

Faris Nanic: we need a dialogue for peace

Bosnian leader Faris Nanic is scheduled to arrive in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 3, where he will address a conference of the FDR-PAC, and meet with U.S. policymakers. Nanic is a close associate of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, and currently directs one of the main Bosnian press agencies. He is a staunch opponent of the scenario known as the "clash of civilizations," which implies a confrontation especially between Islam and Christianity. Instead, Nanic insists, we must work together to deepen dialogue and collaboration, and to achieve a new "Marshall Plan" for the economic development of Bosnia.

In the picture below, Nanic and other members of a delegation of the International Parliamentarians against Genocide in Bosnia (IPGB) are shown in a May 1994 meeting at the Vatican with Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state. Pope John Paul II had granted an audience to the delegation, but unfortunately had to be hospitalized just a few days before. However, the Vatican leadership, in a decision that underscores their determination to pursue peace in Bosnia, continued with the meeting. Thus, Cardinal Sodano met the delegation on the pope's behalf.

The majority of the members of the delegation were Mus-

lims, including IPGB Chairman Sen. Kamel Al-Sharif of Jordan, and Faris Nanic, who was then President Izetbegovic's representative.

Introduced by the Hon. Roberto Formigoni (co-chairman of the IPGB), Nanic expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the pope on behalf of peace, and dialogue with the Muslim community.

Cardinal Sodano thanked the IPGB on behalf of John Paul II, and praised its work as worthy of encouragement and support. He underlined the Vatican's firm intention that efforts should not be spared to stop the war and aggression, and to reestablish peace in Bosnia.

Nanic recently told *EIR*, "If I had to list the most urgent problems now, I would say: first, the question of Brcko, the city northeast of Bosnia that was majority Muslim before the aggression and now is under arbitration. Bosnia is ready to accept the creation of an internationally protected status for the area, that could be reasonably acceptable to the Bosnian Serbs. But whatever the technical solution, we want to create a situation in which the two entities of our country could really unite into one country.

"This is also why we are concerned about the deal concluded by Amb. Robert Frowick [in charge of the local elections in Republika Srpska] and the leadership of Republika Srpska that would allow again the already rejected P-2 formula. I.e., the possibility for people coming from Serbia, or from Croatia to vote in areas from where Muslims have been ethnically cleansed through terror and mass killing, like in Brcko and Srebrenica. It would mean rewarding genocide."



At the Vatican, May 1994 (left to right): Faris Nanic, representative of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic; Hon. Roberto Formigoni, president of Italy's Lombardy region and former vice president of the European Parliament; Mrs. Al-Sharif; Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state; Sen. Kamel Al-Sharif of Jordan, chairman of the International Parliamentarians Against Genocide in Bosnia; Umberto Pascali; Dr. Moussa Kailani, editor, Jordan; Dr. Kassim Ahmed.