Stjepan Kljuic

A Marshall Plan can prevent new wars

On April 15, the delegation met in Sarajevo with Stjepan Kljuic, leader of the Republican Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and a member of the Bosnian Presidency, who belongs to the Croatian Catholic minority. Here are translated excerpts from his remarks:

I have called for a "Marshall Plan," with the idea that all resources should be immediately consolidated, with clear rules for their distribution. If you give aid to certain groups, they invest only where they want. For that reason, it is necessary to establish certain principles, even if under a certain degree of pressure.

The most important issue is for all refugees to return to their homes. But all the refugees are returning to the areas under the control of the legitimate government of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which only confirms the principle of ethnic cleansing. Therefore, we have to foster Bosnian patriotism, giving less importance to what one is called, what religion one belongs to: If we do not start the process of reconstruction, people will have no work. They receive humanitarian aid, but this can be used as means of manipulation, and it offers no future.

All of this has been going on for too long. Young people are looking for opportunities elsewhere. But we have an obligation to give them a place to return to, and that is the reason that my party wishes to open the window into the future to Bosnians and Hercegovinians.

I stated in Brussels, that we were not asking for a fish; we want a boat and a fishing rod to be able to catch the fish ourselves. As you know, we are a very proud and educated people. Just one city, Mostar, in its thousand-year history, has produced more artists than the whole of Switzerland. Consequently, we wish to work and earn a living with our own hands. In order to attain that, we require foreign aid.

On the other hand, we have a huge number of invalids and war victims, and we are already experiencing a "Vietnam syndrome"—people with mental illnesses who find it extremely difficult to cope, since no one has the time to care for them. The children are the first-priority problem; then, the elderly and the unemployed. While we had an Army, they had a uniform, dinner, cigarettes. Now, out of uniform, they have nothing. If these people receive no assistance, the Balkans will be a place of constant conflicts.

We extend to you our thanks, and I would like to send my greetings to Mrs. LaRouche. One more thing: I would like to see your magazine published in Bosnian, as I saw that certain editions were published in other languages of the Balkan countries.



Meeting at the Presidential Palace with Member of the Presidency Stjepan Kljuic, leader of the Republican Party (right).