

Editorial

Never again!

In a presentation in late September, Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche put her finger on a crucial aspect of the newly publicized brutal genocide being carried out in the Balkans by Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic: All this can only happen because the U.S. President is being paralyzed through this outrageous assault, she said.

EIR's sources in Central Europe confirm this evaluation totally. Milosevic, a former banker who was puffed up into his Greater Serbian ambitions by British support in the early 1990s, has been emboldened by the British-instigated assault on the U.S. Presidency, to carry out his moves into Kosova province. Milosevic knows very well that it was only President Clinton's determination that forced through the military action which stopped, albeit inadequately, the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. If Clinton is preoccupied, he figured, we can make our move.

Anyone who reads a newspaper, has seen the hideous results of the Yugoslav army's "crackdown" in Kosova. Women and children with their throats slit, images captured in living color on the front of the *New York Times*. And yet, there is still haggling going on as to whether there will be a NATO intervention, threatened for several months now, to try to prevent further such atrocities.

How low can the morality of the world's leadership go?

We can hear the objections now. It's an internal conflict about which we can do nothing, some will say. It's not the business of the United States, other will sagely opine. It's horrible, but that's what it's like over there, the more sensitive will say.

We have heard such objections before, most recently in the case of Central Africa, when the Rwandan and Ugandan invasion of Congo-Zaire was leading to a Hitler-like massacre of civilians, so-called "ethnic cleansing." The international community chose to do nothing about that slaughter, which continues to devastate the region.

Perhaps it was difficult for many to identify who was the enemy in the Central African genocide, but in the Balkan cockpit, there is no room for being confused. The "urbane" Milosevic is very publicly at the top of the chain of command which has carried out the killings in Bosnia and Kosova. And, while it is true that Milosevic is a tool in the larger, deadly British geopolitical game, there is no question but that knocking him down (or out) would immediately bring a halt to the genocide.

That is why the LaRouche movement, and this magazine, have campaigned for NATO air strikes against Serbian military capability, in order to stop the killing.

But once that's done, the West must avoid the grave mistakes made in the course of the Dayton Accords on Bosnia. There are two classes of such mistakes. The first, lies in the leniency which was shown to the war criminals themselves, especially Radovan Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic. The second, is the denial of the necessary economic assistance and conditions, under which the nation of Bosnia, and the other nations in the region, can be reconstructed in peace.

Despite the unspeakable devastation in which Bosnia was left after the war, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank insisted that the nation take on unpayable and unjust debts, and refused to provide the long-term, low-interest credits for substantial infrastructure projects which were desperately needed. Bosnia was basically left to subsist on charitable handouts, rather than given the means with which it could pull its population together in a reconstruction effort.

It is only the process of mutual cooperation around a higher purpose—in this case, building a future for the population of the region—which can inspire people to rise above the horrors of the past, and finally bury the hate which has dominated their lives. In that respect, the imposition of IMF and World Bank conditions may well be considered just as genocidal for the Balkans as have been Milosevic's thugs, by killing hope for the future.

Right now, let's focus on the task. Never again!