

Richard Burt's ties to Soviet espionage: a background dossier

by Scott Thompson

Sources inside the office of Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Richard Burt, and in Moscow, have confirmed close collaboration between Burt and the notorious billionaire KGB agent, Armand Hammer, in "facilitating" the plans for a Reagan-Gorbachov summit for late fall 1985. A well-placed source in Washington, D.C. reports that Burt's section of the State Department has been in charge of the summitry, and has employed channels ranging from Hammer to the Dartmouth Conference, a conduit for Soviet policy into the U.S. government.

Burt's contact with Hammer, who served, along with his father, as an active Soviet intelligence agent since their friendship with Soviet leader Lenin during the Bolshevik Revolution, is maintained through Burt's assistant for Eastern European affairs, overseeing the State Department's Soviet desk. There is evidence that the Hammer-Burt tie may be a financial one as well.

Burt's contact with Hammer is only one more episode in the saga of the unsavory associates of Richard Burt, who has been nominated to be U.S. ambassador to Bonn. They include Henry Kissinger's lifelong buddy Helmut Sonnenfeldt, who had been under investigation by the Security and Counterintelligence Sections of the State Department and Central Intelligence Agency for almost two decades. Sonnenfeldt was blocked from becoming Nixon's Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, because evidence of his espionage for at least one foreign country was made public in Senate hearings, just as Senate debate on Burt's 1982 appointment to the State Department was briefly dominated by one topic: whether or not, and for how long, Burt should be sentenced for leaking highly classified data on a new CHALET spy satellite system.

Mr. KGB, Armand Hammer

In the first week of July, Viktor G. Afanasyev, editor-in-chief of *Pravda*, told visiting American editors that Mikhail S. Gorbachov's decision to hold a summit meeting with Reagan was especially facilitated by two people: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, together with other West European leaders; and Armand Hammer, chairman of the Los Angeles-based firm, Occidental Petroleum. In an interview

made available to *EIR*, the following exchange on Hammer took place with a spokesman for Richard Burt's office.

Q: Could you confirm Soviet statements that Armand Hammer facilitated the Reagan-Gorbachov Summit?

A: . . . We're very impressed with Dr. Armand Hammer and all of his various contacts with the Soviets. . . .

Q: Why have you chosen Dr. Hammer and how does Richard Burt's office maintain contact with him?

A: *Of course, any friend of Father Lenin is a friend of Mikhail Gorbachov* [emphasis added]. . . .

Q: Can you say who has friendly contact with this friend of Father Lenin in Richard Burt's office?

A: Mark Palmer, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Eastern Europe maintains contact with him.

Contacts between Richard Burt and Armand Hammer may be much deeper, according to Russian emigré sources. The story involves two wealthy Russian emigrés named Muscat and Plato Malozemoff. The latter is well-connected through New York businessman Arthur Ross to the British Secret Intelligence Service circles that control Kissinger's Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies. Malozemoff is himself the jet-set son of a well-to-do Russian emigré, who became owner of Newmont Mining Corporation. Wayne Harper Burt, Richard's father, has been chief executive officer or president of many Newmont Mining subsidiaries.

Muscat is said to have been involved in business deals both with Malozemoff and with Armand Hammer, who built his Occidental Petroleum company family fortune in the 1920s, in partnership with W. Averell Harriman, in dealings in furs and the Romanoff crown jewels with V.I. Lenin and the chief of the KGB's predecessor, the OGPU. During Prohibition, Hammer invested these funds in the bootlegging operations of the Good Drug Company, American Distillery stock, and National Distillery, which he sold to mafia kingpin Louis Rosenstiel of Schenley's Liquor. Hammer and his father reportedly laundered funds for the OGPU to U.S. organized crime and other circles. Today, Hammer's Occidental Petroleum has substantial oil holdings in Col. Muammar

Qaddafi's Libya, holdings facilitated by Lord Thomson of Fleet Street's inside track with the Libyan terrorist dictator.

Newmont's importance in British-Soviet relations, as reported in *EIR* (June 10, 1985) got a boost in spring 1982, when it was bought by the Oppenheimer family's Consolidated Gold Fields. Wealthy patrons of Kissinger, the Oppenheimers are central to a multibillion-dollar gold-and-diamonds-for-drugs trade, which takes in Israel and Mideast "Golden Crescent" narcotics through affiliated companies such as Charterhouse-Japhet.

Just when the deal benefiting Wayne Harper Burt went through with Consolidated Gold Fields, his son was brought from the staff of the *New York Times* to be Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs in 1982, despite overwhelming evidence that his CHALET satellite and other leaks had seriously endangered U.S. electronic intelligence capabilities. What the Armand Hammer connection to the Burt family suggests is that so far, the highest levels of espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union by "friends of Father Lenin," can be the bases for billion-dollar business deals as well.

The Dartmouth Conference link

A source at the Dartmouth Conference—one "back channel" where secretive accords are worked out between the Anglo-American oligarchy and the Kremlin—confirmed that one of the people in the State Department to whom the conference has reported on a regular basis is, Richard Burt. The Dartmouth Conference, a project of Henry Kissinger's piggybank, David Rockefeller, is chaired by former World Federalist leader Norman Cousins and is a "Who's Who" of Kissinger clones ranging from Burt's major patron, Helmut Sonnenfeldt, now at Brookings Institution; to Gen. Brent Scowcroft, the former National Security Adviser who chaired Reagan's Bipartisan Commission on Force Structure and the MX missile; Harold Saunders, formerly with the NSC, now at the American Enterprise Institute; and, William Hyland, formerly with the NSC, now editor of the Council on Foreign Relations' *Foreign Affairs* magazine.

Since its 1982 meeting, Dartmouth Conference sources report that Burt has been open to Dartmouth's "Task Force on International Conflict," which has met with Soviet leaders, to discuss a "spheres of influence settlement" in the Middle East, Afghanistan-Pakistan, and Central America. Sources in Burt's office indicate that such a wide-ranging discussion of "spheres of influence," taken from the height of the détente period between Nixon, Kissinger, and Leonid Brezhnev, is being prepared for the Reagan-Gorbachov meeting. The sources also confirmed that Richard Burt has pursued active support of Margaret Thatcher's "Four-Point Program," reached at the urging of Kissinger's ex-business partner, Lord Peter Carrington (now NATO secretary-general), in meetings between Thatcher and Gorbachov last fall, before the Soviet leader took power. This Four-Point Program treats the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) as a "research program," despite the growing threat from Soviet SS-

20, SS-24-X, and SS-25-X nuclear missiles to Western Europe, where Burt is supposed to become ambassador.

Eminence grise: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

Behind the scenes of Richard Burt's career, one of the leading promoters has been Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a crony of Henry Kissinger since the latter served in the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps at the European Command Intelligence School in Oberammergau, West Germany. There, a Soviet defector charged Kissinger with having been recruited into a "Philbyite" Odra-cell network of Soviet agents. Both Kissinger and Sonnenfeldt were protégés of Army buddy Fritz Kraemer, a follower of the Viennese fascist Hermann Rauschning, author of *The Conservative Revolution* with Swiss Nazi Armin Mohler. Kraemer also produced Secretary of State Alexander Haig, under whom Richard Burt first served.

Hal Sonnenfeldt entered the State Department Bureau of Research and Analysis in the 1950s, where he, like Richard Burt later, fell under counterintelligence scrutiny for leaking highly classified documents on the Lebanese invasion to the Israelis in 1958—both to Henry Kissinger at Harvard, and through Kissinger, to other countries including possibly the Soviets in Bertrand Russell's Pugwash Conference back-channel. He remained under in-house State Department scrutiny, though he headed State's Research and Analysis on the Soviet bloc through an appointment of then-Secretary of State Dean Rusk, until his appointment as a top assistant of Henry Kissinger on the National Security Council staff in 1969.

Hal Sonnenfeldt played a major "back-channel" role in the Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty (SALT), which involves Richard Burt peripherally, and sheds light on the role Burt could be expected to play in Bonn to stab the Western Alliance in the back. Not only did Sonnenfeldt handle the U.S. sale of grain to the Soviets—at outrageously advantageous terms for the latter—but he kept a "back-channel" to the Soviets through Willy Brandt, Egon Bahr, and others in the left wing of the German Social Democracy. Although the Brandt government fell in 1974 when Brandt's aide Günther Guillaume was exposed as an East German agent, reportedly a member of the same Odra cell that had recruited Henry Kissinger much earlier, Sonnenfeldt used the offices of Brandt's Social Democracy for Kissinger and his private trips to Moscow before the 1972 SALT-ABM summit. He also negotiated a parallel deal on Berlin, considered to be instrumental in part of the trade-off to Moscow for the SALT agreement, which Kissinger got passed by keeping secret his full knowledge that the Soviets intended to violate the treaty!

Senate testimony shows Burt to be one of the leading critics of anyone who mentions Soviet SALT violations of any kind. This is not surprising. Burt's partner at the *New York Times*, columnist Leslie Gelb, to whom Burt allegedly "leaked" information while in office, had been part of the team which first drafted SALT at Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's urging in the late 1960s.