

Bronfman is Lenin's 'useful idiot'

by Scott Thompson

Within two days after the story broke on July 22 about suspected Soviet mole Felix Bloch's operations in the U.S. State Department (see article, page 60), Elon Steinberg, a principal aide to Seagrams chairman Edgar Bronfman in the World Jewish Congress, told the Israeli paper *Yediot Aharonot* that the reason Bloch had reputedly been "soft" on Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was that the Austrians had discovered Bloch's treachery and were blackmailing him. Questioned about this by American reporters, Steinberg immediately withdrew the charge, only to claim additionally that the reason it had taken so long to uncover Bloch's espionage was that Alois Mock, the Austrian foreign minister, had somehow helped cover it up.

Although Mock denied this latest canard, the string of lying vituperation from Edgar Bronfman's hatchetman at the World Jewish Congress raises two issues. First, it will be recalled that the Office of Special Investigation (OSI), which placed Kurt Waldheim on a watch-list, precluding his visit to the United States based upon slim evidence of possible knowledge of war crimes "discovered" by the World Jewish Congress, had earlier negotiated agreements with the U.S.S.R. that would permit Soviet charges, Soviet KGB-fabricated evidence, and other aspects of Soviet-style "justice" to be admitted into U.S. courts. Second, Edgar Bronfman is otherwise a hypocrite on the question of the Soviet intelligence services, since he is a member of the executive committee of the board of directors of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council (USTEC). A joint report of the State Department and CIA shows that USTEC has been extensively penetrated by Soviet espionage agents, including a lieutenant general of the KGB, who, until his recent exposure, had shared a membership on the board of USTEC with Bronfman.

Clearly, Bronfman's latest attempt to "red-bait" the Austrian government on the Bloch affair, following the OSI's decision to ban Austria's President as a favor to the Soviet Union, raises questions whether Bronfman is an accomplice to a even deeper Soviet disinformation operation than is known at present.

The best enemy money can buy

At best, Edgar Bronfman fits the category of those in the West whom Vladimir Lenin called "useful idiots." A July 14, 1989 commentary in the *Washington Post* by Bronfman called for the establishment of "normal relations" with the U.S.S.R., which would be brought about by:

- Repeal the Jackson-Vanik Amendment "to put our economic relations with the U.S.S.R. on a normal basis."
- A special trade agreement with the U.S.S.R. "so that the Soviets can actually get most favored nation tariff status."
- Repeal the Stevenson amendment, which further restricts Export-Import Bank credits and guarantees to the U.S.S.R. to \$300 million.
- Promote unrestricted lending in an "untied form" to the U.S.S.R., even though opponents of "untied lending" have elsewhere shown that these credits are used for Soviet military modernization, sustaining satrapies, Soviet intelligence operations, and Soviet-backed terrorism against U.S. personnel.
- Put greater emphasis within the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on Basket II, which is "aimed at greater economic cooperation across Europe's divisions."
- Welcome the Soviets into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), because "Soviet participation in the world economy could benefit us all."
- Trim the list of the Coordinating Committee on Export Controls (Cocom) so that more sensitive technology can be sold to the U.S.S.R.

Some Washington, D.C. observers noted a significant omission from Bronfman's latest "wish list." Earlier this year, during secret meetings between USTEC American co-chairman Dwayne Andreas, Morris Abrams, the outgoing chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Jewish Organizations, and others, Bronfman had insisted that the repeal of Jackson-Vanik should be linked with an agreement to the effect that Jewish refuseniks wishing to emigrate from the Soviet Union would be allowed to go to Israel, but nowhere else in the West. When news of these meetings leaked out, there was widespread outrage among prominent members of the American Jewish community, who stressed that not just Israel, but also the United States, should be seen as a "promised land" for oppressed Soviet Jewry, as well as those of other nationalities that have suffered under the boot of Soviet imperialism. Has Bronfman dropped this proviso?

Through the East-West trade deals of Bronfman's Seagrams Ltd. and affiliated E.I. du Pont de Nemours, there is no question that he stands to reap big profits. But this is not his underlying motivation. During the New Economic Policy of the 1920s, launched by the Soviets to help bail themselves out of their first "scissors crisis," Pierre du Pont of the family firm that Edgar Bronfman is today taking over, was a board member of the American International Corporation, the "crown jewel" of the Anglo-Soviet "Trust" headquartered at 120 Broadway in New York. Over a generation later, Edgar Bronfman continues in the tradition of this same Trust.