

Rowland's *Observer* defends Soviet agents

by Mark Burdman

In its issues of Oct. 16 and 23, the London *Observer* weekly newspaper, owned by "Tiny" Rowland of the Lonrho company, ran bathetic, soap-opera-style defenses of important Soviet-linked Britons. In *Observer* writer David Leigh's view, these individuals have been unfair victims of witchhunts by a special counterintelligence unit in Britain's MI-5, the so-called "K Branch," and by the late Director of Counterintelligence of the CIA, James Jesus Angleton, whom Leigh denounces as "distinctly paranoid" and "an agent of a foreign power."

The articles are serialized from a book authored by Leigh, to be published Nov. 1, entitled *The Wilson Plot*. Aside from being an apologist for Soviet operatives in Britain, Leigh is known for his visceral hatred of Lyndon LaRouche.

The first of the two articles expresses outrage that former Prime Minister Harold Wilson was the target of a coup plot by MI-5 anti-Soviet operatives. In the course of defending Wilson, Leigh also defends such British fellow-traveler friends of Wilson as Robert Maxwell, the notorious KGB-linked publisher, and Lord Solly Zuckerman, the favored scientific adviser of the late Lord Mountbatten and a chief Western channel to the Soviet Union.

The nominal object of much of Leigh's anger, is the opportunistic former MI-5 investigator Peter Wright, whose book, *Spycatcher*, has generated enormous controversy worldwide, and in which the "plot against Wilson" is largely detailed, with Wright himself taking a prominent role. But more than this, Leigh is attacking an entire faction spanning Britain and the United States, but also extending to other Western countries, which is concerned with defending the West against Soviet subversion. Journalists, British intelligence war heroes, and other patriots do not escape Leigh's poison pen.

But what Leigh is really defending, only becomes clear when we look at some of the more curious details of the

defense he mounts.

The second in the series, published Oct. 23, is a tearjerker about how Niall MacDermot, once an up-and-coming British Labour Party politician, and his wife Ludmila Benvenuto MacDermot went into exile in Geneva, Switzerland, supposedly disgusted that they had been the targets of an Angleton/MI-5 campaign about their Soviet-linked activities. In the course of reporting this, Leigh reveals one significant piece of information, while omitting a most obvious piece of biographical data that might rip apart his whole concoction.

An omission

First, on the omission. He strangely never mentions that MacDermot is currently head of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), based in Geneva. This is a well-known fact of political life in Europe; but it opens up a can of worms that Leigh obviously wants to avoid.

MacDermot became head of the ICJ in 1970, replacing Sean MacBride. The latter, now deceased, was a notorious Soviet agent of influence. As *EIR* reported (Sept. 23, 1988), MacBride was a key figure in the development of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). MacBride's policy guidelines toward Northern Ireland have been in significant part adopted by the Kennedy machine and the Dukakis campaign in the United States.

A new report issued by London's Institute for the Study of Terrorism, "IRA, INLA: Foreign Support and International Connections," reveals, in a chapter on IRA-Soviet ties dating back to the earliest days of the Bolshevik coup, that in 1927, "IRA delegates attended a conference of the Comintern's League Against Imperialism (LAI) in Berlin, and on their return an Irish section was formed with Sean MacBride of the IRA Army Council as secretary. In June 1929, Communists and IRA members established the Labour Defence League, which took part in violent mob attacks on non-union workers in Dublin. Among its leaders were MacBride and Geoffrey Coulter, a self-confessed Bolshevik, who had declared a 'soviet' in 1921 at a coal-mine in Leitrim. . . . The Defence League was to become the Irish section of the Comintern's International Red Aid."

International Red Aid, also known by its German name, Rote Hilfe, was one of the organizations associated with Willi Muenzenburg, the chief propagandist of the Comintern, who built a massive newspaper and magazine empire in Germany.

MacDermot's pro-Russian friends

Bringing matters more up to date: In December 1987, while Gorbachov and Reagan were signing the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty in Washington, MacDermot was in Leningrad, attending an East-West international conference on legal issues, held under the auspices of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. The IADL is headed by French Communist Party lawyer Joe Nordmann, the man who has defended the Soviet govern-

ment in legal actions brought by associates of Lyndon LaRouche in France. Another top IADL figure is former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

East-West legal exchanges have become, more than ever, an important feature in Soviet international subversion, since the Sept. 30-Oct. 1 appointment of former KGB head Viktor Chebrikov, to head a special new Soviet commission on legal affairs.

The *Observer* has, in any case, a soft spot for Soviet-linked lawyers. On Sept. 18, it ran a sympathetic feature about John Platts-Mills, head of the socialist lawyers' Haldane Society, and former vice-president of the IADL. Platts-Mills, the *Observer* wrote, "was one of the group of Labour Members of Parliament in the 1945-1950 Parliament who argued that the Attlee Government should align itself with Stalin's Russia against Harry Truman's United States." Platts-Mills was a senior representative at the same December 1987 Leningrad meeting that MacDermot attended. His son, Jonathan, remarkably, has been the Lonrho corporation's chief troublemaker for approximately 20 years! Since 1956, when Nikita Khrushchov made his famous anti-Stalin revelations, Platts-Mills has "transmuted his political identification with Russia into a cultural one," the *Observer* commented.

That brings us to the next aspect of Leigh's series.

A pointer toward Capri

Leigh reports that the mother of Ludmila Benvenuto MacDermot was Laura Benvenuto, whose family was close to the Russian-emigré circle in Italy associated with writer Maxim Gorky.

This is an interesting fact, bringing the MacDermot-Benvenuto story out of the realm of soap opera into the realm of the East-West "Trust." In the early development of Bolshevism, probably no single factor was more important in developing the Bolshevik ideology than the cultist and cultural discussions on the island of Capri during the first years of the 20th century, centering around the person of Maxim Gorky.

During the autumn of this year, there has been something of a "Russian culture revival" on Capri. During the latter half of September, the "Prix Italia" television award was given to a Russian documentary extolling the Russian Orthodox Church. In the days following, a conference was held in Capri on Russian culture.

These are but two, of a massive complex of cultural events taking place in Western Europe, sponsored by the highest levels of the degenerate European oligarchy, with the purpose of making Russian culture the favored culture for the Europe that is supposed to emerge in the 1990s, in the context of the "Europe 1992" restructuring reforms for Western Europe. This *cultural subversion*, rather than the spy intrigues as such, is what is really at stake in the problem of Soviet infiltration of the West.

Hence, Robert Maxwell, defended by Leigh, has recently become the publisher of *Our Heritage*, the official publica-

tion of Raisa Gorbachova's Soviet Culture Fund. The editor of that publication was recently in London, at a well-attended event at the London Christie's art auction house, during which pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary Russian porcelain and ceramics were on display.

Maxwell has become an important patron of the European Culture Foundation, the prestigious Amsterdam-based foundation that is one of the conceptual architects of the cultural matrix of "Europe 1992."

The ECF, in turn, has recently strengthened relations with the cultural directorate of the European Community in Brussels, whose director of cultural affairs is Venetian politician Carlo Ripa de Meana.

Venice-Capri is the fault line along which long-term cultural, philosophical, and religious-theological issues are really determined for the European oligarchies, East and West. Over the Oct. 22-25 weekend, the prestigious Société Européenne de Culture held a conference of cultural influentials, East and West, on the theme, "The Europe of Culture in the New East-West Climate."

Leigh's article is, therefore, a signal that such new Rus-sophile cultural relations are the "going thing." The soap-opera format is only tailored to the degenerated cultural level of the followers of the editorial line of Tiny Rowland's *Observer*.

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