

The BAE Systems Affair and The Anglo-Dutch Imperial Slime Mold

by John Hoefle

The weapons-for-oil deal between BAE Systems and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provides a useful window into the manner in which the Anglo-Dutch-centered international financial oligarchy operates. The oligarchy is essentially a private criminal enterprise which stretches across the globe, operating through a network of government agencies, private institutions, and both publicly owned and private corporations and financial institutions. Some of these relationships are out in the open, while others are hidden.

The British Empire's historic role in the Asian opium trade is a good example of how the oligarchy functions. As documented by *EIR* in the book *Dope, Inc.*, the British used Hong Kong as their base of operations, with Scottish trading companies such as Jardine Matheson both moving the product and setting up the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (now HSBC) to handle the prodigious financial flows. As a British colony, the government of Hong Kong was run by the British monarchy, but the power was that of the British East India Company and the other private interests which controlled the British monarchy and the Empire, and the method by which this power was administered was, and is, Venetian.

This report looks at some of the corporate structures involved in the BAE deal, and unavoidably involves a straightforward connect-the-dots approach, but it is important for the reader to keep in mind that, while individual corporations are involved, the source of their corruption lies without, like an infecting virus. One must look at the larger operation in perspective, to understand how it actually works.

The BAE-Saudi deal is essentially an oil-for-weapons swap involving the largest British weapons manufacturer, and a nation that is essentially a creature of the London-centered international oil cartel, in which Royal Dutch Shell and BP are major factors. Associated with this BAE-Shell-BP nexus are a number of important investment and commercial banks, other weapons manufacturers, and raw materials companies.

We start with the BAE Systems board of directors:

- BAE chairman **Richard Oliver** is a former director and deputy group chief executive of BP, and a director of Reuters, the British news/propaganda arm which is headed by a Knight Commander of the British Empire, Sir Niall FitzGerald.
- BAE chief executive officer **Michael Turner** is a director of Lazard, the Venetian bank with ties to the British Round Table group, the French Synarchy, the Venetian circles around

Assicurazioni Generali, and the United States. Lazard is also closely connected to the international war materials cartels, and to Royal Dutch Shell.

- BAE director **Philip Carroll** is a former president and chief executive of Shell Oil Company, the Houston-based U. S. arm of Royal Dutch Shell. Carroll is also a former chairman and chief executive of Fluor, the giant engineering company currently headed by Lord Robin Renwick, a vice chairman of J.P. Morgan Cazenove. Additionally, Carroll is a member of the advisory board of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Houston's Rice University, a school which has a long history as a British outpost in the United States.

- BAE director **Sir Nigel Rudd** is deputy chairman of Barclays, the largest bank in the world by assets. Barclays has interlocking directorships with not only BAE, but Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan Cazenove, raw materials powers Rio Tinto and Freeport McMoRan, and British newspaper publisher Trinity Mirror.

- BAE director and chief operating officer **Walt Havensstein**, who heads BAE's U.S. unit, is a former employee of both Lockheed Martin's Sanders unit and Raytheon, and is said to have extensive knowledge of ultra-secret electronic warfare systems.

- BAE director **Michael Hartnell** is a retired finance director of British plastics and packaging company Rexam, and is a director of Lonmin, the notorious mining company formerly known as Lonrho. Lonmin chairman Sir John Craven is also chairman of the private bank of the wealthy Fleming family.

- BAE director **Dr. Ulrich Cartellieri** is a long-time member of the international advisory board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, a former official and director of Deutsche Bank, and a current and former director of a number of German industrial companies.

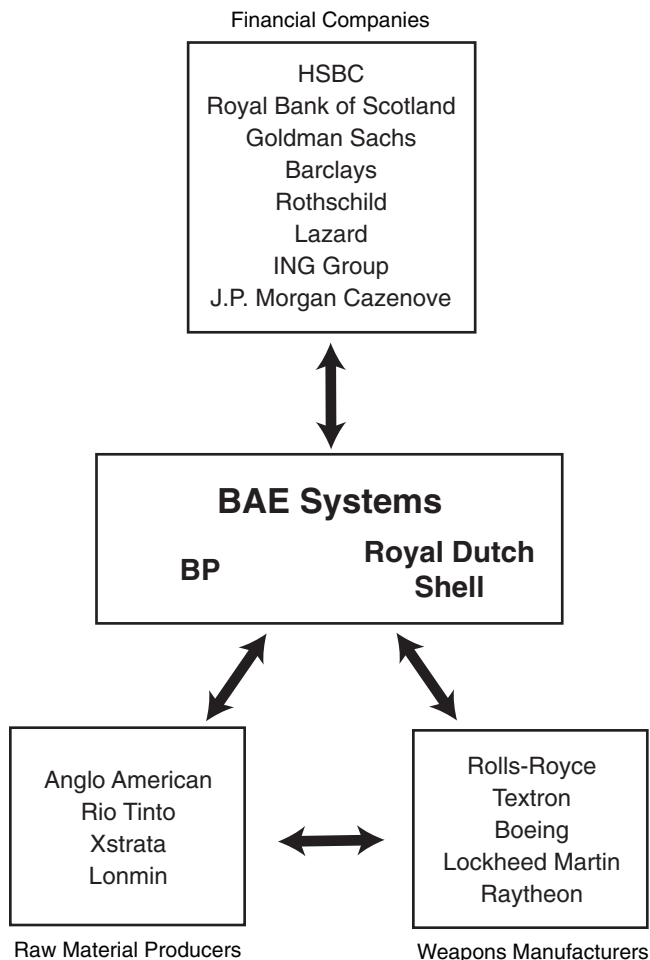
- BAE director **Andy Inglis** is a former managing director of BP and head of its exploration and production arm.

- BAE director **Sir Peter Mason** is the retired chief executive of AMEC plc, a British engineering firm with ties to N.M. Rothschild.

- BAE director **Roberto Quarta** is a partner with the U.S. private equity firm Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, which has deep ties to the Morgan and Rothschild interests in the United States.

FIGURE 1

The Anglo-Dutch Interlocking Directorate Behind BAE



• BAE Director **Peter Weinberg** is a partner in the boutique investment bank Perella Weinberg Partners. Joseph Perella is a prominent mergers and acquisitions banker who was formerly a partner with current Lazard head Bruce Wasserstein. Weinberg is a former senior partner with Goldman Sachs, and the son and grandson of prominent Goldman Sachs bankers.

A ‘Slime Mold’ of Interlocking Directorates

Royal Dutch Shell, the product of a union between British and Dutch petroleum interests, is one of the most important companies in the world, and a major player in Anglo-Dutch geopolitical maneuverings. Royal Dutch Shell’s World War II-era chief Henri Deterding was a notorious backer of Adolf Hitler, and the company’s banker in France, Lazard, was instrumental in creating Banque Worms out of a Shell-connected transport company; Worms was at the core of the Fascist Vichy regime in Nazi-occupied France. Royal Dutch Shell is even closer to the Rothschild banking interests, which

took a stake in the company in exchange for some Russian oil properties. Royal Dutch Shell has also funded cultural warfare operations against the United States and the rest of the world, including funding the creation of the environmental movement. Shell has current or recent interlocking directorship relationships with a host of companies of interest to this report, including Dutch financial firm ING Group and manufacturers Akzo Nobel and Unilever, Rio Tinto, Belgian raw materials powerhouse Société Générale de Belgique, U.S. aircraft manufacturer Boeing, and a host of financial firms including Lloyds TSB, UBS, AXA, and Aegon.

BP traces its roots back to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, became one of the largest oil companies in the United States with the purchases of Amoco and Atlantic Richfield, and is the dominant oil company on Alaska’s North Slope. Several years ago BP dropped the name **British Petroleum** in favor of the initials, and now portrays itself as environmentally friendly. BP interlocks with Unilever, Akzo Nobel, HSBC, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Goldman Sachs, Rolls-Royce, Lloyds TSB, General Electric, Bank of America, Tata Steel, KPMG, GlaxoSmithKline, and Roche Holdings.

Many of these companies also have interlocks among themselves, and with other companies of interest. For example, Dope, Inc.’s HSBC shares interlocks with BP, Shell, gold producer Anglo American, the *Financial Times* and *Economist*, Cathay Pacific Airlines, Imperial Chemical Industries, pharmaceuticals giant GlaxoSmithKline, Rolls-Royce, the Kleinwort Trust, and investment bank Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs, which has historic ties to Kleinwort Benson, shares directors with both HSBC and the Royal Bank of Scotland. The Royal Bank of Scotland interlocks with BP, Goldman Sachs, Textron, Lloyds TSB, UBS Warburg, J.P. Morgan Cazenove, Swiss Re, mining company Xstrata, pharmaceuticals giant AstraZeneca, Citigroup, and the Prince’s Trust. Lloyds TSB and HBOS, the other two of the top five British banks, plug into this same network in multiple places.

This extended network is part of the oligarchical apparatus that Lyndon LaRouche has described as a “slime mold.” It is dynamic in that it changes with the times, absorbs or creates new parts while excreting the remains of decaying parts, while retaining its essential Venetian character and methodology. Individual parts come and go, but the slime mold itself lives on, absorbing as much of the world as it can.

In closing, we present the case of **Textron**, a major U.S. weapons contractor. One of the directors of Textron is Lord Powell of Bayswater, who, as Charles Powell, was private secretary and foreign affairs and defense advisor to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Now retired from government and made a life peer, Lord Powell, who was formerly with Jardine Matheson, is or has been an advisor to Rolls-Royce, private equity fund Hicks Muse Tate & Furst, Barrick Gold, and others. He is also the chairman of Sagitta Asset Management, whose principal investor is Wafic Said, a

Syrian-born British businessman close to the Saudi royal family, who is credited with helping set up the al-Yamamah arms deal. Another director of Textron is Lawrence Fish, the chief executive of Citizens Financial Group of Rhode Island, the tenth-largest bank holding company in the United States. Citizens Financial, in turn, is owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, on whose board Fish also sits. In 1974, in a deal arranged by Lazard, Textron bought 45% of the ailing aerospace company Lockheed, and Textron CEO G. William Miller also became the CEO of Lockheed.

When it comes to the military-industrial complex and the Anglo-Dutch slime mold, it is a very small world.

BAE, Baroness Symons, In Black Operations Against LaRouche

by Anton Chaitkin

As documented in the widely circulating broadside, “BAE Scandal Demands Cheney’s Immediate Impeachment” (see lead article in this section), Vice President Dick Cheney attempted to bury the BAE scandal in both Britain and the United States, precisely because investigation of this \$80-100 billion British/Saudi slush fund could reveal the authors of very “black” Anglo-American covert intelligence operations, amongst them 9/11. According to British and other news accounts, Cheney prevailed upon Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.K. Attorney General Lord Goldsmith to shut down the British Serious Fraud Office’s investigation of BAE, on “national security” grounds.

Ongoing investigations also shed new light on the role of Cheney crony Baroness Elizabeth Symons in covering up the BAE operation and in British black propaganda attacks on Cheney’s leading U.S. political antagonist, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Based on this background, it is hardly remarkable that Symons baldly proclaimed to Reuters news agency on Feb. 27, 2007, that the British criminal investigation of BAE was shut down because there was no evidence of bribery—“the reason they did not find anything is because there was nothing to find.” Symons’ attempt to bury the matter occurred just at the time that the cries of “coverup” were reaching a crescendo in the British press, and major investigations of BAE were developing internationally.

An Imperial Inheritance

Elizabeth Symons was one of a handful of political operatives who shaped the 1990s rise of Tony Blair’s New Labour as a poorly disguised Thatcherism. Her father, Ernest Vize Symons,

had been director-general of the U.K. tax department (Inland Revenue), and a governor of the English-Speaking Union, which sought to reunite the U.S.A. with the British Empire. When her father retired in 1979, Elizabeth began working in the trade union division of the Inland Revenue, and later in other unions, in an effort to emasculate the unions and separate them from political power.

In 1996, Tony Blair nominated Symons for a life peerage for having helped create a labor-free Labour Party. By this time, Symons had long been a Fellow of the British-American Project for the Successor Generation, a project to tie together British and American defense and secret services strategists. (This was begun by Sir Charles Villiers in 1985, when his son-in-law, John Negroponte, now U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, was boosting the Contras as Ambassador to Honduras.)

As Prime Minister in 1997, Blair appointed Baroness Symons to the post of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign Office.

Symons represented the Foreign Office in the House of Lords in March 1998, when she was questioned about the coup and countercoup in Sierra Leone in West Africa. Executive Outcomes, a mercenary group tied to the British Crown, had moved a protection racket into Sierra Leone in 1993, taking its payoff in diamonds. When Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was elected President of the country in 1996, he acted on the encouragement of U.S. President Bill Clinton to cancel the British mercenaries’ contract, despite the Executive Outcomes threat that he would be overthrown.

A military coup then removed Kabbah; British High Commissioner Peter Penfold, in exile with Kabbah, successfully urged him to hire Sandline, Executive Outcomes’ partner mercenary company. Sandline shipped in 30 tons of arms, contravening the United Nations sanctions on arms to that civil-war-devastated country.

Sandline had fully informed the Foreign Office, and others in the Anglo-American black-operations chain of command. A Foreign Office official had told BBC on March 9, 1998, that Baroness Symons was in the circles that had been briefed on the transactions, and that she knew of the ongoing criminal investigation by British law enforcement.

On March 10, 1998, Lord Avebury, a Liberal Democrat in the House of Lords, asked Baroness Symons on the official record, would she investigate press reports that “the future diamond resources of the country have been mortgaged in an illegal arms transaction in which a British company, Sandline International, was involved?”

Symons denied all, obfuscating that “the newspaper article to which the noble Lord refers . . . was in several respects not entirely accurate, or at least not on all fours with the reports that Her Majesty’s Government are receiving.” There were then calls for Symons’ resignation, which Blair rebuffed. As BBC reported the same day: “The Prime Minister has leaped to the defence of foreign office minister Baroness Symons, at the centre of allegations that she misled parliament