

# Irangate's Rowland under fire in U.K.

by Mark Burdman

Tiny Rowland, chairman of the Lonrho Corporation, is in trouble in Britain. His problems may not bode well for leading figures in the "Irangate" complex of the Anglo-American Establishment, such as CIA covert-operations specialist Ted Shackley. Rowland's woes result from the newest developments in the Pamela Bordes scandal in Britain. Bordes, a House of Commons researcher, has been discovered to be a special "capability" of the Irangate network, having allegedly performed sexual and other services for Irangate arms-dealer Adnan Khashoggi of Saudi Arabia, Libyan intelligence major and terrorism coordinator Ahmed Qaddafi, and others. (See last week's issue.)

Immediately after the Easter weekend, a Tory member of the British Parliament, Neil Hamilton, put forward an inquiry, asking British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd to probe the alleged links of Rowland's Lonrho to Ahmed Qaddafi. Reporting this, the March 29 London *Daily Express* noted that several Members of Parliament are hopping mad that Britain's MI-5 intelligence service had not told the government and Scotland Yard about the evidence it had of Bordes's links to Qaddafi, who is suspected of having masterminded at least three terror-bombings in Britain.

On March 19, the *Sunday Times* of London reported that Ahmed Qaddafi had been a manager of the company Tradewinds, a subsidiary of Lonrho, earlier in the 1980s. Other British sources have reported that Rowland traveled to Libya after the American bombing of Tripoli in April 1986, to meet Qaddafi (Muammar Qaddafi's cousin) and others in the Qaddafi circle. Rowland's relations to Libya have either been directly with Qaddafi and his clique, or mediated through Egypt's Ashraf Marwan, son-in-law of the late Egyptian President Gamal-Abdel Nasser.

In Britain, there is a growing mood of anger against Rowland, because of his efforts to sabotage a recent British Aerospace deal with Jordan, which did fall through on March 23. In part, the deal was victim to pressure from the International Monetary Fund, which is imposing austerity on Jordan, and does not want the country spending money on arms. But it was also undercut by a nasty piece in Rowland's *Sunday Observer* March 19, which claimed that Jordan was demanding large amounts of money for "hidden commissions" for middlemen and politicians.

On March 23, British Labour Party Dale Campbell-Saunders lashed into Rowland in a violent way, accusing him of

being a "gladiatorial, proprietorial tyrant, who is manipulating his newspaper. . . . This man is now undermining British industry, and in particular British Aerospace, with accusations that equally apply to himself in relation to his own arms dealing."

Inside the Thatcher Cabinet, Pamela Bordes's publicly acknowledged, leading friend has been Sports Minister Colin Moynihan, the half-brother of Britain's Lord Anthony Moynihan, who left Britain in the late 1960s while under investigation for fraud. As the *Independent* daily commented March 29, he "gave up politics to run a brothel in the Philippines." Several years back, Lord Moynihan was named by an Australian Royal Commission as part of an international drug-smuggling operation.

In the past months, Lord Moynihan has turned up as the reported chief informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, in a DEA operation against a Briton named Howard Marks. Marks is a "former" MI-6 intelligence officer, tried in the early 1980s in Britain on drug charges. He successfully defended himself with the claim that he was an MI-6 agent penetrating IRA drugs-for-guns operations.

The Oxford-trained Marks was apprehended by police in Spain in July 1988, and has been in a Spanish prison since then. On March 28 of this year, the DEA, which considers him to be the "Marco Polo" of the world cannabis trade, won a fight to have him extradited to the U.S. even though Marks is a Briton. After this was announced, Marks warned that if put on trial in the U.S., "I shall turn the affair into the biggest circus that idiotic country has ever seen."

Insults aside, what Marks could reveal, may make a lot of people uncomfortable. A Scandinavian investigative journalist affirms that Marks is part of the old "Nugen Hand" network, based out of Australia. Nugen Hand Bank was, according to several published sources, a CIA proprietary, accused of involvement in drug trafficking, money laundering, and so forth. The Nugen Hand operation was set up by a collection of CIA and Pentagon "secret warriors" linked to Ted Shackley. Former CIA director William Colby was Nugen Hand Bank's general counsel. Set up around 1970, Nugen Hand went belly up about one decade later, when one partner was found dead and the other disappeared with the bank's assets.

Shackley, a former deputy director of CIA covert operations, is widely described as an expert in setting up and dismantling proprietaries, or "shell" operations, that are used for all sorts of underhanded activities. Irangate was the paradigm of this, and Shackley was one of the evil geniuses behind such entities as the renowned "Enterprise" of General Secord, Col. Oliver North et al. In his trade, he and CIA collaborators ("The Company") often bring in corporations from other countries, through which special operations are run. Rowland's corporate empire in the Middle East and elsewhere, has reportedly been used by Shackley and friends in this way.