

<u>ADC ONLINE</u>

An online journal of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission, presenting news and analysis of far-right activity in Australia and the world.

November 22 - "Martin Bryant Sorry Day" November 22 has been designated "Martin Bryant Sorry Day" by members of the far-right, to "apologise" to convicted mass-murderer Martin Bryant for the massacre at Port Arthur, Tasmania, which they say he "did not commit".

This is part and parcel of the "Port Arthur Conspiracy" theory, which suggests that the 1996 massacre of 35 people was clandestinely carried out by Government agents to create sufficient cause for the enactment of legislation outlawing firearms as part of the "New World Order" (NWO). In far-right thought, the Jews are allegedly behind the NWO, using the United Nations to impose a One World Government.

In advertisements placed in Australia's foremost racist newspaper, *The Strategy*, the man behind the theory of the "Port Arthur Conspiracy", Western Australian Joe Vialls, has called on "all responsible and caring Australians" to forward an apology to Bryant in his prison cell on November 22, and to send a copy to their local parliamentarian.

A sample apology accompanies the advertisement. It states: "We are sorry that the acute stress induced by this prolonged cruel and illegal punishment, eventually forced you in desperation to plead 'guilty' to crimes that fresh evidence conclusively prove you did not commit... We are sorry the media vilified you from the outset, 'proving' you guilty without a shred of evidence. We are even more sorry they indulged themselves shamelessly in emotional social engineering techniques designed to direct mass hatred against you. By engaging in this process they undermined national security... May you be granted the inner strength and courage needed to cope with the harsh conditions during your illegal incarceration, until we can properly secure your release."

Forum in Sydney to "resist the New World Order"

On the weekend of December 1-2, 2001, Sydney will play host to a one-off gathering of far-right figures to discuss issues of "political formation" to "help stoke the fires of resistance to the New World Order".

The forum's advertising literature has stated that the event aims to "arm rank and file people with new ideas for action" and to "provide directions that can underpin positive political struggle" against the "New World Order". Topics to be addressed include the rural resistance movement, "the pattern of Australia's Asianisation", the "Red-Brown political phenomenon", and the growth of "movements of identity and patriotism".

Speakers at the event will include:

- * Jim Saleam, the NSW leader of the neo-Nazi group National Action. Saleam has served time in prison for fraud and for the 1989 shotgun attack on the home of the African National Congress representative in Australia.
- * Mark Wilson, the secretary of Australian Friends of Europe, which is the Australian arm of the extreme right British National Party (BNP). Wilson migrated to Australia in

the 1980s from Britain where he had been the BNP local organiser in Essex. He has previously spoken at forums of the Australian League of Rights, which has touted him as an expert on "the effects of multiculturalism in Britain".

- * Welf Herfurth, the president of the One Nation Party Riverstone, NSW, branch. He is a former executive member of Germany's most active neo-Nazi group, the Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands in Bavaria. He is also active in the Australian League of Rights and Australian Friends of Europe.
- * Leon Gregor, the NSW president of the British-Israel World Federation. Part of the Christian Identity movement, which defines Christianity in racial rather than religious terms, the BIWF believes that the true descendants of the biblical Israelites are the Anglo-Saxons.

The far-right parties - do they really matter?

The Federal election saw far-right candidates stand in almost every electorate and in the Senate. Far-right parties fielding candidates included the Citizens Electoral Council, the Curtin Labor Alliance, the Advance Australia Party, Australians Against Further Immigration, Tasmania First and One Nation. Other candidates associated with racist groups stood as Independents.

A preliminary analysis of the voting indicates that support for most of these parties has remained fairly constant since the 1998 election, with each garnering no more than a few thousand votes. The exception was One Nation, the most popular far-right political force, which has halved its voter support base since 1998.

However, one cannot dismiss such parties as inconsequential, for they have been successful in attracting disenfranchised voters, particularly those suffering economic hardship and social dislocation. Some far-right parties, particularly the Citizens Electoral Council and the Curtin Labor Alliance, use their political status to prey on the politically naïve and to raise millions of dollars in donations. The party political system also gives far-right parties and their racist ideas additional public prominence.

Beyond this, far-right parties, particularly One Nation, have given a public mouthpiece to the fringe hardcore racist ideology and conspiracies propagated by Australian and international white supremacist groups. The *ideological* racism of far-right groups and the *populist* racism prevalent amongst the disenfranchised, have thus found their nexus in the party political system. For example, four One Nation candidates at the election (see the October 2001 *ADC Special Report*) have been associated with an organised racist group. The racist conspiracies of these groups have found an outlet amongst these candidates. Denis Collins, the One Nation candidate for the Tasmanian seat of Bass – associated with the antisemitic Citizens Electoral Council, the militia group AUSI Freedom Scouts, and the racist newspaper, *The Strategy* – recently told Australian Associated Press that he did not deny having racist links, and used biblical texts to justify his view that Jews controlled the world economy. At one point, he used the phrase "synagogue of satan".

This edition of ADC ONLINE honours the late Robert Greenwood QC, the former head of the Nazi war crimes Special Investigations Unit, for his long and principled stand against those who perpetrate crimes against humanity.

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