

## Pressure on Croatia marks countdown to World War III

by Konstantin George

On Jan. 25, Helga Zepp-LaRouche released an analysis warning that “the short fuse for an internationalization of the war in the Balkans has already almost reached its detonator.” Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche is president of the Schiller Institute in Germany, which has been exposing Greater Serbian genocide in former Yugoslavia for two years.

She pointed out that the Serbian Parliament’s apparent approval of the United Nations “peace plan” is merely “the 135th attempt to lead the West around by the nose.” The Geneva “peace conference,” she said, is only a “figleaf for international confirmation of the territorial gains made by the Serbs in their unparalleled bestiality. The Bosnian Serbs openly acknowledge that their approval of the Vance-Owen plan is only a temporary, *pro forma* move to slow down the growing momentum for a western military intervention.”

### Croatia not allowed to defend itself

A few days earlier, on Jan. 22, the Croatian Armed Forces launched their first counter-offensive to begin liberating Serbian-occupied Croatian territory since the deployment one year ago of the U.N. “peacekeeping” (Unprofor) troops, which have protected the Serbian conquest of one-third of Croatia. But a vicious blackmail campaign by the western powers, and the mediation of this blackmail through “internationally acceptable” consensus policies by Croatia’s Tudjman government, is crippling the potential to halt the Serbian genocide.

The Croatian forces, operating from Zadar, advanced some 20-30 kilometers into the Dalmatian region called Krajina, inflicting heavy losses on the Serbs and capturing the territory around the destroyed bridge at Maslenica, the only overland link between northern Croatia and Dalmatia, and the airport at Zemunik outside Zadar. The offensive could have threatened if not captured Knin, the “capital” of the

“Serbian Republic of Krajina.” Yet the Croatian forces were ordered not to proceed beyond a certain line, thus giving the Serbian forces time to regroup and, on Jan. 27, begin a counterattack. Why?

Croatia, the victim of aggression simply trying to retake its territory, had been subjected to an international slander barrage giving it “equal blame” with Serbia. The territory in question was supposed to have been demilitarized by the U.N., cleared of Serbian forces, and turned over to Croatian administration.

The hypocritical western stance is closely choreographed with pro-Serbian Russia. On Jan. 25 the Russian Foreign Ministry put out a declaration threatening to seek U.N. sanctions against Zagreb, and warning that Croatia’s offensive threatens the security of Russian U.N. forces in the region. It is well known that Russia will not intervene militarily, confining its involvement to sending in mercenary “volunteers.” But the noisy Russian protests provide the cover for the West to back off.

Contrary to the media myth of an invincible Serbian Army, the Serbian military position is objectively precarious and fraught with weaknesses. The Belgrade communist clique is mired in a small-scale repeat of the dilemma that confronted the Nazis in the World War II. The more they conquer, the more their forces become over-stretched, trying to hold their conquests and fighting adversaries on multiple fronts. Serbia has taken about two-thirds of Bosnia, but at the price of tying down large military forces, thus critically weakening its forces in the occupied regions of Croatia. Just as with the original Nazis, whose mass murder increased markedly after they had reached their military apogee, so in this horrible winter, the Serbian genocide against the hundreds of thousands of Bosnian Muslims is escalating.

By late January, all signs pointed in the direction of some form of western military intervention in response to the public outcry. But media coverage suggests that such an intervention will also increase the western chains of containment imposed on Croatia.

Between Jan. 24 and 27, Croatia was “condemned” unanimously by the “Big Five” in two U.N. Security Council resolutions, and ordered to withdraw its forces from the territory it had just liberated. The Anglo-American bloc leaned especially hard on Germany, the only major European country friendly to Croatia. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel issued, on Jan. 27, the most outrageous “warning” of all to Croatia, demanding an “immediate end” to the Croatian offensive, lest Croatia be “equated” with Serbia.

### Sabotaging intervention

This “co-aggressor” line has been rampant in western media. The German daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* ran a commentary alleging that Croatia has quietly de facto “annexed one-third of Bosnia,” complete with—and here comes the next Big Lie—“ethnic cleansing.” The Jan. 28 London *Guardian* raved: “In Central Bosnia, black-hooded Croatian fighters mined and blocked most roads to make the area inaccessible, while carrying out a bout of ethnic cleansing of Muslims.”

A French naval squadron, led by the carrier *Clemenceau*, was nearing the Adriatic on Jan. 28, and the British carrier *Ark Royal* was heading for the Adriatic. Land-based aircraft of France, Britain, and the Netherlands were on alert. The U.S. carrier *Kennedy*, the helicopter carrier *Guam*, and other warships were also on station. If military actions are designed to enforce the U.N. cease-fire lines running across Croatian territory, then they will amount to nothing more than a corollary to the Geneva plan dividing up Bosnia. Such plans would be a military respite for Serbia.

### What must be done

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche called Serbia’s apparent compliance with the Geneva plan just a short-term feint. She said, “the Serbs’ preparations for their hoped-for territorial gains in Makedonija are proceeding at full throttle, as are preparations for a renewed wave of ‘ethnic cleansing’ of 2 million ethnic Albanians from Kosova.

“If that occurs—automatically bringing with it the intervention of Greece and Turkey, and thus pitting two members of NATO on opposing sides of the war—then the entire NATO southern flank will be at risk, and the West will have no choice but to intervene. . . . Over the last few days, various Russian spokesmen have threatened that in that event, the Russians would take the side of the Serbs. The countdown for World War III is under way. . . .

“The truth is that this war in the Balkans has been going on since 1989, and was encouraged by the Anglo-American side because of their geopolitical opposition to a so-called ‘Fourth Reich’—that is to say, against reunified Germany. A drawn-out, festering conflict in the Balkans is supposed to

prevent Germany from playing a decisive role in the economic development of the nations to the east.

“The assassination in late 1989 of the chairman of Deutsche Bank, Alfred Herrhausen—the only leading German economic expert with the courage to present a vision for the development of the East—and the idea of utilizing the Serbs in order to tie down continental Europe, particularly Germany, were both products of the geopolitical design of leading circles in Washington, London, and their co-thinkers elsewhere.

“Because Germany was not to be allowed to economically develop the East, or to gain ‘influence in the Balkans,’ the U.N. Security Council has been tolerating the Serbs for years as they have committed crimes against humanity which are without parallel in this century, even when compared with the Nazis’ crimes. . . .

“Prior to mounting any intervention, all participating powers must openly declare that it was this geopolitical insanity in the tradition of Haushofer, Millner, and Mackinder—that it was the myth of a supposed ‘Fourth Reich,’ used as a justification or the bestialities being committed by the Serbs—which has brought the world to the brink of World War III. Only in this way can we neutralize the danger and prevent the geopolitical strategy of non-action from simply becoming replaced by an equivalent geopolitical strategy of military intervention.

“Furthermore, the priority demand must be that all states of former Yugoslavia must regain control of the territory they had prior to the first breakup of Yugoslavia. If Serbia rejects this, targeted air strikes and other measures must be taken to prevent Serbia from pursuing its war of conquest against its neighbors. The Serbian Air Force must be deprived of its ability to control the air space over all of former Yugoslavia.

“It is also high time that the Serbian military be held unequivocally responsible for the actions of the Chetniks, and that we no longer accept Milosevic’s double-dealing games.

“Peace can only be established on the basis of enforcing the borders of the previously existing states, and that also means recognizing the authority of the governments of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia over their territories. . . . In addition, those responsible for the genocide must be brought before a tribunal.

“If world peace is to be reestablished . . . it is urgent that we adopt a policy of war avoidance through economic development. That means that we have to put into place *now*, that which we failed to put into place following 1989. We need to immediately implement a Eurasian development program, as has been proposed by Lyndon LaRouche in the form of the ‘Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle,’ as the motor for reconstructing the world economy. The extension of this ‘Triangle’ as a development plan for the Balkans and a reconstruction program for the destroyed war zones, is at the same time the content of the peace plan which would benefit all affected parties, including the Serbian population,” she wrote.