

Deep secrets behind Lonrho boss Rowland

by Nancy Spannaus

Tiny Rowland: The Ugly Face of Neocolonialism in Africa

by an EIR Investigative Team

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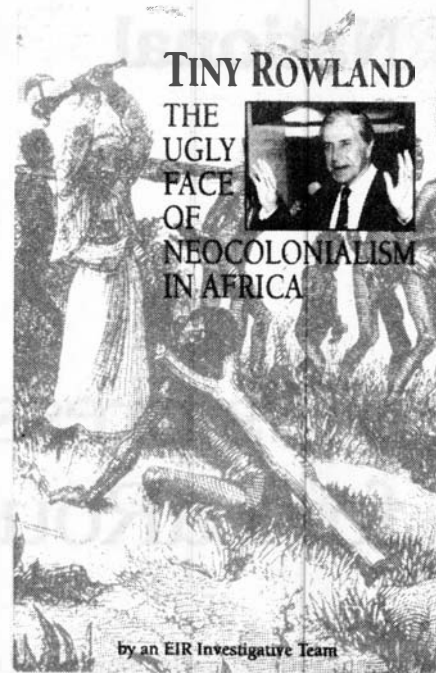
Since he took the helm of a sleepy little mining company in then-Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1961 and turned it into one of the world's premier multinationals, Lonrho, Roland W. "Tiny" Rowland has not only dominated the continent of Africa, but has spread his tentacles into India, Germany, Mexico, eastern Europe, Russia, Japan, and beyond.

An aura of mystery has always surrounded Rowland. What accounts for his meteoric rise? What gives him the power to dictate to governments? For whom does he work, really?

The product of a years-long investigation by a special EIR team on several continents, this book utilizes never-before-published documentary evidence and interviews with those who have known Rowland intimately for decades, to answer those questions. Stunning new light is cast on many hidden aspects of Rowland's career, including:

- Rowland's pro-Nazi fanaticism, which led to his internment during World War II as a danger to Britain;
- His participation in one of the most secret British intelligence operations of the 20th century, the wartime "Double-Cross Committee," beginning a long affiliation between Rowland and Britain's foreign intelligence service, MI-6;
- His early sponsorship by legendary City of London magnate Harley Drayton, whose 117 Old Broad St. Group managed the private fortune of the Queen;
- His backing of all sides in the last decades' civil wars in Africa;
- His pivotal role in the Iran-Contra guns-for-drugs affair.

Said an EIR spokesman, "Africa is dying, and there is no hope for the continent until the death-grip on its people by such pillars of the modern slave trade as the International Monetary Fund and Tiny Rowland's Lonrho is broken. Until now, journalists have been terrified to tell the story of the cheating, lying, stealing and worse, which have character-



ized the career of Rowland.

"More importantly, this book is a history of the tragedy of modern Africa. As documented, the post-1960 decolonization announced by British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan in his famous 'Winds of Change' speech in Cape Town that year was always intended, by powerful forces in Britain, to ultimately result in a *recolonization*. The architects of this new colonialism sponsored the meteoric rise of Tiny Rowland and Lonrho."

What is particularly striking about Rowland from this book, is his sponsorship by top British circles connected to the Royal Family. The following individuals all helped Rowland get out of many a tight spot: Angus Ogilvy, Harley Drayton, Sir Joseph Ball, and Duncan Sandys, the former Secretary of State for the Colonies. The authors point to this connection as being something beyond financial involvement, however; rather, they view the alliance of Rowland with these royal retainers as reflecting a policy commitment of the Crown.

Also of particular interest to black Africans will be the chronology of the duplicitous role played by these so-called British liberals in fomenting civil war in the African nations, from Angola to Namibia to Zimbabwe. The authors warn of similar games set up to be played in the much larger and more volatile South Africa, where British colonialists will keep a tight hold on the raw materials wealth of the country, while encouraging fratricidal warfare within the population.

While one could ask for a little more emphasis on the actual physical power which the Rowland group holds today, the book as a whole serves its function—to unmask this private financier as a tool of British imperial policy.