

Laurent Murawiec: a strategic blunder by British intelligence

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Between June 6-8, 1994, a collection of British intelligence agents and assets descended on Buenos Aires, Argentina. The ostensible purpose for the visit was a conference on geopolitics sponsored by a little-known Swiss-based consulting firm, Geopol. Among the five directors of Geopol who attended and spoke at the Buenos Aires event was Laurent Murawiec, formerly a Europe-based associate of Lyndon LaRouche, who "defected" to British intelligence in the early 1990s. Murawiec has subsequently been officially anointed as a "fellow" of the London International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) through the personal patronage of IISS's leading "Asia-hand," Gerald Segal.

The June 1994 Geopol conference in Buenos Aires came in the midst of a buildup of terrorist operations directed against Jewish communities in many parts of the world, aimed at destroying the Middle East peace process. On July 18, a powerful car bomb completely destroyed the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) building in Buenos Aires. Eight days later, a car bomb exploded outside the Israeli embassy in London; a second car bomb was detonated outside a London office building that housed a number of Jewish charities only 12 hours later. Following the London bombings, Israeli embassy officials and Jewish community leaders denounced the British security authorities for complicity in the attacks by their failure to respond to prior warnings about threatened terrorist actions and lax security, even following the Buenos Aires bombing.

While nothing has surfaced suggesting that the Geopol event was directly linked to possible British intelligence involvement in the wave of violence, the conference did bring together a collection of people who have in the past been involved in major international arms trafficking, suspected drug-money laundering, and other "geopolitical" crimes.

The Geopol deployment to Argentina also came in the midst of a push by British intelligence to muscle its way into Argentina's restructuring of its security services, begun by President Carlos Menem. The head of Britain's MI-6, David Spedding, recently made several trips to Buenos Aires and reportedly exacted a commitment from Argentina to bring MI-6 in on the reorganization.

High-risk maneuver

If nothing else, the British deployment into Argentina was a high-risk move, which is key to understanding the presence of the otherwise insignificant Laurent Murawiec in the midst of a collection of high-level, British intelligence-owned international hooligans.

As *EIR* has documented since the beginning of the year, a leading faction of the British establishment linked to the Grand Mother Lodge of British Freemasonry's "research arm," the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, and drawing upon the resources of British intelligence's Hollinger Corp. media conglomerate, has been hell-bent on destroying the U.S. presidency of Bill Clinton since no later than the spring of 1993 through such efforts as "Whitewatergate."

Another central element in the "Get Clinton" drive has been the commitment to wreck the Middle East peace process at all costs—even if it means triggering an uncontrollable bloodbath from the Balkans, all across Asia Minor, and into the Maghreb in northern Africa. The wave of terrorism directed against vulnerable Jewish communities in such places as Argentina and England has been an important component of that drive. Among both the Muslim Brotherhood and the so-called Israeli "Temple Mount Faithful," British intelligence has assets in place who are capable of unleashing such "chaos operations" as the ongoing pattern of anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli terrorism. Among the leading assets in this British intelligence menagerie are Israeli gangster and former Defense Minister Gen. Ariel Sharon, along with his henchmen Gen. R. Ze'evi and Rafael "Dirty Rafi" Eytan.

The promotion of Murawiec, a known former LaRouche associate in Europe, into the ranks of IISS and into the Geopol orbit, represents a move by some British intelligence officials to set up "damage control" against the possibility that the terror activation could backfire in London's face, by setting up the option of pinning the terrorism on LaRouche.

The "blame it on LaRouche" option had already been used on several prior occasions, the most famous being the coverup of the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme by the same international arms-trafficking circles. At that time, the East German State Security (Stasi) played a pivotal role, along with the Anti-Defamation

League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), in spreading the disinformation that "LaRouche killed Palme," which was central to the coverup of the murder.

Geopol's profile

According to the official proceedings of the June 6-8 Buenos Aires conference, the Geneva-based Geopol has five current directors, including Murawiec. A June 8 call to the offices of Pierre Hafner confirmed that Hafner is the president of Geopol. However, the secretary referred the caller to Murawiec's Paris home, describing him as the person who really "runs Geopol."

Hafner's primary business is international banking. He is listed in Swiss corporate directories as an official of Compagnie de Banque et d'Investissements-Trade Development Bank Union Bancaire Privée (CBI-TDB Union Bancaire Privée). The chairman of the bank, a merger of three Geneva financial institutions, is Edgar de Piccioto, a director of George Soros's Quantum Fund. Piccioto is also a longtime business partner of Italian businessman Carlo De Benedetti. De Benedetti is a silent partner of fugitive financier Marc Rich, an international commodities speculator and suspected drug trafficker with longstanding ties to Soviet (now Russian), British, and Israeli intelligence services.

In the past year, Rich, based in Zug, Switzerland, has financed two projects involving Murawiec: a 1993 book on postwar anti-Semitism edited by French-based, British Tavistock Institute "historian" Leon Poliakov, featuring a chapter co-authored by Murawiec; and a forthcoming conference on Jewish and Christian mysticism scheduled to take place in Spain later this year. Among the announced speakers at the conference is ADL National Director Abraham Foxman.

Drug-money launderers

One of the three components of the Hafner bank, Trade Development Bank, is formerly the Swiss branch of the dirty money empire of Edmond Safra. Safra, a major financier of the ADL, was named in January 1989 by U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs officials in Berne, Switzerland as a premier drug-money launderer, servicing the Syrian-Lebanese-Bulgarian heroin connection and the Colombian cocaine cartel through his Swiss and U.S. banks.

The Hafner tie into the Swiss hot money scene is not tangential to the Geopol operation. Another director of Geopol, who also spoke at the Buenos Aires conference, is Elizabeth Kopp, the former justice minister and vice president of Switzerland; Kopp was forced to resign from her government posts several years ago when her husband, Hans, was implicated along with Safra in a Swiss-based drug-trafficking organization run through the Shakarchi Trading Co., owned by a Lebanese smuggling family. The DEA and U.S. Customs reports linked Safra to the Shakarchi Trading Co. and identified Hans Kopp as a director of Shakarchi.

Hans Kopp was also implicated with Alfred Hartmann, the Swiss director of the British Rothschild banking house, in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) scandals.

The BCCI and BNL scandals, which erupted during the early 1990s, implicated Kopp, Hartmann, and others in a massive illicit arms trade, drug-money laundering, and terrorism.

Still another Geopol director, Swiss national Peter Arbenz, is currently the United Nations Inspector General overseeing the misnamed "peacekeeping" effort in Bosnia.

Perhaps the most controversial figure among the Geopol directors who appeared at the Argentina conference is Helmut Raiser, a German national living in Zug. Raiser, a longtime senior official of Bohlen Industrie GmbH, a major German armaments manufacturer, figured prominently in missile development projects in Iraq and Argentina in the late 1980s through a consulting firm he ran called Consen (Consulting Engineers).

Swiss authorities have linked Raiser and Hans Kopp to officials of Kissinger Associates, the New York- and London-based private consulting firm headed by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who also serves as an adviser to Hollinger Corp.

During the late 1980s, Iraq, Argentina, Egypt, Brazil, and several other states pooled their resources in an effort to build up a ballistic missile capability vital to their national defense. The Iraqi government was well aware of the importance of a modern missile capability; when Iraq finally developed a medium-range missile, it proved to be the decisive factor in forcing Iran to accept a permanent cease-fire in the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq War (1980-88).

Raiser's small Zug-based consultancy Consen served as the private broker between Iraq, Argentina, Egypt, Brazil, etc., and major European defense firms such as Germany's MBB, Italy's Snia, and Sweden's Bofors, which provided the technology and expertise for the missile development projects.

The agenda of the international arms cartel was at cross-purposes with these developing nations' sovereign interests from the very outset. While pumping billions of dollars worth of sophisticated armaments into the Middle East was perfectly in line with British geopolitical goals during the manipulated Iran-Iraq War, British strategy also made it crucial to cut off Iraq's high-technology military procurements after 1989, when the governments of Britain's Margaret Thatcher and U.S. President George Bush moved to orchestrate the Gulf war to destroy Iraq as an emerging modern industrial state.

In the case of Argentina, during the 1982 Malvinas War, Britain never wished to allow its adversary to develop an independent missile capability.

The Consen missile project was eventually to serve as a

sophisticated sting operation directed against Iraq, Argentina, and others. The very same British intelligence circles associated with Raiser's Consen ran the propaganda operation against the Condor II missile program (the name given to the missile development effort by Argentine officials), in some cases even targeting Raiser and Consen in their controlled exposés.

Authors like Alan Friedman of the London *Financial Times*; Kenneth Timmerman, formerly associated with the international private investigative firm, Kroll Associates; Judith Miller of the *New York Times*; and Laurie Mylroie of the ADL-linked Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP), all churned out voluminous propaganda from 1989 onward drawing a bead on Argentina and Iraq over their missile programs. And, in line with longstanding British geopolitical axioms, all these authors singled out Germany as the number-one source of black market high-technology military hardware for "Third World dictators."

The real terrorists

Rosendo Fraga, Geopol's representative inside Argentina and the person who co-sponsored the June 6-8 conference, fits nicely into this group. Fraga, director of the Union Studies Center for a New Majority, poses as a military strategist, but is in fact a leading figure in the neo-conservative grouping associated with George Bush and Margaret Thatcher intent on dismantling the institution of the armed forces in Ibero-America. His writings are sprinkled with references to Kissinger Associates and IISS, and he is frequently quoted in glowing terms by such British press outlets as the *Financial Times* as the most knowledgeable of Argentine analysts.

In the geopolitical jargon which characterizes his numerous writings, he asserts that the top priority for the armed forces in the 1990s is "modernization" and "restructuring," the buzzwords for demilitarization. Geopol reportedly performs "work" of some unknown nature for Fraga in Europe, and he reciprocates in Argentina.

Is it conceivable that the Geopol apparatus played a role in foisting the recent international terror offensive?

In the case of Murawiec, it is only necessary to consider the following: His sponsor in the elite London IISS, Gerald Segal, has gone on record in recent years advocating a breakup of China through a prolonged, manipulated civil war. Such a China crisis would cost millions of lives and throw all of Asia into decades of bloodshed and crisis. Earlier this year, Segal viciously attacked the Clinton administration for failing to go to war with North Korea over Pyongyang's alleged nuclear weapons program. His objective, in addition to the broad goal of helping to bring the Clinton presidency to an abrupt end, was to accelerate the crisis within Asia and provoke the early onset of civil war in China. It's hard to conceive of a more devastating act of terrorism than the instigating of such a China bloodbath.

Chronology

Worldwide terror spree: Who benefits?

The following chronology reflects key acts of terrorism, as well as organizing by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman over the past two years in South America and internationally. These activities, in which the hand of British intelligence is evident, should be viewed in light of recent bombings of Jewish targets, blamed on "Islamic fundamentalists."

March 17, 1992: Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina is bombed, killing 28 people. The Islamic Jihad takes responsibility for the suicide bombing, but no culprits are ever apprehended. In the aftermath of the bombing, agents from Israel's Mossad and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency arrive in Argentina to investigate.

March 1993: World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman travels to Buenos Aires to celebrate the Menem government's decision to declassify 25-year-old files on activities of Nazis who had taken refuge in Argentina after World War II. The WJC began pressuring President Carlos Menem on this issue a year earlier, alleging that the government was dragging its feet in releasing the files.

May 1993: Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, international affairs director of the Anti-Defamation League, travels to Buenos Aires. An article published in the May 14, 1993 daily *Clarín* reports that in a visit to the presidential residence in Olivos, Rosenthal "mentioned the case of the campaign carried out by the right-wing organization led in the United States by Lyndon LaRouche." This campaign, *Clarín* adds, "which has the ADL as its primary target, has imputed various crimes to the Jewish community in the United States. . . ." During his stay, Rosenthal calls for Argentina to pass legislation outlawing "discrimination."

Immediately following Rosenthal's visit, *Clarín* reports that the Menem government is investigating the activities of *EIR* correspondent Gerardo Terán Canal. A group of Argentine congressmen, led by leftist Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez, lie that Terán is abusing his residence in the country to serve as a link between jailed Army nationalist Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín and LaRouche. Alvarez and, subsequently, leading masonic operative Luis Sobrino Aranda, call for the