

Inside Canada by Pierre Beaudry

The Queen's new corporatist policy

Involving the Niagara Institute, the "middleman" for a North American cartel.

A squadron of about 20 sleek corporate jets landed at Ottawa's Uplands Airport last month, delivering chief executives of 23 of America's largest corporations to a closed meeting with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

The Oct. 16 meeting had been arranged by the Queen's Privy Council as early as April to pursue a "business cartel" for North America. This business apparatus is to be phased into a parallel "banking cartel," the preparations for which were begun a week later in New York City by London's Ditchley Foundation with an eye to countering a Third World debt default.

This policy shift in Canada toward a continentalist sharing of the world economic crisis was decided shortly after the Queen of England, Elizabeth II, became officially, that is constitutionally, Queen of Canada last April. Since then, every major change in Canada's Federal Government apparatus, including last month's cabinet shuffle, and the replacement of the head of the Privy Council on Oct. 26, has underscored the significance of the British oligarchy's offensive in North America.

The closed-door one-day session with Trudeau and the Queen's Privy Council gathered the leading executives of 23 top American corporations, including Union Carbide, Westinghouse, Du Pont, Quaker Oats, Bechtel, and representatives of the oil industry, including Standard Oil, Occidental Petroleum, and Mobil Oil. The gathering was sponsored by the

Niagara Institute on specific orders from the Queen's Privy Council.

A secretary of the Institute, Valerie Wakil, explained to me that the Ministry of External Affairs, at the request of the Privy Council, had screened a list of prominent Americans for an October meeting with Trudeau. Sometime last April Alan Gottlieb, the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, and the 14 Counsel Generals of Canada across the United States, began lobbying for the meeting.

According to the president of the Institute, Terry Mactaggart, the plan was to "lure" top officers into "corporate/government/union operations programs" to define policymaking within a situation of "increasing interdependence."

For his role in setting up this roundtable discussion on the revival of such schemes as the North American Common Market, Niagara Institute Director Gordon Obaldeston was recently awarded what many consider to be the most powerful political post in Canada: Clerk of the Privy Council.

On Oct. 26, Michael Pitfield, former Privy Council Clerk and Secretary of the Trudeau cabinet, submitted his resignation. During the 14 years of Trudeau's reign, Pitfield had been his top mandarin behind every policy decision. In fact, the Canadian press is openly debating as to who—Trudeau or Pitfield—had the greatest power. It cannot be emphasized enough that the head of the Privy Council answers only to the Viceroy of Canada, currently

Governor General Edward Schreyer, and to the Queen.

On Sept. 10, Trudeau made a cabinet shuffle, the only significance of which was to win over the Reagan administration. As the American press copiously noted then, the replacement of staunch nationalist Herb Gray by Edward Lumley as Trade Minister, meant a new rapprochement between the two countries. Lumley is a close friend of U.S. Trade Representative William Brock, and the new External Affairs Minister, Allan MacEachen was an MIT colleague of George Shultz.

The Privy Council shakeup coincided with the visit to Canada of Prince Charles, currently Prince of Wales and future king of Canada, to preside over the annual meeting of the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, in Victoria, a United World College founded in 1974 by the British royal family. While the Niagara Institute is "educating" governments, business, and labor leaders in "crisis managing" them to prepare them for the world economic crisis being brought on by the oligarchy's monetary policies, the United World Colleges are deploying an outright oligarchical command center in the United States and Canada (see Special Report).

The Pearson College has on its board of Trustees and Patrons the oligarchs Pierre Cote and Philippe de Gaspé Beaubien of the Bombardier, Quebec; Maurice Strong of the Canadian Development Corporation; and Maj. Gen. Bruce Mathews, Commander, Order of the British Empire, and of Dome Petroleum.

James A. Coutts, principal secretary of Trudeau and J.M. Yocum, Associate Consultant, Warwick/Bradshaw of Toronto, who are directors of the Niagara Institute, are also Pearson College trustees.