

A rogue's gallery

Lord Avebury (Eric Lubbock), chairman of the British Parliament's Human Rights Committee. Avebury is active in supporting all sides in the "Arc of Crisis" region bordering the former Soviet Union. His ancestor, the first Lord Avebury, was a banker to the British royal family in the mid-nineteenth century; his maternal line, the Stanleys, have dominated the British Foreign Office for the last two centuries. Lord Avebury's cousin, Lord Stanley, was British colonial secretary during World War II. Lord Avebury is:

- a top lobbyist for Chechen independence from Russia, and Abkhazian independence from Georgia, according to diplomatic representatives of both causes. He has traveled to both places on "fact-finding" trips to publicize the secessionist cause;

- together with Baroness Cox and their Christian Solidarity International, the leading international advocate of the Armenian claim to Nagorno-Karabakh, which led to war with Azerbaijan;

- the top lobbyist for an independent Kurdistan, carved out of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran, according to spokesmen for that movement, and works together with the terrorist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK);

- the top lobbyist for the Iraqi-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, an Iranian communist organization seeking to overthrow the government of Iran;

- the top international lobbyist for the Kashmir separatist movements destabilizing India and Pakistan;

- a top lobbyist for Tibetan independence from China;

- a top supporter of the Shiite Islamic Liberation Front of Bahrain;

- a leading supporter of Islamist efforts to topple the ruling Saudi family, and install a regime allegedly more committed to following the strict tenets of Islam.

Count Alexandre Bennigsen: Until his death in the early 1990s, Professor Bennigsen was a primary analyst and advocate of the Sufi-Islamic revival in the Soviet Union. In such books as *The Islamic Threat to the Soviet State* (1983) and *Mystics and Commissars: Sufism in the Soviet Union* (1985), Bennigsen claimed that this coming revival would lead to the collapse of the Soviet Union. He also predicted this revival would begin in Chechnya and Dagestan.

Bennigsen was a member of a centuries-old Baltic noble family that had been employed in the czarist diplomatic and intelligence services. One of his ancestors murdered Czar Paul I in 1801. His father was a czarist intelligence official in Central Asia. One of his cousins was the founder of the Social Revolutionaries assassination squads, another was an aide to Leon Trotsky, and a third was a senior member of the czarist secret police. Following World War I, Bennigsen's family



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moved to France, where he became an Orientologist at the Sorbonne. Bennigsen was a mentor to Bernard Lewis, and reportedly taught several of Ayatollah Khomeini's associates. Bennigsen's daughter, Marie Broxup, has followed in his footsteps and is today editor of the British journal *Central Asian Survey*; in January 1996, she conducted a tour of Dagestan.

Baroness Caroline Cox: The deputy speaker of the House of Lords, and co-chairman of Christian Solidarity International, Baroness Cox is the leading international promoter of the Armenian claim to Nagorno-Karabakh. She has undertaken at least a dozen missions there since 1991. She depicts the conflict as an apocalyptic struggle between Islam and Christianity. She is also the leading international defender of the insurrection in southern Sudan, which she characterizes in the same terms. Her closest collaborator in Russia is Galina Starovoitova, formerly President Boris Yeltsin's ethnic affairs adviser, who espouses the idea that Russia should break up into 72 different States. Baroness Cox was elevated to the peerage by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a major patron of Azerbaijan.

A psychiatric nurse by training, Baroness Cox served as a British intelligence liaison to the Polish Solidarity movement in the 1980s, before her involvement in Armenia and Sudan. Christian Solidarity International is an outgrowth of Keston College, Oxford, the publisher of *Religion in Communist Lands*, since renamed *Religion and State*. The college, which is patronized by Prince Philip, specialized in using religion to destabilize the countries of the former Warsaw Pact. It has continued that work in the same region since the Soviet Union's demise, particularly seeking to inflame Protestant-Orthodox and Catholic-Orthodox tensions.