

can magazine in 1992, "One of the most liberating aspects of the whole of my life was when I went to China and found that a quarter of the human race doesn't find the need of believing in a benevolent and creative god." This must not be seen as merely an observation by Mr. Needham, but as a statement of his intended policy and program for the Chinese.

One humorous note: Needham is renowned for the thorough nature of his scholarship, with extensive cross references and documentation of his facts, including prolific and erudite footnotes. However, he often hides within this method his intentional use of overt lies. Two classic examples emerged from his falsehoods regarding the beliefs of Chu Hsi and Leibniz. To portray Chu Hsi as a synthesizer of Taoism and Confucianism, he had to explain Chu Hsi's repeated and virulent attacks on every aspect of Taoism. Needham's footnote: "In Chu Hsi's writings there are polemics against the Taoist conceptions of the word [*Tao*], which rested on complete misunderstandings of Lao-tzu [the founder of Taoism]." Needham's "synthesizer" knew nothing of the essence of his subject! In the case of Leibniz, Needham contended that what Leibniz really meant by his monads was physical "organisms" (just as Chu Hsi's *Li* really meant "organization"). This hardly fit with the definition of monads in the very first sentence of Leibniz's *Monadology*, which states that a monad is a simple substance "which has no parts." Needham's footnote: "It is at first sight disturbing to find that monads are defined as without parts, but Leibniz used the word 'parts' in a rather special way." This "special way" was certainly beyond Needham's ken.

Needham has continued to be honored not only by the People's Republic of China (which only last year made him one of the first foreigners to become a Fellow of the Chinese Academy of Science), but also by Taiwan and other Chinese communities. While serving as Master of Gonville and Caius College at Cambridge, Needham created and ran the Needham Research Center, with funds provided by a revealing assortment of sponsors: the Singapore banker Tan Chin Tuan, Hongkong tycoon K.P. Tin, the Kresge Foundation in the United States, and the Beijing government. Beijing should note carefully the praise bestowed by one of Needham's Cambridge associates in the October 1986 journal *The World and I*, who wrote: "Some become legends in their lifetimes, their toils honored by foreign peoples before their own recognize them: Clive of India, Lawrence of Arabia, and Mountbatten of Burma spring easily to mind. Needham of China now must be added, and only time can hail his achievement as the greatest of all." Those Chinese who are monitoring the continuing British efforts to divide and destroy China will certainly be aware of the evil done by Clive, Lawrence, and, especially, Mountbatten, in the service of the British Empire. Overturning the distorted profile of both the East and the West which Needham fashioned in the service of that same Empire will be a worthy and necessary contribution to China's future, and to the rest of us as well.

British scandal could signal end of Thatcher politics forever

by Dean Andromidas

A scandal hitting a British Conservative Party minister could signal the sinking of the government of British Prime Minister John Major, along with the political apparatus that has supported Tory politics for the last 20 years. The scandal is targeting Jonathan William Aitken, the chief secretary of the treasury who could become the 20th minister in the Major cabinet forced to resign because of scandals. Aitken is the grandnephew of Lord Beaverbrook, the famous Canadian-born British press baron and mouthpiece of the British Empire. The accusations range from illegal arms deals with Iran and Iraq, to questionable relations with Saudi princes, Middle Eastern arms dealers, and shady businessmen.

While scandals of this nature, particularly when they hit those who deserve it, can be greatly appreciated, this and others hitting the Major government must be seen in the context of the strategic and political fight raging between the Clinton administration and the British elites. The latter are starting to realize that the Major government and much of the Tory apparatus cultivated over the last 20 years, no longer serve their interests. This scandal goes to the heart of that apparatus.

Dining with Kissinger

The scandal broke on March 29, when the *Independent*, a London liberal daily, ran an article linking Aitken to illegal arms deals between Britain and Iran and Iraq while he served on the board of directors of the British Manufacturing and Research Company (BMARC). News of the scandal reached Aitken via his personal fax, interrupting a private dinner. His guest was Henry Kissinger, who was in London for a conference at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). Also at that dinner was Defense Minister Malcom Rifkind, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, and Allen Clark, a hard-core Thatcherite who, as a former industry minister, played a key role in selling British arms to Iran and Iraq. This was followed by articles in the *Guardian*, a daily which traditionally speaks for the Labor Party, detailing Aitken's ties to the Saudi royal family, particularly Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd, son of King Fahd. These connections included Saudi deal-maker Wafic Said, the man who broker-

ed the \$30 billion Anglo-Saudi arms deal which also made Margaret Thatcher's son, Mark, a millionaire. These press articles were followed by a film aired on Britain's Granada TV.

Aitken's response was to sue for libel. He took the unusual step of holding a press conference, with the full support of Prime Minister Major, at the headquarters of the Conservative Party. He issued a press statement pledging to defend himself with the "simple sword of truth" and the "trustworthy shield of British fair play." Only the Hollinger Corp.'s *Daily Telegraph*, better known as the "Torygraph," came to his defense, while other media pointed out the obvious links between Aitken's misfortunes and those of Prime Minister Major.

Who is Jonathan Aitken?

If the threads of this scandal are followed up, they will lead directly to the international apparatus that has implemented British strategic policy over the last 20 years. It is an apparatus that leads to Kissinger, George Bush, the Iran-Contra crowd, and the Entente Cordiale faction in France. It is the network that destroyed Africa, engineered the Iran-Iraq war, and launched the Persian Gulf war. It is instrumental in maintaining the genocidal embargo against Iraq, and seeks to destroy the Middle East peace process. It is also a network that had been tailored for Cold War politics and American right-wing Republican administrations.

As the grandnephew of Lord Beaverbrook, Aitken is in the sterling tradition of the Round Table of the British Empire's Cecil Rhodes. This grouping is also known as the Suez faction. As head of Express Newspapers Ltd., Aitken's infamous ancestor was the mouthpiece of the imperial faction. As a Canadian and Winston Churchill's wartime minister of supply, Lord Beaverbrook worked closely with Argus Corp., the British intelligence and Canadian-based company that channelled American military equipment to wartime Britain. After the war, the latter would leave the weapons business to become the Hollinger Corp. and create a press empire that would soon eclipse that of Beaverbrook. Under Conrad Black, the Hollinger Corp. acquired the *Daily Telegraph* and became the mouthpiece of the empire under Margaret Thatcher. Aitken made a similar transformation, going from journalism to the selling of weapons.

The current scandal has two interrelated tracks. One is his directorship of BMARC in 1988-90. An artillery and munitions producer, BMARC was part of the so-called "explosives cartel" that was selling massive amounts of munitions to both Iran and Iraq. It included such firms as Dynamit Nobel of Sweden and Great Britain, PRB of Belgium, and Wasegchemie of Germany. Working in conjunction with Bush's Iran-Contra apparatus and the East German Secret Service, the Stasi, this network sold billions of dollars of munitions to both Iran and Iraq. Many of these deals were financed by Midland Bank, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, and

many others. This is a track that leads directly to George Bush, Henry Kissinger, and Margaret Thatcher.

The second track is Aitken's relationship with the Saudi royal family, which has spanned the better part of two decades. The press has concentrated on his relationship with Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd. This relationship is mediated through Syrian-born Saudi deal-maker Wafic Said. The latter was said to be the man who clinched the \$30 billion Yamamah arms deal between Saudi Arabia and Great Britain, despite the fact that Saudi Arabia traditionally buys its most important weapons systems from the United States. That deal could have only been clinched with the blessing of the U.S. President, George Bush. Said was not only a guest of Thatcher at 10 Downing Street, but brought the prime minister's son, Mark, into the deal. The multimillion-dollar commission turned the young Thatcher from a less than competent bookkeeper into a multi-millionaire businessman. Mark soon moved to Dallas, Texas. His business practices in Bush country not only earned him millions more, but a criminal indictment involving former business partners.

After Aitken's dinner in honor of Kissinger, another dinner took place, including not only Kissinger, but Wafic Said as well. According to London sources, it was a "working dinner" aimed at planning how to ensure that the Yamamah arms deal, which is not even half-completed, is not cancelled. This is a very real possibility, given the changes in Washington and the financial instability of the Saudi regime.

Circle Pinay

Aitken is part of the "Suez" faction. This is best seen in his membership in the Circle Pinay, also known as the Circle Violet. It was founded in 1951 by Antoine Pinay, a former French prime minister who died recently at the age of 104. A politician in the tradition of the Entente Cordiale, Pinay very much opposed the Franco-German orientation of Charles de Gaulle. Aitken's close friend, Thatcher loyalist, and former minister Allen Clark recounts in his memoirs how the group convened a meeting in Oman in 1990 just prior to the Gulf war. In addition to Aitken, those in attendance included Julian Amery, another close associate of Aitken who is a key Tory and British intelligence insider with decades of experience in the Middle East and the Balkans, and Nicholas Elliott, a former officer of British intelligence's MI-6 who later worked for Tiny Rowland's Lonrho Corp. In the 1980s, Elliott circulated slanders against Lyndon H. LaRouche.

The Circle also included such people as Archduke Otto Von Hapsburg, former claimant to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and founding chairman of the West European Union; Robert Moss, a British spook who turned the Washington-based Heritage foundation into a British intelligence school for the brainwashing of U.S. officials; CIA spook Brian Crozier; and former Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.