

Tories gain the upper hand in Washington

by Graham Lowry, U.S. Editor

One week after *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche issued his April 9 open memorandum to President Reagan on the possibility of calling Great Britain's bluff (see International, "British NATO Pullout Against the United States Can Be Reduced to a Pathetic Bluff"), it appeared that the Anglophiles within the administration, grouped around Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and White House Chief of Staff James Baker III, had gained the upper hand.

Behind the diplomatic façade of "even-handedness" maintained in Washington while the British fleet steamed toward Argentina's Malvinas Islands, a policy struggle has been under way as the British and their agents in the government of the United States move to suppress any assertion of U.S. national interest in the face of the British invasion of the hemisphere.

Britain's naval deployment and declaration of a 200-mile "war zone" around the Malvinas, or Falkland Islands, has factionalized Washington in a fashion threatening the "special relationship" that has permitted London to manipulate the United States to its own geopolitical ends with increasing success since the 1956 Suez crisis. Anticipating that risk, the British launched their South Atlantic operation with an accompanying barrage of pressure and threats against the Reagan administration designed to neutralize any patriotic impulses.

The primary target has been President Reagan himself, reported by sources in Washington to have reacted to the dispatch of the British fleet with a first instinct to invoke the Monroe Doctrine. But the British made their move with Reagan conveniently out of the way and the government in Bush's hands, while the President was touring the Caribbean and vacationing on the British Commonwealth island of Barbados. His vacation hostess, actress Claudette Colbert, had also arranged for raving Anglophile William F. Buckley to share the President's accommodations during his stay.

Intelligence sources report that by the time Reagan returned to Washington the weekend of April 10th, the essentially Tory-run government had activated extensive channels of coordination with Britain, including fuel supplies and communications support to the British fleet. Against a current within the intelligence agencies, the military, and the Defense Department arguing for the invocation of the Monroe Doctrine, James Baker has been telling the President that such a move would result in his being "ridiculed" by the media and in Britain's wrecking the Western Alliance.

"The Brits have pulled out all the stops on this one," reports a leading policy strategist close to the administration. "I had lunch with a senior official the other day, and he was called out twice during the meal to speak to Downing Street. Haig's British contacts are besieging

him, and the whole seventh floor of the State Department is under tremendous British pressure. The British are saying, 'This is the second most serious crisis for us in the postwar period. The first was Suez. You Americans blew it on Suez and almost bankrupted us. Don't repeat it. You owe us. And we rent some islands to you that you need for a number of important things.'

Haig's diplomacy

While such pressure was being exerted from London, Secretary of State Haig carried out his shuttle diplomacy as a virtual agent of the British Foreign Office. As reported April 13 in the Mexican daily *Excelsior*, Haig rejected a number of Argentine President Galtieri's proposals on the specific grounds that British Prime Minister Thatcher's career was at stake, and to accept them "would be suicide for Mrs. Thatcher." At the same time, the Tories within the Reagan administration were emboldened enough to put out a leak from the White House that the United States had "tilted" in favor of Britain. That was a sufficient warning signal of Tory intentions to prompt a speedy denial from another administration official, subsequently identified by ABC news as Deputy CIA Director Bobby Lee Inman.

Simply maintaining the role of a "fair broker" in the Malvinas conflict has left the United States on the verge of surrendering the Monroe Doctrine and its influence within the hemisphere. Following President Reagan's press conference April 14, Haig was also left free to resume his role as the Queen's shuttle, with no restraining public criteria concerning U.S. objectives in the dispute.

Instead, Mr. Reagan announced that the situation "is most sensitive," and that to avoid doing anything to "endanger the peacekeeping process," the "safest thing is not to comment"—an instruction he made binding on the administration as a whole.

Haig emerged at the State Department soon afterward to declare that the United States will maintain its "long-standing relations" with Argentina "and the United Kingdom," and will not accede "to requests that would go beyond the scope of customary patterns of cooperation, based on existing bilateral agreements." Haig was not announcing limits on U.S.-U.K. collaboration but his own commitment to do everything possible to prevent application of the Monroe Doctrine, or the Organization of American States' Rio Treaty, against Britain's intervention in the Malvinas Islands.

Much of the countdown to the British fleet's arrival in the Malvinas proceeded with Congress effectively demobilized by the Easter recess, and with most of the House leadership scattered over several continents on a variety of junkets. Such apes of the British as Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sen. Daniel Patrick

Moynihan (D-N.Y.) came out in support of the monarchy.

Serious opposition

Thus far only Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has raised any serious opposition on Capitol Hill to Britain's actions. In a statement released April 7, Helms charged Britain with violation of the Monroe Doctrine, including its original seizure of the Malvinas Islands in 1833, as well as of the Rio Treaty, under which he predicted most of the nations of the Americas would unite "against British imperialism." Helms warned of "a possibility of severe strains to the inter-American system as a result of the dispatch of the British fleet to the Western Hemisphere."

Among American military opponents of Britain's actions, Lt.-Gen. Mitchell Werbell III released a public statement April 5 calling on President Reagan to invoke the Monroe Doctrine, to have the United States "once again clearly assert its proper role as a leading ally of our hemispheric neighbors." If President Reagan "takes clear action in this spirit," Werbell declared, "this will be a matter of inspiration for all of our allies—particularly at a time when we are confronted with the potential for major instabilities in Central America and elsewhere in the hemisphere."

A split among conservatives

Despite an avalanche of Tory propaganda in the U.S. media, which also imposed a virtual blackout on Senator Helms' statement, the British invasion of the hemisphere has set in motion major political repercussions across the country. The National Democratic Policy Committee has mobilized hundreds of chapters nationally in support of its Advisory Board Chairman Lyndon LaRouche's call for enforcing the Monroe Doctrine, in a campaign backed up by mass leafleting and demonstrations against British consulates and other offices around the country.

The director of one of the largest conservative Republican political action groups recently underscored the prospect that such an anti-British campaign could end the leading influence Anglophiles exert over the conservative movement in the United States. That potential was demonstrated when Michael Sterns, interim national chairman of the Young Americans for Freedom, signed a telegram to President Reagan calling on him "to immediately invoke the Monroe Doctrine in light of the British attempt to resurrect colonial warfare in a nuclear age," and should Britain refuse to withdraw, "to appropriately declare any British possession in the Western Hemisphere under this nation's jurisdiction."