

U.N. embargo gives Serbia license to kill

by Sven Rustempasic

The author is an American citizen who spent one year, from November 1991 until November 1992, in Sarajevo.

April 6 was the anniversary of the launching of the strategy of terror against the civilian population (380,000 people) of Sarajevo, the capital of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which became the 177th member of the U.N. in May 1992.

Sarajevo has been surrounded for more than a year now by at least three rings of artillery, rocket launchers, mortars, machine guns, anti-aircraft guns (used against people, not aircraft), snipers, and other armaments. Some of the heavy weapons have been positioned there for up to 20 years, dug into bunkers, many of them "nuclear proof," with supplies and ammunition sufficient to continue killing for, perhaps, one more year, at least.

The entire operation has been planned by the Yugoslav Army and the "Greater Serbia Project" in Belgrade and in Moscow, as well as in some other centers of "western culture and civilization." This article is written in order to help the people who are still being tortured by the "civilized West."

While the West is accusing people there of "tribalism," "ethnic hatred," and so forth, it is quite obvious that the Serbian killing machine is doing the "civilized world's" dirty work. The only tribal institution that one can speak of is the Greater Serbia Project and its international friends.

Although the genocide against Bosnians is performed by the Yugoslav Army, Serbian cohorts and their sidekicks, and the Montenegrins, it is obvious that the U.N. arms embargo, imposed on non-Serbian people, is nothing but the involvement and cooperation of certain influential segments of the international community in the crime against innocent victims.

Legacy of the British Empire

Yugoslavia was a federation, composed of six republics and two autonomous regions. It was established by the British Empire, and, in 1918, it was given to the Serbs to do with as they would while the godfathers, the British and Russian empires, looked on.

The Yugoslav Army was the second largest communist army in Europe following World War II. More than \$100 billion was pumped into that institution, dedicated to the preservation of the *status quo* in the region. The entire Serbian military complex, when compared with the entire Yugo-

slav Federation (smaller than the state of Wyoming), was enormous. With factories in Serbia proper (Crvena, Zastava, Kragujevac) and in Bosnia (Unjs, Pretis, Zrak, Soko), it ranked high in the world weapons market.

So, when Serbia decided to embark upon the Greater Serbia Project at the beginning of the 1980s, it made sure that its military might was ready. The Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) was made a vehicle of Serbian national-chauvinist efforts: the occupation of the Yugoslav Federation and eradication of all democratic independence movements in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Kosova, Macedonia, and Vojvodina.

Buildup of strategic reserves

Thus, the Yugoslav Army piled up huge supplies of weapons and ammunition, and designed and built huge underground bunkers and depots. The Yugoslav Air Force, for example, built a \$3 billion underground airport in western Bosnia (Bihac). In the mountains around major cities in Bosnia, for example, millions of tons of rock and earth were excavated, while hundreds of thousands of tons of concrete were poured to create "nuclear-proof" bunkers and storage systems for weapons, ammunition, petroleum, and strategic reserves sufficient to go on fighting for several years with no need to import anything from abroad. The entire arsenal of the Yugoslav Army in Croatia, Bosnia, and especially in Serbia and Montenegro, almost entirely in the hands of the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav Army and the Serbian "fifth column" in Croatia and Bosnia, was designed and piled up with one very distinct goal in mind: to go on fighting in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina for a number of years without a major need to restock, rebuild, and supplement the strategic reserves.

So, what are some of the military advantages of the Greater Serbia Project over the non-Serbian (majority) population in the former Yugoslav Federation?

1) The majority of the Yugoslav Army officer corp (all ranks) were ethnic Serbs or Montenegrins: experienced, trained, equipped, and organized, and loyal to the Greater Serbia Project.

2) The entire Air Force, Navy, helicopter fleet, armored divisions, heavy and light artillery, rocket systems, and other professional tools of war were in the hands of the Serbian Yugoslav Army. In addition, all radar systems, communications systems, logistics, petroleum reserves, and food and medical reserves were in the hands of Serbs involved in the Greater Serbia Project, and were armed and equipped by the Yugoslav Army and had full access to Army warehouses and stockpiles.

3) Inexhaustible as such reserves were, Serbia and Montenegro receive a constant influx of weapons and ammunition from Russia and other sources through Romania, Greece, and other locations. The U.N. arms embargo against Serbia, which is totally ineffective, should not be confused with the



In San Francisco, demonstrators rally against the Serbian genocide in Bosnia, February 1993. So far, there has been no effective action by the United States. Will President Clinton act, before it is too late?

embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This list only confirms that the U.N. arms embargo, supposedly taken against all former Yugoslav Republics, was not meant to hurt the Greater Serbia Project, since the Serbs have plenty of resources to go on killing for years. The U.N. arms embargo, strictly imposed only against Bosnia-Herzegovina through the military (U.N. and NATO) sea, land, and air blockade, was obviously meant to hurt the parties that do not have the weapons to defend themselves. Tragic as it is, the land blockade is additionally imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Franjo Tudjman government of Croatia as well.

Territorial Defense Force

The Serbian war against Croatia made Croatians scramble for weapons, but they managed to “sneak in” hundreds of millions of dollars worth of weaponry, mostly due to the support that Germany gave to its independence efforts.

By a wide margin, the true victim of the U.N. arms embargo is Bosnia-Herzegovina, a U.N. member entitled to all the rights outlined in the U.N. Charter. But it seems that for the first time in history, the U.N. is preventing its legitimate member from arming itself against the onslaught of a country (Serbia or Yugoslavia) that has been *kicked out of the U.N.*

How is it that the people of Bosnia came to be so helpless

and unarmed?

In the former Yugoslav Federation, there were several mechanisms of defense. Besides the Yugoslav Army, a parallel organization, very similar to the National Guard in the United States had been organized: the Territorial Defense Forces. Supplies of infantry weapons, light and medium artillery, anti-armor, and similar “guerrilla territorial warfare” systems were strategically placed in almost each and every town, large village, company, and factory throughout the country. They were all part of a “people’s defense system” in case of war.

Nominally set up as an anti-invasion instrument, it was also designed to make sure that the rulers of the country—obviously, the Serbian military junta—never came to be in a position of enormous advantage over the civilian population. It enabled the various ethnic groups to provide for their self-defense and prevented the slaughter and/or planning of such a “venture.” But the Serbian military junta realized the importance of gaining the upper hand on this touchy issue, and asked for a federal law to be passed, by the end of the 1980s, giving total control of the Territorial Defense warehouses to the Yugoslav Army. By signing this federal law, non-Serbian people signed their lives away.

There are other reasons why Bosnia was so unprepared for the Greater Serbia assault. One is that the President trusted the “civilized West,” and believed that it would not permit

such genocide and slaughter. Bosnia knows better now.

This author can confirm that the enormous firepower and other military advantages of the Yugoslav Army made Serbs arrogant and merciless. Not because of their bravery and military skills, but due to their overwhelming military advantage, they committed genocide against more than 150,000 Bosnian civilians while the "civilized West" kept the hands of their defenders tied behind their backs by the arms embargo. The Bosnian Army armed itself through acts of incredible courage and sacrifice: hand-to-hand combat, bloody suicidal charges, bickering with Croats, and so forth. The Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as a secular institution, invited all Bosnian patriots to join. It started out as a Patriotic League of Bosnia, only to become an army in the summer of 1992. It was a league of patriots and gentlemen, fighters with outstanding courage, honor, and dedication, commanded by Maj. Sefer Halilovic, a Bosnian Muslim, and with Col. Jovan Divjak and Col. Stjepan Siber, a Serb and a Croat, respectively, second in command.

After several months (March, April, and May 1992) of such an unfair fight against a cowardly enemy (the Yugoslav Army is known to shoot at ambulances, use civilian hostages, kill prisoners, torture and rape women and children, bombard hospitals, and commit satanic crimes totally unheard of), it was clear that the U.N. arms embargo was hurting the innocent, and Bosnia-Herzegovina demanded to exercise its legal right to self-defense.

Churchillian 'wisdom'

But so far, there has been no chance to do this. Winston Churchill's time-honored "wisdom" has been applied: "If you wish to prolong the agony, organize conferences." By the same token, the Russian communist elite was pleased; their sidekicks were making their way to the Adriatic Sea.

Serbian war criminal Radovan Karadzic, before starting the genocide, told the Bosnian people, with the total assurance of a political insider: "Nobody is going to help you. We are going to slaughter you. In this mandate, even God is a Serb." He was right, except that he could not know, through the very nature of his monstrously evil mind, that the god which he was talking about is actually Satan.

The Serbian propaganda machine in the United States has so far forestalled U.S. action to stop the genocide, often raising the red herring that thousands of U.S. soldiers could be sent to fight and die in the Balkans. But, in fact, officials of the Bosnia-Herzegovina government have stated that they don't want U.S. troops, only limited use of air power. Maintaining the arms embargo against Bosnia is a hostile act against a recognized, friendly state. The United States, which by providing 40% of the U.N. budget, participates in the U.N. sanctioning of Serbian aggression.

It is high time to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. President Clinton should keep his campaign promise and save the American soul.

Interview: Mrs. Vera Veibel Tatic

Serbian patriot aids suffering Bosnians

The following interview was conducted by phone with Mrs. Vera Veibel Tatic, a Serbian citizen, on April 1. Mrs. Veibel lives in the city of Ada in Vojvodina, which is officially part of Serbia, although ethnically the population is made up of 80% Hungarians and only 20% Serbians. Mrs. Veibel is a leading member of the Center for Anti-War Action. She agreed to have her name appear in the interview despite the intense repression of the Milosevic regime. "I don't fear anybody, only God," she said.

We would like to thank our translator John Balasa, who provided a simultaneous translation between Serbian and English for this interview. We are publishing his words, and therefore Mrs. Veibel is sometimes referred to in the third person. The interview was given to Umberto Pascali.

EIR: Mrs. Veibel, can you tell us what it has been like there in the last week or so?

Veibel: The situation if anything is getting worse. The Radical Party of Vojslav Seselj is gaining a lot of power. They are the ones that are leading the war effort.

EIR: What kind of activities are you and the Center for Anti-War Action involved in?

Veibel: Right now she is helping a lot of refugees that are flowing out of Bosnia. They are coming up to Novi Sad; from there she tries to get them into other countries.

EIR: These are Muslim refugees?

Veibel: Yes, predominantly Muslim.

EIR: How far is eastern Bosnia from Novi Sad?

Veibel: Roughly 200 km, maybe more. She doesn't travel a lot, so she cannot be precise.

EIR: What is her organization doing?

Veibel: In Belgrade, they are contacting international officials about their refugee policies, clarifying the necessary paperwork, and so forth. She is involved in the physical process of helping the refugees. They have received a lot of help especially from Hungary and she especially wants to thank them as a country.

Also, on March 17, they received a delegation from Sweden. The Swedish government assured them that they would