

Great powers plot to restore King of Serbia

by Mark Burdman

The war in the Balkans is moving into a new phase, more explosive and dangerous than anything that has been seen in the past weeks. This is occurring because of two related developments. On the international level, a deal has been fixed, among leading forces in Great Britain, the United States, Soviet Russia, France, and Israel, as well as among Israel's "Zionist Lobby" backers in such organizations as the Anti-Defamation League, to bring back the Serbian monarchy in Belgrade—not in some distant future but in the weeks or months ahead.

Inside Yugoslavia, Serbia's erstwhile-communist political and military elites, cognizant that such a groundbreaking development is soon to take place, are positioning themselves accordingly, to take advantage of the global backing for a "Kingdom of Greater Serbia." The likely consequences of this will be a vast military thrust outward, to consolidate the geographical borders of a Greater Serbia arising out of the ruins of what was formerly Yugoslavia, and a political "settling of accounts" within Serbia, among competing factions and movements, all battling to come out on top of the "new order" which is to emerge.

That all of this points to an extraordinarily bloody slaughter ahead, is obvious from the Aug. 5 declarations of the Chief of Staff Gen. Blagoje Adzic made before select senior officers in Belgrade. The speech was strictly confidential, but important elements of it have been leaked to the press. Adzic, a Greater Serbia true-believer, presented a battle plan for the conquest, sometime after mid-September, of southern Dalmatia along the Adriatic coastline from Split to Dubrovnik (all now part of Croatian territory) and the temporary military occupation of Slovenia and Croatia. He affirmed: "We have been waiting for too long. It is time to intervene. The war will eventually cost 10,000 lives—then Yugoslavia will come to a rest."

He said the army would later pull out from Slovenia and Croatia, to allow for what would appear to be a success for European Community diplomacy, thereby meeting the conditions for renewed credit lines from Brussels to Belgrade. The war would then be financed through the confiscation of property claimed by the army and federal authorities in Croatia and Slovenia. Whatever would not be confiscated, among things regarded as federal property, would be destroyed—i. e., a policy of scorched earth.

Adzic's bellicose plans are complemented by the political-diplomatic maneuverings of the sly dictator of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic. On Aug. 12, Milosevic convened a meeting of three of the republics which had been part of the Yugoslav Federation, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia (although the latter was not represented by its President Izetbegovic, but by a Milosevic puppet named Krajisnic), and the "autonomous provinces" of Vojvodina and Kosovo, both inside, and under the thumb of, Serbia. Milosevic outlined his blueprint for what he called a "new Yugoslavia," in reality a Greater Serbia, which would involve: allowing Slovenia to become independent, allowing an amputated Croatia with much of its territory taken away to become "independent," and incorporating the remainder into the new "Yugoslavia," with Vojvodina, Kosovo, and the seized Serbian-inhabited parts of Croatia (Krajina, Banya, Slavonia) being formally integrated into (annexed by) the Republic of Serbia.

As numerous informed observers have stressed, this is the implementation of a plan drawn up in 1987 by the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences (SANU), representing the highest levels of the Serbian intelligentsia, for a "Serbian national reawakening" in the post-communist era. Milosevic came to power in that year, as the instrument of the SANU policy.

But the implementation of this plan must necessarily lead

to several explosions on the ground. In Croatia, there exists a nominal cease-fire that is being continually violated, and which could rapidly transform into an all-out federal army offensive at any moment. Croatians are on alert for such a massive offensive, their Defense Minister Bebic warning that it could begin as early as the weekend of Aug. 17-18. He pointed to large-scale troop movements and concentrations all along the Bosnia-Croatian border. Croatian sources privately warn of a large-scale influx of the Serbian irregular "Chetnik" forces, perhaps about 2,000, into the Slavonia region of eastern Croatia. In reality, these are disguised Serbian reserve units.

Adzic's statements, together with the troop concentrations alluded to by Bebic, point to an imminent three-pronged army offensive: from Slavonia in eastern Croatia westward, and a two-directional thrust of the forces along the Bosnia-Croatian border, one direction vectored toward Zagreb (Croatia's capital) and the other along the Adriatic Coast (Dalmatia).

But this would be only one of many likely flashpoints. There is no way the majority Albanian population of Kosovo or the Hungarian-origin populations of Vojvodina would docilely accept integration into a Greater Serbia. In the former case, there are already rapidly growing tensions between the armed forces of the nation of Albania and the Serbians. As for Bosnia, which is an ethnic patchwork-quilt of Muslims, Croatians, and Serbians, there has already begun a little-noticed transfer of populations, of Serbians from Croatian-inhabited areas of Bosnia heading into Serbian-inhabited areas, and vice versa. Such transfers are the earmark of a highly unstable situation.

The republic of Macedonia is another wild card. It has refused to align with Milosevic, and has declared its intention to hold a referendum on the question of independent statehood on Sept. 8. The vote will undoubtedly be overwhelmingly in favor of independence, which will be proclaimed, Macedonian officials now say, in early October. This could open up a regional "can of worms," involving Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, and possibly other countries as well.

In Serbia itself, the crisis is causing unusual stresses and strains in the political structures, as what appears to be a several-fronts struggle for power takes shape. The bloodiest sign is the murder of a senior aide to opposition leader Vuk Draskovic, Bela-Matic, who was the key figure in a "Serbian Guards" paramilitary organization created out of Draskovic's Serbian Renewal Movement party. Draskovic has blamed Milosevic for the murder. Another Draskovic aide is being hunted down by Milosevic-backed Chetnik thugs, and a death sentence hangs over his head. At the same time, hysterical charges and counter-charges have been exchanged between the notorious "Colonel Dragan," the Australian-origin South Africa-trained instructor of the Chetniks, and Milan Babic, the president of the "Autonomous Serbian Region of Krajina" in Croatia.

London, Bohemian Grove, and the ADL

Adzic, Milosevic and their ilk are operating according to a perception that a deal has been cut that will have portentous consequences for their own fate, involving bringing Alexander of the Royal House of Karageorgevic, claimant to the (nominally Yugoslav but actually Serbian) throne, to power in Belgrade, as King Alexander II.

Alexander is openly backed by top levels of the British and U.S. establishments. Aside from the fact that he is a descendant of Queen Victoria and a cousin of the royal consort Prince Philip, and thus a favorite of the monarchy, Alexander is also being cultivated by the governmental/British Foreign Office establishment. On June 25, two senior Foreign Office officials attended his cocktail party in London. Then, on July 2, he spoke before a human rights committee of the British Parliament.

Soon thereafter, Alexander traveled to the United States, and participated in late July at the exclusive gathering of the Bohemian Grove in California (see *EIR*, Aug. 16, p. 64), cavorting with several former and present members of Washington administrations. While in the U.S., he openly cultivated support from the circles of the Anti-Defamation League and the Israel Lobby. On July 24, the Crown Prince spoke before the Jewish-Serbian Friendship Society in Los Angeles, California, declaring Serbian-Jewish solidarity against what he portrayed as pro-fascist Croatians, and saying that he wanted to establish rule by "royalty as a form of democracy, as in Britain." His appearance was reported by the *Jewish Heritage*, a paper run by one Herb Brin, a former member of the Zionist Irgun, whose paper in recent years has become a major conduit in the U.S. for ADL diatribes against *EIR* contributing editor LaRouche.

In an Aug. 13 interview with *EIR*, Crown Prince Alexander said: "There is a wonderful friendship between the Jewish and Serbian people. Both people suffered at the hands of the Nazis, and both died in the concentration camps of Yugoslavia." Asked whether his Los Angeles speech would suggest support from Israeli/Zionist circles for the restoration of the monarchy, he said, "Israel supports anything that is democratic. As you know, the State of Israel has superlative relations with the constitutional monarchies of Europe. I can say there is a lot of interest in this. My wife and I have very good Jewish friends." Asked whether he met with the ADL, he said, "No, but I'm sure I will. When I was in Washington several months ago, we were the guests of B'nai B'rith. I have contacts with some of the best-known Jewish names in business in the United States, some of the well-known biggest real estate dealers in the U.S." One such name mentioned by Alexander was that of Lawrence Tisch.

EIR has also learned that the Crown Prince has recently met Carl Gershman, a former official of the ADL who now heads the National Endowment for Democracy, the central arm of the corrupt "Project Democracy" mafia in Washington.

A blessing from the Great Russians

But perhaps the most alluring connection is Moscow.

During the early summer period, Prince Tomislav, Alexander's uncle, went to Moscow, as part of a delegation of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and met the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Alexei II. (Although some rumors had it that Tomislav was traveling to bolster his own claims to be next monarch in Belgrade, Crown Prince Alexander insisted to *EIR* that there are no competing claims between himself and his uncle, and that the latter was, in effect, acting on his behalf in Moscow.)

According to an aide to Crown Prince Alexander, the trip was part of an effort to revive a "Serbo-Russian Society" of former times. He said: "There is now a big re-establishment of contacts. The history goes back deep in time, and the links between the Serbian Orthodox Church and Russian Orthodox Church are very close, especially now. . . . The Russian church always oriented, from its earliest days, to Byzantium, not Rome. . . . The Serbian Orthodox Church will support the return of the monarchy, it has always been in favor of monarchy."

According to the London *Guardian* of Aug. 12, Tomislav's visit was a clear indication that Moscow is backing the restoration of the monarchy in Belgrade, as part of its imperial policy of ensuring a determining role in what happens in that part of the Balkans. Russian-emigré author Andrei Navrozov said that in a related "trial balloon," Tomislav's wife, the Sussex, U.K.-born Princess Lynda, has recently returned from Belgrade, where her royal party was cheered by crowds in the street, and where there were important contacts between her retinue and officials of the Milosevic regime in Serbia. Wrote Navrozov: "The next phase of the Yugoslav state experiment, approved by Moscow, was set to begin." Tomislav had his citizenship reinstated in Yugoslavia (Serbia), while Milosevic was acting to "restore the monarchy on his terms," using a monarchical restoration to "confer legitimacy on the army's subjugation of the minority republics," and to neutralize the opposition to his rule within Serbia.

Navrozov went one step further: All of this is a prelude to a plan, somewhere down the line, to restore the monarchy in *Russia*. He stressed that Moscow was pulling the strings in all these Serbian maneuvers, as part of its own version of a "New World Order" in Europe. Meanwhile, within the U.S.S.R. itself, there is a "state-sponsored revival of the Russian Orthodox Church," which began with Stalin in 1943, and which has visibly advanced under Gorbachov. There is a marked new Soviet interest in the ROC, as "without a credible church, which the Orthodox church is for the Serbian majority in Yugoslavia, no monarchy is credible." So, "the results of Milosevic's experiment are under intense scrutiny in Moscow." A probable consequence will be that, one day, a suitable scion of the Romanov family will be crowned Czar by the Patriarch of All the Russias, and this would be backed



The project for the restoration of monarchies in the Balkans is receiving support from the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Above, Carl Gershman, former official of the Anti-Defamation League and now head of the National Endowment for Democracy, met with Serbian Crown Prince Alexander on his visit to the United States.

by the "KGB liberal" crowd. "For the Russians, as for the Serbs, the coming new world order may have a strikingly familiar face," he concluded.

As outlandish as this might seem to some, there is some important corroborating evidence that Navrozov is on the right track. On Aug. 2, the influential Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* published an interview, from Spain, with a leading claimant to the Romanov monarchical dynasty, putting himself forward, in sober analytical tones, as an alternative to the growing chaos in Russia, and as a force who would bring pride and prestige back to the Russians. He stressed the importance of his ties with the Russian Orthodox Church and elements of the military, and then said that he would hope to transform a future Soviet Union/Russia on the model of "the British Commonwealth."

And, in a recent edition, the weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, a publication with good connections to the KGB, ran a commentary by one A. Yakovlev of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, encouraging his readers to admire monarchy "in this age of uncertainty," as a "keeper and guarantor of the national identity and of the strength and unity of the nation. . . . In both the West and the East, monarchs now form part of the political structure of many states."

It is a growing pattern. British-backed monarchical restoration efforts are developing in Georgia, while in Albania, a monarchist party was formed on Aug. 14, with the Orwellian name, "National Democratic Party of Albania." Other efforts are afoot in Romania, Bulgaria, and elsewhere, in the formerly communist regions of the Balkans and eastern and central Europe. As Serbia's elites and its outside backers shift the prevailing paradigm there from Serbo-communism to Serbo-monarchism, where will the disease spread next?