

## Originators of the afghansi

**Lord Nicholas Bethell:** Lord Bethell had been the main international promoter of western aid to the Afghan mujahideen in the early phases of the Afghan civil war, with his Radio Free Kabul, run out of Coutts, Queen Elizabeth's bank. At the time of his death in 1992, Lord Bethell had become a key player in supporting the Georgian side of the war with Abkhazia. A former lord-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth II, Lord Bethell had served in the Mideast and Soviet sections of MI-6, working closely with Kim Philby, the British triple agent who "defected" to the Soviet Union in 1963.

**Viscount Cranborne (Robert Cecil):** Lord Privy Seal (chief of the Queen's Privy Council) and Leader of the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne had been a primary organizer and overseer of the first phase of the civil war in Afghanistan (1979-88), carried out under the cover of his Afghan Aid U.K.

Throughout the Afghan war, this organization preferentially financed and supplied the forces of the current Afghan Defense Minister Ahmed Shah Massoud, of Tajik ethnic-origin. Massoud today oversees the Tajik insurgents and narcotics traffickers operating out of refugee camps in northern Afghanistan.

The viscount is a member of the Cecil family, one of the oldest and most powerful oligarchical families in Britain. His great-grandfather, the Third Marquis of Salisbury, was the turn-of-the-century British prime minister and foreign secretary, who oversaw efforts to destroy both the Ottoman and Russian empires, including through patronizing ethnic insurgencies, such as the Armenians. Viscount Cranborne's grandfather, the Fifth Marquis, had been a World War II colonial secretary.

**John Train:** Wall Street banker and covert operations specialist. A descendant of a New England family that made its money as a junior partner in the nineteenth-century British opium trade, John Train played an important role in the 1980s Afghan war through his Afghanistan Relief Committee (ARC), which he chaired, and which was housed in his banking firm.

In April 1983, Train formed a media salon whose task was to coordinate a media slander campaign against *EIR*'s founder Lyndon LaRouche. The first meeting of the group followed President Ronald Reagan's announcement of the Strategic Defense Initiative, based on LaRouche's proposal, which was violently opposed by British intelligence and allied U.S. families. Leo Cherne's Freedom House, and other allied "Project Democracy" organizations were central to this campaign. Another component of this salon, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, had earlier been deployed against LaRouche following *EIR*'s publication of the book *Dope Inc.*, which documented the role the Anglo-American establishment families in overseeing the illegal drug trade.

One of the main operations of the salon was charging that LaRouche oversaw the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. The slander also served to divert investigations from evidence pointing to the Swedish-based Emma Rothschild, and the Bofors arms-trafficking interests active in Bush's Iran-Contra dealings. Train was well suited for this task, having long had close ties to Sweden through his first wife, Maria Teresa Cini di Pianzana, a product of the intermarriage of one of the top Venetian oligarchical families with one of the leading Swedish noble families.

Train also has business ties to Sweden. PK Banken of Sweden's subsidiary, English Association Trust (EAT) of London, is the primary stockholder in Train's investment bank, Train, Smith counsel. PK Banken is a partnership between the Swedish government and industrialist Erik Penser, the primary stockholder in Nobel Industries, owner of Bofors. The chairman of EAT is Richard Cox-Johnson, formerly a merchant banker with N.M. Rothschild.