
Interview: Dr. Zarko Domljan

Our freedom depends on all nations being free

The following exclusive interview with Dr. Zarko Domljan, president of the Croatian Parliament, who was on a tour of Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina, was given on Dec. 20 to EIR correspondent Diana Olaya de Terán in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

EIR: Dr. Domljan, why the vehemence on the part of the Serbs to destroy churches, convents, and Catholic sites and monuments of historic significance?

Domljan: The insistence of the Serbian army and of the Chetniks [irregulars] to destroy every last sign of what is Croatian and Catholic is not understandable, because it is an irrational hatred, and this hatred toward the Croatian people is exacerbated by the Marxist or communist influence which Serbia and its army still maintain, which is that they hate anything to do with culture.

EIR: What do you think of the Serbian attitude toward the Muslims. I understand that there have been confrontations between the Serbian army and the Muslims?

Domljan: I could not say that the Serbs have attacked the Muslims; this is not to say that they love them. The Serbs are carrying out repression against the Albanian population in Kosovo, which is largely Muslim, although not entirely. They have carried out a severe repression and aggression.

EIR: How does Croatia view the U.S. position to try to block the decision of the European Community to recognize your country?

Domljan: Power often corrupts individuals, and sometimes states as well. I think that the United States is not assuming a principled position, because if the European Community had already agreed to recognize Croatia and Slovenia before Christmas, and if the United States left the resolution of the matter in the hands of the EC, that is, within Europe, the correct thing to do would have been to respect the EC resolution.

All states which in one form or another refuse, delay, or induce other states not to recognize Croatia are objectively assisting the aggression against Croatia. Every day, 50 people die in Croatia, and these attitudes of non-recognition imply a complicity with the Serbs and a co-responsibility with these crimes.

One cannot recognize Ukraine and the Baltic countries on the one hand, even announcing that they will be recognized before the referendum is taken, as in the case of Ukraine, and not recognize Croatia on the other, which held its referendum more than six months ago. This represents political duplicity, which is not permissible.

EIR: What other Ibero-American countries have you visited, and what responses are you finding?

Domljan: We visited Chile, Uruguay, and now Argentina. In the three states we have visited, we have received assurances that Croatia will be recognized as soon as the required conditions are achieved. This recognition on the part of the countries I have visited is not made conditional on all the states of the European Community recognizing Croatia, but on a majority of them doing so.

The Latin American countries do not possess great military, political, or economic power as do other states, for example, the United States, but this gives them great advantage, in being able to carry forward an independent and principled policy. Argentina, for example, has until now maintained a policy coherent with its principles, and did honor to those principles by recognizing the Baltic countries and Ukraine. This policy is based on respect for the fundamental documents of the international community; these documents deal with respect for human rights, for the rights of nations, and for the right of each nation to self-determination. This last is a basic and sacred right of each nation.

The Croatians have suffered terribly in the past 70 years of life in Yugoslavia, and with the fall of communism the moment has come for the Croatian nation to have its freedom. There exists no rational argument or reason why the Croatian people should be deprived of that which all the other countries of Europe enjoy.

EIR: What is your message for the countries of Ibero-America? How can we, as a continent which has in a certain sense the same Catholic culture, the same western history, contribute to the Croatian cause? And what kind of help is most needed at this moment?

Domljan: You can justly help us by affirming the Christian and human principles which are the cement of western European civilization. When we speak of individual rights and of the right to self-determination, we are affirming precisely all those principles which have emerged from those Christian values. They are the common denominator of our peoples, since they are embodied in the Christian world.

It is the Gospel which preaches peace and the right of each person to be whatever they want to be, when it preaches the dignity of the human person in the first place. But the dignity of the human person is not complete and total if his or her nation does not also have complete freedom. And this also applies if we invert the point: There can exist no free nation if each and every one of its inhabitants is not free.