

Geneva talks on Bosnia collapse as outcry against genocide grows

by Umberto Pascali

Lord David Owen, the British mediator in the Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina, whom the Bosnians nicknamed "Dr. Death," failed again in his latest psychological warfare project. Having tried all his dirty tricks to force the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina to sign on in Geneva to the disintegration of the country through a nightmarish racist partition, Owen was forced to witness the collapse of the "peace talks." In a burst of homicidal fury he screamed at reporters, "The greatest danger facing Bosnia is fragmentation, anarchy, warlords, and chaos. It's not that very far away." A Bosnian official commented, "Isn't that amazing—the man who did more than everybody else to fragment Bosnia, now, in the middle of a holocaust, is crying wolf because his ultimatum did not work. Actually those words are very revealing, revealing of what Dr. Death has in store for us."

What had happened? On Sept. 1, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic simply presented a few requests, in the context of the Owen-imposed three-way partition. He called them "minimum of minimums," and said that the Bosnians could accept nothing less because they were essential to guarantee the survival of the small "Muslim state" imposed by Owen. But the Greater Serbians rejected the requests despite the fact that Owen's plan granted them more than half of the territory of Bosnia. Also, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman rushed away from the negotiations, stating that the requests are unacceptable. In reality, it is the whole racist plan, which not only cannot bring peace, but will guarantee the escalation of the war, that is unacceptable.

A U.S. State Department official told the press, "The stubbornness of the Serbs in the face of reasonable demands by the Muslims is responsible for the collapse." Asked about the breakdown of the Geneva talks, the general secretary of the ruling Bosnian party (Democratic Action) in Croatia, Faris Nanic, told *EIR*: "This is the first step toward restoring and regaining the full sovereignty of my country. Now the mediators will try to continue the negotiations on a so-called bilateral basis, and they will try again to have President Izetbegovic sign. . . . But in reality, a lot will depend on the United States. I think we have some time now; perhaps time is on our side."

Australian parliamentarians act

While Lord Owen was temporarily defeated in Geneva, his geopolitical strategy received an even bigger blow internationally. The worldwide movement to stop the mass murder in former Yugoslavia scored an unexpected victory in Australia. Members of Parliament of both the ruling and the opposition parties created the "Save Sarajevo Parliamentary Group."

On Aug. 19, a motion presented by one of the members of the group, Ted Grace, was debated for 90 minutes in the House of Representatives. Grace stated that if nations had stood up to Adolf Hitler in the 1930s, "the horrible atrocity of World War II might not have occurred and the world would have been spared." Another leading member of the group, Ken Aldred, denounced the "duplicitous play and procrastination by the United Nations." Sen. Brian Harradine has introduced a similar motion in the Senate.

Though Australia has not been in the forefront in the fight to stop the genocide, the parliamentarians are escalating their activities. In the last days of August, the group invited Stephan Corkovic, leader of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Information Center in Ottawa, Canada to come to the country. The visit of Corkovic worked as a catalyst for an unprecedented ecumenical movement in Australia. The Parliament received messages to act on Bosnia from the highest spokesmen of the Muslim, Jewish, and Catholic communities. In particular, breaking the myth so dear to Lord Owen that the Serbian genocide is a racial and religious war, Cardinal Franjo Kuharic of Zagreb, the leader of the Catholic Church in Croatia, had a private audience with Corkovic. The cardinal was in Canberra visiting the large Croatian community living in Australia.

Religious leaders speak out

Cardinal Kuharic issued a statement on Aug. 30 addressed to members of the Australian Parliament, on the occasion of the debate on Bosnia. It read: "As you assemble in the nation's Parliament and speak for all Australians, it is my prayer that you will turn your hearts to the suffering of my people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and to the destruction of their families, homes, and lives. The people

of Bosnia and Hercegovina and Croatia are the victims of evil forces that would destroy nations and the harmony of peoples.”

The cardinal made a direct reference to the sentence of the International Court in The Hague. The court had recognized that Bosnia is a victim of genocide by the greater Serbians of Slobodan Milosevic. Currently, the court is in the process of issuing a verdict on a request by the Bosnian government to declare the negotiations in Geneva null and void because the Bosnia delegation is being forced to negotiate under duress. “I beseech your Parliament to re-affirm the Provisional Measures ordered by the International Court of Justice.”

That same day, the Senate of Australia received a message from the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils entitled “Help in Stopping the Genocide of Bosnians.” It read:

Blatant U.N. corruption in Sarajevo exposed

The London *Guardian* of Aug. 26 featured a full-page report from Sarajevo, Bosnia on the widespread corruption, drug trafficking, and profiteering by United Nations soldiers. “The U.N. is the most corrupt organization I ever worked for; everybody is on the take,” said one senior U.N. official.

A special military investigative team is being sent to Sarajevo, according to the article, to investigate U.N. soldiers suspected of smuggling heroin into the besieged Bosnian capital. Twenty-two soldiers of Ukrainian and French origin have already been sent home for “profiteering,” but, wrote correspondent Maggie O’Kane, these cases “only scratch the surface” of what is happening in Sarajevo. One senior narcotics officer of the Sarajevo police told the *Guardian*: “Since the U.N. came in August 1991, the amount of drugs on the market has been growing. We have information from inside the organization that drugs are brought in to Sarajevo on supply convoys. . . . You should tell the world that we never lived like this before, I hope never again.”

The paper reported that “the U.N. soldiers are making themselves and the Sarajevo mafia rich. . . . [They are] stripping the people of Sarajevo of all their savings and valuables.” Many Sarajevo women are reportedly forced to sell themselves to U.N. soldiers in order not to starve. One woman told O’Kane that this was being done “because of their stomachs. The humanitarian aid we get is barely enough to fill a spoon.”

“The situation in Bosnia has reached unprecedented, atrocious proportions of genocide, piercing the international conscience to the core. It demands a decisive intervention to achieve the cessation of hostilities and protect the lives of innocent victims by taking action against aggression. We urge you in the name of the Islamic Community in Australia to spare no effort to implement the United Nations convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide by affirming this convention in your deliberations and translating it into immediate action by our Australian government. The need is most urgent. The time is now.” The message was signed by the chairman of the organization’s Foreign Relations Committee, Dr. M.N. Haque.

The Parliament also received an appeal from the Association of Rabbis and Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, which speaks on behalf of all rabbis in the two countries. The association called on “our elected representatives to turn your attention to the loss of life and general destruction occurring in Bosnia and implore you to use all the influence of Australia as a nation to implement a cessation of hostilities.”

Another message arrived from the personal representative of President Izetbegovic in the United States, Nedzib Sacirbey. “The people of the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina need your support, so that the killing of the citizens will stop. The humiliation and the eternal injury of innocent women and children by acts of rape must end. The destruction of works of generations, our cultural monuments, places of worship, our homes, places of work. . . . The Berlin Wall has fallen; we do not need new walls in Sarajevo and Mostar. The end of apartheid arrived in South Africa, we do not need a new apartheid in Europe. We do not have peacekeepers in Bosnia and Hercegovina; they are peace observers at a time when the situation calls for peacemakers. The aggressor smells victory because the victims of the aggression are tied with an illegal arms embargo; the killing of the victims is easy because the victims cannot respond.”

Documentation

Statement of the Christian Democracy International

On Aug. 20, the Human Rights Commission of the Christian Democracy International in Brussels issued a statement calling for the defense of Bosnia-Hercegovina and opposing the “peace plan” of European Community negotiator Lord David

Owen. The document was signed by Jaime Castillo, president; Anna-Maria Cervone, vice president; and José Esteban González, executive secretary of the commission. According to the statement:

"1) The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a war of aggression, initiated and fostered by the Milosevic government and by other Serbian leaders. . . .

"2) The war has led and continues to lead to crimes against humanity. . . .

"3) At the present time, the Geneva negotiations seem to be leading towards the creation of ethnic states, i.e., states constituted on a *racial* basis, in total contradiction with the U.N. Charter and inalienable human rights principles.

"4) The result would legitimate the violation of international law by accepting borders modified by means of force and the destruction of a country member of the U.N.

"5) It is intolerable and an aberration that in the very U.N. HQ in Geneva, in the same building where the Subcommittee on Human Rights is currently meeting, individuals directly responsible for crimes against humanity are acting in total impunity, and that the President of Bosnia is compelled to sit down with the very persons who are victimizing his own people.

"6) To seek peace or a cease-fire at any cost, even at the expense of human rights and the respect for law itself, is unacceptable. . . .

"7) If an agreement is reached along the abovementioned lines, it will lead to the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of persons and will not impede the Serbians from engaging in new territorial conquests.

"8) From the ethical point of view, there is ample justification to resort to armed force in order to — as the Pope has stated it — 'disarm the aggressor and defend his victims.'

"9) Maintaining the current situation of non-action will aggravate even further the future consequences for world peace.

"10) To depend exclusively on U.S. initiatives is neither sane nor reasonable, particularly in view of the current inconsistency and incoherence of the U.S. administration on this issue, which is causing it to lose all credibility.

"11) Even less should one depend on current EC decisions — regardless of the positions of individual countries — which appear to be more directed toward blocking, paralyzing, or diluting any U.S. initiatives rather than supporting them."

The document goes on to call for the U.N. to establish a protectorate over Bosnia, "not to substitute its government but to adequately support it"; for the U.N. to impose, through NATO, a cease-fire; for the establishment of a war crimes tribunal; and for immediate moves to rebuild Bosnia's economy. It concludes:

"The Christian Democratic heads of state and government should assume leadership and spare no efforts in fulfilling their historical and moral responsibilities."

Interview: Roberto Formigoni

'There is an attempt to weaken Europe'

Roberto Formigoni is a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and the European Parliament, a leader of the Catholic youth organization Communion and Liberation and its political arm the Popular Movement, and currently the undersecretary to the Environment Ministry in the Italian government. This interview was granted to Liliana Celani on Aug. 24 during the "Meeting of Friendship Among People," the biggest annual Catholic youth gathering in the world. Organized by Communion and Liberation and Popular Movement, it is held in Rimini, Italy on the Adriatic Coast, not far from the military airport in Falconara where wounded Bosnian refugees are being landed daily to be taken to Italian hospitals. Last year the theme of the meeting was America, and one of the honored guest speakers was civil rights leader and Schiller Institute vice chairman Amelia Boynton Robinson, who spoke on the theme "Is America Still a Melting Pot?" She addressed 4,000 young people on the issue of personal freedom for U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche.

This year the theme was "Something Is Happening in the Orient," meaning not only Russia and eastern Europe, but also the area in which three major religions were born, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and which is currently engulfed in wars. On this theme and that of European unification, an important debate took place on Aug. 22 featuring German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Deputy Formigoni, and Dep. Mino Martinazzoli, general secretary of the Italian Christian Democracy, which was recently renamed the Italian Popular Party. Formigoni asked Kohl and Martinazzoli why it is so important today to have Christian parties in Europe, and whether there is an attempt to prevent Europe from assuming a more important role internationally. Mrs. Celani interviewed Formigoni the day after the debate.

EIR: You asked Chancellor Kohl and Deputy Martinazzoli whether we can speak of a conspiracy against Europe in light of the current events in Bosnia and the collapse of the European Monetary System. I pose this question to you.

Formigoni: Maybe the term "conspiracy" is not the most appropriate. There is certainly an attempt to weaken Europe, to weaken its economic and political structure. We have a tragic war and genocide happening on our continent under the apparent indifference of many, together with the dissolution of that European unity which we were trying to create.