

Bronfman colluded with communists

by Jeffrey Steinberg

World Jewish Congress (WJC) and Anti-Defamation League (ADL) leader Edgar Bronfman has been exposed in the German press for working with former East Germany's communist dictators in an effort to block German reunification as late as the winter of 1989-90—weeks after the Berlin Wall had been breached.

In the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on Dec. 21, 1990, noted Jewish historian Michael Wolffsohn published excerpts from the files of the former German Democratic Republic (G.D.R.) Foreign Ministry which catalogue a years-long collusion between Bronfman and his WJC aides, and the top officials of the G.D.R., including deposed communist dictator Erich Honecker, Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, and Foreign Ministry U.S.A. Department head Herbert Barth. The Wolffsohn article summarized a study that he has been commissioned to prepare as part of his lecture work at the German Army Academy in Munich.

Among the documents cited by Wolffsohn were official G.D.R. Foreign Ministry minutes of an Oct. 17, 1988 East Berlin meeting between Edgar Bronfman and the communist SED party head Erich Honecker; an April 19, 1988 meeting between Dr. Maram Stern, the WJC's representative to the G.D.R., and Fischer; and a Nov. 30, 1989 Stern-Fischer meeting. Even at that late date, the WJC delegate assured the East Berlin communists that Edgar Bronfman was adamantly opposed to the "sellout" of the G.D.R. to West Germany.

Forgive and forget

According to Wolffsohn, since no later than 1985, the G.D.R. regime has sought out American Jewish organizations to broker ties between East Berlin and Washington. Typical of the attitude of most groups was the statement by American Jewish Committee official Ted Elenoff, who drew a sharp line between providing prayer books and other religious materials for East German Jews, and providing political assistance to the communist regime. However, when Edgar Bronfman took charge of the WJC in the late 1980s, all that changed. Bronfman opened up direct ties to East Berlin, and the WJC turned a blind eye to the G.D.R.'s ongoing role in training and financing Arab terrorists and, in effect, absolved the G.D.R. of any responsibility for the Nazi extermination of the Jews.

WJC official Maram Stern claimed in a November 1990 WJC report that he had been personally "reassured by Honecker and Fischer many times that the East German govern-

ment had cut off all contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for eight years." As Wolffsohn pointed out, the PLO had maintained a public embassy in East Berlin since 1973, and such senior officials as Defense Minister Eppelman had confirmed that East German soldiers were training Palestinian guerrillas in camps inside the G.D.R. as late as February 1990. In 1986, just prior to the WJC-G.D.R. opening, President Ronald Reagan had publicly denounced the East Germans for providing a European haven for Libyan terrorists.

According to one Foreign Ministry protocol cited by Professor Wolffsohn, on Oct. 17, 1988, Edgar Bronfman was awarded the Gold Star of People's Friendship, the highest civilian honor by Honecker in person. At the ceremony, according to the official minutes, Bronfman stated that he was convinced the Hitler fascists had forced on German communists the same suffering experienced by the Jews.

While WJC officials later denied in interviews with Wolffsohn that Bronfman had made the statement, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* story cited a *Newsweek* magazine interview with Bronfman two weeks after his East Berlin visit in which he said, "Seen from a Jewish standpoint, I see no reason that the G.D.R. does not deserve Most Favored Nation [trade] status from the United States." Bronfman also called for the White House to invite Honecker to Washington on a state visit.

The issue of East German responsibility for the war crimes of the Nazis is not an academic question. A Jewish Claims Conference had been attempting for years to negotiate reparations payments to Jewish concentration camp survivors; while the West German government has given millions of dollars in such payments, the G.D.R. always refused to cooperate, hypocritically claiming that the socialist character of the East German state had "laid to rest the roots of fascism." According to ministry notes on the Nov. 30, 1989 session between the WJC's Stern and Foreign Minister Fischer, the WJC position was that "neither Bronfman nor [WJC General Secretary Israel] Singer expected money. It would even be harmful because it could encourage anti-Semitism."

Beware the Trojan horse

At the Nov. 30 meeting, Stern went beyond absolving the G.D.R. from any links to the Nazis. He swore that the WJC would use its considerable clout in the United States to assure that there was no "selling-out of the G.D.R. to West Germany." He warned that "joint ventures" between the two Germanys "must be handled with caution." Citing recent reports that the G.D.R. had signed a telecommunications modernization contract with the West German firm Siemens, Stern urged East Berlin to reconsider the contract and perhaps bring in ITT or another non-German firm. He also urged Fischer to work more closely with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party young turk Lothar Späth, whom he characterized as being less eager for reunification than Chancellor Helmut Kohl. And finally, Stern, on behalf of Bronfman,

offered to mediate East German-Israeli contacts, proposing that the G.D.R. work through the Israeli ambassador in Bucharest, Romania.

According to Wolffsohn, the G.D.R. minister had some grounds for believing that Bronfman could deliver on his pledge to block reunification. In a Foreign Ministry memo written on April 19, 1988 by U.S.A. Department official Norbert Reemer, Stern is quoted in a meeting the previous day with Fischer as boasting that the WJC "disposes of considerable worldwide political and economic influence and has the right of participation in all political decisions in the United States."

Shortly after the November 1989 WJC-G.D.R. vows of eternal friendship, one of Kohl's leading collaborators in the drive to lay the economic basis for reunification, Deutsche Bank chairman Alfred Herrhausen, was assassinated by terrorists. It was widely acknowledged at the time that British intelligence, to which the Bronfman clan owes its ultimate loyalty, was behind the killing. By the surfacing of the "second generation" Baader-Meinhof Gang in the late 1970s, the West German terrorist scene was under the joint control of the KGB (largely through the East German Stasi) and British Secret Intelligence Service. The Heidelberg Mental Patients' Collective, a psychological warfare center sponsored by the London Tavistock Institute, had provided many of the second generation terrorist cadre.

Over the 12-year period since the Baader-Meinhof Gang spawned several generations of Red Army Faction and related terrorist cells, an extensive East-West apparatus of killers, drug traffickers, and irregular warfare technicians took root. With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Oct. 3, 1990 formal reunification of Germany, the danger posed by this East-West "Trojan Horse" has by no means abated.

One indication of how this subversive network is pursuing its destabilization of the newly emerging Germany-centered continental European economic development potential, is the recent escalation in narcotics trafficking all over Europe. In the United States, the ADL apparatus has earned itself the reputation of being the "American Drug Lobby," for its longstanding ties to the Meyer Lansky organized crime syndicate and for the role of such senior ADL officials as Kenneth Bialkin in pioneering money-laundering operations. Bronfman himself is the son of a Prohibition-era bootlegger, whose smuggling routes between Canada and the United States today represent one of the major paths of narcotics into the continent.

Bronfman's WJC has launched a major propaganda effort to smear the emerging Central European non-communist governments as hotbeds of anti-Semitism and scarcely concealed Nazi roots. Through corporate conduits like the Hollinger Corp., which owns the London *Daily Telegraph* and the *Jerusalem Post*, the Bronfman crowd is moving to build a publishing infrastructure in Central Europe to expand its political control.

China's rulers hold socialist road

by Mary M. Burdman

Reporting on the final communiqué issued by the seventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, held the last week of December, Radio Moscow commented that it confirmed China's loyalty to "the socialist order." Although China wants to continue to expand cooperation with the rest of the world, Radio Moscow said, the emphasis will be on "self-reliance." At a time when the Soviet leadership, during the course of a Congress of People's Deputies session that overlapped in time the plenum in Beijing, was itself falling back on reliance on the traditional Russian imperial power structures of Army, KGB, and Communist Party, it is obvious that Moscow was watching the Chinese developments with keen interest.

The Beijing communiqué said: "The success or failure of our efforts in the 1990s . . . will have a direct bearing on the rise and fall of China's socialist system and the future and destiny of the Chinese nation. Faced with a complicated and ever-changing international situation, it is crucial that we manage our domestic affairs well. . . . We must maintain a certain rate of economic growth . . . but guard against and overcome the tendency of being impatient for success and strive to avoid a recurrence of big ups and downs in economic life."

The communiqué, broadcast on national television, called for "in-depth education in patriotism, collectivism, and socialism." Under party leadership, it said, "We are certain to withstand every kind of storm and score even more brilliant achievements." China's goals are to "firmly push forward reform and opening to the outside world," and to "firmly follow the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics."

Thatcherism not popular in Beijing

What does this all mean? While preliminary readings would indicate that the internal power struggles between "Beijing Center" and the provinces are far from resolved, and that these battles will shape the internal Chinese political situation for some time, the bottom line is that the Chinese Communist Party is rejecting any importation of "Thatcherite free market" reforms into China, but is insisting that the Chinese CP reserve its mandate to loot the Chinese population in its own way.