

New Dowling exposé hits Prince Philip's WWF

by Roger Moore

Kevin Dowling, the Irish filmmaker, has recently exposed how a small group of modern-day British imperialists, operating through Prince Philip's World Wildlife Fund (WWF), sabotaged in 1997 the production and broadcast on Britain's Channel 4 of Dowling's documentation on ties of the WWF to the "Third Force" death squads operating in South Africa. Dowling's article, entitled "Environmental Movement and Covert Action, a Natural History of the Wilderness of Mirrors: The Secret History of a Revolution," appeared in the Jan. 5 issue of the Paris-based *Intelligence* newsletter.

In 1989, Dowling produced "The Elephant Man," a film described as "pivotal" by the WWF's Sadruddin Aga Kahn, in campaigns to save the African elephant. However, what Dowling learned in researching that film led to his next one, "Tenpence in the Panda," an explosive exposé of the WWF. In a campaign called "unprecedented" in the history of Britain's Independent Broadcasting Authority, the WWF spent a reported \$350,000 in an attempt to kill or censor the film. Crucial background research was provided by Dowling for *EIR*'s groundbreaking Oct. 28, 1994 *Special Report*, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor."

Dowling's article begins with an account of how the South African Kumleben Report, from a government investigation into intelligence involvement in using the underground trade in ivory to finance covert activities, was circulated at the June 1997 Zimbabwe meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In his opening address to that meeting, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe called the ban on ivory trading an act of "ecological colonialism," and demanded a partial overturning of it.

The Kumleben Report addressed the involvement of Prince Philip's colleague, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, in putting together, with covert WWF support, "Operation Lock," which linked former British Special Air Services (SAS) agents to Craig Williamson, South Africa's liaison to British Intelligence. Operation Lock was ostensibly designed to intercept black-market ivory trade networks operating in southern Africa; in fact, it ended up in assisting the retooling of apartheid-era covert assets along the lines of the instigated "tribal warfare" that exploded around the early 1990s "Third Force" random killings. Zimbabwe government officials had already, years before the CITES conference, charged that Operation Lock was a plan to destabilize all of southern Africa.

As Dowling describes it, when the conference reinstated supervised ivory trading, "the African delegates danced through the conference hall singing the liberation anthem, '*Ishe Komberera Africa*' (God Bless Africa!), watched by stony-faced delegates from America and Europe."

Dowling reported how Johan Rupert, son of South African billionaire and WWF patron Anton Rupert, approached Channel 4. Channel 4's head was also approached by one-time WWF official Lord Aubrey Buxton, Extra Equerry to Prince Philip, of the Barclay banking family, and one of the most powerful figures in British broadcasting. According to *EIR* sources, Robin Renwick, the former British ambassador to South Africa and later ambassador to Washington, also hovered in the background of the cover-up for the WWF. Renwick is an important establishment figure whose job in Washington was to deploy the U.S. Anglophile elite to control American policy, an easy job under George Bush, but more difficult under the first Clinton administration. Renwick is also with the Compagnie Financière Richeumont (of Rupert fame) and Robert Fleming Bank.

A 'virtual empire' is being created

As Dowling describes it, aside from the WWF-Operation Lock dirty operations, the real issue is the "virtual empire" being created around nature parks worldwide. As he stated in *Intelligence* newsletter, "To the eyes of a previous age, the huge areas of land the former colonial powers have required the developing world to set aside for nature would look more like an empire than a mere 'estate.' It may, in fact, be useful to regard the World Conservation Estate (WCE) as a new and unprecedented form of empire, a virtually real one."

The WCE is a concept sponsored by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a sister organization of the WWF, for accounting the new domains previously known as Crown Lands in the Empire. "This green archipelago of national parks, national forests, national monuments and national landscapes occupies more land than India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Iran and Burma put together," according to the *Intelligence* article. "When a further 40,000 less fiercely guarded areas were included in the reckoning, the area taken up by the World Conservation Estate more than doubled. By 1989, it had already extended across some 10% of the earth's land surface."

The personnel of the new "virtual empire" overlap heavily with the old empire's intelligence hands. When Dowling covered Northern Ireland in the 1980s, he ran into MI6 operative Michael Oatley. By the early 1990s, Oatley, by then retired from British SIS, was working for Kroll Associates in London, handling raw intelligence sent back by Operation Lock. A Northern Ireland-based assistant of Oatley, MI6 officer Gordon Shepherd, ended up as WWF-International's Director of Communications.