

British promote a monarchist revival

by Mark Burdman

One of the more bizarre, and destabilizing, aspects of the Yugoslav crisis, is the effort, coordinated by the British, to restore the monarchy in Belgrade. Such a monarchical restoration is central to the international power designs of the British Mountbatten-Windsor royal house, but is dangerous for reasons beyond this. It would create an alarming precedent for other countries in the crisis-torn Balkans. And, within the territory of what has come to be known as the nation of Yugoslavia, a restoration of the monarchy to its throne in Belgrade could only happen under the circumstance that a "Greater Serbia" is manufactured out of a partitioned Yugoslavia, since the monarchy is historically Serbian, rather than "Yugoslav," and is regarded by many Serbians as a symbol of a Serbian history that predates the creation of Yugoslavia following World War I.

The current effort, by Britain and others, to play a "Serbian card" in the Balkans, is throwing oil onto a fire that is already raging out of control. It is part and parcel of British efforts to align with the Serbians and with pro-British forces in France, in a common campaign against an alleged—and nonexistent—"Fourth Reich" threat from a Germany eager to extend its influence into the Balkans. This is the same kind of hoked-up anti-German propaganda that led to World War I—which, of course, was ignited in the Balkans.

'Of course, the Queen supports the idea'

Crown Prince Alexander, who has never set foot in Yugoslavia, is actively propagandizing for his "return," from his headquarters in London. The latest in the line of the Serbian House of Karageorgevic (which bloodily deposed the competing Serbian House of Obrenovic early in this century), Alexander is a cousin of Prince Philip and a godson of Queen Elizabeth II. On May 8, the *London Times* quoted him saying that he would try to install a monarchy "modeled on the British system."

On July 4, an informed Yugoslav source based in London told *EIR* that the option of bringing back the monarchy is "very much on, it is not a joke, and my guess is that it will happen a lot sooner than people think, probably this year." He stressed: "Of the course, the British Queen supports the

idea" of restoring the monarchy.

Two days earlier, on July 2, Alexander had taken the unprecedented step of testifying before a British parliamentary all-party working group on human rights, headed by Lord Avebury. Parliamentarian Sir Bernard Braine of the British Conservative Party sponsored the crown prince's appearance before the group.

On July 3, Alexander appeared on BBC's "Today" television show, declaring, "I am the only one who can unify the country." He offered to "return" to Yugoslavia as soon as possible. Such an emotional appeal was, it seems, aimed at capturing a certain mood in Britain: London insiders say that the British have a special "emotional tie" to the Serbs, dating from the Serbs' wars in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries against the Ottoman Turks.

These early-July developments indicate a rapid escalation of the campaign to bring back the monarchy, which had begun to pick up steam in April-May of this year, when Yugoslavia's internal crisis began to significantly worsen. Around that time, Alexander abandoned his career as a director of shipping and oil companies, to initiate lobbying and diplomacy aimed at restoring the throne. By remarkable coincidence, he was helped by the "sudden discovery" in Belgrade of the crown of his father, the late King Peter II. As the May 8 *London Times* noted, "Should he become king, Alexander will have a real crown to wear. His father's crown, made from cannon captured in the Balkan wars and encrusted with semi-precious stones, was long presumed lost, but has just turned up in the basement of a Belgrade museum."

Lobbying Washington, France, and Spain

On May 20, Alexander spoke before the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., confidently predicting that Yugoslavia's descent into chaos would expedite his assumption to the throne in Belgrade. Interestingly, that speech coincided precisely with a U.S. State Department announcement that U.S. aid to Yugoslavia was being cut off.

On July 8, the would-be king brought his monarchy restoration campaign to France, and via France, to Spain. In a half-page interview with the French daily *Le Figaro*, he portrayed himself as the "sole guarantor of the unity and continuity of the country." Noting that six nations of the European Community still have monarchies, he said: "My action could be comparable to that of King Juan Carlos [of Spain], after the death of Franco."

He expressed great admiration for France, noting that "when my father had no country, it is France that welcomed him. I will never forget this." This pro-French sentiment, and the very fact that the interview was published, are of more than passing strategic interest, given the French government's openly pro-Serbian views since the crisis erupted in Yugoslavia at the end of June and beginning of July. This reached a peak when French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas publicly aligned himself with the "Fourth Reich" propaganda

against Germany, during the European Community foreign ministers' meeting on Yugoslavia July 5, when he warned darkly against "foreign influence" and "spheres of influence" in the Balkans.

Several French papers, including *Le Monde* and *Libération*, have been raising the specter of a "Fourth Reich" being created through the extension of German influence in the Balkans. Historically, the French have regarded themselves as having a special relationship to the Serbs, and have seen Belgrade and Bucharest in Romania as the twin vectors of French strategy in the Balkans. Already in 1920, the French were supporting a "little entente" composed of Yugoslavia, Romania, and Czechoslovakia, and in 1927, France signed a friendship treaty with Yugoslavia.

Serbo-communism or Serbo-monarchism?

Asked by *Le Figaro* when the time will come for him to decide that he should exercise his "duty to intervene" in the Yugoslav situation, Alexander responded: "Soon, very certainly. It would be useless to fix a date in advance. Remember, no one had predicted the fall of the Berlin Wall." He affirmed that he was "absolutely" certain that his return would be welcomed in Yugoslavia, stressing that he has numerous contacts there, among "personalities of the opposition, of the intelligentsia, and from anonymous people who see in me their hope. . . . I have very many contacts. The people are truly interested in my project. . . . The interest is immense."

But elsewhere in the interview, he exposed the real strategic game in his return: the creation of a "Greater Serbia" having hegemony over a good chunk of the Balkans. Stated Alexander: "What I do know, is that I am the descendant of the Serbian kings, whose ambition was to unite the peoples of this part of the Balkans [a reference to what used to be commonly referred to as "the south Slavs"]. Whether we must have a Small or a Large Serbia, it is up to the people who belong there to decide this, freely."

Informed Yugoslav sources report that the option of the monarchy's return is supported by the Serbian emigré community in Britain. Inside Yugoslavia, the main support comes from the chief opposition group, the Serbian Renewal Movement of Vuk Draskovic (a political activist who maintains the appearance of an unkempt Orthodox monk). But also, one source said, Serbian strongman-demagogue Slobodan Milosevic, although a communist by profession, "is a very skillful politician, and may in fact accept the return of the monarchy, to bolster his own position." In effect, a social-engineering effort is being launched by the Serbian elites, including within parts of the Army officer corps, to transform the ruling paradigm in Belgrade from "Serbo-communism" to "Serbo-monarchism."

In mid-June, as the Yugoslav crisis was building toward the decisive June 25 declarations of independence by Slovenia and Croatia, Draskovic was having a series of meetings

in London with the crown prince. Draskovic told the *London Times* on June 25, that he was "sure 1 million people would come to meet him on the streets of Belgrade, not as a king, but as a symbol of democracy, past tradition, and of the destruction of communism."

He noted that his interlocutors in London had been "surprised and delighted" by his proposals for Yugoslavia and by his discussions with the crown prince.

The broader strategy

In the past weeks, the British press has had one "puff piece" after another for a restoration of monarchical rule, not only in Serbia/Yugoslavia, but also in Bulgaria, Romania, and possibly Albania. One point frequently made, for example, is that the claimant to the Bulgarian throne, King Simeon, is of the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha line and a descendant of Queen Victoria.

Such propaganda has appeared in the weekly *The European*, the *London Times*, and even the liberal *Guardian*. On July 4, while Americans were celebrating the revolution that freed them from Britain's monarchy in 1776, the *Times* chirped that "many of their putative subjects look forward" to the return of monarchies in Yugoslavia (Serbia), Bulgaria, Romania, even in Albania, since kings and queens are increasingly perceived there as "the best guarantors of democracy, decency, and continuity."

How cynical this is, is obvious from the case of *The European*. Its publisher is Robert Maxwell, the pro-socialist publishing magnate. Before the collapse of the communist regimes in 1989-90, Maxwell was their greatest friend and apologist, having praised East German communist leader Erich Honecker to the end, and having been the publisher of the biographies of Bulgarian communist leader Todor Zhivkov, the Romanian Ceausescu clan, and others.

The Balkans monarchy gambit is part of a broader British-orchestrated global monarchical-restoration movement, extending into, for example, Brazil, a country recently visited by Prince Charles, and where a movement for bringing back the royal house has begun. The Queen's recent trip to the United States can also be seen as an effort to plant the seeds for such a movement in certain sections of the "former colony." This is all part and parcel of the Mountbatten-Windsor dynasty's drive to restore feudalism in the world, otherwise typified by their sponsorship of ecologism and paganism.

As far as the British are concerned, there is an obvious element of self-fulfilling prophecy in the whole affair. The admission is made by Alexander himself, and others, that the only reason people would want a monarchy to come back, is because of the spreading chaos and turbulence, and a wish for "stability." Yet it is precisely the British-mandated International Monetary Fund policies vis-à-vis Yugoslavia, coupled with the Anglo-Americans' geopolitical manipulations in the Balkans, which unleashed the chaos in the first place.