

# Winter of death descends on Bosnia

by Konstantin George

Barring a shift in the policy of the western powers, 500,000 Bosnian Muslims, trapped in eastern Bosnia, face death by starvation this winter. These include some 300,000 "surviving," if one dare use the word, in five east Bosnian cities and towns, surrounded since last April by Serbian forces in the cities of Gorazde and Srebrenica, each with about 100,000 trapped civilians, and the towns of Cerska, Zepa, and Zvornik, with a trapped population of about 100,000. The sixth pocket facing starvation is the besieged northeast Bosnian city of Tuzla. Tuzla, while technically not surrounded by the Serbian forces, has been cut off from all food shipments since the Jan. 24 outbreak of fighting in central Bosnia between Croatian and Muslim forces.

Based on available reports, the situation in these cities is like that of Leningrad during the Nazi blockade, at the height of the killer famine in early 1942. The parallels extend to the first reported cases (Feb. 17) of cannibalism among the famished in Tuzla. In Gorazde and Srebrenica, as an appeal by Gorazde Mayor Hadzi Efendic, dated Feb. 2, testified, the population had been placed on a ration of "100 grams of food per person per day." The latest urgent appeal by Efendic was issued Feb. 16:

"This is perhaps the last time I'll be able to appeal to the world. For one month, not one single gram of food has arrived. The people are starving to death. Most people are like they are in a coma. There's literally no longer any food. We've had to close the food distribution places because there's no more food. There is no more food for the public kitchens. Every day, people are dying here, mostly children and older people. The same situation is in Cerska and Srebrenica. We heard that food will come in a week. That is too long. We cannot wait one week. We can only hope that well-meaning people will bring food to Gorazde, either peacefully, or by force of arms."

On Feb. 14, as a last act of desperation, the Bosnian government undertook the shutting down of food distribution in the capital, Sarajevo, and the proclamation of a hunger strike of the capital's residents in solidarity with those starving in east Bosnia. The hunger strike is, as the London *Times* of Feb. 15 was forced to admit, "widely supported" by the inhabitants of the surrounded capital, who see the boycott of food aid as a "perfectly rational protest against the United Nations' failure to deal with ethnic cleansing through starva-

tion of thousands of Muslims in the eastern part of Bosnia." The *Times* noted that the people of Sarajevo "feel betrayed by the U.N., because Security Council resolutions authorizing the use of force in delivering relief aid were never put into practice on the ground."

The U.N. response, announced Feb. 17, to the Sarajevo hunger strike, was to halt all shipments of food aid to Bosnia, both to eastern Bosnia and to Sarajevo. The U.N. even went so far as to recall its food aid convoys held up in eastern Bosnia by Serbian forces.

## Toward the next debacle

Lyndon LaRouche, in an analysis reported in the *EIR Strategic Alert* of Feb. 15, foresees that in the near future there will be a Serbian equivalent of the Nazi *Kristallnacht* of 1938, some spectacular atrocity which will shock the entire world, and will catalyze an intervention against the Serbian Frankenstein. However, as LaRouche stressed, that intervention will bring about a situation even worse than the one it purportedly sought to correct. A widening of the Balkans war will soon follow, perhaps through a combined Greek-Serbian grab at Makedonija.

The problem is that Washington does not define an American intervention as a means of liberating the Serbian-occupied regions of Croatia and Bosnia, and then crushing the nazi-communist dictatorship in Belgrade. Washington has also refused to lift the criminal arms embargo against Croatia and Bosnia.

The U.S.—or rather Anglo-American—goal appears to be to intervene to police a line arbitrarily drawn by the great powers defining a Russian-Serb "sphere" and an American-NATO "sphere" in former Yugoslavia and surrounding Balkan regions. Such a goal has become evident in the feverish dispatch to Moscow of U.S. Special Envoy Reginald Bartholomew, on the weekend of Feb. 13-14. Russia reciprocated by naming Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin as the Russian special envoy for "peace" in former Yugoslavia. Next, the U.S. dictated to Bosnia that it send a delegation to Moscow for humiliating "talks" with Serbia's overt ally.

After the Moscow talks, a similar superpower-dictated humiliation was dealt to Croatia, which was forced to sit down at the U.N. with representatives of the renegade "government" of the "Serbian Republic of Krajina," created by Belgrade in the Serbian-occupied part of Croatia. Even at the notorious 1938 Munich agreement, this was the one humiliation that Czech President Eduard Benes was spared: Konrad Henlein, Nazi leader of the Sudetenland, was not given a formal seat at the "talks" that dissolved the Czech Republic. This criminal farce occurred under the aegis of the next round of Bartholomew-Churkin talks in New York, on Feb. 18.

The "NATO-ization" of large parts of the Balkans is central to proposals submitted in early February by David Anderson, director of the Berlin Aspen Institute and former

U.S. Ambassador to Belgrade (1981-85). The proposals were covered in an opinion column he wrote for the German daily *Tageszeitung*. Anderson called for the stationing of NATO ground and air forces in Hungary and Slovenia, plus NATO forces in the Republic of Makedonija, all linked to a military intervention in Bosnia. The goal of this intervention, in Anderson's own words, "sounds brutal . . . and indeed it is brutal," but allegedly the "only" feasible solution, would be to police "forced exchanges of populations" and "territories." Ethnic cleansing from above!

Signalling that an intervention along these lines is being planned, on Feb. 15, U.S. Gen. John Shalikashvili, NATO Commander-in-Chief, arrived in the Hungarian capital of Budapest for two days of consultations.

As Lyndon LaRouche warned, the result of such an intervention with the wrong war goals will be that "a widening of the war in the Balkans will soon follow." As he was writing, the pieces were continuing to fall into place. Meetings and diplomacy were cementing the "classic" Balkan war axes, formed by Albania and Bulgaria prodded by Turkey on one side, and Greece, Romania, and Serbia on the other.

Greece's irrationally hostile stance against the Republic of Makedonija has deprived Athens of one possibility to break up this fatal geometry, by using Greece's geography and economic leverage to forge a stable Slavic Makedonijan neighbor.

On Feb. 15, Turkish President Turgut Özal began an unprecedented tour by a Turkish head of state of Bulgaria, Makedonija, Albania, and Croatia. Özal's trip was discussed with the Clinton administration during his prolonged early February stay in Washington. In Bulgaria, Özal reiterated demands that Bulgaria allow the Turkish Army to pass through Bulgarian territory to former Yugoslavia. In Skopje, the capital of Makedonija, Özal did not confine his attacks on Greece to the issue of recognizing the Slavic Makedonijan republic, but launched an inflammatory diatribe against alleged Greek mishandling of the 120,000 Turkish minority in western Thrace.

On Feb. 13, the Turkish President addressed a crowd of 10,000 in Istanbul, who were rallying to demand that the Turkish army intervene in the Balkans. Özal demanded an immediate end to the bloodshed in Bosnia, and called for international military intervention. Then there was a two-day meeting in the Albanian capital of Tirana between Albanian President Sali Berisha and Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zheliev, which led to the signing of a Bulgarian-Albanian Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. It is not known whether this treaty contains any hidden military clauses. On the same weekend, Greek Foreign Minister Michael Papaconstantinou arrived in Bucharest for talks with Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The talks produced a Greek-Romanian joint declaration rejecting any form of military intervention in former Yugoslavia.

## Croatian journalist: How appeasement of Serbia led to war

*Srecko Jurdana is a Croatian journalist currently on tour in the United States. He visited political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche in Rochester, Minnesota on Feb. 8, and has been conducting lectures and private meetings in various cities, including Washington, D.C., where he has met with numerous congressional officials.*

*He was the founder and editor of the magazine Film, which was published in Zagreb between 1975 and 1980, and was seen as an opposition magazine by the post-Tito government. He worked as a film critic and cultural essayist for Radio Zagreb, and was constantly attacked during the early 1980s for being an anti-communist and ultra-conservative. By the middle of the 1980s he was unable to remain inside Yugoslavia, and therefore lived in Germany between 1985 and 1989. He went back to Zagreb in 1989 and began his present activity as a journalist. He has contributed frequently to the newspaper Vjesnik in Zagreb and Vecernji List. In recent months, he has been an eyewitness to some of the sieges and other military operations in former Yugoslavia. He was present at the siege of Vukovar in the fall of 1991, and he covered the war in central Bosnia in 1992.*

*The following speech was delivered to the Schiller Institute in Leesburg, Virginia on Feb. 10:*

Let me give you a review of the principal events in the war against Croatia and Bosnia. In order to understand how this war might end, we must know what preceded it. In 1988 or 1989, one of the leading generals of the federal Yugoslav Army, Branko Mamula, who was minister of defense, visited London, and there he met with some key people who influenced British policy, among them, of course, Mr. Fitzroy Maclean, all Tito's friends during the course of World War II. At this meeting, Mr. Mamula said clearly, that the only way to stop the expansion of Germany would be through Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia is the principal obstacle to German influence. That is the intention of these people—and it didn't take much intelligence to predict that this was a clear indication of an imminent war in Yugoslavia.

It was also very clear how this war would start: a Serbian rebellion in the Croatian provinces, where Serbs make up a significant part of the population. According to some estimates, 20% is the limit, over which Serbs tend to show an inclination to rebel. The center of this was Knin, a Serbian