

Tony Blair Dances With the Ghost Of British Fascist Oswald Mosley

by Scott Thompson

Oct. 19—It is no secret that former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is out on the stump, promoting his candidacy as the first President of a united Europe, if the hated Lisbon Treaty is finally ratified, and all of Europe surrenders its sovereignty to a supranational dictatorship, housed in Brussels. Most Europeans, and the overwhelming majority of Americans, don't realize what "Tinny" Blair knows: He is walking, quite consciously, in the footsteps of one of Britain's most notorious pro-Hitler Fascists, Sir Oswald Mosley (1896-1980). Mosley, more than any figure, living or dead, is the intellectual author and architect of the very Lisbon Treaty that Mr. Blair intends to ride into power.

Mosley's postwar dream of imposing, voluntarily, what Hitler and Mussolini could not achieve through force of arms, is now on the verge of being fully realized. If the last breath of resistance to the Lisbon Treaty is snuffed out, the 27 formerly sovereign states of Europe will be relegated to the status of powerless provinces.

Blair is preparing to assume his place as the dictator of all of Europe; this time around, the Führer will speak the Queen's English. Before this catastrophe is consolidated, it is of vital importance that the roots of the Lisbon Treaty, in the wartime and postwar British Fascist movement, be recalled and repudiated. Mosley's role must be spotlighted.

The British Union of Fascists

Sir Oswald Mosley, onetime Labour Party Member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister under Prime Minister Ramsey McDonald, and intimate of Sir John Maynard Keynes, gained notoriety as the founder and Leader of the British Union of Fascists (BUF).

He founded the BUF after a 1931 visit to Rome, where he met with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. Four years later, Mosley and Diana Mitford were secretly married, in the Berlin drawing room of Nazi Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels. Hitler was one of

only six guests at the wedding. Though the BUF was banned on May 22, 1940, and the Mosleys were arrested the next day, their close friendship with Winston Churchill allowed them to be given a cottage adjacent to Holloway Prison, and they were allowed to employ fellow prisoners as servants!

Mosley played an important, albeit largely concealed, role in the earliest push for a European Fascist superstate. It began about four years after he and his wife and BUF supporters were released from jail in 1943, by Prime Minister Churchill, into an expansive house arrest.

After the war, on Feb. 8, 1948, fifty-one organizations joined to form the Union Movement, and invited Mosley to take the helm, which he did for the next 14 years, through public meetings and electoral politics.

As Mosley puts it in his autobiography, *My Life*: "As soon as I was free to speak after the war, I returned to the theme of the union of Europe and linked it with the startling development of science during the war, which reinforced my longstanding belief that it should be the main preoccupation of statesmanship."

Despite Mosley's protestations to the contrary, his concept of "Europe a Nation" or "The Third Way" was anti-American: "It is in the interest of America to have a partner rather than a pensioner. It is in the interest of the world for a power to arise, which can render hopeless the Russian design for the subjection of Europe to communism." Perhaps nothing shows Mosley's anti-Americanism more clearly than his subsequent advocacy of a single currency for Europe, free from dollar "domination."

Two events decisive for "Europe a Nation" were the publication, in 1947, of *The Alternative*, which was Mosley's dialectic of 3,000 years of Greco-Roman thought, and his declaration in favor of the same in a 1948 speech in London. Between 1953 and 1959, he published *The European*, and his second wife, Diana, was the editor.



UN Photo/Sophie Paris

Britain's Tony Blair's bid for the Presidency of a unified Europe places him squarely in the tradition of Sir Oswald Mosley (above), who headed the British Union of Fascists, and was enthralled with his comrades Hitler and Mussolini.

In March 1962, Mosley called a conference in Venice, after agreement among various European parties, of which, he claimed, only a “small minority ... had previously been fascists or national socialists.” Mosley had been asked to write a draft program to be circulated in advance of the conference; in it he defined his full program of “Europe a Nation.” His draft became “The European Declaration,” and was adopted with only a few amendments, at the Venice conference on March 1, 1962. It read:

“We being Europeans conscious of the tradition which derives from classic Greece and Rome, and of a civilization which during three thousand years has given ample thought, beauty, science and leadership to mankind; and feeling for each other the close relationship of a great family, whose quarrels in the past have proved the heroism of our people, but whose division in the future would threaten the life of our continent with the same destruction which extinguished the genius of Hellas and led to the triumph of alien values, now declare with pride our European communion of blood and spirit in the following urgent and practical proposals of our new generation, which challenge present policies of division, delay and subservience to the destructive materialism of external powers, before which the splendour of our history,

the power of our economy, the nobility of our traditions and the inspiration of our ideals must never be surrendered:

“1. That Europe a Nation shall forthwith be made a fact. This means that Europe shall have a common government for purposes of foreign policy, defense, economic policy, finance and scientific development. It does not mean Americanisation by a complete mixture of European peoples, which is neither desirable or possible.

“2. That European government shall be elected by a free vote of the whole people of Europe every four years at elections which all parties may enter. This vote shall be expressed in the election of a parliament which will have the power to elect a government and at any time to dismiss it by vote of censure carried by two-thirds majority. Subject to the power of dismissal, government shall have full authority to act during its period of office in order to meet the fast-moving events of the new age of science and to carry out the will of the people as expressed by their majority vote.

“3. That national parliaments in each member country of Europe a Nation shall have full power over all social and cultural problems, subject only to the overriding power of European Government in finance and its other defined spheres, in particular the duty of eco-

nomic leadership.

“4. That economic leadership of government shall be exercised by means of a wage-price mechanism, first to secure similar conditions of competition in similar industries by payment of the same wages, salaries, pensions and fair profits as science increases the means of production for an assured market, thus securing continual equilibrium between production and consumption, eliminating slump and unemployment and progressively raising the standard of life. Capital and credit shall be made available to the underdeveloped regions of Europe from the surplus at present expatriated from our continent.

“5. That intervention by government at the three key points of wages, prices, where monopoly conditions prevail, and the long-term purchase of agricultural and other primary products alone is necessary to create the third system of a producers’ state, in conditions of a free society which will be superior both to rule by finance under American capitalism and to rule by bureaucracy under communist tyranny...”

The Neo-Fascist Trail

There exists no list of the groups present at the Venice conference, and the claim that only a minority of the participants were fascist or national socialist is moot. Mosley’s postwar efforts took him on the familiar neo-fascist trail to Franco’s Spain and Verwoerd’s South Africa, as well as to Italy, where a neo-fascist movement was established soon after the war. He met with **Serrano Suner**, Franco’s former foreign minister; **Filippo Anfuso**, Mussolini’s last foreign minister; and he got to know Italian leaders of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) such as **Giorgio Almirante**, **Alwise Loridan**, and **Ponce de Leon**. He came in contact with Hitler’s favorite commando, **Otto “Scarface” Skorzeny**; the German air ace **Ulrich Rudel** (whose memoirs, with an introduction by Douglas Bader, were published by Mosley’s publishing house); the Italian **Prince Junio Valerio Borghese** (whose royalist coup in the 1960s failed, but led to a decade of neo-Fascist terror); and the Wehrmacht’s tank warfare expert **Arthur Erhardt**, later publisher of *Nation Europa*. He met former SS men who were “passionately European and entirely supported my advanced European ideas.”

As for the Venice conference, Mosley says the prospect was wide open for a National Party to which men of all opinions could adhere, provided they agreed on

the one decisive point of making Europe a Nation. But finances were lacking.

Writes Mosley: “Hopes of an early making of Europe receded for several reasons. The British Government not only missed every opportunity to take the initiative in Europe after the war, but still maintained an attitude which impeded any early hope of effective union. All existing European governments were certainly opposed to any union so complete as we advocated. Meantime, German hopes in particular of their grievances through the union of Europe became more and more bitterly frustrated.”

He points out: “At an earlier stage, young Germans fresh from the army, and particularly from SS regiments, were passionately European... I had heard from many of them long before I was free to travel, and had an insight into what they were thinking which is perhaps unique.” But, with the collapse of the Venice conference, “the failure of this European policy reduced to the vanishing point all hope of a natural and pacific reunion of Germany within Europe,” and the former SS officers returned to “nationalism.”

Movement Is Banned

After the Venice conference, the Italian Communist paper *Unità* sounded the alarm bell, and Mosley brought suit successfully for criminal libel. Still, the *Unità* article set in motion a pattern of physical assaults on Mosley’s rallies in Britain, similar to the pre-war dust-ups with the BUF, which eventually led, once again, to the banning of all Union Movement rallies.

Mosley had been having large and orderly public meetings in Britain from 1948 to 1962, including in North Kensington, in 1958, when he ran for Parliament on the Union Party ticket; there had been riots by whites there, against a massive influx of blacks from previous sugar-growing Commonwealth islands of the Caribbean. Mosley ran on a platform to return the blacks to the islands, with full fares paid, and to fulfill the Government’s pledge to buy sugar from Jamaica by long-term and large-scale contracts. These, and other measures proposed by Mosley, such as encouraging bauxite production, he claimed, would restore the island to prosperity. Mosley thought he had won the election, but ended up with only 8% of the vote. The Union Movement polled 5% of the vote nationwide.

Mosley and his Union Movement were banned from the BBC, and so, when Communist agitators managed to get the Union’s public meetings banned as well, he

detached himself from the party and turned it over to a directorate.

Advocate of Apartheid for Africa

Mosley was no advocate for the British Commonwealth, and, in the Atomic Age, viewed European participation in most of the rest of the world as an endless trail of trouble. The sole exception was Africa. Until Europe as a Nation gained parity of strength with America, he believed, there could be no independence for Africa.

Mosley wrote, with regard to “spheres of influence”: “I have long suggested a division of the world into three main spheres of influence to replace the make-believe of a world force in the present United Nations, which by reason of its inherent divisions can never function. . . . The realities in terms of action are the great powers, and it is humbug to pretend anything else; the facts survive either illusion or deceit. Two powers exist in the world, America and Russia, and this result of the last war will prevail until the emergence of a third power in united Europe and possibly of a fourth in China. The danger of a new war will also continue until the strength as well as the wisdom of Europe can hold the balance of the world. That is why, since the war, as before it, I have stood for the strong armament of Britain and as soon as possible of a United Europe . . . because in an armed world, European strength is the only alternative to servitude under America or death under communism.”

Mosley opposed the British-Israeli-French invasion of Suez in 1956: “I contended that in modern terms, support for the French position in Algeria was far more important than pursuit of our own past through the irrelevance of Suez. A reasonable settlement backed by the strength of united Europe in northern Africa could have secured us a safe bridgehead to Africa, where lay enormous possibilities for the whole European future.”

Mosley advocated the Mosley-Pirow proposals for Africa, which were jointly named after himself and the former South African Minister of Defense, Oswald Pirow. Mosley wrote: “These proposals in broad principle divided the whole of Africa in white and black governments. . . . Black government in this policy received roughly two-thirds of Africa, south of the Sahara, and the rest was to be held clearly and firmly by white governments where substantial and deeply rooted European populations existed. Rhodesia was naturally in-

cluded in the definition of territory under white government, and the danger of a clash with British people would have been eliminated by a comprehensive plan which gave a fair deal to all. The basis of this policy was that Africa is an empty continent with a population of twenty to the square mile as compared with two hundred in Europe—and we should therefore legislate for the future rather than the *status quo* which could not endure.

“If the claim of Europeans to any part of Africa be disputed, we should inform those whose passions blind them to history, that Europeans arrived in Southern Africa three centuries ago in 1652, long before the present black tribes drove down from the north to encounter the whites six hundred miles north of Cape Town at the decisive battle of the Great Fish River in 1770. . . . Separate development or apartheid on a big scale could then have been secured by a decisive initiative from Britain, and would have averted many past tragedies and many present difficulties. . . . I have stood throughout for a ‘genuine apartheid’, a real separation of the two peoples into two nations which enjoy equal opportunity and status: not the bogus apartheid seeking to keep the Negro within white territory but segregated into black ghettos, which are reserves of sweated labour living in wretched conditions.”

A Single European Currency

On the question of a single currency, Mosley wrote: “The entry of Britain into the Common Market will not solve our balance of payments problem, and the same problem in other countries will not be solved until Europe is a community, as the component countries are today. It will not then be a question of Britain having an adverse balance of payments and France and Germany having a surplus, or vice versa, but only a question of whether a firm in Manchester can or cannot compete successfully with a similar firm in Lyons or Hamburg. We shall no more have balance of payments problems within Europe than we have balance of payments problems between Yorkshire and Lancashire today. A common currency will follow naturally from any such arrangement. Until Europe is integrated it will be found that these problems are insoluble and will cause increasing friction until we end in a major crisis.”

Europe is on the verge of implementing Oswald Mosley’s dream of a Fascist super-state, and Mosley’s heir, Tony Blair, is waiting in the wings, to become its Führer.