

Australia Dossier by Lydia Cherry

Hollinger takeover bid in Melbourne

The corporation whose purchase of the 'Jerusalem Post' ushered in the Sharon war cabinet is now staking out turf in Australia.

The Hollinger Corporation of Conrad Black, owner of the London *Daily Telegraph* and the *Jerusalem Post*, is now engaged in a takeover bid for *The Age* newspaper in Melbourne, Australia, and the entire Fairfax Group of newspapers. On July 28, Black met with Prime Minister Bob Hawke and other senior cabinet ministers to make the case for the purchase of the Fairfax group, and Black said after the meeting he was sure Hawke would not apply anything other than "reasonable criteria" to the decision. Black has dismissed critics of the proposed deal as "paranoids."

The takeover bid has sparked a controversy in Australia for two reasons. One is Hollinger itself. The megacorporation is one of the chief operational agencies for the Anglo-American establishment, as its board of directors would indicate: former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former British Foreign Minister and NATO Secretary General Lord Peter Carrington; and Peter Bronfman, cousin of Seagrams-DuPont magnate Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress.

Black himself is reportedly a second-generation British Intelligence financial warfare specialist who was sponsored by one of Her Majesty's leading wartime spymasters, Edward Plunket Taylor.

The second problem is that Hollinger's partner in the deal is Australian multimillionaire Kerry Packer. Australian critics of the buy-up point to Packer's potentially huge grip on an increasingly concentrated media

industry in Australia. With the exception of the Fairfax Group, Australia's media is already controlled either by Rupert Murdoch or by Packer.

Packer is suspected among many Australian intelligence circles of involvement in the dope trade centered in the Far East. In the early 1980s, the parliamentary Costigan commission conducted an extensive investigation into Australian illegal-drug trafficking. The commission's vow was to "go after the bosses."

In informed circles the "bosses" were known to have meant Kerry Packer and his friend Sir Peter Abeles, a multimillionaire who heads the giant transport company, TNT. The commission, however, was shut down prior to their official identification.

Despite the protests of the Hollinger-Packer takeover of the Fairfax group, the Melbourne *Age* is apparently priming itself for the change in management. When Hollinger took over the *Jerusalem Post* in the spring of 1990, the paper abruptly shifted its editorial line, solidly backing the coming to power of the war cabinet of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Housing Minister Ariel Sharon. The Hollinger-backed change in government in Israel set off the chain of events that led to the war against Iraq, which the *Post* strongly backed. The *Post* editorial shift also caused the wholesale walkout of the *Post*'s previous reporters and editors.

At *The Age*, however, one reporter at least definitely plans to stay at her post under Hollinger management: Sheena MacLean, so-called ru-

ral editor. An Aug. 7 article by MacLean in *The Age* attempts to tie the Citizen's Electoral Councils in Australia to "right-wing white supremacy" groups "distributing racial and anti-Jewish propaganda."

MacLean reports that the CEC "is closely linked to the Lyndon LaRouche political organization in the United States." The CEC has emerged as a major headache for the Hawke government, because of the grassroots resistance it has mustered to the government's dismantling of the farm sector.

The article reports that police are "investigating" various Australian groups for anti-Jewish activity, citing in particular the White Aryan Resistance (WAR) and the Christian Identity Ministeries. She then makes the "connecto" that an advertisement was purchased by the Christian Identity Ministeries in the *New Citizen*, newspaper of the Citizens Electoral Council. *The Age*'s smear was followed by a rural radio broadcast in Victoria claiming, falsely, that the WAR had direct links to the CEC.

Last March, a full-page slander article on the CEC and LaRouche was published, also penned by MacLean, which relied highly on an interview with Mira Lansky Boland of the Anti-Defamation League's Washington D.C. office. (Prior to being given the ADL post, Boland worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.)

Timed to coincide with the MacLean piece, Mark Liebler went on the radio and television airwaves calling for strong laws to halt "incitement to racial hatred." Liebler is the brother of Isi Liebler, vice president of the World Jewish Congress under Hollinger's Bronfman. In short, the indications are that the dirty tactics of the ADL are being escalated in Australia, a campaign Hollinger can be relied upon to boost.