

Stalemate on a shifting front

The move on May 2-3 by Croatian troops to seize the stretch of the Zagreb-Belgrade highway held by Serb forces, and to retake the Serbian-occupied areas of Western Slavonia, is not, in itself, of great military significance; it risks, unless there be a popular explosion against the status quo in Croatia, to be yet another of President Tudjman's diversions to cover up his secret agreements with Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic.

Western Slavonia, which was occupied by about 15,000 Serbians, is of no particular interest to Serbia; it is a salient, about 400 square kilometers; a major thrust by Serbian forces coming up over the Bosnian border into Serbian territory inside Croatia proper would be needed to expand it. In truth, the Serbian General Staff is quietly euphoric at being able to redeploy men back onto other fronts in Bosnia, their front line now having been shortened by about 200 kilometers. The U.N. "brokered" the passage at Bosanska Gradiska of 5-6,000 Serbian soldiers, "fleeing" the Croatian advance, back into Serbian-occupied areas of Bosnia, where they can get back to mounting a major campaign against the reorganized and increasingly well-armed Bosnian Army.

It is a virtual certainty that the Serbian forces were tipped off by Tudjman's men about the Croatian offen-

sive: A ceremony at Jasenovac, on the front line, was cancelled and the town of Okucani was abandoned without a shot being fired; there are almost no reports of casualties on either side; 600 Serbian troops surrendered. Since the Serbians occupying Western Slavonia have about twice the tanks of the Croatians, and can call to their aid both the Yugoslavian People's Army and the Serbian forces over the border in Bosnia, they would not pull out unless the pull-out is a plan. Also, there was no sign of movement from the Croatian side, to join forces with the Bosnians and cut the Brcko corridor, the Serbian life-line, in many places less than 500 meters wide, which joins Serbia proper, to her occupied territories.

Why then did the Serbians fire Orkan rockets, armed with cluster bombs, on May 2-3 into the center of Zagreb? The first short answer is, it was lunch-time in Zagreb, and the Serbian leadership likes to kill unarmed civilians. It was, also, a reminder, timed to second the European Union's statement threatening to sink economic cooperation with Croatia, that Tudjman must not break the rules of the game, and move to break through the Unprofor lines and retake East Slavonia and the Krajina.

But there are unpredictable factors in this whole affair. The Croatian people, emboldened by the tactical success in Western Slavonia and enraged over the terror bombing of Zagreb, are clamoring for action to retake Vukovar and Knin. Second, the government of Bosnia has refused to renew the cease-fire, in expectation of great military activity this summer.—Katharine Kanter

liam Rees-Mogg. *EIR* has continually reported on the role of these three in the various anti-Clinton campaigns.

Editor Stephen Dorril wrote: "One of the strangest and longest media sagas has been the British press pursuit of Bill Clinton. It has been the British papers, principally the *Telegraph*, clearly at the instigation of Canadian Conrad Black, and then hot on the trail, the American/Australian-owned *Sunday Times*. . . . The U.S. press did eventually pick up the stories after they had been 'surfaced' in Britain. They were mostly the product of the *Telegraph's* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, who relied to a great extent on the material pumped out by fringe groups on the extreme right of the Republican Party.

"This anti-Clinton campaign has become a conspiracy-laden industry worthy of the outer fringes of the JFK assassination. In an extraordinary series of articles in the *Times*, William Rees-Mogg showed his obsession with the minutiae of the Vincent Foster suicide, whose death, according to the former editor of the paper, bore the marks of 'professional criminals.' Rees-Mogg wrote about the exit wounds as if poring over the autopsy photographs of President Kennedy.

As a true conspiracist, he wrote, 'where the story becomes really worrying, is when one reaches the six suspicious suicides, not to mention a murder or two' [emphasis added].

"Just to show that even apparently rational and intelligent people can believe just about anything, Rees-Mogg backed up his article with a mind-blowing illustration. If anyone on the left had used a similar graphic, I am sure that he would have been the first to call for the men in white-coats."

Later in the magazine, in a section exposing "Spooks," there appeared a short biographical item on Evans-Pritchard, taken from "the Schiwer Institute in the United States" (evidently a mis-rendering of "Schiller Institute," founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche). This institute "claimed that Evans-Pritchard, who has been at the forefront of promoting the 'Whitewater' affair, 'made no secret of his close relations with the British Secret Intelligence Service, known as MI6.' A stringer in Latin America in the '80s and contributor to the *Economist*, later the *Daily Telegraph*, he admitted that his father was in MI6 during the war." This is the first detailed report on the "Clintongaters" to appear in the British media, and one of the few such accounts outside of *EIR*.