

in which his country plunges, surely we can expect of him an opinion on the impending replacement of his countrymen by grouse and a few sprigs of rare heather?

On the contrary! Hamilton seems rather to favor the Green outlook. Scarcely does he refer to the wholesale collapse of his country's heavy industry over the last decade, a decision taken and carried out by London. He describes himself as a romantic. According to his own account, he has spent the last 40 years wandering over hill and dale, practicing dangerous sports, sailing across the Atlantic, doing everything, in short, save build up a serious political movement in Scotland. Perhaps Hamilton might study one of the most powerful attacks on romanticism ever composed, Bournonville's ballet *La Sylphide* (1836), which is set in Scotland. The hero, James, sits thinking the night before his betrothal to Effie, a young girl of the village. Suddenly, the Sylph appears to him. She has the shape of a woman, but she is not a woman. The Sylph is nothing but the idea of beauty and love, the idea of creativity. Leaving all reality behind, James runs out *into the forest* seeking the Sylph. So begins the chain of destruction.

Mr. Hamilton has been in the forest too long. Out there among the rocks and bushes, he seems to have forgotten that there exist countries which have a quite different political philosophy to that of England, the country which he obviously fears deeply. The book was finished in 1990. To the revolutions in the East bloc, which surely must uplift the heart of any Scot, he devotes all of a line or two. He appears to know so little about the outside world that I cannot help wondering where he picked up this throw-away line: "When I hear Chancellor Kohl say that he has no territorial claims to make in Europe I wonder what ghost is his speech writer. I fear the Fourth Reich." This is Hamilton's only venture into foreign policy in the whole book. Apparently he does not know, or pretends not to know, that Kohl was referring to the fact that Germany now considers dead her claim to the Baltic coastline of Poland.

Hamilton says one or two insightful things about England, not new, but which Anglophile Americans might want to read: "The English working class are the most unassuming and unambitious people. Servants, and the sons and daughters of a thousand years of servants, they exist only to glory in their exploitation, which they get mixed up with patriotism. Their class system is so rigid as almost to be a caste system." Your reviewer used to be an Anglophile too—until I tried to change something politically in England. Then all my friends, both Labour and Tory, turned into snarling beasts. If England is still Hamilton's "favorite foreign country," I can only conclude he never really rocked the boat.

Many young Scots will react with anger to these memoirs, which put the agony of a nation down to the level of what a friend called "a comic book, in parts." If Hamilton unwittingly succeeds in provoking healthy anger among his countrymen, then his book will have done some good.

Charge coverup in 1985 Gander massacre

The 256 U.S. servicemen who died in a Dec. 12, 1985 plane crash in Gander, Newfoundland were probably the victims of a terrorist bombing in retaliation for a failed transaction during the clandestine dealings between the Reagan/Bush administration and Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. Yet U.S. government officials tried to hide the massacre, calling it an accident.

Testifying before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime Dec. 5, Rep. Robin Tallon (D-S.C.) said that federal agencies appeared guilty of "ineptness or the best contrived coverup . . . ever" in the investigation of the crash in Gander that killed more U.S. servicemen than the 1983 car-bombing of U.S. barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. A report prepared by the subcommittee headed by Rep. William J. Hughes (D-N.J.) stated there was no evidence that either the U.S. or the Canadian authorities had seriously probed the possibility of terrorism.

Although Oliver North and his sponsors have gotten off scot-free, the Gander massacre proves that the Iran-Contra fiasco was far from a victimless crime. The subcommittee report called the National Transportation Safety Board's handling of the case "grossly negligent" and the FBI's investigation "unacceptable, if not also unbelievable."

As the chartered military transport lay on the ground engulfed in flames, before any professional assessment could be made of the cause, White House spokesman Larry Speakes announced confidently that the crash was *not the result of a terrorist act*.

Yet, a few hours later, Islamic Jihad, the Lebanese terrorist group steered by Iran, claimed they had blown up the plane in a call to a French news agency in Beirut. The caller knew that the plane had been delayed during a refueling stop in Cologne, Germany, and explained that the delay was the reason why the bomb had exploded over Canada rather than the United States.

Gene Wheaton, a former career Army criminal investigator fluent in Farsi, working for a group of families of Gander victims, is convinced that the full truth cannot be told unless the Iran-Contra case is reopened. Three weeks before the disaster, on Nov. 25, 1985, Oliver North and company delivered a defective shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran as part of the arms for hostages ploy. North's notebooks and other declassified documents indicate he warned such actions would provoke retaliatory terror. —*Herbert Quinde*