

NATO readies plans for military strikes to stop Milosevic in Kosova

by Umberto Pascali

“Yes, the situation is similar to the period preceding the 1995 NATO air strikes in Bosnia, but I wouldn’t count on a military intervention in Kosova. But even if [they occurred], . . . it would be only an initial element, it wouldn’t be the solution for Kosova. Don’t forget, the situation in the Balkans has degenerated much, much further, the institutions and the economies have crashed. Milosevic and the IMF [International Monetary Fund], paradoxically, have complemented each other.”

These comments, by a well-placed Balkan observer, were based on the initial reports coming out of the NATO defense ministers’ meeting in Brussels on June 11. The meeting focused on measures to stop the genocide in the former Yugoslav province of Kosova, where “Greater Serbia” dictator Slobodan Milosevic has succeeded in causing an exodus of terrorized ethnic Albanian civilians (who represent 90% of the population), 150,000 of whom have fled up to this point.

The ministers announced that they had “directed NATO military authorities to assess and develop a full range of options, with the mission of *halting and disrupting a systematic campaign of violent repression and expulsion in Kosova*” (emphasis added).

The plans include 1) attacks on military objectives in the territory of Yugoslavia; 2) deployment of ground troops; 3) suspension of international flights to Belgrade; 4) the establishment of a no-fly zone and a heavy-weapons exclusion zone; and 5) disruption of electronic communications. NATO’s top military officer, Gen. Klaus Naumann, the author of the plan, stressed in an interview that NATO governments must be “prepared to go all the way,” if the first military actions are not enough.

The NATO defense ministers also announced immediate military maneuvers in Kosova’s neighboring countries of Albania and Macedonia, including the launching of planes from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea and from the NATO air base at Aviano in northern Italy. The planes will simulate bombing attacks, and helicopters will simulate rocket attacks. “The exercise is aimed at demonstrating NATO’s capability to project power rapidly into the region,” a NATO statement said. Indeed, the exercise is similar to the air strikes over

Bosnia that, three years ago, forced Milosevic and his Bosnian Serb puppets to the negotiating table.

‘We cannot give up Kosova’

The first official reaction from Belgrade came from one of the main advocates of ethnic cleansing, Vojislav Seselj, recently rewarded by Milosevic with the position of Deputy Prime Minister. “We cannot give up Kosova, whatever the cost, and we must defend it by all means,” Seselj said. He warned that the NATO statement must be taken seriously, and that Serbia must be prepared in every way. “The die is cast,” said a high-level military officer at NATO headquarters.

These dramatic developments follow four months of terror and devastation in Kosova, where Milosevic has carried out ethnic cleansing in an even more brutal way than he did in Bosnia. The terror and violence have reached the point, at which people are leaving their burning villages and towns en masse.

Milosevic has done this with his usual cynicism in the world of diplomatic intrigue. He has formally accepted many of the requests of the “international community.” For example, after resisting meeting directly with the Kosovars, and after organizing a fake referendum against foreign mediation, Milosevic theatrically agreed to meet the leader of the Kosovars, Ibrahim Rugova. Rugova and his people have made clear that they know this is just a ploy, and have asked that any negotiations or agreement reached with Milosevic be backed by U.S. government guarantees.

‘Greater Serbia’ diplomacy

A high-level Bosnian source explained to *EIR*: “Rugova, against his instincts and intuition, was forced to go to Belgrade to negotiate — so to speak — with Milosevic. The only reason he did it, is that the pressures coming from the international community, and in particular from the former mediator on Bosnia, Richard Holbrooke, was unbearable. It reminds me of what happened to the Bosnians in Dayton, at the peace negotiations. We had to accept conditions that we knew, on Milosevic’s part, would not be fulfilled. But they would have kept dismembering Bosnia with other means.” He added, “By

the way, in Dayton, nobody talked about Kosova, though it was such a patent injustice committed by the Milosevic regime. It just did not exist there. The tolerance of injustice has consequences.”

Milosevic’s acceptance of “direct negotiations”—in which he did not commit himself to anything—even gained him the cancellation of the sanctions that had been decided against him by the six countries of the so-called Contact Group—the United States, Russia, France, Britain, Germany, and Italy. As soon as the sanctions were lifted, Milosevic used the pretext of real or imaginary attacks by the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA) to launch, at the end of May, one of the most criminal military assaults yet against a civilian population, in which a large area of Kosova bordering Albania is being effectively wiped off the map. Of the 65,000 inhabitants in the area around the town of Decani, more than 40,000 have been forced out of their houses.

Since February, Milosevic has applied a scorched-earth strategy in Kosova, deploying the ruthless Yugoslavian Army, including heavy artillery and the Air Force, against villages and towns. He has also unleashed on the ethnic Albanian population, the sadistic “anti-terror” police—the recycled paramilitary gangs once deployed in Bosnia under war criminals Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. Furthermore, he has ordered that groups of Serb “civilians,” who, according to many witnesses, are kept in line with alcohol and drugs, and who loot and burn the homes of the Albanians, be armed to the teeth.

The secret war

The NATO measures come in the context of another war, a secret war that has been going on in Kosova, in a way similar to what happened in Bosnia. This is the war among the Western allies, that has pitted the forces representing the former empires of France and Britain, against the leading forces in the United States and Germany.

It is now on the public record, and *EIR* has played a leading role in reporting it, that the limited NATO air strikes that put an end to the genocidal war in Bosnia, were strenuously opposed by the French and British oligarchical interests who have been protectors of Greater Serbia since at least World War I. These forces have found in the racist Greater Serbia ideology, a useful instrument to control the Balkans and, thus, the north-south connection between continental Europe and the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. “France and Britain are the greater allies of Greater Serbia,” wrote Vaso Cubrilovic, the author of “The Expulsion of the Albanians,” the infamous blueprint prepared in 1930 in Belgrade for the ethnic cleansing of Kosova. (The Russians, who are painted in the Western media as the main allies of the Serbian “Orthodox brothers,” in reality play a more disinterested role. But British operations are continually trying to stir up the most fanatical “Third Rome” imperial factions in Moscow. The role of the British Lord Byron Foundation is exemplary in this regard.)

It is now known that Gen. Sir Michael Rose, the head of the British special forces, the SAS, and the military commander of the NATO forces in Bosnia, had ordered his men to sabotage air strikes against Karadzic’s gangs by U.S. planes taking off from Aviano. It is also known, that the British and the French top liaison officers with Karadzic were passing detailed information concerning NATO military plans on to Karadzic. The air strikes in Bosnia in the summer of 1995, came only after a long backstabbing war against the United States by the “greater allies of Greater Serbia.”

Now, history is repeating itself in Kosova. Said a well-informed Balkan diplomatic source: “The British have tried everything to prevent a military intervention against Milosevic in Bosnia. However, they are now in a peculiar situation: They have to show that they want to intervene, and are running out of tricks.” When asked, “Like in Bosnia in 1995?” he replied, “Exactly!”

The economic war

Unfortunately, at this point, even if air strikes were to stop the worst Nazi-like features of the Kosova genocide, this will not automatically reestablish peace. The basis for the Dayton Accords in Bosnia was the guarantee of economic reconstruction. On that basis, any ethnic group could find a common ground for collaborating in rebuilding the country, in the context of a common national purpose. But, the Dayton agreement left the most important part of securing the peace—economic reconstruction—in the hands of the IMF and the World Bank, and no real reconstruction has been carried out. The need for productive development and employment, has been forgotten. No sovereign, viable government can exist under such conditions. In fact, the different political entities in Bosnia are going in opposite directions. The Republika Srpska in Banja Luka mostly follows Milosevic. The lack of hope for the future leaves people desperate and vulnerable to manipulation; a war could resume.

As the productive economy rots away, the black market and organized crime are flourishing. The most striking example is in Albania, a nation that followed the recipes of the IMF, yet was effectively finished off as a country following the “financial pyramid” scandal last year. Now, the Albanian government no longer has direct control over anything past the city limits of the capital, Tirana. The rest is left to a virulent mixture of feudal warlords and organized crimes bosses. The Balkans is being dominated by this feudal-mafioso power structure.

The Balkan model of descent into a new feudalism has become paradigmatic of situations in which usury and organized violence destroy the sovereignty of a country. Recently, Amien Rais, leader of the second-largest Muslim organization in Indonesia, had to recognize a painful lesson about IMF strategy. He said that the Indonesian crisis could lead the country into an ethnic war, into what he called “another Yugoslavia.”