

long tradition of friendship. There has been a Jewish community in Croatia from the very beginning of the Croatian nation. Our first king nominated as top advisers two Jewish thinkers. Minister Montillo is here with me. He can explain it to you.

Montillo: It was King Kreshmir IV in the 10th century. But what I would like to point out for your magazine is that today we have in Serbia the last Communist regime in Europe. They only changed the name into Socialist Party. And the Serbians intend to conquer a large part of Croatia. That's why we have this bloody aggression. Chetniks cross our borders to lead gangs of terrorists to terrorize our people. So far we lost 30% of our territory. Everyday there are 20, 30, 50 or 60 dead.

Let me tell you something about the so-called anti-Semitism of the Croatians. I am a member of the Jewish Council in Zagreb and I am deputy minister of foreign affairs. Our

health minister is a Jew and the president of the Constitutional Court is a Jew, together with some other very important figures. The president of the American-Croatian Society is a Jew.

EIR: So the whole campaign is a big slander?

Montillo: Yes. It is false. I witnessed a few days ago a meeting of 30,000 people in Zagreb. There was a 10-meter-long Jewish banner. The President of the Republic of Croatia arranged with the representatives of the Jewish community to restore, after 40 years, our synagogue in Zagreb. It had been destroyed in 1941. Under the Communist regime it was impossible to restore it. But nobody noticed it!

Over the last year we had 70,000 Jewish tourists in Croatia and all enjoyed our hospitality. Our government is very explicit in guaranteeing the rights of minorities in Croatia. Let's not believe in speculation from journalists or intellectu-

EC grovels to Milosevic

"Would we really go to war in Yugoslavia?" Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, at a press conference in The Hague following the EC meeting, sneered in answer to a question from the correspondent of the Catholic daily Avvenire. The journalist printed the details of the performance on Sept. 11 in the article excerpted below. A top aide of De Michelis called Avvenire to pressure the journalist and his editor after the article appeared:

The European Community, in order to open the talks pompously baptized "Peace Conference for Yugoslavia" in The Hague, had posed an end to fighting as the condition. The Yugoslav Army continued to bomb Croatian villages. The EC decided to hold the conference anyway. "We cannot silence the guns, but at least the guns do not silence us," said Dutch Foreign Minister Van Den Broek, trying to present the humiliation as a success.

It is a success: People were saying last Saturday in The Hague, that the six leaders of the Yugoslavian republics came, including the Croatian Tudjman, and the Serbian Milosevic. So as not to spoil the "success," the Europe that met in The Hague avoided reminding Milosevic that the Serbian rebels and the Yugoslavian (Serbian) army are occupying a third of the Croatian territory with the declared aim of annexing it to Serbia. Europe limited itself to warning, while looking the other way, that "changes in the borders obtained by violence will not be accepted."

Milosevic contemptuously replied that the borders between Serbia and Croatia are "internal and simply

administrative." . . . The EC tried to see even this as an act of good will. "There is room for negotiation," our De Michelis crowed. In his view the opening of the conference "makes escalating the confrontation inconvenient" for the forces in Yugoslavia that want war. Forces, he insinuated . . . located more in the attacked Croatia than in the aggressor Serbia. And he almost bet that the clashes would end. On cue, the contrary happened. War rages on in Yugoslavia.

Radio Belgrade announces Nazi-style retaliations: "If the army is attacked for any reason, Vukovar [in Croatia] will be annihilated." So, the Yugoslav Army will bend to the demands of Europe, while it is in doubt that they obey the orders of any legal authority in Yugoslavia? "For all I know, the army obeys the federal authorities," De Michelis replied with a straight face. His words are denied once again by Stepa Mesic, the legal chairman of the Yugoslav Federal Presidency, in theory the supreme commander of the Army. Mesic asked the Army to withdraw to barracks: He got no answer. The day before the conference in The Hague, Ante Markovic (head of the federal government legally recognized by Europe) had also denounced the Army for "excessive use of force." And what if the Communist Yugoslav generals were, as Mesic says, "coup-makers" who keep the whole country hostage?

. . . The EC avoids the question because, as De Michelis says, "Let's be clear, would we really go to war in Yugoslavia?" To die for Zagreb? Surely not. But De Michelis had been inflexible in defending the war against Iraq. . . . The only thing to do is to recognize the two republics (Slovenia and Croatia). But the EC in The Hague appeared to be less worried about stopping the massacre than about an increase in German influence.