

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### Lord Owen: most-hated man

*Britain's geopolitics in the Balkans is meeting a revolt that is breaking deep political taboos in Germany.*

**T**his man has invented the first racial segregation borders since Adolf Hitler. Lord Owen, who has not the slightest insight into the internal Bosnian situation, must be replaced." This statement from Stefan Schwarz, the young Christian Democrat in parliament who is a rallying point of the pro-Bosnia circles in Bonn, in an interview with issue No. 31 of *Focus* weekly, marked the harshest attack on British geopolitics yet heard from a member of the political class in Germany.

Schwarz lashed out against London's do-nothing policy on Bosnia, saying that it had "always been the prime principle of British European policy to keep the 'balance of power' on the continent at any cost. First comes the balance, then morality." Then Schwarz broke a long-respected taboo of Bonn politics, calling on Germany to "take the initiative in the EC, which is what the Americans have been urging for some time. Meanwhile, the Germans have an anti-fascist and anti-nationalist tradition. . . . They must isolate the British, put pressure on them and call for Owen's replacement."

Up to now, the "first commandment" of German European policy, which Chancellor Helmut Kohl reiterated in an interview with SAT-1 TV on Aug. 9, is that "because of its Nazi history," Germany cannot play a leading role in any foreign policy initiative. References to this "history" serve as a foul excuse not to act where it should be the most natural impulse to act. The Balkans drama has proven

the absurdity of respecting a policy principle that allows genocide before the eyes of civilized Europe.

The genocide was even admitted by Nikola Koljevic, vice president of the "Serbian Republic of Bosnia," on Britain's Channel 4 TV on Aug. 7. He said that this genocide was a historical fact already; it was only an open question what it would be called in history books. Lord Owen is on record for a proposal that would most likely fit with Koljevic's views. Owen told critics of his diplomacy: "This is, after all, a war of liberation for Serbia."

The statement by Stefan Schwarz and another one we quote below complement the attacks launched by U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey (D-Ind.) starting Aug. 5, when he demanded Owen's ouster, and to criticism voiced by two senior U.S. State Department officials, Marshall Freeman Harris and John Western, who resigned over the do-nothing policy.

Christian Schwarz-Schilling, a senior Christian Democratic member of parliament like Schwarz, resigned as postal minister at the end of 1992 in protest of the government's inaction in Bosnia. He wrote on Aug. 10: "For one and a half years now, we have witnessed the drama in Bosnia. Every day, there is new fighting, deaths, murder and rape victims, and more than a million refugees. . . . It is most amazing that the Bosnians have withstood for so long, as the United Nations has imposed a weapons embargo more than a year ago, which has made it even more difficult for the Bosnian Army to defend their country.

"The West, usually not hesitant in the rhetorical proclamation of its ideals, is doing nothing. It is watching, while a state legitimized by the right to self-determination, which is a member of the United Nations, is wiped out with utmost brutality by its conquest-happy Serbian neighbor and its fifth column in Bosnia, the 'Bosnian Serbs.'

"The U.S. views the drama in Bosnia as an affair not touching its vital interests: Oil isn't involved, a nuclear threat (as from North Korea and Iraq) is not imminent, either. After all, the entire affair is said to be a European one.

"And Europe? . . . Lord Owen, chief negotiator of the European Community, is recognizing the 'realities' and talking about the partition of Bosnia; while these talks are going on, the Serbs are changing 'realities' to their advantage by daily unabated warfare.

"Lord Owen recommends that Bosnia submit to the military might and seal its own extinction by signature. And he gets angry when this process of capitulation is disturbed by NATO or U.N. saber-rattling. This is 'disturbing the peace process,' while the Serbs with their superior military might are attacking the encircled cities, which have even been declared 'safe havens' by the U.N., and are starving out the population. . . .

"This cynical conduct of talks is such a shame for Europe that one has to pose the question: Who is to be held responsible for that? Who is letting Lord Owen conduct such an immoral policy of interests of old European powers, in the name of Europe, in disregard of international law and U.N. resolutions?

"One thing is clear: A Europe dictated to by the nationalistic interests of England (and, partially, also France) is not what I want. It is time that we in Germany wake up!"