

Britain's '8 Days' operation

In response to the *Al Qabas* expose of London and Bernard Lewis, the British are scrambling for cover. The July 21 issue of the London-based weekly magazine *8 Days* printed its own exposé of the Bilderberg Conference to "refute" many of the "allegations" of *Al Qabas*. *8 Days* went out of its way to whitewash the British connection to the Bilderberg operation, and falsely linked it instead to the French and in particular to French President Giscard d'Estaing. This deception operation is designed explicitly to discredit the French and undermine their recently renewed efforts to work with the Arabs toward a viable solution to the Middle East conflict.

8 Days highlights a *Le Monde* report of France's intention to resort, if necessary, to military intervention in the Gulf, and neglects to note that France will intervene only to discourage a move by the U.S. into the area, in an action similar to the one France carried out in Zaire.

What is 8 Days?

8 Days is an outgrowth of the subversive British Liberal *Middle East International* magazine. Its first issue hit the stands just weeks ago.

The editor of *8 Days* is Mohammed Mahdi al-Tajir, United Arab Emirates ambassador in London and cochairman of the World Festival of Islam Trust. The other cochairman of the World Festival is Sir Harold Beeley of the Middle East Center for Arabic Studies (Mecas), which was established under the auspices of the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA) in 1944. Mecas, which operated out of Shemlan, Lebanon, served until this year as a training center for British intelligence and foreign office personnel assigned to the Mideast.

A native of Dubai, one of Britain's favorite stomping grounds, Tajir is a product of the British Bank of the Middle East and the British Oxford movement that serves as the "intellectual" foundation of the current "Islamic revival" in the Mideast.

The board of editorial advisers for *8 Days* includes old British Mideast hand Sir Geoffrey Arthur; St. John Armitage, head of British intelligence in the Persian Gulf; Lord George-Brown; Alastair Duncan; John Harris; and Sir Frank Layfield.

Another recent *8 Days* article, entitled "Palestine's Real Friends in Europe," by Yacoub Musallam, is all but a paid political advertisement for Britain's Lord Caradon and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, both

long involved in Arab affairs on behalf of Britain. Writes Musallam Lord Caradon ... is a reasonable and farsighted man. For the last ten years he has been urging ... an urgent settlement to the Middle East conflict ... He speaks from experience ... [He understands] the injustice done to the Palestinian people ...

—Nancy Parsons

'8 Days' covers for the Bilderbergers

The following excerpts are taken from the editorial statement in the July 21, 1979 issue of 8 Days.

Over good food and wine a group of people [i.e. the Bilderberg group—ed.], including several prime ministers and foreign ministers and a number of the world's major bankers, debated privately amongst themselves the fate of the world. There is nothing wrong in that, and although the event was cloaked in amazing secrecy there is nothing particularly sinister in men as innocuous as Niels Norlund, editor of *Berlingske Tidende*, Emile van Lennep, boss of the OECD, and Christian Beullac, French Minister of Education, wising themselves up on strategic matters far beyond the terms of reference of their normal duties.

Nor is the air of pretension that surrounds such occasions cause for concern. If the participants feel they can together solve the problems of the world—without the wisdom and experience of one single Arab, Indian, Chinese or Japanese, or any representative of the Third World—then so be it. At this year's conference one woman, Flora Lewis of the *New York Times*, was admitted so that is progress.

From the article which is entitled "Bilderberg, the West's Secret Power Play in the Middle East":

On June 16 last, in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, eight men carrying machine guns and grenades burst into a classroom at the Syrian Army's artillery school where 86 cadets were attending a lecture, and opened fire...

The leading Kuwaiti newspaper, *Al Qabas* said that the real organization behind the attack was a "mysterious club", run by rich western nations for rich western nations—the Bilderberger (sic.) Group.

Al Qabas said that the group had held a conference earlier in the year ... and had decided on a well planned campaign to upset the stability of the Middle East. The aim: to drive a wedge between the countries of the Rejectionist Front.