

## Bush family and Al Gore's ties to the pipeline wars

In January 1999, the London-based firm Enron International, a subsidiary of Enron Corp. in Houston, Texas that has \$13.5 billion in assets, undertook a feasibility study for the Turkmenistan government on the proposed Trans-Caspian gas pipeline project. In July, Turkmenistan awarded Enron International a Trans-Caspian feasibility study, and in the same month it awarded Enron a feasibility study for the Georgian section of the Trans-Caspian pipeline.

Enron boasts of its ties to Prince Charles, who is heir apparent to the British throne. In March 1999, Enron contributed £300,000 to the Prince of Wales Trust, European Program, and its total funding of the Prince of Wales Trust since it was inaugurated in 1991 approaches £1 million.

However, Enron has been aided in its search for new business by its connections to President Sir George Bush.

After Bush's electoral defeat in 1992, Enron brought former Bush administration officials onto its board, to assist the company's international grab for gas and electricity resources. These included former Secretary of State James Baker III, and former Bush-Quayle campaign chairman Robert Mosbacher, both tightly connected to Texas energy and banking. During 1991-93, Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly (ret.), who had served as director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff during Bush's Persian Gulf War, was on Enron's board.

These three men, according to journalist Seymour

Hersh, accompanied Sir George Bush on a trip to Kuwait in 1993, to help Enron secure a contract to rebuild energy plants that had been destroyed in the Gulf War. Not a bad "spoil of war," as Hersh describes it.

### Gore and the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline

Vice President Al Gore, Jr. has also gotten involved in the pipeline wars, through his role as U.S. head of the U.S.-Kazakstan Joint Commission, which he co-chairs with Kazakstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev. This is one of five binational commissions to which President Bill Clinton appointed Gore. Perhaps the foremost emphasis of the U.S.-Kazakstan Joint Commission has been energy resources, which Kazakstan has in abundance.

The inaugural session of the Joint Commission occurred in the capital, Almaty, in November 1994. Whereas President Nazarbayev has no political bias against where a multiplicity of pipelines would go—including potentially to Russia, China, and Iran—Gore has apparently tried to armtwist the Kazakstan President into accepting a route that would bypass Russia and Iran, which is known as the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline. This pipeline, which would be laid under the Caspian Sea, as would Enron's proposed Trans-Caspian gas pipeline, would cost \$4 billion and add an additional \$4 per barrel for oil shipped through it.

The Baku-Ceyhan pipeline is also a pet project of Commerce Department counselor and administration ombudsman for energy and commercial cooperation in the Newly Independent States Jan Kalicki, who is Gore's chief adviser on this matter, along with Gore's National Security Adviser Leon Fuerth. In the May 17, 1999 edition of *Oil & Gas Journal*, Kalicki pushes for the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline as the principal one to be built.—*Scott Thompson*

This British takeover did not upset Brzezinski in the least. This British asset, the "Tweedledee" to Sir Henry Kissinger's "Tweedledum," goes to great lengths in *The Grand Chessboard* to protect ongoing British manipulations, by portraying the British empire as a "retired geostrategic player." "It [the British Commonwealth Empire] is America's key supporter, a very loyal ally, a vital military base, and a close partner in critically important intelligence activities," he writes.

### All in the family

On May 18, 1998, Brzezinski's son, Mark, wrote an article for the *Washington Times*, entitled "The Future of Azerbaijan," in which he makes a plea for the repeal of Section 907. Mark Brzezinski works for the law firm of Hogan & Hartson, which, he states, has major dealings (which he says he cannot reveal because of attorney-client privilege) in the Caspian Sea oil and gas basin. In his article, he contrasts the \$600 million

in foreign aid that the United States gives to the 4 million Armenians, to the \$100 million in foreign aid it gives to the 8 million people in Azerbaijan, while it is Azerbaijan that possesses the oil and gas riches to be tapped.

Mark Brzezinski writes, "Despite Section 907, the Azeri President, Heidar Aliyev, is pro-American, mainly because he is counting on the U.S. to protect him from pressures from powerful Russia to the north and from Iran to the south to restrict Azerbaijan's dealings with the West. Russian control of Azerbaijan would enable it to seal off Central Asia from the West, in particular from Turkey, thereby further increasing Russia's control over the oil-rich Central Asian states. Russian control of Azerbaijan would also guarantee Russian predominance of other states of the Caucasus, especially Armenia and Georgia."

He concludes: "Azerbaijan's location makes it a vitally important transportation corridor controlling access to the