

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

Senate demands action on Bosnia

The Save Sarajevo Parliamentary Group scored U.N. and European Community complicity in "deliberate genocide."

On Sept. 2, the Senate of Australia became the first federal legislative body in the world to denounce, as a body, the slaughter in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to demand that military action be taken to stop it, by the United States and its allies.

The resolution put forward by independent Sen. Brian Harradine of Tasmania, which carried overwhelmingly, includes the following points:

"That the Senate a) deeply deplores the continuing loss of life caused by the aggression against the sovereign Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially by Bosnian Serb forces; and b) calls upon the international community, including the U.N., to take decisive action to end the continuing bloodshed and suffering in Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The resolution further specifies that the Senate "requests that the U.N., the United States, the United Kingdom, and their European allies take all necessary action, including military action if needed, to prevent further slaughter and deprivation in the Sarajevo area."

The Senate action capped an intensive several weeks of organizing inside the parliament by the Save Sarajevo Parliamentary Group, and outside it by the Citizens Electoral Councils (CEC), the Australian co-thinkers of Lyndon LaRouche.

On Aug. 19, a motion presented by one of the members of the Save Sarajevo Parliamentary Group, Ted Grace, had been debated in the House of Representatives.

Then, in a release issued on Sept. 7, the group, initiated by Liberal MPs

Ken Aldred and Paul Filing, named those responsible, in harsher terms than in the parliamentary motions: "That the horrific events presently taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including deliberate genocide, are being condoned by the United Nations, and by the European Community, is almost beyond belief in today's supposedly civilized world."

The release continued, "The Save Sarajevo Parliamentary Group calls upon the Australian government to apply maximum diplomatic pressure for the conclusion of peace negotiations that protect the people and integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and also for the implementation of International Court of Justice rulings against genocide in that country."

"In this respect the group welcomes the strong statements made by: Cardinal Franjo Kuharic, archbishop of Zagreb; Dr. M.N. Haque, chairman of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils; Rabbi P. Heilbrunn, president of the Association of Rabbis and Ministers of Australia and New Zealand; Mr. Esad Zorlak, on behalf of Bosnian Muslims in Australia; Dr. Nedzib Sacirbey, representative of the Bosnian President in the U.S.A.; by Mr. Marshall Freeman Harris, former U.S. State Department adviser on Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Mr. Stephen Corkovic, member of the executive committee of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Information Center in Ottawa, Canada.

"Both Cardinal Kuharic and Mr. Corkovic recently visited Canberra for meetings with various Australian community leaders, who are concerned about the tragic situation in

Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Corkovic's visit to Australia, which was sponsored by the CEC, was crucial in mobilizing support for the parliamentary action. Said Corkovic, in a statement released to the press shortly before he left Australia on Sept. 3: "Bosnia is on the verge of extinction, because the world's major powers and other responsible democracies are not only refusing to come to its aid but are also complicit in its destruction. This is the grim reality confronting my nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Corkovic pointed to the moral culpability of all the 100 nations that signed the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. "Four months ago in the International Court of Justice, the rulings of that court established that Serbia and its surrogates were committing genocide," he said. "Over 100 nations have signed this convention and it is the law of their land. This includes Australia."

In addition to the statements made by Cardinal Kuharic, Dr. Haque, and Rabbi Heilbrunn, reported in last week's *EIR* ("Geneva Talks on Bosnia Collapse as Outcry Against Genocide Grows"), the Bosnian Muslim Party of Democratic Action's executive committee met on Aug. 29, and unanimously issued a blistering statement on who is responsible for the continuing slaughter:

"We are expressing our outrage against the leadership of the European Community in general, Britain and France in particular, for their criminal support of the continuing aggression and genocide against Bosnian Muslims and their active role in preventing us from defending ourselves.

"We demand to stop British-French-backed genocide and to remove one of its chief facilitators, the European Commission 'mediator' in Bosnia, 'Lord' David Owen."