

## Editorial

### *Now is the time for action*

France's President, Jacques Chirac, took the occasion of the July 14 celebration of Bastille Day, to draw a comparison between the Nazi genocide during the Second World War and genocide being committed by the Serbs today. The parallel is well-taken, since, for all the rhetoric on this 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, once again, British support for a fascist government is being allowed to dictate the course of history. Just as the British forced the Czech government to concede to Nazi aggression, so, today, the British are doing everything in their power to force the Bosnians to capitulate.

Unfortunately, despite President Chirac's keen awareness of the need for action against the Serb fascists, there are differences between the French and American governments on how to proceed. These must be settled quickly.

The surest avenue to transforming the situation, is for NATO to deploy its air power in order to destroy the Serbian heavy weapons capability. The Serbians are brazenly committing crimes against humanity; they are war criminals, and in this situation, the United Nations has not only abjectly capitulated to them, but has abetted them by preventing the Bosnians from defending themselves.

The United Nations has destroyed any remaining credibility which it might have had; the question now is whether the United States and France will maintain their credibility, unless they agree to move with effective military force to stop the Serbians. This can be done through NATO air strikes.

There can no longer be any argument over the role of the British. It is not the case that the Serbs are being *protected*; the Serbs are acting as *agents* of the British government. This was a policy initiated by Margaret Thatcher when she was Britain's prime minister, and supported by President George Bush.

Despite Thatcher's efforts to distance herself from the government of John Major, it should be remembered that the first phase of Serbian aggression was Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's war against Croatia, and briefly also Slovenia. This war was initiated

under the aegis of the Thatcher government because of its perceived geopolitical interests, which were supported by Bush. Essentially the British have tried to revive the pre-World War I Entente Cordiale between Britain and France, along with Russia. Both then and now, the most obvious target has been Germany; but chaos in the Balkans is also a British lever against the United States as well.

The role of the United Nations Organization has been to police the warfare in order to ensure that the Serbs would not be defeated. This means that high officials in the United Nations and in Britain, are guilty of acting as accomplices to war crimes committed by Serbians. That includes U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The United States has been demanding the use of air power to stop Serbian aggression. Unfortunately, President Clinton has been deterred from acting by the United Nations, thanks to British influence (and, while François Mitterrand was President, French influence as well). French commitment to the use of ground forces is still a problem for the United States; however, if one looks at the profile of the forces on the ground, it is clear that the Croatian and Bosnian infantry can do the job themselves, with sufficient air support from NATO.

The Croatian and Bosnian infantry, as such, is a much superior fighting force to the Serb forces under Karadzic, the so-called Chetniks. The margin of advantage of the Chetnik forces so far, is the lack of armament of the Bosnians, in particular, because of the arms embargo imposed by the U.N. This has not, in practice, stopped the Serbs from getting weapons, but it has effectively disarmed the Bosnians.

The Serbian Chetniks are operating with heavy weapons capability, delivered to them largely from Serbia proper, by the Milosevic government. The Serbian infantry, the Chetnik infantry, is an inferior fighting force, which would collapse rather readily in front of Bosnian and Croat forces, without this heavy weapons capability and this radar support.

The time to act is now; fascism must never again be allowed to triumph!