

Sir Leon Brittan: Thatcher's 'fat poodle'

by Scott Thompson

He has been described by fellow European Commission officials as "Margaret Thatcher's fat poodle." More appropriately, he could be called Thatcher's "pit bull," particularly following his rude diatribe at a May 1996 Beijing conference on the Eurasian Land-Bridge.

Sir Leon Brittan, the first vice president of the European Commission, has been an ardent follower of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (now Lady Thatcher), and served in three different cabinet positions during her first three terms in office, until he was forced to resign because of a scandal. Thatcher then appointed him to be the British Empire's chief operative inside the European Union, where he has rammed through free market, deregulation, and privatization policies that have sparked the worst economic crisis in postwar European history.

From this position, Brittan has carried the free-trade disease far and wide. One of the nastiest examples of this, was his behavior at the International Symposium on Economic Development of the Regions Along the Euro-Asian Continental Bridge, a state-sponsored conference of 34 nations held in Beijing, China, on May 7-9, 1996. The conference was called to discuss the creation of a new "continental bridge era" for humanity, to create new economic regions, using the most advanced technologies, in the Earth's underdeveloped regions. Nations must cooperate to achieve this based on the principle of "common development."

Brittan was opposed. Unilaterally, he demanded that China and the Continental Bridge nations comply with the demands of "the market" and "international obligations," or, he threatened, "the market" will see to it that the project will fail. The outrageous Sir Leon asserted that infrastructure must be *privately* funded, not by governments. Unless what he called "independent economic structures" were enabled to do what they want, free of government intervention, the Land-Bridge would never get the investment it needs. Then, Brittan, a guest of the Chinese government, threatened China that it must join the World Trade Organization (on *his* free-trade terms, of course) to make the Land-Bridge "attractive."

Brittan has made such demands of China before; China has not complied.

Immediately after the Beijing conference, Brittan attended a financial conference in Singapore, where he met Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer. One month later, after Brittan had again met Fischer, in Australia on June 3, the



Vice President of the European Union Commission and British agent Sir Leon Brittan threatened China that financing for Land-Bridge projects must be left in private hands—i.e., vulnerable to British strangulation. Here, Brittan in Beijing for the conference on the New Euro-Asia Continental Bridge, on May 7-9, 1996.

latter launched a wild attack against Lyndon LaRouche, a leading international proponent of the Eurasian Land-Bridge policy, and against LaRouche's associates in Australia.

Who is Sir Leon Brittan?

Sir Leon Brittan is part of a "Conservative Cambridge Mafia" that worked together closely during Lady Thatcher's rise to power. As a lawyer, he became a Queen's Council in 1978. More important, in 1981, after he had run successfully for several terms for Parliament from various districts, he was named a Privy Councillor. This lifetime position, in a body that stands secretly above Parliament, requires the inductee to swear an oath of allegiance to uphold the actions of the sovereign in all that the monarchy does.

When Thatcher was elected prime minister in 1979, she chose Brittan to serve, successively, as: Minister of State, Home Office (1979-81); Chief Secretary to the Treasury (1981-83); Home Secretary (1983-85); and, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1985-86).

He was forced to resign from the latter position in a dispute over helicopter production, known as the Westland scandal, with the up-and-coming Michael Heseltine, when the Solicitor General's letter on the case was leaked to the media. Far from disgraced, Thatcher was effusive in her praise of Brittan, who would be knighted on her recommendation in 1989. The Iron Lady promised him a quick return to the cabinet. Instead, however, Thatcher proposed that he become her puppet inside the European Commission.

Peddling free-trade poison

Brittan's initial portfolio at the European Commission had to do with review of merger proposals, opening markets, de-

regulation, and financial matters. Like the Thatcherite free marketeer that he is, he outraged many Europeans by deregulating life insurance, telecommunications, the postal service, and energy. He knocked down barriers to the import of Japanese cars. And, as he dismantled protectionist tariffs and barriers, he forced several major European automobile companies to return government subsidies they needed to remain competitive.

Ironically, the one merger he blocked, which angered many in France and Italy, was those countries' joint bid to take over Haviland aerospace in the British Empire colony of Canada, on the grounds that it would create a monopoly.

Brittan was also part of enforcing the "self-containment" of Germany. According to Detlef Junker, in an article in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on March 13, when Prime Minister Thatcher was ultimately compelled to accept the reunification of Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl had to agree to give up much of reunified Germany's national sovereignty through the Maastricht process, including the German currency, the deutschemark.

Although Brittan ostensibly never opposed the reunification of Germany, his portfolio put him in a position to stop dirigistic development of eastern Germany, including ruling on each West German takeover of an East German firm that had been "privatized." Brittan told the London *Financial Times* in this period: "Our [the European Commission's] involvement in East Germany raises a much broader political point. It is one of the most important factors in reassuring people who are anxious about German reunification that the Commission is there as a guardian of the interests of the community."

Today, there are mass strikes throughout Germany in protest against the economic devastation that the British free market approach has brought about.

A Chronology

The British war against the U.S. and China

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The Editors have chosen to begin this timeline with the tragic death of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, because that event marked a dramatic escalation in London's already ongoing drive to wreck the Clinton Presidency, and, especially, to subvert U.S.-China relations. The timeline does not note every single instance of a British-directed assault upon the

U.S. Clinton administration, China, or the Eurasian Land-Bridge policy, now widely associated with Lyndon and Helga Zepp LaRouche and the Schiller Institute. Its purpose, rather, is to give the reader a sense of the intensity of the British-led offensive, since the spring of 1996, and to suggest fruitful areas of further investigation on this singularly vital strategic battle-front.

April 3, 1996: An airplane carrying Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and 34 American business leaders and government officials mysteriously crashed near the Bosnia-Croatia border. The death of Secretary Brown was a significant setback to President Clinton's efforts to build strong government-to-government economic cooperation with leading American trading partners, especially China.

May 5-6, 1996: London International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) official Gerald Segal chaired a conference in Canberra, Australia, devoted to building a new Asian-Pacific "balance of powers" alliance to contain China. The conference was co-sponsored by the Taiwan-based Chinese Council for Advanced Policy Studies.

May 7-9, 1996: Helga Zepp LaRouche led a Schiller Institute delegation to a conference on the Eurasian Land-Bridge in Beijing, China. Also in attendance was Sir Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Commission, who delivered a stern warning against China pursuing the New Silk Road policy. Brittan was former British Home Secretary under Margaret Thatcher.

May 9, 1996: Fresh from disrupting the Beijing Land-Bridge conference, Brittan met with Australian Foreign Minister Tim Fischer in Singapore, while both were attending an Asian finance conference.

May 10-12, 1996: The American Enterprise Institute, the Bohemiae Foundation, the Center for the New Europe, and the National Review Institute jointly sponsored a conference in Prague, Czech Republic. Henry Kissinger and Margaret Thatcher delivered keynote speeches, and were identified as the co-directors of the project. Other attendees included Zbigniew Brzezinski, Richard Burt, Lane Kirkland, Donald Rumsfeld, Vaclav Havel, Vaclav Klaus, Lord Alan Chalfont, Mont Pelerinite Antonio Martino, and Leszek Balcerowicz. Conference documents subsequently posted on the Internet confirmed that John O'Sullivan was the founder and co-chairman of the Prague Initiative, otherwise known as the "New Atlantic Initiative."

May 22, 1996: The Department of Justice handed down 14 indictments, including against officials of Poly Technologies, a Chinese government firm, for illegal sales of 2,000 AK-47 guns to West Coast youth gangs. The case was the result of a U.S. Customs Service sting operation, dubbed "Dragon Fire." The Chinese government formally disavowed any involvement in the illegal arms sales.

June 3, 1996: Sir Leon Brittan again met with Australian Foreign Minister Fischer, while attending an event in Australia.