

J'Accuse: World Leaders Call London 'Terrorist Safe-Haven'

by Michele Steinberg

The following dossier, entitled "Put Britain On The List Of States Sponsoring Terrorism," was originally delivered to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other top U.S. officials by *EIR* on Jan. 11, 2000, and then published in our Jan. 21, 2000 issue—20 months before the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Those attacks were not "terrorism," but "irregular warfare," which *EIR* Founder Lyndon LaRouche has described as an ongoing coup d'état, involving special warfare capabilities from within the United States in collusion with international forces, against the nation LaRouche is seeking to guide with his 2004 Presidential campaign.

Had the lengthy dossier been taken seriously, and had the warnings of *EIR* and LaRouche been heeded then, the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001 might have been averted.

EIR is reissuing the dossier at this time, as a vital public service to the world community, to help shape a viable international campaign against terrorism. The original *EIR* report was based on the information made public by Egypt, and nine other nations—Israel, France, Algeria, Peru, Turkey, Germany, Libya, Nigeria, Yemen, Russia, and India. The memo documents the protests these nations delivered to Britain over London's giving asylum, funding, and free rein to terrorist recruitment, fundraising, and training. It was delivered to top U.S. officials of the Defense Department, Justice Department, the FBI, the CIA, and both Houses of Congress.

Tragically, in the months since Sept. 11, the United States has responded to the attempted coup d'état with futile military action in Afghanistan, at a cost of an estimated \$33 million per day to the United States, and many innocent civilians lives. Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair has been allowed to parade around as "leader of the free world" in

the fight against "Islamic terror," touting London's "special relationship" with the United States.

In addition, the paradox of the United States bombing Afghanistan while *ignoring* evidence of British intelligence services facilitating terrorism operations, and covering up for United States' own special warfare and intelligence networks' support for the Taliban, has created extreme international tensions, eroding support for the U.S. war on terrorism. French political leaders and counterterrorism experts even refer to London as "Londonistan," which terrorists find so amendable to use as a base between their visits to Afghan camps.

As for Blair, he is coming under the most intense attacks in Britain itself, where Sir Michael Howard, a leading Oxford University strategist told the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) that the Afghanistan war was a "terrible and irrevocable error" which is "like trying to eradicate cancer cells with a blowtorch."

But of all the international criticism, rather than having President Bush continue this disastrous policy, it is LaRouche alone who provides a solution. First, LaRouche is the only statesman who has come out directly to say what other critics merely hint at, that "international terrorism" is "actually *irregular warfare*" deployed by governments or financial cliques. Second, it can be dried up by governments, if they resolutely go after the drug-trafficking, illegal weapons trade, and money-laundering run by major banks and financial institutions—especially those run through London.

International Backlash

The exposés of London's role described here, could become the opportunity for doing just what LaRouche has



“Londonistan, anyone?” It has been the safe-haven and exile of choice for terrorists convicted and sought in other nations; and for the raising of money, logistics, and recruits for international terror and irregular warfare.

specified as needed for a successful effort against international terrorism.

On Oct. 10, French National Assembly Deputy Arnaud Montebourg announced the publication of a report from a special Parliamentary Commission entitled, “The City Of London, Gibraltar, And The Crown Dependencies: Offshore Centers, Sanctuaries For Dirty Money” (see *EIR*, Oct. 26, 2001). Montebourg denounced the City of London—as well as some Crown dependencies—as a “fiscal, banking, and financial paradise for criminals,” assailing the City of London and British authorities’ thorough lack of interest in the fight against financial crime. “The government of Her Gracious Majesty claims to be leading the fight against terrorism, but it should first clean its own house.”

In Russia, on Oct. 2, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, President Vladimir Putin’s personal spokesman, praised U.S.-Russian cooperation, while singling out Britain for harboring terrorists, in a Moscow press briefing: “We estimate that as of the end of last year, Chechen militants received assistance from about 100 . . . foreign public organizations, funds, societies. . . . We drew the attention to the existence of a network of such organizations, for example, in London. . . . One of them is Al-Muhajiroun, and the leader of the movement is Omar Bakri, who continuously figures among the moral and

political sponsors of at least the Chechen militants.”

The loudest criticism has come repeatedly from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who rebuked British Foreign Minister Jack Straw for “harboring terrorists,” during the latter’s visit to Cairo on Sept. 28 (see *EIR*, Oct. 3, 2001). “Egypt has called on Britain to adopt certain policies to stop terrorist activities on its territories,” said Usama Al-Baz, Mubarak’s political adviser, in a press conference afterward. Mubarak blasted London’s role in an interview with the French daily *Le Figaro* on Sept. 22, saying that “certain European capitals are becoming veritable terrorist production plants.” He noted the hypocrisy of the British government in an interview with *Al-Ahram* in late October. “Some Western capitals continued to grant asylum to terrorists under the pretext of upholding human rights,” he said.

The greatest pressure on London has been from *EIR*, and its founder, Lyndon LaRouche, who has become internationally known in the Arab world, especially in Egypt, as the voice of reason from the United States. On October 3, 2001, using the latest information provided by President Mubarak in his charges against Britain, *EIR* published an article entitled “Why The Real Name Is Osama Bin-London.” It reported, among other things, that the killers of Northern Alliance leader Ahmed Shah Mahsood had been given credentials from an Islamic center run by “Yassir Al-Serri, a member of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad who enjoys asylum in Britain, even though he has a murder charge which carries a death sentence waiting for him in Egypt.” On Oct. 29, 2001, *Al Ahram* weekly reported the arrest of Al Serri in London for the conspiracy to kill Mahsood. As *EIR* reported, London had refused many previous requests from Egypt to extradite him.

However, the silence from Washington on London’s culpability has been deafening and represents an extreme danger to the United States and the world.

The density of statements from Mubarak, and the impact of the French Parliamentary Commission report have begun to break the decades-long media cover-up of this strategic treason by London.

On Nov. 2, *USA Today*, the largest circulation newspaper in the country, wrote an article on “Londonistan: Hub For Terrorism,” which stated: “No other nation in the West has been found to harbor, or has played home to so many terrorists linked to bin Laden, as Britain.” Radical clerics like Abu Hamza al-Masri, an al-Qaeda member whom the Yemeni government has repeatedly asked Britain to extradite, have a field day “recruiting new terrorists” in Britain, “the most critical Western hub for Islamic extremists bent on waging war against ‘infidels’ like the United States.”

USA Today was the latest in a series of major pieces that appeared in *Time Europe*, *Newsweek*, the French daily *Le Monde*, ABC News in the United States, and London’s *Daily Telegraph* and *Times*.

But press “exposés” will do little in themselves. It is time that U.S. officials in the administration and Congress use the *EIR* dossier to dry up London’s terrorist safe-havens.