
Interview: Srecko Jurdana

How to stop the war in Bosnia

Croatian journalist Srecko Jurdana formulated his plan for what the United States must do, in a discussion with the Schiller Institute's Webster Tarpley on Feb. 11 in Washington:

The Vance-Owen plan is blatantly pro-Serbian in that it institutionalizes a reward for Serbian aggression and genocide, while trampling on the sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The six points of Warren Christopher mean that the U.S. will be joining and supporting the Vance-Owen diplomatic monstrosity, perhaps with some minor modifications. The American representative will sit at the same table and talk politely with war criminals and mass murderers such as Radovan Karadzic and others.

Even worse, the sending of U.S. land forces in the service of the Vance-Owen plan is contemplated. How many will be needed? Will it be 15,000, or will we later find that 200,000 are necessary to pacify Bosnia? Who is the enemy of these forces, and what will be their mission? Can American soldiers be asked to die in defense of the Vance-Owen partitioning map? If all the parties have agreed on a peace plan, why are the peacekeepers necessary at all? In any event, it is certain that U.S. infantrymen commanded by a squabbling incompetent U.N. committee will sooner or later become sitting ducks for Serbian irregular forces. It would be Beirut 1982 once again, on a grand scale.

Up to this point, every diplomatic effort by the Carrington-Vance-Owen group has been a prelude to a widening of the war. The coming of Unprofor [the U.N. peacekeeping forces] into Croatia allowed Serbia to transfer forces out of Croatia and into Bosnia in order to wage war there. The Vance-Owen Geneva Conference has opened a new armed conflict between Bosnian Muslims and Croats, who had been allies. Unprofor and the U.N. soldiers around Sarajevo function as a de facto auxiliary for the Serbians. Americans cannot want to join in such ignominy. The implementation of the Vance-Owen plan would buy overextended Serbia precious time to re-organize and regroup for future genocide in Kosova, Makedonija, and Vojvodina. The Serbian goal of wider "ethnic cleansing" conquests could be implemented as soon as Serbia seals a pact with a new pan-Orthodox anti-western regime in Moscow during the coming months.

Russian presence grows

Russian "volunteers" organized by General Filatov are already serving as pilots, officers, and advisers with Serbian

units in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Without Russian logistical support, the Serbs could not hold their gains within the occupied areas of Bosnia. Although the Russians are not prepared to respond right now, to the degree that anti-western forces gain strength in Moscow, Russian involvement on the side of Serbia can only increase.

It is therefore imperative to put an end to the conflict before it becomes a focal point of U.S.-Russian strategic confrontation. Future Serbian moves are likely to embroil Makedonija, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Romania, and perhaps even Austria and Italy. Serbian missiles can now strike Rome, Berlin, Athens, and other NATO capitals. This state of war must not be kept in suspended animation, ready to begin again at any time. It must be rapidly and decisively ended.

The United States must therefore identify Serbia not only as an aggressor, but as a U.S. strategic enemy and a direct threat to U.S. national security. U.S. policy must be the quick restoration of the territorial *status quo ante*, obliging the Serbs to retreat to their own borders, and restoring the sovereignty of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina over all their own territory.

Serbia is currently overextended and exceedingly vulnerable to determined U.S. countermeasures. The myth of Serbian invincibility has no basis in fact, but is the result of psychological warfare and British-inspired propaganda. Serbia has come close to military catastrophe several times since 1991, especially during the siege of Vukovar, when only Lord Carrington's urgent "humanitarian" intervention prevented a Croatian column from lifting the siege and hurling the invading Serbs back across the Danube. The Serbs have advanced thus far only because they have been free to attack cities at the time and place of their own choosing, transferring and regrouping forces with no fear of any coordinated counterstrikes. Even so, the Serbian forces are depleted and decimated, having lost over 1,000 tanks; the Serbian Air Force has been crippled by the defection of non-Serbian pilots. Serbian anti-aircraft defenses would not be effective against a first-class air power. Given a free hand, Croatian forces could liberate their own country right now.

Keep ground forces out of it

The U.S. must not under any circumstances introduce ground forces into this region, since this would sacrifice the inherent U.S. advantage in mobility and firepower. Any gradual incremental escalation would maximize U.S. losses,



Srečko Jurdana on Feb. 11: "The Vance-Owen plan would buy precious time for Serbia to regroup for future genocide in Kosovo, Makedonija, and Vojvodina."

creating the danger of a Vietnam-style quagmire which is otherwise nonexistent. Croatian and Bosnia-Herzegovina units can do the job on the ground, provided they can be suitably armed. The United States must act unilaterally and without regard to the British, French, Russians, or others who have criminally bungled the crisis thus far. The following U.S. measures would produce the military collapse of Serbia and end the war within 1-2 months:

- 1) Lift the arms embargo on Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 2) U.S. diplomacy should remove all restrictions on Croatian and Bosnian self-defense against Serbian units on their territory; no state can be an aggressor within its own borders.
- 3) Destroy Serbia's capacity to wage aggressive war through U.S. bombing of key Serbian air bases in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including Banja Luka. Destroy from the air the Serbian long-range artillery concentrations around Sarajevo, Travnik, the Bosanska-Posavina area, Bihac, Bosanski Brod, Orasje, the hills around Visegrad on the Drina, the Zegulja hill near Mostar, Gradacac, Mt. Majeвица near Tuzla, Motajica, Donji-Vacuf, Trebinje, Nevesinje, etc. Interdict from the air the Serbian land corridor between Gradacac and Orasje in northern Bosnia and other logistics choke-points. Interdict Serbian air logistics through enforcement of the no-fly zone against fixed-wing aircraft *and* helicopters. Inside the Serbian-occupied zone of Croatia, the U.S. must bomb the Serbian-controlled missile concentrations along the Glina-Petrinja axis in the Banija region, and the Serbian artillery positions south of Karlovac and near Slunj in the Kordun region and in the Lika region.
- 4) Issue an ultimatum to Serbia, that if hostilities continue and all Serbian armed units do not retreat inside Serbia,

Serbia will not be considered a privileged sanctuary. In that eventuality, the air war will be carried to Serbian air bases, the Serbian intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) base at Leskovac, the center for Serbian and foreign special forces at Nis and Aleksinac, and other military targets. Serbia itself is mostly a plain, flat as a table, affording little cover against assault from the air.

5) An international war crimes tribunal must be set up to try Milosevic and other Serbian leaders who conspired to wage aggressive war and genocide.

6) When all armed forces have been demobilized or withdrawn within internationally recognized borders, peace negotiations can begin. A permanent peace order must include a lifting of all International Monetary Fund conditionalities and a cooperative plan for the economic reconstruction and development of all states involved, including Serbia, within the framework of the European "Productive Triangle."

Croatian journalist: U.S. will have to act

Srečko Jurdana, a Croatian journalist, travelled to Rochester, Minnesota early in February to interview political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche. Prior to 1985, Jurdana worked for Radio Zagreb and numerous Croatian magazines. In 1985 he was forced to leave the country, attacked as an "anti-communist." Since his return to Croatia from West Germany in 1989, he has been influential in his country's politics, writing for the leading Croatian newspapers Vecernji List and Vjestnik. The following interview with him appeared in the Rochester Post-Bulletin on Feb. 8, under the headline "U.S. Should Step In, Before It's Too Late, Croatian Says."

Srečko Jurdana has one simple reason why America should intervene soon in the Balkans war—World War III.

The Croatian journalist, who was in Rochester Monday, said it is already too late to stop destruction of much of the Bosnian-Croatian areas by Serbian forces allied with Russia. But it is not too late to stop genocide and to stop the world's great powers from colliding in the Balkans, he said.

Jurdana, 42, was here to interview Lyndon LaRouche, who is serving a sentence in the Federal Medical Center, and to talk about what is happening in his country. He will be in the U.S. 10 days on a trip sponsored by the Schiller Institute, which was started by LaRouche. The institute tries to promote world peace through economic development, said Glenn Mesaros of the institute. It blames much of the misery and war in that part of the world on policies of the International Monetary Fund, which Jurdana said keeps the Third World poor.

Jurdana said he has been within 15 miles of Sarajevo,