

Blair Seeking Permanent Refuge in Barbados?

by Mark Burdman

Funeral services were to be held on Aug. 6 for Dr. David Kelly, the leading British expert on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD), who died of an apparent suicide on July 17. Churches around the country will ring their bells in memorial, and the nation will mourn a man seen as a figure of integrity, driven to his death by Blair government pressures and threats. This will be the largest incidence of national mourning since the emotional reaction to the death of Princess Diana, on the night of Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1997.

Where will Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair be on that date, for an occasion that certainly shapes up as an affair of state? As the funeral was set, Blair let it be known that he would be proceeding with his previously announced plans to go on vacation in Barbados, at the estate of multi-millionaire rock star Cliff Richards—this, just after his just-concluded failed multi-nation tour of Asia. Even Richards has announced that he has no intention of being anywhere near the Barbados when the Blairs arrive, so disgusted is he by the recent behavior of the government.

'Nothing Works in This Country'

In Britain, Blair faces the political equivalent of someone standing at the fault line of an earthquake measuring 8.5 on the Richter scale. Because of the cooking-up of bogus intelligence, and his role in the circumstances causing Kelly's death, Blair's spin doctor and Press Secretary Alastair Campbell is in deep trouble, as is Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon, for the same set of reasons. Hitting even closer to home, the British press is now opening phase two of "Cheriegate," with articles focussing on wife Cherie's bizarre relations with her New Age guru, Carole Caplin.

On Aug. 1, Lord Hutton, the senior Law Lord who was formerly Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, opened up his official inquiry into the death of Kelly. According to numerous press reports, Hutton has in his possession a diary that Kelly kept, detailing the last days before his death. Hutton received this from Kelly's widow Janice. Intimates of Kelly claim that, in his last hours, he was warning of "dark actors playing games" against him. Hutton also possesses a videotape of Kelly's interview with the BBC "Newsnight" program, in which he is shown debunking the Blair government's phantasmagoric assertions about Iraqi WMDs.

Indeed, another Blair flashpoint, is that he is in a fratricidal war with the government-owned British Broadcasting Corp.

(BBC), a war that has taken new and ugly turns in the last days of July. His chief Labour Party rival, Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, who has aspirations to succeed him as Prime Minister, is working with the top leadership of BBC.

Also inside the Labour Party, Blair's former International Development Secretary, Clare Short, who resigned in May in protest at the Iraq War, has launched blistering attacks on him. Most damaging was her charge, made in an interview with *Independent* political editor Andrew Grice on July 28, denouncing Blair as would-be "emperor," who has become "a complete convert to the neo-Conservative view of the world." She blamed the death of Dr. Kelly on "an abuse of power" by Blair's government, but said that the greatest crime of the government is "how we went to war in Iraq and how much half-truth and deceit there was on the way."

Beyond all this, there is growing "nervousness . . . around the British monarchy" about Blair's out-of-control behavior, and usurping of such royal prerogatives as the right to declare war, according to Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of *Burke's Peerage*, the authoritative publication about the British peerage and landed nobility. Brooks-Baker told *EIR* on July 30 that Blair's behavior is "not pleasing to the powers-that-be. . . . His end may soon come."

Most damaging to the Prime Minister, in the period ahead, is the increasingly deep crisis in the British economy, especially the collapse of infrastructure. In Brooks-Baker's words, "Nothing works in this country, not trains, not planes, the roads are all broken down. It's a mess. I came over here 46 years ago, from Maryland in the States, and I no longer recognize this as the country I came to. I've never seen anything like this deterioration. . . . The whole situation is unsustainable."

Indeed, on July 30, the British press was filled with prominent stories about a major crisis now erupting in the British economy, because of the combined problem of ballooning consumer debt and a housing-price boom far exceeding even that in the United States. The stories were provoked by a new Bank of England report, documenting that consumer borrowing grew, in one month, by £10 billion, the highest-ever, over three-quarters of which is to pay for mortgages. The July 30 *Daily Express*, the tabloid read by millions of Britons every day, ran a giant banner headline, "Biggest Debt Crisis in Our History." The same day's London *Times* Business section ran this matter as its lead story, with a warning from Vincent Cable, economics spokesman for the opposition Liberal Democrats, that British homeowners could soon face "an almighty crash."

The British media is filled to the brim with articles about Campbell's imminent demise, and violent denunciations of his behavior in having "sexed up" the September 2002 "Blair dossier" on Iraqi WMDs, which claimed that Saddam could put together and launch weapons "in 45 minutes," threatening British troops in the Near East-Mediterranean, and possibly the British Isles itself. This was the main point that angered

the late Dr. Kelly, as he told journalists of his objections to the dossier. Incredibly, Campbell also presided at meetings of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), which coordinates all British intelligence services—unheard-of, for a media czar.

Campbell has created a vast array of enemies in the U.K. Cartoons have begun depicting him with a long, long nose, with the caption, “Spinocchio.” In 1999, as the war with Kosovo was building steam, Campbell was rushed to NATO headquarters, to coordinate disinformation to legitimize the war. After Sept. 11, he created, with collaborators in the Bush-Cheney Administration, the Coalition Information Center. It was out of this unit, that the other, February 2003, “dodgy dossier” on Iraqi WMDs was circulated. This was the fraud, based on years-old information from a plagiarized academic’s PhD thesis.

Campbell’s own make-up is unstable; years ago, after having been a gigolo in southern France as a young man, he worked for the late wheeler-and-dealer Robert Maxwell at the *Daily Mirror*, during which time he had severe drinking problems, and suffered a nervous breakdown. He was put back together, as an “alpha male,” belligerent, provocative, and confrontationist. This disgusting combination of traits is bringing his career to an end.

‘Rogues and Putschists’

In the last days of July, the pace and tone of British government attacks on the BBC intensified, as threats were mounted that “revenge” would be taken, for BBC’s role in exposing government chicanery on the Iraqi WMD front. A high-level BBC source told the *Independent* July 27, “There have been phone calls from within government, saying ‘We are going to get you,’ talking about ‘vengeance.’ There’s a war going on against the BBC of some kind.” Threats have come from some government ministers, and from Blair guru Peter Mandelson, formerly of the Blair Cabinet, to put BBC under some new form of regulation.

On July 27, BBC Chairman Sir Gavyn Davies counterattacked with an article in the *Sunday Telegraph*, in which he charged that “bullying” Cabinet ministers were trying to destroy the BBC’s independence. Davies warned that the BBC’s integrity is now under attack, because it has dared “to take a different view on editorial matters from that of the government and its supporters.” The Blair government is hinting that a system that “has protected the BBC for 80 years should be swept away, and replaced by an external regulator that will ‘bring the BBC to heel.’” Davies underscored that BBC has always been trusted by its audiences, because “it is emphatically not the voice of the state.” He accused Alastair Campbell of “a full-frontal assault on the motivation, skill, and professionalism of the entire news corporation.” Citing what has subsequently been learned about the qualifications of Dr. Kelly to speak about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction (or absence thereof), Davies argued that it would have been “pro-

foundly wrong” for BBC to suppress the exposés it had.

After Davies’ strong attack, government ministers backed off. But now “private” oligarchical backers of the transatlantic war party have rallied to the Blair government’s defense. Most egregious among these is Lord Conrad Black of Cross-harbour, the Toronto-based owner of the Hollinger Corp., the media empire that has enormous negative influence in both Britain and the United States. On July 26, Black took the extraordinary step of sending a signed letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, which he owns. In it, he ranted that “the BBC is pathologically hostile to the government and official opposition, most British institutions, American policy in almost every field. . . . [S]adly, it has become the greatest menace facing the country it was founded to serve and inform.”

Black griped that “it is not the BBC’s function to assassinate the truth about the Iraq war. . . . [T]he BBC’s only interest seems to have been to destroy and supplant the government as a source of authority in the country. It must not succeed.” He then chided the late Dr. Kelly, for not having “been more careful” when talking to journalists, and BBC Defense Correspondent Andrew Gilligan for his “inexcusable . . . apparent exaggerations” of what Kelly had said. Rounding to the crescendo of his diatribe, Black virtually called on Blair, to send in troops: “He should use his office to expose the BBC for the rogue and putschist organization it has become.”

Black has been joined, in the past days, by Rupert Murdoch, who obviously has designs on taking over more of the British media, and by the *Wall Street Journal*, whose commentator Michael Gonzalez claimed that the BBC was “Orwellian” (emphasizing, in the process, that Orwell’s real family name was Blair).

On July 27, Murdoch’s *Sunday Times* ran a full-page interview with Lynn Forrester, the American-born multimillionaire magnate who is now respectfully known in Britain, as Lady de Rothschild, after having married Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, a top scion of the super-rich and super-powerful Rothschild banking clan. In the interview, Forrester/de Rothschild proclaimed that she would put significant sums, from her vast fortune, to support the work of the Blair government, and of top Blair guru Peter Mandelson. As *EIR* has documented in its *Children of Satan* report on the American followers of the fascist philosopher Leo Strauss, the de Rothschild-Forrester funding of the Mandelson Policy Network thinktank, is a crucial channel, through which the Blair gang works with the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) in the U.S.

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