
Interview: Joseph Solic

The U.N. protects Serbian forces

Joseph Solic has been the French correspondent for the Croatian news agency HINA in Strasbourg for the last 18 months, and is accredited to the European Parliament and Council of Europe there. He was interviewed in French by Catherine Brannan and Yves Messer on Jan. 19.

EIR: Can you tell us about yourself?

Solic: First of all, let me thank you for this interview. It is our duty to defend the truth, to try to come as near as possible to the truth. I think this is even more the case when something happens in another country: The very least one can do is to find out more by asking, by turning the camera or the microphone toward the people of that country. That was not the case on Jan. 18 on French television. A shell was fired from a Serbian military position on people who were lining up for water in Sarajevo. But the cameras turned to [Radovan] Karadzic, [the leader of the Serbian Chetniks in Bosnia], who is on the list of war criminals, and they asked his opinion. Obviously, with millions of Frenchmen watching their TVs, he replied that the Bosnians themselves had fired the shells, and that the Muslims were exterminating their own people who were waiting for water. . . .

EIR: Lyndon LaRouche said in an interview [on Jan. 11] that the French U.N. contingent was responsible for the assassination of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister [Hakija] Turajlic [see *EIR*, Jan. 22]. What do you think of this assassination and the role of the U.N. forces, Unprofor, in Bosnia?

Solic: From the time the war first started in Croatia in 1991, and now since the war has been raging in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the last 10 months, there have been European observers in these countries; but they were so good at observing that the people ended up by calling them "the ice-cream vendors," because they walked around in white overalls photographing human misery. Now they have been replaced by the blue helmets, the Unprofor, the so-called U.N. protection forces. In reality, these forces, at least until there is proof to the contrary, are protecting the Serbs. We have several proofs of this. More than 700 people have already been massacred since March 1992 within the control areas of the Unprofor in Croatia, by Serbs who have been tried by

no court, who have had to answer to no one. Now we call these persons the "genocide photographers," because they are satisfied by just taking photos wherever the Serbs carry out their massacres.

As for this unfortunate assassination of the Bosnian minister in a French armored vehicle flying a United Nations flag: If there were no organized plot, there was, at least, complicity. It stares you in the face. Complicity, because to have opened the doors of an armored vehicle with several armed officers sitting there, and to have permitted an assassin to fire several bullets at a civilian minister who was unarmed, is beyond description. It is a felony, a vile felony. I am deliberately using the language of our medieval forebears who knew what one's word of honor meant, and knew what was meant by a man who gave his word of honor. Today, I'm very sorry, but there are no such men, and there is no honor, there is just chattering. People have become drunk with their talking and their talking has not stopped the Serbian murderers, who came up to the U.N. vehicle—as it happened, a French armored vehicle—in order to assassinate a civilian minister. This is shameful, but it's not enough to say that, because an assassin doesn't know what shame is and will pursue his objective right to the end, unless someone, some day, stops him by force. Hence . . . one can say that Mr. LaRouche and the Schiller Institute are not exaggerating. . . .

As for the truth, the sad reality is that the gigantic massacres, the rape camps, never existed before in history. Nearly 40,000 Muslim and Croatian women have been raped, and they are trying to kill them in their souls and their minds! Why? Because they try to make them believe that they are damned, that their souls will go to hell for eternity. Therefore, this is a psychological operation, which is very serious, because what is being attempted, for the first time in history, in a war which is neither a civil nor a religious war, is a totally calculated effort, through psychoanalysis to kill people mentally, because, for a Muslim or a Catholic, extramarital relations means going to hell. In Croatia, where these women have come, more than 3,000 children have already been born. For example, there are huge difficulties in the specialized psychological and sociological hospitals in convincing these women that they have not committed a sin, that they were not responsible for what happened, that they didn't take part in the rape, but were taken by force. . . .

EIR: What do you think of the double standard of Bush ordering the bombing of Iraq?

Solic: In attacking a country which is so far away from Bosnia, on the other side of the world one might say, one would have to be really naive to think there was not an effort to divert Europe and the world's attention. On the one hand, 14 Iraqis went to look for weapons on the other side of the border, and Iraq is attacked because it flies over its national territory, its own airspace.

An appeal is made to the United Nations and a resolution is voted up, number 787, if I'm not mistaken, according to which Bosnian territory is also protected. This resolution has been violated, according to Croatian and Bosnian sources: 172 times, military aircraft have bombed Bosnian villages and towns. Since the Geneva talks adjourned last week, yet another week was given to the Serbs, and Serbian aircraft went into action against several towns east of Sarajevo. There have already been several hundred people killed or wounded because of these air attacks. No one has responded by demanding that the resolution be upheld, in which, strangely, they forgot to add one small article: The resolution was voted up, but absolutely no practical sanctions were provided for, against those who violate it. That small detail is enormous and went unnoticed, it seems, by those who voted it up.

So, on the one hand, it's a macabre game. And on the other hand, what difference is there between raining bombs down on the heads of Muslims in Baghdad or in Sarajevo? They are all Muslims. . . . So it's dangerous, and shameful at the same time. It's dangerous, because, if, some day, the Arab or Muslim world wakes up and stops babbling and takes action, then the West will probably be chewing the carpet for not having done something more serious to stop the violation of human and divine rights. After all, it is not only the United Nations resolutions that are being violated, but also the Ten Commandments and every law which the world has agreed upon since the Second World War.

EIR: What about the present situation in Croatia? What do you expect from the United States and from the West in general?

Solic: At present, the situation in Croatia has not changed since the blue helmets arrived. What I mean is that when the war began, the Serbian troops, which had superior arms and numbers, attacked Croatia. Croatia was unable to defend itself effectively, and about 20% of its territory was occupied by Serbian forces. At the time, Mr. Tudjman, the President of the Croatian Republic, called for the blue helmets to come in. So, for six or seven months, there were discussions. The blue helmets didn't come. The Serbs were allowed to advance. When the Serbs had advanced quite far, after about six or seven months, the Croatian forces had begun to organize themselves and started a counterattack. It was only when Serbian President Milosevic made his appeal, that the blue helmets were deployed. They were not put on the border between Croatia and Serbia, but on the cease-fire line, that is, largely to the Serbian benefit. The blue helmets put a freeze on the situation, and hence, 20% of Croatia is now under Serbian occupation.

At that point, what was Cyrus Vance's plan? His plan had three stages: 1) establishment of United Nations forces and separation of combatants; 2) disarm the Serbs who had taken up arms against the legal Croatian government;

and, 3) allow the Croatian refugees who had fled these areas to return to their homes.

The first part of the plan went well: The combatants were separated. But the Croatian side was shelled by heavy Serbian artillery, which means that the Serbs were not disarmed. The second part of the plan was not carried out. As for the third part, we are very far from that. In just two and a half months, the mandate of the blue helmets in Croatia will expire, and the Serbian population is still armed, still in revolt, and has proclaimed a so-called republic of Krajina on Croatian territory, and forbidden Croatians to return home. The blue helmets have done absolutely nothing but strengthen the Serbian position and allow the Serbs to declare a so-called Serbian republic in Croatia, Krajina. In fact, Krajina has no existence, it's an invention. The word simply means "zone."

The American role in this game has been totally negative for several reasons. First, at the time, James Baker [then secretary of state] saw Yugoslavia not as a federation of legal states which only had a common currency, army, and borders without customs—a sort of Maastricht before Maastricht—but he saw it as a uni-national state. His role was to encourage the Serbs to demand that the Croatians not secede. According to the most serious diplomats, this was the green light for the attack.

Second, and ill-fated from the beginning, was sending [Milan] Panic to be prime minister of a so-called new Yugoslavia, made up of Serbia and Montenegro. He was sent as prime minister, in order to stop any operations against Serbia, because he was an American and the Serbian prime minister. This allowed Serbia to continue ravaging the countries it attacked.

Third, Panic asked for a hundred days to restore peace. At the end of a hundred days, he called for elections, which gave him another three months, up to Dec. 20. After the elections confirmed President Milosevic, the negotiations started in Geneva, after the ones in London came to nothing. At Geneva there has been one compromise after another—27 altogether in 10 months, or one compromise every 15 days—which allows the aggressor to continue the massacres.

I would add that, at present, it is estimated that in the 27 concentration camps in Bosnia and Hercegovina, as well as in Serbia, there are more than 100,000 Muslims and Croatians who are hostages. Some work in the Serbian coal mines or factories, without pay, like slaves. So, the America that is supposed to have the defense of human rights engraved on its moral currency . . . that America is not fighting against slavery; that America is treading the face, the person, and the honor of Abraham Lincoln underfoot. Especially when one considers that the republic of Dubrovnik was the first to recognize the republic of the United States of America . . . it would be the minimum of honesty to at least return the favor!