July 2001, Vol. 2, No. 4

ADC ONLINE

An online journal for discussion, news and analysis of far-right activity in Australia, New Zealand and the world.

The British National Party in Australia

The exteme-right British National Party (BNP) has found a loyal base of support in Australia, particularly in the wake of its recent electoral campaigns in northern England.

With close ties to violent neo-Nazi groups, including Combat 18 and the National Front, the BNP promotes a range of racist ideas, including the need to "protect and preserve the racial and cultural integrity of the British people". Having been accused of contributing to the racial incitement which led to the recent race riots in the city of Oldham and in other northern towns, the BNP subsequently achieved a large number of votes in the British general election, including a significant 16.4% in Oldham West.

In 1998, senior BNP official Nick Griffin (who now heads the Party), applied unsuccessfully for a visa to Australia to undertake a speaking tour under the auspices of the neo-Nazi group, National Action. Since that time, the main support for the BNP in Australia has come from the group, Australian Friends of Europe (AFE), formerly known as Australian Friends of the BNP, based in Petersham, NSW.

The AFE's principal organisers are Welf Herfurth and Mark Wilson. Wilson migrated to Australia in the 1980s from Britain where he had been the BNP local organiser in Essex. He has previously spoken to Australia's oldest racist group, the Australian League of Rights, which has touted him as an expert on "the effects of multiculturalism in Britain".

A resident of Riverstone, NSW, Herfurth is a former executive member of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) in Bavaria, Germany. He has previously spoken to the Australian League of Rights and is next scheduled to speak at its AGM on 28 August 2001 on "The threat to freedom and democracy in Germany today". He has also contributed to far-right forums, including the now-defunct *Australian National News of the Day* website and *The News Report* email list. Amongst the views Herfurth espouses is that Hitler "achieved some remarkable things".

In January 1999, the American Friends of the BNP was established to recruit Americans to the cause and to raise funds for the BNP's election campaigns. The AFE may be seeking to emulate its American counterpart, most likely finding willing recruits and an avenue for fundraising amongst the followers of the pro-British and white supremacist Australian League of Rights.

Port Arthur survivor supports conspiracy

A survivor of the 1996 Port Arthur massacre has been promoted by the far-right as a chief proponent of the "Port Arthur conspiracy", and is scheduled to speak in August on the subject at Australian League of Rights' forums.

The conspiracy suggests that the massacre of 35 people in Port Arthur, Tasmania, was a government plot to disarm Australians as part of the "New World Order" (NWO).

Copyright © 2001 B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission Inc.

The supposed orchestrators of the NWO are the Jews and the Asians, who allegedly use the United Nations to undermine sovereignty around the world (detailed in the *ADC Special Report*: "Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party and the 'Port Arthur Conspiracy'" – email antidef@ozemail.com.au for a copy.)

Wendy Scurr of Kempton, Tasmania, is a former Port Arthur tour guide who was in the information centre when the shooting broke out. She survived the massacre and went on to assist with first aid to the injured. She has since expressed doubt whether convicted mass-murderer Martin Bryant actually did the shooting and has stated that something was "very badly wrong" with the official version of events.

Together with retired Geelong policeman Andrew MacGregor, Scurr spoke on the massacre at the Inverell Forum in March 2001, an annual gathering of far-right leaders in the town of Inverell, NSW. She has also addressed the Australian League of Rights' annual Queensland seminar, and is scheduled to speak for the League in Victoria and South Australia in August and in NSW in October.

It is of concern that far-right groups are seeking credibility in promoting the theory by using someone who was so affected by the tragedy.

MPs distance themselves from LaRouche cult

Queensland Federal MP the Hon. Bob Katter and NSW State MP Peter Webb have written to the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission (ADC) in response to the lead story in the June 2001 edition of *ADC ONLINE*. The item detailed how the MPs' signatures had appeared on a petition circulated by the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC), the Australian arm of the Lyndon LaRouche fascist political cult. The petition called for a "New Bretton Woods", which is a LaRouchian economic policy aimed at preventing a world takeover by a Jewish cabal.

In his letter to the ADC, Mr Katter wrote that the CEC had used "deceptive conduct" to obtain his signature. He stated that he will have "no 'truck' whatsoever with anything that resembles antisemitism", declaring that "anyone who is antisemitic is an enemy of mine, and let me also state with conviction that I am an enemy of theirs". Mr Webb wrote in his letter that, at the time of signing the petition, he had believed that he was merely "supporting a petition that was promoting economic reform and debate". He stated that he does not support the CEC "particularly if they do promote conspiracy theories and racism", and has contacted the CEC to request that his name be removed from the petition.

This edition of ADC ONLINE has been made possible through the generous support of Vera and Abe Dorevitch in memory of Peter Holan

ISSN 1445-0402
Copyright © 2001 B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission Inc.

ADC ONLINE is a publication of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission Inc. (ADC), a national organisation dedicated to researching and combatting all forms of racism.

Prepared by Mr Benseon Apple, Director of Research & Public Affairs.
Telephone INT+ 61-3-9527-1228, fax INT+ 61-3-9525-9127, email antidef@ozemail.com.au

Technical support provided by Fluffy Spider Technologies http://www.fluffyspider.com.au