

# The 'Tiny' Rowland file

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*A trail of bribery, theft, corruption, and murder follows Lonrho in Africa.  
First part of an EIR investigative series.*

Roland "Tiny" Rowland, head of Britain's multinational Lonrho corporation, has been busy of late stirring a stew of business wheeling and dealing, well-seasoned with pro-Soviet political intrigue. Lonrho, which was founded in 1908 as the London and Rhodesia Mining Company (hence its name, Lonrho), has always been heavily involved in Africa. Today Rowland is in the dead center of the dramatic changes now under way in Namibia, the former South African colony of South West Africa which holds its first-ever elections on Nov. 7, as well as in South Africa itself, which has just released eight leaders of the outlawed Soviet-backed African National Congress (ANC) after a quarter-century of imprisonment.

In Namibia, Sam Nujoma, head of the Soviet-backed terrorist South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) returned to the country in mid-September after an absence of 30 years, to participate in the U.N.-sponsored elections which will mark Namibia's formal independence from South Africa. According to informed sources, Rowland has been in close touch with Nujoma, who expects, with U.N. help, to win the elections. In return for the logistics and weapons support Rowland has provided, Nujoma has reportedly granted Lonrho a big slice of Namibia's post-independence economy. Rowland is particularly interested in building a railroad from Zambia across northern Botswana to the Atlantic Ocean port of Walvis Bay in Namibia.

In South Africa, the government has released the eight ANC leaders after a period of intense negotiations. At the outset of the most recent round of discussions, Rowland put the Lonrho jet at the disposal of ANC leader Oliver Tambo to fly him to London, following Tambo's reputed heart attack on Aug. 12. The British Foreign Office has been deeply involved behind the scenes in the negotiations; the Lonrho jet just happened to be in the neighborhood when Tambo was stricken, and whisked him off to London.

## **Rowland, Russia, and LaRouche**

Rowland is indeed an expert in doing much bigger favors for the current Soviet leadership. He and his London-based newspaper, the *Observer*, have been central players in a conspiracy, which also involves the Anti-Defamation

League and the U.S. Department of Justice, to assist the Soviet KGB in covering up Moscow's role in assassinating Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme on Feb. 28, 1986. Rowland promoted Moscow's disinformation line that it was not Moscow, but Lyndon LaRouche and his political movement, who carried out the assassination. He is allied with the London circles around the Rothschild banking family, which has sought to quash any investigation into the curious role of Emma Rothschild, who was Palme's lover at the time. Rowland is therefore right at the center of the international side of the "Get LaRouche" strike force, which in the United States is run by elements of various U.S. government agencies in coordination with the ADL.

Well-informed Swedish sources have reported that the *Observer* had been carrying out its own investigation of evidence that the Soviet Union knew ahead of time about Palme's murder, but had decided to smother the story. Instead, on March 16, 1986—shortly after Rowland bought the paper—*Observer* journalist Christopher Mosey wrote a story linking the assassination to the LaRouche-associated European Labor Party.

Mosey's story was subsequently picked up in the *Washington Post*, and with the help of the Anti-Defamation League, it quickly made the rounds of all the major U.S. news media.

Rowland's shameless activity on behalf of Soviet strategic goals has become a bit too much to suffer gladly. Thus, *EIR* has decided to open its extensive Rowland dossier. In this and future articles in this series, we shall unfold a tale rife with bribery, theft, corruption, terrorism, and murder over the course of several decades.

The public perception of Rowland is that of a buccaneering rogue who, in the words of a British intelligence source, has somehow managed to "skate around the gallows" of numerous swindles and dirty operations which would have seen anyone else in jail ten times over. But the perception of Rowland as a kind of loose cannon in the ranks of the British business world, in which Lonrho ranks as Britain's 40th largest corporation, is a carefully cultivated myth.

In reality, Rowland, his entire career, and his corporation

Lonrho have been sponsored entirely by the very highest circles of the British Establishment. It is true that Rowland is not welcome in the elite clubs of London, and feels a definite bitterness in this regard; but when the Establishment hires a thug or an assassin, it rarely invites him home to the palace for tea. He is the bought-and-paid-for property of that Establishment nonetheless, and so long as he is useful, and so long as any of the scandals he may embroil himself in over the course of his assignments can be contained, he will be kept.

But there is reason to think that the 71-year-old Rowland, long considered invulnerable, is skating on thin ice. First, according to longtime Rowland watchers, there is a growing awareness in Africa of his treachery and duplicity in playing all sides against the middle, posing as the savior of black Africa while being deeply involved in the South African state arms company, Armscor, for example. Lonrho's corporate health depends in large measure on Rowland's continued favor with leading African heads of state. When that sags, Lonrho sags badly. Second, Lonrho itself is reported to be in very precarious financial health, resorting to tricks such as selling its assets to keep up the flow of dividends to its shareholders, thus to keep its share price up, with resultant ability to borrow, etc.

But the most important vulnerability of Lonrho/Rowland derives from the very nature of the beast. As will be documented, Lonrho rose to fame and riches since Rowland took over in 1961 because the Anglo-American Establishment built the company up, step by step, as a key component of that Establishment's intelligence services, MI-6 and the CIA. That Establishment struck a deal with the Soviet Union, the "New Yalta" accords, whereby major portions of the globe are ceded, as in southern Africa at present, to Moscow's sphere of influence. The next phase of Lonrho's corporate expansion, into China and the East bloc and Russia, is predicated on this deal as well. But as upsurges sweep these empires and are met with crackdowns even more bloody than Tiananmen Square, the deals which have been in place during most of the postwar period, break apart as well.

We begin our chronicle of the rise and fall of Tiny Rowland with a recounting of his long criminal career, the details of which have been thus far largely hidden from the general public.

### The 1976 DTI report

On March 1, 1976, the two inspectors appointed by the British government's Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to investigate the affairs of Lonrho, Allan Heyman, Queen's Counsel, and Sir William Slimmings, Chartered Accountant, filed a 1,000-page report with the DTI, the result of a three-year investigation which had employed 30 persons full-time. The report was one long indictment of the fraud, bribery, larceny, sanctions busting, and corruption which

characterized Lonrho ever since Rowland became associated with the company in 1961.

Most copies of the report, published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, were instantly purchased by Lonrho, and thus its contents remained little known to the public at large. In fact, it was lucky that there were any results at all, because, as is usual in inquiries concerning Lonrho, the investigation had been almost sabotaged at the outset. The Chartered Accountant originally appointed to work with Queen's Counsel Slimmings was Dennis Garrett, who had been formerly closely associated with one of Lonrho's major subsidiaries! When word of this damning connection leaked out near the beginning of the investigation, Garrett was forced to resign.

Later in the spring of 1976, after the report's publication, consultations were held among the Treasury, the Department of Public Prosecutions, and leading officials of Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad to decide what to do next. Counsel to the Director of Public Prosecution David Tudor-Price summed up the report's findings in three memoranda. "This report," he said, "reveals *prima facie* evidence of criminal offenses in a very clear form and most of the evidence to support those offenses should be in the hands of the DTI and readily available to the Investigating officers." The following are some of the highlights of the investigation.

**Bribery:** "The DTI Inspectors in the course of their inquiry asked Lonrho for a list of bribes paid in the period from 30 September 1961 [approximately the time Rowland joined Lonrho] to the commencement of their investigation on 30 September 1973. These were euphemistically referred to as 'Special Payments.' " A substantial portion of the over £1 million in bribes was channeled through Rowland's personal account: "This was said to be for the purpose of making the recipients not only recipients of corrupt payments from Lonrho but also obliged personally to Rowland."

**Fraud:** Tudor-Price cites a "conspiracy to defraud the shareholders of Lonrho by Rowland" and his two closest cronies on the Lonrho board; Alan Ball and Angus Ogilvy, the latter married to Princess Alexandra, cousin to the Queen. "A plan was apparently conceived to use Lonrho funds" to do work which would mainly benefit the private (and undisclosed) holdings of these three in mines in which Lonrho was funding development work. Rowland had given Ball and Ogilvy substantial percentages in a holding company controlled by himself to assure him of their cooperation, thus allowing Rowland to dominate the Lonrho board. "Again Ball and Ogilvy were compromised by payments made to them by Rowland and none of the relevant facts were properly disclosed to the board or to shareholders of Lonrho." In one of the major multimillion-dollar acquisitions Rowland committed Lonrho to, the purchase of the rights to the Wankel rotary engine, he lied on numerous occasions, since the board had been opposed to the acquisition because Lonrho was then in a serious liquidity crisis. Regarding this acquisi-

tion, “the circular to shareholders of October 1971 was clearly deliberately false. . . . It may not prove difficult to establish the complicity of Ball, Rowland and [Lonrho accountant] Butcher in this deceit.”

**Larceny:** Tiny Rowland was brought into Lonrho under the terms of a deal negotiated by the two cronies, Ball and Ogilvy, to whom he was later found paying vast sums through his holding company in the Bahamas. Under the package deal these two negotiated with Rowland, Rowland made a series of transfers of his assets, including his main company, Shepton Estates, to Lonrho. He received in return 1.5 million Lonrho shares—nearly one-third of Lonrho’s issued share capital—and an option to purchase another 2 million at favorable terms up to Aug. 15, 1966. Within months it emerged that the assets with which Rowland had bought his stake in Lonrho had been fraudulently valued. A gold mine Rowland gave as part of the deal had its ore reserves overvalued by two-thirds, with costly development work needed to extract what was there; an auto dealership was 40% less profitable than anticipated; another gold mine not only did not realize expected profits of £36,000, but lost £10,000; and so on and so forth. In other words, Rowland, with the help of Ball and Ogilvy, in effect stole from the shareholders of Lonrho by receiving valuable stock for highly overvalued or even worthless assets. The original action, which Tudor-Price noted was “within the terms of the Larceny Act of 1861,” was compounded in 1966 when Rowland used funds in a Lonrho credit line to fund the purchase of optional shares on his personal account!

**Sanctions busting:** After its Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) in 1975, Rhodesia was put under sanctions by the United Nations, whose sanctions were legally recognized by many nations including Britain. Rowland claimed to be the undying friend of black Africa and proclaimed himself “an avowed enemy of Ian Smith,” Rhodesia’s prime minister. However, the DTI report cites persuasive details to show that Rowland was regularly busting the sanctions against Rhodesia to the enrichment of himself and Lonrho, through exporting copper from Lonrho’s Rhodesian mines, while claiming it came from (worthless) mines in next-door Mozambique.

**Corruption:** The entire 1,000-page report is rife with details of general corruption of all sorts. One of the more egregious examples concerned the secret payments made to Lord Duncan-Sandys, an influential figure in the British Establishment and former son-in-law of Winston Churchill. Duncan-Sandys had helped build Lonrho by assuring the transfer to Lonrho’s control of the extremely lucrative Ashanti Gold Mines in Ghana, which mines remain to this day a cornerstone of Lonrho’s income. He was later hired as a “consultant” and political fixer for £10,000 a year. After a severe boardroom crisis in 1973, Duncan-Sandys was brought in to shore up Rowland and Lonrho politically. In

lieu of his annual consultancy, Duncan-Sandys was not only hired at £40,000 per annum, but was promised a secret payment of £130,000 from Rowland’s slush funds in the Bahamas. Said Tudor-Price, “Its non-disclosure in the Rights Issue documents of 25th May 1972 was probably criminal and involved Rowland, Ball, Butcher, and [Duncan-]Sandys who signed the prospectus as chairman.”

Tudor-Price summed up the results of his findings: “The offenses which the present report reveals are not merely technical offenses. The majority of them are offenses in which the essence is improper concealment of information from shareholders of a public company for the purpose of private enrichment.” He charged that “the following persons may well have committed criminal offenses:” Rowland, Ball, Duncan-Sandys, Ogilvy, Butcher, and Caldecott (another Lonrho director). However, he also noted, in what was to be a theme which accompanied Lonrho throughout Rowland’s tenure, “A list of their names is sufficient to indicate the difficulties which may face a police enquiry.” This referred in particular to Establishment kingpin Duncan-Sandys and the Queen’s relation Angus Ogilvy.

Though the political power of Lonrho’s board was essential in having the charges ignored, Rowland had another ace in the hole. The head of Scotland Yard’s Fraud Squad, Kenneth Etheridge, had led the criminal investigation into Rowland and Lonrho following the conclusion of the DTI report. Pursuant to the Etheridge investigation, a decision was made in February 1978 not to press any charges. One month later, Kenneth Etheridge was hired as the chief of security for Lonrho.

A former business partner of Rowland’s, Daniel Mayer, swore out the following regarding Etheridge in a court deposition in a trial in Denver, Colorado in 1982: “Let me state on the record in the matter of Etheridge, this is the man who was a former senior Scotland Yard official who was responsible for various investigations and among them was an investigation into the pornography trade in England, and it was brought out that during these investigations, he and his family accepted favors from the people he was investigating, they went on vacation with them in Malta and on the witness stand various witnesses accused Etheridge of having either blackmailed them or sought to extort money from them. Subsequently Etheridge was in charge of the investigation by Scotland Yard on the affairs of Rowland and of Lonrho and Rowland in personal conversation with me told me that he had subverted Etheridge by a promise of a good job with Lonrho if the investigation was concluded in a manner satisfactory to him, Rowland, and subsequently with the investigation having been so concluded Rowland employed Etheridge to head Rowland’s so-called department of dirty tricks [Rowland’s description] at a very substantial salary.”

*Next week: The biggest bank robbery in British history.*