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Kosovo

1 - A

Sagittarius

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Verzonden: vrijdag 15 juli 2005 1:48
Onderwerp: Kosovo: Albanian Secessionists Threaten Violence Far Worse Than That Of 2004

http://www.b92.net/english/news/index.php?&nav_category=&nav_id=32437&order=priority&style=headlines

Blic (Serbia and Montenegro)
 July 14, 2005

Predictions of violence in Kosovo

PRISTINA - Political analyst Adem Demaci said that there will be more violence to come for Serbs in Kosovo and that this time, it will be even worse than the riots of March 2004.

"The violence will be of such great proportions that March 17, 2004 will be completely forgotten about. The Albanian majority feels that no one is responding to their wishes and demands. There is a great deal of unemployment and crime in Kosovo and everyone is talking about decentralization and the interests of the six or seven percent Serbian population. The masses are blind and think that the Serbs are responsible for this, not Belgrade and UNMIK," Demaci said.

"Violence can also be aimed towards corrupted Albanian leaders who do not have the strength to stand up to Serbian demands. I call upon the Serbian government to place its finger on its forehead and think about where their plan is leading. The only way to make sure that there will be no more bloodshed in Kosovo is to grant it its independence," Demaci said.

Kosovo Serb representative Oliver Ivanovic said that everything is possible and that among eventual incidents he sees Albanian extremists putting pressure on officials with the goal of participating in the future status discussions in Kosovo. However, Ivanovic does not believe that another March 17 will be occurring.

"After March 17, Albanians received nothing but negative criticism and it did not do them any good," Ivanovic said, adding that there will surely be more pressuring, possibly large demonstrations, especially if the discussions end up moving in a direction that

unfavorable for the Albanian majority.

President of the Forum for Security and Democracy and former commander of security forces in South Serbia, Ninoslav Krstic, said that there is a possibility of violence once the status discussion begin to near.

"Tension grows as we near the beginning of discussions. The international community and KFOR are making preparations for stopping massive violence against Serbs. According to information I have received, there will be more forces transferred here from other parts of Europe, which means that KFOR believes that occurrences of violence are possible." Krstic said.

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Sagittarius

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Aan: "Nico en Neeltje" <nico.s@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Andy Wilcoxson"
Verzonden: zondag 10 juli 2005 16:29
Onderwerp: Fw: [JUGOINFO] Visnjica broj 499

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

From: "Coordinamento Nazionale per la Jugoslavia" <jugocoord@tiscali.it>
To: <jugoinfo@yahoogroups.com>; <crj-mailinglist@yahoogroups.com>;
 <aa-info@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2005 3:21 PM
Subject: [JUGOINFO] Visnjica broj 499

WITH COMPLIMENTS

Il "presidente kosovaro" Ibrahim Rugova ha conferito pochi giorni fa a Pristina una medaglia d'oro alla ex segretario di Stato USA Madeleine Albright.

La Albright è stata premiata per avere contribuito in maniera determinante a scatenare i bombardamenti della NATO contro la RF di Jugoslavia nel 1999 - violando il diritto internazionale, commettendo crimini di guerra, e ponendo le basi per la ennesima secessione su base etnica-razziale sul territorio jugoslavo: quella della provincia serba, dove, dal tempo dei bombardamenti, vige infatti un regime di apartheid e discriminazione ai danni di tutte le nazionalità non-albanesi nonché ai danni degli albanesi non-secessionisti.

Il "presidente kosovaro" Rugova si era già distinto, quest'anno, tra l'altro, per avere festeggiato l'anniversario dei bombardamenti NATO sul proprio paese.

A Pristina, vie e piazze sono state in questi anni rinominate in onore dei leader statunitensi ed occidentali (primo tra tutti: Bill Clinton) che ordinarono quei bombardamenti.

(a cura di IS)

--- In yugoslaviainfo @ yahoogroups.com, Rick Rozoff wrote:

<http://kosovareport.blogspot.com/2005/07/albright-honoured-with-medal-in-kosovo.html>

Agence France-Presse
 July 5, 2005

Albright honoured with medal in Kosovo

"Six years ago you gained your liberty. In the time since, you have made good use of that freedom and in the years to come you will be tested continually by the demands of democracy," [Albright] said.

-Kosovo Albanians see Albright's efforts as crucial to the international intervention, which went ahead

without United Nations approval and in the face of opposition from Russia.

-Six years after the UN took control of Kosovo the province remains economically paralysed and wracked by ethnic hatreds, with the Serb minority in need of constant protection from NATO peacekeepers.

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro - Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was presented with a 'Golden Medal of Liberty' during a ceremony in the Kosovo capital Pristina.

President Ibrahim Rugova presented the medal in honour of Albright's efforts to end a Serbian crackdown against ethnic Albanian separatists in the breakaway Serbian province in 1998-1999.

The war ended after a NATO bombing campaign forced Serbian forces under then Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic to withdraw. Kosovo is now a UN protectorate but its ethnic Albanian majority still demands independence.

"She will always be respected and loved," Rugova told reporters Tuesday, after the decoration ceremony.

Albright also addressed the provincial assembly Tuesday as part of her visit to promote democratic values.

"Your name commands respect throughout Kosovo. Without you the world would be completely different and Kosovo wouldn't have brought its dream to fruition," parliamentary speaker Nexhat Daci said in his introductory remarks.

Albright stressed economic stability, the rule of law and minorities' rights as the biggest challenges that Kosovo would face in the coming years.

"Six years ago you gained your liberty. In the time since, you have made good use of that freedom and in the years to come you will be tested continually by the demands of democracy," she said.

"Your future is up to you, as it should be," she added in the speech which was broadcast live by Kosovo's two main television channels.

It is Albright's first visit to Kosovo since 1999 and she would have been impressed by the Kosovo Albanians' lingering affection for former US president Bill Clinton, whose name adorns everything from hotels to shopping malls.

Kosovo Albanians see Albright's efforts as crucial to the international intervention, which went ahead without United Nations approval and in the face of opposition from Russia.

Albright arrived Monday on a three-day visit to the province in her capacity as chairwoman of the National Democratic Institute, a non-profit US-based organization.

Six years after the UN took control of Kosovo the province remains economically paralysed and wracked by ethnic hatreds, with the Serb minority in need of constant protection from NATO peacekeepers.

--- End forwarded message ---

<http://www.tanjug.co.yu/>

Tanjug (Serbia and Montenegro) - March 24, 2005

Rugova congratulates citizens on anniversary of NATO air strikes

PRISTINA - Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova said on Thursday that this province "has achieved big progress in all areas in the six years of freedom".

In a message to citizens on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the onset of the NATO bombardments of the FR Yugoslavia, Rugova said that "the direct recognition of Kosovo's independence would make that progress even greater."

ALLE RADICI DELLA TRAGEDIA JUGOSLAVA:

RATLINES - La guerra della Chiesa contro il comunismo

<http://www.cnj.it/documentazione/ratlines.htm>

THE PAVELIC PAPERS

<http://www.pavelicpapers.com/>

THE DRAZA MIHAILOVIC TRIAL (1946)

<http://trial-mihailovic-1946.chiffonrouge.org>

Sagittarius

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Verzonden: zondag 10 juli 2005 3:20
Onderwerp: Fw: Mad Maddy makes dream come true

— Original Message —

From: Darkita
To: minja@vlada.ca ; kumasi@wanadoo.es ; Dragic@aol.com ; antic.miroslav@gmail.com ; milan.kasic@3web.net ;
1branka@tiscali.co.uk ; r_rozoff@yahoo.com ; despot@tiscali.nl
Sent: Saturday, July 09, 2005 8:42 AM
Subject: Mad Maddy makes dream come true

<http://www.idividi.com.mk/English/Politics/316645/index.html>

IDIVIDI

July 7, 2006

Politics

DUI leader meets former US State secretary Albright

Skopje, July 7 (MIA) - Ali Ahmenti, leader of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), had a meeting Thursday with Madeleine Albright, chairperson of the National Democratic Institute and former US State Secretary.

The meeting was focused on the implementation of Ohrid Agreement, Macedonia's Euro-integration process, judicial reforms and the role of ethnic Albanian women in politics, DUI said in a press release.

Functioning of the multiethnic coalition in Macedonia, based on partnership principles, could serve as a role model to the countries of the region, Albright said.

Sagittarius

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 Verzonden: woensdag 6 juli 2005 1:16
 Onderwerp: E-mail met bijlage (attachment): m.htm

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Released : Jul 05, 2005 1:48 AM

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO: Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived in Kosovo last night for talks with its top officials, who claim that a spate of explosions around the troubled province are intended to sabotage its bid for independence from Belgrade.

The three-day visit is Ms Albright's first to Kosovo since 1999, when she won hero status among the region's ethnic Albanians by advocating the NATO air strikes that stopped a Serb crackdown against separatist guerrillas and Albanian civilians.

But her arrival was marred by a series of blasts across Kosovo, which also coincided with the start of UN envoy Kai Eide's latest fact-finding mission to decide whether the province is democratic and stable enough to begin talks on its final status.

Mr Eide was due to visit northern Kosovo yesterday, hours after a town in the area was rocked by an explosion at the joint headquarters of the Serbian Democratic Party and the Ministry for Returns, which helps tens of thousands of Serbs who fled Albanian reprisal attacks after the 1998-9 conflict.

That blast, which is thought to have been caused by a hand grenade, came as police and NATO peacekeepers investigated a co-ordinated attack on three major institutions in the Kosovan capital, Pristina.

The first explosion occurred late on Saturday night outside the UN mission in the city, followed quickly by another near the provincial parliament and a third close to the headquarters of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. No one was hurt.

"The aim of these dangerous acts is to destabilise our country," said Kosovo's President Ibrahim Rugova.

"[They] come at time when a positive assessment of progress in Kosovo is expected, which will open the way for the recognition of independence."

Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi also linked the attacks to Mr Eide's fact-finding mission.

"It seems there are forces that want to devalue the achievements that our institutions have made. But they cannot stop the path towards our goal," Mr Kosumi said.

Mr Eide is expected to report to the UN in autumn.

The United States has targeted 2005 as a key year for resolving the fate of Kosovo, where

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the ethnic Albanian majority wants independence - a prospect dismissed as unacceptable by Serbia, which views Kosovo as its spiritual homeland.

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KOSOVAREPORT

THE LATEST NEWS AND DAILY POLITICAL ANALYSIS FROM KOSOVA

MONDAY, JULY 04, 2005

US Ex-Secretary Of State Albright In Kosovo For 3-Day Visit

RISTINA (AP)--Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived on a three-day visit to Kosovo Monday and urged its people to respect the rights of Serbs and other minorities.

Albright was greeted at the province's main airport by Kosovo's President Ibrahim Rugova and Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi.

This is her first trip to the disputed U.N.-administered province since 1999, when a North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led air war stopped a crackdown by Serb forces of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on ethnic Albanian separatists.

She called on the people in the province to support the democratic process and do more to protect Serbs and other minorities, which have been the target of attacks by ethnic Albanian extremists since the end of the war.

Albright came in her capacity as chairwoman of the board of the Washington-based National Democratic Institute and will meet with local and international officials, a statement from the institute said.

"I have from the very beginning understood the dream of the people of Kosovo and I have myself worked to try to make this dream come true," she said upon arrival.

Albright is considered a hero by the province's ethnic Albanians who want the province to become independent. She is reviled by many Serbs for her role during the bombing campaign.

Kosovo has been administered by the U.N. and patrolled by NATO since the end of the war.

Talks to determine its future status will take place later this year if Kosovo reaches standards on democracy, minority

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Verzonden: zondag 3 juli 2005 2:38
Onderwerp: Fw: CDSM: Natasa Kandic & the Propaganda War Against Yugoslavia
Sent: Saturday, July 02, 2005 10:03 AM
Subject: FW: CDSM: Natasa Kandic & the Propaganda War Against Yugoslavia

Natasa Kandic & the Propaganda War against Yugoslavia.

The nineteen Nato countries that attacked the sovereign state of Yugoslavia in 1999 had a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 1300 times that of Yugoslavia.

Similarly with the respective media outlets the same imbalance applied, namely 1300 to 1.

(Given the universality of the English and French languages the relative world wide impact of the media from the Nato countries could be said to be much more).

Following the Nato destruction of Yugoslavia's RTS television station the media ratio between aggressor and victim became 1300 to zero.

Consequently it became relatively easy to promote anti-Yugoslav propaganda, because after all who would counter it?

"Under these conditions", wrote Edward Herman in his work, Propaganda System Number One,

"remarkable structures of disinformation can be built, institutionalised, and remain parts of historic memory even in the face of ex post confutation's, which are kept out of sight."

Out of this propaganda onslaught came shocking stories which ranged from 'Serb concentration camps', 'ethnic cleansing' and 'genocide', to the childish claim that Yugoslav soldiers were deliberately killing dogs because the Albanian population were devoted to their pets. This story, aired by the BBC, was aimed directly and exclusively at Britain, on the grounds of its impact on a pet loving nation. Of course none of it was true but the adage that 'a lie can be half way around the block before the truth has even got its shoes on' served the Nato countries well.

At the outset of the break-up of the sovereign state of Yugoslavia, the Washington based public relations firm, Ruder and Finn Global Public Affairs, was handed the task of demonising the Serbs and their leadership.

Given the advantage, as outlined above, of 1300 to zero, Ruder and Finn managed to turn the truth onto its head. It was the Serbs who were now incredibly decreed as being guilty of systematic ethnic cleansing, a policy that no one more than the Serbs had suffered from. Indeed the aim of Serbia was the preservation of the Yugoslav federation, not its disintegration, thus opposing the very essence of ethnic cleansing.

James Harff, director of Ruder Finn, when boasting of his propaganda achievements to French TV2, stated, *"Speed is vital, it is the first assertion that really counts. All future denials are entirely ineffective."* Ruder Finn uses several hundred journalists, politicians, representatives of humanitarian associations and academics to create public opinion. When asked of his proudest public relation endeavours Harff responded, *"To have managed to put Jewish opinion on our side. Tens of thousands of Jews perished in Croatian camps yet we succeeded masterfully."*

Harff later clarified that his firm never actually claimed that 'genocide' or 'ethnic cleansing' was taking place, but merely publicised the fact that someone, somewhere, had made such claims. However these two charges in particular are still today the overriding impressions of the Yugoslav conflict in the mind of much of the western world.

That the western media readily accepted these claims without seeking any confirmation was a reflection of their subservience to the requirements of their own governments. That we now have 'embedded' reporters in Iraq, broadcasting government and military hand outs as if they were independently verified news, is merely a further example of this journalistic degeneration.

This propaganda success allowed Nato to claim that the bombing was justified on the grounds of 'humanitarian intervention'. In reality it enabled Nato and particularly the United States to pursue long held foreign policy objectives. In her book, 'Fool's Gold' author Diana Johnstone clarifies it this way:

"Apparently, many people on the left, who would normally defend peace and justice, were fooled or confused by the claim that the 'Kosovo war' was waged for purely humanitarian reasons. The altruistic pretensions of NATO's Kosovo war served to gain public acceptance of war as the appropriate instrument of policy. This opened the way for the United States, in the wake of 11 September 2001, to attack Afghanistan as the opening phase of a new, long-term 'war against terrorism'."

The bombing of Yugoslavia marked a turning point in the expansion of U.S. military hegemony. For the first time, a European country was subjected to the type of U.S. intervention usually reserved for Central America. It also marked the end of Germany's postwar inhibition about foreign military intervention, and saw Germans returning to the scene of Nazi crimes with a clear conscience. For the first time, NATO abandoned its defensive posture and attacked a country that posed no threat to its member states, outside the NATO treaty area, and without seeking UN Security Council authorization.

International law was circumvented in the name of an alleged higher moral imperative. A precedent was set. When the United States subsequently arrogated the right to bomb and invade Afghanistan on moral grounds, its NATO allies could only meekly offer to tag along. In a world with no more legal barriers to might proclaiming itself right, there was nothing to stop a U.S. president from using military force to crush every conceivable adversary."

In his opening statement at the beginning of his defence case President Milosevic explained what happened in Kosovo prior to the NATO aggression, establishing the truth about the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army, which was in fact a terrorist organization aiming for the creation of an ethnically pure and independent Kosovo that would later be associated with Albania to create a Greater Albania.

He also exposed the fact that the KLA was funded and trained by the West and exercised a murderous regime over Serbs and Albanians in all areas of Kosovo and Metohija where it managed to take over control.

The prosecution, of course, now denies all this. Yet the fact is that the US and Britain knew the true situation in Yugoslavia before the 1999 bombing campaign, particularly the situation in Kosovo, and had known for some considerable time. This can be seen from the following quotes:

"The Albanian nationalists have a two point platform,... 'first to establish what they call an ethnically clean Albanian republic and then the merger with Albania to form a greater Albania'"

(New York Times 12th July 1982).

"In reality, the Albanians control every phase of life in Kosovo: the police, the courts, agriculture, the factories, the villages and the cities. . . At present, the Serbs are fleeing, faced with growing Albanian violence. Twenty thousand among them have left Kosovo in the last seven years. . ."

(The New York Times 10th November 1987)

On February 22, 1998, Special US envoy to the Balkans, Robert Gelbard, declared publicly:

"I know a terrorist when I see one. And I'm telling you, these guys in the KLA are terrorists."

Only later, when their objectives had been achieved would politicians from within the Nato countries, in rare moments of candour, occasionally admit that the propaganda was merely a cover for their aggression.

Former cabinet minister in the Blair government, Michael Meacher, wrote an article in the Guardian newspaper of 27th March 2004 where he revealed the following:

"The 78-day bombing of Yugoslavia in the spring of 1999, directed by the US general Wesley Clark, was said to be stopping an alleged 'genocide' by the Serbs in Kosovo (some 2,000 bodies were later exhumed, a horrifying number but far short of the 100,000 the US predicted). The US goal was to assist the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Yet the year before, the US state department had branded the KLA a terrorist organisation, financing its operations from the heroin trade and funds from Islamic countries and individuals, including Osama bin Laden".

In June 2001, NATO spokesman Jamie Shea admitted *"there was no genocide in Kosovo."*

Moreover, two weeks before the war, an official report of the German foreign ministry declared: *"There was no ethnic persecution*

of the Albanians as a group. Only the confrontations between two armies."

And on the eve of the Nato bombing campaign Bill Clinton informed a group of federal employees;

"If we want solid economic relations, permitting us to sell in the whole world, Europe must be the key. . This is what the thing in Kosovo is about."

(Monopoly - NATO and the Conquest of the World. Michel Collon EPO, 2000 Brussels).

PROPAGANDA.

It would be reasonable to assume that a media imbalance of 1300 to zero against Yugoslavia could not get any worse. However if you assumed that then you would be wrong.

At the end of Nato's 78 day bombing campaign information revealing the truth of the break-up of Yugoslavia did appear in limited form, mostly thanks to independent media outlets. However the mainstream media continued to promote the Nato propaganda version, not least because of the requirements of The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), an organ, although illegally created and purely a political tool of the western powers, portrayed itself as a legitimate legal body. Its task being to exonerate the aggression of the Nato countries and criminalise the victims of that aggression, an objective that would need a considerable amount of deceit and hypocrisy.

In addition to the overwhelming dominance of Nato propaganda, and since the 5th October 2000 western backed coup against the government of Slobodan Milosevic, the new leadership of the now named Serbia and Montenegro, with their position totally dependent on the grace of the United States, became an echo within the country for the propaganda of the very people who had bombed them. Furthermore the Serbian media was now being used to broadcast this same propaganda and began to actively encourage the handing over of their own citizens to the ICTY in The Hague.

This incredible state of affairs, treason is the only word that is suitable to use, was exacerbated further by the activities of prominent individuals within Serbia, individuals who fully supported this prostration before the might of the United States.

One such individual is Natasa Kandic.

NATASA KANDIC.

In his article 'The Fabrication and Dissemination of Deception' from 2001 Gilles d'Aymery notes the following:

"Many news reports of atrocities and "genocide" allegedly committed by the Serbs and widely disseminated in the Western main media have originated with a little known NGO in Belgrade, Serbia, the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC). The story of the refrigerated truck filled with corpses that was purportedly dumped in the [river] Danube in April 1999 is a good example.

The HLC was created in 1992 by Natasa Kandic, its present Executive Director. It has been funded by George Soros as well as the National Endowment for Democracy and this year the Ford Foundation provided HLC with a \$80,000 grant.

Kandic is a darling of the Western Human Rights crowd. She's received tons of awards and was conferred an honorary doctorate by the University of Valencia, Spain, for "her longstanding work in the field of human rights and her humanitarian activities."

According to a July 18 editorial by Justin Raimundo of Antiwar.com, "It was Kandic who, as the organizer of an OSCE media conference held in Montenegro, told Serbian journalists who walked out in protest at the NATO-crats' high-handedness: 'They pay you and have the right to question your conduct during the war.' Heavily subsidized by interventionist sugar-daddy George Soros, Kandic is a weird, isolated figure in Serbian politics, one of the few who openly sided with NATO during the bombing."

So, one could entertain the idea that if "they" pay, "they" also have the right and the expectation to a return on their investment. Natasa Kandic has undoubtedly been quite a profitable investment!"

Here are some examples of the work of Natasa Kandic and her HLC:

At the ICTY on the 6th April 2005 defence witness Danica Marinkovic, the Investigating Judge who led the inquiry into events at the Kosovo village of Racak, was cross-examined by prosecutor Geoffrey Nice.

Having failed to refute Mrs Marinkovic's testimony on the Racak incident Mr Nice attempted a character assassination of the defence witness. His claim that Mrs Marinkovic had ordered the Serbian police to commit murder was so outrageous that even the

Nato judges asked him for corroborating evidence. Mr Nice had to withdraw the accusation because his one and only source was an article written by Natasa Kandic which was only notable precisely because it offered no supporting evidence for the accusation.

The New York Times of January 26, 2004 published a report commenting on the resignation of USA Today correspondent Jack Kelley over an article he had written in 1999.

The Times report commented:

"In his July 1999 article, Mr. Kelley referred to a three-ring notebook with a black vinyl cover that contained a direct order 'typed on army stationery and stamped by the Supreme Defense Council of the Yugoslav Army Headquarters in Belgrade, which is headed by Milosevic.' The order, which Mr. Kelley said was typed in Cyrillic letters and intended for a lieutenant, read: 'The aim of the military activity should be to cleanse Cusk and the surrounding villages and terrain.'"

And further:

"In the article, Mr. Kelley wrote about a Yugoslav Army notebook that had a typed order to 'cleanse' a Kosovo village, although he did not identify the person who showed him the notebook. He added that United Nations investigators considered this 'the strongest and most direct evidence linking the government of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to 'ethnic cleansing' in Kosovo."

Announcing Kelley's resignation, the USA Today issue of 13th January 2004 stated that they had concluded a seven-month investigation into *"whether Kelley might have embellished or fabricated stories."*

According to the New York Times Kelley had claimed as his source for the story, *"A human rights advocate"* and confirmed that source as *"The rights advocate, Natasa Kandic, the executive director of the Humanitarian Law Center in Belgrade"*

On 30th April 2001, what later became known as 'the freezer truck hoax' broke in the western press through Associated Press who under the headline, *"Rights Activist Says Yugoslav Army, Police Destroyed Evidence Of Kosovo Atrocities."* stated:

"... [Natasa] Kandic [from the Humanitarian Law Center]... cited a report in a local magazine in the eastern Serbian Negotin region, describing how on the night of April 6, 1999, a refrigerated trailer truck was lifted out of the Danube near Kladovo, at the border with Romania"

"The vehicle bore license plates from Pec, a western Kosovo city, and allegedly contained 50 bodies. According to Kandic's center, the bodies were subsequently transferred to a truck with Belgrade plates and driven away."

And the piece continued:

"Our investigations produced witnesses who can testify that many people were killed, their bodies buried only to be dug up again and later moved to another place," said Natasa Kandic of the Humanitarian Law Center, a leading human rights watchdog organization in Yugoslavia"

The point of this story was to claim that Mr Milosevic had ordered a cover-up of the alleged atrocities in Kosovo and was removing the evidence, but unfortunately for him a truck carrying Albanian bodies from Kosovo had crashed into the Danube.

This story was very timely for Nato and the new Serbian government because at the time Nato was demanding the transfer of Mr Milosevic to the ICTY and as the Independent newspaper commented approvingly, *"The bodies are the evidence the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague needs to prove its charge of crimes against humanity against Mr Milosevic."*

The story was published worldwide and the BBC even presented a 45-minute documentary on it, on the 27th January 2002 as part of their holocaust memorial season.

However subsequent investigations into this story revealed the following:

The local magazine quoted in the AP article was Timocka Kriminalna Revija (criminal review) owned by Dragan Vitomirovic.

Timocka published two articles about a refrigerator truck full of bodies.

The first article, dated 15th September 1999, stated that the truck contained dead Kurds and that the licence plates were Swiss.

However, the second story, published 1st May 2001 the one that Natasa Kandic presented to the world and the source of the allegations against Slobodan Milosevic, the dead Kurds had become the dead Albanians and the Swiss licence plates had become

Kosovo license plates.

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It further transpired that Dragan Vitomirovic had a brother with a record of smuggling illegal aliens across the Romanian border and moreover, had been encouraged to write the second article by Interior Minister Mihailovic, a member of the newly installed Nato backed Serbian government.

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In regard to Kandic's claim that, *"Our investigations produced witnesses who can testify that many people were killed, their bodies buried only to be dug up again and later moved to another place"* it is important to note the following:

Police officer Captain Dragan Karleusa, who was appointed to investigate the allegations, appeared in July 2002 as a prosecution witness at The Hague against Mr Milosevic and admitted that not a single witness deposition had ever been taken. (Trial transcript).

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Given that as of July 2002 the investigating officers had not taken a single witness deposition and had not a shred of evidence to substantiate the allegation, how was it possible for the BBC to broadcast six months earlier, on the 27th January 2002, their 'factual' documentary programme 'Mass Killings in Kosovo'?

Noting the above examples of the work of Kandic's Humanitarian Law Center, it is laughable, if not tragic, to hear Hague prosecutor Geoffrey Nice along with the mainstream media describe this HLC as *"a very reliable human rights organisation."* One wonders what an unreliable one would be like!

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Let us just recap for a moment and reflect on Kandic's history as cited in the few samples above.

She sided with Nato as the bombs dropped on her own people and it was she who fabricated Serbian journalists for not showing respect to their Nato masters, claiming they pay their wages. It was she who was named as the source for the USA article originally printed in 1999 which forced the resignation of Jack Kelley after an investigation that USA Today held to determine, *"whether Kelley might have embellished or fabricated stories."*

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In 2001 it was she who supplied The Hague with the Freezer Truck Story, second version, the rewritten second version naturally. Also, at The Hague this year Prosecutor Nice was forced to drop his character assassination attempt against a defence witness as his one and only source was an article written by Kandic.

Weena 750
3014 DA Rotterdam
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You would think that given this history any self-respecting newspaper, when confronted by a new allegation from this same source, would immediately realise that some corroborating evidence would be needed before publication. One would like to think that the editor's thoughts would be something like this: "Oh dear, it's that fairy tale queen again. Hold the presses while I get this checked and double checked."

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Moreover, bearing in mind the history of previous HLC accusations it should at the very least have given the media a degree of suspicion concerning future 'stories' supplied by this NGO. However in June 2005 this *"very reliable human rights organisation"* was at it again, riding to the rescue of a desperate, not to say disastrous, prosecution case with a story instantly embraced by a subservient media.

On Wednesday 1st June 2005 the prosecution in the Slobodan Milosevic case at The Hague introduced a video tape, apparently showing the execution of six people by a 'Serbian unit' known as the 'Scorpions' which it is claimed occurred in 1995. The 'Scorpions', the prosecution alleges, were under the command of the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP), which oversaw state security and policing in Serbia. The tape was then broadcast on Serbian television. The tape was supplied by, you've guessed it, Natasa Kandic.

Yet The Hague court already had prior knowledge of the so-called 'Scorpion' unit, and knew they were not under the command of the MUP.

Milan Milanovic, the Deputy Defense Minister of the Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK) testified as a prosecution witness at The Hague on October 14, 2003 where he confirmed the unit was subordinated to the command of the Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

They used them initially in 1992 as security guards for the Krajina Petroleum Industries oil company.

Furthermore, a viewing of the video in full would reveal that this was the case. The prosecution showed a few minutes of the two-hour long video, whereas a full viewing would indeed confirm by the insignia on their vehicles that Milanovic's testimony was correct. Therefore there is no connection with this, essentially mercenary unit, to the Belgrade government whatsoever.

The prosecution should have learned that lesson from the testimony of their own witness, Milanovic, in 2003, yet they chose not to

heed the satirical maxim, "If at first you don't succeed give up, it's no use making a complete fool of yourself."

We are dealing here, once again, with a complete red herring. Of course it is the first blast of media propaganda that will be embedded in people's minds, and not the later refutations. As James Harff, director of Ruder Finn, boasted, "Speed is vital, it is the first assertion that really counts. All future denials are entirely ineffective."

Despite this Mr Milosevic made some telling points about the videotape. While stating that if the tape was authentic, this was indeed an 'horrific' act, he noted however that the video had some technical irregularities which gave rise for concern and pointed out that although the prosecution is linking this tape with Srebrenica and claiming the killings took place in Trnovo, the two places are more than 160km apart, and that there was nothing on the tape to suggest a link, nor anything on the tape to confirm where it was actually filmed.

In regard to the 'discovery' of this video and its showing at The Hague, it should be noted that the prosecution case concluded last year, yet the prosecution was allowed to present it six months later, and furthermore present it without disclosing its existence to the defence, thus breaking all legal norms and even breaking the Hague tribunal's own rules of procedure.

Before leaving the issue of this tape it is interesting to note two news reports which purported to give some background details. The first report is from Reuters and the second from The Observer, written by one Tim Judah, who for those not aware, comes from the London-based IWPR (International War & Peace Reporting) stable, an organisation known for its previous collaboration with Kandic and an organisation about as trustworthy as a rattlesnake with a headache.

Reuters dispatch of 4th June 4th 2005 stated:

"The video was obtained last December from an unnamed and now protected source by Hague prosecutors and Natasa Kandic, a Serbian human rights activist.

They spent months authenticating it and investigating the men it showed. It was shown to Serbian war crimes prosecutors a week ago and its broadcast to a national audience was coordinated with the government of Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica."

The Observer of 5th June 2005 included this passage:

"On 23 May she (Kandic) gave it to Serbia's own war crimes prosecutor. He promised to investigate, but no arrests were made. She also gave it to The Hague's prosecution team, who showed it on Wednesday. Immediately afterwards she gave it to Serbian TV".

The Reuters report claims 'They spent months authenticating it and investigating the men it showed.'

Yet the Observer report states that Kandic gave it to the Serbian authorities and The Hague prosecution team on 23rd May, just eight days prior to its showing. So who 'spent months authenticating it.'

FUNDING.

To understand the workings of an organisation, its intentions and philosophy, it is necessary to examine where its funding comes from.

As documented, both the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and American billionaire financier George Soros have provided funding for Kandic's Humanitarian Law Center.

The National Endowment for Democracy is a United States government agency. Founded in 1983, the NED took over functions that were once the responsibility of the CIA. Unlike the CIA however the NED receives open congressional appropriations, as opposed to the previously covert funding, and thus their activities are more openly documented. For instance NED programme operator Paul McCarthy revealed in his testimony to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe that the NED, in 1998, was responsible in Yugoslavia for, amongst other things, the newspapers Nasa Borba, Vreme and Danas, the TV station Negotin, the news agency BETA and the Belgrade station Radio B-92.

It is worth noting that among the directors who have served on the board of the National Endowment for Democracy are: Wesley Clark, former Supreme Commander of Nato, Richard Holbrooke former Assistant Secretary of State, and Francis Fukuyama, author of the anti-communist diatribe, 'The End of History.'

George Soros is responsible for the creation of many organisations, one such being the Open Society Institute. Journalist Neil Clark commented in the New Statesman magazine that:

"Soros deems a society 'open' not if it respects human rights and basic freedoms, but if it is 'open' for him and his associates to make money. And, indeed, Soros has made money in every country he has helped to prise 'open.' In Kosovo, for example, he has invested \$50m in an attempt to gain control of the Trepca mine complex, where there are vast reserves of gold, silver, lead and other minerals estimated to be worth in the region of \$5bn. He thus copied a pattern he has deployed to great effect over the whole of eastern Europe: of advocating 'shock therapy' and 'economic reform,' then swooping in with his associates to buy valuable state assets at knockdown prices."

In her article 'George Soros – Imperial Wizard' published in the autumn 2002 issue of Covert Action Quarterly, Heather Coffin quoted Soros as saying:

"In each country I identified a group of people, some leading personalities, others less well known - who share my belief..."

Coffin also noted:

"He was part of the full court press that dismantled Yugoslavia. Calling himself a philanthropist, billionaire George Soros' role is to tighten the ideological stranglehold of globalization and the New World Order while promoting his own financial gain. Soros' commercial and "philanthropic" operations are clandestine, contradictory and coercive. And as far as his economic activities are concerned, by his own admission, he is without conscience; a capitalist who functions with absolute amorality."

Gilles d'Amery reported further details on Soros in 'The Fabrication and Dissemination of Deception':

"A prominent hawk on Yugoslavia, Soros pressured Bill Clinton, as early as 1993, to escalate the war by lifting an arms embargo against Bosnian separatists."

Emboldened by U.S. support, separatist rebels launched "ethnic cleansing" campaigns against Serb civilians living in the territories they claimed. The bloodiest such action was Operation Storm, an August 1995 offensive by Croatian forces, in which as many as 300,000 Serbs were driven from Krajina, and an unknown number of Serb civilians slaughtered."

The blood was not dry in Krajina before Soros and his fellow hawks confronted Congress in December 1995 with a petition, signed by 40 prominent policy makers, urging massive U.S. intervention in the Balkans – not to protect Serbs from further atrocities, but to escalate the war by intensifying support for separatist rebels."

George Soros is also a notable contributor to the funding of the ICTY itself. Another organisation that supports the ICTY is the Coalition for International Justice (CIJ), which was founded and funded by Soros and it is the CIJ that supplies many of the ICTY's legal staff. Moreover the ICTY also has provision for the obtaining of evidence by, among others, George Soros' Open Society Foundation.

Between them the NED and Soros can be said to fund the 'human rights' organisations (Soros is also involved with HRW) that highlight 'atrocities', they also control large parts of the Serbian media that publicises these 'atrocities' and they contribute to the ICTY who conduct the resulting trials. A tidy circle indeed and within this circle where is the allowance for any opposing voice?

These then are the masters that Natasa Kandic and her HLC serve. In essence Kandic is merely a Nato foot soldier.

EVIDENCE.

As for the accusations of 'ethnic cleansing' and 'genocide' levelled against Slobodan Milosevic the ICTY have not a scrap of credible evidence. They have not got one single document or other exhibit that suggests Mr Milosevic or the Yugoslav government are guilty of these grave charges.

On the contrary, the ICTY have in their possession a mass of documents and sworn testimonies to confirm that the Milosevic government and the Yugoslav authorities took all available steps to prevent any possible crimes against civilians.

For instance, General Gojovic, who was the head of the Legal Directorate at the Yugoslav Defense Ministry during the 1999 Kosovo war, testified in March this year that war crimes were severely punished by the Yugoslav Army.

He exhibited a large file of documents laying out the work of the Yugoslav military justice system. These documents detailed the type of crime committed, whether this be robbery or a more serious offence, the files identified the soldiers who committed the crimes, and the relevant action taken by the Yugoslav courts as of 2001. For example the Yugoslav authorities successfully convicted over 2000 perpetrators in Kosovo alone with some soldiers receiving the death penalty for their crimes.

Further, the ICTY have in their possession copies of the orders from the Yugoslav Supreme Command that instructed soldiers to abide by the Geneva Conventions.

Also, during General Gojovic's testimony Slobodan Milosevic exhibited numerous pamphlets containing codes of conduct that were distributed to the personnel of the Yugoslav Army, which clearly stated that all personnel were ordered to respect civilians, treat enemy prisoners humanely and observe the laws of war.

That the Yugoslav government did this while engaged in a life and death struggle against internal and external enemies is to their everlasting credit and proves that the charge against them of a "Joint Criminal Enterprise" of President Milosevic and others to ethnically cleanse Kosovo and Metohija of non-Serbs, on which the "indictment" relies, is inapplicable, and a complete and utter nonsense.

Of course all this would be relevant if the aim of the ICTY was to objectively establish the truth about the break-up of Yugoslavia and punish those responsible for any crimes committed. However this is not the case.

The ICTY is a political tool. It is a creation of the United States and its function is to justify the Nato aggression and to punish the victims of that aggression. The real guilt of the Yugoslav prisoners is that they defied Nato and fought for the independence of their country. Moreover, the ICTY exists to serve as a warning to anyone who thinks of trying to resist US foreign policy in the future.

The tribunal's rules are unique and have nothing to do with justice or discovering the truth about the break-up of Yugoslavia.

It has 1300 employees, it has lawyers, legal secretaries, investigators and judges who are all primarily from the Nato countries that attacked Yugoslavia. It has assistance from the governments and intelligence services of those countries that attacked Yugoslavia.

It is therefore hardly neutral.

When commenting on the illegal weapons used by Nato against Yugoslavia, weapons that are forbidden by the Geneva Convention such as fragmentation bombs, graphite bombs, used to paralyse the electrical grid and weapons of Depleted Uranium which cause cancer and birth defects,

US Congressman Lester Munson stated:

"You will never see these NATO pilots brought before a UN tribunal. NATO is the accuser, the prosecutor, the judge, the jury and the executioner, because it is NATO that pays the bills for the ICTY. NATO does not have to submit to international law. It is international law."

(Monopoly - NATO and the Conquest of the World. Michel Collon EPO, 2000 Brussels).

Given this scenario it is easy to see people such as Natasa Kandic as an obedient servant of Nato, and every 'smoking gun' story that is produced by her ilk is not only testimony to the fact that the prosecution lacks any factual evidence, but testimony to the correctness of the battle for justice and historical truth being undertaken by Slobodan Milosevic at The Hague today.

And even a media advantage of 1300 to zero will ultimately not be enough to conceal the truth about the destruction of Yugoslavia and the false demonising of its people.

Ian Johnson

June 2005.

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Verzonden: donderdag 30 juni 2005 23:11
Onderwerp: CDSM: Man on a Mission - Christopher
 MAN ON A MISSION
 by Christopher James (Morning Star - June 30, 2005)

SCOTT Taylor is a man on a mission. The Canadian army veteran, turned writer and peace campaigner, is fighting to expose how Kosovo's fabled "mass graves" containing victims of "Serbian genocide" are a manufactured myth as phoney as Iraq's supposed weapons of mass destruction.

As an eyewitness to the 1999 Kosovo war, Taylor's message is an uncompromising rebuttal of everyday Western misrepresentations of the conflict - a conflict which culminated in the annexation by NATO of Serbia's southern province six year's ago this month.

"Was Kosovo a messy, inter-ethnic civil war? Absolutely. Was it a planned, organised genocide? No," Taylor tells speaking tour audiences with a calm, quiet authority acquired from time in the frontline as soldier and war correspondent.

Taylor is editor and founder of Esprit de Corps - an independent journal for rank-and-file Canadian military, acclaimed for its exposure of corruption within army top brass, its campaigning on issues such as Gulf War syndrome and its countering of official spin surrounding the "war on terror."

By his own admission Taylor launched the magazine in 1988 as a cheerleading pro-army publication, funded by defence contractors who he today derides as "the evil military-industrial complex."

His experiences reporting from the 1991 Gulf War, witnessing unspeakable carnage inflicted on defenceless Iraqi conscripts, was the turning point for both Taylor and for Esprit de Corps, which has since transformed, he says, into "the conscience of the Canadian Defence Department."

Reporting from war-torn Bosnia in 1992, Taylor's experiences alongside Canadian troops again contrasted with mainstream media spin, which he saw as obsessed with demonising the Serbian population of the disintegrating Yugoslav federation.

He returned to the Balkans in 1999 as one of the few Western journalists to report from within Kosovo during the 78-day aerial bombardment of Yugoslavia by NATO - which was then acting as a de facto airforce for the ethnic Albanian supremacists and separatists of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

This provided "an incredible vantage point to see what was taking place," says Taylor, whose eyewitness experience contrasted sharply with that of thousands of NATO-accredited journalists reporting from refugee camps in Macedonia and elsewhere, "getting second and third-hand stories, many of which later turned out to be fabricated."

It is worthwhile recalling the extreme wartime hysteria that gripped Britain and the West at the time. So complete was the demonisation of Serbia and its

political leadership that few, even on the anti-war left, opposed the barbarism deployed by NATO on the Yugoslav people and the violation of their national sovereignty.

Daily press conferences saw NATO spindoctors announce spiralling death tolls that rapidly reached upwards of 100,000 murdered Albanians, guaranteeing worldwide banner headlines that screamed of genocide and holocaust revisited on Europe. Countless other horror stories included the claim that a further 40,000 Albanians were detained in Pristina's sports stadium awaiting a grisly fate. All this proved to be false.

One Spanish forensic team sent into Kosovo after the conflict was told to expect to conduct 2,000 autopsies. After just 187 bodies were produced, it returned home early.

"All the bodies were buried in individual graves, oriented for the most part toward Mecca out of respect for the religious beliefs of the Albanian Kosovars and without sign of torture," reported the Spanish daily *El Pais*, one of the few, if not the only, papers to carry the story.

The parallels between Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction" and Kosovo's "mass graves" are obvious, says Taylor. Both were dreamed up by politicians to sell otherwise unpopular wars to their people, although the former claim was clearly met with greater scepticism.

"These are all becoming information wars now," says Taylor. "It has become such a game for them. Spin machines manipulate the media and the media in turn manipulates the population."

When Yugoslav troops withdrew from Kosovo, to be replaced by NATO occupiers, Taylor watched the inevitable media circus "roll in" with editorial orders to find mass graves and "the shattered remnants of the Serbian army," he says.

"But they couldn't find the mass graves because they didn't exist. There were bodies of course - there had been a civil war."

Despite the unprecedented pounding that Kosovo, and Serbia as a whole, took from NATO, the Yugoslav army escaped almost completely unscathed.

"Some \$13 billion of weaponry had been dropped on Kosovo to destroy 13 tanks, two or three of which were museum pieces used as decoys," says Taylor.

The brunt of the assault was inflicted on the country's civilian population - hospitals, factories, bridges, the electricity grid, water supplies, Serb TV and other targets were reduced to rubble while the republic's environment suffered deadly contamination through the use of depleted uranium weapons.

According to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the new world order's phoney court where former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic continues to face down genocide and war crimes charges, the total body count from Kosovo stands at 2,788.

Contrast this with wartime claims of 100,000 murdered Albanian civilians and

Taylor's message comes sharply into focus, particularly when one considers that the ICTY death toll includes combatants from both sides as well as victims of NATO bombing.

Following the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces Albanian separatists immediately set about clearing the province of its minority populations. Some 200,000 Serbs, Jews, Roma, Turks and ethnic Albanians loyal to Yugoslavia have fled Kosovo since 1999, all under the nose of 18,000 NATO "peacekeepers" (actually occupiers), many based at Camp Bondsteel, a gargantuan US base sprawling over 750 acres in the south-east of the province.

Presented as simple "revenge attacks," these were in fact the start of a final push to ethnically cleanse the province of non-Albanians - a process which began with anti-Serb pogroms following the 1980 death of Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito, whose towering leadership had hitherto helped hold the federation together since the end of World War II.

As far back as 1982, long before the development of a "Washington line" on Kosovo for obedient journalists to follow, the New York Times reported that: "[Kosovo] Albanian nationalists have a two-point platform. first to establish what they call an ethnically clean Albanian republic and then the merger with Albania to form a greater Albania."

In 1987 the same paper quoted a Kosovo Albanian nationalist leader's demand for an "ethnic Albania that includes western Macedonia, southern Montenegro, part of southern Serbia, Kosovo and Albania itself."

Last year's "Kosovo Kristallnacht", as it was dubbed by one UN official, where Albanian supremacists rampaged through the province leaving dozens dead, hundreds wounded and 35 ancient Christian Orthodox churches, some dating from the 13th Century, razed to the ground, was merely the latest violent manifestation of this racist doctrine.

* Christopher James wishes to thank Filmmakers Against War for their assistance in producing this article. Scott Taylor is the subject of a Filmmakers Against War production due for release this year.

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Verzonden: vrijdag 10 juni 2005 19:10
Onderwerp: Fw: De-Nazification of the Serbs

— Original Message —

From: CFFKALE
To: Darkita; minja@vlada.ca; kumasi@wanadoo.es; Dragic@aol.com; antic.miroslav@gmail.com; milan.kasic@3web.net; despot@tiscali.nl; mmennard@aol.com; 1branka@tiscali.co.uk; jovanovicdj28@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2005 4:52 PM
Subject: Re: De-Nazification of the Serbs

Pomozi bog braco Srbi i sestre Srbkinje Srbska deco svih uzrasta. To su ciste lazi americkih producenata i rezisera. Ko god veruje tim snimcima je zaista slep kod ociju. Ono sto mogu dobri isposobni reziseri da snime i reziraju to skoro nemoguce proceniti i podeliti istinu i laz. Samo se stite kakao su Americkanci pokazali svetu spustanje na mesec. Samo ako uzmete u obzir svaki snimak onda mozete da zakljucite da su svi snimci snimani u pustinji Arizone. Takodje su dobro opremljeni sa kopijama jezika i takodje maski da je na filmu nemoguce odluciti i napraviti razliku izmedju pravog i laznog lica coveka. Nontaze su toliko dobre i precizne da mogu da prisade glavu zene na musko ili glavu muskarca na zensko telo da se nemopze da zakljuci da je prisadjno. Nemojte deco Srbska da verujete tom nitkovu koji je dobio video snimke od cia ili fbi ili nekog ididota Americkog politicara. Oni su u stanju da ismisle i snime svaku laz koju zamisle. Gde su ti snimci bili prije nisu ni postojali pa ih nisu ni prikazalai. Srbska deco ujedinite se i isterajte petokolonase Jevreje i domace izdajice sluge okupatora nasc otadzbine. Sa bratskim pozdravom svoj Srbskoj deci svih uzrasta od cffkale milan kasic.

— 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; mmennard@aol.com; 1branka@tiscali.co.uk; jovanovicdj28@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2005 1:45 AM
Subject: De-Nazification of the Serbs

["Denial of war crimes has been a predominant phenomenon in Serbian society,"]

http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/bcr3/bcr3_200506_559_2_eng.txt

Institute for War & Peace Reporting

Balkan Crisis Report

Execution Video Jolts Serbia's Memory

Graphic images shake Serbs' collective amnesia about wartime atrocities in Bosnia.

By Zelimir Bojovic from Belgrade (BCR No 559, 09-Jun-05)

As Serbia reels from the broadcast of the execution of six men from Srebrenica, analysts say the public's reaction to the footage may mark a watershed in the whole process of truth and reconciliation.

The horrifying images of mass murder were first made public on June 2, at the trial of the former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic in The Hague.

The prosecution showed segments of a two-hour video – copies of which had been handed to them and Serbia's war crimes prosecution office by the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade – in which members of the feared Serbian paramilitary unit, the Scorpions, executed six young men in cold blood. Four were teenagers and the other two in their twenties.

The killings took place in July 1995, after the fall of Srebrenica, near the village of Trnovo, on the slopes of Mount Jahorina, in Republika Srpska. The victims had been brought there by truck.

The prosecution insisted the Serbian interior ministry controlled the Scorpions, and that the former must have given

12-6-05

consent for the latter to be transferred to the RS, where they perpetrated the crime. Serbia's war crimes prosecution office has submitted a request to the War Crimes Council demanding a criminal investigation of seven men who they say were involved in the killings. Four have been detained, while the rest are on the run. The Serbian interior ministry's anti-organised crime department has announced that Slobodan "Boca" Medic, one of the Scorpions' commanders, is among those arrested.

The arrests took place on June 1 2005, in several separate actions near Sid, in Vojvodina, where the Scorpions' training compound was situated earlier.

"After the publication of these images, nothing will be the same," Janja Bec-Nojman, a professor at the University of Hamburg Institute for Peace, told IWPR.

She has researched the issue of war crimes and genocide for 12 years and believes this footage will help break a conspiracy of silence on Serb crimes in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Whether this is the case remains to be seen. Few Serbian broadcasters made much of the report and the print media did not put the gruesome images on their front pages.

Svetlana Lukic, a journalist from B92 journalist, told IWPR, "The media is predominantly nationalist and wants to play down and minimise this horrible event as much as possible."

Opinion polls also suggest public attitudes to war crimes reflect the position on the issue taken by institutions they most trust, such as the Serbian Orthodox Church, SPC.

Although an Orthodox priest was shown in the footage, blessing the Scorpions unit, the church has not reacted.

"The fact that the church is silent about this is unacceptable," Mirko Djordjevic, a theologian, told IWPR. "The church should not bless weapons under any circumstances or any excuse, yet it supported Milosevic's war policies for years, and there's substantial documentation to prove this."

In contrast to the church, political representatives were quick to condemn the executions.

At a press conference on June 2, Serbian prime minister Vojislav Kostunica described it as a "brutal, heartless and shameless crime".

Even the hard-line nationalist Serbian Radical Party, SRS, whose own president Vojislav Seselj, is in the Hague facing war crimes charges, urged parliament to adopt a special war crimes resolution.

Aleksandar Vucic, a senior party official, said the resolution should condemn all such crimes committed in former Yugoslavia in the strongest terms.

Vucic said Seselj himself had called him from The Hague after the footage of the massacre was shown. "In that phone call, he [Seselj] said these monstrous crimes had to be condemned immediately," said Vucic.

The politicians may have been stirred into action by the arrival in Belgrade of the Hague tribunal's chief prosecutor. Carla del Ponte visited Serbia one day after the footage of the executions was revealed in the UN court.

Another factor is fear that the US Congress may adopt a draft resolution on Srebrenica, declaring the former Yugoslav government endorsed the execution as a part of its policy of aggression and ethnic cleansing.

There are still many signs that Serbia's political elite is far from ready to face up to the issue of Srebrenica. When eight NGOs recently submitted a Srebrenica Declaration, condemning the crimes perpetrated in eastern Bosnia in July 1995, parliament refused to discuss it.

"The Serbian political elite is not ready to face up to the crimes that were committed," said Vesna Petrovic, whose NGO, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, signed the declaration. "Verbal condemnations of the crime are not enough."

Petrovic said one sign of hope was the growing number of citizens who said they now trusted the Hague tribunal.

Aneta spoke for many, when she said, "It's time we faced up to what happened in our recent past. It's good that these

pictures have been made public because too many people here don't know, or don't want to know, what happened in Bosnia."

But another person IWPR interviewed on the street illustrated the problem that rights activists still face. "These images are false," said Sinisa of the Srebrenica video footage. "Thanks to technology, you can do whatever you like."

He said the release of the footage had been timed to coincide with the visit of Del Ponte to Belgrade.

"Denial of war crimes has been a predominant phenomenon in Serbian society," Lazar Stojanovic, Belgrade film director and peace activist, told IWPR.

"These images clearly reveal Serbia's involvement in the crimes committed in Srebrenica. Forcing the state to admit guilt over the part it played in these atrocities is a prerequisite for reconciliation with all the peoples Serbia waged war against."

Some Belgrade analysts hope the release of the footage of the executions may be a prelude to arrests of more high-profile figures than the Scorpions.

"I'm sure Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic will be arrested soon," Biljana Kovacevic-Vuco, president of the Human Rights Lawyers' Committee, told IWPR. After such gruesome images, Vuco added, it will be harder to stir up public opinion to their advantage.

But analysts also warn of continued resistance to such arrests from the old guard and from unreformed institutions, such as the police and the army.

"The process of reconciliation and of confrontation of crimes will be hugely hindered by resistance and manipulation," warns Sonja Biserko, president of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia.

Dobrivoje Radovanovic, a psychologist and associate of the Institute for Criminal and Sociological Research, agreed. "To start the reconciliation process, you need to change people's mind-set and that's a complex thing to do," he said. Radovanovic said many army officers still justified all the crimes their side committed by saying the others also perpetrated atrocities, and they still vigorously defended Milosevic's policies.

"Such people – and there are many in Serbia – are the main reason why the video footage of the execution should be rerun on television as often as possible," said Radovanovic. "Such repetitions are crucial if we want to change people's attitudes."

"Every society has its own rhythm and dynamics in the reconciliation processes," said Bec-Nojman. "This process is slow and takes a long time but it's not impossible."

Zelimir Bojovic is a BIRN contributor and journalist with Deutsche Welle. BIRN is IWPR's localised Balkans project.

Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-johnson@lineone.net>
Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient;>
Verzonden: dinsdag 7 juni 2005 3:44
Onderwerp: CDSM: SINGER/SONGWRITER JAMES BLUNT - NATO'S
SINGER/SONGWRITER JAMES BLUNT: NATO'S PROPAGANDIST?

After extensive exposure in the media former British Army Captain turned singer/writer James Blunt, has entered the UK pop charts with his debut album titled Back to Bedlam.

In the 4th June 2005 edition of the London Times, Adam Sherwin wrote a fawning piece on the singer under the heading 'Warrior for Peace'. The article contained some surprising statements that require closer examination.

Mr Sherwin informs us that James Blunt was the son of an Army Air Force Colonel, was born in a military hospital, and went to Harrow School and read Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering at Bristol University before entering Sandhurst.

Attendance at such institutions as Harrow and Sandhurst, which are not options for the vast majority of the population, reveal that this particular singer is very much an establishment figure.

Moreover there are several things that Mr Sherwin does not tell his readers. For instance the singer's real name is Blount and he is the product of a privileged layer of society hailing from the county of Norfolk. Significantly his stint at Bristol University was sponsored by the British Army and his rank of Captain at the age of twenty-five meant that this was no ordinary 'squaddie' but an individual who owed his 'success' to his class position in society.

Sherwin comes to the crux of his article when he states, *"The album's climax is No Bravery, an angry ballad penned in the barracks when he was sent to Kosovo as part of the Nato peacekeeping force in 1999".*

Although the song itself contains no lyrics that mention Yugoslavia we are told the following, apparently uttered by Mr Blount: *It is a song, he says, about "meeting Serb soldiers laughing and smoking a fag over the bodies of Kosovo Albanian families they had just murdered".*

This is a surprising statement, not only because 'Serb soldiers were laughing and smoking fags over dead bodies' but surprising because by the time the peacekeeping force Blount belonged to entered Kosovo, all Serb soldiers had left the province! The Serb forces withdrawal from Kosovo was a condition of the peace agreement that brought an end to Nato's bombing campaign.

So whatever scene Mr Blount witnessed it did not, nor could it, include Serb soldiers.

I appreciate it must be annoying for historical facts to get in the way of a good propaganda story but it is sometimes insulting when newspapers hope that people cannot recollect events that are six years old and instead suffer from having the memory span of a gnat.

Having attempted to rewrite history Mr Sherwin further insults his readers by offering up this story;

'As an officer with the Reconnaissance Regiment, he (James Blunt) became one of the first peacekeepers to enter Pristina, Kosovo's capital. He entertained the troops with ribald songs about senior officers and strolled through Serb villages singing: "All we are saying is give peace a chance".

In a recent interview musicOMH.com asked Mr Blount. *'So would you resume the role of Captain Blunt in Iraq?'*

To which he replied *"I'd happily go out there."*

So, not content with supporting one illegal war in Yugoslavia, Mr Blount would 'happily' support another in Iraq. And this, according to Sherwin, is a man who *'strolled through Serb villages singing: "All we are saying is give peace a chance"*. Yeah, right! Surely this is a sketch straight out of Monty Python.

At present the British Army is facing allegations of using torture and extensive abuse in Iraq. Yet a Captain from this army, a Captain who would 'happily' engage in illegal wars, is strolling around singing 'give peace a chance?' Pass me that sick bag.

Another, more serious, issue is raised by this story however. Prior to Nato's occupation of the Serbian province of Kosovo there were eighteen different ethnic groups living there.

Why then would Mr Blount only stroll through Serb villages singing his song? What about the other ethnic groups?

Allow me to answer the question. It is the Serbs who are the target of this propaganda article. This story, together with the fiction of Serb soldiers laughing and smoking fags over dead bodies, is intended to create a particular impression in the readers' mind. It is, to be blunt, anti-Serb racism, and disturbingly this article is just one of many that are now appearing in the British media. Nor is this accidental. It is a planned operation with definite goals.

For an insight into the connections between the role of the media and government planning please allow me to relate the following experience.

Back in September 2000 the Times newspaper interviewed me while I was in Yugoslavia working as an election observer in the country's presidential and parliamentary elections.

During the build up to these elections the British media was consistently predicting that they would be fraudulent. Moreover the British Foreign Secretary at the time, Robin Cook, had threatened that dire consequences awaited the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia if Mr Milosevic and his Socialist Party were returned to power. As a further threat a British destroyer was sent to sit off the coast in readiness, and it was under these disturbing conditions that the elections were held.

In his questioning the Times political editor had asked if I had witnessed any possible irregularities during the Yugoslav election, to which I answered no. (Election observers from four different continents also gave this same answer). After the interview I asked him if he himself had witnessed any irregularities, to which he also answered no.

It was somewhat of a surprise therefore when the following day's edition of his paper ran the banner headline, 'Widespread fraud in Yugoslav Elections.' It was apparent that he had his story written long before he had ever reached Yugoslavia, and he was not going to let hard facts get in the way of propaganda.

The London Times is part of the Murdoch empire, and it was Rupert Murdoch who had flown both Tony and Cherie Blair around the world and, according to investigative journalist Greg Palast in his book 'The Best Democracy Money Can Buy', Blair had amended his government's anti-trade union bill at the request of Murdoch so that its contents read, in Palast's words, not so much as a trade union act but more like 'trade unions – the final solution.'

In essence, as long as their political aims correspond, the London Times acts as a mouthpiece for the Blair government.

Given this relationship between media and government it is necessary to view with the utmost suspicion articles such as Sherwin's.

At present such articles I believe are being used to create conditions which will be favourable to Tony Blair and his allies for two things. One is the conviction of Mr Milosevic at the ICTY and the other is the handing over of the Serbian province of Kosovo to the terrorists from the KLA.

Is it not truly astonishing that coverage of the Milosevic trial, announced as 'the trial of the century', disappeared from the Western media for the past two years? Is it not astonishing that the testimony from a prosecution witness that he had been tortured to supply false evidence against Milosevic did not rate a mention in the mainstream media, nor did the utter farce of the whole prosecution case? And yet a video, surfacing after the prosecution case has closed, and which by no stretch of the imagination has any connection to Milosevic, and which originated from the Serbian equivalent of Britain's Lord Haw Haw, now receives universal media coverage.

And is it not astonishing that the pogrom launched against the remaining Serb civilians living in Kosovo last year by Albanian extremists organised in offshoots of the KLA, created little or no coverage in the West? And is it not truly astonishing that the real situation now existing in that province is never mentioned by the western media, and is in fact deliberately covered over? Yet the British media will tell their readers, echoing Blair, that the intervention in Kosovo is a 'success story'.

Returning to the Times article; it is obviously trying to reinforce the misconception of Kosovo being a 'success story' by printing the following statement from the singer Blount:

"It would be an amazing opportunity to play my songs in Kosovo. It is such a beautiful part of the world. I would also play in Belgrade because the people at the top have changed."

Blount tried to elaborate on his 'Kosovo experience' during the musicOMH.com interview where he stated,

"I've seen everything you can think about. It's like being an actor in a movie. You see death on these levels and you kind of imagine how you should be acting and so you act that way; and then you get back to London and you think that was a really interesting kind of movie that you've been in."

Yes Mr Blount, very 'interesting' very deep and so coherent!

Ian Johnson

June 2005.

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Andy IWilcoxson" <andywilcoxson@comcast.net>; "Nico Varkevisser" <nico.v@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Jan Beentjes" <jbeentjes@mac.com>; "Hans Hupkes" <hans.hupkes@planet.nl>; "Meindert Stelling" <meindert.stelling@planet.nl>; "Nico & Neeltje Steijnen" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: woensdag 18 mei 2005 1:40
Onderwerp: Fw: Letter To Norwegian Embassy, 5-17-05

— Original Message —

From: CFFKALE
To: nikiforov@un.org
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 1:12 AM
Subject: Letter To Norwegian Embassy, 5-17-05

Embassy of Norway
 The Honorable Ambassador
 2720 34th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20008-2714
 T: (202) 333-6000
 F: (202) 337-0870

Tika Jankovic
 6083 Loma Prieta Drive
 San Jose, CA 95123
 T: (408) 435-3450
 F: (408) 224-0420

Copies: Permanent Mission of Norway
 to the UN
 Missions to the UN
 International News Outlets
 US Congress and Senate
 The White House

May 17, 2005

Your Excellency,

I would like to bring to your attention and care an ugly and reprehensible incident that occurred in Kosovo the other day, involving a unit of the Norwegian contingent of KFOR.
 As you may have already heard a group of exhilarated, looking and sounding like being drugged, Norwegian soldiers, were depicted in a TV spot dancing on a huge military transporter with glee while singing anti-Serb ethnic and racial slurs. The lyric like : " We will toss bombs at the bad Serb boys wherever they happen to hide.." and "You, Milos Obilic, son of a bitch.." (Milos Obilic is a Serbian hero, slain in the historic Battle of Kosovo against the invading Ottoman Turks on June 28, 1389) has been fashioned into a music spot by the KFOR "musical artists" to an American ensemble "Beach Boys" theme and distributed on Internet.

I am urging you to immediately notify your government of this unforgivable act of such a crass and to the Serbs humiliating and painful racial attack by the Norwegian soldiers, unbecoming to any civilized person anywhere in the world, including Kosovo and the international military and civilian forces charged with the responsibility for peace and protection o human rights in this Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija (It is incorrectly referred to as "Kosovo" only!). If you, and your government, ignore this horrific incident, and do not take a serious investigation into it and bring the perpetrators to justice, the world will rightfully deem this act as being tacitly approved of by the Norwegian authorities. Your respectful and freedom loving people do not deserve a besmirched image of the nation of savages because of the condemning behavior of a bunch of unruly Norwegian soldiers in a foreign country and under the UN banner.

In the anticipation of your favorable reply,
 I remain faithfully yours,

.....
 Tika Jankovic

23-5-05

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Nico Varkevisser" <nico.v@slobodan-milosevic.org>; "Nico & Neeltje Steijnen"
Verzonden: woensdag 27 april 2005 3:37
Onderwerp: E-mail met bijlage (attachment): posts

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UN Discovers Human Remains in Kosovo Cave ("Non-Albanians" mass grave after NATO's takeover)

[scotsman.com](#) ^ | Mon 18 Apr 2005 | "PA"

Posted on 04/18/2005 8:22:35 AM PDT by [Destro](#)

Mon 18 Apr 2005

3:54pm (UK)

UN Discovers Human Remains in Kosovo Cave

"PA"

The United Nations in Kosovo said today they had discovered a cave allegedly used to secretly dispose of the human remains of non-Albanians in Kosovo killed during a war in 1998-1999.

Initial findings indicated the area "was used to secretly dispose of human remains, and could be related to the disappearances" of non-Albanians in Kosovo in 1998, the UN statement said.

The UN-run Office on Missing Persons and Forensics began excavating the cave and its surrounding area in Klina, some 30 miles west of the province's capital Pristina, it said.

About 500 Serbs and 200 members of other non-Albanian communities in Kosovo remain missing and are suspected to have been kidnapped and killed by ethnic Albanian rebels during the province's 1998-1999 war, according to UN figures. (A lie - more Serbs have been killed than that).

Some 10,000 people - mostly ethnic Albanians - were killed and thousands vanished during that war. Nato pushed the Serb troops out of the province and forced former Serb president Slobodan Milosevic to relinquish control of Kosovo. (That is an outright lie - more like under 5,000 dead from all sides)

Since then, Kosovo has remained officially part of Serbia-Montenegro, the successor state to Yugoslavia, but is administered by the UN mission and Nato-led peacekeepers. Negotiations on its final status are expected to begin this year.

Hundreds of those listed as missing from the war have been found in mass graves in Kosovo and Serbia, but the fate of about 3,000 missing is still to be determined.

Last month, Serbian and Kosovo officials resumed talks aimed at establishing the fate of ethnic Albanians, Serbs and others who vanished during the war - one of the most sensitive and emotionally charged issues between the two former foes.

The two sides signed a framework document and agreed to accept the Red Cross list of 2,960 still missing as their figure of reference. The officials agreed to meet again on June 9 in Pristina.

TOPICS: [Extended News](#); [Foreign Affairs](#); [News/Current Events](#); [War on Terror](#)

KEYWORDS: [BALKANALQAEDA](#); [BALKANS](#); [KFOR](#); [KLA](#); [KOSOVO](#); [NARCOTERRORISTS](#); [NATO](#); [UN](#); [UNMIK](#)

Non-Albanians is a euphamisim for Serbs - the people the Clinton loving media said were the bad guys. Using the word "non-Albanian" is a way the media plays with the facts and shapes opinions.

1 posted on 04/18/2005 8:22:39 AM PDT by Destro
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Balkans**

Never Forget.

2 posted on 04/18/2005 8:23:23 AM PDT by Destro (Know your enemy! Help fight Islamic terrorism by visiting [johnthangaltfilms.com](#) and [jihadwatch.org](#))
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Destro**

Non-Albanians is a euphamisim for Serbs - the people the Clinton loving media said were the bad guys. Using the word "non-Albanian" is a way the media plays with the facts and shapes opinions.

Well said

3 posted on 04/18/2005 8:30:37 AM PDT by Fiddlstix (This Tagline for sale. (Presented by TagLines R US))
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Destro**

The mass graves from this war uncover hundreds of bodies. The mass graves in Iraq uncover thousands (and there are more of them).

The left feel so good about themselves for their rescue efforts in Kosovo where casualties are, by some estimates, less than 10,000 but were willing to do nothing about the hundreds of thousands, most common estimate around 300,000, in Iraq.

4 posted on 04/18/2005 8:31:07 AM PDT by NeilGus
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Destro**

Bump.

Return Kosovo to the Serbs, to whom it rightly belongs!

5 posted on 04/18/2005 8:31:27 AM PDT by cicero's_son
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Destro**

Bump.

Return Kosovo to the Serbs, to whom it rightly belongs!

6 posted on 04/18/2005 8:32:26 AM PDT by cicero's_son

To: **cicero's_son**

Kind of funny how after all the former media attention paid to "mass graves" in Kosovo mostly contain dead Serbians.

7 posted on 04/18/2005 8:35:57 AM PDT by **myheroesareDeadandRegistered** (Ann Coulter/ Mark Levin tag team in '08)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 5](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Destro**

Yup Serbs made their own. Nor did the Serbian commander order his troops to rape and murder Muslim women while a dutch outfit of the UN stood and watched because their were rendered impotent by the UN. Yup Serbs were just all around nice guys.

Save the crap, Serbs were worse then the other factions, with none of them doing good things.

8 posted on 04/18/2005 8:37:02 AM PDT by **tfecw** (Vote Democrat, It's easier than working)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **DTA; FormerLib; Nennsy; mark502inf; Great Prophet Zarquon; Torie; Hoplite**

Look what the innocent Albanians were doing.

9 posted on 04/18/2005 8:39:07 AM PDT by **joan**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **Destro**

What does this imply wrt to the timing Destro. Usually they know about these things but wait until the opportune moment to take it up.

Wait a minute, talks surrounding the indepenence of Kosovo are due to start this summer. Is this a spanner in the works.

10 posted on 04/18/2005 8:41:16 AM PDT by **oilfieldtrash**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **tfecw**

Where is any DNA evidence of rapes? None have ever been presented. It is nothing but words and false accusations.

But if you know of any evidence, then please tell us. Find just one case, just one proven case with genuine evidence.

11 posted on 04/18/2005 8:41:53 AM PDT by **joan**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 8](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: **tfecw**

I cant see that your comments have anything to do with the content of the article.

12 posted on 04/18/2005 8:42:43 AM PDT by **oilfieldtrash**
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 8](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: tfecw; Lion in Winter; Destro; Honorary Serb; jb6; Incurigible; DTA; ma bell; joan; vooch; ...
Yup Serbs made their own.

You sound just like Ward Churchill commenting on the 9/11 attacks.

13 posted on 04/18/2005 8:45:21 AM PDT by FormerLib (Kosova: "land stolen from Serbs and given to terrorist killers in a futile attempt to appease them.")
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 8](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: oilfieldtrash

He's got anti-Serb baseless propaganda on the brain.

14 posted on 04/18/2005 8:45:28 AM PDT by joan
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 12](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: joan

No Joan i prefer to let you live in your fantasy world that the Serbians were tra-la-laing when the evil US and UN came in and destroyed utopia. I don't need DNA evidence, I have eye witness accounts. So whatever, have fun living in denial.

15 posted on 04/18/2005 8:46:24 AM PDT by tfecw (Vote Democrat, It's easier than working)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 11](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: Destro

About 500 Serbs and 200 members of other non-Albanian communities in Kosovo remain missing
According to the UN, I thought theses numbers are really low.

16 posted on 04/18/2005 8:47:31 AM PDT by Andy from Beaverton (I only vote Republican to stop the Democrats)
[[Post Reply](#) | [Private Reply](#) | [To 1](#) | [View Replies](#)]

To: tfecw

KOSOVO.

After the illegal intervention in Yugoslavia, Nato occupied the Serbian province of Kosovo and created a United Nations protectorate, serving until such time as a final status for the province could be determined. That, at any rate, was the official story. However the decision was taken long ago to declare an 'independent' Kosovo by mid-2006, thus ripping the province from its legally recognised homeland as part of Serbia and handing it to criminals of the KLA, an organisation that acted as Nato's ground troops during the 1999 aggression and an organisation that is amply documented to be deeply involved in drugs and arms smuggling, child prostitution and people trafficking. (The involvement of both the US and Britain with such an organisation gives the lie to the so-called 'war on terrorism'. Rather than making war against them they are in bed with them).

The task in the meantime however, was to create the impression that the Nato intervention in Kosovo was a success, a claim Blair never tires of making.

Despite the cooperation of a spineless British media in peddling this lie it has become apparent that the intervention in Kosovo was an unmitigated disaster, and that Kosovo today is, as described by one observer, 'the most dangerous place on earth.'

The reality is that since NATO's entry into Kosovo, the province has been ethnically cleansed of Serbs and other minorities despite, or perhaps because of, the watchful eyes of NATO and UNMIK. Coincidence or not but since the province fell under UN control violence by the KLA, under various names, has escalated alarmingly.

In a report to the U.N. Security Council on April 13th, 2004, U.N. Peacekeeping Operations Director Jean-Marie Guehenno described Kosovo, five years after the end of civil war, as a simmering cauldron of ethnic suspicions. Mr. Guehenno stated: "The onslaught led by Albanian extremists against Kosovo's Serb, Roma and Ashkali communities was an organized, widespread and targeted campaign."

The following is an extract from a letter sent to the UN from the Roma Rights Center last year, its contents

16-5-05

The answer is very simple, if somewhat unpalatable to Blair's dwindling number of supporters.

His only concern is to represent his backers, the financial elite. It is his job to open up countries and areas to exploitation, and open their economies to privatisation, the fate of the ordinary people of these regions is of no relevance to him. It is on this ruthless basis that he sees Kosovo as a 'success story'.

Here are extracts from two recent media reports on the sell-off of Kosovo's assets:

A nickel plant in Kosovo went up for sale Wednesday as the U.N. mission in Kosovo agreed to give a mining license to the most successful bidder, the United Nations said. Companies have been asked to table bids for Feronikeli plant in central Kosovo, which was badly damaged during NATO bombing of Serb forces in this disputed province in 1999 and is one of the major plants in the economically depressed province.

The United Nations, which administers the province, also agreed to provide potential buyers with the license for exploitation and exploration of the mines, said Mechtild Henneke, a U.N. spokeswoman. Kosovo is the poorest region in the Western Balkans with an annual gross domestic product per capita of around euro1,000 (US\$1,300) and a jobless rate of at least 50 percent, according to EU figures despite the fact that it is rich in mines and minerals.

The privatisation of Feronikeli would be the most important sell-off of socially owned enterprises, a plan used for enterprises owned by the workers and managers under a system set up under communist-era Yugoslavia'. (Business Week Associated Press April 27, 2005).

16-5-05

Your Excellencies,
The European Roma Rights Center (ERRC), an international public interest law organisation which monitors the situation of Roma in Europe, is writing to express deep concern at the grave human rights violations against Roma and Ashkaelia in Kosovo committed on and after March 17, 2004 and currently ongoing.

Your Excellencies,
The situation of Roma, Ashkaelia, Egyptians and others regarded as "Gypsies" in Kosovo is now extremely precarious. In March 2004, Roma, Ashkaelia and others have again been targeted for extreme violence as part of a campaign begun in 1999 by ethnic Albanians to expel minorities from the province, to seize their property and to do them serious physical harm. In the close to five years since an international administration was established in Kosovo, rudimentary security has never been durably established in Kosovo and minorities have been daily unable to enjoy basic freedom from fear of physical attack. A number of communities have lived for close to half a decade without effective freedom of movement.

In their article 'Aftermath of "Humanitarian" Intervention in Kosovo' authors Carol Bloom, Eani Rifati and Sunil Sharma, state the following:

'While the international civil presence is mandated to maintain civil law and order, protect and promote human rights and assure the safe and unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes, reports by the UN ombudsperson office, UNHCR, OSCE, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and others state that KFOR and UNMIK have failed to fulfil these obligations. If the Albanians succeed in creating an independent Kosovo, it would seem that, in the end, they are to be rewarded for their massive ethnic cleansing campaign. Is this a picture of democracy in action? Is this what the US and NATO are touting as a "success story"? Is another Diaspora, with no right to settle and no hope of return, what the Roma of Kosovo can look forward to in the 21st Century?'

Kosovo today is a province run by gangsters, it has an unemployment rate of 57% according to Associated Press, it distributes 70% of the world's heroin trade, it is the largest supplier of child prostitutes in Europe, yet Blair insists this is a 'success story'. To any decent person the above facts would constitute a vision of hell so why would Blair argue otherwise?

The answer is very simple, if somewhat unpalatable to Blair's dwindling number of supporters.

His only concern is to represent his backers, the financial elite. It is his job to open up countries and areas to exploitation, and open their economies to privatisation, the fate of the ordinary people of these regions is of no relevance to him. It is on this ruthless basis that he sees Kosovo as a 'success story'.

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And:

15 Kosovo Companies Up For Privatization --Officials PRISTINA (AP)--Officials in Kosovo put 15 companies up for sale Tuesday, the fifth batch of firms to be privatized in the economically depressed province, a statement said.

The businesses include a former producer of plastic moldings, a pharmaceutical wholesale trading company, an old rubber products factory, an electrical mill, a brick factory, warehouses, a clothing producer and a mineral water bottling plant.

Most of the companies will be sold to the highest bidder, while two will go to buyers that have submitted investment plans and negotiated workers' conditions with the Kosovo Trust Agency, a U.N.-run office charged with selling hundreds of enterprises.

The agency advertised the 15 companies for sale on its Web site, saying bids would be accepted from mid-July.

The U.N. mission that is running Kosovo recently set new rules for the privatization process, pledging a faster sell-off of the province's companies.

KOSOVA (sic) REPORT Tuesday, May 10, 2005.

As one astute observer correctly stated; 'This is the rape of Kosovo. All these companies were state owned so UNMIK is privatising what does not belong to them. This is pretty much the Wild West!'

If a person breaks into someone's home, steals their possessions and then sells them on, he would be prosecuted accordingly, if his break-in was with the use of a weapon, if he was armed, his sentence would reflect the charge of armed robbery. For such an offence he would certainly go to prison. What is the difference therefore, if, instead of robbing just one house, you rob an entire country, indeed many countries, you steal their assets by armed force and subsequently sell them on at a bargain price to your business friends? This is what Blair does for a living! Furthermore, is it any wonder that backward youth in Britain now think it is acceptable to rob, mug and steal from others? They have a prominent role model do they not?

Kosovo today is not only a dangerous place to live, it is a morally sick province. While the victory over Fascism was recently celebrated throughout the world the current Kosovo authorities, those same authorities supported by Blair, decided to erect a memorial complex to Nazi collaborators and members of the notorious Skenderbeg SS Division from the Second World War.

A media report on this announcement states:

'The decision foresees the building of a memorial park on a surface of some 1.5 hectares and a monument in the location where Yugoslav officials at that time and Partisan forces executed fascist collaborators, the members of the Second League of Prizren.

This organization was founded in 1943 in Prizren upon the initiative of the Gestapo.

Recorded in the chronicle of acts of terror by Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija are crimes in Babuska municipality, forcible expulsion in Urosevac, executions in Velika Hoca, forcible detention (of the population) from Prizren and Grbol, murders in the village of Vitimirica.... Two hundred Serbs were killed just in the district of Djakovica and 5,000 Serbs were taken away to fascist camps in Albania. The participation of the Prizren League through its military formations in the extermination of Kosovo Jews is one of the most shameful episodes in the history of Kosovo. Out of 281 Jews arrested by the military formations of the Second League of Prizren, more than 200 were killed in the Belsen Nazi death camp. The entire Jewish population of Kosovo was destroyed and never recovered to its pre-war numbers.

Hence it comes as no surprise that the Municipality of Pristina is not planning any sort of commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the victory against fascism. The memorial tomb dedicated to the heroes and victims of Nazism during World War II in Pristina has been destroyed. The plates bearing the names of fallen fighters (Serbs, Albanians, Turks and Jews) have been removed and destroyed, and the monument is today covered with graffiti celebrating the Kosovo Liberation Army.'

DOMESTIC.

Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-johnson@lineone.net>
Aan: <SAGITAR@HETNET.NL>
Verzonden: woensdag 16 maart 2005 2:19
Onderwerp: CDSM: Robin Cook & the Labour government's 'ethical' foreign

Robin Cook & the Labour government's 'ethical' foreign policy.

Under the heading 'The surrender of Kosovo's prime minister is an act of real courage' the 11th March 2005 edition of the Guardian newspaper carried an article by former UK foreign secretary Robin Cook.

It is as well to remember however, that when writing about events in Yugoslavia Mr Cook is not an innocent observer. As UK foreign secretary during the 1999 Nato bombing campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia he became known as the 'butcher of Belgrade', a term which reflected his enthusiasm for the task.

It was also Robin Cook who supplied the 'Kosovo Dossier' to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for their case against Slobodan Milosevic. Unfortunately for the tribunal it was a dossier so devoid of any serious evidence that in desperation the ICTY had to add on Croatia and Bosnia to the indictment against Milosevic in the hope that they would be able to uncover some kind of evidence at a later date.

Mr Cook also boasts, as he did at a press conference, which was directly broadcast on CNN, that he was instrumental in obtaining satellite access for the pro-Nato B92 television station, much to the embarrassment of the station's operatives who claimed to be 'independent'.

Given Mr Cook's involvement in destroying the sovereign state of Yugoslavia his Guardian article should be viewed with suspicion, both for its timing and for its attempt to rewrite history.

ETHICAL.

When Tony Blair's Labour government took office in 1997 it unveiled what it called its new 'ethical' foreign policy. The vagueness of this term meant that at the time the majority of the British population, though hopeful, was unsure what this would actually mean in practice. Five international wars later things became much clearer. Blair's government had come up with a policy which they hoped would circumvent the restrictions of international law and allow British intervention into the internal affairs of independent nation states in the name of 'humanitarian intervention', a term that had no meaning in any international legal charter. Under Tony Blair, Mr Cook, once a spokesman of the left-wing of his party, dropped previous commitments to unilateral disarmament and a Eurosceptic approach, and praised the prime minister's "third way".

As Blair's foreign secretary (1997-2001) it was Robin Cook who was responsible for 'selling' this new concept of 'humanitarian intervention' - a concept originally discussed in the US by, amongst others, Madeleine Albright - and thus by-passing existing international law and avoiding such troublesome restrictions as the following:

"No State shall organize, assist, foment, finance, incite or tolerate subversive, terrorist or armed activities directed towards the violent overthrow of the regime of another State, or interfere in civil strife in another State."

The territory of a State shall not be the object of military occupation resulting from the use of force in contravention of the provisions of the Charter. The territory of a State shall not be the object of acquisition by another State resulting from the threat or use of force. No territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as legal. (Declaration on principles of international law in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Extract from UN General Assembly Resolution 2625 - 24th October 1970).

Initially the supporters of the new Labour government claimed that this 'ethical' foreign policy could mean an end to any arms sales to 'repressive regimes'. However this illusion was quickly dispelled as outlined in the following two reports from 1999:

'On coming to office in 1997, Labor foreign secretary Robin Cook promised an 'ethical' foreign policy. Widely interpreted as meaning an end to arms sales to repressive regimes, Cook's humanitarian foreign policy was a commitment that came back to haunt him. Cook was pilloried for visiting Indonesia and for issuing them with invitations to visit British arms fairs. He was further embarrassed in September, with revelations that £130 million of public money has been used in the past year alone to help the Indonesian government buy Hawk fighters from Britain'. (LM Magazine Oct 1999).

'Britain also made a significant contribution to Indonesia's military training. The Observer has established that, since May 1997, 24 senior members of Indonesia's forces have been trained in UK military colleges. This included training in running military units efficiently and how to use technical equipment like guided missiles. In addition, 29 Indonesian officers have studied at non-military establishments.

Revelations of the extent to which Labor has used taxpayers' money to aid the Indonesian military has angered many MPs, who claim it makes a mockery of Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's 'ethical foreign policy'. In the last four years of the Tory Government, only one Indonesian soldier was trained in the UK'. (London Observer Sept 19th 1999).

YUGOSLAVIA.

Cook begins his Guardian article by stating:

'Occasionally, the greatest grounds for optimism are that nothing has happened. Kosovo this week provides a good illustration. On Wednesday, its prime minister, Ramush Haradinaj, was indicted by the war crimes tribunal and surrendered himself to stand trial in The Hague. Hundreds of extra troops were rushed to Kosovo in expectation of nationalist riots in protest at his arrest, but at the time of writing none has materialised. In part, this must be a result of the dignity of Haradinaj's appeal for his people to accept that it was the right decision for the honour of their country.'

In this opening paragraph, as well as expressing his admiration for the former KLA commander, Cook is trying to mislead the readers into believing that Kosovo is a 'country'.

It is not. Kosovo is legally recognised in law and by the United Nations as a province of Serbia.

Cook goes on:

'I had a number of contacts with the Kosovo Liberation Army before and during Nato's intervention to halt the ethnic cleansing of the Kosovans. Its fighters undoubtedly demonstrated real courage in taking on the formidable Serb military machine with no artillery, armour or air cover to match their opponents...'

Apart from the fact that here Cook confirms his contact with the KLA 'before' Nato's intervention, this piece of fawning nonsense reiterates the accusation of 'ethnic cleansing' by Serbs without providing any proof whatsoever, as if by mere repetition it can become an established fact. In the absence of any factual evidence Mr Cook is relying on his readers to take his word for it! The Washington Post gave an insight into the reality of the situation when it made this comparison with history:

"Under the fascist-Nazi umbrella, the Albanians gained control of Kosovo, efficiently cleansed it of 300,000 Serbs and kept the Yugoslav resistance busy, thus relieving Nazi troops for duty in Normandy. History repeats itself. Under a different patron, the Kosovars are now cleansing the territory of non-Albanians. Why not? NATO gave the Yugoslav army only days to get out of Kosovo, but it is "negotiating" with the KLA about what weapons to surrender and when. In the meantime, ancient Orthodox

arches are destroyed and innocent farmers massacred by NATO's local allies. Madeleine Albright and Tony Blair may still harbor illusions about a multi-ethnic Kosovo, but that is not what Albanians have in mind. Their goal is "an ethnically pure Albanian Kosovo," and they are pretty close to achieving it." (The Washington Times, August 11, 1999).

Perhaps Mr Cook is unaware of this history and the real aims of the KLA? Or perhaps not.

As we have seen with Cook's pronouncements on Iraq, cited above, the words 'truth' and 'Robin Cook' don't blend well together in the same sentence. Moreover, when stating that the KLA had no 'air cover to match their opponents' he has obviously forgotten Nato, who acted as the air force for the KLA during the 1999 aggression.

Furthermore, in view of Cook's reverence towards Mr Haradinaj and the KLA it is of interest to note the contents of a recent letter to the Guardian newspaper, which is self-explanatory:

"So Denis MacShane believes it was 'very brave' of indicted war criminal Ramush Haradinaj to give himself up to a UN tribunal (Kosovo government falls, March 9). Haradinaj, as Mr MacShane knows, was a senior commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which was responsible for sickening atrocities against both Serb and Albanian civilians. Haradinaj and his followers were backed by western governments during this time. I have witnessed the true nature of Haradinaj's men. During an investigation into the international arms trade for Channel 5 and the Sunday Mirror, senior KLA veterans who claimed they took their orders from 'Ramush' sold a huge cache of Semtex plastic explosives to myself and other members of an undercover team. When they were told the Semtex could be used in terrorist attacks against targets in the UK, their response was to offer us rocket launchers. The men responsible are now dead or imprisoned. The weapons are under UN control. The UN governor of Kosovo says he has lost a 'friend and partner' in Haradinaj. The UN should be more cautious about the company they keep". (Dominic Hipkins London).

Given Robin Cook's admission that he had dealings with the KLA both before and during Nato's aggression and given the fact, as stated in Mr Hipkins letter to the Guardian, that the KLA were willing to supply weapons for attacks against the UK, can it be said that Mr Cook and the government he represented, were acting in the best interests of the people of Britain?

Again, without any factual evidence, Cook states in his article:

'Milosevic may be out of power, but the Balkans will not be free of his legacy unless it confronts the violent ethnic hatred he promoted'.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to promote ethnic hatred without promoting it via writings or speeches. It is a fact that no one can cite an article or speech where Mr Milosevic has promoted ethnic hatred. In the absence of such evidence the only thing left for unscrupulous rogues to do is to make something up. Needless to say Robin Cook has attempted this trick.

On 28th June 1999 Cook made this comment about the speech delivered by Slobodan Milosevic in 1989 at Kosovo Field.

"Milosevic used this important anniversary not to give a message of hope and reform. Instead, he threatened force to deal with Yugoslavia's internal political difficulties. Doing so thereby launched his personal agenda of power and ethnic hatred under the cloak of nationalism. All the peoples of the region have suffered grievously ever since."

According to this you would be forgiven for thinking that this speech was indeed a speech filled with ethnic hatred.

However here is a section of that speech:

"Serbia has never had only Serbs living in it. Today, more than in the past, members of other peoples and nationalities also live in it. This is not a disadvantage for Serbia. I am truly convinced that it is an advantage. National composition of almost all countries in the world today, particularly developed ones, has also been changing in this direction. Citizens of different nationalities, religions and races have been living together more and more frequently and more and more successfully."

Socialism in particular, being a progressive and just democratic society, should not allow people to be divided in the national and religious respect." (A link to the full text of this speech can be found at www.free-slobo-uk.org/quote_milosevic_kosovofield)

(A common myth fostered by Western political and media elites is that Slobodan Milosevic launched his supposed campaign of "ethnic cleansing" by whipping up hatred among Serbs against their fellow Yugoslav nationalities through the use of fiery, demagogic hate speech at mass rallies reminiscent of Adolf Hitler at Nuremberg.

Yet you may be surprised to find that even the most cursory examination of his speeches reveals just the opposite. It is seldom mentioned by Western journalists or politicians that there is not one single instance of President Milosevic making any derogatory or racist statement against any ethnic group or people on the grounds of their race, religion or nationality. Nor has he ever espoused

Serbian racial supremacy. Indeed, you will find him frequently stressing that Yugoslavia and Serbia are a home to the many nationalities that live within them, not just the Serbs).

THE KLA & TOLERANCE.

In his Guardian article Mr Cook speaks of Haradinaj as an 'advocate of tolerance' in Kosovo and mentions approvingly the 'courage' of the KLA. Although Robin Cook would rather we just took his word for these claims of 'tolerance' and 'courage' amongst the KLA and its leadership, we would urge people to do their own research into these matters. This is just a very small example of what they will find:

"A pogrom started in Europe this week, with one U.N. official being quoted as saying, 'Kristallnacht is under way in Kosovo. Serbs are being murdered and their 800-year-old churches are aflame. Much of the Christian heritage in Kosovo and Metohija is on fire and could be lost forever. By these deeds too many of Kosovo's Albanians have shown that their rhetoric about 'democracy' and 'multiethnicity' is false, and demonstrates also that the international community's acceptance of them has been naive." (nationalreview.com March 2004).

"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. (former Canadian UNPROFOR Commander Maj. General Lewis MacKenzie).

"Kosovo today is a gangster state ruled by armed gangs that deal in drugs, prostitution and extortion: the ethnic cleansing of the last remaining Serbs from the land of their forefathers has been going on since the 'liberation' and is only being noticed now that it is reaching a blood-soaked crescendo. Five years of UN rule, and a military occupation, have produced this." (Justin Raimondo. 'The Déjà vu War).

"Today, almost five years since the 'humanitarian bombing' and the establishment of a UN protectorate, Kosovo is one of the most dangerous places in the world for Roma. Very few Roma, pejoratively referred to as 'gypsies', have remained; estimates range from 22,000 – 25,000. Before the US/Nato intervention in Kosovo there were more than 150,000 Roma in the region." (Voice of Roma 2004 report).

"The onslaught led by Albanian extremists against Kosovo's Serb, Roma and Ashkali communities was an organised, widespread and targeted campaign." (UN Peacekeeping Operation Director Jean-Marie Guehenno 13th April 2004).

"Increasing numbers of local women, the majority of them girls, are being internally trafficked within Kosovo. Women are often sold several times in transit. According to the International Organisation for Migration women have been sold for prices ranging from 50 euro to 3500 euro.

Women and girls are now being trafficked out of Kosovo into countries in Western Europe, including Italy, Netherlands and the UK." (Amnesty International May 6th 2004 – Facts and figures of women and girls for forced prostitution in Kosovo).

"The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) is upheld as a self-respecting nationalist movement struggling for the rights of ethnic Albanians. The truth of the matter is that the KLA is sustained by organised crime with the tacit approval of the United States and its allies.... the links of the KLA to criminal syndicates in Albania, Turkey and the European Union have been known to Western governments and intelligence agencies since the mid-1990s." (Michael Chossudovsky – Kosovo 'Freedom Fighters' Financed by Organised Crime).

MORALITY.

Deep into his article Mr Cook attempts to denigrate both Mr Milosevic and Mr Karadzic by writing the following:

"Bizarrely the two first met when Karadzic acted as psychiatrist to Milosevic, but in this case the patient seems to have had greater influence on his therapist's mental state than the other way round. I had some insight into why Milosevic might have needed a psychiatrist when I spent a long afternoon vainly trying to reason with him to withdraw from Kosovo and avoid the need for military action. At the time I felt deeply frustrated that I had been unable to get him to grasp that we were serious, but I subsequently heard he had spent the rest of the day blind drunk on brandy, which encouraged me to believe I had been more successful than I first thought".

- This juvenile nonsense tells us more about the writer than it does the subjects. By his comment 'drunk on brandy' it is obvious that Mr Cook is relying on hearsay evidence which is ironic given that the entire prosecution case at the illegal Hague tribunal also

evolved around hearsay evidence. (Furthermore, given his own personal history Cook is ill advised and ill equipped to delve into the realms of someone's private behaviour).

As for diagnosing a person's mental state perhaps the following will give us an insight into the mind and morals of Robin Cook who, as UK foreign secretary endorsed the attack described below:

'Shortly before a planned missile strike on the headquarters of Milosevic's ruling Socialist Party—which was located in a residential neighborhood of Belgrade—an internal memo assessing the likely civilian destruction was distributed among NATO leaders:

Next to a photograph of the party headquarters, the document said: "Collateral damage: Tier 3—high. Casualty Estimate: 50-100 Government/Party employees. Unintended Civ Casualty Est: 250—Apts in expected blast radius."

In short, NATO anticipated that the attack could, in the worst case, kill up to 350 people, including 250 civilians living in nearby apartment buildings.

Washington and London (emphasis added) approved the target, but the French were reluctant, noting that the party headquarters also housed Yugoslav television and radio studios. "In some societies, the idea of killing journalists—well, we were very nervous about that," said a French diplomat."

Ultimately, Paris went along. But in going ahead with the attack, NATO appears to have directly breached Article 51 of the Geneva Convention (Protocol I), which prohibits any attack which may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.

The Socialist Party building was itself a civilian facility located hundreds of miles from the site of any military conflict. Asked by a reporter at the next day's press briefing what military rationale lay behind the party headquarters strike, NATO spokesman Jamie Shea could not name any specific military function. Instead, he declared that NATO considered "any aspect of the power structure" in Yugoslavia to be a legitimate target, adding that the party headquarters building "contains the propaganda machinery... of the ruling Socialist Party."

(Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting Jan 28th 2000).

What is one to make of the morality of a man who, when given notification that a planned bombing mission will likely cost the lives of approximately 250 innocent civilians, gives his approval for that mission to go ahead?

INDEPENDENCE.

Robin Cook ends his tiresome article with these comments:

"It is equally important that there is seen to be a process of holding to account individuals for their personal responsibility. Without it we will never break the cycle of conflict in which whole ethnic groups are held collectively guilty for the acts of a few. That is what distinguishes justice from revenge.

Haradinaj has done a greater service to Kosovo by encouraging his people to accept the rule of international law than any action he could have taken by staying in office. As a result, Kosovo may now be nearer to international acceptance of eventual independent status. Conversely Serbia will find it more difficult to resist that outcome if it persists in failing to demonstrate the same degree of cooperation with the tribunal".

So we come to the crux of the matter and the real reason for his article and the real reason Haradinaj has gone to The Hague, 'Kosovo may now be nearer to international acceptance of eventual independent status.'

With this statement Cook is preparing the ground for the announcement of 'independence' for Kosovo. Similar statements have also recently been made by Richard Holbrooke Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations at his speech on 11th March at the George Bush Presidential Library and by Soren Jessen-Petersen, head of the U.N. Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). These are not coincidences. The United States has already decided to grant 'independence' to Kosovo no later than mid-2006. In order to achieve this it is important that the intervention in Kosovo is perceived as a 'success story', that Kosovo is perceived as law abiding and stable. That the opposite is true, that Kosovo, as observed by one journalist, "is the most dangerous place on earth", is to the builders of the 'new world order', an irrelevance.

By hiding the reality of life in that province and falsely portraying it as a 'success story', the 'international community' are getting ready to hand over the Serbian province of Kosovo to the KLA mafia.

Despite a brief falling out with Tony Blair over the occupation of Iraq, Mr Cook is now back on message and peddling his spite against a president and a country (Yugoslavia) that not only has never attacked another country, but has never even threatened to do so. Unlike his own government who, under the cover of an 'ethical' foreign policy has, since 1997, launched wars against Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia and Iraq twice. All of dubious legality and most just blatantly illegal.

For the benefit of Robin Cook and the Labour government we hereby remind them of The Principles of International Law recognised in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal and in the Judgement of the Tribunal 1945/6. Confirmed unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations in Resolution 95, 11 December 1946

Key statements from the Judgement of the Nuremberg International War Crimes Tribunal

"... The second aim of the trial was to establish the rules of international law for the future, so that not only the launching of wars of aggression would be illegal, but also, for the first time, to make the rulers who lead their countries into wars of aggression personally responsible for their actions." - Lord Shawcross - Principal British Prosecutor at Nuremberg, 1945.

"To initiate a war of aggression is not only an international crime, it is the supreme international crime."

"To initiate a war of aggression is a crime that no political or economic situation can justify."

Ian Johnson March 2005.

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Binnenland

za 29 jan 2005, 09:00

Arkan loerde op Mabel

door John van den Heuvel

AMSTERDAM - De Servische geheime dienst heeft halverwege jaren negentig op het punt gestaan Mabel Wisse Smit te ontvoeren.

De huidige echtgenote van prins Friso was doelwit van de Serviërs vanwege haar innige contacten met de voormalige Bosnische ambassadeur bij de VN, Muhamed Sacirbey.

Brussel

Dit blijkt uit vertrouwelijke informatie van justitiële bronnen, die deze krant afgelopen dagen in de Servische hoofdstad Belgrado in handen kreeg.

Volgens de informatie reisden geheim agenten, onder leiding van de beruchte Servische oorlogsmisdadiger Arkan, eind '93 of begin '94 in opdracht van toenmalig president Milosevic naar Brussel. Mabel verbleef daar regelmatig ten tijde van de Balkanoorlog, onder meer vanwege haar werkzaamheden voor het European Action Council for Peace in the Balkans.

Srebrenica

Het zou de bedoeling van Milosevic zijn geweest Mabel te kidnappen om haar informatie te kunnen ontfutselen over Muhamed Sacirbey, die tijdens de Balkanoorlog woordvoerder en fondsenwerver was van de Bosnische moslims. Het ontvoeringplan ontstond na de beslissing in 1993 dat Nederlandse VN-troepen het district Srebrenica zouden beschermen tegen aanvallen van de Serviërs.

Lees verder in [De Telegraaf](#).

print **mail dit artikel**

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Kosovo conflict

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'NAVO-oorlog Kosovo was niet gerechtvaardigd'

NRC Webpagina's
9 februari 2001

Kosovo Conflict

Nieuws

Achtergrond

Conflict

Vluchtelingen

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Links

Door een onzer redacteuren

rotTERDAM, 9 FEBR. Aan de vooravond van de NAVO-luchtoorlog tegen Joegoslavië was in Kosovo geen sprake van massale etnische zuiveringen en was evenmin sprake van een humanitaire ramp, zoals de NAVO ter rechtvaardiging van het militaire ingrijpen beweerde.

Dat zegt de Duitse brigade-generaal b.d. Heinz Loquai in een vraaggesprek met de VPRO-radio, vandaag uitgezonden in het programma Argos. Loquai zei dat de NAVO met het ingrijpen, dat op 24 maart 1999 begon, juist twee humanitaire rampen heeft geschapen: die van de massale verdrijving, door de Serviërs, van talloze Albanezen na 24 maart, en die jegens de Serviërs en de andere minderheden van Kosovo na de oorlog, in de vorm van wraakacties van de Albanezen.

Aan de vooravond van de oorlog hadden de Serviërs 360.000 Kosovo- Albanezen op de vlucht gejaagd. Algemeen ging men er toen van uit dat sprake was van een bewuste campagne, waartegen moest worden opgetreden.

Volgens de Duitse generaal - toen werkzaam bij de Duitse missie bij de OVSE in Wenen - kon echter noch van genocide, noch van een campagne van etnische zuivering worden gesproken. "Er was geen grootschalige verdrijving van de Albanese bevolking." Loquai zei dat de Duitse regering wist dat de vluchtelingen op de loop waren gegaan voor het geweld tussen de Servische politie en het Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger UÇK. Ze wist volgens hem ook dat het geweld in Kosovo niet eenzijdig was, maar van twee partijen kwam en dat óók Kosovo-Serviërs vluchtten. Dat zou aantonen dat de vluchtelingenstroom niet het resultaat was van een doelbewuste campagne. De humanitaire ramp, die de NAVO aanvoerde als legitimering, was volgens Loquai "fictief". Loquai baseert zich op documenten, zoals een analyse van het Duitse ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken op 19 maart 1999. Daarin stond dat de Serviërs de Albanese bevolking tevoren waarschuwden voor een operatie tegen het UÇK, zodat ze de wijk konden nemen, en dat ze de Albanezen na de operatie toestonden terug te keren. Dat betekent volgens Loquai dat er geen systematische verdrijving

bestond.

Een ander document is een analyse van de Duitse militaire inlichtingendienst op 24 maart 1999 - de dag waarop de oorlog begon. De dienst concludeerde dat de Serviërs niet in staat waren tot een groot offensief tegen het UÇK. Voor de naaste toekomst waren kleinschalige offensieven te verwachten. Daarop zou het UÇK antwoorden, hetgeen de Serviërs tot nieuwe acties zou provoceren, waarop het UÇK dan weer zou reageren, in de hoop de NAVO met die oplopende spiraal van geweld tot ingrijpen te dwingen. In zijn vraaggesprek baseerde Loquai zich verder op uitspraken van Duitse rechtbanken in asielzaken voor maart 1999. Ze oordeelden op grond van informatie van de Duitse regering dat in Kosovo geen sprake was van "een expliciet op de etnisch-Albanese afkomst gerichte politieke vervolging", maar alleen van militair optreden van de Serviërs tegen hun militaire tegenstander, het UÇK.

Bovenkant pagina

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Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-johnson@lineone.net>
Aan: <SAGITAR@HETNET.NL>
Verzonden: vrijdag 10 december 2004 19:34
Onderwerp: CDSM: 1. John Pilger Article in New Statesman 2. Letter to New

Journalist John Pilger has written an excellent piece on Kosovo for the latest issue of the New Statesman magazine and it is worth reading. The only weakness is John's last paragraph which owes more to western propaganda than it does to reality.

Please find below the article in full followed by my letter to the New Statesman in regard to the article's misleading last paragraph. IJ.

>
>
>
> HOW SILENT ARE THE 'HUMANITARIAN' INVADERS OF KOSOVO?

> John Pilger

>
>> Muted by the evidence of the Anglo-American catastrophe in Iraq, the
>> international "humanitarian" war party ought to be called to account for
>> its largely forgotten crusade in Kosovo, the model for Tony Blair's
>> "onward march of liberation". Just as Iraq is being torn apart by the
>> forces of empire, so was Yugoslavia, the multi-ethnic state that
>> uniquely rejected both sides in the cold war.

>>
>> Lies as great as those of Bush and Blair were deployed by Clinton and
>> Blair in their grooming of public opinion for an illegal, unprovoked
>> attack on a European country. Like the build-up to the invasion of Iraq,
>> the media coverage in the spring of 1999 was a series of fraudulent
>> justifications, beginning with US Defence Secretary William Cohen's
>> claim that "we've now seen about 100,000 military-aged [Albanian] men
>> missing... they may have been murdered." David Scheffer, the US
>> ambassador at large for war crimes, announced that as many as "225,000
>> ethnic Albanian men aged between 14 and 59" may have been killed. Blair
>> invoked the Holocaust and "the spirit of the Second World War". The
>> British press took its cue. "Flight from genocide," said the Daily Mail.
>> "Echoes of the Holocaust," chorused the Sun and the Mirror.

>>
>> By June 1999, with the bombardment over, international forensic teams
>> began subjecting Kosovo to minute examination. The American FBI arrived
>> to investigate what was called "the largest crime scene in the FBI's
>> forensic history". Several weeks later, having not found a single mass
>> grave, the FBI went home. The Spanish forensic team also returned home,
>> its leader complaining angrily that he and his colleagues had become
>> part of "a semantic pirouette by the war propaganda machines, because we
>> did not find one - not one - mass grave."

>>
>> In November 1999, the Wall Street Journal published the results of its
>> own investigation, dismissing "the mass grave obsession". Instead of
>> "the huge killing fields some investigators were led to expect ... the
>> pattern is of scattered killings [mostly] in areas where the separatist
>> Kosovo Liberation Army had been active." The Journal concluded that Nato
>> stepped up its claims about Serb killing fields when it "saw a fatigued

... corps drifting toward the contrarian story: civilians killed by
Nato's bombs ... The war in Kosovo was "cruel, bitter, savage; genocide
>> it wasn't."

>>
>> One year later, the International War Crimes Tribunal, a body
>> effectively set up by Nato, announced that the final count of bodies
>> found in Kosovo's "mass graves" was 2,788. This included combatants on
>> both sides and Serbs and Roma murdered by the Albanian Kosovo Liberation
>> Army. Like Iraq's fabled weapons of mass destruction, the figures used
>> by the US and British governments and echoed by journalists were
>> inventions - along with Serb "rape camps" and Clinton's and Blair's
>> claims that Nato never deliberately bombed civilians.

>>
>> Code-named 'Stage Three', Nato's civilian targets included public
>> transport, hospitals, schools, museums, churches. "It was common
>> knowledge that Nato went to Stage Three [after a couple of weeks]," said
>> James Bissell, the Canadian ambassador in Belgrade during the attack.
>> "Otherwise, they would not have been bombing bridges on Sunday
>> afternoons and market places."

>>
>> Nato's clients were the Kosovo Liberation Army. Seven years earlier, the
>> KLA had been designated by the State Department as a terrorist
>> organisation in league with Al Qaida. KLA thugs were feted; Foreign
>> Secretary Robin Cook allowed them to call him on his mobile phone. "The
>> Kosovo-Albanians played us like a Stradivarius," wrote the UN Balkans
>> commander, Major-General Lewis MacKenzie, last April. "We have
>> subsidised and indirectly supported their violent campaign for an
>> ethnically pure Kosovo. We have never blamed them for being the
>> perpetrators of the violence in the early 1990s and we continue to
>> portray them as the designated victim today in spite of evidence to the
>> contrary."

>>
>> The trigger for the bombing of Yugoslavia was, according to Nato, the
>> failure of the Serbian delegation to sign up to the Rambouillet peace
>> conference. What went mostly unreported was that the Rambouillet accord
>> had a secret Annexe B, which Madeline Albright's delegation had inserted
>> on the last day. This demanded the military occupation of the whole of
>> Yugoslavia, a country with bitter memories of the Nazi occupation. As
>> the Foreign Office minister Lord Gilbert later conceded to a Commons'
>> defence select committee, Annexe B was planted deliberately to provoke
>> rejection by the government in Belgrade. As the first bombs fell, the
>> elected parliament in Belgrade, which included some of Milosevic's
>> fiercest opponents, voted overwhelmingly to reject it.

>>
>> Equally revealing was a chapter dealing exclusively with the Kosovo
>> economy. This called for a "free-market economy" and the privatisation
>> of all government assets. As the Balkans writer Neil Clark has pointed
>> out, "the rump of Yugoslavia... was the last economy in central-southern
>> Europe to be uncolonised by western capital. 'Socially owned
>> enterprises', the form of worker self-management pioneered under Tito,
>> still predominated. Yugoslavia had publicly owned petroleum, mining, car
>> and tobacco industries, and 75 per cent of industry was state or
>> socially owned."

>>
>> At the Davos summit of neo-liberal chieftains in 1999, Blair berated
>> Belgrade, not for its handling of Kosovo, but for its failure to fully

to force "economic reform". In the bombing campaign that followed, it was state owned companies, rather than military sites, that were targeted.
 >> Nato's destruction of only 14 Yugoslav army tanks compares with its bombing of 372 centres of industry, including the Zastava car factory, leaving hundreds of thousands jobless. "Not one foreign or privately owned factory was bombed," wrote Clark.

>> Erected on the foundation of this massive lie, Kosovo today is a violent, criminalised UN-administered "free market" in drugs and prostitution. More than 200,000 Serbs, Roma, Bosniacs, Turks, Croats and Jews have been ethnically cleansed by the KLA with Nato forces standing by. KLA hit squads have burned, looted or demolished 85 Orthodox churches and monasteries, according to the UN. The courts are venal. "You shot an 89-year-old Serb grandmother?" mocked a UN narcotics officer. "Good for you. Get out of jail."

>> Although Security Council Resolution 1244 recognises Kosovo as an integral part of Yugoslavia, and does not authorise the UN administration to sell off anything, multinational companies are being offered 10 and 15 year leases of the province's local industries and resources, including the vast Trepca mines, some of the richest mineral deposits in the world. After Hitler captured them in 1940, the mines supplied German munition factories with 40 per cent of their lead. Overseeing this plundered, murderous, now almost ethnically pure "future democracy" (Blair), are 4,000 American troops in Camp Bondsteel, a 775-acre permanent base.

>> Meanwhile, the trial of Milosevic proceeds as farce, not unlike an earlier show trial in The Hague: that of the Libyans blamed for the Lockerbie bomb. Milosevic was a brute; he was also a banker once regarded as the west's man who was prepared to implement "economic reforms" in keeping with IMF, World Bank and European Community demands; to his cost, he refused to surrender sovereignty. The empire expects nothing less.

>> First published in the New Statesman - www.newstatesman.co.uk
 >> <outbind://10/www.newstatesman.co.uk>

>> John Pilger's new book, Tell Me No Lies: Investigative Journalism and its Triumphs, is published by Jonathan Cape.

> LETTER TO NEW STATESMAN.

> Dear Sir,

> Further to the article 'How Silent are the 'Humanitarian' Invaders of Kosovo?' by John Pilger, which appeared in the 13th December 2004 edition of the New Statesman.

> Mr Pilger's work over many years deserves the highest praise. His integrity and honesty consistently shine through and he possesses a genuine ability

- > out through official propaganda and reveal the truth about world
- > developments, whether that is on Yugoslavia or more recently Iraq.
- > His latest article on Kosovo is another excellent piece, let down only by
- > his last paragraph, which I wish to address.
- >
- > John writes that Mr Milosevic was "once regarded as the west's man who
- was
- > prepared to implement 'economic reforms' in keeping with IMF, World Bank
- and
- > European Community demands"
- >
- > This is misleading. The fact is that Yugoslavia operated a 'mixed economy'
- > long before the Socialist government came to power and Milosevic's
- > achievement, despite the lack of international support, was in preventing
- > core Yugoslav industries being privatised and falling into the hands and
- > under the control of foreign capital. He did this by passing legislation
- > that ensured continued worker's control of these state assets. It was
- these
- > actions that angered the IMF, World Bank and European Community and
- brought
- > the wrath of the 'international community' down on the Milosevic
- government.
- > John actually admits this earlier in his article when he states,
- > "...in 1999, Blair berated Belgrade, not for its handling of Kosovo, but
- for
- > its failure to fully embrace 'economic reform'. In the bombing campaign
- that
- > followed, it was state owned companies, rather than military sites, that
- > were targeted."
- > Obviously then, this particular President was not prepared to implement
- > reforms in keeping with IMF and World Bank demands.
- >
- > It was essential for the west therefore to replace Mr Milosevic, who was
- > protecting Yugoslav interests to the best of his ability, with a
- government
- > truly compliant to western demands. This they did via the 5th October 2000
- > coup, financed, backed and organised by the United States and its allies.
- >
- > In his last paragraph John also comments on the Milosevic trial in The
- Hague
- > and correctly calls it 'a farce', but does not elaborate on this. However
- it
- > is precisely 'a farce' because the charges of genocide and ethnic
- cleansing
- > are bogus, the prosecution is in disarray and in the eyes of all objective
- > observers have already lost their case, having failed to produce one
- single
- > piece of concrete evidence to support the indictments.
- > Furthermore, in desperation, the tribunal has attempted but failed to deny
- > Mr Milosevic the right to conduct his own defence, and the truth is that
- > Slobodan Milosevic is innocent of all the politically motivated charges he
- > is facing.
- > Thus, on the basis of all available evidence as opposed to propaganda, to
- > call Milosevic a 'brute' has no foundation in reality and has more to do
- > with accepting at face value the western propaganda that demonised

order to facilitate the bombing and destruction of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

- > Finally, there is a Legal Conference being organised at The Hague on 26th
- > February 2005, which will be addressed by international figures from the
- > legal profession. As well as examining the legality or otherwise of The
- > Hague tribunal the conference will present an opportunity for interested
- > parties to discover the truth about the break-up of Yugoslavia. Also
- > present
- > will be former members of the Milosevic government who will be pleased to
- > answer any questions and clarify any misunderstandings caused by the
- > incessant and distorted presentation of these events as presented by the
- > mainstream western media. John Pilger is warmly invited to attend.

> Yours sincerely

> Ian Johnson.

> Manchester UK.

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Sagittarius

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The Invasion of Serbian Krajina--by Greg Elich

by mickcollins at 08:43PM (CET) on November 29, 2004 | [Permanent Link](#)

[In President Milosevic's opening statement of his defense case {another 'must read!' somewhere on this blog} he mentions a book by Greg Elich on the unspeakable war crimes committed by the Croats in their 1995 US and MPRI-backed siege of the old military border region between the Ottoman and Hapsburg empires, the Krajina, that had been populated for centuries by Serb war heros {Yugoslavs, really!}. This, like the 1990 invasion and 4-year reign of terror in Rwanda by the Ugandan-based and, again, US and MPRI-backed and trained Rwandan Patriotic Front, is one of those astonishing crimes against the peace, the mother of all war crimes according to Nuremberg, that, at the time of its commission, could not face the light of day and required the full secretive services of Western media spin shysters and black ops warhogs to fob it off as some sort of human-righteous retribution against 'Serb fascism'--and, after 10 years of such boondoggling, necessitated the unlicensed but tightly controlled demolition of the WTC and the Pentagon on Sept 11, 2001, made to appear as an attack by an Arab youth gang controlled by a Saudi Svengali from an Afghan grotto, in order to convert these 'humanitarian genocides' into a proudly declared (Christian and Zionist) war on (Islamic) terrorism, thereby freeing the heavily armed hands of Western waste culture to spread death and destruction throughout the poor neighborhoods of the whole planet as a way of keeping up with military/industrial over-production, sclerotic corporate feudalism's sole functioning economic engine. I hunted the entire length of the Amazon.com basin in search of that book, until Greg told me there was but this article posted below. The article has more good information than most of the several books on the Balkans I've read, so here you go. And Greg assures me he's working diligently on not one but two book on US interventions. He has for a long time been a hero of mine, not just on the Balkans, but on Zimbabwe and other Imperialist targets. CM/P is very proud and very grateful for this contribution from one of the real good guys in the struggle. --mc]

The Invasion of Serbian Krajina

by Greg Elich

[Mr. Elich is a freelance scholar who has written extensively about Yugoslavia.]

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)

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 Ustashe 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 Ustashe émigrés and several Ustashe 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 Ustashe 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 Ustashe official Vinko Nikolic returned to Croatia, Tudjman appointed him to a seat in parliament. Upon former Ustashe 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 Ustashe 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 Ustashe state, and the new Croatian flag is a near-duplicate of the Ustashe flag. Streets and buildings have been renamed for Ustashe 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 Ustashe state. In April 1994, 158 Croatian Jews signed a letter demanding the removal of all "non-white" monuments from its territory, claiming that "the Ustashe regime was responsible for the death of all

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 him 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.

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(27) "Croatian Towns, Villages Cleansed of Serbs," Tanjug, 26 January 1993. "Savovic: Croatia Expelled 300,000 Serb," Tanjug, 5 November 1993. "Serb Party Official: 350,000 Serbs Driven Out," Tanjug, 26 August 1994.

(28) "Croatian Police Tactics Cited," Associated Press, 3 October 1994. "Helsinki Committee Chair: Collective Vendetta Against Croatia's Serbs," Tanjug, 7 May 1994. "Protests Prevent Latest Wave of Croatian Apartment Evictions," Radio Free Europe, 12 July 1994. "Croatian Human Rights Activist: Zagreb Backs Human Rights Violations," Tanjug, 28 September 1994. "Rights Groups Report Abuses by Croatia," David Binder, New York Times News Service, 7 December 1993.

29) "Interior Minister Aide Accused of War Crimes," ZDF Television Network (Mainz), 17 May 1994. "Slovene Daily Says Croatian Leaders Keep Quiet About Massacre of Serbs," Tanjug, 14 January 1994. "Croatian Paper Calls Mass Killings of Serbs a National Disgrace," Tanjug, 12 July 1994. "Zagreb Knows About Mass Killings of Serbs," Tanjug, 23 July 1994. "Dossier: Pakracka Poljana," Feral Tribune (Split, Croatia), 1 September 1997. "Death Camps and Mass Graves in Western Slavonia: Marino Selo and Pakracka Poljana," dossier prepared by Serbian Council, Belgrade, 1993.

(30) "Miro Bajramovic's Confession," Feral Tribune (Split, Croatia), 1 September 1997. "Croatian's Confession Describes Torture and Killing on Vast Scale," Chris Hedges, New York Times, 5 September 1997.

20-11-2009

NRC Should een heel dossier by over
Kosovo op internet, te vinden op

[WWW.NRC.NL/W2/LAB/KOSOVO/NIETUWS.HTML](http://www.nrc.nl/w2/LAB/KOSOVO/NIETUWS.HTML)
OF

TE VINDEN VIA [WWW.VPRO.NL/PROGRAMMA/ONTWIK-
DELING/Afleveringen/19016909](http://WWW.VPRO.NL/PROGRAMMA/ONTWIK-
DELING/Afleveringen/19016909)

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20-11-2004

OP WWW.VPRO.NL/PROGRAMMA'S/OCHTENDEN/AFLEVERINGEN/
19016909

Zijnde uitzendingen over KOSOVO VAN
10 JUNI 2004 EN 19 NOVEMBER 2004 TE
BELUISTEN. Over de pogroms van maart en
de moordkultuur van het Voeruaan dunnun

Sagittarius

Van: "Predrag Vitkovic" <vitkovic@freeler.nl>
Aan: "Predrag Vitkovic" <vitkovic@freeler.nl>
Verzonden: vrijdag 19 november 2004 13:34
Onderwerp: NAVO wist vooraf van etnische zuivering van 17. maart jl. in

Voor diegenen die vanochtend niet naar Radio 1 hebben geluisterd volgt hier het naar mijn mening zeer
belangwekkende nieuws:

Argos

vrijdag 19 november 2004 11:02 Radio 1

Bloedige onlusten in Kosovo van tevoren bekend bij geheime diensten Navo
De bloedige onlusten in Kosovo op 17 en 18 maart van dit jaar waren van te voren bekend bij
inlichtingendiensten van vooraanstaande NAVO-landen. Dat blijkt uit explosieve geheime
inlichtingenrapporten, die Argos vrijdag openbaar maakt. De diensten hadden vanaf 23 februari
gedetailleerde voorkennis over de planning van de onlusten door Albanese extremisten, maar ondernamen
geen actie. Drie weken later zouden ze leiden tot 31 doden, 600 gewonden, honderden in brand gestoken
huizen en kerkgebouwen en etnische zuivering onder de Servische minderheid. Naar buiten toe is altijd
volgehouden dat KFOR, de door de NAVO geleide internationale troepenmacht in Kosovo, compleet werd
verrast door de geweldsuitbarstingen en daardoor nauwelijks tot ingrijpen in staat. Desondanks prees de
Nederlandse secretaris-generaal van de NAVO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, KFOR voor het adequate optreden.

<http://www.vpro.nl/programma/ochtenden/afleveringen/19016909/>

Deze aflevering is volgende week te beluisteren via de website van VPRO's Argos.

Met vriendelijke groeten,

Predrag.

Het koffiehuis in Kosovo heeft genoeg van het gezag

18042004

Na de geweldsgolf in maart is de situatie voor de in Kosovo achtergebleven Serviërs nog hachelijker. Maar door het geweld wordt er wel weer serieus over de toekomst gepraat. Al maakt het de animo voor de verkiezingen zondag niet groter: 'Kosovo heeft twee categorieën mannen met onderkinnen die niets uitvoeren, de diplomaten van het VN-bestuur en de politici van de LDK.'

Van onze correspondent
Olaf Tempelman
PRISTINA

De geur van gepofte kastanjes vult de straten van Pristina, waar de nog in Joegoslavische tijden opgerichte hoogbouw even grijs is als de oktoberhemel. Voornaamste bron van kleur in het overheersend betonnen stadslandschap is afkomstig van de overdadig opgehangen verkiezingsaffiches. De sjaal van dr. Ibrahim Rugova – soms blauw, soms rood – is het meest opzichtig aanwezig.

Ten tijde van de Milosevic-betsetting was Rugova, ooit universitair docent Franse letterkunde, de president van de door de Kosovo-Albanen eenzijdig uitgeroepen Kosovaarse parallelstaat. Thans is hij de president van het internationale protectoraat Kosovo, waar de eigenlijke macht ligt bij het hoofd van het VN-bestuur Unmik.

Het moet vreemd lopen wil Rugova's Liga voor een Democratisch Kosovo (LDK) in de parlementsverkiezingen van zondag – de tweede sinds het einde van de oorlog – niet opnieuw als veruit grootste partij uit de bus komen. Wie in Pristina jong en hoogopgeleid is, is daar niet blij mee.

'Kosovo heeft twee categorieën mannen met onderkinnen die niets uitvoeren, de diplomaten van het VN-bestuur en de politici van de LDK.' 'De LDK? Een loge, incompetente kliek, geleid door een wereldvreemde sufferd en gesteund door een massa boeren en provincialen.' De typeringen voor de LDK die je in Pristina's nieuwe, met tapijten bedekte koffiehuisen opvangt, zijn zelden vleidend.

Maar wat is het alternatief? Het voornaamste werd tot nu toe gevormd door de Partij voor een Democratisch Kosovo (PDK), het tot politieke beweging omgevormde Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger (UCK), dat in 1998-1999 een guerrilla tegen Servische eenheden voerde. Boegbeeld: Hashim Thaci – jong kereltje, strak in het pak, maar destijds in UCK-uniform waarschijnlijk verantwoordelijk voor misdaden tegen de menselijkheid.

Belgrado voert een onsuccesvolle lobby om hem in Den Haag

berecht te krijgen. In de Servische hoofdstad staat sinds vorige week een bord met de volgende strekking: 'Wee de Serviër die het waagt aan de Kosovaarse verkiezingen van 23 oktober deel te nemen, moge god hem Hashim Thaci als president geven.'

Vermoedelijk is het bord het werk van mannen van de Servische premier Kostunica, die de Kosovo-Serviërs, zowel de achtergeblevenen (100 duizend) als de verjaagden (200 duizend), heeft opgeroepen de verkiezingen te boycotten.

De afgelopen twee jaar hadden mensen van Thaci samen met mensen van Rugova zitting in de Kosovaarse regering. Qua incompetentie deden ze daarin nauwelijks voor elkaar onder. Rivaliteit voerde de boventoon, samenwerking bleef uit. 'Kosovo had geen twaalf ministeries maar twaalf koninkshuizen', aldus een analyse uit het koffiehuis. Voor hun bestuurlijk falen hadden de autochtone politici evenwel een excuus: ze hadden bijna nergens iets over te zeggen.

De werkelijke beslissingsbevoegdheid in Kosovo ligt sinds zomer 1999 bij het VN-bestuur Unmik. Dat faalde de afgelopen vijf jaar zowel in het bewerkstelligen van economisch herstel, het winnen van het vertrouwen van de bevolking als het herstel van de multi-etnische samenleving – al valt goed te betogen dat het laatste onbegonnen werk was.

De Unmik-diplomaat werd in Pristina synoniem voor iemand die 's avonds in speciaal voor hem opgerichte luxe restaurants eet, maar die overdag in gebreke blijft omdat hij geen affiniteit heeft met de problemen van de regio. Het is niet overdreven te stellen dat het VN-bestuur in Kosovo anno 2004 nauwelijks minder wordt veracht dan het Servische bestuur tot 1999.

In de periode 2000-2004 kwamen dingen steeds meer vast te zitten', zegt de Kosovaarse journalist en essayist Migen Kelmendi, nippend aan een espresso in een met rode tapijten bedekt koffiehuis. 'De armoede werd groter, corruptie en maffiapraktijken namen een vlucht, helaas niet zelden met betrokkenheid van het inter-



Een politiemacht houdt Kosovaarse Serviërs in Belgrado tegen die protesteren tegen de pro-westerse Servische premier Tadic.

FOTO AP

nationale bestuur. De frustratie van de bevolking werd vergroot door het feit dat er over de eindstatus van Kosovo – alle Albanen willen onafhankelijkheid – niet gepraat mocht worden.'

In maart dit jaar kwam het in Kosovo tot de grootste geweldsexplosie sinds het eind van de oorlog. Albanese jongeren staken Servische kloosters en kerken in brand en er vielen tientallen doden. Tweeduizend Serviërs zijn nog steeds niet naar hun huizen teruggekeerd.

Kelmendi zucht: 'Ik keur geweld op alle gronden af. Maar als er een conclusie is die een deel van de bevolking hier heeft getrokken, dan is die dat je geweld moet gebruiken als je een doorbraak wil forceren. Dat was zo in de jaren

negentig, en dat is dit jaar weer gebleken. De gewelddadigheden van maart hebben de situatie voor de achtergebleven Serviërs nog hachelijker gemaakt. Maar ze hebben zowel de discussie over het falen van het VN-bestuur op gang gebracht als het taboe op de eindstatus van Kosovo doorbroken.'

Het onmiddellijke gevolg van de geweldsexplosie was het aftreden van het hoofd van Unmik, de Fin Harri Holkeri, al vertrok deze officieel om gezondheidsredenen. In augustus overhandigde de Noorse diplomaat Kai Eide een rapport over de geweldsgolf aan Kofi Annan. De conclusies daarvan zijn tamelijk vergaand. Unmik moet worden afgeslankt, moet bevoegdheden overdragen

'Wee de Serviër die het waagt om te stemmen'

en op termijn plaatsmaken voor een veel kleinere, door de Europese Unie geleide missie.

De lichten doven, de muziek valt stil, het espressoapparaat houdt op met borrelen. Met lucifers loopt de ober van het koffiehuis langs de tafels om kaarsen aan te steken. 'Ik stem op de partij die voor elektriciteit zorgt!', roept een meisje vanuit de duisternis. Voor de oorlog kwam elektriciteit in Kosovo uit Servië.

Na vijf jaar gefaald te hebben de stroomstoornissen op te lossen, droeg Unmik een week geleden de bevoegdheid over de elektriciteitsvoorziening over aan een nieuw Kosovaars energie-instituut, dat tot nog toe niet tot grootscheids daden in staat is gebleken. Als na de verkiezingen een nieuwe regering gevormd is – wat in 2001-2002 zeer moeilijk was – belooft Unmik een nieuwe overdrachtsronde.

'Ik voorspel op het gebied van die nieuwe bevoegdheden net zoveel geklungel als onder Unmik', zegt Migen Kelmendi. 'Aan de ene kant is dit de enige manier voor de politici om dingen te leren. Aan de andere kant zal dat leerproces bemoeilijkt worden doordat de nieuwe regering weer een grote coalitie

wordt. Dat heeft te maken met de op hande zijnde onderhandelingen over Kosovo's eindstatus.'

Volgens Kelmendi wijst alles erop dat de onderhandelingen in 2005 zullen beginnen: 'Uit die onderhandelingen moet een compromis rollen waarvoor alle partijen verantwoordelijkheid onder supervisie van de EU, zonder eigen leger, met een verbod een unie aan te gaan met Albanië, maar met alle rechten van een onafhankelijke staat op financieel-economisch gebied. Het is niet ideaal, maar het is beter dan de huidige situatie.'

De wetenschap dat er geen taboe meer rust op de vraag wat er met Kosovo moet gebeuren, bepaalt thans niet alleen het politieke klimaat in Pristina, maar ook in Belgrado, zegt Kelmendi. 'Officieel roepen alle Servische politici

nog steeds dat Kosovo voor eeuwig een onderdeel moet blijven van Servië. Maar in hun achterhoofd beseffen ze dat dit in de huidige omstandigheden absurd is en dat het in het belang van een toekomstige vitale Servische staat is van Kosovo verlost te worden.'

De Servische politici willer er echter wel zoveel mogelijk uitslepen, zegt Kelmendi: 'De inzet van de Servische premier Kostunica is opdeling. Dat kan hij niet direct voorstellen en daarom heeft hij een plan voor de kantonisering van de Servische zones opgesteld wat een eerste stap is richting opsplitsing. Zijn oproep aan de Kosovo-Serviërs de verkiezingen van zondag te boycotten, moet in een zelfde licht worden gezien. Al Serviërs wel zouden deelnemen zouden ze op een of andere manier met het nieuwe Kosovo verbonden kunnen raken, terwijl Belgrado's inzet is hen los te weken.'

Kunnen Belgrado en Pristina werkelijk over Kosovo onderhandelen als een compromis breekt moet worden gedragen? Je kunt je in 2005 eventueel gesprekken voorstellen tussen de huidige pro-westerse Servische president Tadic en de Kosovaarse president Rugova – van wie gezegd wordt dat hij zo makkelijk dingen tekent dat hij zelfs een keer zijn handtekening zette op een menukaart die hij aanzag voor een verdragtekst.

Maar rabiate nationalistinnen als Vojislav Kostunica en Hashim Thaci, de een voor de ander een symbool van verderf, in 2005 samen aan tafel? Het lijkt absurd. 'Ik vind het helemaal niet absurd', zegt Jeta Xharra van het Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR). 'Het zal in het begin wel moeilijk zijn. Maar als ze weten dat het menens is gaan ze heus wel onderhandelen.'

'Internationale diplomaten bereiden het allemaal nauwkeurig voor', zegt Migen Kelmendi. 'Er zal veel met formuleringen worden gegoocheld. Ze zoeken naar een compromis dat de Kosovo-Albanen het idee geeft dat ze onafhankelijk zijn geworden en de Serviërs juist het idee dat dit niet het geval is.'

Heel langzaam begint Kelmendi het nieuwe land voor zich te zien: 'Kosovo wordt geen klassieke staat. Het krijgt een heel beperkt soort onafhankelijkheid onder supervisie van de EU, zonder eigen leger, met een verbod een unie aan te gaan met Albanië, maar met alle rechten van een onafhankelijke staat op financieel-economisch gebied. Het is niet ideaal, maar het is beter dan de huidige situatie.'

De lichten flikkeren. Voor enkele seconden keert de elektriciteit in het koffiehuis terug, om de rest van de middag weg te blijven.

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Redactie opinie

Doorkiesnummer 010-4066332

Rotterdam, 28-9-2004

Geachte heer Steijnen,

Dank voor het artikel dat u ons per post stuurde. Ik zie helaas geen mogelijkheid dit te publiceren. We geven, na de korte discussie hierover onlangs op de OpiniEPagina, nu weer voorrang aan andere onderwerpen.

Ik hoop dat u daarvoor begrip kunt opbrengen.

Met vriendelijke groet,

Marc Leijendekker
chef Opinie NRC Handelsblad

PS

Overigens kunt u ons ook bereiken via het e-mail adres opinie@nrc.nl. Dat stelt ons in staat sneller te reageren.

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Hoofddredactie

Onze ref.: FJ/mvdl

Rotterdam, 21 september 2004

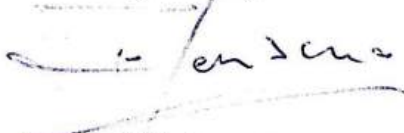
Geachte heer Steijnen,

Naar aanleiding van uw brief van 14 september jl. laat ik u het volgende weten.

Het is geen opvatting onzerzijds, maar een feit dat 200.000 Servische vluchtelingen in de Vojvodina zijn geherhuisvest. Het is ook een feit dat in de periode waarin dat gebeurde, tienduizenden leden van de Hongaarse en Kroatische minderheid de Vojvodina hebben verlaten. Het is verder een feit – en geen opvatting onzerzijds – dat dat vertrek *in veel gevallen* het resultaat was van intimidatie. In de jaren negentig heeft NRC Handelsblad daarover herhaaldelijk geschreven, in reportages uit de Vojvodina zelf (zie bv NRC Handelsblad van 28 oktober 1995) waarin zowel Hongaren als Serviërs aan het woord kwamen over zulke gevallen van intimidatie, maar ook in achtergrondartikelen en in vraaggesprekken. Niemand repte naar aanleiding van die publicaties indertijd van een anti-Servische hetze of vocht die gemelde intimidatie aan. De Servische argumenten werden evenzeer genoteerd als de Hongaarse, net zoals dat het geval was in het door u gewraakte artikel van 10 september.

Derhalve zie ik geen aanleiding om de bewuste zinsnede uit onze krant van 10 september recht te zetten. Mocht u in ons rechte willen betrekken dan zal de krant ter terechtzitting nader ons beleid in deze kwestie uiteenzetten.

Hoogachtend,


mr F.E. Jensma
hoofddredacteur

*21-9-04 OK 10-9-04, maar dat is juist
om de verantwoordelijkheid te laten
van beide, maar de verantwoordelijkheid
→ Dat is het doel van de gewaagde kompromis
in de krant
→ = om te laten zien dat beide
Partijen verantwoordelijk zijn*

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mevrouw Z. Van Assen-Jovanovic
paganinistraat 27
5144 XN Waalwijk

14 september 2004

Beste Zora,

Bedankt !
Mocht jij - of anderen - nog gegevens/bronnen/documenten hebben waaruit blijkt dat Servische ontheemden en vluchtelingen extra weingi hulp krijgen OMDAT ze een slechte naam hebben (gekregen door de media, zoals we weten !), dan zou je me zeer helpen als je e.e.a. aan mij kenbaar zou willen maken.

hartelijke groeten,


Nico Steijnen

Dag mijn heer Steijnen,

Hier kan ik u helaas niet van dienst zijn.

Hartelijke groeten,

Zora

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3009 TC Rotterdam

14 september 2004

Geachte heer Jensma,

Op 10 september 20004 meende uw courant te moeten schrijven,
in een artikel onder de kop 'Belgrado ruziet met Hongaren':

"Vojvodina behoorde tot 1920 tot Hongarije en maakt sindsdien deel uit van Servië. Er wonen in de regio 27 verschillende etnische groepen, waarvan de Serviërs de grootste en de Hongaren (met vijftien procent) de op een na grootste zijn. Er wonen ook veel Roemenen, Roethenen, Roma, Russen en Wit-Russen. De afgelopen tien jaar is het oorspronkelijke evenwicht verstoord door de komst van 200.000 Servische vluchtelingen uit Kroatië, Bosnië en Kosovo. Het aantal etnische incidenten is sindsdien drastisch toegenomen. Voor de vluchtelingen moest onderdak worden geschapen, hetgeen in veel gevallen gebeurde door leden van minderheden te intimideren."

Tot mij hebben een groot aantal Serviërs gewend, die verdreven zijn uit hun vroegere woonplaatsen in het voormalige Joegoslavië, voornamelijk uit Kosovo. Zij hebben zich tot mij gewend met de opdracht om de nu reeds decennia voortdurende anti-Servische agressie in de media met juridische middelen te bestrijden.

Natuurlijk kan niemand u en uw krant verbieden om erop los te liegen, en zelfs niet om systematisch stemming te maken tegen bevolkingsgroepen, zoals ook uw krant nu al decennia lang pleegt te doen tegen Servië en de Serviërs. Da's nou eenmaal de veel geroemde vrijheid van meningsuiting.

Dit wordt echter anders indien een dergelijke systematische hetze vanuit de politiek en de media, in nauwe onderlinge verknoptheid, leidt tot aantoonbare schade voor de betrokken bevolkingsgroep. En dat is nu precies wat er aan de hand is met betrekking tot anti-Servische hetze die nu al jaren regeert: het is aantoonbaar dat deze stemmingmakerij leidt tot minder hulp aan de Servische vluchtelingen dan wat onder normale omstandigheden voor hen te verwachten zou zijn.

Is het op zich al tendentieus om te spreken in termen van 'verstoring van het oorspronkelijk evenwicht' door de komst van Servische vluchtelingen naar Vojvodina - het komt een normaal mens voor dat als er ruim 550 duizend ontheemden zijn van Servische afkomst, deze enorme mensenzee toch ergens in Servië moet worden ondergebracht, en ik hoor de NRC nog niet pleiten om ze maar naar Nederland te halen -. Zodat het op zichzelf al hijgerig is, en getuigend van een anti-Servische kwaadaardigheid, om hier te praten in termen dat deze vluchtelingen 'een verstoring van het oorspronkelijke evenwicht' zouden opleveren. Nota bene hier de potsierlijkheid van het bezigen van het begrip 'oorspronkelijk evenwicht', hetgeen de suggestie uitademt dat, voordat die verdomde Serviërs daar kwamen, er een soort pastoraal evenwicht tussen de 27 bevolkingsgroepen bestond, dat nu door hun komst plotseling wreed verstoord werd.

Deze hierboven beschreven kwaadaardige stemmingmakerij laat ik echter voor uw rekening. De spin die hier bedreven wordt is veel te subtiel om juridisch te kunnen aanpakken.

Waar ik echter een rectificatie van eis, is uw lompe bewering in de passage die ik onderlijnd heb. Namelijk de uitspraak van uw krant dat het in de Vojvodina onderdak verschaffen aan de Servische vluchtelingen, ik citeer weer: 'in veel gevallen gebeurde door leden van minderheden te intimideren'.

Ik verneem graag, binnen 2 weken na dagtekening dezes, in welke vorm u deze hetze-uitlating jegens de Servische vluchtelingen denkt te gaan rectificeren.

Gebeurt dit niet, dan zal ik de NRC namens mijn ongeveer 75 Servische cliënten te zijner tijd, en wel zonder verdere aankondiging, in kort geding betrekken.

Daarbij zullen in dat geval ook eerdere anti-Servische hetze-uitlatingen van de NRC worden betrokken.

hoogachtend,

N.M.P. Steijnen

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14 september 2004

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Kosovo's March riots

The audit of war

1124
2004

An inquiry criticises international peacekeepers and the UN

THE rampaging of thousands of ethnic Albanians through Kosovo last March was the worst violence since NATO took charge of the province in 1999. One might have expected 18,000 NATO peacekeepers, plus 3,500 UN policemen, to be able to stop it. Yet three days of ethnic cleansing ensued, mostly around Mitrovica and Gaglevica, leaving 19 Serbs and ethnic Albanians dead, 900 wounded, 4,000 non-Albanians displaced and hundreds of Serb churches and homes torched.

The peacekeepers and policemen had five years' experience of ethnic-Albanian and Serb violence in Kosovo, and were equipped with everything from helicopter gunships to riot-sticks. They faced mobs armed with stones, grenades, petrol bombs and Kalashnikovs. Even so, many peacekeepers, notably the French, Germans and Italians, proved woefully incompetent. (The American, Norwegian and Irish troops all excelled.) Human Rights Watch, an international pressure-group, concluded in July that NATO's mission, known as K-FOR, had failed to protect ethnic minorities, too often turning a blind eye to Serb homes being attacked and to UN police officers calling for help.

An internal report by the UN in New York on the performance of its Kosovo mission (UNMIK), seen by *The Economist*, details its failings in similar terms. It was based on interviews with senior UN and NATO staff in Kosovo, and written in May. The report says many feared that UNMIK and K-FOR would collapse if the riots had gone on for another day or two; the mission was already on the point of overstaying its welcome. UNMIK people were seen as aloof strangers in the society they governed. Since then, improvements have been made, but the problem remains.

In March UNMIK was led by Harri Holkeri, a tired Finn, who has now been replaced by a Dane, Soren Jessen-Petersen. K-FOR's top man is an experienced French general, Yves de Kermabon, who replaced the lacklustre German who lost control in March. The two new men have little time to lose. Kosovo is entering a period of maximum risk, said France's defence minister, Michèle Alliot-Marie, last week. Elections are due in October. Next year should see the start of "final-status" talks, which could lead to Kosovo's emergence from the limbo it has been in since the UN decreed in 1999 that it should remain part of Yugoslavia (now Serbia and Montenegro). Al-



banian extremists hint at more violence if they are denied independence.

NATO and the UN are on the defensive. A more recent report for the UN, prepared by the Norwegian ambassador to NATO, concludes that, if the final-status talks do begin, the UN should aim to end its mission and hand over to others (perhaps the European Union) by the end of next year. The story of international peacekeepers' successes and failures in Kosovo has often been the story of confronting or being manipulated by ethnic-Albanian extremists. Right now the ethnic-Albanian hot-heads seem to have the upper hand. ■

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14 september 2004

Beste Zora,

Bedankt !

Mocht jij - of anderen - nog gegevens/bronnen/documenten hebben waaruit blijkt dat Servische ontheemden en vluchtelingen extra weingi hulp krijgen OMDAT ze een slechte naam hebben (gekregen door de media, zoals we weten !), dan zou je me zeer helpen als je e.e.a. aan mij kenbaar zou willen maken.

hartelijke groeten,

Nico Steijnen

no.	naam	voornaam	huidige woonplaats	huidig adres	vorige woonplaats
1.	Otašević	Srdan	Leposavić (Kosovo)	Rudarsko naselje 212	Magura (Kosovo)
2.	Otašević	Biljana	Leposavić (Kosovo)	Rudarsko naselje 212	Magura (Kosovo)
3.	Otašević	Milica	Leposavić (Kosovo)	Rudarsko naselje 212	Magura (Kosovo)
4.	Marković	Boro	Kraljevo	Cvetke	
5.	Đokić	Gradimir	Kraljevo	Cvetke	Rabovce-Lipljan (Kosovo)
6.	Đokić	Ivan	Kraljevo	Cvetke	Rabovce-Lipljan (Kosovo)
7.	Đokić	Jovica	Kraljevo	Cvetke	Rabovce-Lipljan (Kosovo)
8.	Đokić	Jasna	Kraljevo	Cvetke	Rabovce-Lipljan (Kosovo)
9.	Đokić	Ljubinka	Kraljevo	Cvetke	Rabovce-Lipljan (Kosovo)
10.	Đokić	Svetomir			Rabovce-Lipljan (Kosovo)
11.	Trajković	Zorica	Kraljevo	Mire Čukumdžica 32	
12.	Vranić	Danijela	Kraljevo	Kruševici-Žiča 25	
13.	Ribać	Borislav	Kraljevo	Ratina	Drsnik-Klina (Kosovo)
14.	Đurović	Milanka	Vrdnik	Ul. Železnička S4/17	
15.	Nedeljković	Mijodrag	Vrdnik	Ul. Železnička S4/28	

Beste mijnheer Steijnen,

bij deze de kopie-machtigingen retour.

Het artikel noch Bogdan Ivanisević ken ik niet. (Ik was de gehele maand augustus in Servië).

Heel veel succes en groeten van

Zora

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MACHTIGING

Hierbij machtig ik, ondergetekende, Mr. N.M.P. Steijnen en Mr. M.J.F. Stelling, om voor mij op te treden als advocaat:

1. tegen de leugens over Kosovo in de kranten van de NAVO-landen.
2. tegen de Nederlandse politici in de NAVO-landen, die verantwoordelijk zijn geweest voor de NAVO-oorlog tegen Joegoslavië, voor financiële schadevergoeding voor de verdrijving van mij en mijn familie uit Kosovo.

Persoonlijke gegevens van de verlener van deze machtiging:

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Voornamen (voluit).....
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straat..... postcode.....

Huidig verblijfsadres: *BEOGRAD*
woonplaats.....
straat...*[MILIZENO NASELE]*..... postcode.....

VRAAG ZOVEEL MOGELIJK MENSEN UIT KOSOVO OM MEE TE DOEN !

Gedaan te (plaats) *BEOGRAD* ----- op (datum) *24.07.04* -----

handtekening *POPARA BOJANA* -----

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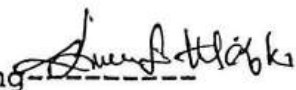
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VRAAG ZOVEEL MOGELIJK MENSEN UIT KOSOVO OM MEE TE DOEN !

Gedaan te (plaats)---KRAHEVO-----op (datum) 22.07.2001.

handtekening -----

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straat..... postcode.....

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straat LAĐEVCI..... postcode.....

VRAAG ZOVEEL MOGELIJK MENSEN UIT KOSOVO OM MEE TE DOEN !

Gedaan te (plaats) KRALJEVO ----- op (datum) 25.07.09 -----

handtekening Božić Ivan

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woonplaats.....
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VRAAG ZOVEEL MOGELIJK MENSEN UIT KOSOVO OM MEE TE DOEN !

Gedaan te (plaats) LEPOSAVIC' op (datum) 26.07.04

handtekening BOŽIĆ SLAVICA

Beste Nico,

Een aantal maanden geleden heb ik van jou formulieren ontvangen waarmee men jouw organisatie kan machtigen. Omdat ik veel op reis ben tegenwoordig, heeft het iets langer geduurd; maar bij deze stuur ik jou deze machtigingen terug. Ondertekend en wel door vele vrienden en kennissen uit Servië. Ik hoop dat ik je hiermee van dienst ben!

In Servië heb ik met het Coördinatiecentrum voor Kosovo gesproken over jouw werk. Ik heb jouw e-mail adres gegeven en zij hebben mij beloofd jou alle benodigde informatie te geven. Hierbij kun je denken aan handtekeningen, informatie omtrent de vluchtelingen en de huidige situatie.

Hierbij geef ik je tevens het e-mail adres van Svetlana Scepanovic:

svetlana_scepanovic@yahoo.com

De organisatie waar zij werkt doet sinds het begin van de oorlog alles om de vluchtelingen en de mensen die gebleven zijn te helpen.

Svetlana is een kennis van mij, ze is echt een sympathieke jonge vrouw en zij kan je overal mee helpen. Neem eens contact op!

Over een aantal dagen ga ik weer naar Servië. Ik hoop binnenkort weer van je te horen!

Groetjes Jelena Martens- Dabizljevic

De Doodgraver droomt elke dag van Groot-Servië

zondag treedt de ultranationalist Tomislav Nikolic in de ring en de pro-westerse democat Boris Tadic voor de Servische presidentsverkiezingen. De kiezers sluiten niet uit dat Nikolic de slag wint. In de eersteronde, twee weken geleden, kreeg hij 930.000 stemmen, 100.000 meer dan Tadic. Wil Nikolic de oorlogen van de jaren negentig nog eens overdoen?

door Cees van Zweeden

Zijn bijnaam is Toma de Doodgraver, een erfenis van zijn dagen als chef van de begraafplaats in Kragujevac. Gevreesd wordt dat Tomislav Nikolic die bijnaam eer zou kunnen aandoen, als hij zondag president van Servië wordt. Alleen zou hij dan de democratie ten grave dragen.

Een zege van Nikolic is de ultieme angst van Europa en Amerika. Vier jaar na de val van Slobodan Milosevic zou een man op de troon komen die Milosevic maar één ding verwijt: dat hij de oorlogen verloor.

Nikolic is geen Servische Konrad Adenauer, de Duitser die zijn land na de oorlog op het rechte pad hielp. Hij lijkt zelfs geen Ivo Sanader te zijn, de Kroatische nationalist die de verkiezingen won, maar die zich vervolgens ontpopte als democraat.

Gevraagd of hij een Sanader zou kunnen worden, antwoordt Nikolic: „Sanader is eerder een Nikolic. Hij is helemaal geen democraat. Pas als de Serviërs veilig kunnen terugkeren naar Kroatië, kan hij zich een democraat noemen.” Volgens cijfers van de Organisatie voor Veiligheid en Samenwerking in Europa (OVSE) zijn honderdduizend Serviërs teruggekeerd, maar Nikolic vraagt: „Heeft u er wel eens één ontmoet?” Kroatië, zegt hij, kan pas veilig zijn voor de Serviërs als zij er hun eigen autonome gebied krijgen.

Wie in die eis een herhaling van de geschiedenis meent te bespeuren, krijgt gelijk. „Ik droom elke dag van een Groot-Servië”, zegt hij. „Wij hebben in Servië 500.000 vluchtelingen. Eens moeten zij terugkeren.” De angst voor een verkiezingszege



Tomislav 'de Doodgraver' Nikolic kan zondag president van Servië worden.
foto Cees van Zweeden/GPD

van Nikolic is niet ongegrond. Hij is opvolger van Vojislav Seselj, die nu in een Scheveningse cel zit.

Seselj was gedurende vijftien jaar de vaandeldrager van het nationalisme. Hij dreigde 'Kroatische ogen uit te steken met roestige lepels'. En voor hem

kon Kroatië nooit groter zijn dan het gebied dat je vanaf de kathedraal in Zagreb met het blote oog kon zien. Macedonië noemde hij 'Zuid-Servië'. Nikolic komt gematigder over. Hij sluit al zijn redes af met een 'Lang Leve Groot-Servië', maar zijn retoriek is milder. „Mijn

droom van een Groot-Servië moet zonder geweld worden verwezenlijkt”, zegt hij. „Als president zal ik het initiatief nemen tot ontwapening op de Balkan. Ik wil dat alle landen hun legers ontbinden. En ik zal de eerste zijn om onze wapens te vernietigen.”

Fascisten

Maar anders dan Ivo Sanader in Kroatië, die de ultranationalisten marginaliseerde, heeft Nikolic geweigerd zijn partij te zuiveren van het fascistische element. Op zijn verkiezingsbijeenkomsten worden portretten verkocht van Ratko Mladic en Radovan Karadzic, de voortvluchtige Bosnisch-Servische oorlogsmisdadigers. En een door zijn partij bestierde gemeente bij Belgrado mocht Jean-Marie Le Pen en Vladimir Zjirinovski, de Franse en Russische fascisten, tot ereburgers uitroepen.

Als president wil hij de deur naar de Europese Unie op een kier houden, maar de toenadering tot de Navo beëindigen. In plaats daarvan moet Servië zich op het Oosten richten. „We zijn in het verleden ook door de Russen verraden. Maar we zijn nooit door hen gebombardeerd, zoals door de Navo in 1999.” Met zijn nationalistische boodschap bereikt hij de harten van veel Serviërs, die het oorlogstribunaal in Den Haag zien als een anti-Servische schertsrechtbank. Maar buiten dat is hij de ultieme protestkandidaat, die stemmen peurt uit het immense leger van gedesilluseerde werklozen en gepensioneerden.

„Er zijn geruchten dat met mij als president Servië opnieuw zal worden gebombardeerd, dat de hyperinflatie zal terugkeren en de etnische minderheden weggezuiverd zullen worden”, zegt hij. „Maar de Serviërs zijn zo arm geworden dat ze zelfs niet meer bang zijn voor mij.” Gedurende dertig dagen bracht zijn campagne hem tot in de stoffigste uithoeken van het land, de verste bergdorpen. „Ik ben door duizenden vrouwen gekust. En ik kan u zeggen, dat op elke honderd er misschien drie waren die parfum op hadden. In welk Europees land kunnen vrouwen zich geen parfum meer veroorloven?” GPD

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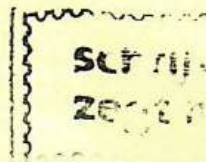
Familienaam.....DABIZLEVIC.....
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VRAAG ZOVEEL MOGELIJK MENSEN UIT KOSOVO OM MEE TE DOEN !

Gedaan te (plaats)---VLissingen---op (datum)---31-8-2004---

handtekening------



Machtigingen

Aan: de heer mr. J.M.P. Steijnen
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1 Aug 2004

Only after the 3 month bombing campaign, which left Nato and the fascist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in control of Kosovo, did segments of the true situation regarding the genocide and ethnic cleansing propaganda begin to emerge.

"The scale on which the public was misled about the atrocities...and not just Nato's bombing 'successes'...threatens to be mind-boggling." Andrew Alexander Daily Mail 5th November 1999.

"I called my people together and said 'we're finished here'. I informed my government and told them the real situation. We have become part of a semantic pirouette by the war propaganda machine, because we did not find one...not one...mass grave." Emilio Perez Pujol Head of the Spanish Forensic Team Attached to the International Criminal Tribunal. 12th October 1999.

However, once they had established full control of Kosovo a disturbing picture of Nato and the KLA's actions surfaced, revealing an unfolding nightmare scenario for non-KLA supporters.

"Since June 18th the KLA and their Albanian supporters have terrorised the Kosovar Roma in an ethnic cleansing operation that has destroyed more than 20,000 Roma homes. Despite the UN's declaration of preparing a multi-ethnic society and the claim of NATO and KFOR to protect everyone, the results only point to a policy of genocide...genocide of the Roma and Hashkaiya today in Kosovo." Roma News Network 1st December 1999.

"The expulsion and terrorising of 240,000 Serbs and other minorities from Kosovo since NATO took charge is of little media interest. The Society for Endangered People say 90,000 Gypsies have been forced to flee an ethnic cleansing campaign conducted on a grand scale by the Kosovo Liberation Army. But who cares about Gypsies, let alone the demonised Serbs?" John Pilger New Statesman 15th November 1999.

Who indeed was caring about the ethnic minorities that were being driven from Kosovo by Nato and the KLA?

"The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia currently has the largest refugee and displaced population in Europe. Even before the Kosovo crisis, Yugoslavia had the largest number of refugees following the conflicts in Bosnia and Croatia: There were 500,000 identified refugees. The Kosovo crisis then saw a further 230,000 people displaced into Serbia, which receives very little media attention or funding, and whose civilian population has suffered hugely from the effects of sanctions and recent armed conflicts." Sam Younger. Director General British Red Cross 1st Dec. 1999.

So despite suffering from almost ten years of sanctions and trying to recover from a three month bombing blitz, it was the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the government of Slobodan Milosevic that took in 3/4 million refugees from Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, and those refugees comprised twenty-six different ethnic groups. Yet it was Yugoslavia and the Serbs that were, and still are, believed to be responsible for acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing. Indeed, in the New World Order the truth is firmly stood on its head, and the majority of the political left in Britain are only too eager to accept it.

YUGOSLAVIA TODAY.

1 Aug 2004

Actually it is no longer politically correct to use the name 'Yugoslavia' because in February 2003 the U.S. backed Yugoslav government of Kostunica and Zoran Djindjic oversaw the removal of the name 'Yugoslavia' from the map of the world and introduced its replacement the 'Republic of Serbia and Montenegro'.

Journalist Neil Clark in his 'elegy for Yugoslavia' review commented: "On 4th February 2003, quietly and almost unnoticed, while the rest of the world's attention was focused on the charade of weapons inspections in Iraq, a country disappeared from the map of the world. The final dissolution of Yugoslavia and its metamorphosis into the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro passed virtually without comment in the British media, with almost no one picking up on its deep significance, yet it was an event that ought to have been mourned by democrats, socialists and progressives the world over."

In the same article Clark elaborated on the fate of the territories and peoples of the former Yugoslavia: "What is clear is that it is the people of ex-Yugoslavia, many of whom never wished for the break up of their country, who have been the big losers. As economic problems mount up, the novelty of statehood seems less appealing in Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro are under a state of emergency. Kosovo is Europe's first mafia-run state, while the poor Bosnians have the ultimate humiliation of being governed by Lord (Paddy) Ashdown."

The chaos and poverty that has befallen the former Yugoslavia since the overthrow of Milosevic and the coming to power of the U.S. backed government can be partly illustrated by the following observations:

"Kosovo remains a lawless society, completely intolerant of ethnic minorities and one of the most dangerous places on earth." James Bisset, former Canadian ambassador to Yugoslavia. Ottawa Citizen June 22nd 2002.

"The drug barons of Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia have become the new economic elite, often linked to important Western commercial interests. The income from trafficking in drugs and arms was then recycled into other illegal activities like networks of prostitution." Michel Colton. Two Years Later - Where is Yugoslavia. November 2002.

"The highest unemployment rates in all of Europe are in Bosnia 60% and Kosovo 57%" Associated Press 8th October 2002.

"In Kosovo the United States have built the largest military installation outside of America, 'Camp Bondsteel'. It was built by Brown & Root Services, a subsidiary of the US petroleum services firm Halliburton. The Head of Halliburton is Dick Cheney current vice-president of the U.S. Brown & Root is now the number one employer in Kosovo." Balkans-infos June 2002.

'VN en NAVO faalden in Kosovo'

2004

PRIŠTINA, 27 JULI. De Verenigde Naties en de NAVO hebben in maart tijdens de anti-Servische rellen in Kosovo op een „rampzalige” manier gefaald. Dit schrijft de mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch (HRW) in een rapport dat gisteren is gepresenteerd. Bij de rellen vielen negentien doden en meer dan negentig gewonden. Bijna achthonderd huizen en in totaal 29 Servisch-orthodoxe kerken en kloosters werden in brand gestoken. Volgens HRW werden Servische gemeenschappen die op hulp van het VN-bestuur UNMIK of de door de NAVO geleide vredesmacht KFOR wachtten, urenlang aan hun lot overgelaten. De aanvallen van etnisch-Albanese militanten leidden ertoe dat 4.000 etnische Serviërs huis en haard verlieten. UNMIK en KFOR hadden volgens de mensenrechtenorganisatie geen „gecoördineerd antwoord” op de geweldsuitbarsting. (AFP, Reuters)

'NAVO faalde in Kosovo'

AP, Reuters
PRISTINA

27-7-2004

De NAVO en de VN-politie in Kosovo hebben 'op rampzalige wijze' gefaald bij de bescherming van minderheden in de Servische provincie Kosovo tijdens het etnische geweld eerder dit jaar. Dit concludeert de mensenrechtenorganisatie Human Rights Watch in een maandag verschenen rapport over de rellen van half maart, waarbij negentien doden vielen en negenhonderd gewonden.

De door de NAVO geleide KFOR-troepen sloten hun poorten en keken toe, terwijl woningen van etnische Serviërs in vlammen opgingen die zich naast hun basis bevonden, aldus het rapport. Slechts eenderde van de KFOR-troepen werd destijds ingezet tegen het geweld, de rest hield zich bezig met logistiek. Volgens de organisatie verkeert de internationale gemeenschap nog 'in de ontkenningfase' over haar falen. Zij roept op de KFOR-troepenmacht uit te breiden en te hervormen.

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
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CC: <despot@targets.org>; <jbeentjes@mac.com>; <hans.hupkes@planet.nl>; "redactie Targets" <redactie@targets.org>; "Meindert Stelling" <meindert.stelling@planet.nl>
Verzonden: zaterdag 24 juli 2004 14:42
Onderwerp: Re: Item over Radovan Karadzic
 Beste Predrag,

Ik vergat je nog te zeggen dat ik geschokt ben over je verhaal over de SFOR-aktie. Als de slachtoffers van deze actie het aandurven om een proces te gaan voeren voor schadevergoeding, en een strafklacht te laten indienen tegen de (politieke) SFOR-verantwoordelijken, dan wil ik dat graag voor hun doen. Gratis. Ik zal dan de Nederlandse minister van defensie en de hoogste militaire leider hier in Nederland hiervoor voor de rechter dagen voor schadevergoeding.

Als jij in staat bent kontakten met (de familie van) de slachtoffer s te leggen om dit voor te stellen, zou ik je willen vragen om dat te doen.

beste groeten,

Nico S.

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

From: "vitkovic.freeler.nl" <vitkovic@freeler.nl>

To: <sagitar@hetnet.nl>

Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2004 12:10 PM

Subject: Item over Radovan Karadzic

>
 > Beste Nico,
 >
 > Ik begrijp via, via dat je bezig bent Nederlandse kranten voor het gerecht
 > te slepen - middel sene kort geding -n.a.v. de "berichtgeving" over de
 > geburtenissen op de Balkan en Kosovo in het bijzonder. Ik begrijp dat je
 > daarvoor machtigingen verzamelt van gevluchte burgers uit Kosovo.
 >
 > Ik vroeg mij af af het niet veel makkelijker was om zulke acties te
 > organiseren met Servische burgers in Nederland. Wij zijn toch ook
 gedupeerd
 > als gevolg van die berichtgeving? En we zijn burgers van Nederland (en
 velen
 > hebben ook het Nederlanderschap), en op de koop toe betalen we ook nog
 eens
 > belasting voor allerlei onzin op de Publieke Omroep. Volgens mij zijn dit
 > legitieme redenen en is het geheel ook makkelijker te organiseren. Ik ben
 > benieuwd wat je daar zelf van vindt.
 >
 > Verder stuur ik je mijn reactie die ik zojuist heb gestuurd naar de (twee)
 > makers van het nieuwsitem van gisteravond (NCRV Netwerk - Nederland 1)
 over
 > de voortvluchtige Radovan Karadzic. Mocht je het gemist hebben dan is het
 > terug te zien op www.netwerk.tv.
 > In mijn reactie ging ik niet in op het complete verhaal, maar haalde daar
 > insinuaties en leugens uit die toch zeer evident zijn.

24-7-04

>
 > Groeten,
 >
 > Predrag Vitkovic,
 > Rotterdam.
 >
 >
 >
 > Rotterdam, 22 juli 2004
 >
 > Beste Fannie en Dirk,
 >
 > Naar aanleiding van jullie bijdrage van gisteren m.b.t. tot de
 > voortvluchtige Radovan Karadzic wil ik graag het volgende opmerken (zonder
 > overigens in te gaan op de mijns inziens eenzijdige kijk op de
 > gebeurtenissen op de Balkan):
 >
 > In jullie reportage wordt melding gemaakt van een actie van SFOR op Pale
 (1
 > april jl.), waarbij explosieven zouden zijn gebruikt en waarbij het ging
 om
 > een woning van een priester. Welnu, priester Jeremija Starovlah en zijn
 zoon
 > zijn onlangs ontslagen uit het militair medisch centrum (VMA) in
 Belgrado -
 > na eerst in Tuzla te zijn behandeld - en revalideren nu in een kuuroord in
 > Servie. Beide zijn zeer zeer zwaar gewond geraakt als gevolg van de
 > SFOR-actie en verkeerden lange tijd in levensgevaar, waarbij ze niet het
 > slachtoffer zijn geworden van explosieven maar van een "behandeling" van
 > SFOR soldaten ter plekke. Hierover zijn foto's die duidelijk maken dat dat
 > niet met explosieven kan zijn gebeurd. Ik zal verder niet uitwijken over
 de
 > medische indicatie, maar ik wil jullie wel meegeven dat u de behandelende
 > artsen in Belgrado best kunt raadplegen omtrent de toedracht en de
 gevolgen
 > van de actie van "explosieven".
 >
 > Ik vraag mij af waarom deze pertinente leugen van SFOR door jullie niet is
 > gecorrigeerd, bijvoorbeeld door toepassing van hoor en wederhoor of
 middels
 > deskresearch. Dit had jullie op een ander spoor kunnen brengen:
 >
 > Het klinkt, in eerste instantie, erg logisch dat je explosieven gebruikt
 om
 > een deur te forceren als je denkt dat Karadzic ergens in een huis
 verscholen
 > zit, maar als je huizen binnenstormt en burgers fysiek toetakelt dan is er
 > meer aan de hand. Dan weet je in ieder geval dat het niet Karadzic is die
 je
 > aan het toetakelen bent. Jullie lieten immers ook al blijken dat niemand
 > zich in zijn positie in Pale zou willen verschuilen, toch?
 > Conclusie: de actie was niet gericht op het inrekenen van Karadzic.
 >
 > Dit voorbeeld is toch wel tekenend voor de mensenrechten die door de
 > internationale troepenmacht SFOR in Bosnie-Herzegovina stelselmatig worden
 > geschonden. Is dit geen interessant item voor jullie volgende reportage?

- > Over hoe het opsporen van burgers die worden verdacht van oorlogsmisdaden
- > als dekmantel en excuus dient voor allerlei mensenrechtenschendingen.

Kunnen

- > we ons voorstellen dat in Nederland soldaten kerken en kloosters
- > binnenstormen, onder het mom van het opsporen van voortvluchtige burgers -
- > of misschien uitgeprocedeerde illegalen?
- >
- > Het feit dat de "internationale gemeenschap" in Bosnie-Herzegovina burgers
- > kan en mag mishandelen, huizen kan binnenvallen zonder ook maar enige
- > basisprincipes van mensenrechten te eerbiedigen (want stelt u zich voor dat
- > hier in Nederland politiemannen of soldaten een willekeurig huis zonder
- > uitleg of huiszoekingsbevel binnen zouden stormen, de inwonenden klappen
- > zouden verkopen, spullen zouden meenemen of kort en klein zouden slaan en
- > daarna weer zouden vertrekken, zonder dat iemand daar
- > verantwoording voor hoeft af te leggen, laat staan dat iemand daarvoor
- > gestraft zal worden) is toch wel een teken aan de wand hoe wij in het Westen
- > daadwerkelijk denken over rechten van minderheden en volkeren die aangewezen
- > zijn op de hulp en medeleven van de grootmachten.
- >
- > Is hier geen sprake van schendingen van de fundamentele mensenrechten? Ik
- > hoor de cinici al roepen dat dat inderdaad zo is, maar dat het om rechten
- > gaat die voorbehouden zijn aan ons eigen land en het vrije Westen, niet aan
- > volkeren waar wij de scepter zwaaien.
- >
- > Tot slot nog een voorbeeld van stemmingmakerij die gericht is tegen de
- > Servisch-orthodoxe kerk: "volgens geruchten zou Radovan Karadzic onlangs
- > gesignaleerd zijn bij de opening van een kerk die naar verluidt naar hem
- > vernoemd zou zijn" (= vrije weergave van jullie bijdrage). Ik vraag me af
- > hoe
- > twee - ik mag aannemen ervaren - journalisten het klaarspelen om dit soort
- > verhalen verder te verspreiden? Gaat journalistiek tegenwoordig om het
- > etaleren van geruchten en fantasieën? Ik ken er nog een: Elvis zou onlangs
- > in Pale gesignaleerd zijn, samen met Mladic!
- >
- > Enige kennis van het Christelijke geloof is al voldoende om te weten dat
- > kerken en kloosters opgedragen worden aan heiligen. Het feit dat jullie het
- > waardig achten om zulke onzin ten laste van de Servisch-Orthodoxe Kerk
- > verder te verspreiden, doet bij mij de vraag rijzen welk beeld over de
- > Servisch-Orthodoxe Kerk überhaupt aanwezig is bij de redactie van Netwerk.
- >
- > U kunt ervan op aan dat de Servische gemeenschap in Nederland zich zal
- > beraden op stappen die moeten leiden tot het voorkomen van nieuwe
- > insinuaties en berichtgevingen die zonder enige argumentatie en verificatie
- > schade berokkenen aan de integriteit en het aanzien van deze
- > kerkgenootschap, die thans 30 jaar in Nederland aanwezig is.
- >
- > Met vriendelijke groeten,
- >
- > Predrag Vitkovic,
- > Rotterdam.

Sagittarius

Van: "R. Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Nico & Neeltje Steijnen" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: donderdag 29 juli 2004 22:52
Onderwerp: ONE SERBIAN VOICE AGAINST YOUR YESTERDAY'S KOSOVO
 ONE SERBIAN VOICE AGAINST YOUR YESTERDAY'S KOSOVO PRONOUNCEMENT

Messieurs Kerry and Holbrooke are stupid, in my opinion, for advocating Kosovo independence, at any time.

Let us skip, this time, the baseless legal underpinnings of another unilateral move to be. First of all, the US is not in position to police the entire world... Never will be. As you know, there are curbs/limits to every power. I always say - to win (by "win", I do not mean "victory in a military sense" - tanks rolling in, country gets overrun) IN THE LONG RUN, one has to be RIGHT in the first place. In other words, TO BE RIGHT, is a prerequisite for any long time victory. That is a form of natural, universal law, analogous to the self-preservation tendency to look for the path of least resistance, leading into an equilibrium. They saw how stubborn, brave to a fault and resourceful Serbs were, during the last bombing campaign. A 1000 most advanced plans bombed the Serbian Army, day and night. Nevertheless, they were not able to occupy not even one square foot of Kosovo. Only after cutting electricity and water lines to 2 million inhabitants City of Belgrade, NATO was able to force Serbs to sign the Kumanovo Agreement, taking temporarily Kosovo away, but not being able to occupy the entire YU (SCG), as called by the Rambouillet Ultimatum..

After occupying Kosovo, NATO looked the other way, while Siptary further ethnically cleansed the Serbian province, reducing the Serbian population down to 5%, creating the monoethnic black hole in the heart of Europe! Why did they allow that? In my opinion, nothing in politics happens by accident, this was done intentionally, to achieve easier control over the occupied Serbian land.

In any case, the Serbs continued to resist; even that 5% continuous to be a bone in the NATO's throat in Kosovo, a reminder of NATO's devious moves. The Serbs all over the world, no exception (I am not counting the paid Soros help and alike... Draskovic, Tadic etc, who carry a spitbucket for the leaders of so called "international community") are unified in one thing, and one thing only - KOSOVO WILL ALWAYS BE SERBIAN. Kerry or no Kerry, w/ Holbrooke or w/o the jerk, it makes no difference.

The US is gonna be fighting anti-terror wars for the next 10 years, at least. If Kerry-Holbrooke (say they, God forbid, win in November) want to open another front, shear cancer-resistance and to antagonize the Serbian - Russian - Greek Orthodox population in addition to having against her 1 billion Muslims, so be it.

As for the Albanians, if they think that they would be able to steal Kosovo, the cradle of our civilization, they are illusional. And then what? Where are they gonna go from there?

Obviously, Holbrooke wants to finish his bloody work in the Balkans, that he has carried with Clinton-Albright evil axis. He is already an unindicted war criminal, responsible for 10,000 (Albanians and Serbs) civilian deaths during the illegal, immoral bombing (w/o provocation) of Serbia, coming on the hills of his 34 b.j. sessions in the Oval Office scandal (as per the court deposition Paula Johns vs. W. Clinton).

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.
 Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).
 Version: 6.0.729 / Virus Database: 484 - Release Date: 27-7-04

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<http://www.hetnet.nl/evs/>

Sagittarius

Van: "Daric Olga"
Aan: <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: donderdag 22 juli 2004 23:49
Onderwerp: ovlasenje
 P U N O M O C J E
 M A C H T I G I N G

Ja, Olga Daric

Ik (naam en achternaam):

Sa stanom u (mesto, ulica i broj): 14, rue Daru; 75008 Paris; FRANCE

Wonende te (plaats, straat en nr.):

Adresa stanovanja u Beogradu: Bulevar AVNOJA 106/ 11070 BEOGRAD;
 SOCIJALISTICKA ANTIFASISTICKA JUGOSLAVIJA koju su neonacisti privremeno
 unistili!

Woonadres in Kosovo, plaats, straat en nr.:

Za osobe koje su proterane sa Kosova, ranija adresa (mesto, ulica i broj):

Voor mensen die uit Kosovo zijn verdreven, vorige adres (plaats, straat
 en nr.):

ZA MENE JE EMBARGO BIO SMRTONOSAN. IZGUBILA SAM POSAO DE FACTO JER U
 NOVINSKOJ AGENCIJI TANJUG BEZ STRANE STAMPE KAO LEKTOR-PREVODILAC NISAM
 IMALA STA DA RADIM; VUK DRASKOVIC, NATO- PLACENIK ORGANIZOVAO JE
 DEMONSTRACIJE SVAKOG DANA PA SKOLE NISU RADILE; DECA SU NAM BILA NA
 ULICI, RASPOMAMLJENA; VLADA IZABRANA DEMOKRATSKI NIJE MOGLA DA VLADA OD
 PETOKOLONASA I AMERICKIH SPIJUNA. VUK DRASKOVIC JE RASPIRIVAO
 BRATOUBILACKU MRZNJU. NAPUSTILA SAM OTADJBINU SA DIJAGNOZOM ANEMIA
 GRAVIS. EMBARGO UBIJA? ZAR NE?

INACE JA SAM BOSANKA IZ OKOLINE LIVNA (SELO SAJKOVIC, ZADNJA POSTA
 CELEBIC). DEDINA KUCA JE SPALJENA I SVE NAM JE ODUZETO. U TOJ KUCI NIKO
 NIJE ziveo posle dedine smrti. SPALJENA JE PRAZNA JER SMO U BOSNU
 ODLAZILI SAMO ZA VREME LETNJEG RASPUSTA; U KNJIGU RODJENIH SAM UPISANA
 U LIVNU. MOJI TAMO ZIVE VEKOVIMA. VISE NE!
 SMATRAM VATIKAN I NEMACKU VLADU NAJODGOVORNIJIM ZA GENOCID NAD SRBIMA.
 MEDIJI SU PRIVATNA SVOJINA KAPITALISTA KOJI NE MOGU BEZ RATA; Zelim da
 skrenem paznju da su mediji u slucaju BiH krivi i zbog manipulisanja
 pojmovima Bosanac, Bosnjak, Srbin. Stvorili su laznu sliku da su Srbi u
 BiH uljezi i porobljivaci!

Adresa stanovanja u nekom drugom delu Jugoslavije (mesto, ulica i broj):

Woonadres van een andere plaats in Joegoslavie:

U JUGOSLAVIJU VISE I NE IDEM. TO JE SADA MIZERNA KOLONIJA! Draza mi je
 Francuska gde je veoma jak pokret protiv globalizacije.

Ovlascejem gosopodina N.M.P. Steijnena, advokata iz Holandije da
 preduzme sve neophodne pravne mere protiv holandskih medija (sredstava
 informisanja), koji su odgovorni za sirenje lazi i neistina o Kosovu,
 Srbiji i Srbima.

Hierbij machtig de heer N.M.P. Steijnen, Advocaat in Holland , om alle
 noodzakelijk juridische stappen te nemen tegen Nederlandse media die
 zich schuldig maken aan het verspreiden van leugens en onwaarheden over

Kosovo, Servië en de Serviërs.

Pagina 2 van 2

Potpis davaoca punomocja: OLGA DARIC
Handtekening van de gever van de schriftelijke machtiging:

Mesto: PARIZ (Paris)
Plaats:

Deze e-mail is door E-mail Virus Scan van Het Net gecontroleerd op virussen. Zie voor meer informatie:
<http://www.hetnet.nl/evs/>

24-7-04

Rotterdam, 22 juli 2004

Beste Fannie en Dirk,

*IAN · PRE DRAG VITKOVIC
VITKOVIC.FREELANCE*

Naar aanleiding van jullie bijdrage van gisteren m.b.t. tot de voortvluchtige Radovan Karadzic wil ik graag het volgende opmerken (zonder overigens in te gaan op de mijns inziens eenzijdige kijk op de gebeurtenissen op de Balkan):

In jullie reportage wordt melding gemaakt van een actie van SFOR op Pale (1 april jl.), waarbij explosieven zouden zijn gebruikt en waarbij het ging om een woning van een priester. Welnu, priester Jeremija Starovlah en zijn zoon zijn onlangs ontslagen uit het militair medisch centrum (VMA) in Belgrado - na eerst in Tuzla te zijn behandeld - en revalideren nu in een kuuroord in Servie. Beide zijn zeer zeer zwaar gewond geraakt als gevolg van de SFOR-actie en verkeerden lange tijd in levensgevaar, waarbij ze niet het slachtoffer zijn geworden van explosieven maar van een "behandeling" van SFOR soldaten ter plekke. Hierover zijn foto's die duidelijk maken dat dat niet met explosieven kan zijn gebeurd. Ik zal verder niet uitwijden over de medische indicatie, maar ik wil jullie wel meegeven dat u de behandelende

24-7-04

of misschien uitgeprocedeerde illegalen?

Het feit dat de "internationale gemeenschap" in Bosnie-Herzegovina burgers kan en mag mishandelen, huizen kan binnenvallen zonder ook maar enige basisprincipes van mensenrechten te eerbiedigen (want stelt u zich voor dat hier in Nederland politiemannen of soldaten een willekeurig huis zonder uitleg of huiszoekingsbevel binnen zouden stormen, de inwonenden klappen zouden verkopen, spullen zouden meenemen of kort en klein zouden slaan en daarna weer zouden vertrekken, zonder dat iemand daar verantwoording voor hoeft af te leggen, laat staan dat iemand daarvoor gestraft zal worden) is toch wel een teken aan de wand hoe wij in het Westen daadwerkelijk denken over rechten van minderheden en volkeren die aangewezen zijn op de hulp en medeleven van de grootmachten.

Is hier geen sprake van schendingen van de fundamentele mensenrechten? Ik hoor de cinici al roepen dat dat inderdaad zo is, maar dat het om rechten gaat die voorbehouden zijn aan ons eigen land en het vrije Westen, niet aan volkeren waar wij de scepter zwaaien.

Tot slot nog een voorbeeld van stemmingmakerij die gericht is tegen de Servisch-orthodoxe kerk: "volgens geruchten zou Radovan Karadzic onlangs gesignaleerd zijn bij de opening van een kerk die naar verluidt naar hem vernoemd zou zijn" (= vrije weergave van jullie bijdrage). Ik vraag me af hoe twee - ik mag aannemen ervaren - journalisten het klaarspelen om dit soort verhalen verder te verspreiden? Gaat journalistiek tegenwoordig om het etaleren van geruchten en fantasieën? Ik ken er nog een: Elvis zou onlangs in Pale gesignaleerd zijn, samen met Mladic!

Enige kennis van het Christelijke geloof is al voldoende om te weten dat kerken en kloosters opgedragen worden aan heiligen. Het feit dat jullie het waardig achten om zulke onzin ten laste van de Servisch-Orthodoxe Kerk verder te verspreiden, doet bij mij de vraag rijzen welk beeld over de Servisch-Orthodoxe Kerk überhaupt aanwezig is bij de redactie van Netwerk.

24-7-04

artsen in Belgrado best kunt raadplegen omtrent de toedracht en de gevolgen van de actie van "explosieven".

Ik vraag mij af waarom deze pertinente leugen van SFOR door jullie niet is gecorrigeerd, bijvoorbeeld door toepassing van hoor en wederhoor of middels deskresearch. Dit had jullie op een ander spoor kunnen brengen:

Het klinkt, in eerste instantie, erg logisch dat je explosieven gebruikt om een deur te forceren als je denkt dat Karadzic ergens in een huis verscholen zit, maar als je huizen binnenstormt en burgers fysiek toetakelt dan is er meer aan de hand. Dan weet je in ieder geval dat het niet Karadzic is die je aan het toetakelen bent. Jullie lieten immers ook al blijken dat niemand zich in zijn positie in Pale zou willen verschuilen, toch?

Conclusie: de actie was niet gericht op het inrekenen van Karadzic.

Dit voorbeeld is toch wel tekenend voor de mensenrechten die door de internationale troepenmacht SFOR in Bosnie-Herzegovina stelselmatig worden geschonden. Is dit geen interessant item voor jullie volgende reportage?

Over hoe het opsporen van burgers die worden verdacht van oorlogsmisdaden als dekmantel en excuus dient voor allerlei mensenrechtenschendingen. Kunnen we ons voorstellen dat in Nederland soldaten kerken en kloosters binnenstormen, onder het mom van het opsporen van voortvluchtige burgers - of misschien uitgeprocedeerde illegalen?

Het feit dat de "internationale gemeenschap" in Bosnie-Herzegovina burgers kan en mag mishandelen, huizen kan binnenvallen zonder ook maar enige basisprincipes van mensenrechten te eerbiedigen (want stelt u zich voor dat hier in Nederland politiemannen of soldaten een willekeurig huis zonder uitleg of huiszoekingsbevel binnen zouden stormen, de inwonenden klappen zouden verkopen, spullen zouden meenemen of kort en klein zouden slaan en daarna weer zouden vertrekken, zonder dat iemand daar verantwoording voor hoeft af te leggen, laat staan dat iemand daarvoor gestraft zal worden) is toch wel een teken aan de wand hoe wij in het Westen daadwerkelijk denken over rechten van minderheden en volkeren die aangewezen zijn op de hulp en medeleven van de grootmachten.

Is hier geen sprake van schendingen van de fundamentele mensenrechten? Ik hoor de cinici al roepen dat dat inderdaad zo is, maar dat het om rechten gaat die voorbehouden zijn aan ons eigen land en het vrije Westen, niet aan volkeren waar wij de scepter zwaaien.

Tot slot nog een voorbeeld van stemmingmakerij die gericht is tegen de Servisch-orthodoxe kerk: "volgens geruchten zou Radovan Karadzic onlangs gesignaleerd zijn bij de opening van een kerk die naar verluidt naar hem vernoemd zou zijn" (= vrije weergave van jullie bijdrage). Ik vraag me af hoe

twee - ik mag aannemen ervaren - journalisten het klaarspelen om dit soort verhalen verder te verspreiden? Gaat journalistiek tegenwoordig om het etaleren van geruchten en fantasieën? Ik ken er nog een: Elvis zou onlangs in Pale gesignaleerd zijn, samen met Mladic!

Enige kennis van het Christelijke geloof is al voldoende om te weten dat kerken en kloosters opgedragen worden aan heiligen. Het feit dat jullie het waardig achten om zulke onzin ten laste van de Servisch-Orthodoxe Kerk verder te verspreiden, doet bij mij de vraag rijzen welk beeld over de Servisch-Orthodoxe Kerk überhaupt aanwezig is bij de redactie van Netwerk.

U kunt ervan op aan dat de Servische gemeenschap in Nederland zich zal beraden op stappen die moeten leiden tot het voorkomen van nieuwe insinuaties en berichtgevingen die zonder enige argumentatie en verificatie schade berokkenen aan de integriteit en het aanzien van deze kerkgenootschap, die thans 30 jaar in Nederland aanwezig is.

Met vriendelijke groeten,

Predrag Vitkovic,
Rotterdam.

Deze e-mail is door E-mail Virus Scan van Het Net gecontroleerd op virussen. Zie voor meer informatie:
<http://www.hetnet.nl/evs/>

Sagittarius

Van: "Daric Olga"
Aan: <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: donderdag 22 juli 2004 23:46
Onderwerp: italijansko/srpski

> P U N O M O C J E

> P R O C U R A

>

>

> Ja (ime i

> prezime): _____

> Io (nome e cognome):

>

> Sa stanom u (mesto, ulica i

> broj): _____

> Residente a (localita', via e numero):

>

> Adresa stanovanja na Kosovu (mesto, ulica i

> broj): _____

> Indirizzo di residenza in Kosovo (localita', via e numero):

>

> Za osobe koje su proterane sa Kosova, ranija adresa (mesto, ulica i

> broj):

> Per le persone profughe dal Kosovo: vecchio indirizzo (localita', via

> e numero):

>

>

>

> Adresa stanovanja u nekom drugom delu Jugoslavije (mesto, ulica i broj):

> Indirizzo di residenza in altra localita' della Jugoslavia:

>

>

>

> Ovlascujem gosopodina N.M.P. Steijnen, Advokata iz Holandije da

> preuzme sve neophodne pravne mere protiv holandskih medija (sredstava

> informisanja), koji su odgovorni za sirenje lazi i neistina o Kosovu,

> Srbiji i Srbima.

> Con la presente autorizzo il dottor N.M.P. Steijnen, avvocato

> olandese, ad intraprendere per mio conto tutte le necessarie azioni

> legali contro i mass media olandesi responsabili della divulgazione di

> menzogne sul Kosovo, sulla Serbia e sui Serbi.

>

>

> Potpis davaoca punomocja: _____

> Firma del procurante:

>

> Mesto: _____

> Luogo:

>

> Datum: _____

> Data

>

> Napomena:

> Nota:

>

- > Potpisnici punomoćja ne snose nikakve troškove. Učesce u postupku je
- > za njih u celini besplatno. Učesnici neće biti izloženi nikakvim
- > finansijskim rizicima.
- > I sottoscrittori di questa procura non saranno tenuti ad alcun
- > esborso. La partecipazione al procedimento e' per loro gratuita. Con
- > questa essi non si espongono ad alcun rischio finanziario.
- >
- > Svi koji budu učestvovali u ovoj akciji protiv falsifikovanja
- > istorije, biće redovno obavestavani o radu komisije.
- > Tutti i partecipanti a questa azione contro la falsificazione della
- > storia, saranno regolarmente informati sul lavoro della commissione!
- >
- > ----- Indirizzare la procura, debitamente compilata, a:
- >
- > Permanentna Komisija za ratne zlocine, pocinjene od strane Zapada
- > Commissione permanente sui crimini di guerra compiuti dall'Occidente
- > Drs. N.M.P. Nico Steijnen – Advokat; Couwenhoven 52-05; 3703; ER
- > Zeist; Holland;
- > Tel.: ++ 31(0)30- 695 68 67 (studio) ili ++ 31 (0)30- 691 59 46
- > (privato);
- > E-mal: sagitar@hetnet.nl

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<http://www.hetnet.nl/evs/>

Sagittarius

Van: <despot@tiscali.nl>
 Aan: "Sagittarius"
 Verzonden: woensdag 21 juli 2004 8:31
 Onderwerp: Betr: Re: zie concept

Goedemorgen Nico,

fijn dat jij dit werk goed vindt. Natuurlijk ga ik deze dan aan veel mensen doorsturen.

Groetjes aan jou een Neeltje,

Roza

>-- Oorspronkelijk bericht --

>From: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>

>To: "R. Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>

>Subject: Re: zie concept

>Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2004 13:17:57 +0200

>

>

>Hoi Roza,

>

>Ik heb het concept gelezen. Het ziet er fantastisch uit !

>Ik ben het er natuurlijk helemaal mee eens. Stuur jij dat verder rond aan

>degenen die zich hebben aangemeld ? En aan anderen die jìe kunt bereiken

>?

>Fijn dat het gebeurt !

>

>hartelijke groeten,

>

>

>Nico S.

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: R. Despotovic

> To: Nico & Neeltje Steijnen

> Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2004 1:05 AM

> Subject: zie concept

>

>

> Hoi Nico, zie a.u.b. dit concept. Dit is het volgens mij. Natuurlijk hoor

>ik het graag wat jij er van vindt?

> In afwachting, groet ik je,

> Roza

>

>

> ---

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> Version: 6.0.721 / Virus Database: 477 - Release Date: 16-7-04

>

>-----

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- Bent u toe aan sneller en goedkoper internet?
- Ga dan naar <http://adsl.tiscali.nl>

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P U N O M O C J E
M A C H T I G I N G

Ja (ime i prezime): _____
Ik (naam en achternaam): _____

Sa stanom u (mesto, ulica i broj): _____
Wonende te (plaats, straat en nr.): _____

Adresa stanovanja na Kosovu (mesto, ulica i broj): _____
Woonadres in Kosovo, plaats, straat en nr.: _____

Za osobe koje su proterane sa Kosova, ranija adresa (mesto, ulica i broj): _____
Voor mensen die uit Kosovo zijn verdreven, vorige adres (plaats, straat en nr.): _____

Adresa stanovanja u nekom drugom delu Jugoslavije (mesto, ulica i broj): _____
Woonadres van een andere plaats in Joegoslavië: _____

Ovlascujem gosopodina N.M.P. Steijnen, Advokata iz Holandije da preuzme sve neophodne pravne mere protiv holandskih medija (sredstava informisanja), koji su odgovorni za sirenje lazi i neistina o Kosovu, Srbiji i Srbima.

Hierbij machtig de heer N.M.P. Steijnen, Advocaat in Holland, om alle noodzakelijk juridische stappen te nemen tegen Nederlandse media die zich schuldig maken aan het verspreiden van leugens en onwaarheden over Kosovo, Servië en de Serviërs.

Potpis davaoca punomocja: _____
Handtekening van de geveer van de schriftelijke machtiging: _____

Mesto: _____
Plaats: _____

Datum: _____

Napomena:
Opmerking:

Potpisnici punomocja ne snose nikakve troskove. Ucesce u postupku je za njih u celini besplatno. Ucesnici nece biti izloženi nikakvim finansijskim rizicima.

Ondergetekende van deze machtiging zullen geen kosten hebben. Dus deelname is geheel gratis. En er zijn ook geen andere financiële risico's.

Svi koji budu ucestvovali u ovoj akciji protiv falsifikovanja istorije, bice redovno obavestavani o radu komisije.

De mensen die meedoen met deze actie tegen de geschiedenisvervalsing worden natuurlijk verder op de hoogte gehouden!

Permanentna Komisija za ratne zlocine, pocinjene od strane Zapada

Permanente Commissie inzake Westerse Oorlogsmisdrijven

Drs. N.M.P. Nico Steijnen – Advokat; Couwenhoven 52-05; 3703; ER Zeist; Holland;

Tel.: ++ 31(0)30- 695 68 67 (Kancelarija) ili ++ 31 (0)30- 691 59 46 (privé - kuci);

E-mal: sagitar@hetnet.nl

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Aan: <sorabi@absolutok.net>
CC: "Ruza" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Verzonden: vrijdag 16 juli 2004 16:20
Onderwerp: Lies and distortions about Kosovo and the Serbs in western
Dear mrs. Bojovic,

I received your e-mail address through mrs. Ruza Despotovic and I understood that she has informed you about our plan to counter-attack the dreadful coverage by the western media about Kosovo and the Serbs. Producing continuous lies and distortions on a daily basis.

We here in the Netherlands will start with bringing the leading Dutch daily 'de Volkskrant' in courtroom for all this lies. For this we need the help of Serbian people living in Kosovo, or coming from Kosovo. Only when they authorize me as a lawyer to undertake legal action against the lies in the media, I can undertake.

So maybe you can help me in order to get fulfilled this precondition.

best regards,

Nico Steijnen,

lawyer

Finse soldaten in Kosovo beschoten

²²⁰⁰⁴
PRIŠTINA, 12 JULI. In Kosovo zijn zaterdag vier Finse soldaten van de internationale vredesmacht KFOR licht gewond geraakt toen ze nabij Lipljan, even ten zuiden van de hoofdstad Priština, met een jachtgeweer werden beschoten. Na het incident werden zes verdachten gearresteerd, van wie er uiteindelijk twee werden overgedragen aan de VN-politie. Over hun identiteit en over het motief van de beschieting is nog niets meegedeeld. (Reuters)

Kosovo wil ministerie voor vluchtelingen

¹⁵⁻⁸⁻²⁰⁰⁴
PRISTINA - Servische en etnisch-Albanese leiders in Kosovo hebben het VN-bestuur over de Servische provincie gevraagd een ministerie op te richten dat zich bezighoudt met de terugkeer van de tienduizenden mensen die tijdens de oorlog zijn gevlucht. Zo'n gezamenlijk verzoek is een zeldzaamheid in Kosovo. (AP)

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>

Aan: "R. Despotovic"

Verzonden: maandag 12 juli 2004 14:55

Onderwerp: Re: Aktie tegen de Volkskrant

Fijn om te horen !

Zouden we er trouwens geen officiële aktie van Nedalst van kunnen maken ? Dan heeft het ook een plaats binnen een organisatie !

liefs,

Nico S.

— Original Message —

From: R. Despotovic

To: Sagittarius

Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2004 1:00 AM

Subject: Re: Aktie tegen de Volkskrant

Hallo Nico en Neeltje,

ik heb het concept ontvangen en dat ga ik deze weekeind vertellen en opsturen. Ik zal een exemplaar ook aan jullie toe sturen voor de archif.

Met vr groet,

Roza

— Original Message —

From: Sagittarius

To: Ruza

Sent: Friday, July 09, 2004 3:49 PM

Subject: Aktie tegen de Volkskrant

Hoi Roza,

Lukt het nog om de mensen die zich hebben opgegeven aan te schrijven met een tekst voor een machtiging ?

hartelijke groeten,

Nico

—

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Version: 6.0.718 / Virus Database: 474 - Release Date: 9-7-04

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Kosovo: rebellie van parlement

2004

Door een onzer redacteurs

ROTTERDAM, 10 JULI. In Kosovo is het tot een ernstige crisis tussen het Kosovaarse parlement en het VN-bestuur UNMIK gekomen. Het parlement heeft zich eenzijdig een aantal bevoegdheden van UNMIK toegekend – zoals het recht een referendum over de onafhankelijkheid van de regio uit te schrijven.

Het parlement nam donderdag zonder overleg met het VN-bestuur een aantal wijzigingen van het zogenoemde Constitutionele Kader aan. Het veranderde de naam van dat document in Interim-Grondwet. De zogeheten 'overgangsinstanties' werden omgedoopt tot 'democratische instanties'. Serieuzer evenwel waren de inhoudelijke wijzigingen van het document: voortaan wil het Kosovaarse parlement zelf als enige de zeggenschap hebben over de internationale relaties van Kosovo, de openbare orde, de openbare veiligheid en bescherming van de staat in een uitzonderingstoestand, de rechtspraak, de wettigheid van lokale instanties en energiezaken. Verder heeft het zich de bevoegdheid toegeëigend een referendum over de onafhankelijkheid uit te schrijven.

De eenzijdige stap is direct scherp veroordeeld door de waarnemende chef van het VN-bestuur, Charles Brayshaw – de leider van UNMIK, de Fin Harri Holkeri, is afgetreden en al naar huis gegaan,

terwijl zijn opvolger, de Deen Sören-Jespersen, pas volgende maand aantreedt. Brayshaw zei dat het Kosovaarse parlement niets te zeggen heeft over het Constitutionele Kader en dat de beslissingen van het parlement van donderdag ongeldig zijn zonder de toestemming van UNMIK. Hij riep de leiders van de Kosovaren op zich te concentreren op het voldoen aan de eisen van de internationale gemeenschap op het gebied van mensenrechten, democratisering en de bescherming van minderheden. „Elke andere benadering is een stap in de verkeerde richting. Alleen UNMIK mag het Constitutionele Kader wijzigen.”

Ook vertegenwoordigers van de Servische minderheid protesteerden tegen de beslissingen van het Kosovaarse parlement; de Servische fractie in dat parlement, Povratak (Terugkeer), was bij de stemming van donderdag niet aanwezig. Een van de leiders van de Servische minderheid, Dragiša Krstović, beschuldigde de Kosovo-Albanen van „parlementair of institutioneel geweld” door de beslissingen van donderdag.

Kosovo geniet sinds de oorlog van 1999 beperkt zelfbestuur. De werkelijke beslissingen worden echter genomen door de VN en daar komt op korte termijn geen verandering in. Het ongeduld van de Kosovo-Albanen over die situatie groeit echter snel.

20-11-2004

Op www.vpro.nl/programma/ochtenden/afleveringen/19016909 is te beluisteren de Argos-uitzending over de moedwilligheid van KFOR-bolannetie van de pygroms van Maart 2004 in Kosovo.

→ Daarmee zegt Rob de Wijk dat "het bekend is dat in Kosovo leuningskampen van het VCH waren."

14-11-2004

VRYDAG 19 NOVEMBER 2004
VAN LANK ROSE DE WYK IN
ARGOS DAT "HET BEKEND
IS DAT ER IN KOSOVO AL QAIDA-
TRAININGSKAMPEN WAREN

h

→ DE WYK WERD DOOR
MILOSAVIC ALS GETUIGE
OP GEROEPEN NEMEN WORDEN

→

Sagittarius

Van: "R. Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
 Aan: "Nico & Neeltje Steijnen"
 Verzonden: zaterdag 10 juli 2004 0:57
 Onderwerp: Fw: Belgrade Media Update, July 9 2004

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

From: Apis Group office <apisinfo@apisgroup.org>
 To: <doncheva2003@yahoo.com>; <perisanisic@yahoo.com>; <decani@kosovo.com>;
 <bildel@galaxyinternet.net>; <ljvemer@aol.com>; <dtcile@hotmail.com>;
 <Vera.Josef@t-online.de>; <gordana.m-k@t-online.de>; <constelorian@noos.fr>;
 <AURAPLAN@aol.com>; <ljuba.jakic@chello.at>; <despot@wish.net>;
 <dragan.kotarac@danone.com>; <zivkovien@hotmail.com>;
 <srdjan.nikolic@utanet.at>; <anmila@ptt.yu>;
 <lyubomir_gruyitch@mail2world.com>; <geops@free.fr>; <pancic@bluewin.ch>;
 <dj.maric@t-online.de>; <bitka@wanadoo.fr>; <knezd@hotmail.com>;
 <svetigora@cg.yu>; <miloje.milicevic@t-online.de>; <rigel@net.yu>;
 <mishag1@cwcom.net>; <dobrosav@ptt.yu>; <dnikodinovic@yahoo.de>;
 <zlatan@centrum.sk>; <jovank@usa.com>; <mail@cemetal.ch>;
 <bvukotic@bigpond.net.au>; <sybio.philamorelife@tiscali.de>;
 <trivunstanic@gmx.at>; <bazdar@
 Sent: Friday, July 09, 2004 11:31 AM
 Subject: Belgrade Media Update, July 9 2004

>
 >
 > Belgrade Media Update, July 9 2004
 >
 >
 > UNMIK rejected amendments adopted by Kosovo Assembly (RTS)
 >
 > UNMIK has rejected amendments to the Constitutional Framework of the
 > province adopted by Kosovo AMs, stressing that such moves are outside the
 > competency of the provincial assembly. "Major changes of the
 Constitutional
 > Framework are outside the assembly's competency," an UNMIK statement
 reads.
 > The UN had earlier announced that, prior to resolving Kosovo's final
 status,
 > the government must fulfill a series of demands in the sphere of
 democracy,
 > human rights, protection of minorities, rule of law by mid 2005. Acting
 > UNMIK Head Charles Brashaw has called on Kosovo leaders to "concentrate
 as
 > soon as possible" on those tasks. "Any other approach represents a step in
 > the wrong direction that would take away time and energy from this urgent
 > business," said the American diplomat and added that the UN could only
 make
 > major changes in the Constitutional Framework. "We must first see those
 > amendments before we give an estimate," said UN spokesperson Mechtchild
 > Henneke. An unnamed source in the UN said, however, that some of the
 > amendments could be accepted.
 >

Kosovo Assembly adopted amendments to Constitutional Framework (RSCG)

Without KP representatives and despite UNMIK's opposition, Kosovo As have adopted in Pristina amendments to the Constitutional Framework of Kosovo.

- > The Constitutional Framework has been re-named into the 'provisional constitution of Kosovo' and interim institutions into 'democratic institutions'. Four amendments regarding minorities remained to be discussed, which has been announced to take place at the following session of the Kosovo Assembly. On several occasions, UNMIK officials have warned the Assembly representatives that changes of the Constitutional Framework are not in the competence of AMs, but the UNSC.

- > Ivanovic: Voting for amendments to Constitutional Framework non-valid (RTS/Beta)

- > Kosovo Assembly Presidency member Oliver Ivanovic has assessed that the adoption of amendments to the Constitutional Framework in the Kosovo Assembly in the legal sense "means nothing" but destabilizes the situation in Kosovo. "Such moves by the Kosovo Assembly can only jeopardize the already fragile stability and security in the province," Ivanovic told Beta.

- > He added that the adoption of amendments to the Constitutional Framework was

- > in direct contradiction with the conclusions of talks among Kosovo institutions' representatives and US Undersecretary Mark Grossman.

Ivanovic

- > expects Grossman's reaction since the American diplomat is still in Kosovo.

- > Expressing expectation that Acting UNMIK Head Charles Brayshaw will quickly

- > and adequately react, Ivanovic stressed that Thursday's Assembly session was

- > only a waste of time and intended for the election campaign.

- > Krstovic's reaction to adoption of amendments to Constitutional Framework (Tanjug)

- > Commenting the Kosovo Assembly session, KP caucus whip Dragisa Krstovic has

- > told Tanjug that at issue is parliamentary violence. I think that the SRSG

- > will undertake decisive measures for this Albanian initiative not to pass.

- > KP will also react, but it is a question whether it will be successful since

- > we are presently outside the institutions, said Krstovic.

- > OSCE Assembly condemns violence against Serbs in Kosovo (RSCG)

- > The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has adopted at its session in Edinburgh US and Greek MPs' amendment on Kosovo, which has become an integral part of the

- > draft Resolution on Cooperation and Partnership – facing the new security threats, and in which Albanians' violence against Serbs in Kosovo on March 17 is most seriously condemned, stated Nikola Lazic, SCG MP. He said that the Resolution asks for the severe punishment for perpetrators of the violence and expresses a great concern over the blocking of return of some

- thousand displaced Serbs and other non-Albanians, as well as the destruction of more than 100 Serb religious facilities since 1999. Therefore, according to Lazic, the OSCE member-states were invited to ensure
- > a thorough investigation of the March violence, and that perpetrators are
 - > delivered to justice, as well as to enable the security for the returnees.
 - >
 - > Amnesty International on March events (Tanjung)
 - >
 - > Amnesty International has expressed concern over the fact that security
 - > forces in Kosovo had not adequately protected minority members during the
 - > violence of 17 and 18 March. Amnesty International reports that since then
 - > 33 incidents have been reported involving 51 thousand people. The document
 - > specifies that those were mainly attacks by Albanians against Serbs where
 - 19
 - > people died, 950 were injured and more than 4000 of them were displaced.
 - > Amnesty International has appealed to relevant international factors to
 - > announce the results of the investigation of the violence, as well as to
 - > bring those responsible to justice.
 - >
 - > CCK requests Constitutional Court to assess privatization (Tanjung)
 - >
 - > The CCK has sent a letter to the Serbian Constitutional Court, calling on
 - it
 - > to assess the constitutionality of UNMIK regulations, which served as the
 - > basis for privatization in Serbia's southern province, the coordination
 - > center said in a statement. According to the CCK, under UNMIK's
 - regulations
 - > on privatization, privatization in Kosovo is being carried out without the
 - > agreement or participation of the Republic of Serbia, which clashes not
 - only
 - > with the Serbian Constitution, but also with UNSCR 1244 and Constitutional
 - > Framework for provisional self-administration in Kosovo.
 - >
 - > Kosovo in economic crisis (RTS)
 - >
 - > KP caucus whip Dragisa Krstovic has stated that the economic situation in
 - > Kosovo is very difficult and that this reflects the general political
 - > situation. "Re-initiation of the privatization process, that had been
 - > ceased, is not a good move since it will slow down many other processes
 - that
 - > should be unfolding, while the international community must create
 - > conditions as soon as possible towards improving the economy in this
 - > region," said Krstovic. SNC leader for northern Kosovo Milan Ivanovic has
 - > stated that the ownership status of companies in the province must first
 - be
 - > resolved in order to prevent the usurping of Serb property. "It is a fact
 - > that the state of Serbia is the owner of many companies in Kosovo, so that
 - > privatization of companies in Kosovo cannot be implemented according to
 - > UNMIK's model," he said. According to him, first, one should create
 - > conditions for the implementation of the Serbian government plan, so we
 - > could receive our institutions that can resolve economic issues, which are
 - > very important.
 - >
 - > Artemije: Reconstruction of destroyed didn't commence (RTS/Tanjung)

- aska-Prizren Bishop Artemije has said that reconstruction had not
ed of churches and monasteries that were destroyed in Kosovo in
d-March. Bishop Artemije told Tanjug that everything remained at the
vel
- > of negotiations, talks and promises and that the restoration of churches
and
 - > monasteries had not started yet. "A five-member commission is expected to
be
 - > formed in July, which will head the process of restoration of destroyed
 - > churches and monasteries, especially those that are a priority - The Holy
 - > Archangels and Devic - in order to secure conditions for normal life and
 - > work of the monks," he said.
 - >
 - > Vuk Draskovic: Key in reconciliation (Tanjug)
 - >
 - > SCG Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic has expressed confidence that the
 - > Albanian people was not the creator of the crimes against Serbs in Kosovo
 - > over the past five years, "just as the Serb people did not order or
 - organize
 - > Milosevic's crimes against ethnic Albanians". Vecernje Novosti on Thursday
 - > carried an interview that Draskovic gave to the Tirana daily Korieri, in
 - > which he underscored that the issue of the border between Kosovo, Serbia,
 - > and Albania can be resolved only by a common future in the EU.
 - >
 - > Gathering on Kosovo perspectives in Pristina (Beta)
 - >
 - > The two-day international conference entitled "Kosovo five years later:
what
 - > is the plan for the future?" on political, economic and social
 - perspectives
 - > of the province, is to commence in Pristina on Friday. Kosovo President
 - > Ibrahim Rugova, Premier Bajram Rexhepi and Acting UNMIK Head Charles
 - > Brayshaw will open the conference. The gathering will also be attended by
 - > former UNMIK Head Bernard Kouchner, Daniel Server of the Washington
 - > Institute for Peace, ICG representative Nicholas White, Albright group
 - > representative Jim O'Brien, Jerald Nouse of the European Initiative for
 - > stability and Jacques Rupnik of the Paris Center for International
 - Relations
 - > Research. The representative of the Humanitarian Right Fund Natasa Kandic
 - > and Dusan Janjic of the Forum for Ethnic Relations will be Belgrade's
 - > representatives at the gathering.
 - >
 - > Handing over of indictees not in National Council's jurisdiction, SCG
 - > foreign minister
 - > (Tanjug)
 - >
 - > Serbia-Montenegro Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic told Tanjug late on
 - > Thursday that the issue of the handing over of four generals to The Hague
 - > tribunal, who had been indicted for command responsibility as regards the
 - > war crimes committed in Kosovo, had not been discussed at that the
 - > Ministerial Council session held earlier in the day.
 - > Draskovic explained that the session had been focused on the verification
 - of
 - > the National Council members for coopreation with The Hague tribunal,

that body was not authorised to decide on the handing over of
indictes.

- > Barrett presents European Partnership for SCG in Podgorica (Tanjung)
- >
- > The Montenegrin European Integrations Council will hold its second session
- > in Podgorica on Friday, at which Head of the Delegation of the European
- > Commission to Serbia and Montenegro (SCG) Geoffrey Barrett will present a
- > document on the European Partnership for SCG.
- > The document was adopted at a June session of the European Union
- Ministerial
- > Council.
- >
- > Bosniac, Turkish MPs walk out of Kosovo parliament session (Tanjung)
- >
- > MPs of the Bosniac and Turkish community on Thursday walked out of a
- > session of the Kosovo interim parliament, dissatisfied with the fact that
- > their amendments to the Constitutional Framework had not been taken into
- > consideration.
- > Certain MPs of the majority ethnic Albanian community made vulgar remarks
- on
- > the occasion, insulting the two Bosniac and three Turkish community MPs.
- >
- > Same date of inauguration, commemorial service coincidence (Tanjung)
- >
- > Newly-elected Serbian President Boris Tadic said on Thursday that the fact
- > that the date of his inauguration for the republic president and the
- > commemorial service to be held on the occasion of marking nine years after
- > the war crimes committed in Srebrenica were a mere coincidence, and
- rejected
- > unfounded speculations that that represented an insulting act.
- >
- > Serbia has made progress in fighting organized crime - Italian state
- > prosecutor (Tanjung)
- >
- > Italian State Prosecutor in charge of fighting the mafia Pier Luigi Vigna
- > welcomed Thursday the considerable progress achieved by Serbia in fighting
- > organized crime.
- > Vigna attributed this progress to new legislation and the constitution of
- > special structures for fighting the trafficking of drugs, arms and people.
- >
- > See more on www.apisgroup.org
- >
- > THE END
- >

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Version: 6.0.718 / Virus Database: 474 - Release Date: 9-7-04

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius"
Aan: "Ruza" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Verzonden: vrijdag 9 juli 2004 15:49
Onderwerp: Aktie tegen de Volkskrant
Hoi Roza,

Lukt het nog om de mensen die zich hebben opgegeven aan te ^{te}schrijven met een tekst voor een machtiging ?

hartelijke groeten,

Nico

YAËL VINOKY

Joegoslavië
achter
de schermen

AFSCHEID VAN EEN LAND

PROMETHEUS
NRC HANDELSBLAD

Anderhalf jaar eerder hadden Albanezen de spoorlijn zelfs opgeblazen. Overigens hadden de Serviërs zich ook niet onbetuigd gelaten. Toen KFOR een Albanese machinist op de trein liet rijden, hadden enkele mannen een pistool getrokken en op de wagons geschoten. Sindsdien zaten er buitenlandse machinisten op de hek.

Nu stond ik hier, op een schuddend treinonderstel te dansen op ijlde klanken, een halveliterfles bier in de hand, omringd door lieve meisjes en bewonderd door leuke jongens. Op dat moment besloot ik dat dit mijn laatste dag in Kosovo was, ondanks de paar verhalen die ik nog moest schrijven.

Vandaag moest ik mijn zwartgalligheid eens laten varen, moest ik mijn cynisme eens aan de kant zetten, besloot ik. Dat de discotrein met Albanese en Servische feestvierders zonder problemen of bewaking door Kosovo kon rijden, was een heuglijke gebeurtenis.

Mijn optimisme werd gelogenstraft in het voorjaar van 1994. Op een van de eerste leutedagen in Kosovo braken hevige onlusten uit. Aanleiding was de dood van drie Albanese kinderen, die volgens de Albanese bevolking door Serviërs met honden de rivier de Ibar waren in gejaagd, niet ver van de gedeelde stad Mitrovica, en verdronken. De Albanezen in het zuiden van de stad ontstaken in woede. Ze trokken op naar het noorden, over de brug en over de rivier en raakten in een hevig gevecht verwikkeld met de brugwachters van Dolce Vita. Al snel klonken er schoten. De Franse soldaten waren totaal verrast.

Het geweld sloeg over naar andere enclaves in Kosovo. Binnen de kortste keren stonden honderden Servische huizen, scholen, ziekenhuizen en kerken in brand. In totaal kwamen negentien mensen om het leven, zowel aan Albanese als aan Servische kant. Een Serviër werd levend in zijn huis verbrand. Het waren de ergste onlusten sinds het einde van de NAVO-oorlog.

Ik vloog de volgende dag naar Kosovo om de schade op te nemen en was geschokt. In Kosovo Polje, waar de oude vrouwen in de gymzaal van de basisschool bivakkeerden, was het ziekenhuis veranderd in een rokende puinhoop. De ambulances smeulden

nog na. In Obitic, een andere Servische enclave, waren de huizen van alle Serviërs in brand gestoken. Op de restanten hadden de nieuwe eigenaren, Albanezen, alvast hun naam geschreven. 'Bezë, Fadil Rexhepi'. Een van de dorpelingen had zelfs ondertekend met 'Rambo', opdat de andere dorpelingen het niet in hun hoofd zouden halen om dit huis te confisqueren.

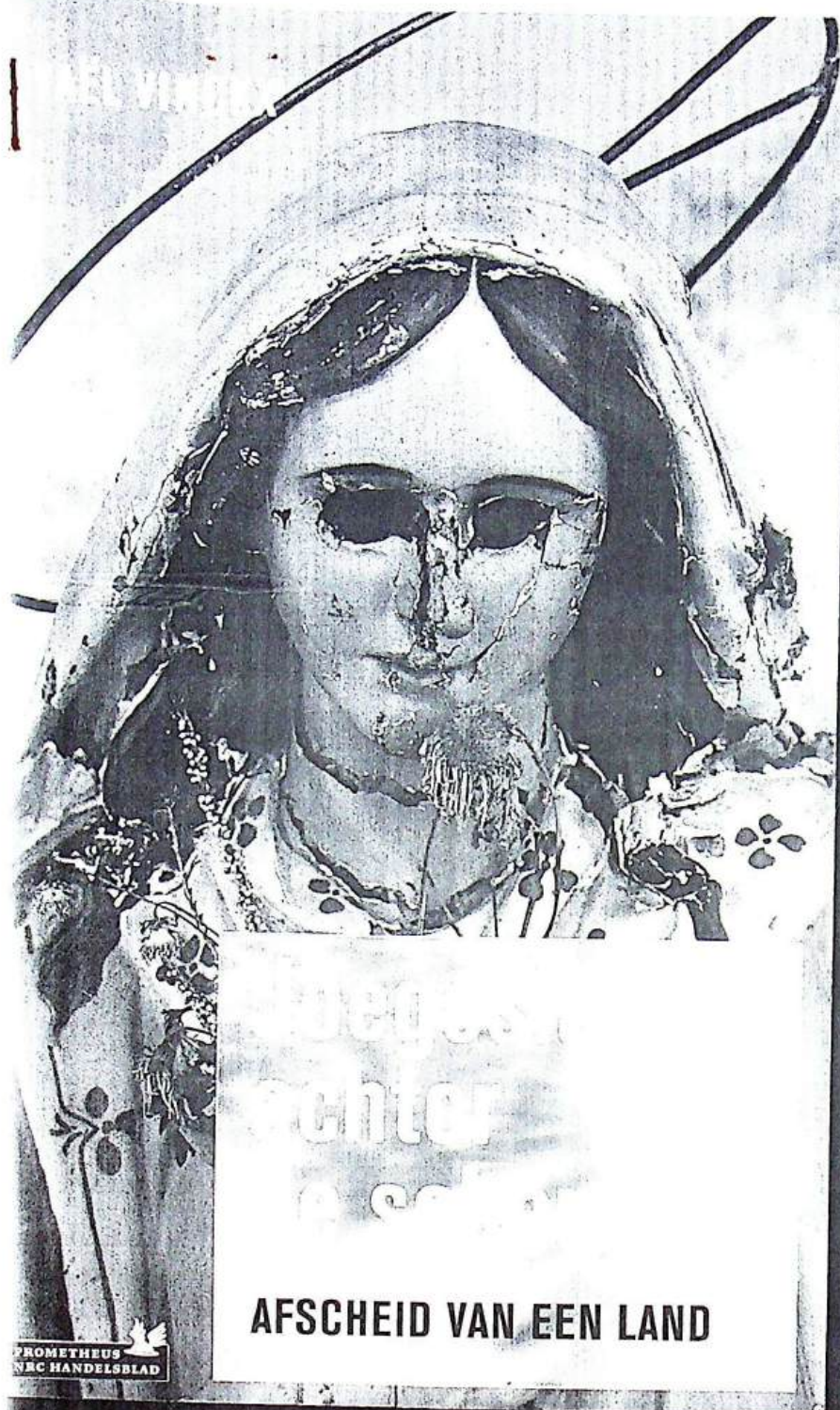
De internationale gemeenschap sprak vanaf dat moment ongehinderd van etnische zuivering. En dat was pijnlijk, want het was op de kop al vijf jaar geleden dat de Navo de oorlog was begonnen om een eind te maken aan de etnische zuivering in de Servische provincie. Alleen, deze keer waren de Serviërs aan de beurt. De Navo gaf de schuld nu aan Albanese extremisten, die hadden het oproer naar hun hand gezet. Dat vond ik te gemakkelijk. Immers, door de verantwoordelijkheid bij een groep fundamentalisten te leggen en zo het probleem te benoemen, leek het alsof een oplossing binnen handbereik lag. Pak de extremisten op en gooi hen in de cel, dan is Kosovo van de problemen af. Maar niets was minder waar.

Ik sprak mijn vermoedens uit tegen Jeton en was verbaasd. Stond hij voorheen onverschillig tegenover het geweld dat de Serviërs werd aangedaan, nu veerde hij op. Misschien was hij milder geworden na de geboorte van zijn eerste kind, een meisje, misschien was hij verdraagzamer geworden door de religieuze boeken die hij tegenwoordig las. Maar Jeton zei: 'Ik ben het er niet mee eens. De extremisten zijn wel degelijk verantwoordelijk. Ik en vele andere Albanezen willen de Serviërs niets aandoen. Ze wonen in hun enclaves waar we geen last van ze hebben. Laat ze toch.'

Ik ging op bezoek bij Veton Surroi, de uitgever die in 1999 als eerste had geprotesteerd tegen de wraakacties van de Albanezen. Ook hij zei een verandering te bespeuren. 'De Albanezen van Kosovo willen dit niet. Wij willen rust.'

Ik keek om me heen, naar de Servische kerken die waren verbrand en naar de kleine doodskisten van de twee Albanese jongens die waren verdronken (het derde kind was op dat ogenblik nog niet gevonden) en geloofde de uitgever niet. Die discotrein

met Albanese en Servische feestvierders was niet leugen geweest. Een bedrieglijk benoemen dat mijn spijt van mijn verblijf in Kosovo toch nog zand in de ogen had laten strooien.



Moeder
van
Nieuw
Zeeland

AFSCHEID VAN EEN LAND

PROMETHEUS
NRC HANDELSBLAD

en Braziliaanse soaps te kijken. Jeton en zijn vader praatten dwars door die uitzendingen heen. Pas na twee jaar ontdekte ik dat zij vertelden wat er in die soaps voorviel, want zelf kon de moeder de ondertiteling niet lezen.

Jetons moeder was een eenvoudige vrouw die, net als alle andere Albanezen, dweepte met haar gezin. Bij ieder bezoek haalde ze foto's van haar dochter in Londen te voorschijn. Algauw drupten grote tranen op het vloerkleed. 'Mijn dochter, mijn dochter,' weende ze. En toen haar jongste zoon trouwde, moest ik tot vervelens toe naar de video-opnamen van het huwelijk kijken. Ook dan vloeiden haar tranen rijkelijk.

Het aloude clansysteem, zo leerde ik al snel, bestond nog wel degelijk in Kosovo. De clans zijn kleiner dan in het Noord-Albanese hoogland, maar ze nemen nog altijd een heel belangrijke plek in. De familie komt op de eerste plaats – met de rest van de samenleving hebben de mensen bar weinig te maken. Jetons moeder was bijvoorbeeld altijd aan het poetsen; ze banjerde de hele dag met een sopdoek in haar hand door de kleine flat. Maar het vuilnis kieperde ze over de rand van het balkon of streepte ze naast de vuilcontainer.

Ik zag het overal in Kosovo. Het eigen erf was altijd aangeveegd, maar eenmaal buiten de lemen muren zakten de mensen tot hun enkels weg in het afval en de modder. Zonder blikken of blozen gooiden automobilisten zakjes, blikjes, papiertjes, zelfs vuile luiers uit het raam. Nergens in Joegoslavië lag zo veel troep langs de kant van de weg als in Kosovo. De velden waren begroeid met plastic zakjes die ritselden in de wind. Dat die enorme vuilnishopen ratten en ander ongedierte aantrokken, kon niemand iets schelen.

Zelfs in Prizren, volgens veel Albanezen de mooiste stad in Kosovo, was het een puinhoop. In het midden van de stad liep een 'prachtige rivier', zoals de inwoners zeiden, maar binnen de kortste keren lag het armetierige stroompje vol oude auto's, kapotte wasmachines, opengereten vuilniszakken. Duitse soldaten die zich verveelden en daarop besloten het water schoon te maken, stuitten op louter ongeloof. Ze werden nagewezen en uitge-

lachen. 'Zijn ze gek geworden?' vroegen de mensen in Prizren zich hardop af.

Het was een contradictie. Hoewel de Albanezen constant een lofzang op hun eigen gemeenschap zongen, ontbrak iedere burgerschapszin. Ieder voor zich en Allah voor ons allen – dat was de boodschap in Kosovo.

Dat gedwee met huis en haard had ook zijn goede kanten. Kosovo werd razendsnel weer opgebouwd. Binnen de kortste keren verschenen overal nieuwe huizen. Net als in Macedonië leken de huizen op kleine kastelen, compleet met torentjes en kantelen, en werden ze gebouwd van het geld dat gastarbeiders in Duitsland en Zwitserland hadden verdiend. Gedurende het voorjaar van 2000 was het een geklop en gehamer vanjewelste in Kosovo.

Hulpverleners die eerder in Bosnië hadden gewerkt, waren verbaasd over de snelheid waarmee Kosovo uit zijn as herrees. In Bosnië waren de mensen gewend hun hand op te houden bij de staat, daar wachtten ze vijf jaar na de oorlog nog op buitenlandse hulpverleners om de fundering van hun huizen te leggen. In Kosovo daarentegen zorgde de bevolking voor zichzelf.

Dat had ze geleerd tijdens de Servische onderdrukking. Toen de Servische autoriteiten nagenoeg alle Albanese ambtenaren hadden ontslagen, richtten dezen zich massaal op de handel. Overal verschenen winkeltjes, koffiehuisjes, garages, kapsalons. Belasting betaalden ze niet en klanten waren er genoeg. Een Albanese vrouw zou immers nooit naar een Servische kapster gaan.

Degenen die zich niet op de handel stortten, vertrokken naar het buitenland. Vooral in België, Duitsland en Zwitserland zijn in de loop der jaren omvangrijke Albanese gemeenschappen gegroeid. Vaak hebben de immigranten twee banen, want de clan eist dat er iedere maand een fiks bedrag wordt overgemaakt naar de achterblijvers.

Daarnaast moest de diaspora lange tijd 'belasting' betalen voor de strijd tegen Servië en voor een onafhankelijk Kosovo. Dat geld werd bij elkaar gebracht door Rugova's financiële man, Bajram Bokoshi, die de zuurverdiende Duitse markten wegzette op

banken in Zwitserland. Na de bevrijding van Kosovo werden de 'Bukoshi-marken' inzet van een hevige strijd tussen Rugova en Thaçi. Rugova wilde de fondsen aanwenden voor de wederopbouw van Kosovo, Thaçi was daartegen. Hij vreesde dat Rugova het geld zou gebruiken als campagnestunt.

Desondanks haalde Bukoshi een deel van het geld van de Zwitserse banken en bracht het naar Kosovo. Vanaf dat moment slonken de fondsen snel – bijzonder snel zelfs. Want terwijl Rugova en Thaçi om het geld streden, stalen onbekenden zeshonderdduizend Bukoshi-marken uit de bank in Priština.

De komst van tienduizenden buitenlanders, internationals of expats genoemd, gaf de handel een nieuwe impuls, vooral in Priština, waar tientallen internationale instellingen en non-gouvernementele organisaties zich vestigden. Artsen zonder Grenzen, Apothekers zonder Grenzen, Brandweermannen zonder Grenzen en Journalisten zonder Grenzen meldden zich.

De Kosovaren verwonderden zich over de buitenlanders; het gebied had nooit veel mensen van buiten aangetrokken. Joegoslaven beschouwden het als een achtergebleven, achterlijk gebied en toeristen hadden er niets te zoeken. Immers, Kosovo bezat geen fraaie monumenten als de eeuwenoude brug in het Bosnische Mostar, ontbeerde een magnifieke kust als het Kroatische Dalmatië en miste de kosmopolitische uitstraling van het Servische Belgrado.

Met de komst van de Verenigde Naties, de Europese Unie, de Organisatie voor Veiligheid en Samenwerking in Europa, de Navo en honderden andere organisaties behoorde dat isolement tot de verleden tijd. Uit alle windstreken arriveerden mensen. In de straten verschenen Amerikaanse soldaten met spiegelende zonnebrillen op hun neus, Afrikaanse secretaresses in kleurige gewaden en Indiase politiemannen met een tulband op hun hoofd.

De meesten togen aan het werk bij een van de vier 'pijlers' van het internationale bestuur: de Verenigde Naties namen de leiding van de provincie op zich (Unmik), de Organisatie voor Veiligheid en Samenwerking in Europa (ovst) ging zich be-

moeien met de opbouw van democratie, de naleving van mensenrechten en de installatie van onafhankelijke media, de Europese Unie (EU) werd verantwoordelijk voor de economische opbouw en de vsv vluchtelingenorganisatie unshcr hield zich bezig met de opvang en de terugkeer van vluchtelingen.

De expats drukten een onmiskenbaar stempel op Kosovo. De Albanese samenleving is van oudsher een conservatieve, in zichzelf gekeerde maatschappij. De vele buitenlanders maakten het nog moeilijker om met de inwoners in contact te komen. Daar door pakte mijn verblijf in Kosovo anders uit dan in Macedonië, waar mijn komst nog opzien had gebaard. In Skopje was ik een van de weinige buitenlanders geweest, in Priština was ik een van de vele.

Door de komst van zo veel buitenlanders vernieuwde de prijzen zich. Voor de oorlog kostte een appartement in de hoofdstad zo'n tweehonderd mark (honderd euro), na de oorlog betaalde een buitenlander tweeduizend mark. Zo'n bedrag legden de meeste buitenlandse werknemers overigens zonder veel moeite op tafel, want hun salarissen lagen er niet om. Het midden- en hogere kader van Unmik, de EU en de ovst verdient meer dan vijfduizend euro per maand – grotendeels belastingvrij.

Hele Albanese gezinnen hokken dan ook samen om hun flat te verhuren. Bij Jeton was dat niet anders. Zijn ouders vertrokken naar de keuken, waar ze kookten, de kraan lazen, televisiekeken en 's avonds de bank uittrokken om op te slapen. Jeton kreeg de kleinste kamer, ik de grootste. Soms dienden zich meer journalisten aan, die stonden plotseling ook op de parkeerplaats te toeteren. Daarop verdween Jeton naar zijn ouders in de keuken, waar ze op de uitgeklapte bank voor het fornuis sloepen, als lepeltjes in een bestekbak.

De Albanesezen besloten dat er veel geld te verdienen was aan de expats. Ze openden koffiehuizen, restaurants, winkels, belshops en internetcafés of legden zich toe op de reparatie van kapotte four-wheel drives. Dit alles was geen sinecure, want er was slechts gedurende enkele uren per dag stroom. Dat was te wijten

aan de twee sleutels, onderin vonden elektriciteitscentrales, simpel Kosovo. Een Engelsman. Die waren zeer gedateerd, een team des kundigen dat van in Londen werd ingevlogen, verklaarde nog nooit zulke oude draaiers te hebben gezien.

Al snel vonden de jongrijke Albanezen een oplossing voor het probleem van de gebrekkige stroomvoorziening: generatoren. Op de motorische motoren monteerden ze de apparaten. Ook onder de flat van de Zeniti's loerde een generator. Het ding, dat toebehoorde aan de fotowinkel, hield mij hele nachten uit mijn slaap. Toen ik poedst om te gaan slapen, zei de eigenaar: "Ik moet de generator's nachts wel laten draaien, anders krijg ik het werk niet op tijd af".

Foto's - het bloot becoming business. Het internationale bestuur werd zeer strikt bewaakt, de meeste gebouwen waren omgeven door prikkeldraad, slagbomen en bewakers. Wie naar binnen wilde, moest in het bezit zijn van een pasje (voor iedere ingang heeft een ander) voorzien van een pasfoto. De fotowinkel onder Jeto's flat leverde die foto's.

De buitenlanders moesten ook worden vermaakt. Op vrijdagavond dronk het lagere kader bier in de Kukri-bar. Overdag ruimden ze minnen op, repareerden ze kapotte centrales of tranden ze nieuwe agenten. 's Avonds keken ze van achter een puit naar Eurosport. In de hoek van de bar stond Armand, hij speelde het nummer "Layla" op zijn gitaar. Even verderop, in café Zanzi-bar, hoorde ik opnieuw "Layla".

Dachten ze echt dat we van die melige Eric Clapton hielden?

Ik kwam niet graag in dergelijke bars. Ze zaten vol dronken mannen, die voor langere tijd waren verstoken van hun vrouw. Dat was geen gezellige combinatie. Al te vaak vielen Amerikaanse, Duitse en Zweedse politiemannen vrouwelijke bezoekers lastig, waarna ze met elkaar op de vuist gingen, onder het oog van de Albanese bevolking.

Soms hapende de entertainmentmachine. Toen enkele honderden internationals tijdens de millenniumwisseling in Kosovo moesten blijven om de provincie draaiende te houden, boekte een aantal van hen voor veel geld een skiarrangement op oude-

Door de jaren heen leverde de universiteit van Priština duizenden filosofen, dramaturgen, pedagogen, literatuurwetenschappers en kunsthistorici af. In technische studies en economie was slechts een handvol studenten geïnteresseerd. In september 2000 begonnen negenhonderd jongeren aan een universitaire studie economie. Voor wiskunde, scheikunde en landbouwkunde melde zich niemand.

Maar met dramaturgen bouw je geen land op.

Vooralsnog was er echter genoeg werk, want de vele buitenlandse organisaties hadden grote behoefte aan secretaresses, receptionistes, bewakers, chauffeurs en schoonmakers. Daardoor groeide de werkgelegenheid in het naoorlogse Kosovo explosief. Doordat de vraag groter was dan het aanbod, moest het internationale bestuur veel geld uittrekken om goede mensen te krijgen. Dat leidde tot excessen. De chauffeur van de baas van de oost bijvoorbeeld verdiende vijfhonderd euro per maand, terwijl een rechter nog met eens de helft kreeg.

Het irriteerde professor Muhamet Mustafa mateloos. 'Na het vertrek van de Verenigde Naties zitten wij straks opgescheept met een stel verwerende werknemers die niet voor minder dan vijfhonderd euro hun handen uit de mouwen willen steken,' mopperde hij.

Corruptie stak de kop op. Omkoping was weliswaar niet nieuw in Joegoslavië, maar ik maakte voor het eerst kennis met het verschijnsel in de stad Peč, in het noordwesten van Kosovo. De regio had zwaar geleden onder de gevechten tussen Servische troepen en Albanese rebellen – hele straten waren met de grond gelijk gemaakt. De Serviërs hadden uiteindelijk het onderspit gedolven, maar met voordat ze grote delen van de stad en de omliggende dorpen in brand hadden gestoken. Een bevriende journalist die over de Montenegrijnse bergen Kosovo was binnengetrokken, vertelde dat de vallei schuilging onder enorme pluinwolken en wolkenas.

Pec en haar omgeving moesten opnieuw worden opgebouwd. Dat gebeurde met geld van buitenlandse donoren. De concurrentie tussen de hulporganisaties was echter groot: de Amerikaanse Peacewind gaf panendaken en Artsen Zonder Grenzen deed in zinken daken. Het duurde niet lang of slimme Albanezen sloegen munt uit deze onderlinge rivaliteit. Ze oppeerden voor een zinken dak bij de ene en voor een panendak bij de andere organisatie. Urenlang legden ze de panendaken op hun eigen huizen en verkochten ze de zinken daken door aan minder berekende landgenoten.

Hulpverleners, die met goede bedoelingen waren gekomen, zagen het met afgrijzen aan. 'Ik kan alleen maar zeggen: "Julie krijgen van ons geen dak,"' vertelde een Franse vriend die bij Artsen Zonder Grenzen werkte. 'Maar op hetzelfde moment ligt het dak van een andere organisatie al op hun huizen.'

Het was toen dat ik merkte dat de westerse sympathie voor de Albanezen begon af te nemen. Steeds vaker verdween donorgeld. Dat had de internationale gemeenschap niet hoeven te verbazen, tenslotte was een flink deel van de vijf miljard dollar die ze in de eerste vijf jaar in Bosnië had gepompt, ook in de zakken van lokale bestuurders, politie, handelaren en criminelen 'verdwenen'. In Kosovo trok men echter weinig lering uit oude lessen. Dat had onder meer te maken met het forse verloop onder het personeel. De expertise die werd opgebouwd, bleef nooit lang. Veel internationals vertrokken na een jaar, teleurgesteld door de geringe vooruitgang en ontmoedigd door de dagelijkse tegenslag. De eerste VN-gezant, de geëngageerde Bernard Kouchner, bleef twee jaar. Zijn opvolger, de introverte Deen Hans Hacklerup, vertrok al na een jaar. Dierix opvolger, de Duitser Michael Stenmet, bleef ook slechts een jaar.

Stuurden de hoofdkantoren in New York, Brussel en Wenen eerst hun ervaren mensen, al snel diende een nieuwe lading internationalen zich aan. Jonge mensen die rechtstreeks van de universiteit kwamen, het avontuur zochten, veel geld wilden verdienen en (nog) geen partners en kinderen hadden die werkten te verhuizen naar deze uthoek van Europa. Maar ze ont-

beelden de ervaring om de complexe situatie in Kosovo het hoofd te kunnen bieden, zodat ze een makkelijke priot voor handige Albanezen vormden. Die wisten al snel voldoende te haaien uit hun onervarenheid. Maar het ongevoegen glimste: 'Bied je hun een vinger, dan pakken ze je tot aan je schouder,' luidt de Nederlandse medewerker van de OAS, evenals afgeleerd in massacommunicatie. 'En zeggen ze: oot dankje wel.'

Regelmatig hoorde ik in de gangen van internationale organisaties de klacht die ik al zo vaak had gehoord in de rest van Joegoslavië: 'Alrijd willen de Albanezen meer. Nooit is het genoeg.'

En wat te denken van de schunniger hoeken van de handel? Kosovo werd een doorgangshuis voor verboden waar gesmokkelde sigaretten, illegaal gekopen cfs, gestolen auto's, zwart geld, drugs, vrouwen en wapens. De Albanezen hebben zich het afgelopen decennium omgevormd tot kleine ondernemers en handelaren. Er is een groot netwerk van handel, dat slechts voor een deel legaal is,' schreef Unnik.

Zo schatte het VN-bestuur dat 70 procent van het wapenpark in Kosovo was gestolen, maar bewijzen kon het niets. De automobilisten hadden immers geen papieren en hun auto's hadden geen nummerborden. Die waren door Servische agenten en militairen van de voertuigen af gehaald. En toch, hier klopte iets niet, want de sticker in van Duitsland zat nog op de bumper geplakt. In de nacht zelf dan, vroeg ik, hadden de serviers die niet geconsideerd? Daarop grijpsden de bestuurders veelvuldig men en trokken met gierende banden op.

Nergens zag ik zo veel auto's op de weg in voortdurend Joegoslavië als in Kosovo. Dat uitgebreide wapenpark zorgde voor handdel, overal verschenen garages, wasstraten en benzinstations. Op de weg van de hoofdstad Pristina naar de grensovergang Blace, zo'n tachtig kilometer lang, hield ik bij het zeste pompstation op met tellen. 'Gooi je peuk nooit uit het raam tijdens de rit naar de grens,' graptten de mensen tegen elkaar, 'voor je het weet, staat het land weer in brand.' 'Dit is een vreselijke da die

pompstations werden gebruikt om geld wit te wassen maar kon wederom, niets bewijzen.

De georganiseerde misdaad ging zich roeren. Op een avond trilden Italiaanse architecten, onderdeel van de VN politie, een dozijn vrouwen uit Nightclub International. Maar even verder op, in de BBC Nightclub, kon je diezelfde nacht voor een habro kraai aan Moldavische en Oekraïense vrouwen komen. De komst van tienduizenden buitenlandse militairen, bestuurders en hulpverleners had Kosovo op de kaart van vrouwenhandelen gezet. En dat was serios business, medewerkers van de Internationale Organisatie voor Migratie die de opgepakte vrouwen onderbrachten op een geheim onderduikadres, werden met de dood bedreigd.

De frictie tussen beide gemeenschappen groeide. Albanese leiders beklagden zich over de bemoeizucht van de VN en de NAVO. Ze hadden hun komst toegejuicht, maar wilden nu van hen af. Hun grote terreinwagens en hun dikke salarissen wakkerden bovendien het Albanese ongenoegen aan. 'Ze verdienen hier meer dan thuis, gedragen zich als kolonisten, als Russische tsaren,' liet de voorzitter van het parlement, Nexhat Daci, zich oit vallen.

In Mitrovica raakten Albanese sluipschutters Franse militairen in borst en arm. 'Eerst kregen we bloemen, nu krijgen we handgranaten,' verzuchtte een Franse soldaat toen ik de situatie ging opnemen.

De internationals, die massaal op de hand van de Albanese waren geweest, verloren langzamerhand hun geduld. De Albanese mentaliteit was er een waarmee ze moeilijk uit de voeten konden. 'Ze zeggen ja, ze doen nee,' vatte een van hen samen. De sympathie voor de Serviërs in Kosovo, de nieuwe underdogs, groeide. Met die koppige Slaven kon je ook geen compromissen sluiten, maar ze waren tenminste eerlijk. Zeiden ze nee, dan deden ze nee.

Albanese verdachten opgepakt

Moord op Serviër

schrikt Kosovo op

GRAČANICA, 7 JUNI. In Kosovo is zaterdag een Serviër vermoord, in een kennelijke poging het etnisch geweld in de regio opnieuw aan te wakkeren. Het was de eerste etnische moord sinds de rellen van maart, waarbij negentien doden vielen.

De Serviër, een zeventienjarige jongen, werd vanuit een langsrijdende auto doodgeschoten toen hij met een groep leeftijdgenoten bij een hamburgerkiosk in Gračanica stond. Gračanica, even ten zuiden van de hoofdstad Priština, is een van de Servische enclaves in Kosovo. De auto verdween, maar werd later opgespoord. Twee Kosovo-Albanen zijn gearresteerd. De auto bleek met vervalste nummerborden te rijden.

De Serviërs van Gračanica demonstreerden gisteren bij de begrafenis tegen de vredesmacht KFOR, die de taak heeft hen in hun enclave te beschermen. KFOR heeft de controle de laatste tijd versoept. De betogers eisten dat de internationale gemeenschap een eind maakt aan wat ze noemden „de uitroeiing” van de Serviërs. Ze eisten aparte, exclusief voor Serviërs bestemde wegen van en naar de Servische enclaves in Kosovo.

De leiders van de Serviërs in Kosovo en in Servië zelf namen de

moord in Gračanica hoog op. De Kosovo-coördinator van de Servische regering, Nebojša Čović, noemde de moord „een boodschap aan [EU-buitenlandcoördinator] Javier Solana”, die vandaag in Priština wordt verwacht, en „een afscheidsboodschap aan Harri Holkeri.” Holkeri, de VN-bestuurder van Kosovo, is bezig aan een afscheidstournee door Kosovo. Hij heeft onlangs „uit gezondheidsoverwegingen” zijn ontslag ingediend als chef van het VN-bestuur in Kosovo. De reputatie van Holkeri heeft zeer geleden onder de rellen van maart, toen bleek dat van verzoening tussen beide bevolkingsgroepen in Kosovo geen sprake is en toen bovendien bleek dat noch KFOR, noch de VN-politie in staat is de minderheid van Serviërs tegen de Albanen te verdedigen. Čović stelde gisteren nog eens dat „niemand de Serviërs beschermt”.

De leider van de Kosovo-Serviërs, parlementariër Oliver Ivanović, verweet met name het VN-bestuur

UNMIK en de vredesmacht KFOR nalatigheid, omdat zij „de controleposten op de toegangswegen tot de Servische regio's hebben afgeschaft en aldus extremisten toelaten zich vrij te bewegen”. De 'Servische Nationale Raad', een door het VN-gezag niet erkende organisatie van lokale Servische leiders, liet weten dat de anti-Servische rellen in maart en de moord in Gračanica zijn georganiseerd door een groepering die zich ten doel stelt de Serviërs definitief uit Kosovo te verdrijven. De minister van Buitenlandse Zaken van de unie Servië-Montenegro, Vuk Drašković, en de president van de unie, Svetozar Marović, hebben gisteren, los van elkaar, brieven geschreven aan de secretaris-generaal van de VN, Kofi Annan, waarin ze de moord in Gračanica als aanleiding gebruikten voor de eis VN-resolutie 1244 – waarmee het VN-bestuur in Kosovo werd ingesteld – uit te voeren en de veiligheid van de Serviërs te garanderen. (VIP, AFP)

Servische jongen (16) doodgeschoten in Kosovo

PRISTINA 6 juni 2004 Een 16-jarige Servische jongen is zaterdag vanaf een langsrijdende brommer doodgeschoten in het dorp Gračanica, een Servische enclave vijftien kilometer van de Kosovaarse hoofdstad Priština. De politie arresteerde kort daarop twee etnisch-Albanese verdachten. Zondag protesteerden ruim duizend Serviërs in het dorp tegen de NAVO-macht in Kosovo, die te weinig zou doen om zulke aanvallen te voorkomen. (AP)

Sagittarius

Van: "Wolters, Henk"
Aan: <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: dinsdag 6 juli 2004 12:51
Onderwerp: FW: Actie Volkskrant

> -----Oorspronkelijk bericht-----

> Van: Wolters, Henk

> Verzonden: dinsdag 6 juli 2004 11:39

> Aan: 'e.sagitar@hetnet.nl'

> Onderwerp: Actie Volkskrant

>

> Bericht voor de heer mr. Nico Steijnen, namens Snezana Jelcic te Amsterdam:

>

> Geachte heer Steijnen,

>

> Omdat ik niet eerder gelegenheid heb gehad antwoord te vinden op uw verzoek van 9 juni jl. met betrekking tot een eventuele rechtszaak tegen De Volkskrant reageer ik pas vandaag. - Ik heb gisteren uw brief voorgelegd aan een priester van onze Orthodoxe kerk, die vandaag - 6 juli - met een transport van humanitaire goederen meegaat naar vluchtelingen uit Kosovo die thans in Servië verblijven, en ook naar Kosovo zelf. Hij zal in Servië en Kosovo met mensen overleggen en hun vragen om verklaringen. Zodra ik iets van hem ontvangen heb zal ik dat aan u doorsturen.

>

> Met vriendelijke groet,

>

> Snezana Jelcic

> Geleenstraat 17-huis

> 1078 LC Amsterdam

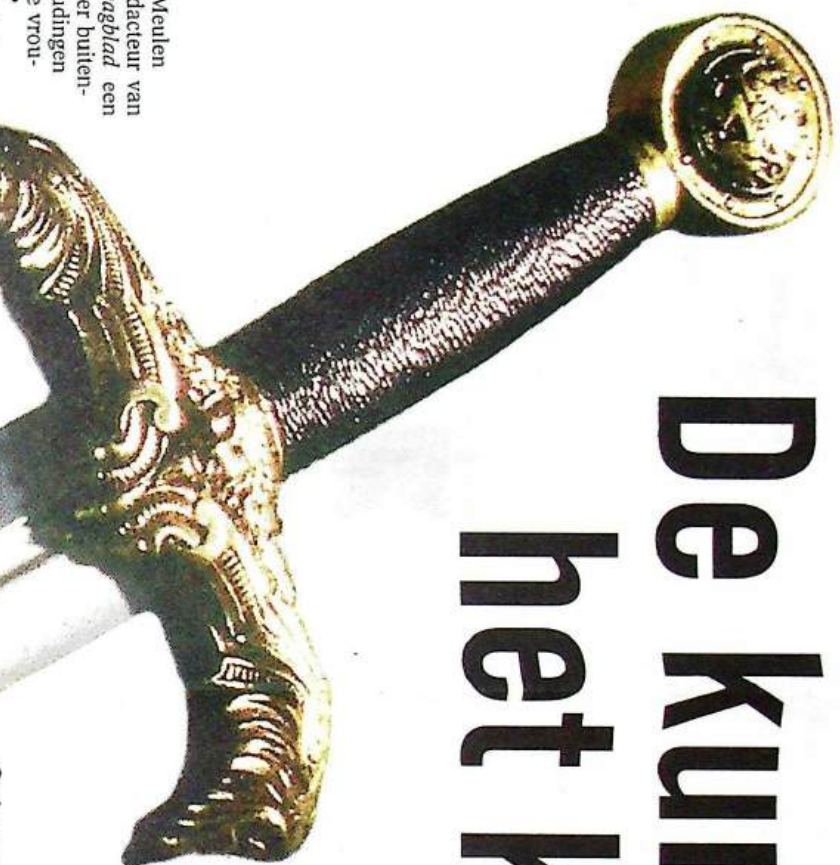
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De kunst van het kwetsen

Columnisten mogen veel, maar niet alles.

De rechter lijkt er nauwelijks uit te komen, de lezer blijft in verwarring achter. Over columnisten en de verwording van een genre.

Door Jean-Pierre Geelen



s Tony van der Meulen behaive hoofdredacteur van het *Brabants Dagblad* een hoerenhopper die er buiten-echteltijde verhoudingen op nahoudt met jonge vrouwen op zijn redactie?

Idiotie vraag, maar sinds vorige week zaterdag moeten we hem toch even stellen. Toen schreef cabaretier Youp van 't Hek dit namelijk in zijn column in *NRC Handelsblad*, compleet met de namen van Brabantse cafés en hotels waar hem dat ter ore was gekomen.

Een opmerkelijk stukje, of het nu op waarheid berust of niet. In het ene geval is het irrelevant (Van der Meulen is geen Amsterdamse welhouder), in het andere geval getuigt het niet van veel fijnzinnigheid.

Het kwam zo: Van 't Hek trad vorige week enkele dagen op in Den Bosch, en de redactie van de plaatselijke krant had het wel leuk geleken een stukje te schrijven over hoe het de beroemde komiek beviel om enkele dagen in de door hem zo verafschuwde provincie te verblijven. Dat een verslaggever zijn gangen leek na te gaan, zinde Van 't Hek niet, waarop hij in zijn column keihard uithaalde naar haar hoofdredacteur, Tony van der Meulen.

Wat Van 't Hek precies beweog, blijft duister: hij weigert commentaar. 'Ik heb Youp nog nooit ontmoet,' zegt Van der Meulen desgevraagd. 'Wel belde hij vorige week vrijdag hysterisch van woede op over onze actie. We vroegen hoe we de genoederen konden sussen, maar er was geen houden meer aan: hij belooft een vreselijk stuk over mij te schrijven, met vermelding van mijn telefoonnummer.'

Het telefoonnummer bleef onvermeld, maar verder was de klap raak. Van der Meulen heeft zijn verlof van twee maanden, dat toevallig afgelopen weekend zou ingaan, voortlopgig opgeschort, omdat hij zijn handen vol heeft aan het ontkennen van de 'feiten'. In *NRC Handelsblad* schreef hij een ingezonden brief om zich te beklagen over de 'verbale terreur' die hem overkwam. 'Tot mijn eigen verbijstering zag ik mezelf gedwongen op te treden in het SBS-programma *Shownews*'.

Van der Meulen: 'In zijn poging om wraak te nemen is Youp van 't Hek geslaagd: zijn stukje circuleert in Brabant ook al onder vele niet *NRC*-lezers, het staat op internet en het zal volgend jaar ook ongeveijfeld in zijn nieuwe bundel verschijnen. Hierdoor zal ik bij veel mensen jarenlang het door hem gecreëerde imago houden. Op die manier verwordt satire tot reputatiemoord.'

Dat het *Brabants Dagblad* inbreuk maakte op Youps privacy, erkent Van der Meulen. 'Ik had het stukje vooraaf niet gelezen. Achteraf ben ik er niet blij mee. Het ging namelijk over werkelijke helemaal negers over en was dus heel onschuldig. Het had niet in de krant gemoeten, omdat het gewoon niet zo'n goed stuk was.'

Van der Meulen is hoofdredacteur, en dus eindverantwoordelijke, dat snapt hij ook wel. Maar mag een columnist op zo'n harde wijze zijn plek in de krant gebreukken voor een persoonlijke afrekening? Zou echt elke *NRC*-lezer

hebben begrepen waar de columnist fictie bedreef en waar niet?

Van der Meulen reageerde per ingezonden brief, *NRC*-hoofdredacteur Folkert Jansma ('Ik had de column voor publicatie niet gelezen, maar ik waak ervoor in het openbaar oordelen te geven over individuele columns of columnisten – voor je het weet raak je aan het opinieklimateet binnen de krant') zal er in zijn wettelijke lezersbriefje op terug komen.

Verder staat het 'slachtoffer' tamelijk machteloos. Juridische stappen zijn geen optie voor Van der Meulen: 'Het klinkt verheven, maar ik voel mij als hoeder van het vrije woord niet in de positie om een columnist het woord te ontnemen. Ik neem van 't Hek ook niet eens zo veel kwalijk, meer zijn hoofdredacteur, die deze column heeft laten passeren. Bovendien: als ik er een zaak van maak, ben ik er nog maanden mee bezig. Daar heb ik geen zin in. En de kans bestaat ook nog dat je het verliest.'

Een columnist mag veel. Hij mag verzinnen, verdraaien en sneethard oordelen.

Alleen freelance querulant Theo van Gogh kan bogen op de reputatie door vrijwel elk medium een keer te zijn ontstagen, maar die is daar ook op uit. *Eiszevier*-hoofdredacteur Arendo Jousstra weigerde eens een column van Pim Fortuyn over de van fraude beschuldigde oud-burgemeester Bram Peper, vanwege onvoldoende feitlijke onderbouwing.

Eenmaal werd een columnist door de eigen hoofdredactie aan de kant gezet omdat hij nadrukkelijk niet over een privé-aangelegenheid wenste te schrijven. Het was Sytze Faber, behaive burgemeester van Hoogeveen ook auteur van een column in weekblad *De Tijd*. Het was midden in de afpauze rond een avondje stappen in Zwolle, waarin drank, borddeelbezoek en twee hoogwaardigheidsbekleders (onder wie Faber zelf) de hoedingsredicanten waren. Voopagmanieuws in alle kranten, maar de hoofdpersoon weigerde in zijn bijdrage voor *De Tijd* er met een woord over te reppen. Waarop de hoofdredacteur na lang aandringen de samenwerking met de columnist opzegde.

Die hoofdredacteur was Tony van der Meulen, die nu zo verbolgen is over een columnist die over zijn privé-leven schrijft. Het ligt ietste genanceerder, zegt Van der Meulen: 'Ik vond dat Faber op een of andere wijze aandacht moest besteden aan die affaire, die ten slotte landelijk nieuws was. En het grootste verschil met Van 't Hek is dat de kwestie rond Faber op waarheid berustte, terwijl Van 't Hek verzinseels opschreef.'

Slechts zelden wordt een columnist door een rechter veroordeeld.

Wijlen *Telegraaf*-columnist Leo Derksen ging ooit voor de rechter onderuit nadat hij de toenmalige ombudsman Frits Bom had vergeleken met Hitler.

En *Metro*-columnist Luuk Koelman moest onlangs een column over activiste Greta Duisenberg (opgevoerd als iemand die de liete bedreef met Yassar Arafat) van zijn website verwijderen.

Theodor Holman, columnist voor *Het Parool* en *De Groene*, mag zich ervaringsdeskundige noemen: tweemaal diende hij zich te verantwoorden voor de rechter. In *Nieuwe Revu* mocht hij de vrouwelijke leerlingen van CD-politicus Konst niet aanraden hun docent valselijk te beschuldigen van seksuele intimidatie. Holman: 'Ik geloof dat ik werd veroordeeld tot een boete van duizend gulden, wegens het aanzetten tot misdadige actie. Een terecht oordeel, vind ik achteraf.'

Tweede-Kamer voorzitter Bukman overwoog juridische stappen tegen Holman nadat die hem van ontucht had beticht, maar daar zag de voorzitter waarschijnlijk op aanraden van juristen toch maar van af. De zin 'Nog steeds vind ik iedere christenbond een misdadiger', leverde Holman vrijpraak op in een zaak wegens vermeende belediging van het christelijk volksdeel.

Waar liggen de grenzen van de columnistenvrijheid? 'Ik weet het werkelijk niet', zegt Holman. 'Ik hoop dat ik altijd binnen het betaalmelijke weet te blijven, maar tegelijk weet ik dat als ik dat niet doe, dat een functie heeft. Waar ik de wet overtreed, weet ik zeker dat het fronte betreft en dan is het weer toegestaan.'

Oud-staatssecretaris Aad Nuis heeft in 1985 in een lezing de column doodverklard, wegens gebrek aan literair gehalte. Over kwaliteit kan verschillend worden gedacht, maar feit is dat het genre nu, krap twintig jaar later, allesehalve uitgestorven is. Integendeel: de column, in de jaren zeventig vooral door toedoen van de optiemiddels verworden tot een verzaamelplaats van totaal ongelijksorttuge grootheden.

Een beetje krant kent vele tientallen cursieffes, luchting geschreven terzijdes, alsmede hele en

halve lyses of vlam-mende be-togen aan-gaande de laatste ontwikkelingen in de mon-diale politiek. Van particulier leed rond de gestorven huisspoe-tot de erudiete beschou-wing inzake de uitbreiding van de EU: het heet allemaal column. Wat een feitelijke analyse is en wat een quasi-literaire verdicling van hele en halve feiten is, blijft vaag.

Daar heeft de rechter kennelijk ook moeite mee. De beoordeling van een klacht blijkt in elk geval in de praktijk nogal eens subjectief. Wie is de auteur, op welke plek stond de column, wie is het 'slachtoffer', hoe dient de tekst te worden geïnterpreteerd – al die vragen zijn van belang voor de beoordeling en eventuele veroordeling van een column.

De consument wordt tegenwoordig al evenzeer in verwarring gebracht. Toen Theo van Gogh in zijn column voor het tv-programma van Harry Mens suggereerde dat L.P.F.-leider Mat Herben steekpenningen zou hebben aangegonnen voor de aankoop van de nieuwe Amerikaanse straaljager, verwerpte Van Gogh zich met de mededeling dat hij daar niet als journalist zat, maar slechts een gerucht doorgaf.

Maar de (ongewilde) bekentenis van Rob Oudkerk over zijn hoerrenbezoek lazen we in twee columns van Heleen van Royen, die kennelijk ineens geïnterpreteerd dienden te worden als een puur journalistieke daad. Niet dat het

van wezenlijk belang is, maar hoe moet de lezer inschatten dat *NOVA*-verslaggever Willem Lust volgt een van haar columns een haarstukje draagt? Dat zullen we pas over lange tijd weten, en dan nog alleen maar omdat dan de gerechtelijke bodemprocedure die Lust tegen de columnist aanspande is afgerond.

'Ook een columnist dient feiten als feiten te behandelen', zegt *Eiszevier*-hoofdredacteur Arendo Jousstra. Vandaar dat hij destijds de column van Pim Fortuyn over Bram Peper weigerde af te drukken. Jousstra: 'Ik heb het altijd vreemd gevonden dat voor columnisten een grotere vrijheid geldt dan voor journalisten. Daar is Nederland ook uitstek in: in de VS bijvoorbeeld staat de columnist geheel gelijk aan de journalist. En waarom ook niet?'

FOTO BRUNO PRESS

Roza Despotovic
Rode Kruislaan 709
1111 NX Diemen

5 juli 2004

betreft: leugens en geschiedvervalsing door de Volkskrant

Hoi Roza,

Voor mij was het een hele verrassing dat jij achter NEDALST zit, met die steen-goeie leuzen en de laatste demonstratie in Den Haag!
Fantastisch hoor !

Ik heb nu mijn handen vrij om met de actie tegen de Volkskrant verder te gaan.
Dus moesten we daar nu maar werk van gaan maken.

Je hebt van een aantal mensen tijdens de demonstratie de namen en adressen opgeschreven. Een paar mensen kwamen zelf al van Kosovo (in elk geval tenminste eentje dacht ik).
De volgende stap lijkt me om al die mensen een briefje te sturen met het verzoek om mensen in Kosovo, en ook mensen in Joegoslavië verdreven en uit Kosovo - familie en vrienden dus - te vragen om een machtiging te tekenen.
Waarin zij mij dus machtigen om een proces tegen de leugens van de Nederlandse media, waaronder ook de Volkskrant, te beginnen.

Concreet is dus mijn vraag: zou je al die mensen die zich bij je hebben opgegeven een briefje willen sturen ?
Voor de inhoud daarvan doe ik hierbij een voorstel. Meer dan een voorstel is het niet ! Je kan natuurlijk naar believen alles anders doen.

Concept-briefje

"Beste mensen,

Op de demonstratie in Den Haag van 26 juni gaf u zich op om mee te helpen Servische mensen in Kosovo, of ook Servische mensen verdreven uit Kosovo en nu wonend elders in Joegoslavië, te benaderen. Dit met het verzoek om mee te doen met een actie tegen de voortdurende leugens en geschiedvervalsing door de westerse media over Servië en de Serviërs.

We accepteren die constante leugens over Servië en de Serviër hier in het Westen niet langer en willen nu eindelijk een tegen-offensief inzetten.

Te beginnen bij de media in Nederland; en wel met een van de belangrijkste Nederlandse kranten, de Volkskrant.

Nederland is niet zomaar een land waar leugens over Servië en de Serviërs nog steeds aan de orde van de dag zijn, maar het land van het tribunaal van de leugen: het Joegoslavië tribunaal. Daarom is het goed om hier, in Nederland, met een tegen-offensief te beginnen !

Het enige wat de Servische mensen in Kosovo, of afkomstig uit Kosovo, die u benadert hoeven te doen is het tekenen van een machtiging aan onze advocaat hier in Nederland. Deze advocaat komt ook op voor de slachtoffers van het bombardement op de RTS-studio.

Zo'n machtiging is heel eenvoudig.
Hij kan luiden:

"Hierbij machtig ik, (namen voluit), wonende te..... (woonplaats in Kosovo, straat, nummer) [of als het gaat om uit Kosovo verdrevenen: voorheen wonende te(oude woonplaats in Kosovo), thans verblijvende te..... (woonplaats elders in Joegoslavië, straat, nummer)], mr. N.M.P. Steijnen, advocaat in Holland, om alle noodzakelijk juridische stappen te nemen tegen Nederlandse media die zich schuldig maken aan het verspreiden van verspreiden van leugens en onwaarheden over Kosovo, Servië en de Serviërs."

Gevolgd door een handtekening.

Hoe meer mensen er meedoen, hoe meer indruk het zal maken!

Er zijn GEEN kosten. Dus deelname is geheel gratis.
En er zijn ook geen andere financiële risico's.

De mensen die meedoen met deze actie tegen de geschiedenis-
vervalsing worden natuurlijk verder op de hoogte gehouden!

Dat is dus een tekst die ik kon verzinnen. Maar misschien vind je het beter om het allemaal veel korter te houden. Dan hoeft er ook minder in het Servisch vertaald te worden !
Ik laat dat natuurlijk verder aan jou over.

Ik verheug me er echt op om in de aanval te gaan tegen de Volkskrant. Hoe het verder ook afloopt, leuk vinden zullen ze het zeker niet !

hartelijke groeten,

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Sagittarius

Van: "Ian Johnson" <i-johnson@lineone.net>
Aan: <Undisclosed-Recipient:>
Verzonden: zondag 4 juli 2004 17:59
Onderwerp: CDSM: ZNet:Clinton's 'Good War' by Diana
 Thanks to BF for forwarding this. IJ.

ZNet | Kosovo

Clinton's 'Good War'

by Diana Johnstone; June 26, 2004

For U.S. politicians, if all wars are good, some are better than others. Democrats prefer Clinton wars and Republicans prefer Bush wars. But in the end, they almost unanimously come together to support all wars. The differences concern the choice of official rationale.

To suggest subtle criticism of the Republican war against Iraq, while making it clear that they are by no means opposed to war as such, the 2004 Democratic election campaigners can be expected to glorify the Kosovo war. The prominence of General Wesley Clark in the Democratic camp makes that quite clear.

John Kerry's foreign policy adviser Will Marshall of the Progressive Policy Institute, author of "Democratic Realism: the Third Way", points to the exemplary nature of the 1999 "U.S.-led intervention in Kosovo". It was "a policy consciously based on a mix of moral values and security interests with the parallel goals of halting a humanitarian tragedy and ensuring NATO's credibility as an effective force for regional stability".

The "humanitarian" rationale sounds better than the "weapons of mass destruction" or the "links to Al Qaeda" which never existed. But then, the "genocide" from which the NATO war allegedly saved the Albanians of Kosovo never existed either.

But while the WMD deception has been exposed, the founding lie behind the Kosovo war is still widely believed. It effectively distracts from the very existence of the what Marshall calls the "parallel goal" of strengthening NATO. Aside from the crippling material damage inflicted on the targeted country, the Kosovo lie has caused even more irreparable damage to relations between the Serb and Albanian inhabitants of Kosovo.

The situation in that small province of multiethnic Serbia was the result of a long and complex history of conflict, frequently encouraged and exploited by outside powers, notably by the support to Albanian nationalism by the Axis powers in World War II. Each community accused the other of plotting "ethnic cleansing" and even "genocide". But there were reasonable people on both sides willing to work out a compromise solution. The constructive role of outsiders would have been to calm the paranoid tendencies in both

communities and support constructive initiatives. Indeed, the Kosovo problem could have been easily managed, and eventually solved, had the Great Powers so desired. But as in the past, the Great Powers exploited and aggravated the ethnic conflicts for their own purposes. In total ignorance of the complex history of the region, sheeplike politicians and media echoed and amplified the most extreme nationalist Albanian propaganda. This provided NATO with its pretext to demonstrate "credibility". The Great Powers have in effect told the Albanians that all their worst accusations against the Serbs were true. Even Albanians know who know better (such as Veton Surroi) are intimidated and silenced by the racist nationalists backed by the United States.

The result is disastrous. Empowered by their official status as unique victims of Serb iniquity, the Albanians of Kosovo -- and especially the youth, raised on a decade of nationalist myth -- can give free rein to their cultivated hatred of the Serbs. Armed Albanian nationalists proceeded to drive the Serbian and gypsy populations out of the province. Those remaining do not dare venture out of their ghettos. Albanians willing to live with the Serbs risk being murdered. Ever since the NATO-led force (KFOR) marched into Kosovo in June 1999, violent persecution of Serbs and Roma has been regularly described as "revenge" -- which in the Albanian tradition is considered the summit of virtuous conduct. Describing the murder of elderly women in their homes or children at play as acts of "revenge" is a way of excusing or even approving the violence.

Last March 17, following the false accusation that Serbs organized mobs of Albanians, including many teenagers, rampaged through Kosovo destroying 35 Serbian Orthodox Christian churches and monasteries, some of them artistic gems dating from the fourteenth century. Well over a hundred churches had already been attacked with fire and explosives in the past five years. The objective is quite clearly to erase all historic trace of centuries of Serb presence, the better to assert their claim to an ethnically pure Albanian Kosovo.

The self-satisfaction of the "international community" was severely shaken by the March violence. The occasional KFOR units that tried to protect Serb sites found themselves in armed clashes with Albanian mobs. In the wake of the rampages, Finnish politician Harri Holkeri resigned two months before expiration of his one-year renewable mandate as head of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) supposed to administer the province. He was the fourth to get out of the job as fast as he could. Apparently on the verge of a nervous breakdown, Holkeri lamented to a press conference that UNMIK has no intelligence service of its own, and had received no prior hint of the March pogroms. In short, the mass of international administrators, military occupation forces and non-governmental agencies have no idea what is going on in the province they are theoretically running. Indicating his awareness that the only role left for UNMIK was that of scapegoat, Holkeri warned of "difficult days ahead". That is a safe prediction.

Trouble ahead

On June 11, the former leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army leader Hashim Thaci, the protege of Madeleine Albright and her press officer James Rubin, denounced UNMIK as a "complete failure" and announced that, if he wins Kosovo's forthcoming elections in October, he will implement his "vision of Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state".

The circumstances suggest that not only Thaci, but any newly elected Kosovo may do the same. Proclamation of Kosovo's independence on the eve of U.S. presidential elections could be shrewd timing. With Iraq exploding, American leaders need to maintain the myth of the "success" in Kosovo. Getting into open conflict with the Albanians could be politically disastrous.

At the same time, many Europeans saw the anti-Serb pogroms in March as evidence that Kosovo has a long way to go to reach the "standards" of democratic human rights and ethnic harmony which UNMIK is mandated to achieve before any final decision on the province's status.

There are serious reasons not to give in to the Albanian demand for an "independent and sovereign Kosovo".

1. Legality.

First of all, there is the minor question of legality: minor, inasmuch as the NATO powers have ignored it from the start. The war itself was totally devoid of any legitimate basis in international law. It was officially concluded in June 1999 by a peace accord incorporated into U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244, which, among other things, obliged the occupying powers to :

- "ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants of Kosovo" - which logically should mean "all", and not solely the Albanians;
- "ensure the safe and free return of all refugees and displaced persons" - by which the U.S. negotiators probably meant the Albanians who had fled during the bombing, but since they promptly returned on their own, without difficulty, this stipulation in reality refers to Serbs, Rom and other non-Albanians forced to flee;
- establish an interim political framework "taking full account of [...]the principles of sovereignty and integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" - which amounts to recognition that Kosovo remains part of a larger political entity made up of Serbia and Montenegro;
- permit the return of an agreed number of Yugoslav and Serbian personnel, including border control police and customs agents;
- effect the maintenance of civil law and order and the protection of human rights.

In reality, once the United States got its big military foot in the door, Resolution 1244 was scarcely worth the paper it was written on.

The United States had other priorities:

-- First, in record time, the Pentagon built an enormous military base, "Camp Bondsteel", on a thousand acres of illegally expropriated farmland strategically located near trans-Balkan transit routes, on the approaches to the Middle East and Caspian Sea oil transport.

-- The other obvious U.S. priority was to preserve the clandestine wartime alliance with the "Kosovo Liberation Army", not only against the Serbs, but also, implicitly, against any European allies which might seek influence in post-conquest Kosovo. After a sham "disarmament" disposing of a few obsolete light arms, the KLA was renamed the "Kosovo Protection Force" and put on the U.N. payroll. Certain of its officers proceeded to mount armed actions to extend "greater Albania" to neighboring Macedonia and parts of Southern Serbia next to Kosovo. These operations were launched from the American sector, next to Camp Bondsteel.

-- As for the internal organization of Kosovo itself, the U.S. priority is, as usual, privatization of the economy. Privatization in practice starts with dismantling whatever government services existed, on the theory that without government interference, private initiative will flourish.

In a very special sense, this has indeed proved to be the case. Kosovo, already a transit area for the largest amount of heroin smuggled from Turkey to Western Europe, has rapidly become the center of a new trade in women sex slaves. The Albanian mafia is by far the biggest operator in these trades. The "internationals" who have come to "civilize" the province provide a thriving local market for prostitutes. If they ever go home, the Albanian mafia can count on the networks it has developed throughout Western Europe to keep business going.

2. The economy.

In socialist Yugoslavia, Kosovo was by far the poorest area in Yugoslavia, with the highest rate of chronic unemployment. It still is. But then, it benefited from injection of the largest amount of development funds from the rest of the country. Although the sentiment that their poverty was a result of exploitation contributed to the rise of Kosovo Albanian nationalism, the fact is that Kosovo was always heavily subsidized by the rest of Yugoslavia, and as a result was considerably more developed than neighboring Albania.

Since the NATO occupation, Kosovo lives off other sources of income, mainly the flourishing drugs and sex trades. The "international community" has contributed a patchwork of social services (from UNMIK police to NGO counselors) that provide a temporary substitute for the expulsion of the local branches of the Serbian government. Camp Bondsteel provides the largest number of legitimate jobs to Albanians, and may continue to do so even after the demand for chauffeurs and interpreters dries up as the NGOs go home. Saudi Arabia can be counted on to finance mosque construction. But with a per capita income of about \$30 per month, it is hard to see where

an "independent Kosovo" could scrape up the tax base to pay for a government, especially since so much of the real income is illicit, outside the reach of tax collectors.

Kosovo is only an extreme case of the "transition" from socialism to the free market, as imposed on Eastern Europe by the "international community". The State and its services were removed by NATO military force, whereas elsewhere the demolition process has been more gradual and less dramatic, the result of pressures from the IMF, the World Bank and the European Union. The mass of unemployed young men have little prospect of earning a living other than by getting in on the crime business. It is hard to see what can prevent "independent Kosovo" from being an uncontrollable crime center.

At the end of World War II, in order to defeat the Fascists and combat the Communists, U.S. intelligence services cynically brought the Mafia back to Sicily. The parallel with Kosovo does not go beyond that. For unlike Kosovo, Sicily is an essentially rich island, with a diversified economy and numerous centuries-old sophisticated urban centers where large sectors of a highly educated population have courageously resisted the corruption and violence of the mafia. This aspect of Sicilian society is insufficiently appreciated abroad, where it is more "romantic" to glorify the gangsters. In comparison, Kosovo Albanian society simply does not possess such material or cultural resources for resisting the power of the new mafias that, while feeding on certain clan traditions, are above all a product of neoliberal globalism.

3. Human rights.

The protection of "human rights" was the pretext for the 1999 war. In terms of everyday human relations, the situation is far worse than before. This is not widely recognized for two reasons. One, since the "international community" rather than Milosevic is in charge, media interest in Kosovo has virtually evaporated. Second, the victims of persecution and harassment, the children whose school buses are stoned, the old people who are beaten and whose houses are set on fire, the farmers who do not dare go out to cultivate their fields, the hundreds of thousands of refugees from "ethnic cleansing" ... are Serbs. Or sometimes gypsies. Western media early on identified "the Serbs" as the enemies of "multi-ethnic society" and the perpetrators of "ethnic cleansing". The curious result seems to be that the absence of Serbs is understood as the best guarantee of a multi-ethnic society. This, at any rate, is the logic of the attitude taken by the international community in regard to the Ibar valley region of Kosovo north of Mitrovica.

That area, which forms a sort of point reaching into central Serbia, is the largest remaining part of Kosovo where Serbs retain a traditional majority sufficient to defend themselves from Albanian intimidation. When, as happens from time to time, Albanian militants from the ethnically purified region south of the Ibar attempt to cross the river, they are stopped by Serb guards. In this situation, "international community" spokesmen almost invariably take the line that Serb extremists are standing in the way of "multi-

ethnic" Kosovo. The fact is deliberately overlooked that, while a certain number of Albanians are still living in Serb-controlled northern Mitrovica, all Serbs and Rom have been driven out of southern Mitrovica, and that if the Albanian activists were granted free access to the north, the probable result would be further ethnic cleansing of what remains of the Serb population.

For some in the "international community", that would be an ideal solution. Once all non-Albanians have been driven out, the professional humanitarians can declare that Kosovo is "multi-ethnic", and there will be nobody left there to dispute this triumphant assertion.

The overriding concern of the West now is to get out of the Kosovo mess in a way that will allow it to continue to celebrate the Kosovo war as a great humanitarian success. Having left the Balkans in a shambles, the human rights warriors can go on to other victories. The only thing to stop them might be a belated recognition of the truth.

Diana Johnstone is the author of *Fools' Crusade: Yugoslavia, Nato, and Western Delusions* published by Monthly Review Press.

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Sagittarius

Van: "Hans Hupkes" <hans.hupkes@planet.nl>
 Aan: "hans privé" <hans.hupkes@planet.nl>; "Ruza" <despot@tiscali.nl>; "Jan Beentjes" <jbeentjes@mac.com>; "Meindert Stelling" <meindert.stelling@planet.nl>; "Nico Steijnen" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
 Verzonden: dinsdag 29 juni 2004 21:35
 Onderwerp: Fw: vraag en informatie
 Ter info. Een journalist van de GPD (regionale kranten, meer dan een miljoen lezers) die meedenkt. Ik heb deze oud-collega die mij met 'meneer' aanspreekt overigens al geantwoord.

Vr. gr. Hans.

— Original Message —

From: Carel Goseling
 To: hans.hupkes@planet.nl
 Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2004 4:01 PM
 Subject: vraag en informatie

Meneer Hupkes,
 Na mijn bezoek gisteren aan de rechtbank met De Grave heeft mr. Steijnen volgens het ANP nog een nader verzoek gedaan. Kunt u dat aub. voor mij toelichten want ik was toen al weg wegens andere werkzaamheden.

Voor 'de zaak' zend ik u hierbij tevens een bericht dat wellicht bruikbaar is:

NATO "Won't Pay Damages" to Kosovo Civilians for 1999 War

B92/HINA <http://www.b92.net/english/news/index.php?nav_id=28884&style=headlines>,
 June 25, 2004

NATO "won't pay damages"

-The Kosovo ombudsman [Poland's Marek Antony Nowicki] recently asked NATO to compensate people who had suffered damage during its attacks.

<<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/158367084X/realitymacedo-20>>

<<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/158367084X/realitymacedo-20>>PRISTINA -
 NATO won't pay compensation to Kosovars who suffered damage from its bombing raids in 1999, the alliance's secretary-general said today.

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, in a letter to Kosovo Ombudsman Marek Antony Nowicki, said that NATO had taken measures to reduce the danger of direct damage and would not take responsibility for collateral damage.

He noted that the bombing had been aimed at preventing a mass violation of human rights by the Yugoslav authorities and to protect the people of Kosovo from a catastrophe.

The Kosovo ombudsman recently asked NATO to compensate people who had suffered damage during its attacks.

Tanjug, June 25, 2004

NATO does not consider itself responsible for suffering of civilians

-The ombudsman's office wrote to Scheffer on January 22 this year, on behalf of the numerous Serb families whose members were victims of the consequences of the NATO air strikes in 1999, asking him about possibilities for remuneration for the suffered losses, mental pain, or material damage.

<<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/189589610X/realitymacedo-20>>

<<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/189589610X/realitymacedo-20>> BELGRADE - NATO does not consider itself responsible for any mental or physical damages suffered by citizens during the air strikes on Kosovo and Metohija, nor does it consider itself authorized to provide any material compensation to such persons, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said in a letter sent to the office of the ombudsman for Kosovo, Marek Novicki.

The ombudsman's office wrote to Scheffer on January 22 this year, on behalf of the numerous Serb families whose members were victims of the consequences of the NATO air strikes in 1999, asking him about possibilities for remuneration for the suffered losses, mental pain, or material damage.

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Het aangrijpendst zijn de passages over levende mensen. Een vrouw in Rwanda stort in als Koff haar een restje kleding van een familielid laat zien. Bij Srebrenica, waar Servische strijders duizenden Moslim-mannen hebben vermoord, stuiten de onderzoekers op een vijandige Servische bevolking. Dat maakt het werk heel anders dan in Rwanda waar de overlevenden hunkerden naar nieuws. 28-6-2009

In Kroatië reageren de families van de slachtoffers negatief op het onderzoek. De actiegroep Moeders van Vukovar was ervan overtuigd dat hun mannen en zoons nog leefden en eisten politieke druk om de 'verdwenenen' op te sporen, in plaats van opgravingen. Het plaatst Koff voor een groot dilemma: haar doel is de nabestaanden hun doden terug te geven, maar wat te doen als die familieleden niet willen geloven dat ze dood zijn?

Het graf buiten Vukovar bevatte de stoffelijke resten van 250 patiënten die door een Servische knokploeg uit het ziekenhuis waren ontvoerd en vermoord. Het proces bij het Joegoslavië Tribunaal tegen de commandanten loopt nog, maar het bewijs is geleverd. Belangrijker voor Koff was dat de moeders van Vukovar van gedachten veranderden. Alle lichamen werden geïdentificeerd. Toen Koff de videobeelden zag van de emotionele begrafenissen die daarop volgden, moest ze huilen.

Wim Bossema

Clea Koff: De bottenvrouw.
Muntinga; € 18,95.

Sagittarius

Van: "M Gavrilovic" <mishag1@cwcom.net>
Aan: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Verzonden: donderdag 17 juni 2004 16:50
Onderwerp: RE: International Demonstrations in The Hague - 26th June
 Dear Nico,

Thank you very much for your positive response re event on the 26th and your willingness to address the demonstrators.

I also note with considerable pleasure your preparedness to go on the counter-offensive re media. I have already sent a note re this to some relevant people. You should make this point strongly during the speech as well.

Best Regards

Misha Gavrilovic

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

From: Sagittarius [mailto:sagitar@hetnet.nl]
Sent: 15 June 2004 10:15
To: M Gavrilovic
Subject: Re:

Dear Misha,

Of course I will join the demonstration on 26th June and I also will be a speaker for the five minutes reserved to me.

A question also directly to you: we, here in the Netherlands, will challenge, on behalf of Serbian people from Kosovo, the distortions in the Dutch media about Serbia and Kosovo in court. For us, it's time now for a contra-offensive ! So we intend to institute legal proceedings against the leading Dutch daily magazine "De Volkskrant". Therefore we need the participation of people in Serbia itself, especially people from Kosovo. In order to build a strong case (THEY are the victims of those continuous lies, resulting in lack of help from the international community, so THEY have to act as plaintiffs).

All we need from people in Serbia, especially from Kosovo is a written authorization, saying, in Serbia, or in English: "Herewith I, the undersigned, authorize the Netherlands lawyer mr. N.M.P. Steijnen to represent me in legal action against those Netherlands newspapers and media which spread lies and distorted information about Serbia and Serbians." That's all. No costs and no risks for the participants.

I realize that people in Serbia, especially from Kosovo, have today other things in mind than challenging the continuous lies of western media, but maybe you can find people with enough political feeling to co-operate.

The first juridical discussions with De Volkskrant we have already behind us. And I can tell you: they don't like the idea of standing in court for such a case !

greetings,

Nico Steijnen

— Original Message —

From: M Gavrilovic

To: sagitar@hetnet.nl

Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2004 3:51 AM

21-6-04

Dear Nico,

This is to invite you to our Demonstrations on 26th June at The Hague. The Organising Committee would also be very pleased if you could agree to be a speaker at the event. Something like 5 minutes re the case(s), especially the RTS one, that you are prosecuting.

Please let me know if you can attend. I already left a message on your answerphone a few days ago. You can also reach me at 0044-20-8977-9654.

Best Regards,

Misha Gavrilovic

Nedanst

(Nedamo Istoriju - We shall not surrender Our History)

Initiative of the Serbian Diaspora

calls for

The 3rd International Demonstrations in The Hague

Saturday, 26th June 2004

**14:00 Speeches in the "Plein" square near the
Dutch Parliament**

15:00 Protest march to Sheveningen prison

**16:00-17:00 Rally outside prison walls at
Sheveningen**

with Serbian and International Speakers with the message :

The Aggressor shall not write our history!

We know:

21-6-04

- The Aggressors' and Occupiers' Name and Identity
- Those responsible for allowing the destruction of our holy sites and heritage in Kosovo
- Who was bombing and destroying:

schools, hospitals, the TV station and its employees, the train and passengers, bridges, Milica, Sanja, . .

- Whose media are DISHONEST and how they operate

We know:

- The owner of the so-called 'Tribunal' and the purpose it serves
- The real 'guilt' of the Serbian and Yugoslav prisoners
- Who resisted and who worked for the NATO Aggressor
- Who is trying to erase our history and substitute the NATO version

*It is for us to say this and more, and above all to show respect for the victims
foreign Aggression, and to give support to those who are being 'tried' in our
name*

clearly, unequivocally, with dignity - in English, in Serbian, in German

Nedalst Organising Committee:

Amsterdam-London-Hanover-Vienna

(supported by ICDSM – the International Committee for the Defence of Slobodan Milosevic)

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Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Meindert Stelling" <meindert.stelling@planet.nl>; "Nico & Neeltje" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>;
 "Klaus Hartmann" <klaus.hartmann@user.ecore.net>; "Misa Gavrilovic"
 <mishag1@cwcom.net>
Verzonden: donderdag 10 juni 2004 23:29
Onderwerp: Fw: Eve-Ann Prentice: Demonisation of the Serbian nation

— Original Message —

From: nebojsa
To: R Despotovic
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2004 11:39 AM
Subject: Eve-Ann Prentice: Demonisation of the Serbian nation

Author: Eve-Ann Prentice

Publisher/Date: *The Times* (UK), March 28, 2000

Title: Demonisation of the Serbian nation

Original location: <http://www.sunday-times.co.uk/news/pages/tim/2000/03/28/x-timfeafea03007.html>

In the final extract from her book, *Eve-Ann Prentice* describes how throughout the Balkan conflicts the Western powers consistently blamed the Serbs for the fighting.

During Nato's bombing campaign in 1999, Serbs repeatedly referred to the plight of the Native American as an example of American hypocrisy. The Serbs, they said, were consistently demonised, yet the antecedents of today's Pentagon planners had indulged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing of their own that made Kosovo pale by comparison.

All nations have dark secrets, including those at the helm of Nato, today's self-appointed world policemen, the Serbs protested. Western claims that sanctions and missiles have been aimed at the Belgrade regime and not at the Serbian people are scorned. Most Serbs take it personally when their homes and workplaces are bombed, their fields turned to minefields by unexploded cluster bombs, and the southern part of the country is turned into a virtual no-go area patrolled by foreign troops.

What lies behind the West's apparent demonisation of the Serbs? The Yugoslav President's ability to whip up Serb nationalism to battle-ready fervour is one reason, but he could not have done so without knowing that something in the Serb psyche never flinches from a fight, while at the same time revelling in the role of victim. Like the Irish, the Serbs can be fierce fighters and drinkers, as well as poets, songsters and lifelong friends after a few minutes' acquaintance. They can also be very superstitious and have a tendency to paranoia, traits that make them all the more malleable in the hands of Slobodan Milosevic.

Throughout the war the West blamed the Serbs for the fighting while minimising the impact of battles launched by Croats or Muslims. The Serbs were better armed and battle-ready, so were better equipped to pursue their war aims. But their goal was the same as that of the Croats and Muslims: to control as much territory for their people as possible. It was clear that the multicultural society imposed by Tito, largely as a way to neutralise Serb power, could not exist after Yugoslavia broke apart. So battles to create individual areas for Serbs, Croats and Muslims were almost inevitable. It was also misleading to dub the Serbs' campaigns "ethnic cleansing": Serbs, Croats and Muslims in

Bosnia are ethnically identical. They are all Slavs, the Muslims having converted from Christianity to Islam when the region was under Ottoman rule to gain economic advantages from their rulers.

The fighting in Bosnia was vicious and the international community was bound to intervene. Humanitarian aid was desperately needed and attempts had to be made to bring the warring parties to a negotiated settlement. But by portraying the Serbs as the guilty party, the West was taking sides. The Croats had powerful allies in Germany and the Vatican; the Muslims won America's support by default: any enemy of the communist Serbs was Washington's friend.

By the time the Kosovo crisis reached meltdown in 1999, there was almost no difference in many people's minds between Milosevic, the Yugoslav Army and the Serbian people. When more than 200,000 Serbs and Roma Gypsies were forced to flee Kosovo after Nato entered the province with its KLA protégés, there was barely a whimper of protest in the West. Almost the entire Serbian population of Kosovo left the province in the two months after Nato's arrival in mid-June, proportionately far more than the ethnic Albanians whose exodus sparked the bombing campaign. Yet the West's attitude was that the Serbs somehow deserved it, and many from Kosovo must have at least known of the atrocities against the Albanian population. The fact that at least half the Kosovo Serb refugees were children, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, seemed to make no difference. This annoying statistic merely muddled the waters.

Ethnic cleansing has been a clever, evocative term, with undertones of Hitler's Final Solution. But there is no similarity between the Third Reich and post-Tito Yugoslavia. The Holocaust was a concerted campaign to exterminate Jews, Gypsies and other races deemed inferior by the Nazis; the victims, for their part, were largely innocents. In Yugoslavia the Serbs' main aim in the wars of the past decade has been to terrorise non-Serbs into leaving certain areas. Many were killed and the policy was cruel, but it was not systematic annihilation. And the same methods were used by Croats and Muslims — to a lesser degree, it is true, but still to the full extent of their military capabilities. Croats were less than gentle in pulverising the Muslim quarter of the medieval Bosnian town of Mostar or in expelling 200,000 Serbs from the Krajina region of Croatia in August 1995. Yet few in the West threw up their hands in horror at these actions.

There was much talk in the UK press during the Bosnian conflict of "concentration camps" run by Serbs. Pictures of gaunt faces peering from behind barbed-wire fences were eerily similar to scenes discovered by the Allies at Nazi death camps in the last weeks of the Second World War. But the purpose of the Nazi camps was genocide, the mass murder of non-Aryan men, women and children. The main aim of Bosnian Serb prison camps was the detention and interrogation of non-Serb males, often captured in battle. The regimes at the Serbian prison camps were undoubtedly brutal and many died, but similar sites were run by Muslims and Croats and no one tagged them "concentration camps".

Since the fall of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc, Europe and America have broadly seen Yugoslavia as a socialist blot on a newly capitalist landscape. Milosevic and those close to him knew this from the start but were determined to cling to power, not least because they were passionate communists, but in part because of the privileges power has brought. Simultaneously, many Yugoslavs envied the new money-making opportunities available to Poles, Hungarians and Czechs after communism's demise. Opposition to Milosevic's regime has several times led to huge street protests. But the West's decision to bomb Serbia over the Kosovo crisis cast the Serb nation into limbo and forced the majority to unite against what they saw as a common foe. It is like a family feud: internally there is criticism of Milosevic and his henchmen, but woe betide any outsider who tries to intervene.

Milosevic has repeatedly been dubbed a dictator by the West, even though he has been elected three times, twice as Serbian leader and once as Yugoslav President. These polls were monitored by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, but were still widely criticised inside and

outside the country. Still, it is inaccurate to describe the Belgrade regime as a dictatorship; that tag belongs to the likes of the regimes of Idi Amin in Uganda, or the Duvaliers in Haiti. By calling their leader a dictator, many Serbs feel that the West is calling into question their right to elect whom they choose.

One of the West's declared aims since the bombing ended has been removing Milosevic from power. Apart from the fact that the world's powers were happy to deal with him when it suited them, notably during the 1995 Dayton talks to end the Bosnian conflict, most Serbs feel that the choice of who leads them is no one's business but their own. Far from undermining the Yugoslav leader, Nato's bombing, coupled with crippling sanctions, has increased Serbian hostility to the West, to Milosevic's advantage.

Extracted from *One Woman's War* by Eve-Ann Prentice, to be published by Duck Editions on April 13 at £14.99. *Times* readers can buy it for £11.99, including p&p, from *The Times* Bookshop, 0870-160 8080.

© Eve-Ann Prentice

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Een Servis onder tel. nr. 020-6766645

Zou voor Morse uit Moskou zeggen!

→

030-6957830

Aan de aanwezigen op de herdenkings-bijeenkomst
ter gelegenheid van vijf jaar na de aanvang van
de NAVO-bombardementen op Joegoslavië

9 juni 2004

Beste mensen,

Ik schrijf jullie omdat jullie behoorden tot de bezoekers van de herdenkingsbijeenkomst bij Global Reflexion in Amsterdam ter gelegenheid van vijf jaar na het begin van de NAVO-agressie tegen Joegoslavië.

We hadden toen, kort voordat deze bijeenkomst plaatsvond, net allemaal weer in de kranten kunnen lezen, en van de media kunnen vernemen, hoe de anti-Servische berichtgeving werd voortgezet. Dit in verband met de anti-Servische pogroms in Kosovo, waarbij tientallen Serviërs werden gedood, honderden werden gewond en duizenden werden verdreven. Terwijl onvervangbaar cultureel en religieus erfgoed op grote schaal werd vernietigd.

De Nederlandse media deden opnieuw hun uiterste best om de omvang en ware aard van deze gebeurtenissen te camoufleren, of zelfs de Serviërs regelrecht de schuld daarvan in de schoenen te schuiven.

Op deze herdenkingsbijeenkomst spraken wij af om dit niet langer te accepteren en om een juridisch tegenoffensief tegen de voortdurende anti-Servische hetze in te zetten. Om te beginnen met een van de ergste kranten: de Volkskrant.

Ik hoop dat u zich dat allemaal nog herinnert.

Zoals afgesproken, heb ik daarop de juridische aanval op de Volkskrant geopend. Dat heeft geleid tot een aantal ontwikkelingen, waarvan ik verslag doe in de bijgaande brief onder de kop:

"De anti-Servische berichtgeving van de Volkskrant komt voor de rechter".

Zoals blijkt uit dit verslag zijn de ontwikkelingen die uit deze eerste stap zijn voortgevloeid zeker niet negatief !

De conclusie die ik trek uit de reacties van de Volkskrant tot nu toe, is dat ze liefst een kort geding willen vermijden. Ze zijn kennelijk bang voor de daaruit voor de Volkskrant voortvloeiende negatieve publiciteit.

En dat moet voor ons nu juist reden zijn om dit kort geding door te zetten !

We moeten, nu eindelijk, eens een keer duidelijk laten weten dat we het niet langer accepteren !

En dan kom ik nu tot het ware probleem.

Zoals jullie weten zijn er voor zo'n kort geding tegen de Volkskrant mensen nodig, liefst verdrevenen uit Kosovo, namens wie ik zo'n kort geding kan aanspannen.

Met andere woorden: ik moet hiervoor de machtiging hebben van een aantal Serviërs, liefst verdrevenen uit Kosovo, namens welke personen ik dat kort geding kan aanspannen.

Nu zijn er op de bijeenkomst in Amsterdam een aantal mensen geweest, die mij hebben beloofd om er, via hun contacten in Servië, voor te zorgen dat ik een aantal schriftelijke machtigingen van mensen in Servië zou krijgen.

Maar helaas heb ik tot op heden niets ontvangen ! Niemand heeft mij aan machtigingen uit Servië geholpen.

Met als gevolg dat ik helaas geen verdere stappen tegen de Volkskrant kan ondernemen. Want: geen machtigingen, geen kort geding !

Ik zou dan ook iedereen nog eens met klem willen vragen: vraag mensen in Servië, liefst afkomstig uit Kosovo, die u kunt bereiken, om mij te machtigen om de negatieve publiciteit over de Serviërs en over Kosovo bij de Nederlandse media aan te pakken.

Om te beginnen met de Volkskrant !

Voldoende is dat mensen in Servië, liefst afkomstig uit Kosovo, mij, rechtstreeks of via uzelf, een briefje, fax of mailtje sturen waarin staat, in het Servisch, Engels of Nederlands:

"Hierbij machtig ik,..... (naam), (huidige woonplaats), (adres), ondergetekende, de Nederlandse advocaat mr. N.M.P. Steijnen, om voor mij op te treden tegen Nederlandse kranten en media die leugens en lasterlijke informatie over Servië en de Serviërs verspreiden."

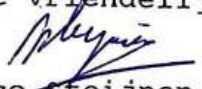
Pas als ik van dergelijke briefjes, per fax, per post of per e-mail, er een aantal in handen heb, kan ik verder gaan met de voorbereidingen van het proces tegen de Volkskrant.

En u weet: het meedoen van Serviërs daaraan in Servië is geheel kosteloos. En zonder verdere verplichtingen.

Dus nogmaals: help me aan zulke machtigingen van Serviërs in Servië. En we kunnen de Nederlandse media die constant bezig zijn met hun leugens en lastercampagne juridisch gaan aanpakken !

Voor nadere informatie kunt u me natuurlijk altijd bellen of mailen !

met vriendelijke groeten,


Nico Steijnen

DE ANTI-SERVISCHE BERICHTGEVING VAN DE VOLKSKRANT KOMT VOOR DE RECHTER

Er bestaat in de na-oorlogse westerse geschiedenis geen voorbeeld van meer intense, grootscheepsere en beter afgestemde vervalsing van de historische werkelijkheid dan met betrekking tot de ontwikkelingen in het voormalige Joegoslavië het geval is.

De gelijkschakeling in de westerse media is daaromtrent voortdurend perfect geweest, tot op de dag van vandaag toe.

Een belangrijk bestanddeel van de systematische campagne om de weloverwogen westerse vernietiging van Joegoslavië aan het oog te onttrekken, is de Serviërs, onder leiding van Milosevic, de 'slager van Belgrado', van alles wat er gebeurd is de schuld geven.

Het Joegoslavië Tribunaal is uitsluitend opgericht om deze benadering zijn definitieve beslag te doen krijgen en van een omkransing van 'het recht' te voorzien. De rest van het Joegoslavië Tribunaal dient alleen maar ter camouflage van dit centrale doel.

Toen in maart jongstleden in heel Kosovo pogroms tegen de daar nog wonende Serviërs losbarsten, was het dus meteen weer raak. De desinformatie in veel westerse media was, als vanouds, weer niet van de lucht.

Maar nu werd het tijd om e.e.a. niet langer te tolereren en een tegen-offensief in te zetten.

Als voorbeeld-krant werd de Volkskrant uitgekozen.

Op 30 maart 2004 werd de hoofdredacteur van deze krant, namens een aantal uit Kosovo verdreven Serviërs, gesommeerd om overleg aan te bieden over de vraag hoe aan de systematische leugens van de Volkskrant over Kosovo en de Serviërs een eind zou kunnen worden gemaakt.

In deze sommatie werd een uitgebreide analyse van de leuchtenachtigheid en onwaarachtigheid van de Volkskrant-berichtgeving over de recente pogroms en etnische zuiveringen jegens Serviërs in Kosovo opgenomen.

Dit onderverwijzing naar de langlopende en systematische Volkskrant-leugens over het aantal uit Kosovo verdreven Serviërs, dat in een Volkskrant-artikel van 5 februari 2003 werd gesteld op "meer dan duizend".

In deze sommatie werd in dit verband voorts aangegeven:

"..dat als men bij de Volkskrant kennelijk opgewonden raakt van het vervalsen van de geschiedenis, we op dit gebied binnenkort nog wel meer kunnen verwachten. Zoals de bewering..dat bij de holocaust in de Tweede Wereldoorlog 'zo'n 25.000 joden zijn vermoord' (6 miljoen gedeeld door een factor 230)."

Bij brief van 6 april 2004 reageert hoofdredacteur Broertjes op deze sommatie en stelt daarin onder meer:

"Wij hebben kennis genomen van uw uitvoerige e-mail van 29 maart jl., waarin u namens uw cliënten de Volkskrant vooringenomenheid verwijt tegen Serviërs die tijdens en na de oorlog in 1999 uit Kosovo zijn gevlucht. Daarbij legt u vooral ook de nadruk op de aantallen vluchtelingen die in de Volkskrant vergaand onderschat zouden zijn.

Wat dit laatste betreft uit u om te beginnen felle kritiek op een bericht in de Volkskrant van 5 februari, volgens hetwelk het aantal vluchtelingen 'meer dan duizend' zou bedragen. Op 6 februari 2003 hebben wij deze - aan een technische oorzaak te wijten - fout echter gerectificeerd en het aantal op 200.000 geschat."

Overigens, maar dit hier terzijde, deze rectificatie werd niet op 6 februari 2003 in de Volkskrant opgenomen, maar later, en wel eerst nadat de Volkskrant daartoe uitdrukkelijk, namens een aantal Serviërs, was gesommeerd.

Verder schreef Broertjes op 6 april 2004:

"Voorts achten wij de beschuldiging van opzettelijke desinformatie aangaande het lot van Servische vluchtelingen niet gegrond. Door de Volkskrant is steeds ruimschoots aandacht besteed aan het lot van deze vluchtelingen (...)."

Broertjes besloot:

"Naar wij hopen is met het voorgaande de bezorgdheid van uw cliënten over de berichtgeving van de Volkskrant ten aanzien van Servische vluchtelingen weggenomen."

Daarop reageerde ik, namens de Kosovaarse Serviërs, op 6 april als volgt:

"In antwoord op mijn sommatie namens cliënten geeft u aan dat de Volkskrant steeds 'ruimschoots aandacht' zou hebben besteed aan het lot van de Servische vluchtelingen. Indien u mij van deze 'ruimschootse aandacht' de vindplaatsen kunt geven, zal dit voor mijn cliënten grond opleveren om van hun voornemen om de Volkskrant in kort geding te betrekken af te zien."

Op 15 april 2004 riposteerde Broertjes hierop onder meer als volgt:

"Hoewel onzes inziens het niet aan de Volkskrant is haar goede trouw aan te tonen, zenden wij u hierbij een greep van circa 15 artikelen uit de Volkskrant van 1999 tot heden, waarin Servische vluchtelingen ter sprake komen."

Bijgesloten waren 15 artikelen, die voor 80% niets of vrijwel

niets met het lot van Servische vluchtelingen te maken hadden, laat staan dat zij gingen over het lot van Servische vluchtelingen specifiek uit Kosovo.

Dat voor het verdwijnen van bezorgdheid ten aanzien van de Volkskrant-berichtgeving over de Serviërs natuurlijk ook overigens volstrekt geen grond was, bleek uit het feit dat intussen het systematische karakter van de anti-Servische desinformatie in de Volkskrant gewoon werd voortgezet.

In een artikel in de Volkskrant van 14 april 2004 werd de foto van de uitgemergelde man achter prikkeldraad tijdens de oorlog in Bosnië aan de orde gesteld. De bewuste foto werd, voor de zoveelste keer, gepubliceerd. Met als ondertekening: "Moslim-gevangene in Bosnië".

Op 14 april 2004 schreef ik daarop aan Broertjes onder meer:

"In aanvulling op mijn sommatie namens een aantal uit Kosovo verdreven burgers van 30 maart j.l., thans nog het volgende....Zoals heel de wereld nu al vele jaren maar al te goed bekend is, berust deze foto op een opzettelijke vervalsing van de werkelijkheid en bevonden de betrokkenen zich niet achter het prikkeldraad, maar ervoor. Van een concentratiekamp was dan ook geen sprake.

Nochtans zijn de gevolgen van deze opzettelijke vervalsing inderdaad die geweest die ...worden aangegeven: alle Serviërs werden hierop aangekeken en als nazi's en bad guys beschouwd.

Mag de Volkskrant, zelfs nog in 2004, zulke leugens kunstmatig in stand houden ?"

Uiteraard werd deze opgeworpen vraag in het vervolg van de aanvullende sommatie negatief beantwoord.

Wederom werd in deze aanvullende sommatie bereidheid geëist om te praten over herstel van de jegens de Serviërs aangerichte schade.

Bij brief van 22 april 2004 werd hierop door de advocaat van de Volkskrant de bereidheid uitgesproken tot een nader gesprek over een en ander.

Aan de advocaat van de Volkskrant werd vervolgens kenbaar gemaakt dat bezinning over de verder te voeren koers zou plaatsvinden en dat te zijner tijd hem hierover zal worden bericht.

Op 28 april 2004 kwam Volkskrant-redacteur Olaf Tempelman, in de sommaties voortdurend met name genoemd als de grote verspreider van de anti-Servische publicaties in de Volkskrant, in een persoonlijke column hierop terug. En wel op een manier waaruit blijkt dat de druiven voor hem zuur zijn.

Hij schrijft hierin onder anderen :

"Niettemin is er een fanatieke groep lezers die alles wat over het voormalig Joegoslavië verschijnt toetst aan de eigen overtuiging. Die bestaat niet alleen uit ex-Joegoslaven in Nederland, maar ook uit Nederlanders die hun ziel en zaligheid klaarblijkelijk met een van de etnische groepen hebben verbonden. Het is in mijn publicaties over het voormalige Joegoslavië steeds een streven geweest alle etnische groepen een spreekbuis te geven en het leed van alle partijen in beeld te brengen. Maar schrijf je over Servische vluchtelingen, dan krijg je binnen mum van tijd een brief dat je met Milosevic heult. Schrijf je over de moeizame Servische relatie met het Joegoslavië-Tribunaal, dan is weer eens aangetoond dat je een vijand bent van het Servische volk. Ook naar aanleiding van stukken over de recente geweldsgolf in Kosovo was er weer een club die mij van anti-Servische intenties verdacht."

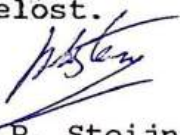
En zo jeremieert Tempelman gepikeerd in de Volkskrant nog geruime tijd voort.

En om maar gelijk eens te laten zien hoe 'objectief' en 'veelzijdig' de berichtgeving in de Volkskrant over de Serviërs wel niet is, lezen we vervolgens in de Volkskrant van 29 april 2004, onder een reusachtige kop 'Geen bewijs voor schuld Serviërs' - jawel, voor het eerst ! - onder meer:

"Woensdag werd ook een Unicef-rapport gepresenteerd waaruit blijkt dat eenderde van de kinderen in Servië in armoede leeft en een gezonde noch gelukkige jeugd heeft. De helft van de zieke kinderen in het land kreeg in 2003 geen medische hulp en 10 procent van de kinderen gaat niet naar school. 'Godzijdank vraagt iemand hoe het met ons gaat', had een meisje tegen de VN-onderzoekers gezegd. Het onderzoek vond plaats in acht gemeenten met grote aantallen vluchtelingen, maar is representatief voor heel Servië, aldus een UNicef-woordvoerder. Volgens het onderzoek verdient ongeveer 10 procent van de Serviërs minder dan 75 dollar per maand, de armoedegrens in dit deel van Europa. Velen leven daar maar net boven; 70 procent van de Serviërs zegt geen speelgoed te kunnen kopen voor hun kind."

Men ziet hieruit: het kan dus wél !

Besloten is daarom inmiddels dat het kort geding tegen de Volkskrant zal worden doorgezet, zodra logistieke problemen zijn opgelost.



N.M.P. Steijnen

advocaat

11 juni 2004

Hoi Roza,

Je weet van onze aktie om de Volkskrant nu maar eens aan te gaan pakken over de anti-Servische berichtgeving. de tijd is er rijp voor om hierover maar eens flink op de trom te gaan slaan !

Maar helaas zit ik dus met een probleem. Ik heb geen Servische mensen in Servië zelf die mij daarvoor uitdrukkelijk hebben gemachtigd. Nou begrijp ik heel goed dat de mensen daar in Servië wel wat anders aan hun hoofd hebben dan de manier waarop een Nederlandse krant over hen schrijft, en hoe daar iets tegen te doen. Maar toch geloof ik dat er mensen daar te vinden moeten zijn, die zich kwaad maken over de stelselmatige leugens die in het westen over hen worden verspreid. En die even op een briefje willen schrijven dat ze mij als advocaat machtigen om daar tegenop te treden.

Op de herdenkingsavond bij Nico en Monica hebben een aantal aanwezigen mij beloofd om voor een paar machtigingen, liefst van mensen uit Kosovo, te zullen zorgen.

Maar helaas heb ik niks ontvangen. En zonder dat moet ik verdere stappen tegen de Volkskrant, en eventueel tegen andere Nederlandse media, maar vergeten.

Dat zou erg jammer zijn, want zoals blijkt uit bijgaand verslag van wat er inmiddels gebeurd is, zijn ze bij de Volkskrant kennelijk best huiverig voor zo'n kort geding. Een reden te meer om dat door te zetten !

Ik heb dan ook de bijgaande noodkreet om alsnog mee te werken nog eens rondgestuurd naar een aantal mensen die op de avond bij Global aanwezig waren.

En ik zou jou nog eens heel speciaal willen vragen om gebruik te maken van je contacten in Servië om nog eens uitdrukkelijk te proberen een aantal machtigingen uit Servië, liefst van mensen in of uit Kosovo, te krijgen.

Ze hoeven alleen maar even een tekstje op te stellen en te ondertekenen, in het Servisch (misschien kan jij dat voor hen vertalen), Engels of Nederlands, dat luidt:

"Hierbij machtig ik, (naam, huidige woonplaats, adres), ondergetekende, de Nederlandse advocaat mr. N.M.P. Steijnen, om voor mij op te treden tegen nederlandse kranten en media die leugens en lasterlijke informatie over Servië en de Serviërs verspreiden."

En dat aan jou, of rechtstreeks aan mij, op te sturen. Zonder enige verplichting of kosten.

Zie je daar kans voor ?

Dan kan ik dat kortgeding tegen de Volkskrant gaan opstarten !

hartelijke groeten,

Sagittarius

Van: "R Despotovic" <despot@tiscali.nl>
Aan: "Klaus Hartmann" <klaus.hartmann@user.ecore.net>; "hde_tollenaere" <hde_tollenaere@zonnet.nl>; "Jan Beentjes" <jbeentjes@mac.com>; "Speerpunt" <speerpunt@wxs.nl>; "Branka Novakovic" <richardenbeba@pi.net>; "DIRECT DRAGAN DIRECT" <classic2direct@yahoo.com>; "Ksenija Sigulinski" <lizamia@zonnet.nl>; <hans.hupkes@planet.nl>; "Meindert Stelling" <meindert.stelling@planet.nl>; "Nico Varkevisser" <office@globalreflexion.org>; "Nico & Neeltje" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>; "Marrie Kardol" <mkardol@mac.com>
Verzonden: donderdag 10 juni 2004 23:27
Onderwerp: Fw: ARTEL - Clinton: The First American President to Commit Genocide in Europe

— Original Message —

From: ARTEL
To: Undisclosed-Recipient:
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2004 8:22 AM
Subject: ARTEL - Clinton: The First American President to Commit Genocide in Europe

Geopolitika by ARTEL

www.artel.co.yu office@artel.co.yu
 Date: Belgrade, June 10, 2004

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Clinton: The First American President to Commit Genocide in Europe
http://www.artel.co.yu/en/izbor/yl_kriza/2004-06-10.html

Tuesday, May 30, 2000
 By: **Mary Mostert**, Analyst, **Original Sources**, www.originalsources.com

Serbs are being systematically exterminated in Kosovo

As usual, it was not even reported in the American media, but in the Serbian Press the picture showing dead bodies, including the body of a four year old Serbian child, being placed in body bags was titled: "Serbs are being systematically exterminated in Kosovo".

Is it just Serb melodrama, or is there, perhaps, a concern that the American media is just systematically ignoring during this election year? Would it be just too painful for Al Gore's candidacy to point out that exterminating Serbs is the major Foreign Policy legacy of the Clinton-Gore era?

As it turns out neither NATO nor the United Nations appears to be able to keep their Albanian allies from killing United Nations employees - if they happen to be Serbs. While I did not see the report anywhere else, the United Nations website reported United Nations Secretary Kofi Annan's message to the family members of a Serb UN staff member, Petar Topoljski, as "a dark day for Kosovo."

There have been no arrests, and even if there were, of course, there is no real judicial system in Kosovo, one year after the so-called KFOR victory over Slobodan Milosevic. If there were arrests, according to a report of a United Nations investigation headed by Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury of Bangladesh on the United Nations own website security in Kosovo is still a "major and continuing challenge." Even when arrested, killers are quickly freed by the KLA controlled "civil government" and judicial system of Kosovo. Ambassador Chowdhury said that some violent incidents during the mission made the group "comprehend better the reality of the situation."

One year into the United Nations and KFOR control over Kosovo the Ambassador noted that while the "international community had invested heavily in Kosovo and could not afford to fail" there was an urgent need to address "ongoing staff shortages for both civil administration and police" which "constrained UN operations." Introducing the mission's report, Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury of Bangladesh, said the Council "could not have envisaged" the enormity of the UN's tasks in Kosovo when it adopted resolution 1244 (1999), which sets out the tasks for the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The fact of the matter is that KFOR and UNMIK actually HAVE allowed the "systematic extermination" of Serbs in Kosovo. The number of Serbs in the area of Gnjilane has shrunk from 12,000 to 800 since the end of the war in June of 1999 according to the Security Council delegations report. Gnjilane is under the auspices of the U.S. military, sent by Clinton without Congressional approval, and was immediately occupied by the US Marines after the bombing was halted. The movement of those few Serbs who remain is possible only with an

12-6-04

escort of international peacekeepers or police, according to UNMIK.

What that indicates is that the situation is far worse now than when the bombing stopped. Last June I received an e-mail from a Marine stationed with the KFOR troops in the area of Gnjilane. The first e-mail reported that the Albanians were burning down the homes of the Serbs, who had fled when it became obvious to them that there would be no security for them.

His second e-mail reported:

Dear Mary,

Took a security patrol out a couple of days ago. Didn't run across any bad guys. The little village we went through was interesting. Through an interpreter, I found out that it had been occupied by regular VJ (Yugoslavian) troops until a couple of weeks ago. The old man I spoke with said that the Serb troops didn't steal or destroy anything in the village and left everything as they had found it. Asked him about mines and he said that they removed all of them and took them with them when they left. Obviously very disciplined regular army troops.

The people in the village were ethnic Albanian but didn't seem to harbor a lot of resentment toward the I suppose having the regular VJ in their village kept the MUP and paramilitary away. The old man ended up guiding us through the fields and trails in the area. (Good patrol tip, walk only where the locals walk.) He also went into his house and gave us some smoked sausage, tomatoes, bread, and peppers.

Very poor people, so this really meant a lot. We've had nothing but MREs for three weeks so the feast we had when we returned to our lines was the highlight of the day. Anyhow, this was just one small village and in no way can it be construed to represent what is going on or happened in the rest of the country. Just some simple farmers who would be glad just to be left alone to work the soil and live their lives.

Mostly old folks, women, and children. And the little ones just about broke my heart. They have a healthy fear of men with guns. Ain't a Marine here doesn't have a soft spot for the kids. This mess over here isn't their fault. It's a side of this hell hole that isn't glamorous enough to make the evening news.

So, what, do you suppose, caused these simple Albanian farmers who had no bad experiences with the Serb army, to drive out 99.4% of their Serb neighbors, AFTER the Americans arrived to protect them? And, why has the Clinton Administration not risen up in arms over this "genocide" of Serbs?

It was only one year ago that every Clinton spokesman was talking about stopping the "genocide" of Albanians. Undersecretary of State James Rubin said on CNN March 29, 1999, that the Serbs were "committing genocide" by driving Albanians out of their homes and telling them to leave the province, when there was a total of 77,000 Albanian refugees after 6 days of bombing. The Albanian population is said to have been 1,800,000 and the Serb population of Kosovo 200,000. However, at the borders on March 30, 1999, CNN reported a trickle of refugees - guessing that the Albanians were "too terrified to leave their homes."

If 4% of the Ethnic Albanians leaving Kosovo during the first week of being bombed is "genocide" that needed to be stopped by 79 days of bombing and the expenditure of, to date, \$21 billion of American Tax funds, what is the appropriate response of 99.4% of the Serbs being either killed or driven out of Gnjilane while under American military occupation? Not surprisingly, the Serbs believe genocide is the goal of the Clinton administration.

That leaves us Americans with two choices: Either Clinton was lying about the Serbs committing genocide when 4% of the Albanians had fled the province in late March 1999 or he and the U.S. media are covering up a massive genocide against the Serbs who have either been killed or have fled Gnjilane while it's been under American military "protection."

After that statement by James Rubin was made, when United Nations reported that 77,000 Albanians, 4% of the Ethnic Albanian population were refugees from Kosovo, that "genocide" was used to justify the continued bombing of Yugoslavia for an additional two and a half months.

Today, only 6% of the ethnic Serbs in American occupied Gnjilane remain, and the situation is not even MENTIONED on CNN.

So, using James Rubins definition of "genocide" when a mere 4% of the ethnic Albanian population had fled Kosovo, the Serbs certainly are on solid semantic ground in accusing Bill Clinton of genocide against the Serbs when 96.4% of the ethnic Serb population has been driven out of the American protected section of Gnjilane.

Clinton has a unique legacy he can point to. He can rightfully claim to be the first American president, at least since Andrew Jackson did nothing while the Cherokees were driven en-masse out of Georgia, to preside over a genocide of a minority group.

Note of ARTEL: The situation of Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija is today much worse than in 2000 when the piece of Mary Mostert was written

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For contributions in foreign currency: Rade Drobac- Nacionalna stedionica- Foreign Account No.: 00-305-0002922.2

Sagittarius

Van: "Sagittarius" <sagitar@hetnet.nl>
Aan: "Jonathan Widell"
Verzonden: vrijdag 4 juni 2004 14:49
Onderwerp: Re: Hello again
Dear Jonathan,

Het spijt me dat ik zopalmg niets van me heb laten horen, maar ik heb grote achterstanden in mijn werk.

Wat betreft de zaak tegen de Volkskrant kan ik je berichten dat de hoofdredacteur de zaak serieus neemt en inmiddels een gesprek heeft aangeboden over de berichtgeving. Ook heeft de Joegoslavië redacteur van de Volkskrant, Olaf Tempelman, persoonlijk in de krant gereageerd op onze klacht in een column, en wel op een gepikeerde wijze.

Wat nu op stapel staat is een gesprek met de advocaat van de Volkskrant. Ik heb dit voorlopig bevroren wegens gebrek aan tijd.

Als je dat op prijs stelt, kan ik je wat stukken sturen over de post.

beste groeten,

Nico Steijnen

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

From: Jonathan Widell

To: Sagittarius

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2004 9:39 PM

Subject: Hello again

Dear Mr Steijnen,

I hope all is well with you. If you could keep me posted on the latest cases, like that of the Kosovo Serbian refugees, I would be very, very grateful.

Now that my schedule allows me to do things I have been putting off too long, I can read your handbook as well. I guess you have already found someone to proofread it, but I will read it for my own education.

I am now taking steps to get my paper on the Canadian involvement in the Kosovo bombing published. I hope everything will pan out.

By the way, I think it is more natural to use my "real" email address from now on.

Best regards,
Jonathan Widell

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Holkeri 'oververmoeid' Chef bestuur van Kosovo opgestapt

Door een onzer redacteurs

ROTTERDAM, 26 MEI. Harri Holkeri, de chef van het VN-bestuur in Kosovo, is gisteren om gezondheidsredenen afgetreden. Hij deed dat twee maanden voordat zijn ambts-termijn van één jaar zou aflopen.

Waarnemers verwachtten zijn aftreden al sinds de felle anti-Serviëse rellen van maart in Kosovo.

Op een persconferentie in Helsinki zei Holkeri in overleg met secretaris-generaal Kofi Annan van de VN tot zijn besluit te zijn gekomen. Holkeri zakte twee weken geleden in Straatsburg in elkaar en werd vervolgens in ziekenhuizen in Frankrijk en Finland onderzocht. Hij zei gisteren niets ernstigs te mankeren, maar oververmoeid te zijn. „De artsen hebben me geadviseerd af te treden.”

De 67-jarige Fin liet gisteren op zijn persconferentie zelf doorschermen dat niet alleen zijn slechte gezondheid aanleiding voor zijn aftreden is. Holkeri is heftig geheeld na de anti-Serviëse rellen die op 17, 18 en 19 maart in Kosovo aan negentien mensen het leven kostten. De rellen waren de hevigste sinds 1999, toen de Serviërs Kosovo ontruimden en het VN-bestuur werd ingesteld. Bij de rellen werden vierduizend Serviërs uit hun dorpen verdreven en werden dertig orthodoxe kerken en kloosters verwoest of zwaar beschadigd. Er klonk gisteren op Holkeri's persconferentie enige verbittering door in zijn opmerking dat „iemand de zondebok moet worden”.

Die opmerking wordt gezien als een verwijt aan het adres van de Veiligheidsraad van de VN en de grote mogendheden, die zich niet bijzonder inspannen om de kwestie-Kosovo op te lossen. De Serviërs, in Servië en in Kosovo, hebben met onverholen vreugde gereageerd op Holkeri's besluit. De Servische premier Vojislav Kostunica zei dat Holkeri „de ingewikkeldheid van de omstandigheden in Kosovo niet heeft begrepen en niet genoeg moed had om de situatie meester te worden”. Nebojša Čović, de Kosovo-coördinator van de Servische regering die na de rellen van maart alle betrekkingen met Holkeri verbrak, zei dat de Servische regering op het aftreden had gehoopt. Een van de leiders van de Servische gemeenschap in Kosovo, Marko Jakšić, zei dat zijn achterban „blij is” dat Holkeri is afgetreden, maar vreest dat hij wordt opgevolgd door iemand „die nog erger is”. Een andere leider van de Kosovo-Serviërs, Oliver Ivanović, vond dat Holkeri „niet de fysieke noch de mentale capaciteit” bezat om het probleem-Kosovo op te lossen. „Holkeri is een ervaren diplomaat, maar hier was hij niet op zijn plaats.”

In de Servische media – zo meldt vandaag het nieuwsbulletin VIP – wordt gespeculeerd dat de voormalige Ierse vice-premier Dick Spring hoge ogen gooit bij de opvolging van Holkeri. Maar VIP zelf acht drie anderen favoriet: de Nederlander Pieter Feith, Balkan-adviseur van EU-buitenland-coördinator Javier Solana, de Italiaan Stefano Sannino, Balkan-adviseur van Romano Prodi, de voorzitter van de Europese Commissie, en de Fransman Alain Le Roy, voormalig gezant van de EU in Macedonië.

BUITENLAND

Holkeri symbool van onvermogen

Harri Holkeri stapte op als chef van het VN-bestuur in Kosovo. Hij boet voor zijn eigen onvermogen en dat van de internationale gemeenschap.

Door onze redacteur
PETER MICHIELSEN

ROTTERDAM, 26 MEI. Harri Holkeri, chef van het VN-bestuur in Kosovo (UNMIK), gaat af door de achterdeur: na de Fransman Bernard Kouchner, de Deen Hans Haekkerup en de Duitser Michael Steiner is hij de vierde UNMIK-chef die zijn tanden heeft stukgebeten op het probleem-Kosovo.

Holkeri heeft gefaald. Daar was iedereen het al over eens vóórdat het op 17 maart in Kosovo tot drie dagen van anti-Serviëse rellen kwam. Bij Mitrovica verdronken op de 16de maart drie Albanese kinderen in een rivier. De Kosovo-Albanen geloofden kritiekloos het (ongegrunde) gerucht dat ze door lokale Serviërs de rivier in wa-

ren gedreven. De vlam sloeg in de pan: drie dagen lang werden Serviërs aangevallen, vooral in de dorpen waar nog slechts enkele individuele Serviërs tussen louter Albanese burens leefden. Vierduizend van hen werden op de vlucht gedreven, achthonderd huizen en dertig Servische kerken en kloosters werden verwoest. Holkeri's geloofwaardigheid – toch al gering – verdween toen hij het geweld bagatelliseerde (er waren „maar een paar kerken” verwoest).

Holkeri heeft gefaald, mede omdat de internationale gemeenschap niets heeft gedaan om hem te helpen en niets heeft gedaan om het ingevroren probleem-Kosovo op te lossen. Kosovo is nog waar het in juni 1999 was, toen het Servische gezag na de NAVO-oorlog door UNMIK werd vervangen en de vredesmacht KFOR Kosovo bezette. Kosovo kreeg een eigen parlement, regering en president, maar hun bevoegdheden bleven beperkt: UNMIK is de baas.

Sindsdien is het ten aanzien van een oplossing voornamelijk stil gebleven. De cruciale vraag over de

toekomst van Kosovo is niet beantwoord. Volgens resolutie 1244 van de Veiligheidsraad maakt Kosovo onverminderd deel uit van het grondgebied van Servië. De Serviërs eisen dat dat zo blijft, maar de Kosovo-Albanen willen onder geen beding ooit nog enig Servisch gezag accepteren: zij eisen onafhankelijkheid.

De internationale gemeenschap aarzelt al jaren bij het doorhakken

schap hoopt door tijd te rekken dat een verzoening tussen Serviërs en Albanen een besluit over de toekomst van Kosovo op termijn makkelijker zal maken.

Die hoop is ijdel, want dat dit beleid van pappen en nathouden bij gebrek aan een serieuze strategie niet werkt bleek in maart. Vijf jaar na de oorlog werd duidelijk dat er geen kans is op een compromis in Kosovo en dat verzoening nog heel ver achter de horizon ligt. De hartstochten zijn geenszins bedaard. Al vijf jaar wordt gepraat over democratie en tolerantie – maar bij de eerste gelegenheid slaat men elkaar de hersens in.

UNMIK wil van Kosovo eerst een democratie maken om vervolgens over de toekomstige status van de regio te besluiten – ‘standaarden vóór status’ heet dat – maar de Albanen willen de volgorde omdraaien en de Serviërs vinden de leus een alibi voor nietsdoen.

In maart is aangetoond dat de door UNMIK ingestelde Kosovaarse instituten niet werken en breekbaar zijn, dat de Albanese leiders geen greep hebben op hun eigen

achterban, dat de Albanen helemaal geen multi-etnische samenleving wensen en dat KFOR de Serviërs niet kan beschermen.

Instituten? Het waren in maart Albanese politiemannen die bange Serviërs tien minuten de tijd gaven om wat spullen te pakken en te verdwijnen voordat hun huis in brand werd gestoken en die toekeken toen er een paar werden doodgeslagen. Intussen is UNMIK niets en niemand verantwoordelijkheid schuldig, behalve aan de Veiligheidsraad, die zich niet voor Kosovo interesseert, en heeft de regering van Kosovo evenveel macht als – zoals Servische media het omschreven – een leerlingenaad op een middelbare school.

Zo is ‘Kosovo’ een vage oefening in democratie en géén serieus project dat ergens toe leidt. Holkeri heeft die spagaat niet kunnen oplossen. Kofi Annan moet nu op zoek naar iemand die dat wel kan, maar die iemand kan het zonder een serieuze inspanning van de internationale gemeenschap net zo min als het kwartet Kouchner-Haekkerup, Steiner en Holkeri.

NIEUWSANALYSE

van deze knoop. Ze kan de Serviërs niet toestaan Kosovo weer te gaan regeren omdat dat tot een nieuwe oorlog zou leiden, maar ze wil Kosovo ook geen onafhankelijkheid toestaan omdat dat een precedent zou zijn om elders op de Balkan grenzen te wijzigen: het zou de Macedonische Albanen, de Bosnische Serviërs en de Montenegrijnen wel eens kunnen aanmoedigen zich onafhankelijk te verklaren. De internationale gemeen-

Sagittarius

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Kosovo-Metohija – the conflict continues

by Elizabeth Farrell

REPORTS of "ethnic cleansing" in the Nato-occupied Serbian province of Kosovo-Metohija appeared in the bourgeois press once again last month. But this time – for the first time in many years – they wrote that Albanian extremists were to blame for the aggression. Twenty-eight Serbs paid for the organised violence with their lives; schools and Orthodox churches were destroyed. So what caused the latest outbreak of violence?

It was allegedly sparked by two incidents – an Albanian attack on a young Serb in Caglavica, and the deaths of at least two Albanian boys who tragically drowned in the river Ibar near the town of Kosovska Mitrovica. Nearly half of all Serbs still in Kosovo live in Mitrovica, and Albanians blamed local Serbs for "driving the boys into the river". Riots took place across the Nato-occupied Serbian province following these events – which many say are planned and co-ordinated by the so-called "Kosovo Liberation Army" or UCK. One UN official described the atrocities as "one-way violence from Albanians against Serbs", and admitted that "nothing in Kosovo happens spontaneously".

He was right – the upsurge in violence did not happen spontaneously. As Misha Gavrilovic of the British Serbian alliance puts it: "If a bomb goes off in your house, you do not blame the bomb: you blame the person who put it there." Of course there are Albanian extremists and the UCK. Of course there are those whose agenda is a "greater Albania", including Kosovo, some other parts of Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Greece and Bulgaria. But the UCK is only "the bomb" – it is clearly imperialism that "put it there".

In 1998, only a year before the United States, Britain and European imperialism, under Nato flag, began bombing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, even US officials denounced the UCK as a "terrorist organisation". But in 1999 they were waging a brutal bombing campaign against the Yugoslav people, under the pretext that Milošević was "ethnically cleansing Kosovan Albanians". The bombing of Yugoslavia followed President Slobodan Milošević's failure to accept international demands formulated at the "peace talks" in Rambouillet, France – in reality an ultimatum for Serbia to accept foreign troops in Kosovo.

The UCK then became very useful to them; it then suddenly became a reason to bomb Serbian military targets as well as houses, hospitals, schools, bridges – killing thousands and destroying an economy already fragile because of sanctions – and to build up Nato forces in bordering Macedonia. A US defence department document stated: "The realisation has come to the people [within Nato] that we have to have the UCK involved in

his process." It is well known that the CIA has trained UCK fighters since the mid-1990s. The UCK and separatist forces were cynically used by imperialism to create a political pretext for doing what Anglo-American imperialism would decide in any case: to complete the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Nato, when it bombed Serbia and Montenegro in 1999, presented the attack as a "humanitarian intervention". Tony Blair said that "we have a duty to see justice is done" and Bill Clinton insisted: "We act to protect thousands of innocent people in Kosovo from a mounting military offensive."

But they were not interested in restoring peace in the Balkans. They were interested only in the total capitulation of Yugoslavia to imperialism's terms. Even talks between Slobodan Milošević and Kosovo Albanian pacifist leader Ibrahim Rugova were completely ignored. Rugova, who initially supported the Nato aggression, now called for an end to "the bombing and the killings".

The 78-day air war ended only when Milošević signed an agreement promising to withdraw all Serb troops and police from Kosovo. Senior Nato commander Michael Jackson announced Yugoslavia had agreed to a "phased, verifiable and orderly withdrawal from Kosovo" that would allow for a peacekeeping force to enter the province and provide a "secure environment".

Then came the defeat, via the October 5th coup, of Milošević's SPS at the Serbian elections in 2000 – a victory for the imperialists. Newly elected pro-western President Koštunica declared that "the democratic reconstruction of Serbia and Yugoslavia will be completed after these elections". The election of Koštunica and his "Democratic Opposition of Serbia" (DOS), a coalition of 18 pro-western parties, meant the start of a process of "democratisation".

The first attempt to arrest the former President was made as a US deadline was about to expire. Washington had threatened to suspend \$50 million in aid unless Koštunica's government began co-operating with the "International Criminal" by 31 March. It was soon followed by Milošević's imprisonment in Belgrade in April 2001, after he held out in his house for 24 hours, surrounded by hundreds of police, and as many of his supporters chanting "Don't sell Milošević to Nato!"

No formal charges were ever made against him. Months later he was kidnapped and flown to "International Criminal Tribunal" at The Hague, where he fights accusations of over 60 counts of war crimes.

In March this year, a new Government coalition was formed in Serbia including the SPS. The new coalition, led by pro-western premier Vojislav Koštunica, vowed to try Serb "war crimes suspects" in Serbian courts. But SPS leaders have made it very clear that, if any Serb is extradited to the kangaroo court at The Hague, the SPS will walk out of the coalition and the Government will fall.

Senior SPS leader Millorad Vucelic warned: "We [would] immediately move to topple the Government if this is attempted." And he told a Serbian newspaper: "Someone will answer for the kidnapping of Milošević. That will be our condition. Those who illegally kidnapped Milošević and who illegally extradited him will, logically, be taken to court."

And the Koštunica government this month voted to give financial assistance to Serbian citizens on trial at The Hague. A new law will provide the prisoners, including Milošević and nationalist leader Vojislav Seselj, with the equivalent of their salaries had they worked in

Serbia, travel cost for visits by family members and some legal expenses. Even though the financial aid provided will only be a small amount, it is politically an important step that shows Serbia is no longer willing to do whatever imperialism demands.

Western powers are worried by these developments – there are still a number of people on the list to be tried at the kangaroo court in the Netherlands, like military chief Ratko Mladic. The hand-over of their "war crimes suspects" is a precondition for the economic aid that Serbia very much needs. At the beginning of the month US imperialism responded to the developments in Serbia by "temporarily suspending" aid, giving "inadequate co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia" as their reason.

As for Kosovo, It didn't, of course, become the "secure environment" Nato officials had promised.

Labour MP Mike Gapes who visited Kosovo recently, spoke about the situation at a public meeting in London last month. "If you are a Serb, you have to go to school protected by Kfor tanks; you have to have your houses protected and you have to have your places of worship protected by armed forces. That is the reality," he said.

The Serbian government faces a huge dilemma. If it does nothing, Kosovan Serbs will continuously live in fear, and more will inevitably be killed. If it decides to act and send its troops into the occupied province – still officially a part of Serbia – it will risk a new conflict with Nato.

Ivica Dacic of former President Milošević's Socialist Party of Serbia, said that the violence has dispelled ideas that Kosovo "is now a multi-ethnic society" and proved ethnic cleansing is under way there. "Serbia must do everything to protect Serbs and all the political parties must back a practical solution," he said.

Koštunica now proposes what he calls "cantonisation" – a partition to protect what is left of the Serbian minority of the Nato-occupied province to put an end to the violence. This has already started to happen in practice since the episode in 1999, with the vast majority of Kosovan Serbs retreating to Mitrovica, and it may now be the only solution.

For now, let's see what former President Milošević had to say about the "ethnic cleansing".

He told the people Kosovo Polje at a 30,000-strong rally in 1992: "Here, in this town, we have heard of ethnic cleansing for the first time, which the Serbian nation is now being unjustly accused, that had been exposed to this pressure and ethnic cleansing for the first time here, in Kosovo, on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. We have learned the slogan ethnically pure Kosovo from the Albanian separatists. We have learned it from them for the first time and have heard of these ideas and this inhumane policy that was endangering this nation and this country from them for the first time.

"At that time, when this horrible pressure was exerted upon the Serbian nation, neither Europe or the world were concerned. There was no attention and no desire to protect the Serbian nation in Kosovo. Everything that had been committed against the Serbian nation here was not disturbing them."

Since this article was written the US backed Constitutional Court has challenged the Parliamentary decision to send financial assistance to the Hague detainees. Not one penny