

The Kosovo problem is still sending the temperature of “good old Europe” high. The atmosphere of continued squabbles, contradictions and bickering, blackmail and threats in the past several days effectively paralyzed EU activities. Heads of states and governments, diplomats and baited experts are trying to work out the long-sought-for formula: how to take away from Serbia the Kosovo province, the cradle of Serbian statehood and Orthodoxy, simultaneously binding the Serbs closer to themselves. They also think the EU mission should be installed there given the bidding for numbers of those wishing to take vacancies in it (at least 1,800 jobs) announced as far back as October of 2007, complete with the entire package of financial benefits to each employee. The first-round winners (1,376 people) were announced January 24 this year, but nothing has happened in Brussels ever since. **The present-day hectic activities in the Brussels corridors are nothing but a blind to conceal the movements of the chief architect of the Kosovo settlement problem, that makes its office in other places than the EU headquarters, the roomy studies of Washington's White House. The U.S. administration had written all the roles Europeans had to play long before the foreign ministers of the 27 EU member-states gathered for their first 2008 session under Slovenia's Chairmanship.**

The blind of secrecy concealing the unprecedented U.S. interference into European problem-solving process shattered thanks to a number of publications in Lyubliana of “The Dairy” in the Belgrade-based “Politika”. Journalists scooped information about the discussions Miti Drobnic, the political director of the Slovenian Foreign Ministry held in December of 2007 with Daniel Fried, U.S. Undersecretary for Europe and Asia and a number of other U.S. State Department officials. Mr. Frid gave to the Slovenian diplomat a detailed instruction on how his country should act during the coming 6-month E.U. chairmanship. The American explained to Drobnic that his main goal should be recognise Kosovo's independence as soon as possible. Americans stated that, as the chairman of the EU Slovenia should be the first to recognise that independence, “leading the way” for other East European EU-members. The mass recognition of the unilaterally declared independence by the Serbian province would enable the EU to install in Kosovo its civil-and-police mission, leaving Serbia and Russia out of the picture. Daniel Frid in fact stated that it was not important whether all EU countries recognise Kosovo what was, was to get the mission on the move, thus helping UN General Secretary Pan Kee Moon stand against Russians.

The Belgrade-based “Politika” quoted an even more sincere statement the U.S. diplomat made to the effect that no attention should be paid at the criticisms and statements made by the Russian Federation and Serbia.

It can be heard now in Belgrade and Moscow that Washington is of the opinion that Russians and Serbs should be simply ignored! The document Americans handed to Mite Drobnic in late 2007 as a guideline of his action had a working name - Plan of the adoption of the “coordinated declaration of Kosovo's independence”. It is noteworthy that Frid and Drobnic agreed that the corresponding request by the province's authorities to place there a EU mission would be a sufficient legal base after Pristina unilaterally declared independence. In other words, the U.S. administration and the current EU chairman think it nothing but natural that Albanian separatists gave recommendations to the European Union. Had Serbian and Slovenian journalists been less knowledgeable about the details of the scandalous moral teachings by American preachers, and the exemplary docility would remain unknown, while all Europe would have

known what Dimitry Rupel, Slovenia's Foreign Minister had in mind concerning the clear-cut Balkanian priorities of the Slovenian chairmanship. But the truth was out, and Rupel had to accept the forced resignation of his closest aide. U.S. activities once again expose the methods the current White House administration uses trying to achieve its goals. This time around this objective is to tear Kosovo away from Serbia at any cost by granting it independence. Motives of Americans are clear enough.

Washington is willing to “make a gift” to Europe of a long-term source of tensions that would prevent Europe from becoming a geopolitical strength centre. The George W.Bush administration suffering defeats in Iraq and Afghanistan would like to be praised for being able to present to the electorate its chief creation – “the world's youngest independent state.” Let's not forget the driving role the Albanian diaspora is playing in the United States. Former CIA George Tenet during whose stint the current Kosovo-Albanian carousel was set in motion is of Albanian descent.

After Russia, supported by other countries prevented the passage of the corresponding Security Council resolution from being adopted, Washington made a stake on the European Union. The White House hopes to see Europe's consolidated recognition of the declaration of Kosovo independence that would keep the United States in the shadow, shifting the responsibility for the bluntest violation of international law and the further destiny of the Balkans onto Europeans. However, after the scandalous publications by the Balkanian press and the forced re-shuffles in Slovenia's Foreign Ministry there's hardly anybody doubting who the real initiator of granting independence to Kosovo and dismembering of Serbia is; the methods the United States is willing to rule the world heave also been exposed. Can we not recall the critical analysis Vladimir Lenin made in one of his articles devoted to the once attractive idea of setting up what was then referred to as “The United States of Europe”! Many of the current EU member-states - especially in its eastward quarters are becoming to look more and more like some of the U.S. states. Whatever, they are effectively deprived of a voice in solving international problems.

Pyotr Akhmedovich ISKENDEROV, Senior Researcher Institute of Slavic Studies of the RF Academy of Sciences, Cand. Sc (History)

11.02.2008, Strategic Culture Foundation