

International Intelligence

Lord Owen spouts Serbian propaganda

Britain's Lord David Owen, the European Community's "mediator" in the Balkans war, openly spouted Serbian propaganda in interviews on July 11 with the British *Sky News* and the French *Le Journal du Dimanche*. Owen was asked whether what is happening in Bosnia is not ethnic cleansing. "Ethnic cleansing?" he replied. "If we talk about ethnic cleansing, then we ought to talk about the ethnic cleansing the Serbs suffered in the '40s of this century, the worst after that suffered by the Jews."

When asked about the five-power "peace plan" that would confirm Serbia's territorial aggrandizement, Owen said, "You are now discussing a map, and when you say, 'This is a Muslim village,' a Serb will tell you: 'This was not a Muslim village in the '40s.'"

As the Bosnian press has pointed out, these statements are factually inaccurate. During World War II, 6% of the Serbian population died, but the percentage of Muslim casualties in former Yugoslavia was higher. The Serbian authorities proudly presented Belgrade to the Nazis as the first European city "free of Jews."

Owen also said that in his negotiations he had found that "they all lie . . . with two exceptions, but I do not want to name names." One of the names is believed to be Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic, for whom Owen has publicly declared his personal sympathy several times. As to the second, the Bosnian press speculated that it is Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Carrington blames Germany for Balkan war

Lord Carrington, the former British foreign secretary, charged in an interview that Germany ruined "all efforts at peace" in ex-Yugoslavia by insisting on the recognition of the independence of Slovenia and Croatia.

In an interview with the French daily *Le*

Figaro on July 14, Carrington arrogantly asserted that, as former European Community mediator in the Balkans, he was well on the way toward some kind of arrangement for former Yugoslavia, under the condition that there would be no recognition of any of the former Yugoslav republics until some kind of "global accord" had been reached among them. But the foreign ministers of the European Community, under German prodding, "proposed the recognition of Croatia and Slovenia," making a negotiated solution impossible. "I warned European leaders against this decision, which ruined all efforts at peace."

Rejecting any measures to end the arms embargo, Carrington said blandly that the war will end at some point, since "even the most atrocious wars have an end."

Asked whether there will be war crimes tribunals for war criminals, Carrington objected to designating this or that person as a "criminal," since trying this or that person will depend on the outcome of the war. "Does anyone seriously believe that the international community will put Slobodan Milosevic on trial for war crimes?" he asked.

King Hussein warns of religious conflicts

Jordan's King Hussein warned on July 15 of growing tension among the three great monotheistic religions, which is becoming particularly dangerous because of the West's efforts to demonize Islam.

Speaking to the Royal United Services Institute in London, the king stated: "A rift is developing which threatens the cohesion . . . and the tolerance between the three great monotheistic religions, not only in the region but in the world." He said the rift was leading to a lack of understanding, particularly where Islam was concerned. He pledged to defend Islam against an increasingly negative image in the world.

He stressed that many Muslims saw the U.S. bombing of Iraq as a hypocritical use of power, which only caused suffering to the people of Iraq, and which did little, if

any, damage to the Iraqi leadership. Any change in Iraq, he insisted, must be made by the Iraqi people themselves. Cautioning against any further use of force, he said, "If further strikes occur, people are only getting angrier. Why? they ask. Who suffers? What is achieved?"

Mexican church told to stay out of politics

Mexican Government Secretary Patrocinio González Garrido issued a sharply worded warning to the Catholic Church to drop its campaign against the government around the case of the assassination of Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo. The cardinal was murdered in May, and the government immediately announced that it was a case of mistaken identity: that he was killed by drug lords who thought he was somebody else. The Catholic Church, among others, has been highly skeptical of this verdict.

Without mentioning Posadas by name, and camouflaging his attack in a letter addressed to "the churches," the government secretary said that "the function of the church is to spread the Gospel," and that it must respect the judiciary, the institutions of the republic, and "not intervene into areas reserved exclusively for the state and political society." He specifically asked the Catholic hierarchy to renounce "its revanchist and irresponsible attitudes, as well as lack of confidence [in the government version] and resentment."

Japan's ruling party loses absolute majority

After a tumultuous two-week election campaign, Japan's national election on July 18 resulted in the Liberal Democratic Party losing an absolute majority for the first time since 1955. The LDP now has only 223 seats in Japan's 511-seat Lower House.

The party lost only 4 seats in the election itself; but it lost its majority because, of its original 274 members of parliament, 47 quit the party to vote with the Socialist opposi-

tion in a no-confidence vote which brought down the government of Kiichi Miyazawa on June 18.

The Socialists, which had the next largest number of seats, actually lost a large number of seats, going from 134 to 70. Other parties had in the range of 30-60 seats, making the LDP still the largest party by a huge margin.

Japan's public TV station NHK reported on July 19 that a likely scenario was that the LDP would form a weak, minority government, making Japan like Italy, as this next government would be short-lived and another election held within a year. Voter turnout was the lowest since World War II at 67.3%.

Bosnian ambassador: 'Stop the deception'

Bosnia's U.N. Ambassador Mohamed Sacirbey said in a speech in Washington, D.C. on July 15 that the United Nations should either fulfill its mandate in Bosnia, or get out.

"Sarajevo is being strangled," said Sacirbey, "and there are only two alternatives for survival. Either the international community, under the leadership of the European powers and the United States, must honor the mandate it already has, or it must stop the deception that it is addressing the problem or even the symptoms in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Sacirbey proposed that two draft resolutions should be presented before the U.N. Security Council. "The first should call for an ultimatum to the Serbian forces besieging Sarajevo to lift the siege, cease the shelling, and to restore the flow of humanitarian relief and other essential services. If not, then the already-mandated U.N. forces would undertake air strikes against the Serbian position that enable the siege and the blockade to continue." Sacirbey noted that these mandates already exist under U.N. Resolutions 770, 836, and others.

"The other resolution should authorize the lifting of the arms embargo with respect to the government of the Republic of Bos-

nia-Herzegovina, and should authorize coordinated air strikes against Serbian supply lines, arms stockpiles, and heavy weaponry besieging Bosnia's cities—the so-called 'lift and strike' option. . . .

"We say, withdraw if you do not [have] the commitment to fulfill your mandates properly and fully. We cannot instill you with the will and courage. Sarajevo is not the 'Land of Oz' and we can no longer afford your half-hearted, symptomatic approach. This is the appeal of Sarajevo and the Bosnians."

Columnist foresees 'turbulence' in Britain

"A uniquely turbulent phase in British history" is likely soon to begin, because of the discrediting of the leading institutions and policies of the British establishment, wrote commentator Martin Jacques in the *Sunday Times* of London on July 18.

In an article entitled "The End of Politics," Jacques wrote that the British have "lost confidence in politicians. We don't believe in them any more." That is not true just of Britain, but of western nations as a whole, all suffering from a "crisis of credibility."

The combination of economic collapse and mediocrity of political leadership has become "almost a universal condition of the western world." More and more people are turning to non-governmental, private organizations for action, and, comments Jacques sardonically, "we now await only the League for the Revival of the Dinosaur."

What is happening now, he wrote, is not like other crises of recent years, but much more profound, since "this is a crisis of the old paradigm, with no new paradigm yet in view."

As for Britain, Jacques wrote that the country's "precipitous decline and the failure either to reverse it or find a new role and identity is placing a quite new strain on our major national institutions and fostering a growing disillusionment with the establishment. . . . This growing disenchantment with our establishment and its institutions can only exacerbate the crisis of politics."

● **ISRAELI** Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned that Israel is preparing military actions in southern Lebanon. "The Israeli Defense Force," he said, "is ready with reinforced troops to defend towns and residents of the north. It will act against those who hit its forces in the security zone."

● **AUSTRALIAN** Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans is working on "a comprehensive plan to revamp the world's peace-keeping functions," according to the *Australian Financial Review*. The "Blue Book" will cover "everything from how and when the U.N. or other groups should intervene, to the amount of force that should be used, and the command system that should control troops."

● **CHINA** will deploy People's Liberation Army troops in Hong Kong, including its downtown areas, when the territory reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, said the PLA's deputy chief of staff, Gen. Xu Huizi. "Troops are already being trained in Guangzhou province in preparation for the June 30, 1997 takeover," he said. A figure of 10,000 troops has been reported.

● **VENEZUELAN** Supreme Court justice Alirio Abreu Burelli was the target of a bombing attack on July 19, although the explosive device delivered to his office did not go off. Another letter bomb delivered to the Supreme Court building did explode, injuring one office worker. Observers in Caracas say the environment is extremely tense.

● **TURKEY'S** top military officer, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Gen. Dogan Gures, warned in an interview July 11 that martial law could be implemented, if necessary to wipe out the terrorist guerrilla forces of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). "We're very determined," he said. "If we cannot render the PKK ineffective by the end of winter, the possibility of martial law will be seriously considered."