

Bush accuses Croatia of 'nationalism'

by Umberto Pascali

On Nov. 9, speaking in The Hague before the representatives of the European Community, George Bush took up an issue he has been avoiding for a long time: the war in former Yugoslavia. What he said made many wish for his previous silence: "We see in Yugoslavia how the proud name of nationalism can splinter a country into bloody civil war," Bush pontificated.

In other words, the unprecedented aggression of the Serbian-controlled Yugoslav Federal Army—the last Communist army in Europe—against the Croatian people, "responsible" for having voted overwhelmingly for independence, was considered by Bush as inter-ethnic, irrational fighting. The cowardly attitude of western Europe and the United States which has let the massacre and destruction go on before their very eyes, was presented as a responsible disdain toward these explosions of crazy "nationalism."

ADL codewords

Bush continued: "There can be no place for these old animosities in the new Europe. . . . While the urgent work of democracy-building and market reform moves forward, some see in freedom's triumph a bitter harvest. In this view, the collapse of communism has thrown open a Pandora's box of ancient ethnic hatreds, resentment, and even revenge." Referring to the "Yugoslavian example," Bush stressed that democracy can be dangerous. "Some fear that democracy's new freedoms will be used not to build new trust, but to settle old scores. All of Europe has awakened to the dangers of an old enemy—a nationalism animated by hatred and unmoved by nobler ends. . . . [This nationalism] feeds on old, stale prejudices, teaches intolerance and suspicion, and even racism and anti-Semitism."

In the same speech, Bush applied the concept of the "old animosities" to a Europe that is prone to fall victim to economic

"protectionism." "That way lies economic ruin—a prescription for plunging us into the kind of impoverishing rivalry that ravaged our economies during the Great Depression."

Two days before, at the NATO summit in Rome, Bush had staged another provocation against those Europeans who have tried, like Croatia, to be too independent. Targeting the Franco-German initiative for an autonomous European defense, Bush abandoned his written speech and an informal agreement not to touch the issue, which the European Community is going to discuss next month. He presented an ultimatum: "If, my friends, your ultimate aim is to provide independently for your own defense, the time to tell us is today. America wants to be part of European defense and is certainly willing, but not if we are not wanted."

Bush and the British demanded that the other Europeans recognize the "primacy of NATO" as opposed to having their own autonomous defense. European spokesmen protested that Europe cannot be independent if it doesn't have its independent defense. In vain!

The speech in The Hague is particularly eerie, a collection of psychological warfare codewords apparently taken *in toto* from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the U.S.-based organized-crime front group. While it will be very interesting to find out who wrote that speech, suffice it to note that the expression "Bitter Harvest" is borrowed from the title of a book written by ADL stringer James Cochran. The ADL *modus operandi* is always the same: to equate the desire for independence and freedom to anti-Semitism. At that point, any resistance to oppression is labeled as "anti-Semitic."

Blackmailing Europe

A well-informed Croatian source told *EIR*: "There is a close connection between the 'my friends' speech in Rome and the labeling of the Croatian fight for independence as

nationalism leading to anti-Semitism. And this brings us to the real reason why this bloody war against civilians is allowed in the middle of Europe. The Anglo-Americans are telling continental Europe through Bush: 'You cannot be independent, you may be strong economically, but you need military protection. You were not able to do anything to prevent that war, and you will not be able to prevent the social explosion of other eastern European countries due to the economic crisis.' "

The source went on to say that if this hypothesis is true, "then the Anglo-American forces need the Greater Serbians to play the provocative, bloody role they are playing. It is like a gangster who bombs your house to demonstrate that you need protection. It is also clear why the British, with Lord Carrington on top, are doing everything to prevent Europe from recognizing Croatia and Slovenia."

Despite verbal assurances by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other German spokesmen, Germany has not recognized the two republics which declared their independence from Yugoslavia last July. Instead the European Community found the lowest common denominator in a decision of embargo "against Yugoslavia"! (See the interview with Osijek Mayor Zlatko Kramaric, p. 45, for the Croatian view of this EC step.) The decision was approved by the 12 foreign ministers of the EC on Nov. 8 in Rome, around the periphery of the NATO meeting. Bush hastened to say that the United States would join the European "allies" in the embargo.

Total war

"It is still not clear that Europe is making any deep distinction between aggressor and victim," declared Croatian Prime Minister Franjo Greguric. "With these sanctions, Europe has thrown the burden of responsibility onto the United Nations."

The Yugoslav Army, as in a pre-arranged plan, launched an attack all over Croatia, and the specter of "total war" became concrete. The six Croatian ports were blockaded by the Yugoslavian Navy. Foreign merchant ships were hit without any regard, like the Italian freighter carrying the symbolic name of *Europe 92*, and a Maltese merchant vessel that was sunk in the Adriatic Sea.

In Dubrovnik, under siege since Oct. 1, the army has abandoned any respect for formalities, and the irreplaceable architectural treasures have been pitilessly bombed. A few days before, in a statement that will remain in history as an example of cowardice, Prince Charles of England answered a letter from the mayor, Pero Poljanic, who had appealed to the much vaunted love of the prince for architecture. Charles was invited to come to Dubrovnik to help save the city. "It would jeopardize my security people," said the prince, shamefully refusing.

On Nov. 11, the Reuters news agency, not a pro-Croatia source, wrote: "Federal forces poured shellfire on the city, sowing panic among the 50,000 people trapped there and

setting on fire buildings internationally regarded as historic monuments. Dubrovnik was hit by a shell every second at the height of the bombardment on the fourth successive day."

In Vukovar, the Croatian city on the Danube close to the Serbian border, which has fought with an heroism without precedent, the Chetniks (Serbian terrorists) and the Army reportedly have broken the outside defense and are killing people house by house.

'The aggression must end!'

"Many of our Croatian cities and countless more villages are under constant attack by heavy artillery, tanks, missiles, and planes," said Cardinal Franjo Kuharic, Archbishop of Zagreb, speaking before the U.S. Catholic bishops in Washington. "Many villages have been totally wiped away, and the people driven into exile. A large number of towns and cities are threatened with total annihilation, among them Dubrovnik and Slinj.

"Vukovar is entirely demolished. More than 2,000 people, including small children, are living in the most inhumane conditions, in cellars among the ruins. . . . There are known incidents where older persons refused to leave their homes and were massacred and set on fire in their own dwellings. The wounded or those taken captive are treated in the most brutal way."

On Nov. 13, Pope John Paul II personally denounced the "destructive fury" deployed against the Croatian population. "An end must be put to this tragedy, which dishonors Europe and the world. In the last few days there have been attacks of incredible violence all over Croatia, but especially on Dubrovnik and Vukovar. In Dubrovnik, a hotel and a hospital full of refugees and wounded have been hit, among others. It's an aggression that must end. I beg the Yugoslavian Army to spare the lives of defenseless civilians."

Peacekeeping troops, Carrington-style

While carrying out this holocaust, the Greater Serbians came out with a shameful propaganda stunt: They called for the intervention of U.N. troops to create a corridor between the two fighting forces. Given that the Yugoslav Army has captured more than 30% of the Croatian territory, this would be tantamount to a recognition of the conquest.

Croatian authorities countered that a peacekeeping force must be placed at the borders between Serbia and Croatia. In the meantime, Germany announced that it was ready to recognize Croatia and Slovenia even if the entire European Community doesn't agree.

Incredibly, on Nov. 13, Peter Lord Carrington, speaking nominally in behalf of the European Community, said that he had reached an agreement with Defense Minister Veljko Kadijevic, who is personally responsible for the deployment of the Yugoslav Army. Carrington said that the peacekeeping troops should be sent to "crisis areas" rather than to guard borders. Exactly the demand of the Greater Serbians!