

NATO's Green Light Set 'KLA' Loose To Threaten New Balkans War

by Umberto Pascali

The Kosovo Liberation Army, set up as a military entity by NATO, using Kosovo as a base of operations—a small province administered by the United Nations and under the strict control of a conservatively estimated 40,000 NATO troops—has assaulted bordering Macedonia, a sovereign member-nation of the UN.

The KLA is right now engaged in a military and political offensive aimed at ethnically exploding the country. If such a plan is successful, the consequences will be terrifying. Macedonia could become an ethnic battlefield where the Slavic majority and the Albanian minority will confront each other in a nightmarish implementation of the Nazi doctrine of the “Clash of Civilizations” advocated by Prof. Samuel Huntington. “Orthodox” Bulgaria and Greece will be put under tremendous pressure to intervene to defend Macedonia against “the Albanians,” or “the Muslims.” Albania and Turkey could be swept in on the other side.

The KLA Mystery

On March 15, Carl Bildt, the former, International Representative in Bosnia, and now UN Balkan envoy, launched a polemic against NATO. “I am very alarmed,” he said; it was “not particularly satisfactory” that an armed attack on a UN member state (Macedonia) should be organized from a territory under UN Administration (Kosovo). He asked NATO to give high priority to stopping the KLA infiltration of Macedonia from Kosovo. But NATO reportedly maintained that it was doing everything possible, and that the fighting in Macedonia was limited.

The day before, speaking to *U.S.A. Today*, Yugoslavian President Vojislav Kostunica had officially charged “direct collaboration” between the KLA and NATO. This latter, he charged had “enabled and in some way supported or helped the terrorists.” “In the case of some units there was direct collaboration. Flights of NATO-KFOR helicopters have been traced, that gave the impression of being used as a sort of logistical support to the terrorists, rather than surveilling them.”

Indeed, the fighting is not “limited.” Macedonia is being “flooded” with “trained terrorists” from among the former Kosovo Liberation Army, said Interior Minister Dosta Di-

movska March 15, at the end of the second day of fighting on the outskirts of Tetovo, a mostly Albanian city northwest of the capital Skopje. “They are ex-KLA, and their goal is to occupy Macedonian territories and to capture the Macedonian border.” And a leader of the governing Liberal Party of Macedonia, Vlado Poposki stressed: “They are trying to infiltrate into urban areas to link up with criminal groups controlling lines of communications and to get rid of the security forces. The center that operates the extremists is outside Macedonia.”

For a long time, the Macedonian government has asked NATO, with increasing urgency, to prevent terrorist infiltrations from Kosovo. To no avail. According to Macedonian sources, two months before the Tetovo assaults, the country’s intelligence had presented a report showing that organized KLA groups were preparing to enter Macedonia and to take over Tanusevci, a village just across the Kosovo border and only 25 miles from Skopje. Reportedly, that warning was not followed up, and indeed the KLA took over the village. The Macedonian Army moved around the village following the activities of the armed, black-uniformed intruders, but did not intervene. Despite Macedonian protests, NATO Secretary General Lord George Robertson repeatedly “advised” Macedonia not to do anything. Robertson’s assistant, Daniel Speckhard, went to Skopje and gave this response: “A military response is not the best mechanism, and a political approach is much better. We want to find a solution that stresses the multi-ethnic society and not to cause division.”

In the meantime, the NATO-controlled borders with Kosovo remained an easy and protected transit point for the KLA gangs, which also began a systematic mining of the area around the village.

Not far from Tanusevci lies the Kosovo village of Debelde, which is heavily patrolled by NATO, and is part of the U.S. area. NATO helicopters regularly fly over the area, but the KLA gangs are not really trying to hide. Observers have noted how similar this situation is to what happened inside the Serbian borders with Kosovo, after NATO took over the Serbian province and established the three-mile-wide demilitarized zone inside Serbian borders. The “zone”

Threatened by New 'Macedonia' War



Sources: NNICC; EIR.

where the Yugoslav Army was not allowed to enter, became the center of the terrorist activities of the KLA inside Serbia, under the name of UCPMB. The KLA logistical and military base was the Serbian village of Dobrosin, no bigger than the Macedonian village of Tanusevci, and, like Tanusevci, just across the border and few yards from a main NATO monitoring station inside Kosovo.

Macedonia in the Crosshairs

On March 4, the KLA (which in Macedonia calls itself National Liberation Army) was ready to strike. A Macedonian police vehicle was hit by a mine and then shot by snipers, and three policemen were killed. The same process had taken place not far inside Serbia's borders, in the Presovo Valley. It was a mixture of guerrilla tactics and normal warfare, given that the international pressure on Macedonia allowed the "guerrillas" to hold an undisturbed base of operation.

Macedonia also fears provoking a reaction from its Albanian community. The present government coalition includes the main Albanian party, the Democratic Party of Albanians, whose leadership had courageously rejected any compromise with the racist calls from the terrorists. The Albanian majority areas are concentrated at the borders with Kosovo

and Albania. A confrontation along ethnic lines would rapidly cut the country in two.

The Macedonian leadership was also, reportedly, concerned it would be given the "Serbian treatment," i.e. be accused by the War Crimes Tribunal led by Carla Del Ponte, of violating the rights of a minority. Indeed, when the KLA violence exploded in Macedonia, Del Ponte's deputy, Graham Blewitt, hurried to hold a press conference in London to announce that now Macedonia was part of the war area, and thus was under the "Tribunal watch." Hence, "if atrocities are committed, we will investigate and prosecute." Asked if the KLA would also be prosecuted in case of atrocities, Blewitt explained that this would be rather difficult, because it is not easy to monitor it.

At this point, Lord Robertson and other international institutions such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the UN, gave the green light to Macedonia: Now you can defend yourself! Then, on March 8, Lord Robertson agreed "to authorizing the controlled return of the Yugoslavian forces into the Ground Safety Zone (GSZ), into a narrow sector next to the borders with former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia." Macedonian sources reported the eerie impression of having been led into being part of a horrible experiment.

In a communiqué delivered on March 9 to the Albanian offices of the German radio network Deutsche Welle, the KLA presented a political ultimatum: "Macedonia should become a country of two nations—Macedonians and Albanians." The communiqué also denounced the Democratic Party of Albanians as opportunistic and as having sold out to the government. It was a strategy copied from Kosovo KLA boss Hashim Thaci, Madeleine Albright's protected favorite, against the elected President of Kosovo Albanians, Ibrahim Rugova.

Suddenly in Skopje, some new pro-KLA political formations begin to appear, at least before the eyes of foreign reporters. The daily *Dnevnik* on March 15 published a proclamation by one Albanian National Front of Illyria: "Non-Albanians should be expelled forever from our doors and our ethnic territories, because only that is the light of freedom. The organization acts in groups for actions, executions and investigations. The members are lambs during the day and wolves by night." Sadly, following two days of fighting in Tetovo, some of the non-Albanian residents have been leaving the area.

'Albanian Cannon Fodder'

A Macedonian source has explained to *EIR* part of the generally unknown background of the KLA assault. "I do not think we are at the end of this process," the source said. How was Tanusevci taken by the KLA? "You must go back to 1999, when NATO troops arrived in Macedonia under Gen. Sir Michael Jackson. . . . NATO deployed the KLA into Kosovo while it was still in Serbian hands, and it pres-

sured Skopje into allowing the creation of depots of weapons, just inside the borders, to be used by the KLA in Kosovo. Tanusevci was one of them, but not the only one. This is a 'public secret' at this point." The weapons and the military material were supposed to be used in Kosovo, not in Macedonia. "And now, Macedonia feels betrayed."

"The government is in a very difficult situation, though at this point, many have understood the NATO game. If a state of emergency is declared, the country could rapidly be split in two. The same could happen if Bulgaria, for example, would enter Macedonia militarily to help against the KLA." Another concern of the Macedonian source was the reaction of the non-Albanian population. There are reports of an increasing number of young people asking to join the Army. "If the rope is pulled too much, there will be a reaction. . . . Something could emerge in northern Greece. Greek authorities are reportedly very worried about a possible 'Albanian problem.' . . . Someone is pushing the Albanians into a mass suicide, someone is using them as cannon fodder."

Interview: Faris Nanic

'Can't We Learn From Balkan History?'

Faris Nanic, Secretary of Croatia's Party of Democratic Action (SDA) and former Chief of Staff of President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been a voice of sanity in the "Balkan debate" both as journalist and political and diplomatic leader. He was one of the initiating signers, together with Schiller Institute Chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche, of an international call for "Peace through Development for the Balkans." In April 1994, as special representative of the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nanic was one of the main organizers of a conference hosted by the European Parliament in Brussels: "Bosnia-Herzegovina: Justice and Development are the Only Bases for Peace." He talked to Umberto Pascali from Zagreb, Croatia, on March 14.

EIR: Mr. Nanic, you have been an insider and a leading participant in the main events of Southeast Europe, sometimes referred to as the Balkans, for the last 15 years, as journalist, and military, diplomatic, and political leader. Suddenly in the last weeks, all of the accumulated hot spots in the areas have begun to explode. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has been reactivated and unchained again, the

leaders of the Bosnian Croats de facto declared a secession from Bosnia, Croatia is swept by unprecedented demonstrations against the government and the so-called international community. And all this, while a countdown to a Middle East war is accelerating. What is really happening? **Nanic:** First of all, I think that a number of Balkan hot spots are now being set on fire again simultaneously. And these things cannot be observed as isolated incidents that are connected to this or that particular local situation. Everything is connected to the regional issue, the Balkans issue, the Balkans that were already set on fire in 1991 with the dissolution of former Yugoslavia. I have the same feeling I had even before 1991, . . . that a major war was going to happen again. Of course, I wasn't aware of how the war was going to be ignited and how the scenario would be developed. For the first time since 1996, for the first time after the Dayton Agreement was signed, and a certain peace was *imposed* on the Balkan region, I am worried that things are getting out of control, and that even the so-called international community representatives that are active in the region, in Bosnia and Kosovo, don't have the real picture of what is really going on.

There is a similarity between 1991 and 2001 because we have, in effect, the same President and, more or less, the same administration in the United States, and the same ideology behind it. We have the same very sensitive spots being activated again, like Bosnia and Kosovo. We have more or less the same strategic context in terms of negative reversal of the peace process, not only in the Balkans, but also in the Middle East.

So, there are a lot of similarities, also, in the method that is being used. In Bosnia, we have this Croatian rebellion, the strongest Croatian party in Bosnia, which is the HDZ, rebelling against the international community's molding of the Bosnian electoral college government on both the federal and the state level of Bosnia. The International Representative in Bosnia pushed through the creation of a "technical government" excluding parties that, like HDZ in the Croatian part of Bosnia, had received 75% of the votes! There was a reaction, and the threat of the establishment of a "self-rule."

Whatever one may think about the HDZ and what they did in the past, and how they served the purpose of developing the theory of the clash of civilizations, especially in Bosnia, this time they are right. What the international community did, was to impose a post-electoral government, a technical coalition, in Bosnia, with which they provoked the reaction especially among the representatives of HDZ. . . . But with 75% of the Croatian votes being completely ignored, that is a very good basis for the frustration of the ordinary citizen. What is really worrying is that, you have the democratically elected local government, mainly in the Croatian parts of Bosnia, that do not recognize the federal and central government.

We had the same thing back in 1991 in Croatia, which