

Serbia's Milosevic steers Balkans toward a new war

by Umberto Pascali

"The risk of an escalating conflict requires immediate action. . . . If unresolved, the situation in Kosova threatens to spill over to other parts of the region," read a statement issued on April 29 by the representatives of the so-called "Contact Group" countries. The six powers (the United States, Russia, Germany, France, Italy, and Britain) discussed what to do to prevent the "explosion of the grenade"—to use the expression suggested by the Greek Defense Minister a few days earlier—in the middle of the Balkans.

This meeting, following two previous ones by the Contact Group, was supposed to finally adopt measures against Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic's escalation of the crisis in Kosova. Milosevic had been asked to implement two basic points: 1) to withdraw the Yugoslavian Army and the Special Police from Kosova, and 2) to sit down at a negotiating table with the representatives of Kosova's 90% ethnic Albanian majority in the presence of an international mediator. The request for an international mediator came from Kosovar leader Ibrahim Rugova, who has seen all the promises and written commitments by Milosevic toward Kosova thrown in the garbage can while the ink was still fresh.

But, Milosevic rejected both points. The intervention of the army, and even more the use of the special police, i.e., the recycled paramilitary gangsters used earlier in Bosnia by criminals such as Radovan Karadzic, have fuelled the crisis. The army has been attacking towns and villages with heavy artillery, and has even crossed over the border into Albania. The escalation, as we shall see, coincided like clockwork with a concerted deployment of the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA), the nominally Albanian, terrorist organization believed to be controlled by Serbian army intelligence. The

spiral of provocations and massive military response escalated according to the scenarios outlined by the London-based Tavistock Institute.

Furthermore, Milosevic organized a so-called referendum in rump Yugoslavia, which was boycotted by the Kosova Albanians, and resulted in a majority opposing any mediation over Kosova. In the meantime, the psychological warfare arsenal of Serbian intelligence was massively deployed. The wretched Serbian population was subjected to a renewed injection of chauvinist hysteria, this time against the Kosovars and any "foreigners." At this moment, weapons are being distributed to Serb teenagers and young people, the reservists are being mobilized, and "spontaneous" armed squads of mostly Serb students are being unleashed against Albanian shops, homes, and individuals.

Contact Group roars—like a mouse

Faced with this situation, the Contact Group held a lengthy debate that went late into the night. However, the members were unable to take a common position. Five of the six countries, excepting Russia, agreed on freezing Yugoslav assets abroad. They also decided to block any investment in Serbia, if Milosevic fails to start negotiations by May 9. After the meeting, Russia again reiterated its opposition to taking a "punitive attitude" toward Serbia.

The reaction of the Milosevic government was expressed by Vencenslav Seselj, the extremist advocate of "ethnic cleansing," and now the government's main ally: We cannot prevent sanctions, but we can survive them, he said. According to observers both inside and outside Serbia, such limited measures could in fact strengthen Milosevic's position. The

only hope for Milosevic to survive politically lies in a situation of confrontation, chaos, and war. Any step toward political and economic “normality,” in which the former Yugoslavian republics and the neighboring Balkan countries establish cooperative relations for their common development, would be the death knell for Milosevic. “These sanctions threaten to hit the Serb citizens more than the government,” several Belgrade sources remarked to *EIR*.

The psychosis of an encircled Serbia, is what Milosevic is counting on. Already, the anti-foreigner hysteria has reached the highest pitch so far among ordinary Serbians. Western, and especially American journalists or travellers, are being attacked in the streets. In this context, the Serb dictator’s gang, in the unreality created by the lack of any real economic activity, and with living standards collapsing, is having a field day pointing the finger at the “outside enemies.” Apparently, Milosevic has succeeded in positioning himself, in the eyes of many Serbians, in the middle of the political spectrum, with the Radical party and other “court extremists” chiding him for his supposed moderation.

‘Our Great Allies, France and Britain’

Observers have noted that Milosevic has become richer during the war, especially by controlling all black market activities. These observers point the so-called “Cyprus treasure,” i.e., the assets that the Milosevic gang has secretly accumulated on the Mediterranean island. Further, Russia has said clearly it rejects the sanctions, and thus they will be limited, *de facto*.

However, despite all the propaganda in the major Western media concerning the Russia-Serb Slavic and Orthodox brotherhood, the strongest supporters — one may say, puppet-masters — of Milosevic, are not in Russia, but are among the elite of London and Paris. It is these oligarchs who sponsored the present version of a design for a “Greater Serbia,” personified by Milosevic and launched in Kosova. Kosova, the autonomous province, was brutally annexed by Serbia in 1989 under Milosevic. The modern Greater Serbia Nazi-like ideology, like a poisonous gift, was given to the Serbs, with an infamous speech by Milosevic in Kosova, the “cradle” of Serb history. It was that chauvinist exploit that gave Milosevic the ideological instrument to become the undisputed controller of the League of Communists.

The puppet-masters of all this, are some of the highest-level oligarchs, who represent the continuity of the British and French empires. As Vaso Cubrilovic, the Serbian strategist of the genocide in Kosova, wrote in 1928, one can always count on our “Great Allies, France and Britain.”

New evidence of this connection has come to light over the recent days and weeks, in the context of behind-the-scenes infighting within NATO around the plans to arrest war criminals, starting with the top one: Radovan Karadzic. Karadzic’s arrest would have been an unmistakable sign that the NATO

FIGURE 1
The Kosova crisis region



troops stationed in Bosnia are serious about implementing the Dayton Accord. The plan was prepared in every detail; U.S. officers in the NATO command were in charge of its execution. But suddenly, everything was cancelled. The reason? The liaison officer between the Bosnian Serbs and the French NATO command based outside Mostar, had revealed the plans to Karadzic personally!

The story was brought to the media by U.S. sources, who reportedly are extremely enraged, and have violated the unofficial diplomatic code among the intelligence services. The officer, French Maj. Hervé Gourmillon, had a series of secret meetings with Karadzic. The information delivered to Karadzic “jeopardized the operation and the lives of NATO troops,” according to U.S. officials. This delivery of information “ripped open a big gap in the relations with the French,” one official said. Another U.S. source characterized the action as “despicable and appalling.” Reportedly, French authorities have promised to court-martial Major Gourmillon, but for the moment, the French Defense Ministry, while denying that “any arrest was compromised,” has recalled Gourmillon to Paris.

The saga of the French major is strikingly similar to that of Gourmillon’s British counterpart, Maj. Milos Stankovic, the liaison officer between the British head of the NATO forces in Bosnia, Gen. Sir Michael Rose, and Karadzic, during the war in Bosnia. As *EIR* has detailed, Major Stankovic was arrested last October in England for high treason, over the strenuous opposition of a section of the British establishment, for having revealed *every secret or confidential NATO plan* to Karadzic and his fellow war criminal Gen. Ratko Mladic.

Macedonia is next

In a recent meeting in Skopje, Macedonia, the Greek Defense Minister and his Macedonian counterpart signed an agreement for unspecified "joint military measures aimed at promoting regional stability," should the Kosova crisis escalate further. Not only the small bordering republic of Macedonia, but many other Balkan countries are rushing into military deals or protocols of understanding because of the commonly held fear of what is being brewed in Kosova. There is no doubt that Milosevic's (and his puppet-masters') strategy is to escalate the crisis.

Over the last couple of weeks, Serbian regular and irregular forces have been engaged in military operations in Kosova along the borders with Albania, including one all-night battle against 200 armed individuals who supposedly crossed the border into Kosova from Albania. Military helicopters, planes, and heavy artillery have been seen in use. Towns and villages have been bombarded, provoking a swelling exodus of terrorized ethnic Albanians. Milosevic's troops, according to Albanian police sources, have *already* crossed the border with Albania on more than one occasion.

The military operations of the regular forces are being coordinated with the war deployment of the irregular forces. Every genocidal step taken by Milosevic has been justified on the basis of countering the activities of the Kosova Liberation Army. The connection between the controllers of the KLA and Serb intelligence has been detailed by *EIR*. Recently, media close to Kosovar leader Rugova have begun to more openly denounce the KLA's activities. In Albania, the government of Prime Minister Fatos Nano is rapidly taking steps to break up this gang-counter-gang operation. In a letter addressed to Contact Group representative Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, Nano stressed that "the presence of NATO in Albania is greatly needed as a factor of pressure and security."

Nano came close to denouncing the connection between the Serbian army and the KLA, and the danger this represents for Albania—whose army has less than 11,000 men; with an economy in chaos, prostrated by the collapse of the financial pyramid scheme last year; without control over significant parts of the country; and faced with an aggressive organized-crime network, in large part connected to the Milosevic gangs. "The Serbian police and army are undertaking an intensive military operation in the border area with Albania, at a time when the Albanian population is becoming convinced that its only possibility is to organize self-defense," Nano wrote in the letter to Dini. In other words, the government could lose control of large chunks of the population, who are falling prey to the KLA strategy. In fact, the KLA leadership has just launched a slogan for a "Greater Albania," which would include Macedonia and other countries where there are ethnic Albanians. The fragility of the Albanian state makes that country extremely palatable for those British forces that launched the idea of a Greater Albania in the first place.

High protest vote in German state election

by Angelika Beyreuther-Raimondi

On April 26, elections took place in the former East German state of Saxon-Anhalt. Since this was the last major election before the federal elections on Sept. 27, its results have been awaited with great interest in the entire country. Of all 16 German states, Saxon-Anhalt has the worst unemployment situation, with an official figure of 24.1%, and it has the lowest economic growth of all states, despite the fact that the largest per-capita amount of federal money transferred from west to east—billions of deutschemarks—has gone to Saxon-Anhalt.

The election was a stunning defeat for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which lost 12% of its previous vote, going from 34.4% to 22%. Three other parties will be in the new state parliament. The Social Demo-

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