

borne troops in Afghanistan, decorated with the highest Soviet award, Hero of the Soviet Union, embodies the intense hatred of the Afghan War veteran, the *Afghantsi*, Russian patriotic officers and soldiers against the Communist Party *nomenklatura*.

The battle for Russia

Despite the drama of recent events, and the sweeping victory of the forces grouped behind Yeltsin, the economic crisis is still there to be dealt with, with famine looming this winter. The decisive battle however is only now beginning, namely, whether Yeltsin, the new army, and the leaders of Ukraine and other newly independent states in the League, succumb to or are able to defeat another equally sinister group of plotters: the western financial mafia around Harvard's Jeffrey "Cocaine Coup" Sachs of Bolivian infamy, and its fifth column subversives in Russia and other republics, who under the tempting but deadly banner of the "radical free market" are scheming to loot Russia and the other independent states and strangle any true national rebirth grounded on economic development.

The Sachs mafia has maneuvered some assets into place, especially one Grigori Yavlinsky, author of the "500 days" program for quick "transition to a free market economy." Yavlinsky has been named one of three people on the interim Soviet Economic Policy Commission. It is headed, however by Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, who also has become head of a transitional last Soviet cabinet, all of whose economics and finance-related ministers are drawn exclusively from Silayev's Russian Federation ministries.

Policy centers in Washington and London counting on the Yeltsin victory to produce a Russian repeat of the "shock therapy" imposed on Poland with such disastrous effects, may themselves be in for rude shocks. Silayev is at most a cautious, not a radical, free market advocate, and, given his defense industry background, not likely to preside over a western-imposed destruction of the industrial state sector. By profession an aeronautics engineer, Silayev had directed the giant Gorki aircraft plant; in 1974, he became deputy minister for the aircraft industry, and in 1985-90, U.S.S.R. deputy prime minister, responsible for the entire machine-building sector. Silayev, who before becoming Russian prime minister in June 1990 was simultaneously the co-chairman of both the Soviet-West German and Soviet-East German Joint Economic Commissions, has long advocated that Russia anchor its foreign economic relations with Germany.

Silayev, like many others in the Russian elite, but unlike the Poles in 1989, has the advantage of having seen shock therapy all over eastern Europe in practice as a dismal failure. One crucial element in resolving this question will be how fast Germany, France, and Italy are prepared to act in opposition to the Anglo-American cabal, to offer the new republics the kind of infrastructure development packages which can stabilize their economies.

Yugoslavia at the brink of total war

by Paolo Raimondi

As we go to press, Yugoslavia is just a few hours away from the Aug. 31 deadline imposed by the Croatian government and the European Community to stop the military actions of the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav federal army. The aggression of the Greater Serbia forces has turned into total war. During the last week of August, the offensive of the federal army, in combination with the militias of the Chetnik Serbian terrorists, has escalated with the massive deployment of the Air Force, tank divisions, infantry, and Navy on virtually every front.

On Aug. 28, the Schiller Institute in Europe issued a call to all European governments and the European Parliament, to stop waffling and implement the following urgent measures:

1) Immediate diplomatic recognition of Croatian and Slovenian independence. With this action, Europe will also state that it sees the communist "Greater Serbian" aggression as a violation of international law, and not just an internal Yugoslavian affair.

2) Immediate supply of defensive weapons to the republics of Croatia and Slovenia in the form of anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems, to be able to resist the crushing military superiority of the Yugoslav federal army.

3) An economic boycott against Serbia until it abandons its aggressive plans. The Serbian communist leaders should fear that the Serbian people will soon give them the same treatment experienced by the Soviet putschists.

4) A program of economic assistance to Croatia and Slovenia. In addition to the urgent supplies of food and medicine needed in this dramatic period, Europe must economically integrate Slovenia and Croatia into the rest of continental Europe, with technologically advanced infrastructure projects as elaborated in the "Productive Triangle" proposal of Lyndon LaRouche and the Schiller Institute.

Barring such urgent actions, the diplomatic efforts and hot air that have hitherto been expended will amount to nothing, with grave consequences for the peace of Europe and the world.

The fighting escalates

The plan of the Greater Serbians is to grab as much Croatian territory as possible. It is reported that one-third to one-half of Croatia is now controlled by the federal army. The

new targets include the Dalmatian coast and particularly the key ports and industrial cities of Zadar and Split, which have been the targets of several air attacks. All the important towns of the province of Slavonia, in the eastern part of Croatia, have been under attack by highly sophisticated weapons systems, which the Croatian militia, armed with light weapons, cannot resist for any length of time.

There is also heavy fighting on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is claimed by the Greater Serbians. It is clear that the war will extend itself into the territories of other republics, like Macedonia, and other nations, such as Hungary, if it is not stopped. The Hungarian authorities have denounced the violation of their space by Yugoslavian military planes involved in attacks against Croatian towns. Budapest has ordered its Armed Forces to fire against any military intrusion. The fear of massacres of civilians has already provoked a mass exodus of about 200,000 people, many from the Hungarian minority, over the Hungarian borders.

The government of Croatia has given the federal army until Aug. 31 to return to the barracks, otherwise there will be a general mobilization of the civilian population. All of society will have to be militarized, industry will be reorganized as in a situation of general war, and every civilian will have a role to play, particularly in the logistical and medical sectors, according to Croatian sources.

Diplomacy to no avail

On Aug. 27, the leadership of the federal army and of Croatia had their last negotiating session on the island of Brioni, which produced no results except an intensification of the fighting. A few hours before, the European Community foreign ministers in Brussels issued a demand for a ceasefire until Sept. 1, to allow for organizing a conference with all the republics to decide upon political and juridical initiatives to guarantee existing borders and to take action against those who want to continue the war. If Belgrade refuses, the EC is threatening to take a more pro-Croatian position, and some individual members of the EC are even threatening to recognize the independence of Croatia and Slovenia if Belgrade boycotts the mediation effort. France and Germany have proposed the formation of a commission of five European experts to work out a negotiated solution over two months' time.

It seems that Europe has not learned the lessons of the past months and is continuing with the same mistakes. This is not the time for more ultimatums, but for political and economic intervention in recognizing the independence of Croatia and Slovenia and telling "Greater Serbia" to stop all military aggression immediately or pay for it with political and economic isolation. Europe had already abdicated its role earlier in the summer, when it did not dare to challenge and reject the Bush-Baker green light for the creation of "Greater Serbia" at the beginning of the crisis. The time for empty words is long past.

Interview: Massimo Pini

West bears guilt in Iraq embargo

Massimo Pini is a member of the Swiss Federal Parliament and an officer of the Social Affairs Committee of the Assembly of the Council of Europe. After making known in the strongest terms his opposition to the Gulf war, he has spent the last months agitating to have the blockade against Iraq lifted. A few weeks ago, he joined the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq.

EIR: Do you think Iraq was set up for a fall in the Gulf?
Pini: On the basis of my own personal knowledge, the Gulf war had been planned and was a declared intent as early as the last years of the Reagan administration. I do not know whether the Iraqi President fell into a trap. Nonetheless, I do confirm the information I just referred to above, which was released at Brussels on Jan. 16, 1991.

EIR: What steps have you been taking since the war "ended"?

Pini: During the June parliamentary session, I sent up a resolution to the attention of the Swiss federal government, demanding that the Swiss lift the embargo against Iraq to restore aid shipments to the civilian population. My proposal, therefore, deals only with liberalizing economic-civilian exchange, humanitarian aid, and rebuilding day-to-day life in Iraq. I consider it urgent that these exchanges be liberalized, taking into consideration first and foremost the pressing humanitarian needs, in order to spare both the Iraqis and other peoples hit by the war, still greater suffering.

EIR: One can't help feeling that Switzerland is no longer as neutral as it claims to be.

Pini: I had the occasion to express myself in this respect, as a federal parliamentarian in Bern, and as President of Social Questions in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at Strasbourg. There have been Swiss initiatives taken to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict. Nonetheless, the Swiss federal government, backed by the majority of the governing parties and the parties in the Federal Parliament, upheld the U.N. decision dealing with the embargo and the sanctions against Iraq. I was against