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Subslug: [Interview with Major Radoman Mladjenovic, retired, Air Force and Air Defense, by Zorica Miladinovic; place and date not given: ''There Is No Defense Against 'Invisible' Airplanes'']

FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Interview with Major Radoman Mladjenovic, retired, Air Force and Air Defense, by Zorica Miladinovic; place and date not given: ''There Is No Defense Against 'Invisible' Airplanes'']

2. [Text] Representatives of the Army of Yugoslavia [VJ] are saying more and more frequently and loudly that we are completely capable of successfully resisting ''any aggressor'' in case of a possible military intervention. Following the most recent American military intervention against Iraq, however, ordinary people are becoming more dubious. Radoman Mladjenovic, a major retired from the RV i PVO [Air Force and Air Defense], where he was a pilot, who recently took his master's degree on the B-2 nuclear bomber, the American ''camouflage miracle'' manufactured with ''stealth'' technology, says in an interview with BORBA that there is no successful defense against the Stealth airplane, which has just been used in Iraq.

3. [Miladinovic] What characteristics make it possible for Stealth airplanes to be invisible?

4. [Mladjenovic] The Americans have been working on the program of the Stealth airplane, the so-called Black Program, since 1980 (at that time, only 2 percent of the congressmen knew that it existed). Its existence was made public through the ''promotion'' of the B-2 nuclear bomber at a California airfield, when this ''camouflage miracle'' was presented to some 50 honored guests. The F-117 A (''polished diamond'') recently (13 January) operated in Iraq; observers from the ground sometimes describe it as a UFO [unidentified flying object]; it is based in Great Britain, but is very easily based in Saudi Arabia as well. These planes are made of a

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composite material which "absorbs" and "passes" electromagnetic radar waves. The Delta wings conceal its tail. It has powerful ceramic engines which are so configured that the plane does not emit any infrared radiation, and its flight is silent. These characteristics allow it to be completely invisible or at best barely visible to radar systems, and it penetrates a PVO system unhindered. These airplanes usually go first, operate against missile systems used to defend a particular region or facility and make it possible for the aircraft that follow to "do their job." Because radars are the "eyes" of the PVO, it is clear that in this case they are blind.

5. [Miladinovic] Would these planes also be used in a possible military intervention against Bosnia?
6. [Mladjenovic] If there is military intervention against Bosnia, I am certain that the Stealth planes will be used. First, they might use the Black Rose, which is able to conduct reconnaissance and detect all radar frequencies, even when they are in "passive mode," and to "transmit the picture" to the command post (even the Pentagon can get it by satellite). After that, it is likely that the Stealth bombers would operate against missile systems defending airfields or areas in Bosnia. I suppose that if the world decided on that kind of intervention, they would operate against objectives in Bosnia from the Aviano base in Lombardy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic. I further assume that they would first operate against the airfield in Banja Luka and afterward against artillery and missile positions around Sarajevo. The Serbian Republic would be left largely without an air force, missile systems, and some of the artillery weapons. In the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia], should there be military intervention, the Stealth planes would probably operate against the airfields at Batajnica, Pristina, Kraljevo, and Nis. Without wanting to frighten anyone, because I am talking about the hypothetical situation of a military attack, it should be said that successful defense against planes of this kind is not possible either in B-H [Bosnia-Herzegovina] or in Yugoslavia.
7. [Miladinovic] How realistic, then, are the publicly expressed assessments of military officials, including General Panic, that we are able to repel any attack?
8. [Mladjenovic] It is true that we have a tough PVO system, especially around Belgrade, but it can be overpowered by an increased density of flights of Stealth and other aircraft. No one can guarantee the public that a city or portion of the country is absolutely secure. With a tough system of passive defense, using primary, reserve, or false firing positions, we can protect some of the missile batteries against bombardment. We might protect, say, a

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missile base by emitting electromagnetic energy from some old radar. But as soon as we activate the real missile battery, its frequency would be picked up, and missiles could operate against it. At the same time, there is also the system of active defense, which presupposes using radars to detect Stealth aircraft. The Americans and Russians have been working on this for quite some time now, and radars of this kind do exist. However, their detection range is still quite small, so that it does not facilitate complete "fire preparation" of PVO for counteraction. I do not know whether our army has such radar equipment.

9. [Miladinovic] Instead of the excessively optimistic assessments of Yugoslav defensive capability, according to what you say, would it not be more worthwhile to have the complete truth about this?

10. [Mladjenovic] The public ought to be told the real situation so as to be completely prepared for every wartime situation, including the hypothetical situation about which there has been so much recent talk. It is not capitulation to say openly that there are those who are stronger than we are. It is an objective assessment that there is no successful defense against "invisible" aircraft. In case of intervention, Yugoslavia's RV i PVO would be destroyed for the next 20 to 30 years. All of these assessments, however, can be prevented and averted if we conduct a peaceful policy, to which we committed ourselves recently in Geneva before the eyes of the entire world. We can get what we want through a reasonable policy far from the war option. Peace and a peaceful policy are our best defense.