

Prince Philip's Corporate SS

by Anthony K. Wikrent and Allen Douglas

The modern multinationals typified by Royal Dutch Shell, Unilever, and RTZ, which have done so much to strangle Africa and the rest of the world in the postwar period, are merely the modern, slightly disguised form of the Crown-chartered "merchant adventurer" companies of Elizabethan England and later. Like their often Venetian-sponsored Elizabethan predecessors, some of which merged to become the British East India Company in the late sixteenth century, they are granted a "royal charter" to operate globally on behalf of the Crown and its associated families. The Anglo-Dutch firm Royal Dutch Shell, for instance, so prominent in Africa and in the World Wide Fund for Nature, dates from the financial arrangements established when William of the Dutch house of Orange took the British throne in 1688, with Venetian backing.

When Africa was colonized by the European powers in the 1880s and 1890s, that process, too, was under charter from the Crown, to such companies as the Royal Niger Company, the British East Africa Company, and Cecil Rhodes's British South Africa Company. Today's WWF backers, particularly its "Africa division" listed below, as well as those in the flow chart on the following page, are the direct descendants of these late-nineteenth-century Crown companies, if not earlier ones, like Shell. Tiny Rowland's Lonrho Corp. is typical: As of 1990 the employer of over 100,000 people in Africa, it is the continent's major private food producer, and a powerhouse in precious metals.

In 1961, at the time Lonrho was vastly upgraded in order to subvert and destroy the emerging independent African nations, it was a subsidiary of Cecil Rhodes's still-existing British South Africa Company. And, as *EIR* has documented in its 1992 book, *Tiny Rowland: The Ugly Face of Neocolonialism in Africa*, the money and connections to launch this new British East India Co. for Africa came from City of London financier Harley Drayton and his 117 Old Broad Street Group, Crown Agents for the colonies and *the managers of the private fortune of the queen*. Drayton's longtime personal assistant was the Scottish aristocrat Angus Ogilvy, whose wife, Princess Alexandra of Kent, is presently the head of WWF-U.K.

From 1961 on, Rowland was the chief financier for the gangs whose genocidal wars have devastated Africa. He often financed both sides of a struggle at the same time, beginning with the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia and its black opposition around Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, con-

tinuing into his financing both the Frelimo government and its Renamo opposition in Mozambique, and both the MPLA government and its Unita opposition in Angola.

The queen is the world's wealthiest woman, with an acknowledged fortune of \$13 billion (*Harpers and Queen* magazine, January 1991). In reality it is far greater, but she is exempt from having to disclose her holdings. The following entities, with major assets particularly in Africa, are politically directed by, and often substantially owned by, the Crown:

RTZ Corp. PLC. Second-largest mining firm in the world. Established in 1873 by Hugh Matheson of the Jardine Matheson opium-trading firm. RTZ's third chairman, Sir Auckland Geddes, worked with Sir Ernest Oppenheimer to reorganize control of raw materials production in Africa in the 1920s and 1930s.

Anglo-American Corp. of South Africa, Ltd. Largest mining firm in the world; dominates the economy of South Africa. Constitutes, together with the two De Beers companies, the Oppenheimer empire. The Rothschilds and J.P. Morgan and Co. provided Sir Ernest Oppenheimer the financing to cartelize diamond and gold production in South Africa between 1902 and 1929.

De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. (South Africa) and **De Beers Centenary AG** (Switzerland). Control world diamond production. Established by Cecil Rhodes in 1880; by 1888, with Rothschild backing, controlled 90% of the world's diamond production.

Barclays PLC. Major banking power in Africa. Tightly controlled by the Barclay, Freame, Bevan, and Buxton families, the latter of which co-founded the WWF.

Shell Trading & Transport PLC and Shell U.K. Ltd. World's largest petrochemical producer. ST&T, a British holding company, owns 40% of the Royal Dutch Shell group of over 2,000 companies worldwide (the other 60% is owned by Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.); forged by Sir Henri Deterding in 1903 with the French Rothschilds.

N.M. Rothschild & Sons Ltd. Founded in 1803 with the assistance of the Thurn and Taxis family, one of the "princely families" of the Hapsburg Empire, originally the Venetian Torre e Tasso family. NMR&S historically financed the expansion of the Venetian-modeled British Empire, as they did by bankrolling Cecil Rhodes's gold and diamonds empire.

Imperial Chemical Industries PLC. Key part of world chemical cartel. Formed in 1926 by Lord Melchett and others by merging the four largest British chemical firms. The present Lord Melchett, grandson of ICI's founder, is head of Greenpeace, United Kingdom.

Unilever. Owns vast plantations in Africa and the continent's largest trading company (United Africa Co.); key part of the world food cartel, particularly in fats and edible oils. Formed by 1930s strategic merger of English Lever Brothers firm, which owned the West African heirs to the Royal Niger Co, with a Dutch company.

FIGURE 4

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