

'To Save the Children of Bosnia-Hercegovina' Delegation Tours Bosnia for New Marshall Plan

A distinguished delegation from the United States and Europe toured Bosnia and Croatia in April to organize for economic reconstruction, based upon an initiative "To Save the Children of Bosnia-Hercegovina" launched in January by Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp LaRouche.

The tour was preceded by a February 20 press conference held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The press conference, co-sponsored by the Schiller Institute and the Center for Peace Studies at Georgetown University, heard Mrs. LaRouche, Dr. Jozef Mikloško, former Vice Prime Minister of the post-communist Czechoslovakia, and former U.S. Congressman John G. Dow (D-NY), call for a "Marshall Plan" to save the children of the region from the genocidal conditions of war, and the equally genocidal post-war conditionalities of the World Bank.

Mrs. LaRouche had issued an international Call on Jan. 26, "to win the governments of the United States and Europe to the perspective of economic reconstruction." She explained her reasons for drafting it: "Why do I focus on the children? Because I hope that if there is any morality left in the West, then maybe the horrible conditions of the children will evoke that remaining humanity, which is necessary

to turn an intolerable situation around. I hope that how we will treat the children of Bosnia is the way we treat our own future."

Dr. Jozef Mikloško, who had travelled across the United States to discuss this issue, demanded a "generous reconstruction" of Bosnia. He called for the cancellation of the foreign debt of Bosnia, referring to the call of Pope John Paul II for a Jubilee in preparation for the new millennium. Bosnia is the place to begin this policy of debt forgiveness, Dr. Mikloško declared, as an example for a change in policy toward the most critical situations in Ibero-America, Africa, and elsewhere.

Former Congressman John Dow took "strong exception" to the I.M.F. and World Bank policies in Bosnia, condemning their "atrocious" attempt to "wring payments" out of the hellish situation in Bosnia.

International Delegation

During April 12-19, the international



Helga Zepp LaRouche speaks to reporters at Feb. 20 press conference.

delegation organized by the Schiller Institute visited Croatia and Bosnia. After intensive meetings and tours, the delegation concluded that it is not enough to stop the most brutal features of the Greater Serbian aggression and genocide temporarily, if such aggression were to be replaced with "genocide through financial means." The delegation recommended the following measures:

- A dialogue among the religious leaders of the groups comprising Bosnia, is crucial; the members of the delegation are determined to help organize a visit of these leaders to the United States.
- Bosnia's reconstruction must be guaranteed in the form of a crash program similar to the post-World War II Marshall Plan.
- The political, institutional, and economic sovereignty of Bosnia must be preserved against the conditionalities of international financial institutions, and geopolitical interference by powers, such as the heirs of the British Empire.
- The United States is the only country, at this point, that can push for such reconstruction and sovereignty, taking up the project of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, killed in an April 3 plane crash in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with a number of prominent U.S. industrial executives, whose industrial firms represented an investment potential of tens of billion dollars.
- The war criminals responsible for



Delegation members (left to right) Paolo Raimondi, Theo Mitchell, Nihad Dzinovic, and Benjamin Swan tour Bosnian classroom.



Left: The delegation meets Sarajevo's Islamic religious leader, the Rejs Ulema, Dr. Mustafa Effendi Cerić.

Bottom: Delegation members with His Eminence Vinko Puljić, Roman Catholic Cardinal of Sarajevo. Left to right: Umberto Pascali, Benjamin Swan, Paolo Raimondi, Dr. Jozef Mikloško, the Cardinal, Elke Fimmen, Nihad Džinović, Theo Mitchell, James Mann.

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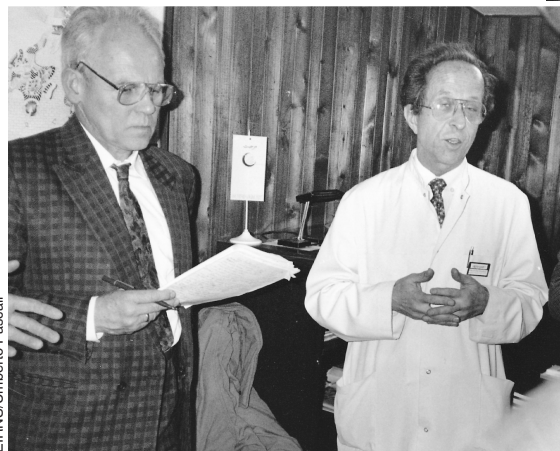
the aggression and genocide must be prosecuted and punished.

- It is necessary to inform and mobilize the public in the West, and especially in the United States, of the necessity to guarantee the rights of Bosnia, a country that succeeded in stopping the expansion of the Greater Serbian assaults, and the designs of their sponsors. If Bosnia does not receive this support, we could be witnessing the beginning of World War III.

Meeting Leadership

The delegation participated in more than twenty high-level meetings and several visits to areas destroyed or damaged by war, mostly in Sarajevo. Among the leaders they met with, were: the religious leader of the Islamic community in Sarajevo, the Rejs Ulema, Dr. Mustafa Effendi Cerić; the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Sarajevo, His Eminence Vinko Puljić; the Cardinal of Zagreb and primate of Croatia, His Eminence Franjo Kuharić; the representative of the Ortho-

dox Church in Sarajevo, Avakum Rosić; members of the Bosnia Presidency, including the Roman Catholic Stjepan Ključić and the Orthodox Mirko Pejanović; the Vice President of the ruling Party of Democratic Action (SDA), Edhem Bicakčić, who is also the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament and the general manager of the main electric company, Elek-



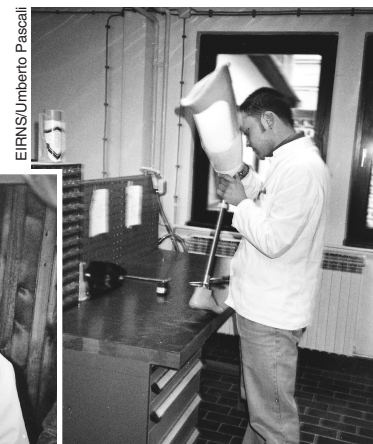
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troprivreda; the Deputy Defense Minister, Hasan Cengić; the president, Dr. Edah Becirbegović, and leadership of the main Islamic humanitarian organization, Merhamet.

The delegation also met the highest U.S. diplomatic official present in Sarajevo at that time, Fletcher M. Burton; and visited a school, an orphanage, and a "factory for artificial limbs."

On April 17, after a meeting with Dr. Halid Genjac, president of the general board of the SDA at the ruling party's headquarters, a press conference was held. The conference was attended by a large number of journalists and TV crews, and was prominently reported in all Sarajevo's printed dailies. The national TV station covered the Institute delegation's visit at least twice.

The eight-person delegation included: From the United States, Benjamin Swan (Massachusetts State Representative), James Mann (former U.S. Congressman from South Carolina), Theo W. Mitchell (former State Senator from South Carolina), and Nihad E. Džinović (chairman of the Bosnia Relief organization in California). From Europe, Dr. Jozef Mikloško (president of the Committee To Save the Children of Bosnia-Herzegovina), Elke Fimmen and Paolo Raimondi (Schiller Institute), and Umberto Pascali (Schiller Institute, and the secretary of the International Parliamentarians against Genocide in Bosnia).



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Left: Dr. Isref Karaiković (right) briefs Committee chairman Jozef Mikloško at Sarajevo's factory for artificial limbs. Top: fabricating a prosthetic device.