
The Bronfmans: Part III

In the service of Moscow's interests

Scott Thompson explores how Edgar Bronfman has exploited Jewish concerns, to the advantage of the Soviet Union.

As president of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman has employed the same gutter methods that created his family's fortune out of bootlegging and prostitution (detailed in Part I of this series), to exploit issues of concern to Jews on behalf of his business deals with the Soviet Union. Bronfman's cynical and corrupt use of such issues as prosecution of "Nazi war criminals" and freedom for Soviet Jewish "refuseniks," has been condemned by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Austrian "Nazi hunter" Simon Wiesenthal, and Jewish leaders imprisoned in the U.S.S.R., among others. It is also quite different from Bronfman's predecessor at the WJC, the late Nahum Goldmann, who always tried to put forward the universalizing aspects of Judaism.

In private, former ranking members of U.S. counterintelligence officials have told *EIR* that Edgar Bronfman is a leading contender to replace the aging Armand Hammer as the principal back-channel negotiator between the Kremlin and the U.S. liberal Establishment. The late James Jesus Angleton, the CIA's liaison to the Israeli Mossad, viewed Hammer as a Soviet agent. For decades, Hammer has been part of the Anglo-Soviet "Trust," the network through which certain Western bankers and intelligence operatives supported the post-1917 Soviet state. Although there is evidence that Edgar Bronfman is an emerging leader of the "Trust," a role perhaps facilitated by his family ties to relatives of Lord Victor Rothschild, a simpler explanation is that Bronfman is motivated to exploit Jewish concerns in a way beneficial to the Soviet Union, principally because of the large profits he sees as possible from multibillion-dollar business deals with the U.S.S.R. It is notable that Edgar Bronfman shares the board of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council with a lieutenant general of the KGB, and that he funded his own East-West Forum—all to lobby for expanded trade, government-backed credits, and Most Favored Nation treatment of his business partners in the Soviet Union.

Bronfman, heir to a bootlegging fortune made with Meyer Lansky and Charles "Lucky" Luciano, is the sort of corrupt, greedy figure the Soviets well know how to exploit.

This article concentrates upon how Bronfman has worked covertly with the Soviet intelligence services around fabri-

cated "Nazi war criminal" cases. The next part of the series will explore how he has become a leading spokesman for expanding U.S.-Soviet trade, while proposing a global superpower condominium that would, among other things, dictate terms for a peace settlement to Israel.

Target: the SDI

Among Bronfman's principal services for Moscow, has been his campaign against the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), his efforts to counter President Ronald Reagan's charge that the Soviet Union is an "evil empire," and his role in weakening Reagan's pro-defense policies during the President's first administration (1981-85), by scurrilous allegations that the chief of state was an anti-Semite.

Bronfman assisted the Soviets in mounting a strategic-psychological warfare operation that began with their shooting down of Korean Airlines Flight 007, and included a drive to cut the ties that had existed between the Reagan administration and Lyndon LaRouche, the intellectual author of the SDI. President Reagan "broke," and the second Reagan administration not only negotiated the Neville Chamberlain memorial INF Treaty, to withdraw U.S. intermediate-range nuclear forces from Western Europe, but also carried out insistent Soviet demands to jail LaRouche.

During the 1984-85 transition between the two Reagan terms, Bronfman stated that he saw his role during this period as to exploit Jewish concerns in order to end Western opposition to the "evil empire," so that the basis could be laid for the new détente that Mikhail Gorbachov has since ushered in. The fate of Jewish refuseniks persecuted in the U.S.S.R. has been a mere "bargaining chip" for Bronfman, who has called for repeal of the Jackson-Vanik and Stevenson Amendments, which had restricted U.S. trade with the Soviet Union because of Soviet human rights violations. Bronfman's plan would permit government-backed credits for business deals Bronfman himself might engage in with the Soviets, ignoring Gorbachov's hideous record toward the ethnic, religious, and national satrapies of the Soviet Union, as when Interior Ministry troops employed poison gas to murder Georgian demonstrators.

In 1984, only 896 Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union—fewer than any year since 1970—and those living in Russia were being subjected to systematic disruption of their religious and cultural activities by the KGB, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Yet, no sooner had these appalling conditions been revealed in January 1985—certainly supporting President Ronald Reagan’s “evil empire” analysis—than Edgar Bronfman wrote a commentary for the *New York Times* entitled “U.S. Jews’ Role in a Thaw,” which said, “The issue of Soviet Jews should be removed from the cold war agenda and . . . should be made to serve as a vehicle by which to bring about the relaxation of tensions between East and West.”

Bronfman made these statements at precisely the moment that the Soviets were denouncing the Reagan-LaRouche SDI program. He recommended that the Soviets complement their psychological warfare against the Reagan administration through “a serious Soviet effort” to liberalize Jewish emigration to thereby “undercut cold warriors on both sides.” Bronfman even urged President Reagan to “run for the history books” as a great peacemaker—by giving up the SDI, which Moscow’s propaganda falsely portrayed as a weapon of war, rather than as a major step toward war avoidance.

In January 1985, Bronfman’s aide at the World Jewish Congress, Elon Steinberg, told a journalist that at the governing board meeting of the WJC to be held in Vienna, Bronfman’s proposal for Jews to oppose “space weapons” would be discussed.

Hammer and Harriman

It is likely that there were two major influences among the Anglo-Soviet Trust who prompted Bronfman to parody Soviet disinformation against the SDI: Armand Hammer and Averell Harriman.

Lenin himself introduced Hammer to Felix Dzerzhinsky, the head of the Cheka (secret police), as part of the formation of the Trust in the 1920s. According to U.S. State Department documents first published in *EIR* (Sept. 6, 1985, “Armand Hammer: Soviet ‘fixer’ from Lenin to the present”), Hammer had been working in concert with Soviet intelligence throughout the 1920s and 1930s, along with his entire family. His first wife, Olga Vadina, these documents allege, was a “swallow” for the Soviet secret police assigned to assist Hammer.

Bronfman was closely associated with Hammer through “Operation Independence,” a group formerly known as “The Millionaires’ Club.” In cahoots with Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, they were buying up state-owned Israeli industry on the cheap. Others involved in this scheme to loot Israel were: Edgar’s brother Charles, and Attorney Kenneth Bialkin, who was also a leader of the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith and a member of the law firm of Wilkie, Farr and Gallagher. While Edgar Bronfman handled Jews in the diaspora, his business associate Armand

Hammer wooed Nancy Reagan during the second Reagan administration, and the Soviets credit Hammer with having orchestrated the first Reagan-Gorbachov summit through this White House channel. Hammer is also a fellow board member with Bronfman of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council, whose members believe they will profit from expanded trade with the Soviets.

The relationship between Bronfman and Averell Harriman, who was guru for the “liberal Eastern Establishment” until his death in 1986, is less easy to track. Bronfman and Harriman were neighbors in upstate New York, where they frequently discussed East-West policy. Like Hammer, Harriman had been investigated by James Angleton’s counter-intelligence staff, which determined in “Operation Dinosaur,” that he had also fallen under the influence of Cheka chief Felix Dzerzhinsky while operating a manganese concession in the U.S.S.R. during the 1920s. Truly, the Bronfman-Harriman combination was one of strange bedfellows, since Harriman had employed his family fortune to fund international eugenics studies at conferences at the Natural History Museum in New York in the 1920s and 1930s, in which Nazi race scientists participated. Harriman was an open supporter of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini after he left Russia. Harriman would later lead a liberal Democratic faction opposed to the SDI, in concert with the Soviets.

The Rudolph case against the SDI

Not only did Bronfman mobilize the WJC against “space weapons” at the Vienna board meeting in 1985, he also gave support to a Soviet intelligence operation against American scientists developing the new systems, namely Dr. Arthur Rudolph, who was falsely accused of “Nazi war crimes” by the Justice Department’s Office of Special Investigations (OSI) and illegally forced into exile from the United States in the spring of 1984. Bronfman has deployed the WJC in tandem with the OSI, which has been truthfully accused of having introduced Stalin “purge trial” justice into the United States, through agreements to prosecute those individuals targeted as “war criminals” by the U.S.S.R., through the introduction of “documentary evidence” forged by the KGB Disinformation Department and KGB-coerced “witness testimony,” and through the illegal extradition of U.S. citizens charged by such means to Soviet-occupied territory, where they have been tortured in the concentration camps.

The OSI originated during Henry Kissinger’s “Détente I” program, when, in 1971, the U.S. State Department opened a channel to the Soviet Procurator General’s Office, on the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration. Next, with the support of Communist “fellow traveler” Elizabeth Holtzman in Congress, the OSI was created in 1979. Its goal was to investigate a 200-person list of “Nazi fugitives” maintained by the Communist Party-linked propagandist and activist in the U.S.-East German Friendship Society, Charles R. Allen, who compiled the list while working with the WJC.

Two years after the OSI's founding, OSI officials Neal Sher and Allan Ryan traveled to Moscow, where they met with Soviet Procurator General Gen. Roman Rudenko, who had earlier met with Kissinger's emissaries. Highlights of General Rudenko's career include the facts that in the 1920s he carried out genocide during the famine in the Ukraine, that in the 1930s he handled many of Stalin's purge trials against opponents, and that he helped set up the Gulag slave labor concentration camp system.

When the OSI's Sher and Ryan met with him in 1981, they arranged to introduce the sort of KGB-manufactured evidence for which the OSI has become notorious. This purge trial tactic is the sort of "justice" Bronfman has hitched the WJC to through his collaboration with the OSI.

At the time the OSI struck in 1982-84, Rudolph, who had been the designer of the Pershing I and Saturn rockets, was a consultant to a group of physicists working on the SDI. It has since been proven that the case against Dr. Rudolph was a witting hoax designed to cripple the SDI, as the Soviets demanded. This fact was shown after an exhaustive three-year study of the OSI's claims against Rudolph by two West German prosecutorial agencies. They concluded, in March 1987, after having examined the OSI "evidence," as well as testimony from 300 other witnesses, that Dr. Rudolph was innocent of "war crimes."

The OSI had never intended such impartial judicial review to occur. Thus, in 1982 Dr. Rudolph was confronted by an OSI team led by Eli Rosenbaum, since employed by Edgar Bronfman in the WJC, and terrorized with the unsubstantiated charges that, when he was employed as a civilian scientist in the construction of the V-2 rockets at the Mittelwerk, Germany facility during World War II, he had knowingly abused slave laborers from concentration camps. Rudolph was told that if he did not voluntarily renounce his U.S. citizenship, he would be subjected to deportation hearings to West Germany, where he was not a citizen. The OSI refused to reveal the alleged witnesses to these atrocities or any other evidence to Rudolph. Faced with this judicial assault, and with insufficient funds to mount a competent legal defense, the 77-year-old Rudolph chose to leave the United States in March 1984. The WJC applauded this victory.

When the West German government failed to corroborate the OSI charges in 1985 and protested his deportation, Bronfman and the WJC mobilized to defend the Goebbels-style Big Lie that the OSI had just perpetrated against a U.S. citizen. Among other things, the OSI released to the WJC transcripts of their interrogation of Dr. Rudolph, which the WJC then released, in heavily excerpted fashion, to the media. Israel Singer of the WJC condemned White House Communications director Pat Buchanan, who had long been a critic of OSI's use of phony Soviet evidence, when he raised the question of whether Dr. Rudolph's American citizenship ought to be restored.

This support from the WJC permitted OSI director Neal

Sher to next smear the U.S. government for protecting "fugitive Nazis" at an April 1985 World Gathering of Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust, where Sher wildly claimed that some 600 "Nazi scientists" had been on the NASA payroll and that the U.S. military science program had been based on these "Nazis."

Clearly the OSI-WJC goal was to shut down SDI research on trumped up charges, just when Soviet *spetsnaz* commando units were suspected of being involved in the mysterious deaths of SDI-connected scientists in Great Britain and elsewhere.

The 'Bitburg' campaign against Reagan

After Bronfman launched the World Jewish Congress into this multi-level campaign against the SDI, his next operation would perhaps even more have shocked and dismayed his predecessor, Nahum Goldmann, who throughout his life had sought better understanding between Jews and the West German nation.

This involved an opportunity to apply even greater psychological pressure upon President Ronald Reagan in April 1985, when the *New York Times* suddenly "discovered" that President Reagan was planning to travel to the Bitburg Cemetery on his trip to West Germany (the itinerary for the visit had been public since the fall of 1984.) The *Times* called the trip "controversial" because two Nazi SS officers were discovered to have been buried at the same cemetery with American and Wehrmacht soldiers, a site where U.S. Army units in West Germany had been holding annual ceremonies for decades.

Leads to a Soviet role in coordinating the ensuing Bitburg protest are illustrated by the fact that Soviet official Aleksandr Sukharev took an extended tour of the United States during its height. He is the Russian Federated Republic's justice minister, and has been a party to the OSI liaison to the KGB disinformation services forged with "Stalin purge trial" Procurator General Rudenko. He is also one of the Soviet sponsors of Edgar Bronfman's frequent travels to Moscow.

Right in the middle of Sukharev's visit, Edgar Bronfman announced to the *Washington Post* that the WJC would go on an international mobilization to block the President from visiting Bitburg. If the White House persisted, then WJC vice-president and aide to Bronfman, Kalman Sultanik, warned that the President would be physically prevented from also visiting the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Ominously, Sultanik said the President would enter the concentration camp "only with the help of the police."

During the Bitburg controversy, Edgar Bronfman, whose WJC had been daily hurling abuse at President Reagan, implying that he was "soft" on Nazism, announced a "break-through" in Soviet-Jewish relations. He said that Sukharev had invited him to travel to Moscow on July 22 for his first official trip there as WJC president. Ostensibly, the trip was to obtain a major increase in Soviet Jewish emigration to

Israel, Soviet recognition of Israel, and other deals. Was this trip, however, a Soviet payoff to Bronfman for his campaign to embarrass President Reagan and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose country was then under intensive “irregular warfare” attack by the Soviets and their agents over the Pershing II deployment?

Significantly, then Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is today Israeli prime minister, denounced Bronfman’s trip to the Soviet Union, saying that Israel “does not need private foreign emissaries for its contacts with Moscow.” Going further, Shamir said that Bronfman was “not authorized to negotiate on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people,” adding that the WJC should confine itself to “philanthropic frameworks.”

The case of Kurt Waldheim

On his return from the Soviet Union, Bronfman threw the WJC into its next major “Nazi hunt.” This time the target was former United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who stood to win the race for the Austrian chancellorship. In this notorious confrontation, Bronfman employed sordid tactics ranging from distortion of facts to allegations of witness bribery that drew angry condemnation from the respected “Nazi hunter” Simon Wiesenthal, among others, as well as nearly splitting the WJC, when Austrian Jewish leaders warned that such dirty tricks might trigger an anti-Semitic backlash.

Basically, the WJC charged that, as Edgar Bronfman said at a Budapest press conference on May 4, 1987, because Waldheim had been a lieutenant in a very large Wehrmacht unit that has been linked to war crimes against Jews and partisans, Waldheim was “an essential component of the Nazi killing machinery.” Hence, Bronfman added, it is “almost a crime to have very much to do with this man.” Bronfman ominously concluded, if Waldheim “had any patriotism whatever in his soul, his doctors would find some reason for him to resign.”

Who is lying? Michael Graff, secretary general of the Austrian Peoples’ Party, said on April 11, 1986 that documents used by the “Waldheim campaign were manipulated.” Then on June 4, 1986, the Austrian magazine *Wochenpresse* alleged that it had a statement from a former Greek partisan fighter, Sokratis Chatziszvangelis, that the WJC had offered to pay him a \$150,000 bribe to fabricate evidence against Waldheim.

Perhaps the best analysis of the WJC’s evidence is by Simon Wiesenthal, who repeatedly poked holes in Bronfman’s vendetta against Waldheim. As early as March 11, 1986, Wiesenthal said that there was no evidence to support the “war crimes” accusations. Next on April 4, 1986, the *Jerusalem Post* attacked the WJC for “cheap demagoguery,” asking “whether it is the course of wisdom to leave the management of the Waldheim Affair to the sometimes curious ministrations of the World Jewish Congress?” Then, in May,

1986, Tuviah Friedman, director of the Institute of Documentation in Israel, which is another major “Nazi-hunting” organization, wrote a letter to the *Jerusalem Post* which said, “It seems odd to me that, after 40 years, the WJC suddenly came out with its allegations against Dr. Waldheim.” Finally, on June 23, 1986 Wiesenthal said explicitly that the WJC’s evidence does not show that Waldheim “recommended a crime or that he ordered a crime.”

Despite this cautiousness by “Nazi hunters” internationally, the WJC applied tremendous pressure upon U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, who permitted the OSI to place Waldheim on a “Watch List” of persons barred from entering the United States. Thus, Bronfman and the OSI have helped Moscow by driving a wedge between the United States and Austria, while Soviet agents-of-influence have attacked both Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Pope John Paul II for their principled support of the Austrian chancellor.

The Jenninger affair

The Waldheim affair became the springboard for a similar Soviet-Bronfman campaign, which next resulted in a virtual coup d’état in West Germany, when on Nov. 11, 1988 Edgar Bronfman led the public charge demanding that West German Bundestag President Philipp Jenninger resign, by grossly distorting Jenninger’s passionate condemnation of the Jewish Holocaust in a speech Jenninger gave to the parliament on the eve of Kristallnacht. Just a month before the toppling of Jenninger, Bronfman had visited East Berlin, where East German Communist boss Erich Honecker presented him with the highest honor, the “People’s Friendship in Gold.”

While Bronfman publicly called for the head of Jenninger, whom Simon Wiesenthal and others had called a true friend of Israel, the inside operation to plant this Big Lie against Jenninger was carried out by the Association of Victims of the Nazi Regime (Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes, VVN), which had previously been identified by the West German state authorities as part of the KGB’s Disinformation Service A, run through the East German secret service, the Stasi. Also prominently involved in the attacks on Jenninger was “Nazi hunter” Beate Klarsfeld, who had joined with Bronfman’s WJC in condemning Pope John Paul II for his courageous support for Chancellor Waldheim. In her 1972 autobiography, *Wherever They May Be*, Klarsfeld admits that she was an East German agent and friend of Erich Honecker, with ties to the Baader-Meinhof terrorist support networks deployed to make West Germany “ungovernable,” as the VVN has also declared its goal to be.

In conclusion, under Edgar Bronfman, the WJC has used fraudulent charges of “Nazi revanchism” to achieve the political objectives of the Soviet Union, perhaps only so that the Bronfmans can further build their bootlegging and prostitution fortune through multimillion-dollar deals with Gorbachov.