

## London's Nazi experiment in the Balkans collapses

by Umberto Pascali

The so-called Pale regime of renegade Bosnian Serbs, led by wanted war criminals Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, is crashing down in a final orgy of blood and genocide, in the Bosnian areas still under occupation. Competing with the atrocities of the last days of Mussolini's Salò Republic, the paramilitary gangs are carrying out massacres, rapes, ethnic cleansing, destruction of Catholic and Muslim religious sites. They are reopening the concentration camps in the area of Banja Luka that they had been forced to partially close down. This time, they are even assaulting the Serb civilian population.

For example, the Omarska camp near Banja Luka, where in 1992, Croats and Muslims were tortured, killed, and starved, has been reopened, but this time, the victims are Serbian refugees. Men of "fighting age" are beaten and taken away. The refugees are robbed and abused systematically by the terrorist gang of Zeljko "Arkan" Raztanovic, wanted by Interpol as a war criminal. Arkan was recently sent to the last Greater Serbian stronghold of Banja Luka by Serbia's Führer, Slobodan Milosevic of Belgrade. His mission: to prevent the local Serbian population and leaders from negotiating, with the Bosnian government in Sarajevo, a demilitarization of Banja Luka that would free themselves from Karadzic's yoke.

When the Bosnian and Croatian forces liberated the occupied territory, they discovered mass graves with bodies of Croats and Muslims killed during the first aggression, in 1992.

Serbian citizens are resisting "recruitment" in every possible way. But apparently there is no limit to the barbarism of the regime. Serb police brutally arrest Bosnian and Croatian Serb refugees in the streets, buses, taxis, and private apartments, in Belgrade and all over Serb territory. They

then hand them over—still under arrest—to Arkan's "Serb Voluntary Guard." An almost unbelievable crime within the crime was recently denounced by the Helsinki Committee on Human Rights: The Serb police are able to easily locate the refugees, because their addresses are routinely supplied by one of the very few organizations the refugees trust, the Serbian Red Cross.

Thus it is not surprising that the structure of "Greater Serbia" is undergoing a devastating implosion, while, despite all the machinations of the British, the Bosnian and Croatian forces are continuing to liberate the occupied territory. According to unconfirmed reports from Banja Luka, on Oct. 16 Karadzic was the target of an assassination attempt claimed by "Group 93," a semi-secret formation reportedly created two years ago by disgruntled members of the paramilitary formations.

Also on Oct. 16, the representatives of Karadzic's political gang, the Serb Democratic Party, in the Pale "Parliament," demanded the resignation of four military bosses, labeled "responsible" for recent defeats. At the same time, it was announced that 11 organizations in occupied Bosnia, mainly in Banja Luka, issued a "Proclamation of the Patriotic Front," demanding the resignations of both Karadzic and Mladic.

The situation has reached such a point, that Milosevic is not in a position to officially receive Karadzic. The last meeting between the two was "unofficial." Milosevic had received a letter from the International Tribunal for War Crimes in former Yugoslavia, based in The Hague, demanding the immediate "arrest and extradition of the war criminals," i.e., Karadzic, Mladic, and 41 others who have been indicted, once they cross the borders into Serbia. Evidence of crimes involving two of Milosevic's top associates, Radmilo Bogda-

novic and Mihail Kertes, was presented to the tribunal. According to reports, U.S. agencies have evidence that the Serb takeover of, and massacres in, the U.N.-protected area of Srebrenica, were carried out under the direction of the head of the Yugoslav General Staff, Momcilo Perisic, and the orders came directly from Belgrade.

On Oct. 19, in a press conference in Zagreb, Croatia, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights J. Shattak confirmed the crimes committed by Arkan, the paramilitary gangs, and other Serbian forces. In some cases, Karadzic was personally present. In Prijedor (northwest of Banja Luka) and other occupied cities, Muslims are forced to wear white armbands and their houses are marked with white paint.

### Stop the genocide

"This horror must end. This evil must be rooted out! There is no room for compromise with these mass murderers, no room for cabinet warfare and gentlemen's agreements," a Balkan source told *EIR*. The source was referring to the "peace process," to the cease-fire between the Bosnian government and the so-called Republika Srpska announced on Oct. 5—with a poorly defined 51% to 49% (the Pale regime) division of Bosnian territory—and officially signed on Oct. 12; and to the announcement of "proximity talks" to be held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio starting Oct. 31, which are supposed to also include war criminal Karadzic.

"We have to distinguish between the British interpretation and the reality, i.e., what is needed to stop the genocide," said the expert. "The British want the partition of Bosnia, want to save the result of the aggression—the Republika Srpska, with 49% of the territory—at the moment it is collapsing from inside. And all this should be guaranteed by British, French, and American military power. However, since the NATO air strikes in August, the British have lost the initiative and now they are facing an anti-Greater Serbian—or, shall we say, anti-British—coalition, including the U.S., France, Germany, and basically the large majority of the countries of the world, north, south, east, and west! Countries that never could have found a common ground. And it was to prevent such a coalition after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, that they started the genocide in former Yugoslavia!

"Look at the recent statement of President [Alija] Izetbegovic, that Bosnia is a peculiar country, because 'we are friends of the U.S. and of Iran.' Don't you see? Bosnia could be the catalyst of an immense coalition. The British see this, and are now trying to push the situation to the level of classic diplomatic cabinet warfare, in which negotiations are meant as a continuation of the war with other means, and a way to save the Greater Serbians and, even more, to expand their destabilization. This must be prevented. Not only the Greater Serbian criminals must be defeated and punished, but this

gigantic potential coalition must go to the root of the problem, the 'gnomes of London,' as the French prime minister labeled them."

### London-Washington fissure widens

A few weeks ago, under British instigation, the Rapid Reaction Forces (RRF)—essentially the British troops—in Sarajevo were going to attack the Bosnian Army, after being given a green light from the U.N. Secretariat. The pretext was that the Bosnians had opened fire against the heavy artillery positions besieging Sarajevo. But Sir Rupert Smith, the commander of the U.N. forces in Bosnia, was stopped by the intervention of John Menzies, the U.S. ambassador in Bosnia. In London, the rage for the lost opportunity to use the RRF against the Bosnian victims—and as the guarantor of the cabinet warfare approach—escalated. The rage had continued growing since August. In an interview with the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* on Oct. 16, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke stressed again that the Bosnian-Croatian Operation Storm '95, which had freed the occupied Croatian Krajina and saved the Bihac region, was launched with the U.S. support and "in opposition to European advice." He also revealed how the United States resisted British efforts to stop the air strikes. "The British told us the Serbs would use U.N. personnel as hostages if we bombed them. This was wrong."

When the cease-fire arrived, the British understood it as a way to legitimize Republika Srpska—with 49% of the territory of Bosnia—and to give a status of impunity to Karadzic and Co. They argued that peace meant the war crimes had to be forgotten. They got another blow. The Bosnian and Croatian military forces, that had been blocked after Operation Storm and almost manipulated into starting a new fratricidal war, took up their effort to liberate the country from the war criminals. London reacted with fury, accusing the United States of having again tolerated and encouraged the offensive.

Karadzic sent his sidekick and channel with London, Nikola Koljevic, to Sir Rupert Smith—to no avail. According to sources cited by the Croatian newspaper *Vecernji List*, Koljevic was in state of panic. The offensive had to be stopped or "Republika Srpska could fall in 36 hours." He "threatened" a boycott of the peace talks.

At that point, the allied forces were a few miles away from Prijedor and Banja Luka. But, instead of boycotting the peace talks, Mladic kept frantically asking the allied commanders—Bosnia's General Delic and Croatia's General Blaskic—for a meeting. A Bosnia Army spokesman told reporters in Sarajevo: "We are not ready for such talks because General Delic never did, and probably never will, meet the war criminal Mladic." On Oct. 16, Bosnia Vice President Ejup Ganic, back in Sarajevo after recovery from a dramatic car accident, spelled out that the 51-49 division was no longer realistic or reasonable. Since that proposal was advanced,

“important events took place and the Serbs committed more crimes and went on with their genocide all over the country,” he said. The German mediator in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation, Christian Schwartz Schilling, agreed, stating that it is dangerous to accept Greater Serbians’ demands for 49% of Bosnia.

In fact, it is not a question of percentages, it is a question of the basic responsibility of every country in the world not to allow the legalization of an “entity” conquered and ruled by terror and genocide by wanted war criminals. Even more, the right of the Serbian ethnic minority can be guaranteed by the Bosnian government. It cannot be guaranteed by Karadzic.

The point was made in a press conference in Washington by Foreign Minister Mohamed Sacirbey (see *Documentation*). And it was President Bill Clinton personally on Oct. 15 who undermined the British plans. “Some people think that pursuing peace in Bosnia and prosecuting war crimes are incompatible goals. But I believe *they are wrong*. There must be peace for justice to prevail, but there must be justice when peace prevails,” Clinton said.

The British elite’s panic and rage exploded at a conference of the Lord Byron Foundation in Moscow, with a desperate appeal to Russia to save the war criminals. “The question is,” said foundation official Michael Martin Stenton, “will the political intimidation which forces Britain to bomb people when Britain does not want [to do so] . . . and which forces Russia to remain silent . . . will this intimidation continue?”

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## Documentation

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*From President Bill Clinton’s speech at the dedication ceremony for the Thomas Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn., on Oct 15:*

Nuremberg represents the first important step. It clearly condemned the crimes. . . . The successful trial for the war crimes in the territory of former Yugoslavia and Rwanda can send a strong signal to those who would use the cover of the war to commit terrible atrocities that they cannot escape the consequences of such actions. . . . The 43 indictments raised so far on the territory of former Yugoslavia cannot be part of negotiations. Those accused for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity will be brought to justice. . . . Some people think that pursuing peace in Bosnia and prosecuting war crimes are incompatible goals. But I believe they are wrong. There must be peace for justice to prevail, but there must be justice when peace prevails.

*From remarks by Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohamed Sacirbey at the Washington Press Club on Oct. 10:*

We have the United States having taken a significant role

in bringing itself to the forefront of the negotiating process. But I’m afraid if we are expecting Karadzic and Mladic to dictate the terms of democracy in Bosnia, to dictate the terms of human rights, to dictate the terms of the functionality of our constitution, of our government, then I’m afraid we aren’t really that close to peace. . . . What Karadzic and Mladic and maybe Milosevic are trying to do in this context, is not bring about peace, but preserve the consequences of their conquest in ethnic cleansing. They are clearly trying to legitimize the so-called Republika Srpska as a Serb-only entity with a Serb-only party with a Serb-only religion. That is not something that certainly we or, I believe, the democracies of the international community can agree to. . . .

If someone had to ask me what is the greatest problem for peace in Bosnia, this is it. It is not maps, it is not various other provisions of the constitution. It is: Will in fact the Serbian side continue to dictate a constitution that requires consensus, allows them the veto power almost over anything, and therefore allows them to implode the country and bring us once again back to 1991 and 1992? . . .

It is in the long-term interests of the United States, the international community and, of course, of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to let the Bosnians ultimately take on the job themselves of defending their country through, as it is put by the secretary of defense, the professionalization of the Bosnian defense forces. Of course we, I think, all understand this to mean the arming and training of Bosnians to take over for NATO the task of securing peace once the initial implementation stage is completed.

*The Lord Byron Foundation for Balkan Studies met in Moscow on Oct 6. The director of the foundation, Sir Alfred Sherman, is one of the original sponsors of Margaret Thatcher in the early 1970s, and an adviser now of Gen. Ratko Mladic. The speaker quoted here is Michael Martin Stenton:*

The solution to the question of the autonomous rights of the Serbs in Croatia has now been revealed: the military destruction of the Serbian community by an army trained by the United States, politically encouraged by Germany. . . . Another experiment was made, and that experiment was to give NATO military authority. . . . This military attack . . . is one of the first uses of military force that has had positive approval by the pope of Rome. An event of first class ideological importance. What we are witnessing is the creation of a new consensus . . . that does not cover the whole world, but does cover the most powerful parts of it. . . . If NATO is allowed to send a very powerful American force to Bosnia, it will in all probability behave in exactly the same way. Except that this time . . . it will be American Special Forces seizing control in Pale, Banja Luka, Brčko, and ultimately on the river Drina itself. And if there are Russian troops present, they will be helpless to do anything about this. Which is why I recommend to Russia to avoid the poisoned gift, not to send your troops. . . .