

shouting of slogans—this upset the Bophuthatswana Defense Force to such an extent that they mutinied, because they did *not* want to be associated with the AWB. And then they were chased out. Constand Viljoen chased them out, and on their way out, that is where that attack occurred. But they moved out shooting. They must have killed 20 or 30 innocent people. And this led to the mutineering of the Bophuthatswana Defense Force.

At that stage Rowan Cronje [Mangope's chief of staff] asked the South African government to assist them to establish law and order. And De Klerk agreed to do this. And when George Mehring, the chief of the Defense Force, gave the assurance, he phoned the state President [De Klerk] in the company of General Viljoen, and asked him for the assurance. Viljoen said they would hand [operations] over to Mehring because they had a much better capability of maintaining law and order, but strictly under the provision that this wasn't a takeover bid, that this wasn't a bid to overthrow Mangope. And De Klerk gave the assurance to Mehring, because Mehring said Viljoen is willing to hand over the capital to us if you give the assurance that this won't be an overthrow of Mangope. So De Klerk said, "I give you my assurance."

And then, when we moved out, they took over. Twenty-four hours later, [South African Foreign Minister] Pik Botha and [ANC executive and SACP leader] Mac Maharaj turned up and said, "You are no longer in power."

**EIR:** So Pik Botha was actually there on the scene?

**Groenewald:** Oh yes, and he and Maharaj just moved in and asked Mehring to accompany them, and they asked for an interview with Mangope. And then Mehring was absolutely *astounded* to hear—they hadn't even informed him before the time—that the assurances he had given were null and void.

**EIR:** This is totally different, the exact opposite, than what has been portrayed in the media.

**Groenewald:** You can even read it in today's [Johannesburg] *Sunday Times*. They give you quite an accurate picture, but certainly indicating that the whole thing is illegal, and even the ANC *admits* that it was a completely illegal move.

**EIR:** One last thing: The Zulu king did say that he is declaring independence for a Zulu state, is that correct?

**Groenewald:** Yes, but what he has basically said is that he will have no choice but to do that. It is not that he has declared his kingdom and declared complete independence. It is not secessionist as such. It is more a claim than anything else.

**EIR:** So he has not yet declared the kingdom yet, but said he may be forced into it, is that accurate?

**Groenewald:** That is basically the meaning of what he said.

## British military: 'We have quietly taken over Bosnia'

by Katharine Kanter

Readers of *EIR* who insist that our view of the British is "extreme," would do well to listen to what the British themselves have to say, *ex post facto*, about their own activities. In our March 18 issue, we warned that the "British invasion force" in Bosnia was being beefed up to prepare some new twist in events on the ground. The day after that piece was written, the London *Independent* ran an analysis of British military operations in Bosnia, as follows:

"Great Britain has quietly taken control of much of the U.N.'s Bosnia operation. . . . The British government gave in to pressure from senior servicemen. . . . The nature of the operation has changed, from escorting aid to true peace-keeping." The London daily quotes Gen. Sir John Wilsey: "The military has got ahead of the politics on this one. It has happened on the hoof, so to speak, and has to be policed. . . . Without invalidating the mandate of the delivery of humanitarian aid, our role is to give General Rose the maximum support . . . to put in place the initiatives that he has been able to craft between the conflicting parties."

The British command in Split has taken control of reinforcements of all U.N. forces and controls the only route from the sea into central Bosnia. As soon as Gen. Sir Michael Rose arrived in February, he created two new military sectors, South-West and North-East, and reorganized the U.N. command at Kiseljak so that of the eight battalions there, a total of four, soon to be five, are directly under the control of British Brig. John Reith.

It is, of course, no accident that General Rose also happens to be SAS commander. According to reports in the *Telegraph*, "revealing" what *EIR* and Bosnian and Croatian papers warned would happen months ago, "at least 50 British special forces troops are engaged in covert operations in Bosnia" under the direct command of Rose. This is the first time that British special units have been "officially" deployed as part of a U.N. force. These SAS troops are designated as "U.N. military observers," and are deployed throughout Bosnia, according to the daily, "wherever Serbian gunners



*The besieged Office of the Presidency in Sarajevo, Bosnia, in October 1993. When the U.N. forces find Serbian tanks and mortars in the Bosnian capital, they do nothing.*

have long-established firing positions.” They are said to have been brought in when the “threat” of NATO airstrikes called for men on the ground to oversee the withdrawal of Serbian weapons.

The Serbians’ British helpmates have indeed been very busy. On March 19, the *Telegraph* reported on so-called “impromptu” seminars on modern tactics and operational command, given by Brig. John Reith and General Rose, to the Muslim and Croatian militia leaders. Reith told the paper: “We told them they lacked the mobility, firepower, and logistics for maneuver warfare . . . that they were locked in a war of attrition.” The paper commented that Reith and Rose “convinced” the Croatians and Muslims that that they had “no military options left,” and that this was what had led to the Washington agreement of March 19 being signed.

Now, since that Croatian-Bosnian pact, whatever it is worth, was brokered by the United States, not by Great Britain, any discussion led by a high-ranking British politico-military leader, such as General Rose undoubtedly is, as to a so-called lack of “military options,” can only have to do with conveying to Bosnia and Croatia *British* “initiatives crafted between the parties.” And to that end, it is clearly vital, as the *Independent* said, that Great Britain “imperceptibly take control” of western military operations on the ground. Thus may the British credibly seek to convey a perception, that a military alliance of Bosnia and Croatia against *Serbia* is predestined to fail on all fronts.

### **Violate the law, says U.N. official**

The disastrous shape of things to come, if the British get their way, is reflected by remarks made by highly placed, anonymous U.N. official to the *Independent* on March 23, as talks went on between the Russians, Serbians, and Croatians in Zagreb: “The ultimate idea for us, is to have [Serbi-

an] Krajina and Croatian forces withdraw to respectable distances, with the U.N. moving in to create a Cyprus in the Balkans. . . . The only long-term solution would be the rise of moderates in the Croatian government who would say, ‘Fine, let’s recognize each other, and start trade and communications.’ ” He concluded by saying that reintegration of Krajina into Croatia was “inconceivable.” Let the full weight of that sink in: A top U.N. official, openly stating to one of the world’s major newspapers, that U.N. policy is to violate international law, recognize territorial conquest by aggression, force the victims to deal with the aggressor, and set up a permanent running sore like Cyprus in the middle of Europe.

There seems to be no limit to the evil these people are willing to actively provoke. As united Bosnian and Croatian troops were about to break the Serbian siege of Maglaj in north-central Bosnia on March 22, the U.N. declared that no action would be taken against “renegade” Serbian officers who stormed a U.N. convoy trying to break through to the besieged city, stole all the radio and other equipment, and unloaded all the supplies destined for an area that has not seen a convoy since October. On March 20, Unprofor [U.N. peacekeeping] forces in Sarajevo “discovered” four Serbian tanks, anti-aircraft guns, mortars, and other heavy materiel, within the 20-kilometer exclusion zone around the city; although this was a clear mandate for renewed airstrikes against the Serbians, Unprofor announced three days later that “no action” would be taken, no airstrikes, nothing, and that the problem would be resolved by “negotiating” with the Serbians. Then, immediately after the strategically critical airport of Tuzla was opened, after an 18-month bitter struggle with the U.N., Unprofor announced that no date could be set for starting aid flights into Tuzla, because the Serbians demand that their observers check every incoming flight for weapons.