

defense measures to prevent “the loss of Bosnia-Herzegovina sovereignty.” President Alija Izetbegovic, in an interview with the weekly *Ljiljan* on March 30, warned that “internal and external forces seeking the disintegration of Bosnia are on the offensive.” Speaking about the difficulties involved in returning displaced people to their homes, he said: “There are attempts to convince the world of equal guilt of each side, that legal Bosnia-Herzegovina authorities are not immune to narrow-mindedness and nationalism, and that Bosnia-Herzegovina is not viable. Some errors, which exist, are used, and abused, to supply poison for this propaganda. However, the situation demands that these errors must not be made, because the world tends to equal our errors to the crimes of the others.”

Extremely important was the joint call issued on April 2 by Izetbegovic and former Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, the main challenger in the next election campaign, who stated: “We warn the world that division of Bosnia-Herzegovina will not mean a disaster only for our State. It will cause permanent instability in the Balkans, jeopardizing the peace in Europe.” In the *Ljiljan* interview, Izetbegovic had attacked such propaganda and the Bosnian media, including *Ljiljan*, which compete in exposing crimes which Serbs and Croats have committed against Bosnians. “Of course, the crimes should not be ignored or covered up, but is there anything good, human among those three nations? Does any gesture of concern for the people of different religions and nations ever occur in our Bosnia? I do not believe there are no such examples.”

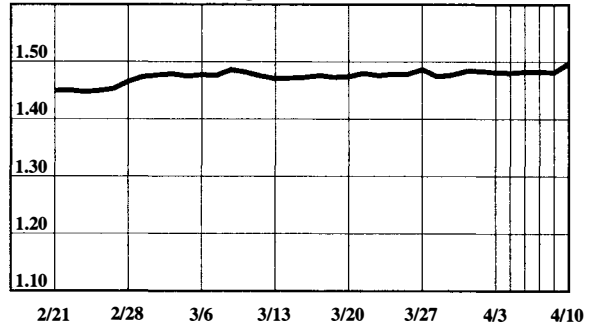
Indeed, there are many examples. One is the regular Friday meeting of the Bosnian humanitarian organizations, including the Muslim Merhamet, the Catholic Caritas, the Orthodox Debrotfor, and the Jewish La Benevolencia, that coordinate support and aid distribution to all the poor and refugees without distinction. A second one is the excellent school organized by the Catholic Church open to the children of Muslim and Orthodox families, a place of study and play open to life and to the future.

Contacts and friends in Sarajevo emphasized two questions: the time and the punishment of war criminals, starting with Karadzic. President Izetbegovic, in the interview, stated that “time is the enemy, not the ally of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation,” meaning that the postponement of the solution of the economic and political problems undermines the present provisional stability. All the religious leaders whom we met also underlined: If economic reconstruction does not start now, the young men without jobs could be pushed into criminality just to feed their families. In the fight for justice and the respect for fundamental human rights, it is mandatory that the leading war criminals, such as Karadzic, Milosevic, and Ratko Mladic, be tried for genocide. No excuse, deal, or coverup can be tolerated. Time will not put aside the criminals’ responsibility. It is a question of justice for the people who suffered and of morality for the rest of the world. Anything else would make accomplices of us all.

Currency Rates

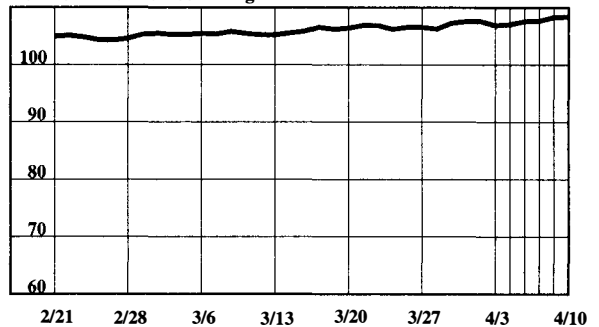
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



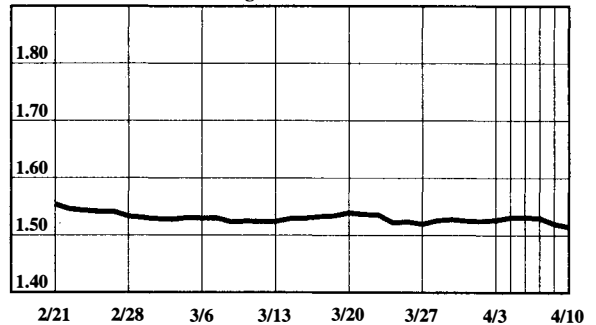
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

