
Interview: Djenana Campara and Zeljko Milicevic

The United States must grant Bosnia the right to defend itself

The following is an excerpt from an interview conducted by Webster Tarpley for "The LaRouche Connection" cable television program on May 18. Djenana Campara and Zeljko Milicevic, both natives of Sarajevo, represent the Bosnia-Herzegovina Information Center of Ottawa, Canada, and were in the United States to speak with U.S. government officials about what the United States must do to end the war in their nation.

Mrs. Campara is a Bosnian of Muslim background, an electrical engineer who worked for Energoinvest in Sarajevo, one of the largest European electrical equipment suppliers. She is the first cousin of Hakija Turajlic, the late deputy prime minister of Bosnia, who was assassinated in January of this year by Serbian Chetnik gunmen while riding under alleged United Nations protection in a French armored personnel carrier.

Mr. Milicevic is a Bosnian of Croatian descent, who worked as an export manager near Ljubljana in Slovenia. From 1983 through 1986 he was a director of industrial development for the Canadian national capital in Ottawa.

Q: Please tell our listeners what the U.S. government ought to do and could do to save your country and also to put a stop to a spreading war that might engulf many nations, including this one.

Campara: First, the United States has the power to stop, as we say, World War III. One of the things that they *should* do, and they shouldn't *hesitate* to do it, is to equip our ground troops in Bosnia. Give us the right to defend ourselves and equipment to do so. The second thing is air strikes, so that while they are equipping themselves, they have air cover for that.

We don't require U.S. ground troops. We don't require anybody to die for us. We have our Bosnian ground troops.

Q: The question that comes up about the arms embargo is training. Do you have the makings of an army to defend Bosnia?

Milicevic: Absolutely. The people have been trained as a matter of principle since 1945. Military conscripts have to spend about 18 months in service and to update that experience about a month every year after that. So they are highly trained and on modern equipment. They know how to use it.

They know what they need. They have a shopping list. They're ready to use it. The equipment exists. The United States can either sell it from here and get paid by other countries or other countries can ship it directly to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Q: This would be weaponry for self-defense?

Milicevic: Exactly. According to the United Nations Charter.

Q: What kinds of air strikes would be needed?

Milicevic: If you're going to arm the people, you need to have strikes to make room to send in the arms. The first air strikes should be forward defenses, so to speak. At the same time, the second wave should go in to knock out the strategically located, fixed batteries, which are easily identifiable.

Q: Figures in the Pentagon say that the Serbian forces are guerrilla fighters running around in mountainous and highly wooded areas and almost impossible to find. Does that make any sense?

Milicevic: We cannot talk about guerrilla fighters. This is by no means an organized army. The only advantage they have is the heavy equipment. They have no command, control, and communications intelligence in the field. *These are bands of mass-murderers.* The air strikes alone could end this whole thing in three days, because these people cannot fight a well-equipped, sophisticated, forceful armed force.

Q: You have Serbian artillery placed around Sarajevo. If those were bombed, the siege would collapse.

Campara: We shouldn't forget that these Serbo-Chetnik gangs actually recruited Serbian civilians and put them on the front line. I was in Croatia two months ago when I met several Bosnian soldiers there. They said, "It was amazing. We threw out grenades and we just saw that so many people were killed. When all was done and finished, we went there and we saw 10 people chained to each other. They'd been *chained* to fight at the position—Serbian civilians."

Q: So the first victims of this campaign have actually been the Serbian civilians?

Milicevic: What these bandits are doing is dragging the whole nation of Serbia into the basement of European civilization.

Q: Can you comment on the terrorist potential of the Serbian government and military leaders?

Campara: Don't forget that Mr. Milosevic is the son of suicidal parents. Both parents committed suicide. Mr. Karadzic is a very sick man, mentally ill.

But there is one further point we would like to stress: terrorism in the rest of the world, which is going to be done by Serbian people.

The Canadian government did not break diplomatic relations with Serbia, even after Serbia was expelled from the U.N. and was charged with genocide by the International Court of Justice in the Hague. They still have an embassy in Belgrade. And they announced measures in July 1992, to welcome refugees from ex-Yugoslavia to come to Canada. We have learned that zero Muslims and zero Croats have entered, and a few thousand Serbians. The Canadian Embassy is in Belgrade, issuing landed immigrant papers. None of the Muslims, none of the Croats can go to Belgrade to ask for landed immigrant visas. They would be killed on the border right away.

Q: Then these immigrants can come across the U.S. border any time without a visa. Have you seen cases of actual documented war criminals who have tried to make that connection?

Campara: These people are escaping justice. What is going to happen is that the Serbian people now here can be organized as a terrorist group. They've already committed crimes. Two weeks ago we were warned that Nikola Kojlovic asked for an entry visa to Canada. He was the second person on the list of the Bosnia-Herzegovina government charged with genocide, the same list submitted to the United Nations. We reacted and [the Canadian Ministry of] External Affairs refused to give him an entry visa.

Q: It sounds like Nazi war criminals fleeing to Latin America at the end of the Second World War, except this time there's a pipeline being developed during the course of the Balkan war that's now spreading. Does this have something to do with the policy of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney?

Campara: If we may say so, Mrs. Mulroney. Her background is Serbian, and her father was expelled from Yugoslavia because of his political orientation.

Milicevic: He was a member of the Royal Chetnik units during the Second World War.

The official Canadian policy, as I was quoted directly by the senior adviser to the minister of external affairs, was, "Canada shall never wage war against Serbia."

As to the British and French, it was they who created the

first Yugoslavia in 1918 with the Treaty of Versailles. They re-created it at Yalta in 1945. And it is the British and French, and especially the British now—you have Lord Owen, Lord Carrington, drawing and re-drawing the maps that the electoral majority of Bosnia-Herzegovina legally sealed last year in the referendum.

Q: The election in which you both voted. It created a perfectly legitimate democratic government.

The Vance-Owen plan is a dead duck, but if it lives on, it calls for American ground forces to go to Bosnia-Herzegovina as the *enforcers* of a partition plan . . . the auxiliary for the Serbian aggressors,

Milicevic: The only ones who have the moral and legal authority to draw or redraw the map of Bosnia-Herzegovina are the people themselves. This Vance-Owen plan map is a recreation of Yugoslavia. It will go on to bleed toward the Adriatic. It creates "safe havens" for people who will be stuck among the enemy so they can hate one another for another hundred years. It only seals in the ethnic hatred which is now being created, but which had not existed.

The plan for a Greater Serbia calls for the coastline of Croatia up to and including Zagreb. We are talking about 1,000 miles of coastline, just facing Italy across the sea.

Q: People in the United States are very confused about what life was like in your country in the pre-war period. Henry Kissinger talks about the "centuries-old ethnic hatred."

Campara: That's ridiculous. We've lived together for many, many decades, centuries. My best friends are Serbs, Croats. I didn't even know who they were. I can't tell by names. I didn't recognize Muslim names.

There are 30% mixed marriages in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Most families include at least two of the groups.

Milicevic: And a child.

Campara: My family is completely mixed. We have Serbs, Croats, Jews, and originally we were Muslims. How can we talk about hatred here?

Milicevic: Let me give another example about this nonsense about ethnic hatred. In my family I have a marriage between a Jew and a Muslim.

Q: So you're talking about a model of an integrated, peacefully coexisting, multi-ethnic society that would have a lot to teach the United States about tolerance, civilization, and culture.

Campara: And now they want to divide us by ethnic lines. They want to make three ethnically clean zones. My marriage is mixed. My husband is a Serb. Unfortunately, I'm divorced. What is my child? Where should I go when I go to Bosnia. Do I go to the Serbian side, with my daughter? Do I go to the Muslim side? Where do I go, and what do I say to my daughter? Who is she? If the Bosnian nation is destroyed, she will be nobody.