

NATO and The Hague Blowing Up the Balkans

by Umberto Pascali

Following the June 28 extradition of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to the war crimes tribunal in The Hague—destabilizing the very Yugoslav government which threw Milosevic from power—the “sealed” indictments of two top Croatian generals who led their country against Milosevic’s Greater Serbia attack in 1993-95, were also handed down. This has thrown Croatia’s government into chaos. Balkan observers commented that the very same Anglo-American forces that had given Milosevic the “green light” in the late 1980s, were now behind the deployment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

What is the aim of such apparently contradictory activities? Many in Zagreb, Skopje, Belgrade have no doubt: The ICTY is a political instrument used to destroy whatever remains of the national sovereignty and independence of the Balkan countries, as they attempt to recover from years of war. But it is not just a Balkans issue. More in general, the ICTY represents the attempt to establish world government, over warring ethnic “microstates” beneath.

Indeed, between June and July, The Hague Tribunal and its chief prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, have rampaged over former Yugoslavia, provoking the instantaneous destabilizations of several countries, to the point that its actions are now known as “destabilization through judicial means.”

Macedonia as Well

The threat to unleash the Tribunal on the leaders of Macedonia, played a key role in armtwisting them to accept the advice by NATO Secretary General Lord George Robertson, the European Union’s Javier Solana, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s Ambassador Robert Frowick, the U.S. and British ambassadors, and the other grandees of the “international community.” Their advice was: Don’t fight back against the aggression launched by the Kosovo Liberation Army; the “conflict” is to be solved with “peaceful means.” Local sources told *EIR* that a top governmental official was asked why, after so many ultimata against the KLA for its aggression and cross-border invasions, the order to carry out those ultimata never came, leaving the KLA with an aura of impunity. The answer was: “I don’t want to end up in front of The Hague Tribunal.”

As consequence, now Macedonia is de facto partitioned, with an expanding area occupied by the KLA’s well-armed gangs, following a “cease-fire” mediated by NATO directly

with the KLA. The KLA is using the cease-fire to grab more and more territory, while the Maceconian government is under a form receivership, run by NATO, U.S. Ambassador James Pardew, and EU Ambassador François Léotard. Macedonia’s ethnic Albanian political parties, under tremendous pressure from the KLA, are refusing to sign any agreement that does not imply an official redrawing of the Constitution and an “ethnic veto right” by the ethnic Albanian leaders. Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski called it the “worst flirting by the international community with terrorist groups we have ever seen. . . . We are witnessing a monster actually created by NATO.”

Macedonia had already risked a social explosion on June 25, when the government in Skopje allowed the 500 KLA guerrillas, who had taken over the village of Aracinovo, on outskirts of Skopje, to leave, with their weapons, and escorted by 81 U.S. soldiers and 16 military vehicles.

The gangs were relocated to the north near Kosovo, where they joined forces with other gangs. The head of the gangs in Aracinovo, a wanted drug dealer known as “Commander Hoxha,” had threatened to bomb the capital, the international airport, and the country’s only oil refinery. Several air-conditioned buses used by the U.S. contingent to move the KLA gang and their weapons, belonged to the U.S. company Halliburton. Halliburton’s former CEO is Vice President Dick Cheney, and one prominent board member is Lawrence Eagleburger, former head of Kissinger Associates, former chairman of the Yugo Corp. automaker, former U.S. Ambassador in Belgrade, and known for his previous close relations with Slobodan Milosevic.

Later, it was learned that among the 500 guerrillas, there were 16 U.S. military advisers, which seems to explain the bizarre rescue operation, which included preventing the Macedonian military from even approaching the terrorists.

Immediately afterward, a crowd of 10,000, coming from Aracinovo and greater Skopje, gathered in front of the Presidential Palace to protest the outrageous NATO protection of the KLA invasion of Macedonia. A group of police reservists entered the Palace, firing their machineguns. The President, who, at that moment, was in the middle of negotiations with the country’s ethnic Albanian parties, was hurried by his bodyguards through a back door, at the very last minute.

Post-Milosevic Yugoslavia Targetted

Days later, Del Ponte succeeded in delivering a penultimate blow to the fragile institutions of the post-Milosevic Yugoslavia. The Hague Tribunal prosecutor had locked horns with President Vojislav Kostunica, almost immediately after his election. The immediate reason, was Kostunica’s insistence that Milosevic must be tried for his crimes in Yugoslavia, and that the Constitution and the legal system of the country cannot be shredded, just because of the demands of the International Tribunal.

Kostunica’s opposition The Hague Tribunal is not a de-



Macedonia's Foreign Minister Dr. Ilinka Mitreva (right) came to Lord Robertson's NATO headquarters in Brussels on July 6, when NATO was essentially coercing Macedonia to sign a "peace pact" with invading Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas.

fense of Milosevic. Quite the contrary, his main concern appears to be similar to that of Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen: to keep the country and its legal system alive, after years of war.

Kostunica, snapped Del Ponte, "is a man of Serbia's past," who should stand aside and make room for "the men of the future," in one of her more imperious displays of political interference. Del Ponte's momentary ally is Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, obviously a "man of the future." However, Del Ponte seems to turn a blind eye (or two) to the fact that Djindjic used to be close to The Hague's most-wanted war criminal—Bosnian Serb, Radovan Karadzic. In a cynical turn of events, Del Ponte is reportedly negotiating with Karadzic, so that he would be her star witness against Milosevic, in exchange for clemency!

However, the Yugoslav Constitutional Court had ruled that Milosevic's extradition was "frozen," while the constitutionality of such an act was being discussed. Notwithstanding, a decision had been already taken, by London and the other Group of Seven "donor countries," that Milosevic was to be delivered to The Hague on June 28, no matter what. For this reason, a near-coup d'état took place in Belgrade, that day. According to a reconstruction published by *Nedeljni Telegraf* and many Belgrade papers—not denied by Kostunica, and de facto confirmed by Djindjic—Djindjic called Kostunica telling him that regardless of the Constitutional Court rulings, he was going to get Milosevic to The Hague. Djindjic said he

had an agreement with U.S. Ambassador William Montgomery, with whom he was going to meet to define the last details about the extradition; he asked whether Kostunica agreed.

The following is the taped conversation as published by the *Telegraf*:

Djindjic: What do I tell Montgomery?

Kostunica: (no reply)

Djindjic: Fine then, I'll resign, you take over all the reins, and govern on your own.

Kostunica: Fine, don't be like that. We don't have to create a conflict.

Djindjic: So, what do I tell him about the extradition—yes or no?

Kostunica: Tell him "yes," and then I'll publicly deny having said yes.

Djindjic was prepared for a confrontation not only with the Constitutional Court, but also with the Army. In a *New York Times* interview, he said that the police were "prepared, if need be, for a conflict with the Army. . . . We were prepared to take responsibility for the consequences." According to the Croatian *Nacional*, following the agreement with Montgomery, several U.S. Apache combat helicopters entered Yugoslav airspace, and circled for hours near the police helicopter that was to transport Milosevic, while U.S. aircraft were electronically monitoring the actions of the Yugoslav military.

As consequence, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Zoran Zizic resigned, and the government is on the verge of collapse. On July 10, Serbian Premier Djindjic, the "winner," promised the Crown Prince of Yugoslavia, Alexander Karadjordjevic, the return of his royal palaces, after the family had spent 60 years exile under British royal protection—"a move that could herald the restoration of the dynasty," wrote the *London Times* enthusiastically.

Croatia Hit, Too

The ICTY's "globalized justice" was even more devastating in Croatia, hit by Del Ponte on July 6. She demanded that the Prime Minister Ivica Racan accept two sealed indictments against Croatian Generals Rahim Ademi and Ante Gotovina. The legal and evidentiary bases for the indictments are, to say the least, subjective to groundless, especially in their effort to reconstruct the crimes' chain of command, dating back to 1995. But the point, again, appears to be that a supranational institution of dubious legality can impose its will, through force and blackmail, on any sovereign country.

"The real aim is to cause the maximum political destabilization and destruction of the sovereignty of all nations involved," commented Faris Nanic, the former Chief of Cabinet of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. "They do not want to allow any serious investigation into the causes of the war, and its disgusting international backers and promoters of genocide, [of] Milosevic, Karadzic, et al."