

## Report from Sarajevo: How Bosnia survived the war

by Umberto Pascali

I got my first concrete insight into how the city of Sarajevo was able to resist and survive the atrocious siege, in the office of Elektroprivreda of Bosnia and Hercegovina on April 15. Elektroprivreda is the national electric company, and I was listening to a description of the three and a half years of siege by Acif Hadrovic, the director; Sebaheta Sadikovic, head of Research and Development; and Urfet Vejzavic, the company's senior counsellor.

I had the honor to be part of an eight-member delegation, organized the Schiller Institute's Committee to Save the Children in Bosnia and Hercegovina, that visited Croatia and Bosnia April 12-19. The delegation included Dr. Jozef Miklosko, the former vice prime minister of Czechoslovakia and chairman of the Committee; Benjamin Swan, state representative from Massachusetts; Theo W. Mitchell, former state senator from South Carolina; James Mann, former U.S. congressman from South Carolina; Nihad E. Dzinovic, chairman of the Bosnia Relief organization in California; and Elke Fimmen, Paolo Raimondi, and Umberto Pascali of the Schiller Institute.

Director Hadrovic explained: "With the start of the aggression, one of the basic aims of the aggressor was to destroy the electric power system, because electricity is a basis for life. After that, it was the telecommunications system that had to be destroyed. . . . But all the other systems of infrastructure were hit also. It was all planned and programmed, years and years ago. At first, the aggressor hit our high-voltage transmission lines, to break the electricity supply; and generation units in the hydroelectric and thermal power plants, as well as the distribution system. That was exposed to bombing. . . .

"As for Sarajevo, as you know, it was encircled by the

aggressor, and it was in a special situation. A lot of damage was done to the electricity, water, and gas supplies. . . . There was great pressure against civilian inhabitants. Everything was done in order to break the electricity supply to the town." Then, in May 1995, the situation became desperate. "From May 1995 to Nov. 26, 1995, Sarajevo's electricity supply was *completely broken*. Not even one kilowatt-hour was supplied to the town.

"So we arranged some underground cable, which would not be possible for the aggressor forces to control. . . . We constructed an underground tunnel beneath the airport [controlled by the enemy], and through this tunnel, just one and a half meters wide, we installed a 35-kilowatt underground cable, and ten megawatts of power was supplied to the city. . . . That was the so-called 'independent system for electricity supply to the town.' It was used only for the highest priorities, but we had the minimum for survival."

With the approach of a scientist who had to find a way to solve a problem that was apparently unsolvable, and using direct, effective language, Hadrovic was supplying us the key to understand the source of that heroic resistance. It was not just the astonishing military resistance—the famous front line of soldiers with only one bullet in the barrel, who shot and gave the gun to the second line; it was not just the diplomatic ability demonstrated by officials who had no diplomatic background at all; it was not just the capability of so many people to overcome their fears, their feeling of having been abandoned by the rest of the world, that saved Sarajevo from an overwhelming force. It was a total war of resistance, whose key point has been the extraordinary ability to preserve the infrastructure that allowed the city to live.



*The Schiller Institute delegation met on April 13 with Sarajevo's Roman Catholic Cardinal Vinko Puljic. Left to right: Umberto Pascali, Ben Swan, Paolo Raimondi, Dr. Jozef Miklosko, Cardinal Puljic, Elke Fimmen, Nihad Dzinovic, Theo Mitchell, and James Mann.*

There was not a battlefield, as distinguished from a civilian, structure. The war was global; every single day, a fight had to be won on the front of the real economy and infrastructure. An army of engineers, technicians, doctors had to find new methods to enable the city to survive. And the example of the "secret tunnel" has become a symbol of the courage and creativity that achieved the impossible.

In fact, there was a total unity between the new Bosnian leadership and the population, a determination to challenge all odds, while the international mediators—Lord Peter Carrington, Cyrus Vance, Lord David Owen—were suggesting, with increasing pressure, that they surrender.

### **Comprehension of 'the British problem'**

The meeting at Elektroprivreda was the first the Schiller Institute delegation had in Sarajevo. In three and a half days in the Bosnian capital, we had around 20 meetings with the main religious, political, and economic leaders, as well as with the leaders of humanitarian and medical organizations and facilities. The delegation visited an orphanage, a factory for the production of artificial limbs directed by the famous Dr. Isref Karaikovic, which is considered the most advanced in the world. We also met the highest U.S. diplomat present in Sarajevo at that time, Deputy Ambassador Fletcher M. Burton.

The understanding by the leadership and people of Sarajevo of the British geopolitical "problem," is extraordinary

for a visitor coming from the United States. Also striking is the comprehension of the role played by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) against the prostrate country. "They force us to accept a severe limitation of our sovereignty," one of our Bosnian interlocutors said. Mrs. Sadikovic, talking about Electroprivreda, stressed: "The World Bank has agreed to finance programs *only for survival* and basic humanitarian need, *not* for industrial recovery."

Mrs. Sadikovic, as did all our hosts, expressed her appreciation for the activity of the Schiller Institute and the organizations linked to Lyndon LaRouche. "We have received many delegations, but this is the first delegation which has wanted to help us from the standpoint of principles of morality, ethics, and justice, and we have to accept your help with pleasure. . . . We accept the principles of the Schiller Institute with affinity, and support your activity in every respect." Our guests smiled with sympathy, when a member of the delegation, Nihad E. Dzinovic, a native Sarajevan and now a leader of the Bosnian community in California, stated: "When Bosnia was completely blockaded, I received full support from the Schiller Institute, in organizing demonstrations in the U.S., in spreading the truth about the injustice in Bosnia. I found that this was a group of people who were really sincere about helping Bosnia. And they were with me from Day One of the aggression."

On April 17, a crowd of journalists and TV crews mobbed the press room at the headquarters of the Bosnian ruling Party

of Democratic Action (SDA). After a meeting with Dr. Halid Genjac, the party's president of the general board, and Dr. Ismet Grbo, the chief spokesman, the delegation was introduced by Dr. Grbo to the journalists. "As you know, we have been hosts to our guests from the Schiller Institute, representatives from different countries. The topic of today's talks regards ways to provide help to Bosnia. . . . In Bosnia, it is evident that there is still a crisis. The process of implementation of the [Dayton] Agreement is going on. . . . We also discussed the so-called 'Marshall-Clinton Plan.' . . . During these talks, we agreed on several issues. It is very necessary to spread the truth about Bosnia in the United States and all over the world. And the third issue regarded the continuity of aid, until Bosnia receives some kind of financial injection which will start production in our country. An invitation to visit the Schiller Institute was accepted."

### Thatcher gave the 'green light'

Dr. Grbo then introduced Paolo Raimondi of the Schiller Institute in Germany, who spoke on behalf of the delegation. He explained what the Schiller Institute is, and how the Committee to Save the Children of Bosnia was formed by Helga Zepp LaRouche. Referring to the 1988 TV forecast by Lyndon LaRouche, that war in Yugoslavia was on the horizon, Raimondi said: "We are the institution that, before the war of aggression, had warned that this was the gameplan. . . . The reason was that we saw that there was a geopolitical plan to bring war back to Europe. The forces that I identify have a name. We named the names. They are London's Margaret Thatcher, Lord Carrington, the British oligarchy around the Windsor family, together with [former French President François] Mitterrand and those forces in the U.S. allied with the British. I am talking about George Bush, Henry Kissinger, Lawrence Eagleburger, James Baker. . . . And you have been the victims of this plan. Without the green light given by these forces, the Greater Serbians would not have moved. . . ."

"The role played by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund is the continuation of the last four years of aggression, because you cannot impose conditionalities on a country like Bosnia. It is immoral even simply to think, let alone to demand that the people of Bosnia pay the debt of the old Communist Yugoslavia. . . . We of the Schiller Institute say that this policy of the IMF and World Bank is not a mistake, it is not incompetence. It is consciously planned."

A journalist then stood up and excitedly said, "You all deserve a kiss, especially Mr. Raimondi. Because for a long time we did not know whether we were crazy or *they* were crazy. Now you are telling us that *they* are crazy, that this was done to us on purpose. Thank you very much!"

We had the clear sense that in some small way the presence of the Schiller Institute had contributed to breaking the controlled environment established by the British psychological warfare experts. Besides the terrible physical suffering and deprivation, what hurt the people of Sarajevo was the

atmosphere of unreality. The "emissaries" from the West, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Owen, Vance, Carrington, were telling them that they had to accept the situation and stop fighting. Indeed, the Schiller Institute was the only one that was willing to explain what was happening and point the finger at the puppetmasters.

The press conference was prominently featured on the TV news and reported by all three Sarajevo dailies, *Vecernje Novine*, *Dnevni Avaz*, and *Oslobodenje*. *Vecernje Novine*, in particular, carried a big picture of Margaret Thatcher titled: "It Was the Iron Lady Who Gave the Green Light!" *Dnevni Avaz* carried a picture of bombed-out buildings accompanied by the caption: "Onward with the reconstruction of Bosnia and Hercegovina with the 'Marshall Plan'!" The text of the articles was similar. "Bosnia and Hercegovina is the victim of a planned geopolitical game. . . . If hadn't been for the 'green light' from London, given by Margaret Thatcher, Lord Carrington, President Mitterrand, as well as certain forces in the U.S., the Chetniks would not have started the aggression. . . . The policy of destabilization in the last five years was also conducted through the IMF and the World Bank. . . . The Schiller Institute supports . . . a campaign for the sovereignty of Bosnia and its right to economic development. That's why they insist on the Marshall Plan."

A second press conference was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, by Elke Fimmen of the Schiller Institute on April 19. It was prominently covered in the leading daily *Slobodna Dalmacija* and on Croatia National Radio.

### Meeting the leaders of the three religions

The list of the leaders met by the delegation is impressive. On April 15, we met the religious head of the Islamic community, the Rejs Ulema, Dr. Mustafa Effendi Ceric, who surprised us with the depth of his knowledge and the sharpness of his irony. "Gentlemen," he said, "welcome to Sarajevo, to our community here. I have heard about your institute. It did a lot for Bosnia. Thank you for your support. . . . I am glad that we met. I usually have all these politicians who are always trying to get something. So you have to be very careful. And all those humanitarians. I pray to God sincerely that you never come to a position that somebody gives you aid. Please pray, and pray for your children that you don't go around and ask for sympathy."

The Rejs Ulema denounced the "pagan mentality" as ultimately responsible for what is wrongly perceived as a war of religion. "[When we want to] prove which god is more powerful: mine or yours?, we are [in reality] proving ourselves, not God. Because God is one and the same. It is not only that He is one, but He is the *same God*. But then, we want to have different gods. So we put gods to fight each other. And we say that we are not pagans like the Greeks! But, of course, we are very, very close to that. So our duty is *not* to prove how many of us can destroy mosques and churches, but how many with such pagan mentality we can

bring together to make peace with the Creator of the Universe. That's our task and our job."

On April 16, we met the cardinal of Sarajevo, His Eminence Vinko Puljic, and had a very cordial visit, followed by a second meeting with Bishop Pero Sudar, who proudly showed us the coat of arms he selected for himself at the moment in which the British-induced fight between Muslims and Catholics looked the worst: a map of a united Bosnia!

We had already, on April 13, the honor to be received by the cardinal primate of Croatia, His Eminence Franjo Kuharic, for more than one hour.

On April 17, members of the delegation had a conversation with Professor Finzi, the leader of Sarajevo's Jewish community.

We learned also with sadness that the Orthodox Metropolitan of Sarajevo, Nikolai, was no longer residing in Sarajevo, but in the area controlled by the Pale regime. We met the only religious Orthodox authority in the city, the priest Avakum Rosic, who received us and opened up for us the beautiful Orthodox church.

We stressed particularly the wish for religious reconciliation, as a basis for a reconciliation of the whole society, and overcoming the "divide and rule" from the outside. By a fortunate coincidence, on April 16, the Metropolitan Nikolai visited Sarajevo. For the first time since the beginning of the aggression, he visited Cardinal Puljic in his residence. He also met the deputy of the Rejs Ulema, Dr. Ceric. He also met Professor Finzi. A source close to the cardinal, while cautious, characterized the visit of the Metropolitan as a clear sign that "spring is coming."

In a release issued by the Schiller Institute on April 23, the delegation recommended the following measures:

1. Bosnian reconstruction must be guaranteed in the form of a crash program similar to the post-World War II Marshall Plan.

2. The political, institutional, and economic sovereignty of Bosnia must be preserved against the conditionalities of international financial institutions and geopolitical interference by powers such as the heirs of the British Empire.

3. The United States is the only country, at this point, that can push for such reconstruction and sovereignty, and should take up the project of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who died on April 3 in a plane crash in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with several prominent American private industrial executives, representing an investment potential of tens of billions of dollars.

4. The war criminals responsible for the aggression and genocide must be prosecuted and punished.

5. It is necessary to inform and mobilize the public in the West, especially in the United States, on the necessity to guarantee the rights of Bosnia, which put a stop to the widening of the Greater Serbian assaults and the designs of their sponsors. If Bosnia does not receive this support, we could be witnessing the beginning of World War III.

## The covert war against Arafat and peace

by Anton Chaitkin

In 1991, Margaret Thatcher and George Bush launched the new world order, a would-be world government, with the bloody Persian Gulf war against Iraq. The Syrian government joined Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in Bush's Gulf war coalition. Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat led Palestinians in steadfast opposition to the Thatcher-Bush war. Israel's Likud Party rulers Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Shamir worked in tandem with the coalition, seeking to smash the PLO and to abort Arafat's plan for an independent Palestinian state.

But President Bush and his Likud friends fell from office. President William Clinton then bucked the British-Bush imperial policy establishment, initiating a fragile peace process in the Middle East, and in Ireland and the Balkans. Now, five years after the Gulf war, the British-run imperial axis, including the British-spawned International Monetary Fund (IMF), is engaged in a dirty covert war against the global peace process, a war that deploys bomb-throwing terrorism.

By reviewing a recent, curious public event in Washington, D.C.—a lecture by an anti-Arafat "radical," sponsored and attended by representatives of an array of Gulf war coalition partners—we will be somewhat able to see behind the scenes into the Middle East side of this imperial project.

Dr. Mustafa Barghouti spoke on April 11, at the Jerusalem Fund-Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine, located across the street from the Saudi Embassy. Barghouti, who had been a candidate in the Jan. 20 Palestinian general elections, began by describing the hardship and poverty resulting from the 28 years of Israeli occupation, and from the recent "closure" imposed by Israel on the Palestinians in the wake of the Hamas suicide bombings.

The speech gradually emerged as an anti-Arafat polemic: The Palestinian state structure is becoming all-powerful, statist influence is pervasive. The (world government) international agencies were told that Arafat would set up "accountable structures and laws," so that investors would have confidence; this did not happen. The indispensable world-government-allied non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are being politically restricted, in favor of statism. Instead of Palestinian democracy, it's Yasser Arafat versus the people—Arafat oppresses the radical Islamist group Hamas, which, unlike Arafat, is with the people.

The speaker explained that Arafat had long run the PLO as a revolutionary organization, and this mode is "unacceptable"