

Political 'strains' take toll on Queen?

by Mark Burdman

Five days after the tumultuous Commonwealth "mini-summit" on South Africa ended in London, the Aug. 10 *Sunday Mirror* reported that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, had secretly visited the National Heart Hospital for an electrocardiogram test.

Buckingham Palace quickly put out a disclaimer. The visit was "routine," and the Queen was in dandy health. But this failed to prevent the spreading rumors and speculation: Was the Queen, aged 60, actually possessed of a failing heart? Astute observers pointed out, that Buckingham Palace has its own fancy heart equipment, so why a trip to the National Heart Hospital, unless something really was a-flutter?

An elaborate publicity stunt was contrived. The Queen, visiting Scotland, climbed a steep lighthouse, and reached the top, without collapsing. Wasn't this proof that all was well?

Not so, the Aug. 11 *Daily Telegraph* suggested. "Strains" resulting from tensions at the Commonwealth mini-summit, combined with other factors, were taking their toll, the paper said. Should the Queen have such a heavy traveling schedule, the paper asked? What would become of her planned trip to China in October of this year, in the company of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh?

Evidently, the heir to the throne did not have his doubts dispelled, either. Charles, Duke of Cornwall, protégé of the late Lord Mountbatten and Soviet-linked multibillionaire Armand Hammer, interrupted a vacation stay in Majorca, Spain, and flew back alone to Britain, leaving Lady Di and royal tots William and Henry behind. West Germany's gossip-sheet, *Bild Zeitung*, reported Aug. 13, that Charles had returned to Britain precipitously, "out of concern for the heart condition of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II."

Does Charles know something that most of the world does not yet know? Is a failing heart only another public symptom of a constitutional crisis in Britain, a crisis that may soon involve an abdication or a crisis of succession?

New scandal hits the palace

In the days following the mini-summit, the "Palacegate" controversy pitting the Royal Household against 10 Downing Street has not receded, as the official and semi-official mouthpieces of the Palace would have us believe, but has actually expanded, on several fronts, albeit in an "underground" way.

Palacegate erupted with the July 20 publication, in London's *Sunday Times*, of leaks emanating from high-level sources at Buckingham Palace, attacking Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for her policies on South Africa, her domestic policies, and other issues. *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche asserted, in a July 25 document entitled "Is Queen Elizabeth II Sinking?" that the real issue was a battle between the pro-Moscow elements of the Palace, and a patriotic group in Britain's Establishment, opposed to a new global deal with the Russians.

At the mini-summit itself, Mrs. Thatcher fundamentally held the line against the weight of Commonwealth and monarchy, refusing to buckle to pressure for sanctions on South Africa. The *Guardian* reported an atmosphere of tension at the Queen's dinner table on the evening of Aug. 3 as the Commonwealth leaders gathered. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda reinforced this report, when he arrived at Heathrow Airport Aug. 5, to depart for home. Heaping scorn on Mrs. Thatcher in statements to the press, he could not contain his admiration for the Queen.

The summit was no sooner out of the headlines than the *Sunday Times* reported another bombshell. The much-touted Commonwealth Games, upon which the monarchy had staked so much of its reputation, would be having its accrued debts repaid by a Japanese multimillionaire named Ryiochi Sasakawa, after entreaties by Robert Maxwell, publisher of Britain's *Mirror* newspaper chain. The article reported three central facts about Sasakawa: that he had made his fortune early on by gambling; that he had built up, in the years leading up to World War II, a private fascist army of 15,000 men known as the "Black Shirts"; and that he has been, in the past few years, a central funder of the cult of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon!

Since Maxwell is known throughout Britain as an agent of Soviet influence, the "close friendship" between him and Sasakawa is notable. Moreover, the *Times'* report that the building housing the *Mirror* chain, also houses the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, an entity formed to "forward British-Japanese relations," which has on its advisory board Trilateral Commission member David Owen, Anglo-Soviet Consultative Commission member Sir John Butterfield, and Lonrho, Ltd. chairman Sir Edward DuCann.

What has this to do with Palacegate? The article was accompanied by a photograph: Sasakawa on the left, Maxwell on the right, and, in the middle, Prince Edward, Charles and Andrew's younger brother!

One day after this piece, on Aug. 11, the London *Guardian* ran a piece, entitled, "The real issues that divide Palace and Premier," reporting that "the 'argument' between the Queen and the Prime Minister is more than a clash of the respective prejudices of Elisabeth Windsor and Margaret Thatcher. It is, in a way, a deep and forward-looking confrontation between two views of what we are, of what Britain is, and will be."