

British royals launch Commonwealth imperial offensive

by Mark Burdman

The British monarchy and its appendages has been badly hurt throughout the 1990s, by a series of devastating scandals and embarrassments. The most recent setback, which has caused many knowledgeable observers to agree with *EIR*'s assessment that the fall of the House of Windsor is likely over the months or years to come, has been the uproar against the monarchy's unconscionable reaction to the death of Princess Diana. Now, the Windsors and company hope to outflank these losses, and to strategically rebound, with an imperial offensive during October.

Following a 12-day mid-October visit by Queen Elizabeth II and Royal Consort Prince Philip to India and Pakistan, on the 50th anniversary of the independence of these two nations from British colonial rule, Her Majesty will return to the United Kingdom, to preside over the Oct. 24-27 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Edinburgh, Scotland. This will be the largest gathering of Commonwealth government chiefs ever to take place on British soil. It will be preceded by a Commonwealth Business Forum, in London on Oct. 22-23, co-organized by Her Majesty's government, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the City of London's *Financial Times* newspaper.

The vast extent of the British Commonwealth

The members of the Commonwealth are: Antigua & Barbuda; Australia; Bahamas; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belize; Botswana; Brunei; Canada; Cyprus; Dominica; The Gambia; Ghana; Grenada; Guyana; India; Jamaica; Kenya; Kiribati; Lesotho; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Malta; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Nauru; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; St. Kitts & Nevis; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and The Grenadines; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Swaziland; Tanzania; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Tuvalu; Uganda; United Kingdom; Vanuatu; Western Samoa; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

The Commonwealth, as *EIR* has documented, is the institutional form of the new, less "visible" British Empire. In British strategic thinking, the Commonwealth is intended to emerge as the most powerful supranational entity, serving as the political-administrative "engine," the coordinating apparatus, for such institutions as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and others. Some even go so far as to see the Commonwealth, which has been gaining in members over recent months, replacing a discredited United Nations as the main "globalist" organization internationally.

In combination, companies based in Commonwealth countries and the City of London have vast control of international minerals, food and grains, and energy resources. In the case of gold, for example, London- and British Commonwealth-based firms and nations control some 60% of world production. Double-digit figures of varying magnitudes also exist for percentage control of silver, platinum, nickel, copper, zinc, alumina/bauxite, and for strategic metals used in defense and high-technology goods, such as cobalt, manganese, and titanium. The "club" of corporate, banking, and financial interests that is the heart of the Commonwealth structure, represents the real powerhouse in international economic affairs, especially when one adds in those interests based in continental Europe, or in the United States, which align themselves with the "club."

The Commonwealth is the main adversary of the planet's leading sovereign nation-state, the United States of America. The future of humanity hinges, on whether the United States and its potential allies among leading sovereign nation-states, can resist the Commonwealth onslaught. Coincidence or no, the CHOGM occurs on the eve of the summit meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin. The United States and China are the two large nations of the world most free from Commonwealth control and influence, and therefore have the largest room to maneuver.

Whatever resistance there would be to the Commonwealth by such powers from the outside, could stiffen the resistance of those from *within* the Commonwealth structure, to the bestialist designs of the Windsors and their apparatus. The tensions that followed the murder of Princess Diana, are evidence of deeper fissures within the British Establishment itself. At the same time, such Commonwealth prime ministers as Dr. Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, have taken a clear

position in recent days, against the speculation-driven financial policies of the likes of George Soros. While often mischaracterized as an "American financier," Soros is, in fact, one of the financial managers of the Queen's private funds, and owes his personal career entirely to Lord Jacob Rothschild and the Rothschild clan. His policies are strictly those dictated by the City of London and its clones in New York and at Alan Greenspan's Federal Reserve.

It is not clear whether the issues raised by Mahathir, or other points of contention, will upset the Windsor grand designs, or whether these fissures will be superseded by a show of rallying around the Union Jack and the British Crown.

A revival of the Commonwealth in Britain

No less than 50 heads of government from Commonwealth member-nations will be in attendance at the gathering in Edinburgh. For the first time ever at a CHOGM, the Queen will be making a formal address, rather than just attending in a ceremonial capacity.

In parallel, there will be a summit of 100 Commonwealth non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The "NGO Center" will be coordinated by the London-based Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), a so-called quasi-autonomous non-governmental organization ("quango") whose patron is Queen Elizabeth II. The RCS is emblematic of the Commonwealth: It was founded, in 1868, as the Colonial Society, then

was named the Royal Colonial Institute in 1870, and was "incorporated by Royal Charter" in 1882. In 1928, it was renamed the Royal Empire Society, and in 1958, adopted its current name.

A leading figure at the RCS told a caller on Oct. 1 that the CHOGM itself "will be a very big event. This is the largest number of Commonwealth heads of government ever to be hosted in Britain, 50 of them. The summit will be organized around a number of anniversaries. First, it is 50 years since the independence of India and Pakistan, which is the beginning of the Commonwealth. Second, it is 40 years since the independence of Malaysia and Ghana. Third, it is 20 years since Britain hosted such an event. Also, it is the golden wedding anniversary of the Queen."

In the United Kingdom itself, 1997 has been "The Year of the Commonwealth." This was decreed by the previous John Major government, and put into full effect by the new Tony Blair regime. There has been a massive array of events throughout the U.K. to increase "consciousness" about the Commonwealth, and to increase support for it, according to individuals at the British Foreign Office's Commonwealth Coordination Department (CCD) and the RCS.

The first "Commonwealth event" of 1997 was a meeting sponsored by the RCS in January, attended by then-British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and the High Commissioners in London of leading Commonwealth nations. The

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Lima	1700	Yokohama	0700*
Lincoln	1600	Yorktown	1700
Lisbon	2300		* Mondays

current Blair government is giving its 100% backing to the whole Commonwealth consciousness-raising project; as a figure in the Foreign Office's CCD chirped on Oct. 1, "This government is *very committed* to the whole Commonwealth project."

According to a leading RCS personality, "The whole concept behind the U.K. Year of the Commonwealth is that everybody in the U.K. will have a way to bring the Commonwealth into their lives. This has meant a mass of events all over the country. The Commonwealth theme has been introduced into every aspect of life, into cities, women's groups, flower shows, on military tattoos—you name it!"

Obviously, the "Commonwealth lobby" is trying to exploit this mood for all it's worth, especially to counter the anti-Windsor revulsion that erupted during September, following the murder of Princess Diana. The RCS personality insisted: "There is a *revival* of the Commonwealth now in Britain. This is not simply a matter of the past, or nostalgia, but has knock-on factors into the future." She said there are rumors floating around, about the possibility of the Commonwealth having a growing international defense role, as well as it playing the role of an upgraded trading bloc.

A formidable economic force

The "trading bloc" theme will be the focus of the Commonwealth Business Forum. The substantive content of this two-day gathering, may be more important than the CHOGM itself. The *Financial Times* is billing it as "a major international event bringing together politicians and business leaders from throughout the Commonwealth, to encourage its development as a powerful global network for trade and investment. . . . Its findings will be submitted to CHOGM for heads of government to consider, when discussing this year's theme, 'Trade, Investment and Development: The Road to Commonwealth Prosperity.' "

Key issues to be discussed include: "Trade and investment opportunities in the Commonwealth; global trade liberalization and its impact on Commonwealth members; private sector investment; encouraging enterprise; and business development: best practice within the Commonwealth."

The *Financial Times*'s brochure boasts that "the Commonwealth is already a formidable economic force, accounting for 20% of world trade. There is, however, great potential for strengthening and further developing inter-Commonwealth trade and investment links, thus generating substantial economic benefits."

Keynote speakers at the Commonwealth Business Forum are to include a number of government chiefs, including John Howard of Australia, Owen Arthur of Barbados, Jean Chrétien of Canada, Goh Chok Tong of Singapore, Dr. Mahathir of Malaysia, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, and Tony Blair of Great Britain. The other keynote will be by Chief Emeka Anyaoku, of Nigeria, the secretary-general of the Commonwealth.

Otherwise featured participants will include: Earl Cairns, chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corp. (CDC), U.K., and Dr. Roy Reynolds, chief executive of CDC; Lord Young of Graffham, president of the Institute of Directors, U.K.; Sir William Purves, group chairman, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. plc., U.K.; British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook; British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Margaret Beckett; the ministers of finance of India, Bangladesh, South Africa, and Zimbabwe; Cyril Ramaphosa, executive deputy chairman, New Africa Investments Ltd., South Africa; and a range of bankers, company executives, and so on from various Commonwealth countries, including New Zealand, Australia, Mauritius, Malaysia, Sierra Leone, and Pakistan.

'The world is Britain's natural economic territory'

The London event is, in many ways, reminiscent of the widely publicized March 31, 1995 conference at the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA, or "Chatham House"), on "Britain and the World." There, various British government ministers and senior Establishment policymakers discussed how Britain might escalate its neo-imperial offensive around the world. One theme, was that Britain would have to expand its purview beyond a narrow focus on Europe, toward a more globalist approach, capitalizing on the network represented by the countries of the Commonwealth.

The doctrinal expression was elaborated in a report "Economic Opportunities for Britain and the Commonwealth," issued around that time, and written by Australian strategist Katharine West, who collaborates closely with London's Institute of Commonwealth Studies. In her report, West claimed that the Commonwealth is a unique instrument for Britain to *penetrate* all corners of the world. She said that the Commonwealth has "the real advantage of transregionalism," since it is "a link between regional and global elements in the international relations system," a factor which gives the "modern Commonwealth" an "extensive networking capacity." West speculated that the Commonwealth could provide an alternative, in the future, to an increasingly discredited United Nations.

She endorsed those British strategists "who maintain that 'globalism' is Britain's natural and logical style, and that the world as a whole, including the Commonwealth, is Britain's natural economic territory." This is all the more the case, as Britain has "an informal financial empire that maintained its vibrancy long after the formal empire went into decline." There is also the "shared Commonwealth business culture," otherwise referred to as the "English-speaking business culture."

West exulted that "the Commonwealth is being reassessed and is now coming to be valued. . . . The potential influence of Commonwealth links should not be underesti-

mated.” She conjured up the existence of a vast “British diaspora” spread all over the world, and exclaimed: “In today’s global economy, there is real value in emphasizing one of the most positive legacies of ‘the Anglo-Saxon empire’ or ‘the British diaspora.’ . . . Whatever the negative aspects of British imperialism, it provided the now obvious advantage of exposing one-quarter of the world’s population to varying degrees and kinds of contact with a transnational and transregional common culture, based on the dominant form of communication in international trade and commerce: the English language.”

‘I have ceased to speak of the British Empire’

West’s Chatham House piece rapidly became a rallying-cry for that faction of British imperial strategists who want to strengthen the Commonwealth as the instrument for reanimating the Empire, in a new form.

In fact, the “Commonwealth as new British Empire” theme, is the realization of a design that is deeply implanted in the past 100 years or so of British imperial thought. From the late 19th century on, forward British planners were aware that the Empire could not continue to exist in the form it had taken, and that a more subtle, devious means of imperial control had to be devised. Such planners, particularly associated with the Sir Cecil Rhodes-Lord Alfred Milner “Round Table” group, began to propound the idea of a “Commonwealth,” or “Commonwealth of Nations,” that would be the new form of the British Empire, one with an apparently more liberal, “voluntary” façade. As one present-day supporter of this way of thinking recently told *EIR*, “The Commonwealth, if anything, is *more* important than the old British Empire, since it is voluntary.”

Already in 1916, Round Table strategist Lionel Curtis edited a book entitled *The Commonwealth of Nations*. Around that time, Curtis wrote: “I have ceased to speak of the British Empire, and called the book in which I published my views, *The Commonwealth of Nations*.” As author Carroll Quigley noted, “Thus appeared for the first time in public the name which the British Empire was to assume 32 years later.” Soon after World War I, the term was further codified, when Round Table insider Jan C. Smuts made a public address, widely covered in media around the world, referring to “The British Empire and Commonwealth of Nations.”

The one “dispute,” inside Round Table circles, was between those who foresaw the Commonwealth playing the role of the coordinating force within the new (British-spawned and -backed) League of Nations, versus those, like Curtis, who wanted the Empire, in its old form, to effectively dissolve, and be “born again” as the League of Nations. But all sides in this supposed debate foresaw the Commonwealth becoming the new form of the empire. The events in London and Edinburgh could prove to be key in putting “meat” on that design, unless certain factors intervene, to deliver a blow to the royals’ plans.

In Memoriam: Gertrude Pitzinger

Lieder singer’s soul speaks out from song

by Renate Leffek

Gertrude Pitzinger, one of the Germany’s most significant oratorio and Lieder singers, died in Frankfurt on Sept. 15, four weeks after celebrating her 93rd birthday.

We of the Schiller Institute will be forever indebted to this great alto singer, who met the Institute over ten years ago, for the legacy of Classical culture, and especially the tradition of the German Lied, which she imparted, in her unique way, to others. She had worked with famous conductors such as Wilhelm Furtwängler, and with piano accompanists such as Franz Rupp and Michael Raucheisen; she was especially fond



Gertrude Pitzinger, 1904-1997