

British Empire maneuvers to grab control in Bosnia

by Umberto Pascali

The dramatic events currently taking place in Bosnia's Republika Srpska are finally breaking the dictatorial, terroristic power of Radovan Karadzic and his Greater Serbians. Despite the genocide these war criminals have committed, despite the Dayton peace accords, despite the threats, the promises, and the rhetoric, the war criminal Karadzic and his gangsters have kept their power in Republika Srpska until now. But now, the situation seems to be changing; the mafia-police apparatus is shaking violently, and apparently the circle is closing around Karadzic himself. The media are full of details of this test of strength between Karadzic and the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR), i.e., apparently, between the Serbian "Il Duce" and the rest of the world.

The elimination of that nazi apparatus will be indeed a great, though belated, victory for humanity; but the NATO-Karadzic confrontation is only the superficial level of the underground war that has been raging in the Balkans since the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The main reason for the Balkan earthquake has been the fear on the part of the British "Invisible Empire," that it will lose its influence in the area. It was London that gave the green light to the bloody Greater Serbia adventure. It was London, Paris, and their U.S. vassals—like Henry Kissinger and George Bush—that refused to allow any real intervention against Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic, Karadzic, and Bosnian Serb commander Gen. Ratko Mladic.

After the failure of a few European forces to prevent Britain and François Mitterrand's France from sponsoring the Greater Serbia project, the responsibility to do something to stop the genocide fell on the post-Bush United States. And the United States of Clinton, after a period of confusion and inactivity, tried to intervene. This magazine has covered the secret war that the British waged against the United States in Bosnia, a war that culminated in the order given by Britain's

Gen. Sir Michael Rose to his Special Air Services, not to supply the U.S. Air Force with the coordinates necessary to bomb the Serbian paramilitary forces assaulting Muslim civilian refugees trapped in the so-called UN Protected Areas.

This constant sabotage of any efforts aimed at stopping the Greater Serbians was successful for a long time. Inside the United States, the will verbally expressed by the White House to stop the genocide found the opposition of a Congress dominated by the Conservative Revolutionaries of Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, who made an adequate U.S. intervention more and more difficult, while demagogically screaming about American impotence. The British also boasted regularly, through their media outlets, about their influence over the U.S. Pentagon.

The offensive of '95

In the summer of 1995, the Clinton administration felt confident it could force through a military intervention against the aggressors. It was the only moment in which the "West" deployed its military (Air Force) capabilities, for a short time. The "invincible" Karadzic's gangsters were, de facto, smashed. If those U.S.-NATO attacks—which hit only the Serbian Command, communications and logistic structures—had continued for 24 hours more, the problem of Karadzic's nazi apparatus would have been eliminated. But there were protests, above all from the British, and the offensive was called off.

After that, Serbian strong-man Milosevic accepted a U.S. role of mediation that led to the Dayton Peace Accords, putting an end to the hot phase of the genocide. Milosevic became the guarantor for Republika Srpska's respect of the accords. That meant, first of all, that Karadzic—who, at least officially, was to be delivered to the International Crimes Tribunal at The Hague—was supposed to disappear from public view.

That did not happen. At the same time, a bureaucratic apparatus of peacekeeper “professionals” took over Bosnia, under the leadership of the so-called International Representative, Sweden’s Carl Bildt.

In Republika Srpska, Karadzic continued to consolidate his power, unchallenged; in the other Bosnian entity, the Muslim-Croatian Federation, Bildt was acting as the local satrap for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, often starting provocations against the Muslims and President Alija Izetbegovic. Nobody touched the war criminals who had been indicted by The Hague Tribunal. The UN Protection Forces (Unprofor) became the NATO Stabilization Forces (SFOR), but there was no return of refugees; the infrastructure destroyed by the war was not repaired or rebuilt. The main concern of the International Representative was that the debts of former Yugoslavia, which Bosnia had been forced by the World Bank to recognize, be paid.

In the meantime, the U.S. Congress, as a factional move to embarrass President Clinton, requested that the limit for the presence of U.S. troops in Bosnia was to be fixed, publicly and irrevocably, at June 1998. All the elements for a new war were there.

‘We should try to save Dayton’

On July 10, a team from the British Special Air Services (SAS), supported logistically by the United States, was deployed in a NATO SFOR mission to capture two war criminals in the Srpska town of Prijedor. Milan Kovacevic, the former major of the town, was arrested and immediately extradited to The Hague. Simo Drljiaca, the former police chief, was killed, reportedly after having used his gun against the SAS team. It was the first time there was any attempt by NATO forces to “proactively” try to arrest any war criminal.

There was much speculation concerning that SAS operation. After all, the SAS had been caught red-handed in 1993, in central Bosnia, actively provoking a war between Muslims and Croatian gangs that they themselves had set up and trained. Drljiaca, who was the boss of the local mafia, had received funds from Britain up to the last moment (“for reconstruction”) through one of the pillars of the “Empire” abroad, Britain’s Department for International Development, successor of the Overseas Development Administration. In other words, he was financed by the British. Sources in Bosnia told *EIR* that “besides any other consideration, most probably someone tried to get rid of the evidence.” Those sources connected that event with the sudden death, during the same period, of Mate Boban, the founder of the fascist, nominally Croatian, Herzeg-Bosna.

However, despite the fact that that operation was run by the British military (the area of Banja Luka is under British NATO jurisdiction), the initiative to intervene came from the U.S. administration. When asked by the media about that intervention in Prijedor, President Clinton, who was flying from Hungary to Copenhagen, explained: “It would be fair

for you to conclude that we have decided to save Dayton. And to save Dayton, all the elements must be implemented. . . . I think it would be a fair conclusion for you to draw that we made that commitment . . . that every element should be given greater attention . . . including . . . helping rebuild the infrastructure, and economic development.”

Cook’s ‘transparency’

All the media reported about the close cooperation between British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Clinton over Bosnia. The reality is quite different. When, at the end of July, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook visited Bosnia, he presented himself as a sort of envoy of Clinton, in the context of a common Anglo-American strategy. He expressed his opinion on everything, but he had a focus: a direct personal attack against President Izetbegovic and the Bosnian Muslims. However, he was more sophisticated than Gen. Sir Michael Rose. He accused Izetbegovic and his government of . . . corruption! And he threatened that the donor countries, thus speaking for the United States as well, would withdraw their financial aid, if there were not total “transparency.” Cook was using the new weapon of choice of the Empire: “anti-corruption.” In particular Cook targetted the Bosnian intelligence service, the BAID, screaming that any and all sources of funding for the agency must be made public. BAID is far from perfect as an institution—it included officials from the old regime, and it was created by nonprofessionals, in the midst of the Serbian aggression. But apparently, the British did not succeed in controlling or neutralizing it, and given the conditions in which it was created, it contains also nationalist elements who apparently understand the British problem.

Izetbegovic’s answer was immediate (some say there were trans-Atlantic consultations), pointing his finger at the British directly: “Foreign enemies are waging some kind of special personal war against the Bosnian leadership, in order to prove that there was no aggression, that it was a civil war, and that all sides are the same.” Izetbegovic called for the creation of a committee to investigate the allegations. “If accusations of corruption prove to be based on facts, the responsible persons will be arrested and brought to court without delay. But if the allegations proved false, we will ask that the foreigners spreading those lies leave the country immediately.” The Bosnian daily *Dnevni Azaz* revealed (in an article entitled “A Diplomat Cook or a ‘Captain Cook?’”) that the source for Cook’s allegations was British Ambassador Charles Crawford, whose name probably was in the list of the people who will have to leave Bosnia.

Interestingly enough, on Aug. 4, the U.S. State Department deputy spokesman issued a statement concerning the British “Charges of Corruption.” It said that “the U.S. welcomes President Izetbegovic’s call to set up a commission to investigate corruption. . . . The U.S. assistance to Bosnia is carefully monitored and we are confident that no U.S. assistance has been misappropriated.”