

Prominent Bosnians express concern over arms embargo, 'lost' cities

by Katharine Kanter

Between Aug. 31 and Sept. 4, as the Contact Group met in the nearby Petersberg fortress, the Göttingen Society for Endangered Peoples held a conference in Bonn, Germany, on the subject of Bosnia. During the conference, which will be covered more fully in next week's issue, *EIR* was able to interview several prominent Bosnians, including members of the Presidency. We believe that these interviews reflect very accurately, not only the concerns, but also the aims and intent of the Bosnian leadership, in particular, with respect to the arms embargo, and to the question of Srebrenica, and the other allegedly "lost" cities.

The echo of these interviews was perhaps heard in Ankara, Turkey. Emerging from meetings with American and other diplomats there on Sept. 5, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told the Turkish press that he would not accept partition, nor the schemes put to him on eastern Bosnia by the Contact Group: "We will never give up Zepa and Srebrenica, nor accept for the Brcko Corridor to be widened. The only State on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, is and remains Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Interview: Muhammed Filippovic

There will be no division of Bosnia

Muhammed Filippovic is a professor at Sarajevo University, ambassador to London of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and a member of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

EIR: What have you to say about the planned Geneva talks?
Filippovic: People should start by asking Bosnia what it thinks. This, they seem to prefer not to do.

For my part, I can say: There will be no division. If there

is division, then there will be more war.

What would you say to talks, where a country is, first, plunged into war, and, *whilst that war still rages*, dragged to talks? Let there first be a cease-fire. Then, there can be talks.

Throughout this war, the status on the ground has been the basis on which to conduct "negotiations." Curious, don't you think?

As for the Geneva Conference on "former Yugoslavia," I believe this is the first time in history that an *international conference* has been dealing with the *internal* affairs of one country. There has been *aggression*, violation of *international law*, and the conference concerns itself with *our* Constitution, *our* internal affairs!

The Geneva Conference itself questions the sovereignty of a nation. And now, it is culminating in giving parts of our territory to Serbia, giving them the space to make a so-called "homogeneous" Serbia, and the right to make a confederation with Serbia—which means the *dissolving* of Bosnia.

The people who have worked out this "framework" are just technicians of different political wills and interests.

EIR: What about the arms embargo?

Filippovic: It is unnatural and unlawful. It is a breach of the U.N. Charter. It should be lifted.

EIR: Returning to the Contact Group plan—

Filippovic: Personally, I am against it. Bosnia is a sovereign state. We can discuss *bilaterally* with England, with France, and so forth.

The Contact Group plan was made on the supposition that we had lost the war. There is no reason for that supposition now. There is a new strategic situation, and therefore, we need a new plan.

No one knows exactly what the new proposals are. But from the rumors circulating, they are even worse than the old.

I am not for imposing peace like some magician. The will of the people can be freely expressed only when that people is free to express it. Presently, there does exist a highly unnatural situation, where our people are under enormous pressure and have not the leisure to think freely.

So, let there be a cease-fire. Let all the roads be opened,

let the communications be restored. Let human rights be respected in the regions presently ruled by Serbia. Then we shall see.

EIR: Is it advisable that Bosnia not attend the talks at all?

Filipovic: We cannot directly change the will of President Clinton. I am concerned that *we not accept anything*. We should never give into *anything*. It is the only defense we have.

EIR: What of the new 28th Division, "Return to Srebrenica"?

Filipovic: Three years ago, I said we should form a special force, named to be the force for restoring the authority of Bosnia-Herzegovina over the region of the Drina. I insisted, we should form a Drina Corps to declare our *strong will with military force* on our eastern border.

I am glad the 28th Division has been formed. It will fight, and I know that eastern Bosnia will be gotten back.

You see, I am from the Krajina region of Bosnia, from Banja Luka. I have often visited soldiers who come from that region, and they tell me they will not put down their arms, until we get back to Banja Luka, Prijedor, and the rest.

Interview: Stjepan Klucic

Three principles are needed for peace

Professor Klucic is a member of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina and head of the Republican Party of Bosnia. He is a Catholic of Croatian origin.

EIR: What do you say to the Contact Group plan?

Klucic: Bosnia must remain sovereign. We can discuss the plan, only to the extent it be sovereign within its present international borders. We can discuss, only to the extent, there be no *Anschluss*—no federation, neither with Serbia, nor with Croatia.

We are going on the basis that the West's intentions be good—and it is in the interest of the West, that Bosnia be a sovereign state.

Should the international community not support this, then "peace" will be short-lived.

EIR: What has to be done now?

Klucic: My party, the Republican Party, has presented a de-

mand to the Bosnian government: For 100 years, for the next *century*, no one shall be allowed to emigrate from Bosnia. No one shall leave the country. That is, if we are to rebuild an integrated state.

There are three further principles we insist upon. First, the return of *all* refugees, regardless of their religion, to Bosnia; second, the prosecution of the war criminals; third, a Marshall Plan, for which the financial basis to rebuild our country must now be defined.

Should these principles not be respected, mark my words, *war will break out again*.

Should they not be respected, we will begin, *now*, to make all needful preparations in order to relaunch the war within a couple of years.

EIR: What about the Serbians in Bosnia?

Klucic: The issue is to win back over to the Bosnian side the Bosnian Serbs. With western aid to rebuild the nation, and to the extent we do respect human rights over the entire territory, it can be done.

We have got to find political leaders able to sweep away the hatred. It will take time, and neither Belgrade nor Zagreb shall be involved, because they were concerned before to divide this country.

EIR: Most observers consider England to be the principal begetter of the war. At the World Court in the Netherlands, there lies a suit against it for conspiracy to commit genocide, regrettably, now in abeyance.

Klucic: We have let the suit lie a while in abeyance, to give England a chance to change its actions. But what you say is true.

You see, Unprofor [U.N. Protection Forces] has not put the U.N. Security Council resolutions into effect, but rather, those policies of the respective governments whose troops are engaged. There has been an "Anglo-Saxon" bloc—Gen. [Louis] MacKenzie, Gen. [Michael] Rose, and now [Gen.] Rupert Smith.

One should bear in mind that war crimes have no statute of limitations. Time has not run out for us to prosecute. And the English know that time is on *our* side.

EIR: What about France?

Klucic: There were two battles to be waged at once: We had to force [Croatian President Franjo] Tudjman into war against [Serbian dictator Slobodan] Milosevic. And we have *forced him to split* from Milosevic, once and for all.

And then, we were much exercised to get France to break with England, through [President Jacques] Chirac.

Bosnia-Herzegovina must remain a single unified state, and every nation must be got to understand that.

EIR: Were the bombing raids this week called off too soon?

Klucic: Yes. We have got to see the artillery batteries around