

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

Cartels attack national sovereignty

The push for "Aboriginal reconciliation" is a racist fraud organized by Her Majesty's raw materials firms.

On Oct. 3, after his Liberal/National Party coalition had won the federal election, Prime Minister John Howard stunned many people, when he announced that a major goal of the coalition's second term would be "Aboriginal reconciliation," a code word for Aboriginal land rights. Howard had generally been viewed as opposed to this scheme; he had even threatened to call an early federal election, if his program to limit the most radical "land rights" proposals were not passed through Parliament.

However, a key factor in Howard's opposition stemmed from the enormous political ferment generated by the One Nation party of former Member of Parliament Pauline Hanson, which (as its name implied) was unalterably opposed to land rights, and whose arguments were largely informed by the excellent research and mass propagandizing by Lyndon LaRouche's associates in the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC), about who created the land rights issue and why. But, on Oct. 3, Hanson's One Nation, which had been expected to win as many as 15 seats in the House of Representatives and several in the Senate, had secured, because of Australia's arcane "preference system" of voting, only one Senate seat and none in the House, notwithstanding that the party had received more than 1 million votes—9% of the total. Hanson even lost her own seat in Queensland.

So, with his political behind less exposed, Howard jumped on board the next phase of the land rights campaign, which is designed to create a separate Aboriginal "nation." The chief protagonist for this project during the past

two decades has been the world's largest mining company, the London-centered Rio Tinto, in which the Queen has invested a chunk of her own private fortune (estimated at more than \$25 billion).

The Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (CAR), the vehicle for this phase of the land rights campaign, was established by Parliament in 1991, shortly before the High Court's 1992 "Mabo decision," which opened the door to land rights claims, by overturning the existing doctrine of *terra nullius*—that Australia was an "empty land" when the first European settlers arrived. Energized by a second major High Court pro-land-rights decision in 1996, the "reconciliation" process moved into high gear in May 1997, at the CAR-sponsored Australian Reconciliation Conference in Melbourne.

The two figures who dominated that conference were Robert Champion de Crespigny, chief executive of the Normandy Mining Co., one of Australia's largest, and a founding member of CAR; and Leigh Clifford, chief of Rio Tinto's energy division. Such prominence by the "miners" was lawful, given that Rio Tinto had been the chief financier of the major sponsor of land rights, Prince Philip's Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), since the ACF's founding in 1963; that longtime Rio Tinto board member Sir Gustav Nossal was the deputy chairman and dominant figure in CAR; and that de Crespigny's career had been financed by Anglo American, a British mining giant (the second-largest in the world) with a history of supporting "liberation" movements in Africa, the

better to grab the continent's vast raw materials wealth.

According to its literature, CAR backs "self-determination, self-government and changes to the Constitution" to favor "indigenous rights," and plans lobbying campaigns with federal and state politicians over the next several years, together with a mass propaganda campaign, to culminate in a "reconciliation document" to be formally presented to the nation on May 27, 2000.

The contents of that document were foreshadowed in an Oct. 25 speech by David Buckingham, executive director of the Business Council of Australia, to a round table of community leaders and businessmen sponsored by CAR. Buckingham said it is "vital" that Australians understand that reconciliation ultimately means "having to consider the possibilities of sovereignty." "For some," he said, letting the cat out of the bag, "the real issue will be whether there is scope for a nation within a nation."

Buckingham's ardor for "reconciliation" is not surprising; he had once been executive director of the Minerals Council of Australia, a position controlled by Rio Tinto. However, that post is only one tiny strand in the far-flung web of Rio Tinto's control over Australia, as documented in the CEC's pamphlet, "Stop the British Crown Plot to Crush Australia's Unions." That breathtaking degree of control is exercised by current or former Rio Tinto executives, which include the chairmen or deputy chairmen of three of Australia's four major banks, key personnel in most major Australian companies, and the heads of the Australian Institute for International Affairs and the Australian Academy of Sciences.

All of this will now be deployed to carve one or more "indigenous nations" out of Australia.