

EIR Special Report

The Swiss banking empire: center of the Fourth Reich

by Laurent Murawiec and Evelyn Lauber

"It is known that technology is a holy idea for modern America, which began with Benjamin Franklin and for an immense crowd of agitated followers who think they are the vanguard, in Africa, Asia, and the U.S.S.R. . . . There will be an immense catastrophe in which America will fall."

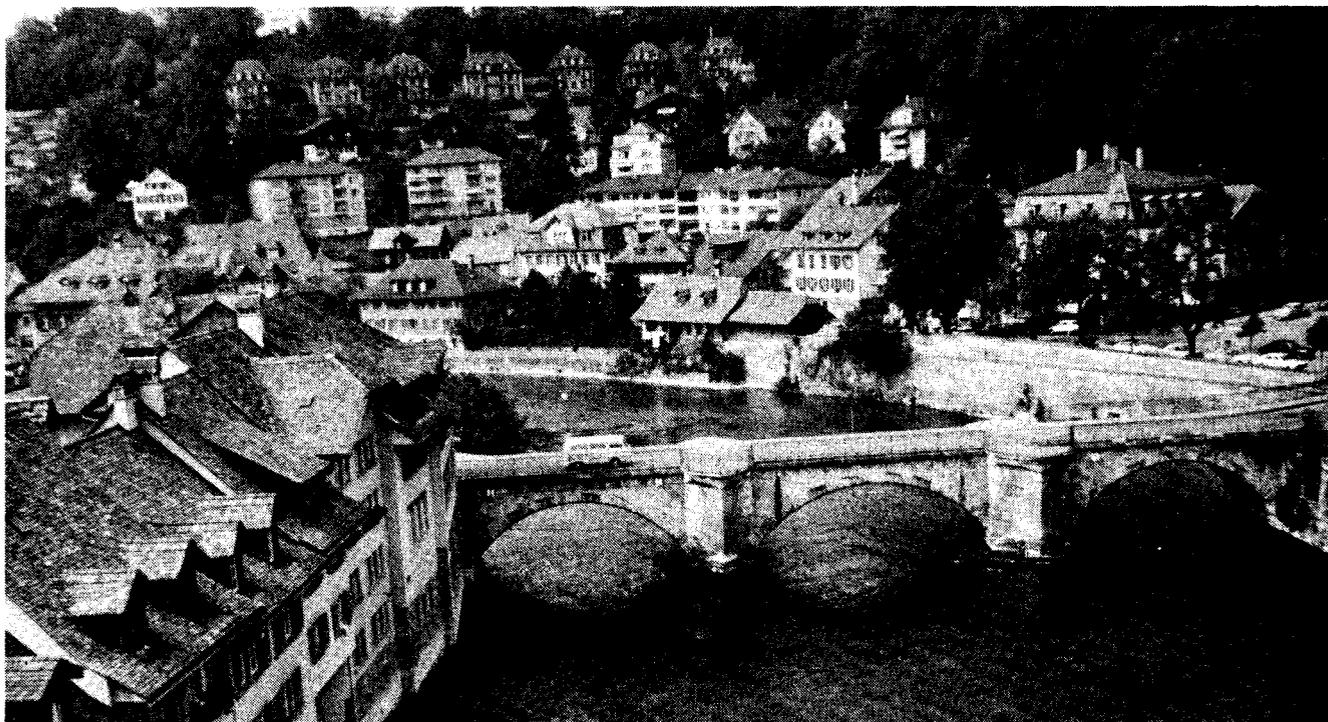
—Denis de Rougemont

The haven for capital flight, and the command center for the redeployment of hundreds of billions of dollars, Switzerland is the center of a conspiracy that deploys espionage, intelligence, and terror, and one which is at the center of the diplomatic manipulation of nations through "world-federalist" institutions. Today, the Swiss are casting their lot with a strategy of reshaping Europe into a *Mittleuropa*—a new Reich based in Central Europe—in alliance with Moscow's "Third Rome" imperial prophets.

An anecdote is appropriate here. Two years ago, after *EIR* held a seminar on the subject of terrorism in Bonn, West Germany, where detailed documentation was presented concerning the Swiss connection to left-wing terrorism in Europe, an official at the Swiss embassy reported that "the foreign office in Berne is very upset. They have decided not to help you in your request [for a mapping of Swiss institutions]." The author half-jokingly replied, "I will publish this in my next article on Switzerland," at which the Swiss official snapped: "If there is one piece of advice I can give you, don't do that, don't you dare do that!" and refused any explanation. We will now explore what exactly was meant, and why.

Switzerland and the Third Reich

When SS Colonel Walter Schellenberg came to see SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler to ask him to prevent "Hitler's often-repeated desire to effect a preventive occupation of Switzerland," he found a most receptive audience. The SS were quite determined to "let Switzerland remain our financial pivot." Too much was at stake for the SS, for the Nazi military intelligence service, the Abwehr, and for



Stuart Lewis/NISIPS

Berne, the Swiss capital: "Everything in Switzerland is decentralized," except the headquarters of supranational institutions.

the Allgemeine SS, which was the leading financial and aristocratic circles' bridge to the top Nazi establishment. Schellenberg, then the head of the SS security apparatus, recalls in his memoirs, "my efforts to come to negotiations with the then-head of the Swiss intelligence service [Col. Roger] Masson and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Gen. Henri Guisan. It was clear to me that the path to the neutrality of Switzerland could only be trodden successfully if the neutrality of the country was preserved. . . . After the necessary contacts with Masson and Guisan, I proposed that Himmler bring his influence to bear at the Führer's headquarters to prevent the military plans [to invade Switzerland] from being realized. He [Himmler] had assured me in no uncertain terms however, that my head would roll should the other side not maintain its neutrality."

Since Schellenberg died in his bed—in Switzerland—one must assume that the Swiss did behave properly as defined by Hitler and Himmler. Evidence proved indeed that they performed to the utmost satisfaction of the Nazis. Schellenberg adds, "In my efforts to keep Switzerland out of the war, I received the help of Reich Economics Minister [Walter] Funk, who skillfully convinced the Supreme Commander that Switzerland was to remain our 'financial pivot.' "

With Walter Funk, immediate controller of the Nazi Reichsbank and the economic war machine of the Reich, Schellenberg introduces us into the central dimension of the Swiss-Nazi relationship: the realm of high international finance.

It all began during World War I with the establishment of the Swiss Corporation for Metals Investment (Schweizer-

ische Gesellschaft für Metallwerte), a front for the German Metallgesellschaft company, which was not only concerned with purchasing raw materials, but also ran a large international intelligence and espionage network which its boss, Richard Merton, had established with General Groener, Imperial Chief of Staff, and General von Schleicher, who in 1918 reorganized the Abwehr. To run the front, Merton selected the scion of one of the oldest and richest patrician families of Basel, Felix Iselin, whose family bank, Iselin & Cie., is to this day one of the major powers behind the giant Swiss Bank Corporation and the La Baloise insurance company. The Iselins had opened their first bank in the United States in 1803, and were the sponsors of the parvenu financier family of Louis Dreyfus. In short, the Imperial General Staff and the most senior Swiss patricians were setting up a joint intelligence venture.

In 1929, Iselin became the deputy head of another, similar venture: the I. G. Farben chemicals corporation was setting up a Swiss-based front, also in Basel, the I. G. Chemie, a holding corporation for all assets of the immense international empire of the future manufacturer of the gas Zyklon B. On the board of the holding company sat Max Ilgner of Hamburg, a board member of I. G. Farben, who ran, before and after the Nazis took over, a gigantic private world intelligence and espionage service through his company's innumerable outfits. In 1939, Iselin became chairman of I. G. Chemie. There he remained until 1958, to be replaced by the star of Swiss banking, Union Bank of Switzerland chairman Dr. Alfred Schaefer.

I. G. Farben was the industrial linchpin of the Swiss-Nazi

apparatus. Its chairman, Ilgner's uncle Hermann Schmitz, was a member of the board of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the "central bank of the central banks," the powerful institution that had been created to oversee the financial collapse and reorganization of Europe from which a "new order" was to come.

The BIS had finished off the hapless Weimar Republic by withholding crucially required financial pledges during the worst of the 1931 German banking crisis. The German founder of the BIS, who remained on its board throughout the 1930s, was Reichsbank chief Hjalmar Schacht, the man who had co-organized the circle of financiers and industrialists that funded Hitler's coming to power. Schacht went on to become Nazi Germany's economic czar.

Other German members of the board of the BIS were Schacht's successor Funk and Baron Kurt von Schroeder, of the namesake bank. Von Schroeder was a politically active banker—he was a general in Himmler's SS, and paraded in his black *Totenkopf* (Death's Head) uniform. During the war, Funk was to "certify" the dozens of tons of gold looted from concentration camp victims by the SS economic administration unit (WVHA) and funnel it into the BIS, with the complicity of Swiss National Bank governor Emil Meyer. As we will see, the Swiss government in 1944-45 was to violate specific agreements with the Allies concerning the transfer of Nazi fortunes out of the collapsing Third Reich. In the meantime, the gold gathered and monetized "to assist the SS," as Funk said at the Nuremberg trial, was flowing in the Swiss vaults.

Hermann Schmitz's I. G. Farben intelligence, NW7, was coordinated under Walter Schellenberg's Amt VI (6th bureau) of the SS Security Service, the SD, and worked in very close contact with the Nazi Party's Auslandsorganisation (AO), the National Socialists' global international subversion machine. Schmitz's appreciation of Schellenberg was such that he proposed to include him in the "Council of 12" that was to be set up as a regency in Germany, supplanting Hitler. Schmitz had been part of the original kernel around von Schroeder and Schacht that brought Hitler to power.

These were the elements of the deal that was passed between the Nazi establishment, or, more precisely, the SS establishment, and the BIS-Swiss National Bank and their friends, Commander-in-Chief Guisan and intelligence chief Masson. But as Schellenberg hinted, there was a price, most willingly paid by the Swiss elite: Switzerland was, and was to remain, the workshop for the Axis powers, the provider of its international credit, and freedom of action was to be given to the Swiss Nazis and the Swiss SS. Punctiliously, the Swiss respected their side of the contract.

Native Swiss Nazis

There were ultimately up to 60,000 Swiss Nazis during World War II. Four thousand Swiss citizens joined the Waffen SS. Switzerland, Inc., merged with the Third Reich.

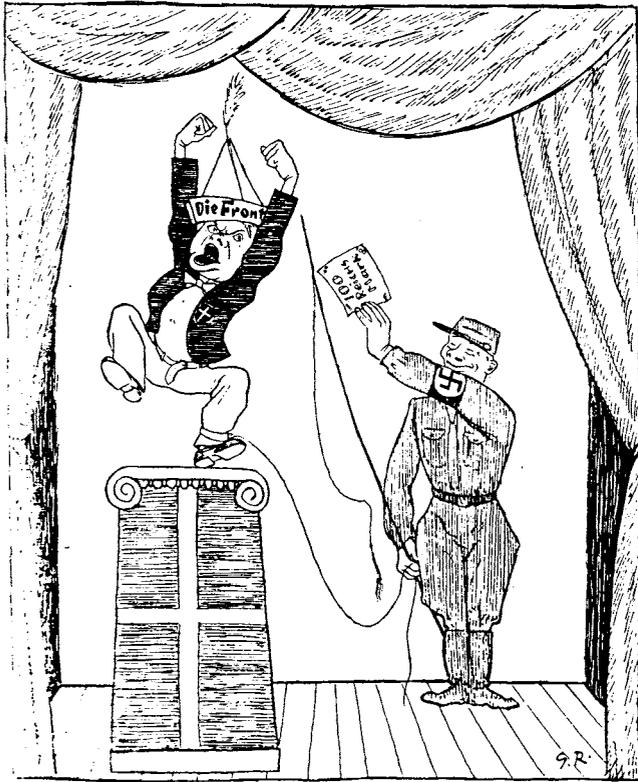
The chief of the NSDAP-AO, Ernst Bohle, who had been slated to become the Gauleiter (regional leader) of a Reich-

occupied Switzerland, and his subordinate Dr. Klaus Huegel, who ran the Stuttgart-based Alemannischer Arbeitskreis, did not need to implement "Operation Tannenbaum," as the invasion was code-named. Unlike Austria, no *Anschluss* was necessary; unlike Czechoslovakia, no invasion was called for. Switzerland was the Nazi Reich, with a slightly different local regime, a protectorate of sorts. The unwritten conditions for the freeze on "Plan Aktion Schweiz," which charted policies for an occupation, were fulfilled, including one specifically put forward by Schellenberg: total freedom for the development of the interface between the Nazis and American spymaster Allen Dulles, who was based in Berne, the Swiss federal capital. We will see below how Schellenberg's recommendations were fulfilled.

The Swiss Nazi-fascist movement had been strong since the 1920s. In 1924, Theodore Aubert, scion of a major Geneva banking family, founded the Entente Internationale Anti-Communiste, usually referred to as the Aubert League, which worked in tandem with Hitler and Mussolini. In 1932, he merged it with the National Political Order run by another scion of a leading Geneva banking family, the Oltrameres, of the top Geneva private bank, Lombard, Odier. Georges Oltramare and Aubert formed the Union Nationale and spearheaded a Nazi mass movement in the Confederation under the motto of "*Erneuerung*," National Renewal, which soon received the nickname of the "*Anpasser*," the Adapters (to Nazism). Through a maze of organizations—in federal Switzerland, everything is always decentralized—the whole spectrum of fascist, Nazi, and "conservative revolutionary" nuances was covered, reaching from the several dozen thousand members of the camouflaged SS organization, the Sportschule, through the rarefied patrician meetings of the Redressement National, on whose board Aubert sat. Armed Nazi militias, a major political lobby for the alliance with the Reich, and intelligence networks spread internationally. It was what the Swiss called in the mid-1930s the "Spring of the Fronts," of the Nazi fronts that is: the National Movement of Switzerland, the New Front, the New Helvetic Society, the Bund für Volk und Heimat (Union for the People and the Fatherland), the Patriotic Defense League of Berne, and the Nationale Kampfbund, among others.

The faces of Swiss fascism

The kind of fascism defended by the Swiss was unique. In 1928 the Centre International d'Etudes sur le Fascisme (CINEF—International Center for the Study of Fascism) was created in Lausanne; it brought the world's fascist "elite" together, around what is called a "universal fascist" outlook, as opposed to the "narrow, nationalistic" forms of fascism that had overrun Italy, Germany and other European nations. Wilfried Pareto had taught at the University of Lausanne for years, spreading his doctrine of the "elites" that provided a fundamental underpinning to fascist practice as well as an educational for Italian Fascist leaders including Benito Mussolini, who freely acknowledged his debt to the Lausanne master.



"I sing the tune the piper pays for"—missing the point that the leaders of the Front were profoundly committed fascists, not venal appendages of the Nazis.

At the head of the CINEF was a Briton, James Strachey Barnes, a Scottish Rite Freemason who served as liaison between the BIS and Bank of England chief Montagu Norman, the pro-Nazi sponsor of Hjalmar Schacht, and Benito Mussolini. Barnes, from his Lausanne abode, directed Mussolini's 1933 banking reform and the creation of the powerful IRI, the huge state-owned conglomerate whose first chairman was Italian BIS founder Alberto Beneduce. Barnes was working in connection with the Lausanne-based Grande Loge Suisse Alpina, the Scottish Rite "Obedience" established in 1844 federating all Swiss lodges.

The essence of the CINEF brand of fascism, which can be defined as "Swiss fascism," a fascism without nations, was formulated in Barnes's 1928 book *The Universal Aspects of Fascism*, and was later summed up by an epigone: "The objective that [Barnes] was aiming at . . . was the end of all nations and the unification of the human race under one structure. However, he stated that national fascism was the most apt way to reach such an aim." Swiss nobleman Gonzague de Reynold, a confidante of Mussolini and a prominent figure in the Swiss elite, pushed the same conception: a *Mittleuropa* brand of fascism, just as that of his colleague, another Mussolini confidante, Prince Julius Evola, who imbued Heinrich Himmler with the deranged "ideals" of the Graal and the Aggartha. General Fonjallaz, a retired Swiss officer, and head of one of the Swiss Nazi parties, as well as Georges Oltramare, were other prominent figures in the CINEF circle.

Mittleuropa meant that nation-states would be broken into small ethnic-religious entities, or satrapies modeled on the Austro-Hungarian Empire under the Hapsburgs. This was Count Coudenhove-Kalergi's "Paneuropa," whose ideology was violently opposed to industrialization out of devotion to Mother Earth, opposed to science for the sake of the primacy of irrational emotions, opposed to urban life for the love of pastoral life. (The so-called industrialists involved in this movement shared the same outlook. One of Coudenhove's leading German collaborators was I. G. Farben founder Carl Duisberg.) The United States was the foremost hate-object of the Paneuropa/*Mittleuropa* currents.

Swiss fascism was by no means confined to the "right wing": it encompassed left-liberals and leftist radicals. Most prominent intellectually and politically was another Swiss nobleman, Denis de Rougemont, who had spent the 1930s in Paris as a propagandist for Paneuropa's "non-conformist revolution," or the New Middle Ages prophesied by Third Rome theorist Nikolai Berdaiev. De Rougemont, one of the prominent figures in the left-leaning Christian intelligentsia which fathered today's "Theology of Liberation," defined the program of the left-liberal-oriented variety of Swiss fascism: "The royal [French] state, the future nation-state, defines itself expressly with respect to the Holy Roman Empire and against it, as one part opposes itself to the whole and claims self-sufficiency. The state opposes itself to the Empire in its form. The empire is spherical and global and its ruler holds a symbolic globe in his left hand. State and Empire are no less opposed in terms of the type of human relations they imply and enhance. . . . Rome or the Holy Empire only last through the free adhesion to its principle of union, not through uniformity."

Nation-states were evil and ephemeral, de Rougemont wrote. An "apocalypse" would come in the form of a universal catastrophe which would cause the Fall of Babylon—the United States, the citadel of industrialism and the republican nation-state. What had to be wiped out, he added in his 1974 book *The Future Is In Our Hands*, was "the European virus: Europe as a colonizer spread throughout the world the formula of the nation-state, the belief in 2,500 calories a day for all and the morbid desire of having nuclear power plants." The reason why the Nazis had triumphed was that democracy had been "for the masses," and "turning each and all into a massified state."

Democracy was reason, and, "by prohibiting the catalysts and explorers of the dark forces, reason provokes the rise of monsters around us. . . . We must raise up and control the eruption of man's dark forces by means of cults and sects to avert their uncontrolled eruption." In short, de Rougemont said in his 1942 book *The Devil's Share*, "this is the time for the era of the modern Gnosis, of the religious reaction against democracy, with its uniform mediocrity, its lack of the sense of tragedy."

Such were the contents of the proposed policy. Its form was to be, as de Rougemont prescribed, the resurrection of the 888-1032 A.D. Empire of Burgundy as the imperial cen-

ter of Europe, around which a dust of small, "cross-border" entities would be federated. Lest anyone think that this was the pipedream of an isolated madman, it should be added that later de Rougemont was the chairman of the CIA-funded Congress for Cultural Freedom for more than a decade, and is today the grand old man of ECOROPA, the umbrella organization of all European environmentalist groups.

Universal fascism and 'one-world' organizations

In the center of this imperium sat Geneva, the headquarters for the League of Nations, founded as the institutional embodiment of the Versailles Treaty of 1919-20. The League's stated program—which in hindsight gives some excuse to the American isolationism of the inter-war period—was to abolish the sovereignty of nation-states, and install a supranational power, complete with an army, navy, and so forth. Since the supranationalization of finances was more advanced than that of national law, the League proceeded to establish a supranational dictatorship over the finances of individual nations, to which all the newly formed Eastern and Central European countries, loaded with the debts of the Hapsburg Empire but not its assets, fell easy prey. The financial Secretariat of the League, and, later, in 1930, after the Versailles system foundered, the Bank for International Settlements, acted as the institutional enforcer. Geneva after all was traditionally the European capital for the financiers' manipulation of nations—it had been set up for that purpose by the Venetian and Genoese bankers.

A string of League satellite organizations was set up, including the International Labor Office, which ran manipulation and penetration operations throughout the world labor movement, and the all-important Institut Universitaires des Hautes Etudes Internationales (Graduate Institute of International Studies), established in 1927 by Dr. William Rappard as the "think tank" and diplomatic academy for the "New Order."

The war seen from Switzerland

It is an eloquent testimony to the self-conception of the Swiss elite that they justify their wartime behavior by claiming they could do nothing else than pile up billions of profits from "trading with the enemy." While the story is undeniably true—Switzerland grew fat on the blood and bones of millions of European corpses—there is more to be said.

On July 18, 1940, the leadership of the Socialist Party of Switzerland issued the following press release: "The preconditions for our traditional policy of neutrality have been destroyed by the European events. A reorientation of Swiss domestic and external policy is called for"—scarcely a summons to arms. On Nov. 15, 1940, a bombshell exploded in Switzerland, the "Appeal of the 200" (*Eingabe der 200*) where prominent Swiss citizens were calling for a *Gleichschaltung* (coordination) in Switzerland to adapt to the New European Order imposed by Hitler. One of the organizations

included in the 200's area of influence began private-channel negotiations with Goebbels's intelligence apparatus. The Aubert League and Oltramare's Union Nationale conspicuously figure among the 200 (Oltramare himself had moved to Paris to run a leading Nazi-controlled daily newspaper, *La France au Travail*, under the name Charles Dieudonne).

A debate erupted within the Swiss elite: should the *Anschluss* demanded by the 200 take place, or should Switzerland play a more delphic game of interface between contending powers, while hedging its long-term bets? Aubert conducted long discussions with General Guisan. The conclusion of the debate was that Switzerland would serve fascism and itself better by remaining "neutral"—at the price of the Schellenberg conditions.

At the end of July 1940, a manifesto hit the news, issued by the League of the Gotthard, which called for "resistance" against the Nazis on the basis of a federalist-corporativist program. The manifesto had been drafted by Denis de Rougemont, and one prominent signature was that of arch-fascist Gonzague de Reynold! The League recruited heavily in the military and in Masson's intelligence service—General Guisan insisted that Paneuropean Swiss fascism retain its own touch. "With the Nazis, yes, under the Nazis, no," could have been his motto.

Other leading members of the League included Robert Eibl, secretary of Guisan's personal staff, who headed the Redressement National, the Paneuropean fascist group founded in the 1930s. On July 9, 1940 Eibl drafted a policy memorandum to his chief that was reportedly much further in the pro-Nazi direction than even that of the 200.

Colonel Masson's collaboration with Schellenberg proceeded unhindered—in fact, he even prohibited the continuance of some counterintelligence efforts in Germany itself by members of his service. And the last condition put by the SS leader was fulfilled: free room for Allen Dulles's Berne-based operation, which prepared for the postwar period, the post-Nazi Nazism.

Allen Dulles arrived in Switzerland late in 1942, renewing acquaintance with Berne, where he had been posted in 1917, and had maintained contact with the Lenin-led community of revolutionary Russian exiles there. Dulles, whose family was related to the Geneva patrician family of the Mallets, had been with brother John Foster, one of those hypocritically called the "appeasers" of Hitler—the outright pro-Nazi faction in the Anglo-American establishment. Foster, a spokesman for the Geneva-based World Council of Churches, and, like Allen a "client" of Swiss-based psychoanalyst Carl Jung, himself an avowed Nazi supporter, had spent the 1930s making pro-Nazi speeches. This endeared Allen in turn to his Swiss contacts. As the new U.S. intelligence chief for Europe, after being recruited to Foster's law firm Sullivan and Cromwell, Allen had traveled to Europe and met client Fritz Thyssen, the most prominent industrialist in early pre-1932 support of Adolf Hitler. Thyssen took Dulles to Hitler and introduced the New York lawyer to



Allen Dulles worked out aspects of the postwar Nazi International deployment with SS Gen. Karl Wolff at this villa on Lake Maggiore in 1945.

the Führer. Connections were multiple: Allen Dulles was a member of the board of the Schroder bank in New York until 1944; Sullivan and Cromwell's German correspondents, the law firm Albert und Westrick, were the I. G. Farben lawyers.

Allen Dulles soon came into contact with SS Gen. Karl Wolff, the longtime staff assistant of SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler, who was Himmler's liaison with I. G. Farben. Dulles opened a direct line with SS Colonel Schellenberg, a director of International Telegraph & Telephone (ITT) alongside SS General Baron Kurt von Schroeder, John Foster Dulles, and lawyer Westrick (a Nazi spymaster in North America). The well-known Standard Oil/I. G. Farben collaboration offered an important avenue for Allen Dulles's Nazi contacts.

In Switzerland, aside from the official, BIS and Swiss National Bank funding of the Nazis, the bankrolling of SS and Abwehr operations was organized through the Thyssenbank of Dulles's friend. Its Locarno branch, backed by the Union Bank of Switzerland of Dr. Alfred Schaefer, was run by (and soon took the name of) Baron von der Heydt, a naturalized Swiss citizen who was Admiral Canaris's envoy. Von der Heydt's family bank in Germany, Delbrueck of Cologne, was where von Schroeder, Thyssen, and Schacht had opened the business community's "Hitler fund" in 1932. One of von der Heydt's assignments was to finance Latin American operations of the Abwehr. His main local collaborator was Abwehrsonderführer Gisevius—who was on Dulles's staff.

Dr. Hjalmar Schacht spent much of the war "shuttling between Basel and Geneva to pull strings," as Charles Higham, author of *Trading with the Enemy*, describes it. Schacht's

beloved BIS went on piling up the gold from teeth, wedding rings, eyeglasses, jewels and other concentration camp booty. In Zürich and Basel, young, bright Union Bank of Switzerland banker Dr. Alfred Schaefer—who was also said to be the lover of Eva Braun, Hitler's "mistress"—had a liaison with the I. G. Chemie chaired by Felix Iselin.

Around Dulles, the "Committee of the Emigrés," as it came to be known, worked as an advisory body. It included former Austrian Chancellor Brüning—a *Mittleuropa* fascist of the clerical stamp—who a few years earlier had asked Hermann Schmitz of I. G. Farben to join the Austrian cabinet. On Dulles's staff was also the founder and director of the Geneva Institut Universitaires des Hautes Etudes Internationales, William Rappard.

What was the Dulles crowd actually doing? They were quietly negotiating with Himmler and Schellenberg, and preparing the postwar reconstruction of the Nazi structures, after the defeat of the Third Reich—the transmogrification of the Reich.

Colonel Roger Masson helped. In Schellenberg's files, Swiss contacts were code-named as "Senner people" and Masson was "Senner-1."

Swiss build postwar Nazi International

Sixteen days after D-Day Normandy, fascist leader Theodore Aubert drafted a memo to General Guisan on how to prepare for the aftermath of the war. In the memo, Aubert listed more than half a dozen organizations that were ready to swing into action to "launder" the Nazi apparatus and enable it to escape postwar Allied retaliation.

Masson, despite his ostentatious pro-Nazi sympathies,

had never narrowed his options. Throughout the war, he had kept a connection to Moscow, through the so-called Red Orchestra (Rote Kapelle) network in Switzerland and its major agents, Sandor Rado ("Dora"), Alexander Foote, and Fritz Roessler, who faithfully communicated to Masson everything they received from the Abwehr in Berlin through cut-outs who were old friends of Denis de Rougemont, Gonzague de Reynold et al., such as Schulze-Boysen, who ran one of the major networks from within Germany.

On Feb. 25, 1945, Major Max Waibel, Masson's subordinate, approached Allen Dulles to say that he could put him in touch with representatives of SS Gen. Karl Wolff, the commander of German troops in Northern Italy, who wished to talk surrender, as one result of the Masson-Schellenberg-Dulles negotiations. "Operation Sunrise," as the surrender was code-named, has been widely described, apart from a lying book by Allen Dulles himself. At the top of the agenda was now "Operation Land of Fire," the transfer of the assets of the Third Reich—personnel and money—out of crumbling Germany. Diethelm Brothers, a front organization was set up in hospitable Lausanne, at the initiative of Hitler's personal assistant Martin Bormann, with the help of Hjalmar Schacht and his son-in-law, SS Colonel Otto Skorzeny, who worked with the Abwehr's number-two man, Count Erwin von Lahousen.

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The Crédit Suisse bank and the Basler Handelsbank were important conduits for the transfer of funds. In the year 1944 alone, Schellenberg had transferred no less than \$600 million to Switzerland! Several hundred Nazi front corporations were set up, of which more 200 were identified as located in Switzerland. While Hitler had entertained the silly plan of a Nazi retrenchment into the *Alpenfestung* (Alpine fortress) complete with military defense, the shrewder Schellenberg-Schacht group, supported by Schaefer, the BIS, and the Swiss National Bank, pursued other ideas.

The chairman of the BIS had explained for the record

why the Nazis had allowed the BIS to operate: "In order to understand, one must first understand the strength of the confidence and trust that the central bankers have had in each other and the strength of their determination to play the game squarely. . . . One must realize that in the complicated German financial setup, certain men who have the central bankers' point of view are in very strategic positions, and can influence the conduct of the German government with respect to these matters." Precisely.

The looted gold went through an earmarked BIS account at the Swiss National Bank. The bank disguised the BIS gold as payments to the U.S. Red Cross and German legations to Switzerland to escape U.S. investigation.

The Kilgore Committee of the U.S. Congress investigated Swiss behavior after extraordinary pressure was brought to bear by Washington—not through Dulles!—for Switzerland to stop its material, financial, and military help to Nazi Germany. That pressure included a blockade, a financial boycott, and large-scale freezing of financial assets in the United States and other countries. Author Charles Higham reports on a Nov. 15, 1945 statement of the committee's findings that "the Swiss banks led by the BIS and its member bank the Swiss National Bank had violated agreements made at the end of the war not to permit financial transactions that would help the Nazis dispose of their loot. . . . [D]espite the assurances of the Swiss government that German accounts would be blocked, the Germans maneuvered themselves in a position where they could utilize their assets in Switzerland, could acquire desperately needed foreign exchange by the sale of looted gold and could conceal economic reserves for another war. These moves were made possible by the willingness of the Swiss government and banking officials in violation of their agreements with the Allied powers, to make a secret deal with the Nazis."

In August 1944, a secret meeting had taken place in Strasbourg, in the still-occupied part of France, with the leaders of the SS industrial and financial apparatus. The agenda was to prepare for the postwar period. One major method was once more to have SS-controlled firms create or consolidate "interfaces" with foreign firms and thus escape denazification scrutiny. Swiss companies massively bought such SS-controlled firms and thus gave them "respectable Swiss" cover. Another method involved the Swiss laundering of hundreds of millions in faked dollars and pounds.

"Odessa," "Die Spinne," the HIAG organization of "former" SS members, and other networks went to work. Nazi war criminals flocked into Switzerland, were given false identities, and, after some rest from their war efforts, were shipped to the Middle East, to Latin America, and so forth. One singularly interesting individual involved in this well-known effort was Abwehr agent François Genoud, a Hitler fanatic who had been involved in facilitating meetings between Dulles and General Wolff, and in the Diethelm Brothers arrangement for mass escape of Nazis. Genoud, as *EIR* has exposed (see Special Report, April 19), is at the operational center of today's Nazi international apparatus.