

# Hollinger boss calls for 'BAC' revival

by Jeffrey Steinberg and Scott Thompson

The man whose media empire has been leading the British assault against the U.S. Presidency, since the day Bill Clinton was sworn into office, is publicly calling for a revival of Winston Churchill's World War II "alliance" between Britain, Canada, and the United States. If this sounds both paradoxical and hypocritical, it is.

As in the time of Churchill, this call for a twenty-first-century revival of the Britain-America-Canada ("BAC") alliance is premised on the immediate destruction of any vestiges of the American anti-colonial policies and outlook of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. To the extent that President Clinton, the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, and others in the Clinton administration have shown even a tendency toward an FDR policy impulse, they have been mercilessly attacked by the BAC forces and their minions, typified by House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and independent counsel Kenneth Starr.

On July 6, Conrad Black, the CEO of the Hollinger Corp., delivered a speech at the annual meeting of the Centre for Policy Studies in London, the flagship think-tank of the radical free market Mont Pelerin Society. In his speech on "Britain's Final Choice: Europe or America?" Black attacked the European Union as "the greatest engine for collectivism, illiberalism, and hyper-regulation in our national life." He called upon Britain to abandon any plans to join the European Monetary Union, and, instead, to formally press for membership in an expanded, transatlantic "super-NAFTA" (North American Free Trade Agreement).

"None of the continental European countries has a particular affinity with the United States and Canada," Black asserted, "or anything slightly comparable to Britain's dramatic modern historic intimacy with North America. . . . Such an expanded NAFTA would have every commercial advantage over the EU. It is based on the Anglo-American free market model of relatively restrained taxation and social

spending. The United States will make no significant concessions of sovereignty and does not expect other countries to do so."

## A second-generation 'BAC' spook

The emergence of Conrad Black as a leading spokesman for the call to revive the BAC alliance is of no small significance. Black's Hollinger Corp. is one of the leading media cabals in the English-speaking world. Its London flagship, Telegraph Plc, is the house organ of the Thatcherite Tories and Prince Philip's core of the Club of the Isles. The Hollinger-owned *Jerusalem Post* is the mouthpiece for Israeli Likud Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assault on the Clinton Middle East peace initiative. In recent years, Hollinger has purchased the *Chicago Sun Times*, thereby adding an American big city daily newspaper to its fleet of several hundred suburban U.S. news dailies and weeklies. Its grip on the Canadian and Australian media is substantial.

Hollinger Corp. is the second generation of a Churchill government wartime intelligence front, War Supplies Ltd., which was at the forefront of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) penetration of the United States. Created at the behest of the British Ministry of Munitions to secure American military equipment and financial backing for Churchill, War Supplies Ltd. was headed by Canadians Edward Plunkett Taylor and George Montagu Black, the latter being Conrad Black's father. The *New York Times* described the mission of Taylor and Black as an effort to accomplish "a virtual merging of the economies of the United States and Canada."

After the war, War Supplies Ltd., which had been run as a commercial front and had amassed profits of \$1.3 billion (an enormous sum at the time), was simply transformed into a "private" closed-ended investment fund called the Argus Corp. Under Taylor and George Black's guidance, Argus became a media powerhouse, and, when Black and Taylor retired, the company was turned over to Conrad Black. In the 1980s, Conrad Black changed the company name to the Hollinger Corp., moved its headquarters from Toronto to London, and escalated the media-buying spree.

Black also maintained the ties to British intelligence that his father and E.P. Taylor had. For many years, the Argus-Hollinger board included Arthur Ross, a New York City investment banker who had been Lord Beaverbrook's British intelligence station chief for many years, according to family sources. Black also was an intimate of the late Maj. Louis Mortimer Bloomfield, the SOE's wartime liaison to J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, and the head of a postwar Montreal-based British intelligence proprietary, Permindex, which was implicated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the attempts to kill French President Charles de Gaulle.

Today, Hollinger maintains an international advisory board headed by former British Prime Minister Lady Marga-



Conrad Black

ret Thatcher. Her two senior advisers are self-professed British agent Henry Kissinger and Lord Peter Carrington. Other advisers and board members, drawn from the upper echelons of the Club of the Isles, include: Lord Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of N.M. Rothschild and Sons, Ltd.; Henry Keswick, chairman of Jardine Matheson; Lord King of Wartnaby, chairman of British Airways; and R. Donald Fullerton, chairman of Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada.

### **A heated debate**

Black's speech at the Centre for Policy Studies immediately sparked a feverish debate within the British establishment. On July 17, 1998, Michael Heseltine, a onetime Thatcher Defense Minister, wrote a blistering attack on Black, which was published in Hollinger's own *Daily Telegraph*. Heseltine threw in his lot with the European monetary and political union, and claimed that Thatcher had been one of the pioneers of the Maastricht Treaty and European integration. After making a pitch for the inevitable triumph of globalization, Heseltine concluded, "Perhaps, Mr. Black should try to persuade his fellow Canadians to contemplate their forebears and consider an application to join the European Union. The idea is no more preposterous than the idea that Britain should choose an American destiny."

Black shot back the next day. "Mr. Heseltine claims every Conservative Prime Minister since the war has been a Euro-federalist except for Eden," Black wrote in an article entitled "European Debate: The Final Word." "It is illustrative of the desperation of his argument that he would make this claim on behalf of Lady Thatcher, whose most insidious, not to say treacherous, opponent he was. She has publicly expressed agreement with 'every word' of my address to the Centre for Policy Studies that he attacks."

Later in the article, Black also claimed the endorsement of several North American legislators for the super-NAFTA scheme. "He [Heseltine] writes that the North Americans won't have Britain in NAFTA. They will, as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Canadian leader of the Opposition have written in the *Daily Telegraph* recently. And he advises me to go back to Canada and persuade Canada to join the EU. I do not accept Mr. Heseltine's implicit theory that being from Canada is a subject for embarrassment."

Black's claim that he has Thatcher and Gingrich's support for his super-NAFTA plan is accurate. In April, House Speaker Gingrich travelled to London, where he delivered a series of lectures, some hosted by the Thatcher Foundation, during which he floated his own rationale for the British to join NAFTA. On April 20, he penned an article for the *Daily Telegraph*, on "Europe's Great Gamble," in which he formally extended the invitation. After waxing on about the flaws of the regulated economies of continental Europe, with their "subsidies" to workers, Gingrich warned that the

European Monetary Union is a high-risk venture, likely to fail. His conclusion: "It is understandable that Britain is hesitant to join monetary union or go now much further into an integrated Europe. If, as appears likely, there is a movement in the U.S. Congress, as there has been in the Parliament of Canada, to offer Britain some associate status in the North American Free Trade Agreement, I would support it. Britain must know she still has friends on the other side of the Atlantic."

And Thatcher announced, in late July, that she plans to come to the United States, later this year, to campaign for her "good friend," Malcolm "Steve" Forbes, to be chosen as the Republican Party's Presidential candidate in 2000. It looks like a full Redcoat invasion.

### **A genuine fight erupting?**

The Black-Heseltine exchange appears to be one indication that a brawl is taking place inside the British elites, over how to deal with the European Monetary Union (EMU). The fact that the British elites know that the global financial system is headed for a crash is at the heart of the policy battle. The Black-Thatcher Tory hard core has aligned with Prince Philip and the inner circle of the Club of the Isles raw materials cartels, to grab up the world's strategic raw material supplies, and let the chaos come. This group intends to build up its assets inside the United State to block any American intervention, along the lines of Lyndon LaRouche's proposal for a New Bretton Woods system, at the point that the crisis hits. The fact that Black's "Torygraph" led a recent media assault against LaRouche and *EIR*, for mooted that Prince Philip might be implicated in the Aug. 31, 1997 murder of Princess Diana, was a tip-off to this crowd's intentions.

At the same time, British Prime Minister Tony Blair has moved to strengthen the pro-euro forces within his Cabinet, with some personnel changes, announced on July 28. Blair promoted Joyce Quin, the Prison Minister, to the post of Minister for Europe at the Foreign Office. She is a former Euro-parliamentarian and an avid EMU supporter. Peter Mandelson, Blair's campaign guru and a leading light at the Royal Institute for International Affairs, has been named head of the Department of Trade and Industry. Lord Sainsbury, former head of Britain's largest supermarket chain, immediately signed on as a "pound-sterling-a-year man" at the DTI. Both men are strong advocates of British membership in the EMU. While Prince Charles has been described by several sources as being in favor of participation in the EMU, Blair is reportedly ready to stake Britain's involvement in the euro on his ability to rule the "Euro-Socialist" roost. If the monarchy becomes an obstacle to Blair's schemes, he could turn against the Windsors in a heart-beat. Then, the falling out among the oligarchical thieves could turn very bloody.