

## British elites gather to reverse 'inevitable decline'

by Mark Burdman

The British establishment will be holding one of its largest policy gatherings in years, to try to reverse the recent blows to British fortunes and prestige around the world. On March 29, a conference on "Britain in the World" will take place at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. According to RIIA sources, 500-600 invited guests will be in attendance at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center. Prince Charles will be among the featured speakers.

The RIIA is the single most important official foreign policy think-tank of the British monarchy. It was founded in 1920, by leading members of the British delegation to the post-World War I Paris Peace Conference, and received its Royal Charter in 1926. The RIIA's purpose, since its inception, has been to solidify the institutions of the Empire, and to bring the United States back under British control. It spawned a series of institutions around the world, notably the New York Council on Foreign Relations. RIIA is commonly known as "Chatham House," after the building in which it is quartered. The building is named after the Earl of Chatham, the title of the infamous 18th-century British Prime Minister William Pitt.

The March 22 London *Times* commented that the event would be "one of the most ambitious foreign policy conferences held in Britain, which the government hopes will restore faith in Britain's particular strengths, such as its armed forces, the English language, British culture and education and its effective aid program for eastern Europe." (See p. 62 for the effect such "aid" has had on Ukraine.) According to the *Times*, "the aim of the conference is partly to bolster British morale at a time when a sense of inevitable decline has eclipsed" British capacity to influence events. The paper stressed that the event is "very much the brainchild of Mr. [Douglas] Hurd, the foreign secretary," who believes that

British "assets" such as BBC and the English language "give Britain a disproportionate moral, cultural, and political influence in world affairs."

### Lady Chalker plots a coup in Nigeria

The March 29 event comes at a time of profound political and institutional crisis for the United Kingdom. The February collapse of the eminent "bank of the empire," Barings, was a profound shock. This has come on top of repeated assaults on the U.S.-Britain "special relationship," for which the British elites have expended so much energy over the past century, particularly since World War II. It is lawful, in this light, that the only American speaker at the event will be former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, a diehard British agent-of-influence.

Even before Barings and the latest blows to the "special relationship," the British establishment was reeling from the effects of the international circulation of *EIR*'s Oct. 28, 1994 *Special Report*, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor." This report details the criminal activities of the royal family's World Wide Fund for Nature and explains how the Windsors and the Club of the Isles group of oligarchs are being caught up in the vortex of a dynastic cycle that is now coming to an end. The report exposes how the WWF and associated institutions are responsible for the genocide in Rwanda.

The Chatham House meeting was originally designed to extend that genocidal destruction to western Africa. The morning session of one panel, "Democracy and Development: Britain's Role in Encouraging Sustainable Development and Political and Economic Reform," is being keynoted by Baroness Lynda Chalker, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development. As the *EIR* report documents, Lady Chalker

oversaw the slaughter in Rwanda, in significant part through the agency of her pet dictator in Uganda, Yoweri Museveni. She was to have been followed on the panel by Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, the former military ruler of Nigeria, who now functions as a full-time asset of British interests. The problem is, that since the Chatham House agenda was originally pieced together some weeks before, Obasanjo was arrested in his native Nigeria, and charged with involvement in a coup plot against Nigerian leader Gen. Sani Abacha.

Evidently, the Chatham House plan was for Obasanjo to come to London as the hero of a "new democratic Nigeria" that would be fully committed to the British policies of free trade and to the "structural adjustment" brutalities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is most revealing that Lady Chalker had, some weeks before, decided to postpone a debate in the British Parliament on Nigeria, from the originally planned date in February, to a new day in March. Obviously, this was in anticipation that the coup against Abacha would work. That operation now appears to be blocked, at least for the moment.

Since early March, some 30 Nigerians, including active-duty military officers, had been arrested on charges of plotting to overthrow Abacha. Well-informed sources in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, point to British intelligence circles as the initiators and coordinators for the coup attempt. Since last October, prominent Nigerians have been travelling through London to discuss a change of government in Nigeria, so that a new regime would abandon Abacha's anti-IMF orientations. The arrest of Obasanjo would have hit a raw nerve, since he has highest-level links to the British.

### **A decomposing Major**

The opening speaker on March 29 will be Prime Minister John Major. Major is an odd choice to open up an event aimed at puffing up British prestige, since the accelerating decomposition of his government and his Conservative Party is both a symptom of, and a factor in Britain's "sense of inevitable decline."

The luncheon speech will be given by Prince Charles, and the evening address will be made by Foreign Secretary Hurd. Other speakers will include Lord Tugendhat, RIIA chairman; Sir John Coles, permanent undersecretary of state, Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, chief of the Defense Staff; Gen. Sir Peter de la Billiere, who led British forces in the 1990-91 war against Iraq; Sir Crispin Tickell, former British ambassador to the United Nations and one of the international controllers of the ecology movement; Hugh Norton, managing director of British Petroleum; and Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, British Airways.

There will also be four "break-out sessions." One will be the "Democracy and Development" group featuring Lady Chalker. The other three will be on: "Britain's Diplomatic and Security Role," "Britain's Place in the World Economy," and "Projecting British Values, Education and Culture."

### **Henry returns to 'Mother'**

Henry Kissinger, described as "chairman, Kissinger Associates," will give an address on "How Do People outside Britain View Our Role in the World? The View from the United States."

For Kissinger, this is a return to "Mother." It was at Chatham House in May 1982, as *EIR* has reported, that he made an infamous speech, confessing that he had been a British Foreign Office asset throughout his career in government, and that he preferred British foreign policy axioms to those of the United States.

The British are desperate to use assets like Kissinger to "repair" the damaged "special relationship." In the first days of March, the opportunistic Kissinger publicly endorsed the foreign policy platform of the "Contract with America" of Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and friends. Boiled down to basics, the "Contract" is a manifesto for again making the United States subordinate to British geopolitical interests.

### **Down with the 'disloyal colonists'!**

With Clinton in the White House, the blows to the "special relationship" are occurring with increasing rapidity. There was, of course, the matter of Clinton's agreeing to meet Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams during the March 17 St. Patrick's Day celebrations, and to allow Sinn Fein fundraising in the United States. Tensions were made all the worse, when a peeved John Major repeatedly refused to go to the telephone, to answer calls from the U.S. President. British insiders viewed Major's behavior as an infantile fit unbecoming to a British prime minister who is supposed to "manage" the Yanks, especially at a time of such massive financial crises as are now breaking out all over the world.

When the two men finally did talk, on March 19, Clinton revealed that he would *not* be going to London on May 6-7, for the 50th anniversary commemorations of Victory in Europe Day, but would instead be going to Moscow for the V-E commemorations there, on May 9. The March 20 London *Times* reported that British officials were "furious" with the White House over this "strong rebuff" to the Brits. Cosmetic attempts are being made to paper over these differences, in the days leading up to Major's planned April 2-4 visit to the United States, but the increased stridency of British attacks on the Americans indicates that such maneuvers won't work.

On March 19, the London *Sunday Telegraph*, the weekly mouthpiece of the same Hollinger Corp. that has been orchestrating the scandal-mongering campaigns against Clinton, ran a feature, "The United States Is No Friend of Britain," charging that the Americans are "disloyal colonists" who have used their power "ruthlessly to help dismantle the British Empire."

The appropriate response to such raving, is "good riddance." Let the British oligarchs stew in their own juices, and let the next big gathering at William Pitt's old residence be a funeral for the "British System."