

Lonrho's Tiny Rowland and the threat to Angola's Jonas Savimbi

by Mark Burdman

Knowledgeable security experts are warning of a live assassination threat against Jonas Savimbi, head of Angola's pro-Western UNITA rebel organization. The threat against Savimbi began to come to light as talks got under way in London over the future of Angola, sponsored by the British Foreign Office. They involve the United States, Cuba, South Africa, and the pro-Soviet Angolan government, with the Soviets present in an observer status, having blessed the event.

Savimbi, an independent political and military leader fiercely opposed to Soviet imperial domination of southern Africa, is regarded as a major impediment to a "New Yalta" deal over Angola which might involve the partitioning of the country. Angola is high on the list of "regional crisis matters" discussions between the United States and the Soviets in the period leading up to the Reagan-Gorbachov summit.

A derivative operation

While the Soviet intelligence services might derive pleasure from eliminating Savimbi, the actual assassination would be more complex in practice. Experts point to the mid-April murder in Lisbon, Portugal, of a leader of the RENAMO Mozambican rebel organization, Evo Fernandes, as a precedent. Various powers would have had an interest in, and certainly the capability for, eliminating Fernandes, whose RENAMO organization had become "expendable." This would have included the Soviet intelligence services and elements of the U.S. State Department, and what might be called the "George Bush wing" of the CIA.

Portuguese and British sources believe the Fernandes murder was what is known as a "derivative operation," perhaps planned jointly by the superpowers, but done through private networks. One private network under suspicion, identified by the Portuguese daily *O Diabo* April 27, is that associated with "Tiny" Rowland, the head of the giant Lonrho conglomerate. According to this and other sources, the coincidence of the murder of Fernandes and the presence in Lisbon of Alastair Morrison, head of Defence Services, Ltd. (DSL) and chief of security operations for Rowland in Mozambique, is too suggestive to ignore.

In the next months, the matter of "Tiny" Rowland might

become very embarrassing to the George Bush for President campaign. Rowland is one of the most powerful figures in Africa, involved in a complex of East-West deals on various parts of the continent and in manipulation of ethnic and tribal wars to increase his own competitive advantage in the grab for control of strategic mineral, agricultural, and energy resources. His usual *modus operandi*, in countries beset by bitter internal conflicts, is to play all sides. In Sudan, he has established close ties with financial interests close to the Sudanese government in Khartoum. At the same time, he is buddies with John Garang, of the Christian-animist Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army rebels in the South. In Angola, he has strong links to the pro-Soviet government in Luanda, but has also cultivated a relationship with Savimbi, often flying him in private Lonrho jets. (In the future, Savimbi would be well advised to be more cautious.)

Otherwise, he has cozied up to pro-Soviet governments, as in Mozambique, where the Morrison/DSL apparatus runs private armies on behalf of the regime.

Recently, Rowland has branched out into Iran as a key figure in arms-for-hostages negotiations. His involvement in Iran, especially as the Irangate embarrassment has unfolded in the United States, has overlapped operations run out of the West German Foreign Ministry in Bonn.

In building his global empire, Rowland has served as a "proprietary" for various intelligence services, particularly those of Britain and the United States.

Rowland and Crocker

Tiny Rowland, born in Hamburg with the family name Fuhrhop, skyrocketed to prominence in the early 1960s when he took control of Lonrho under the patronage of a member of the British Royal Family, Angus Ogilvy. Rowland has ingratiated himself with the liberal social-democratic wing of the British Establishment, often alienating conservative, patriotic elements in Britain in the process. Rowland has also become more intimate with Bush-associated forces in the American Establishment over recent years. His closest associate in Washington, according to many sources, is Chester Crocker, the Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for African

Affairs, who is conducting the negotiations in London on Angola, Namibia, and the Horn of Africa.

On May 8, the *Sunday Telegraph* of London indicated that Crocker could play an important diplomatic role should George Bush become President, as ambassador to the United Nations or as ambassador to Great Britain. Crocker, however, like so many other members of Bush's extended political family, has some nasty skeletons in his closet.

In April 1986, the United States bombed Colonel Qaddafi's Libya. After that, it was declared illegal for American oil companies to operate in Libya. Into that vacuum moved "Tiny" Rowland, attempting to win oil concessions wherever American interests were leaving. *EIR*'s sources report that Rowland had some help in Washington in this endeavor: Chester Crocker, Rowland, and Libyan representatives, met in Great Britain, to arrange such concessions.

As matters turned out, other factors intervened to prevent Rowland from getting everything he wanted during that period. But mystery still shrouds the details, especially as many people in Washington and London have not wanted a story to get out that might further extend the kind of embarrassment witnessed in Iran-Contra. For example, Rowland's close business associate, Ashraf Marwan, the son-in-law of the late Egyptian leader, Gamel-Abdel Nasser, utilized Lonrho's private jet to transship weaponry from Libya to Mozambique.

Copeland, Philby, and the Astors

Then there is the matter of Rowland's relationship to an aging American intelligence operative living in Great Britain, Miles Copeland.

Copeland is reliably reported to be an adviser to Lonrho, although the complex accounting procedures of the company would probably never allow for the "pay stub" to be found. One point of operational convergence between Copeland and Rowland, is that both have befriended the American-trained southern Sudanese rebel leader, Garang.

Since early 1988, Copeland has established himself as the unofficial head of the "George Bush for President" campaign in Europe, with a series of letters to the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Times* of London, backing Bush. His published argument, as repeated to this correspondent in telephone discussions, is that Bush is exactly the kind of malleable non-entity who will "listen to the advice" of the committee of intelligence professionals, corporate and financial chieftains, and liberal think tanks, who make "the policy."

In his earlier years, Copeland became friends with Kim Philby, the former British intelligence operative who defected to the Russians in 1963 and who rose to the post of general in the KGB before his recent death. In recent years, Copeland has boasted that he could reach Philby in Moscow by telephone at any time he wished to do so.

At the point of his defection, Philby was the Middle East correspondent for Britain's *Observer* newspaper. He had been

hired by the *Observer* in 1956, even though suspicions were already rampant then in Britain that Philby was working for the Russians. Philby's boss at the *Observer* was David Astor, son of the notorious Nancy Astor of "Cliveden Set" fame, and a scion of the Astor family. In the early 1930s, David Astor had provided introductions to Soviet influentials for Guy Burgess, later to be exposed as one of Philby's chief collaborators. This followed mother Nancy's famous trip to the U.S.S.R. in 1931, in the company of George Bernard Shaw.

'Round about 1981, David Astor sold his ownership in the *Observer* to Atlantic-Richfield magnate Robert O. Anderson. There's much more to that relationship than simply the passage of money and ownership, but, for our current purpose, the important fact is that, after one year, Anderson sold his ownership of the *Observer*. To whom? "Tiny" Rowland!

Since he took over the paper, Rowland has utilized it as a "special operation," targeting individuals and nations that he regards as enemies with published disinformation. This disinformation usually follows the format of the current "Trust" policy line toward that individual or nation.

Meanwhile, in the mid-1980s, Rowland formed joint oil ventures in North America with Robert O. Anderson. The Rowland-Anderson relationship at various points overlaps the interests of the consulting firm, Kissinger Associates.

A postscript to all this is that Miles Copeland has, during the past years, ingratiated himself with the "New Age"/"Aquarian" movement by utilizing his contacts and intelligence expertise in rock 'n' roll ventures. One of his sons is a rock band drummer, and another is manager for the satanist rock star Sting. The latter, during 1987, was involved in a phony "AIDS benefit" spectacle planned for Turin, the satanists' capital of Europe. The patron of that event was Elizabeth Taylor.

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