

Political eruptions hit, as Britain prepares for 'post-crash world'

by Mark Burdman

Whenever high-level circles in the British oligarchy plan fundamental changes in the reigning political arrangements in Britain, it is assured that there will be a season of political bloodletting, bloody scandals, and "irregular" eruptions. We are in precisely such a period right now. The United Kingdom is moving toward the imposition of emergency rule at some point in the late summer or early autumn, and the preparatory maneuvers toward such a momentous development are affecting the status of the House of Mountbatten-Windsor ruling family, Prime Minister Tony Blair and his entourage, and others among the leading institutions and political figures in the country.

At first glance, it might seem incredible that a country that presumes to be part of "the West," and to be a "parliamentary democracy," would be contemplating something so drastic as emergency rule in the weeks ahead. But, these are hardly normal times. The highest echelons of the British financial/political establishment are well aware that the world has entered an "end-game" phase in the process of general financial disintegration, and that extraordinary means will have to be used to maintain control in a "post-crash world." Moves toward emergency rule were openly discussed in a "signal" article on the front-page of the July 18 *Sunday Times*. It revealed the existence of something called "Operation Surety," which, drawn up over a period of months, foresees the large-scale deployment of British military forces, including 2,000 brought back from Kosovo, to deal with widespread civil disorder in the coming months (see *EIR*, Aug. 6, p. 44).

As we show here, the potential for large-scale civil disorder in the U.K. over the coming weeks is very real. This is likely to occur simultaneously with the outbreak of various political developments, the importance of which would be missed by those who see Britain as a "normal" country such as Germany, France, or the United States. But, the British species is of a different nature. It is a classical oligarchical, class society, with a political structure modelled on that of the Venice of former times. Events that would appear irrelevant or arcane to an uninformed observer, can take on

considerable importance in Britain, in causing or influencing crucial political transformations.

The royals and the riots

Britain has recently experienced an outbreak of civil disorder, the magnitude and intensity of which shocked many observers. On June 18, there were the worst riots in the City of London in more than two centuries, since the notorious "Gordon riots" of the 1780s were orchestrated by the powerful Lord Shelburne and friends. In military style, leading offices of the City of London, such as the London International Financial and Futures Exchange, were stormed by well-supplied bands of self-professed "anti-capitalist anarchists," operating under the banner of an organization called "J18" (signifying June 18, a day of protest against the Group of Eight summit beginning that day in Cologne, Germany).

In mid-August, there were new revelations in the British press, showing that the June 18 riots were extremely well-organized and well-financed, and carried out in a virtual "general staff" mode. For example, the lead article of the Aug. 9 London *Independent* quoted London police Deputy Chief Inspector Kieron Sharp, that "there were people orchestrating the violence from a distance. There were a number of people dressed in suits with mobile phones, but they were not City [of London] workers, they were organizers. There was one person organizing things while standing behind the police lines. . . . There was very severe and savage violence."

The British police have set up something called "Operation Enterprise," for investigating the June 18 events, and *in anticipation of future such eruptions*. Such eruptions, perhaps combined with a full breakdown of the peace process in Northern Ireland and new incidents of sectarian violence and terrorism, would be a perfect pretext for bringing into play the "Operation Surety" emergency measures.

Typically for an oligarchical society like Britain, the riots themselves are being spawned from *within* the oligarchy and circles close to the royal family. The Aug. 10 British press revealed that one of those arrested for participating in, and financing the riots, is Mark Brown. Brown is an heir to the

Vestey family fortune. Until recent years, the Vestey family, whose vast fortune derives from prominent involvement in the international meat trade, were the second-richest family in Britain, after the Mountbatten-Windsors. The current Lord Vestey, Brown's cousin, is very close to Prince Charles. His lordship's wife, Cecey, is the godmother to Prince Harry, while Brown's cousin Tamara is very close to Prince William. Brown himself is an activist with Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and various anarchist groups, including an anarchist newsletter called *Corporate Watch*, the activities of which are nurtured by senior figures in the British establishment.

This points to how the British royals are both swept up in, and manipulating the current unrest in Britain. But, this is hardly the only tumult that the royal family is now involved in.

'Thermonuclear device' aimed at Blair

In this situation, the Blair government clearly has strong authoritarian impulses. For instance, the Home Ministry is now working on legislation, for preemptive detention of psychologically disturbed individuals who are classified as "dangerous to society." An article in the Aug. 6 London *Times* aptly characterized Blair as a close ideological and political follower of "Il Duce, Mussolini."

While that *Times* piece neglected to remind readers about Mussolini's eventual fate, the paradox of the current British situation, is that the seemingly powerful Blair is being set up for a fall. The fascist authoritarianism being prepared at the highest echelons of the British establishment, is one in which Blair could find himself decidedly expendable.

While Blair was on a government-funded vacation in Tuscany, Italy in mid-August, he was hit by a barrage of troubling news. It has been leaked, in a number of articles, that Blair was the recipient, in 1996, of £250,000, from Labour Party moneybags Geoffrey Robinson. Robinson built up his fortune, in significant part, through dealings with the late and disreputable British magnate Robert Maxwell. In late December 1998, when it was revealed that British Trade and Industry Minister Peter Mandelson, a Blair mentor and intimate, had failed to disclose that he had received a £373,000 home loan from Robinson, he was forced to resign. Robinson had to resign from his post as Paymaster-General.

The next to resign because of the fall-out from Robinson's affairs, could be Blair himself. According to reports from London, Robinson is preparing a "revenge" autobiography for later in the year, one feature of which will be to detail the previously unreported loan to Blair. Robinson is allied with Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, a longtime rival of Blair's. According to the Aug. 15 London *Sunday Telegraph*, "Mr. Brown's allies have often said they are equipped with a 'thermonuclear device' which could harm Blair. No. 10 [Downing Street, the Prime Minister's office] fears that Mr. Robinson's book could be the launching pad."

Simultaneously, the Conservative Party, the main opposition party, still reeling from its disastrous results in the May 1, 1997 general elections, is going through a process of institutional decomposition. The bumbling party chief, William Hague, has suffered badly from allegations in the British press that the party's Treasurer and chief moneybags, Michael Ashcroft, has murky involvements with international money-laundering and, possibly, drug-trafficking networks. The party is rent with feuds over policy toward Europe, and it is anticipated that devout followers of Margaret Thatcher will ambush next month's party conference on this issue, even though Hague is Thatcher's hand-picked protégé. Meanwhile, Thatcher is the subject of nasty attacks in the new memoirs of her successor as Prime Minister, John Major.

The monarchy, LaRouche, and the case of Princess Diana

Another paradox of the ongoing process, is that while the monarchical establishment is, in broad terms, behind the push for "Operation Surety" emergency measures, the monarchy itself is being swept up in the tumultuous situation now facing Britain.

Not surprisingly, a sign of the times in Britain, is the overlap of scandals affecting circles of the monarchy, and a focus, in the British media, on Democratic Party pre-candidate and *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche, a key international opponent of the monarchy and its tentacles. Earlier this month, as we have reported, circles linked to the monarchy and/or the British secret services, planted a nasty death threat against LaRouche, in a disreputable tabloid magazine, *Take a Break*. This article was a tip-off, of the degree of desperation felt by certain high-level British circles, at this historical-political conjuncture (see *EIR*, Aug. 13 cover story).

On Aug. 18, London *Guardian* weekly columnist Francis Wheen (who also writes for the satirical intelligence *Private Eye* magazine) published a commentary on the emerging national debate on drug policy in Britain, in the wake of the Aug. 15 call by new Liberal Democratic Party leader Charles Kennedy for the legalization of cannabis. Suddenly, at the end of his commentary, Wheen added a curious "Postscript," in which he detailed how prominent establishment figure Lord William Rees-Mogg has revealed himself to be one of the leading British experts on the availability of illicit drugs in Britain. Wheen, who has frequently attacked LaRouche in the past, wrote: "The American conspiracy theorist Lyndon LaRouche has often claimed that the global narcotics trade is run by Lord Rees-Mogg and the Queen. Until now I have been inclined to give his lordship the benefit of the doubt, but this suspiciously well-informed article makes me wonder. Can it be, as LaRouche insists, that this 71-year-old bibliophile is indeed the Mr. Big behind the Colombian drug

barons, the Triads, and the Yardies?”

Lord Rees-Mogg, who writes for the London *Times*, is one of the leading British press mouthpieces for the monarchy and the British Foreign Office.

Meanwhile, LaRouche's chief adversary in the royal family, Royal Consort Prince Philip, continues to have a "time of troubles." Around the time that LaRouche was being attacked in *Take a Break*, Philip was being accused by magnate Mohamed Al Fayed, of having ordered the murder of Al Fayed's son Dodi Fayed and Princess Diana, on the night of Aug. 30-31, 1997. Soon thereafter, a national outcry erupted in Britain, when Philip made a racist anti-Indian statement, while visiting an Edinburgh factory.

On Aug. 15, the Sunday British press was filled with stories on the Royal Consort. One, in the *Sunday Times*, speculated on the grounds for Philip's apparent mental-psychological disorientation, discounting the idea that it came from a special gene prominent in royal family circles, and leaving open the question of what the cause might be. A front-page piece in the same day's *Sunday Telegraph* featured the fact that the Royal Consort is feeling increasingly persecuted, and is being made into a caricature by the British press.

The Aug. 12 *Guardian*, in a commentary next to a violently polemical cartoon depicting Philip together with leading political figures in Britain, labelled him "the old goat," and speculated that he might be, in some manner, forced to leave Buckingham Palace at some early date.

Such nastiness is characteristic of the brutal realities of Britain at this point. But, it may only be a prelude for other surprises. Aug. 31 is the second anniversary of the death of Princess Diana. The royal family is still smarting from accusations that either it was involved in her wrongful death, or at least acted with extreme emotional callousness after her death. Now, a new element has been introduced.

According to the Aug. 16 *Guardian*, former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, who has been President Clinton's special emissary for the Northern Ireland peace effort, has agreed to mediate between the Pentagon and Al Fayed, to determine whether the Department of Defense has any intelligence files that might shed light on the events in Paris on the night of Aug. 30-31. Mitchell has proposed that Robert Tyrer, an official in the office of Secretary of Defense William Cohen, conduct a thorough, *de novo* review of the Pentagon's files, and report his findings to Mitchell. According to the *Guardian*, "The aim would be to end suspicions that have surrounded Diana's death, including allegations from Mr. Fayed that there had been a cover-up over the crash, which killed her, Mr. Fayed's son Dodi and their driver."

U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency and other U.S. intelligence files are believed to contain important leads on the latter days of the life of the Princess, and, until now, access to these files has been systematically withheld.

An unstable Germany means an unstable Europe

by Rainer Apel

What if the big financial crash occurs, and the government is not prepared? This is a critical question that must be posed in Germany, where the government, and the elites standing behind or tolerating this coalition of the Social Democrats and the Greens, apparently is not at all prepared. The "red-green" government's energies are absorbed by the exhausting struggle to achieve a balanced budget, and by the need to carry on a massive propaganda campaign to keep up the pretense that it has not lost control of economic and financial events and the capability to govern.

After 10 months in power, this government has lost the confidence of most Germans. An opinion poll published by the FORSA Institute at the beginning of August, showed that, of those Germans who voted for the Social Democrats and their Chancellor candidate, Gerhard Schröder, last September, 41% would not vote for them again if national elections were held now. This translates into a loss of 10 million votes. Another opinion poll, published by the Allensbach Institute in mid-August, showed that 54% of Germans in the western states, and 57% of those in the eastern states, are convinced that time has run out for the red-green government.

No such poll has been done yet among the labor movement, but the percentage of unionists who oppose the government is certain to be even higher. The frustration with the government's policy among union members has taken on such dimensions, particularly in the eastern states of Germany, that the labor bureaucracy is beginning to reflect that ferment. And, it takes the form of regional protests that even openly disregard the overall pro-government line of the national labor federation (DGB). So far, the DGB's national executive has voiced protests against the government, but managed to do so in such a way that it has not been threatening. But, this is going to change—it simply has to, if the country and its labor movement are to remain governable.

Labor leaders attack the banks

An indicative development occurred on Aug. 4, when the chairmen of the regional DGB sections of the eastern states of Saxony and Saxe-Anhalt, Hanjo Lucassen and Jürgen Weissbach, respectively, took the unprecedented step of hold-