

Moscow's New Times is stung by EIR's exposé of the Trust

by Rachel Douglas

Lev Bezymensky is the editor at Moscow's *New Times* magazine, who compiled the September 1986 feature against *EIR*'s founder, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and others, for which the weekly is on trial for libel in a Paris court. The *New Times* editorial board attends closely enough, we suppose, to what *EIR* has to say about the U.S.S.R.; in a just-concluded four-part series, Bezymensky revealed how the Soviets are already smarting, from the light *EIR* has begun to shine on the usually hidden web of relations between the Bolsheviks and their sponsors in the West.

Bezymensky and two co-authors refer without criticism to the purged Bolshevik leaders Nikolai Bukharin and Leon Trotsky—one instance of a campaign for their rehabilitation that made headlines around the world as a symptom of Soviet "openness." But the *New Times* series is a very poor advertisement for the good faith of Soviet *glasnost!* The authors have fabricated cover stories for certain individuals, who are almost never mentioned in Soviet histories, but who figure prominently in the dossier *EIR* started to release several months ago, on the true history of the Bolshevik Revolution and the spy organization called the Trust.

The Lockhart Plot, revisited

Usually, the Soviet press sets its articles on historical events according to a precise calendar. This summer, *Pravda* and *Izvestia* celebrated the lead-up to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, with articles keyed to the week in which a given event happened 70 years ago: articles on the July Days appeared in July, the Kornilov plot was chronicled on its exact 70th anniversary, and so forth. Not *New Times*. In the midst of all this commemoration of the summer of 1917, *New Times* launched Bezymensky's series, "The Assassination Attempt," under the rubric, "Pages from the History of the October Revolution"—only, it dealt with the Left Socialist-Revolutionary (S-R) uprising and attempt to murder Lenin in the summer of 1918.

What caught our eye was the third and fourth installments, appearing in *New Times* for Sept. 14 and 21. They covered "another conspiracy which subsequently came to be known (inaccurately) as the three ambassadors conspiracy," a scheme to capture the entire Bolshevik leadership at a meeting in late August 1918. *EIR* readers know, that this was

the famous Lockhart Plot.

Allen Douglas and Scott Thompson reported in the Jun 5, 1987 issue of *EIR*, that British author Robin Bruce Lockhart (son of the Bolshevik-era British intelligence officer Robert Bruce Lockhart) had recently acknowledged for all the world, that famous British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) agent Sidney Reilly survived his capture inside the Soviet Union in 1925 and went on to work for Soviet intelligence. What Lockhart, Jr. kept under wraps, and *EIR* exposed, is that Reilly was already collaborating with the Bolsheviks back in the summer of 1918. He was part of an international faction, that wilfully abetted the Bolshevik takeover in Russia, in the interest of smashing the old order of nation states and ushering in a "New Age." The activity of Reilly and his boys during the Lockhart Plot illustrates the interaction of the Bolsheviks with the Western networks, which helped to bring them to power.

The Lockhart Plot unfolded as the SIS men (Reilly, Lockhart, and Capt. George Hill) attempted to tip the balance inside the Bolshevik leadership, in favor of the "holy war" faction, led by Cheka (secret police) chief Feliks Dzerzhinsky and the soon-to-be commander of the Red Army, Leon Trotsky. They wanted to prolong the war against Germany. We told how Reilly, while allegedly plotting to overthrow the Bolsheviks, obtained a job with Dzerzhinsky's Cheka and a Cheka pass to facilitate his activities. The assassin of German Ambassador Count Mirbach, Cheka officer and Left S-R Yakov Blyumkin, resided, during the summer of 1918, in a hotel room right next to Lockhart's.

When the smoke cleared after the failure of the S-R uprising and the "unmasking" of the Lockhart Plot, we reported, the Bolsheviks, especially Trotsky and Dzerzhinsky, were much stronger than before—though Lenin lay in critical condition from the bullets fired by S-R assassin Fanny Kaplan, from a gun provided by British SIS asset, S-R terrorist leader Boris Savinkov.

The last two installments of "The Assassination Attempt" present an apparently frantic—because so transparently incompetent—attempt to rewrite the history of the Lockhart Plot, in the most ignoble tradition of Soviet publicism. A few examples readily show, how Bezymensky falsifies history.

1) **The Peters cover-up.** *New Times* presents a "hitherto

unpublished report” on the Lockhart Plot, by Yakov Peters, “a faithful comrade-in-arms of Felix Dzerzhinsky.” It gives the standard Soviet cover story, about how the Lockhart Plot was “blown” by Eduard Berzin, commander of the First Latvian Heavy Artillery Battery, whom Lockhart tried to recruit to the conspiracy. *New Times* depicts a clever Cheka counter-operation, using Berzin as a double-agent to ensnare and expose both Lockhart and Reilly. This narrative is embellished with extensive quotations from Sidney Reilly’s “confession” in 1925, about how when “the so-called Lockhart conspiracy had been uncovered, I was in a terrible position.” Noting that Reilly “escaped” from Soviet Russia via Estonia, *New Times* observes that “an American named Xenophont [sic] Kalamatiano was less fortunate,” and cites Peters’s account of the arrest of Kalamatiano.

What *New Times* does not say: Without Peters, the Lockhart Plot and the attempted assassination of Lenin on Aug. 30 could hardly have happened as they did. After the abortive S-R uprising July 6, timed with Blyumkin’s assassination of Mirbach, Peters was the Cheka case officer who delivered a verdict that there had been “no foreign involvement”—despite the fact, that ringleader Boris Savinkov was receiving funds from Reilly and Lockhart. This allowed the British apparat to remain in place for August, and the S-Rs to escape a more severe crackdown.

Why would the bold Cheka officer protect the British operatives and lessen the crimes for which the S-Rs were held accountable? Because he was working with them. Capt. George Hill of British Intelligence recalled how, when he arrived in Moscow in 1918, he “found it necessary to make the acquaintance of the famous Jacob Peters who was [deputy] head of the Cheka.” Soon, they were close enough that Hill would carry mail from Peters to his wife and child, who were still in England—the home of Peters for a decade before the revolution.

2) **The case of Kalamatiano.** The Soviet raconteurs are less than forthright about the reasons for their glee about the capture of American Secret Service agent Xenophon Kalamatiano. Along with U.S. Consul General DeWitt C. Poole, Kalamatiano had concluded during these events, that Sidney Reilly was working for the Bolsheviks. There are strong indications, which *EIR* will report in due course, that Reilly & Co. framed Kalamatiano. Robert Bruce Lockhart recorded in his diary for Sept. 30, how “Peters told me the other day that the Americans were the worst compromised in this business and that what they [the Bolsheviks] had against me was nothing.”

3) **Who was George Hill?** Bezymensky asks this question in a subhead, then scrambles together a false answer. He quotes this British secret service agent’s memoir, *Go Spy the Land*: “I was seeing Reilly daily, and he kept me informed . . . so that if anything happened to Reilly it would be possible for me to carry on the work.”

EIR readers may recall the quotation; it was in our June 5

article. So was an immediately following sentence, which Bezymensky most assuredly does not include: “Reilly had no difficulty in traveling between Moscow and Petrograd, as he had obtained a position with the Cheka and had a Cheka pass.” We doubt that Bezymensky will shower his readers with any more excerpts from the ubiquitous Captain Hill, who helped Trotsky organize Soviet military intelligence and set up “a Bolshevik counterespionage section” to spy on the Germans (the unit from which Cheka agent and S-R assassin Blyumkin was deployed!) The Cheka counterintelligence unit that grew out of this Hill-assisted beginning, the KRO, was to run the infamous Trust penetration of Western intelligence.

Bezymensky huffs about what “cynicism” and “hypocrisy” it took, for Britain to dispatch George Hill to Russia once again, as official intelligence representative during World War II. He should talk! Robin Bruce Lockhart documents in *Reilly: The First Man*, that it was Foreign Minister Molotov who communicated to the British ambassador the Soviet preference for Hill, over any other officer, to be the liaison.

‘The great Feliks’

A Sept. 9 article in the Russian daily *Sovetskaya Rossiya* betrayed even more nervousness, about the relationship between Western and Soviet intelligence services coming to light. A letter to the editor asked about “a somewhat different interpretation of . . . [the Left S-R rebellion], including the role played by Cheka Chairman F.E. Dzerzhinsky,” to which *Sovetskaya Rossiya* had one Prof. A.S. Velidov reply.

Velidov attacked a Russian emigré newspaper, which had “tried to prove that ‘for all intents and purposes, there was no’ Left S-R rebellion and it all effectively boiled down to the arrest of the Cheka chairman.” (Dzerzhinsky had provided Blyumkin with papers to enter the German Embassy, when he went there to shoot Ambassador Mirbach on July 6; during the Left S-R uprising that ensued, Dzerzhinsky was detained by S-R rebels occupying a public building. Sidney Reilly saw to it, that Dzerzhinsky was not summarily shot, telling his S-R confederates that the Cheka chief would be needed as a hostage!)

Yes, admits Velidov, the Left S-Rs remained as a force inside the Cheka Military Department, even though their party as a whole had quit the government in March 1918, in protest of the Brest-Litovsk peace with Germany. And yes, he writes, Dzerzhinsky did agree with them, that conclusion of that peace was a mistake. But other Bolsheviks trusted the S-Rs, too, Velidov argues in his defense. And the emigré author would be wrong, to call the assassination of Mirbach “a provocation planned by none other than Dzerzhinsky.”

We anticipate the greater discomfiture of Professor Velidov and the editors of *New Times*, for there is much more to be told about the old Okhrana agents amongst the Left S-Rs, and Sidney Reilly, the great Feliks, and Capt. George Hill.