

Cardinal Kuharic: We don't want shock therapy

In an interview with EIR published on Feb. 7, 1992, Cardinal Franjo Kuharic of Zagreb, Croatia, underlined the importance of an economic development policy for the Balkans. The following is an excerpt:

The Pope wrote clearly in the encyclical *Centesimus Annus*, that we must follow neither socialism, nor unbridled capitalism, but that also in economics a new model must be found, in which man, the human person, will be the norm for justice; and hence the individual will be the subject of the economic system, and not be overwhelmed, and dominated. Today modern society, after communism, after the experience of collectivism which has had so many negative results, but also after the experience of unbridled capitalism, this society must rethink how to organize social life so that it may be truly just, in favor of the dignity of the individual human being, of the family, of life. Today we must study more attentively the social doctrine of the church.

EIR: The government of ex-Yugoslavia hired Jeffrey Sachs with his "economic shock therapy."

Kuharic: Let us hope that we do not have to follow these models. I hope that Croatia will be cautious. I think that Croatia will try to find its way.

to translate it from German and publish it in EIR was kindly provided by Count Kielmansegg. The full text appeared in EIR of Feb. 25, 1994. Subheads have been added.

The country of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its predominantly Muslim population will not survive the war of annihilation waged against it by Serbian, and now also in part Croatian attackers, without military help from the outside. The result of the previous policy of negotiating and appeasing is known. Like the policy of the western powers in 1938, this policy is characterized by a shocking degree of naiveté, indifference, and national egoism. That means that genocide is taking place. Not only have western attempts to secure the peace against the Serbs, who pursue and accomplish their political aims with brutal violence and disrespect of all law, been completely ineffective since the beginning of the war; these attempts de facto, and in part also *per intentionem*, support the aggressor.

The language of weapons—we may think it regrettable, but that is how reality is—is the only language in this situation which the Serbian aggressor will understand and respect.

Croatia can probably be moved by political and economic pressure (particularly from Germany) to cease its attacks against Bosnia-Herzegovina. . . .

The most crucial action, now as well as previously, is to lift the conditionless weapons embargo against the defender, even at the risk that one or another shipment might fall into the wrong hands. This is, indeed, really a political option, but it has far-reaching military consequences (in the positive sense) for Bosnia-Herzegovina. By this means, a thorough military balance can be established, and Bosnia-Herzegovina can successfully defend itself. Fewer U.N. ground forces will be required.

The argument that this would have an escalating effect is not valid. Things can hardly become worse for the country concerned and its population. To be sure, Serbian attackers will be casualties if they do not cease attacking, but hundreds of thousands of Bosnians (not only Muslims) of the civilian population would be protected. Weapons supplies would have to encompass the following:

- command and reconnaissance systems
- artillery and mortars
- anti-tank missiles
- armored vehicles of all categories
- ammunition and fuel
- field hospitals

if required, combat helicopters in addition, if necessary, instructors, and replacement parts—i.e., logistics inclusive of medical care.

Military options for Bosnia

If necessary, humanitarian aid has to be carried out by force. The current U.N. Protection Force is sufficient to that end, if it receives the mission to do so; if necessary, of course, rapid reenforcement with heavy weaponry and air support must be possible. A further necessity is the destruction of the mass of heavy weaponry (artillery, tanks), command centers, resupply bases of the Serbian aggressor from the air.

This is possible. The positions have been located, or can be located (at least to a considerable extent). For all practical purposes, the West has air supremacy. The risk is slight, the attacker has available little air defense, in part antiquated. The precision of modern air-assault weapons is so high, that damage to the civilian environment can be kept small. NATO bases in the Adriatic area (especially Italy), and the aircraft, and/or an American aircraft carrier group, are sufficient for such operations, also repeated ones.

Combat helicopters are suitable, particularly the American Apache, stationed in Europe, especially in Germany. Otherwise, all air-assault forces can be repositioned anywhere in a brief time (a few days).

Another aim to seek to accomplish: hermetically sealing off all roads over which Serbian fighters in Bosnia-Herzegovina are supplied from Serbia. These are fewer than people think (some six to ten main connecting arteries). Here the