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British general sabotaged NATO bombing of Serbs

by Umberto Pascali

A dramatic confirmation of *EIR*'s exposé of the treacherous British role in Bosnia came on Jan. 29, from a British newspaper, the *Guardian.* Quoting U.S. intelligence sources and other U.S. officials, the London daily proves that the man who secretly sabotaged NATO air strikes aimed at stopping the Serbian slaughter of Bosnians in the "U.N.-protected area" of Bihac, was indeed the man in charge of the U.N. protection, Sir Michael Rose! In November 1994, General Rose, then military chief of the U.N. Protection Forces (Unprofor) in Bosnia, ordered the special contingent of British elite forces, the Special Air Forces (SAS), which was charged with supplying the coordinates to the NATO planes deployed to stop the assault on Bihac, to refuse to do so.

Rose is a former commander of the SAS, which is deployed for special tasks and secret intelligence operations. Some of the SAS men deployed in Bosnia came from another assignment in Northern Ireland, where they were accused of having fueled the violence, using methods such as provocation, infiltration, torture—the whole arsenal of British intelligence's "gang-countergang" operations.

The secret war

The NATO planes flying over the Bihac region had to return to their bases without hitting any target at all, while the genocidalists exulted. Actually, the hordes of Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic felt so encouraged by the constant support of the British big brother, both open and secret, that later they overran and butchered the "U.N.-protected" towns of Srebrenica and Zepa, committing the most atrocious mass killings since World War II.

However, the communications between General Rose in Sarajevo and the SAS team in the field were—according to the *Guardian*—eavesdropped upon by U.S. intelligence. It was from this surveillance that the most incriminating evidence came against the British.

At the beginning of the attack on Bihac, General Rose was pressured, especially by the United States, to make an official request for air strikes against the aggressor. Without that request, according to the byzantine, deliberately chaotic rules of engagement then in effect, NATO could not intervene. Rose refused to make the official request. On the contrary, the Unprofor commander "put the air strike request on hold and set about *negotiating a cease-fire* instead." This paralysis of any U.N. action in defense of Bihac and its starving refugees obviously helped the aggressor enormously. It was a well-coordinated game indeed. Karadzic's paramilitary gangs escalated their offensive and General Rose made sure that nobody would stop them.

As in the case of a mafia assassination, the first thing is to "loosen" the protection around the victim. By November 1994, wrote the *Guardian,* "Bihac had been under siege for 30 months. A French Unprofor battalion had pulled out and been replaced by one from Bangladesh, by then marooned and virtually unarmed. Humanitarian aid convoys had been throttled since May. Halfway through November, the Serbian assault came. A relentless bombardment included the *first reported use of napalm* in the war. Serbian planes mocked the 'no-fly zone' by cluster-bombing the safe area. Bihac was about to shrivel, or else collapse completely."

General Rose's "philosophical" position was expressed openly, especially against those U.S. officials and military officials, such as NATO Commander for Southern Europe Adm. Leighton Smith, who insisted on an effective reaction against the aggressors so that, after NATO air strikes, "we will not have to go back."

Sir Michael countered that the U.N. "cannot be used to

alter the military balance in a civil war [!] . . . a peacekeeping force cannot allow itself to be hijacked by political pressures and become involved in the conflict. . . . There exist obvious limitations on the use of air power in any confused war situation. It is simply not possible to secure safe areas . . . by the use of airpower alone."

On Nov. 25, General Rose met the U.S. ambassador in Sarajevo, Victor Jakovec, and communicated to him that there was "little" the U.N. could do. The U.S. administration's reaction, according to this reconstruction, was a clear and strong message delivered by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright to the U.N. civilian head of the Bosnia mission, Kofi Annan: immediate air strikes! That message was delivered to Rose.

"This is what happened," according to the *Guardian* account. "Gen. Rose heeded Kofi Annan's request for close air support from NATO—an intervention within the strict rules stipulating that the pilot had to find a smoking gun [a precise military target—ed.] before he could strike. *The men responsible for locating the smoking gun* were the SAS teams in radio contact with Gen. Rose's headquarters. That night NATO planes took off from the U.S. air force base at Aviano, Italy. . . . For Gen. Rose's command, there was *only one way* to stop the bombing: They would have to tell the SAS scouts not to identify the target for NATO to bomb. The rules of engagement were clear: no target, no bombs.

"The American intelligence sources now allege that this is what Unprofor command did. It was a careful decision. . . . By the end of the weekend, Serb tanks were blasting their way through the suburb of Bihac." According to these sources, General Rose's order to the SAS was: Hold off, do not identify the targets. "The NATO pilots were shown nothing; their planes came and went, impotent. It was a measured instruction highly secret, defiant of NATO."

The threat against Washington

According to the *Guardian* account, the treasonous actions of the British put the U.S. administration in a situation of isolation, from which it was difficult to find a way out.

It was indeed a blatant provocation. As *EIR* has stressed, the attitude of the British apparatus in Bosnia, and toward those forces that wanted to stop the genocide, was based on pure psychological warfare: "We are running an experiment; we have established a *controlled environment,* and we will keep that experiment going, no matter what. We dare anybody to interfere!"

According to the *Guardian,* "The Bihac debacle had confronted the Clinton administration with a gesture of defiance, forcing the President to choose between maintaining the Atlantic alliance and continuing his support for the Bosnian government." Apparently, the decision reached at that point was not to challenge the British "defiance" in political terms, but rather to strengthen the military ability of the victims of the Serb aggression.

"In public Mr. Clinton chose the NATO alliance. Within two days, the administration had offered concessions to the Serbs and 10 days later it agreed to recognize the 'Republika Srpska.' " But at the same time, U.S. intelligence was developing new strategies. The CIA/Defense Intelligence Agency operation was, according to these accounts, based in Zagreb, Croatia.

British 'Islamic fundamentalism'

It is important that part of the truth on the British not-so-secret war against Bosnia is coming out from such an unusual source, within Britain itself. It is equally important that a clear, open differentiation between British and U.S. policy be established. One should never forget that what is at stake with Bosnia, is the potential trigger for World War III. The *Guardian* admits that "U.S. intelligence became enmeshed in the war as the Americans became increasingly exasperated by what they saw as the thwarting of a robust stand against the Serbs. . . . The outcome was a fierce backstage struggle."

At this very moment, the assets of the old British Empire are engaged in a new escalation, aimed to provoke a new confrontation between Muslims and Croatian Catholics in Central Bosnia, especially in the capital city of Hercegovina, Mostar. Here, extremist groups identifying with the so-called Herzeg-Bosna are fighting militarily and otherwise against any idea of coexistence with the Bosnian Muslims. At the same time, a modern version of the infamous British imperial "Arab Bureau" is being deployed, to try desperately to create Muslim "fundamentalists," of any shape or coloration.

Regular readers will remember *EIR*'s exposé, in August 1993, of the role of Britain's Military Intelligence 6 (MI-6), which overlaps with the SAS. Already in 1992, Croatian counterintelligence had discovered groups of British "volunteers" who had arrived in central Bosnia, at the moment when the Karadzic aggression against Croatia and Bosnia was escalating. The British, who all came from the Royal Navy, suddenly converted to Islam. They created "Croatian" and "Muslim" formations. They armed and trained them, despite the embargo. They instilled reciprocal hatred among the various ethnic groups. They staged provocations. Acts of horrifying terrorism against Catholic or Muslim targets suddenly multiplied. Finally gangs trained both by the same "Navy boys" triggered the bloody *war of the victims,* Muslims against Catholics, in central Bosnia.

According to sources, the same "dark forces" are up to a similar scheme now. The new variation is an attempt to divide the Muslim community in Bosnia, starting with a confrontation to be triggered among the Bosnian elites. This is the scenario being arranged right now, in view of the upcoming September elections. This is the moment when it is possible and necessary to isolate the British "puppet masters." It is time for an international strategic counterattack, politically and economically.