

Serbia must be named as the aggressor

by Zvonimir Separovic

Prof. Zvonimir Separovic is president of the Croatian Victimology Society and the former foreign minister of the Republic of Croatia.

I can start by saying that I fully agree with your concern for the world, for peace, and the present situation that we are facing in this crucial moment of history, not only for Europe, but for the world.

Let me mention, as a victimologist, that Mr. Lyndon LaRouche is on our minds. At a moment in which we are discussing here in Europe, in an atmosphere of freedom, serious problem of the world, this remarkable man is suffering as a victim of a system which does not accept his ideas, and has put him in jail. I feel sorry about this situation, and I will do my best to support international action to free Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, a man who is crucial in the current strategic situation of the world.

My second topic is: Today is June 4, the day proclaimed by the United Nations for the innocent child victims of aggression. Millions of children are in deep stress and in danger. They make up close to one-half of the population of this small planet. Some of them, millions of them, are suffering from hunger, poor health, and other conditions; they are on the street. But the most terrible thing that could happen to a young generation is to be involved in a war. This is exactly what is happening now, and I shall start with this in the part of Europe which is former Yugoslavia, which is a black spot in the history of mankind.

The worst of this war is what is happening to the children. They have been killed, wounded, deprived of their homes, their parents, their friends, their schools, their churches. Millions have been expelled, and more than that, they have been traumatized. Since it is the "Day of the Innocent Children," let us think of the millions of victims at this very moment.

Coming from a country which is at war, who should I speak as here now? Should I speak as an academic, on theoretical aspects of humanitarian law, on the history of an international criminal court tribunal, or on some other aspects that are very well known in the world of law and the international community? Definitely not! I cannot avoid speaking

about the destiny of the people of former Yugoslavia.

What is the statement of facts? It is mostly known to you. But if I may try to stress the most important of these, it will be that not since the Second World War have Europe and the world witnessed the monstrosities that are going on in former Yugoslavia. And former Yugoslavia, ladies and gentlemen, is in Europe, it's around you, it's just across the Alps. It is a one-hour flight. You have to be involved, even if you are not European—as you are.

What is actually happening? Close to 300,000 people have been killed so far. I repeat, 300,000. And the estimate of military experts is that 370,000 people have been killed in the war in former Yugoslavia so far. Mainly civilians were killed, while millions were victims of an unprecedented brutal terror, violence, mass rapes, injuries, and mutilations. As a result of the so-called ethnic cleansing operations carried out as part of the genocidal plan, more than 3 million people no longer have their homes—I repeat, more than 3 million people no longer have their homes. Almost half of them are children, young people; mostly, they are civilians, and they are in big trouble. Some of them are around here. Millions are in Croatia and other parts of former Yugoslavia.

In addition, thousands of churches and mosques, monuments of culture, schools, hospitals, and other public facilities were deliberately devastated in a barbaric fashion. Moreover, using scorched earth policies, entire towns in Croatia—Vukovar, Lipik, and others—have been completely destroyed, while numerous towns and villages, particularly Dubrovnik, but also Osijek, Gospić, Sisak, Zadar, and Srebrenica, are under the protection of Unesco. Even yesterday, Srebrenica and Zadar were again shelled and bombed, and other cities suffered heavy damage.

This is genocide

What is this? How do we define it?

Ladies and gentlemen, this is genocide, an organized, systematic attempt by Serbia and Montenegro to destroy, wipe out, and exterminate the non-Serbian people of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, because of their nationality and religion, in order to create Greater Serbia. Even now, cities like Sarajevo and Gorazde are under siege, are bombarded, and are suffering heavy aggression.

Why is all this occurring? If I give you my answer, you may find it to be partisan, one-sided, but that is the only knowledge I have, and it is knowledge based on my own experience and that of neighbors and witnesses.

It is Serbia which is a permanent cause of instability in the Balkans, in Southeast Europe, and in Europe, because of its imperialistic policy, which has been prepared over a long period of time. The latest creator of this policy was Mr. [Dobrice] Cosic, who was ousted, two or three days ago, as useless now, by dictator [Slobodan] Milosevic. It was Serbia which has elaborated the idea of "Greater Serbia," based

on well-known slogans like “Serbs, All and Everywhere,” “Wherever There Are Serbs, There Is Serbia,” and “All Serbs in a Single State.” These are impossible principles and ideas. If you follow them, there will be no safe border in Europe; not between Finland and Sweden, not between Austria and Italy, not between France and Germany—thank God, no more wars between those two.

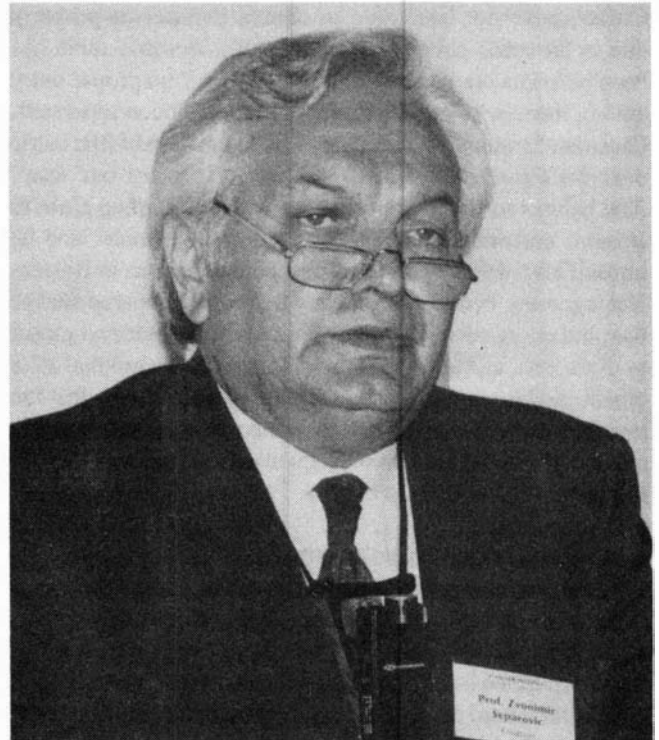
Recently, we have seen a friendly handshake (and we are happy to see it) between Mr. [Helmut] Kohl and Mr. [François] Mitterrand. But if such ideas take hold, there will be no peace, not in Europe, not in the world. These slogans found their expression in the well-known documents, drafted by individuals and institutions like the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Serbian Orthodox Church, unfortunately. In its efforts to realize its imperial plans, Serbia first abolished the autonomy of Kosova and Vojvodina, then practically annexed Montenegro, and then, using the Yugoslav People’s Army (that is the typical name of a communist army), first attacked Slovenia in a seven-day war, then started another dirty, genocidal, undeclared war against Croatia, and one year ago, against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the march of conquest across Bosnia-Herzegovina, the destruction has been even worse than in Croatia. Violations of human rights committed by Serbian forces, have been particularly drastic, which is evident in the establishment of concentration camps, mass summary executions, mass rapes, and mass “ethnic cleansing” operations carried out on a scale unprecedented in human history. In recent conflicts between Muslims and Croats—and I insist on this, and this is my basic message to you—initiated by Serbian secret services and all Serbian forces, supported by international circles which I am going to mention, *one-third of Croatian territory and two-thirds of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina have been occupied*, thus enlarging Serbian territory two-fold. It is a war of conquest. It is not a civil war, it is not war among confessions, it is an imperial war.

Entente Cordiale supports Serbia

Serbia was able to achieve these territorial gains, temporarily, due to the three preconditions—all of them geopolitical:

First, they have the support of powerful allies, particularly the Anglo-French Entente Cordiale, the Versailles-Yugoslavia allies, and Russia, the Bilderberg Society, Kissinger Associates, and some other informal groups about which the Schiller Institute and its fine publications have warned the world. And, Madam President [addressing Helga Zepp-LaRouche], I agree fully with you, that we are now facing a new Entente Cordiale, a geopolitical idea of a so-called European balance of power which is opposing united Germany and the new forces in Russia in order to establish the world according to the interests of the leading western European countries—namely, France and the United Kingdom. They



Zvonimir Separovic: “Ladies and gentlemen, this is genocide.”

are supporting the Vance-Owen plan, which is a cover for Serbian aggression.

This London-Paris connection includes Mr. Peter Carrington, whom I used to meet as a minister, and I don’t feel well thinking back on it, because I never trusted him. I saw that he was absolutely on one side, instead of being objective, non-partisan, and representing the European Community. He was asking from us, from Croatia: “Stop shooting, stop shooting!” while we were in a defensive war, a war of self-defense, unarmed, faced with the second (or third or fourth) biggest communist army in Europe, but a very strong one, which has been well organized and prepared to fight against those who have been trying to achieve only one thing: to realize and to enjoy the right of self-determination, in Slovenia, in Croatia, and later in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They didn’t want it. They were in favor of Serbia. They have been opposing military intervention in the Balkans, and they find it in their own geopolitical interests to do this. So the first reason that this war has been possible, was the strong support of allies to Serbia.

A right to self-defense

A second reason that this war happened is the denial of the right to self-defense. Serbia would not have achieved these gains and would not be able to further endanger neighboring countries if the endangered nations had had the opportunity to defend themselves. On one side, the endangered

nations, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Muslims and Croats, have not been able to defend themselves properly due to the arms embargo, and secondly, because there has been no connection, no "Entente Cordiale," no proper unity among those who are in danger. They have been separated. [Bosnian President] Izetbegovic said at the time of [the battle over the Croatian town of] Vukovar, "It is not our war." And he was so wrong, because the war was coming close to Bosnia, unfortunately. He was afraid of Belgrade, and he himself and his Muslims, part of the three nations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, became victims by not being prepared for the war and aggression that had been coming closer and closer to Sarajevo and Muslims and Bosnia-Herzegovina as a whole. So the second reason that this succeeded was that the attacked and endangered nations were unarmed and were not unified, not organized on their own territory against the evil threatening all of them.

The world community wouldn't act

And the third reason this was possible, is that the world community has lacked the will to undertake energetic military action, has still not shown the will to stop the aggression. It has continued to rely on palliative measures such as limited humanitarian aid operations, sending medical help and food, parachuting in some help—which is ineffective—and expensive monitoring systems and the so-called peacekeeping forces, the Unprofor, which are also ineffective and just there for *not* taking proper actions.

What I suggest here to you are the following three or four proposals:

First, one should say that there is aggression, and to name the aggressor.

Second, the aggressor, which is Serbia, should be most urgently, immediately stopped in its policy of conquest. And this is to be achieved by the destruction of its military and economic power, the strict implementation of the toughest sanctions, and the implementation of Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter. A limited military intervention has to be used, accompanied by the disarmament of Serbia and the deployment of the U.N. peacekeeping forces and other international forces in Serbia.

Third, an international tribunal for war crimes, which is to be most urgently established—and we are approaching this—should collect the evidence and bring charges against the war criminals. Some of them have been named by international sources, ensuring that they are going to be brought to court when the necessary conditions are met.

And finally, I would like to propose to you that we, a humanitarian people, Christian Democrats and people of liberal convictions, should work to get the international public to exert pressure on Serbia and the leadership of Montenegro, urging them to dismantle all the concentration camps, to release all the prisoners, and to disclose the disposition of the hundreds of thousands of missing persons.

Open Letter From Bosnia

Who is responsible for this tragedy?

Following are excerpts from an open letter read to the conference, by Prof. Lamija Tanović, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia, a visiting scientist at the Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen. The letter is to Niels Helveg Peterson, president of the Ministry Council of the European Community and Danish minister of foreign affairs.

Dear Mr. Peterson,

By not supporting the defense of the civil multiconfessional democracy in the sovereign state of Bosnia against the apartheid and fascist nationalistic regimes run from Belgrade and inspired by a clear territorial greed from Serbia and subsequently from Croatia, you are telling the European people and the world that your New United Europe is not standing firmly behind the principles of democracy, and you are openly supporting the position of the aggressors on Bosnia. You are allowing Mr. Owen of England to run the show regarding the Bosnian crisis both in Europe and the United Nations.

The old Bosnian cities, towns, and villages with Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches, mosques, and synagogues standing side by side, for five and six centuries, cherishing such a unique culture of intermingled faiths, were proclaimed to be "Serbian" or "Croat" and even "Muslim." Inspired by that European support for creating Greater Serbia in principle, the Serbian nationalists sent the Serbian criminals and hitmen to destroy Bosnia, and the Serbian nationalists' propaganda helped by the European dishonest leadership, finished the job. The recent clashes between the Bosnian Army and Croatian nationalists is a direct consequence of the Vance-Owen maps.

How can the New United Europe, which pretends to create the greatest democracy on earth, the largest multiethnic, multiconfessional, and multiracial society on earth, support apartheid and ethnic division based on religious differences in a small country, the only little country in Europe that has proved by 1,000 years of its continuous existence that people of four or five different religions can live together in tolerance, love, and respect? How can your highest politicians say things like "centuries-old hatreds and conflicts"? Don't you know the history of the Balkans? Those whose advice you are taking know nothing about Bosnia.

There were no conflicts in Bosnia except when they were brought in from the outside, inspired by territorial greed and