



PRESS RELEASE FROM THE HOUSE OF H.R.H THE DUKE OF SAVOY

San Rocco, 24 July 2006

To the Directors of newspapers and magazines, and to their editorial staff. Pro memoria.

Unless misunderstanding sells better and longer than clarity, we would beg you to give your closest attention to what you can find in the website of the former Duke of Aosta, now Duke of Savoy and Head of the Italian Royal Family: <http://www.realcasadisavoia.it/> (website still incomplete).

***Particular, if not the main, attention should be given to the extremely exhaustive attachments (1) and (2) written by Prof. Franco Edoardo Adami of the University of Ferrara.***

It should be made perfectly clear that the recent and widely circulated affairs of Vittorio Emanuele of Savoy – his title of nobility herein omitted since its expiry in accordance with dynastic law – do not have the slightest connection with what has been, wrongly, called his “destitution” or even his “golpe” [coup d’état].

The reasons for the urgent intervention of the Duke of Savoy, formerly Duke of Aosta, on 7<sup>th</sup> July, have been explained in the fore mentioned website by the Council of Senators of the Kingdom. In any case an action scheduled for the end of the month has now been anticipated owing to the numerous articles which appeared in the Italian and foreign press, concerning a possible passing of ‘powers’ from Vittorio Emanuele to his son Emanuele Filiberto. Following a change-over on this level the declaration from the former Duca d’Aosta would only have confused the Italian public, even more than they are already. Hence the reasons for the present press release.

Vittorio Emanuele di Savoia had in fact already destituted and expelled himself from the Royal family together with his descendents. Through the automatic functioning of dynastic law he lost the right to succeed to the throne, together with all his dynastic and noble prerogatives, at the very moment he contracted marriage with Marina Ricolfi Doria at Las Vegas. The fact that he does not accept this situation is of no consequence.

If Vittorio Emanuele’s marriage had publicly received the previous and manifest consent of Umberto II as King, there could have been no change in the dynastic line, apart from penal condemnation (not accusation) of the individual as laid down in the dynastic regulations.

The well know letters Umberto II wrote to warn his son in advance only serve to confirm these iron clad dynastic laws, which the said King declares he had neither the will nor the faculty for changing them. His son was profuse in his written thanks to his father for opening his eyes, but went his way all the same as though nothing had been mentioned.

In order to ‘pardon’ his son after the marriage the King would have needed to request - which he didn’t – his nephew, Amedeo of Aosta, and his cousin, the Duke of Genoa, to step down to a lower dynastic rank than the ones they were automatically entitled to hold. This didn’t happen and indeed had no connection whatever with the subsequent forms of courtesy Umberto II extended to his son and his son’s wife. The King’s presence at the baptism of his grandson in fact implied no change in the situation, nor was there anything arbitrary in his bestowing the non-Savoy title of Venice but never signed its patent letters while, significantly, making quite sure that the traditional title of Piedmont would not be granted.

The ‘so-called’ silence of the King: having warned his son in good time Umberto II did not change his mind and authorize the marriage as he could have done. In fact he said nothing further about it, simply because there was nothing more he could do.

The Republican laws of 1948, brought up by some who admitted that in 1946 matters were as we have said, could have no effect upon the dynastic regulations of the Royal Family. For the obvious reason that the Republic looked upon the non-abdicated monarchy as non-existent. The Republic had neither the power to decide anything to the sort, nor did it want to. Therefore whoever invokes the law of 1948 does so only in a bid to force convenient statements on the unwary.

Actually, in everything that concerns dynastic matters, the House of Savoy exists in an non-abdicated monarchy that crystallized in 1946 on the day Umberto II left Italy.

*Only a reigning King together with his parliament, and not separately, can change dynastic law.* As is the case in all existing constitutional monarchies.

Once again it should be clearly understood that neither the Council of Senators of the Kingdom (valid, or mistakenly considered invalid by some) nor the Royal Family, can choose any successor to the Throne. But they possess every right, like all the others according to law, to state who he is. ***Only the laws can indicate who the Heir to the Throne is to be.***

A strong doubt arises concerning those who have received medals and Orders conferred by Vittorio Emanuele and abusively accepted, since they may well manipulate the letter of the law for fear of losing them...

All of the above is contained in the exposition of Professor Adami, as well as in numerous studies that have appeared at times when such matters remained unsuspected.