

# More mysteries over Swissair Flight 111

by Dean Andromidas

During the night of Oct. 11 and early morning hours of Oct. 12, the main offices of Swissair, in the Zurich, Switzerland suburb of Kloten, were broken into. The burglars took documents and money. Although similar break-ins had recently occurred in the neighborhood, the Swiss financial daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* reported that the criminals were in fact looking for documents concerning the Sept. 2 crash of Swissair Flight 111 off the coast of Nova Scotia, in which 229 people were killed.

*EIR* (see the Oct. 16 issue, p. 57) detailed the possibility that Flight 111 had been the target of sabotage or an explosive device, a device that could have only been placed by an agency with sophisticated capabilities, such as a state intelligence service. The fact that Richard Tomlinson, the runaway former MI6 agent, had been booked on the aircraft, could have been the motivation for British intelligence agencies to have targeted the aircraft.

Tomlinson, who is said to be in hiding in Switzerland, had been invited to the United States by NBC News for an exclusive interview, and had been booked to return to Switzerland on the ill-fated flight. But, he never boarded the Swissair flight because he was immediately deported when he tried to enter the United States.

Swissair Flight 111 crashed in Canadian waters a few hours after it took off from New York bound for Geneva, Switzerland, as it was attempting an emergency landing at Halifax International Airport.

Strangely enough, the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* report was not published until Oct. 22, a week after the break-ins occurred.

Even more disturbing, was the publication of a death notice, also on Oct. 22, in a small regional Swiss daily called *Der Bund*, regarding Guido Hirni, who was killed when the helicopter he was flying in crashed on Oct. 13. Hirni was one of the chief inspectors of the Swiss Federal Office for Investigation of Air Accidents. Hirni had been widely quoted, and frequently seen on Swiss television news reports, giving official statements on the crash investigation of Swissair Flight 111.

It is not known whether Hirni was himself involved in the investigation, but it is known that the Canadian authorities have refused to allow Swiss investigators assigned to the

probe to speak to anyone about the investigation, including their superiors in the Swiss government.

## MI6 spies in Swiss banks

On Oct. 11, an interview with Tomlinson appeared in *Sunday Business*, a British weekly. In the interview, Tomlinson repeated his charge that British intelligence has an aggressive policy of spying on its European allies, particularly in economics and banking.

Tomlinson told *Sunday Business* that, according to the official mission “requirements” of MI6 drafted by Britain’s joint intelligence committee, which coordinates the activities of all of the British government’s intelligence agencies, that the major task of MI6 in Europe is economic and commercial espionage.

Tomlinson told *Sunday Business*, “When I saw the requirements, I was astounded. Many of the countries in there are supposed to be allies, especially our European partners. It is listed alphabetically, and includes France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland.”

The article reported the allegation that MI6 has spies in the Union Bank of Switzerland, which is the country’s largest bank.

In the above-cited article, *EIR* reported Tomlinson’s earlier revelation that an MI6 agent had been placed in the Bundesbank, Germany’s central bank, in 1986, and had continued to operate there to the present.

## Public-private integration

*Sunday Business* pointed out the fact that it is quite normal for senior British intelligence officers to become board members of leading British banks and corporations, enabling the intelligence services to utilize the capacities of the private sector, while the latter regularly benefits from the resources of the intelligence agencies. The arrangement thus substantially blurs the divide between the role of the British state and the British private sector—free market pretensions notwithstanding.

Tomlinson revealed that Britain’s Midland Bank, one of the largest in the City of London, is called the “listening bank,” and is wholly an asset of MI6. Also, the Royal Bank of Scotland is utilized extensively for British intelligence operations. MI6 regularly transfers secret information to British banks and other corporations.

Tomlinson revealed to *Sunday Business* that he turned over secret information received from MI6’s spy at the Bundesbank to several British commercial and merchant banks, including Midland Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

This integration between the secret services and the private sector is so close that secret reports, code-named CX reports, which are drafted by MI6 for other intelligence agencies such as Britain’s domestic security service, MI5, are routinely transferred to designated liaison officers at banks and other private institutions.