

Bilderbergers dream as their empire falls

by Scott Thompson

The once-powerful Bilderberg Society held its annual meeting June 2-5 in Helsinki, Finland, and from the handful of reports that have so far come out of the super-secret conclave, it was a pretty depressing affair. Not only have the Bilderbergers lost a great deal of political clout; their traditional power base in the international private financial institutions is faced with the greatest crisis since the bankruptcy of the House of Bardi in the 14th century, and the participants at the annual session evidenced little if any comprehension of how to cope with the pending catastrophe.

Among the 115 participants who gathered to muse about the prospects of world government were Lord Peter Carrington, the current chairman of the group; Dr. Henry Kissinger; speculator George Soros; General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) head Peter D. Sutherland; Hollinger Corp. Chairman Conrad Black; grain cartel merchant Dwayne Andreas; *Washington Post* owner Katharine Graham; former Chase Manhattan Bank Chairman David Rockefeller; former Bush National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft; former New York Federal Reserve Board chairman Gerald Corrigan; and *U.S. News and World Report* publisher Mortimer Zuckerman.

Although seven members of the Clinton administration showed up, the "official" U.S. turnout was a big step down from the early 1990s, when then-Democratic Party presidential candidate Bill Clinton took time off from his campaign to attend, and when an impressive number of senior members of the Congress made the trek. The Clinton delegation this year consisted of Douglas Bennett, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations; Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy; Robert Hunter, ambassador to NATO; Joseph Nye, chairman of the National Intelligence Council; Thomas Pickering, ambassador to Russia; State Department Policy Planning Director James Steinberg; and Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Frank G. Wisner.

War, depression, and chaos

The top items on the Bilderberg agenda, according to the official one-page handout, were the crisis in Russia, the looming global monetary blowout, and the confrontation in North Korea. They seemed to come to little consensus about how to deal with the first two items, and the discussion of the third was punctuated with a utopian insanity that would have

made the original "Dr. Strangelove," world government fanatic Leo Szilard, blush.

The North Korea events were the focus of the "current events" panel, chaired by former London International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) head Christopher Bertram. According to one well-placed Bilderberg-watcher, the Korea situation also occupied a great deal of the "barroom discussions" throughout the four-day gathering, with several of the more psycho participants advocating a second Korean War. According to this source, several Bilderbergers argued that in the event of an invasion of South Korea by the North, the United States would have no recourse but to use tactical nuclear weapons to defeat the invaders, and that this post-Cold War first use of nuclear arms would provide great impetus to the push for world government. Just as Lord Bertrand Russell and Winston Churchill advocated the American dropping of the A-bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to scare governments into surrendering their sovereignty to a world federalist body that would prevent further nuclear holocaust, several Bilderbergers reportedly peddled the identical doctrine as the reason for pushing a nuclear strike against North Korea.

Last year, at their annual meeting, the Trilateral Commission, a group with strong overlap with the Bilderberg Society, issued a report calling for a United Nations permanent army. That proposal was very poorly received in the Clinton administration.

Russia's economic collapse

Beyond the wild flights of fancy about nuclear war over the Korean peninsula, participants were reportedly sharply divided over a range of other critical issues, including what to do about the economic collapse of Russia. The more cynical attendees argued that the push for more shock therapy in Russia should go forward at breakneck speed, while others, cognizant of the Clinton administration's opposition to the shock therapy program, argued for a more tempered approach to Russia.

One spokesman for the former group was overheard pontificating about Russia before a group of attendees: "If the biggest gold mine in the world were discovered beneath a potato patch, they would still grow potatoes so they could make vodka." He used that "insight" to argue for vast fees for any western economic "expertise" offered to Moscow.

Yet, among the financial wizards who make up the backbone of the Bilderberg team of the 1990s were some of the most endangered species on the world financial markets, including Gerald Corrigan, George Soros, and Banque Paribas Chairman André Levy-Lang. All three men were instrumental in luring major commercial banking interests in the United States and Europe into the financial derivatives markets, which are now widely acknowledged as the likely trigger for a global systemic monetary and financial blowout—perhaps before the next convening of the Bilderbergs.