

It was LaRouche's contention, amply documented, that the SDI would more than pay for itself, by its contribution to raising the productivity of the U.S. economy. To substantiate this claim, he referred to the historical examples of war production during the Second World War, and to the over 10-to-1 payback of the Apollo program. In the present case, gains could be expected by cheapening the cost of lasers and improving their capabilities—particularly as they were made tunable.

LaRouche made a further point, which has been well understood, albeit in a distorted form, by the Soviets. The Soviets have bitterly complained that one purpose of the SDI is to bankrupt the Soviet economy. What LaRouche pointed out was that, for cultural reasons, the Soviet economy would have great difficulties in assimilating technological spinoffs from their own SDI program at the rate easily achievable in the West. While it is obviously essential that credit and tax policies support such an effort—as was the case in the Kennedy administration, which offered credit and tax incentives for high technology investment—what LaRouche had in mind was the way in which Western civilization shaped the potential for innovation in the culture, even down to the level of the worker on the shop floor who would participate in the program via the suggestion box.

The culturally embedded notion—taken from the Judeo-Christian tradition—of the divine spark within every human soul, is in contrast to the collective spirit—the *mir*—of Russian culture. Such collectivism pre-dates the Bolshevik revolution by a thousand years, and was the central feature which separated and still separates Roman Catholicism from the Russian Orthodox Church. The specific theological form of the dispute centers on the question of whether or not Christ is divine in his own right, as Augustinian Christianity contends and the Russians reject.

The authors of this book are Dutch. Zegveld is a director of the TNO Policy Research and Information Division in the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research; Enzing is a research fellow at the TNO-Centre for Technology and Policy Studies. Does the fact that this is a European book perhaps explain why the authors overlook us? I think not, since they heavily cite U.S. sources.

Furthermore, American associates of LaRouche have published the award winning *Beam Defense, an Alternative to Nuclear Destruction*, originally published by Aero Publishers, Inc., but reprinted since—and translated into Japanese for sale there. (The book won the prestigious Aviation Space Writers top award in 1984.) A German book on the same subject was published in 1985 in Germany by Verlag Für Wehrwissenschaften in Munich. This book, *Strahlen Waffen Militär Strategie im Umbruch*, whose English title would be, *Beam Weapons, a Military Strategy in Change*, deals with strategic issues more broadly, but both have an in-depth treatment of the question of spinoffs into the civilian technology.

Lord Mountbatten and the Anglo-Soviet Trust

by Rachel Douglas

The Khrushchev Objective

by Christopher Creighton and Noel Hynd
Doubleday & Company, 1987
333 pp., hardbound, \$17.95.

The Khrushchev Objective inhabits a shadowy zone between "scenario book" and chronicle-memoir. The pseudonymous Christopher Creighton, we are told, is a real British intelligence officer, who "was recruited by Churchill before World War II (at the age of 15) to be an agent behind enemy lines and continued his espionage career into the 1950s," so that "the broad base of this story is true."

It concerns the visit of Premier Nikita Khrushchov and Foreign Minister Nikolai Bulganin to Britain in April 1956, the first by a Soviet party chief or head of government to a Western country. Khrushchov's charge, that the British sent frogmen to spy on the hulls of the delegation's ships, the battle cruiser Ordzhonikidze and the destroyer Smotryashchy, as they lay at anchor in Portsmouth Harbor, is well known. So, at the time, was the fact that the body of a retired diver, Royal Navy Commander Lionel Crabb, washed ashore over a year later.

According to Creighton and Hynd, the story that ties those fragments together was a complicated assassination plot against Khrushchov and Bulganin, by which they would have been blown up at Portsmouth. They say the late First Sea Lord Louis Mountbatten, great-uncle of Prince Charles, foiled the plot, acting with the Queen's approval, above and against the orders of Prime Minister Anthony Eden not to send divers around the Russian ships. "Christopher Creighton" himself, he reports, was the officer in command of Mountbatten's project.

Protecting the Trust

What makes this plotline of interest, especially in view of the evidence that something untoward did happen in Ports-

mouth Harbor, is the importance of 1956 as a historical turning point. At the 20th Party Congress in February 1956, Khrushchov—with a nudge from Anastas Mikoyan, the Armenian Politburo member, survivor of the purges—went farther than anybody had expected, in denouncing Stalin. He restored certain institutions (including, at Mikoyan's prompting, the Moscow center of Hungarian economist Eugen Varga) associated with the Trust, the East-West political, cultural, and intelligence network, whose members Stalin had smashed as "cosmopolitans." Khrushchov's trip to Britain was the next step in the reactivation of the Anglo-Soviet Trust; following it, despite the disruptions of the Suez crisis and the Hungarian uprising that autumn, came Khrushchov's special relationship with Bertrand Russell, the Pugwash Conferences, and the whole complex of arms control and crisis management to which they gave birth.

Had Khrushchov been killed in April 1956, none of that would have been. *The Khrushchev Objective* casts royal family member Lord Mountbatten in the role of guardian angel for the reborn Trust.

Creighton and Hynd characterize, with precision, certain workings of the Trust not usually advertised by people in the intelligence trade, who are rarely wont to acknowledge the little-known channels that never ceased to run through the Iron Curtain. Thus, the authors have then-KGB chief Ivan Serov boast of his ability to deploy a wing of the Russian emigrés: "My agents are being most fine. . . . Additionally, I have friends with associates. Some having connections of White Russian emigrés."

The authors give the "emigré" theme an improbable twist, introducing as a pivotal character the Grand Duchess Mariya (Marie) Nikolayevna, third daughter of the Czar and cousin of Mountbatten, of whom he was supposedly enamored in his youth. They have parlayed the evidence from Summers' and Mangold's *The File on the Tsar*, that all five Romanov women were kept alive for use as bargaining chips for some months after the execution of Nicholas II in July 1918, into Marie's having survived until the 1950s.

Still here, there are verisimilitudinous touches: Marie is made to report, "In Moscow, I was taken to Georgy Chicherin, the Bolshevik commissar for foreign affairs. He protected me." In fact, Chicherin—he was descended from the Venetian Cicerini family, established as a power in Russian since the 15th century—had a lot to do with the continuation of Russian aristocratic families, but anti-Romanov ones, after the revolution. In the 1920s, his cousin, Constantine Benckendorff, then a Red Army intelligence officer, personally witnessed, "not without surprise, that the famous Commissar . . . was still well up in intricate family connections. . . ." Cheka (secret police) founder Feliks Dzerzhinsky, a Polish aristocrat, played a similar role, as recalled in a recent Soviet press account of how kindly he treated Princess Meshcherskaya.

Creighton and Hynd are also forthright, concerning the power of the British monarch to authorize intelligence operations. As the young Creighton, in the narrative, suggests to Mountbatten that they seek clearance for the anti-terror forays of their "M section" directly from Queen Elizabeth II, he argues, "We have a historical precedent, sir. M Section was set up . . . back in the 1930s not only without the permission of Prime Ministers MacDonald, Baldwin, and Chamberlain, but also without their knowledge. It was financed in direct continuity by three sovereigns: George V, Edward VIII and George VI. . . . The authority for M Section lies in the Constitution. The Sovereign is the head of state and the Prime Minister derives his powers from the Sovereign by the Seals of Office. This is the key point, sir: if the King, or in our case the Queen, believes the safety of the realm is imperiled by the Prime Minister's actions, he or she may recall the Seals. Or, he or she may take any action deemed prudent over the head of the Prime Minister."

Not all details are skillfully crafted. Like most other writers in the spy novel genre, the authors mangle some Russian names, especially the patronymics.

An unfinished ending

In the foreword, Hynd asserts that Mountbatten's reported actions in 1956 provide the "proper historical perspective" in which to place his murder by bomb, in 1979. "The motive behind it had been revenge. Revenge for Lord Mountbatten's involvement in the Crabb Affair, and his success in foiling the attempt to assassinate Bulganin and Khrushchev and destroy the Russian warships."

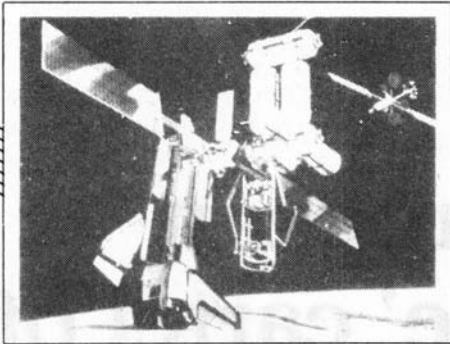
The ends are not all tied together, here. By the logic of Hynd's assertion and Creighton's story, it would have to have been the Soviets who killed Mountbatten. Presumably, the old spymaster Serov (who was removed from the KGB in 1958, then headed Soviet military intelligence until 1963) would have had the motive, since he emerges from this tale as Mountbatten's blackmail victim, converted into a British asset by a threat to reveal his part in the assassination plot against Khrushchov. Yet, just in the months before his death, Mountbatten would seem to have endeared himself to all Soviet factions, by the vigorous campaign he launched against installation of American Pershing-II missiles in Western Europe.

More may still surface, about the life and endeavors of Prince Charles's favorite uncle. The portrait painted in *The Khrushchev Objective* adds to what was known before, of his role in shepherding the Anglo-Soviet Trust networks into their second prime. Meanwhile, in New Zealand, there have been such newspaper headlines as, " 'Uncle Dickie' the Sex Pervert" (*N.Z. Truth*, Sept. 8, 1987), since Mountbatten's former chauffeur, Norman Nield, started revealing details of the late Lord Mountbatten's alleged sexual exploitation of young boys.

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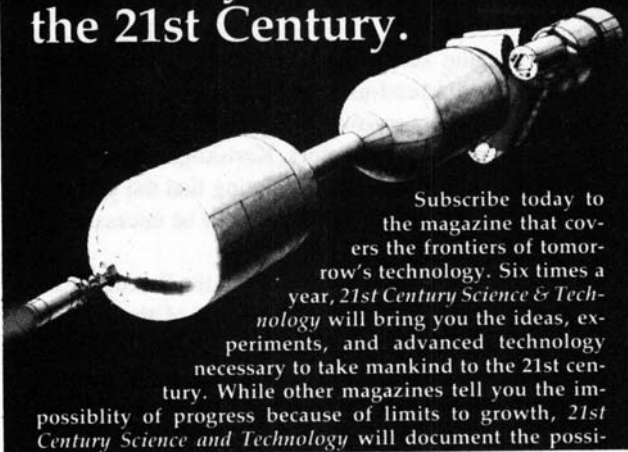
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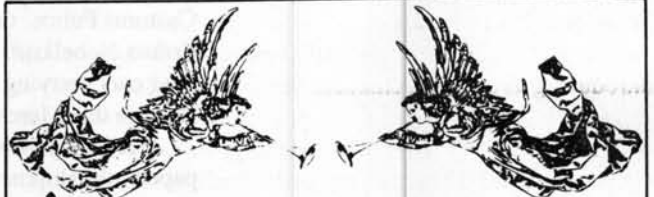
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