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From the IBPP Research Associates. (1) Global Perspectives. (2) Slovenia.

United Nations

Janez Kranjski

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Global Perspectives

The following item has been taken from the United Nations Wire for April 8, 1999 at <http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire>. It has been posted here as a contrast to the first Trend entry in this IBPP Issue. Two main Issues include the (1) possible orthogonality of psychological from legal and moral standards and (2) the reliability and validity of different approaches within the clinical sciences to delineating psychopathology.

Child Abuse: WHO Labels It A Major Public Health Problem

Forty million children worldwide suffer from abuse and neglect between birth and the age of 14, according the World Health Organization (WHO). The abuse is not gender specific, as surveys in 19 countries show that the prevalence of sexual abuse of girls ranges from 7% to 34% and 3% to 29% for boys. Nor is the abuse country-specific, as both developing and developed countries report startling statistics.

The effects of abuse not only stifle the development of the child, but they also take a toll on society. WHO Disability Division Director Bjorn Thylefors (has stated that): "Abused children suffer a wide variety of physical, emotional and developmental problems which can hamper their ability to live healthy and productive lives. In addition to health consequences, abused children have difficulty in school, problems with substance abuse and problems with the law. It is a public health Issue of vital importance for WHO, and it represents a challenge for the next millennium."

In a press release, WHO "reaffirms the value of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as the foundation that the international community can provide against the abuse of the world's children." At a recent WHO conference in Geneva, 24 experts from around the world outlined initiatives to combat child abuse, including th e development of worldwide data collection, the sharing of successful prevention and intervention methods, and the establishment of social support programs for victims and their families (WHO release, 8 Apr).

Slovenia

The following is an April 6th (1999) email interview between Global Network Initiative Staffer Gilbert Grein and Mr. Janez Kranjski. Mr. Kranjski cites his ethnicity as Slovenian and is studying for a master's degree in electrical engineering at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Grein: In your opinion, what is the most important Issue in Slovenia at this moment? Kranjski: At this moment in Slovenia we are trying to finish with the transition and successfully enter into the European Union.

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Grein: How do these Issues affect you? Kranjski: I hope for the better future.

Grein: Has the country of Slovenia improved (overall) since it attained its independence, or has it become worse, or is it the same? Kranjski: Since the independence Slovenians have been working a lot on many Issues concerning our new political order. We have been successful in some parts of our goals, but on the other hand we have big difficulties with improving the standard of our people, because we depend on the global economy, foreign investments and export into unreliable parts of Europe (Russia, countries of former Yugoslavia...).

Grein: What is your opinion regarding the situation between Yugoslavia and NATO? Kranjski: Sad story had happened in Kosovo! It seems so far away, but it started only 14 days ago. I don't know how this war will end, except that there will be many casualties, sadly and tragically enough. I suppose it won't spread around as NATO is too strong military power that any nation can oppose him. Even Russia. And they are wise enough not to nuke anyone. My opinion of the war is: I think that NATO has come too late, much too late. They should intervene the first day that it started in Slovenia. I know that this sounds impossible. Maybe even before when it all started, back in the year 1988, when Milosevic emerged himself from his speeches about Serbian Kosovo, when there were hunger strikes of the Kosovar mine workers. It all started then. With rallies of the truth (so called). There was an euphoria, many, many people back at those time supported Milosevic like Tito. Serbs of course. And that (and a little later when to Albanians in Kosovo autonomy was taken away, which they had in Tito's times) was the reason. WE ALL KNOW THAT?!? And so... I suppose that CIA had many different scenarios, what will happen in the near future, ten years for example--1999. And in those scenarios, also the one of today was included. If you look back at it it looks kind of logical. It started in Kosho, moved to the north, to Slovenia, slowly went backwards to Croatia, exploded in Bosnia, with ethnic cleansing, starvation and NATO involvement. And it will end where it started... The highest price will pay the innocent people driven by crazy dictator. They say that they are the chosen nation. They are heroes. When I watch Serbia TV on the satellite it seems that they are celebrating. Celebrating in Serbian towns while there are massacres in Kosovo?? Who will stop them?? Who will come into power in Serbia when Milosevic will fall?? Just one of his marionettes--Vuk Draskovic? Seselj? Another dictator? NATO must degrade and diminish (by NATO leaders) Serbian army so it will never rise again. By defeat they will probably realize (like Germans did after the 2nd war) that they were so wrong... Blind. Deaf. Oh, it is terrible.

Grein: Do you believe that Milosevic is performing genocide against the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo?

Kranjski: I believe that, and there are proofs also! Just a few evidence witnesses until now, but they had video material (like the one shown on BBC). And UN is aware of that: Kofi Annan said that yesterday...

Grein: What do you think is the general opinion of the people in Slovenia regarding this crisis? Are they in support of NATO, or Milosevic? Kranjski: Majority (97%) of Slovenians support NATO or are not for the war, but only about 3% or even less support Milosevic. (Keywords: Child Abuse, Grein, Kranjski, Milosevic, NATO, Serbia, Slovenia, United Nations, World Health Organization.)