

Serbian resistance fighters: Milosevic regime can be defeated

by Umberto Pascali

"Tell the American people that there is a resistance inside Serbia. And we feel like the French in 1944. We are waiting for our Normandy landing. Many are disappointed with America. For 50 years we have been looking with great hope to the United States, as the center of democracy. But we, who are carrying out those ideals, have not received any support. The West just negotiated with the Milosevic regime. We expect much more from the U.S. We believe in those ideals." The voice of the leader of the renewed Serbian resistance is tired, but emphatic. Behind the frustration, there is a palpable faith that the United States will live up to its image.

Indeed, there is a resistance inside Serbia: a resistance that has been ignored and even de facto opposed by the West, but is nevertheless active and determined to fight against all odds in a situation that is often desperate. The members of this resistance are present in the captive ethnic areas subjugated by Belgrade (Kosova, Vojvodina, Sanjak), but also in Serbia as such.

Because of the oligarchical control over the media, we have accustomed ourselves to think in terms of "Serbians" against "Croats" or even "Muslims." This induces people to think in racist terms, as Henry Kissinger, Lawrence Eagleburger, and Lord David Owen say that the war in the Balkans is due to some violent characteristic inherent in the genes of the people living there. In this way, the public is blinded to the real causes of the Greater Serbian aggression: the British oligarchy. Thus the genocide that has been going on for four years is dismissed as "pragmatic racism," as a Serbian observer called it, of the kind that says, "Well, those people like to kill each other, it's their nature."

The Center for Anti-War Action

This "pragmatic racism" is also a way to ignore the call for help from the courageous Serbian men and women trying to resist the Nazi-Communist regime of Slobodan Milosevic. *EIR* talked to some of them on Aug. 2. These are the leaders of the Centar Za Antiratnu Akciju (Center for Anti-War Action), based in Belgrade and Ada, Vojvodina. We spoke with Mrs. Vera Tatic, the president of the Ada office (who was interviewed in *EIR*'s April 9, 1993 issue), and with Istvan Webel, Tajti Tibor, and other leaders. The main task of the

center is to help those who do not want to be swallowed up by Milosevic's war machine.

It is Milosevic's Serbia, of course, that arms, supplies, trains, and provides military personnel for the paramilitary gangs of Radovan Karadzic. The way this is done is by arresting citizens and sending them by force into Bosnia and Croatia. Of course, Milosevic claims that he does not provide any support for these gangs. An increasing number of Serbian citizens have turned to Mrs. Tatic after their family members have been arrested and disappeared.

The center began its activities in 1991, when anti-war demonstrations broke out in several Serbian cities and towns, including Belgrade. These demonstrations and the activities of the emerging resistance against the genocidal line of Milosevic were greeted by the western media with virtually total silence. The center collects information on violation of human rights, works "for the development of democracy," and tries to establish as many contacts as possible with organizations abroad, while organizing domestic groups.

Milosevic's strategy

The leaders of the center astound one with their clarity and political insight. "Remember that Milosevic was elected with only 30% of the votes," they said. "There *is* resistance to the regime. This regime can survive *only* in a situation of war. If the war stops in Croatia and Bosnia, if the regime cannot keep and hold onto the minds of the people with the promise of racial victory, then it will collapse faster than you would believe. The regime has no idea what an economy is, what a normal society is. It must have a war; any halt, any defeat, and it's the end." They stress that the regime is afraid that Serbians might be able to communicate with Croats and Bosnians, because in that case the paranoid view of a "superior Serbian race" could collapse.

"This is why the government cut any telephone communication between Serbia, and Croatia and Bosnia. They do not want us to talk to the people there, because in that case, anybody would see how absurd and criminal this war is. The only information the Serbians receive is through television, radio, and newspapers. They are 100% controlled. It is a totally controlled environment. I want to call on the West:

Why don't they broadcast radio programs into Serbia? Why do they leave our people at the mercy of the organized lies of the regime's media?" And those lies are based on professionally organized brainwashing. The agency de facto advising the psychiatrists of the regime was the Tavistock Institute of London (see *EIR*, Feb. 12, 1993, "The Tavistock Psychiatrists Behind the Rape of Bosnia").

The Greater Serbians took special care to prevent Bosnia and Croatia from having effective, long-range TV and radio transmission. In this they were helped by the United Nations leadership. Sarajevo, for example, was prevented by the U.N. from transporting inside the city the technological means to establish a TV station that could reach the Bosnian population. The U.N. argued that this was strategic material forbidden by the arms embargo. "But the moment the Big Lie collapses, the moment that the black magic of the 'victory of the superior race' vanishes, then the regime is in deep trouble."

This was a rather prophetic statement, as a few days later, the coordinated counterattack of the Croatian and Bosnian armies broke the deadly siege around the "safe haven" of Bihac and liberated the whole region of Krajina. For the first time, the Milosevic-sponsored paramilitary gangs faced a normal army—and not unarmed civilians—and were smashed.

Weakness of Belgrade exposed

As a consequence, a process of implosion is taking place inside the Greater Serbian clan. Karadzic attacked "his" general, Ratko Mladic, and Milosevic. The synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church issued a statement against Milosevic, calling his regime "incapable of leading the people." Until a few days before, Metropolitan Pavle had been "preaching," in the occupied territories of Croatia, about the inevitability of Serbian victory. The media in Belgrade are violently attacking Karadzic.

The Serbia resistance leaders warned us during the interview that the Belgrade regime in reality was very weak. And that made even more absurd the fact that the emissaries of the West never wanted to establish contact with any real opposition in Serbia. "Lord David Owen was practically living in Belgrade," our interlocutors said sarcastically, referring to the British psychiatrist and former European Community "mediator." "But he talked only to Milosevic and his men. All the leaders of the opposition were ignored. The West should stop this policy. The new European mediator, the Swede Carl Bildt, was here five times to negotiate with Milosevic, not to talk to the opposition. This must stop."

The image before the resistance leaders is that of the German resistance to Hitler. "Yes, we know, the leaders of the German resistance to Hitler asked the British for help, and the British betrayed them to Hitler. They gave Hitler the lists of their names. . . . Yes, we see what the British are doing today. We really hope they will be isolated. . . . Never again should happen what happened then. On this, we abso-

lutely agree with Mr. [Lyndon] LaRouche."

Boutros-Ghali, Akashi, and other criminals

"The only person in the U.N. structure who listened to us was Mr. [Tadeusz] Mazowiecki," the Serbian leaders told *EIR*. Mazowiecki, as reported in the last issue of *EIR*, was the U.N. Human Rights Investigator in former Yugoslavia, who resigned on July 27. "He resigned in disgust at the U.N. and the West's attitude, after the U.N.-protected safe havens of Srebrenica and Zepa were abandoned to Karadzic's men. This is exactly the same disgust we feel. We informed Mazowiecki in detail about the attitude and activities of the U.N. in Serbia. He agreed with us. And that common view of the situation was the basis for his resignation. Yasushi Akashi, the envoy of [U.N. Secretary General Boutros] Boutros-Ghali in former Yugoslavia, secretly negotiated with the criminals. Boutros-Ghali approved those secret negotiations and the immoral exchange of the kidnapped Unprofor soldiers for the acceptance of the mass expulsion from the safe havens. We were among the first to write a letter to Mazowiecki to applaud his decision. And we wrote him that from now on, we are not going to have contact with the United Nations and with whoever will be his successor."

The absence of Mazowiecki will be felt by the Serbian resistance. "Beginning last June, the regime has escalated the forced mobilization of the refugees. These are people who were in the Yugoslavian Army until 1991. Then they demobilized and came to Serbia from Croatia or Bosnia, as refugees. Now, during the night, the police arrest them and send them by force to fight with the paramilitary groups in Krajina. There is not even the appearance of legality; it's simply kidnapping. Just today, we had a new wave of calls from terrorized mothers, from wives whose relatives have been taken away. We are organizing protests and demonstrations. There is a hunger strike in front of the presidential palace in Belgrade. Mazowiecki used our information in his reports. And now?"

Our interlocutors made available to *EIR* a letter that was delivered on June 14. It reads in part: "Our center has confirmed that the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs, together with the military police of the so-called republic of Serbian Krajina [the occupied territory in Croatia now liberated—ed.] are engaged in the forced mobilization of individuals in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The target of the mobilization are refugees from Krajina, also those who enjoy the *status of refugees* and also nationals of the F.R. Yugoslavia who had some connections with Krajina before the split of Yugoslavia. We have already informed the public about this.

"With this going on, the F.R. Yugoslavia cannot be regarded as neutral concerning the military conflict in this part of the world. And this action disproves the claim of the F.R. Yugoslavia government that it has no territorial aims on the neighboring states of former Yugoslavia."