

# The Dirty Operation Against Zimbabwe: Soros, Abramoff, and British Africa

by Anton Chaitkin

The British empire's effort to overthrow the Zimbabwe government is run through the political apparatus of billionaire speculator George Soros, via the U.S. government-based National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and the NED's London partner organization, the U.K. government-funded Westminster Foundation.

The Soros Open Society Institute's southern Africa operations are, in effect, directly co-owned by the NED.

These arrangements were put in place in 2000-05 by British strategists and white plantation owners from Southern Rhodesia (the name of Zimbabwe before its 1980 independence from Britain), renewing an imperial partnership in Washington with the gangster grouping around Jack Abramoff and the NED machine. This partnership stems from the earlier British-steered covert action initiatives of the 1980s Reagan-Bush Administration, which involved Abramoff and the current NED leaders, working in the service of the South African apartheid regime, including in its assassinations, white supremacist propaganda, and spying apparatus.

George Soros himself got into the business of manipulating African governments in the 1990s, when he was already heavily invested in British imperial African plantations and mining. His current push to topple the Zimbabwe government is given clout and critical resources by the NED, through the person of its international chief David Lowe. Lowe is Abramoff's political partner, and the man who earlier hooked

the South African gestapo into an illegal U.S.A.-based spy network.

## Soros and NED: On the Ground in Zimbabwe

Soros's Johannesburg-based Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa operates in ten countries. Throughout the recent agitation against the Zimbabwe regime, Reginald Matchaba-Hove has been the chairman of that Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa; he was, simultaneously, the chairman of the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)—an anti-government “non-partisan, independent group of 38 non-governmental organisations.”

On June 27, 2006, the NED presented its annual Democracy Award to Reginald Matchaba-Hove and three other African recipients. The British Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, reported on June 29: President “George Bush met the award winners from Africa for about an hour ... in the Oval Office. ... ‘You could almost feel the power radiating from the Oval Office,’ our reporter said. ... Mr. Bush [praised the NED's activists] for their ‘courage and fortitude and strength in promoting freedom. ... My spirits are enriched by talking to freedom lovers and freedom fighters.’”

On the public record, the NED paid Matchaba-Hove's ZESN tens of thousands of dollars in 2005 to train election monitors, who were to feed the media clamor against the regime and to supply the NED machine with a database on ac-

tivists in the Zimbabwe elections.

Matchaba-Hove himself is a director of the NED's worldwide organization, World Movement for Democracy, which is led by David Lowe, and the ZESN is a member group of the NED/David Lowe's Africa Democracy Forum, an even larger grouping of "nonpartisan" foreign-guided organizations.

Until 1999, Soros's Matchaba-Hove had been chairman of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (Zimrights). In 1997, that group got funding from the British government's Westminster Foundation for Democracy (on top of more money from Westminster in 1998), to set up its offices in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. In 2004, Zimrights got tens of thousands of dollars from the NED to organize marches, demonstrations, and so on.

The Zimbabwe director of Soros's Open Society Initiative on Southern Africa (OSISA) is Godfrey Kanyanze. Kanyanze has long served as the director of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), which is funded by the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, with money conduited through the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (formerly known as the American Institute for Free Labor Development or AIFLD). ZCTU, which was formerly headed by Zimbabwe opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, is the central trade union federation in Zimbabwe; it was used by the British and their U.S. connections as the main force behind the formation of the Movement for Democratic Change, to overthrow President Robert Mugabe.

The NED and Soros emerged from the shadows to run a joint event in Washington on Sept. 18, 2007, entitled "Zimbabwe: An Update from the Ground." The speakers were Isa-



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

*George Soros (above), the National Endowment for Democracy, and the Jack Abramoff network are leading the regime change operations against Zimbabwe, and southern Africa in general.*

bella Matambanadzo, Harare-based Zimbabwe program manager for OSISA, and Deprose Muchena, OSISA's economic justice program manager. The event was moderated by Dave Peterson, senior director for the NED's Africa program.

### **The Imperial NED and the Abramoff Gang**

In the year 2000, a series of articles by Dean Andromidas reported exclusively in *Executive Intelligence Review* on

## **Abramoff and Africa**

In 1985, Jack Abramoff was the outgoing College Republicans national chairman. That year, Abramoff opened the Washington headquarters of the International Freedom Foundation (IFF), a front for the South African regime's secret police and military intelligence, which had other offices in London, Hamburg, Brussels, Rome, and Johannesburg. Abramoff chaired the IFF until it closed in 1993, when the South African government cut off its \$1.5 million per year covert funding.

Craig Williamson, a South African spy and assassin, ran the IFF's center in Johannesburg. After the black-majority government took power, Williamson confessed to numerous state-sponsored murders, and he and other officials revealed that Abramoff's IFF was part of a larger South African military intelligence initiative to counter the black anti-apartheid movement led by Nelson Mandela.

According to South African intelligence sources who were close to Williamson and Abramoff's work, the South Africans funded Abramoff during and after his 1981 takeover of the College Republicans, and Craig Williamson personally trained Abramoff in the arts of deception and political dirty tricks.

Also in 1985, Jack Abramoff created Citizens for America, in coordination with the Anglo-American imperial faction within the Reagan-Bush Administration, led by the Heritage Foundation, which was steered by the Fabian Society's Stuart Butler. Abramoff's group was part of a global network of mercenaries, illegal arms dealers, drug traffickers, money launderers, terrorists, and private spies, known collectively as "the asteroids."

Abramoff, his lieutenant Grover Norquist, and Williamson's South Africa National Student Foundation, ran a 1985 summit conference of rightist guerrilla movements, African diamond smugglers, heroin-trafficking Afghan mujahedin, and Oliver North's cocaine-smuggling Nicaraguan contras.

London's initiative to overthrow the Mugabe government. The British were angry at Zimbabwe's program to distribute back to Africans some of the agricultural land taken by force by British colonial masters—70% of the country's prime agricultural land. They were also angry at Mugabe's resistance to further destruction of the economy by the ruinous International Monetary Fund structural adjustment program.

*EIR* documented that the anti-Mugabe agitation was steered by London's Zimbabwe Democracy Trust, set up in 2000 by Lord Robin Renwick, Margaret Thatcher's ambassador to South Africa and the United States, and a director of mining operations, such as the Rupert family's diamonds and cigarettes empire). Other founders included Lord David Steel, Liberal Party leader and partner of oil-and-mercenaries tycoon Tony Buckingham; and Lady Soames, Winston Churchill's daughter, the wife of the last British governor of Rhodesia; and Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs under President Ronald Reagan, and a director of African mining companies including the Soros-linked Modern Africa Growth and Investment Co.

*EIR* further showed that the International Republican In-



*The smiling face of Soros's Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), a vehicle for resource looting and regime change on behalf of the British empire*

stitute (IRI)—the original “Republican Party” component of the NED—was seconding, from Washington, London's manipulation of Zimbabwe.

Finally, *EIR* documented Soros's own Africa resources grab. For example, Soros's Quota Fund manager Nicholas Roditi bought two-thirds of the Plantation and General Company,

## David Lowe and Africa

In the mid-1980s, David Lowe, who now channels National Endowment for Democracy (NED) funds to the Soros apparatus, was deputy to Irwin Suall of the Anti-Defamation League, and the pair ran the ADL's “Fact-Finding Division,” which included a program of cooperation with the South African apartheid regime.

On Jan. 15, 1993, the *San Francisco Chronicle* broke the story that the ADL was under investigation for spying on American citizens, stealing police and FBI files, and giving them to the South African regime.

The FBI probe of South African spying became one of the biggest espionage scandals in history, when the San Francisco District Attorney's office announced the city's probe of the ADL. San Francisco police investigators found that the ADL was illegally spying on at least 950 political organizations including the NAACP, the Rainbow Coalition, Greenpeace, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the United Auto Workers, the Christic Institute, Operation Rescue, the Nation of Islam, the United Farm Workers, Act-Up, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Lyndon LaRouche's political movement.

Police investigators also found that the ADL was infiltrating police departments, bribing police, and obtaining classified government data on 20,000 American citizens. Further, the ADL was selling information on anti-apartheid groups to agents of the South African government.

The San Francisco authorities concluded that what they had unearthed was part of a nationwide spy operation run centrally out of the ADL's national headquarters in New York City under the direction of its “fact finding” director, Irwin Suall.

As Suall's deputy, Lowe wrote the main reports of the ADL in that period of domestic espionage. Because of this work, and the foreign connections involved, Lowe was hired by the NED's founding and permanent president, Carl Gershman, to run the NED's international operations.

The NED was created in 1983 as the overt U.S. government funding agency, explicitly corporatist, for Anglo-American imperial projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Its major job in the 1980s was promoting the “Contras” adventures in Central America, the gun-running and cocaine-trafficking associated with Oliver North.

NED president Gershman, a former leftist turned right-wing strategist, had started his own career with the ADL, bonding him to the apartheid-linked Lowe.

chaired by Rhodesia-born Rupert Pennant Rea, a former deputy governor of the Bank of England, and a director, along with Lord Renwick, in the Rupert family Richemont group, with assets in Zimbabwe and Russia. Through these holdings, Soros tried to take over the vast interests of Tiny Rowland in Lonrho Africa, the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Corp.

The *EIR* exposé on the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust as instigator of anti-government operations was played up in the Zimbabwe press, and the Trust was then exposed in London newspapers.

In 2002, two years after founding the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust, Lord Renwick quietly picked up the Trust from London and moved it to Washington, D.C., where it was incorporated as a tax-exempt charity. The Tony Blair-Dick Cheney axis was in power, and perhaps it was thought that the British could get their anti-Zimbabwe initiative passed off as coming from the Americans.

The directors of the Trust, after it sneaked into Washington, were then Lord Renwick; Annabel Hughes, the daughter of a white Rhodesian farm owner; and Edward Stewart, the founder and leader of the Africa subversion programs for the National Endowment for Democracy, which were run through the IRI component of the NED.

The administrator of the Trust was Julie Doolittle, the wife

of California Republican Congressman John Doolittle. Throughout her management of Lord Renwick's group, Mrs. Doolittle was on the payroll of Jack Abramoff and his partners, while Trust director Ed Stewart was Abramoff's partner in dirty international lobbying pursuits. Stewart ran the foreign operations of House Speaker Tom DeLay's "K Street Project" headquarters company, the Alexander Strategy Group, which served to enrich Abramoff. Alexander Strategy has gone out of business since DeLay was indicted, while his consigliere, Abramoff, went to prison for hundreds of millions in fraud.

The Abramoff gang was ideal for the task of hatching British African destabilization operations in Washington. Lobbyist Abramoff himself had worked at the center of the white South African apartheid regime's foreign propaganda machine (see box, "Abramoff and Africa"), while his associate, Ed Stewart, had pioneered the NED's African schemes. And NED foreign-operations boss David Lowe, who now co-sponsors the Soros fronts in Zimbabwe, was himself a leading figure in the South African apartheid regime's mass-spying on Americans, in a criminal case that broke in the early 1990s (see box, "David Lowe and Africa").

NED's David Lowe had long been in Abramoff's jet set. The Russian oil company Naftasid flew Lowe, Abramoff, and DeLay together to Moscow in 1997 to arrange a \$1 million

## The Zimbabwe Trust Gang In Other Capers

The 2002-05 Lowe-Abramoff partnership with Lord Renwick's Zimbabwe project, in tandem with Soros, was presaged by a Lowe-Abramoff caper in Russia several years earlier, and by a Jack Abramoff scam in Malaysia.

**Russia:** In the 1990s, the former Soviet Union was looted by oligarchs while being smashed under the "shock therapy" IMF program. Soros had ushered in the mayhem by bringing Jeffrey Sachs and other IMF hit men into the Soviet Union. The Gershman-Lowe programs at NED included backing the pro-oligarch Russian President Yeltsin and his allies, and funding 41 Russian parliamentarians in the 1996 elections.

Executives of Naftasib, a Russian energy company, put through \$3.4 million to Abramoff and to the Ed Buckham/Ed Stewart firm Alexander Strategies, from 1997 to 2005. Naftasib gave \$60,000 for a trip to Russia in 1997 for the NED's David Lowe, Abramoff, Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), and their cronies. In 1998, the Buckham group got \$1 million to get Speaker DeLay's vote for a bill enabling the IMF to run operations favoring the oligarchs in Russia.

**Southeast Asia:** Soros's hedge funds waged a specula-

tive war against Thailand's currency, triggering the 1997 Asian financial crisis that wrecked the economies of several countries.

Mahathir bin Mohamad, Malaysia's prime minister from 1981 to 2003, attacked Soros as a menace to humanity. In the brawl between Mahathir and the Soros faction, Malaysia jailed its finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, an ally of the IMF and of the Mont Pelerin Society, on charges of corruption and sodomy. In October 2000, Abramoff proposed that a channel be set up whereby Mahathir would be induced to pay Abramoff and his partners to repair Mahathir's "image."

The following year, Edward Stewart arranged that the Hong Kong-based company Belle Haven, owned by Heritage Foundation President Edwin Feulner, hired Alexander Strategy Group to carry out the Abramoff scheme; they and their Malaysian contacts set up the U.S.-Malaysia Exchange Association as a vehicle. Feulner's company paid ASG hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Malaysian government paid into this cash stream, as did Standard Chartered of Hong Kong, of the 19th-Century British opium trade. Feulner and the Heritage Foundation temporarily reversed their attacks on Mahathir, who was brought in for a visit with President Bush. At the same time, Abramoff's partner, Grover Norquist, kept up the pressure, with a lobbying effort to support Ibrahim and to attack Mahathir.

payment to ASG, for DeLay's okay on an IMF action to aid the Russian oligarchs.

## The Handoff to Soros

The two Americans running the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust (ZDT) for the British in Washington, administrator Julie Doolittle and director Edward Stewart, were otherwise very busy in those three years, 2002-05.

Kevin Ring, who had been the chief of staff for Julie Doolittle's Congressman husband, went to work under Abramoff at the Greenberg Traurig law firm. The *Washington Post* reported on Nov. 26, 2005, that sources close to the subsequent Federal investigation of Julie Doolittle and her husband said that Kevin Ring was the intermediary through whom Julie's own consulting firm, Sierra Dominion Financial Solutions, was hired by Abramoff and Greenberg Traurig to fundraise for Abramoff's "charity," the Capital Athletic Foundation. This was the channel through which camouflage suits and sniper scopes were bought for Armageddonist Israeli settlers.

The Capital Athletic Foundation paid a monthly retainer to Julie's consulting firm from at least January 2003 to February 2004. On the day when Ring finally resigned from Greenberg Traurig, April 13, 2007, the FBI raided Julie's home in Virginia.

From 2002 to 2005, while Julie Doolittle was administering the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust, she was simultaneously administering a Korean lobbying scam for Abramoff and Stewart. The Alexander Strategy Group paid Julie's firm for running the books of the Korea-U.S. Exchange Council. This was set up by the DeLay-Abramoff group in 2001, ostensibly as a lobbying initiative for the Korean tycoon running Kia Motors. The Council's Washington representative was Edward Stewart himself, and Heritage Foundation president Edwin Feulner was a Council board member.

This grouping, managing the British attack against the Zimbabwe government as a supposed American enterprise, faded out of existence after 2005. By that time the campaign for Zimbabwe's regime change was in full swing as the joint work of the NED, Lowe, and Stewart, with Soros.

NED's announced 2006 grants for Zimbabwe operations included \$400,000 for "promoting the media, economic, and informal sector activities of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions"—directed by Godfrey Kanyanze, who is simultaneously the director for Zimbabwe of Soros's Open Society Initiative on Southern Africa. And NED brought Soros's southern Africa chairman, Matchaba-Hove—the election clamor man, in for their meeting with Bush.

The British thus completed their handoff to the "philanthropic" Soros political machine, which is now digging under the national governments of many African countries.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Soros's Africa operations include the Open Society Foundation-South Africa (OSF-SA), the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), and the Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA).