

# What's wrong with U.S. Africa policy?

by Scott Thompson

The answer is: Life Baroness Lynda Chalker of Wallasey, the British Minister of Overseas Development. She visited the United States on March 23-25, for consultations at the White House, State Department, and the International Monetary Fund-World Bank, in a drive to steer the U.S. administration into yet another strategic blunder in Africa: sanctions against Nigeria.

According to British officials, Lady Chalker has been traveling to Washington every three to four months, to shape a U.S. "consensus" with British Empire policy. A spokesman for the British embassy claims that there has emerged a "special relationship" between the United States and the United Kingdom on policy toward Africa.

Chalker was named a Life Baroness in 1992 by former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and is a member of The Queen's Privy Council. One of four Conservative Party government foreign policy spokesmen in the House of Lords, she has served as Minister of Overseas Development and Minister for Africa and Commonwealth in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1989.

In her latest trip to Washington, Chalker concentrated on drawing the United States into a "multilateral approach" to Nigeria, according to British embassy officials. This means joining the effort of the U.K. and the British Commonwealth to destabilize Nigeria, in the name of "democracy." In previous visits to Washington, Chalker had defended the Ugandan regime of dictator Yoweri Museveni, whom she controls, when Museveni's regime sent the Rwandan Patriotic Front, which is part of the Ugandan Army, to slaughter thousands of Hutu men, women, and children in Rwanda. According to British embassy spokesmen, Lady Chalker worked hard to stave off an outcry from the United States. She insisted at the time that only 300 "radical" Hutu were killed at the Kibeho refugee camp (U.N. observers on the scene put the number of victims at 8,000).

Museveni's top officials have been caught trying to buy TOW missiles and missile launchers in Florida, for supply to Museveni's school chum, John Garang, who is waging a guerrilla war, with British backing, against the Sudanese government in Khartoum. According to Ugandan sources, Museveni's government is the main source of supply to Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army. Now, Chalker is sharpening her knives against Nigeria, and would have the United States join in the kill.

## Building 'multilateral consensus'

On her latest visit to the United States, Chalker had the following schedule of meetings to discuss Africa, and especially Nigeria:

In the morning of March 25, she met with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, at the White House.

She then went to the State Department, where she met with Steven Morrison from Policy Planning. He hosted a luncheon for her, with Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Prudence Bushnell, the deputy assistant secretary for the Agency for International Development (AID), and others.

In the afternoon, she met with the head of AID, Brian Attwood, and in the evening, the AID Africa desk hosted a dinner for her, in her capacity as Minister of Overseas Development. She has been a leading spokesman for free market "privatization" of State-owned industry, and the British imperialists have an eye on looting Nigeria's oil wealth. This is what Chalker means by "Overseas Development."

She concluded her visit with meetings at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, organizations which former Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa has called the principal modern-day instruments of the British Empire's colonial oppression in Africa.

## Focus on Nigeria

Chalker reportedly discussed Nigeria, Namibia, Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, and Sudan. But she concentrated her efforts on building a "multilateral consensus" on Nigeria with her U.S. counterparts, preparing the ground for U.S. agreement with the Commonwealth's working group report on Nigeria. A British embassy spokesman stated that the Commonwealth working group on Nigeria is composed of the foreign ministers of Zimbabwe (chairman), New Zealand, Jamaica, Malaysia, the U.K., South Africa, Ghana, and Canada.

The oh-so-democratically selected Queen Elizabeth II, who wields "Prerogative Powers" that are more concentrated than any democratically elected President, is recognized as the Queen of 17 Commonwealth countries, and Head of State all the others.

This makes Chalker an "authority" on democracy. In her discussions in Washington, she said that U.S.-U.K.-Commonwealth actions toward Nigeria must follow two criteria: 1) Will they enhance a return to democracy; and 2) will they enhance other multilateral goals in Nigeria?

The truth about Nigeria, is that it is more on the course to democracy than is the British Empire, with its hereditary system of rule. Periodically, however, because of British Empire imperialist manipulation of political parties, the Nigerian military has been forced to step in to restore order. Thus, as Nigerian leaders such as Chief Abiola Ogunodun have reported to *EIR*, after yet another crisis in 1993, Gen. Sani Abacha took power as the new military head of the government. General Abacha made it clear that he would not hand



*Schiller Institute representatives greet Baroness Lynda Chalker (inset) at the U.S. State Department, March 25, 1996.*

over power until a sound foundation had been laid for democracy. Many political leaders, including Chief M.K.O. Abiola, welcomed this attempt to stabilize the political situation. Despite this, the British Empire, through the regular consultations of Lady Chalker, is seeking to impose sanctions on Nigeria, which would only worsen the situation in that country.

### **Schiller Institute opposition**

While the head of the AID Africa desk was hosting a dinner for the bloody Lady Chalker, a Schiller Institute demonstration took place outside the State Department, featuring a banner that read, "Ban Import of Mad Cows, Revoke Lady Chalker's Visa." The five demonstrators sang a version of "Lady Madonna," whose lyrics had been rewritten for the "Butcher of Rwanda": "Lady Lynda Chalker/ Minister Overseas/ Wonder how she managed/ To hide her disease/ . . . Soon a million Africans/ Are lying dead/ . . . Spreading AIDS and genocide/ For the Queen/ Said she saw a thousand Hutus dying/ Said it don't affect her judgment none:/ Says you need a Structural Adjustment/ You'd better run."

Demonstrators hoisted a six-foot-square cartoon of three witches, stirring a pot containing the world's nations. The witches were Lady Chalker, Prince Philip, and Baroness Caroline Cox, who is heading British efforts to destroy mineral-rich Sudan.

Labour Party Leader Tony Blair calls the Life Baronesses, such as Ladies Thatcher, Cox, and Chalker, part of a meritocracy that deserves their power within the upper House of Lords. In fact, to obtain a Life Peerage, over which the queen has a final say, shows that one has led a life of devotion to the British Empire, where all are not created equal, but power is ultimately determined by heredity. It means, usually, display of finesse in Hobbesian balance-of-power politics. This is Lady Chalker.

She was born to Sidney Henry James Bates and Kathleen Randell on April 29, 1942. She became national vice-chairman of the Young Conservatives (1970-71). In a rapid promotion, she was named a Member of the British Broadcasting Corporation Advisory Committee (1974-79). She was elected a Conservative Party MP from Wallasey from 1974 until she entered the House of Lords in 1992, and she worked closely with Tory Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. She was named parliamentary undersecretary of the Department of Transport (1982-83). Next, she was made minister of State (1983-86). Thatcher then selected her to be Minister of State, Foreign, and Commonwealth Office, with special responsibility for Sub-Saharan Africa, the Commonwealth, Europe, international trade, economic relations, and Personnel (1986-89). She has held her current post in charge of Overseas Development and Africa since then.