

European Parliament calls for abolition of death penalty in U.S.

The European Parliament denounced the recent executions in the United States and called for the abolition of the death penalty, in a resolution passed by a great majority of the assembly in Strasbourg, France on June 11. The motion was initiated by a faction of conservatives.

The resolution expresses the shock felt in Europe over the "increasing number of executions over the recent period," the execution of mentally retarded prisoners and those whose guilt is not proven, and the fact that there are now 2,500 people on death row.

The resolution was translated from the German by EIR.

The European Parliament,

A. deeply concerned about the recent growing number

of executions in the United States of North America,

B. shocked at the execution of Robert Alton Harris on April 21, 1992, who had spent 14 years on death row in the San Quentin prison in California,

C. shocked at the execution in the electric chair of Nollis Nee Martin on May 12, 1992 in Tallahassee, [Florida] after rejection of his appeal by the Supreme Court, whereby his appeal was based on the claim that the prisoner could not be held responsible for his actions, due to insanity,

D. further shocked at the execution of Roger Coleman on May 21, 1992 in Greensville, [Virginia] whose guilt has been put into serious doubt by many leading American figures,

E. in recognition of the fact that Kenneth Richey, a citizen of the European Community, was convicted by a court in

LaRouche: Law has been separated from truth

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche addressed the following statement on June 14 to the European Parliament after learning of its strong stand against judicial barbarism represented by capital punishment in the United States. In the wake of winning the North Dakota primary, LaRouche vowed to go into the Democratic National Convention campaigning for an economic recovery program, and on the issue of the death penalty—from the standpoint that he lays out here.

I wish to congratulate the European Parliament, both for its resolution on behalf of general abolition of the death penalty and also for the very useful frankness of the Parliament in describing the unwholesome condition which exists in the United States presently.

I would wish to call to the attention of the Parliament, that in my view, although I think it necessary to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty as such, that we must focus upon a particularly nasty feature (which has not escaped the attention of the Parliament) of present U.S. practice: That is, it is the ugly, shocking reality that, in

the United States, leading institutions, such as federal courts and prosecutors, are currently arguing in many locations that actual innocence—or what is called in U.S. practice "colorable claims" to innocence—should not be considered a reason for delaying the execution of a condemned prisoner.

This tendency, which threatens to become hegemonic in U.S. jurisprudence at this time, indicates that the United States has reached a point, at which law is being separated in the most radical way from all considerations of truth and falsehood, right and wrong, good and evil. This threatens to impose upon the United States, internally and in its foreign affairs, a radical positivist misconception of law which, at least in form, is more evil and more degenerate than the worst expressions of abuse of law under the former Nazi regime in Germany.

Not only do we have to be concerned with criminal justice matters, but we have to recognize that the same state of mind which disregards the claims of innocence of a prisoner facing execution is also the axiomatic basis for frequent disregard of other expressions of the natural rights of persons: Economic justice and social justice are being discarded in U.S. domestic relations, and also in foreign policy relations, with the same abandon and disregard for truth and justice, of right and wrong, which is expressed in the horrifying spectacle of the execution of Roger Keith Coleman in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ohio, and with reference to the fact that there was no court-accepted evidence against Kenneth Richey, and there were well-founded reasons to put the justness of his conviction into doubt,

F. in consideration that it is even more serious, that, as in the most recent case of the execution of Roger Coleman, there often exists serious doubt about the actual guilt of the convicted person, and that their execution precludes all possibility that a mistaken court decision could be corrected,

G. concerned about the lack of leniency shown to persons who have committed crimes during adolescence, and to mentally retarded persons,

H. with reference to the fact that in the past many mistakes have been made in connection with the death penalty, and that these mistakes can never be rectified,

I. in view of the fact that according to the most recent report of Amnesty International, 2,500 people in the United States are sitting on "Death Row" awaiting execution,

J. in the fear that the resumption of executions in some states can be an incentive for other states to follow this example,

K. gladdened by the courage of Governor Cuomo, who has intervened against the proposal to reintroduce the death penalty into New York State,

L. in reference to its [European Parliament's] resolution of March 12, 1992 (Part II, Point 7 of the Protocol bearing that date) on the death penalty,

1. rejects the death penalty and demands its revocation in all countries of the world;

2. calls upon the legislative bodies, the governors, and the appeals authorities of the various U.S. states, as well as the President and the Congress of the United States of America, to prevent executions from being carried out;

3. calls on candidates for high offices in the United States, to set an example by rejecting the application of the death penalty;

4. especially insists on the urgent necessity to practice leniency toward minors or mentally retarded individuals who have committed capital crimes;

5. commissions its delegation for relations with the United States, to stress anew the European Parliament's position against the death penalty, when the delegation meets in Washington and New York at the end of June;

6. calls upon the President and the [European] Council to do all in their power to ensure that Kenneth Richey is not executed;

7. calls upon the [European] Council to request that the U.S. government enact laws exempting U.S. citizens who have been condemned of a capital crime in a member state of the EC, from extradition to the United States;

8. commissions its President to convey this resolution to the Commission, the Council . . . President Bush, the governors of all U.S. states, as well as to the majority and minority leaders of both houses of Congress.

Monarchy option brings new dangers to Balkans

by Mark Burdman

Yugoslav-Serbian Crown Prince Alexander, claimant to the throne of the House of Karageorgevic, will return to Belgrade on June 27, *EIR* has learned. He was invited for his first visit to Serbia since his much-publicized visit last October, by the Serbian Orthodox Church Patriarch Pavle, in a message delivered over the June 13-14 weekend. The date of his arrival is symbolic; June 28 is the national day of remembrance of Serbia's defeat in Kosovo in 1389 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, and tends to be a day of nationalist fervor among certain elements.

Informed sources insist that the possibility that the House of Karageorgevic will be formally restored soon is very real. One Serbian-origin insider in Europe admitted during a background discussion: "I formerly thought the idea was ridiculous, but there is enough despair now in Serbia to change my mind. It is an option now, things have gotten so bad." He said that the decisive role is played by the Serbian Orthodox Church, which since late May has been conducting a public mobilization to bring down the Milosevic regime. This contrasts to a centuries-old Orthodox Church practice of public acquiescence to the regime in power.

Alexander's scheduled return introduces a new element of danger to the war-torn Balkans. As *EIR* has warned, the reinstatement of the monarchy in Serbia could catalyze bringing back monarchies in many other countries there, starting with Romania and Bulgaria. The process could then swiftly be extended to Georgia in the Caucasus.

Responsible figures in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina worry that the return of the monarchy will provide a "legitimacy" to the Serbian wars of aggression, which does not exist in the eyes of the international community as long as the tyrant Slobodan Milosevic remains in power. As Paul Tvrtkovic, spokesman for the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in London, warned in a letter published in various British newspapers June 15, "it is under the royalist insignia" of the majority faction in the anti-Milosevic opposition in Serbia "that the most appalling crimes in Bosnia and Croatia are being perpetrated." What he is referring to is that the brutal "neo-Chetnik" militias of Vojislav Seselj, who have carried out the worst atrocities in Sarajevo, Vukovar, and elsewhere, are committed royalists. As Milosevic's star has fallen, Seselj's has begun to rise.

Bosnians and Croatians fear that the worst is yet to come.