

# Prince Andrew: Victoria's Dirtiest Secret

by Jeffrey Steinberg

March 16—While the British tabloids continue to have a field day, of late, cataloguing His Royal Highness Prince Andrew's sexual and financial indiscretions, it may turn out that his greatest indiscretion was a candid and highly accurate admission of British grand strategy in front of a stunned U.S. diplomat.

On Oct. 29, 2008, the United States Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, Tatiana Gfoeller, sent a confidential cable to the State Department, detailing a two-hour briefing over brunch, that she had attended the day before, with a group of British and Commonwealth diplomats and businessmen, gathered to brief Prince Andrew on his pending meeting with the Kyrgyz Prime Minister. Ambassador Gfoeller's confidential cable was recently leaked to the public.

While Gfoeller expressed shock at Andrew's crude conduct during the two-hour dialogue, she highlighted two topics: The Prince's boasting about Britain's revival of the 19th-Century "Great Game"; and his candid assault on snooping British journalists and investigators, who dared to interfere in Britain's al-Yamamah deal with Saudi Arabia.

Al-Yamamah, in fact, has represented more than a corrupt business alliance between two of the world's last-remaining monarchies. Anglo-Saudi promotion of Salafi radicalism and sectarian conflict throughout the Islamic world has been a cornerstone of London's latest Great Game shenanigans. Prince Andrew's disdain for Russia and China was palpable in his very off-the-record remarks in Kyrgyzstan, as Gfoeller noted with alarm.

After describing her own brief comments on the American experience in Kyrgyzstan, and referring to herself, Gfoeller wrote: "Addressing the Ambassador directly, Prince Andrew then turned to regional politics. He stated baldly that 'the United Kingdom, Western Europe (and by extension you Americans too) were now back in the thick of playing the Great Game. More animated than ever, he stated cockily: 'And this time we aim to win!' Without contradicting him, the Ambas-

sador gently reminded him that the United States does not see its presence in the region as a continuation of the Great Game. We support Kyrgyzstan's independence and sovereignty, but also welcome good relations between it and all of its neighbors, including Russia."

She continued: "The Prince pounced at the sound of that name. He told the Ambassador that he was a frequent visitor to Central Asia and the Caucasus and had noticed a marked increase in Russian pressure and concomitant anxiety among the locals post-August events in Georgia. The Duke then stated that he was very worried about Russia's resurgence in the region. Showing that he is an equal opportunity Great Game player, HRH then turned to the topic of China. He recounted that when he had recently asked the President of Tajikistan what he thought of growing Chinese influence in Central Asia, the President had responded 'in language I won't use in front of ladies. His interlocutors told the Prince that while Russians are generally viewed sympathetically throughout the region, the Chinese are not. He nodded, terming Chinese economic and possibly other expansion in the region 'probably inevitable, but a menace.'"

### Al-Yamamah

The Prince saved his most violent outburst of British imperial hubris for the end of the two-hour session. Ambassador Gfoeller wrote:

"The brunch had already lasted almost twice its allotted time, but the Prince looked like he was just getting started. Having exhausted the topic of Kyrgyzstan, he turned to the general issue of promoting British economic interests abroad. He railed at British anti-corruption investigators, who had had the 'idiocy of almost scuttling the Al-Yamama deal with Saudi Arabia' [The Duke was referencing an investigation, subsequently closed, into alleged kickbacks a senior Saudi royal had received in exchange for the multi-year, lucrative BAE Systems contract to provide equipment and training to Saudi security forces.—ed.] His mother's subjects seated around the table roared their approval. He then went on to 'these (expletive) journalists, especially from the National Guardian, who poke their noses everywhere' and (presumably) make it harder for British businessmen to do their business. The crowd practi-



NASA/Ames Research Center

*Prince Andrew, aka "Randy Andy," has been caught in flagrante delicto once again—yet, the biggest scandal may not be his sexual peccadillos, but his role in the dirty al-Yamamah deal.*

cally clapped. He then capped this off with a zinger: castigating 'our stupid (sic) British and American governments, which plan at best for ten years, whereas people in this part of the world plan for centuries.' There were calls of 'hear, hear' in the private brunch hall. Unfortunately for the assembled British subjects, their cherished Prince was now late to the Prime Minister's... On the way out, one of them confided to the Ambassador: 'What a wonderful representative for the British people! We could not be prouder of our royal family!'"

### Mixed Reviews

Not everyone in and around the House of Windsor shares that British businessman's adoration for the Prince. According to a senior U.S. intelligence official who has closely tracked British policies for decades, a royalist faction, dedicated to perpetuating the British Crown, has concluded that Prince Andrew's indiscreet

boastings of British imperial aims is a growing liability to the survival of the Windsors.

They look to the royal wedding next month of Prince William (son of Charles and Diana) as a unique opportunity to restore Windsor popularity, after the disastrous decade surrounding the divorce and murder of Princess Diana. This faction of royal loyalists is out to secure the survival of the House of Windsor, through the succession of William and his fiancée Kate Middleton.

According to the U.S. intelligence specialist, Prince Charles has already been largely gagged by his wife, Camilla Parker-Bowles, herself from one of the old English aristocratic lines. Prince Andrew is the wild card, and, thus, a string of well-known, long-simmering scandals have now come to the surface, casting the rogue Prince as a cavorter with pedophiles, pimps, and gangsters.

While HRH Andrew's candid remarks, catalogued by a shocked American ambassador, have been buried by a slavishly loyal British press, the trade-off has been a field day of pulp non-fiction, aimed at stripping the Prince of his trade envoy post and, more importantly, any visibility, as the royal wedding and the promotion of Prince Willie takes center stage.

### A Mega-Indiscretion

In typical British tabloid fashion, Andrew has been raked over the coals on sex and corruption charges. He has been linked to convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein, and to Kazak billionaire Goga Ashkenazi, who engineered the sale of the Prince's rundown English countryside mansion—at a fabulous profit—to the son-in-law of Kazak President Nazarbayev, who also happened to be her lover.

While the tabloids have gone gaga over the Oxford-educated 31-year-old Goga, the real scandal, driving HRH Andrew's ouster from the Windsor inner sanctum has been his ties to Epstein. While Epstein's sexual antics and alleged pimping of underage girls have now triggered an FBI investigation, the real story behind the Epstein-Andrew relationship is also being buried.

Who is Jeffrey Epstein? After years at Bear Stearns, Epstein was picked up by Ohio billionaire Leslie Wexner, owner of Limited Brands, more widely known for its Victoria's Secret chain of women's scanty lingerie emporia, and pornographic catalogues and TV ads. Through Wexner's sponsorship, Epstein became the

money manager of choice for the Mega Group, a secretive network of pro-Israel billionaires, implicated in a series of Israeli espionage probes in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Wexner has been linked to organized crime families in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. These ties may resurface, as the FBI digs deeper into the allegations that Epstein shuttled under-aged girls around the United States and the British Commonwealth, to service his friends and clients, including Prince Andrew. They are reportedly cringing at Windsor Castle over the prospect of Andrew invoking diplomatic immunity, to dodge an FBI subpoena on the eve of the royal wedding.

In the meantime, a recent release by Wikileaks may also blow up in the Prince's face. A seven-page cable has appeared, detailing an OECD Working Group on Bribery session, which made clear that the shutdown of the British Serious Fraud Office probe of the al-Yamah deal was a flagrant coverup. That scandal, as *EIR* has exposed for years, could bring down the whole Windsor-Thatcher-Blair house of cards.

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