

Lord Bethell, the Queen of England, and the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi

by G. Allen Douglas

Immediately after the Oct. 31 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued a mass-circulation statement charging that "certain factions in British intelligence killed Mrs. Gandhi, as a favor to Moscow. . . . Which factions of British intelligence? Ask Britain's Lord Bethell, a close contact and ostensible political backer of Jagjit Singh Chauhan," the London-based Sikh terrorist leader.

A continuing investigation by *EIR* has uncovered much more information on the precise British intelligence factions involved. The tracks of the assassins lead to the steps of the Royal Household through the person of Lord Bethell, a lord-in-waiting to the Queen in 1970-71 and a key figure in the Sikh-supporting Afghan-rebel apparatus in the United Kingdom. One of the key groups involved in the Afghan-rebel support apparatus, which U.S. and Indian intelligence have repeatedly cited as a source of routing weapons to the Sikh terrorists, is Radio Free Kabul, on whose board Bethell sits and for whom he is a top propagandist. The chief communications and fundraising address of Radio Free Kabul is Coutts Bankers, One Old Park Lane, London, *the private banker to the Crown for over 100 years*.

The coincidence of Soviet-British policy views represented in the Gandhi assassination was publicly apparent in the week-long love-fest between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Soviet heir-apparent Mikhail Gorbachov, just six weeks after the Gandhi assassination. Though stopping the Strategic Defense Initiative of President Reagan was the leading agenda item, the British Establishment is in full agreement with Soviet aims to destabilize crucial developing-sector nations such as India, which from the British end, would be targeted for de facto recolonization.

The networks behind the assassination

Several days before her death, Mrs. Gandhi made repeated references to "the colonialists" who were trying to destabilize India by methods up to and including her own assassination. In India, as for a good part of the rest of the world, "the colonialists" has a specific meaning—the British. As for the Sikh networks which pulled the trigger, their chief spokesman, Jagjit Singh Chauhan, has enjoyed the full protection of the British government since taking up residence

in London after earlier training at the Soviet orientology intelligence center in Tashkent, U.S.S.R.

While most of the Sikh community in India have helped to build India as a modern, secular nation-state, the British since the 19th century have cultivated a series of religious and cultural "reforms" among a faction of Sikhs to be deployed against the Indian state. Indicative of the British support for this network is the non-stop plane route from Birmingham, U.K. directly to Amritsar, India, stronghold of Sikh fanaticism. Indeed, the entire apparatus in the Golden Temple which had been calling for a separate Sikh state of "Khalistan" was due exclusively to over a century of British cultural engineering. As one of British intelligence's own Sikh specialists, W. Owen Cole, wrote in a recent book, "The strong distinctive culture and identity which is associated with the word 'Sikh' in the 1970s, whatever its origins, *is really the consequence of movements which developed after the British annexation of the Punjab* [emphasis added]."

The Afghan rebel groups for whom Bethell is the chief spokesman, Radio Free Kabul and the Committee for a Free Afghanistan, are a key control point of day-to-day Sikh terrorist activity through joint press conferences, demonstrations, tours for Sikh spokesmen, etc.

The Fourth Baron Bethell: KGB handyman

The career and associates of Nicholas, the Fourth Baron Bethell, begin to precisely define the networks who killed Mrs. Gandhi. Chauhan, who boasted of drinking champagne to celebrate Mrs. Gandhi's assassination, has been introducing Sikh terrorists to Bethell, according to the accounts of some of Chauhan's own associates such as Gen. Bullar Singh, chairman of the World Sikh Organization. Chauhan himself reports collaboration with Bethell, often mediated through Bethell's reputed mistress, Karen Mackay, the executive director of the Committee for a Free Afghanistan. Bethell, who had to resign from his position in the Heath government in the early 1970s to attempt to prove his innocence of charges that he was a KGB agent (not the first time), has made repeated trips to the Soviet Union and East bloc. Though the Soviet and East bloc press regularly play him up as "a dangerous intelligence officer," there has been no curtailment of his East bloc activities, allegedly on behalf of "human rights."

Bethell has inherited, along with his “slightly phony title” as U. K. insiders put it, a place in the lower rungs of Establishment dirty tricks. His predecessor, the First Baron Bethell, bought his title in the early 1920s when Lloyd George was selling them as a fundraising gimmick, the First Baron’s money coming from a series of shady operations for Barclays Bank’s Herbert Hamberlin, as Barclays’ own official history notes. Barclays, “the bank of the Empire,” is the chief correspondent bank of the André grain company of Switzerland, one of Chauhan’s major sources of funds.

The institution handling Bethell’s Radio Free Kabul, Coutts Bankers, is one of the most sensitive establishments in the United Kingdom. Set up in 1697, it serves as the private bank for many of Britain’s oldest (and dirtiest) families. It not only handles the Queen’s finances, but its board is closely related to the Royal Family through Michael Albermarle Bowes-Lyon, cousin to the Queen Mother, the former Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. The family of Soviet appeaser Lord Carrington is also heavily represented in the bank, since National Provincial, into which the Smith family (Carrington) bank merged earlier in the century, bought up Coutts some years ago. A Carrington cousin, John Eric Lindsay Smith, sits on the Coutts board.

The rest of Bethell’s associates at Radio Free Kabul are also interesting. This collection of presumed “staunch anti-communists,” like Bethell himself, includes Ray Whitney, a British intelligence operative who for years ran the “disinformation department,” the Information Research Department of the pro-Soviet British Foreign Office, and Winston Churchill III, grandson of the World War II leader and son of Pamela Churchill Harriman, now married to Averell Harriman. Churchill himself banks at Coutts and handled the initial arrangements to establish Radio Free Kabul’s account there. Also on the board is Lord Chalfont, a former Labourite who switched benches some years back and who has since made quite a name as an anti-communist, as well as Lady Morrison, wife of the Fabian Socialist Herbert Morrison, the head of the Foreign Office when his employees Burgess and Maclean defected to the Soviet Union in 1951.

The broader networks

The board of RFK begins to indicate the broader apparatus for whom Bethell is deployed—the entire right-wing, professional anti-communist lobby of the U.K., most of whom are bitterly opposed to the one thing which has scared the Soviets in the past decade, the American Strategic Defense Initiative. This lobby centers around the Monday Club, established by the Marquess of Salisbury (Cecil family), and a host of other, affiliated organizations such as the Lord Chalfont-chaired Committee for the Free World, whose board heavily overlaps Bethell’s RFK. It includes the Foreign Affairs Research Institute (Chalfont, Salisbury, and several others including Brian Crozier and Robert Moss, the man whose speechwriting won Thatcher her title as “Iron Lady”).

Though there are undoubtedly some genuine British pa-

triotis in these circles, the bitter farce of the matter is that the entire left wing (Labour Party, etc.) that this “right wing” is allegedly fighting (along with the Soviets) was founded and is fully controlled by the forces who founded the right wing. Though the Marquess of Salisbury founded the Monday Club to fight the “pinko” policies of Harold Macmillan, it was Salisbury himself who played a key role in putting Macmillan in power in the first place. Long before there were Bolsheviks, the British Establishment was playing the right-left game, the better to crush republican and pro-nation state forces in the middle, both at home and throughout the Empire.

Philby and the Royal Household’s deep secrets

Though Bethell is clearly operating on behalf of the Soviets in the Gandhi assassination and other matters, to expose him as a KGB agent is almost beside the point, since one of the national pastimes in Britain is speculating on who is “the fifth man, the sixth man, the 151st man.” The real truth is a purloined letter: Since there are almost infinitely many “spies,” what force sponsors and protects their existence in the U. K. over decades? Just as “fourth man” Anthony Blunt was a trusted private intelligence operative of the Royal Household while also serving as a KGB agent, and the whole Round Table apparatus in which the Royal Family was deeply involved, including the Rothschilds and the Astors, was funding and employing Blunt, Philby, Burgess, etc., it is not the individual operatives who are the problem, but the dominant portions of the Establishment itself who played a key role in placing the Bolsheviks in power in the first place and in acting to strengthen the Soviet Empire for decades. *The individual spies work for them.*

So, the trail of Gandhi’s assassins leads up through Lord Bethell and Coutts Bankers to the Royal Household, and down through Radio Free Kabul to Jagjit Chauhan Singh’s hitmen. The pro-Soviet British actor Peter Ustinov and his camera crew were the only scheduled appointment of Mrs. Gandhi the day of her assassination (the others having been cancelled on short notice). The Queen’s daughter Princess Anne was scheduled to have dinner with Mrs. Gandhi that night. As Lyndon LaRouche has pointed out in the introduction to a book on the Gandhi assassination soon to be released by *EIR*, the crucial moment in a major assassination of this sort, run by a “general staff” of men and women through several distinct command structures, is the “pin-down” of the targeted figure to a time and place of the assassins’ choosing so that the assassination has virtually a 100% chance of success. Whether or not Ustinov, who had toured with Mrs. Gandhi for two weeks before the assassination, giving ample time for profiling her security, knew what his role was, or Princess Anne what hers was, they nonetheless performed the indispensable pin-down function. The fact that it would seem “incredible” that they would be involved is all the more useful for the authors of the assassination, since it would be all the more unlikely that that track of questioning would be pursued.