

certain Soviet interests is more politically instructive. The Communist Party daily *Rizospastis* received a multimillion dollar gift in the form of a loan from a dummy Luxembourg corporation owned and operated by the financial director of the East German Communist Party. When the story was made public in the beginning of October by the Athens correspondence of the *New York Times*, it was discovered that the incorporation papers of both the Luxembourg company and its two holding companies in Switzerland and Sweden had disappeared from the public record. Investigators were told that "major Western intelligence services" interested in the case had retrieved these documents, presumably for the purpose of protecting the Soviet-connected money conduiting channels.

A similar mysterious protection of Soviet money conduits appears to be at work with the funding of another Greek daily, *Ethnos*, whose publisher is a businessman with diversified dealings with the Soviet Union, including the handling of the Greek-language translation and distribution of the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia.

The first accounts of *Ethnos'* being funded by Soviet interests appeared in the London *Economist's Foreign Report* and the *Daily Telegraph*, both conduits for British intelligence. The British sources, however, have declined to either document or identify the source of their information, pending certain trial proceedings on this matter in Greek courts.

Sharon and the KGB

Their reluctance to divulge should be viewed against the following background: toward the end of August, Ariel Sharon held a very compromising meeting, under British sponsorship, on the island of Cyprus with certain high-ranking Soviet intelligence officials. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate clandestine activities throughout Western Europe of Mossad and Soviet networks. One aspect of this arrangement was that the funding would be Soviet and that it would be conduited through three specific British banks from London.

There is no inconsistency in British intelligence's simultaneously exposing and protecting these covert Soviet funding activities.

Part of Britain's long-term perspective for establishing a Third Force in Europe involves maneuvering to have such a redefined Europe be ruled by a series of restored monarchies.

Therefore, as far as Whitehall is concerned, the Papandreou government of Greece, no matter how obediently pro-British, is viewed as a temporary arrangement while the decoupling from U.S. interests is being conducted. Once that is completed, a series of maneuvers is projected whose eventual outcome is expected to be the restoration of King Constantine to the Greek throne. Mr. Papandreou, who knows about these matters, should not trust his Foreign Minister, John Charalambopoulos, any more than he trusts parliamentarians Bouloukos and Chondrokoukis. They are all pulled by the same long string which goes from Athens to London.

How Great Britain is the Americans in the

by Judith Wyrer

Since the tour of British Prime Minister Francis Pym to Syria and Egypt in October, London has redoubled its objective of recovering its colonial domination of the Mideast at the expense of the United States. British sources say that London is quietly strengthening its influence in Oman, Iraq, Bahrain, and Egypt as part of its intentions "to get the Americans out of the region."

Oman has delivered a humiliation to the United States by suddenly declaring its unwillingness to participate in the third annual Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) Bright Star maneuvers. Oman, a territory administered de facto by Britain's Foreign Office and Special Air Services, has been touted as the closest Arab collaborator of the RDF. Oman's Masirah Island, into which the United States has already put millions of dollars for building base facilities, was to be the staging ground for maneuvers.

In an interview with Kuwait's *As Syassah*, Oman's ambassador to that country, Saud Salem al-Ansi, stated that his country had called off the exercises because of opposition from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an alliance of six Arabian peninsular states.

London's ally George Shultz, according to Arab sources, quietly gave a "blessing" to Oman to call off the exercises. Shultz and Henry Kissinger are U.S. ringleaders of the "Third Force" policy for the world as a whole, in which the United States and its potential for an economic development push are subordinated to a "multi-polar" order in which the British neo-colonialists are assigned control over the Mideast.

A high-level U.K. military officer boasted last month that the GCC, which came about in response to the British-run Islamic revolution in Iran, is itself a British creation: "The GCC intends to be independent of America, especially in the context of the anti-American mood in the region. In this arrangement, the British play a key advisory role, a role that is not advertised. The idea is to push the Arabs to the forefront and make it appear that it is all their doing."

Oman reinforced its humiliation of the United States when *Al Ansi* revealed that the erstwhile anti-Soviet Oman is now considering relations with the Soviet Union. Days later the Foreign Ministers of Oman and its long time rival neighbor, the Marxist People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY),

double-crossing Middle East

opened a dialogue to resolve disputes and normalize relations.

Pym's mid-October visits to Egypt and Syria were aimed at embarrassing President Reagan by putting forth a European plan for solving the Palestinian problem that surpasses the limited concession the White House has made to the Arab world on the Palestinian issue. Less than a week after the British Foreign Secretary's departure, a spokesman for the Palestinian National Council told the press that the Arabs preferred the stance of England and France over the United States for resolving the Middle East problem.

As a source with the Congressional Research Service who lived in the PDRY and garners his own ties with British intelligence put it, "The Gulf is London's territory. . . . We can't go in there without their approval."

There is evidence that London is seeking a quid pro quo with Moscow to force U.S. influence out of the Mideast, beginning with the Persian Gulf. Kuwait, the only member of the GCC with relations with Moscow, is a key asset of London in this endeavor. Kuwait is the mediator of the Oman-PDRY negotiations and is the headquarters for the GCC.

In this game, Shultz and his anglophilic cohorts themselves may have to make sacrifices for London. A source with the British-controlled Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. recently stated: "The trend in the Mideast is definitely not in the favor of the Americans. . . . I think it is not an exaggeration to project that the large U.S. companies with billions invested in Saudi Arabia may one day get their walking papers as they did in Iran." Bechtel, the multinational company Shultz left to become Secretary of State, was one of the concerns which, as the source noted, may lose its multibillion-dollar investments in the Persian Gulf.

Pushing out Aramco

In recent weeks Britain has also intensified an operation to break the longstanding relationship between Saudi Arabia and the American partners in the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), the symbol of U.S. regional influence.

Britain has been covertly helping both Iran and Libya to sell high volumes of oil at prices undercutting Saudi Arabia. According to a Mobil Oil source, the drop in oil prices, in part caused by the Iranian and Libyan oil dumping, has made

it very difficult for the American-based majors to market the higher-priced Saudi crude. As a result, whatever oil the American majors are marketing is being sold at a very high loss, contributing to the record red ink of the American multitis. According to a British oil analyst in New York, this "phenomenon" is fraying the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

According to *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, Libya is selling twice its OPEC quota at drastically discounted prices, and recently British Petroleum negotiated to sell oil tankers to Iran in order for the Khomeini regime to deliver crude to buyers outside the Iran-Iraq war zone and thereby step up sales. Over the past four months, oil analysts report, British Petroleum has gained unprecedented contracts with the Saudi state oil company Petromin, a development viewed as a "big foot in the door" for Britain as the U.S. oil companies' share of Saudi exports of crude declines.

The Pakistani Pretorian guards

Another actor on the Persian Gulf stage is the regime of Pakistani dictator General Zia al Haq, who has effectively acted as a British colonial commissioner for the Muslim world by supplying Pakistani mercenaries to countries as far away as Morocco. Zia, a puppet of the British Foreign Office, commands a Pretorian guard on behalf of the British commonwealth.

Zia's former foreign minister, Agha Shahi, is cited in the October edition of *Asia* magazine as saying that Pakistan now has military "missions" in 22 countries. Pakistani forces are reported to be in Sudan and Libya, whose air force is manned by Pakistani pilots.

But the most important positions occupied by Pakistani soldiers are in the Gulf. The militaries of all the member states of the GCC are in varying degrees dependent upon Pakistan. There are an estimated 10,000 Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia, in addition to an undisclosed number guarding the Saudi oilfields. Pakistan and Britain Special Air Services jointly command the Omani military and the security apparatus which guards the strategic mouth of the Gulf, the Straits of Hormuz.

Following a meeting of Interior Ministers of the GCC, Saudi Interior Minister Nayef declared that the six were closer than ever to signing the long sought Gulf Security Pact.

Since as early as 1976, when the first meeting of the Gulf states occurred, Britain has been an active behind-the-scenes supporter of such a pact as the foundation for a broader Mideast economic and military bloc. The British intelligence entity Lonrho has even designed a regional currency, the Arab dinar, for the bloc. Kuwait has been the Arab dinar's strongest promoter. The Lonrho circle, including Henry Kissinger's business partner, Lord Carrington, views a Mideast bloc as a vehicle for reclaiming not only the Gulf, but the entire Mideast. A British dominated Mideast will invite the same kind of British-created Khomeini anti-rationalism which prevailed in the 19th century throughout the region.