

# Rally held in last-ditch effort to save Bosnia

by Katharine Kanter

"It is an honor for us to fight for principles; it is an honor for us to fight for Europe." These words were spoken by Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubljankic, in his address to the Conference of the International Parliamentarians Against Genocide in Bosnia (IPGB), held in Brussels on April 28 and 29.

The Bosnians are indeed fighting for Europe, but Europe sure ain't fightin' for them. The conference, held in the European Parliament, took place under the patronage of Egon Klepsch, and with the support of Roberto Formigoni, the former vice president of the Parliament, and the Hon. Nereo Laroni, and brought together 200 of the most prominent Bosnian and Third World leaders. However, the gathering was boycotted by the political class of western Europe and entirely blacked out, despite the presence of numerous journalists and television reporters, by the European press. To our knowledge, there were not more than a half dozen western parliamentarians present, apart from the organizers themselves. The unavoidable and unpleasant conclusion one must needs draw is that, apart from a tiny handful of men, the political elite of Europe has made a "firm" decision—if that is the word for a mental state reflecting the utmost personal impotence and decay—to throw Bosnia to the wolves.

The co-chairmen were Sen. Kamal Al-Sharif of Jordan and Senator Afiffuddin of Malaysia. Among the IPGB leaders were the new secretary general of the World Muslim Congress, Sen. Rajah Mohammed Ul Haq; a vice premier of Egypt; Laith Shubeilat, the most prominent political figure in Jordan; the head of the defense committee of the Brazilian House of Representatives Mr. Pizzotto; Monsignor Puljic, the Bishop of Dubrovnik; General Spegelj, first defense minister of independent Croatia; Stipe Mesic, president of the Croatian Parliament; Stjepan Kljuic of the Bosnian Presidency; and Dr. Ljubljankic, foreign minister of Bosnia. Half a dozen Ibero-American parliamentarians had made a 24-hour

voyage in order to spend two days in Brussels, while only half a dozen of their European colleagues could be bothered to walk across the hallway to do something, anything, to save a nation which, in spite of a resistance heroic in the extreme, is being wiped from the face of the earth.

Much remarked upon was the presence on the podium on the second day of Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who had made an arduous journey directly from Russia, where her husband was on a week-long speaking tour, in order to be present at Dr. Klepsch's opening address. Her speech (reprinted below) was a headlong attack on the common enemy, seen from a higher standpoint, both of Bosnia and of Russia: the Empire faction, the advocates of geopolitics typified by "leaders" such as former U.S. President George Bush and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who are more than willing to let the whole of continental Europe go up in the smoke of a thermonuclear war, rather than accept that their method of organizing the world economy is bankrupt, and must be changed in a fundamental way.

Not only Mrs. LaRouche's remarks, but her very presence on the podium, provoked the predictable uproar among some of the observers, particularly certain Englishmen and those who see themselves as allied to the British cause, to the extent that the *Daily Telegraph*'s Noel Malcolm (he is presently—could this be conspiracy?—busy writing a biography of Thomas Hobbes) stood up and denounced her remarks concerning Lady Thatcher as "untrue and unfair." Malcolm also felt impelled to denounce the mere notion of "conspiracy" with regards to British intervention into Bosnia: No! he said, it is nought but arrant stupidity and incompetence.

Doubtless, we are expected to believe that it was thanks to "stupidity and incompetence" that, over the last two centuries, the British have somehow stumble-bummed themselves into the most powerful empire the world has ever known.

## This war has nothing to do with religion

One of the most important achievements of this conference, was to bury once and for all any idea that the war in Bosnia can be ascribed to religious motives, a war of Christianity against Islam. Although the room was full of representatives of the most powerful Muslim nations, the Bosnian leadership placed the debate on the strategic level, not on that of a common religion. This was considered as a matter of extreme urgency by all participants, as otherwise the British-allied factions, to give one critical case, who are pressing for a full-scale war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, will succeed in mobilizing western public opinion in favor of a religious crusade against the Muslim nations, which in reality, will be nothing other than imperial wars waged to reduce Third World populations.

This point was hammered home by all the Muslim and Catholic leaders, notably by Laith Shubeilat of Jordan, who said: "There are factions who want to use this war as a religious war. We must defuse that danger. As a Muslim, I feel safer when I see governments based on real Christianity. We need a coalition of forces throughout the world which are God-fearing, against this unjust world order which is the anti-Christ."

Similarly, Senator Ul Haq of Pakistan, who, as the new secretary general of the World Muslim Congress is one of the most influential Muslim spokesmen, hit out against both Russian and western policy and concluded, "The West is on the wrong track! Why are they pushing hatred against the Muslim world? But I see light in this conference, when I see leaders of various religions. There is not a single country in the world, where there is only one race, and only one religion, nowhere in the world."

And Dr. Nedzib Sacirbey, personal representative of the President of Bosnia-Hercegovina to the United States, said, "Do not help us because we are Muslims. Help us because we are right. Help us in the name of dignity and of the law."

A Franciscan friar from Sarajevo, representing the head of the Franciscan Order in Bosnia, made one of the most striking interventions of the conference. Although some friars were murdered last year by Muslim extremists, "and I stress, they were extremists," never, he said, never, has the Franciscan Order in Bosnia doubted the commitment of the Bosnian government to the ecumenical principle, and never, he said, would the Franciscans cease to fight for Bosnia and for that principle. Last year marked the 700th anniversary of the order in Bosnia; at the ceremony, President Alija Izetbegovic stated that it is the oldest institution in that nation. The friar concluded by strongly attacking the western powers, saying that even the fall of Vukovar, even the hundreds of thousands of dead, have not opened their eyes, because the West *wishes* partition, and *wishes* ethnic cleansing as part of western strategy. This game, he said, must be stopped.

The Franciscan's remarks were strongly seconded by Monsignor Puljic, the Catholic Bishop of Dubrovnik in Croatia, who insisted that this is a war of aggression, not a reli-

gious war, and that the aggressor must be stopped in his tracks now.

## Croatian-Bosnian unity of purpose

The Croatian leaders who travelled to the conference, and they were not secondary figures, expressed in the most emphatic and unambiguous terms, that they stand for the rule of law, and the rule of law means absolute respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia in its pre-war borders. There was complete coherence on this point between Stipe Mesic, the president of the Croatian Parliament and founder of a new opposition party, and, notably, Stjepan Kljuic, a Catholic member of the Bosnian Presidency.

Mesic, who was also the last President of Yugoslavia after the fall of communism, speaking in the name of the Parliament of Croatia, said, "What Mr. Kljuic has said about Bosnia is the truth. We have come here to remind the world of its principles, notably the inviolability of borders. As we negotiate with the aggressor, hundreds die. When Europe is at war, the world will be at war. If a sovereign state is conquered, the conflict will be internationalized. Most people in the West think [Russian Third Rome figure Vladimir] Zhirinovsky is a clown. But Russian nationalism could cause a conflagration in Europe and the world. There are 25 million Russians outside Russia, millions of Hungarians and Albanians outside their nations, too. Should we accept that all ethnic groups outside their homeland should join by utmost violence their host nations to that homeland? Bosnia has been around far longer than all of Yugoslavia. She has been around longer even than Switzerland. She can survive. Serbia must be pushed back inside her own borders. It will be a service to the Serbian people."

Similar views were voiced by the Croatian General Specelj, in an interview with *EIR* which we will publish shortly.

## Shall we beg the United Nations?

The last session of the conference was given over to a debate over the final resolution (see *Documentation*); tumult erupted when two delegates stood up and insisted that the resolution be softened. They said that the words "condemn" must be struck, with relation to the U.N. and to the great powers, and that the demand that the veto power of the Permanent Five members of the Security Council be eliminated, must also be struck. They said that only a "revolutionist organization" could make such extreme statements, that the 200 parliamentarians there had to act respectfully, and not say things that could attract disapproval. At this point, members of the Pakistani delegation, seconded by others, booed them down, shouting: "Shall we *beg*, and not condemn? Shall we *beg* the United Nations and the great powers? Shall we *beg* after hundreds of thousands of dead?"

Mrs. LaRouche then stood up and said: "It would be tragic if this conference were to fall into the same trap as the U.N.: being soft and diplomatic faced with an all-Balkans war. We must not be softer, we must make a much stronger

appeal in this terrible crisis. We must give leadership here! Otherwise, the confirmation of geopolitics in the Balkans will escalate the danger of a new world war." The resolution was upheld as first drafted, save for the attack on the International Monetary Fund, which was removed at the insistence of U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.). He apparently felt that this might in some way give credibility to a certain Lyndon LaRouche.

I would like to give the final words in this report from the conference to Stjepan Kljuic of the Bosnian Presidency:

"We have reached our physical, but not our moral limit, because we still have the will to resist. The world has not seen half of the suffering of Gorazde, or the other besieged cities.

"We cannot negotiate with war criminals. Once Mate Boban was removed, the Washington agreement became possible. The same must be done with the Bosnian Serbs; there, the protagonists of partition are still in power.

"Milosevic can continue to fight because of the support from Greece, Romania, and Russia. We need help to stop the war, but not the biased help the U.N. is giving us. What we need is to have international troops deployed onto the Bosnian borders. The arrival of arms from Serbia must be cut off.

"We are 1,000 years old. We have been taught from birth to respect others' religion. The Muslims in Bosnia have not adopted the principle of revenge. That is our greatest wealth.

"Raise your voice. You are citizens of the law. Help us! But do not help us because we are Christians, or Orthodox, or Muslim; help us because of the law. Help us, because we are all citizens of Bosnia-Hercegovina."

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## Documentation

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# Conference resolution hits British geopolitics

*The following resolution was passed by the International Parliamentarians Against Genocide in Bosnia-Hercegovina:*

1. This Conference, organized by the International Parliamentarians Against Genocide in Bosnia-Hercegovina, meeting on 28-29 April 1994 in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, under the auspices of the President of the European Parliament, the Hon. Egon Alfred Klepsch, and attended by over 100 parliamentarians, intellectuals, and religious leaders from all over the world:

(a) NOTING that the tragic situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina has not improved but instead has deteriorated and become catastrophic due to unchecked Greater Serbian ambitions to divide and conquer the country;

(b) NOTING that the so-called great powers have done nothing to stop this naked and blatant Greater Serbian aggression, but rather have appeased and abetted it;

(c) NOTING the dismal failure of the United Nations in fulfilling its obligation to protect the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, a sovereign member-state, from Greater Serbian aggression;

(d) NOTING also that this failure is due to the geopolitical power-play of the so-called great powers, especially Britain, France, and Russia, and the unfair system of the veto power in the U.N. Security Council;

(e) NOTING also that certain powers in their desire to perpetuate their vested interests, are instigating and fomenting tribal and sectarian religious wars between and among nations; and

(f) REALIZING that this deplorable state of affairs can no longer be tolerated by the world's peoples;

2. Now, therefore, solemnly RESOLVES:

(a) to strongly CONDEMN the so-called great powers for their appeasement of the Greater Serbian aggression, to warn them of the serious consequences of their appeasement, and to appeal to their good sense to stop this appeasement immediately;

(b) To strongly CONDEMN the United Nations for its failure to abide by its own Charter to protect a member-state subject to aggression;

(c) To REAFFIRM the legal and constitutional rights of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to defend and recover its rightful territory from the aggressor and to call directly for aid, including military aid, from member-nations, individually and collectively, for such defense and rightful struggle, in accordance with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, and to reject any acceptance of any "fait accompli" and the forced alteration of internationally recognized borders;

(d) While commanding Malaysia for having passed a motion in its Parliament to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia-Hercegovina and the United States of America for supporting the motion to lift the arms embargo in the U.N. Security Council, to CALL UPON justice-loving nations to ignore this illegal arms embargo and to come directly and immediately to render such aid to the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina;

(e) While greatly appreciating the humanitarian aid that has so far been sent by many nations and civic groups, to CALL UPON nations and civic groups all over the world to increase these aids for relief and reconstruction in a unified Bosnia-Hercegovina irrespective of racial, political and religious considerations;

(f) To CALL FOR the elimination of the veto power vested in the so-called Five Permanent Members—such veto power being responsible for blocking it from taking effective actions to protect the independence and sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and to CALL UPON the U.N. Secretary General to resign for failing to give leadership to the world body;

(g) To CALL UPON member-nations to expose those European powers that are accomplices in Greater Serbian so-

# A French general speaks: 'Bosnia is a fiction'

*The following are excerpts of a speech given in early 1994, by the French general commanding the 92nd Regiment of Infantry for Unprofor at Bihać in Bosnia. The document, which we are happy to make available to readers in full, is an internal briefing intended for French officers deployed to Bosnia. It is therefore an accurate expression of the reality behind the mealy-mouthed, hypocritical "diplomacy" practiced by the French government. Note that Bosnia is called "Yugoslavia."*

## Title: Conference—Yugoslavia

... The Serbian strategic aim is clear: restore the unity of the Serbian nation. They consider that such a union can be got, only by dividing Croatia and Bosnia. What has abusively been called ethnic cleansing, will allow for regrouping the populations according to their nationality and will thus make this division feasible. . . .

The Serbian position is relatively well-grounded. . . . Bosnian unity, assuming that it did ever exist, has become a fiction. That unity is, in any case, far less legitimate than Yugoslavian unity which was quickly dropped.

The obstinate determination to uphold that unity is mainly due to ideological reasons. But the Serbians and the Croatians don't want to belong to Bosnia anymore. . . . That puts to rest any debate about the survival of a multi-ethnic Bosnian state.

The Bosnian leadership will find it hard to sign a peace accord, because they bear responsibility for unleashing

the war and they have attached their name to the principle of upholding Bosnian unity.

Since the beginning, they have tried to bring the world onto their side by using the mass media very effectively, and multiplying provocations. . . . All of our dead [the French soldiers killed] were killed by the Bosnians.

At Geneva, the Bosnians wrecked the talks deliberately by their excessive demands. Their leaders are die-hard nationalists, who are now going to have to prove just how representative they really are. They are getting more and more radical, and have reorganized their Armed Forces. Bosnia lives today under a military regime. They have been backed in that way of thinking by the U.S.A., which has played an ambiguous role toward Bosnia. . . .

I know I may seem anti-Bosnian or pro-Serbian by saying all this . . . but facts are facts, and hiding them will only bring us further away from a realistic solution. . . .

The Muslims must be pressured to see that their idea of a unified Bosnia is dead and buried, and give in to a three-way confederation with a realistic carve-up. . . .

At Zagreb you would think yourself in Germany or in Austria. There are a lot of Croatian emigrés in Germany, and, therefore influential pro-Croatian pressure groups in that country. They are very nationalist and high-strung. The U.N. has a bad image in Croatia, and the Croatians are doing everything they can to disrupt the U.N. troops' activities. Generally speaking, they do not like us, for historical reasons (*we have always been their enemy*). . . . It will be very hard, not to say impossible, to change this image. Croatia, as well as Slovenia, will become the rich nations in the region, and they are both the private hunting grounds for Germany [emphasis added].

called "ethnic cleansing," aggression and genocide, and to take them to the International Court of Justice;

(h) To CALL UPON the United States Congress, the European Parliament, and other legislative bodies to hold formal hearings in their legislatures to hear testimonies of former inmates of Serbian concentration camps in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia concerning atrocities and war crimes;

(i) To CALL FOR the speedy trial of Serbian war criminals, especially Slobodan Milosevic, Radovan Karadzic, and Ratko Mladic;

(j) To COMMEND the ongoing inter-religious dialogues among peoples as extremely important to frustrate and overcome the evil schemes by some powers to incite and foment religious and sectarian conflicts and wars, and to foster understanding among nations and religions; and to call for the intensification and deepening of such dialogues;

(k) To CALL UPON all western governments to act on the basis of the understanding that the continuation of the present

geopolitical policies in the Balkans will escalate the danger of a new World War and it is necessary therefore to implement immediately a program of global reconstruction, including not only the East but also the South, as the only basis for world peace;

(l) To CALL UPON all concerned national and international Non-Governmental Organizations to cooperate closely and to intensify their efforts to help build a New World Order based on justice;

(m) To CALL FOR and WORK FOR peace that is based on justice, full restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, human rights and the return to their homes for all refugees; and

(n) To INSTRUCT the Secretariat and the Co-Chairmen of the IPGB to establish an ongoing international Working Group and to take all other possible measures to carry out the decisions of the Conference and to inform members of the Conference as and when necessary.