

BREAKING THE SILENCE *BILDERBERG EXPOSED*

*When presidents,
prime ministers,
bankers and
generals rub
shoulders with
European royalty at
the annual secret
Bilderberg meeting,
they discuss the
business of running
markets and wars
without being
accountable to the
public.*

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© May–June 2005

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Bilderberg's Plans for the World

The Bilderberg group's secret annual meeting determines many of the headlines and news developments that you will read about in the coming months. But the Establishment media completely black out any news of it and remain strangely reluctant to lift the curtain hiding this major event. A number of high-ranking members of the press who attend the annual meeting are sworn to secrecy, and news editors are held responsible if any of their journalists "inadvertently" report on what takes place. Yet few have ever heard of this exclusive and secretive group of the world's most powerful financiers, industrialists and political figures.

Although the Bilderberg group has lost some of its past lustre, on 5 to 8 May 2005 it met at Rottach-Egern (in Munich, Germany) under its usual secrecy that makes a freemasonry lodge look like a playgroup. Staff at the hotel were photographed and put through special clearance. From porters to senior managers, the employees were warned (under the threat of never working in their country again) about the consequences of revealing any details of the guests to the press.

The discussions that the Bilderbergers engaged in this year and the consensus they reached—deciding how the world should deal with European–American relations, the Middle East powder keg, the Iraq war, the global economy and how to stave off war in Iran—will influence the course of Western civilisation and the future of the entire planet. Ironically, they met behind closed doors, protected by a phalanx of armed guards.

After three straight years of open hostility and tension amongst the European, British and American Bilderbergers, caused by the war in Iraq, the aura of complete congeniality amongst them has returned. Bilderbergers have reaffirmed and remain united in their long-term goal to strengthen the role the United Nations plays in regulating global conflicts and relations.

However, it is important to understand that the Americans are no more the "Hawks" than the European Bilderbergers are the "Doves". Europeans joined in supporting the 1991 invasion of Iraq by US President George Bush Senior, celebrating (in the words of notable Bilderberg hunter Jim Tucker) the end of "America's Vietnam syndrome". Europeans also supported former US President Bill Clinton's invasion of Yugoslavia, bringing NATO into the operation.

UN Global Oil Tax and Peacebuilding Proposals

A much discussed subject in 2005 at Rottach-Egern was the concept of imposing a UN tax on people worldwide through a direct tax on oil at the well-head. This, in fact, sets a precedent. If enacted, it would be the first time that a non-governmental agency (read the United Nations) directly benefited from a tax on citizens of free and enslaved nations. The Bilderberg proposal calls for a tiny UN levy at the outset, which the consumer would hardly notice.

Jim Tucker, formerly of the court-killed *Spotlight* magazine, wrote in the *American Free Press* (14–21 June 2004) that: "...establishing the principle that the UN can directly tax citizens of the world is important to Bilderberg. It is another giant step toward world government. Bilderbergers know that publicly promoting a UN tax on all people on Earth would meet with outrage. But they are patient; it [Bilderberg] first proposed a direct world tax years ago and celebrates the fact that it is now in the public dialogue with little public attention or concern."

Bilderberg wants "tax harmonisation" so that high-tax countries can compete with more

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regime change can be attractive because it is "less distasteful than diplomacy and less dangerous than living with new nuclear states". However, he noted: "There is only one problem: it is highly unlikely to have the desired effect soon enough."

A Possible Attack on Iran's Nuclear Facilities

The presence of US General James L. Jones, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and Retired US Army General John M. Keane at the Bilderberg meeting in Germany suggested to us that the next stage of the conquest is about to begin.

An American neo-con at an afternoon drink-fest said he was convinced that the "Iranian opposition movement" will unseat the mullahs. Nicolas Beytout of *Le Figaro* exclaimed: "You don't really believe that!" A tall, bald, well-dressed Swiss gentleman, believed to be Pascal Couchepin, head of the powerful Department of Home Affairs, replied reflexively that it will only succeed in having the Iranians rally behind their government. He ended by saying: "You don't know Iranians."

Tempers boiled over momentarily when a French Bilderberger, raising his voice, told Kissinger that "an attack on Iran will escalate out of control". According to sources working for the CIA and the special unit of the US Army charged with protecting the US delegation at Rottach-Egern, both the CIA and the FBI are in open revolt against the Bush White House.

A member of the Greek Parliament asked Eival Gilady, strategic adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon: "What would happen if Iran were to retaliate?" Someone pointed out that even if the United States or Israel were to show restraint in their use of tactical nuclear weapons, an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities would surely not only engulf neighbour states, raising the likelihood of a broader war, but also succeed in creating a nuclear disaster through nuclear radiation spilling over a wide area.

As a follow-up question, someone asked: "How much of this war has to do with America doing its utmost to prevent Iran from becoming a regional power?" A French Bilderberger wished to know if the impending attack on Iran would involve the United States and Israel working in

tandem, or if it would be a NATO operation. The question was directed at NATO Secretary-General Jaap G. de Hoop Scheffer. Another European Bilderberger wanted to know how the US was planning to cope with three wars simultaneously, referring to Iraq, Afghanistan and now Iran.

The reader should be reminded that there are now 150,000 US troops deployed in Iraq who are unable to move to another theatre of operations because of effective resistance tactics. The Israeli delegation was pressed to answer if Israel is prepared to use nuclear weapons against Iran. The answer was incoherent.

What is so terrifying about Iran as a theatre of operations is that, according to our deep sources (both of whom belong to the Bilderberg group), there are two alternative dates set for the invasion. The earliest possible date would be in the "deadest of summer", some time in August, and the other alternative is a late autumn campaign. This substantially confirms the information provided by Scott Ritter, the ex-Marine turned UNSCOM weapons inspector, who stated that "George W. Bush has signed off on plans to bomb Iran in June 2005" (*Aljazeera*, 30 March 2005),

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although he did go on to clarify that the June date suggests that the US and Israel are "in a state of readiness".

Russian vs American Foreign Policy

Policy discussion began with a European expert on international relations pointing out that over the next several years Russia is poised to assert itself and increasingly challenge Bush Government foreign policy goals.

Someone openly asked the committee if the world is safer today than in 2001 and if it will be safer in four years' time. A Dutchman responded by saying there is little doubt that the hand of international terrorism has been substantially strengthened by the US Government's heavy-handed policy in the Middle East. A Danish Bilderberger wondered about what had happened to the US promise to take a lower-key approach in Iraq—referring to the heavy-handed tactics employed by American troops in the siege of Fallujah, which played an important role in alienating a large cross-section of moderate Arab states. Additionally, the Dutchman pointed

out, terrorism hasn't been confined to the Iraq theatre of operations but has escalated across Asia, Africa and most of the Middle East.

A blonde woman, believed to be Thérèse Delpech, Director of Strategic Affairs for the Atomic Energy Commission, said that unilateralist policy actions by the US will only succeed in alienating friendly nations and emboldening enemy combatants. "US is not all-powerful. It must coordinate its policy with other great powers to achieve its ends."

An oil expert believed to be from Britain, possibly Sir John Kerr of Royal Dutch Shell, focused on the oil pipeline from Siberia to northern China. The Bilderbergers openly wondered at the medium-term repercussions of this deal. An American investment banker asked just how much oil is expected to flow through this pipeline. Another member of the oil cartel offered 65–80 million tonnes per year as a ballpark figure.

India's Missile Tests

During Saturday night cocktails at the bar, neo-con Richard Perle was seen and heard talking to a group of Bilderbergers,

amongst them Philippe Camus, President of the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS), Donald Graham of the *Washington Post* and General James L. Jones about the near-future test-firing of India's *Agni 3* intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads. General Jones added that such a weapon would greatly increase India's capabilities because, according to the four-star general, India's strategic deterrents will be able to strike targets deep inside neighbouring China. In fact, Dr M. Natarajan, head of the prestigious Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), said as much two weeks later on 17 May in New Delhi.

The 2005 German Elections

The Bilderbergers also discussed how to dust off the "boring" image of Angela Merkel, Germany's "future leader", ahead of the German elections on 18 September 2005.

A short, oversized male Bilderberger offered an opinion that in order for the widest cross-section of the German public to accept Merkel (leader of the Christian Democratic Union opposition) as

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Chancellor, it would be important to give a new definition to the term "family values". German Bilderbergers well versed in the conservative Bavarian collective psyche believe that Merkel, a divorcee with a doctorate in physics, doesn't have a "reliable" enough image to attract sufficient votes in this staunchly conservative area of the country. According to people within earshot of the discussion, the idea "in the up-coming campaign would be to stress the importance of families rather than marriage as an institution".

Bilderbergers pushing Gerhard Schroeder aside in favour of a new candidate could very well signify that, after three years of strife between American and European Bilderbergers over the war in Iraq, the secret society is ready to move forward with a much-revised and more cohesive policy. It must be remembered that Schroeder, along with French President Chirac, was one of the most vociferous European critics of the US-led Iraq intervention.

Both Schroeder, representing the left, and Merkel, representing the right, are

owned by the Bilderbergers. It has been the group's policy since its inception in 1954 to own both horses in the race.

For the record, every US President belongs to the Bilderberg group or its interlocked sister organisation, the Council on Foreign Relations. Although Bush Junior didn't personally attend the meeting in Rottach-Egern, the US Government was well represented by William Luti, Richard Perle, Dennis Ross and Allan Hubbard.

Towards a One World Government

History teaches by analogy, not identity. The historical experience is not one of staying in the present and looking back; rather, it is one of going back into the past and returning to the present with a wider and more intense consciousness of the restrictions of our former outlook.

If democracy is the rule of the people, then secret government agendas and sinister, influence-peddling cliques which stand for cunning selfishness are incompatible with it. The whole idea of clandestine spheres of influence waging secret campaigns is therefore foreign to the notion of democracy and must be fought with zealous determination.

Through lies and obfuscations, Bilderbergers are desperately trying to foist onto the unwilling world population a totalitarian One World Government, a single global currency and a syncretic universal religion.

Those of us who care deeply about the future of politics—domestic and international—cannot afford to ignore the fact that the grimly political One World Government is no longer merely a shadow subculture. It has, in fact, emerged as the dominant force in world affairs.

About the Author:

Daniel Estulin is an award-winning investigative journalist who has been researching the Bilderbergers for over 13 years. He was one of only two journalists who witnessed and reported (from beyond the heavily guarded perimeter) the super-secret Bilderberg meeting at the Dorint Sofitel Seehotel in Rottach-Egern, Munich, Bavaria, Germany, on 5 to 8 May 2005.

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tax-friendly nations—including the United States—for foreign investment. They would "harmonise" taxes by forcing the rate in the US and other countries to rise so that socialist Sweden's 58-per-cent level would be "competitive".

According to sources, an unidentified guest at the conference asked how global taxation can be sold to the American public. One European Union commissioner suggested using as the battering ram the rhetoric of helping countries build peaceful, stable societies once conflict subsides. Someone asked for the timing of the appeal. A former commissioner mentioned that the best time to ask for cash is once the conflict subsides and the world is subjected to brutal images of destruction. A Norwegian Bilderberger disagreed. What looked to be Björn T. Grydeland, Norway's ambassador to the European Union, said that, on the contrary, it's much easier to get world attention and money for a region when a conflict rages.

This was confirmed *a posteriori* when Denmark's foreign minister Per Stig Moller, during a debate in the United Nations on 26 May, stated on the record that "[i]f the international community is not able to act swiftly, the fragile peace is at risk, with loss of more lives as a consequence". Denmark holds the EU presidency until 1 July 2005, when it will be replaced by the UK. [The changeover took place just before we went to press. Ed.]

Bilderbergers are planning to use what they nominated as a UN Peacebuilding Commission, apparently to help win the peace in post-conflict countries, as one of the tools in secretly imposing the UN tax on an unsuspecting world population.

Jim Tucker said as much in his Bilderberg report in the *American Free Press* (23 May) when he wrote: "There was some

informal discussion of timing for a vote in the United Nations on establishing a direct global tax by imposing a 10-cents-a-barrel levy on oil at the well-head. This is important to the Bilderberg goal of establishing the UN as a formal world government. Such a direct tax on individuals is symbolically important. Bilderberg's global tax proposal has been pending before the UN for three years but the issue has been blacked out by the Bilderberg-controlled US media."

Mark R. Warner, governor of Virginia and a first-time Bilderberg invitee, expressed concern about how much additional financial responsibility the United States would take on as a

result. At this point, José M. Durão Barroso, president of the European Commission, expressed a view held by many within Bilderberg that the United States does not provide a fair share of economic aid to poor countries. My sources confirm Jim Tucker's report that "Kissinger and David Rockefeller, among other Americans, beamed and nodded approval".

Although the US pays more into the foreign-aid piggy bank than any country in the world, the Bilderbergers and the United Nations are poised to demand much more funding from it to meet the Peacebuilding proposal.

According to sources within Bilderberg, the status of NGOs would be elevated even further in the future.

NGOs and the Global Neighbourhood

The rise of the NGOs (non-governmental organisations) is a development that former US President Clinton suddenly (one day after it was discussed at Rottach-Egern) suggested to be among "the most remarkable things that have happened since the fall of the Berlin Wall". Ironically, Clinton's statement was picked up by the *Wall Street Journal*, a paper represented at the Bilderberg meetings by its vice-president, Robert L. Bartley, until his death in December 2003, and its editorial page editor, Paul Gigot.

The Bilderbergers have been vigorously debating, for the first time, whether to have unelected, self-appointed environmental activists given positions of governmental authority on the governing board of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)—the agency which controls the use of the atmosphere, outer space, the oceans and, for all practical purposes, biodiversity. This invitation for "civil society" to participate in global governance is described as "expanding democracy".

According to sources within Bilderberg, the status of NGOs would be elevated even further in the future. NGO activity would include agitating at the local level, lobbying at the national level and producing studies to justify global taxation through UN organisations such as Global Plan, one of Bilderberg's pet projects for over a decade.

The strategy to advance the global governance agenda specifically includes programs to discredit individuals and organisations that generate "internal political pressure" or "populist action" that fails to support the new global ethic. The ultimate objective, according to sources, is to suppress democracy.

If the plan proceeds, UNEP, along with all the environmental treaties under its jurisdiction, would ultimately be governed by a special body of environmental activists,



chosen only from accredited NGOs appointed by delegates to the General Assembly who are themselves appointed by the President of the United States, who himself is controlled by the Rockefeller–Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)–Bilderberg interlocking leadership.

This new mechanism would provide a direct route from the local, "on-the-ground", NGO affiliates of national and international NGOs to the highest levels of global governance. For example, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a group of affiliated NGOs, recently petitioned the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO asking for intervention in the plans of a private company to mine gold on private land near Yellowstone Park. The UNESCO committee did intervene, and immediately listed Yellowstone as a "World Heritage Site in Danger". Under the terms of the World Heritage Convention, the United States is required to protect the park, even beyond the borders of the park and onto private lands if necessary.

The ideas being discussed, if implemented, would bring all the people of the world into a global neighbourhood, managed by a worldwide bureaucracy under the direct authority of a minute handful of appointed individuals and policed by thousands of individuals, paid by accredited NGOs, and all certified to support a belief system that to many people is unbelievable and unacceptable.

A Lesson for Tony Blair

Bilderbergers are celebrating the result they wanted: the return of a much humbled Tony Blair to 10 Downing Street, with a much reduced parliamentary majority.

European Bilderbergers are still angry at him for supporting America's war in Iraq. While teaching Blair a useful lesson in international politics, Bilderbergers feel he is a far safer candidate to continue on the path of European integration than his conservative rival, Michael Howard.

The EU Referendum in France

The first day of secret meetings at Bilderberg 2005 was dominated by talk of the European Union referendum in France and whether President Chirac could persuade France to vote "Yes" on 29 May. A "Yes" vote, according to sources within Bilderberg, would put a lot of pressure on Tony Blair to finally deliver Britain into the waiting arms of the New World Order through its own referendum on the treaty, scheduled for 2006. Matthias Nass, Deputy Editor of *Die Zeit*, wondered out loud that a "No" vote in France could undoubtedly cause political turmoil in Europe and overshadow Britain's six-month EU presidency starting on 1 July.

Bilderbergers hope that Blair and Chirac, whose at times open animosity has spilled into the public arena on more than one occasion, can work together for mutual benefit and political survival. Another European Bilderberger added that both leaders must put behind them as quickly as possible all past disputes on such topics as Iraq, the liberalisation of Europe's economy and the future of the budget rebate that Britain receives from the EU, and work towards complete European integration—which could disintegrate if France's often "hard-headed and obstinate people", in the words

of a British Bilderberger, do not do the right thing, meaning give up voluntarily their independence for the "greater good" of a European federal super-state!

A German Bilderberger insider said that France's "Yes" vote is in trouble because of the "outsourcing of jobs". "Jobs in Germany and France are going to Asia and Latvia [to take advantage of cheap labour]." Latvia is one of the former Soviet republics that have been admitted to the European Union, bringing the total membership to 25 nations. A German politician wondered out loud how Tony Blair will go about convincing Britons to embrace the European Constitution when, due to the outsourcing of jobs, both Germany and France are suffering 10 per cent unemployment while Britain is doing well economically.

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The Neo-conservative Lobby

In full force was that faction: the so-called "neo-conservatives", who have determined that Israel's security should come at the expense of the safety of the United States and be central to all US foreign policy decisions.

Most notable among them is Richard N. Perle, who was investigated by the FBI for conducting espionage on behalf of Israel. Perle played a critical role in pushing the United States into the war against Iraq. On 27 March 2003, he was forced to resign from the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board after it was learned he'd been advising Goldman Sachs International, an habitual Bilderberg attendee, on how it might profit from the war in Iraq.

Another neo-conservative figure on hand was Michael A. Ledeen, an "intellectual's intellectual". Ledeen serves for the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a think-tank founded in 1943 and with which Richard Perle has long been associated. AEI and the Brookings Institution operate a Joint Center for Regulatory Studies (JCRS), the purpose being to hold lawmakers and regulators "accountable for their

decisions by providing thoughtful, objective analyses of existing regulatory programs and new regulatory proposals". The JCRS pushes for cost-benefit analysis of regulations, which fits with AEI's (and the Bilderbergers') ultimate goal of deregulation.

These neo-conservatives were also joined this year at Bilderberg by a handful of other former top Washington policymakers and publicists known for their sympathies for Israel, including: Richard N. Haass, former State Department official and president of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR); Richard Holbrooke, former assistant secretary of state and "father" of the Dayton Accord; Dennis Ross, of the pro-Israel Washington Institute for Near East Policy, effectively an offshoot of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA); and Paul Wolfowitz, the newly elected World Bank president.

American Criminals: Public Policy in Private

In the United States, the Logan Act states explicitly that it is against the law for federal officials to attend secret meetings with private citizens to develop public policies.

Although Bilderberg 2005 was missing one of its luminaries—US State Department official John Bolton, who was testifying before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations—the US Government was well represented in Rottach-Egern by: Allan E. Hubbard, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and director of the National Economic Council; William Luti, Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense; James Wolfensohn, outgoing president of the World Bank; and Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of State, an ideologue of the Iraq war and incoming president of the World Bank. By attending the Bilderberg 2005 meeting, these people broke United States federal law.

Journalistic Whores

Bilderberg, at one time or another, has had representatives of all major US and European newspapers and network news outlets attend. High-ranking members of the inadequately named "international free press" attend on their solemn promise to report nothing. This is how Bilderberg keeps its news black-out virtually complete in the United States and Europe.

This year's invitees included: Nicolas Beytout, editor-in-chief of *Le Figaro*; Oscar Bronner, publisher and editor of *Der Standard*; Donald Graham, chairman of the *Washington Post*; Matthias Nass, deputy editor of *Die Zeit*; Norman Pearlstine, editor-in-chief of *Time*; J. Robert S. Prichard, president and CEO of Torstar Media Group (*Toronto Star*); Cüneyt Ulsevere, columnist for *Hürriyet*; John Vinocur, senior correspondent for the *International Herald Tribune*; Martin Wolf, associate editor of the *Financial Times*; Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International*; Klaus Zumwinkel, chairman of *Deutsche Post*; and John Micklethwait, US editor of *The Economist* and Adrian Wooldridge, Washington correspondent for *The Economist*. Micklethwait and Wooldridge acted as the meeting's rapporteurs.

Declining Energy Reserves and Economic Downturn

Of course, discussion at Bilderberg 2005 turned to oil. An American Bilderberger expressed concern over the sky-rocketing oil price. One oil industry insider at the meeting remarked that growth is not possible without energy, and that according to all indicators the world's energy supply is coming to an end much faster than the world leaders have anticipated.

According to sources, Bilderbergers estimate the extractable world's oil supply will last a maximum of 35 years under current economic development and population. However, one of the representatives of an oil cartel remarked that they must factor into the equation the population explosion and economic growth as well as demand for oil in China and India. Under the revised conditions, there is apparently only enough oil to last for 20 years. No oil spells the end of the world's financial system—which has already been acknowledged by the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Financial Times*, two newspapers that are regularly represented at the annual Bilderberg conference. The conclusion: expect a severe downturn in the world's economy over the next two years as Bilderbergers try to safeguard the remaining oil supply by taking money out of people's hands. In a recession or, at worst, a depression, the population will be forced to dramatically cut down their spending habits, thus ensuring a longer supply of oil to the world's rich as they try to figure out what to do.

During cocktails one afternoon, a European Bilderberger noted that there is no plausible alternative to hydrocarbon energy. One American insider stated that currently the world uses between four and six barrels of oil for every new barrel it finds, and that the prospects for a short-term breakthrough are slim at best. This confirms a public statement made in 2003 by IHS Energy, the world's most respected consulting firm cataloguing oil reserves and discoveries, that for the first time since the 1920s there was not a single discovery of an oil field in excess of 500 million barrels.

One invitee asked for an estimate of the world's accessible conventional oil supply. The amount was quoted at approximately one trillion barrels. As a side note of interest, the planet consumes a billion (1,000,000,000) barrels of oil every 11.5 days. Another Bilderberger asked about the hydrogen alternative to oil. The US Government official agreed gloomily that hydrogen's sal-

vation of the world's imminent energy crisis is a fantasy.

At the 2005 Bilderberg conference, the oil industry was represented by: John Browne, chief executive officer of BP; Sir John Kerr, director of Royal Dutch/Shell; Peter D. Sutherland, chairman of BP; and Jeroen van der Veer, chairman of the committee of managing directors at Royal Dutch/Shell. (Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, Royal Dutch/Shell's principal shareholder, is a fully fledged member of the Bilderbergers. Her father, Prince Bernhard, was one of the

founders of the group back in 1954.)

It should be noted that in late 2003, oil and gas giant Royal Dutch/Shell announced it had overstated its reserves by as much as 20 per cent; in early 2004 it reduced its estimated oil and gas reserves by about 4.5 billion barrels, but in October had to apply an additional cut of 1.15 billion barrels in reserve estimates. In fact, Shell's three cuts in reserve estimates prompted the resignation of its co-chairman. The *Los Angeles Times* (18 January 2005) reported: "For petroleum firms, reserves amount to nothing less than 'the value of the company'."

At Rottach-Egern in May 2005, the industry's top executives tried to figure out how to keep the truth about diminishing oil reserves from reaching the public. Public knowledge of the diminishing reserves directly translates into lower share prices which could destroy financial markets, leading to a collapse of the world economy.

An American Bilderberger wondered what it would take for the oil price to go back to US\$25 a barrel. Another American Bilderberger, believed to be Allan Hubbard, laconically stated that the general public does not realise that the price for cheap oil can be the bursting of the debt bubble. Cheap oil slows economic growth because it depresses commodity prices and reduces world liquidity.

There is a strong indication, based on the information reported from the Bilderberg 2005 meeting in Rottach-Egern, that the US Federal Reserve is extremely concerned about the debt bubble. One American Bilderberger reported that if the price of oil were to go down to its previous low of \$25 a barrel, the debt-driven asset bubble would explode. Martin S. Feldstein, president of the National Bureau of Economic Research, added that \$50 a barrel involves greater cash flow.

According to publicly available information, the United States

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consumes daily approximately 20 million barrels of oil out of a total world consumption of 84 million barrels. At \$50 a barrel, the aggregate oil bill for the US comes to \$1 billion a day, \$365 billion a year, about 3 per cent of 2004 US gross domestic product (GDP). About 60 per cent of US consumption is imported at a cost of \$600 million a day, or \$219 billion a year.

A short, stout man asked if the surging oil price would influence economic growth. Someone sitting in the front row noted that higher energy prices do not take money out of the economy; they merely shift profit allocation from one business sector to another. After further discussion, a US General commented that war spending helps jump-start the economy, noting that the trick to keeping the opposition at bay is to limit collateral damage to foreign soil.

A British Bilderberger noted that oil at \$120 a barrel would greatly benefit Britain and the United States, but Russia and China would be the biggest winners. An expert in international relations and policy studies noted that for the Chinese this would be a real bonanza. The Chinese import energy not for domestic consumption but, instead, to fuel its growing cheap exports—a cost that would be duly passed on to foreign buyers. A European banker pointed out that Russia could effectively devalue the dollar by re-denominating its energy trade with Europe from dollars into euros, forcing Europe's central banks to rebalance their foreign exchange reserves in favour of the euro. Jean-Claude Trichet, Governor of the European Central Bank, was present during the debate.

Globalised Trading and the Rift with China

European and American Bilderbergers, realising the most urgent of needs to expand into developing markets in order to help sustain the illusion of endless growth, have agreed to name Pascal Lamy, a French socialist and fanatical supporter of a European super-state, as the next World Trade Organization (WTO) president. It should be remembered that Washington gave conditional support to Lamy's nomination in exchange for European support of Paul Wolfowitz as head of the World Bank.

According to insider sources within the Bilderbergers, Lamy was chosen to help steer the global trading system through a time of rising protectionist sentiment in rich countries such as France and Germany, both reeling from high unemployment and reticent to accept increasingly muscular demands for market access from emerging economies. Third World States, for example, are insisting on cuts to EU and US farm subsidies. The WTO liberalisation drive collapsed in acrimony in Seattle in 1999 and again in Cancún in 2003.

The Bilderbergers have secretly agreed on the need to force the poor countries into a globalised market for cheap goods while simultaneously forcing the poor into becoming customers. The current rift with China is a good example, as the Chinese have flooded Western countries with cheap goods, amongst them textiles, driving down prices. As a trade-off, the Bilderbergers have entered into an emerging market ripe and vulnerable to superior Western know-how. Similar developing countries are slowly

acquiring more purchasing power, and the industrialised world is gaining a foothold in their domestic economies by targeting them for cheap exports.

Further discussion on China was led off with a series of rhetorical questions from the speaker. Is China really abusing its competitive advantage, or is it being victimised by the US and the EU? Is a trade war imminent? Should China revalue the yuan (its currency), and, if so, how should it do this?

An American Bilderberger noted that China in 2005 is one of the leading world economic powers whose actions influence the world economy. Another American, believed to be but not positively identified as Michael Ledeen of the American Enterprise Institute, said that if China doesn't revalue the yuan it would cause the entire world trade system to go out of whack. Someone mentioned that the current situation could be dangerous for the Chinese economy due to the creation of excess liquidity.

Elena Nemirovskaya, founder of the Moscow School of Political Studies, asked what would happen if the yuan were allowed to float freely. An economist responded that this could bring about serious consequences to the world's financial markets. China's foreign exchange reserves are to a large extent made up of US Treasury bills. An appreciation of the yuan would cause its dollar reserves to depreciate.

A German Bilderberger pointed out that this could force the Federal Reserve to have to raise interest rates, thus causing the current housing boom in the US to come to a screeching halt. An oversized Dutchman pointed out that the International Monetary Fund needs to play an active role in helping the yuan.

"Is there a real danger, then," asked an Italian Bilderberger, "of this dispute deteriorating into an all-out trade war?" "Not likely," according to an unidentified blond man from Scandinavia, believed to be a Swede, "because China has totally integrated itself into the market economy."

An American Bilderberger and a member of the US Government noted that all the posturing is part of the act to keep the voters back home happy.

China's moves into the Mekong region did not go unnoticed at the conference. William J. Luti, US Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, explained that China's rapid expansion into the Mekong region, comprising Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, could threaten US interests in the area. Such moves by China would give it an enhanced role in South-East Asia.

Over the last several years, China has invested heavily in transport infrastructure development linking China's southwestern Yunnan province and the Mekong region.

A European Bilderberger pointed out that China is heavily dependent on oil imports. Someone asked for a figure. A tall, lanky man with glasses, believed to be Jeroen van der Veer, Chairman of Royal Dutch Shell, responded that some 40 per cent of China's supply is imported. In fact, China's move into the Mekong region is the result of acute awareness that the country's energy supplies are vulnerable to interference. Overall, 32 per

A British Bilderberger noted that oil at \$120 a barrel would greatly benefit Britain and the USA, but Russia and China would be the biggest winners.

cent of energy supplies, China's lifeblood, passes through the narrow and easily blocked Strait of Malacca.

Indonesia–Malaysia Stand-off

A political and military confrontation between Indonesia and Malaysia in the oil-rich Sulawesi Sea (both claim territorial right to the area of Ambalat) was the topic of much animated discussion among several American and European Bilderbergers during Friday afternoon cocktails. An American Bilderberger waving his cigar suggested using the United Nations to "further a peace policy in the region".

In fact, Bilderbergers at the lounge table all agreed that such a conflict might well give them an excuse to garrison the disputed area with UN "Peacekeepers" and thus ensure their ultimate control over the exploitation of this treasure, meaning untapped oil reserves.

Nobel Peace Prize Pressure

The appearance at Bilderberg 2005 of Nobel Peace Prize Committee Secretary Geir Lundestad was considered likely to mean, according to sources familiar with the discussion, a full court press by the American, British and Israeli delegation to the Nobel committee to prevent the Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu from winning the coveted award.

Vanunu spent 18 years in an Israeli prison—eleven and a half of them in solitary confinement—for providing evidence of Israel's nuclear arsenal to the London *Sunday Times* newspaper in October 1986. Should Vanunu win the Nobel for peace, it would bring uncomfortable attention to the Israeli nuclear arsenal, especially in the face of growing evidence that Israel and the United States are about to punish Iran for trying to develop its own nuclear weapons.

Strong pressure was applied on Lundestad not to choose Hans Blix, the UN weapons inspector in Iraq, nor Mohamed El Baradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, whom President Bush had tried to remove for not being tough enough on Iran.

Some of this year's other nominees are US President George W. Bush and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair for supposedly protecting world peace; the European Union; French President Jacques Chirac, the main culprit for the "No" vote on the European Constitution; former Czech President Václav Havel; the now-deceased Pope John Paul II; Cuban dissident Oswaldo Payá; and US Senator Richard Lugar and former senator Sam Nunn for their Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which is intended to dismantle nuclear weapons left over from the Soviet Union.

The Iran–Russia–China Alliance

According to reports, a French Bilderberger pointedly asked Henry Kissinger if the US Government's sabre-rattling against Iran means the beginning of new hostilities. Richard Haass, CFR President, after asking for his turn to speak, dismissed the notion of an Iran invasion as unrealistic due to the sheer physical size of the country and its population size, not to mention the billions of dollars involved in getting the operation off the ground. Up to the

eyeballs in the Iraq quagmire, the United States military is wary of any new adventures in hostile terrain against a much healthier enemy, both better prepared and organised.

A Swiss Bilderberger asked if a hypothetical attack on Iran would involve a pre-emptive strike against its nuclear sites. Richard Haass replied that such an attack would prove to be counterproductive because Tehran's counterattack options could range from "unleashing terrorism and promoting instability in Iraq, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, to triggering oil price increases that could trigger a global economic crisis". During dinner, according to several sources, Richard Perle criticised Haass's position and explained his opposition to his view.

A woman believed to be Heather Munroe-Blum, Vice-Chancellor of McGill University, Quebec, Canada, asked a rhetorical question about what would happen if Iran were to continue building its nuclear arsenal. Haass replied that in this

scenario, the United States would have no choice but to grant Iran the same status as it does to Pakistan and India.

A US General commented that the China–Iran–Russia alliance is changing the geopolitical situation in the area. *Rapprochement* between Russia and China is viewed by the Bilderbergers as a significant event not to be taken lightly, even though it has received little media attention in the West.

A secret US Government report was cited wherein, according to sources, the Chinese have spent upwards of several billion dollars in acquiring Russia's latest and most sophisticated weapons technology. Someone pointed out that the Sino–Russian alliance is not limited to military trade and that the non-military exchange of goods has grown 100 per cent since the beginning of the Bush presidency.

A delegate at the conference, believed but not positively identified by Secret Service sources to be Anatoly Sharansky, a former Israeli Minister for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs, stated categorically during Friday night cocktails that the

counterweight to the Moscow–Beijing–Tehran axis is the US–Israel–Turkey alliance. A financial expert from a European nation intervened by stating that Russia is much better off financially today than four years ago because tax revenue generated by fuel and arms production and exports as a result of heavy emphasis on military production has financed strong growth of wages and pension incomes, boosting private consumption.

A German Bilderberger pointedly asked Richard Perle if the "war on terrorism" will intensify over the second term of the Bush presidency. Perle reportedly gave no reply but screwed up his face and looked away.

The feeling of "enough is enough" wasn't limited to the European Bilderbergers, wary of Bush's delirious, Hitler-like proclamations of regime changes worldwide. Bilderberg luminary Richard Haass pointedly told Richard Perle during Saturday night cocktails that the Bush Administration has overestimated its ability to change the world. Haass, according to several sources at the conference, is reported to have stated that

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