

which is under heavy Serbian attack, and has been in other besieged cities. Those cities were once in richly historic, beautiful areas that are now ruins. "If you would tour Croatian villages now, you would be terrified," he said. The true extent of the casualties in Sarajevo will not be known until spring, because winter will take its toll on the city, he said.

Croatian culture goes back to the seventh century, he said, but the country was forcibly annexed into part of the new country of Yugoslavia after World War I to keep Germany and Russia separated. The Soviet Union took over after World War II, but once the Soviet Union began to crumble, several republics tried to break away, including Croatia, he said.

That set the stage for the current war, because it gave the Serbs, with ties to Russia, a chance to grab Croatia, Bosnia, and other regions. Serbian policy was simple—genocide. Serbs want to wipe out the Croatian people, wipe out the culture, wipe out historic monuments so there is no memory of culture, he said. . . .

He fears that Russian ultra-conservatives will take power in April and aid Serbia with more military might. That could

give Serbia a free hand in trying to conquer other provinces in the region, he said.

Therefore, it is in the United States' best interests to act now, before anything worse happens there, Jurdana said. Serbia is overextended militarily, so a few well-placed air strikes and the U.S. announcement that the Serbs must retreat would force them back. Then, and only then, could there be real peace talks, he said. "You have to stop the fascists, that is basically what is being requested," he said.

"Influential groups" in some European countries don't want to help, because they want to see the region in turmoil, he said. And the United Nations is now protecting Serbs from Croatian counterattacks. That leaves only the United States, he said. LaRouche had the right idea when he said Serbs should pull back and that economic help should be given to all free sides, he said.

But the longer the United States waits, the harder it will be to intervene successfully, he said. "This is that pattern of World War III," he said. "So sooner or later, America will have to get involved."

Beirut, Sarajevo face same struggle

EIR's Paris bureau received the following eyewitness report from a Lebanese reader who requested to remain anonymous. It has been translated from the French.

Today, Lebanon has been pacified. For you and for us, "pacified" should mean "in peace." For the diplomats of every stripe, it means "subjugated"; with mountains of dead bodies fresh in our memories, there is daily terror, humiliation, and frustration.

After 15 years of perseverance, [Syrian President Hafez] Assad has finally gotten hold of Lebanon; true, he had a great deal of help from a string of superstars in international relations, which goes from Kissinger to Roland Dumas, without leaving out, of course, George Bush, François Mitterrand, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, two or three Britons, a few Israeli leaders, etc.

In Beirut, people are being arrested every day. Some are tortured and "turned," others disappear—like that. In Beirut, on New Year's day, U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker sent his good wishes to the Lebanese people and congratulated them on the return to peace. The same tone, same smile from the representative of Great Britain and the ambassador from France.

However, even at the airport, you are seized by a heavy, oppressive feeling. Glances are shifty and filled with suspicion. There are no newspapers that don't have

their blank spaces [censored articles—ed.]. There are no neighborhoods without their disappeared persons, snatched in the early morning hours—and their graffiti proclaiming [exiled former Prime Minister] Michel Aoun, or democracy, or even freedom and rights, or all at the same time.

An unreal government, a "tin horn" President, a spice-rack Assembly, all under the boot of a certain Assad. For you and for us, we are dealing with an avowed criminal; for them, a realist, serious and respectable. They are the superstars of international relations; they are, also, the journalists, and not the least of them from France and elsewhere. Are they mad? Are we mad?

Lebanon is pacified! But the Lebanese charnel-house is being repeated at this moment in Sarajevo. Make no mistake! And I swear to you, when a reporter says "Milošević," I hear "Assad," in spite of myself. As for Dumas, Kouchner, and the *Clemenceau*, it is exactly the same. The same plastic smile, the same bags of rice, and the same cargo. There are even French reporters and British leaders who inform us that the Croats were the Ustasish, which means, after all, formerly pro-Nazi.

Listen up, brave folk!

In Beirut, in the parlor of a convent on Mt. Lebanon, a nun and I had a long conversation on the killing taking place in former Yugoslavia. My interlocutor concluded: "It was the same here. I pray for these poor people. The criminals must be tried . . . to make an example. . . . They and their accomplices must answer before mankind." Let this be done.