

Barrick's barracudas

In announcing the creation of Barrick Gold Corp.'s international advisory board on May 3, 1995, Barrick Chairman Peter Munk said, "They will be providing strategic advice on geopolitical issues affecting Barrick." In fact, they are components of the geopolitical dirty tricks apparatus centered around former President George Bush. The following is a brief profile of key members of Barrick's international advisory board and its board of directors:

George Bush serves as "Honorary Senior Adviser."

Brian Mulroney, prime minister of Canada from 1984 to 1993. Mulroney became prime minister after backers of the Nicaraguan Contras helped knock out his competitor, Joe Clark. There were no serious investigations of the "Iran-Contra" Canadian connection. Mulroney sacrificed his political career by talking Canadians into accepting Bush's North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Though Canadian banks benefitted, 350,000 industrial jobs were lost, and Mulroney became the most hated man in Canada. In the 1993 elections, Canadians voted out all but 2 of his party's 169 members of Parliament.

In 1994, Mulroney's phone calls to the Presidents of Chile and Argentina, and the prime minister of China, helped Barrick move into gold mines in those nations. His "advice" was rewarded with \$1.2 million in stock options and \$300,000 in fees. Rev. Sun Myung Moon rewarded Mulroney and Bush for their vouching for him in Ibero-America in November 1996. Mulroney, a board member of Archer Daniels Midland, ran ADM's internal "investigation" of its price-fixing scandal.

Howard H. Baker, Jr. (R-Tenn.) served in the U.S. Senate from 1967 to 1985, and was Reagan's chief of staff during 1987-88. He is on many corporate boards and runs a lobbying firm, which includes Barrick among its clients.

Paul G. Desmarais, Sr. is the richest man in Canada, and a member of Her Majesty's Council for Canada. He runs Power Corp. of Canada—which generates political power. He serves on many boards with Maurice Strong, a top operative of Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature. For example, Desmarais and Strong are Honorary Director and Honorary Chairman, respectively, of the China-Canada Business Council. Desmarais used his contacts in China to win electricity-generating contracts for Power Corp., and to obtain gold concessions for Barrick. Desmarais is part-owner of Europe's largest private TV network, the banking Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, and Belgium's Petrofina oil giant. As a Commander of Belgium's L'Ordre de Leopold II, it seems natural for him to be involved with Barrick in recolonizing the former Belgian Congo.

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. was president of the Urban League from 1971 to 1981, when former Democratic National Committee chairman Robert S. Strauss recruited him to become a senior partner in his law firm. Jordan is influential in the Democratic Party and in corporate America.

Andro'nico Luksic is a Chilean oligarch who was a big winner in Chile's Thatcherite sell-off of state assets. He is building a South America-wide banking empire as the local partner for Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the central bank of the opium trade, and for Spanish banking interests. They have snapped up banks in Chile, Argentina, and Peru—countries which Bush would like to integrate into a Western Hemisphere Free Trade Accord. In 1994, Barrick acquired 500 square miles of Chile's El Indio gold, silver, and copper district, containing 9.5 million ounces of gold. It also has mines in Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, and Venezuela.

Peter Munk, a member of the 1001 Club (see article, p. 19).

Karl Otto Pöhl was president of the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, from 1980 to 1991; he was a top official of the International Monetary Fund and Bank for International Settlements, and is a member of Germany's Social Democratic Party.

Jose E. Rohm, manager of Argentina's private Banco Central de Negocios, is an expert in turning the privatization of state assets to personal advantage.

Robert M. Smith, the only real gold miner in the bunch; chief operating officer of Barrick Gold.

Members of the board of directors

Edward N. Ney, Bush's appointee as ambassador to Canada (1989-92), is a Barrick director. Ney became CEO of Young and Rubicam in 1970, where he fired one-third of the staff, and built it into the world's biggest ad and public relations agency. He supervised George Bush's 1988 ad campaign, including the infamous racist "Willie Horton" ad. As ambassador, he helped jump-start the NAFTA initiative of Bush and Mulroney, with propaganda saturation from Y&R's Burson-Marsteller division, which he now controls. Burson-Marsteller is a veritable private diplomatic service, with agencies in 34 countries.

J. Trevor Eyton, known as "Canada's most powerful businessman," brokers the incestuous relations among the Club of the Isles' families which are based in Canada. Eyton started his career in British intelligence's Argus-Hollinger nexus, next to media magnate Conrad Black. Since 1979, he has managed Brascan and other entities for the Bronfman family. He was appointed a Canadian senator as a reward for channelling the Bronfmans' money into buying the 1984 election for Mulroney's party, and to help get the Bush and Mulroney-backed NAFTA three-way accord with the United States and Mexico through the Canadian Parliament. When the Bronfmans fused with Barrick, Eyton joined its board.