

British ‘mujahideen’ caught in Bosnia

by Umberto Pascali

One of the most trusted subordinates of Gen. Sir Michael Rose, the British NATO commander in Bosnia, will stand trial in Britain at the Guildford court, Surrey, beginning on March 11. British Maj. Milos Stankovic, a.k.a. Michael Stanley, will stand trial under Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act for espionage and passing information to the enemy. Stankovic, while stationed in Bosnia during 1992-95 (mostly while serving as the right-hand man to Rose), had revealed every classified or confidential NATO plan to war criminal Ratko Mladic, the head of the “Greater Serbia” gangs.

How many people died because of Stankovic’s actions? How long was the genocidal war prolonged? Nobody knows for the moment. What is known is that:

- The arrest of Stankovic was not a British initiative, but rather the result of U.S. pressure, particularly from U.S. intelligence organizations. U.S. intelligence elements have participated in every interrogation of him. The “secret war” between the United States and Britain in Bosnia dates back to the beginning of the military intervention there, formally under the UN. In the fall of 1994, U.S. intelligence stopped sharing information with its British counterpart in the area.

- Stankovic did nothing that was not *approved by his commanders*, according to British Independent Member of Parliament Martin Bell, a Stankovic supporter and former BBC correspondent in Bosnia. Bell believes that the only reason Stankovic was arrested was because of “a witch-hunt by American and Bosnian Muslim officials,” as he was paraphrased by the *New York Times*.

- The trial is only the tip of the iceberg. The “iceberg,” is what *EIR* has denounced since the beginning of the Bosnian genocide: that the British, and in particular, Sir Michael Rose, did everything to help the war criminals in their genocidal drive, including the synthetic creation of groups of “Islamic fighters” and “Croat extremists” used to fuel a general spiral of war in the Balkans.

- Putting the spotlight on the British role in Bosnia, is of crucial importance at a moment when London is determined to explode the Kosova region, using the so-called Kosova Liberation Army, and giving the green light to Slobodan Milosevic’s “anti-terror” gangsters.

“There is no doubt that British intelligence knew what Stankovic was up to,” a Balkan diplomatic source told *EIR*. Another source called attention to the continuing “secret war” between the U.S. and British in Bosnia.

Stankovic—whose father was a fanatical “Greater Serbia” Chetnik during World War II, for whom he had created a sort of shrine in his house—was one of only three British officers fluent in the language. Trained for special operations, Stankovic was first assigned in central Bosnia to British Army headquarters of the Cheshire Battalion (the same used in “anti-terror” provocations in Northern Ireland) under Robert Stewart in Nova Bila, and then to the Commander of Unprofor (UN Protection Forces), Sir Michael Rose. He served four tours, and became the chief liaison officer between the British commanders of Unprofor and the Serb warlords, including war criminals Radovan Karadzic and Mladic.

The story of Stankovic leads directly to the SAS operations in 1992-93 in central Bosnia. In August 1993, *EIR* exposed how the British were creating nominally Muslim and Croat groupings, and how this “gang-countergang” operation was used to ignite a “war between the victims.” Elements of British special forces were sent into the area to train the gangs and to push them to commit atrocities.

As the Croatian magazine *Danas* reported on July 16, 1993, “the massacre in the Muslim village of Ahmici, was carried out by one of those groups commanded by a British citizen, the desecration of the Croatian monastery of Guca Gora . . . was executed by a group of mujahideens, commanded by a British mercenary known as Rose.” *Danas* detailed the story of some of these British “mercenaries,” such as Norry Phillips, “a former member of the Royal Navy, who came to Croatia [in 1991] to train Croatian soldiers. Upon the arrival of Unprofor to Croatia, Phillips joined the Croat Council of Defense (HVO), and when the clashes between Croats and Muslims started in Mostar, the marine Norry shifted to the Muslim side. There would be nothing strange in that if he himself was not the one who tried to persuade the HVO commanders to actions against the Muslims. ‘Mostar cannot be a town with two armies,’ he used to say, ‘let us deal with the Bosnia army in two days and the world will accept it.’ People from the HVO found it strange that he was suggesting this, while at the same time he was selling weapons to the Muslims.”

Are the details of the British intelligence operation in central Bosnia going to come out in the Stankovic trial? Will this be a deterrent against the similar use of the Kosova Liberation Army by the British?

It was Sir Michael Rose who, in November 1994, sabotaged the air strikes against the Mladic genocidal gangs that were about to overrun the UN safe area of Bihac, which they had kept under siege, using napalm and cluster bombs, for 30 months. At the last moment, Washington broke through the opposition from Rose, and U.S. planes from the NATO base in Aviano, Italy reached Bihac. But they could not stop the Serb gangs. The SAS teams that were supposed to relay the positions of the targets, did not do so. Why? U.S. intelligence intercepted a message from Rose’s headquarters to the SAS spotters: “Hold off. . . . Do not indentify targets!”