

Hollinger Corp.: Dope, Inc.'s global press empire

by Sandro Mitromaco

When the British monarchy decided in July to publicly launch a psychotic slander campaign against German reunification—even at the expense of severely destabilizing the Thatcher government—it was the *Spectator*, a well-known but limited-circulation magazine that published the now infamous interview with Trade Minister Nicholas Ridley, in which the cabinet official and close ally of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher compared West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Hitler. Within hours of its release, the Ridley *Spectator* interview had grabbed headlines worldwide, triggering a spate of propaganda pieces purporting to “debate” whether or not Germans were inherently “authoritarian.”

The wing of the Anglo-American Establishment most strongly committed to a British-Soviet axis against unified Germany—and, not surprisingly, also committed to steering Israel into a new Mideast war—had scored a propaganda shot across the bow with Ridley’s interview, and had further set in motion the option of dumping Prime Minister Thatcher—if circumstances demanded her replacement by someone more able to wage a sophisticated “balance of power” war against the emerging prospect of a Berlin-centered, new continental European order.

Similarly, when the same Anglo-American crowd decided to install a war cabinet in Israel that could be called upon to unleash a Middle East Armageddon—even at the expense of the survival of the Jewish state—one of the first steps was the takeover of the most powerful newspaper in Israel, the *Jerusalem Post*. Once respected as Israel’s “newspaper of record,” the *Post* was transformed overnight into a shrill propaganda organ for Israel’s would-be dictator, Gen. Ariel Sharon. In keeping with the prejudices of the Anglo crowd that bought it, the *Post* began agitating for a new secret alliance between the Israeli Mossad and the Soviet KGB—not only for the purpose of jointly spying on the Arab nations, but to conduct joint operations in Central Europe to undermine “anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism”—British Foreign Office buzzwords for German economic influence.

In both instances, the vehicle used to carry out these government-shattering propaganda forays was a little-known media conglomerate called the Hollinger Corporation. In the

past year, Hollinger has moved into the British, Canadian, American, and Israeli media, grabbing up such plums as the London *Daily Telegraph*, England’s largest-circulation news daily, and the *Jerusalem Post*. Hollinger already had bought up the *Spectator*.

A team of *EIR* investigators has spent several months conducting a thorough probe of the personalities and financial interests behind Hollinger. That investigation revealed a number of startling facts about the Toronto, Canada-headquartered firm, not the least of which was the strong indication that the funds behind Hollinger’s global media grab appear at least in part to be laundered proceeds from the Far East opium trade.

The idea that Golden Triangle opium proceeds finance secret Anglo-American intelligence operations, including large-scale psychological warfare capabilities, is nothing new. As a team of *EIR* editors documented in the 1979 book-length study of the world drug trade, *Dope, Inc.*, Great Britain has traditionally trafficked in opium and other illegal drugs, and has traditionally laundered the profits through a Hong Kong-to-Canada route.

The Hollinger profile

The Toronto-based Hollinger Corporation brings together on its board of directors a collection of British Foreign Office assets, long associated with what has been alternately referred to as the “Anglo-Zionist,” “Cosmopolitan,” or “Trust” faction of the English-speaking Establishment. Hollinger chairman Conrad Black is a second-generation British Intelligence financial warfare specialist who was sponsored by one of Her Majesty’s leading wartime spymasters, Edward Plunket Taylor.

Other current board members include:

- Peter Lord Carrington, former British Tory Defense Minister, former NATO Secretary General, and a current partner in Kissinger Associates;
- Henry A. Kissinger;
- Peter Bronfman, the cousin of Edgar Bronfman of the Seagram’s-Du Pont empire;
- Paul Reichmann, the Hungarian-born Canadian Jew-

ish real estate mogul whose Olympia and York firm emerged from nowhere (reportedly with Bronfman family patronage) to grab a lion's share of high ticket real estate all over the world during the 1980s;

● Robert Campeau, the chairman of the now-bankrupt Campeau Corp. department store conglomerate.

The *modus operandi* of Hollinger is simple: Buy up print media all over the world and transform them into vehicles for the brand of pseudo-conservatism known to *EIR* readers as "Project Democracy"—the secret government apparatus manipulating U.S. policy, increasingly, since the time of the Iran-Contra fiasco. The accumulation of political power and influence through this method is incalculable. The ability to create, destroy, blackmail, and control political leaders and processes is enormous.

Hollinger's media empire now includes 80 daily newspapers and 151 weekly papers throughout Canada, the United States, England, Israel, and the Caribbean. The total daily paid circulation is 1.9 million. The total circulation of the weeklies is an estimated 2.9 million. In the United States, Hollinger is aggressively pursuing a strategy of buying and expanding local newspapers. It is already present in 20 states from Arkansas to Pennsylvania, from Illinois to Hawaii, and from Connecticut to Colorado. Hollinger is also relentlessly buying up modern printing facilities and paper mills so that its increasing control over the supply of printers' paper will be secured by a vertically integrated industry structure.

The main arms of Hollinger in the media wars are: The Daily Telegraph PLC (Hollinger and the Telegraph Group bought the *Spectator*); the American Publishing Company; UniMedia, Inc.; Sterling Newspapers, Ltd.; Saturday Night Magazine, Inc.; the Financial Post Co., Ltd.; and Valley Cable TV, Inc. In addition, Hollinger chairman Conrad Black is trying to take over United Newspaper PLC, the group that controls some of the most important media in England, including the *Daily Express*. Hollinger already controls 9% of the group, and Black, at this moment, is trying to gain more control through his friend, the Project Democracy-linked millionaire Sir James Goldsmith.

The two "crown jewels" of Hollinger are the *Telegraph*, purchased in 1985 at the strong urging of the British branch of the Rothschild family, and the *Jerusalem Post*, purchased in 1989 in a massive overbid. In its annual reports, Hollinger chairman Black underlines that the *Telegraph* is "the largest-circulation general interest broadsheet newspaper in the Western world." The *Telegraph* was immediately transformed into the house organ of the Thatcher government—or at least the Carrington-associated policies imposed through the Thatcher government.

In July 1990, Black made additions to the *Telegraph's* board of directors including: Peter Carrington; Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of N.M. Rothschild; Henry Keswick, chairman of Jardine, Matheson, the Far East trading compa-

ny that has historically been at the hub of British opium trafficking out of Hong Kong; Lord King, chairman of British Airways; and Sir James Goldsmith.

Goldsmith's rags-to-riches emergence as one of Britain's leading raiders of American industry and finance was facilitated beginning in the mid-1970s by one of Conrad Black's closest allies, Arthur Ross of New York.

Black and Hollinger ran a similar housecleaning over the 12 months since buying out the *Jerusalem Post*, a change noted in the 1990 Hollinger Corp. annual report, issued in April: "We reasoned that, as the *Post* had formerly been owned by a Labour confederacy and was clearly greatly overstuffed, there was substantial potential for drastically improved operating efficiency. To date the personnel have been reduced. The changes . . . have not been introduced as quietly as we would have hoped. The editor resigned after his sole ability to commit the newspaper irrevocably on matters of the utmost national importance to Israel has been slightly curtailed . . . the managing editor resigned taking about 25 other editorial people with him. This was not an altogether unwelcome development."

The buyout of the *Jerusalem Post* was carried out by Hollinger via a multimillion-dollar loan from a mysterious Vancouver, British Columbia-based privately owned holding company called Gee Corporation. After much probing, *EIR* learned that Gee was a personal financial vehicle for one of Hong Kong's most powerful financiers, Li Ka-shing, the man known as the "Red Baron" because of his deep ties to the communist regime in Beijing. Li Ka-shing is the vice chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, another British Empire creation of the 19th century that for decades boasted of its pivotal role in the world opium trade. No evidence has ever been surfaced suggesting that HongShang left the dope trade.

Gee's readiness to fund Hollinger in acquiring the preeminent Israeli newspaper underscores the emerging picture of Israel being taken over by City of London-centered interests traditionally linked to opium.

Shaping of Hollinger by war

Hollinger, Inc. in its present form is just the last metamorphosis of a power group created during World War II in Canada under the supervision of Winston Churchill. The group, led by Edward Plunket Taylor, was the key secret connection between the highest British elites and their American counterparts concerning questions such as the movement of funds from the U.S. for the war, at a time when the U.S. was still officially neutral. The war over, Taylor did not dissolve the gang. It became a private corporation: Argus, later named Hollinger.

"In 1945, along with several dollar-a-year men he met while serving in wartime Ottawa, Canada, Taylor formed a closed-end investment fund called Argus Corporation." So the hagiographic book, *The Canadian Establishment* (To-

ronto, Canada, 1975) describes the origins of Hollinger and the role of E.P. Taylor, the man who did more than anyone to establish the postwar Caribbean offshore banks, a major center for the laundering of drug money. Who were these dollar-a-year men and what had they done in the war?

First, the dollar-a-year story comes from the fact that these people were not paid for their work, receiving a symbolic \$1 a year. This means that they had been selected from some of the elite families in Canada—plutocratic elites who had made their family fortunes rapidly by taking advantage of U.S. Prohibition, and smuggling liquor to the U.S. from Canada. E.P. Taylor had “used his grandfather’s Branding Breweries in Ottawa as a starting base to merge, buy up, and pressure in various ways some 30 beer-making concerns into his huge Canadian Breweries, which eventually became the world’s largest brewing organization.”

Another dollar-a-year man was George Montegu Black, the father of the present chairman Conrad Black and of another member of the Hollinger’s board, G. Montegu Black. His father owned the Western Breweries in Winnipeg.

Also found on the board of Hollinger is Peter Bronfman, the cousin of Edgar Bronfman of the World Jewish Congress. Their fathers, Allen and Samuel Bronfman, respectively, started amassing the family’s wealth in connection with organized crime, smuggling alcohol into the U.S. in the 1930s, setting up the giant company Seagram’s, which in recent years took over one of the most prestigious U.S. industrial corporations, Du Pont.

E.P. Taylor was recruited after April 8, 1940, by the newly appointed Minister of Munitions and Supplies, Clarence Decatur Howe. Like the others, Taylor was selected for his family connections. The task assigned to Taylor was among the most delicate; it concerned the economic-financial side of the war on behalf of the British banks. He was to study new, more effective methods to manage huge amounts of money, including moving them in secret. These procedures, once successfully proven experimentally, found new expanded uses after the war.

After having accompanied Howe in a “war supply” mission from Ottawa to London, Taylor was asked to find a way to solve the shortage of U.S. dollars in Britain and the colonies. He obviously was quite successful, given that he was charged with briefing the Canadian prime minister, Mackenzie King, before his historic meeting on April 21, 1941 with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at Roosevelt’s country house in Hyde Park, New York. The issue they discussed was a barter exchange of Canadian resources and war supplies for American manufactured products. Of course, the negotiation was highly confidential, given that the United States was nominally still under the constraints of the Neutrality Act. The day after the meeting, the *New York Times* wrote that what was agreed there was “a virtual merging of the economies of the United States and Canada.”

That same day Howe informed Taylor that they had created a “Crown corporation” called War Supplies, Ltd. Taylor had already been appointed as its chairman. His mission: “Go to Washington, live at the Willard Hotel and sell our stuff.” Taylor himself recalled many years later: “When I got to Washington I realized right away that the Hyde Park agreement was completely illegal. It had no authority at all. It hadn’t been passed either by our Parliament or the U.S. Congress. I overcame that one pretty fast.

“My first day in Washington, I went to see Frank Knox, U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Gen. Somerwell, head of the Army Services of Supply, and the head of all the other big procurement agencies. ‘Sure we want those things you have got,’ they told me, ‘but what authority can we use?’ So I’d bring out my copy of the *New York Times* and they’d read the story describing Roosevelt’s pledge, and they’d say, ‘Well, looks as if you have something there. Come back tomorrow.’ I told them to call [Roosevelt adviser] Harry Hopkins in the White House if they had any doubt.”

Indeed, Taylor had learned how to organize an operation that would bypass official institutions using the private power of the media. As result of these activities, Taylor’s War Supplies, Ltd. gained \$1.3 billion selling Canadian “goods.” The result was so important to Winston Churchill that at the personal request of the British prime minister, Taylor was named to head the most important of the war supplies institutions, the British Supply Council. From that position, Taylor coordinated all of the Britain’s American supplies.

To understand the importance the highest-level British oligarchy attributed to Canada economically and financially, at that point, it is enough to say that during the period of Taylor’s exploits, a group of high-ranking Bank of England executives were sent to the offices of the Ottawa Foreign Exchange Control Board, which was charged with controlling export and import currency transactions. Their secret task was to set up the structure to host the Bank of England in case of German invasion.

Setting up drug money laundering

After having chaired Argus for years, Taylor suddenly declared that he was tired of his job and “retired” in the Bahamas. While “vacationing” there, he put together the new Bahamas banking law. This law served as the model for the offshore banks of the entire Caribbean, i.e., the modern financial apparatus of the drug traffic.

In his typical patronizing way, Taylor would boast about the fact that financially, the Bahamas were under his control. When the government of the Bahamas tried not to totally follow his advice sometime during the early 1970s, he said: “I’ve got a meeting with the prime minister a week from today to see whether I can get some action on things that would help the country. I’ve a little advantage there in that the Royal [Bank of Canada] is the government’s banker and I’m in charge of that area for the bank.”