

Baroness Lynda Chalker targets Kenya for tribal warfare

by Joseph Brewda

British Overseas Development Minister Baroness Lynda Chalker has been caught in a new plot to engulf Kenya in genocidal wars like those she is overseeing in Rwanda and Burundi. The plot centers around toppling the government of President Daniel arap Moi, through promoting the new party of Richard Leakey, the environmentalist son of the famous British anthropologist and British intelligence operative Louis Leakey.

Moi's non-tribal government balances the two largest tribes, the Kikuyu and Luo, who have a long history of conflict, and who have their own tribal-based parties. If Moi were toppled, neither opposing tribe could easily come to power, raising the specter of the kind of ethnic conflict that destroyed neighboring Somalia in the aftermath of the fall of the government of Siad Barre.

The plot surfaced in early May, when Leakey, the former head of the Kenyan parks department, announced that he was forming a new party to challenge the Moi government. Leakey claimed that the public is "totally demoralized" over Kenya's "slipping backward." "What I want to know," he asked, "is why our schools have no running water and no books, why you can't get a simple antibiotic anywhere?" While the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was not mentioned, Leakey decried "corruption" and "mismanagement," which he offered to correct through his leadership. The situation also requires a change in the Constitution, he said, to end government control of radio and television, the civil service, and the security forces. Leakey has called for a boycott of the scheduled 1997 elections unless these constitutional changes are made before then.

Another agent of her Baroness

Joining Leakey in founding the new party was Paul Muite, a Kikuyu politician and former president of the Law Society, who feels that the problem facing Kenya is that "the European and Asian communities here tend to take a back seat in politics." "Richard was born here," he said, "he's as Kenyan as I am."

President Moi immediately condemned Leakey for wanting to "destabilize the country" and to "return to colonialism." He added that Leakey is using the "colonialist antics of dividing Africans along tribal lines to exploit them."

In an interview in the London *Daily Telegraph* on May

31, Leakey confirmed his foreign sponsorship. "I am given the time of day in the corridors of power in Whitehall [British Foreign Office], Washington, and Paris, not because I'm white, but because of what I've done," he said. The paper added, "He says he will not hesitate to use his personal friendship with Lady Chalker, Britain's Overseas Development Minister, whom he met on his recent trip to Europe, to further his party's objectives."

The Overseas Development Administration which Baroness Chalker runs, was formed in 1964, to replace the British Colonial Office, which was formally disbanded as part of the policy of decolonization. "Decolonization" meant that the Union Jack would come down and the armies would leave, but it did not mean that the British would leave. The ODA retained the colonial office's top officers, staff, files, and agents-in-place. Officially in charge of all overseas grants, it funnels some \$3.5 billion a year to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), political parties, and other organizations serving British geopolitical aims in its former colonies. The Mwangaza Trust, run by Leakey crony Miute, is typical of these NGOs. Last March, Moi denounced the group as "coached by the Europeans."

Among Baroness Chalker's top agents is Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who has turned neighboring Uganda into a base of British operations throughout the region, including against Kenya. In January 1995, the Ugandan-based "February 18th Movement," led by Kenya exile and Luo leader John Odongo, began military operations into Kenya from eastern Uganda with the backing of the Ugandan Army. Tensions further increased in April when Moi expelled the Rwandan ambassador over Ugandan Army-backed massacres of 8,000 Hutu refugees at the Kibeho refugee camp in Rwanda. Baroness Chalker, alone among all western political figures, justified the massacres, claiming in an April 22 BBC interview that only 300 people were killed. She dismissed the dead as "Hutu extremists. . . . It must be for the government of Rwanda to restore order."

A continuing campaign

The assault against Kenya began in May 1990, when U.S. Ambassador Smith Hempstone gave an address to the Nairobi Rotary club announcing that, henceforth, U.S. aid would only go to those countries that "nourish democratic

institutions.” The speech was taken by leading dissidents as an assurance that “they could oppose the government and have the support of a major world power,” according to the press. The Bush administration, loyally following the policy of Britain’s Thatcher administration, opened up its coffers to the British-run Kenyan opposition. Hempstone, formerly the publisher of the Anglophilic *Washington Times*, conduited at least \$31 million to the opposition parties—the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD) and the Kenya Democratic Party.

By November 1991, Kenya’s western donors threatened that aid would cease unless Moi held “multi-party” elections. While warning that this crusade for democracy invited tribal warfare, Moi called elections for December 1992. Over 800 people were killed in tribal violence. As expected, FORD split apart in 1992 along tribal lines, with FORD-Kenya representing the Luo, and FORD-Asili representing the Kikuyu.

In March 1993, Moi got into deeper trouble when he broke with the IMF, whose policies, he said, were forcing Kenya to “commit suicide.” IMF dictates had increased the price of bread 45-fold that year alone, while depreciating the Kenyan shilling by 60%. Both the FORD-Asili and FORD-Kenya parties denounced the break. FORD-Kenya economist and prominent Nairobi businessman Robert Shaw complained that Moi’s refusal to comply with IMF dictates was “catastrophic,” and had “plunged Kenya’s economy into the Dark Ages and back into inefficient and corrupt state control.” The similarity to Leakey’s lingo is not accidental. Shaw persuaded Leakey to form his new party, according to Kenyan sources.

Although Moi backed down in the face of massive British threats, he has since renewed his campaign. On June 9, he told a rally that henceforth “the government will not swallow wholesale all conditions of the [IMF] structural adjustment programs that are detrimental to the welfare of the common citizen.” The donors have called an extraordinary Paris meeting in July in response, citing “fears regarding some aspects of economic reform,” as well as concern over “human rights abuses and corruption in the political elite.”

Like father, like son

The Leakeys are old hands at using tribal conflict to destabilize Kenya, and have been involved in such tricks since the beginning of the century. Richard Leakey’s grandfather, a missionary, came to Kenya in 1901, and translated the Bible into the language of the Kikuyu. Louis Leakey, Richard’s father, was recruited into British intelligence at least by the 1930s, when he authored a 1 million-word secret profile of the tribe, and its vulnerability to manipulation. Operating under the cover of an anthropologist, Leakey played an important role in British East African operations during World War II.

After the war, Leakey played a major role in the British-

orchestrated Mau Mau rebellion, which became the model for British efforts to destabilize the continent, including current operations in Rwanda and Burundi, and those planned for Kenya.

From 1952 to 1960, the British had imposed a state of emergency over their Kenyan colony. The purported reason was to combat a planned insurrection of the Mau Mau, a Kikuyu secret society dedicated to expelling the British. The existence of the Mau Mau, and their planned insurrection, had been discovered by Leakey. In order to crush the conspiracy, the British forced the mass resettlement of Kikuyu and other peoples from their lands, and burnt down whole forests.

The Mau Mau insurrection proved to be a strange one. Whereas only 22 whites were killed in the fighting, an estimated 20,000 natives died, primarily in clashes between Kikuyu factions and with other tribes. Agriculture in the white regions was untouched, and the Mau Mau failed to even attack the vulnerable transportation network or any key facility in the cities. Col. Frank Kitson later boasted in his intelligence manual *Gangs and Counter-gangs* that the British were leading large-scale Mau Mau units, and that many, if not all, of these units had been created by the colonial authorities. By orchestrating violence between “gangs” and “counter-gangs,” the British ensured that only native slaughter, and not revolution, would result.

The Mau Mau gangs were covertly directed by Col. Merwyn Cowie, the manager of the Kenyan parks system. Following the emergency, Cowie’s top aides found employment as game wardens at the major parks, which remained as British intelligence enclaves following independence. In the 1960s, Cowie retired from the parks department and returned to England, where he became a top executive in Prince Philip’s World Wildlife Fund. The WWF has been the British royal family’s key intelligence arm since its creation in 1961. The vast parks of Africa, which in Kenya comprise 8% of its territory, remain safe-havens and training grounds for Mau Mau-modeled, WWF-steered insurrections throughout the continent.

In 1988, Richard Leakey, the longtime head of the East African Wildlife Society, took charge of the parks department, and continued the traditions of his father.

In September 1988, Leakey began a high-profile press campaign, claiming that gangs of poachers were wiping out the country’s elephant and rhinoceros herds, and that the government was only “paying lip service” to protective measures. After a WWF-coordinated international press barrage, the government capitulated to demands to deploy paramilitary squads to protect the elephants. By the end of the year, Leakey’s squads had killed over 30 reported poachers, mostly minority Somalis. Security forces were ordered to “shoot on sight” anyone suspected of poaching, while thousands of people living near the parks were detained. In 1992, Leakey was fired after his boasting about having killed scores of Africans in these man-hunts provoked international outrage.