

Australia Dossier by Michael J. Sharp and Allen Douglas

Transparency Int'l: clear as mud

The Australian branch of Transparency International has launched an aggressive global organizing drive.

In 1995, the Australian branch of Prince Philip's new "anti-corruption" organization, Transparency International, was set up courtesy of the funding and manpower in Melbourne of Royal Dutch Shell, one of the main bankrollers of another scam by Prince Philip, the World Wide Fund for Nature. Since then, TI-Oz, as it calls itself, has dispatched its directors to the far corners of the earth, in tireless pursuit of TI's quest to seek out and destroy corruption, i.e., to destabilize any country which refuses to submit to the fascist conditionalities of the World Bank-International Monetary Fund (see *EIR*, July 25, 1997, p. 60).

The dirty Duke of Edinburgh's Australian minions have been busy beavers, as the following, partial roster of their activities indicates:

- In 1995, TI-Oz convened a conference in Asia, attended by representatives of 14 nations, and which led to the establishment of TI chapters in Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Nepal, and Malaysia.

- TI-Oz board member Isabel Blackett has helped set up a chapter in South Africa, whose launch was key-noted by South Africa's Deputy President and heir-apparent to President Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki. Blackett has been active in Pakistan, India, and South Korea as well, and TI-Oz is launching the organization in Uganda, home of the British Crown's favorite butcher, Yoweri Museveni. Blackett's efforts are being generously supported by the U.K.'s Overseas Development Agency (the old Colonial Office), and by Standard Chartered Bank, the flagship bank of the British Empire, and of the Em-

pire's present incarnation as the Commonwealth.

- TI-Oz executive director Peter Rooke helped establish the organization in Pakistan, in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Islamabad, a non-governmental organization (NGO), and has addressed the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and numerous business and trade union groups. Rooke was also in Cambodia last April, working with the Center for Social Development, an NGO, and helping to draft anti-corruption laws for the Cambodian government.

- In early 1997, TI-Oz officials met with the World Bank's chairman of Private Sector Development, Richard Frank, who had earlier attended a TI international seminar on behalf of World Bank chief James Wolfensohn. In follow-up to that seminar, Frank told TI-Oz that "corruption prevention should be integrated into all the Bank's work in the Asia Pacific." According to TI's newsletter, Frank also "saw scope for TI and the Bank to work together. . . . Corruption is a focal issue for the Bank in 1996/97."

The image of the World Bank and TI making sweet music about "working together" is ludicrous, given that, as *EIR* has documented, all of TI's top officials were drawn from the World Bank, and that TI is a World Bank front, midwived by the dirty Duke.

Not long after the meeting with Frank, TI-Oz and the bank did "work together," in Papua New Guinea. The British-born TI-Oz national chairman Henry Bosch and executive director Rooke officially launched TI-P.N.G. in January 1997, and "Peter has done

a lot of follow-up since," Anne McDermott, TI-P.N.G.'s manager, told *EIR*. Indeed. As *EIR* documented in its Aug. 22 report, "Britain's 'Invisible Empire' Unleashes the Dogs of War" (p. 25), after Prime Minister Julius Chan temporarily kicked the World Bank out of his country in 1996, charging that it had "destroyed many countries," the bank came back, wearing its Transparency garb, to mobilize the NGO and low-church street mobs which helped overthrow Chan's government in June, in a manufactured corruption scandal. The head of TI-P.N.G., Sir Anthony Siaguru, was deputy director general of the Commonwealth during 1990-95.

Not everyone has been taken in by TI's facade of sweetness and light, however. On Aug. 21, P.N.G.'s Trade and Tourism Minister Michael Nali leveled a blistering attack on TI. Said Nali, in response to TI-P.N.G.'s arm-twisting to get politicians to sign a "national integrity" pledge: "As an elected representative of my people and a minister of state sworn to duty to the Monarchy, the National Constitution, and to God, I am questioning the legal and moral basis of this particular group going around soliciting written undertakings from leaders of this country to adhere to what it calls a 'national integrity pledge.' As far as I and my colleagues in the People's Progress party are concerned, the Oaths of Office we took as members of parliament and ministers of state are more than sufficient. . . . The TI group's public pronouncements seem to portray us all as a bunch of thieves, intent on plundering the wealth of this nation. . . . We feel it is most inappropriate to allow any person or organization, especially those of alien, uncertain, and subservient status, to interfere in the Constitutional processes dealing with leaders in this country."