

## British sabotage papal visit to Sarajevo

by Konstantin George

The historic visit of Pope John Paul II to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, set to have taken place on Sept. 8, was sabotaged by British intelligence, using its Bosnian Serb assets and the British-directed United Nations operation in Bosnia. The announcement that the visit had to be postponed came on Sept. 6, just 48 hours before the pope was due to arrive.

The security reasons motivating the postponement did not hinge on the question of the pope's own safety. John Paul II, as he has demonstrated on innumerable occasions over the years, is one of the most courageous men on the planet. Faced with the crucial importance of a mission such as the one to Sarajevo, John Paul II would not have permitted personal safety considerations to stop him.

The international scope of the British-led sabotage operation emerged in full one day after the forced postponement. This was when the Big Five "Contact Group" for former Yugoslavia, consisting of the U.S.A., Russia, Britain, France, and Germany, after a meeting in Berlin, announced the five would recommend to the U.N. Security Council that the international sanctions against Serbia be lifted. Thus, the Sarajevo sabotage was directly linked to an upcoming international whitewashing of the war criminal regime of Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade. All this based on the alleged good word of Milosevic, that he has shut off supplies to the Bosnian Serbs.

Events around the Contact Group's announcement provide an insight into a potentially more subtle sabotage operation against the papal visit to Croatia, planned to occur after Sarajevo. The Vatican played a crucial role in overturning the anti-Bosnian policy of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, and effecting the Croatian-Bosnian Confederation Agreement. This was followed in the late spring by a brief opportunity, in which the Croatian opposition was starting to mount an effort, that could have led to the replacement of Tudjman and his destructive "cabinet warfare" policies, which have contributed to keeping intact the Serbian occupa-

tion of one-third of Croatian territory.

Under massive international pressure, that brief interlude of hope collapsed, and Tudjman remains firmly in the saddle. What this implies currently was demonstrated on Sept. 7, when Tudjman came out in effusive praise for the announcement of the Contact Group on lifting sanctions against the regime that has wrought so much devastation on Croatia. The same Tudjman, the President of mainly Catholic Croatia, apparently had no such emotional response to the Serbian threats to unleash carnage against the thousands wishing to hear the pope in Sarajevo.

The immediate physical reason for the postponement was the threat of a mass slaughter against non-Serbian civilians by the Bosnian Serbs during the course of the papal visit. The text of the Vatican statement issued on Sept. 6 made this explicit: "The pope, after consulting his principal aides and inspired by a deep sense of responsibility toward the population, has therefore decided to postpone the visit to Sarajevo, scheduled for Sept. 8, with the aim of carrying it out as soon as circumstances permit. . . . Grieved at not being able to have met the wishes of the Catholic community and the population of Sarajevo, the pope will continue to make every effort to carry out this pastoral visit and this mission of peace to this so sorely tried capital as soon as possible."

At the local level there was indeed the threat of a terrible atrocity. All through early September, Serbian forces increased their shelling of Sarajevo. This culminated on Sept. 6 with 11 artillery shells fired at the proximity of the Sarajevo Stadium where the pope was to have addressed the people of the city, coupled by firing at the airport, where a U.N. plane was hit.

These were not the only Serbian outrages. Starting in late August, they began a new wave of ethnic cleansing, or forced expulsions of Bosnian Muslims from areas in Bosnia they occupy. By Sept. 6, the total in this latest wave had reached nearly 6,000, with 2,000 helpless civilians expelled alone on the week-

end of Sept. 3-4. On Sept. 6, Serbian forces began a new offensive against the Bosnian-held pocket of Bihac in western Bosnia, heavily shelling the villages of Cazim and Buzim.

### British revenge for Cairo

The papal visit, however crucial it was for the Balkans as such, had global strategic significance. The Holy Father was to have addressed, in true ecumenical manner, a mass gathering of Bosnians of the Catholic and Islamic faiths. This has to be situated in the context of the very successful combining of moral forces from the Catholic Church and in the Islamic world, which has thrown the Nazi-modeled U.N. Cairo population conference into disarray. A successful papal visit in Sarajevo would provide fresh inspiration to that anti-genocide strategic combination of forces after Cairo closes on Sept. 13.

The explicit connection between the British-U.N. sabotage of the papal visit and the U.N. Cairo conference was made by Mustafa Ifrendi Cherek, the Muslim Ulema of Sarajevo, in statements to the leading Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* on Sept. 7. The Ulema stressed that the destruction of Bosnia was being conducted by U.N. Secretary General Boutros "Boutros-Ghali and the United Nations." He demanded Boutros-Ghali's immediate resignation, and, continuing with his indictment of the U.N., declared that at the Cairo conference, there are at work, "pagan forces attempting to destroy humanity."

The Bosnian Serb forces who demonstrated their readiness to commit an outrage should the pope have appeared, are controlled by a British tool, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. As emphasized by Lyndon LaRouche, this activation was "a direct operation of the British state, as well as government."

The British have otherwise run many of their operations in former Yugoslavia through the agency of the United Nations forces there, which are under British command. The U.N., operating on behalf of Britain, was responsible for wrecking the visit, as Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told the world at a Sept. 7 press conference in Sarajevo.

As Izetbegovic documented, the U.N., while claiming it "could" not, in reality *would* not provide security for either John Paul II or the citizens of Sarajevo. He cited a Sept. 5 letter to the Vatican by Yasushi Akashi, the U.N. envoy to former Yugoslavia, advising the pope not to come, as security could not be provided. The Bosnian President declared: "Of course, the threats by Karadzic's Serbs were the stated reason for the postponement of the visit, but it was really godfathered by the U.N. Protection Force [Unprofor]. The letter made the decision inevitable."

Izetbegovic was backed in a parallel statement by Vinko Puljic, the Catholic Archbishop of Sarajevo, who declared that the Akashi letter was the "crucial factor" behind the postponement of the visit. Otherwise, as the Bosnian government noted, there was an unmistakable, months-long pattern of U.N. refusal to enforce their own rules that mandated

## Bosnia asks public to help against 'Greater Serbia'

*The following appeal, from the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, dated Sept. 2, 1994, was issued after an urgent session of that government.*

Approximately 200 civilians, comprised mainly of women and children, arrived in Travnik yesterday, after being expelled from the district of Banja Luka. By mid-September, it is believed that an additional 5,000 civilians will be expelled from this region. This same process of expulsion for non-Serb civilians is also occurring in Bijeljina. During the previous month, around 1,000 civilians were expelled from the Bijeljina district.

The process of ethnic cleansing, which represents one form of genocide, has been occurring for the past two and a half years and will continue until all non-Serb civilians have been expelled from occupied territories.

To date, we have turned to institutions of the United Nations, relevant international factors to assist in halting this process, which in the main is a fascist project. However, such involvement from these international institutions and governments has not achieved the results which we were expecting.

As a result, we turn to the people of the United States of America, the Federal Republic of Germany, Russia, France, Great Britain, and other nations in the hope that the democratic public will stand up in defense of fundamental human rights, which are being violated in the worst possible way, all in the name of the "Greater Serbia" project.

We therefore turn to all people of good faith on the behalf of the people who are now left without their homes and people living in occupied territories who are awaiting effective protection. They are seeking nothing more than their right to life and freedom.

a so-called exclusion zone of 20 kilometers around Sarajevo, where the Serbs could not hold any artillery or mortars. The Serbs had consistently violated this, with the U.N. forces idly looking on. In addition to that, the same U.N. which now would not provide security, somehow back in April, when the stadium was used for a soccer game, was able to guarantee complete security for the occasion.

If all else failed, the U.N. held a "trump" to ensure that John Paul II could not set foot in Sarajevo, namely, control over Sarajevo Airport. In response to what was in reality a

trivial incident, a U.N. plane at the airport was hit on Sept. 6 by snipers' bullets—i.e., no artillery was involved—the U.N. shut down the airport, which remained closed through Sept. 7.

### 'Contact Group' infamy

As mentioned above, the counterpoint to the postponement of the papal visit was the announcement the next day by the Big Five "Contact Group" urging that international economic sanctions against Serbia be lifted. The announcement for the group was made by Vitaly Churkin, the Russian Special Envoy for former Yugoslavia. The key player in the Contact Group, however, is not Russia, but Britain, which, playing on the national profile of France and on the neo-imperial profile, tendencies, and propensities of Russia, has succeeded in forging a "three out of five" majority on the Balkans which determines the parameters of what becomes the consensus for the five as a whole. This consensus is buttressed by the fact that what Lyndon LaRouche has identified as "automatic pilot" policies from the Bush period are still the policies governing the conduct of the United States in this group. With the Americans taking no initiative to break the British-manufactured consensus, Germany, whatever other inclinations it may have, goes along with the Anglo-American dictates.

Based on Russia's historical-ideological "natural" response to support Serbia, Britain has achieved major successes through the Contact Group, which came into being as a Big Power agency to deal with the crisis in former Yugoslavia and the Balkans. Encouraged by this success, Britain has engineered that the Contact Group's role has been expanded far beyond the domain of former Yugoslavia and the Balkans. Behind the scenes, the Contact Group is already involved in crisis management arrangements concerning Haiti, Cuba, and the regions of the former U.S.S.R., including the Caucasus and Ukraine.

Barring a decisive move by the Clinton presidency to put an end to British-steered "consensus" policies, this will be only the beginning. Russian and European sources reveal that the Contact Group could soon turn its attention to the Algeria-centered Maghreb Crisis, and to other potential conflict areas such as India-Pakistan. Policy elites, both in the West and in Russia, are speaking of the Contact Group as the nucleus for an evolving world leadership structure, taking over from the present U.N. Security Council, which in the eyes of Britain and allied oligarchic interests, has proven to be ineffective.

Most important of all for Britain, the maintenance of the Contact Group provides the perfect vehicle by which the British can continue their age-old game of playing some powers off against one another, to the detriment of the other powers. If there is to be any hope for the Balkans or any other region of the world, the British-led forces holding the great nation-states of the world in check, have to be defeated.

## Nigeria wins the first round

by Lydia Cherry

The fact that a two-month-old Nigerian oil strike crumbled under pressure from the oil workers themselves at the end of August, is further indication that the "Project Democracy"-style destabilization attempt that has brought down one government after another in the developing sector doesn't always work, particularly if the targeted government is pursuing sound economic policies. Even the London *Financial Times*, which has consistently editorialized in favor of the demise of the military government of Gen. Sani Abacha, acknowledged on Sept. 6 that the oil workers had become "isolated in their struggle against General Abacha's regime, which has rejected their demands," and that "the virtual collapse of the strike leaves the government in its strongest position in several months."

The wind-down of the strike was expected following Abacha's address to the nation on Aug. 17, in which he explained why he was replacing the leaders of the two unions with administrators. The government could not stand by endlessly and watch this "attempt to destroy the economic life-line of our nation," he said. He noted that the government had waited this long (six weeks) in hopes that the union leaders themselves would "retrace their steps" and return to acting as patriots, because "no true national patriot would disparage his fatherland with foreign contrivance with the hope of instituting democracy on the debris of his country."

General Abacha reiterated "the unflinching commitment of this administration to an early return to civil democratic rule," noted the complexity of the task in this "nation of over 250 ethnic groups inhabiting the 30 states and a federal capital," and emphasized the need to be alert to outside manipulation.

Some of the strike demands were peculiar. Among them was that the Nigerian government immediately pay the \$800 million in arrears which Nigeria owes the Royal Dutch Shell group and other international companies for joint venture costs. The leaders of the two unions, the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Nupeng) and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (Pengassan), were also solid supporters of western darling Moshood Abiola, and the Abiola issue began to be promoted as one of the major union demands. Soon it became clear that the oil strike