

# Schiller Institute welcomed in Zagreb

by Elke Fimmen

The situation in Croatia has become ever more critical in recent weeks through the continuation of the battles on its territory as well as the brutal war of conquest of the Serbian “tank communists” against Bosnia. Already, 1.7 million inhabitants of the former Yugoslavia have lost their homes and are in flight—and the overwhelming portion of those are in Croatia. Large tent camps have been set up in Croatia for many thousands of people, and all essential goods are scarce. Further huge streams of refugees are expected.

In this crisis, in which the Croatians and Bosnians hope in vain for help, the ideas of the Schiller Institute have reached broad circles. In particular, the Appeal to Save Croatia which the president of the Schiller Institute in Germany, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, circulated internationally last year, has made it well known in Croatia. During our brief visit to Zagreb, the spokeswoman of a Croatian organization thanked “the renowned Schiller Institute” for its support.

## **James Baker: synonym for treason, aggression**

The culprit for this disaster is clear to many Croatians. The name of James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state who intervened in the summer of 1991, at a delicate point in negotiations among the different republics of the crumbling Yugoslav federation, to state that U.S. policy would only back a unified Yugoslavia, is a synonym for how Croatia was stabbed in the back. This was widely seen as the “green light” for Serbia’s war of aggression, conducted by the Serbian-dominated “Yugoslav Federal Army.” But the cowardice of the Europeans, who delayed recognition of the new republics and repeatedly failed to take steps against Serbian aggression, is also noted with bitterness.

On May 28, a demonstration involving many thousands took place in Jelacic Plaza in Zagreb, organized on short notice by the “Mothers for Peace” and the “Croatian Art Forces” in protest against the gruesome massacre in Sarajevo. In dramatic words, the speakers blamed the world community for abandoning Croatia and Bosnia. An actress walked to the microphone holding “the bloody bread of Sarajevo.” An old woman, a survivor of Vukovar, the Croatian city that heroically withstood a long Serbian siege

last year before finally it fell, was greeted with applause that seemed to go on forever. The speech of a representative of the Schiller Institute, who exposed Baker’s role and warned against hasty action lest it come to a Balkan war and a potential Third World War, was interrupted again and again by applause.

## **Peace through economic buildup**

Croatia’s economic condition appears devastating. The high costs of the war, of the refugees, and the simultaneous restructuring of the economy, during which many businesses were closed, have led to plummeting living standards and a drastic increase in unemployment. If Croatia is to have any prospect of recovery, this can only come from an orientation toward rebuilding the economy through great infrastructural projects tied to national financing mechanisms.

There was great interest manifested in the program of the “Productive Triangle,” authored by political prisoner and U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, at meetings in Zagreb on June 11 and 12, where the Schiller Institute had been invited to speak by the largest and oldest Croatian cultural organization, Matica Hrvatska. The “Triangle” would build high-speed rail and other transport connections to turn a curvilinear area between Paris, Berlin, and Vienna into the locomotive of a world economic recovery; “spiral arms” are envisioned which reach out into adjoining areas and upgrade their own infrastructural links to this heartland. Zagreb, for example, is only hours from Vienna.

What was on the table at these meetings was the issue of developing alternatives to neo-liberal shock therapy. Since the Markovic government of Yugoslavia had hired International Monetary Fund apostle Jeffrey Sachs as an adviser two years before the war, and in two years his “shock therapy” brought about a 40% drop in the standard of living and a collapse of production, this sort of “free market” is *a priori* suspect to Croatians.

Happily, the principle that “culture and politics belong together” is better understood in Croatia than in many western nations. Since this strongly Catholic country has a distinct cultural and scientific tradition that has had to maintain itself over decades against Serbian oppression, many artists stand in the front line among political activists. Thus actors, singers, and other artists formed the “Croatian Art Forces” at the beginning of the war, in order to lend moral support to the people.

A press conference on the work of the Schiller Institute, organized by the director of the Croatian Information Center in Montreal, Alexander Shiroka, was opened by the president of the Writers Union, Fabio, who warmly thanked the institute for its work. Detailed coverage followed in Zagreb’s two largest newspapers, *Vjesnik* and *Vecernji List*. *Vecernji List* quoted Helga Zepp-LaRouche as saying that “the double standard vis-à-vis the aggression against Croatia is the ‘best sign of a moral bankruptcy.’”

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## Documentation

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### Croatian media cover Schiller Institute

*A Schiller Institute press conference held in Zagreb, Croatia in May received widespread press coverage. The leading role of the Schiller Institute in the fight for Croatian independence was universally noted. Excerpts follow, translated by Stephen Corkovic.*

**Vjesnik** carried the following article by Zdravko Zima, entitled "For a New Order," on May 31.

". . . Speaking in Zagreb about the Schiller Institute activities were Elke and Klaus Fimmen from Munich, and Alexander Shiroka, the president of the Croatian Information Center in Montreal. According to Elke Fimmen, the time has come for a final emancipation of all nations enslaved by the Versailles Treaty agreements. She identified the Serbo-communist aggression against Croatia, and now against Bosnia and Hercegovina, as a desire to erase national entities.

"The Schiller Institute, according to the guest from Germany, is striving for a worldwide order, whose focus will be, like during the Renaissance, the human being. A world transformation is possible and should be sought through the Productive Triangle, outlined by Paris-Berlin-Vienna, which currently contains the largest concentration of economic productivity. It [the Productive Triangle] will be a source of productivity which will enable the development of the entire Eurasian continent. Elke Fimmen also spoke about the works of the American economist Lyndon LaRouche, who foresaw the collapse of the communist bloc . . . warning that a lasting peace cannot be guaranteed without a sound economic base."

**Vecernji List** in Zagreb carried an article by B. Kaminski on May 31 entitled "European Triangle For Peace."

". . . The basic program and principle of the Schiller Institute . . . is a battle for a just economic order, founded on the propositions of the American economist Lyndon LaRouche, who regards as the only possibility for bringing peace to the Balkans a realization of an all-European infrastructure plan, based on the so-called Productive Triangle . . . with the greatest concentration of productive forces. From that triangle a whole system would be developed which would secure an economic recovery, the only factor which can, in the opinion of the Schiller Institute representatives, bring a lasting peace to the Balkans.

"The responsibility for the war in Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina, cautions Elke Fimmen, rests with the American administration and Europe. Europe should not have al-

lowed such listlessness which further incited conflicts. . . . The incentive for the war, she says, came from Anglo-American bankers who wish to destabilize Europe, because Europe's integration started to threaten the U.S.A. The Schiller Institute bases its arguments for this claim on certain materials published by the Pentagon which state that the U.S.A. cannot allow Europe to have political and economic supremacy. . . . The cause for the whole problem it finds in the moral crisis enveloping the whole world, where the most important thing is that capital is enriching itself without bearing any fruit in return. Political struggle, the Schiller Institute holds, is at the same time a struggle for ennobling mankind, which will be achieved, in accordance with the Renaissance ideal, by joining together all of the segments of society, especially culture and politics."

**HINA**, the Croatian press agency, published the following report, entitled "Conference on 'New World Order,'" on June 12.

"This evening in Zagreb a conference [entitled] 'New World Order: A Community of Nations with Equal Rights or an Empire Dominated by One Power?' which was organized by the political branch of 'Matica Hrvatska' [Croatian Queen Bee, the most prestigious and influential cultural association of Croatia—ed.] welcomed a guest speaker, Paolo Raimondi from the Schiller Institute.

"The new world order is closely tied to the fall of the Versailles system and communism in the former U.S.S.R., and many people thought that this would cause chaos and changes in the international borders. However, he added, even at that time the Schiller Institute had a development program for a new world order, whose basis is the sovereignty and independence of small nations.

"The U.S.A. is the world's largest debtor, but they do not have a developed strategy for debt reduction which is causing a whole series of economic, social, and political repercussions, as, for instance, the fact that the U.S.A. has become an importer of financial capital and goods. Facts like: The U.S.A. has registered a large debt increase compared to the gross national income, negative trends in the physical economy, and the emphasis on the monetary and financial aspects of free trade, together with neglect of industrial development, lead Mr. Raimondi to conclude that the world is in the midst of an economic crisis. The Schiller Institute scholar sees the way out of the crisis through the new world economic order, where regions with their differing economic and technological capabilities occupy important positions. A proposition put forward by the institute is to utilize the potential of the Paris, Berlin, Vienna Productive Triangle, which would stimulate development in the rest of the world . . . by means of the development of national economies, which would cooperate with each other through communications infrastructure, energy distribution, and technological advancements."