

# Permindex oversaw assassination of Kennedy, attempts on de Gaulle

by Joseph Brewda

On Sept. 8, 1961, Col. Jean-Marie Bastien-Thiry commanded a French Secret Army Organization (OAS) team which oversaw one of the most spectacular assassination attempts on French President Charles de Gaulle. A huge mine of plastic explosives and napalm was detonated at a Parisian intersection in front of de Gaulle's oncoming car, but his skilled chauffeur drove through the sheet of flame, and de Gaulle was saved.

*The Day of the Jackal*, a 1973 movie by Warwick films based on the novel of Frederick Forsyth, incorporates aspects of this, and some 30 other attempts on de Gaulle. Characteristically, the killer in the thriller is "fearless" and "nameless," while the conspirators behind the attempt are unknown or even presumed to be nonexistent.

But although the real-life Bastien-Thiry was arrested, tried, and executed, without revealing his sponsors, French intelligence soon discovered that the attempt had been financed by the Permindex Corp. (Permanent Industrial Expositions) of Basel, Switzerland, and its affiliate, Centro Mondiale Commerciale in Rome. Advertised as a designer of industrial expositions, Permindex was chaired by British intelligence official Maj. Louis Mortimer Bloomfield of Montreal (now deceased). After a French government protest, Switzerland and Italy expelled the firms, which soon moved to South Africa.

On Nov. 22, 1963, Permindex oversaw the successful assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, as *EIR* has documented in its book *Dope Inc.* and elsewhere. In March 1967, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison filed an arrest warrant against local businessman Clay Shaw, charging him with conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy. But for a legal technicality, Shaw would have been found guilty, and his conviction would have led to the door of Bloomfield and his Permindex Corp., on whose board Shaw sat.

The Garrison investigation and trial also revealed that some of the same Permindex officials involved in the Kennedy assassination were involved in the attempts on de Gaulle. According to testimony at the trial, the Permindex funds which financed the 1961 Bastien-Thiry attempt had been conduited to Europe by Guy Banister, a former FBI agent residing in New Orleans and a close associate of Shaw, who had also played a major role in the Kennedy assassination.

*EIR* investigations have established that Prince Philip's

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), formerly the World Wildlife Fund, was the agency behind Permindex; Bloomfield was the founder of the WWF's Canadian branch. Today, targets of this apparatus are French President Jacques Chirac and U.S. President Bill Clinton. The WWF-directed Hollinger Corp., the owner of the London *Daily Telegraph*, oversees ongoing smears of both Presidents.

## Bloomfield's WWF friends

Prince Philip created the World Wildlife Fund in 1961 to provide an umbrella for various private intelligence capabilities operating under the British royal family. Bloomfield co-founded the WWF in Canada, and served as its director and vice president. Bloomfield was also a member of the 1001 Club, which Prince Philip and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands created in 1971 to fund the WWF. Members of the 1001 Club include Indian maharajas, Caribbean narcotics bankers, and dozens of European counts and princes. Their common characteristic is that they are either members or retainers of the British royal family or of European oligarchical families acting in collusion with the British royal family. This is the international capability which provided backup to Bloomfield's assassination bureau.

Bloomfield's career began in World War II when, as a major in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, he was detailed to the U.S. FBI to serve as the recruitment agent for its counterespionage division, Division Five. This curious arrangement, whereby a British (Canadian) national could occupy a highly sensitive position in U.S. intelligence, was made possible by the schemes of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's emissary Sir William Stephenson, another Canadian.

Stephenson ran all British intelligence operations in the Western Hemisphere from his base in New York City; Bloomfield was one of his agents. Stephenson had been part of Churchill's pre-war circle, and a protégé of Lord Beaverbrook, a fellow Canadian who became the British Minister of War Supply and Churchill's key adviser on propaganda and intelligence. This Beaverbrook apparatus is the "mother" of Permindex, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Hollinger Corp.

Following World War II, Bloomfield returned to Montreal to resume his law practice, but he continued to be Division



*The founding meeting of Permindex in Paris, 1958. Headed by British intelligence official Maj. Louis Mortimer Bloomfield, Permindex's board included Clay Shaw, whose role in the assassination of President Kennedy was exposed by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison.*

Five's recruitment agent. His law firm, Philips and Vineberg, managed the Bronfman organized crime syndicate that has always functioned as a covert capability of British intelligence.

Several of Bloomfield's associates implicated in the Kennedy assassination or attempts on de Gaulle were members of the WWF's 1001 Club.

**Jean Riboud**, the late chairman of Schlumberger Ltd., the oil diagnostic firm owned by Dominique Schlumberger de Menil of Houston, Texas. Her husband, Jean de Menil, was a Permindex board member, and sometime employer of Jack Ruby, whose assassination of Lee Harvey Oswald facilitated the coverup of the Kennedy assassination. During World War II, de Menil ran de Gaulle's Free French forces in Venezuela, together with French anthropologist Jacques Soustelle. Soustelle later formed the OAS, which attempted to kill de Gaulle. Some of the arms used in attempts on de Gaulle were traced back to Schlumberger warehouses in Houma, Louisiana.

**John S. Schlesinger**: Following its expulsion from Switzerland and Italy, Permindex relocated to Johannesburg, South Africa, under the aegis of the South African-based Schlesinger. Schlesinger's firm was financed by, and was a partner with, Hambros Bank, the WWF's primary bank.

**Baron Alain de Gunzberg**, the French husband of Min-

da Bronfman, who is the sister of Seagram Corp. chairman Edgar Bronfman. Bloomfield was the Bronfman mob family attorney from the pre-World War II period until his death.

**Edward Plunkett Taylor**, the founder of Argus Corp. (now Hollinger Corp.), a postwar spinoff of the Beaverbrook/Sir William Stephenson network. The Hollinger apparatus and the Bloomfield network share personnel. For example, the Hollinger Corp. has members of the Bronfman syndicate on its board: Peter Bronfman, and such Bronfman operatives as Peter Reichmann, a real estate speculator, and the former Canadian ambassador to the United States, Alan Gottlieb.

**Daniel K. Ludwig**, a partner of Taylor in real estate ventures and horse racing, was another 1001 Club member. Ludwig shipped Bronfman whiskey to Moe Dalitz's Purple Gang during the Prohibition era. Dalitz was involved in the Kennedy assassination, according to some investigations.

**Conrad Black**, chairman of the Hollinger Corp. and son of the Taylor subordinate who formed Argus/Hollinger. Black's *Daily Telegraph* is currently coordinating the "Whitewater" scandals against President Clinton.

**Tibor Rosenbaum**, the first head of Israeli intelligence's financial department. Rosenbaum's Banque de Crédit International was used to launder Permindex money to finance the assassination attempts on de Gaulle. Rosenbaum was a

member of the 1001 Club, as is his successor in dirty finance, the Geneva-based Edmund Safra, whose wife is a WWF trustee.

**David Ogilvy**, founder of the advertising firm Ogilvy Mather, worked out of Stephenson's New York City office as the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) liaison to the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during the war. Ogilvy and Stephenson later established the British American Canadian Corp., out of which Permindex was spawned. His cousin by marriage, Princess Alexandra (herself a cousin to Queen Elizabeth II), succeeded Prince Philip as president of WWF-U.K.

**Sir Max Aitken**, the son of Lord Beaverbrook, Stephenson's mentor. Beaverbrook's nephew, Howard Aitken, was one of Bloomfield's closest associates in the postwar period. He shared an office building with Bloomfield in Montreal, and worked with him on various operations.

### **How Permindex was created**

In 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, the British monarchy ordered the privatization of several wartime intelligence agencies and networks. The purpose was to obscure the British oligarchy's far-flung capabilities, while facilitating their penetration of the corporate and oligarchical elite of the United States. Permindex was created as a combination of several of these privatized capabilities established in the immediate postwar period.

In May 1945, just a few days after the end of the war in Europe, Sir William Stephenson incorporated the British American Canadian Corp. in Panama. The firm was soon renamed the World Commerce Corp. According to his wartime aide David Ogilvy, the purpose of the firm was to "form a profitable company of merchant adventurers" made up of British intelligence veterans. Ogilvy drafted the corporate papers and became vice president. John Pepper, the head of Stephenson's wartime staff in Washington, became president.

Stephenson's founding partners in the World Commerce Corp. included former SOE director Sir Charles Hambro, and Sir Rex Benson, who had been the British intelligence liaison to Washington during the war. Benson put up much of the money for the firm. Both had worked closely with Stephenson during the war. Benson was assisted by Col. Louis Franck, the banker who had been Hambro's wartime deputy.

Both Benson and Hambro later became founder-trustees of the WWF. Officials of their family banks, Kleinwort Benson and Hambros, have always served as WWF trustees since its creation. As for Franck, he became WWF treasurer.

It was out of the World Commerce Corp. that Permindex was formed.

In order to provide himself a secure base of operations for this project, Stephenson moved to the British Crown colony of Jamaica in 1946. He pioneered a property develop-

ment in Montego Bay, which soon attracted several of his wartime colleagues as residents. Among these colleagues were Lord Beaverbrook; Ian Fleming, the famous "James Bond" spy novelist and SOE spy whose family later helped form the WWF; and Sir William Wiseman, the World War I British intelligence boss in New York, whose networks had been taken over by Stephenson. Beaverbrook and Fleming were both closely associated with Stephenson's new firm.

From its inception, the World Commerce Corp. worked closely with the World Trade Mart of New Orleans, nominally to promote world trade. The founder and chairman of the World Trade Mart was Col. Clay Shaw, who had first hooked up with the British in World War II when he was an OSS liaison officer to Winston Churchill's headquarters. Shaw had considered renouncing his U.S. citizenship and remaining in London. Nonetheless, in 1945, he returned to the United States to establish the World Trade Mart.

Shortly after he had overseen the first phase of this privatization, Stephenson transformed his Jamaican property into the "Tryall Club." The elite British club became a protected planning center for de Menil, Bloomfield, and others implicated in the Kennedy assassination.

While Stephenson and Shaw were establishing the World Commerce Corp. and the World Trade Mart, Edward Plunkett Taylor was setting up yet another firm dedicated to world trade—the Argus Corp. (now Hollinger Corp.). Taylor had been Churchill's personal secret representative and war supplies procurement agent in wartime Washington during the time that such purchases were still illegal under the U.S. Neutrality Act. Taylor worked directly under fellow Canadian Lord Beaverbrook and in close coordination with Stephenson.

In 1945, Taylor was ordered to form Argus Corp. as a private, postwar continuation of his wartime procurement and intelligence staff. The firm, since renamed Hollinger Corp., grew rapidly, in part because all of its founding officials were British intelligence officers. Among Hollinger's key figures today are Rupert Hambro from the SOE banking family; Sir James Goldsmith, a top British intelligence officer and controller of the World Wildlife Fund; Henry Keswick, whose Hongkong banking family has always played a dominant role in the WWF; and former British Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher.

Simultaneously, Stephenson's agent, Major Bloomfield, was detailed back to Montreal to oversee the postwar expansion of the Bronfman syndicate. In 1956, Bloomfield incorporated Permanent Industrial Expositions Inc., Permindex, merging the capabilities of the World Commerce Corp. (which was soon formally dissolved) and Clay Shaw's World Trade Mart. In 1959, Permindex formed the Centro Mondiale Commerciale, the World Commerce Center, in Rome, as its subsidiary. In 1961, the apparatus came under the control of Prince Philip's newly formed World Wildlife Fund, and was readied for its murderous assignments against de Gaulle and Kennedy.