

Regency option won't save Britain's royals

by Mark Burdman

In a late November 1992 speech in London, Queen Elizabeth II characterized the year 1992 as the *annus horribilis* ("horrible year") for the royal family. But already, 1993 is shaping up as the *annus consumatus* ("year where it all comes to an end") for the Mountbatten-Windsors.

The Mountbatten-Windsor royal line is now threatened with disintegration, possibly leading to the end of the institution of the monarchy itself in Britain. Given the British royal house's vast family connections through intermarriages on the European continent and its enormous financial holdings, this dissolution could trigger upheavals internationally. As well, it could provide an opportunity to reconstruct a republican system, freed from the nefarious influence of a royal house committed to paganism, ecologism, and neo-feudal systems of rule.

The new year has seen a dramatic escalation in the scandals hitting Prince Charles and Princess Diana, especially the publication, by a Rupert Murdoch-owned Australian newspaper, of a discussion between Charles and his reputed mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, in which Charles spews out some truly lurid sexual fantasies. The transcripts were reprinted in two British tabloids from the Mirror chain on Jan. 17.

The release of the transcripts has catalyzed an intra-institutional war, in which the press is accused of "invading the privacy" of the royals; the intelligence services are accused of bugging the phones of the royals; the royals are accused of undermining the credibility of centuries-old British institutions; and so on. But one undeniable effect of the "Camillagate" affair, is that it has stepped up the pressure, from within certain among Britain's most senior ranks, including Buckingham Palace itself, for Charles to renounce his claim as heir to Queen Elizabeth, and for a "regency" to be set up, that would manage the succession until Charles's eldest son, William, reaches the age of 18.

According to the Jan. 19 Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, a secretive meeting of the British Crown Council was held recently, in which the royal consort Prince Philip presented an "emergency plan" for Princess Anne, the only daughter of Elizabeth and Philip, to be made regent, and to manage the succession. *Corriere* says that the palace view is that Charles's misadventures are having a "bad effect on the state."

For the scenario to take effect, Charles would have to be induced to renounce his claim. An added inducement for him

to do so, is the report in Italian and German papers recently, that Princess Diana is in the process of converting to Catholicism. Since, by convention, no monarch is allowed to be married to a Catholic, Diana's reported conversion, were it to take place, would force him into a divorce, or would simply nullify his claim.

The ghost of Lord Louis Mountbatten

Corriere's account on the regency is credible. Numerous well-informed Britons have privately confided that the view in monarchical circles is that only a regency, likely headed by Anne, could slow the momentum toward Mountbatten-Windsor self-destruction.

According to certain knowledgeable Britons, Anne is the favorite of Philip. They stress that Philip has maintained his intense loyalty to the late Lord Louis Mountbatten, his uncle, who was killed under still-unexplained circumstances in 1979. Mountbatten (originally from the German royal Battenberg line) sought intensively to build his ambitions within the U.K., first by having arranged the Philip-Elizabeth marriage in 1947, and then by having maintained his role, until his death, as mentor of Philip, Charles, and Anne. One "victory" that Mountbatten achieved, was to have won agreement that the title "House of Windsor" would be changed to "House of Mountbatten-Windsor," at some point early in the next century. However, Anne is the only child of Philip and Elizabeth to have *already* adopted that title, formally, in her name. So, by choosing Anne as the regent who would effectively usurp the prerogatives of the misbegotten Charles, Philip would be hoping to both prevent the disintegration of the monarchy and to "preserve the flame" of his uncle's ambitions and reputation.

But the private view among individuals close to Philip is that the effort is doomed to failure. One Philip intimate reported that the royal family has irretrievably lost what the Chinese refer to as "the mandate of heaven." Their "mortal failures" have become so extreme and apparent to the public eye that the "symbolism" provided by the monarchy, in terms of providing a sense of enchantment and magic for the population, is being shattered. This is all the more so in an economic depression, when all the glitter and shine is seen as embarrassingly extravagant by more and more Britons.

Under such conditions, more Hobbesian wars within the elites can be expected. For example, *EIR* has received a report from U.S. sources that younger members of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry have attacked the monarchy's links to paganism and drugs, inclusively citing the charges made by *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche. If true, it would be doubly ironic: first, because the Scottish Rite itself is up to its ears in such nefarious deeds, and second, because tens of thousands of slanders have appeared in the international media over the past years "identifying" LaRouche as "the man who claims that Queen Elizabeth II heads the international drug trade."