

Of British cocaine runners and addicts

by Mark Burdman

There must be some red faces these days in the parlors and clubs frequented by the higher echelons of Britain's liberal establishment. For better than five years, its representatives have been consuming themselves in rage against *EIR* founder LaRouche, for having commissioned a book, *Dope, Inc.*, which demonstrated that the British Royal Family and its financial instruments were in a controlling position in the international drug-traffic.

It is not customary for the higher nobility of Britain to repent their ways. But two recent developments suggest that at least an apology to Mr. LaRouche for past years' nastiness is in order.

Churchill turns in his grave

During the week of Dec. 16, James Spencer-Churchill, the Marquess of Blandford and 11th Duke of Marlborough, heir to the Marlborough dukedom's \$75 million-plus fortune centered in the elaborate Blenheim Palace, was brought before a British court of law, and charged with involvement in trafficking in £50,000 of cocaine. One week later, the 30-year-old Marquess, a grand-nephew of the late Sir Winston Churchill, and a distant cousin of Diana, Princess of Wales (formerly Lady Diana Spencer), was remanded in custody, and told to reappear in court within a matter of days. He was in double trouble, since he had been on probation at the time of arrest, after being caught in possession of heroin in April 1985.

On Jan. 7, 1986, Magistrate Sir Eric Crowther angrily denounced Blandford/Marlborough as a "common criminal," whose crimes are made even worse by the fact that he is "one of the most powerful men in the land."

For all that, he was given only a three-month jail sentence.

When the Spencer-Churchill/Blandford story first broke in mid-December, France's *Le Figaro*, commented, "Winston Churchill must be turning in his grave, the gracious Princess Diana, turning red with sham." When this correspondent contacted Lady Di's entourage for a reaction, her butler said that she "declined to comment" about one who was "only a distant cousin." He did admit that the full implications of the case could prove embarrassing.

The Marquess of Blandford is indeed, historically, "one of the most powerful men in the land." The Marlborough dukedom grows out of the titles granted to the Spencer family, after the Stuart ascendancy in 1603, which was, in effect, a coup d'état in Britain by Venetian and Genoese families of users. In fact, one of the listed titles of the current Duke of Marlborough, Blandford's father, is "Prince of the Holy Roman Empire." This imperial title was reserved, by the Venetian/Genoese-controlled Hapsburgs for a select few families, including some names that are among the blackest in the ranks of the European black nobility, like Taxis (Bavaria), Tasso (Italy), Alba (Spain), and Munthe (Sweden).

During mid-December, the special antidrug troubleshooter of the British Home Office, David Mellor, announced that the British government was putting forward anti-drug legislation. On paper, this legislation is very tough, including confiscation of assets of individuals involved in drug-trafficking. Whatever the specifics of this legislation, if certain alert British officials followed the leads in *Dope, Inc.*, British authorities could make financial seizures, which would have truly revolutionary implications!

As *Le Figaro* commented, there is "consternation" in British aristocratic circles: drug scandals, the French paper claims, have also hit the Ormsby-Gore/Harlech, Stockton, Guinness, and Tennant families, among others. The latter, says *Le Figaro*, is "close to Princess Margaret." Other journals are conveying the same message. A *Daily Mail* feature, in early 1985 was entitled, "Aristocracy and Drugs."

Ruskin the junkie

A second development in December 1985, might have even more portentous longer-range implications.

On Dec. 14, a feature appeared in the London *Guardian* with the title, "John Ruskin Was a Junkie." The article reported on recently released letters of the 19th century Oxford University philosopher and art critic, which provide evidence that Ruskin was addicted to opium for at least fifteen years of his life. This opium addiction, the *Guardian* asserts, is the most likely evidence for deranged and uneven behavior in certain periods of his life.

It is no surprise to learn that Ruskin was deranged: What else could be said, about a man whose intellectual-philosophical career was devoted to destroying the influence of the Golden Renaissance of the 15th century, through his sponsorship of the "Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood."

This is not a question of idle philosophical ravings. Ruskin was the mother-superior for ensuing generations of British liberal gnostics, those gnostics who created the British Round Table movement, the New York Council on Foreign Relations, and, in more recent times, the Trilateral Commission.

It may be impossible to find a magistrate to try John Ruskin posthumously, but we can certainly say that Ruskin stands accused before the court of history as among the worst of "common criminals."