

Leading Britons Fret That Blair Has Gone Mad

by Mark Burdman

For the first 48 hours after British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Oct. 2 keynote speech at the annual Labour Party conference in Brighton, Blair's spin-doctors arranged a massive outpouring of praise in the British media. British newspapers compared him to Winston Churchill, the 19th-Century British Empire's Lords Palmerston and Lord Gladstone, such great American Presidents as Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt, and a host of other historical figures. An impression was created, that the world had just witnessed the Second Coming of the Messiah on Earth.

But beginning Oct. 4, leading British spokesmen issued violent blasts against Blair, who, they mockingly affirmed, was attempting to be "President Of The World," "Ruler Of The Universe," and/or "Missionary Of The Holy British Empire."

This thumbs-down discredited Blair just as he was concluding a hyper-maniac, 10,000-kilometer diplomatic tour to Russia, Pakistan, and India, to shore up support for the latest Anglo-American adventure, in Afghanistan. The stage was thereby set, for his government to be hit by a new round of scandals, virtually hours after the bombing of Afghanistan began on the night of Oct. 7.

During a two-hour interview with U.S. radio talk-show host Jack Stockwell on Oct. 9, U.S. 2004 Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche commented on the attacks against Blair from among high-level circles within Britain: "The British, who see themselves as, in a sense, a top dog in the world—the British Establishment—are very frank in their opinions, and they don't hesitate to say what they believe. In general, the British are, of course, for supporting what the United States is undertaking, but with reservations." LaRouche said that leading elements of the British Establishment "know a few things," from long experience in the "Asian subcontinent" region, including Afghanistan, from the heyday of the British Empire, and understand, that what is being done now, in and around Afghanistan, is "idiotic, insane. . . . Their contempt for the behavior of Tony Blair is beyond belief. Some of the language I've heard directly reported from personal conversations from some people in Britain, absolutely would shock Americans."

In the United States, "Blairomania" has been at a fever pitch, since the start of war in Afghanistan. As one wise veteran of American politics told a LaRouche activist, the irony is, that pro-Blair sentiment is much stronger in the United States, than it is in Britain.

Soon after the Stockwell interview, LaRouche added an important *caveat*. He stressed, that while the British critics of Blair are angry at "his folly," they have offered *no positive alternative* to what Blair is doing, and are refusing to address the much more fundamental issue now at stake; namely, the inevitable doom of the world financial system and the need for a solution along the lines of LaRouche's New Bretton Woods proposal. LaRouche underscored that Blair, as British Prime Minister, is the instrument and puppet of the *British monarchy*, and could not do what he is doing without the monarchy's full backing. Rather than taking on the monarchy, Blair's British critics are engaging in the British political pastime of "killing the favorite."

But since the monarchy is the chief bastion of the doomed international system, nothing effective can work, until this fundamental question, centered around the indispensable role of LaRouche, is addressed. Without this, Blair's critics will only end up replacing his folly with a folly of a different sort.

Of Hearsay And Bamboozling

Boiled down to basics, Blair's bizarre Oct. 2 Labour Party address had two leading elements.

First, was his indictment of Osama bin Laden and the Taliban, for the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, and for their generally controlling influence in "international terrorism." That pitch was followed, a day later, by further Blair blasts in the House of Commons, accompanied by the release of a British-authored document, purporting to "prove" that bin Laden is linked to the Sept. 11 attacks. That document was best characterized to *EIR*, on Oct. 5, by a London source: "I read it, and saw no real evidence at all, but rather just hearsay. Each time the report approaches something substantive, it asserts, 'We can't tell you, because of sensitive security concerns.' What a farce! This is just an attempt to bamboozle us."

Even British figures who toe the official line, and have been involved in the current Afghan war plans, admit privately, as one told *EIR* on Oct. 4, "The bin Laden story just doesn't add up. Something else of a substantial nature must have been involved, in the planning, organizing, and command and control, for an operation of the sophistication of Sept 11."

Nowhere is the well-known fact acknowledged, that the British, American, and Israeli secret services were the ones who created and used the bin Laden/Taliban complex for the 1980s irregular warfare against the Soviet Union, *and used it since*, for various "geopolitical" operations. What has also raised some eyebrows, is the following paradox: If the British intelligence services are now boastfully taking so much credit for knowing the most intimate details about bin Laden, why didn't they act to stop the Sept. 11 attacks in the first place? Keep in mind, that some 100 Britons were killed in those attacks, much more than in any terrorist outrage of recent decades.

'A New Imperialism'

The second element of the Oct. 2 speech is where we enter the psychedelic realm. Blair, with heavy doses of arrogance and pomposity, jumped from the bin Laden/Taliban/"war on terrorism" complex, to a global grand design, in which Britain, together with the United States, takes the lead in solving virtually every problem of the universe, from poverty and hunger in Africa to "global warming."

The perspective was laid bare in a commentary in the Oct. 10 London *Financial Times*, by notorious ultra-"free market," Adam Smith propagandist Martin Wolf, entitled "The Need For A New Imperialism." Wolf praised Blair's desire to "reorder the world," the which "entails a transformation in our approach to national sovereignty." This is based on dealing with "failed states" like Afghanistan, since "any failing state is a cradle of disease, source of refugees, haven for criminals, or provider of hard drugs."

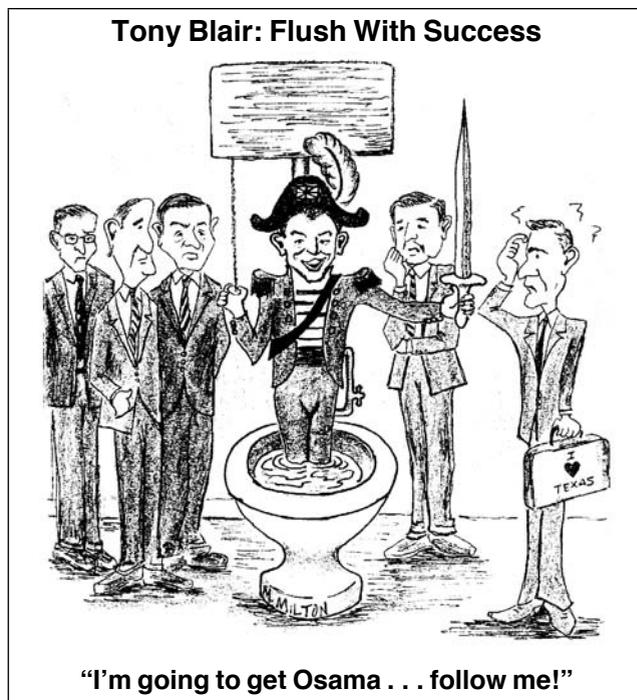
Wolf cited favorably, an article written in 1996 and re-issued in 2000, by senior British diplomat Robert Cooper, entitled "The Post-Modern State And The World Order." Cooper has been the number-one foreign policy adviser to Blair. He wrote this tome for Demos and the Foreign Policy Centre, the two leading Blair-era think-tanks, the latter, according to some informed Brits, having superseded the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA, or Chatham House) in importance, in what passes for "foreign policy" under Blair.

According to Wolf, Cooper identified the challenge as that posed by what he called the "pre-modern world, the pre-state post-imperial chaos." Listing Afghanistan as in this category, Cooper wrote: "The existence of such a zone of chaos is nothing new, but previously such areas, precisely because of their chaos, were isolated from the rest of the world. Not so today. . . . If they become too dangerous for the established states to tolerate, it is possible to imagine a defensive imperialism. . . . The organized states may eventually have to respond."

On Oct. 11, reporting on Blair's visit to the Persian Gulf state of Oman, where 24,000 British troops are on exercises, the *Daily Telegraph* headlined, "Blair Sees Neo-Colonialism As Solution." It claimed that Blair and Co. want to turn Afghanistan into an "international protectorate," and that several models for this are already in place, including Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, and Sierra Leone.

'War On Terrorism Has Gone To His Head'

For several Establishment spokesmen, all of this reeks of madness. In its Oct. 6-12 edition, the *Economist's* weekly "Bagehot" column was headlined, "Getting Above His Station," with the subtitle, "Tony Blair Announces That He Is Prime Minister Of The World." An accompanying cartoon depicted a weird-looking Blair as Atlas, holding up the world. The column mocked Blair, for seeing himself "as the leader of a global alliance of good against evil." It noted that at the Labour Party conference, where Blair should have seen himself engaged with more "humdrum" concerns, "he discov-



ered something that other people had previously overlooked: a seamless, logical connection between his own party, his own policies, his own premiership, and the future of the planet Earth."

"Bagehot" enumerated the vast number of things that Blair "promised" in his speech, and commented: "This is ridiculous. The only plausible explanation for Mr. Blair's planet-transforming peroration from Brighton, is that the poor man has let the war against terrorism go to his head. . . . Mr. Blair may not have frightened the Taliban, but this has been a disturbing week for Britons."

The column is named after Walter Bagehot, the 19th-Century founder of the *Economist*, and a spokesman for the Victorian highpoint of the British Empire. The column, today, is a trendsetter, for the thinking of certain high-level elements of the British Establishment.

Such polemics were echoed in another Establishment journal, the *Spectator*, on Oct. 6. Reporter Anne McElvoy, who attended the Labour Party conference, wrote: "I asked a shadow Cabinet member—usually a loyal Blairite—what he thought of the speech. He made a swift vomiting gesture, and muttered, 'Very gung-ho.' Gung-ho is the phrase that has become code, in and around Labour, for 'self-aggrandizing warmonger.' . . . I bumped into a former minister, who started a long and unprompted rant about 'General Blair,' and concluded, 'Who the f—k does he think he is?' My interlocutor was a bit drunk, which might account for the ripe intensity of his rhetoric. But he's got the mood of the party pretty spot-on."

On Oct. 7, as the war dynamic around Afghanistan was unfolding, BBC World Service interviewed several experts

on military affairs and war-time propaganda. One, veteran military journalist Robert Fox, said: "To call this a war, is meaningless, this is a new theology. . . . Blair is talking out of Orwell's *Animal Farm*."

Meanwhile, from the conservative *Daily Telegraph*, to the liberal, pro-Labour *Guardian*, leading commentators have denounced Blair for promoting the worst variant of "neo-colonialism." The *Telegraph*'s Minette Marrin characterized Blair's Oct. 2 speech as "irresponsible adolescent waffle. . . . His high-minded talk sounded like the crudest of neo-imperialist cultural colonialism." This echoed what the *Guardian*'s Hywel Williams had stated on Oct. 4, when he compared Blair to Lord Gladstone, the arch-"liberal imperialist," who would mouth high-minded phrases, but who would launch foreign wars for the most crass motives, as when he sent British troops to Egypt in 1881, to secure British control over the Suez Canal.

'A Good Time To Bury Bad News'

Perhaps the most incisive blast, was that of Andrew Rawnsley, the *Observer* commentator who recently wrote a book-length exposé of the rottenness of the Blair regime. On Oct. 7, Rawnsley penned a piece entitled "Missionary Tony and His Holy British Empire," in which he commented sardonically, "The Sun may never set on World President Blair's ambitions to conquer the planet, but one day he'll have to come back to Earth." Castigating the Prime Minister as "Field Marshal Blair," and a would-be "Attorney General of the West," Rawnsley warned of "considerable danger for Tony Blair," as "he might just begin to believe some of the more hyperbolic guff."

Rawnsley charged that Blair is using the entire "war on terrorism" and "bin Laden" hype, to deflect from the miserable situation inside the U.K.: "This past year has not been good for the self-esteem of Britain. In the mocking eyes of the world, we became a plague-infested, flood-drenched rock, where the hospitals are filthy, the trains fall apart, and a motley gaggle of fuel protesters can bring the nation to a standstill, and the government to its knees. A few months ago, the *Wall Street Journal* was describing Blair's kingdom as a Third World country."

Rawnsley's polemic was amply borne out during the week of Oct. 8. As Blair was preparing to fly off to Oman on another manic foreign war-rallying excursion, the British media revealed that on Sept. 11, *only 35 minutes after the news of the World Trade Center attacks had been received in Britain*, leading Blair aide, Undersecretary of State for Transport Jo Moore, sent out an e-mail proclaiming, "It's now a very good day, to get out everything we want to bury." Or, as British press reports paraphrased it, "It's a good day to bury bad news."

On Oct. 9, Blair and members of his newly formed "War Cabinet" had to fend off massive attacks over this. Moore apologized, but refused to resign. Relatives of Britons killed

at the World Trade Center expressed outrage, that she used the word "bury," as if, as one relative said, "she were burying bad news for the government under 6,000 bodies."

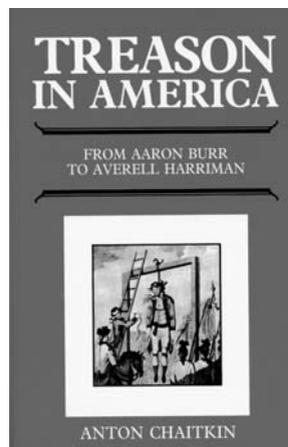
Opposition Conservative Party figures accused the Blair government of attempting to "use the world crisis, to bury controversial decisions," and demanded an investigation into whether the Moore e-mail was only one of many along the same lines. The Oct. 10 *Daily Telegraph* wrote that what she did, is a particularly egregious example of "Labour's culture of obsessive media control." The same day's *London Times* editorialized that Moore's action was "highly inappropriate," and that it expressed "cynical opportunism." BBC's political correspondent charged that what she had done, was "extraordinarily insensitive."

As *EIR* reported two weeks ago, Blair has been using the world crisis since Sept. 11, to bury all discussion of a foot-and-mouth agriculture epidemic, the which is still raging out of control. The British trains are falling apart as well, while Blair goes to war.

It can be expected that many more examples of such crass and filthy behavior as Moore's will come to the surface. The question will be, whether the political fire hitting the unconscionable Mr. Blair will soon be aimed at his stringpullers, the real neo-colonialists, in and around the British monarchical structures.

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