

Croatian spokesman Alexander Shiroka held up a tiny matchbox at a recent conference: all that remains of a 200-year-old match factory near Zagreb.

violence, all the republics were supposed to accept the Sachs doctrine. Again they failed. We fought against that.

Now what is their last resort? Pure destabilization, provocations of wars and confrontations, violence of any kind. Above all, the aim of the monetarists is to prevent our republics being integrated with Europe. They prefer to provoke a 30-year war. They are doing the same in Russia, in Africa. . . .

EIR: Mr. Shiroka, this is your first organizing tour with the Schiller Institute. What will be your message?

Shiroka: First of all my message is: Don't be afraid! Don't be afraid to think freely! We Croatians have just come out from 45 years of a communist regime. For 45 years we couldn't speak, we couldn't express ourselves. We had to be careful about what we thought. Today we have a free country, a country recognized by the nations of the world.

I tell my fellow Croatians in Croatia and in North America: Don't think as if you were still under communism. Things are changing now. Why should we tolerate it when some official representatives of our country slander Mr. LaRouche? These things remind me of the old regime. Instead of being free, we allow these slanders against a friend of our country. Why should we still be victims of that fear? Haven't we fought enough? Didn't 10,000 Croatians give their lives for our freedom today? We should honor that pledge and have the courage to be free. If the official U.S. policy is against Croatia, we must say so. We are not against the American people. Not at all. We just have the same enemies.

After having felt the taste of freedom, who will be so cowardly as to give that up for a new dictatorship?

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