

found, indicating that there had been a mass killing of Taliban by northern alliance troops.

### The role of Pakistani intelligence

The Taliban, a zealous and indoctrinated Pushtoon lot, were trained and armed by orthodox mullahs in Pakistan with help from its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). ISI has long been heavily infiltrated by foreign intelligence agencies, particularly the British MI6, and is beyond the control of Islamabad. The ISI also possesses a huge amount of sophisticated weapons which were originally supplied in the 1980s by Western nations to fight the Soviet invaders in Afghanistan.

Last year, when the Taliban were under pressure from the northern alliance army in Kabul, the London *Sunday Telegraph* reported that ISI chief Brigadier Afridi personally directed operations to help the Taliban build up their defenses. It said that Afridi had ordered the delivery of huge stockpiles of arms and ammunition from military dumps along Pakistan's western borders to the Taliban. There were also reports of Pakistani Army men disguised as tribal Pushtoon militiamen helping the Taliban.

The Taliban have been particularly harsh on women and all non-orthodox Islamic groups. They have also executed many Afghan leaders and citizens in public for violating the Taliban-imposed religious codes. In addition, the orthodox Sunni Taliban have persecuted the Afghan Shias and have identified Tehran as their enemy. Iran has called the Taliban "a war-mongering, extremist, and radical" group.

In addition, Taliban Information Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi acknowledged last year that Osama bin Laden, the millionaire Saudi terrorist involved in violence against the United States, was "my guest." Another terrorist, Aimal Kasi, who killed two CIA officers in Langley, Virginia, has also reportedly been given shelter by the Taliban.

Behind the religious facade, the Taliban have built up opium cultivation in Afghanistan, despite denials by their leaders. Guns and poppies have provided the muscle to the Taliban. They have been accused of not only supplying *ihadis* to the Chechen rebels against Moscow, but Afghanistan has also been recognized as a key center for training "Islamic militants" sent to the Indian part of Kashmir, the western Chinese province of Xinjiang, and southern Tajikistan.

What has intrigued many is the synchronization of car-bomb explosions at the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam and the victory of the Taliban in northern Afghanistan. Since the Pakistani ISI is what it is, there is a strong likelihood that the fire of "extremism" will be spread further into the Central Asian nations, challenging all those forces—such as Commonwealth of Independent States member-nations and China—which are involved in "trust-building measures" in the military field and shrinking troop deployments along shared borders. Lurking in the background, most likely, is an Israeli gameplan to break the Middle East peace accords.

## Milosevic creates catastrophe in Kosova

by Umberto Pascali

The onslaught of Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic's military machine against Kosova that began on July 18, is leading toward a humanitarian catastrophe. Starting with the assault on the town of Rahovec, the combined forces of the Yugoslav Army, the special police, and the paramilitary gangs are taking, one by one, the villages and towns inhabited by the Kosovars, the ethnic Albanians that make up more than 90% of the Kosova population.

The latest reports are of heavy attacks against villages close to the Albanian border, in the Reka and Keqe regions. Tanks and heavy artillery, with a total of 250 vehicles, have been sowing terror and destruction. Serb helicopter gunships have been seen over the town of Gjakova, going in direction of the assaulted villages. In the municipality of Gjakova alone, 30 villages are now deserted, reduced to scorched earth.

The same is true throughout large areas of Kosova. In front of Milosevic's tanks and sadistic gangs, civilians are escaping en masse. According to the official calculations of humanitarian agencies, the number of refugees is now more than 300,000, out of a total ethnic Albanian population of 1.8 million. In reality, the number of the refugees is higher, and growing by the minute.

As in Bosnia, Milosevic's Nazi-like strategists have terrorized old people, mothers with children, and other civilians into fleeing their homes, despite the unknown fate that awaits them. But what has been prepared for the Kosovars is, if possible, even worse. According to reports available to *EIR*, Milosevic is applying a conscious policy of destroying harvests, livestock—anything that could be used as food. So, today's genocide is the pale reflection of the famine of tomorrow.

"It is a vicious tactic. First the Serbs are shelling civilian villages and towns to make the people run, then they burn or blow up the buildings to ensure civilians cannot return," an observer reported. Many towns taken over by Milosevic's gangs have been burned to the ground after the population has been pushed out. There is no house, village, shelter to come back to. Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel warned: "Above all, I fear a humanitarian catastrophe this winter, because the Serbian Army is burning fields . . . and killing cattle. Soon there won't be anything for these people to eat."

## More waves of refugees

Frantic meetings are taking place in the neighboring countries and in those where the wave of refugees is expected to go. At a meeting of several interior ministers, which took place in Vienna, many of them stated that they do not have the capability to host the number of refugees that is expected. And, the populations of these countries could be manipulated easily against the refugees.

For example, southern Italy, where unemployment is the highest since the postwar years, is very volatile. In 1992, riots threatened to explode because 10,000 Albanians reached the Adriatic coast of Puglia, a region a few hours by sea away from Albania. "You have to use the Army—it is a new Normandy landing!" the spokesman of the super-chauvinistic and separatist Northern League told the Italian government in late July. And the government announced that it will be "tough." On Aug. 3, the Italian Coast Guard turned away from the Puglia coast 600 desperate Kosovars who tried to reach Italy illegally. The ugly scenario that could unfold, when the fruit of Milosevic's genocide ripens, is not difficult to imagine.

One Balkan observer recently stressed that Milosevic is mirroring in the Balkans the strategy of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Middle East. Both are aimed at destroying any viable opposition, and undermining any enemy leader that could guarantee a negotiated peace.

The most dangerous point for Milosevic came when the leader of the Kosovars, Ibrahim Rugova, was elected President with a large majority. With an official mandate from the Kosovars, Rugova had become an institutional power, and gained international recognition from many countries, including the United States. Any direct attack Milosevic made against him and the institution he represented, would have triggered an international reaction. There was no way he could attack Rugova as a "terrorist."

At that point, Milosevic unleashed his assault against the Kosova population, using the pretext of fighting what he labelled as the "terrorists" of the Kosova Liberation Army (UCK). While embarked on a genocide that is depopulating Kosova, Milosevic and his thugs still say that they are fighting terrorism. In fact, as U.S. Balkan envoy Robert Gelbard has noted, Milosevic has been the best recruiter for the UCK, insofar as his criminal offensive against the civilian population, while the rest of the world does nothing effective, induced many Kosovars to take up arms and fight.

At that point, Milosevic's aim was to discredit Rugova as much as possible, while getting the green light from the rest of the world to attack the "terrorists."

## How Milosevic deals with diplomats

What did the international community do? A series of diplomatic missions were launched. The United States, indeed, was on the front line, with Ambassador-designate at the UN Richard Holbrooke and U.S. Ambassador in Macedonia

Christopher Hill. The problem is, that Milosevic has no problem in dealing with diplomats. He is well known for the many promises he has not kept. Only one thing could have stopped him: NATO air strikes.

Milosevic consented to Holbrooke's request that he "negotiate" with Rugova, and he met with Rugova in Belgrade, for a cold, spiteful formality. In the meantime, he ordered more assaults against Kosova. The whole thing had been staged to inflict the maximum political damage on Rugova. Milosevic is counting on the inability of the West to act. Apparently, he is still winning.

The main aim is to make sure that no country, especially the United States, can intervene militarily without the consent of the UN Security Council. Indeed, such consent will never be given, because Russia has stated its opposition. The United States has stated its position that, "in principle," it does not need the consent of the Security Council. Unfortunately, this position has remained a theoretical one.

On July 23, for example, U.S. Defense Undersecretary Walter Slocombe testified before the House International Relations Committee. When asked by Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.) whether the United States would intervene militarily alone if necessary, Slocombe said: "There's no question that we maintain that we have the right to act unilaterally." However, he added: "We haven't ruled it out. But . . . there's a distinction between whether the U.S. believes it has the legal authority to act alone, and whether it would *in fact*, in a concrete situation, actually do so."

In the meantime, while the genocide continues, Milosevic is engaged in grotesque public relations initiatives. On Aug. 6, he and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Afanasyevsky emerged from a meeting, to call for "peace in Kosova." On Aug 10, adding insult to injury, one of the worse gangsters in Serbia, the leader of the paramilitary "Tigers," Zeljko Raztanovic, known as "Arkan," launched an appeal to President Clinton. This torturer of innumerable Bosnians and Croats invited Clinton to join in the fight "against terrorism." In what appears as an ambiguous threat, Arkan said that the United States should not allow bombings like those of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania to happen elsewhere. "Mr. President, don't let . . . terrorism in this part of the Balkans continue," he said. The contorted logic of this war criminal is clear: Every Kosovar is a terrorist, and thus Milosevic is serving the West by exterminating them.

It appears that the accomplices of Arkan are those forces in Washington backing Kenneth Starr's assault against the Presidency. One well-informed source noted bitterly: "The U.S. already has to face open and covert resistance by Russia, Britain, and France against any intervention in Kosova. But, if the attack against the Presidency takes the form that we see now in *Washington itself*, I am sure that Milosevic and his thugs feel reassured that no real obstacle can block their plans."