

Editorial

Prevent a 'Final Solution' in Bosnia

In the face of open military intervention into Bosnia-Herzegovina by both Croatian and Serbian military forces, the United Nations is still holding back from taking any even remotely appropriate acts. Perhaps the most encouraging sign is the tentative Security Council threat to use air strikes in order to open the way for humanitarian aid; but what a small step that would be, were it ever carried out, compared to what is needed!

The Jan. 27 call by the U.S. Senate to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian nation was welcome, but long overdue. Events are now rapidly moving to a point where the Bosnians will need more than just the ability to purchase arms for use in their legitimate self-defense. And even the U.S. Senate resolution, which expressed a policy previously endorsed by President Clinton, is still opposed by the British and the French governments, and even by Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who declared that lifting the U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia would prolong the war.

On Jan. 31, the correspondent on the spot for the French daily *Le Monde* warned that the Serbian authorities have started a general military mobilization of all citizens in Serbia, even calling up non-Serbian refugees living there. It is no secret that the Serb government, in open defiance of the United Nations, is now preparing for the total defeat of the Bosnians, unfortunately with the military cooperation of the Croatian government.

For several weeks, observers among the United Nations forces in former Yugoslavia have been noticing "important movements of troops of the Yugoslav Army," both in Bosnia and along the Bosnian frontier. Transport of heavy weaponry has also been detected by these observers; yet the United Nations has done nothing to stop it.

The virulent spokesman for the Russian "Third Rome" doctrine, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, meanwhile warns the world, in a speech from Bosnian territory occupied by Serbia, that any military support by the West to Bosnia would be viewed as a cause for Russia to come to the military defense of the Serbs. "We will

punish all your enemies," he promised his Serb friends.

On Jan. 23, Pope John Paul II reiterated his call for action. He urged that the international community do "everything humanly possible to disarm the aggressor" in the Balkans.

"Unfortunately," he said, "despite many efforts, the war in the regions of ex-Yugoslavia continues to resist every attempt at peace and it shocks all of us, because of its cruelty and repeated violations of human rights. No, we cannot be resigned. We must not be resigned. Appropriate authorities have the responsibility to try everything humanly possible to disarm the aggressor and create conditions for a just and lasting peace."

The United Nations-imposed boycott against the Bosnians, based upon the flimsiest of pretexts, is a more immoral, more brutal form of appeasement than that practiced by the British toward Adolf Hitler at Munich, when the fate of the Czechoslovak nation was at stake. Then, the Czech government capitulated under pressure from British appeasers. Now, the brave Bosnian people have chosen to do the opposite—to carry on the fight against tyranny, against all odds. Now, John Major's government is taking on the mantle of Neville Chamberlain, as history repeats itself.

Will we need to fight World War III, waving the bloody shirt of the Bosnian martyrs, or will the world wake up in time?

We most heartily concur with the pope's statement. It is no longer sufficient merely to stop hindering the Bosnian people from their right to defend themselves. It is intolerable that we watch passively as a whole people is slaughtered before our eyes, down to the last man, woman, and child. If we fail to act, if we fail to fight now, we will have brought the consequences upon ourselves, consequences which will include the awesome threat of nuclear war, should Zhirinovskiy and his ilk turn Russia in the direction they threaten.

As the pope says, this is not the time for appeasement, but the time for effective action before it is too late. Disarm the aggressor!