

Dubrovnik's mayor: 'SOS! Act now!'

The mayor of the ancient city of Dubrovnik, Croatia, Pero Poljanic, has an urgent appeal to "editors of newspapers around the world" to intervene in any way possible to rescue his city from the aggression being carried out by the proponents of a "Greater Serbia." The appeal, which was entitled "Dubrovnik, Croatia—SOS: Act now!" was received by *EIR* offices on Oct. 3. It began with the plea, "Please give these few lines maximum publicity."

Mayor Poljanic wrote: "I write as mayor of a unique and irreplaceable city which has warmly and affectionately welcomed hundreds of thousands of your citizens. And which has warmly welcomed hundreds of thousands of Serbian tourists too.

"Two relatively moderate commanders of the so-called 'federal' navy were today stripped of their commands and are now in prison. They have been replaced by extremists who are committed to the idea of annexing this part of Croatia—the Dalmatian region—to Montenegro (which is now an extension of 'Greater Serbia').

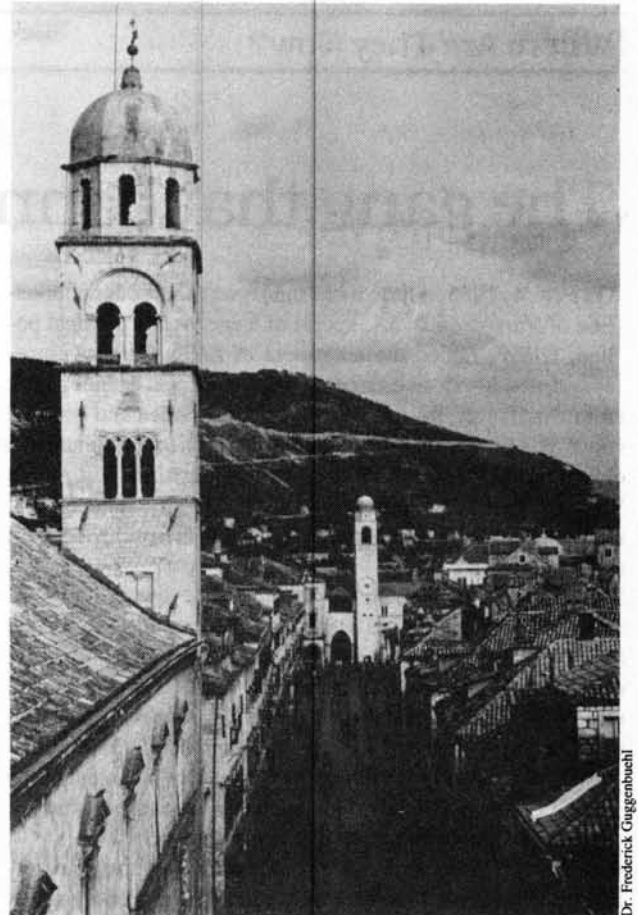
"In this war against Croatia, we have never been in greater danger from the Serbian forces.

"At this very moment, other cities are suffering far more (we are trying to look after hundreds of refugees here now). But, as mayor, my first concern must of course be for Dubrovnik and the surrounding region; although I would dearly like to plead for Osijek or Pakrac, I must now plead for Dubrovnik itself.

"Unless Croatia is recognized, I do not see how you can help us with more than words. That is now all that the outside world can do to help us."

Act of revenge

The destruction being wrought on Dubrovnik is being carried out despite its lack of military significance. "Dubrovnik has no military importance whatsoever," London Prof. Mark Wheeler of the School of Slavonic Studies told BBC Oct. 3. He said that the predominant faction of the federal army, typified by Chief of Staff Blagoje Adzic, "has taken on board, lock, stock, and barrel, the Greater Serbia designs of [communist strongman] Slobodan Milosevic," and that the attacks on Dubrovnik, from this standpoint, could be seen as "acts of revenge" on the Croats. Asked what role he thought the European Community "monitors" in Dubrovnik could play, Wheeler said ironically, "The monitors can do nothing except get killed. That, plus the fact that a beautiful jewel of the Adriatic is being destroyed, *might* create the hue



Dr. Frederick Guggenbuchi

The beautiful Croatian seaport of Dubrovnik is a center of European culture, now a military target of the Greater Serbians.

and cry that would make it impossible for the international community *not* to react to what is happening."

Concern in Austria and Bulgaria over the Serbian war led to a meeting of military officials in Sofia, Bulgaria Oct. 1. General Inspector of the Austrian Army Karl Majcen met with senior Bulgarian military officials on the conflict. Both sides repudiated Serbian propaganda charges of plans in Austria and Bulgaria for military intervention with the aim of annexing territory, but announced that there would be closer consultations and high-level military relations between Vienna and Sofia in the future. The meeting in Sofia was the first in 20 years on that level.

An eyewitness account of the devastation in Dubrovnik was given to BBC on Oct. 3 by Prof. Kathleen Wilkes, who teaches at the Inter-University Center in Dubrovnik. She said that the city had been without water for three days and had no electricity. Fires had broken out all around the area. Casualties, she said, were "mostly among civilians," and "ambulances and fire brigades are among the army's targets for attacks." Medicine was in very short supply, she added.