

Gorazde, Sarajevo, and other cities taken out. The airports at Banja Luka, as Mr. Roy Gutman has just said here, must be taken out. And the way to the capital must be cleared.

**EIR:** What about the Posavina Corridor?

**Kluic:** If Croatia throws itself 100% onto our side, we can cut the corridor. Unfortunately, the Americans are swayed by their apprehension that the Yugoslavian National Army will launch a massive onslaught were that to be attempted, or were the Croatians to move to free East Slavonia and Baranja, or to take the hinterland of Dubrovnik, i.e., Trebinje.

**EIR:** Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole has just said he will *yet again* put off the vote to lift the arms embargo.

**Kluic:** I say, *let us have the arms now*. Then, you can announce afterwards, that the embargo is lifted. We have no heavy artillery, no missiles.

Our soldiers and officer corps need these weapons *now*, to train. We should have had them in 1992. Let us be sent them *now*, then lift the embargo. Otherwise, Serbia will attack, probably at Gorazde.

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## Interview: Mirko Lazovic

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# 'We believe in the existence of Bosnia'

*Mirko Lazovic is a member of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, president of the Parliament of the Republic, and a member of the executive, Social Democratic Party of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He is Serbian Orthodox.*

**EIR:** I'm asking everyone the same question. What do you think of the Contact Group plan?

**Lazovic:** This plan is all unclear. There is talk of percentages, here and there. We cannot accept any plan which calls for dividing our republic according to ethnic criteria. We cannot accept this idea of "federations." There will be no "ethnic entities." We will allow ourselves to be bound by confederation, neither to Serbia, nor to Croatia.

Bosnia can deal with these neighboring countries, only as a *sovereign State*, and in no other way. I believe the Americans, and the Germans, have understood that.

Neither will we allow *political division*. We can let the conflictual Serbian-inhabited areas enjoy a certain degree of autonomy, but that is all, nothing like a German *Land*, or

their own state. That is out of the question.

The same goes for the Croatian-inhabited areas: There may be intellectual ties, there may be cultural ties, but that is all.

**EIR:** Like Spain and Mexico?

**Lazovic:** Exactly.

**EIR:** What about the recent events in France?

**Lazovic:** I feel a certain optimism about [President Jacques] Chirac. France has made it clear that [Bosnian Serb leader Radovan] Karadzic's Serbs must accept the existence of Bosnia-Herzegovina. France—that was not the case under [former President François] Mitterrand—has said that it considers it *French interest* to uphold a multi-ethnic Bosnia.

England is now very much occupied to avoid being alone in a corner—with *Russia!* And, of course, it is much occupied to prevent America and Germany from having any influence here. It is she who wants the *status quo*, because of her *interests*.

**EIR:** You have seen terrible things. How have you kept such a high morale and such grandeur?

**Lazovic:** We believe in the existence of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It exists as a State, and it will continue to exist. I was born in this country. During this war, I have become very deeply conscious of what it means, *not* to have a State and not to belong anywhere.

I have to find this strength, for myself, and for my children. Over the past centuries, Bosnia has known wars, and it has suffered. But it exists.

I believe in a civil State, in which all those of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall live, no matter whether Catholic, Muslim, or Orthodox.

This country has been a land of great tolerance for centuries. And we did *not* start this war. It was started from outside.

The people of this country will surely find a way to work together again, much more swiftly than their politicians. A great number of secular political bodies will doubtless spring up, in which people will *not* be organized on a so-called "ethnic" basis. You know, I'm a leader of the Social Democratic Party.

**EIR:** You are Serbian Orthodox. The British press speaks of Bosnia as a "Muslim State."

**Lazovic:** Such affirmations are simply, *untrue*. Western politicians speak of a "Muslim State," so they can get on with dividing Bosnia.

It is perfectly logical that there should be a greater number of Muslims in the Army or other institutions. But the Army is *not* fighting for "Muslim interests" alone. They are fighting for our State, in which all religions will freely share.

**EIR:** What do you want from the U.S.A.?

**Lazovic:** We need America's help. The Serbian artillery must be silenced, period—whether by more bombing raids, or by diplomacy, but it must be silenced.

And we need material aid to rebuild our country.

**EIR:** What has to be done in eastern Bosnia?

**Lazovic:** Grabbing Srebrenica and Zepa was a great mistake by Serbia. Because not only did Croatia then recover the Krajina—it moved on Bosanko Grahovo and Glamoc where the Serbians had been the majority before.

I repeat: No part of this country can be joined to Serbia.

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## Interview: Jovan Diviak

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# We cannot accept the Contact Group plan

*Jovan Diviak is a general of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina. General Diviak is Serbian Orthodox.*

**EIR:** What do you think about the Contact Group Plan?

**Diviak:** Eighteen months ago, perhaps we entertained the idea it might just possibly work. The Serbians rejected it. Our President was put under enormous pressure, also by the Americans, to accept it. He said, under that pressure, that perhaps he would.

At that time also, the Bosnian Army was very weak, and there was no unity in the Islamic world about what to do for our country.

But it is now clear to everyone that the Contact Group plan is a terrible plan. It is negative for the victims of this war of aggression. The aggression of a sovereign State would be rewarded. The aggressor State, would be granted territories, over which it never before in history has ruled!

Today, the situation is totally different. We cannot accept this plan. The Twelve Point Proposal put forward by our President, Alija Izetbegovic, is a better basis upon which negotiations may be conducted.

**EIR:** How do you see the next weeks?

**Diviak:** Both the government, and the Army, are favorable to the idea of putting an end to the war. This means, we would prefer a political, to a military option.

Since Croatia recovered the Krajina, our own military posture is to some degree, unfortunately, worse. Srebrenica

and Zepa fell, and the Serbian Armed Forces were freed up, to take up positions around Gorazde. Thirty thousand, I repeat, 30,000 heavily armed and fresh Serbian troops, were brought into Bosnia from the Krajina.

Write this down, so that your readers remember these details, because they are important: We have no heavy weapons. The Serbian Armed Forces have 400 tanks, we have but 60. The Serbians have over 2,000 pieces of heavy artillery, missile-launchers, vehicle-based mine launchers, and so on. We have less than 400. The Serbians have 40 helicopters. We have but four.

We need anti-aircraft guns, heavy artillery, and tanks. We need transport material, military logistics, mountain gear, bivouac gear.

We need this to win the war.

**EIR:** How are things with Croatia?

**Diviak:** It could be better. For example, I ask what will happen at Bosansko Grahovo and Glamoc. After they recovered the Krajina, the Croatians took those Bosnian cities from the Serbians. But do the Croatians understand, that this is the territory of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina? There is talk about putting there, Croatians who have been forced by the Serbians to flee Vojvodina.

The relations between the HVO [Croatian Army] and the Bosnian Army are not good enough. We need infantry support, infantry engagement, from the HVO, and we are not getting it. That is also the question of the Posavina Corridor. And that is one of the reasons why our operation to break the siege of the capital is not good enough. I fear that Croatia is not sufficiently concerned with the fate of our capital. I fear that it may be satisfied with what its late victories have brought it.

**EIR:** You are of Serbian origin. What do you say to the western press prattling on about the "Muslim State"?

**Diviak:** The territories which are under the control of the government of Bosnia, are presently in their majority populated by Muslims. It is therefore understandable, that the Muslims should be a majority in the Army. In the Fifth Corps, about 95% of the troops are Muslims.

But there are units, where between 10 and 15% of the troops are Serbian. There are many Serbians in our Interior Ministry. In the Second Corps, there is an HVO unit, which is 70% Croatian. In the units of the Interior Ministry, there is a still higher percentage of Serbians, up to 14%. In the Bosnian Army as a whole, 4% of the troops are Serbian. There is one battalion in the capital, which is 20% Serbian, and the battalion called Dobrinja, also in the capital, is 12% Serbian.

Many Serbians have been decorated for valor. In the Army, there prevails religious freedom; those who practice, observe the religious holidays of their own belief. Of course,