

British push 'Serbian monarchy' restoration

by Mark Burdman

British-sponsored plans for the restoration of monarchies in the Balkans are proceeding full-steam ahead, precisely as *EIR* had warned would happen.

Crown Prince Alexander II Karageorgevich, claimant to the putatively Yugoslav but actually Serbian throne, will be going to Belgrade on Oct. 5. His "return" (he has actually never been there in his life) is being organized by a recently formed "united bloc of Serbian opposition parties," led by Vuk Draskovic, chairman of the Serbian Renewal Movement. Representatives from the united parties met in Geneva on Sept. 7, and resolved to invite the crown prince. Then, at a press conference in Belgrade on Sept. 12, the opposition bloc issued a public invitation to Alexander to come to Belgrade. He accepted on the same day.

Sources close to the crown prince anticipate that he will be met by 500,000-750,000 supporters. He is to be greeted at the airport by the patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church and by the synod of bishops of the church.

Only two eventualities could derail the Oct. 5 plans, according to the crown prince's entourage in London. One is that the fighting and chaos in Yugoslavia spread to Belgrade itself. The other is that Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic, a Bolshevik demagogue who resents the opposition parties' prominent role in organizing the "return," would try to impede it. That, they say, is unlikely, since it would only backfire politically against Milosevic. In any case, a programmed shift from "Serbo-Bolshevism" to "Serbo-monarchism" would be in the interest of the Serbian political and military nomenklatura at this time.

Lord Carrington's complicity

One aide to Alexander reported that the crown prince met former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, before the latter launched his diplomatic wrecking operations in Yugoslavia. Said this aide: "Carrington is very much favorable to the Oct. 5 visit to Belgrade. The crown prince will be putting himself forward as a 'man of peace,' capable of uniting all the conflicting parties. He is putting himself forward as the figurehead-leader of a new Commonwealth of Sovereign Yugoslav States."

This report eloquently testifies to Carrington's real aim in the so-called Yugoslav mission: to foster the conditions of

chaos and destabilization that would make a monarchical restoration not only palatable but desirable to Serbians and others living in the territory of the former nation of Yugoslavia.

The aide added that the British royal family is "discreetly supporting" the attempts by Alexander to restore his monarchy. This is hardly surprising, given the family ties of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip into the monarchical houses of the Balkans and neighboring areas. (Prince Philip was born in Greece, into the Greek royal family, although his parents and grandparents belonged to the Danish, Russian, British, and German royal households. His mother, in later years, became a Greek Orthodox nun.)

Prince Philip, international president of the World Wide Fund for Nature, is using his vast connections in the international environmental movement to reinforce such monarchical links, in part through the mediation of certain high-level forces in the Orthodox churches. On Nov. 5, he will be in Crete, where he will keynote a week-long Pan-Orthodox Conference on Environmental Protection, during which time he will meet with senior Orthodox Church representatives from Serbia, Bulgaria, Russia, Georgia, and elsewhere.

The monarchical restoration plans precisely complement the designs of the environmentalist movement. Both seek to impose a neo-feudalist world order. And indeed, once begun in Serbia, the trend will rapidly spread elsewhere. An aide to Alexander stressed on Sept. 18 that "anything can now happen, things are in such flux, even a return of the Romanovs in Russia."

Israel's Balkans card

Support for the crown prince is coming from other quarters. From Sept. 2-5, Alexander was in Israel, on the pretext of a visit to Jerusalem at the invitation of the head of the Greek Orthodox Church there, Diodorus. According to a report in the Sept. 6 *Jerusalem Post*, Alexander proclaimed that "Jews and Serbs have a lot in common."

Various Serbian sources report that Israel will politically support "Greater Serbian" claims, at least in the short term. They stress that Israel owes certain debts of gratitude to the Serbs, in particular because the Serbs worked in the late 1940s to engineer Yugoslav support for recognition of Israel as a separate state within historical Palestine.

Now, Israel is playing its own "Balkans card." Exactly overlapping the Crown Prince's arrival, was the visit of Romanian President Ion Iliescu to Israel, the first-ever diplomatic visit to Israel by a Romanian leader.

Another crucial source of support comes from the Greek shipping magnate and multi-billionaire John Latsis. Latsis is based in Britain, and is a financial benefactor of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. For several years, Alexander worked for him in Latsis's shipping and insurance combines. In recent months, Latsis has been the bankroller of Alexander's political efforts.