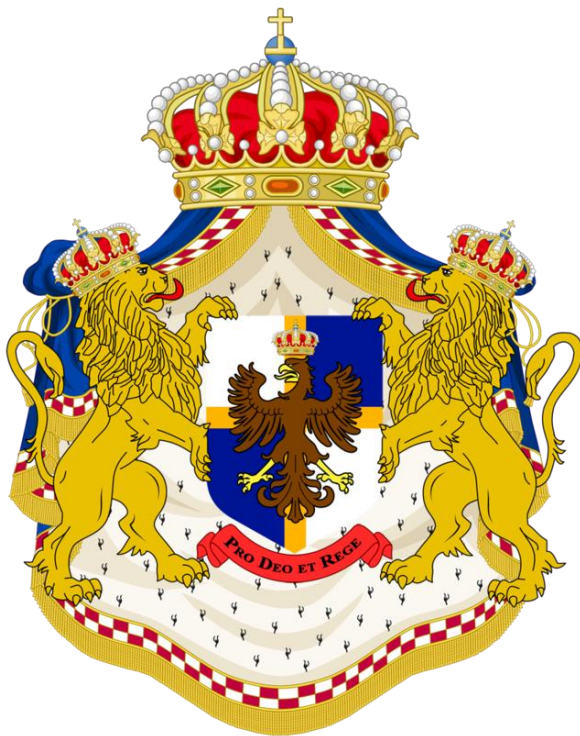


Parliamentary Report on the Failed Coup of the 19th of July, 2011



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Commission Members

Co-Chairman

His Grace Ronal Drown, Grand Duke of Valoria (Liberal Party)

Co-Chairwoman

Her Grace Sandra Knopf, Duchess of Halmonton (Social Monarchist Party)

Causes

Beginnings of Dissent

The beginnings of dissent against the current government of Kirkland can be traced back to the founding of the original Kingdom of Kirkland. In those early days there were a small number of committed leaders, His Imperial Majesty the Emperor among them, which wished to found a new and hopefully great nation. In their desire to form a nation a means of governance had to be chosen. His Imperial Majesty the Emperor and his confidant His Grace Stephen Landes, Grand Duke of Balromia decided that the nation would best be governed if a relatively small, select group of individuals were allowed to run the nation. This is the beginning of the nobility.

From the get go many citizens who were not admitted into the nobility were frustrated with the lack of representation afforded to them. It was, in their opinion, unfair that they should be governed by people who, by their very nature, saw themselves as being above the regular citizenry. Dissent existed from day one and was only to be compounded upon the enacting of legislation such as the Act Concerning the Establishment of Voting Procedures and the Act to Control the Power of the King to Hold Public Office both of which created a new culture of representation that excluded all but the nobility. Following the enactment of the Act Concerning the Establishment of Voting Procedures a group of concerned citizens who had not been granted noble titles gathered together and vowed to fight the established government. This group was the beginnings of the Kirkland People's Liberation Movement.

Founding of the KPLM & Nathaniel Yates

Following this initial meeting the group began to search for a charismatic leader, someone who would not only be able to lead the group but attract new followers. This is when Nathaniel Yates entered into the picture.

Nathaniel Yates began his life in Kirkland as a simple observer. He was offered to become an Earl from day one but refused saying, "I do not wish to stand on the shoulders of other men." He was the Editor-in-Chief of the Kirkland News Service, the only news service in Kirkland. He was committed to the cause of freedom of expression and freedom of the press. He made it a point to ensure that all sides were heard in any and every debate. He watched as the Parliament passed act after act that in his words "showed complete disregard for the well-being and political freedom of the regular people of Kirkland."

On April 20th, 2011 Yates expressed this view to a friend by the name of Johnathon Miller, an active member of the then unnamed anti-government citizen's group later to become the KPLM. Upon hearing Yates opinion Miller invited Yates to the next meeting of the anti-government group, a meeting which occurred on April 23rd. At that meeting Yates became actively involved. He was widely admired in the group as Miller recollects, "Everyone loved him. He was always popular from day one. He woke us all up to some of the more horrendous crimes of the government. His argumentation led every member of the group to agree with him." At this point the group decided to elect Yates as their official leader and to name the group. The group settled on the Kirkland People's Liberation Movement (KPLM). Yates agreed to keep his opinions out of the Kirkland News Service as much as possible so as to limit suspicion against him. The group continued to meet regularly and grew. By May 29th the group had swelled to seven members, two of which were nobles and Members of Parliament.

KPLM Finalizes Plans & Opinions

On the June 10th meeting of the KPLM the group had grown to 13 members, three of whom were Members of Parliament. It was during this meeting that the KPLM finally settled on a set of ideals and put in place a plan to take over. The group, having been swayed by Yates's oratory agreed to accept the ideals of Revolutionary Communism. They agreed that the main goal of a revolution should be to "destroy the current order, put the proletariat on top, nationalise everything, and institute a full democracy."

The one problem with these ideals is that it scared off the three Members of Parliament present and a few other members of the group. However, the small group left were die hard supporters of Yates and were willing to follow him to whatever end. They put in place a plan by which they would take over the nation. They would commit acts that led the central authority, namely the Emperor, to get paranoid and pass increasingly draconian laws. These laws would upset even the most moderate members of the nobility and the citizenry. After sufficient anger had built up against the Emperor and the Parliament the KPLM would lead an assault by the people of Kirk House, arrest the Emperor, force him to abdicate the throne, and establish a provisional government that would eventually establish a "worker's paradise." Following the establishment of this plan and the accepting of the revolutionary communist ideals the group was left with only 5 members, mostly old stalwarts who had been around since the beginning of the organisation. These remaining members were militant, ready, and willing to act on any order given by Yates.

Waiting and Persecution

Over the course of the next month the group waited for the right time to act. In the mean time the Emperor had become aware of the KPLM. He had received information from the Grand Duke of Balromia that a revolutionary group had been formed and was actively plotting against him. His Grace, the Grand Duke refused to tell the source of his information stating to this commission that the person was “a repentant former member who only wanted to do the right thing.” No matter the source the Emperor proposed the Act to Destroy the Spectre of Revolutionary Communism upon learning of the KPLM. This act forced the KPLM to act even more discreetly. They no longer held meetings in person, instead resorting to Skype chats that could not be traced.

The group waited and waited until as Yates described “We were all sick of waiting. We couldn’t take it anymore. We just wanted to get it over with. We were appalled by the actions of the government and wanted to act immediately. We met on July 17th and decided that if the Emperor tried to pass any more horrible legislation then we would act as soon as possible. Little did we know that such a bill would be proposed the next day.” That day, June 18th, the Sedition Act was proposed and passed. The KPLM, feeling that the time was right, decided to make its move the next day.

Another unexpected event occurred on the 18th. Following the coverage given by the KNS on the Sedition Act the Emperor proposed to nationalise the KNS. This much infuriated Yates. He saw the news service as his child. He did not want to have his most beloved publication taken from him. So, without any prior discussion with the members of the KPLM, Yates published an opinion piece on the KNS site that called for a march on Kirk House the next day, the 19th. This action upset many of the remaining KPLM members. They had wished to keep the plan secret until it was ready to be unleashed. By publishing his plans the KPLM was put at a great disadvantage.

The Events of July 19th

Quiet Beginnings

The day of Tuesday, July 19th started off perfectly normal. The Parliament was brought to order while the Emperor enjoyed his daily cup of earl gray tea. The Imperial Guard had been placed on high alert and no one except Members of Parliament and members of the Imperial Guard were allowed on the premises of Kirk House. The Imperial Guard detachment commanded by His Grace the Grand Duke of Balromia was constantly vigilant, looking for any sign of Yates and his followers.

Meanwhile, just a few blocks away, Yates and his followers were getting ready for their assault. They had brought three airsoft rifles and three airsoft pistols, one of each for each of the members that showed up. Yates was disappointed that two members refused to take part in the assault but expressed his sympathy for their not coming. "We were all scared." Yates said. "We just wanted to get it over with. We understood why Will and Josh didn't come. They didn't want to get caught by the Imperial Guard just as much as we didn't." The group of three got ready and when the clock hit 10:45 they began to move towards Kirk House.

Failed Assault

The three members of the KPLM slowly approached Kirk House from the east. Heavy woods covered the view from that direction. They thought they'd be able to sneak to within one hundred yards of the back entrance to Kirk House that way. None of the KPLM assailants could spot any of the Imperial Guard and so they thought were were still undiscovered. They continued to sneak toward Kirk House until the Grand Duke of Balromia turned the corner to the back end of Kirk House where he spotted the three assailants crossing the opening between the woods and Kirk House.

The Grand Duke promptly sounded his whistle calling for reinforcements. As the other members of the Imperial Guard detachment rounded the corner His

Grace charged directly at Yates, both men discharging their airsoft weapons at each other. The area became a huge firefight as the two groups opened up on each other with their airsoft weapons. His Grace the Grand Duke was hit no less than 50 times before reaching Yates and tackling him to the ground.

At this point a struggle ensued with Yates and the Grand Duke trying to disarm each other. The Grand Duke came out on top and pointed a pistol at each of the other KPLM members and ordered them to drop their weapons. They complied and were taken into custody by the other Imperial Guard members. At this point the Parliament, which had heard the exchange from inside Kirk House came outside to investigate and saw the scene as the Imperial Guard led the members of the KPLM into Kirk House for incarceration.

Confession

Following the initial processing of the KPLM assailants into custody each assailant was subjected to an interrogation by the Emperor himself. Each member, in turn, admitted to membership in the KPLM. When the time came for Yates to be interrogated the Emperor just opened up asking as his first question “are you the leader of the organisation known as the KPLM?” Yates answered in the affirmative and continued answering questions until it became apparent to the Emperor that the KPLM had been planning this move for some time. The Emperor, outraged decided that he would try Yates and the two other KPLM members himself.

The Trial of Nathaniel Yates

Prosecution

During the trial the prosecution presented the case as a simple and horrendous act of treason by the members of the KPLM. The prosecution used eyewitness testimony from the Imperial Guard detachment and former members of the KPLM to ensure that the Emperor could easily see just how deep Yates's treason went. The other two defendants, Johnathon Miller and Anthony Kratz were easily proven guilty for their actions in the assault. The main job of the prosecution was to prove that Yates was the mastermind and leader of the coup and as such deserved to be convicted of high treason. The article from the KNS was presented as evidence of Yates's treason and republicanism. The testimony of former KPLM members was used to prove Yates's connections to revolutionary communism.

Defense

The defense was to rely on an attempt to get a mistrial. The defense knew that they had no chance of winning the case given the amount of evidence against Yates and his colleagues. So instead of trying to prove Yates innocent they tried to prove that the Emperor was predisposed to rule in favor of the prosecution. However, this plan quickly backfired as the Emperor took offense to being accused of prejudice. In the end the defense's movement to mistrial just swung the case more and more into the prosecution's favor.

Verdict

In the end all three defendants were found guilty of all charges. The two accomplices, Miller and Kratz, were banned from Kirkland for 10 year for their actions. Yates's, however, received a much heavier sentence. For his attempt to

incite insurrection, for being the leader of the KPLM, and for being the ringleader of the coup Yates was found guilty of high treason. Yates was to be permanently banned from Kirkland with no chance of appeal or reassessment.

Future Implications

Political Implications

Based on analysis of the causes of the KPLM coup it can be easily inferred that the continued policy of political repression can and will only lead others to attempt the same actions as Yates and the KPLM. It is the opinion of this commission that unless restrictions are relaxed then it is very possible to have another incident like this to occur. There are bound to be more uprisings and more underground groups.

It is also the opinion of this commission that there may very well already be other underground organisations of various types already active in Kirkland. However, if for political or practical reasons restrictions cannot be relaxed, then we suggest that they be tightened further so as to prevent potentially dangerous organisations from ever forming in the first place and preventing them from being able to grow or meet if they are already formed. If these organisations are to be stopped then they must be nipped in the bud before they can grow and organize. If left untended then these organisations have the potential to grow and become a real and constant security threat.

Law Enforcement Implications

The Imperial Guard proved very capable of its ability to police Kirk House. If this ability exists all through the Armed Forces then it can be assumed that if such uprisings were to occur in other parts of Kirkland that the Armed Forces would be more than capable of putting down any insurrection.

However, the investigatory branch of law enforcement proved to be completely paralyzed. Without the publishing of the news article by Yates the Imperial Guard would have had no idea to be vigilant. This is a very obvious failure in the prevention arm of law enforcement. Unless the problem of investigation is rectified then there is little to no hope that the Armed Forces will be able to stop another attempted coup until it happens. It is the opinion of this commission that new steps should be taken that would increase the power of the Internal Security Agency and Ideological Protection Agency to investigate potentially dangerous organisations and to bring them to justice.