

such genocide and slaughter. Bosnia knows better now.

This author can confirm that the enormous firepower and other military advantages of the Yugoslav Army made Serbs arrogant and merciless. Not because of their bravery and military skills, but due to their overwhelming military advantage, they committed genocide against more than 150,000 Bosnian civilians while the "civilized West" kept the hands of their defenders tied behind their backs by the arms embargo. The Bosnian Army armed itself through acts of incredible courage and sacrifice: hand-to-hand combat, bloody suicidal charges, bickering with Croats, and so forth. The Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as a secular institution, invited all Bosnian patriots to join. It started out as a Patriotic League of Bosnia, only to become an army in the summer of 1992. It was a league of patriots and gentlemen, fighters with outstanding courage, honor, and dedication, commanded by Maj. Sefer Halilovic, a Bosnian Muslim, and with Col. Jovan Divjak and Col. Stjepan Siber, a Serb and a Croat, respectively, second in command.

After several months (March, April, and May 1992) of such an unfair fight against a cowardly enemy (the Yugoslav Army is known to shoot at ambulances, use civilian hostages, kill prisoners, torture and rape women and children, bombard hospitals, and commit satanic crimes totally unheard of), it was clear that the U.N. arms embargo was hurting the innocent, and Bosnia-Herzegovina demanded to exercise its legal right to self-defense.

### Churchillian 'wisdom'

But so far, there has been no chance to do this. Winston Churchill's time-honored "wisdom" has been applied: "If you wish to prolong the agony, organize conferences." By the same token, the Russian communist elite was pleased; their sidekicks were making their way to the Adriatic Sea.

Serbian war criminal Radovan Karadzic, before starting the genocide, told the Bosnian people, with the total assurance of a political insider: "Nobody is going to help you. We are going to slaughter you. In this mandate, even God is a Serb." He was right, except that he could not know, through the very nature of his monstrously evil mind, that the god which he was talking about is actually Satan.

The Serbian propaganda machine in the United States has so far forestalled U.S. action to stop the genocide, often raising the red herring that thousands of U.S. soldiers could be sent to fight and die in the Balkans. But, in fact, officials of the Bosnia-Herzegovina government have stated that they don't want U.S. troops, only limited use of air power. Maintaining the arms embargo against Bosnia is a hostile act against a recognized, friendly state. The United States, which by providing 40% of the U.N. budget, participates in the U.N. sanctioning of Serbian aggression.

It is high time to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. President Clinton should keep his campaign promise and save the American soul.

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## Interview: Mrs. Vera Veibel Tatic

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# Serbian patriot aids suffering Bosnians

*The following interview was conducted by phone with Mrs. Vera Veibel Tatic, a Serbian citizen, on April 1. Mrs. Veibel lives in the city of Ada in Vojvodina, which is officially part of Serbia, although ethnically the population is made up of 80% Hungarians and only 20% Serbians. Mrs. Veibel is a leading member of the Center for Anti-War Action. She agreed to have her name appear in the interview despite the intense repression of the Milosevic regime. "I don't fear anybody, only God," she said.*

*We would like to thank our translator John Balasa, who provided a simultaneous translation between Serbian and English for this interview. We are publishing his words, and therefore Mrs. Veibel is sometimes referred to in the third person. The interview was given to Umberto Pascali.*

**EIR:** Mrs. Veibel, can you tell us what it has been like there in the last week or so?

**Veibel:** The situation if anything is getting worse. The Radical Party of Vojislav Seselj is gaining a lot of power. They are the ones that are leading the war effort.

**EIR:** What kind of activities are you and the Center for Anti-War Action involved in?

**Veibel:** Right now she is helping a lot of refugees that are flowing out of Bosnia. They are coming up to Novi Sad; from there she tries to get them into other countries.

**EIR:** These are Muslim refugees?

**Veibel:** Yes, predominantly Muslim.

**EIR:** How far is eastern Bosnia from Novi Sad?

**Veibel:** Roughly 200 km, maybe more. She doesn't travel a lot, so she cannot be precise.

**EIR:** What is her organization doing?

**Veibel:** In Belgrade, they are contacting international officials about their refugee policies, clarifying the necessary paperwork, and so forth. She is involved in the physical process of helping the refugees. They have received a lot of help especially from Hungary and she especially wants to thank them as a country.

Also, on March 17, they received a delegation from Sweden. The Swedish government assured them that they would

not deport the kids that have arrived there back to Yugoslavia. These are not only refugees but also draft dodgers. There was a rumor that they would deport the draft dodgers, but Mrs. Vebel explained what was waiting for these kids under Serbian law and they decided that they will keep all of the people that are draft dodgers. There is another delegation coming from Germany to work out the same arrangements with them next week. They will try to explain the same thing: That if they deport these kids back to Serbia, the Serbians will try them and possibly execute them.

**EIR:** She is also helping people who do not want to go to war?

**Vebel:** Exactly, she has been traveling to Belgrade from Ada frequently because there are court trials against the deserters going on every day now. But she says now it is getting too costly and they are not able to make the trip because of the prices. It looks like the sanctions are really taking effect.

**EIR:** Are there many people that don't want to go to war?

**Vebel:** There are roughly 200,000 deserters that won't go to war. That includes the Serbian part from Vojvodina. Kosovo is not included because the Serbs won't draft the Kosovans.

**EIR:** So there are 200,000 deserters? And these are mostly ethnic Hungarians or Serbians?

**Vebel:** Out of 200,000 about 30,000 are Hungarians.

**EIR:** Can she tell us why these young people do not want to go to war?

**Vebel:** Of the people she has been in contact with, including approximately 30,000 people that have passed through her house, the general feeling is that they do not want to go to war simply because it's senseless, and they don't want to kill innocent human beings.

She adds that the group she is working with does not discriminate against anybody. They don't look at religion or nationality, or any kind of racial background. They are simply helping people not to go to war. In other words, they are against the war and they are helping them to go away because they do not believe in these brother-against-brother type of wars.

**EIR:** Do the people who refuse to go to war know about the atrocities that are being committed in Bosnia at this point?

**Vebel:** Basically, in Vojvodina they are well informed. The reason is because they can receive the television station from Budapest. So they do know about the atrocities that are being committed in Bosnia. But on the other hand, anyone who lives south of Novi Sad (a town about 40 miles northeast of Belgrade) is only able to watch the station that the Milosevic regime puts their propaganda on. So the majority of the Serbian population are isolated from media reports on the atrocities

that are committed. However, there are those people that went in the beginning of the war. They went because the propaganda of Milosevic said that the Serbian nationals are being attacked by these factions like Muslims or other people. But when they actually went to see and found that that wasn't true, these people came back and left. They are deserters. That's when the thing started shifting. But otherwise, as far as the media is concerned, it is in Milosevic's hands and that's the only thing that they can see in most of Serbia.

**EIR:** Is the opposition in Serbia itself to the idea of Greater Serbia growing or not?

**Vebel:** She says that, because of the economic hardship, it is very easy for the Milosevic gang to manipulate the people of Serbia, because 40% of the population is illiterate and cannot write and most of the remaining 60% are uneducated. So the Milosevic regime keeps an upper hand with constant propaganda that the Serbian people are an endangered species. He tells them that they will die out, if they don't grab the best. It is a constant, ongoing barrage. And while there are some who are more intellectual, they don't have enough people to back them.

**EIR:** You're saying that 40% are illiterate and 60% are uneducated? What is the number of people that are intellectuals?

**Vebel:** It's very hard to give a figure because most of the intellectual Serbians have left the country. They fled because they couldn't take the regime.

**EIR:** So there is no visible opposition politically speaking?

**Vebel:** They have an opposition, but it's hopeless. The opposition party virtually does not have any power. As a matter of fact, she was asking some people in the Parliament in Belgrade, a few of them that are against these butchers like Slobodan Milosevic, but it seems that those people who do have some power are very few and far between. And also there is division among the opposition. There is the so-called VMDK which stands for the Vojvodjavi Hungarian Democratic Center. And they want to work separately, just for themselves; they do not work with the opposition party to Milosevic.

**EIR:** What about the Center for Anti-War Action, what is it doing now?

**Vebel:** The Center for Anti-War Action was created in Belgrade by the intellectual circles. They were strictly against the war. Now, they are going to have a big demonstration on April 3, in a couple of days, in Belgrade at exactly 12 o'clock. In Vojvodina, they are going to have a demonstration on April 6—April 6 is the anniversary of the start of the war in Bosnia. Also, every church bell is going to ring for 10 minutes at 12 o'clock for the people to pray and work for peace. So this is a big movement and there will be big demonstrations on April 3 and April 6.

**EIR:** So this means that the potential for a real movement against the war exists?

**Veibel:** Yes, definitely.

**EIR:** But there is no political representation for this movement, that is, no organized parties or organization that could represent this movement?

**Veibel:** Well, this is how they are being represented. The demonstration is organized by the Center for Anti-War Action. This Center is made up of people like her. She is a very strong lady. They are doing this by themselves.

**EIR:** What is the potential of this movement? How big will it become? Can she project a little into the future after the demonstration?

**Veibel:** Even if this demonstration is very successful, it is still not going to deter the Slobodan Milosevic government from butchering and killing. They do not have any mercy for children or for women whatsoever. So she doesn't see much prospect for progress even if the demonstration is a success.

**EIR:** What would she see as effective in stopping Milosevic?

**Veibel:** The way she sees things unfolding, it has to be the Serbian people that stop Milosevic. The way that that is going to happen is that everything is going to fall economically. So far they have some food and the people tolerate it. They are very tolerant of the rationing and so forth. But once the supplies run out and they have nothing, then the people will overthrow their own government. That's how Serbia will get back

on the right track. There is no other way, according to her.

**EIR:** And the economic crisis in Serbia, what is her evaluation on that?

**Veibel:** In spite of the embargo, the Serbians have been cleverly playing around it. However, every day everything is going downhill rapidly. More and more factories are closing their doors, unemployment is skyrocketing every day, so that the economic status of Serbia is very bad. Despite the fact that the Serbians are trying to outsmart the embargo, it still has a very grave effect on them.

**EIR:** Do people that she talks to think that there will be any intervention from the West to stop Milosevic?

**Veibel:** They have very little hope that the West or any country will intervene, because the countries in the West have been playing with them. The way she sees things is that they [the West] are thinking, "Just let these barbarian people kill each other off." She and her colleagues do not think that this is going to change. She added that in the last six months there have been 12,000 children that were massacred in Bosnia-Herzegovina alone by Serbian forces. She cannot believe that the countries in the West tolerate such a thing.

**EIR:** What is her opinion of the United Nations?

**Veibel:** Zero. Zip. They don't do anything. The troops are sticking to the orders they get as to where they can go, what they can do, how far they can go; so it is absolutely doing nothing.

The only way that they could stop this war is if they

## From Serbia: 'Stop these terrible crimes'

*The private letter excerpted here was written by a Serbian citizen and supplied to EIR by a group that opposes the Milosevic regime. Particularly enlightening is what the author says about the U.N. peacekeeping forces (Unprofor). The names of persons and places have been deleted.*

. . . I am still looking for a job. I had hoped that there would be some changes after the elections, but in Serbia fascism won. From early morning till late at night I listen to Radio Sarajevo. However, we who live near the Bosnian border are witnessing unscrupulous aggression on Srebrenica by the Yugoslav Army. That small, heroic town has resisted already for ten months air attacks, rocket launchers, all kinds of artillery of the largest caliber, poison gas attack, and starvation. The young hero Naser Oric

is the commander of defense units of Srebrenica. A few of us still normal Serbs are trying to help Srebrenica, even though we are endangering our own lives. I can't write about it in this letter, but we will talk about it when this evil time goes away, and when we see each other. . . .

It is mistake that you left, it is much harder to occupy a city with a lot of civilians, where every corner in the city is a danger for the aggressor. Even women are fighting in Srebrenica with simple guns against tanks! . . .

Why do you not organize demonstrations against the Yugoslav Army involvement in eastern Bosnia? Every day through Dajina Rasta, convoys of carriers and tanks cross a bridge over the Drina River, going toward Srebrenica. Helicopters and aircraft take off from Punikye airport, right in front of the Unprofor battalion, which has a station at that airport.

I am going to get out of politics, which is a very dirty game. I am getting sick of politics because of the aggression against Bosnia and the silent approval of that terrible crime by world politicians. . . .

would cut the supply lines from Serbia so that they could not supply the Serbians in Bosnia and Croatia. There are supply lines from Serbia to the Serbians in Bosnia through Montenegro, and to the Croatians in Bosnia through Croatia, while the Bosnian nationals are not getting anything.

They should cut the supply lines. Or, if they don't want to do that, they should lift the embargo on Bosnia. If they were to lift the embargo on Bosnia so that Bosnia could receive weapons, Mrs. Vebel feels confident that the war would be over in less than two months.

She would also like to comment on the Vance-Owen plan: She says that there is an exact parallel between Lord Owen and Neville Chamberlain. The only difference is that Chamberlain always carried an umbrella.

**EIR:** We have had reports that Russian soldiers are fighting with the Serbians and that they have Russian military advisers. Can she confirm this?

**Vebel:** Yes, there are Russian soldiers who are fighting on the Serbian side, but they don't know whether there are Russian officers actually helping in conducting the war. But there are definitely Russian soldiers fighting on the Serbian side.

They are very angry about the Russians participating in the United Nations effort because, since they are working together with the Serbians, they are not justly applying their authority there as a United Nations force.

**EIR:** How is the Serbian Army intervening in Bosnia?

**Vebel:** It is true that the Yugoslav Army is fighting alongside the Chetniks. They were told that the Yugoslav Army pulled out from Bosnia, but she said it is not true. They are there and fighting alongside the Chetniks. There are a lot of Serbian people from the Vojvodina region that are fighting in Bosnia. The Milosevic government does not acknowledge it, but there are people from her region who are fighting in Srebrenica and all those other parts.

Another thing she would add, is that ethnic cleansing is going on in the Yugoslav National Army. Any officer, whether high-ranking or low-ranking, who is not Serbian is being gotten rid of—anyone, even if they were faithful. Now, her group has appealed to every government internationally, and the Milosevic government has had much pressure put on it so they are slowing this process down. They appealed and she is going to send material on that.

**EIR:** Is there anything she would like to say to the people in the United States?

**Vebel:** She wants to ask: "How can the world and the United States idly watch the terrible things that are happening there, when we are almost into the 21st century? How much longer are they able to simply watch when people from around five years old on are raped, and people are dying from hunger, people are actually freezing in the mud in Bosnia?" That's what she wants to ask the American people.

## Pakistan in iron grip of Ghulam Ishaq Khan

by Linda de Hoyos

Despite the stated commitment of successive U.S. administrations since Jimmy Carter to make "human rights" the centerpiece of American foreign policy, particularly when it comes to developing countries, no notice has been taken of one of the more formidable and long-lasting potentates on the world scene today: Ghulam Ishaq Khan, President of Pakistan.

The reason may lie in Ishaq Khan's role as the *éminence grise* in Pakistani politics, making or breaking politicians—on behalf of the Anglo-American elites that have sought to control this country since its inception in 1947. At the time of the 1977 coup against Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, which *EIR* and other sources documented to have been orchestrated by Henry Kissinger, it is reported that it was Ghulam Ishaq Khan, then secretary general of defense, who contacted Zia ul-Haq and told him to make his move against Bhutto. One of the first acts of the Zia regime was to promote Ishaq Khan to secretary general in chief of defense, with cabinet rank.

Ishaq Khan is the most senior civil servant in Pakistan, having served as chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority, governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, secretary of finance, secretary general of defense, finance minister, governor of Pakistan to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and, since 1988, President of Pakistan.

From this last post, Ishaq Khan retains his iron grip over Pakistan's policy. Despite his civilian status, Ishaq Khan has cultivated ties to the Army, which is his real base of power, and the Army chief of staff and the Pakistani secret intelligence services (ISI) report to him and not to the prime minister.

Now, Ishaq Khan has emerged the winner in a power struggle with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Over the past few months, Nawaz Sharif, in loose alliance with his political rival Benazir Bhutto of the Pakistani People's Party (PPP), launched an effort to prevent Ishaq Khan from enjoying a second term as President. To do this, Nawaz Sharif initiated a campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment to the Pakistani Constitution.

The Eighth Amendment affirmed the martial law regime of Zia ul-Haq and his appointment as President. As such, it makes the President, not the prime minister, the supreme power in the country. The President appoints the chiefs of