

Mladic, Karadzic do not represent the Serbian people

by Umberto Pascali

"The [Radovan] Karadzic regime is one thing and the Serbian people a different one. The majority of the Serbs living in areas controlled by Karadzic do not support him." With a few clear, direct, documented statements, Dr. Mirko Pejanovic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and a member of the Bosnian Presidency, destroys the "big lie." The Pale regime does not represent the Serbs in Bosnia. Actually, the majority of the Serbs in Bosnia are against the Pale regime. The Serbs who are "under Karadzic's control" are kept in that state by a mixture of fear and paranoia, but now the spell is broken.

How, then, was it possible to propagate for four years the "big lie," a lie that gave the genocidalists the status of statesmen, placing them at the same level of the elected representatives of the Bosnian people; a lie that is responsible for the request in the West of a final solution for Bosnia based on ethnic partition? The answer is simple and lies in the propaganda capabilities of the British geopolitical apparatus. This is why, except for *EIR* and a handful of voices, no media disputed that the "Bosnian Serbs" meant Karadzic, and that the British-sponsored genocide was an "ethnic" or "religious" war among those "crazy people down there in the Balkans." One of the pushers of the "big lie" is self-professed British agent Henry Kissinger. Dr. Pejanovic is horrified by Kissinger's call to ethnically partition Bosnia. "It's the worst evil that could happen to our country," he said. "In the last 100 years, others have tried to divide Bosnia. . . . That was one of the characteristics of the colonial powers, all the way to Hitler. Divide and conquer!"

Dr. Pejanovic talked to *EIR* while in Washington. He was a member of a Bosnian delegation that included mostly non-Muslim leaders and four of the ten members of the Bosnian Presidency, who came to stress with their presence that the Bosnian people—Muslim, Croat, and Serb—*reject* any ethnic segregation, the message that Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and his cabinet have stressed again and again. Dr. Ivo Komsic, the leader of the Croat National Council, i.e., the leader of the Croatian community, and a member of the Bosnian Presidency, was with Dr. Pejanovic at the Carnegie Endowment in Washington two days after this interview, arguing the same point before a group of high-level policymakers.

Also, Dr. Stjepan Kljuic, a well-respected Croatian lead-

er, and Bosnian Serb Dr. Tatjana Lujic-Mijatovic, both members of the Presidency, argued that *the Bosnian people do not want partition.*

In the meantime, the Pale regime is collapsing, much faster than expected by the "experts." Ratko Mladic and Karadzic have the strength of gangsters—once they have to fight as real soldiers, they are crushed. So, while the "experts" are asking themselves why the Bosnia-Croat offensive in central Bosnia went so quickly and the alliance now controls more than 60% of Bosnia, Dr. Pejanovic was issuing from Washington "An Appeal to the Serbian People" trapped in the last Karadzic stronghold, Banja Luka. The strategy echoed that illustrated by Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey, who said on Sept. 20: "We are not at war with Banja Luka. . . . We are not at war with the Serbs. We are at war with Mladic's paramilitary terrorist forces, some of which are in the area of Banja Luka. . . . The time has come to deemphasize the military operations and emphasize political dialogue."

Dr. Pejanovic's appeal reads in part: "The tragedy to which the Pale regime has led the Serbian people in Bosnia is clearly shown now. . . . Organize your local authorities. Request urgent talks with the authorities of the republic of Bosnia. . . . Elect delegations of citizens in the city of Banja Luka and other cities for talks with representatives of the government. . . . Express your wish for a peaceful life with your neighbors. . . . Nobody can take away from you your right to a free life and national equality. . . . Remain in your ancestral homes! Show both to yourselves and to your Croat and Bosniak neighbors that it is possible to live in conditions of equal rights for all people who observe the values of modern European civilization."

Interview: Mirko Pejanovic

Dr. Pejanovic is the president of the Serb Civic Council of Bosnia and a member of Bosnia's collective Presidency. He was interviewed on Sept. 19 in Washington by Umberto Pascali. Translation was provided by Malik and Mahir Dzirlo.

EIR: Dr. Pejanovic, in the West, most people do not even

know that there are Bosnian Serbs, actually a majority, who are with the legitimate government of Bosnia. Can you explain the real situation in your country and the history of the Serb Civic Council?

Pejanovic: The aggression in Bosnia, the war, divided the Serbian people, demographically and politically, into three groups. Out of 1.3 million Serbs living in Bosnia at the beginning of the aggression, now, after three-and-a-half years, there are 500,000 people in exile, refugees; you can find those people here in the United States, in Europe, and the biggest part in Canada. Those half-million Serbs are the most vital part of the Serbian nation's intellectuals, young people.

The second group are those Serbian people who live in the main urban centers—Zenica, Sarajevo, and Tuzla—and who lived, and have been living during the war, with the rest of the Bosnian population. There are about 150,000 of them. The third group is the population under the terrorist Pale regime, between 500,000 and 600,000. This statistic is precedent to the exodus of the Serbian population from Croatia. Also, 100,000 Serbs died in the war.

The Serbs living in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zenica, in the areas under Bosnian government control, are the ones who formed the Serb Civic Council. That organization was formed in 1994 in Sarajevo. Before that, there existed already a Citizens Forum, created in June 1992 by Serbs in Sarajevo. In 1994, the first conference of the ethnic Serb citizens living in the Bosnian-held territory took place at the beginning of 1994. There the Serb Civic Council was created. The top 34 Serb intellectuals in the country are part of this organization, including Professor Berberovic and Dr. Bulic.

The Serb Civic Council is a movement of citizens who are fighting against [Radovan] Karadzic's regime of crime and genocide. We are fighting for a multi-ethnic society, not a segregated one.

EIR: Not for a Republika Srpska—

Pejanovic: No. The second thing we are fighting for, is equality among all the nations—Bosnians, Serbs, and Croats. Then, for parliamentary democracy, a multiparty democracy. Fourth, for human rights, according to all the standards of the European Community. Domestically, we are fighting for a federal system in all Bosnia. From the beginning, the council was against the crimes that were committed by Serbian peoples and by any other peoples. One of the goals was to punish the war criminals, to establish The Hague War Crimes Tribunal. The Serb Civic Council has announced its plan for a Bosnian settlement, and they are announcing it to most of the European countries and now to the United States.

EIR: The percentage of the Serbian population under the spell of Karadzic is much smaller than the people in the West think. This is a very important point, because this ignorance is one of the weapons used by those who want an ethnic division of Bosnia.

Pejanovic: Yes, that is a problem. The problem was created

especially at the beginning of the war, when Sarajevo was blockaded and besieged, and when Karadzic's propaganda shaped opinion around the world, that all the Serbs were supporting him. But that propaganda was spread, too, by some world media. For example, Karadzic was always saying that the Serbs cannot live with other nationalities. But the fact was, that all the time during the war, Serbs *were living together* with Bosnians. The Serbs were part of the Army. They worked in national institutions, such as newspapers. Among the war heroes, there are Serbs, such as Colonel Petrovic.

Karadzic's propaganda was already proven wrong by the Serb Civic Council. We proclaimed to the world community that *we are Serbs who are not with the aggressors*, and that the total number of the Serbs against the Karadzic regime is *bigger* than the number under his control. The total number of loyal Serbs is 650,000; under Karadzic's regime there are 500,000. And if we put aside for a moment the Pale regime itself, I only want to say that the people under that regime *do not identify with it*. Those people who live in the area under Karadzic's control are *not supporting him*.

There is an independent group of Serbian representatives in Banja Luka [currently under Karadzic's occupation—ed.], and their president is Milorad Dodic, who is against the Karadzic regime. . . . Already seven representatives are with him, and their influence is growing. They want a peaceful solution, and they want the peace proposal to be accepted.

EIR: Do you think that, with the Pale regime losing the war, many Serbian groups in Banja Luka and elsewhere, in the territory occupied by Mladic and Karadzic, could establish a relationship with the government in Sarajevo, to arrange reunification?

Pejanovic: That regime is on a downward slope. It is being devastated and is going to be destroyed. It has to be destroyed, because it is the only regime in the world based on the concept of ethnic segregation. Under the Pale regime there is no democracy; there is only one man, the President [Karadzic], one TV, one army. There are no parties involved, the regime is based on national hatred. And against that regime there is a democratic front, of people who want to end it. There is a legal government, an army. The world community, the democratic world, is also against the Pale regime. I believe that more and more Serbs under the regime will realize what that regime is leading them toward, and I believe that those Serbian people will see their salvation in the politics of the Serb Civic Council and the independent representatives in Banja Luka. Through that, the trust toward the Bosnian government will be established.

But there are two conditions that need to be addressed. First, that the war be over, that there be no draft. Second, that the Serb Civic Council will be stronger. And, in general, that the role of the democratic parties will grow.

EIR: Your description of the situation makes even more absurd the position of the United Nations, of people in Unpro-



Members of the collective Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, during a visit to Washington on Sept. 21. Left to right: Dr. Ivo Komsic, leader of the Croat National Council; Dr. Tatjana Ljujic-Mijatovic, a Serbian; Dr. Mirko Pejanovic, leader of the Serb Civic Council.

for, of [U.N. Secretary General] Boutros Boutros-Ghali, his envoy Yasushi Akashi, and individuals such as Lord David Owen, Gen. Michael Rose, Gen. Lewis Mackenzie, that Karadzic represents the Serbians in Bosnia.

Pejanovic: The problem is that the international community and the world *accepted* the leader of one political party—the party that organized the war, who committed acts of terrorism, forcing people out of their homes, as Karadzic did—as the representative of the Serbian people. Mate Boban [the “Croatian Karadzic”—ed.] also was *accepted* as the Croatian representative. That wasn’t the case with [President Alija] Izetbegovic. He is a Bosnian Muslim, but he is the President of a Presidency in which there are two Serbs, two Croats, and he never discusses topics about Bosnia with anyone, *without the presence of a multi-national, multi-ethnic delegation*. They are always putting him forward as a Muslim. Some governments call our army the “Muslim Army,” even though there are Serbs fighting in it, and we are resisting that.

EIR: Henry Kissinger wrote an editorial some days ago, in which he stresses that the only solution in Bosnia is to have a small Muslim state, and then the Serbians should go with Serbia, and the Croats with Croatia. What do you think about this?

Pejanovic: That’s Kissinger’s opinion, and that sentence—to divide Bosnia based on ethnic factors—is the worst evil that could happen to the country. That solution would bring more problems in that area, and more conflicts in the Balkans in the next 10 years. A Muslim state is not possible, because its position is between two strong countries which have ambitions to take it. That would bring, in the long run, devastating consequences. The life, the existence of the Bosnian people

would be endangered. The best solution in Bosnia is to be democratic, federal, and united, in which all the nationalities, Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians, would be equal. In the last 100 years, others have also tried to divide Bosnia. They didn’t succeed, the strength of tolerance always prevailed.

EIR: It has been British colonial policy to keep the Balkans in that situation, historically.

Pejanovic: Yes, that was one of the characteristics of the colonial powers, all the way to Hitler. Divide and conquer.

EIR: A few days ago, Sarajevo Radio reported your appeal to the Serbian population in central Bosnia and around Banja Luka, not to leave their homes. You said that the government of Bosnia is committed to defend their lives, their property, as any other citizen of Bosnia. Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey said: We have a problem in Banja Luka with the refugees. We have to find a situation in which we don’t have this exodus, in which the Serbian population does not just leave en masse, as happened in Krajina. How can this be achieved?

Pejanovic: That could be achieved by stopping military action. Anything else wouldn’t yield the needed effects. There is a great fear, lack of trust. People have, for more than three-and-a-half years, been conditioned by Pale propaganda. It is very hard to overcome that fear. We have to break that reaction.

One solution is to stop the military advance on Banja Luka, and accelerate the peace proposal. The bigger exodus of Serbs from Bosnia, means that there is no longer a Bosnia-Herzegovina, because Bosnia-Herzegovina is a country of three peoples. That would be a terrible shock for the stability

of a country where more than 33% are Serbs. The goal is to stop the war.

EIR: Do you think that if the war is ended in Bosnia, the genocide, that the days of [Serbia President Slobodan] Milosevic are numbered?

Pejanovic: It's hard to make a prediction. Milosevic has shown his ability as a great master of power, of ruling the country, and now he is presented as the biggest peacemaker. His position will become weaker and weaker, but he will stay around for a long time. But Karadzic and Mladic will not be there. That's what Milosevic is a master of—he will make other people pay for the crimes, but he will stay.

EIR: Is there a possibility that those people who had to leave Serbia, these intellectuals, and so on, will come back, to create a real opposition?

Pejanovic: Many intellectuals and youth have left Serbia, and I know that they want to come back. But one of the conditions is democracy. I do believe that democracy will have come soon. The Serbian people want to be a European people, and they cannot make progress if they do not integrate themselves into European life. That, first of all, means democracy. I would like to underline that I believe that the American administration knows and understands what is going on, and also does understand that the Serbian people should be distinguished from a regime which is based on ethnic segregation. It is very good that the new American initiative is very strong, and it aims at peace in all ex-Yugoslavia.

EIR: Were you satisfied with the discussions you had in Washington?

Pejanovic: Yes, they were very successful. We spoke with Deputy Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff, with National Security Council Adviser Anthony Lake. We will have meetings with Sen. Robert Dole. Tonight there is a meeting with the Support Bosnia Committee. We will meet with many congressmen and many organizations friendly toward Bosnia.

EIR: Do you think there is any chance to lift the arms embargo?

Pejanovic: If there is peace, then the embargo will be lifted. But if peace is not accepted, then the lifting of the embargo will be a very obvious fact.

EIR: This mission that you are part of now, includes Serbian Bosnians, and Croatian Bosnians, such as Dr. Ivo Komsic, leader of the Croat National Council, Dr. Tatjana Lujic-Mijatovic, Dr. Stjepan Kljuic, all of them members of the Presidency. This alone already shows that Bosnia can exist in a multi-ethnic dimension.

Pejanovic: Not only that it exists, but we want the international community to accept and support this. This is what we want. This is the goal of our mission.

Interview: Dr. Josef Miklosko

We must obey the encyclicals, not the policies of the IMF

Dr. Miklosko is former vice prime minister of post-communist Czechoslovakia. He was interviewed in Leesburg, Virginia by Nina Ogden on Sept. 12.

EIR: Dr. Miklosko, you have been in the United States for about two weeks. You were an observer at the independent hearings on misconduct by the U.S. Department of Justice, and also held a series of public and private meetings during your visit. You have a great deal of experience in the areas of government and human rights. Please tell us who you are and also about this experience.

Dr. Miklosko: I was, for 27 years, a researcher in computer science and in mathematics. I published about 100 papers and five books on these subjects. After the revolution, I was elected a member of the Slovak Parliament, and then immediately I was named by President Vaclav Havel as the Vice Prime Minister for Human Rights for the federal government of Czechoslovakia. I was in office two years (1990-92).

I am a member of the Christian Democratic Movement in Slovakia. In 1992, we came into the government as the opposition party, and then I was elected to the federal Parliament in Prague. I was there six months, and then, after the splitting of Czechoslovakia into separate states—the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic—in January 1993, I worked in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, first, for two years as an adviser to the President of the Slovak Republic. Now I am a member of the city parliament, vice chairman of the Helsinki Commission for Human Rights, and secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission.

A few months ago, I published a funny autobiographical book about my youth, named *Top Secret: When We Were Young*, and more than 8,000 copies have been sold. Now I am preparing a book, *Top Secret: When We Were Free*, about the last five years in politics, after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

I am chairman of the foundation "We Belong Together," which has projects for children, youth, and families, and some months ago, I was named chairman of the Schiller Foundation for Protection of Human Life, Education, Culture, and Human Rights.

EIR: Can you tell us about the plans of the Schiller Foundation in Slovakia?