

tradition formed the basis of all successful industrial revolutions.

“The nations of eastern Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union have an enormous development potential. But the all-Eurasian infrastructure program is the prerequisite for realizing this potential. Only in this way can the required capital investments get under way, so that a locomotive effect for a new just world economic order can emerge from the Eurasian continent.

“We, the undersigned, are part of a growing, worldwide movement, which is intervening for the immediate implementation of the LaRouche program. We appeal to everyone who reads this advertisement, to join and support our movement, so that the hope, which has received a new impulse all over the world from the courageous struggle of the freedom movement in the East, can be realized.”

Among the signers whose names were printed in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* were (affiliation for identification purposes only): from Germany, Schiller Institute Chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and Father David Maria Becker of the Mainz Cathedral; from Poland, Academy of Sciences member Prof. Zajaczkowski, and presidential adviser Professor Kurowski; from Lithuania, Antanas Buracas, president of the Lithuanian Association for the Defense of Human Rights. There were also signatures from business and cultural leaders in France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, and Spain. Signers from Canada were Frank Crnkovic, secretary of the United Croats of Canada, and the Right Rev. Mitrophoric Archpriest Prof. Dr. Petro B.T. Bilaniuk, president of the Coalition for Freedom of Belief and Justice in Canada. Dr. Alfredo Jalife of Mexico, president of the Society of Friends of Lebanon, also signed.

From the United States, signatures printed in the Russian paper numbered among them the Rev. James Bevel, civil rights leader; Rev. Wade Watts, former Oklahoma president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Rev. Robert J.N. Jones, Jr., president of the Richmond branch of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Rev. Juergen Bless of the Evangelical German Lutheran Church; Bishop Tibor Domotor, president of the National Association of Hungarian-Americans; and several other church leaders.

Signers active in government included former U.S. Rep. James R. Mann of South Carolina; state Rep. George Vaughn, Democratic whip of the Louisiana House of Representatives; Speaker of the Louisiana House, Rep. Jim Dimos; William P. Robinson, member of the Virginia House of Delegates; former Nebraska State Sen. Don Eret; Vel Philips, former Secretary of State of Wisconsin; Don Scott, former Ohio deputy chairman of the National Farmers Organization; and Dr. Frederick Wills, retired diplomat. The signatures of two trade union local presidents appeared, as did those of leaders from several ethnic American organizations.

## Leibler woos Asians for Anglo-Americans

by Lydia Cherry

Isi Leibler, the number-two official in whiskey magnate Edgar Bronfman's World Jewish Congress, returned to Australia in early December from a five-nation tour of Southeast Asia. In an interview with the *Australian-Jewish News* Dec. 6, Leibler was ecstatic about the trip and called Japan's announcement that it would vote to rescind the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism the first fruits of his tour. “This is the breakthrough we have been waiting for. Now that Japan has apparently bitten the bullet, my feeling is that other nations in Southeast Asia are likely to follow suit.” He continued that his talks in Seoul, South Korea “were especially encouraging in this context, and I have little doubt in my own mind that South Korea will be on our side when the issue comes to the vote in the General Assembly. With Japan, and probably also South Korea, now ready to take on Arab and Muslim opinion in this matter, it may be possible for these other countries to display similar moral courage.”

He noted he also received encouraging signals from the Indian and Thai governments, as well as from Singapore.

Leibler added that the trip was closely coordinated with the Australian Foreign Ministry in Canberra and with the U.S. State Department. Coordination with the Australian government is certainly predictable. Prime Minister Bob Hawke has been made an honorary citizen of Israel, and according to Hawke's official biography, Leibler has been one of Hawke's “closest friends since 1979.”

### India, China are key targets

In India, Leibler lobbied for the government of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. After meeting with the Congress Party's new prime minister, Leibler told reporters, he found Rao's response much more “positive” and “pragmatic” than his predecessors, the late Indira Gandhi and her late son, Rajiv Gandhi. In an interview with the *Times of India*, Leibler was asked if he had ever met with Rajiv Gandhi, to which the Bronfman sidekick responded: “I didn't think it would have served any purpose. He, like his mother, was not very well disposed to Israel.” The persistent *Times of India* reporter

continued: "But then, Mr. Rao, as the general affairs minister under both Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, was very much involved in India's foreign policy; suddenly you find virtues in him?" Leibler responded, "Charismatic as the Gandhi clan were, they did not allow any policy initiatives to their cabinet colleagues. Every policy of substance emanated from them." Leibler concluded that he was "confident" that the issue of diplomatic relations with Israel is under active consideration by the Rao government.

Though not part of the most recent foray, the first Asian country that Leibler attempted to strong-arm around rescinding its stand on the "Zionism is racism" resolution this fall, was the People's Republic of China. Leibler went to China the second week in October, just after Henry Kissinger (who came to Australia by way of China) had visited Australia for several days. Kissinger met with Prime Minister Hawke and held numerous "private meetings" with unidentified parties around subjects that were never disclosed.

Leibler is the chairman of an Australian-based think-tank, the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs, which Edgar Bronfman asked him to set up in the 1980s, and which has some of the same functions as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in North America. The AIJA holds regular colloquiums and has a special interest in China, but is also making inroads in other Asian countries. Leibler is quoted in 1987: "We believe there is a basis for increasing contact with Indian intellectuals and opinion makers, greater and more sympathetic awareness in Japanese academic circles of Jews and the dangers of anti-Semitism for Japan itself, expanded exchange with influential educational authorities in South Korea and a generally better acceptance of an international Jewish dimension in the thinking of elites throughout the Southeast Asian region."

### **Investigations: drugs, pornography, and taxes**

Seven out of ten members of the AIJA board are worth at least several dozen million dollars each. Some of these individuals have fared quite well under the Hawke government, even during the recent years when the Australian economy is crashing at an unprecedented rate. However, Royal Commissions and special investigations have periodically pointed to irregular financial dealings by some of this grouping. Like the Bronfmans, members of the Leibler family have been the subject of special investigations that point to the Asian drug trade. In September, Denis Collins, an Independent Member of Parliament in the Northern Territory state parliament, gave evidence that the Leiblers were linked to the international pornography and drug trade. Isi Leibler, at the time, attempted to shrug the charges off, claiming the allegations were just the "outpourings of a sick mind."

However, the first week in December, it was announced that one of the Federal Parliament's most powerful committees, the Public Accounts Committee, will conduct a year-long inquiry into allegations that the Tax Office has not been

adequate in dealing with offshore tax evasion and avoidance schemes. A member of that committee, Ken Adred (a Liberal from Victoria), told the Melbourne *Sunday Age* on Dec. 8 that he was particularly critical of the presence of Mark Leibler, a senior partner in the Melbourne law firm of Arnold Bloch Leibler, on the Tax Commissioner's advisory bodies. Adred told Parliament that Leibler's presence on the bodies put him in a position of acute conflict of interest and potentially compromised the integrity of the Tax Office. Mark Leibler is, of course, Isi Leibler's brother.

This investigation of Mark Leibler has been quietly proceeding, after it was initially instigated last April by the findings of Barbara Smith, a Melbourne academic at the Phillip Institute of Technology. Smith charged that, from her public accounts inquiry, she was convinced that "there are extremely powerful and privileged people favored [in tax avoidance] who may have some sort of control over governments insofar as they provide political funding." Smith explained later that she was promptly accused of being "anti-Semitic" by the Leibler crowd. Mark Leibler publicly blasted her in statements noted by the April 19 *Melbourne Age*, claiming that Smith's "diatribes directed against nonexistent powerful and privileged people who allegedly control government and cleverly deceive the ATO [Australian Tax Office] are totally without foundation!"

Since then, however, Mark Leibler has been forced to do some explaining. Indeed, in a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration dated October 1990, he claims that "the last time I thought seriously about my own attitude to tax avoidance was probably back in the late '70s or very early '80s. . . . What made me sit up and think were the two articles authored by me and exhibited to Ms. Barbara Smith's first submission to the Subcommittee titled 'Practical Applications for the Use of Tax Haven' and 'International Transactions in Tax Practice,' published in 1976 and 1979 respectively. On reviewing the articles, the existence of which had almost faded from my memory, I was somewhat taken aback by their content. . . . I felt instinctively that the articles in question are not the sort of articles that I would have authored today, and a number of arrangements discussed in those articles—although within the law—are not the sort of arrangements that I would currently care to recommend to or implement for clients. I then had to ask myself precisely what had changed in the intervening period," he continued, not mentioning the possibility that what might have been the source of his sudden changed perception was the very real possibility that he might go to jail.

Mark Leibler, who graduated from Yale University Law School in 1968 with honors, is on the National Tax Liaison Group and is the chairman of the Law Council of Australia's Taxation Committee, as well as heading the most influential law firm in Melbourne, and perhaps Australia, the firm of Arnold Bloch Leibler.