

solve this problem peacefully. "This commitment to a peaceful solution is very important," he said. "We have done so much for the peace process. We have moved so far in Sudan in creating a constitution, in establishing pluralism, that we cannot say that the peace process has failed. Even the violations [of the peace charter] we are complaining of, are because of the war. If there were no war, no one would attempt to violate the agreement."

Anti-Sudan policy in ruins

It is no exaggeration to say that the policy rammed through the State Department in 1997 for a full-court press against Sudan, put forward by Roger Winter of the U.S. Committee for Refugees, John Prendergast, then of the National Security Council, and enforced through Susan Rice, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, is a total shambles. That policy built the "alliance" against Sudan of the northern opposition parties, the SPLA, along with Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Uganda for a military war against Sudan. Militarily, this policy has accomplished absolutely nothing, but it has cost the lives of up to hundreds of thousands of civilians destroyed by the famine and disease caused by the war. Calls are now beginning to be heard for an end to the insane policy of war and destabilization toward Sudan.

The case was put most bluntly in a *Wall Street Journal* commentary by Milt Bearden, who had been CIA station chief in Sudan during the 1980s. Bearden noted that the United States effectively admitted that the Aug. 20, 1998 bombing of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant was a mistake, when it ordered the frozen assets of the plant's owner to be freed on May 3. The plant was targeted on the basis of allegations that it had been producing chemical weapons in cahoots with terrorist ideologue Osama Bin Laden, who, in turn, was blamed for the terrorist bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania earlier that month. Noting that soil sampling—which allegedly clinched the evidence of the chemical weapons research at Al-Shifa—"has historically been considered only a small tile of the intelligence mosaic. Does it make sense for the sole remaining superpower to attack a small African nation, without warning, based solely on unconfirmed evidence provided by an agent from a third country?" In reality, Bearden argued, the bombing of Al-Shifa was not a matter of mistaken intelligence, but of mistaken policy. And worse, because of the failure of the United States to admit its mistake, "damage to America's credibility is far more serious than any possible short-term compromise of intelligence methods. . . ."

"On the positive side, finally settling the Al-Shifa affair might actually get the U.S. re-engaged in Sudan, where its leadership is needed to end the near-biblical suffering in a ravaged region, and in the process move a country that was once a close U.S. ally back into the international community. The Sudanese are ready for that."

The crimes against peace in The Hague

by Mark Burdman

A British source in a position to know, told *EIR* on June 1, that massive, official British pressure was largely responsible for the May 27 decision by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), to indict Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, and four other Serbian political and military leaders, for war crimes. The British source, who is opposed to the NATO war against Yugoslavia, revealed that British government circles also had pressured the United States, to support the operations of the Hague, Netherlands-based ICTY. "Our government has no interest in negotiating with Milosevic, and this is coming from the lot that is pushing for the ground troops option in Yugoslavia," the source said.

This assessment confirms widespread suspicions that the ICTY indictments were issued to wreck a diplomatic solution with the Yugoslav/Serbian leadership, at precisely the time that the momentum for such a solution was reaching critical mass. After the indictments were announced, senior officials of all governments that have shown a genuine interest in a negotiated settlement—including those of Italy, Germany, Greece, Russia, and China, as well as United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan—promptly voiced their amazement at the timing of the court ruling.

The Chief Prosecutor for the Tribunal, Louise Arbour of Canada, stated May 28: "We were driven by a now-or-never sense of urgency . . . ensuring that the justice agenda did not get completely bypassed by the peace process. . . . I am mindful of the impact that this indictment may have on the peace process in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. . . ." The indictment has "simply exposed the unsuitability" of Milosevic and the other indicted officials, to be guarantors of any peace deal, she said.

On May 28, the Vienna-based International Progress Organization (IPO) released a statement, authored by its President Dr. Hans Koechler, charging that Arbour's comments reveal that she "has tried to act as a surrogate politician, and to influence political events in the interest of those NATO countries presently waging war against Yugoslavia."

A BAC operation

That Milosevic is guilty of war crimes, is nothing new. As amply documented by this publication over the years,

these crimes date back to no later than 1991, and have been well known to the “international community.” Yet, as the ICTY members themselves stress, the purview of their “investigation” for the indictments includes only the period from March 23, 1999, up to the point that the “investigation” concluded. Hence, the ICTY’s work in this endeavor, has clearly been to provide some legal justification for NATO’s war, launched on March 24. Limiting the work to that selected period, also neatly eliminates any effort to study the vast array of British and British-linked collaborators and protectors that Milosevic has had, throughout the 1990s.

By the same token, the ICTY’s work excluded any consideration of war crimes committed by NATO, even though these have been so extensive and blatant that even Britain’s Lord William Rees-Mogg, in a May 31 London *Times* article, commented that NATO was likely in violation of the post-World War II Nuremberg statutes.

Such omissions are hardly surprising, in view of the composition of the ICTY’s top officials. The President of the Hague Tribunal, Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, is an American; the Investigating Judge, David Anthony Hunt, is an Australian; and Chief Prosecutor Arbour, as noted, is a Canadian. According to the May 30 London *Observer*, Arbour is soon to be appointed to the Canadian Supreme Court, and this

imminent appointment is an additional motivation for her having wanted to rush the indictments through.

It appears, that from the top, the ICTY is being run as a special operation of the “British-American-Commonwealth” (BAC) power bloc. In his May 28 statement attacking the Tribunal’s indictments, International Progress Organization President Dr. Koechler stresses that the “purely political nature” of the indictments is underscored by the fact that the Tribunal’s leading officials “are citizens either of NATO countries directly responsible for the undeclared war against Yugoslavia, or of a country fully endorsing the NATO war. If the ‘Tribunal’ would have taken general legal standards of impartiality seriously, it would have been obliged to determine that there is a conflict of interest for ‘judges’ from countries waging an undeclared war against Yugoslavia, to sit on such a panel initiating ‘judicial’ action against the Head of State of the country under attack.”

Koechler warned that this kind of “self-righteous power politics” will provoke “international anarchy” and sow the seeds for future wars, if not stopped.

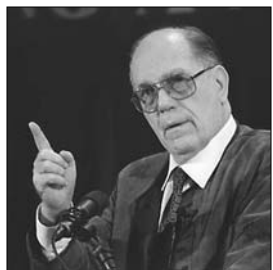
The Tribunal’s behavior reminds some of a previous BAC-centered operation to provoke war, when the so-called “Butler Report” was issued by the United Nations team of “weapons inspectors” in Iraq, in November 1998, setting into motion what became the new Iraq war, a month later. That report’s author, Richard Butler, is a senior Australian official. (See *EIR*, Jan. 1, 1999, pp. 36-37, “Butler Faked Iraq Report, as Gore, Blair Pushed War.”)

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‘Biggest handover of British intelligence’

The magnitude and intensity of British involvement in the ICTY was revealed in the cited May 30 *Observer* article. It reported that British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook is so committed to the Tribunal’s work, that he appointed one David Gowan as the special British Foreign Office liaison to the ICTY. Gowan met Louise Arbour on April 20, and arranged “the biggest handover of British intelligence in history, to an outside agency,” the *Observer* claims.

The paper reported that a parallel ICTY support nexus has been established in the United States, set up in the “institutional structure” of Washington, comprised of officials of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, State Department, Pentagon, and certain think tanks, but without any liaison to, or contact with, the Clinton White House. Politically, this “structure” gravitates toward a triumvirate composed of former Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.), Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, now a candidate for the Republican nomination and a loud-mouthed supporter of a NATO ground war.

An unnamed British official exclaimed to the *Observer* that the ICTY’s indictments mean “this has been the week we slammed the door on Milosevic’s face. . . . He will have to go.”