

## EIR Feature

# A prosperous, free Croatia: a boon for the world

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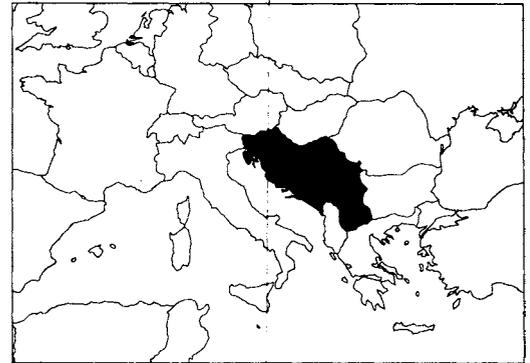
As we write on Oct. 23, the latest furious assault of the Yugoslav Federal Army against Croatia has failed, at least militarily. The leadership of the Army, which is carrying out the dreams of the leaders of one of the six constituent republics to carve a "Greater Serbia" out of the remains of the former Yugoslavian federation, had planned to break through in the eastern region of Slavonia around the city of Vukovar and in the extreme southern strip of the Dalmatian coast, around the ancient splendid city of Dubrovnik. The two cities, attacked with an unprecedented ferocity and defended with incomparably less-sophisticated weapons, are still free. "The Army is approaching a stage of desperation, rage, and humiliation," says an eyewitness who just visited the place.

Of course, this does not mean that the fury of the Army against the civilian population has abated. Quite the contrary: "The strategy of terror that characterized the behavior of the Army from the moment Croatia voted for independence is escalating. The Army propagandizes the bloodiest details of its crimes against civilians. It is a way to break the resistance of the population." Days ago, some 10,000 inhabitants of the city of Ilok in Slavonia were chased from their homes by such terrorist methods. Vukovar's resistance is called "miraculous" by military experts. The city's inhabitants are so weakened by the siege and the continuous bombings, and the lack of food and water, that it is impossible to find people who can give blood for transfusions. Still the city refuses to surrender.

The same situation holds in Dubrovnik. The Army is escalating its chauvinistic propaganda and appeals to "Yugoslav" patriotism, but finds it harder and harder to recruit. Youth, even in Serbia, are hiding *en masse* in order to avoid the horrors of the front. The number of deserters increases dramatically each day. Even high-ranking officers are refusing to be part of this war. Former Chief of the Air Force Gen. Anton Tuss refused to wage "war against the people" and attacked Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic personally. Tuss is now fighting on the Croatian side.



### Six republics of the former Yugoslavia



*Serbia, under the leadership of the communist Slobodan Milosevic and with a green light from the U.S. State Department, is trying to carve a "Greater Serbia" out of the remains of the former Yugoslavian federation. Above, Yugoslavia's strategic position on the European map.*

The Army has also carefully avoided publishing its losses, but, according to independent estimates, the casualties may mount to 30,000, while one-third of the tanks and armored vehicles have been destroyed, blockaded in the barracks, or captured by Croatian forces. "The ones who remained in the army are the extreme ideologues and the lumpenproletarians, maybe from Montenegro. It is an explosive mixture of fanaticism. And their rage explodes against the civilians," a European observer told *EIR*. The Army and the Chetniks (Serbian irregulars) have not given up on their project to repopulate with "pure" Serbians the Croatian areas from which the inhabitants have been expelled. They occupy one-third of the country, but time is not on their side. Traditionally, the Yugoslav Army was trained for guerrilla warfare, i.e., for a projected situation in which a foreign army invades, and the military fights with the support of the people. But now the military is the invader and the people are the enemy! Moreover, a new Croatian Army is emerging from this war. "An Army trained in a war of independence changes the geopolitical situation in Europe," the U.S. correspondent of the Zagreb daily *Vjesnik* told *EIR*.

On Oct. 12, while surrounded by the international press on the flight to Brazil, Pope John Paul II said: "I expected a question on the Yugoslavian situation." This incident dramatizes the paradox of this war raging in the heart of Europe. Those determined to prevent the independence of Croatia have done a very good job in preventing the media from reporting what is happening. "The problem is the Masonry,

in the East and in the West. They do not want the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. It would really change the situation in Europe," stresses a source at Vatican Radio.

Still, many Croatians are pointing their accusing finger at the speech U.S. Secretary of State James Baker gave in Belgrade calling for a "unified" Yugoslavia after Slovenia and Croatia had voted overwhelmingly for independence. It was then that the Federal Army decided to attack. "If you are a diplomat and you claim you respect the will of the people, you must accept that will," says Mladen Simunic, commercial representative in New York of one of the largest Croatian companies. Simunic is an example of the optimism and confidence in the new Croatia. "Despite all the horrors, the war is not going to last forever. What we are trying to do is to prepare Croatia for the postwar period. We want people to know that we are alive and kicking and getting ready for tomorrow. Give us five years of peace and we will show the world what we can do. We intend to realize all our development potentials." Simunic emphasizes that the development of Croatia and Slovenia will also possibly influence development of Serbia and the former Yugoslavian republics. The whole process can take place in a relatively short time in the context of the European "Productive Triangle" proposed by Lyndon LaRouche. "We have two armies in Croatia," Simunic says. "The first fights with the gun, the second fights with pen and paper in the economic field. . . . We want to create a democratic, prosperous Croatia. . . . Our model will necessarily influence the others." Indeed, a free, prosperous Croatia will be a boon for the whole world.