

'Green mole' Sir James Goldsmith becomes top ecofascist warrior

by Herbert Quinde

Sir James Goldsmith, a headline-making "anti-communist" activist and billionaire corporate raider who figured in the Iran-Contra scandal and the judicial railroading of Lyndon LaRouche, has decided to show his true colors. Sir James has come out green.

Sir Jimmy, as he is known to his "right wing" friends, has announced his intention to give up his lucrative business career to "concentrate on the environment." Through a family foundation, he will campaign for the "preservation of rain forests and the ending of nuclear power programs," according to the Oct. 17 *London Times*. As a leading philanthropist and darling of the Reagan-Thatcher conservative movement, Sir Jimmy's reincarnation as a tree-hugging anti-nuke environmentalist should have a profound impact on those conservative cadre who still cling to the illusion that the "Reagan revolution" was not thoroughly prostituted to the Eastern banking establishment.

The *Times* quotes Goldsmith: "I have always campaigned that the Right should not abandon the overwhelming issues facing the world to the Left." Telling the *Times* that he is glad to see the awakening to environmental issues in Britain, Goldsmith cites the situation in the United States as a negative contrast: "Anyone who is concerned with environmental issues is considered by certain elements of the Right, in the United States, an enemy." He now wants to "convert" his friends on the Right to his point of view.

"In the United States, the main enemy is not Saddam Hussein but the environmentalists," complained a leading British environmentalist close to Goldsmith's circle, in candid conversation. "You hear it everywhere, from the oil interests, the chemical interests, the right wing groups. The U.S.A. is determined to ignore environmental requirements. They don't care about global warming, they don't care about the greenhouse effect. There needs to be more pressure to get them to change." He explained that Sir Jimmy wanted to change all this, through his "right wing" connections. "He's very well into the American right wing, and will try to bring people over to the environmentalist point of view."

A whale of a swindle

Since Sir Jimmy has been known as a generous money-bags for the American and English-speaking right wing throughout the 1980s, especially its Project Democracy neo-conservative arm, it should not surprise anyone if Oliver North surfaces in the near future at Jane Fonda's side, chanting, "Save the whales!"

Sir Jimmy is not new to the cause. Several years ago, he established the Goldsmith Foundation, which has been contributing millions of dollars to "social and environmental issues." Now its resources are to be "substantially" boosted by the billionaire financier, reported the Oct. 19 *London Daily Telegraph*. Sir Jimmy told the paper that he finds his intensified commitment to environmentalism "amusing," while stressing that for many years he has funded his brother Edward "Teddy" Goldsmith and the latter's magazine *The Ecologist*. Also, he has been active recently in promoting "organic food production," a "social cause" whose boosters are led by the British royal family. He told the *Telegraph* that the world is now "in a period of massive change, environmentally, politically and geopolitically," in which context issues like "global warming or the destruction of our habitat" are coming to the forefront.

Despite his much-touted altruism, Sir Jimmy's love of the green doesn't have much to do with protecting Mother Nature. The May 4, 1989 *Financial Times* reported that Goldsmith was instrumental in convincing the cabinet of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to support "green" issues, much the same way Czar Mikhail Gorbachov has advocated global environmental cooperation as a building block of the "new world order."

One such green issue is "debt-for-nature" swaps. The *Times* article, titled "Green Goldsmith gets his way," reported that he had "succeeded in overcoming Foreign Office doubts to win Mrs. Thatcher's backing for a radical proposal to preserve endangered rain forests. This would mean offering Third World countries a deal involving their crippling international debts. . . . Under the scheme, first mooted

some years ago, Britain would buy up Third World debt and agree to forgo interest payments on condition that tropical rain forests are left untouched. . . . The prime minister is attracted by the scheme's commercial implications, and has ordered further work to be done on it." The article also reported that the Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund) gave a "cautious welcome" to the Goldsmith idea.

Mother Nature, or Mammon?

While hiding under Mother Nature's skirts, Sir Jimmy's advocacy is a classic scheme for 19th-century British imperialist raw materials grab, and Brazil is one immediate target for a "hostile takeover." It turns out that Goldsmith's brother Teddy is a very good friend of Brazil's Environment Secretary José Lutzemberger. Recently Brazil, for the first time in principle, accepted foreign limitations on its sovereignty in the form of "debt-for-nature swaps," by agreeing to discuss the issue. Finance Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello told a meeting of all Brazil's bank creditors that the mineral-rich country was prepared to accept converting part of the \$60 billion it owes them into environmental conditionalities. The issue is in the talking stage.

Bolivia, Costa Rica, and the Philippines have made debt deals during the past few years in which environmentalist groups such as the World Wide Fund for Nature buy from bankers at steep discounts the defaulted debt of those nations. The environmentalists put up 10-15% of the nominal value of the debt, and the government pays the full nominal value in local currency to their local front group to buy up lands, ostensibly for protecting them. Only the oligarchy associated with the green group can have access to these enclaves. There is already a scandal in Bolivia over looting of forests which were supposed to be protected.

The idea has been floated that for \$2-3 billion in debt relief, Brazil might be induced to put most of the Amazon Basin into a protectorate ruled by Prince Philip's minions. Thus, they would gain control over underground minerals and other resources probably worth a thousand times as much.

Sir Jimmy really does love trees, though. In 1985, he did a takeover of Crown Zellerbach Corp., an American forest products company with vast timber reserves. Until recently, when he swapped his timber for Lord Hanson's gold shares in Newmont Mining Corp., Goldsmith was the sixth-largest owner of timber, with huge reserves primarily in Washington, Oregon, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Before Crown Zellerbach, Goldsmith had tried to grab St. Regis, another forestry products company. He told Moira Johnston, author of the 1986 book *Takeover: The New Wall Street Warriors*, "I do believe in forests. I do believe in forest lands. Everybody says they're a disaster. But they're still making profits. And forest lands will one day be as valuable as they were."

White House darling

Prior to his "flower power" conversion, Goldsmith was known as a coldblooded and ruthless shark who perfected the art of leveraged buyouts (LBOs), hostile corporate takeovers, and "greenmailing." Along with Ivan Boesky, Michael Milken, and other bloodsuckers, Sir Jimmy contributed to devastating corporate America during the 1980s by leaving broken U.S. firms drowning in debt strewn across the corporate landscape.

By the late 1980s, Goldsmith had caused enough trouble that he was dragged up to Capitol Hill to answer questions before a congressional committee about his attempted hostile takeover of Goodyear. Goldsmith chewed out Congress, warning that the United States was in danger of catching the European disease of "a triangular alliance of big unions, big government, and big management." The rubber manufacturer was saved by favorable legislation, and the Congress subsequently upgraded the Committee on Foreign Investments in the U.S. (CFIUS), a multi-agency watchdog, for national security reasons. When the dust settled, the mayor of Akron, Ohio expressed the dominant sentiment: "We kicked that slimy bastard out." In late 1989, disgusted with America's "decline" into what he privately said was a recession, he redeployed his liquidity into Europe.

With such credentials, Sir Jimmy was extended the red carpet at the White House. A respected entrepreneur such as Goldsmith was a welcome booster of the mythical Reagan-Bush "economic recovery." His staunchly pro-Israel and anti-communist rhetoric also gave him input on foreign policy issues, as he roamed the corridors of power at the White House. A former senior Reagan National Security Council (NSC) staffer recalls giving a private briefing to Sir James and media mogul Rupert Murdoch on U.S. arms control policy in the office of Kenneth de Graffenreid, then head of Intelligence Programs at the NSC.

The "greening" of Goldsmith could well lead U.S. counterintelligence officials to examine the possibility of a national security breach. For all his right wing credentials, it is noteworthy that Sir Jimmy's chief U.S. corporate raiding strategist, Robert Pirie, is a flaming "pinko" according to conservative circles' criteria. Before making a name for himself as a hitman for Goldsmith and his cousins the Rothschilds, Pirie was deputy campaign manager of Sen. Eugene McCarthy's presidential bid in 1968. After McCarthy's defeat, Pirie co-founded a national committee to oppose U.S. development of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems. His backers included such key liberals as Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg. This group was part of a general groundswell against ABM systems initiated by the Boston Bundy brothers and the Pugwash group, which fed into Henry Kissinger's 1972 negotiation of the ABM treaty.

Today, Pirie heads Rothschild, Inc., the U.S. division of the family's global financial empire. He cut his teeth as a

takeover specialist while working at the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, which is also the law firm of the Anti-Defamation League, a group which targets political opponents of the Anglo-American Establishment.

Project Democracy 'spook' targets LaRouche

As an Anglo-American Establishment insider, Sir Jimmy became part of the Reagan-Bush "secret government" apparatus known as Project Democracy. An official of the the CIA's retirees lobby the Association of Former Intelligence Officers who served in the CIA London station described Goldsmith as a "member of SIS [British Secret Intelligence Services] old-boys' board of directors" and the private financier who handles British intelligence's "Israel account." Sir Jimmy sits on the board of media magnate Conrad Black's Hollinger Corp. along with Henry Kissinger and Peter Lord Carrington. Hollinger recently acquired the *Jersualem Post*, which has become the mouthpiece for Israel's Shamir war cabinet.

Documents released during Oliver North's trial and from the congressional investigation of Irangate detail Sir Jimmy's role in the "public diplomacy" program coordinated by career CIA official Walter Raymond who was working out of the NSC. Raymond ran a covert propaganda machine whose tasks included the discrediting of opponents of the Reagan-Bush administration's Iran and Contra initiatives. One of Raymond's co-workers was Roy Godson, a neo-conservative intelligence community gadfly who has spent a good part of his adult life as a member of the interagency "Get LaRouche" task force.

Goldsmith reportedly has collaborated with an international network of LaRouche haters not only in the U.S. but in London, Paris, Bonn, and Berne, Switzerland. James Jesus Angleton, the late former head of the CIA counterintelligence division, said that Sir Jimmy was the first to tell him the slander that LaRouche's wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche was an "East German agent."

In New York, Wall Street investment banker and intelligence "spook" John Train has been an intimate of Sir Jimmy, according to the Nov. 23, 1987 *Time* magazine. "There is a lot of internal rage in Jimmy," said Train. "Goldsmith himself acknowledges, 'When I fight, I fight with a knife.'" Train and Godson hosted the now-famous "Get LaRouche" task force meeting in April 1983, which plotted his frameup and illegal imprisonment.

Also at that meeting was Richard Mellon Scaife, another right-wing piggybank. Goldsmith and Scaife have collaborated in numerous philanthropic joint ventures to the benefit of Project Democracy. One is the funding of *The American Spectator*, a neo-conservative politico-literati monthly magazine edited by R. Emmett Tyrrell, which runs articles by such authors as John Train and Prof. Harvey Klehr, a collaborator of the ADL's Mira Lansky Boland, who played a key role in the frame-up trials of LaRouche and six associates in federal and state courts in Virginia.

In London, Goldsmith bankrolled the kooky intelligence newsletter of Kenneth de Courcy, according to a former business partner (see *Feature*).

How did he get past U.S. Customs?

Should any inquiring mind or U.S. government official decide to investigate how Sir Jimmy landed on America's shores, he or she might well start by asking Arthur Ross. Himself a senior member of Manhattan's liberal Establishment, Ross has been a politically influential Wall Street financier who had joined the board of the Grand Union supermarket chain in 1968. In 1973, Goldsmith established a beachhead on U.S. soil by buying 51% of Grand Union through his front company Cavenham Ltd. Goldsmith made his first big killing in Britain in 1971 when he bought out Bovril, another food chain. Grand Union, at the time the 10th largest supermarket chain in the United States, was purchased for \$62 million. The Dec. 4, 1973 coverage of the purchase in the *Wall Street Journal* observed that "Grand Union didn't oppose the takeover." They took a *laissez-faire* approach, forwarding Goldsmith's offer to shareholders "without board recommendation." Arthur Ross was a leading figure on the board of directors.

The wizard behind the deal was André Meyer of Lazard Frères & Co. Meyer was a business, political, civic, and social intimate of Arthur Ross. A May 19, 1973 article in the *New York Times* on Sen. Jacob Javits's electoral campaign reports, "The Javits aides said the contributors were longtime friends of the senator, and included Arthur Ross and André Meyer, New York investment bankers."

André Meyer is credited with being the American originator of the "complex big deal," foreshadowing Boesky and company, according to his profile in *Who's Who in American Finance and Banking*. "Meyer liked to call his operations 'financial engineering,' and David Rockefeller called him 'the most creative financial genius of our time in the investment banking field.' . . . Critics have accused him of ruthlessness and of helping to foster the conglomerate movement in the United States as a method of generating funds for his company."

Ross has always been an Establishment heavy with significant input to Anglo-American intelligence and political circles. A Dec. 10, 1980 *New York Times* article lists Ross as an attendee at an exclusive dinner for President-elect Reagan hosted by Mrs. Vincent Astor in Manhattan. There were only about 70 people at the dinner; the list of attendees is highly suggestive of the network which was responsible for destroying whatever was good within the Reagan administration. Besides Arthur Ross, other attendees were William Paley (CBS), Lord Weidenfeld, Felix Rohaytn, Arthur Ochs Sulzburger, Douglas Dillon, David Rockefeller, A.M. Rosenthal, John Loeb, Henry Kissinger, Walter Wriston, Thomas Brokaw (NBC), William Buckley, Paul Volker, Lew Wasserman, George Will, and Sir Fitzroy Maclean.