

It had set back the country's progress and created enmities between the Sikh and Hindu religious communities. In fact, Mrs. Gandhi, in whose memory the conference was held, was a victim of two Khalistani terrorists, and her son, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was a victim of terrorists from Sri Lanka. It is indeed astounding that Rigoberta Menchú, whose pro-terrorist and anti-military stance has further weakened the drug-infested Guatemala, was invited at all.

Human rights campaign

Menchú's human rights campaign has the same aroma as that of the West, and it is not difficult to realize why the West would like to promote her. Her "human rights" campaigns fit right into the mold of the new world order and the stated foreign policy of Washington. In every international forum, India has been bombarded with this campaign, carried out sometimes through various non-governmental organizations, such as Amnesty International or Asia Watch. These are no doubt also the idols of Rigoberta Menchú, and this is where she fits right in.

There is yet another aspect of Menchú that causes uneasiness. During her address she spoke of the great values imbibed from one's cultural tradition. What she was talking about is her campaign on behalf of the indigenous people. As a representative to the United Nations, Menchú is deeply involved in pushing the indigenous people's causes.

Bestiality promoted

In an interview with *Vision* magazine in late 1992, Menchú had said that the revival of ancient religions such as the Mayan is critical to "national liberation." Menchú and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (UNRG), a narco-terrorist group with which she has worked for more than 10 years, believe that with the help of the United Nations, they will be finally able to divide Guatemala along ethnic lines, force the indigenous Indians into their hands, and wage war against the Christian church. One shudders to think what Menchú would have done in India where even without a Nobel laureate, ethnic rivalries are splitting the country apart. Those in India who believe that the political campaign by the chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party, and its front organizations, has created a climate of extreme hostility, should take a good look at what Menchú is promoting in her own country and why the West is showering accolades on her.

The bestial concept that Menchú espouses on behalf of the indigenous tribes can be traced to the document prepared by the International Indian Treaty Council, of which Menchú is a spokesman and a board member. That document, presented to a U.N. Indigenous People's Conference in which she participated, decried mankind as "the weakest of all creatures," less worthy even than "wolves" because "humans are only able to survive through the exercise of rationality since they lack the abilities of other creatures to gain food through use of fang and claw."

Bosnia crisis will kill religion

Unless the international community can, even at this late hour, come up with a moral rather than geopolitical response to the Balkan crisis, "all of the intellectual efforts exerted by open-minded scholars of theology and philosophy" from both Islam and Christianity are doomed. This was one of the conclusions advanced by Dr. Hans Koechler, president of the International Progress Organization (IPO) and chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, in a roundtable discussion Nov. 25. The IPO has sought for decades to work for dialogue between these two religions.

EIR reprints this speech below, entitled "Islam and the West: The Conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Its Consequences for a New World Order."

Koechler's speech was delivered during the run-up to the latest round of "peace" negotiations, which were held on Nov. 29 and 30 in Geneva between Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. There were no breakthroughs in those talks, which was all too predictable given the threatening posture taken by European Community "mediator" David "Dr. Death" Owen.

On Nov. 25, Owen, who is a blatant apologist for Serbian genocide, issued a new round of warnings to Bosnia if it does not grovel in face of Serbian territorial demands. Owen was backed up by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who during a parliamentary speech on Nov. 19 warned Bosnia that "if the present political vacuum and lack of political cooperation persists, the parties cannot expect the humanitarian commitment to continue indefinitely."

The United States' criminal refusal to lift a finger to halt the genocide in the Balkans was accurately characterized by Leslie Gelb, head of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, who told the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour on Nov. 27:

"I don't think anyone is trying to come to grips with it now. They're all hoping Bosnia will fade away, and that it won't trigger a wider war in the Balkans, although almost everyone thinks that's precisely what will happen." Gelb said that the current proposals to ease up sanctions on Serbia are "all fake . . . all phony in the end," and are "designed to absolve us from the responsibility with dealing with genocide."

Dr. Koechler's address

As an organization in consultative status with the United Nations and Unesco, we are watching with grave concern the policy of double standards followed by the United Nations and leading western nations vis-à-vis the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible according to the U.N. Charter, collective enforcement measures to protect the Muslim people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to stop the massacres and the policy of ethnic cleansing, and to check the aggression against Bosnian territory, have never been seriously considered by the veto powers in the Security Council. The western powers are engaged in lip service to the "just cause" of the Bosnian people and in humanitarian relief action only.

Unfortunately, old-fashioned power politics are being revived in Europe. The "New World Order" for the Balkan region means the resurrection of the geopolitical constellation and rivalries from before World War I. No lesson has been learned from history, neither by the European "geopoliticians" of the type of Lord Owen (and colleagues) nor by the internationalists in the U.N. headquarters. Not only is the pre-World War I constellation being "reinstated" and the imperialists' maxim of "divide and rule" (*divide et impera*) revived, but no lesson has been learned either from the atrocities of the holocaust in World War II. The world is again watching and merely shedding tears when crimes against humanity are being committed in horrifying proportions—unseen since World War II.

Since its foundation more than two decades ago, the International Progress Organization has been propagating a better understanding and peaceful co-existence between the Muslim world and Europe, based on mutual respect among equal partners. Already in 1981, the IPO had organized an international symposium in Rome about the "Concept of Monotheism in Islam and Christianity," which brought together leading scholars of theology and philosophy from both religions.

It is sad to see that all the intellectual efforts exerted by open-minded scholars on both sides are doomed to fail through an increasing alienation between the Muslim world and the West due to the latter's neo-colonialist attitude and hegemony-seeking strategy in the regions that had to be evacuated by western colonial powers earlier this century.

The quest to regain zones of influence is overshadowing any serious effort to understand the meaning of Islamic revival and religious awareness in many countries, from Indonesia to Morocco. The term "fundamentalism" is used in a negative sense in order to avoid any serious effort to analyze the meaning of Islamic revival in many countries. As a result of this—in the words of the Egyptian scholar Olfat Agha recently published in *Al-Ahram*—"throughout the West, Islam has rarely been discussed outside a framework of political

interests, prejudice or passion at any time since the Middle Ages."

In this context, the Muslim community in Bosnia-Herzegovina is left to its fate vis-à-vis a powerful neighbor who has the advantage of having inherited a military infrastructure of the former unified state of Yugoslavia. No credible action is taken in the defense of the Bosnian Muslims, because no vital economic interests of the West are at stake. The only *real*, serious political support is coming from the member states of the Islamic Conference who, however, have no permanent seat in the Security Council and therefore cannot take effective measures to stop the genocide. It is no wonder that this "geopolitical constellation" making the Bosnian Muslims the victims of hegemonic rivalries of western powers is an important factor in the ever-increasing alienation between the Muslim world and the West. The peaceful, multi-cultural community in Bosnia-Herzegovina has abruptly been disbanded, not the least because of the passive western attitude of "letting the conflict burn out," as a British official put it earlier.

The IPO has warned of the destabilizing effects and of the dangerous consequences not only for the Balkan region but for the whole of Europe on numerous occasions. We have presented the facts time and again to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, only to get vague statements of condemnation and regret.

We welcome, however, the courageous stand of Austria, and in particular of Foreign Minister Dr. Alois Mock on the issue of Bosnia and European-Islamic dialogue. We sincerely hope that efforts such as his will have an impact on those who impose their old-fashioned *realpolitik* of World War I on the European continent.

An instrument of confrontation

It is regrettable that under the slogan of the "New World Order," the United Nations—after the end of the East-West conflict—is gradually becoming an instrument in the confrontation between traditional western interests and a "restive" non-western world that for many is being represented by Islam. It is unfortunate that the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina is contributing to reinforcing old stereotypes on both sides. For many in the West, an "Islamic threat" is a convenient surrogate for the earlier "communist threat" in the global strife for power and hegemony in the 21st century.

Only if the international community as represented by the United Nations will effectively abandon its policy of double standards vis-à-vis the Muslim world, and in particular vis-à-vis the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will a major confrontation in the future be avoided. If present geopolitical trends are not quickly corrected, and if no lasting basis for cooperation with the Muslim world is established, the tragedies we are witnessing now will only be the beginning of a much bigger confrontation, threatening the stability of the whole of Europe and the Middle East.