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Sagittarius

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 Onderwerp: Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia Pledge to Settle Refugees by 2006

Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia Pledge to Settle Refugees by 2006

Feb. 1 (Bloomberg) – Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro pledged to settle the estimated 300,000 refugees still needing assistance after the independence wars in the early 1990s that followed the break up of Yugoslavia.

"Significant progress has been achieved by the concerned governments," Kamel Morjana, assistant high commissioner with the UN refugee agency, said yesterday in Bosnia's capital, Sarajevo, according to the UN's Web site. "Any comprehensive solution to refugee situations requires extensive regional cooperation and renewed commitment."

The three countries will prepare their own action plans within three months, Agence France-Presse reported from Sarajevo, citing a joint statement yesterday by their government ministers responsible for refugee issues.

More than 1 million refugees have returned to their home countries since the conflicts ended in 1995 with the Dayton peace accords, the UN said. Serbia and Montenegro had an estimated 295,000 refugees and 256,000 internally displaced people in 2003, according to the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Bosnia had 22,517 refugees and 327,188 displaced people in 2003 and Croatia had 4,387 refugees and 12,566 displaced people, according to UNHCR statistics.

The three governments pledged to help the return of refugees or to promote their local integration, the UN said.

"All refugees shall enjoy the same rights and shall have the same responsibilities as the other citizens, without any discrimination," AFP cited the joint statement as saying.

The UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague yesterday sentenced Pavle Strugar, a retired Yugoslav army general, to eight years in prison in connection with the 1991 shelling of historic and religious sites in the Croatian city of Dubrovnik.

Strugar was found guilty on two counts of war crimes against the civilian population and destruction of cultural monuments for not stopping the shelling of Dubrovnik's Old Town, the UN said.

At least 50 civilians were killed when the medieval walled city, designated a world heritage site by the UN, was shelled for three months at the start of the 1991-95 war in Croatia.

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Onderwerp: White Eagles Serbian Radical Party [SRS]

White Eagles

Serbian Radical Party [SRS]

The White Eagles were armed paramilitary formations, under the command of the Serb neofascist Vojislav Seselj, who were equipped by the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs during the war in Bosnian. Serbian Radical Party [SRS] Chairman Vojislav Seselj [who was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in April 1998] was the leader of these paramilitary groups, which reportedly were involved in war crimes committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to the Society for Endangered Peoples based in the Germany. Seselj, as leader of these Serbian paramilitary formations, reportedly took part in ethnic cleansing, mass tortures, and killings carried out in 34 municipalities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Seselj's paramilitary units reportedly took part in mass killings in Bratunac, Brcko, Prijedor, Visegrad, Zvornik, and Bijeljina. Seselj's followers also ran Sonja detention camp in Vogosca.

Since 1995 the Serbian State Security Service has been conducting a campaign against the criminals who used to work for it, but are now only unpleasant witnesses to crimes. The body of "White Eagle" Miodrag Djordjic-Johnny from Kragujevac, who in 1996 informed foreign media about the role of Radmilo Bogdanovic and SDB in supplying paramilitary formations, was pulled out of the Morava River in September 1996. He drowned after someone shot him with a 9 mm gun in the head while he was fishing. In late October 1996 Dragoslav Bokan, a leader of the "White Eagle," was arrested in connection with a robbery which took place four years previously.

Sources and Resources

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A Piece of Land with no Status

BERLIN/PRISTINA - German members of parliament from all the main parties are making the case for the early secession of the southern Serbian province of Kosovo in broadcasts by the Albanian language service of German state radio, „*Deutsche Welle*". In an interview with the station, which is the most popular among the Albanian-speaking population, the Social Democrat foreign affairs spokeswoman, Uta Zapf, stated that they had „*for many years*" supported the conferment of state sovereignty on the district. A plan by the „*International Crisis Group*", supported by Berlin, provides for the attainment of sovereign powers by the provincial government in Pristina from the middle of next year. Whilst German foreign policy has worked towards this goal for years, critics foresee a „*domino effect in the region*" and warn of a mafioso „*gangster state*" in Kosovo.

Its Own Way

Since the beginning of January Deutsche Welle's Albanian service has repeated to its listeners in several programmes that Kosovo should soon be separated from the Serbian state. Contrary to the truth, German state radio has stated that this concerns „*a piece of land without status*".¹⁾ Whilst the Free Democrat foreign policy spokesman, Rainer Stinner, was stating a minority opinion that Kosovo wanted to be directly ruled by Brussels²⁾, members of the main German parties were of the opinion that the province should become a sovereign state. „*I have the impression that it was always clear that Kosovo should go its own way*" said Elmar Brok (Christian Democrat), chairman of the foreign policy committee of the European parliament.³⁾

As soon as possible

Authoritative German foreign policy experts have positioned themselves in response to Deutsche Welle for the final debate over the secession of Kosovo. On 24th January the „*International Crisis Group*" (ICG) produced a plan which laid down a timetable for the separation of the province from Serbia. According to this, the UN Secretary General should nominate a „*Special Envoy*" as soon as possible. He would immediately begin discussions over a „*Kosovo Accord*" and thereby proclaim the final secession of the province. Up to Autumn this year, the „*Kosovo Accord*" and a constitution for the new state should be available for negotiation. According to the ICG, both texts should be endorsed by an international conference at the end of 2005 before the people of Kosovo are permitted to vote on the constitution early in 2006. By the middle of 2006 Pristina should receive sovereign powers but continue to be controlled by a „*Kosovo Monitoring Mission*".⁴⁾

Precaution

Berlin's foreign policy has long worked for the separation of Kosovo from the Serbian state. As early as

November 2002, the UN administrator of Kosovo, the German Michael Steiner, demanded an end to Serbian sovereignty over the area.⁵⁾ In July 2003 Steiner decreed a separate criminal law system for the southern Serbian province. At the same time he made a free trade agreement with Albania which created conditions for reducing the economic dependency of Kosovo on the remaining territories of the Serbian state. The forthcoming secession of Kosovo must also be secured militarily. The defence and foreign policy spokesman of the Christian Democrats/Christian Social Union in the German parliament, Christian Schmidt, said it would be necessary „to take precautions” in Kosovo, in view of the beginning of negotiations on secession. The Bundeswehr contingent, already in position, should be reinforced.⁶⁾

Affection

Berlin's foreign policy activities have been reinforced by the Albanian service of Deutsche Welle. As a spokeswoman for the station confirmed, the audience for the German broadcasts „increased massively” before and during the NATO invasion. A representative survey from 2001 established that 97% of Kosovo's population knew Deutsche Welle. It was top of the listening figures for all foreign programmes. Around 65% of the Albanians (but only 21% of Serbs) listened at least weekly. According to the survey, 96% of Albanians expressed „affection” for Germany but 66% of the Serbian population expressed „aversion”.⁷⁾

Gangster State

Critics fear a „domino effect in the region” if the secession of Kosovo becomes a reality and counsel against early negotiations.⁸⁾ Its separation will be regarded as a precedent for further separatist movements (such as Chechnya). The ambition for a „Greater Albania” will also spur attempts at an Anschluss to include parts of Macedonia and Montenegro. Friedhelm Frischenschlager (former OSCE director of democratisation for Kosovo) has stated „as always, Kosovo will be a powder keg”. Observers point not least to the desolate economic and social situation in the province and the unbroken dominance of mafioso structures which are, as ever, connected to the UCK (Kosovo Liberation Army). The Oldenburg sociologist, Michael Daxner, warns „Kosovo is in danger of becoming a confirmed gangster state”.⁹⁾

1) Eine schnelle Unabhaengigkeit fuer Kosovo?; Deutsche Welle Fokus Ost-Suedost 03.02.2005

2) see also Special Economic Zone

3) Kosovo-Debatte im Europaparlament; Deutsche Welle Fokus Ost-Suedost 27.01.2005

4) International Crisis Group: Kosovo: Toward Final Status Report No 161, 24 January 2005

5) see also German administrator calls territorial integrity of Yugoslavia into question

6) Union: Im Kosovo Vorsorge treffen; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 28.01.2005

7) Kosovo 2001: Spitzenplatz fuer Deutsche Welle - Fast alle Kosovaren kennen DW; Deutsche Welle 14.01.2005

8) Experten: Keine Loesung des Kosovo-Status 2005; Der Standard 14.01.2005

9) „Nach wie vor Pulverfass”; Die Presse 14.10.2005

see also Model

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Balkan home truths: how Croatia swindled its exiled Serbs

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/features/story.jsp?story=607636>

Dragoslav Dupor and his family abandoned the Krajina peninsula 10 years ago. Ethnically cleansed, they and thousands of others have now been robbed of their homes. Vesna Peric Zimonjic reports from Zagreb on a shocking epilogue to war

04 February 2005

It was an early summer morning, almost 10 years ago, when Dragoslav Dupor woke up to the sounds of Croatian artillery shells and terrified screams. He packed his wife, their three children, a young grandchild and his mother into an old Lada and fled. In the panic, they had no time to look back at what they were leaving in Karin Gornji, a Serb village on Croatia's Adriatic coast.

"I had no time to think if I would ever see my home again. I knew I had a long journey ahead," says Mr Dupor.

Like more than 300,000 Croatian Serbs, the 60-year-old and his family fled to Serbia proper at the onset of the Croatian army offensive in August 1995, codenamed "Storm". In the wake of the sudden exodus, 50,000 homes were left empty.

A decade on and the Dupor family are no closer to returning to their coastal home. Instead they, along with thousands of other refugees, are the apparent victims of a scam that has salted the open wounds left by the Yugoslav wars of succession and threatened to derail Croatia's attempt to take the fast track into the European Union.

When Operation Storm had blown over, the rebellion by local Serbs against the authority of the newly independent Croatia was crushed. The bloody rebellion, launched with the direct backing of Serbia's strongman Slobodan Milosevic, cost the lives of more than 20,000 people. The offensive ended Serb resistance but it also brought an abrupt end to hundreds of years of Serb history in Croatia. Many thought that when peace finally came they would be able to return to their former homes. **Today that hope is gone.**

Thanks to a scheme run by corrupt officials and organised-crime syndicates, the abandoned homes were bought up by the Croatian state and sold for a profit behind their backs without the families seeing a penny.

Mr Dupor's nice little house is now home to a family of Bosnian Croats, themselves refugees of the 1992-95 war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Their new home came to them via the state-run Agency for Legal Transactions and Mediation in Real Estate (APN).

Vladimir Goatti took charge of APN last September with a mandate to reform the agency. He admits that there is a serious case to answer. "All these people were victimised twice," he told *The Independent*. "We [APN and the Croatian state] have to find the least traumatising solution for their problems now ... And all the people will get their property back, without any discussion, once the courts settle the matter."

The agency has been in business since 1997 but involvement of some officials in illegally trading refugees' homes was not known of until last month. It is now being described as one of the biggest Balkan swindles; a cunning new variation on the theme of ethnic cleansing.

Since its formation, APN has spent more than €200m (£140m) on buying 8,380 Serb homes in areas of Krajina or Slavonija, abandoned in 1995. According to Milorad Pupovac, the head of the Serb caucus in the Croatian parliament, much of this money found its way into private pockets. "It is estimated that between €4m and €8m were skimmed in this operation and that the money went into private pockets, both of the intermediaries and the crooked employees of

Thanks to visa restrictions on Serbs crossing into Croatia - which were only relaxed last year - most transactions between APN and Serbs willing to sell their property were done through the Serbia-based, private real-estate agencies representing Croatian Serbs. The Serb owners were compelled to sign power of attorney over to agents who would then strike a deal with APN. On the surface things worked well for years. Then Mr Dupor and his friend Desimir Draca, 66, decided the time had come to sell their former homes. They quickly discovered that there was nothing left to sell. The houses they fled from had already been sold using forged paperwork with a fake power of attorney. The files on Mr Dupor's home included an authorised agreement for sale issued in 2004, but signed by his mother, Cvijeta, who died in 1997, and an uncle who died 70 years ago.

"That was the last property that we had," both Mr Dupor and Mr Draca said. "We hoped to solve our families' housing problems in Serbia." Today they both live in Krnjaca, a shabby village outside Belgrade. The seaside village homes have been swapped for makeshift shelters with no bathrooms. Since 1995, both men have tried, with little success, to eke out a living by doing odd jobs. They both regard Serbia proper as a stepmother rather than the motherland. In Serbia, the scandal rocking the refugee community has been greeted with indifference. "We are grateful to Serbia for letting us stay here," says Mr Draca. "Apart from that we got nothing from this state."

Despite the growing scandal, the hundreds of destitute families and the millions of pounds, only one arrest has been made at the agency after it was established that it sold both the Dupor's and Mr Draca's homes, allegedly without their consent. The agency is alleged to have had three employees involved in transactions with the forged papers. They were all Serbs from Croatia with dual citizenship that enabled them to travel and work without restrictions, even when the visa regime was in force. Serb police are now investigating the work of several agencies in provincial Serbia and in Belgrade as well, after a complaints line established for refugees received many calls alleging fraud.

Investigators from Croatia are expected to arrive in Serbia any day now in the clearest act of cooperation for a decade. The Croatian Attorney General, Mladen Bajic, has promised to look into the matter personally.

Property agencies initially became involved with the property of Serbs who died either in exile in Serbia or at home in Croatia, after establishing that there was no procedure for determining legal inheritance of their holdings. With forged power-of-attorney papers, they sold the homes to APN.

The forgeries were certified by courts in Serbia, but it later emerged that the seals on court documentation were also forged. Investigators found you could buy the necessary seals for a pittance at Belgrade's flea-market. Once it became clear a profit was there to be made, agencies stopped waiting for people to die, forged the papers from start to finish.

The scale of the problem became apparent when officials came to evict Serbs who thought they were living in their own homes in villages in the Krajina region of Croatia. The officials presented startled homeowners with documents they had never seen containing their own signatures on sale agreements. In many cases there were double contracts, with a smaller sum being given to the vendor living in Serbia and a larger sum being put into the contract with APN. The smaller sum was given to the vendor, but APN paid the larger sum to the agent. The difference was split between the agent and crooked officials, it is alleged.

According to diplomats, Mr Goatti was appointed to the agency when rumblings reached Zagreb that officials were involved in cross-border crime worth million of euros. All contracts have now been reviewed, several employees are under investigation and the APN office in Osijek, east of Zagreb, has been closed. Mr Goatti and Mr Pupovac admitted that the practice of working through intermediaries had left a "wide margin for financial abuse". Mr Goatti admits that as many as half of the 8,380 Serb homes sold to APN were involved in the scam. Mr Pupovac says the figure is closer to 90 per cent.

"There are reasonable grounds for [believing] that the whole business [of illegal sales of Serb homes] was a clear case of organised crime that involved the government," a senior diplomat told *The Independent*. "It was a refined method of ethnic cleansing."

These claims are strongly denied by Mr Goatti.

Of the 300,000 Croatian Serbs who fled the country, only 115,000 have officially returned. The real number of returnees is thought to be as low as 30,000 as the official figures include those who returned only to claim a Croatian passport and did not re-settle.

This shift is reflected in the bigger population picture that includes Serbs who elected not to flee in 1995. Only 200,000 Serbs now live in Croatia - a country of 4.5 million - compared to 600,000 before the war.

"There's a problem of sustainability of returnees," says Axel Jaenicke from the Zagreb office of the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe). "Two thirds of people who decide to return have no real means of support, as they are mostly old and live in rural areas".

Refugees have found themselves unwanted by either country. Croatia has been very slow, according to the OSCE, in providing basic living conditions for returnees. Of 186 Serb villages due to get electricity back again in 2004, only 20 did. The rest remain in the dark, as they have been for a decade.

The only glimmers of hope for those who want to return come from Croatia's push to join the EU, which should impose international standards for private property and minority on the fledgling state. But with membership talks due to start in March, many EU diplomats in Zagreb seem to be unaware of the property swindle.

"[The illegal sale] is not a key issue among the EU diplomats," said one senior embassy official from an EU country on condition of anonymity. He admitted to being unaware of it himself.

Despite optimistic noises from Brussels on Croatia's progress towards democracy and the rule of law, the judiciary system is still under international observation because its impartiality is often in doubt.

Croatia's President Stjepan Mesic, fresh from re-election, admitted that the property scandal could tarnish his country's image in the promised land of the EU. "Croatia has started the reform of its judiciary and I'm convinced it can solve the problem of the illegal sale of Serb property in accordance with the rule of law," he told *The Independent*. "Croatia is a country where all its people, regardless of nation, should be equal before the law."

Evidently, no one told court officials in Sisak, a town less than half an hour's drive from Mr Mesic's residence in the capital. Its Serb residents found themselves the target of a rip-off that echoes many of the crimes that have persisted like an ugly hangover from the war. A bank clerk was recently pardoned although found guilty of fraud in a crime that would normally result in the sack and jail. She took tens of thousands of pounds from accounts belonging to Croatian-Serb customers between 1992 and 1995. The scheme was discovered by a local Croat who noticed that money was being siphoned off for years while he lived in Zagreb, but the district court pardoned the clerk because: **"she would never have committed the crime had she not been revolted by the deeds of Serbs"**.

Question mark over Balkan state's EU future

By Stephen Castle in Brussels

Croatia's bid for EU membership talks was in deep trouble last night, as the UN's chief war crimes prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, said the Zagreb government was not trying hard enough to arrest a general wanted for war crimes against Croatian Serbs.

Ms Del Ponte's comments heap more pressure on the Croatian government to arrest Ante Gotovina, accused of arranging the killing of at least 150 civilians and the expulsion of 150,000 others during an operation against the Krajina Serbs in 1995.

Satisfactory co-operation with the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague is the one remaining obstacle to Croatia's ambition to launch membership negotiations with the EU on 17 March. This week, Olli Rehn, the European commissioner for enlargement, said if he had to make a recommendation on the basis of present information, "I could not recommend opening negotiations with Croatia".

Ms Del Ponte, whose judgment will be crucial, said bluntly: "The government of Croatia is in a position to arrange the transfer to The Hague." Officials believe that the general, who became a hero figure for nationalists, may be moving through the region. They say this would be impossible without a network of supporters on whom the Croatian authorities could easily exert pressure.

The EU's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, underlined the importance of Ms Del Ponte's judgment, saying it "will be absolutely fundamental for the final decision". Diplomats believe the talks cannot open without a development, preferably the handover of General Gotovina.

Ms Del Ponte is also frustrated that 18 indictees remain free in the Balkans, the most infamous being Radovan Karadzic, wartime leader of the Bosnian Serbs and his general, Ratko Mladic. She added that no one would be able to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, in which around 7,000 Muslim men and boys were slaughtered, with those accused of responsibility remaining at liberty.

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February 10, 2005

Quislings Do It Better

by Nebojsa Malic

Empire's Enablers, Paid and Unpaid

Several weeks ago, a scandal erupted in the U.S. when it was revealed that several pundits got paid by the Bush government to support its policies. Commenting on the scandal, Lew Rockwell, president of the libertarian Ludwig von Mises Institute, wrote that "it's not those who lie for money we should worry about; it's those who lie for free who are the real danger."

There are many journalists, activists, and politicians in the Balkans who have taken money from the Empire, but there are also many who don't have to - they serve it willingly and zealously. Whether paid or not, these "insiders" are doing the bulk of Empire's work in their countries, in the belief that what they are doing is beneficial and righteous. Even as the Empire itself re-examines the most overt cases of presttution, the Balkans shills are soldiering on, undaunted.

The Bland Times of "Southeastern Europe"

In the wake of the "paid pundit" scandal, AP reported last Friday that the Pentagon was investigating the practice of employing journalists to write for its propaganda outfits, including the Southeast European Times, aimed at the Balkans.

Established by the U.S. European Command (EUCOM), the SE Times aimed to "offer accurate, balanced, and forward-looking (emphasis added) coverage of developments" in the peninsula. In practice, "forward-looking" reporting means the news are presented in a manner that best serves the Imperial agenda. As all government efforts at subtlety, the SE Times has been a failure. The fact that it was once called "Balkan Times," before some bureaucrat decided to replace the peninsula's proper name with a meaningless geographic descriptive, testifies to the unbearable blandness of official propaganda.

The investigation has prompted Srdja Trifkovic of the Rockford Institute to observe:

"The trouble with this Southeast European Times is not that it is government propaganda, but that it is (a) unbelievably bad propaganda, and (b) totally unnecessary . because the 'pro-Western' view of post-Yugoslav politics is now largely dominant in the domestic media of the successor states."

He goes on to list several print and electronic media in Serbia,

specifically, where "no one is more insanely vehement in his insults against the Serbian people and their history, religion, art, and suffering than a dozen Serb-born columnists . on [their] payroll." These media are a far greater threat to truth than the SE Times, because they are far better at their job:

"They are doing their propaganda work professionally and, thanks to an abundance of funds, they have attracted a number of journalists and other media professionals ready to sell their body and soul to the highest bidder."

The Peculiar Case of B92

One of the media Trifkovic names is B92, a radio/TV/Internet outfit founded in 1989. Almost since its inception, the station cast itself as the implacable enemy of Slobodan Milosevic and "Serbian totalitarianism," which guaranteed them outside funding and support while advertising them as a trustworthy source of news for Serbians disillusioned with Milosevic's rule.

Trifkovic accuses B92 of being a puppet of George Soros, Hungarian-born currency speculator whose "Open Society Institute" has been at the forefront of Imperial conquest in Eastern Europe. According to B92's information page, 49 percent of its shares are owned by something called the Media Development Loan Fund, which turns out to be an American nonprofit funded heavily by George Soros and the National Endowment for Democracy, among others. Another 36.5 percent is owned by the B92 Trust (owned 44 percent by Veran Matic), with the rest in the possession of small shareholders.

Such a money trail already speaks volumes, but further proof is in the network's content. For example, the network serves as a bullhorn for Natasa Kandic and the Humanitarian Law Center, airing her sensationalist charges (generally not accompanied by evidence) and praising the HLC as "relentless in its pursuit of justice for the victims of crimes and the uncovering of crimes committed by the state."

B92's founder and head honcho Matic has long been a fair-haired boy in Washington and Brussels, and a welcome guest in their mainstream publications. And in May 2004, Matic pleaded for more Imperial intervention in the Balkans on the pages of IWPR - another Imperial mercenary, funded by the U.S. State Department, UK Foreign office, and yes, George Soros.

In short, B92 is the media apotheosis of forces within Serbia that exalt the Empire and want to impose its "values" (whatever they may be) on the country, by deceit when useful and by force if necessary.

"Baby" Makes a Fuss

It should not surprise, therefore, that B92 TV recently aired a three-part interview with a former shadowy figure in the DOS regime, in a show titled *The Insider*. Vladimir "Beba" (Baby) Popovic, presented as a "top political adviser and friend" of the late PM Zoran Djindjic, caused a sensation with a series of accusations. He charged current PM Vojislav Kostunica with masterminding the Djindjic assassination, with help from the Church, the army, and Russian intelligence(!). He also claimed many other notables were involved in corruption, embezzlement, and treason. Not unexpectedly, Popovic offered no evidence for any of this; in the chaos that is Serbia today, rumors are the strongest currency.

Baby should know. He was once a shadowy media operative for the late PM, known for exerting pressure on journalists and even wiretapping public officials (e.g., Kostunica). Djindjic actually fired him in November 2002, but Popovic staged a surprise comeback the day after Djindjic's assassination, emerging as head of the government's Public Information Bureau. Under the martial law that followed, PubIn was the only allowed source of information, and Popovic gleefully organized the media lynch of dissidents and political foes. Eventually, the terror backfired and the squabbling Dossies fell from power. The reviled Baby disappeared from public eye - only to return a year later and find a receptive audience and a willing conduit. How quickly the mob forgets!

As Transitions Online reports from Belgrade, Baby's closest political allies are Ceda Jovanovic, Vladan Batic, Goran Svilanovic, and Zarko Korac, as well as "several nongovernmental organizations" - all members of the "Jacobin" faction of the late, unlamented DOS, and not accidentally, all faithful camp-followers of the Empire.

Popovic's alleged "revelations" unleashed the pervasive acrimony and partisanship in Serbia's political circles, effectively paralyzing the government and drowning out all other news. Perhaps this partly explains the utter absence of reaction to the International Crisis Group's media offensive regarding Kosovo.

Political Sycophants

While B92 may be the eager purveyor of Imperial PR in Serbia, and "Baby" the shrill scream of the Jacobins, an even greater peril are people in actual positions of power who further the interests of the Empire rather than those of their country. Some defend it by saying submission is the prudent policy, a necessary evil. Others are actually confident that those interests are one and the same, so they feel no need to justify their actions.

Belgrade has long been under pressure from Washington, Brussels, and the Hague Inquisition to arrest and extradite four top generals accused of alleged crimes against Albanians during the Kosovo war. The issue threatened to topple the Kostunica government, with two coalition members insisting on submission to the ICTY, while a key backer in the parliament demanded resistance.

Only last week's voluntary surrender of one general - Vladimir Lazarevic, commander of the Army Corps that fought NATO and the KLA in Kosovo - resolved the impasse. But instead of capitalizing on Lazarevic's surrender, Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic (an advocate of complete submission) publicly stated that it was "not enough"! Such proclamations could be expected from the EU and Chief Inquisitor Carla Del Ponte - and they indeed followed - but from a country's own foreign minister? Did anyone actually ever explain to Draskovic his job was to make Serbia look good?

Then again, he is convinced that the pinnacle of Serbian achievement would be the accession to both a military alliance occupying a part of its territory, and a transnational heir to the Soviet Union, something he said the Lazarevic surrender would help achieve. Worse yet, mainstream Serbian politicians agree that these are valid aspirations that trump the "obsolete" considerations such as freedom, independence, and national interests.

In the meantime, however, such comments made by Draskovic and others are providing the Empire with validation of its policy of pressures and extortion, guaranteeing its continuance. Serbian politicians and media are telling their people defying the Hague Inquisition would mean "new sanctions" - a loaded word for a country that has suffered through a blockade only slightly less severe than that against Iraq - and that submission would result in "much-needed" aid. But the "aid" in question is practically nonexistent: of the \$75 million earmarked for Serbia in the 2006 U.S. budget, \$72 million is going to occupied Kosovo, while the remainder is to go to various insiders and NGOs to speed up the "process of stabilization and Euro-Atlantic integration." Both the threats and the promises are empty - and it's the Imperial sycophants in Belgrade making them, not the Empire itself!

The Cult of Power

Rockwell's explanation for the behavior of paid pundits was that they were part of the "sickening personality cult" that has coalesced around the American Emperor, one that "seeks power, adores power, exalts power, and has only one agenda: more power."

He was referring to the situation in America today, but the observation applies just as well to Imperial enablers in the Balkans. What hides behind the public worship of "democracy" and "human rights" is really the worship of power and violence. Meanwhile their victims, however skeptical they imagine themselves to be, continue to worship these false gods, look to the media to tell them what to think, and expect the government to tell them what to do. And the Empire marches on.

Internal Virus Database is out-of-date.

Checked by AVG Anti-Virus.

Version: 7.0.300 / Virus Database: 265.8.3 - Release Date: 31-1-05

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Andy IWilcoxson" <andywilcoxson@comcast.net>; "Nico Varkevisser" <nico.v@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Nico & Neeltje Steijnen" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: zaterdag 26 maart 2005 3:14
Onderwerp: FASCIST DICTATORSHIP THREATENS SERBIA

25. mart 2005.

WITH TOTAL SOLIDARITY OF PCN-NCP

(MARCH 12, 2003)

FASCIST DICTATORSHIP THREATENS SERBIA

After a period of Djindjic's dictatorial rule in which the constitutional, legal and moral norms have been blatantly violated in the interest of Western capital, an attempt to formally impose a fascist dictatorship in Serbia has been made today.

The country appears without President, Prime Minister, Federal Authorities and any democratic legitimacy of the remaining rulers.

A string has been pulled and after the formal proposal from the Government of Serbia (without Prime Minister), "Acting President" of Serbia Natasa Micic has signed a decree to impose the State of Emergency (Martial Law).

So, a bunch of gangsters from Djindjic's government under orders of their foreign masters is trying to bring the Sixth of October with a two-and-a-half years delay and to start a head-hunt in Serbia.

No people deserve to be under the unlimited rule of criminals.

I don't recommend them to try to press Serbian people nor to further violate its freedom and democracy.

They should go.

None foreign force should try to back illegitimate Serbian rulers. The scenario of full occupation of Serbia will never be realized. It is high time to end the puppet show in our country. No one is authorized to impose nor to kill puppet rulers here.

In spite of the severest hardship, the country was completely calm after Djindjic's assassination. We can not allow dictatorial power in the hands of those who are most responsible for the hardship.

The people of Serbia is more than mature and able to determine its future peacefully.

None is above the will of the people.

Democracy can be based only on the will of the people.

Freedom for Serbia !

"You can read the UN Charter all you want and you will never find any provision that authorises the creation of the ICTY," says Mr Clark, who advises President Milosevic on his defence.

He cites Washington's "feverish opposition" to the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which would be empowered to try US citizens, as proof of its duplicity.

"Equality is the mother of justice - if equal justice under law is the founding principle of the rule of law then the ICTY fails to meet most of the standards because it persecutes only the enemies of the United States to ensure further domination of the region. In a sense it's more deadly than the bombs."

Amid the current chorus of protest sparked by the Blair government's determination to overturn our ancient and fundamental legal rights in pursuit of the "war on terror," a grand irony has emerged.

Just a few month's ago, the very same protesting champions of our indivisible legal rights - whether leftists, liberals or human rights campaigners - were struck dumb when the ICTY took the dramatic step of stripping President Milosevic of the right to conduct his own defence.

The denial of this fundamental principle coupled with the imposition of a highly dubious, court-appointed, "defence" team against Milosevic's will, rolled back precious legal freedoms and safeguards enjoyed by citizens since the abolition of the Star Chamber in the Middle Ages.

Quite why such a deafening silence should greet this unprecedented assault on our legal traditions, at least as threatening to civil liberties as anything passed by Parliament this month, takes little fathoming - support for Milosevic, even when he is right, is clearly considered beyond the pale.

Strange as solidarity with Milosevic might sound to most Western ears, including those within progressive circles, it is par for the course elsewhere on our planet - particularly among governments and parties with first-hand experience of imperialist domination.

Here is what one senior Sandinista official, representing former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega, told the most recent congress of the Socialist Party of Serbia, the party which Milosevic continues to lead from his prison cell and one which welcomed officials from the ANC and PLO as well as Cuban, Vietnamese and Russian communist parties on the very same platform.

"I have seen a president who is stronger than ever. President Milosevic is more liked than ever, not only among his compatriots but also in the progressive part of the entire world community," he said.

That the Sandinistas should keenly feel such solidarity with the former Yugoslav president and his comrades is unsurprising given that they themselves endured similar strategies of vilification, demonisation and destabilisation at the hands of imperialism as that suffered by Milosevic, Serbs in general and Yugoslavia as a whole.

In her groundbreaking work on the 1990s Balkans conflict, Fools Crusade, US academic Diana Johnstone recalls how lurid allegations of Sandinista "death/rape camps," abounded in the 1980s, foreshadowing phoney accusations made against Serbs a decade later, while the US supported Contra terrorists in central America just as they sponsored fanatical Saudi and Pakistani mujaheddin in Bosnia.

The Sandinistas famously lost power to US-backed forces in Nicaragua's 1990 election in much the same way as Milosevic did in 2001, shortly before he was snatched from Belgrade and illegally transferred to The Hague in defiance of Yugoslavia's constitutional court.

Both narrowly lost power to Washington-sponsored "democrats," a pattern

recently repeated through the theatrical "people's revolutions" in the former Soviet republics of Georgia and Ukraine - precedents that similarly threaten several resource-rich central Asian states, as the NATO new world order closes in on Russia.

* Christopher James edits the website: www.free-slobo-uk.org

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
 Aan: "Nico en Neeltje" <nico.s@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Jenny Ligtenberg"
 Verzonden: vrijdag 15 juli 2005 2:31
 Onderwerp: BOSNIA: THE BIRTHPLACE OF AL-QAEDA by Stella L. Jatras - Jihad Watch

[news] BOSNIA: THE BIRTHPLACE OF AL-QAEDA by Stella L. Jatras - Jihad Watch

ANTIC.org-SNN
 Sat, 09 Jul 2005 14:52:23 -0700

<http://www.jihadwatch.org/archives/007042.php>

« [Islamic reformist hosts website used by group to claim responsibility](#) | [Main](#)

July 09, 2005

Jatras: Bosnia: The Birthplace of Al-Qaeda

Stella L. Jatras details jihadist activity in Bosnia and some of its implications:

A series of bombs devastated London; the number of casualties numbered more than 40, 13 of whom died in a bus attack. An al-Qaeda group is linked to the London blasts: AP reports, "A group calling itself 'Secret Organization — al-Qaeda in Europe' has posted a claim of responsibility for the series of blasts in London according to a report in *Der Spiegel*."

Evan F. Kohlmann, author of *Al-Qaeda's Jihad in Europe: The Afghan-Bosnian Network*, argues that the "key to understanding Al Qaida's European cells lies in the Bosnian war of the 1990s. Using the Bosnian war as their cover, Afghan-trained Islamic militants loyal to Osama bin Laden convened in the Balkans in 1992 to establish a European domestic terrorist infrastructure in order to plot their violent strikes against the United States. As the West and the United Nations looked on with disapproval, the fanatic foreign 'mujahideen', or holy warriors, wreaked havoc across southern Europe, taking particular aim at UN peacekeepers and even openly fighting with Bosnian Muslims at times. Middle Eastern religious and charitable organizations, largely based in and funded from the Arabian Gulf, were responsible for bankrolling this effort, and providing travel documentation for would-be mujahideen recruits." Kohlmann adds that "many of the cell members — responsible for some of the most notorious terrorist attacks of the past decade — spent their formative years waging jihad in the unlikely Muslim land of Bosnia."

Therefore, it is safe to say that the birth of al-Qaeda as a force on the world stage can be traced directly back to 1992, when the Bosnian Muslim government of Alija Izetbegovic issued a passport in the Vienna embassy to Osama bin Laden. The *Wall Street Journal* reported in 2001 that "for the past 10 years, the most senior leaders of al Qaeda have visited the Balkans, including bin Laden himself on three occasions between 1994 and 1996. The Egyptian surgeon turned terrorist leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri has operated terrorist training camps, weapons of mass destruction factories and money-laundering and drug-trading networks throughout Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey and Bosnia. This has gone on for a decade. Many recruits to the Balkan wars came originally from Chechnya, a jihad in which Al Qaeda has also played a part."

THE BOSNIA/911 CONNECTION

An AP article of 2002 entitled, "U.N. Lawyer Turns Over Hijacker Info," reported that "the chief U.N war crimes prosecutor has turned over information about one of the Sept. 11 hijackers to the United States, France and the Netherlands, the U.N. spokesman said Wednesday... The war crimes prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, said last October that information concerning people with connections to terrorist groups, *primarily in Bosnia*, was provided to Pierre Prosper, the U.S. ambassador at large for war crimes.

"On Wednesday, [UN Spokesman] Eckhard confirmed for the first time that the information included material related to 'one of the named terrorists said to have been on one of the hijacked aircraft' on Sept. 11. Eckhard refused to name the hijacker but said the information was also shared with the French and Dutch governments."

The report further states that "following the terrorist attacks on the United States, Del Ponte was approached by the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, Netherlands and asked for information in identifying those responsible, Eckhard said. The office of the prosecutor did in fact have some information in relation to one of the named terrorists said to have been on one of the hijacked aircraft, he said. An electronic version of some of the information was then given to Prosper as well as French and Dutch officials, Eckhard said.

"Florence Hartmann, the spokeswoman for Del Ponte, said U.N. investigators may have had information about some Muslim fighters who stayed on in Bosnia after the civil war ended in 1995."

Moreover, Gregory R. Copley, editor of *Defense & Foreign Affairs*, writes: "The Islamist-dominated Government of Bosnia & Herzegovina (B-H) is proposing as its new Ambassador to the United States a woman who was one of the founders of the radical Islamist Muslim SDA Party (Party of Democratic Action [Stranka Demokratske Akcije]), which has had, since its foundation, strong links with al-Qaida and a variety of other Islamist terrorist organizations, and to the intelligence and terrorist-training arms of the Iranian Government."

In his commentary, "We bombed the wrong side?" former Canadian UNPROFOR Commander Lewis MacKenzie wrote, "The Kosovo-Albanians have played us like a Stradivarius. We have subsidized and indirectly supported their violent campaign for an ethnically pure and independent Kosovo. We have never blamed them for being the perpetrators of the violence in the early '90s and we continue to portray them as the designated victim today in spite of evidence to the contrary. When they achieve independence with

the help of our tax dollars combined with those of bin Laden and al-Qaeda, just consider the message of encouragement this sends to other terrorist-supported independence movements around the world."

I repeat these words of General MacKenzie: **"Just consider the message of encouragement this sends to other terrorist-supported independence movements around the world."** (My emphasis)

WE HAD HIM!

In his book, *Dereliction of Duty*, Lt. Col. Robert "Buzz" Patterson, chief military aide to President Clinton writes: "The White House Situation Room was buzzing. It was fall 1998 and the National Security Council (NSC) and the 'intelligence community' were tracking the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, the shadowy mastermind of terrorist attacks on American targets overseas. 'They successfully triangulated his location,' yelled a 'Sit Room' watch stand. 'We've got him.' Beneath the West Wing of the White House, behind a vaulted steel door, the Sit Room staff sprang into action. The watch officer notified National Security Advisor Sandy Berger, 'Sir, we've located bin Laden. We have a two-hour window to strike'. Characteristic of the Clinton administration, the weapons of choice would be Tomahawk missiles. After several attempts to first locate President Clinton to receive permission to get Osama bin Laden, President Clinton was nowhere to be found. When the President finally accepted Berger's call, there was discussion, there were pauses -- and no decision. 'We studied the issue until it was too late -- the window of opportunity closed'."

On 11 March 2004, 190 people were killed at the Madrid Train Station. One of the main terrorists was born in Bosnia yet very little was made of this important connection. However, whenever or if ever information is uncovered of a possible connection of the London terrorists to Bosnia, it will be played down as was the Bosnia connection to the Madrid bombing. It wouldn't be prudent.

Posted by Robert at July 9, 2005 01:39 PM | [Email this entry](#) | [Print this entry](#)

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Nico Varkevisser" <nico.v@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Misa Gavrilovic" <mishag1@ntlworld.com>;
 "Ksenija Sigulinski" <lizamia@zonnet.nl>; "Ljiljana Ljilja Verner" <ljverner@aol.com>; "Nico en Neeltje"
 <nico.s@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Dolf Loth" <loh@hesasd.nl>
Verzonden: woensdag 13 juli 2005 22:04
Onderwerp: Fw: World Bank in Serbia

— Original Message —

From: Darkita
To: minja@vlada.ca ; kumasi@wanadoo.es ; r_rozoff@yahoo.com ; antic.miroslav@gmail.com ;
 milan.kasic@3web.net ; despot@tiscali.nl ; 1branka@tiscali.co.uk
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2005 10:19 AM
Subject: World Bank in Serbia

[I can say that if someone had told me five years ago that Serbia would make so much progress in so many areas in such a short time, I would have said he was dreaming."]

The Centre for the Peace in the Balkans

<http://www.balkanpeace.org/hed/archive/jul05/hed7094.shtml>

World Bank via Noticias.info, July 12, 2005

Paul Wolfowitz visits Serbia and Montenegro

World Bank Group President Paul Wolfowitz paid an informal visit to Serbia and Montenegro on July 11-12.

He traveled to Belgrade from Bosnia, where he attended the commemoration service marking the 10th anniversary of the massacre in Srebrenica.

During his visit to Serbia and Montenegro Mr. Wolfowitz met with government representatives and representatives from civil society organizations.

He also visited the Clinical Center of Serbia (CCS), where one component of the World Bank's \$21 million Energy Efficiency Project is being implemented.

Under this project, the costly, inefficient and highly polluting heating system at the CCS will be completely overhauled and the maternity hospital will be refurbished in order to improve energy efficiency.

At the maternity hospital, Mr. Wolfowitz met with doctors, nurses and new mothers.

Summing up his impressions, Mr. Wolfowitz remarked: "As someone who has followed events in the region for years from a distance, I can say that if someone had told me five years ago that Serbia would make so much progress in so many areas in such a short time, I would have said he was dreaming."

When asked about the World Bank's role in Serbia and Montenegro, Mr. Wolfowitz said that the Bank stands ready to continue to provide as much support as possible to Serbia and Montenegro and to the whole region.

Sagittarius

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Verzonden: zaterdag 2 juli 2005 1:47
Onderwerp: Act now: The life of a Serb inmate at stake due to Hague fabrications

----- Original Message -----

From: "Vladimir Krsljanin" <slobodavk@yubc.net>
 To: "despot" <despot@wish.net>
 Sent: Friday, July 01, 2005 6:18 PM
 Subject: Act now: The life of a Serb inmate at stake due to Hague fabrications

>
 >
 > ACT NOW AND SAVE THE LIFE OF VLASTIMIR PUSARA AT STAKE DUE TO HAGUE
 > FABRICATIONS!
 >
 > Please circulate widely.
 > *****
 > Public call for help by Lili (Ljiljana) Petrovic, professor of philosophy
 > from Montreal, niece of Zenica prison inmate Vlastimir Pusara, who is on a
 > hunger
 > strike:
 > *****
 > "My uncle, Vlastimir Pusara, and others have been on a hunger strike for
 > 24
 > days. They began this strike as a desperate last attempt to bring
 > attention
 > to their situation and to have granted one simple request: to be moved to
 > another prison. My uncle was in the process of appealing false allegations
 > made about him, when the harassment at Zenica turned to extreme violence.
 > After being shown a doctored film about six executions in in Trnovo,
 > Pusara
 > and some others were severely beaten. A razor was taken to Pusara's neck,
 > and he narrowly escaped death.
 >
 > He began this hunger strike in serious condition. I have been informed
 > that
 > his health is in grave danger. There is not much time.
 >
 > An appeal to the Human Rights Court in Strausbourg was just brought forth
 > by
 > his lawyer Zoran Malesevic, but it will take at least another week for
 > them
 > to confirm that indeed there have been human rights abuses in that prison.
 >
 > I spoke to the Office of the High Representative (who have been, to say
 > the
 > least, terribly unhelpful, without an ounce of compassion, and rather
 > insincere). this morning and they told me that this was a problem for
 > local

authorities, but the problem is that the local authorities are contributing to the imminent death of these inmates.

>

> The statement right now is that the Minister of Justice for the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slobodan Kovac is in conflict with the Minister of Justice of the Muslim-Croat Federation, Borijana Kristo. Kovac has demanded that the prisoners be transferred. Kristo is blocking it.

> When the local officials in Republika Srpska act or refrain to act in a way Ashdown dislikes, he fires them, like last year, almost to the day, when he sacked the whole government.

>

> I call upon for an urgent action. Please write to the OHR, to the Ministry of Justice of the Federation and to the most responsible UN bodies and members.

>

> Please save the life of Vlastimir Pusara and other Serb inmates.

>

> Lili Petrovic
 > Professor of Philosophy,
 > Montreal, Canada
 > Niece of Vlastimir Pusara
 > E-mail: petrovil@vaniercollege.qc.ca "

>

> *****

> Addresses for your letters:

>

> OHR - Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (Paddy Ashdown):
 > Telephone number at the OHR is 033-283-500 (in Sarajevo) and 32-22-85-76-49 (in Brussels).
 > Email addresses: amela.zahiragic@ohr.int (Amela Zehiragic), ian.patrick@ohr.int (Ian Patrick)

>

> Ministry of Justice of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 > Address:
 > Ministry of Justice
 > 71000-SARAJEVO
 > Bosnia & Herzegovina
 > Tel. (387) 33 213 155 (387) 33 656 743
 > Fax (387) 33 213 155 (387) 33 666 971
 > e-mail: mirelas@pris.gov.ba, mirjanab@pris.gov.ba

> *****

>

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Nico en Neeltje" <nico.s@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Dolf Loth"
Verzonden: zaterdag 2 juli 2005 2:57
Onderwerp: Fw: The Dream came true

— Original Message —

From: Darkita

To: minja@vlada.ca ; kumasi@wanadoo.es ; Dragic@aol.com ; antic.miroslav@gmail.com ; milan.kasic@3web.net ; despot@tiscali.nl ; 1branka@tiscali.co.uk ; r_rozoff@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, July 01, 2005 9:17 AM

Subject: The Dream came true

USSS TV commercial

D.

SETimes

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http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2005/06/30/feature-03

US Steel Serbia Restarts Blast Furnace

30/06/2005

US Steel, which bought Serbia's Sartid steelworks two years ago, has reopened a blast furnace at Smederevo, some 45km south of Belgrade. The move is expected to help double the steelworks' annual output to 2.2 million tonnes.

By Dusan Kosanovic for Southeast European Times in Belgrade — 30/06/05

US Steel Serbia (USSS) reopened its number one blast furnace on 22 June, under a 27.4m-euro investment. The ceremony at Smederevo, some 45km southeast of the capital, was attended by Serbian President Boris Tadic, Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica, US Ambassador to Belgrade Michael C. Polt, and other top officials.

Restarting the blast furnace, which was offline for 18 years, will help raise the Smederevo steel factory's output to 1.6 million tonnes this year and eventually double it to 2.2 million tonnes a year, said USSS General Manager Michael Fedorenko.

The move comes two years after Pittsburgh-based US Steel bought Serbia's sole steelworks and its six subsidiaries from receivership for 19m euros. The new management pledged to invest 124.2m euros over the next five years. It has pumped in 107.6m euros so far.

USSS, formerly known as Sartid, is Serbia's largest exporter today, operating plants in Smederevo, Sabac, and Kucevo. It exports 65 per cent to 70 per cent of its total output to Europe and the Middle East. The company's 2004 exports totalled 347.6m euros. In the first four months of this year, iron and steel products accounted for 16.7 per cent of Serbia's exports of 1.13 billion euros, according to the Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

US Steel President and CEO John Surma described 22 June as a historic day for the company, Smederevo and all of Serbia. According to Surma, there are many possibilities for co-operation on issues of national interest.

Tadic agreed, inviting US Steel representatives to help promote American investments in the country.

"Steel produced at Smederevo is not only a product, but also a symbol of strong US-Serbian ties," Kostunica told reporters.

US Steel Serbia employs 8,550 people and has pledged, as part of its purchase of Sartid, to retain them for three years. Officials say there are no plans for massive layoffs after that period ends in 2006.

29-6-2008

Zijn ze wel goed bij hun hoofd, die Joegoslaven? Wat willen die hier eigenlijk?

Beste burgers van Den Haag, vandaag demonstreren wij voor de derde keer in jullie stad. Wij waarderen het zeer dat we ons protest in jullie straten ten gehore kunnen brengen.

Hef het "Strafgerechtshof voor het voormalige Joegoslavië" in Den Haag, dat het volkenrecht schendt, op! Waarom, zult u zich afvragen?

Is dit tribunaal niet ingesteld door de Verenigde Naties, dé legitieme vertegenwoordiger van alle volken en staten? Dit strafgerechtshof werd door de VN-Veiligheidsraad in het leven geroepen en volgens het VN-Handvest is ze daartoe niet gemachtigd. Dit recht is alleen aan de Algemene Vergadering voorbehouden. Dit strafgerechtshof staat ook niet op de reguliere begroting van de VN. De Amerikaanse regering en verscheidene particuliere geldschietters stellen de financiële middelen beschikbaar die voor het gerechtshof en z'n aanklagers nodig zijn.

Alle oorlogsmisdadigers bestraffen!

Ja, tijdens de burger- en interventieoorlog in Joegoslavië zijn verschrikkelijke misdaden gepleegd. Wij zijn ervoor dat al diegenen die daarvoor verantwoordelijk zijn, bestraft worden. Daarvoor is een gerechtshof nodig dat werkelijk gemachtigd is recht te spreken en dat er niet toe dient de daden van de NAVO achteraf te rechtvaardigen. Op de beklaagdenbank horen ook diegenen die ons land 78 dagen lang gebombardeerd en verwoest hebben.

Vrijheid voor Slobodan Milošević!

Waarom dat?

Goed betaalde en uitstekend toegeruste aanklagers konden binnen twee jaar niet bewijzen dat Milošević criminele handelingen begaan heeft. De beschuldiging dat hij als president van Joegoslavië tot volkenmoord aangezet heeft, diende als reden voor de oorlog. De aanklagers zelf moesten deze bewering terugnemen. Milošević heeft zich tegen de uitverkoop van z'n land verzet en voor het behoud van de integriteit ervan gevochten. Dat was zijn plicht en geen misdaad.

Wij geven onze geschiedenis niet weg! Wat betekent dat?

Joegoslavië, dat aan het einde van de Eerste Wereldoorlog is ontstaan, is het resultaat van een eeuwenlange vrijheidsstrijd tegen de onderdrukking door het Osmaanse Rijk en de Donaumonarchie. De volkeren van Joegoslavië hebben een belangrijk aandeel in de nederlaag van het Duitse fascisme gehad. Joegoslavië was mede-oprichter van de Verenigde Naties. In dit land leefden na het einde van de Tweede Wereldoorlog tot begin jaren negentig van de vorige eeuw vele nationaliteiten vreedzaam bij elkaar. Dit alles laten we ons door geen enkele chauvinist uit het hoofd praten, en zeker niet door personen die door de NAVO-staten betaald worden!

Nedalt – Servisch Diaspora-Comité "Nedamo Istoriju"

Die spinnen, die Jugos? ...

... „Was wollen die denn hier?“

Liebe Bürgerinnen und Bürger von Den Haag, heute demonstrieren wir zum vierten Mal in Ihrer Stadt.

Wir wissen es zu würdigen, daß wir unseren Protest auf Ihren Straßen zu Gehör bringen können.

Schließt das völkerrechtswidrige Sondergericht für Jugoslawien (ICTY)! – Warum das?

Ist dieses Tribunal nicht eine Einrichtung der UNO, der legitimen Vertretung aller Völker und Staaten? Dieses Gericht wurde vom UN-Sicherheitsrat errichtet. Der Sicherheitsrat ist nach der UN-Charta dazu nicht ermächtigt. Dieses Recht steht nur der UN-Vollversammlung zu. Dieses Gericht wird auch nicht aus regulären Haushaltsmitteln der UNO finanziert, sondern Staaten wie zum Beispiel die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, Saudi-Arabien und private Finanziere wie das Open Society Institute von George Soros stellen finanzielle Mittel für das Gericht und die Anklage bereit.

Alle Kriegsverbrecher bestrafen!

Ja, im jugoslawischen Bürger- und Interventionskrieg sind schreckliche Verbrechen begangen worden. Wir sind dafür, daß alle, die dafür verantwortlich sind, bestraft werden. Dazu bedarf es eines Gerichts, das wirklich legitimiert ist, Recht zu sprechen und nicht dazu da ist, die Taten der NATO nachträglich zu rechtfertigen. Auf die Anklagebank gehören auch die, die unser Land 78 Tage lang bombardiert und zerstört haben.

Freiheit für Slobodan Milosevic! – Wieso das?

Eine gut bezahlte und bestens ausgerüstete Anklagebehörde konnte innerhalb von drei Jahren nicht beweisen, daß Milosevic kriminelle Handlungen begangen hat. Der Vorwurf, er habe als jugoslawischer Staatspräsident Völkermord organisiert, diene als Kriegsgrund. Die Anklage selbst mußte diese Behauptung zurückziehen. Milosevic hat sich dem Ausverkauf seines Landes widersetzt und für die Erhaltung der Integrität seines Landes gekämpft. Das war seine Pflicht und kein Verbrechen.

Wir geben unsere Geschichte nicht her! – Was soll das heißen?

Jugoslawien ist als Ergebnis eines Jahrhunderte langen Befreiungskampfes gegen die Unterdrückung durch das Osmanische Reich und die Donaumonarchie am Ende des Ersten Weltkrieges entstanden. Die Völker Jugoslawiens haben einen wichtigen Anteil an der Niederlage des deutschen Faschismus. Jugoslawien war Gründungsmitglied der UNO. In diesem Land lebten nach Ende des Zweiten Weltkriegs bis zum Beginn der 1990er Jahre Dutzende Nationalitäten friedlich zusammen. Das lassen wir uns von keinen Chauvinisten ausreden, erst recht nicht von solchen, die von den NATO-Staaten bezahlt werden!

Nedajst – Serbisches Diaspora-Komitee „Ne damo Istoriju“

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Onderwerp: U-S, European intelligence agencies hunt for terrorists in Bosnia
AP, June 26, 2004

U-S, European intelligence agencies hunt for terrorists in Bosnia

Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina-AP – The U-S is hunting for Islamic extremists in Bosnia.

An investigation by The Associated Press shows hundreds of agents from military intelligence and the C-I-A are tracking hundreds of suspected terrorists and working to shut off their funding.

The Americans are working out of a well-guarded compound in a suburb of Sarajevo.

One commander says Bosnia has become a way station for Islamic extremists, and a possible refuge.

A senior European intelligence operative says the international undercover effort is part of an "invisible but real struggle with the bad guys" that he says could stop bombings in Europe – or the U-S.



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Onderwerp: Extended Bosnia Mission Endangers U.S. Troops

U.S. Senate Republican Policy Committee - Larry E. Craig, Chairman - Jade West, Staff Director

Extended Bosnia Mission Endangers U.S. Troops

Clinton-Approved Iranian Arms Transfers Help Turn Bosnia into Militant Islamic Base

January 16, 1997

""There is no question that the policy of getting arms into Bosnia was of great assistance in allowing the Iranians to dig in and create good relations with the Bosnian government,' a senior CIA officer told Congress in a classified deposition. 'And it is a thing we will live to regret because when they blow up some Americans, as they no doubt will before this . . . thing is over, it will be in part because the Iranians were able to have the time and contacts to establish themselves well in Bosnia.'" ["Iran Gave Bosnia Leader \$500,000, CIA Alleges: Classified Report Says Izetbegovic Has Been 'Co-Opted,' Contradicting U.S. Public Assertion of Rift," *Los Angeles Times*, 12/31/96. Ellipses in original. Alija Izetbegovic is the Muslim president of Bosnia.]

""If you read President Izetbegovic's writings, as I have, there is no doubt that he is an Islamic fundamentalist,' said a senior Western diplomat with long experience in the region. 'He is a very nice fundamentalist, but he is still a fundamentalist. This has not changed. His goal is to establish a Muslim state in Bosnia, and the Serbs and Croats understand this better than the rest of us.'" ["Bosnian Leader Hails Islam at Election Rallies," *New York Times*, 9/2/96]

Introduction and Summary

In late 1995, President Bill Clinton dispatched some 20,000 U.S. troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of a NATO-led "implementation force" (IFOR) to ensure that the warring Muslim, Serbian, and Croatian factions complied with provisions of the Dayton peace plan. [NOTE: This paper assumes the reader is acquainted with the basic facts of the Bosnian war leading to the IFOR deployment. For background, see RPC's "Clinton Administration Ready

to Send U.S. Troops to Bosnia, "9/28/95," and *Legislative Notice No. 60*, "Senate to Consider Several Resolutions on Bosnia," 12/12/95] Through statements by Administration spokesmen, notably Defense Secretary Perry and Joint Chiefs Chairman General Shalikashvili, the president firmly assured Congress and the American people that U.S. personnel would be out of Bosnia at the end of one year. Predictably, as soon as the November 1996 election was safely behind him, President Clinton announced that approximately 8,500 U.S. troops would be remaining for another 18 months as part of a restructured and scaled down contingent, the "stabilization force" (SFOR), officially established on December 20, 1996.

SFOR begins its mission in Bosnia under a serious cloud both as to the nature of its mission and the dangers it will face. While IFOR had successfully accomplished its basic military task -- separating the factions' armed forces -- there has been very little progress toward other stated goals of the Dayton agreement, including political and economic reintegration of Bosnia, return of refugees to their homes, and apprehension and prosecution of accused war criminals. It is far from certain that the cease-fire that has held through the past year will continue for much longer, in light of such unresolved issues as the status of the cities of Brcko (claimed by Muslims but held by the Serbs) and Mostar (divided between nominal Muslim and Croat allies, both of which are currently being armed by the Clinton Administration). Moreover, at a strength approximately one-third that of its predecessor, SFOR may not be in as strong a position to deter attacks by one or another of the Bosnian factions or to avoid attempts to involve it in renewed fighting: "IFOR forces, despite having suffered few casualties, have been vulnerable to attacks from all of the contending sides over the year of the Dayton mandate. As a second mandate [i.e., SFOR] evolves, presumably maintaining a smaller force on the ground, the deterrent effect which has existed may well become less compelling and vulnerabilities of the troops will increase." ["Military Security in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Present and Future," Bulletin of the Atlantic Council of the United States, 12/18/96]

The Iranian Connection

Perhaps most threatening to the SFOR mission -- and more importantly, to the safety of the American personnel serving in Bosnia -- is the unwillingness of the Clinton Administration to come clean with the Congress and with the American people about its complicity in the delivery of weapons from Iran to the Muslim government in Sarajevo. That policy, personally approved by Bill Clinton in April 1994 at the urging of CIA Director-designate (and then-NSC chief) Anthony Lake and the U.S. ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith, has, according to the *Los Angeles Times* (citing classified intelligence community sources), "played a central role in the dramatic

increase in Iranian influence in Bosnia." Further, according to the *Times*, in September 1996 National Security Agency analysts contradicted Clinton Administration claims of declining Iranian influence, insisting instead that "Iranian Revolutionary Guard personnel remain active throughout Bosnia." Likewise, "CIA analysts noted that the Iranian presence was expanding last fall," with some ostensible cultural and humanitarian activities "known to be fronts" for the Revolutionary Guard and Iran's intelligence service, known as VEVAK, the Islamic revolutionary successor to the Shah's SAVAK. [LAT, 12/31/96] At a time when there is evidence of increased willingness by pro-Iranian Islamic militants to target American assets abroad -- as illustrated by the June 1996 car-bombing at the Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, that killed 19 American airmen, in which the Iranian government or pro-Iranian terrorist organizations are suspected ["U.S. Focuses Bomb Probe on Iran, Saudi Dissident," *Chicago Tribune*, 11/4/96] -- it is irresponsible in the extreme for the Clinton Administration to gloss over the extent to which its policies have put American personnel in an increasingly vulnerable position while performing an increasingly questionable mission.

Three Key Issues for Examination

This paper will examine the Clinton policy of giving the green light to Iranian arms shipments to the Bosnian Muslims, with serious implications for the safety of U.S. troops deployed there. (In addition, RPC will release a general analysis of the SFOR mission and the Clinton Administration's request for supplemental appropriations to fund it in the near future.) Specifically, the balance of this paper will examine in detail the three issues summarized below:

1. The Clinton Green Light to Iranian Arms Shipments (page 3): In April 1994, President Clinton gave the government of Croatia what has been described by Congressional committees as a "green light" for shipments of weapons from Iran and other Muslim countries to the Muslim-led government of Bosnia. The policy was approved at the urging of NSC chief Anthony Lake and the U.S. ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith. The CIA and the Departments of State and Defense were kept in the dark until after the decision was made.

2. The Militant Islamic Network (page 5): Along with the weapons, Iranian Revolutionary Guards and VEVAK intelligence operatives entered Bosnia in large numbers, along with thousands of *mujahedin* ("holy warriors") from across the Muslim world. Also engaged in the effort were several other Muslim countries (including Brunei, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Turkey) and a number of radical Muslim organizations. For example, the role of one Sudan-based "humanitarian organization," called the Third World Relief Agency, has been well-documented. The Clinton

Bosnia " Further, according to the *Times*, in
Clinton

Administration's "hands-on" involvement with the Islamic network's arms pipeline included inspections of missiles from Iran by U.S. government officials.

3. The Radical Islamic Character of the Sarajevo Regime (page 8):

Underlying the Clinton Administration's misguided green light policy is a complete misreading of its main beneficiary, the Bosnian Muslim government of Alija Izetbegovic. Rather than being the tolerant, multiethnic democratic government it pretends to be, there is clear evidence that the ruling circle of Izetbegovic's party, the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), has long been guided by the principles of radical Islam. This Islamist orientation is illustrated by profiles of three important officials, including President Izetbegovic himself; the progressive Islamization of the Bosnian army, including creation of native Bosnian *mujahedin* units; credible claims that major atrocities against civilians in Sarajevo were staged for propaganda purposes by operatives of the Izetbegovic government; and suppression of enemies, both non-Muslim and Muslim.

The Clinton Green Light to Iranian Arms Shipments

Both the Senate Intelligence Committee and the House Select Subcommittee to Investigate the United States Role in Iranian Arms Transfers to Croatia and Bosnia issued reports late last year. (The Senate report, dated November 1996, is unclassified. The House report is classified, with the exception of the final section of conclusions, which was released on October 8, 1996; a declassified version of the full report is expected to be released soon.) The reports, consistent with numerous press accounts, confirm that on April 27, 1994, President Clinton directed Ambassador Galbraith to inform the government of Croatia that he had "no instructions" regarding Croatia's decision whether or not to permit weapons, primarily from Iran, to be transshipped to Bosnia through Croatia. (The purpose was to facilitate the acquisition of arms by the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo despite the arms embargo imposed on Yugoslavia by the U.N. Security Council.) Clinton Administration officials took that course despite their awareness of the source of the weapons and despite the fact that the Croats (who were themselves divided on whether to permit arms deliveries to the Muslims) would take anything short of a U.S. statement that they should not facilitate the flow of Iranian arms to Bosnia as a "green light."

The green light policy was decided upon and implemented with unusual secrecy, with the CIA and the Departments of State and Defense only informed after the fact. ["U.S. Had Options to Let Bosnia Get Arms, Avoid Iran," *Los Angeles Times*, 7/14/96] Among the key conclusions of the House Subcommittee were the following (taken from the unclassified section released on October 8):

"The President and the American people were poorly served by the Administration officials who rushed the green light decision without due deliberation, full information and an adequate consideration of the consequences." (page 202)

"The Administration's efforts to keep even senior US officials from seeing its 'fingerprints' on the green light policy led to confusion and disarray within the government." (page 203)

"The Administration repeatedly deceived the American people about its Iranian green light policy." (page 204)

Clinton, Lake, and Galbraith Responsible

While the final go-ahead for the green light was given by President Clinton -- who is ultimately accountable for the results of his decision -- two Clinton Administration officials bear particular responsibility: Ambassador Galbraith and then-NSC Director Anthony Lake, against both of whom the House of Representatives has referred criminal charges to the Justice Department. Mr. Lake, who personally presented the proposal to Bill Clinton for approval, "played a central role in preventing the responsible congressional committees from knowing about the Administration's fateful decision to acquiesce in radical Islamic Iran's effort to penetrate the European continent through arms shipments and military cooperation with the Bosnian government." ["'In Lake We Trust'? Confirmation Make-Over Exacerbates Senate Concerns About D.C.I.-Designate's Candor, Reliability," Center for Security Policy, Washington, D.C., 1/8/97] His responsibility for the operation is certain to be a major hurdle in his effort to be confirmed as CIA Director: "The fact that Lake was one of the authors of the duplicitous policy in Bosnia, which is very controversial and which has probably helped strengthen the hand of the Iranians, doesn't play well," stated Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Shelby. ["Lake to be asked about donation," *Washington Times*, 1/2/97]

For his part, Ambassador Galbraith was the key person both in conceiving the policy and in serving as the link between the Clinton Administration and the Croatian government; he also met with Imam Sevko Omerbasic, the top Muslim cleric in Croatia, "who the CIA says was an intermediary for Iran." ["Fingerprints: Arms to Bosnia, the real story," *The New Republic*, 10/28/96; see also *LAT* 12/23/96] As the House Subcommittee concluded (page 206): "There is evidence that Ambassador Galbraith may have engaged in activities that could be characterized as unauthorized covert action." The Senate Committee (pages 19 and 20 of the report) was unable to agree on the specific legal issue of whether Galbraith's actions constituted a "covert action" within the definition of section 503(e) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. Sec. 413(e)), as amended, defined as "an

activity or activities . . . to influence political, economic, or military conditions abroad, where it is intended that the role of the United States Government will not be apparent or acknowledged publicly."

The Militant Islamic Network

The House Subcommittee report also concluded (page 2): "The Administration's Iranian green light policy gave Iran an unprecedented foothold in Europe and has recklessly endangered American lives and US strategic interests." Further --

" . . . The Iranian presence and influence [in Bosnia] jumped radically in the months following the green light. Iranian elements infiltrated the Bosnian government and established close ties with the current leadership in Bosnia and the next generation of leaders. Iranian Revolutionary Guards accompanied Iranian weapons into Bosnia and soon were integrated in the Bosnian military structure from top to bottom as well as operating in independent units throughout Bosnia. The Iranian intelligence service [VEVAK] ran wild through the area developing intelligence networks, setting up terrorist support systems, recruiting terrorist 'sleeper' agents and agents of influence, and insinuating itself with the Bosnian political leadership to a remarkable degree. The Iranians effectively annexed large portions of the Bosnian security apparatus [known as the Agency for Information and Documentation (AID)] to act as their intelligence and terrorist surrogates. This extended to the point of jointly planning terrorist activities. The Iranian embassy became the largest in Bosnia and its officers were given unparalleled privileges and access at every level of the Bosnian government." (page 201)

Not Just the Iranians

To understand how the Clinton green light would lead to this degree of Iranian influence, it is necessary to remember that the policy was adopted in the context of extensive and growing radical Islamic activity in Bosnia. That is, the Iranians and other Muslim militants had long been active in Bosnia; the American green light was an important political signal to both Sarajevo and the militants that the United States was unable or unwilling to present an obstacle to those activities -- and, to a certain extent, was willing to cooperate with them. In short, the Clinton Administration's policy of *facilitating* the delivery of arms to the Bosnian Muslims made it the *de facto* partner of an ongoing international network of governments and organizations pursuing their own agenda in Bosnia: the promotion of Islamic revolution in Europe. That network involves not only Iran but Brunei, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan (a key ally of Iran), and Turkey, together with front groups supposedly pursuing humanitarian and cultural activities.

For example, one such group about which details have come to light is the Third World Relief Agency (TWRA), a Sudan-based, phoney humanitarian organization which has been a major link in the arms pipeline to Bosnia. ["How Bosnia's Muslims Dodged Arms Embargo: Relief Agency Brokered Aid From Nations, Radical Groups," *Washington Post*, 9/22/96; see also "Saudis Funded Weapons For Bosnia, Official Says: \$300 Million Program Had U.S. 'Stealth Cooperation'," *Washington Post*, 2/2/96] TWRA is believed to be connected with such fixtures of the Islamic terror network as Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman (the convicted mastermind behind the 1993 World Trade Center bombing) and Osama Binladen, a wealthy Saudi emigre believed to bankroll numerous militant groups. [WP, 9/22/96] (Sheik Rahman, a native of Egypt, is currently in prison in the United States; letter bombs addressed to targets in Washington and London, apparently from Alexandria, Egypt, are believed connected with his case. Binladen was a resident in Khartoum, Sudan, until last year; he is now believed to be in Afghanistan, "where he has issued statements calling for attacks on U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf." [WP, 9/22/96])

The Clinton Administration's "Hands-On" Help

The extent to which Clinton Administration officials, notably Ambassador Galbraith, knowingly or negligently, cooperated with the efforts of such front organizations is unclear. For example, according to one intelligence account seen by an unnamed U.S. official in the Balkans, "Galbraith 'talked with representatives of Muslim countries on payment for arms that would be sent to Bosnia,' . . . [T]he dollar amount mentioned in the report was \$500 million-\$800 million. The U.S. official said he also saw subsequent 'operational reports' in 1995 on almost weekly arms shipments of automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, anti-armor rockets and TOW missiles." [TNR, 10/28/96] The United States played a disturbingly "hands-on" role, with, according to the Senate report (page 19), U.S. government personnel twice conducting inspections in Croatia of missiles en route to Bosnia. Further --

"The U.S. decision to send personnel to Croatia to inspect rockets bound for Bosnia is . . . subject to varying interpretations. It may have been simply a straightforward effort to determine whether chemical weapons were being shipped into Bosnia. It was certainly, at least in part, an opportunity to examine a rocket in which the United States had some interest. But it may also have been designed to ensure that Croatia would not shut down the pipeline." (page 21)

The account in *The New Republic* points sharply to the latter explanation: "Enraged at Iran's apparent attempt to slip super weapons past Croat monitors, the Croatian defense minister nonetheless sent the missiles on to

Bosnia 'just as Peter [i.e., Ambassador Galbraith] told us to do,' sources familiar with the episode said." [TNR, 10/28/96] In short, the Clinton Administration's connection with the various players that made up the arms network seems to have been direct and intimate.

The Mujahedin Threat

In addition to (and working closely with) the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and VEVAK intelligence are members of numerous radical groups known for their anti-Western orientation, along with thousands of volunteer *mujahedin* ("holy warriors") from across the Islamic world. From the beginning of the NATO-led deployment, the Clinton Administration has given insufficient weight to military concerns regarding the *mujahedin* presence in Bosnia as well as the danger they pose to American personnel. Many of the fighters are concentrated in the so-called "green triangle" (the color green symbolizes Islam) centered on the town of Zenica in the American IFOR/SFOR zone but are also found throughout the country.

The Clinton Administration has been willing to accept Sarajevo's transparently false assurances of the departure of the foreign fighters based on the contention that they have married Bosnian women and have acquired Bosnian citizenship -- and thus are no longer "foreign"! -- or, having left overt military units to join "humanitarian," "cultural," or "charitable" organizations, are no longer "fighters." [See "Foreign Muslims Fighting in Bosnia Considered 'Threat' to U.S. Troops," *Washington Post*, 11/30/95; "Outsiders Bring Islamic Fervor To the Balkans," *New York Times*, 9/23/96; "Islamic Alien Fighters Settle in Bosnia," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 9/23/96; "Mujahideen rule Bosnian villages: Threaten NATO forces, non-Muslims," *Washington Times*, 9/23/96; and Yossef Bodansky, *Offensive in the Balkans* (November 1995) and *Some Call It Peace* (August 1996), International Media Corporation, Ltd., London. Bodansky, an analyst with the House Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, is an internationally recognized authority on Islamic terrorism.] The methods employed to qualify for Bosnian citizenship are themselves problematic: "Islamic militants from Iran and other foreign countries are employing techniques such as forced marriages, kidnappings and the occupation of apartments and houses to remain in Bosnia in violation of the Dayton peace accord and may be a threat to U.S. forces." ["Mujaheddin Remaining in Bosnia: Islamic Militants Strongarm Civilians, Defy Dayton Plan," *Washington Post*, 7/8/96]

The threat presented by the *mujahedin* to IFOR (and now, to SFOR) -- contingent only upon the precise time their commanders in Tehran or Sarajevo should choose to activate them -- has been evident from the beginning of the NATO-led deployment. For example, in February 1996

NATO forces raided a terrorist training camp near the town of Fojnica, taking into custody 11 men (8 Bosnian citizens -- two of whom may have been naturalized foreign *mujahedin* -- and three Iranian instructors); also seized were explosives "built into small children's plastic toys, including a car, a helicopter and an ice cream cone," plus other weapons such as handguns, sniper rifles, grenade launchers, etc. The Sarajevo government denounced the raid, claiming the facility was an "intelligence service school"; the detainees were released promptly after NATO turned them over to local authorities. ["NATO Captures Terrorist Training Camp, Claims Iranian Involvement," *Associated Press*, 2/16/96; "Bosnian government denies camp was for terrorists," *Reuters*, 2/16/96; Bodansky *Some Call It Peace*, page 56] In May 1996, a previously unknown group called "Bosnian Islamic Jihad" (*jihad* means "holy war") threatened attacks on NATO troops by suicide bombers, similar to those that had recently been launched in Israel. ["Jihad Threat in Bosnia Alarms NATO," *The European*, 5/9/96]

Stepping-Stone to Europe

The intended targets of the *mujahedin* network in Bosnia are not limited to that country but extend to Western Europe. For example, in August 1995, the conservative Paris daily *Le Figaro* reported that French security services believe that "Islamic fundamentalists from Algeria have set up a security network across Europe with fighters trained in Afghan guerrilla camps and [in] southern France while some have been tested in Bosnia." [(London) *Daily Telegraph*, 8/17/95] Also, in April 1996, Belgian security arrested a number of Islamic militants, including two native Bosnians, smuggling weapons to Algerian guerrillas active in France. [*Intelligence Newsletter*, Paris, 5/9/96 (No. 287)] Finally, also in April 1996, a meeting of radicals aligned with *HizbAllah* ("Party of God"), a pro-Iran group based in Lebanon, set plans for stepping up attacks on U.S. assets on all continents; among those participating was an Egyptian, Ayman al-Zawahiri, who "runs the Islamist terrorist operations in Bosnia Herzegovina from a special headquarters in Sofia, Bulgaria. His forces are already deployed throughout Bosnia, ready to attack US and other I-FOR (NATO Implementation Force) targets." ["State Sponsored Terrorism and The Rise of the HizbAllah International," *Defense and Foreign Affairs and Strategic Policy*, London, 8/31/96] Finally, in December 1996, French and Belgian security arrested several would-be terrorists trained at Iranian-run camps in Bosnia. ["Terrorism: The Bosnian Connection," (Paris) *L'Express*, 12/26/96]

The Radical Islamic Character of the Sarajevo Regime

Underlying the Clinton Administration's misguided policy toward Iranian influence in Bosnia is a fundamental misreading of the true nature of the Muslim regime that benefitted from the Iran/Bosnia arms policy: "The most

serving commercial that the government hopes to eventually establish a multiethnic liberal democratic society. Such ideals may appeal to a few members of Bosnia's ruling circle as well as to a generally secular populace, but President Izetbegovic and his cabal appear to harbor much different private intentions and goals." ["Selling the Bosnia Myth to America: Buyer Beware," Lieutenant Colonel John E. Sray, USA, U.S. Army Foreign Military Studies Office, Fort Leavenworth, KS, October 1995]

The evidence that the leadership of the ruling Party of Democratic Action (SDA), and consequently, the Sarajevo-based government, has long been motivated by the principles of radical Islam is inescapable. The following three profiles are instructive:

Alija Izetbegovic: Alija Izetbegovic, current Bosnian president and head of the SDA, in 1970 authored the radical "Islamic Declaration," which calls for "the Islamic movement" to start to take power as soon as it can overturn "the existing non-Muslim government . . . [and] build up a new Islamic one," "the existing non-Muslim government . . . [and] build up a new Islamic one," to destroy non-Islamic institutions ("There can be neither peace nor coexistence between the Islamic religion and non-Islamic social institutions"), and to create an international federation of Islamic states. [The Islamic Declaration: A Programme for the Islamization of Muslims and the Muslim Peoples, Sarajevo, in English, 1990] Izetbegovic's radical pro-Iran associations go back decades: "At the center of the Iranian system in Europe is Bosnia-Herzegovina's President, Alija Izetbegovic, . . . who is committed to the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina." ["Iran's European Springboard?", House Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, 9/1/92] The Task Force report further described Izetbegovic's contacts with Iran and Libya in 1991, before the Bosnian war began, but he also ruled as a "hardcore Islamist" and a member of the "Fedayeen of Islam" organization, an Iran-based radical group dating to the 1930s and which by the late 1960s had recognized the leadership of the Ayatollah Khomeini (then in exile from the Shah). Following Khomeini's accession to power in 1979, Izetbegovic stepped-up his efforts to establish Islamic power in Bosnia and was joined by the communists in 1991. Today, he is open and unapologetic about his links to Iran: "Perhaps the most telling detail of the [SDA's September 1, 1996] campaign rally . . . was the presence of the Iranian Ambassador and his Bosnian and Iranian bodyguards, who sat in the shadow of the huge birchwood platform. . . . As the only foreign diplomat [present], indeed the only foreigner traveling in the President's [i.e., Izetbegovic's] heavily guarded motorcade of bulky four-wheel drive jeeps, he lent a silent Islamic imprimatur to the event, one that many American and European commentators in the Bosnian Government are trying hard to ignore or dismiss." [NYT, 9/2/96] During the summer 1996 election campaign, the Iranians delivered

to him, in two suitcases, \$500,000 in cash; Izetbegovic "is now 'literally on their [i.e., the Iranians'] payroll,' according to a classified report based on the CIA's analysis of the issue." [LAT, 12/31/96. See also "Iran Contributed \$500,000 to Bosnian President's Election Effort, U.S. Says," *New York Times*, 1/1/97, and *Washington Times*, 1/2/97] Adil Zulfikarpasic, a Muslim co-founder of the SDA, broke with Izetbegovic in late 1990 due to the increasingly overt fundamentalist and pro-Iranian direction of the party. [See Milovan Djilas, *Bosnjak: Adil Zulfikarpasic*, Zurich, 1994]

Hassan (or Hasan) Cengic: Until recently, deputy defense minister (and now cosmetically reassigned to a potentially even more dangerous job in refugee resettlement at the behest of the Clinton Administration), Cengic, a member of a powerful clan headed by his father, Halid Cengic, is an Islamic cleric who has traveled frequently to Tehran and is deeply involved in the arms pipeline. ["Bosnian Officials Involved in Arms Trade Tied to Radical States," *Washington Post*, 9/22/96] Cengic was identified by Austrian police as a member of TWRA's supervisory board, "a fact confirmed by its Sudanese director, Elfatih Hassanein, in a 1994 interview with Gazi Husrev Beg, an Islamic affairs magazine. Cengic later became the key Bosnian official involved in setting up a weapons pipeline from Iran. . . . Cengic . . . is a longtime associate of Izetbegovic's. He was one of the co-defendants in Izetbegovic's 1983 trial for fomenting Muslim nationalism in what was then Yugoslavia. Cengic was given a 10-year prison term, most of which he did not serve. In trial testimony Cengic was said to have been traveling to Iran since 1983. Cengic lived in Tehran and Istanbul during much of the war, arranging for weapons to be smuggled into Bosnia." [WP, 9/22/96] According to a Bosnian Croat radio profile: "Hasan's father, Halid Cengic . . . is the main logistic expert in the Muslim army. All petrodollar donations from the Islamic world and the procurement of arms and military technology for Muslim units went through him. He made so much money out of this business that he is one of the richest Muslims today. Halid Cengic and his two sons, of whom Hasan has been more in the public spotlight, also control the Islamic wing of the intelligence agency AID [Agency for Information and Documentation]. Well informed sources in Sarajevo claim that only Hasan addresses Izetbegovic with 'ti' [second person singular, used as an informal form of address] while all the others address him as 'Mr. President,'" a sign of his extraordinary degree of intimacy with the president. [BBC Summary of *World Broadcasts*, 10/28/96, "Radio elaborates on Iranian connection of Bosnian deputy defense minister," from *Croat Radio Herceg-Bosna*, Mostar, in Serbo-Croatian, 10/25/96, bracketed text in original] In late 1996, at the insistence of the Clinton Administration, Hassan Cengic was reassigned to refugee affairs. However, in his new capacity he may present an even greater hazard to NATO forces in Bosnia, in light of past incidents such as the one that took place near the village of Celic in November 1996. At that time, in what NATO officers called part of a pattern of "military operations in

disguise," American and Russian IFOR troops were caught between Muslims and Serbs as the Muslims, some of them armed, attempted to encroach on the cease-fire line established by Dayton; commented a NATO spokesman: "We believe this to be a deliberate, orchestrated and provocative move to circumvent established procedures for the return of refugees." ["Gunfire Erupts as Muslims Return Home," *Washington Post*, 11/13/96]

Dzemaal Merdan: "The office of Brig. Gen. Dzemaal Merdan is an ornate affair, equipped with an elaborately carved wooden gazebo ringed with red velvet couches and slippers for his guests. A sheepskin prayer mat lies in the corner, pointing toward Mecca. The most striking thing in the chamber is a large flag. It is not the flag of Bosnia, but of Iran. Pinned with a button of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's late Islamic leader, the flag occupies pride of place in Merdan's digs -- displayed in the middle of the gazebo for every visitor to see. Next to it hangs another pennant, that of the Democratic Action Party, the increasingly nationalist Islamic organization of President Alija Izetbegovic that dominates Bosnia's Muslim region. . . . Merdan's position highlights the American dilemma. **As head of the office of training and development of the Bosnian army, he is a key liaison figure in the U.S. [arm and train] program.** . . . But Merdan, Western sources say, also has another job -- as liaison with foreign Islamic fighters here since 1992 and promoter of the Islamic faith among Bosnia's recruits. Sources identified Merdan as being instrumental in the creation of a brigade of Bosnian soldiers, called the 7th Muslim Brigade, that is heavily influenced by Islam and trained by fighters from Iran's Revolutionary Guards. He has also launched a program, these sources say, to build mosques on military training grounds to teach Islam to Bosnian recruits. In addition, he helped establish training camps in Bosnia where Revolutionary Guards carried out their work." ["Arming the Bosnians: U.S. Program Would Aid Force Increasingly Linked to Iran," *Washington Post*, 1/26/96, emphasis added] General Merdan is a close associate of both Izetbegovic and Cengic; the central region around Zenica, which was "completely militarized in the first two years of the war" under the control of Merdan's *mujahedin*, is "under total control of the Cengic family." ["Who Rules Bosnia and Which Way," (Sarajevo) *Slobodna Bosna*, 11/17/96, FBIS translation; *Slobodna Bosna* is one of the few publications in Muslim-held areas that dares to criticize the policies and personal corruption of the ruling SDA clique.] Merdan's *mujahedin* were accused by their erstwhile Croat allies of massacring more than 100 Croats near Zenica in late 1993. ["Bosnian Croats vow to probe war crimes by Moslems," *Agence France Presse*, 5/12/95]

The Islamization of the Bosnian Army

In cooperation with the foreign Islamic presence, the Izetbegovic regime has

revamped its security and military apparatus to reflect its Islamic revolutionary outlook, including the creation of *mujahedin* units throughout the army; some members of these units have assumed the guise of a *shaheed* (a "martyr," the Arabic term commonly used to describe suicide bombers), marked by their white garb, representing a shroud. While these units include foreign fighters naturalized in Bosnia, most of the personnel are now Bosnian Muslims trained and indoctrinated by Iranian and other foreign militants -- which also makes it easier for the Clinton Administration to minimize the *mujahedin* threat, because few of them are "foreigners."

Prior to 1996, there were three principal *mujahedin* units in the Bosnian army, the first

 Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-johnson@lineone.net>
Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient:>
Verzonden: vrijdag 3 juni 2005 0:36
Onderwerp: CDSM: JUNE 4th Hague Book & Film Event
On Saturday, June 4 at 7:00 pm the International Action Center will observe the 6th anniversary of NATO's occupation of Serbian province of Kosovo.

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General and internationally known lawyer and human rights activist, will speak at the premiere of Vanessa Stajilkovic and Michel Collon's groundbreaking documentary: The Damned of Kosovo and launching of the book: The Defense Speaks - for History and the Future.

Hear a panel of Ramsey Clark, Barry Lituchy - Professor and Defense witness at the Hague Tribunal and Sara Flounders, National Co-director of International Action Center. They will discuss the plans for the new book: The Defense Speaks - for History and the Future based on President Milosevic's opening defense statement at the ICTY and the current situation in Serbia.

Join Us at: Saturday, June 4, at 7 pm at the International Action Center, 39 West 14th St. # 206, New York, NY 10011

**Sagittarius**

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Nico Varkevisser" <nico.v@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Nico en Neeltje" <nico.s@slobodan-milosevic.org>
Verzonden: donderdag 4 augustus 2005 2:45
Onderwerp: Fw: Clinton Made 1995 Ethnic Cleansing in Krajina Possible - Croatian Ethnic Cleansing of Serbain krajina is Reflected in World Almanacs - By Mary Mostert

----- Original Message -----

From: <cdsmireland@eircom.net>
 To: "CubanEmbassyIre" <trujillo@eircom.net>; "EdwardHolt" <eholt@irish-times.ie>; "DavidNorris" <david.norris@oireachtas.ie>; "EchoExaminer" <Echo.ED@examiner.ie>; "Enda Dowling Sen May Henry" <Enda.Dowling@oireachtas.ie>; "edmulhall" <ed.mulhall@rte.ie>; "DDebreadun" <dddebreadun@irish-times.ie>; "Despot" <despot@tiscali.nl>; "ConnemaraRadio" <ccradio@connemara.net>; "DisarmNow" <disarmnow@erols.com>; "DirkAdriaenssens" <dirk.adriaenssens@skynet.be>; "CubaSupport" <cubasupport@eircom.net>; "Dissent Against Work" <dissentagainstwork@yahoo.co.uk>; "ConorLenihan" <conor.lenihan@oireachtas.irlgov.ie>; "ConorCleary" <conor@public3.bta.net.cn>; "Derryj" <derryj@sol.co.uk>; "Decani" <decani@groups.com>; "EdHerman" <hermane@wharton.upenn.edu>; "czechpeace" <czechpeace@volny.cz>; "Democracy now" <mail@democracynow.org>; "DamienKibert" <damien@newstalk106.ie>; "dpevos" <dpevos@itg.be>; "EastTimorSupportCampaign" <etisc@connect.ie>; "edwardhorgan" <edward.horgan@ul.ie>; "csca" <csca@nodo50.org>
 Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2005 6:40 PM
 Subject: Clinton Made 1995 Ethnic Cleansing in Krajina Possible - Croatian Ethnic Cleansing of Serbain krajina is Reflected in World Almanacs - By Mary Mostert

- > Clinton made 1995 Ethnic Cleansing in Krajina Possible
- > Croatian Ethnic Cleansing of Serbian Krajina is Reflected in World
- > Almanacs
- > By: Mary Mostert, Analyst, Original Sources (www.originalsources.com)

> July 24, 2000

- >
- > There was no outcry against the ethnic cleansing that took place in full
- > view of the world, and made possible by US Air support in 1995 in the
- > Krajina area of Croatia. Hundreds of thousands of Serbs were driven from
- > their homes, and up to 20,000 of them were kill. Some of them have been
- > refugees twice. Some of them who survived the Krajina ethnic cleansing
- > fled to Kosovo and have been driven out of Kosovo back into Serbia. . Not
- > only are they refugees, but are refugees who have been bombed twice by
- > U.S. bombs and missiles, while most Americans remain blissfully unaware of
- > their plight. I recently brought up the subject in a conversation with one
- > of my own children, who had never heard about the 250,000-275,000 Serbs
- > who were driven out of Krajina, after more than 500 years of living in the
- > area. She thought I was making it up because she was sure it would have
- > been on the evening news if it had happened.
- >
- > In May 1999, Valdan Zivadinovic sent me a report on what happened in
- > August 1995 during the worst refugee crisis in the 1990s Balkan wars of
- > the 1990s when the Croatians drove the Serbs out of Krajina. The author of

- > that ethnic cleansing was Franjo Tudjman, who was re-elected as president
- > of Croatia following the 1995 Dayton Accord. In the intervening five years
- > there has been no international demand that the Croats allow the Serbs
- > who had occupied the Krajina area for more than 500 years to return to
- > their homes.
- >
- > Furthermore, it is an ethnic cleansing that is VERIFIED by the World
- > Almanacs of 1993 and 2000. In 1993 the population of Croatia was 4,
- > 763,000 with 75% being Croatian and 18% being Serbian. In numbers that
- > turns out to be 840,885 Serbs in Croatia in the 1992 census figures. In
- > the year 2000 World Almanac the population of Croatia was down to
- > 4,671,584 with 78% being Croatian and 12% being Serbian. In numbers that
- > would be 560,590 Serbs - a difference of 280,295 people. Most of them are
- > in Yugoslavia's Serbia province. Many of them, an estimated 17,000-20,000
- > are dead.
- >
- > The Ottawa Serbian Heritage Society, (serbian.heritage@ottawa.com) issued
- > a press release Saturday commemorating the "ethnocide and genocide
- > committed on Serbs in Krajina, Bosnia and Kosovo. August 4th is Krajina
- > Dan, the Memorial Day for Serbian Krajina. This commemorates the day that
- > Knin, the capital of the Serbian Krajina region, fell to invading Croatian
- > forces in 1995. Croatia continues to occupy the region today and of more
- > than 250,000 Serbian people whom the Croatian Army either killed or
- > ethnically-cleansed out of the region in August, 1995, the number who have
- > returned is virtually zero to this date.
- >
- > "Every August 4th a Krajina Dan Memorial is held to remember the victims
- > of this genocide. This year's program is: Memorial Prayer Service and a
- > wrath laying at the Human Rights Memorial, Elgin and Lisgar streets, at
- > 6:00pm - 6:30pm."
- >
- > After the perpetrator of this ethnic cleansing, Croatian President
- > Tudjman, died on December 11, 1999, high level representatives from the
- > United States and Western Europe did not attend the funeral in fear that
- > doing so would be a political liability if and when Tudjman's war crimes
- > and his un-reconstructed Fascism from World War II became known.
- >
- >
- > Zivadinovic's paper, found on pages 131-140 in "NATO in the Balkans:
- > KRAJINA", ISBN 0-9656916-2-4), is a chilling indictment of man's
- > inhumanity to man. It is an ugly story, but it is time that the American
- > people ask themselves if they really want to continue the Serb sanctions
- > and the Kosovo ethnic cleansing of all minorities and the general anarchy
- > that exists there under NATO and UN occupation. Zivadinovic wrote:
- >
- >
- > In early August 1995, the Croatian invasion of Serbian Krajina
- > precipitated the worst refugee crisis of the Yugoslav civil war. Within
- > days, more than two hundred thousand Serbs, virtually the entire
- > population of Krajina, fled their homes, and 14,000 Serbian civilians lost
- > their lives. According to a UN official "Almost the only people remaining
- > were the dead and the dying." The Clinton administration's support for the
- > invasion was an important factor in creating this nightmare.
- > The previous month, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and German
- > Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel met with Croatian diplomat Miomir Zuzul in
- > London. During this meeting, Christopher gave his approval for Croatian

- > military action against Serbs in Bosnia and Krajina. Two days later, the
- > U.S. ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, also approved Croatia's
- > invasion plan. Stipe Mesic, a prominent Croatian politician, stated that
- > Croatian President Franjo Tudjman "received the go-ahead from the United
- > States. Tudjman can do only what the Americans allow him to do. Krajina is
- > the reward for having accepted, under Washington's pressure, the
- > federation between Croats and Muslims in Bosnia." Croatian assembly deputy
- > Mate Mestrovic also claimed that the "United States gave us the green
- > light to do whatever had to be done." (1)
- >
- > As Croatian troops launched their assault on August 4, U.S. NATO aircraft
- > destroyed Serbian radar and anti-aircraft defenses. American EA-6B
- > electronic warfare aircraft patrolled the air in support of the invasion.
- > Krajina foreign affairs advisor Slobodan Jarcevic stated that NATO
- > "completely led and coordinated the entire Croat offensive by first
- > destroying radar and anti-aircraft batteries. What NATO did most for the
- > Croatian Army was to jam communications between [Serb] military
- > commands...." (2)
- >
- > Following the elimination of Serbian anti-aircraft defenses, Croatian
- > planes carried out extensive attacks on Serbian towns and positions. The
- > roads were clogged with refugees, and Croatian aircraft bombed and strafed
- > refugee columns. Serbian refugees passing through the town of Sisak were
- > met by a mob of Croatian extremists, who hurled rocks and concrete at
- > them.
- >
- > A UN spokesman said, "The windows of almost every vehicle were smashed and
- > almost every person was bleeding from being hit by some object." Serbian
- > refugees were pulled from their vehicles and beaten. As fleeing Serbian
- > civilians poured into Bosnia, a Red Cross representative in Banja Luka
- > said, "I've never seen anything like it. People are arriving at a
- > terrifying rate." Bosnian Muslim troops crossed the border and cut off
- > Serbian escape routes. Trapped refugees were massacred as they were
- > pounded by Croatian and Muslim artillery. Nearly 1,700 refugees simply
- > vanished. While Croatian and Muslim troops burned Serbian villages,
- > President Clinton expressed his understanding for the invasion, and
- > Christopher said events "could work to our advantage." (3)
- >
- > The Croatian rampage through the region left a trail of devastation.
- > Croatian special police units, operating under the Ministry of Internal
- > Affairs, systematically looted abandoned Serbian villages. Everything of
- > value - cars, stereos, televisions, furniture, farm animals - was
- > plundered, and homes set afire. (4) A confidential European Union report
- > stated that 73 percent of Serbian homes were destroyed. (5) Troops of the
- > Croatian army also took part, and pro-Nazi graffiti could be seen on the
- > walls of several burnt-out Serb buildings.(6)
- >
- > Massacres continued for several weeks after the fall of Krajina, and UN
- > patrols discovered numerous fresh unmarked graves and bodies of murdered
- > civilians. (7) The European Union report states, "Evidence of atrocities,
- > an average of six corpses per day, continues to emerge. The corpses, some
- > fresh, some decomposed, are mainly of old men. Many have been shot in the
- > back of the head or had throats slit, others have been mutilated... Serb
- > lands continue to be torched and looted." (8)
- >
- > Following a visit in the region a member of the Zagreb Helsinki Committee

reported, "Virtually all Serb villages had been destroyed.... In a village near Knin, eleven bodies were found, some of them were massacred in such a way that it was not easy to see whether the body was male or female." (9)

> UN spokesman Chris Gunness noted that UN personnel continued to discover bodies, many of whom had been decapitated. (10) British journalist Robert Fisk reported the murder of elderly Serbs, many of whom were burned alive in their homes. He adds, "At Golubic, UN officers have found the decomposing remains of five people... the head of one of the victims was found 150 feet from his body. Another UN team, meanwhile is investigating the killing of a man and a woman in the same area after villagers described how the man's ears and nose had been mutilated." (11)

> After the fall of Krajina, Croatian chief of staff General Zvonimir Cervenko characterized Serbs as "medieval shepherds, troglodytes, destroyers of anything the culture of man has created." During a triumphalist train journey through Croatia and Krajina, Tudjman spoke at each railway station. To great applause, he announced, "There can be no return to the past, to the times when [Serbs] were spreading cancer in the heart of Croatia, a cancer that was destroying the Croatian national being." He then went on to speak of the "ignominious disappearance" of the Serbs from Krajina "so it is as if they have never lived here... They didn't even have time to take with them their filthy money or their filthy underwear!" American ambassador Peter Galbraith dismissed claims that Croatia had engaged in "ethnic cleansing," since he defined this term as something Serbs do. (12)

> U.S. representatives blocked Russian attempts to pass a UN Security Council resolution condemning the invasion. According to Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, American officials gave advice on the conduct of the operation, and European and military experts and humanitarian aid workers reported shipments of U.S. weapons to Croatia over the two months preceding the invasion. A French mercenary also witnessed the arrival of American and German weapons at a Croatian port, adding, "The best of the Croats' armaments were German- and American-made." The U.S. "directly or indirectly," says French intelligence analyst Pierre Hassner, "rearmed the Croats." Analysts at Jane's Information Group say that Croatian troops were seen wearing American uniforms and carrying U.S. communications equipment. (13)

> The invasion of Krajina was preceded by a thorough CIA and DIA analysis of the region. (14) According to Balkan specialist Ivo Banac, this "tactical and intelligence support" was furnished to the Croatian Army at the beginning of its offensive. (15)

> In November 1994, the United States and Croatia signed a military agreement. Immediately afterward, U.S. intelligence agents set up an operations center on the Adriatic island of Brac, from which reconnaissance aircraft were launched. Two months earlier, the Pentagon contracted Military Professional Resources, Inc (MPRI) to train the Croatian military. (16) According to a Croatian officer, MPRI advisors "lecture us on tactics and big war operations on the level of brigades, which is why we needed them for Operation Storm when we took the Krajina." Croatian sources claim that U.S. satellite intelligence was furnished to the Croatian military. (17) Following the invasion of Krajina, the U.S. rewarded Croatia with an agreement "broadening existing cooperation"

between MPRI and the Croatian military. (18) U.S. advisors assisted in the reorganization of the Croatian Army. Referring to this reorganization in an interview with the newspaper Vecernji List, Croatian General Tihomir Blaskic said, "We are building the foundations of our organization on the traditions of the Croatian home guard" - pro-Nazi troops in World War II. (19)

> It is worth examining the nature of what one UN official terms "America's newest ally." During World War II, Croatia was a Nazi puppet state in which the Croatian fascist Ustasha murdered as many as one million Serbs, Jews, and Roman (Gypsies). Disturbing signs emerged with the election of Franjo Tudjman to the Croatian presidency in 1990 Tudjman said, "I am glad my wife is neither Serb nor Jew," and wrote that accounts of the Holocaust were "exaggerated" and "one-sided." (20)

> Much of Tudjman's financial backing was provided by Ustasha émigrés and several Ustasha war criminals were invited to attend the first convention of Tudjman's political party, the Croatian Democratic Union. (21)

> Tudjman presented a medal to a former Ustasha commander living in Argentina, Ivo Rojnica. After Rojnica was quoted as saying, "Everything I did in 1941 I would do again," international pressure prevented Tudjman from appointing him to the post of ambassador to Argentina. When former Ustasha official Vinko Nikolic returned to Croatia, Tudjman appointed him to a seat in parliament. Upon former Ustasha officer Mate Sarlija's return to Croatia, he was personally welcomed at the airport by Defense Minister Gojko Susak, and subsequently given the post of general in the Croatian Army. (22) On November 4, 1996, thirteen former Ustasha officers were presented with medals and ranks in the Croatian Army. (23)

> Croatia adopted a new currency in 1994, the kuna, the same name as that used by the Ustasha state, and the new Croatian flag is a near-duplicate of the Ustasha flag. Streets and buildings have been renamed for Ustasha official Mile Budak, who signed the regime's anti-Semitic laws, and more than three thousand anti-fascist monuments have been demolished. In an open letter, the Croatian Jewish community protested the rehabilitation of the Ustasha state. In April 1994, the Croatian government demanded the removal of all "non-white" UN troops from its territory, claiming that "only first-world troops" understood Croatia's "problems." (24)

> On Croatian television in April 1996, Tudjman called for the return of the remains of Ante Pavelic, the leader of the Croatian pro-Nazi puppet state "After all, both reconciliation and recognition should be granted to those who deserve it," Tudjman said, adding, "We should recognize that Pavelic's ideas about the Croatian state were positive," but that Pavelic's only mistake was the murder of a few of his colleagues and nationalist allies. (25) Three months later, Tudjman said of the Serbs driven from Croatia "The fact that 90 percent of them left is their own problem... Naturally we are not going to allow them all to return." During the same speech, Tudjman referred to the pro-Nazi state as "a positive thing." (26)

> During its violent secession from Yugoslavia in 1991, Croatia expelled more than three hundred thousand Serbs, and Serbs were eliminated from ten towns and 183 villages. (27) In 1993, Helsinki Watch reported: "Since 1991 the Croatian authorities have blown up or razed ten thousand houses mostly of Serbs, but also houses of Croats. In some cases, they dynamited homes

> with the families inside." Thousands of Serbs have been evicted from their
 > homes. Croatian human-rights activist Ivan Zvonimir Cicak says beatings,
 > plundering, and arrests were the usual eviction methods. (28)

>
 > Tomislav Mercep, until recently the advisor to the Interior minister and a
 > member of Parliament, is a death-squad leader. Mercep's death squad
 > murdered 2,500 Serbs in western Slavonia in 1991 and 1992, actions Mercep
 > defends as "heroic deeds." (29) Death squad officer Miro Bajramovic's
 > spectacular confession revealed details: "Nights were worst for [our
 > prisoners]... burning prisoners with a flame, pouring vinegar over their
 > wounds mostly on genitalia and on the eyes. Then there is that little
 > induction, field phone, you plug a Serb onto that... The most painful is
 > to stick little pins under the nails and to connect to the three phase
 > current; nothing remains of a man but ashes... After all, we knew they
 > would all be killed, so it did not matter if we hurt turn more today or
 > tomorrow."

>
 > "Mercep knew everything," Bajramovic claimed. "He told us several times:
 > 'Tonight you have to clean all these shits.' By this he meant all the
 > prisoners should be executed." (30)

>
 > Sadly, the Clinton administration's embrace of Croatia follows a history
 > of support for fascists when it suits American geopolitical interests:
 > Chile's Augusto Pinochet, Indonesia's Suharto, Paraguay's Aifredo
 > Stroessner, and a host of others. The consequences of this policy for the
 > people affected have been devastating.

>
 > Although the American people were told last year that the 79 days of
 > bombing of Yugoslavia was a "humanitarian" effort to "stop ethnic
 > cleansing," the facts indicate no ethnic cleansing took place. Now we are
 > hearing that it was the KLA itself that was ordering the Albanians to
 > flee, and most Albanians AND Serbs were fleeing the NATO bombs. Yet, still
 > there as been no change in the US policy in Serbia. Clinton still insists
 > on keeping sanctions in place in an effort to destroy the Serbs.

>
 > And, not a word has been said about any of this in the year 2000
 > presidential election campaign. Clinton told us in 1995 that the American
 > servicemen who were sent to Bosnia would be "home by Christmas." Not only
 > are they still not home, we have send another contingent to assist in the
 > occupation of Kosovo.

>
 > I have wondered most of my life how the German people could have sat back
 > and done nothing as their leader did horrible things. "We didn't know
 > about it," I was told by Germans who lived in Germany at the time. I
 > doubted them. However, now I'm seeing something disturbingly similar by an
 > American leader, and we Americans are not even asking Presidential
 > candidates questions about it.

>
 > I think I may owe those post-World War II German citizens an apology.
 > Maybe they really didn't know about it. Or, just maybe, they didn't really
 > WANT to know what was happening to their Jewish neighbors when they
 > disappeared.

>
 > To comment: mmostert@originalsources.com

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> cdsmireland@eircom.net on the 10th Anniversary of
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