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# Royal advice heard in Yugoslavia

By Martin Sieff  
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As Yugoslavia slides toward possible dissolution and civil war, its media are carrying messages of moderation and democratic compromise from an unexpected source — Crown Prince Alexander, heir to the country's throne.

A descendant of the Karageorgievic dynasty whose father was forced out by the communists after World War II, Alexander, 46, has become the subject of extensive coverage in the Yugoslav press.

His portrait is now held up in opposition demonstrations for democracy in Belgrade, amid chants of "We want the king!" Members of the

Croatian and Slovenian governments and opposition parties have consulted him in London, where he is a successful businessman.

This month alone, some 15 major Yugoslav newspapers and magazines have published features about Alexander or interviews with him. The publications include the official Communist Party organ Borba in Belgrade.

"I am talking about principles of democracy and freedom of the media," said the crown prince in a telephone interview. "The current [federal] regime is still trying to deny the people access to them."

Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic has pledged a referendum on constitutional reform for next

month, but Prince Alexander accused him of following the tactics of the regimes in Bulgaria, Romania and Albania, which have denied democratic opposition time and resources to organize.

Even if the referendum supports the federal government, the crown prince said it will not reassure the governments of Croatia and Slovenia, which seek independence and fear repression by Serbian communists.

"I cannot see anything calming until a neutral force develops" that can win political trust from the competing parties, the crown prince said. "My concern is that we should avoid bloodshed. Our aim is to establish true democracy."

"The big problem is we're dealing with a system that's stuck ideologically in the past," he said.

In a recent flare-up in Croatia, "the regime's propaganda machine reported deaths there, and there were none," the crown prince said. "The people must not be subjected to these lies. The government is still closely controlling news dissemination. The goal must be to open up the media."

A restored constitutional monarchy would serve as a unifying force, providing centers of stability and moderation in countries riven by political extremism and ethnic tensions, said Prince Alexander, a cousin of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.