

GOP's British agents launch scumilous attack on Bosnia

by Umberto Pascali

U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) reached probably the most shameful point of his career, when he unleashed his "conservative revolutionary" Black Shirts against Bosnia-Herzegovina. Gingrich committed this despicable action for one reason only: the U.S. Presidential and Congressional elections. "The Republicans, from Bob Dole to Gingrich himself, are in deep electoral trouble," noted a Bosnian diplomat, "so they are assaulting a country that still has not recovered from the greatest genocide since World War II . . . in order to set up a propaganda ploy against President Clinton. The terrible damage this electoral game will do to Bosnia, to its fragile institutions, to its relations to the U.S., until now considered its closest friend and ally—all this is of no concern to Gingrich or Dole." Behind the greed of Gingrich and Dole, lie the cold calculations of the British geopolitical specialists, ready to instigate and exploit any weakness to achieve their aims: in this case, the partition of Bosnia, the undermining of President Alija Izetbegovic's leadership, and the preservation of British control over the Balkans.

The Republican ploy took the form of the creation of a Subcommittee on the United States Role in Iranian Arms Transfers to Croatia and Bosnia, under the House Foreign Relations Committee. The logistics of this Subcommittee are run directly by Gingrich's office.

On Oct 10, the subcommittee—chaired by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), and including the leader of the House's British-American Caucus, Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.)—released some of its "findings." The full report is actually 204 pages, but only the eight pages of "Conclusions" were released. "Much of this report is classified," they said, and thus cannot be "shared with the public"—meaning, *not before the elections*.

The "Conclusions" revive the most discredited line put out in the past by the Yugoslav Secret Police, the Herzeg-Bosna racists, and their backers in Britain: that Bosnia is controlled by Iranian fundamentalists! "The Clinton administration's Iranian green light policy gave Iran an unprecedented foothold in Europe and has recklessly endangered American lives and strategic interests," read the "Conclusions." The U.S. ambassador in Croatia, Peter Galbraith, is accused of "activities that can be characterized as unauthorized covert action."

It is difficult to believe that the supporters of George Bush's Iran-Contra scheme to flood U.S. streets with crack cocaine, are now protesting, without offering a shred of evidence, against "activities that can be characterized as unauthorized covert actions." But the aim of the subcommittee, not unlike the crude Greater Serbia propaganda, was to create the impression that Bosnian Muslims equal Iranian fundamentalists and that the Clinton administration is therefore helping Iranian fundamentalism. In reality things are quite different. The Republicans were well informed of the small aid that Bosnia has been allowed to receive, while the world sat back and watched a "final solution" in progress.

The British military leaders have been pushing the United States to allow the deployment of the infamous Special Air Service against the "Iranian mujahideen" that the SAS suddenly claimed to have discovered in Bosnia. The Clinton administration fortunately refused such an offer, rightly arguing that this could trigger a new war. The SAS had previously been caught red-handed impersonating "mujahideen" guerrillas. Some experts suggest that the SAS offer was an attempt to launch attacks against Muslim leaders in Bosnia, along the lines of Operation Phoenix during the Vietnam War.

Bosnia's President Izetbegovic had already answered this racist assault against his country with noble words, in his speech to the UN General Assembly on Sept. 25 (see *Documentation*) when he said: "I don't know whose interest is to push [the 1 billion Muslims worldwide] into the extremists' embrace." Indeed this is what the British and their lackeys are desperately trying to do now, not only in Bosnia, but also in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

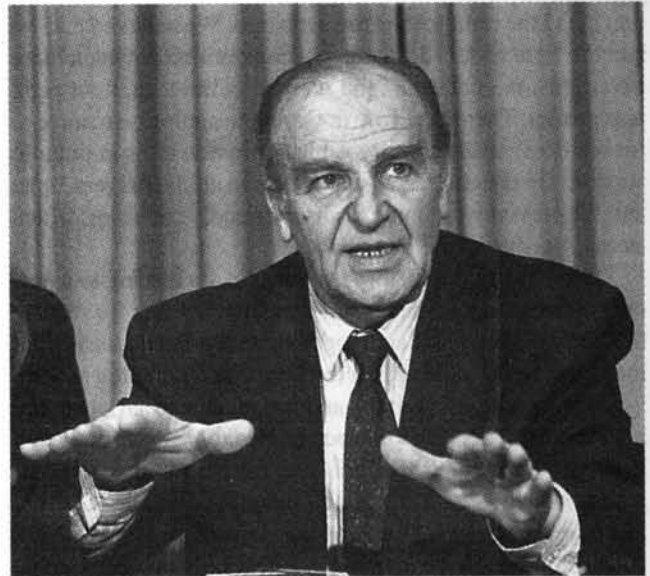
But Bosnia is a crucial singularity for U.S. foreign policy, if that foreign policy is to have the chance to break free from the British colonial model. Bosnia is the "bridge" to the Muslim world, to the so-called Third World, and indeed, to Iran. One of the most indispensable tenets of British geopolitics, is that Iran must remain "fundamentalist." If Iran becomes "normal" and is allowed to develop its resources and alliances, then the Middle East, and the area all along the "Silk Route" that leads to China, will become the center of rapid economic development and "democratization."

Bosnia is the test-case, the point on the map that so many countries of the world are looking at. Will the United States be thrown into an attack against Bosnia, enabling London to achieve its aim of undermining the group around President Izetbegovic, which led the country's battle for survival?

The attack on Hassan Cengic

The article President Izetbegovic denounced in his speech was signed by John Pomfret and published on Sept. 22 in the *Washington Post*. "Even if you have gotten used to the *Post* standard, the piece by Pomfret would strike you as a clinical example of Goebbels' style," said a Balkan observer. The article attacked the group around Izetbegovic for having procured weapons to save Bosnia. Of course, the key spice in the article was "Iran." Particularly targetted was Deputy Defense Minister Hasan Cengic, one of the young leaders who had been arrested in 1983 with Izetbegovic, by the Communist police in Yugoslavia. Cengic, a very capable leader, with contacts all over the world, negotiated with the United States the law integrating Croatian and Bosniak military forces in the Bosnian Federation, and the "Train and Equip" program, for which Washington provided official assistance. This program has now started. The *institutional* link between Bosnia and the U.S. became a reality.

London feared the end of its long control over the Balkans. Already Henry Kissinger had called, at the Republican Convention in San Diego, for Dole to attack Clinton over Bosnia. Kissinger later wrote an article in the *Washington Post* calling for the partition of Bosnia. But Izetbegovic's victory in the Bosnian elections in September smashed many of these plans. So, a personal, vicious attack against the group around Izetbegovic was launched, including against people like Chief of Cabinet Faris Nanic, who had given an eye-opening interview to *EIR* in July. These are, in fact, the most solid leaders for establishing a *principled* alliance between the United States and Bosnia.



Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic: "I am not going to apologize to anyone for our doing everything possible to provide arms in order to survive."

The pressure on the administration became so strong, that a cowardly decision was apparently taken. If the report in the Bosnian magazine *Ljiljan* is to be believed, a letter signed by Secretary of Defense William Perry and Secretary of Warren Christopher was delivered privately to Izetbegovic: It demanded Cengic's head, without supplying any real reason. The only explanation possible, is that Cengic, known for his honesty and moderation, but also his independence and defense of Bosnian sovereignty, was made a scapegoat.

Documentation

From the speech of Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic to the United Nations General Assembly, Sept. 25, 1996:

... While flying to New York the day before yesterday, I read an article published in a prominent American newspaper [the *Washington Post*], which dealt with the providing of the Bosnian Army with arms during the war. The author of the article doesn't say it so explicitly, but implies that everything that is Muslim smells of terrorism. . . . The writer also mentioned some people: Their only fault is they helped the Bosnian Army to obtain some arms during the war.

Today, there are more than a billion Muslims worldwide. I don't know whose interest it is to, in this or similar articles, push them into the embrace of the extremists.

Our country and people went to hell. The world deemed

that it had the right to the arms embargo. We believed that we had the right to self-defense. In a competition between these two rights, we believed, and we still believe, that our right was greater. Therefore, I am not going to apologize to anyone for our doing everything possible to provide arms in order to survive. On the contrary, I pay tribute to all the brave people, and I express my gratitude to all the friendly countries, which assisted us during the war.

That page of our history is over. We are turning to a new one—peace. I thank the United States of America for starting the initiative for peace and, together with other countries, for making efforts to strengthen the fragile and complex peace.

We are a small country and we must lead an open and honest policy. Secret diplomacy and double games are privileges of mighty ones. For this and for many other reasons, among which is also the above-mentioned article, I would like to reiterate some facts, and our objectives.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is possible only as a democratic state of three equal nations and of free citizens. We accept these fundamental provisions of the Dayton peace agreement, with all its consequences. That is a well-known formula: one state, two entities, three nations. It is often considered that the Dayton agreement is not good enough. It is good because it has stopped the killing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and because a better plan doesn't exist.

The main deficiency is not in itself, but in its implementation. All of the bad aspects of this agreement could be improved if it were very completely and consistently implemented. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

According to that provision of the agreement, Herzeg-Bosna, established as a federal state during the war, should cease to exist; but it still exists and impedes the building up of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Dayton peace accord envisions that the second entity, the Republika Srpska, should facilitate the return to their homes of more than half a million expelled Bosniacs and Croats. This is not going on, but expulsions are continuing. . . .

The world—and, before all, the Contact Group members—should tell [the Republika Srpska], explicitly, that the Dayton accord is a *whole*. If there is no return of the expelled, there is no Republika Srpska. Otherwise, the Dayton agreement will grow from a small and bearable injustice, into a huge and intolerable injustice, and intolerable injustice leads to new conflicts.

The provisions of Dayton agreement stipulate the respect for human rights, and nevertheless, human rights are being violated more or less on the entire territory. The September election and the pre-election campaign offered the opportunity to test this in a very efficient manner. Especially bad conditions in this regard are in territory of the Republika Srpska. For the people from the Federation, neither before nor during the election was there freedom of movement—or it was very limited. And only Serbian political parties could act.

Moreover, the electoral boards that registered the voters

and counted the ballots, in all cases consisted of only one nation and very often one party. . . .

I will complete this brief analysis of the implementation of the Dayton agreement by stating that the main war criminals—Karadzic and Mladic—are still free, in spite of Dayton, in spite of the orders of The Hague tribunal and the elementary demands of justice. We would like to proclaim the principle of reconciliation of the people and the nations. Bosnia needs it. Here no one advocates the view of the quality of guilt of a nation. . . .

Even on the issue of the war crimes, the world seeks some painless, middle-ground solution. When the issue of the war crimes, like the ones committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, comes into question, every compromise is a shameful betrayal of justice. Unpunished war criminals will continue to poison the world and ruin its institutions.

Some people in Europe and the United Nations also ask whether Bosnia-Herzegovina, after everything, is *possible*. These people either don't know the facts, or are morally corrupt. . . My answer is, if genocide without punishment is possible, then Bosnia-Herzegovina is not possible.

So the real question is not whether the people can live together. It is more concrete and more straightforward: Does a larger nation have the right to expel a smaller nation, and then, under the slogan, "We cannot live together," usurp its property and demand that these violations are forgotten and legalized? . . . For people of principle and morality, the answer is clear.

Finally, what should the future government of Bosnia-Herzegovina do, at this crucial and historical moment, for Bosnia-Herzegovina?

. . . It should draft and proclaim its program as consisting of at least three points: first, to request from all the signatories of the Dayton agreement, its full and consistent implementation. . . . Second, the governments should proclaim the reconciliation of the peoples and the nations on the condition of vigorous prosecution of war criminals. And third, the government should ensure the freedom of media as a way to heal the country. . . .

Bosnia and Herzegovina is still a recovering patient, and it needs the world's support. The presence of the international military forces will be indispensable for a certain and limited period of time, and economic assistance is necessary for a longer period.

Before I conclude, I would like to say a few words about the United Nations. We support reform of the United Nations system. . . .

The United Nations must not undertake obligations it cannot carry out. This is impermissible. My people have paid an infinitely high price for this irresponsibility. The safe area of Srebrenica and over 8,000 of its innocent victims are not the only, but are the most grave, example of this incomprehensible attitude. We don't know who is responsible, but we seek reforms which ensure that this will never happen again. . . .