

# The Anglo-Americans Fear an African-Malaysian Alliance

by Dean Andromidas

The Anglo-American oligarchy's determination to overthrow Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is aimed at preventing the establishment of an African-Malaysian alliance. They fear that such an alliance would bring Africa into the nascent "Survivors' Club" which is forming among Eurasian nations, including China, India, the nations of Southeast Asia, and Russia.

"Forget about the seizure of white farms, forget about Zimbabwe's role in the Democratic Republic of the Congo," a well-informed African source told *EIR*. "The real reason the Anglo-Americans want to overthrow President Mugabe is because of his ties to Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad." The source pointed to a summit of African leaders in Victoria Falls on Oct. 3-5, 1999, called together on the initiative of President Mugabe and Prime Minister Mahathir. "The only speaker was Mahathir," the source said, "and he told them how to fight the IMF [International Monetary Fund], the World Bank, and the Anglo-Americans."

The Victoria Falls conference, was the third such conference held under the auspices of the South Africa International Dialogue (SAID). It brought together the heads of state of Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zambia, Ghana, Malawi, and Uganda. The conference was entitled "Economic Empowerment as a National Smart Partnership Agenda." The SAID is a spinoff of the Malaysian Langkawi International Dialogue, launched by Dr. Mahathir and the Malaysian government in 1995. The term "smart partnership" was coined by Malaysia to describe its pursuit of mutually beneficial economic and trade relations with other countries.

Although the discussions at the summit were behind closed doors, and Dr. Mahathir's remarks were apparently not released to the public, he also gave a speech on May 23 of this year to the Third African-Asian Forum, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital. In it, Mahathir laid out to African and Asian leaders the Malaysian economic model, which contrasts sharply with the radical free-market policies being pushed on the nations of the world. Some of these ideas no doubt were brought up for discussion by the heads of state and government at the Victoria Falls summit.

In his May 2000 speech, the Malaysian Prime Minister declared that African and Asian nations need to discuss the "challenges" confronting nations because of globalization,

and "most of all we have to deal with the self-declared right of some countries to interfere in the affairs of the other countries."

## Malaysia's Policy

Dr. Mahathir laid out how Malaysia was able to achieve 8% growth rates through the development of the private sector by utilizing the institutions of the state, not only to establish political stability and a legal framework, but to build necessary physical infrastructure, as well as provide financial support. "This high growth rate would have continued," Mahathir declared, "if not for the manipulation of our currency by currency traders. For one and an half years we have struggled to find a solution to this problem."

On privatization, he cautioned never to sell "government assets to foreigners in order to get foreign exchange to settle debts." He said, "We sell largely to Malaysians," and if shares are to be sold to foreigners, they should be "strategic partners." He emphasized that outright sales to foreigners simply means the "profits will just flow out of the country."

Dr. Mahathir also attacked the "New Economy" and "Information Age" propaganda, saying, "Information can enrich us, but without rules and laws it can impoverish us and destroy us. So, don't be too ready to accept everything done in the name of globalization and the free flows of capital and goods, that the information age is supposed to make inevitable."

One of the most important points made was the need for developing countries to strengthen economic relations among themselves, and here the question of "smart partnerships" comes into play. Operating particularly through its state oil company, Petronas, Malaysia has investments and joint projects throughout Africa, especially in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia, and Sudan.

If the governments of southern Africa begin to orient toward this "Survivors' Club," then the Anglo-American strategy of grabbing control of African natural resources, as a hedge against the inevitable financial crash, will collapse, along with their financial institutions. It is also significant that British-orchestrated attempts to get other southern African countries to abandon Mugabe, particularly among the countries that attended this conference, have not been very successful. This is especially the case with South Africa; not only has President Thabo Mbeki refused to break with Mugabe,

but the ruling African National Congress is moving toward forming an association with Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party.

### **Mugabe Begins To Heed Mahathir**

By making land reform the centerpiece of the ZANU-PF's campaign for Parliamentary elections, scheduled for June 24 and 25, President Mugabe has signalled the adoption of Prime Minister Mahathir's advice. Land is one of Zimbabwe's most important resources, with agricultural exports supplying 40% of the country's foreign exchange earnings. His land reform policy is aimed at giving access to these resources to a much broader section of the population. Moreover, land reform could shift the agricultural sector away from its heavy reliance on one crop, tobacco, which ties the country's most important foreign exchange earner to a handful of major Anglo-American-controlled tobacco buyers.

In an interview with the London *Independent* on June 15, President Mugabe went one step further, declaring that after the land question is settled, they will begin looking at the question of the mining industry.

Mugabe said: "The land question will be settled. But who owns our mines? We are gold, copper, asbestos, and iron producers. But most of the benefits are enjoyed by the former colonialists. And, of course, the parent countries, that's where we remit our dividends. After land, we must look at the mining sector. There must be Africans as owners, not just as workers. We have trained engineers of all kinds, skilled men, civil engineers, geologists, agronomists, they're working everywhere! But ownership? Working for who? At the end of the day you must be able to say the resources are ours—our people own the mines, our people own the industry."

Recalling the political struggle that ended in 1980 with independence, Mugabe said that another struggle then began. "And this struggle became very difficult because of the forces at play: The former colonial power has greater economic influence than you have. Your influence is political. So the economic field, where your influence is very minimal, becomes a breeding area of opposition elements." He explained: "There is some fellow from Britain, Lord Something, he came here once and talked about funding for Zimbabwe. I said to him, 'You put our dividends and profits that we remit to Britain against the aid we get from Britain and tell me who is giving aid to who?' We remit more, and they pretend to give poverty alleviation or little programs like that. This is the war."

Mugabe quoted the late Kwame Nkrumah, independent Ghana's first President: "A principle can never be surrendered on the altar of expediency. As Nkrumah was saying, if you are principled in doing that which is right you must never surrender. And if you don't surrender and sacrifice yourself, you will win and begin to believe in your principles much, much more. This is it. To fight for that which is right and to see people supporting it."

Zimbabwe's gold-mining sector accounts for 40% of the

country's foreign exchange. It is wholly owned by foreign mining companies, including the British-owned Anglo American Corp., Rio Tinto, Lonmine, and Ghana's Ashanti Gold, which is now listed on the London stock exchange and is mostly owned by Lonmine and Anglo American. Other companies include Australia's Delta Gold and the Luxembourg-based Falcon Mines.

On the same day that Mugabe's *Independent* interview appeared, a Zimbabwe government delegation to Malaysia, led by Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor Leonard Tumba, Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe CEO Gideon Gono, and export promoters from Zim Trade, the country's export promotion body to Malaysia, put the finishing touches on a trade protocol for the export of Zimbabwean tobacco and cotton, and for lines of credit. The export of tobacco from Zimbabwe fell considerably, from 77,000 tons last year to 46,000 tons this year.

The visit to Malaysia follows other trade missions, mainly to study how Malaysia's economy managed to come through the 1998 so-called Asian financial crisis, and to boost trade relations between the two countries.

### **A UN Intervention into Zimbabwe**

On June 10, amid a great deal of media hype, a United Nations team of election monitors quit Zimbabwe because President Mugabe refused to allow them to function as the coordinator of all the election monitors. Mugabe had invited them to stay in the capacity of simple observers, like those sent by the Commonwealth and the European Union.

Mugabe simply blocked an obvious attempt to make the elections an issue for the United Nations and, hence, the Security Council, with the threatened possibility of a United Nations intervention if the elections were declared invalid. It is important to note that the United Nations did not play such a role in the recent Peruvian elections, nor in the Nigerian elections in February 1999. This attempt was conceived by Lord David Steel, the leading member of the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust, which *EIR* has documented to be the headquarters for the operation to oust Mugabe (see "London Headquarters Established To Overthrow Zimbabwe's Mugabe," *EIR*, May 12).

At the end of May, a group of notables, most of whom served in various UN conflicts, including in the Balkans and Iraq, signed a letter expressing their "deepest" concern to President Mugabe, regarding the violence and fair elections in Zimbabwe. The signatories included: Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Secretary General of the British Commonwealth; Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland, who played a mediating role in the Kosovo conflict; Ingvar Carlsson, former Prime Minister of Sweden, who played a role in the UN human rights commission in Rwanda; Thorvald Stoltenberg, former Norwegian Foreign Minister, who served as chairman of the European mediation effort in the former Yugoslavia as well as UN High Commissioner for Refugees; Flora McDonald, former Foreign Minister of Canada, now the head of the

International Development Research Centre of Canada, had also held a position in the mediation efforts in the former Yugoslavia; Max Van der Stoep, former Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, who served as UN Commissioner on Human Rights, and played a key role in establishing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

According to a report in the *Zimbabwe Independent*, the initiative was linked to a conference held in Botswana earlier in May. *EIR* has learned that the conference in question was entitled “Towards Sustainable Democratic Institutions in Southern Africa,” sponsored by the Sweden-based Institute for Democratic Electoral Assistance (IDEA). One of the keynote speakers was Lord Steel, who sits on the organization’s board of directors along with Stoltenberg and Ramphal.

This Swedish connection brings us to the fact that the head of the European Union’s group of election observers is top Swedish Foreign Ministry figure Pierre Schori. The choice of Schori is significant. Mugabe has refused to allow British nationals to observe the elections, and the British government, in order to placate what they call President Mugabe’s “paranoia” about his former colonial masters, has agreed. But Schori’s very particular connections to Africa, as detailed in the accompanying article, ensure that he will be following the Anglo-American script throughout.

The Zimbabwe government has also banned the monitors of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute. Both organizations are part of the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, tied respectively to the Republican and Democratic parties. *EIR* detailed the fact that both organizations are deeply involved in the campaign to overthrow Mugabe (see *EIR*, April 21, May 12, and June 2, 2000).

## The Swedish Diplomat and the South African Assassin

The day that Pierre Schori arrived in Harare, Zimbabwe as the leader of the European Union election observer team, Craig Williamson, one of the most notorious apartheid-era super-spies and assassins, was given amnesty by South Africa’s Truth Commission, for the assassination of Ruth First. A prominent activist for the African National Congress, First was killed in Mozambique by a letter bomb put in the mail by Williamson. She was the third victim whom Williamson confessed to having killed. The other two were a mother and daughter, Jeanette and Katryn Schoon. Jeanette Schoon was an ANC supporter and university lecturer who lived in Angola with her six-year-old daughter. Both were killed when a parcel bomb, put in the mail by Williamson, arrived on their doorstep.

A confession to these crimes earned Williamson his am-

nesty, since, under the Truth Commission rules, individuals who had committed human rights violations, either in the service of the apartheid-era regime or the liberation movements, would be allowed to go free. Although no longer a government-employed assassin, Williamson has gone into private business, where he is known to have worked alongside Executive Outcomes, the Anglo-South African mercenary operation inside Angola in the early 1990s. The founder of EO is Tony Buckingham, which puts Williamson in the same circle as Buckingham’s good friend, Lord Steel.

What does a notorious South African spy have to do with a senior diplomat of one of the neutral nations of Europe? Start with the fact that Schori, as a leading Social Democrat and Foreign Ministry official, oversaw the Swedish government’s operations with respect to the South African apartheid regime; those operations reportedly included financing 50% of the ANC’s budget during the latter’s struggle against apartheid. Similarly, in the 1970s, Sweden supported the ZANU-PF in its struggle against Ian Smith’s white supremacist regime in Rhodesia.

But as with today’s crusade for “democracy” by Madeleine Albright’s State Department, such noble-sounding campaigns frequently involve a great deal more than meets the eye. They are intelligence operations, in which various groups are financed, as a lever for political control. *EIR*’s October 1996 *Special Report*, “George Bush and the 12333 Serial Murder Ring,” provides crucial background on the broader policy networks behind thug Williamson.

In the 1970s, Williamson and Schori worked alongside one another in the International University Exchange Fund, a primarily Swedish government-sponsored organization that provided funding to anti-apartheid activists, and groups such as the ANC and the Pan-African Congress. The IUEF grew out of the International Students Conference, which was forced to close down in 1969 after it was exposed as having been financed by the CIA. The IUEF itself closed down in 1980, after it was revealed that Williamson was a South African agent. The IUEF was one of those reputedly “neutral” organizations, which in reality served as a Western intelligence operation aimed at selecting potential Third World leaders deemed useful. When Williamson’s cover was blown, rather than demanding a full investigation of how such an “infiltration” could have occurred, the IUEF simply closed up shop.

Schori, along with three other top Social Democratic functionaries, was one of the directors of the IUEF. In 1976, working as a spy for the South African intelligence services, Williamson managed to infiltrate the organization as a South African dissident—even though the group generally discouraged membership by such people. He was admitted, despite the fact that he had left the South African student organization, NUSAS, because he had been exposed as a South African spy—a fact known to one of his victims, Jeanette Schoon, who herself was associated with the top leadership of the ANC. Williamson even became the IUEF’s vice president.

Based in the organization's Geneva offices, he was intimately involved in its day-to-day operations. Travelling between Geneva and Stockholm, he worked closely with Swedish officials, including Schori.

One of the bitter fruits of this operation was the arrest and torture-death of Steve Biko, leader of the anti-apartheid black consciousness movement. Williamson had intimate knowledge of Biko's itinerary prior to the latter's arrest.

After Williamson was discovered to be a South African agent, Sweden claimed to have been victimized by the super-sleuths of the apartheid regime. In view of the fact that Williamson's agency was so widely known, this claim is simply not credible. Neither is the IUEF's ludicrous claim that Williamson had "embezzled" money from them to finance the infamous "daisy farm," where anti-apartheid fighters were tortured and South African security forces were trained for the same assassinations for which Williamson has most recently received amnesty.

Being "neutral," one must ask whether Sweden was not playing both sides.

### **The Palme Assassination**

But our story does not end here. In 1996, Williamson was accused of masterminding the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. *EIR's* above-mentioned *Special Report* detailed how Palme was most likely assassinated at the behest of the Anglo-American-controlled international weapons cartel, because Palme, in his capacity as an international mediator in the Iran-Iraq War, threatened the multibillion-dollar arms trade, by seeking an honorable solution to the conflict. Both South Africa and Sweden played a role in the cartel, the former through its state weapons company, Armscor, and supported by its official intelligence services, and the latter through Bofors, one of Sweden's principal arms manufacturers. Both Bofors and Armscor manufacture an artillery piece based on the same technology and utilizing the same type of ammunition, which both countries sold to Iran and Iraq, worth hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.

Despite the tremendous credibility of such a lead, the Swedish government sabotaged any attempts to follow it up. Nor was a probe into the known connection between Schori and Williamson ever taken up by the government, despite the fact that it was well documented in a series of articles by award-winning Swedish journalist Anders Haselbohm. In July 1999, a government-appointed commission released its official report on its investigation of the Palme assassination. It revealed that there had been a request by the official police investigation to look into a possible CIA and U.S. intelligence connection to the Palme assassination. The police cited the fact that Palme was pursuing policies in Central America, South Africa, and other parts of the world that directly countered U.S. policy. Pierre Schori officially blocked the request.

## **Poland's New Government Under Pressure To Change**

by Anna Kaczor Wei

Amid tectonic changes in continental Europe and Asia, where sane political leaders are trying to break away from the present bankrupt financial system, Poland is being torn apart between, on one hand, ill-placed loyalty to British-run NATO and other supranational organizations, and, on the other, the need to fight for national sovereignty. This duality is expressed by the continuous conflict over free-market reforms, especially privatization of major industries and infrastructure. It has been estimated that 35-40% of Polish industry is already in foreign hands, as well as 70% of the banking system. This massive sellout is proven to have been a disaster; however, under pressure from the European Union bureaucracy in Brussels and international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, most governments ruling Poland since 1990 have continued the policy. The last one was also pushing plans to privatize the energy sector, pension funds, and railroads, despite mounting evidence that new foreign owners have little respect for Poland's economic interests.

This policy conflict was the true reason for the recent changes in the government. At the end of May, the uneasy coalition between the Solidarity Electoral Action (AWS) and the Freedom Union (UW), which had been ruling Poland for almost three years, finally cracked. The brawl over Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek's handling of the Warsaw Center City Council crisis was just a pretext for a long-awaited split, which resulted in the resignation of five UW ministers on May 29, and the formation of a minority, AWS-based government. The good news, is that the despised and feared IMF teacher's pet, Leszek Balcerowicz, has left his posts as Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister; the bad news, is that the new Deputy Prime Minister responsible for economic matters, Janusz Steinhoff (AWS), has declared that he will continue Balcerowicz's policies.

### **Resistance to Globalization**

The alliance between the pro-free-trade UW party, heavily influenced by global speculator and drug legalization advocate George Soros and foreign institutions of similar proclivity (two of the ministers who just resigned, Hanna Suchocka and Bronislaw Geremek, were board members of Soros's Batory Foundation in Poland; Balcerowicz headed the Case Foundation, financed partially by Soros), and the