

Bosnians gather forces for an offensive to liberate the nation

by Katharine Kanter

Lyndon LaRouche, on his return from a two-week trip to Russia and Poland, discussed what the United States is to do in Bosnia during a June 14 radio interview: "The United States must use its aerospace capabilities, to do, within a period of less than 24 hours, or 48 at most, but during the next 30 days or less, what was done to the Iraqi military in the combat phase of the Gulf war.

"We have the capabilities. The problem is, when Truman, under British influence, fired Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the result was a fundamental change in military philosophy," he said. The change "became more obvious in the Vietnam War, in which the United States no longer fought wars as MacArthur or any other competent commander fought wars to win them most quickly, with the least expenditure of effort, and then to make peace. Rather, we got into the policy of starting wars . . . in order to use war as a bargaining chip at the table of diplomacy.

"Now if the military could get the diplomatic utopian hats off, and just sit down at the table and recognize that the President is the Commander-in-Chief of the military, not the State Department, then the military would go to the President and say, 'Mr. President, you asked for our opinion, here's our opinion,' and would give a war plan."

LaRouche added: "I have my own sources, including military-intelligence sources and others in Europe, including in the Balkans, on the nature of the problem there, from a military standpoint.

"The Serbian forces, contrary to what's being said and circulated through *some* military circles here, are not a good military force. These fellows, are a very poor quality of troops, relatively speaking, would not be able to have prevailed, as they did, unless the United Nations had assisted them in conducting their atrocities with impunity; unless the Bosnians had been stripped of military capability; and unless, in particular, these Bosnian Serbs had heavy weapons capabilities which they were able to use to neutralize the superior fighting capabilities which are developed around the Bosnian infantry units.

"Were the heavy weapons capability to be stripped away from the Bosnian Serbs, or to be exterminated, then the combination of the Croat military forces, and the Bosnian Army, if they were allowed to be armed, would clean up the

mess in that part of former Yugoslavia, and bring it to a peaceful conclusion, rather rapidly," LaRouche predicted. "Those who are talking about six months to a year to two years in this situation, are talking double-talk, particularly if the double-talk is coming from Pentagon circles who are being too much influenced by the diplomats."

According to the former Democratic presidential candidate, the primary mission of the U.S. military, "is to be prepared to eliminate, within a timespan of not more than 48 hours, the essential heavy-weapons capabilities of the Bosnian Serbs, and to do the same thing, if necessary, in the parts of Croatia which are occupied by the related forces, and to, at the same time, as the Congress has moved, to lift the embargo on Croatia and Bosnia.

"Under those conditions, a dramatic, simple aerospace action, primarily aerospace, would tilt the balance," said Mr. LaRouche. "The danger is, if you allow this thing to bleed on, it can have global, what Henry Kissinger would call 'geopolitical impact.' "

Campaign to free Bosnia

This is the background to the electrifying news of the middle of June, which we pray, will be the opening of the final phase of the campaign to free Bosnia. On the day of LaRouche's interview, June 14, Bosnia Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told reporters in Washington, after meeting with House and Senate leaders, that Bosnia troops were massing to defend Sarajevo.

Military intelligence of several nations says that a Bosnian force made up of possibly as much as 20,000 men from the 3rd and 7th Corps of the Armija (Bosnia Army), has been gathering about 12 kilometers northwest of the capital, in the area between Breza and Visoko. As of this writing on June 15, there are reports that thousands of regular Croatian soldiers and Bosnian Croat militiamen are now massing near the town of Livno, 50 miles southwest of Sarajevo, to join forces with the Bosnian Armija. The highest Bosnian officials, including Foreign Minister Muhamad Sacirbey, have refused to confirm or deny that an offensive to break the siege of the capital is imminent, but Canadians running observation posts over the front lines toward Sarajevo have been told to leave immediately "for their own security"; hospitals in

Visoko and Zenica are said to have had wards cleared in preparation for expected military casualties, and civilians have been evacuated from the frontline areas.

Bosnian radio has been calling upon the population of the capital to start saving water and food from their pitiful kitchen gardens; sandbag walls are being built near windows and doors in anticipation of the offensive. The mayor of Sarajevo, Tarik Kupusovic, said that the Armija will try to lift the siege "maybe within days. The final deadline is early August." As of June 15, the city had had no water, electricity, or gas for almost six weeks; the airport had been closed for ten weeks, and the population was running out of food.

Rapid Deployment Force 'sent to stop us'

Can the siege of the capital be broken? In spite of the extreme disparity in matériel, yes. Bosnian Army 12th Division officials, responsible for the defense of Sarajevo, say that the Serbians have 600 cannon, mortars, 30 tanks, and 12,000 soldiers in trenches and fortified bunkers around the city. Furthermore, thanks to the United Nations, the Serbians have "stolen" a quarter of the 300 heavy weapons from U.N. storage points, while the rest are already up and firing: The collection sites are actually Serbian gun positions, which the U.N. was thoughtful enough not to dismantle.

Hasan Muratovic, Bosnian minister for U.N. relations, said in Sarajevo on June 11, that Unprofor delivers "tanks, ammunition, food, and petrol" to the Bosnian Serbs, under the guise of "theft." He referred to the systematic Serbian "thieving" of matériel from U.N. storage depots. U.N. spokesmen have themselves admitted that "millions of pounds" worth of vehicles, including armored vehicles, have been stolen—from heavily-armed Unprofor soldiers who could defend themselves by raising their little finger. "These may just be robberies, but *we cannot be sure that it is not all part of the deal,*" said Dr. Muratovic.

Most importantly, according to eyewitness reports in Bosnia, the British elite troops flown in since June 8 are already busy obstructing the preparations for the offensive and are interfering with communications lines. Bosnian Army 2nd Corps Commander Andjelko Makar told the Croatian review *Panorama*: "Our goal is to free the whole of Bosnia, from the river Drina, the river Una, to the sea. At some point the world will say: Stop, you cannot go further! Their estimate is that we are very close to that moment, so they are bringing in heavy forces in order to stop us and force us to negotiate."

Bad for the British, good for the world

Aware that the mere rumor of a Bosnian offensive has already electrified the world—a "nonlinear" political effect if there ever was one—some British military correspondents are "sounding the alarm" as the *Times* puts it, now claiming that Bosnia cannot win the war, but will lose "thousands" if there is an attempt to raise the siege. Some are claiming that

the Armija mobilization can have but a "very little" objective, such as clearing the crossroads toward the enclave of Tuzla. Others, more realistic, such as Miss O'Kane of the *Guardian*, are telling their countrymen to make the best of a bad job: "The Bosnian Serbs are losing the war," she writes from Banja Luka, a Serbian-occupied province from which photo-journalists are now banned. The Banja Luka daily *The Voice* no longer carries its Page 4 special, "News from the Front": There is nothing upbeat to report.

Making sure that the Bosnians "lose thousands"—i.e., the British intend to "wreck the joint" as they pull out under American pressure—is the policy now put into effect. U.N. Special Envoy Yasushi Akashi has laid down new policy guidelines for Unprofor: In spite of the fact that the U.N. is to get a reinforcement of 10,000 heavily armed men, food convoys into Bosnia are no longer to be escorted by U.N. troops, because it is "too risky"! After all the rubbish about a "vigorous new policy" following the taking of the hostages at the beginning of June, what has emerged is, indeed, a vigorous policy of making sure that no food whatsoever gets into Bosnia, neither to the capital, nor to the enclaves. The U.N. in Bosnia has been instructed to hand the convoys over to the Serbian police, which has "promised" to deliver the food!

In pursuance of Akashi's vigorous new policy, on Sunday, June 11, a convoy of 60 tons of food aid for the besieged enclave of Zepa, was stolen by the Serbians. The U.N. put out a communiqué saying it had been "rerouted" to the Serbian stronghold of Sokolac. On Wednesday, June 14, outside Sarajevo, a U.N. food convoy was dutifully delivered by the U.N. to the Serbian "police," who of course then refused to deliver it. Where is it now? Anyway, the plan for Unprofor to provide cover for the food convoys snaking over Mt. Igman—the road is so dangerous it can only be traversed at night—has also been dropped. Unarmored Bosnian vehicles are now attempting to bring food in to the capital and to the U.N. Mission, members of which are, by the by, also starving!

Unprofor has also decided that the last 20 miles outside Sarajevo are too dangerous, and these convoys too will have to be escorted by the Armija. Alex Ivanko, U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, told journalists on June 12: "The Bosnian Serbs are calling most of the shots. I'm sure there are some shots they are not calling, I just can't think of them at the moment." This as reported in the *Guardian* on June 13.

Elsewhere on the battlefield, Serbian forces have suffered reverses of note, in the area around Mt. Treskavica. Between May 30 and June 5, the Bosnian Army recovered 70 square kilometers of territory; Bosnian dispatches say that the Armija now controls the chokepoints toward eastern Bosnia and most of Hercegovina. On Mt. Ozren, the 2nd and 3rd Corps of the Armija are said to be only 6 kilometers apart; to the north, this peak overlooks the province of Tuzla, to the east, the enclaves, and to the south, Sarajevo.