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14 Sept 83

[REDACTED]

Yugoslavia

Muslims Convicted

After a highly publicized trial, 12 Muslim nationalists were sentenced to long prison terms for advocating an ethnically pure Islamic state in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Yugoslav officials, including Interior Minister Dolanc, have told [REDACTED] that these nationalists were part of a plot engineered by Iranian leader Khomeini. Throughout the trial, prosecutors, while not naming Iran, attacked foreign Pan-Islamic centers for instigating the subversion. In imposing the severe sentences, Yugoslav officials ignored concerns expressed in Libya, Pakistan, and Iran—states whose good will Yugoslavia has been cultivating.

[REDACTED] Yugoslav officials have alleged that the crackdown on Muslim dissidence is part of an attack against Bosnian Croat and Muslim leaders engineered by Serbs from both Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. While some Yugoslavs claim that Muslim nationalism is a relatively isolated phenomenon, we believe that Serb concern reflects fears—justified, in our view—that the Muslims' growing assertiveness could eventually threaten the security of Bosnia's Serbian community.

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