

must study more attentively the social doctrine of the Church.

EIR: The government of ex-Yugoslavia hired Jeffrey Sachs with his "economic shock therapy."

Kuharic: Let us hope that we do not have to follow these models. I hope that Croatia will be cautious. I think that Croatia will try to find its way. Now here they are studying laws. We have a Constitution and now we must apply it with legislation. It is much work, many laws left over from the communist period must be changed.

EIR: How do you see the future of relations with the Serbian Orthodox Church?

Kuharic: The Catholic Church is always open to dialogue with the Orthodox Church. I want to reemphasize that the Church opposes absolutely any kind of vengeance and all hatred. At the moment a dialogue between the two churches does exist. The Orthodox Church agreed to it; just this week there was a meeting in St. Gall, Switzerland between representatives of the two churches, under the patronage of the European Bishops' Conference. I have just received the delegates who returned from the meeting. At the end it was decided to take the dialogue up again here in Zagreb or in Belgrade. Now, one hopes for a little more peace.

EIR: The recent letter from the Serbian Orthodox Patriarch, Pavle, seemed to many to be very polemical.

Kuharic: It was a political letter, perhaps dictated by someone [else]. Let us hope now that the atmosphere has changed. The Orthodox Church in Croatia must accept reality. Until now it has not recognized the Croatian state. It recognized only the Yugoslav state. The Orthodox Church in Croatia must have all the guarantees and all the liberty for carrying out its pastoral work. We are determined to do everything so that their liberty will be guaranteed *in toto*, but they must accept the reality of the Croatian state. They cannot expect the creation of a Greater Serbia. There will be no Greater Serbia. There will be a Serbian state and there will be a Croatian state. One would expect that the Serbian Orthodox Church should make its voice heard against aggression, against the destruction of churches, of hospitals, villages, cities. Because if there were a war on Serbian territory, if Croatia were to wage a war of aggression against Serbia, we Catholics would raise our voices against this, and we have the right to expect the same from them.

More generally I must say that the relations between the Orthodox and Catholic churches have been undermined by prejudices. The Serbian Orthodox Church is perhaps too much tied to national policy, a policy which is not always in favor of justice toward one's neighbors. Perhaps this exerts some influence over the attitude of some of the representatives of the Orthodox church. I would wish to see a free church, open to sincere and fair dialogue, and I want to hope that relations are more favorable to ecumenicism.

Situation getting desperate in Armenia

In late January, *EIR's* correspondents in Germany received a dramatic report from the Yerevan member of parliament Haik Babokhanian on the situation in Armenia. The most dangerous developments are in Karabakh, the Armenian enclave within the territory of Azerbaidzhan, the neighboring republic of the former U.S.S.R. which has been in conflict with Armenia for several years. The people are suffering under a total blockade by the Azeri military, which has cut off cities and villages from electricity, gas, water, and food supplies. The people have no bread. In addition, in recent days five cities have been bombed by the military, and several civilians have died as a result.

The troops of Mutalibov, the President of Azerbaidzhan, are directly going against the civilian population. Every day citizens of Karabakh are being massacred, often in such a bestial way, that the population becomes terrorized. Karabakh is completely cut off from Armenia.

Things are not much better in Armenia itself, which continues to be blockaded by its Muslim neighbors. Shortages of gas, oil, and electricity are rampant. Very little gas remains to heat houses and apartments in the cold of winter. Children go early to bed in order to try to huddle together for warmth. Electricity is turned off six hours a day. Due to lack of energy, the factories are idle, so people are without jobs and wages. The liberalization of prices means that families are uncertain of meeting the high costs of necessities. With a monthly income of 300 rubles one can no longer afford butter at 135 rubles a kilogram or meat at 75 rubles/kg. Particularly hard hit are families with many children and old people, whose incomes are under 200 rubles. Poverty and despair are spreading fast. Because the civil war is raging in Georgia, and has still not ended, rail links to Georgia have also been blocked. The only way to get out of the country is by airplane, but because of lack of fuel, at most two planes a day leave the airport in Yerevan.

No aid has been offered from the West, in contrast to numerous offers of help extended to Moscow. The only aid is coming from the Armenian diaspora in Europe and America. The governments are doing nothing. Bush's recent conference in Washington about coordinating help for the cities in Armenia is understood as mere theater, which will do nothing to help the people in these winter months.