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 RUDKDA/BUDAPESTBETA
 RUDKSRH/OMA/NIST/SARAJEVO
 RUEAIIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR//
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 RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL
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SERI SERIAL: EUP20010726000088

COUN COUNTRY: BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA,
 MONTENEGRO, SERBIA

SUBJ SUBJ: Failure To Arrest Karadzic Seen as Preventing Return to
 Normalcy in B-H

SOUR SOURCE: Sarajevo Oslobodjenje in Serbo-Croatian 26 Jul 01 P 2

TEXT TEXT:

[Commentary by Gojko Beric: "Black hat, white pigeon."
 [FBIS Translated Text] The official version goes like this:
 Radovan Karadzic is alive and healthy. We even know his pulse, what
 he does, what he lives on, and who guards him, but we do not know
 where he is. Naturally, Mirko Sarovic has the most accurate answer
 to this question: "According to the official information provided
 by Karadzic's collaborators, as well as my own knowledge, Karadzic
 is not in the Serb Republic." Prime Minister Mladen Ivanic has
 mumbled something similar. He, too, is not sure where the most
 wanted Balkan fugitive has disappeared. He was around somewhere

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until yesterday, but he is not there any more.

The Serbian police chief has claimed Karadzic is not in Serbia, while the Montenegrin police chief has said he is not in Montenegro. He is gone, that is it! Yet he was nearly caught the other day. It was said that there was shooting, there were dead and wounded, but Karadzic escaped the pursuit. The Podgorica daily Dan claimed that the "third line" of Karadzic's defense killed 10 British special unit soldiers. There is not even one witness to the event, yet the story of the failed hunt for Karadzic has gone around the world.

The Pentagon pundits are at loss, they who are usually said to *communicate regularly with the extraterrestrial beings and for whom there are no secrets on our planet. They have until recently followed Karadzic closely, via gadgets installed somewhere in the vicinity of Vienna, but there are no more signals coming from his shelters that have reliably been located. Allegedly, Karadzic has switched off the electricity, cut the telephone lines, and thrown his cellular phone into a pit. American commandos discovered and captured the former narco-king Noriega in the middle of a Panamanian jungle, but they seem unable to find their way in Bosnian forests. The family known as NATO does not live in particular harmony anyway. When you ask them why Karadzic is still free, the English discreetly put the blame on the Americans, who then blame the French, while Carla Del Ponte blames them all....

Five years ago, any lucid peasant could list the order of the most important things to be done in this country. There was no need for an Einstein-like mind to realize the importance of as many people as possible returning to their home in the shortest possible time, because without that happening, B-H will be a cloud-cuckoo land. And for their return to be possible, there should have been an organized, massive hunt for war criminals, just as the Allies did in Germany after World War II. There is something similar written in the Dayton Agreement, but its signatories did not want to read as it was written. If Bill Clinton did not care about the most important clauses of the agreement, why would a Karl Bildt or Carlos Westendorp have been more royal than the king? This is why Karadzic and Mladic are still not where they should have been long ago, in the cells of Scheweningen, and this is why the number of refugees returning to their homes is just sufficient enough to make the ethnic division of this country permanent.

I am already sick and tired of reminding the people from the international community about these facts. Anyway, why would a journalist from a poor Bosnian newspaper care more about some principles than the well-paid protectors who have come here at the injunction of the United Nations? Wolfgang Petritsch surely must know about the estimate by the Hague Tribunal, according to which there are 10,000 war criminals in B-H, but this is not a story he wants to tackle. I am not saying that Petritsch could catch them all with some huge net, throw them to sharks, and set us free from the evil, but unless he demands that someone does the job, then he really is punishing us by maintaining atmosphere of fear. And life with the motto "murderers are among us" cannot be normal, no matter how many sacks of American dollars are brought to this country.

For a full 10 years, the Serb and the Croat nationalists have sabotaged every part of the Dayton Agreement that, after all, makes a state out of B-H, without the West ever responding to them with a serious countermeasure. It is as if there is a hidden plan to shape our reality and determine our lives. In the meantime, our attention is turned to the daily performance in a political circus involving domestic and foreign artists acting together. There are white pigeons coming out of their black hats. True, no applause is expected, because the esteemed public is already bored by the one and only program, but the illusion is kept.

The hunt for Karadzic is also a part of that circus. If they do not arrest him this summer, the NATO leaders will somehow come up with an answer. Maybe this one: "We have done all we could, but a cat cannot catch a mouse that it cannot see."

[Description of Source: Sarajevo Oslobodjenje in Serbo-Croatian -- independent Sarajevo daily; publishes a range of political views]

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