

Editorial

Save the children of Bosnia

On Jan. 30, First Lady Hillary Clinton held a meeting attended by members of Congress, government agencies, and representatives of U.S. relief organizations involved in getting aid to Bosnia, including spokesmen from the Catholic Relief Services, the International Orthodox Christian Charities, and a U.S.-based Arab relief organization, as well as a representative of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Mrs. Clinton made a very strong statement on the need for help in restoring the infrastructure of the region, providing health care, and taking care of the needs of the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Of the children, she said: "Today, the children of Bosnia are truly the world's orphans."

The most destitute losers in this bestial war are the children. Ten percent of all children and adolescents, between the ages of 1 and 19 years, were killed or are missing from 1992 to 1995. In addition, 19.8% of Bosnia's children were wounded—i.e., every tenth child has lost its life, and every fifth child has been wounded.

Helga Zepp LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute, issued a similar call to that of Mrs. Clinton, on Jan. 29. Highlighting the terrible injustice done to the children of Bosnia, she also discussed the devastation suffered by the whole of the population, only 37.8% of whom still live in their homeland. The rest have died or fled. And with only 20% of the industrial capacity remaining, only 10% of those still able to work can find jobs.

The role of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund is outrageous. They are demanding that Bosnia assume 17% of the indebtedness of former Yugoslavia, before they can be considered eligible for any assistance—much of which will in fact be earmarked to pay that debt. To compound the insult, this so-called "Yugoslavian" debt is in reality the debt of Serbia, the aggressors in the war against Bosnia. A serious perspective for reconstruction and actual economic development is not under political discussion.

Immediately, on purely humanitarian grounds, an effective relief effort for Bosnia must be mounted. Otherwise, the results of Serbian genocide—in which many political leaders of the West were complicit—will be compounded. Such an emergency mobilization will provide time for the governments of the West to assume their obligation, to help rebuild the industry and infrastructure of Bosnia.

Mrs. LaRouche's words must be heeded and acted upon. The following remarks are taken from her call:

"We, the representatives of the so-called Western world, cannot make up for the crimes that were inflicted upon the dead of this war. But we have a moral obligation to the children of this war which cannot be dismissed with words, an obligation which stems not least from the fact that the Western governments have passively witnessed how this war of aggression by Serbs was conducted for geopolitical reasons, with the benefit of abundant support from Thatcher, Bush, Gorbachov, and Mitterrand. For these geopolitical strategists, the people in Bosnia and Croatia were nothing more than figures on the chessboard, who could be sacrificed in order to prevent reunified Germany from playing a crucial role in the economic development of the East.

"Today we face the shards of this policy. In particular, the intensification of the situation in Russia, as a result of the so-called reform policy, has led President Clinton to end the war in the Balkans by means of the Dayton peace accords, because otherwise, the threat arises of incalculable strategic dangers. Yet everyone knows, that this peace is no just peace. The victims have consented to it only because, even in this imperfect form, it is preferable to a continuation of the war.

"The greatest problem, however, that we face, is that bold, large-scale economic reconstruction of the entire Balkans, the only thing which could put forth the basis for a lasting peace, is completely lacking. And unfortunately, without this kind of economic development, it is almost certainly only a question of time, how long this peace can endure."