

## British pyromaniacs light war fires in Eurasia

by Mark Burdman

The British monarchy, its Blair government, the British Foreign Office, and other leading British institutions, are on an intensive mobilization to ignite a series of conflicts across the region comprising Central Asia and the Caucasus. *EIR* detailed the historical and strategic background to this war push in its Sept. 10 *Feature*. Last week, we reported on the statements to a journalist made by Royal Family adviser Martin Palmer, stressing Britain's "absolutely fundamental" commitment to the break-up of large countries, such as Russia and China.

Since then, we have received further evidence that a hard core of British agents and agents of influence have been involved in frantic efforts to steer U.S. policy into this "British geopolitical" direction. Prominent among such operatives, are former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, who foresees a bloody "Eurasian Balkans" as the future of this region; and Harvard University's Samuel Huntington, who pontificates about a so-called "crisis of civilization" bringing about wars and destabilizations in Eurasia.

These and allied policy-makers have been collaborating with the British in a repeat of the 19th century "Great Game" to destabilize the Caucasus and Central Asia. Their activities extend back 25 years, when the Trilateral Commission met in Kyoto, Japan, in 1975, and worked out the basis for what Brzezinski and Huntington defined as "the crisis of democracy," a euphemism for a new era of unrest and destabilizations.

### 'Strategy of divide and rule'

During a Sept. 23 discussion, a British academic specialist on the Caucasus, who has been involved in several British government-funded "research projects" in that region, insisted that the real core of British policy, whatever might be acknowledged in public, is a traditional "divide-and-rule"

policy for the Caucasus-Central Asian region, including support for the independence of Chechnya, the autonomous republic of the Russian Federation, located in the northern Caucasus.

The specialist told *EIR* that "Britain would like to see Chechnya independent. We would like to see Russian control weakened. We are strongly committed to seeing oil from Azerbaijan, a country in which Britain is heavily involved, go through Georgia and then through Turkey, rather than through northern routes. Of course, we would never support Chechen independence in public, as it is technically Russian, and the Russians would regard such a move as gross interference in their foreign affairs. They might retaliate, by demanding independence for Northern Ireland, or attaching Northern Ireland to Ireland, or demanding that the Falklands [Malvinas] be given back to Argentina. But *privately*, I can assure you, there is considerable support here for Chechnya and Georgia."

He continued: "The Foreign Office here would like to see less Russian influence, not only in the Caucasus, but also in Central Asia. There should be no Russian monopoly in such sensitive regions. One reason is because of the oil and natural gas. But there is a deeper reason: We have long-standing relations with Chechnya and Georgia, dating to the 19th century, and our strategy of divide and rule. We wanted to ensure that the Ottoman Empire wouldn't collapse, and that Germany and Russia would not take over, in the vacuum. Today, as well, we are committed to the policy that not one power should prevail, especially given the oil and natural gas in the region. After all, keep in mind that *British Petroleum is very much part of the British government, and the British government actively supports British Petroleum*. We are deeply concerned about the energy situation, not only in the Caucasus, but also in Central Asia, especially as concerns Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and, increasingly, Turkmenistan."

This source went on: "Britain and the United States must be careful, not to be seen working with the Islamists, against Russia. But our two countries share the same objective, to expel Russia from these regions."

He concluded, by stressing the absolute importance to Britain, of Uzbekistan, as the most important "player" in Central Asia, more important than Kazakhstan. "Uzbek leader Karimov is the central player in the region, and Uzbekistan is the most important country."

### **Thatcher, Bush, and Nukhayev**

British support for the Chechen "independentists" and Northern Caucasus-centered "Islamic rebels" committed to the destruction of Russia, is hardly theoretical. Rather than focus on the "Wahhabist" foot-soldiers, the informed observer is advised to look at *direct British ties* to the financing of the anti-Russian "rebellion" in the northern Caucasus.

A very well-informed Russian Orientalist told *EIR* that what must be looked at, is the chief Chechen financier of "rebel-independentist" operations, one Hozhahmed Nukhayev, a former Chechen First Deputy Prime Minister, whose cooperation with Thatcherite circles in the British Establishment, has been reported in *EIR*, most recently in our Sept. 10 issue (p. 42). According to the Russian source, Nukhayev covertly collaborates with Saudi Arabian terrorist bankroller Osama bin Laden, an individual with his own extensive and murky links to British intelligence. Nukhayev's operations overlap those of individuals involved in the recent destabilizations in Kashmir, through links to the Afghani Taliban and to Pakistani politico (and former cricket star) Imran Khan, the son-in-law of the late Sir James Goldsmith. The Russian Orientalist said that Khan has been involved in some nasty activities inside Pakistani, aimed at blowing up the Kashmir situation yet again.

According to the Russian source, "the financial empire of the late Goldsmith is critical to understand what Nukhayev is doing. From that, you would understand the modern-day continuation of British operations that go back to an earlier period, such as when 'Great Game' bigshot Lord Curzon was building his Caucasus and Transcaucasus networks during and after World War I."

The "Goldsmith connection" to Nukhayev runs deep. In mid-October 1997, several leading British figures visited Grozny, capital of Chechnya, to sign a "protocol of intentions" with Nukhayev, the latter the president of an entity called the "Caucasus Common Market." The British figures included Lord McAlpine, who had served, on appointment by Thatcher, for 15 years as treasurer of Britain's Conservative Party, but who then agitated for the election of Tony Blair in 1997. In 1996, McAlpine became chairman of the Goldsmith-launched Referendum Party. Other figures in the delegation included Imran Khan; Francis Pike of Peregrine Investment Holding Ltd., a large investment company in Southeast Asia, linked to Goldsmith through marriage; and Patrick Robertson,

a political consultant who had served as personal director and aide to Sir James Goldsmith.

On Nov. 11, 1997, a Caucasus Investment Fund, the main financial body of Nukhayev's Caucasus Common Market, made its presentation in London. The Fund's co-founders included Nukhayev, McAlpine, and Pike. Before the presentation, Nukhayev met with Baroness Thatcher and a group of about 20 leading financiers and bankers in the City of London. Members of the Goldsmith family gave a gala dinner in Nukhayev's honor.

Meanwhile, Nukhayev was the head of a Caucasus-American Chamber of Commerce, set up in Washington in 1997. Head of the Chamber's executive committee became Frederick M. Bush, former U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg and a fundraiser for, and close associate of (although no family relation to) George Bush. A Chamber "group of experts" prominently included former Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, a man with his own array of very suspicious international connections, especially from the days he served as Soviet ambassador, first to Sweden, and then to Great Britain.

The British hand in strategic destabilization of Eurasia has become so visible, that even a Russian TV anchorman discusses it in those terms. The Sept. 20 broadcast of the ORT channel's program "Odnako" ("However") moved from a summary of Brzezinski's current trip to Tbilisi, Georgia, as an attempt to recruit Georgia into the game against Russia in the North Caucasus, into a summary statement that in the ongoing "money-laundering" scandals, "British Intelligence admits it has successfully played the United States against Russia."

### **'With Foreign Office encouragement'**

The British oligarchs are moving on other fronts, respecting Eurasia.

*EIR* has learned that a British Parliament "Central Asia Group" has been set up during the past months. According to its chairman, James Cousins, a Labour parliamentarian from Newcastle, the aim of the Group is to "strengthen British relationships with the five former Soviet republics of Central Asia." He said that the Group was "set up with the encouragement of the British Foreign Office, which sees it as a good initiative." He also reported that the Parliamentary Group is "connected with energy and construction projects in Central Asia. We have good relations with the major British energy companies, especially British Petroleum and British Gas, who are very active in this region. . . . We are also involved in what can be called 'the great debate over pipelines,' which is especially important given the present events in the Northern Caucasus."

The vice-chairmen of the Parliamentary Central Asia Group include Viscount Waverley of the House of Lords (see article, p. 60), who has long-standing involvements in Uzbekistan, and the House of Commons' Maria Fyfe, an MP from Glasgow, Scotland, who has recently been in Uzbekistan.