

## B O R B A

The UN is indeed a comparatively efficient and cost effective Peacekeeper and Peace builder. It possesses a broad spread of civil as well as military capabilities needed for to nation-building. All UN-led operations, of which up to two dozen are routinely underway at any one time, are planned, controlled, and sustained by only a few hundred military and civilian staffers at UN headquarters in New York. Most UN troops come from Third World countries whose costs per deployed soldier are a small fraction of any Western army. The United Nation deploys over 80,000 soldiers and police in nineteen different countries for a cost of some \$7billion per year. This makes the United Nations the second largest provider of expeditionary forces in the world, after the United States but ahead of NATO, the EU or the AU. The UN in one year on all nineteen of these missions about what it costs the United States for one month's operation in Iraq.

UN-led nation building missions tend to be smaller than American, to take place in less demanding circumstances, to be more frequent and therefore more numerous, to define their objectives more circumspectly and they do seem to enjoy a higher success rate than American-led efforts. But, American led nation building has taken place in more demanding circumstances, has required larger forces and more robust mandates, has received more economic support, has espoused more ambitious objectives, but has fallen short of those objectives more often than has the United Nations. **BUT this would be a good point to remind you that the United States pays 30 cents in the dollar for UN Peacekeeping and we simply could not do it at all without them!**

I first came across Peacekeepers from the Balkans in East Timor wher the first contingent of Police from Bosnia was serving. Frankly it was very encouraging to see Bosnian units from all three ethnic groups in Bosnia working together and relaxing together. ( same food, same songs, same Rakija!). For me it was a sure sign that things had changed and that the former Yugoslavia was now going to take its rightful place in Peacekeeping again. Don't forget the JNA was present in all the earliest UN Missions.\

I always tell Troop Contributing Nations that we send them back better soldiers and police than they send us! Soldiers and Police who have served in our operations come home having had greater responsibility than they would have had and wider experience, but most important a better understanding of people and their real needs. I have worked here with the Army and the special training unit for UN participation ( which is assisted very much by Norway and the other Scandinavians), and I know that the Serbian Armed Forces are very keen to increase their participation in Peacekeeping.

I think that Serbia like all Troop Contributors should consider very carefully its own national interests when choosing appropriate Missions to which to send troops or police. There are significantly different factors to consider when participating in Missions of the UN and other coalitions of the willing with or without Security Council blessing.

As for Serbian troops in Kosovo. There are no UN forces in Kosovo. I speak for the UN not NATO. If Serbia has extra troops for Peacekeeping I would prefer them in Blue berets!

The UN will always be in the Balkans. The specialized agencies UNDP, UNHCR and all the others will be here to help do all those other things the United Nations does around the world which don't attract the attention that Peacekeeping attracts. I sincerely believe the days of the UN in blue berets in the Balkans are over. The future is in Europe, and the overwhelming majority of the people in the Balkans want to be led forward not marched backwards. The economic crisis will affect the whole of Europe and has come at a bad time. Europe is not in the mood for grand projects, but a Serbia, blessed perhaps by a little more humility than it is showing at present, should never the less be a contributing member of the Union in ten years. . . Serbia's strategic importance in the future of Europe should make its emergence from isolation one of Europe's highest priorities. Yet, Europe's vision of Serbia seems frozen in time, drifting with an international policy born when Belgrade was at its isolated nadir. I believe the Serbian people to be more aware than most outsiders presume. They are aware that their difficult circumstances were not created in the last seven years, that the sum of huge political errors upon more errors added up to produce the given circumstances. Fortunately, the Serbian people also seem to know instinctively that, whatever is to be done, their present interests lie in peace, striving to improve their own prosperity rather than perpetuating an historical grudges. Yet they also want to be convinced that their state and nation is being given fair treatment.

I have, as you say, met a broad spectrum of politicians since 1995. Some are dead, some are in the Hague, and the less said about them the better. In order to bring the war to an end we found ourselves meeting people we knew to be truly evil, but we justified it by telling ourselves that it was the only way. Only history will judge whether the oxygen of publicity and apparent respectability we gave those monsters prolonged their lives and allowed them to manipulate us further.

Now Serbia has a government of Democrats with whom it is a pleasure to do business. It is a young Government which makes up in enthusiasm what it lacks in experience of the demands of governance. It is faced with very serious problems. But I firmly believe that its instincts are right and that it deserves to succeed. I for my part will do all that I can to help.

Yes, I am a Royalist. I have served as a British diplomat in many parts of the world and have always been pleased to represent a system which has over the years provided a sense of certainty in difficult times, and provided a focus for loyalty. I am proud to have Alexander, your Crown Prince as a friend. I know that he and his family will be happy to continue to serve Serbia in any capacity that the people and government of Serbia choose for him.

Of course the UN will continue to be a 'punching bag'. It is steam valve and an easy target. But it has extraordinary strength and resilience and when I see the force for good that it is every day around the world, I am very proud to serve the Secretary-General.

Oh, and lets not forget that Shashi is standing for Parliament this week in Kerala and that "India's rightful place on the Security Council" makes good reading for his future constituents.....but don't hold your breath for any significant changes to the Council, sensible or not. I believe that there should be changes, but I do not believe that a failure to change will lessen the importance of the Council's role in matters of world peace and security.