

# Time is running out on pragmatic policies in the Balkans

by Elke Fimmen

*The author visited Zagreb, together with Ted and Dorothy Andromidas from the U.S. Schiller Institute, during early February.*

If there is to be any positive solution for both Croatia and Bosnia, and for the entire Balkan region for that matter, the United States and Germany must now make a decisive break with the manipulations of the British-French-Russian Triple Entente. It is no longer sufficient to introduce what might be called pragmatic policies. In the present explosive situation, there is no alternative to a full break with British geopolitical schemes, which means withdrawing U.N. forces, lifting the weapons embargo against Bosnia, and providing military logistical support for the enforcement of the territorial integrity of both Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, punishment of the Serbian aggressor, and economic reconstruction.

Chaos, war, and an uncontrollable spill-over into the entire region, as happened in the events which led to World War I, are looming behind and underneath all the various plans to cool down the situation. The various schemes—the latest one is called Z4 (Zagreb 4)—remind the observer of the international financial derivatives market, in which ever new schemes are spun out of thin air. Just as the financial bubble is exploding, so the bubbles of Z4 and similar schemes are going to burst, with bloody consequences.

In Bosnia-Hercegovina, the leadership and the beleaguered population are not going to accept pressures to surrender. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic made it clear on Bosnian television on Feb. 9 that “peace is very important for the Bosnian people, but not at any price.” The Bosnian Army has grown stronger over the past year, and there are new preparations for a Croatian-Muslim joint command of military forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Preparations for withdrawal of Unprofor forces are under way, and might become reality if the U.S. Congress sticks with its decision to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Army on May 1. The fact that there is no leeway for harboring illusions about the explosive situation, has been underlined by the Serbian treatment of Bihac, the formal announcement of a joint command of Bosnian Serbian troops under Radovan Karadzic and Croatian Serbian troops under General Martic, and Belgrade top diplomat Vladimir Jovanovic’s recent categorical rejection of the idea of recognizing

Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In Croatia, the government is treading on thin ice. The Unprofor troops have become heartily hated because of their blatant protection of the Serbian aggressors. This exasperation has led the Croatian government to formally announce the cancellation of the U.N. mandate at the end of March. The announcement unleashed feverish attempts by the Z4 group—representatives of the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the International Conference for former Yugoslavia—to prevent that from happening, because, as they see correctly, without the U.N. troops in place, the situation would get out of control.

It is obvious that any serious “repatriation” of one-third of Croatia’s territory is not possible without military action—something which is not in the interests of the Croatian government, which continues to intone its belief in Serbia’s desire for peace and the possibility for political arrangements, quite probably including exchanges of territory as well as possible deals concerning Bosnia-Hercegovina. Since these intentions are well-known to the public, according to press reports the present military mobilization is coming up against great resistance from the majority of the population. The same nation which resisted with great enthusiasm when the Serbian aggression first started, now seems to be increasingly unwilling to play an active part in such policies, which they view as not serious.

The Z4 plan, which is equally unacceptable, gives far-reaching, autonomous status to the Krajina Serbs in large parts of conquered Croatian territory, especially in the western part of Croatia, including giving the Krajina Serbs their own President and parliament, as well their as own currency. The remaining parts of Serbian-occupied territory in western Slavonia and Baranya would be given back to Croatia after five years of U.N.-administered government. Majority Serbian communities would have a status of “self-government.” Demilitarization would begin only after three years.

Such a policy cannot possibly work. The Krajina Serbs have already rejected it, because it is not far-reaching enough for them, since it places them under the Croatian flag. For Croatia, too, this plan is unacceptable, because it rewards the aggressors with autonomous status, and in no way ensures that the hundreds of thousands of refugees can return to their homes and live safely and in peace.

Another question, of course, is how anyone could believe that Unprofor, which has only helped the Serbian aggressors so far, will suddenly do an about-face and become an enforcer of Croatian rights.

The Croatian government is meanwhile making strenuous efforts to stifle the Croatian opposition, which is opposed to any new sell-out schemes. Recently, pressure was put on the influential Croatian Veterans of War Organization to replace its president, leading Croatian opposition personality General Spegelj, with a pro-government representative. Like other successful Croatian generals, Spegelj, one of the leading defenders of Croatia during the opening phases of the Serbian aggression, had been sent into retirement early during the Serbian-Croatian war. Spegelj is now one of the main proponents of the Muslim-Croatian alliance in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Croatian Volunteers Association, representing the core of effective resistance especially at the beginning of the war, was neutralized in a similar fashion last year by a campaign against its president, Zvonimir Trusic.

### **Bihac: protected death zone**

While all sorts of wheeling and dealing goes on behind the scenes, the Croatian opposition movement Libertas is actively organizing the alliance between Muslims and Croats against the genocide. The most recent horrible symbol of that policy is Bihac.

Professor Separovic of Libertas, together with Muslim and Croatian representatives of Bihac, recently organized a protest meeting on the Bihac situation in Zagreb, at which he also once again presented the *Actio Popularis* legal challenges against U.N. figureheads Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Yasushi Akashi, and Unprofor commander General Sir Michael Rose. The Schiller Institute had also been invited to address the audience. Over the course of the meeting, the picture became clear in gruesome detail. Even speakers from the U.N. High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) now confirm conditions of famine. The Bihac pocket has been encircled since September 1991. Over the course of 1994, according to estimates of the regional authorities, only one-fourth of the required food supplies were let through by the Serbian side. In the first 40 days of this year, only 5% of needed supplies got through. According to the UNHCR, 600 grams of food per person are needed for survival, but only 53 grams were delivered to the population in the last three months.

In the hospitals of Bihac, people are dying of hunger. One hospital alone reported the starvation of 17 small children and eight newborn babies during the past two months. Over the past three months, 160 children were born prematurely, because of lack of nutrition as well as psychological trauma of the mothers. In many cases, birth weight was only around 1 kilogram. Even mild infections are leading to death, because people's immune systems are too weak. Moreover, hospitals have neither the energy supply for heating nor other necessary technical equipment for such things as transfusions,



*Elke Fimmen of the Schiller Institute addresses a rally in Zagreb, Croatia in 1992, protesting the destruction of Sarajevo.*

sterilization of equipment, CPR, dialysis, etc.

### **Hope for a stronger U.S. policy**

As became clear in our discussions, everybody knows that only a complete turning of the tables can shift the situation at this point. Hopes are directed toward the United States, even though there is much disappointment over the slow pace of events, which is creating dangerous dynamics. Growing tensions are now once again being reported in Bosnia-Herzegovina between Croats and Muslims. The very tense situation in Mostar is well-known; but tensions are also being reported in central Bosnia, because there is no perspective for any change for over 1 million refugees. One example is Tuzla. Traditionally, collaboration between Croats and Muslims in that region has been particularly good, even during the Croatian-Muslim war. But in hemmed-in situations such as this, provocations by any side can rather easily be set off.

The visiting American-German Schiller Institute delegation helped to clarify the internal complications of American politics to both Croatian and Bosnian leaders. Ted Andromidas gave public and private briefings about the British oligarchy's practice of eliminating U.S. Presidents the moment they change direction away from British geopolitical schemes. He also spoke about President Clinton's national problems with the Conservative Revolution loonies. In that connection, Andromidas stressed the urgency of securing a stronger voice for American politician and economic scientist Lyndon LaRouche. This moved several prominent Croatian and Bosnian representatives, including members of Parliament, to sign a public call for LaRouche's exoneration from all legal charges against him.

Such support for LaRouche might also send a signal to the U.S. ambassador in Zagreb, Peter Galbraith, whose role is generally regarded as counterproductive for Croatia. He has come under strong criticism for his particularly good relations with his Russian counterpart in Zagreb, with whom he pushed through the Zagreb agreement last May, according to which the Croatian Army had to withdraw from more than 1,000 square kilometers of Croatian territory. Galbraith is also accused of having made strong anti-Croatian remarks—charges which he has not cared to deny.

Croatian analyst Srečko Jurdana, in an article in the daily *Slobodna Dalmacija*, contrasted Galbraith's policies with those of President Clinton. Jurdana accuses Galbraith of walking in the footsteps of President George Bush's former ambassador to Belgrade, Zimmerman. Jurdana mockingly calls both Zimmerman and James Baker, who had given the green light for Belgrade's aggression, "guardians of Yugoslavia" and enemies of the Croatian state, George Bush being "a typical exponent of Versailles-type Anglo-Saxon geostrategy." In contrast, even though President Clinton is somewhat cautious, he cannot in any way be compared with Bush, Jurdana stresses. Clinton might in some respects even be called revolutionary. He did commit use of U.S. airplanes against the Serbians; through the Washington agreement, he ended the Muslim-Croatian war in Bosnia; and he supports the integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Above all, Jurdana says, probably the most important foreign policy step by Clinton was his speech in Berlin last year, in which he announced the end of the "special relationship" between Washington and London, and stressed the development of general political and economic collaboration with Germany. Jurdana concludes that Clinton's speech "implied more than anything else, the complete change in the Balkan policies started by George Bush. It could in principle transform Washington into a strategic background for those forces which are resisting the genocidal expansionism of the British client in Belgrade."

Jurdana is right: The speedy realization of this potential of the United States will be decisive not only for this tortured part of the world, but for Europe and the whole world.

## Prince Philip's WWF in 'serious crisis'

by Our Special Correspondent

Senior figures in the global green-ecology movement, including individuals with highest-level connections to the British royal family, are affirming that a "serious organizational crisis" has broken out within the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, formerly the World Wildlife Fund). The WWF, whose international president is British Royal Consort Prince Philip, was the group that launched the green movement back in 1961. The British royal family has, from the inception, used the WWF as an instrument to carry out its neo-feudalist policies against non-white populations, under the cover of "conservation of animal species and nature."

The relevant sources, who are in a position to know the most intimate inner workings of the WWF, report that the "serious crisis" is twofold in nature. The organization is suffering from a significant decline in revenues, at the same time that its tarnished international image is undermining morale within the ranks of WWF officialdom. As a sign of the times, 31 officials at the WWF's international headquarters in Geneva have been sacked during the early weeks of 1995, including such senior officials as Michel Pimbert, head of the WWF's "Protected Areas and Species Conservation Unit."

WWF leaders involved in the purge were quick to put out a damage-control story, saying the sackings had only to do with "trimming the budget," at a time of "transition" in WWF activities and policies. According to an article in the Feb. 6 London *Guardian*, Pimbert was also accused by WWF-International director general Claude Martin of falsely charging that the WWF gave too little concern to "indigenous people," relative to an obsession with "conserving nature."

That may be true as far as it goes. But several WWF sources have stated, privately, that much more is at stake. But before outlining their explanations, it must be stated at the outset, that there can be no doubt that the WWF structure is in a frenzy, in reaction to several months of circulation of *EIR's Special Report*, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor." That report, released on Oct. 28, 1994, meticulously documents how the WWF is responsible for carrying out genocide, in Rwanda and other countries in the developing world, and how this genocidal thrust is coordinated, top-down, by the British royal house and its high-level minions, in and out of Britain, who constitute the powerful "Club of the Isles." One key mechanism for manufacturing wars and carrying out depopulation are the internationally managed, and WWF-patronized "nature parks" that exist in trans-