

# Bilderberg Society meets in secret to plan global agenda

by Scott Thompson

From April 22 to 25, some 115 members of the Bilderberg Society met in secret behind the heavily guarded doors of the Nafsika Astir Palace Hotel in Vouliagmeni, Greece, which is a few miles south of Athens. Drawing its members from among the elite of North America and Europe, the Bilderberg Society was founded at the start of the Cold War by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands on the advice of his *éminence grise*, Joseph Retinger. According to participants, this year's meeting was highly factionalized on several issues, so much so that many members have broken the group's oath not to reveal the discussion.

The most pressing of these factional questions was whether to support the Vance-Owen plan for a geopolitical non-solution to the Serbian genocide in the Balkans, or the plans now being discussed by the Clinton administration with recalcitrant U.S. allies to use military force to stop the Serbian war of aggression from spreading.

## Lord Owen makes his pitch

Lord David Owen, who is the European Community mediator to the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia and co-author of the Vance-Owen plan, dominated the Friday morning session. According to the Bilderberg Society's revised agenda, he was one of three speakers on a panel entitled "What Kind of Europe Will the U.S. Have to Deal With?" speaking alongside German Minister of Defense Volker Rühle and *Die Zeit's* diplomatic correspondent Christoph Bertram.

Owen also spoke on a panel entitled "Current Events: Former Yugoslavia" along with Peter Rupert Lord Carrington, his predecessor as EC mediator and who has replaced Alec Douglas Lord Home as chairman of the Bilderberg Society. Carrington is a founding board member of Kissinger Associates, Inc., whose chairman, Henry Kissinger (a frequent Bilderberg Society participant), has repeatedly argued that the United States should not become militarily involved in the Balkans, since it has no geopolitical (only moral) interests there.

Two top executives of Kissinger Associates, Brent Scowcroft and Lawrence Eagleburger, national security adviser and the last secretary of state in the Bush administration, respectively, had helped ignite the Balkan war by introducing pro-Serbian policies into the U.S. government. Carrington left Kissinger Associates to become NATO secretary general, and while subsequently serving as chairman of Christie's

auction house, he was named EC mediator with staffing from the British Foreign Office, which has a decidedly pro-Serbian tilt. Carrington began to drum up support for the geopolitical policy known as "Greater Serbia," aimed at undermining Germany, at the 1992 Bilderberg Society meeting.

According to a long-time member of the North American steering committee of the Bilderberg Society, Owen "made his pitch" at this year's meeting for the Vance-Owen plan, rather than the military action being proposed by the Clinton administration. He was supported by Carrington, who ruled out any military action against the Serbs whatsoever, including even Owen's earlier proposal for using limited air strikes merely to force the Bosnian Serbs to sign the Vance-Owen plan.

One week after this intervention by Carrington and Owen, another round of negotiations over the Vance-Owen plan was held at the same Nafsika Astir Palace Hotel in Vouliagmeni. According to the North American steering committee member, this was not happenstance. The source confirmed that during the Bilderberg Society meeting, Owen met with the Greek government, which hosted the Bilderberg meeting. Pro-Serbian Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis agreed to host the negotiations, according to the source, because of the fear that Makedonija would be overrun and Greece drawn into a war that had the potential of involving Turkey.

On May 1, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic finally signed the Vance-Owen plan, which would divide the sovereign state of Bosnia into 10 warring ethnic cantons, which was exactly what Carrington and Owen wanted. The move was a ploy to forestall military action by the Clinton administration. President Clinton had just dispatched Secretary of State Warren Christopher to consult with the allies on their support for a combination of air strikes and lifting the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims and ethnic Croats.

There is evidence that many Bilderberg Society participants, recognizing the danger of a widening conflict, opposed the machinations of Carrington and Owen, but they were presented with a *fait accompli* by "Perfidious Albion."

The North American Bilderberg member said that if this scheme of Carrington and Owen holds, it may mean the demise of the U.N., as happened to the League of Nations when it failed to intervene in Ethiopia. He noted the irony of the argument of those who, after "Desert Storm," claimed that U.S. air power armed with smart weapons could not

knock out Serbian weapons, which are more primitive than those of the Iraqis. A senior European figure in the Bilderberg Society said that the Bilderberg game is to buy time. He foresaw three weeks before it would become clear whether or not a cease-fire along the lines of the Vance-Owen plan could be put into place, thereby postponing the "peacemaking" plan of the Clinton administration. This individual's "positive hypothesis" is that, should the Bosnian Serbs formally ratify the Vance-Owen scheme, "We would be facing a very uncertain world in Bosnia, for at least a year."

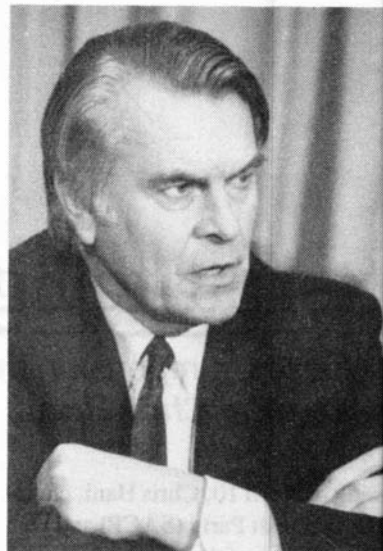
### Bilderbergers plan to loot Russia

Another issue on which the Bilderberg meeting was factionalized was whether or not to continue to impose International Monetary Fund (IMF) "shock therapy" on Russia of the sort that has made the economy worse than in the days of communist rule. This question was discussed at an April 24 panel entitled "Cost of Indifference Toward the Former Soviet Union," whose speakers included: Gen. William E. Odom, former head of the U.S. National Security Agency; Rodric Braithwaite, foreign policy adviser to British Prime Minister John Major; and former U.S. deputy secretary of state John C. Whitehead.

One of the panelists reported that it was the consensus of the meeting that something must be done, but there were no answers for where the money should come from or what it should be spent on. He said that nobody was thinking in terms of modernizing Russian infrastructure to integrate it with the West, as Lyndon H. LaRouche outlined in his "Productive Triangle" proposal. Asked whether it were true that many Europeans feared the dangers of continued "shock therapy," the panelist said that most of those present at the Bilderberg meeting favored it. He added that this was the consensus of the last Group of Seven (G-7) meeting on aid to Russia, which made the IMF the principal vehicle for aid.

This view contrasts with that of a senior Bilderberg figure, who said before the meeting: "I see no real response coming from the G-7 at this point vis-à-vis Russia. The fact is, no one has the faintest idea what to do at this point. Worse, policy toward Russia in the 1990s, so far, has been a disgrace, extremely poor compared with the Marshall Plan. We should have built one organization to channel aid, rather than having these hordes of consultants going in there, who have done no good. . . . Our approach has simply brought the Russian economy down, because of our foolish obsession with the idea that the market will resolve everything and that all planning is horrible. . . . Hopefully with Clinton, things will change."

Despite such opposition, the final decision of the Bilderberg Society was to establish a "high council of 12," whose job would be to arrange for the exploitation of cheap Russian raw materials, according to a reporter who was at Vouliagmeni. A committee was named to select 12 Bilderberg members who would have sufficient stature to have access to any government. They would arrange it so that continued foreign aid to Russia was linked to a demand that the republics give



Lord David Owen: He doesn't want to offend the Serbs.

rights to extract oil, gold, and other precious metals at low prices. This decision of the Bilderberg Society was congruent with the final decision of the G-7 nations to make available credits for the Seven Sisters to exploit Russian oil fields, which are in desperate need of an infusion of modern western technology to keep producing.

### Other agenda highlights

Among the other highlights on the agenda were:

- "Restoring Confidence in Leadership and Institutions."

The panelists were: James Hoagland, senior foreign correspondent of the *Washington Post* and an attendee at the recent Trilateral Commission meeting; Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., a senior partner in the law firm of Akin, Gump and who headed the Clinton administration transition team; and, William Rees-Mogg, chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council.

- "Prospects for Global Trade." The panelists were: Arthur Dunkel, director general, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); Lane Kirkland, president, AFL-CIO; and, Peter D. Sutherland, chairman, Allied Irish Banks Plc.

- "U.S. Domestic Policy Concerns." The panelists were: Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. and Renato Ruggiero, a member of the board of Fiat SpA.

- "The Outlook for Japan's Economy." The panelists were: Kenneth Courtis, first vice president of Deutsche Bank Capital Markets Asia, Ltd., Tokyo; and, James D. Wolfensohn, president of James D. Wolfensohn, Inc.

- "Current Events: Italy." The panelists were: Renato Ruggiero and Eric Roll of Ipsden, president of S.G. Warburg Group Plc.

- "Foreign Policy Concerns of the Clinton Administration." The panelists were: Samuel W. Lewis, director, Policy Planning Staff, U.S. Department of State, and Thierry de Montbrial, director of the French Institute of International Relations.

- "Crisis Management." The panelists were Lord Carington and Manfred Wörner, secretary general of NATO.