

# Is Isi Leibler becoming a liability?

*His shady dealings are proving embarrassing for Israel. Part 3 of a report by an EIR Investigative Team.*

Despite the wide spectrum of shady dealings perpetrated by the Leibler brothers, Isi Leibler, as co-chairman of the World Jewish Congress, and Mark Leibler, as head of the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA), have been at the forefront of the Zionist lobby in Australia, and, in Isi's case, in Asia. Isi Leibler, as reported in the first article in this series (see *EIR*, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12), has even gone so far as to openly carry out diplomatic activities in the region on behalf of the government of Israel. While the mantle of Zionism helps protect the Leibler brothers from scrutiny, Isi Leibler's diplomatic forays on Israel's behalf have also helped open up new avenues for financial exploitation.

But the gig might be up. The Australian *Jewish News* reported in its January edition that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "wants Australian Jewish community organizations to drop the quasi-diplomatic role they have adopted in Australian-Israeli affairs of state. He has told Executive Council of Australia Jewry president Isi Leibler that, while he appreciates the Australian Jewish community's past efforts, government-to-government relations should be left to Israel's embassy. . . . Mr. Rabin's approach adds a further dimension to the question of how Mr. Isi Leibler and Zionist Federation of Australia president Mark Leibler will develop their working relationship in their dealings with the Australian government and to what extent they will scale back their quasi-diplomatic public relations activities."

In fact, the Leiblers are largely responsible for the fact that a Zionist lobby in Australia even exists. In their efforts since the early 1970s, they have worked in concert mostly with Zionist lobby organizations in the United States, not Israel. In these cases as well, the Zionist lobby organizations have operated as covers for suspicious financial dealings believed to center around the dope trade. This puts them in the company of:

- Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) from 1982-86. A Wall Street attorney, Bialkin's most notorious client is Robert Vesco, the head of the international drug combine operating out of Cuba. Bialkin is known to have made the financial and other arrangements to set up his client Robert Vesco in business with Colombian cocaine cartel leader Carlos Lehder Rivas. The ADL's bank, from earliest days until now, was Sterling National Bank in New York, set up by organized crime boss Meyer Lansky's

chief lieutenant, Frank Erickson.

- Edgar Bronfman, head of the Anti-Defamation New York Appeal and an ADL national commissioner. Bronfman is also co-chairman, with Isi Leibler, of the World Jewish Congress (WJC). Chief executive of Seagram's, Bronfman is the heir to the vast organized crime empire established by his grandfather during Prohibition, when the "Bronfman gang," as they were then known, supplied the liquor, then prohibited in the United States, to Meyer Lansky and his associates. Many decades later, grandson Edgar had an exclusive contract to supply booze to the East German communist party, whose chief, Erich Honecker, honored him with the country's highest civilian honor just weeks before the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. Bronfman had promised the communist boss that he would use all his political muscle to stop the reunification of Germany, which he dubbed a "sellout of socialism."

Another institution that the Leiblers maintain ties to is the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). In 1974, Leibler pushed for the establishment of the Australian-Israel Publications Office, which later became the *Australia-Israel Review* magazine. According to one of the magazine's main columnists, Michael Danby, "We model ourselves on AIPAC, the legendary Jewish lobby in Washington which is an American organization." The first head of Australian-Israel Publications was Sam Lipski, a well-known newspaper columnist and a member of the Smorgon family of Melbourne. The Smorgon family was worth a reported \$700 million, and members were clients of Mark Leibler. Lipski would later become vice president of Leibler's Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs (AIJA).

In the United States, AIPAC maintains a choke-hold on the U. S. Congress. Particularly feared is its "policy unit," which maintains dossiers on tens of thousands of political activists, many of them Jewish. Many of these Jewish activists, who disagree with AIPAC for one reason or another, have been treated to the same violence and vicious smearing by AIPAC that is meted out to Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officials.

## **LaRouche is their number-one target**

The Leiblers' activities as an arm of the international Zionist lobby has made American statesman Lyndon

LaRouche their number-one target in Australia, along with the Citizens Electoral Councils, which are organizing around LaRouche's ideas to clean up the international drug trade and reorganize the world economy for development, not "free market" looting.

The *modus operandi* is standard: Anyone who opposes the Leiblers' nefarious activities is branded an "anti-Semitic Nazi." In December, the Leiblers set into motion an array of slanders against LaRouche in Australia. In the wide-circulation *Sydney Sunday Telegraph* of Dec. 20, Don Chipp, founder of the Australia Democrat Party, hysterically pointed to LaRouche's growing influence in Australia. After discussing the appearance of neo-Nazism in Europe, Chipp got to his real point: "The significance to Australians of these developments is not limited to a concern about the rebirth of Nazism in Europe and its effect on world peace. Respected Jewish leaders have alleged the existence [in Australia] of a foreign-funded, U.S.-based extremist right-wing organization led by erstwhile presidential candidate and recent jail inmate Lyndon LaRouche. His group reportedly has raised more than \$200 million for its activities and is planning an international conference in Melbourne next March."

According to Chipp, "The Jewish community has asked the government to refuse entry" to the "sad (but dangerous) misanthrope, LaRouche." In his hysteria, Chipp neglected to mention that LaRouche remains a political prisoner incarcerated in a U.S. federal jail!

The same line against LaRouche appeared in the Australian *Jewish News* of Nov. 27: "LaRouche and his followers seem to be in step with the ugly recrudescence of the right-wing extremist neo-Nazism which has recently manifested itself in Germany."

Thuggery, lies, and provocation have been the standard Leibler tools since he began building up the Australian Zionist lobby in the early 1970s.

### Early efforts

In September 1974, Isi Leibler, then the head of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, issued a call for a dramatic step-up in pro-Israel activity by Australia's Jewish community. Alarmed at the pro-Palestinian sentiment on university campuses and in the Labor Party, Leibler called for the creation of new, pro-Israel publications such as the Australia-Israel Publications Office.

Said Leibler, "I maintain that our principal task must be to generate an awareness within our own Jewish community of the threats confronting us and above all creating well-informed cadres of Jews who will contribute the desperately needed manpower to neutralize these anti-Jewish forces on a grass roots level."

Through deployment of agents provocateurs, thug tactics, manipulation of public opinion, and secret collaboration with elements of domestic and foreign intelligence agencies, Leibler set out to reshape Australia's political landscape.

On May 30, 1974, the Melbourne *Age* reported on some of his dirty tricks. "A Jewish intelligence organization operating in Melbourne has compiled . . . files on about 200 people and organizations connected with anti-Semitism and right-wing extremist movements." The *Age* went on to say that the group was called "Research Services," and reported to Leibler personally, as president of the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies. The *Age* further reported that Research Services "liaise [sic] with Jewish intelligence organizations overseas" and that "the group liases with State and Commonwealth police."

The presence of the Mossad in Australia is notorious, and even the subject of newspaper articles, as in *The Sun* on May 24, 1977. "Mossad agents have been responsible for the Australian government banning visits of PLO delegates—even those sponsored by the United Nations. . . . Mossad advises Australian security of a PLO agent's secret visit here—if it suits them to do so—only after their own surveillance of his activities."

### Political clout

In 1983, Isi moved to set up a "research arm" of the WJC for Australia, the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs, which, says its literature, "is a research-based organization modeled on the internationally renowned Institute of Jewish Affairs in London."

In November 1984, Dr. Paul Gardner, then chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission (ADC), returned from visiting the ADL in the United States to declare: "I do not believe anti-Semitism will ever die out. Centuries from now we will need an ADC to combat it." The ADC began to distribute ADL literature to schools and ethnic groups. In 1992, Gardner would become a board member of Isi Leibler's AIJA.

This apparatus developed immense political clout. Bob Hawke, prime minister from 1983-91, was widely acknowledged as a puppet of Sir Peter Abeles—who, as the AIJA virtually admitted in the course of an article slandering LaRouche, had been investigated for organized crime links—and of others in the Zionist lobby, especially Leibler. Leibler in 1978 had negotiated with Hawke, then head of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), a joint venture between the ACTU and Jetset Tours called ACTU Jetset Travel.

In May 1988, WJC President Edgar Bronfman, on his first official visit to Australia, gave Hawke the AIJA's first Human Rights Award. When Mark Leibler opened a lobbying office for the ZFA in 1989 in Canberra, Prime Minister Hawke showed up. Later, when Arnold Bloch Leibler held a reception to open its new offices, Gov. Gen. Bill Hayden and Second Commissioner of Taxation Brian Nolan graced the premises. To cap it off, when President George Bush visited Australia briefly in late 1991-early 1992, he met personally with Mark Leibler—a stunning coup for Leibler—



A joint demonstration between the Schiller Institute and the Citizens Electoral Councils in 1992 in Melbourne. Lyndon LaRouche's growing influence in Australia has terrified the Leiblers into a hectic campaign of "anti-Semitic" name-calling.

and issued a statement of gratitude for Mark's work repealing the U.N. "Zionism is racism" resolution.

One intelligence operation in which Isi Leibler played a key role was the establishment in Australia of the Special Investigations Unit of the attorney general's office, modeled on the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) in the U.S. Department of Justice, to hunt "Nazi war criminals." As in the United States, the idea was to use spurious investigations in order to attack anti-communist or politically independent ethnic groups. As part of his propagandizing for the Australian unit, Leibler authored the foreword to a 1989 book, *Sanctuary: Nazi Fugitives in Australia*, by Mark Aarons, a member of the clan often called "the royal family of the Communist Party of Australia." Aarons had taken "long service leave" in Yugoslavia several years before and returned to direct a two-part series on the Australian Broadcasting Corp. on alleged Nazi war criminals.

The KGB-provided evidence used in the few cases which came to trial was proven to be forged, or in some cases the prosecution collapsed for lack of evidence. Though the "Nazi-hunting" unit, which failed to convict even one "Nazi war criminal," has lapsed, the terror operation against independent political forces continues under the rubric of "racial vilification" laws passed in several states, and introduced into the federal parliament in late 1992.

### Agents provocateurs

In 1974, Isi Leibler called for the creation of "well informed cadres of Jews who will neutralize" Leibler's opponents. Two of these cadre are David Greason and Michael Danby. Their careers trace the right-left zigzags of the Zionist

lobby's agents provocateurs.

Already in his early teens, the British-born Greason was active in the virulently anti-Semitic League of Rights. However, unconfirmed reports place him as a columnist for the Australian *Jewish News* in the late 1970s, after which he went off in the early 1980s to found the neo-Nazi National Action Party, some of whose supporters have been instigators of violent incidents. Shortly after that venture, he popped up as a member of the extreme-left International Socialists organization, having undergone a Damascus-road conversion from anti-Semitism. In the late 1980s, he worked as an adviser to the deputy leader of the opposition party in Papua New Guinea, and was also employed for a time as a columnist for the *South China Morning Post* of Hong Kong. He also wrote for two of Australia's major papers, the *Sydney Morning-Herald* and the *Age* of Melbourne. Also in the 1980s, Greason joined the Scientology organization, when it was under investigation by the Australian police. By the early 1990s, Greason was working as a "senior contributing editor" for the Australian version of *Playboy* magazine, a pillar of the drug-pornography lobby.

In the late 1980s, Greason began a series of written attacks against the LaRouche movement, including in Britain's *Searchlight* magazine, a notorious front for British intelligence which has close ties to the former East German intelligence service, the Stasi. These efforts culminated with his 17-page slander piece in Isi Leibler's *Without Prejudice* magazine in November 1992. There Greason attacked LaRouche as a neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic, yet at the same time he wrote an article for a leftist publication, which opened, "LaRouche often brags about his connections with the Zionist bandit

state of Israel," and concluded, "Progressive masses from around the world must recognize this U.S.-Zionist dagger [the LaRouche movement] at the heart of our movement. We must strike fear into their hearts for daring to degrade our noble cause."

Danby has earned a reputation for his scribblings in Leiber's *Australia-Israel Review*. According to *Axis*, the newspaper of the Australian Union of Students, of May 24, 1976, "The president of the Students Representative Council at Melbourne University has been acting as an informer for the Commonwealth Police. The president, Michael Danby, has admitted to having five contacts with the police since February." Among other things, Danby provided a profile of a PLO-connected student who was then applying to study at Melbourne University, a profile used to deny the student entry into Australia. He also reported to the police on a planned student mobilization against the visit to Australia of one of the Rockefeller family.

Danby joined the Labor Party during or after his university days, and though a Labor Party member, held numerous secret meetings with leading figures in the Liberal Party to plan a purge of Labor's pro-Palestinian left wing. One such meeting took place in the headquarters of Western Mining Corp., an anti-union, pro-free trade outfit which is a major financier of the Liberals.

Danby maintained some intelligence ties in other directions. In the late 1980s, his wife worked in the library of the U.S. consulate in Melbourne, while Danby himself organized intimate Friday night soirees at the consulate where Australians could come and rub shoulders with the leading lights of America's neo-conservative movement, such as longtime CIA official Vernon Walters. Reflective of these connections, Danby spent time in the United States on a State Department scholarship.

### Investigation of whom?

The November issue of *Without Prejudice* featured a 17-page diatribe against LaRouche as "anti-Semitic" and "extreme right wing." The article complained that a major purpose of what they called LaRouche's "intelligence network" in Australia, is to "spy on . . . Melbourne Jewish community figure Isi Leibler and businessman Sir Peter Abeles." It further contended that the major purpose of the rapidly expanding LaRouche movement in Australia is to conduct espionage, and that this "makes a thorough investigation of this group, and its plans for Australia, imperative."

A preliminary look at the Leiblers, in fact, points to the opposite conclusion. The evidence of the Leiblers' reportedly corrupt dealings on behalf of foreign governments in Australia, and their tax-evasion schemes from which they and their friends have earned considerable pecuniary reward, more than merit a parliamentary investigation of the Leiblers and company.

## S.E. Asia cements Subcontinental ties

by Lydia Cherry

The nations of South Asia (the Indian subcontinent) and the Southeast Asian countries have historically operated very much in their respective orbits. However, now there is an effort to narrow the gap. Much of the rapid-fire economic and military diplomacy involves new-found ties between India and the various countries that make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—in particular with Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia, but not exclusively so. At the time of this writing, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad is in Pakistan, having just come from Bangladesh, discussing the ASEAN consensus that there is a desperate need for "greater unity and cooperation" between the Asian regional groupings.

### India, Malaysia sign defense pact

In the first week of February, much press attention was given to the signing of a memorandum of understanding by India and Malaysia involving military cooperation. The agreement was signed during Indian Defense Minister Sharad Pawar's four-day official visit to Malaysia, the first ever by an Indian defense minister. All-India Radio Network quoted Malaysian Defense Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak saying that India and Malaysia can in the future think of joint development of parts, logistical support, and in-country servicing of common equipment and aircraft of the two countries. Najib added that the new memorandum provides the basic umbrella of political commitment. Najib added that Malaysia viewed the MOU as an effort to enhance cooperation in technical training and logistics support for, in particular, the Royal Malaysian Air Force. Indian press also reported that Malaysia announced it was willing to share its expertise in countering insurgency, while India would assist Malaysia in the transformation of a largely counterinsurgency force into a modern conventional army.

Indian Defense Minister Sharad Pawar also offered to train Malaysian pilots on the Russian-built MiG-29 jet fighters which Malaysia may buy from Russia, the Indian press reported. Malaysia is considering buying 30 MiG-29s from the Russians, which have been offered at US\$24 million each, and has been looking to India to provide parts and service for the fighters.

(The United States had offered Malaysia F-16 and F/A-18 Hornet fighters, but Malaysian defense officials say their