

# Rugova's victory, U.S. can stop Balkan war

by Umberto Pascali

The British are continuing their efforts to reignite a Balkan war in the predominantly ethnic Albanian region of Kosova, using their assets, principally the "Greater Serbian" dictator Slobodan Milosevic and a plethora of "irregular warfare" groups, commonly referred to as terrorists. Though they have not yet succeeded in provoking the hoped-for general explosion, their plan is becoming more and more obvious. It is obvious as well that their target is the United States, not only in a direct way, but more insidiously, by using Milosevic's latest atrocities to isolate the United States in foreign affairs.

Concretely, this means to force a split between Washington and Moscow, and between the United States and western Europe. This was visible in the context of the March 25 meeting in Bonn of the foreign ministers of the six countries of the so-called Contact Group, which includes the United States, Russia, France, Italy, Germany, and Britain. The group, which was created to deal with the Bosnia crisis, had met in London on March 9, and in Bonn was supposed to decide punitive measures against Milosevic's Serbia. Despite the strong declarations of U.S. officials, including from Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and President Clinton's Special Envoy Robert Gelbard, the final communiqué was extremely weak — weaker even than the previous one. Basically, no real decision was taken to deter Milosevic from continuing with his plan for a final solution for Kosova Albanians.

"In London we called on President Milosevic to take rapid and effective steps to end the violence through unconditional dialogue," the statement reads. "We insist that an urgent start be made to the process of unconditional dialogue with the leadership of the Kosova Albanian community. . . . We have agreed to maintain and implement the measures announced, including seeking adoption by March 31 of the arms embargo resolution [against Serbia]. . . . We demand that authoritative delegations from both sides convene rapidly in order to agree on a framework for substantive negotiation."

The bottom line is, the Contact Group gave Milosevic four weeks more to stop his plans. Even the March 31 deadline for an arms embargo resolution was made conditional on stopping the armaments that are supposedly being delivered to Kosovars over the border with Albania.

## London excited by U.S.-Russia 'attacks'

The main reason for the ambiguity of the language was

Russia. While Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov refused to participate in the first Contact Group meeting, he did participate in the one in Bonn. There, he made clear that Russia would not allow a harsh "anti-Serbian" line. In the days leading up to the Bonn meeting, it was also announced that Milosevic had received an invitation to visit Moscow, and U.S. media reported on a deal for sale of weapons, including tanks and helicopters, from Russia to Serbia. Russian officials denied the deal, in general terms, which would have violated the Dayton agreement and thus created a potentially serious crisis with the United States.

Seeing an opening, the British media began to play up what they described as "attacks" by the United States on Russia. One news agency quoted an anonymous high-level U.S. official at NATO headquarters in Brussels saying, "It is fair to say that . . . one nation — Russia — continues to have a significantly different outlook on both the analysis of the [Kosova] situation and the remedy." The agency remarked that the U.S. official was "dismayed" by the stance taken by Moscow. Meanwhile, British propagandists repeat the refrain that the United States has only one trustworthy ally: Great Britain, because other European nations are conditioned by the Russian position.

## British dirty tricks

Reality is quite different. The Balkans have been engulfed in genocide launched by Milosevic and "Greater Serbia" criminals, such as Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. But such genocide was possible only because of British "remote-control," as *EIR* has documented (see, for example, *EIR*, March 20, "Kosova: Britain's War Against the U.S."). One of the tenets of British policy is "divide and conquer." London operatives have been working incessantly to use their "Greater Serbian" assets to provoke a clash between the United States and Russia. According to the ideological profile, Russia should have gone into a pan-Slavic, pan-Orthodox hysteria in defense of their "Serbian brothers." When Russian President Boris Yeltsin and others did not respond like Pavlov's dogs, London deployed its tricks.

For example, *EIR* has detailed the schemes of the British-run Lord Byron Foundation for Balkan Studies, which was caught red-handed promoting the line in Moscow that the United States intervention against Milosevic was in reality a "war" against Moscow, and thus Moscow should fight back and save its "Orthodox brothers." The British establishment behind the foundation also has been telling the Russians that they have only one ally in this situation: Great Britain!

Unfortunately for London, such tricks have lost their spell. For example, *EIR* has reported the story of the British traitor Maj. Milos Stankovic, the officer who passed every major NATO plan for the Balkans to indicted war criminal Ratko Mladic, Milosevic's man in Bosnia. On Oct. 16, 1997, Stankovic was finally arrested, because of pressure from the United States, and over British resistance. Stankovic is be-

lieved, among other crimes, to have passed information to Mladic's gangs which helped them overrun the UN protected area of Srebrenica in Bosnia and carry out the biggest massacre of civilians in Europe since World War II. When the story of Stankovic popped up in the U.S. press, it was viewed as a warning to Milosevic on Kosova. After total media silence, on March 15 the British establishment responded with a defense of Stankovic in the London *Sunday Times*. The traitor is characterized as "The Schindler of Sarajevo"—referring to a German functionary during the Nazi period who helped Jews escape. The *Times* paints an outrageous picture of the right-hand man of UN troop commander Gen. Sir Michael Rose: "To hundreds of rescued Bosnians he is a hero. To the CIA he is a suspected spy."

### Rugova's victory smashes terrorist mystique

Another front on which the British media have been very active is their support of the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA), the terrorist organization composed of Yugoslavian Army cadres that has been activated in Kosova in conjunction with the "anti-terrorist" gangs of Milosevic. This is a typical "gang-counter-gang" scenario, and was aimed at exploding Kosova, and, more specifically, preventing parliamentary and Presidential elections organized by the "shadow government" of Kosova Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova.

The leading British media sent journalists into the mountains west of the Kosova capital, Pristina, to interview KLA leaders. The journalists crossed the Yugoslavia police checkpoints undisturbed. In the days leading up to the Bonn meeting and the Kosova elections, the British media went overboard promoting a sort of "guerrilla mystique." Originally, when the Albanian leaders were stating that they never heard of the KLA, it was the British Broadcasting Corp. that reported the KLA communiqué, and made the KLA a factor. The British dailies then got into the act. In particular, the *Times*'s laudatory pieces on March 22 and 23 sounded like movie scripts, such as "Kosova 'will fight to death'—Tom Walker hears brave talk from ethnic Albanian guerrillas, during a night maneuver." The *Times* also reported the death-cult-style KLA oath of allegiance, and statements by KLA "commanders," such as, "My mother brought me into this world to die for Kosova and I am prepared to do this."

The *Times* explained the KLA *raison d'être*: The "KLA emerged about 18 months ago from frustration with the passive resistance of Ibrahim Rugova—the 'Gandhi of the Balkans.'"

In fact, Rugova, who enjoys massive support among the Albanian majority in Kosova, was the target of the whole operation. The Kosova Albanian elections, which the Serbian government does not recognize, had to be postponed two times. Milosevic—and the British—badly needed another provocation to stop the third attempt at elections, on March 22.

They did not succeed. Despite everything, 85% of the Albanian majority in Kosova voted, backing Rugova over-

whelmingly.

In one of his first public statements after the election, Rugova reaffirmed his commitment to nonviolence, and requested the participation of the United States in any talks with Belgrade. Rugova, who is reportedly personally close to U.S. Undersecretary of State Strobe Talbott, made clear that with the strong, and, now, official, support of the population, and with strong guarantees from the United States, he will be able to deal appropriately with Milosevic and his puppetmasters.

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## Interview: Dr. Nedzib Sacirbey

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# A Bosnian view of the crisis in Kosova

*Dr. Sacirbey is the ambassador-at-large of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was interviewed on March 17 and March 25 by Umberto Pascali.*

**EIR:** Ambassador Sacirbey, as special representative of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, and as a prominent leader of the Muslim community in the U.S. and other countries, you have a special insight into the Balkan situation. How do you see the situation in Kosova?

**Sacirbey:** At this time, there are certain basic elements to be considered: The Helsinki agreement guaranteeing the borders in Europe—this is number one. Then, the fact that [Serbian dictator Slobodan] Milosevic does not respect the Constitution of Yugoslavia, and abolished the autonomy of Kosova and Vojvodina in 1989. Administratively, at this time, the province of Kosova does not exist, because Milosevic divided Kosova, mixing it with some other counties and so forth. How can there be autonomy, if someone can come and destroy or abolish that autonomy? The autonomy of Kosova was affirmed by the Constitution of Yugoslavia of 1945; its autonomy was enlarged slightly with the new Constitution of 1974. In the so-called joint Presidency of Yugoslavia, there were not just the representatives of six republics, but also two additional members: one from Kosova and one from Vojvodina.

**EIR:** Despite all this, in 1989, at the height of his chauvinist

