

lieved, among other crimes, to have passed information to Mladic's gangs which helped them overrun the UN protected area of Srebrenica in Bosnia and carry out the biggest massacre of civilians in Europe since World War II. When the story of Stankovic popped up in the U.S. press, it was viewed as a warning to Milosevic on Kosova. After total media silence, on March 15 the British establishment responded with a defense of Stankovic in the London *Sunday Times*. The traitor is characterized as "The Schindler of Sarajevo"—referring to a German functionary during the Nazi period who helped Jews escape. The *Times* paints an outrageous picture of the right-hand man of UN troop commander Gen. Sir Michael Rose: "To hundreds of rescued Bosnians he is a hero. To the CIA he is a suspected spy."

Rugova's victory smashes terrorist mystique

Another front on which the British media have been very active is their support of the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA), the terrorist organization composed of Yugoslavian Army cadres that has been activated in Kosova in conjunction with the "anti-terrorist" gangs of Milosevic. This is a typical "gang-counter-gang" scenario, and was aimed at exploding Kosova, and, more specifically, preventing parliamentary and Presidential elections organized by the "shadow government" of Kosova Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova.

The leading British media sent journalists into the mountains west of the Kosova capital, Pristina, to interview KLA leaders. The journalists crossed the Yugoslavia police checkpoints undisturbed. In the days leading up to the Bonn meeting and the Kosova elections, the British media went overboard promoting a sort of "guerrilla mystique." Originally, when the Albanian leaders were stating that they never heard of the KLA, it was the British Broadcasting Corp. that reported the KLA communiqué, and made the KLA a factor. The British dailies then got into the act. In particular, the *Times*'s laudatory pieces on March 22 and 23 sounded like movie scripts, such as "Kosova 'will fight to death'—Tom Walker hears brave talk from ethnic Albanian guerrillas, during a night maneuver." The *Times* also reported the death-cult-style KLA oath of allegiance, and statements by KLA "commanders," such as, "My mother brought me into this world to die for Kosova and I am prepared to do this."

The *Times* explained the KLA *raison d'être*: The "KLA emerged about 18 months ago from frustration with the passive resistance of Ibrahim Rugova—the 'Gandhi of the Balkans.'"

In fact, Rugova, who enjoys massive support among the Albanian majority in Kosova, was the target of the whole operation. The Kosova Albanian elections, which the Serbian government does not recognize, had to be postponed two times. Milosevic—and the British—badly needed another provocation to stop the third attempt at elections, on March 22.

They did not succeed. Despite everything, 85% of the Albanian majority in Kosova voted, backing Rugova over-

whelmingly.

In one of his first public statements after the election, Rugova reaffirmed his commitment to nonviolence, and requested the participation of the United States in any talks with Belgrade. Rugova, who is reportedly personally close to U.S. Undersecretary of State Strobe Talbott, made clear that with the strong, and, now, official, support of the population, and with strong guarantees from the United States, he will be able to deal appropriately with Milosevic and his puppetmasters.

Interview: Dr. Nedzib Sacirbey

A Bosnian view of the crisis in Kosova

Dr. Sacirbey is the ambassador-at-large of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was interviewed on March 17 and March 25 by Umberto Pascali.

EIR: Ambassador Sacirbey, as special representative of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, and as a prominent leader of the Muslim community in the U.S. and other countries, you have a special insight into the Balkan situation. How do you see the situation in Kosova?

Sacirbey: At this time, there are certain basic elements to be considered: The Helsinki agreement guaranteeing the borders in Europe—this is number one. Then, the fact that [Serbian dictator Slobodan] Milosevic does not respect the Constitution of Yugoslavia, and abolished the autonomy of Kosova and Vojvodina in 1989. Administratively, at this time, the province of Kosova does not exist, because Milosevic divided Kosova, mixing it with some other counties and so forth. How can there be autonomy, if someone can come and destroy or abolish that autonomy? The autonomy of Kosova was affirmed by the Constitution of Yugoslavia of 1945; its autonomy was enlarged slightly with the new Constitution of 1974. In the so-called joint Presidency of Yugoslavia, there were not just the representatives of six republics, but also two additional members: one from Kosova and one from Vojvodina.

EIR: Despite all this, in 1989, at the height of his chauvinist



hysteria about the rebirth of the so-called Greater Serbia, Milosevic went to Kosova, gave his infamous "Greater Serbia" speech, and whipped up the most racist tendencies among the Serbians. As a consequence, the autonomy of Kosova, and of Vojvodina, whose population is largely Hungarian, was brutally and unilaterally abolished. . . .

Sacirbey: Exactly. How can they [the Kosovars] accept such "autonomy" again from Serbia, when Serbia can again change it so easily? Concerning the debate on autonomy or independence for Kosova: Kosova is ethnically Albanian, by a large majority. At the same time, it is more developed than Albania. Albania is in turmoil, and so is Kosova. You have all kinds of influences there: old communists, anti-communists, many Christian missionary groups, and also many Muslim missionary groups, which are there to encourage their religious identity and help with education. This means that the situation in Kosova is unstable in one way, and the situation in Albania is unstable in another way. But, probably, the beginning of a solution is to give back autonomy to Kosova, and for Europe and the U.S. to guarantee that autonomy, so that nobody from Serbia can change the Constitution and violate this autonomy, as happened in 1989.

EIR: So, this Serbian delegation that Milosevic sent to Kosova, supposedly to negotiate, is just a show for the world media?

Sacirbey: I would put it like this: The Serbian delegation did not really come to Kosova to negotiate. . . . What will you negotiate about? There was an agreement between [Kosova President Ibrahim] Rugova and Milosevic about education, but it was never implemented. These negotiators that are sent from Belgrade to Kosova are a screen to hide Serbian atrocities and killings of civilians in Kosova.

EIR: Do you think that the mission of U.S. Undersecretary of State Strobe Talbott, who is considered close personally to Ibrahim Rugova, a fellow writer, could supply the key to a just solution? Do you think the proposal of an official European mediator will be accepted, despite Milosevic's opposition to the mediation of former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González?

Sacirbey: I believe that both sides expect certain moves. Not all Serbs are the same in Kosova; that's why the most extreme forces want a violent radicalization. Definitely among Serbs there are people who are trying to negotiate with the Albanians and others who advocate the most hard-line position. Not all the Serbs of Kosova are supportive of Milosevic. . . . Obviously, no negotiator could accept the status quo. The Albanians would like to negotiate, but not with the Serbs [directly]; they would like to deal with someone who can apply pressure from the international community, so that Kosova would not be just a Serb problem.

Rugova has asked explicitly for American mediation, obviously because the U.S. has been the most dynamic force,

and because America is the most powerful country in the world. Rugova would like to have mediation and an internationalization of the problem. He would like to have solid guarantees. You cannot go to the Russians, where so-called Greek Orthodox solidarity will dominate. And they do not want to go to the Germans, the Italians, and so on. . . .

EIR: On March 22, Rugova gained a big victory in the elections of the Kosova Albanians. In fact, the deployment of the paramilitary gangs by Milosevic was launched just before the deadline for the elections.

Sacirbey: It was a victory for Rugova and a defeat for those forces who opposed the elections. Kosova's people know better than we do what they want, and despite everything, including the call by Albanian opposition leaders not to vote, they went to the ballot in a massive way. This election is a manifestation of the will of the Albanian people.

EIR: Many have called for a NATO intervention. The last was Albania leader Salih Berisha, who proposed a deployment of NATO troops in Albania along the borders with Kosova, Macedonia, and Montenegro.

Sacirbey: I do not expect that NATO will deploy troops on the borders. NATO will intervene in a special way. Albania will have a special agreement with NATO, and will receive armaments and training. . . .

EIR: Milosevic tried to justify the deployment of the paramilitary gangs and the massacres in Kosova with the need to stop the Kosova Liberation Army's attacks on the police forces. There are many reports of a close connection between the KLA and Yugoslav Army. Bosnian President Izetbegovic, addressing the Organization of the Islamic Conference meeting in Teheran in December, condemned terrorism as intrinsically against the moral and religious teachings of Islam.

Sacirbey: The KLA is not a significant force and it is not recognized by anybody. They are used. People have the right to call them terrorists, but they have nothing to do with Islamic and Muslim values. It is quite possible that there is a connection with Yugoslav intelligence, because there is an old connection with members of the communist party. And Albanian communists and Serbian communists did collaborate. There is something else: When you have small groups like this Kosova Liberation Army, it is easier to be controlled by intelligence agencies than when you have a movement, because the KLA is a small group and Rugova's Democratic Party is definitely a movement of Albanians. They do not consider that the KLA has influence over them or that they have influence on the KLA. Albanians are not only Muslim; you have also Albanian Catholics, and if someone wants us to see the fight there as a clash between Christians and Muslims, then the whole thing becomes an example of bigotry and hatred.