

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Trapped by British geopolitics

A "web of lies is at work on a global scale," and Germany is failing to act against genocide in the Balkans.

Mr. Major is talking of the *warring parties*. But who are they? The Bosnians, who have been disarmed? Terms are being used here that are pure lies. A web of lies is at work on a global scale." These comments were by Christian Schwarz-Schilling of the Christian Democratic party, in an interview on July 13 with the daily *Berliner Zeitung*. It is one of the harshest statements that has come from the political establishment in Germany in the recent period.

Schwarz-Schilling, a former post-affairs minister who quit Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet over government inaction against the Serbian genocide against Bosnia, has repeatedly over the past two years attacked the British role as crucial in the sabotage of any viable solution to the war.

What he proposed in the interview, is diametrically opposed to the official government view: "First, the United Nations should withdraw without delay. The Bosnian troops have to be supplied with arms. They must be enabled to defend themselves. Second, the U.N. must end the fiction of non-partisanship. We should not run after the criminals in Pale [headquarters of the Bosnian Serbs] with appeasement, nor after Mr. [Serbian President Slobodan] Milosevic."

"The Germans should finally make a statement of will, instead of only following what has been stated by other western allies," he said.

The view in Bonn is that it is not "opportune" to attack the British publicly in any way, that it is opportune to side with the French or the Americans only if it does not incur any risks. This view is shared by the government's

foreign policy advisers at the Institute of the Foundation of Science and Policy (IWP) in Ebenhausen. Its staff is working on the basis of anglophile geopolitics, as its director, Michael Stürmer, has made clear in interviews, statements, and essays.

The IWP is interwoven with the U.N. machinery. For example, in January 1995, one of its staffers, Marie-Janine Calic, was appointed to the advisory staff of U.N. Special Envoy Yasushi Akashi. Asked about the "rapid reaction force" that had just been proposed by the French and the British to "restructure" the U.N. blue helmet force in Bosnia, Calic told the weekly *Die Woche* on June 9 that it would be much better to define a "new," reduced mandate for the U.N. blue helmets:

"We should say farewell to some objectives that are too far-reaching. The present mandate poses tasks that the U.N. cannot carry out: For example, the concept of the safety zones was not well thought out. Its aim was to protect the civilian population. In reality, however, strategically important objects are situated there, and the [Bosnian] government Army has used them as a staging ground for offensives, again and again. The U.N. should rather concentrate on the *good services*: establishing contacts and negotiations, overseeing of eventual cease-fire agreements, controlling the airport of Sarajevo, escorting humanitarian relief convoys."

This could have been taken from one of the numerous commentaries in the British press about the "bad" Bosnians who allegedly "misuse" the blue helmets as camouflage for their own

"provocations" against the Serbs.

Yes, the main problem is Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, naturally, she said, but it is the "obsession" of the Bosnians to reconquer their lands by military force, which will not and cannot work, but will only lead to a long and bloody war. Calic said this at the time when the Geneva "peace talks" group under Lord David Owen tried to coerce Bosnia's leaders to capitulate to the pro-Serbian design for a carved-up Bosnia that only left the six separated enclaves to the Bosnians. It was clear to every sane person, that the diplomats who designed this ill-born concept of "Bosnia" would one future day also sacrifice these enclaves.

The July 13 *Berliner Zeitung* revealed a detail about the diplomatic betrayal of Bosnia. It described how in late June, French Gen. Bernard Janvier and Serbian rebel Gen. Ratko Mladic discussed Serbian "permission" for relief convoys to pass through to the Bosnian enclaves. At this time, British Gen. Rupert Smith, Janvier's superior, already had on his desk a secret memorandum about the coming Serbian attack on Srebrenica.

As the paper noted, Janvier failed to get permission, but another French military officer signed a deal with Mladic that brought a few relief goods to the enclaves shortly before the Serbian attack began. That officer was Gen. André Soubirou, who had just been made commander of the new French "rapid reaction force" (RRF). Soubirou tried to cover up his role in media interviews on July 18, blaming the fall of Srebrenica on the Bosnian "sabotage" of the RRF.

The black propaganda against the Bosnians that one finds in the British and in some French media, can be read daily in German media as well. Geopolitical doctrines dominate the minds of most German journalists.