

dictator and bandit in the Balkans. It can be done. And if this does not happen, it will only get worse. The situation will never change in a normal way; this has been demonstrated with the Nov. 17 election. Even if the opposition gains the majority of votes, Milosevic will change the rules illegally, or use police and terror. If a change is to happen, it has to be done now, right away; there is no time to waste.

**EIR:** How do you judge the attitude of the European countries?

**Webel:** After World War II, it is obvious that in this kind of situation, you cannot count on the countries of Europe. But there is one superpower, America. It showed that it could solve the situation of World War II, and it solved the situation in Bosnia—although it did not do it in the best possible way. So, it is the responsibility of the U.S., as the only superpower, to take the initiative. We count on the actions of America; we do not really count on the help of other European countries.

**EIR:** What is the attitude of the opposition coalition toward Bosnia?

**Webel:** The opposition fully accepts the Dayton agreement, and insists especially on the right of all refugees to go back home, regardless of their ethnic group. The opposition insists that all war criminals must be brought before the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

*On Dec. 3, Mr. Webel communicated that the situation,*

*though still extremely dangerous, was developing in the right direction:*

**Webel:** I realize that the appeal I sent to you is rather bitter, but we are desperate here. I must say that I am very pleased that this resistance has not lost anything in continuity. I am happy to say today that four American congressmen participated in the demonstrations in Belgrade. It was announced by Radio Free Europe. Today, also, the last independent radio station, Belgrade's B-92, was shut down by Milosevic. No independent electronic media are reporting any more. At 2 p.m., the station lost its legal right to broadcast. Also, the informal student radio station Index was shut down. We are in a total media blockade; we depend for information only on foreign TV stations, and especially Radio Free Europe.

But, spirits are high. The Association of the Free and Independent Trade Unions called their members to a general strike, so that, as of yesterday, the biggest tractor factory in Belgrade is on strike. These are the real trade unions. The trade unions close to the regime are like a police organization, they are a fictitious body, the loudspeaker for Milosevic. Anyone who has the possibility to do so, forms independent trade unions, and they are against Milosevic. One of the biggest is the Metalworkers, workers employed in the armament industry from Kraguevica, and they are on the side of the democratic forces.

The big danger now, is that Milosevic will react against the demonstrations; he can still count on his police. . . .

## An appeal to the U.S.

*Istvan Webel, of the Center for Anti-War Action, wrote this on Nov. 29.*

The citizens of Serbia are bitter. Not only about Slobodan Milosevic, from whom we did not expect anything different from what he did, but also about the international community, and especially about the U.S.

For 50 years we have been listening, through Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America, to reports about American democracy, and now, when our democracy is at hand, we are witnessing the spectacle of an otherwise ineffective U.S. foreign policy, being put at the service of the dictator of the Balkans.

During the unfair pre-election campaign, officials of the U.S. administration were parading like majorettes on Milosevic's TV, like the cheerleaders we saw during the U.S. Presidential campaign. In fact, it was only *after* the

first round of elections in Serbia, that Mr. John Shattuck [in charge of Human Rights at the U.S. State Department] made a statement, saying that the use of the media by the ruling Socialist Party did not guarantee fair elections for the opposition. It is indeed hard for us who believe in democracy, to see Serbian students, during the demonstrations, setting the American flag on fire.

We have an important question to ask: What have we believed in for the last 50 years? Or was it all a lie? . . .

There will not be peace, neither in the Balkans, nor in Bosnia, until democratic government, based on the people's will, is established.

We are not opposed to dialogue with Milosevic, we have to talk to him, but it must be in The Hague. In the Nuremberg Trials, it was the Nazi leadership that was brought to judgment, not the guards of the concentration camps.

If America wants to keep its democratic image and its image as the only superpower in the world, it must conform its foreign policy to this image. If not for any other consideration, because the U.S. still has many friends in Serbia.