

and try to get at the root of it, and stop the production where it takes place. While drug-traffickers in the past were caught with raw opium, now, it is not unusual for them to try to transport heroin. This means, that underground laboratories are already operating somewhere.

The situation in Afghanistan has become aggravated by Taliban aggression, which also requires full attention from all countries in the region. Despite announcements from the Taliban leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar, that they have no intentions to leave the borders of Afghanistan and intervene in the internal affairs of Iran or the countries of Central Asia that neighbor Afghanistan, their advances to the borders with Tajikistan and other countries, is a matter of great concern for these states. There have been phone calls between Kazakhstan's President N. Nazarbayev and the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. The heads of the four Central Asian countries expressed great concern about what is going on in Afghanistan, and the intensified war activities of the Taliban. The foreign ministers of these states have met in Tashkent. President A. Akayev has had extensive discussions in Cholpon-Ata with the Director of the Federal Service of the Russian Federation's border forces, Gen.-Col. N. Bordyuzha, on a number of issues concerning the interrelations between the two countries, including the situation along the border on Afghanistan.

'Serbian withdrawal' from Kosova is a fraud

by Umberto Pascali

On Oct. 27, NATO decided to suspend the threat of air strikes against Serb military targets in Kosova and Serbia. The official reason was that Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic had complied with the terms of the NATO ultimatum: to withdraw from Kosova the troops that devastated the region for seven months. Oct. 27 was the final deadline of the thrice-extended ultimatum given to Milosevic. About 4,100 Serbian troops "withdrew," nobody officially knows to where, but 25,000—15,000 military and 10,000 from the infamous Special Police—remained. It is not known how many men from the vicious paramilitary "Greater Serbian" gangs are active at the moment, although some local reports say that the number has increased. These gangs are mostly recruited from other areas of former Yugoslavia, according to a centuries-old plan to "colonize" Kosova by expelling the ethnic Albanians.

The whole situation appears confused and paradoxical. As is often the case concerning negotiations with Milosevic, everything ends up contrary to what had been officially agreed upon, especially when Milosevic is named the guarantor of the deal. Moreover, as senior Balkan officials remarked, the negotiations between U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke and Milosevic were conducted with a "total lack of transparency." The details and strategic outline of the deal they concluded is not publicly known.

The secret war

Sources that have dealt directly with the Balkan nightmare over the last terrible decade have told *EIR* that one of the main sources of confusion is the naive interpretation of Milosevic's strategy that seems to dominate Western media and Balkan scholars. What is often overlooked is Milosevic's source of power, which comes from the Western circles that inherited the old French-British Entente Cordiale, and the Serbian intelligence capability. This capability, and propensity for provocations and dirty tricks, is in evidence not just in the outright genocide, but in the manipulation of the ideological weaknesses of the "dominated populations." This applies in particular to Kosova. After all, the initiator of modern Serbian intelligence, at the beginning of this century, was Colonel Apis, who engineered, on behalf of his masters in London and Paris, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria on

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As if to prove the point, on Oct. 29, a French official, Maj. Pierre-Henri Bunel, was arrested and admitted to having delivered secret NATO documents to Serbia, including *the map of the planned NATO air-strike targets in Kosova and Serbia*. According to French sources, the arrest was the consequence of strong pressure from U.S. agencies. An attempt is being made to present Bunel as a “naive” official driven by “humanitarian reasons” and “Serbian sympathies.” But there is little doubt that the official was—also according to high French military officers—“one of the most brilliant intelligence officers,” who held sensitive positions in the General Staff of the French contingent in the elite Rapid Deployment Force. For an undisclosed special mission in Bosnia, he received the highest French medal, the Légion d’Honneur.

EIR earlier reported the recent case of another French officer, Maj. Hervé Gourmellon, who passed a large number of military secrets to Bosnian Serb war criminal Radovan Karadzic, including the plans for his arrest. Gourmellon’s activities led to the cancellation of the long-prepared secret mission to capture Karadzic. Similar was the case of the British Maj. Milos Stankovic, the right-hand man and interpreter for the British head of the NATO forces in Bosnia, Sir Gen. Michael Rose.

Even Associated Press pointed out that “the French government has long has been considered as being sympathetic to the Serbs. It is a relationship dating to World War I, when France along with Britain helped set up an independent Yugoslavia after the Ottoman Empire collapsed.”

Serbian intelligence is specialized—also thanks to its training by British psychological warfare operatives—in profiling ethnic groups and in creating provocateurs. Serbian forces were caught brutalizing Kosovars last February, disguised as members of the Kosova Liberation Army (UCK). As a Balkan expert remarked recently, “The selling of the ideology of Greater Albania to Kosova militant elements is the most dangerous and—for him—productive strategies Milosevic could employ; it gives him the alibi of ‘war against the extremists’ and maintains a situation of chaos in which he thrives.”

The Kosovars protest

This is the backdrop of the NATO “Kosova deal” with Milosevic. The ethnic Albanians, the Kosovars, who were not part of the negotiations, objected vociferously that they did not agree, and begged the West not to cancel the air strikes against the aggressor’s military machine. On Oct. 29, the KIC, the main press agency for the Kosovars, close to ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova, wrote, “Who for God’s sake is speaking of withdrawal of Serbian troops? . . . After Milosevic ordered the withdrawal of 4,100 troops, Brussels [NATO] and Washington were relieved, just as [was] Bel-

grade. . . . The bottom line is that Kosova remains a heavily militarized area. Milosevic has been allowed to keep the same number of Serb police (10,000) and more military troops (15,000) than he actually had committed here in Kosova to perpetuate his military occupation. . . . The 25,000 Serb troops are unwanted by Albanians because they killed, destroyed their villages and towns. . . . They are seen as nothing more than part of a hostile force trying to perpetuate occupation and neo-colonial rule. . . . The issue is that Milosevic has created a *fait accompli* through sheer force and Byzantine diplomacy, outsmarting the West for the hundredth time or so.”

The KIC published this appeal, while the elected representative of the Kosovars, Rugova, is being targeted by a vicious attack by both the promoters of a Greater Serbia, and of a Greater Albania. This convergence of apparently opposite forces reportedly dates back to complicities between the intelligence services of Albania’s late communist dictator, Enver Hoxha, and Serbian intelligence.

Milosevic’s crimes

In vain, the representatives of the Kosovars reminded the West that Milosevic has been personally responsible not only for the most recent genocide, but for almost ten years of police oppression in Kosova. In fact, in 1989, it was Milosevic who put Kosova under military siege, brutally depriving the region of the extensive autonomy that it had enjoyed within Yugoslavia, and making it part of Serbia. In an hysterically chauvinistic speech near the Kosova capital of Pristina, Milosevic announced that the Yugoslavian socialism of Josip Broz Tito was to become a Greater Serbian nationalistic socialism, and that this “new” Serbia would become the dominating entity in Yugoslavia.

In a shameless endorsement of the theory and practice of the “Clash of Civilizations,” Milosevic signalled to East and West that he was the “defender” of “civilization” against the “Muslim threat.”

Using the poisonous jingoism he had injected in the Serb population, Milosevic conducted a faction-fight inside the ruling League of Communists, smashing any “feeble-hearted” leader who could not swallow the social chauvinist shift. It is considered paradoxical, but indeed it is entirely lawful, that Milosevic was endorsed not only by the most rabid pan-Slavic, pan-Orthodox factions in eastern Europe, but also by the British elite, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and Kissinger Associates, of which Milosevic was a protégé since his early career as a banker.

Unfortunately, the decision not to launch air strikes was not difficult to foresee. Contrary to previous NATO or UN operations, this time Russia posed a clear—even “arrogant” and “provocative,” according to insiders—veto to any bombing. This position is a reaction to the IMF/World Bank diktats, which are creating a backlash in Moscow, including on the issue of the Balkans.