

ICC's Moreno Ocampo: A British Pedigree

by Cynthia Rush

Argentine national Luis Moreno Ocampo, chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court that is seeking to prosecute Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, has a long history of service to the British Empire, and to its agenda of smashing the institution of the sovereign nation-state, both inside Argentina and internationally.

Moreno Ocampo's vehicle for serving the British has been Prince Philip's **Transparency International (TI)**, whose Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Moreno ran, beginning in 1995. In that capacity, he traveled around the region peddling TI's "anti-corruption" agenda, to "reform" such institutions as the armed forces, the judiciary, and other police/security forces which were deemed too "authoritarian." In arguing that these institutions had to be made more "independent" or "transparent," Moreno Ocampo really meant that they should be forced to submit to supranational oversight or



UN/Evan Schneider

Luis Moreno Ocampo

be reformed to suit globalization's purposes.

In a November 1996 memo, Moreno Ocampo reported that "Argentine society had modified the system to replace the military class with a new political class, but the same thing hadn't been done with corruption.... I've learned that corruption isn't just a national problem.... That is why coalitions at a world level are required.... The only possible solution is to create a *world citizenry*."

In 1991, Moreno set up his own nongovernmental organization in Argentina, **Citizen**

Power, modelled on TI. With generous funding from the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Agency for International Development (AID), Citizen Power organized seminars domestically and throughout Ibero-America to promote a globalist view of justice and "citizen participation." One such seminar in November 1996, was organized with the British Embassy around the idea of creating a "citizen's charter," based on the model used in Britain, by which the quality of public services is supposedly monitored.

In an April 1995 seminar in Buenos Aires, Moreno brought several of Italy's "Clean Hands" judges in, to discuss how their methods could be applied domestically. Operation Clean Hands had used charges of corruption to politically eliminate virtually all of Italy's traditional, post-war political parties and their leaders. Moreno Ocampo was also an enthusiastic backer of the "reinventing government" agenda, which another Prince Philip ally, **Al Gore**, promoted for Ibero-America during a 1994 tour of the continent. He met with Gore when the latter visited Buenos Aires to discuss anti-corruption initiatives and strengthening of "civil society."

Having built his reputation as a defender of human rights—he prosecuted the Argentine junta in 1985 for human rights abuses—Moreno Ocampo used this to go after the *institution* of the armed forces. In 1987, he prosecuted the same junta members for the "crime" of attempting to retake the Malvinas Islands from the British in 1982.

Most revealing was Moreno Ocampo's 2002 defense of former Finance Minister **Domingo Cavallo**, the intimate of George Soros who destroyed the Argentine economy with the free-market economic policy he picked up at Harvard University. Cavallo was jailed on charges that he had authorized illegal weapons sales to Croatia in the early 1990s, while serving as finance minister. But Moreno Ocampo argued before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission that Argentine courts weren't qualified to prosecute Cavallo, because they were not sufficiently "independent" and "depoliticized."