

Britain: The Case of Desperado Michael Gove

by Mark Burdman

A good clinical example has come to light, during the past days, of the unhinged state of mind of those Anglo-American figures whom Lyndon LaRouche has characterized as “desperadoes.” Such individuals are so fanatically determined to divert attention and discussion away from the systemic economic crisis erupting in the Anglo-American realm and beyond, that they are desperate to have an Iraq war in the immediate days or weeks ahead, and to back, at all costs, the brutal, confrontationist policies of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The case under examination here, is that of “New Right” commentator Michael Gove, of Rupert Murdoch’s London *Times*. The British Gove bends over backwards to ingratiate himself with that pro-war species in Washington, typified by Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Rumsfeld’s Defense Policy Board chief Richard “Prince of Darkness” Perle, and various neo-conservative ideologues working out of Washington’s American Enterprise Institute (AEI) think-tank.

So, not surprisingly, Gove has taken to the front lines to attack the war party’s main adversary in the United States, Lyndon LaRouche.

Scoring An ‘Own Goal’

The occasion for the attack, was in Gove’s unbalanced attempted defense of the British Royal Family, which the *Times* published on Nov. 19. At that moment in time, as *EIR* recently reported, the Royal Family was under enormous assault in the United Kingdom, because of its untoward behavior in shutting down an ongoing legal case against one Paul Burrell, the former butler of the late Princess Diana. Matters had become so precarious for the Royals, that Prince Charles’ St. James Palace had announced on Nov. 12, that it would be setting up its own inquiry into the affair, to be headed by Charles’ personal private secretary, Sir Michael Peat. That move had been met with hoots of derision across the United Kingdom, with the common reaction being that the Royal Family was moving to cover up the Burrell affair.

Gove wrote his article in an evident move to endear himself to the Windsors. But whether even the beleaguered, scandal-tainted, and degenerated Windsors would welcome aid and succor from such a dubious creature, is open to question.

Entitled “The Queen’s Tormentors Are Off Their

Heads,” the commentary began: “Lyndon LaRouche is a homophobic American millionaire and indefatigable conspiracy theorist.” The word “homophobic” would appear more than once, since the expanding Burrell scandal has involved a stream of accusations, of homosexual rape and related sordid misadventures in the confines of St. James Palace—the which accusations, Gove was seeking to discredit.

The indefatigable slanderer then went on: “Over the years, by deploying his wealth and the formidable energies of his followers across the globe, Mr. LaRouche has tirelessly propagated a series of allegations against the House of Windsor. He believes that the Queen is a major international drug dealer while the Duke of Edinburgh’s devotion to the World Wide Fund for Nature is a cover for his involvement in the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the Rwandan genocide.”

True enough, LaRouche has been a vocal adversary of the British monarchy, and has mandated the publication of a number of damaging exposés of the Windsors. But by characterizing LaRouche’s views in such a clumsy, cheap-shot way, Gove strove not only to discredit LaRouche, but to discredit all currently circulating charges against the Windsors within the United Kingdom: “Although now in his 80th year, it is to be hoped that Mr. LaRouche can make it across the Atlantic in the coming weeks. For Sir Michael Peat’s inquiry into the allegations swirling around the Royal Family cannot be considered truly comprehensive until the troubling questions raised by Mr. LaRouche have been thoroughly investigated.”

With this attempt at dismissive sarcasm, Gove probably scored what European soccer players call “an own goal” against himself. Not only did he likely raise some wider curiosity about LaRouche, but probably angered millions of Britons who have become fed up with Royal antics, to the extent that many inside observers fear that the centuries-old British monarchy may soon be effectively dismantled.

Misanthropic Diatribe

Two weeks later, on Dec. 3, Gove expanded his invective, to incorporate the majority of the British population, and a large part of the world outside Britain. The issue was, the intense opposition to his longed-for invasion of Iraq. It is no coincidence, that this piece was written one day after a major policy address in London, by chief war-party spokesman, U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz; and one day after a lunatic pro-war speech by Vice President Dick Cheney in the United States. The “desperadoes” are again on the loose.

The Dec. 3 article was entitled, “Saddam’s Useful Idiots Pollute the British Left.” It was occasioned by the British government’s scoring an “own goal,” when it released, on Dec. 2, its big report on Saddam Hussein’s “human rights abuses.” Unexpectedly, Amnesty International—which often serves as a vehicle for British Foreign Office policies—

reacted with rage. Its Secretary General, Irene Khan, charged that the report was “selective attention to human rights,” and “nothing but a cold and calculated manipulation of the work of human rights activists” for the purpose of starting a war.

In response, the angry Gove denounced Khan as, “as of yesterday, number-one pin-up girl in Baghdad’s Presidential palace.” He then blasted various British leftist figures, including London Mayor Ken Livingstone and Fire Brigades Union chief Andy Gilchrist, for being among those “currently arguing against action to topple Saddam”—as if that is an argument restricted to a handful of leftists. The reality in Britain is that many military figures who belong to the Conservative Party, some of whom are veterans of the Margaret Thatcher years and who today disagree with the iron Baroness’ pro-Iraq war eruptions, are steadfastly opposed to “action to topple Saddam”—as is the majority of the British population, according to all reliable polls.

Gove whined that the United States and Britain have chosen to go through the United Nations on the Iraq question: “As matters stand, the British and American governments have chosen to put a discredited means above a valuable end. Seeking the approval of the United Nations for any action to deal with Iraq, is the equivalent of asking a Mafia conclave for permission to tackle the Corleone family. Many of those who speak at the UN are representative of no one save the kleptocratic or autocratic cliques who hold power by force in their respective states.”

‘It’s Time for a Revival of Jingoism’

The 35-year-old Gove is a relative newcomer, on the Anglo-American political scene. His short career is heavily dependent on his lackeying for the “Utopian” war party in Washington and London.

Over Jan. 12-13, 2001, Gove was a participant at a meeting at the Four Seasons Hotel in London, co-sponsored by AEI, the AEI-based New Atlantic Initiative (NAI), and the London *Daily Telegraph*, one of the leading newspapers in the vast Hollinger Corp. media chain of Canadian tycoon Conrad (now Lord) Black. Black is a main patron of Richard Perle, and a close collaborator of NAI co-founders Henry Kissinger and Margaret Thatcher.

The event, “Britain and America: A Strategic Dialogue,” was co-chaired by then-NAI head Jeffrey Gedmin, who now heads the Berlin branch of the Aspen Institute, and who is hyperactive in spreading neo-conservative provocations throughout the German capital.

The day before the event, Gedmin had written an article in Black’s *Telegraph* for Jan. 11, entitled, “President Bush to Europe: It’s No More Mr. Nice Guy,” in which he warned that President-elect Bush would be “likely to invoke [early-20th-Century Anglophile President] Teddy Roosevelt’s famous dictum, even with our closest partners: speak softly and carry a big stick.”

Participants at the Four Seasons gathering included former CIA chief James Woolsey, who has been on a years-long crusade for war against Iraq; *Daily Telegraph* editorial writer Dean Godson, brother of the Washington intelligence spook and decades-long LaRouche defamer Roy Godson; and Robert Cooper, British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s foreign policy guru, who has lobbied for the Anglo-Americans to impose a “new imperialism” on the world.

On Jan. 16, 2001 Gove wrote a diatribe for the *Times*, which demonstrated the extent to which the crowd that had met several days before in London, were intent on shaping Bush Administration policy, in a clearly insane direction. Under the headline, “We Must Fight the Good Fight for Jingoism,” Gove welcomed the incoming Bush team’s policies, as representing the return to the heyday of the British Empire in the 19th Century.

“It’s time for a revival of jingoism,” began this paean to the Utopian faction’s *intention* for the Bush Administration. “Ten years after the mother of all battles began, with the godfather of terror, President Saddam Hussein, still repugnant in place, and the rising son, George W. Bush, at last restoring virtue to the White House, the moment is ripe for a restoration of this grand Victorian principle.”

Gove attacked “the new peaceniks,” from both the “left” and the “right,” who are effectively acting as “Saddam’s stooges in attacking Iraqi sanctions,” and who are showing “blindness to the resurgent imperial ambitions of Russia and China.” According to Gove, this was being countered by the “jingoistic” rhetoric of the incoming Bush team.

Gove further raved that “the case for robust action to deal with Saddam, and other rogue states such as North Korea and Libya, is overwhelming.” He favorably cited the newly released book by former United Nations Iraq weapons inspector Richard Butler, *Saddam Defiant*, which ostensibly showed that “the order of threat posed by the Iraqi dictator, and his playmates, is huge.” Butler, who by January 2001 (and up to the present) was with the New York Council on Foreign Relations, was a featured guest at the AEI-NAI-*Telegraph* gathering.

Gove asserted, vis-à-vis Saddam: “A willingness to cross swords, with the most lethal force available, must be shown. . . . It is a mercy we have a proper jingoist in the White House.”

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