

# The 'Tiny' Rowland File

*Part III of an EIR investigative series. Rowland's Lonrho was built up to enforce colonialism in Africa.*

On Feb. 3, 1960, in Capetown, South Africa, British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan stunned the South African Parliament with his famous "Winds of Change" speech. "The most striking of all impressions I have formed since I left London a month ago," he said, "is the strength of this African national consciousness. In different places it may take different forms, but it is happening everywhere. The wind of change is blowing through the continent. Whether we like it or not this growth of national consciousness is a political fact . . . our national policies must take account of it."

The speech was a prelude to the declaration of independence by most of Britain's former colonial possessions in Africa by 1964. Yet the British Establishment, which designed the "winds of change" policy, was not planning to bring true independence to Africa, but a more insidious, and more effective, form of slavery.

"Independence" was severely circumscribed by several factors: 1) The credit essential to economic development was controlled by genocidal institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, in league with powerful private banks such as Barclays and Standard and Chartered. 2) The newly independent nations were thus kept as raw material producers for multinationals such as Shell, British Petroleum, Unilever, Rio Tinto Zinc, etc., and the prices for their products artificially depressed by international commodity cartels. 3) The new nations were kept in political turmoil through bloody gang-counter-gang warfare, based on ethnic or tribal divisions, as perfected by Brig. Gen. Frank Kitson in the Mau-Mau insurgency in Kenya in the 1950s. The British provided covert or overt aid to all sides of a conflict, precisely as Rowland is presently doing in Mozambique, where he provides support to both the Frelimo government, as well as the Renamo insurgency against that government.

These factors, then, comprise the setting for the rise to riches and enormous political/economic control over the African continent by Roland "Tiny" Rowland and his Lonrho Corporation, beginning in 1961, the year after Macmillan's speech. Today, Lonrho is the continent's single largest food producer; it employs over 100,000 people in ranching, farming, mining, manufacturing, and trading subsidiaries in 29 countries; it is the continent's largest textile manufacturer, its first sugar producer, and a major power in gold, platinum, and coal mining.

## Rowland's early sponsors

Back in London after his Winds of Change speech, Prime Minister Macmillan consulted with his Foreign Secretary (and former Colonial Secretary), Alec Douglas-Home, and the current Colonial Secretary, Duncan Sandys, to construct the apparatus which would continue colonial rule under the new conditions. This trio in turn contacted two men: Joseph Ball, the chairman of a little-known company called the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Corporation, Ltd., soon to be known as Lonrho, and Harley Drayton, a powerful City of London financier, and the chief stockholder in Lonrho. Among them a plan was hatched to vastly build up Lonrho as one of the corporate pillars of the new strategy. The aging Joseph Ball was asked to find a young man to give the necessary vigor to the grand expansion plans. Ball chose a man he had known, or known of, from intelligence work in World War II: Roland Walter "Tiny" Rowland.

These two men, Joseph Ball and Harley Drayton, "invented" Tiny Rowland. To understand Rowland, and the protection he has enjoyed throughout a long career studded with criminal actions of all sorts (see *EIR* Nov. 3, 1989, p. 45 and Nov. 10, 1989, p. 45), it is critical to appreciate these two individuals.

Joseph Ball in 1960 was nearing the end of a long career. He had been one of the most powerful figures of British intelligence in the 20th century. Employed by MI-5 already in the First World War, Ball was, by the 1920s, one of the deputy heads of the agency, before he left to form the Research Department of the Conservative Party, an in-house intelligence agency modeled on MI-5, replete with agent penetration of the Labour Party, etc. He became, in the words of one historian of intelligence matters, "the quintessential éminence grise." He also conducted sensitive foreign missions, such as serving as liaison with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini for Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. In World War II Winston Churchill appointed Ball deputy chairman of the all-powerful Security Executive, which oversaw MI-5, MI-6, and a bevy of other intelligence outfits. He reorganized MI-5 for the war, and was responsible for operations against Nazi or fifth column activity in the British Isles. This job brought him across the path of the young Tiny Rowland.

Joseph Ball's collaborator in Lonrho and Conservative Party matters for several decades was Harley Drayton. Though little known to the history books, Drayton was chairman of 23 companies, the controller of 20 investment trusts,

and one of the most powerful political and financial figures in Britain. It was he more than anyone else, as Rowland himself later emphasized, who provided the political and financial backing which launched Tiny Rowland and Lonrho. It was he who sent his personal assistant of 10 years, Angus Ogilvy, out to Africa to recruit Rowland, and it was he who declared that Lonrho should be run by the troika of Alan Ball (Joseph Ball's son, who became Lonrho's chairman shortly after his father's death), Angus Ogilvy, and Tiny Rowland. As Rowland wrote to Ogilvy on Feb. 26, 1968, "Lonrho is in my view nothing else but Alan, yourself and myself, combined in turn to give the company character and soul and constant and continuous drive and motion." And, Rowland wrote in still another letter, "that's the way Harley Drayton wanted it."

With Harley Drayton and his main investment company, the "117 Old Broad Street Group," we approach the deep power behind the miraculous career of Tiny Rowland. Drayton's investment trusts controlled billions of pounds, funds drawn from the coffers of two of his major clients: the Church of England and the British Crown. Drayton was to be the chief stockholder and stringpuller for Lonrho from 1961 when Lonrho was, in the words of South African minerals magnate Harry Oppenheimer, "activated," until his death in the mid-1960s. Drayton was also an early sponsor of Canada's powerful Bronfman family, through the Eagle Star Insurance Company in which he held great interests, the latter the chief holding company for all the Bronfman assets.

Angus Ogilvy, Drayton's assistant of 10 years already by 1961, also symbolized the power behind Lonrho. For years on the most intimate terms with Rowland, and provided by him with a rent-free flat adjacent to Rowland's own in Chelsea, Ogilvy was born Angus James Bruce Ogilvy, youngest son of the Earl of Airlie. The Earl, one of the premier noblemen of Scotland, was Chamberlain to the Queen Mother. One son would later become chairman of the powerful Schroeder's merchant bank, while Angus would marry Her Royal Highness the Princess Alexandra, first cousin to the Queen.

### **Some personal history**

Over the years, Tiny Rowland has told lie after conflicting lie on all aspects of his personal history: his family background, the number of siblings he has, his wartime military role, and even his own name. The more one probes this background, the more one realizes he has good reason to lie.

According to the usual story, Tiny Rowland was born as Roland Walter Fuhrhop in a British internment camp in India on Nov. 27, 1917, the son of the German merchant Wilhelm Friederich Fuhrhop and his Dutch wife Muriel (née Kanenhoven), the daughter of a prosperous Dutch shipping agent. But according to a former business partner, Rowland was not the product of the wedded bliss of Wilhelm and Muriel Fuhrhop, but of an affair between Wilhelm and the sister of the head of the Rawalpindi Railway in India, Sir John Rowland. This account would certainly explain Roland Walter Fuhrhop's

choice of last name when he changed his name by deed poll in 1939 to Roland Walter Rowland; it would explain his "adoption" (though never acceptance), into rarefied levels of British nobility and intelligence (through the good graces of Uncle John); and it would explain the otherwise most-curious fact that Sir John Rowland was a key business partner for the young Tiny Fuhrhop (now "Rowland") in numerous businesses which the young Rowland established in postwar Africa.

Whatever his precise ancestry, following World War I the Fuhrhop family, including the future Tiny Rowland, was persona non grata in India and was not allowed back into England. Wilhelm moved the family back to his birthplace of Hamburg, and established a trading company named "India Agencies" on the well-placed business street Spitaler Strasse. The family lived in the luxurious Klosterstern district, had several servants, and sent Raimund, their first son, to the prestigious Heinrich-Hertz Gymnasium, where Tiny soon joined him.

According to information recounted by Rowland to British journalist Charles Raw, Rowland joined the Hitler Youth at the age of fifteen and a half. Doing the necessary arithmetic, this places young Tiny in the Hitler Youth in May or June of 1933, an extremely early date. Rowland's later frequent contention that "everyone" joined the Hitler Youth only became true as of 1936, when all other youth organizations were merged into the Hitler Youth. To join in mid-1933 was rare enough to bespeak a commitment, personal or family, or both, to the Nazi cause. Given Rowland's later frequent stories of what a fierce anti-Nazi he was, this information acquires some significance. It also bears upon Roland's other frequent claim, that his father was a "passionate anti-Nazi."

In the spring of 1934, Roland Walter Fuhrhop was sent to school in Britain, to a public school near Petersfield named Churcher's. Roland Fuhrhop's contemporary, Philip Brown, recorded his impression of the new boy, "a German boy, aged about 17, called Roland Fuhrhop, joined the school. He was an ardent supporter of Hitler and an arrogant, nasty piece of work to boot."

After a year at Churcher's, Fuhrhop went into the shipping business of a family relation of Muriel Kanenhoven Fuhrhop. Given the unpopularity of German names in England at the time, Fuhrhop changed his name in 1939 by deed poll to Rowland. And he also, according to relatives, did his best to try and join the British Secret Intelligence Service.

### **The mysterious wartime career**

Lonrho, one of Britain's largest corporations, is often thought of, like Rowland himself, as an "outsider" to the British Establishment. But an examination of Lonrho's board over the years reveals two elements which dominate it entirely: the presence of representatives of some of the most powerful families of the British Establishment, and the presence of numerous ranking members of the British intelligence

services, such as Nicholas Elliott, at one time the number three man in MI-6, and a longtime friend of Soviet spy Kim Philby. In fact, the presence of intelligence operatives is so pronounced, that one is forced to draw the conclusion that Lonrho is not so much an "asset" of British intelligence, as it is British intelligence. Rowland's own carefully hidden wartime career fits that profile exactly.

During the 1973-76 Department of Trade and Industry investigation into large-scale criminality on the part of Lonrho and Rowland, the DTI investigators asked at one point to look at the wartime file of Tiny Rowland. Much to their surprise, the request was only granted after repeated vigorous demands, and then only in the presence of two MI-6 officers. No photocopying or even note-taking was allowed. While Rowland's intelligence services file is obviously hypersensitive, according to those who have looked at his Army file, his Army records have been "weeded" into non-existence. Why the extreme secrecy?

Rowland was a freshly naturalized British subject whose brother had voluntarily joined Hitler's Wehrmacht after the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia. With this background, he was barred from combat duty. All the more reason, said his cousins, that he tried to join the intelligence services. According to biographer Dick Hall, Rowland approached his old Churcher's headmaster Hoggarth, to vouch for him for SIS. This fact, plus the testimonies of his cousins, plus grave anomalies in Rowland's service career, plus the testimony of a former Lonrho colleague of Rowland's that Rowland worked for British SIS during the war, indicate clearly that Rowland did join British intelligence, either during the war or at its very outset.

On Dec. 12, 1939, Roland Walter Rowland was conscripted into the British Army and assigned as a medical orderly to the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). After three months of basic training, he was assigned to the 75th British General Hospital (RAMC) quartered in Peebles, 20 miles south of Edinburgh. A source who knew him at the time records the extremely unusual fact that not only had he "arrived as a patient, and was later transferred to staff," but that even though he allegedly had tonsillitis, he was placed in the surgical ward, a highly irregular procedure for persons with infections.

Peebles, interestingly enough, was the constituency of the one and only serving British Member of Parliament to have been interned during the war as a Nazi sympathizer, Captain A.H.M. Ramsay. Elected Conservative MP for Peebles in 1931, Ramsay had created the pro-fascist Right Club, and was a confederate of the Russian-born Nazi spy Anna Wolkoff. Ramsay was arrested and interned in May 1940 at Brixton Prison, but not before he had struck up a close relationship with Roland Walter Rowland of the RAMC. According to affidavits of those who served with Rowland, he frequented the Ramsay house as the family's guest.

Meanwhile, after British troops had been routed from

Dunkirk in the summer of 1940, Rowland's father was arrested and interned along with 27,000 other "enemy aliens." Mrs. Fuhrhop was also interned, first in Holloway Prison, and then with her husband in the internment camp on the Isle of Man. By late 1940, as the threat of a Nazi invasion receded, only one-fourth of the original 27,000 internees remained prisoners, and those 6,500, presumably the cream of the Nazi sympathizers in Britain, were all concentrated in the camps on the Isle of Man. Rowland's father and mother were two of them.

Tiny Rowland was kicked out of the British Army on Jan. 19, 1942. He maintains that this was due to his repeatedly pestering his superiors to visit his father and mother on the Isle of Man. But affidavits of those who served with Rowland at Peebles and then at Edinburgh, tell quite a different story. James Anderson, an army sergeant who spent quite a bit of time with Rowland, recorded that Rowland was a "pro-Nazi fascist who despised the British working man; a man who was no use to man or beast, and certainly no use to Britain; and a complete and utter sham." Still another colleague reported that he caught Rowland listening on a private radio late at night to the British traitor Lord Haw-Haw (Stephen Joyce, an associate of Captain Ramsay) broadcasting Nazi propaganda from Germany. On hearing of the sinking of *HMS Prince of Wales* and *HMS Repulse* by the Japanese off Singapore in December 1941, Rowland laughed and chanted "sink the bastards." The next morning he was taken away by MI-5 personnel.

After a month in Wandsworth Prison (where he met one of the people who would be a business partner in his postwar firm, Articaire), Rowland was sent to the Isle of Man, and there interned under regulation 18B as a "danger to the security of Britain." He was placed under armed military guard at the maximum security camp at Peel. This camp was reserved for, in the words of one historian, "the wild men at the extremes of politics, potential terrorists and subversives," including many members and supporters of Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists. After more than a year of detention in Peel, Rowland was allowed to join his parents in the married compound at Port Erin. Rowland claims, though there is no evidence to support it, that he was freed sometime in 1943 and spent the rest of the war doing odd jobs assigned by the Labor Exchange. Rowland's father and mother remained interned to the end of the war, even though 89% of the original "enemy aliens" interned had already been freed. This casts grave doubts on Rowland's claims that his father was an "outspoken anti-Nazi," but more importantly raises the question of why he himself—given his own marked pro-Nazi sympathies and the apparent apprehension with which his parents were regarded by the authorities—was treated so leniently.

*Next installment: Working for the Philby networks in World War II.*