

Foreign Office. There are numerous scandals that have surfaced, or are waiting to surface, concerning Cook's handling of thorny diplomatic and/or military situations, including Sierra Leone, Yemen, India, and Iraq.

On Jan. 10, Conservative Party shadow Foreign Secretary Michael Howard called on Cook to resign, proclaiming that Margaret Cook's book is "another nail in Robin Cook's political coffin." This was echoed by several leading commentators in British journals. British sources have told this correspondent that Cook's resignation is only a matter of time.

### 'Corpses strewn all over the stage'

Robin Cook's swinishness is emblematic of the immoral-ity and moral corruption at the heart of the Blair government. Virtually every senior figure in the Cabinet has been exposed for corruption, and the intriguing and plotting within the Cabinet is reminiscent of decadent 17th-century British philosopher Thomas Hobbes's "state of nature," in which, he posits, there is a "war of each against all." The Jan. 9 London *Times* likened the situation to a Shakespearean tragedy, in which "the corpses are strewn all over the stage."

For example, there is the case of Dr. Jack Cunningham, the chief Cabinet Office enforcer, who travelled to Washington on Jan. 14-15 as the British representative to Vice President Al Gore's "Reinventing Government" conference. Cunningham's aides are involved in preparing a "White Paper on Modernizing Government," the which is a British complement to Gore's "reinventing" project. Cunningham has a curious idea about what it is to "modernize a government." The London *Independent* and other British dailies have revealed that, in his former post as Agriculture Minister, Cunningham was wont to use public monies for private jet flights to various destinations.

Similarly, 10 Downing Street press secretary Alastair Campbell, now regarded as the second most powerful figure in the government since Mandelson resigned, has also been exposed for using public money for private purposes. Further improprieties are emerging concerning Chancellor of the Exchequer Brown.

The Jan. 10 *Mail on Sunday* reported that Blair intends to invoke the Official Secrets Act, to prevent publication of a book by Charlie Whelan, the outgoing press secretary to Brown. Whelan's book, according to sources close to him, would outline the deep infighting within the government, including the fact that Cook and Brown have not spoken to each other for ten years. Several publishing houses are offering Whelan vast sums to write the book.

One book whose publication has not been stopped, is that by *Mirror* political columnist Paul Routledge, on Blair crony Mandelson. Entitled *Mandy*, the unauthorized biography documents Mandelson's all-embracing power ambitions, including a plan to eventually succeed Blair as Prime Minister. Mandelson's intrigues against Brown are also de-

tailed. Routledge is known to have received information for the book from Whelan; both are aligned with "Old Labour" trade union networks disgruntled with the Blair-Mandelson "Third Way."

Upon the release of the Routledge book on Jan. 12, Mandelson made it known that he has no intention of returning to government. That issue has proved to be another embarrassment for Blair. The first thing that greeted him when he returned to his office on Jan. 11, was a revolt by senior figures in the Labour Party, in response to reports that he was preparing to bring Mandelson back in, possibly as a replacement for Robin Cook. There was outrage that right after his resignation, Mandelson turned up again in the Cabinet offices, for a meeting on Anglo-German relations with his German alter-ego, Bodo Hombach.

## Blair greeted by riots in South Africa

by Dean Andromidas

Riots and gunfire was the greeting British Prime Minister Tony Blair received, while on a speaking engagement in Cape Town, South Africa, on Jan. 8. The riot broke out less than 100 meters from where Blair was speaking, and after police fired on demonstrators protesting the Anglo-American bombing of Iraq and Blair's official visit. According to press reports, the demonstrators were chanting "Death to Blair" and "One Blair, One Bullet."

The police opened fire when they saw guns being distributed among the demonstrators. The police claim that the demonstrators were from two organizations: Muslims Against Global Oppression, and People Against Gangsterism and Drugs. These are two vigilante groups that operate against drug dealers and criminal gangs in the poorer urban areas of South Africa.

The riots occurred at the end of a three-day tour of South Africa by Blair, whose primary aim was to polish up a political image that has been tarnished by an array of scandals in, and resignations from, his government. The question that should now be asked is: Was this a major security bungle, or a "warning," if not an assassination attempt?

Blair's three-day stopover in South Africa had several specific purposes that no doubt generated political controversy.

First, was to get South African support for future military action against Iraq. Such a demand would receive widespread opposition not only from the Muslim groups such as those who were shouting "One Blair, One Bullet," but from the

South African Communist Party and key factions of the ruling African National Congress, the latter being a broad-based coalition of political organizations, many of which equated apartheid with “Western neo-colonialism.”

### Promoting a ‘special relationship’

The second purpose, was to indoctrinate Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in the ideology of Blair’s New Labour “Third Way,” and to establish a “special relationship” between Britain and South Africa. Although it is broadly accepted that Mbeki will succeed President Nelson Mandela, when Mandela retires from office later this year, Blair took the rather unusual diplomatic step of endorsing Mbeki’s Presidency prior to the South African elections. This “special relationship” is no doubt aimed at getting South Africa to fully support British plans to redraw the map of Africa. South Africa is already pushing a peace initiative for the war raging in the Congo, which is seen as de facto support for Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Britain’s regional marcher-lord. In this context, the two leaders discussed the conference of Commonwealth nations, which will be held in South Africa later this year. Blair came out in support of Mbeki’s so-called “African Renaissance” policy, which is nothing more than Third Way “free-trade economic reforms” that have the backing of the International Monetary Fund

and World Bank.

The third purpose of the trip, was for Britain to cash in on South Africa’s plan to modernize its military, through an arms procurement program worth \$5 billion. Letters of intent were signed between British Aerospace and the South African government, for the sale of British-built Hawk jets and the Swedish Grippen, a sophisticated fighter built by Saab, which is now partly owned by British Aerospace. Also, the British firm GKN-Westland signed a letter of intent for the sale of helicopters. There is opposition to these plans in the South African military, because the South African Air Force has traditionally flown French Mirage jets. Furthermore, given the fact that most countries in the region have poorly equipped air forces, and some have no air force at all, South Africa could look for much more cost-efficient options, such as the Russian MiG-29s.

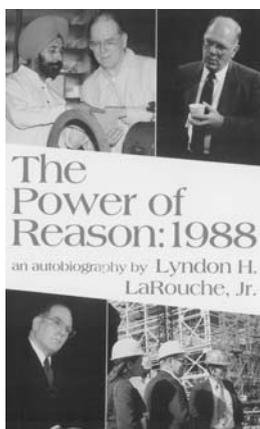
The British move is also seen as an attempt to further lock South Africa in with Great Britain, not only politically, but militarily. The South African Finance Ministry and Central Bank were cool on the deal, on the grounds of “affordability.” After all, why should South Africa, with its 50% unemployment and massive poverty, subsidize the troubled British and Swedish aerospace industries?

In order to sweeten the deal, Blair promised as much as \$4 billion in British investments in South Africa.

## Books by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

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—**Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark**

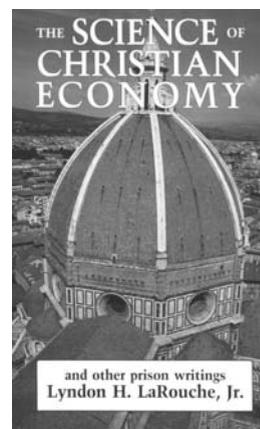
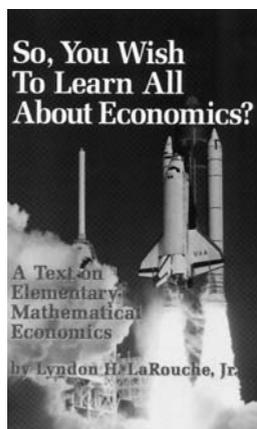


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