

Sir John Collins is also a director of the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. Founded in the beginning of the 19th century, P&O became one of the pillars of the British Empire. Its current chairman is Lord Sterling of Plaistow, who was a major financial backer of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Another director is Lord Hambro, of the famous merchant banking family, whose father, Sir Charles Hambro, was chief of the Special Operations Executive, the Anglo-American arm of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service during World War II.

Sharing business links with Shell and the Vestey Group, P&O still operates under the Royal Charter it received in 1840. This is not simply a nostalgic relic from the past. Operating under a Royal Charter means that the company is not registered under the Companies Act, nor does it have to file with Companies House. Thus, such firms are allowed to conduct certain business practices which would be considered illegal under British corporate law. In fact, as a Royal Charter company, its regulatory authority is Her Majesty's Privy Council Office.

There are no fewer than six Privy Council members among the ten patrons of the ZDT. This includes Lord Steel, and Sir Richard Luce and Sir Malcom Rifkind, whose backgrounds *EIR* detailed in its May 12 issue. The other Privy Council members include Lord Geoffrey Howe, Lord Douglas Hurd, and Lord Peter Carrington, who only recently joined the ZDT. *EIR* detailed the backgrounds of these former Conservative ministers as well. As Privy Council members, they are afforded certain privileges which are useful for such special political operations.

There was another glaring omission in the *Observer*: After identifying one Patrick Robertson as the official spokesman for the ZDT, it failed to inform its readers of Robertson's other significant connections. In 1998, Robertson served as the official spokesman for Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov's 1998 visit to London; Maskhadov came on the invitation of Lord MacAlpine, former treasurer of the Conservative Party. *EIR* exposed how Lord MacAlpine promoted reputed Chechen mafia boss Khozh-Ahmen Nukaev, by co-founding the Caucasus International Chamber of Commerce ("Russia's North Caucasus Republics: Flashpoint for World War," *EIR*, Sept. 10, 1999). Nukaev is believed to be one of the principal gun-runners for the Chechen rebels and is part of an Anglo-American operation to destabilize Russia by blowing up the Caucasus.

Robertson and Lord MacAlpine are part of the right wing of the Conservative Party which was linked with the late Sir Jimmy Goldsmith. In fact, Robertson handled Goldsmith's personal public relations. Goldsmith's multibillion-dollar fortune still exists. Sir Jimmy's son-in-law, former Pakistani cricket star Imran Khan, is one of the principal international supporters of the Chechen rebels. Sir Jimmy was also close to the royal family, and was a big contributor to the WWF, as is his ecologist brother, "Teddy" Goldsmith.

Western Policy Toward Africa Is Bankrupt

by Uwe Friesecke

When Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, left the Eritrean capital of Asmara on May 9, and said that he feared a new outbreak of war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, it was obvious, that months of hectic activity by American diplomats in Africa had been in vain. Holbrooke had led a UN Security Council delegation, which consisted of ambassadors from the United States, France, Great Britain, Tunisia, Mali, Namibia, and the Netherlands, first to Kinshasa, Congo, then to Kigali, Rwanda, and to Kampala, Uganda, to speed up the implementation of last year's Lusaka agreement over Congo; finally, they went to Adis Abebe, Ethiopia and Asmara to persuade the two governments on the Horn of Africa to settle their differences without a new round of war. But only three days after the delegation left Ethiopia and Eritrea, fighting broke out again in this two-year-old war. Simultaneously, since the beginning of May, another U.S./UN-brokered peace accord collapsed completely, that of Sierra Leone. U.S. President Bill Clinton last year had appointed the Rev. Jesse Jackson as his special envoy, in cooperation with the British government and the UN, to force the government to accept a deal with the murderous Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

The U.S. government had started the year 2000 with an ambitious agenda for Africa. In his capacity as rotating president of the UN Security Council, Holbrooke declared January 2000 the "Month of Africa," which he hoped would be "a turning point for Africa, the United Nations, and the United States relationship with both."

On Feb. 17, Clinton opened a national Summit on Africa in Washington, which for five days was attended by 2,300 people from around the continent and the United States. President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, Secretary Salim Ahmed Salim of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and Vice President Abubakar Akito of Nigeria were among the high-level African participants.

A week later, Clinton addressed the Burundi peace talks, which are chaired by Nelson Mandela in Arusha, Tanzania, from the White House by teleconference. In the meantime, high-level officials of the U.S. government, including Susan Rice, Tony Lake, Howard Wolpe, and Harry Johnston, were moving around the continent to bring American pressure to bear on the various parties to so many unresolved conflicts in Africa.

But, the Washington policy, which claimed with great fanfare to be the new hope for Africa, to foster peace and democracy all over the continent, has, with the failure of Holbrooke's latest mission, essentially collapsed. African countries are disintegrating, wars are grinding up nations, economic breakdown and diseases are killing millions. Neither U.S. nor European policy is right now capable of reversing those trends, because they have accepted the underlying dogmas of neo-colonial geopolitics in Africa for too long. The continent-wide explosion of crisis spots clearly shows, that policymakers in Washington have been caught by their own follies. But they stubbornly refuse to admit that they have been lying to themselves, when they advertised their policy as furthering peace, good governance, and free markets.

A Fraudulent 'Peace Policy'

The long-term trend for Africa's ruin has been situated for almost three decades in the policies of the international financial institutions, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Africa was condemned to deliver raw materials, but not to develop. Foreign debt skyrocketed, and infrastructure collapsed or was never built. This was the framework for steadily deteriorating standards of living and disintegration of political and social institutions.

But the worst came during the 1990s, when American and European policy toward Africa was rallied around the idea of bringing the "new breed of African leaders" to power. In this way, African conflicts were created by the West, rather than solved. Western policy would regularly support and encourage the aggressor, either governments or so-called rebel movements. Once war broke out, Western governments would shed crocodile tears and call for mediation and peaceful resolution of conflict, blaming especially the side which was attacked, for intransigence, if they defended themselves. Then "peace negotiations" were organized, which again favored the aggressor, and forced untenable compromises by the side which was attacked. In this way, the West created the disaster of so-called ethnic conflicts and rebellions in Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo.

For example, when Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and today's Rwandan Defense Minister and "Acting President" Paul Kagame started their war against the Rwandan government of President Juvenal Habyarimana in October 1990, it was not they who were blamed by London and Washington, but Habyarimana. The Arusha peace negotiations that followed were only a prescription for further wars.

Later, in 1998, when Ugandan and Rwandan troops invaded Congo, and Zimbabwe sent in troops to stop the aggressors, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe was blamed for the war, not Museveni or Kagame.

And again, the Lusaka peace agreement of last year, which was negotiated under the auspices of Britain and the United States, is no basis for real peace, and the war goes on.

In May 1998, Eritrea invaded Ethiopia. The West again

failed to condemn the aggressor, because, like Museveni and Kagame, the Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki belonged to the so-called "new leadership" of Africa.

In Sierra Leone last year, British and American diplomacy, in coordination with the United Nations, committed the biggest fraud of a peace settlement. After the government of Ahmad Kabbah had arrested and convicted Revolutionary United Front leader Foday Sankoh for high treason, it was forced, in last year's Lomé peace treaty, not only to release him, but also to give him and his murderous rebels four ministries in the new government and total control over the diamond industry of the country. The predictable result was the new round of chaos, into which Sierra Leone collapsed at the beginning of May.

If one adds to these dreadful scenarios the bungled conflict-resolutions in Angola and southern Sudan, it becomes clear that the West right now simply lacks the moral and intellectual authority to help in any peace negotiations in Africa.

Chaos and Recolonization

When the London *Economist* of the second week of May appeared with the cover story "The Hopeless Continent," the question arises, why the British government nevertheless would deploy a most effective military force to intervene in Sierra Leone. The British press two years ago started reporting about "Africa's first world war," a phrase that was later picked up by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

While the British government is fanning the flames in Zimbabwe, they are making Sierra Leone the showcase of a policy of outright recolonization (as laid out explicitly in the *Daily Telegraph* on May 22 (see article, p. 41). First, they instigate rebellions, and let the former colony sink into chaos. Then, they wait for the desperation of the people to increase enough, that their government asks for the colonial power to come back to restore order.

For its neo-colonial return, Britain has developed two options. One, is the deployment of mercenary troops, such as the ill-famed Executive Outcomes, which in the past defended the diamond mines in Sierra Leone. The second option, is the deployment of British paratroopers, or, in the future, NATO rapid deployment forces and their African equivalent. In this way, the grip over Africa's raw materials can be secured, even if governments and countries disintegrate. In the long run, such strategy prevents the emergence of independent African powers, which could exert their authority and start using Africa's raw materials for their own development.

In this way, Britain's Tony Blair government makes sure that the Empire lives on. While American diplomats take the blame for failed missions, the British government sits back smiling with satisfaction. From time to time, like today in Sierra Leone, they simply exert their power to demonstrate to the world, who in the Anglo-American alliance is running Africa policy.