two sides would agree to a federal solution, based on national unity, while guaranteeing regional administrative autonomy. What the international community, including the United Nations, should do, is support this process with a clearly stated recognition and support for Croatia's and Bosnia-Herzegovina's territorial integrity and the lifting of the military and general embargo against Bosnia and Croatia.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is toying verbally with taking part in this federation. But meanwhile, the Greater Serbians are escalating their attacks everywhere in north and central Bosnia, in Bihac, Maglaj, Tuzla, and Ussora. Even after the U.S. downed four Serbian military jets, Karadzic is testing the will of the West by defying the no-fly zone and using his air force. Any talk of letting the aggressors join the federation negotiations would discredit the entire process and expose it as a plan to create a new Yugoslavia. It is clear that the Serbian population must be involved in the peace process and have a place in the future Bosnia. But it is just as morally and politically impossible to invite the criminal leadership to the negotiating table, as it would have been in 1944 to invite Hitler to sit down with the League of Nations to discuss a confederation with Poland and Czechoslovakia as a "peaceful solution." To pretend to discuss any arrangements in Bosnia with Milosevic and Karadzic is a covert way to propose reviving Yugoslavia under the dominant military aggressive influence of the Greater Serbians, giving them politically what they were not able to achieve militarily with three years of slaughter.

## Confederation talk is premature

The question of the confederation, as discussed these days between Croatia and the Bosnian federation in formation, may sound good and may reflect good will by some people, but it leaps over a necessary process and concrete military and political steps which must happen first. Croatia and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation, without Karadzic, should form a political and military alliance to reconstitute the full territorial integrity of both states, as independent and sovereign republics. They should work together to rebuild their economies and establish peace in the entire region. Before any treaty of confederation is signed, the respective Croatian and Bosnian people, who have to accept such an important change in their constitutions, must be consulted. Any mention of Milosevic's Serbia in such a context not only offends reason and the memories of the hundreds of thousands of dead and suffering people, but it betrays the British-sponsored plan to revive Yugoslavia.

As Lyndon LaRouche underlined in his March 6 interview with the Croatian daily *Slobodna Dalmacija*, to stop the war in the Balkans as well as other regional wars in the making, one has to identify and eradicate the causes of this aggression, the masters of both Milosevic and Karadzic: the British plan of geopolitics of destabilization.