

Averell Harriman: agent of the British-KGB alliance to undercut the United States

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Averell Harriman's end-of-May trip to the Soviet Union for meetings with Kremlin chief Yuri Andropov demonstrates whose interests the Democratic Party is actually serving by its vehement attacks on President Reagan's proposed new strategic doctrine of Mutually Assured Survival.

Since the President presented his directed-energy beam-weapon plan on March 23, it has been a tossup whether the Soviets or the Harriman wing of the Democratic Party have mounted the greater opposition. Now Harriman—who in a Jan. 20 *New York Times* op ed called the former KGB chief a “pragmatic” leader, seriously interested in negotiating with the United States—has increased the pressure on the President. By meeting with Andropov in such a well-publicized fashion, Harriman no doubt hopes to paint Reagan as the real obstacle to improved relations between the superpowers, setting the stage for an international mobilization against Reagan and his “warmongering” strategic policy.

If Harriman succeeds, he will be aiding and abetting the most fanatically anti-American tendency in the Soviet Union, the “Third Rome” cult whose ascendancy over Soviet policy was consolidated by Andropov's elevation last November. This cult is committed to conquering the world—including the United States—and establishing a new empire. Their policy is not based on any latter-day Marxist ideas, but stems from the 15th-century doctrine of the Russian Orthodox Church that the Czar, or Caesar, of Holy Russia would become the third and final heir to the Roman Empire (see *International*).

The economic power of the United States is the major obstacle to the “Third Rome.” Thus, for years, the Soviets have been conducting “back-channel” collaboration with the dominant political oligarchy in the West, through the likes of Averell Harriman, to gain leverage in undermining the United States.

Harriman has never believed that “communism” was the basis of the Soviet state. Like his British allies, he has always seen the Soviet Union as a new version of the old Russian imperialist state. Over the course of his 50 years as a “Soviet handler,” Harriman and his British allies performed a balancing act toward the Soviet Union. Committed to preventing rapprochement between pro-industrialist currents in the Soviet state and similar factions in the West, they encouraged the fanatically anti-Western Third Rome faction.

At the same time, they wanted to keep the Third Rome tendency in check, so that it could not threaten the existence of the Anglo-Saxon British empire itself. As World War II

came to a close, Harriman and Churchill initiated the Cold War to prevent further Soviet territorial expansion into Europe.

British imperialist in bed with the KGB

As the dean of American Soviet handlers, Harriman has played a crucial role during the last 40 years in shaping U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union and, consequently, U.S. military and strategic policy as well. He has wielded this influence directly, as ambassador to Moscow, disarmament negotiator, adviser to Presidents; and indirectly, through the large and highly placed network of Sovietologists, diplomats, and other “experts” that he has painstakingly built over the years. Almost every important official with input into U.S. Soviet policy in the post-World War II period was trained in the Harriman school: Cyrus Vance, Marshall Shulman, Charles Bohlen, George Kennan, William C. Foster, George Ball, and Llewellyn Thompson are a few of the influentials who figure in Harriman's “old boy” network.

Harriman's control over Democratic Party policy formulation ensures that most official party pronouncements will adhere to Harriman dictates. Harriman's influence in this sphere dates from the early 1950s, and is wielded today through official party channels, notably Democratic National Committee chairman Charles Manatt, and unofficial ones such as the Democrats for the '80s, a political action committee run by Harriman's wife Pamela, and the Center for National Policy, a Washington-based think tank headed by Cyrus Vance.

Though Harriman and his protégés have occupied positions of great influence in the United States government, they have emphatically not acted on behalf of American national interests. Harriman and his collaborators have operated as de facto agents of the British oligarchy, which shares one immediate tactical goal with the Third Rome imperialists in Moscow: the destruction of the United States as a great world power.

To this end, Harriman and his network have pushed economic and foreign policies aimed at turning the industrial and military infrastructure of the United States into a toothless “post-industrial” heap.

The Harrimanites oppose Reagan's directed-energy beam program (which alone can insure the survival of the United States as a powerful and sovereign republic) for the same reason they propose to implement the *Global 2000 Report's* formulas for mass extermination, formulas prepared by Harriman ally Vance for a Harriman-picked President, Jimmy

Carter—to ensure that the United States will never again be a superpower. As Harriman has said, he believes the United States should become a “cooperative economy” and that “our social and economic system [should work] toward the Swedish Socialist concept.”

The Moscow and London links

Harriman is the only American ever to have served as ambassador both to the Kremlin and to the Court of St. James. The American branch of the family was founded by a functionary of the British royal household shortly after the Revolutionary War, and continues to maintain personal and political ties to the British elite. After divorcing one wife and outliving another, old Ave managed to marry a British aristocrat. His present wife, Pamela, is the daughter of an English baron and the former daughter-in-law of Winston Churchill, Harriman’s longtime friend and political ally.

Harriman’s Soviet connections may not be quite so intimate, but they include a wider range of Soviet officials and others, and are probably longer-standing than those of any other American.

According to Harriman’s own testimony, his fascination with Russia dates back to his youth. In his 1975 book, *Special Envoy to Churchill and Stalin*, he says of himself that “as a young

man, I could accomplish in the way of transforming their vast and backward country.” It takes no prolonged reading between the lines to conclude that Harriman was deployed early by his family and related Anglo-American circles to profile the new Soviet regime.

Harriman’s first direct relations with the Soviet Union occurred in the early 1920s. As an up-and-coming international banker putting together large loans for such clients as Benito Mussolini, Harriman decided that, with the Soviets hungry for foreign capital, business would afford the best route into the Soviet power structure. In 1924, he participated in his first Soviet economic deal, a consortium arranged by the Warburg bank in Hamburg which bought up discounted Russian notes held by German manufacturing firms. In 1924, through his newly founded W. A. Harriman and Company bank, he became one of the few foreigners to be granted a concession under Russia’s New Economic Policy to exploit a large manganese deposit located in the Georgian Caucasus.

Two years later, in 1926, Harriman made his first of many trips to the Soviet Union. His special status enabled him to travel widely and to make contact with Russians both within and outside the bureaucracy. Among those he met with were Leon Trotsky, the British agent who at the time headed the Concessions Committee, and Trotsky’s principal assistant, a Bulgarian named George Andreichin, who had been educated with Crown Prince Michael of Bulgaria.

There is ample evidence to suggest that Harriman also used this trip to establish contact with the Third Rome faction, or at least the British intelligence networks trying to encourage its growth. Harriman made a special point of jour-

neying to Tiflis, location of the Armenian Orthodox Seminary where Anastas Mikoyan was educated. Mikoyan later became one of Harriman’s most important Soviet contacts. Harriman also began what was to become a long and intimate relationship with Alexei Tolstoy, relative of Count Leo Tolstoy, the Russian novelist who helped lead the Pan-Slavic “Old Believer” revival during the 19th century.

During the same 1926 trip, Harriman made friends with another American close to the Soviet secret police, the notorious Armand Hammer, who now shares control of Libya’s Qaddafi with the KGB. Harriman spent much of his time in Moscow at Hammer’s palatial residence, known as the Pleasure Dome, a gathering place for the various intelligence agents then scurrying around the capital.

In His Majesty’s service

Harriman returned to Moscow in 1941, shortly after Hitler launched his march to the East. By now, he was at least partially aware of the Third Rome belief structure and its significance for Russian politics. Appointed by President Roosevelt as his special envoy to Stalin, Harriman’s designated task was to assess the Soviet internal situation and to determine what aid the Soviets required from the West to fight the Nazis.

Harriman had just completed a tour of duty in London as a special representative of the Lend-Lease program, during which time he had renewed his friendship with Winston Churchill. Harriman had first met Churchill in 1927 in Cannes, where they discussed the American’s trip to Russia.

Accompanying Harriman to Moscow was Churchill’s Minister of Supply, Lord Beaverbrook. The two worked as a team. One of their first actions was to persuade Stalin to name Maxim Litvinov—a British asset in whom, Harriman coyly wrote later, both he and Beaverbrook “had confidence”—as ambassador to Washington, on the pretext that the present Soviet representative was pressing too aggressively for Western aid. Although Litvinov had fallen into disfavor, Stalin acceded to the request.

Harriman has made little attempt to hide the fact that by the time he arrived in Moscow, if not before, he had completely aligned himself with British war aims. These at bottom included keeping the Soviets and Nazis at each other’s throats, until both collapsed, while maintaining the integrity of the Empire. The British strategy was to give Russia just enough aid to keep her from making a separate peace with Germany (which would free Hitler to deploy his forces against British holdings), but not enough to allow her to beat back the Nazi onslaught without being bled to death in the process. As Harriman, an avowed believer in Anglo-Saxon supremacy, later wrote, “To me, Hitler’s diversion to the East came as a most welcome relief.”

Thus, during the course of the wartime “alliance,” the British continually sabotaged the Soviet war effort, holding back convoys carrying vital arms and equipment and, more significantly, repeatedly overruling both F.D.R.’s and Stalin’s

request to open a second front in Europe against the Nazis. Although F.D.R. had pressed for a second front to be launched as early as 1942, it was not until two years later, after Hitler's "Operation Barbarossa" had been effectively turned back, that Churchill gave the green light to the Normandy landing. Harriman, whom as a nominal American Stalin apparently trusted more than the British, was constantly justifying Britain's perfidy both to the Soviet chief and to Roosevelt, tendering one excuse after another for British actions.

The net effect of Britain's machinations was certainly not the dissolution of the Soviet state. Rather, the British helped create the conditions which led a desperate Stalin, his back to the wall with Nazi troops pressing at the gates of Moscow, to make his fateful pact with the "Mother Russia" lunatics, an event which began the ascendancy of the Third Rome faction in the Soviet Union.

While Harriman was conspiring with the British to withhold materiel from the Russians, he was also attempting to loot the United States to aid the British war effort. As America's representative to the Combined Shipping Board and the Combined Production and Resources Board in London, Harriman sought constantly to divert U.S. equipment and technology to the British, who, in typically stupid fashion, had let their own defenses dwindle after World War I, confident that their Nazi creation would move only eastward. At one point, Harriman even attempted to transfer the construction of ships from the United States to Britain, a maneuver which enraged defense officials back home and earned Harriman a reputation as a British flunky.

Harriman's constant pressure on Washington to agree to Britain's demands for a joint military command, which some U.S. circles accurately considered a sly British way of taking over the American war effort (and overall military strategy as well)—did nothing to change that perception. When Harriman began criticizing the civil defense program in his home state of New York, arguing that it took away from resources needed by Britain, the lid came off. "Even close friends seemed to regard me as unduly pro-British in my attitudes" after that, Harriman later complained. "But I could not help feeling that our domestic priorities ought to be redirected."

Harriman's fanatic anglophilia was no secret to President Roosevelt. "The British," his son Elliott noted wryly in his *Rendezvous With Destiny*, "enjoyed a further advantage in the presence of Averell Harriman, whose London job as expeditor of lend-lease shipments brought him into Winston's orbit, to be courted, dined, and entertained for weekends at Chequers [Churchill's country retreat]. . . . Harriman could be relied on to push a Churchillian view."

Hooking up with the KGB

Harriman spent most of the war in Russia, first as F.D.R.'s special envoy and then as ambassador, a post he held until 1946. He made good use of the time to consolidate old contacts and make important new ones. He revived his friendship with Alexei Tolstoy—who briefed him on the significance of

the "Mother Russia" revival which resulted from Stalin's pact with the Orthodox Church—and with the Bulgarian, Andrei-chin, recently released from a Soviet political prison. Harriman took pains to cultivate a group of up-and-coming Russian officials, including Mikoyan, then Commissar of Foreign Trade.

One of the most important operations Harriman was involved in during this period was a plan that had allegedly originated in Washington to set up an exchange program between the United States Office of Strategic Services and the Russian NKVD, a KGB predecessor. Sold in the United States as a means of fostering "cooperation" between the two intelligence services, while also permitting the United States to penetrate the Russian spy organization, the proposal would have opened the doors to a virtual invasion of the U.S. intelligence apparatus by the NKVD. It is difficult to believe that a man with Harriman's access to information did not know this. Nevertheless, he bent over backwards to push that proposal.

In early 1944, OSS head William "Wild Bill" Donovan arrived in Moscow to work out the details of this "exchange" arrangement with his Soviet counterparts. With Harriman and his military aide, General Deane, acting as intermediaries, Donovan held several long sessions with top officials of the Soviet security apparatus, including Lt. Gen. P. N. Fitin, chief of External Intelligence, and Maj. Gen. A. P. Ossipov. Another Harriman aide (and future ambassador to Moscow), Charles Bohlen, interpreted. The Russians debriefed Donovan thoroughly about the OSS's structure and functions—without, of course, offering in return any comparable information about their own organization. By the end of the meetings, Donovan and the Soviets had agreed to a tentative arrangement to exchange intelligence, as well as liaison officers to be stationed in each other's capitals.

Roosevelt suddenly intervened and nullified the plan. This threw Harriman into a rage. He immediately relayed a message to the President demanding reconsideration: "We have penetrated here for the first time one intelligence branch of the Soviet government and *I am certain this will be the opening wedge to far greater intimacy in other branches*, if pursued. I cannot express too strongly my conviction that our relations with the Soviet government in other directions will be adversely affected if we close the door on this branch of the Soviet government after they had shown cooperative spirit and good faith [emphasis added]." Roosevelt was not moved by his ambassador's arguments, and the plan—at least as an official arrangement—died.

Harriman never forgave Roosevelt for blocking the deal. In his memoirs, Harriman recounts that he and General Deane "were deeply disappointed. . . . What possible harm could there be in a small [Soviet intelligence] liaison mission that would operate openly [in Washington], trading official information with the OSS? It seemed to me the height of stupidity. . . ."

To be continued.