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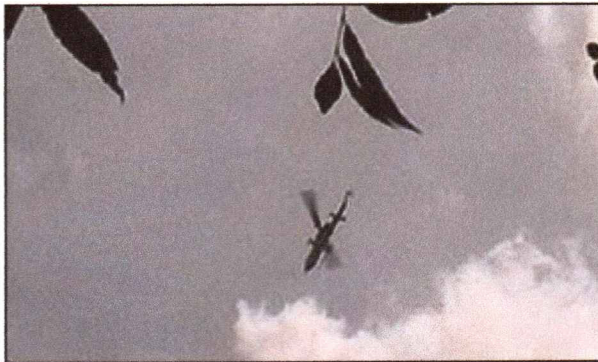
EDITIONS

Change to World

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE Conspiracy

Monday, 5 October, 1998, 10:47 GMT 11:47 UK

Death to the New World Order



The US Government say the helicopters do not exist

In the final part of the series, Paul Vickers of BBC Radio 5 Live, asks if there really is a sinister plot to set up a one-world government.

The conspiracy theory about the New World Order is not new, but it is the one that everyone is talking about as we draw closer to the year 2000.

A growing number of Americans are so convinced that the NWO is about to take power that they are making plans to fight back, stockpiling foods, weapons and ammunition.

Major Boyd is a trooper in the New Mexico militia, an armed unit of volunteers; farmers, salesmen, former police-officers, who are preparing to take the New World Order on.

"There are 19 million armed American patriots ready to take their country back," he told us.

What is the New World Order?

Simply put, it is a shadowy collection of elite bankers, politicians and military leaders who want to control the whole world with a single dictatorial government - the New World Order.

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Listen to Paul Vickers' report on US preparations to fight the N.W.O.

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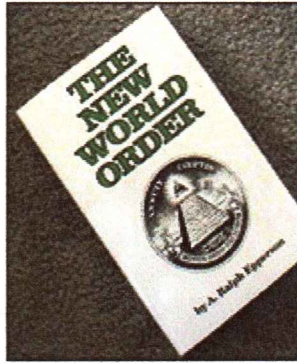
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Links to more Conspiracy - Radio 5 Live stories are at the foot of the page.

They will take power thanks in part to the millennium bug - the Y2K bug as it's known in the States. When US computers collapse, they say, society as we know it will end.



The N.W.O. is a shadowy collection of people who want to control the whole world

Food won't make it into the superstores, nuclear power-stations will shut down or melt down, there will be anarchy on the streets - streets flooded with weapons thanks to the relaxed gun-control laws America is famous for.

And they say that United Nations troops will be moved into America to disarm the population and restore order, using emergency powers to install the NWO in government.

The militia say that this is the enemy they are sworn to fight. General Strode, the proud commander of the New Mexico Militia, says that "the militia has a duty to defend the American constitution from enemies both foreign and domestic", that domestic enemy including corrupt governments like the NWO.

Unidentified flying helicopters

Some of his men believe that preparations for "take over" are already underway. "They have built detention facilities across the country where anyone who disagrees with the government will be locked up. Their soldiers will come to get us in their black helicopters," said one man who did not want to give his name.

These black helicopters, choppers with no unit markings and charcoal black paint, are a common theme for conspiracists.

The US government says that they don't exist. BBC producer

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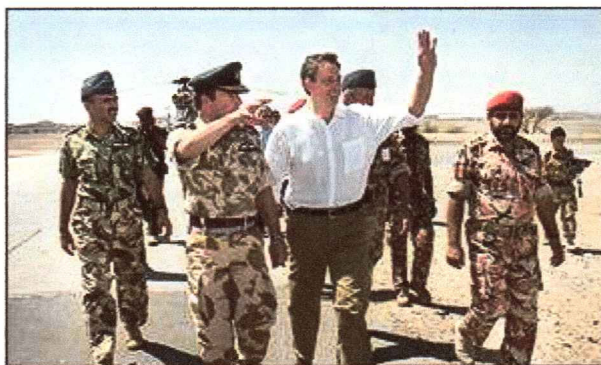
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Front Page Friday, 12 October, 2001, 00:45 GMT 01:45 UK

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Blair's push for new world order



Tony Blair's trip sought to shore up support from Arab nations

By BBC Newsnight's political editor Martha Kearney

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The prime minister's trip to the Middle East was the first time we saw in practice the theme of his party conference speech about establishing a new world order.

The immediate priority was to shore up the international coalition against terrorism, strained to the limit over the bombing of Afghanistan.

But Tony Blair added a new dimension by linking resolution of the Middle East peace process to the eventual defeat of terrorism.

Talking to journalists on the plane, he made a parallel with the Northern Ireland peace process - that when there is a political vacuum, it is filled with extremist violence.

It was a view shared by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt whom the Prime Minister met in Cairo.

He warned that the Middle East problem could

I have no doubt at all that it is important not just for the stability in the region but for the stability of the world that we see this process succeed

Tony Blair

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Last Updated: Friday, 19 January 2007, 10:24 GMT

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Brown wants a 'new world order'

Chancellor Gordon Brown has spoken of the need for a "new world order" to deal with future security and environmental challenges.

He called for a "new diplomacy" to go alongside military power to defeat terrorism, share prosperity and "win the battle of hearts and minds".

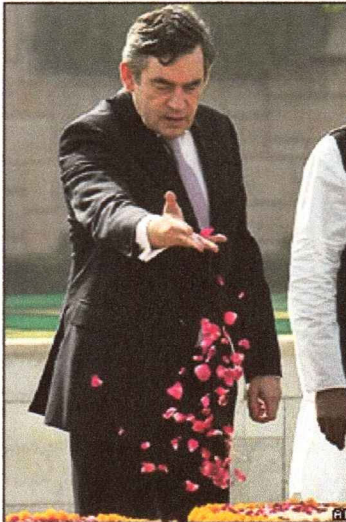
That meant strengthening Britain's global alliances but also reforming institutions such as the EU and UN.

Mr Brown was speaking in Mumbai on the latest stage of his tour of India.

The chancellor said he had been inspired by Mahatma Gandhi as he laid a wreath at the memorial to the former leader.

Mr Brown said he was not trying to compare himself to the founder of modern India but was inspired by his strength, courage and strong will.

He also quoted Winston Churchill, in an interview with the BBC's Nick Robinson, saying "you cannot meet the challenges of the future by simply building the present in the image of the past".



Mr Brown laid a floral tribute at the memorial for Mahatma Gandhi

[Listen](#) **Brown on challenges**

" I don't accept that what America has tried to do has failed "

Gordon Brown
simply building the present in the image of the past".

He said the British people wanted a "more secure world," a safer environment and greater prosperity and "that will require new diplomacy in the next few years to build better institutions."

Mr Brown said he would not pledge to always seek UN approval before taking military action.

'Bigger role'

"Nobody's going to make that commitment," he said, adding that Britain tried to work through the UN in Iraq, where it now had a mandate.

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Friday, June 25, 1999 Published at 13:25 GMT 14:25 UK

World: Africa

Mbeki calls for new world order



President Mbeki with first lady Zanele takes the salute outside parliament

The new President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, has called for a new world order responsive to the needs of the poor.



Greg Barrow in Jo'burg: "Mbeki drew on all his poetic reserves"

conflict.

In his maiden speech to the South African parliament, Mr Mbeki said South Africa would play a more assertive role in African affairs, and contribute towards the resolution of

"We cannot accept that war, violent conflict and rapine [plunder] are a permanent condition of existence for us as Africans," he said.

"We will make our due contribution to the construction of a new world order that will be responsive to the needs of especially the poor of the world."



The wide-ranging state of the nation speech followed the official opening of South Africa's second democratically-elected parliament in Cape Town.

Echoing some of the themes of his inauguration address last week, Mr Mbeki also promised action on crime, corruption, unemployment and education.

New police recruits



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Barack Obama's New World Order

By MICHAEL SCHERER / STRASBOURG Friday, Apr. 03, 2009


 President Barack Obama speaks during a town-hall meeting at Rhenus Sports Arena in Strasbourg, eastern France, on April 3, 2009
 Lionel Bonaventure / AFP / Getty

The United States is still the same country it was a year ago, **give or take about 6 million jobs**. But its international branding campaign, as led by the new President, Barack Obama, is so different that the rest of the world might be forgiven if it has to do a double take.

Most of the hallmarks of the foreign policy of George W. Bush are gone. The old conservative idea of "American exceptionalism," which placed the U.S. on a plane above the rest of the world as a unique beacon of democracy and financial might, has been rejected. At almost every stop, Obama has made clear that the U.S. is but one actor in a global community. Talk of American economic supremacy has been replaced by a call from Obama for more growth in developing countries. Claims of American military supremacy have been replaced with heavy emphasis on cooperation and diplomatic hard labor. ([Read "Obama in Europe: Facing Four Big Challenges."](#))

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The tone was set from Obama's first public remarks in London on Wednesday, at a press conference with Prime Minister Gordon Brown, where the American President said he had come "to listen, not to lecture." At a joint appearance with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Baden-Baden on Friday, a German reporter asked Obama about his "grand designs" for NATO. "I don't come bearing grand designs," Obama said, scrapping the leadership role the U.S. maintained through the Cold War. "I'm here to listen, to share ideas and to jointly, as one of many **NATO allies**, help shape our vision for the future."

On Thursday night, after the G-20 summit ended, Obama took so many questions from the foreign press, including British, Indian and Chinese reporters, that a group of them applauded when he left the stage.

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Kissinger: Obama primed to create 'New World Order'

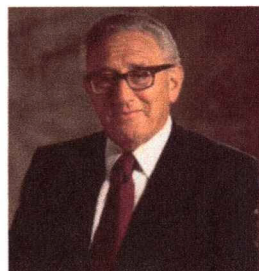
Policy guru says global upheaval presents 'great opportunity'

Posted: January 06, 2009
9:07 pm Eastern

By Drew Zahn
© 2009 WorldNetDaily

Conflicts across the globe and an international respect for Barack Obama have created the perfect setting for establishment of "a [New World Order](#)," according to Henry Kissinger, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and former secretary of state under President Nixon.

Kissinger has long been an integral figure in U.S. foreign policy, holding positions in the Nixon, Ford and Reagan administrations. Author of over a dozen books on foreign policy, Kissinger was also named by President Bush as the chairman of the Sept. 11 investigatory commission.



Henry Kissinger

Kissinger made the remark in an interview with CNBC's "Squawk on the Street" hosts Mark Haines and Erin Burnett at the New York Stock [Exchange](#), after Burnett asked him what international conflict would define the Obama administration's foreign policy.

Read "Hope of the Wicked," where author Ted Flynn reveals the greatest deception in modern history – corporations, foundations and governments converging to bring about a New World Order.

"The president-elect is coming into office at a moment when there is upheaval in many parts of the world simultaneously," Kissinger responded. "You have India, Pakistan; you have the jihadist movement. So he can't really say there is one problem, that it's the most important one. But he can give new impetus to American foreign policy partly because the reception of him is so extraordinary around the world. His task will be to develop an overall strategy for America in this period when, really, a new world order can be created. It's a great opportunity, it isn't just a crisis."

Kissinger's comments are captured at roughly the two-minute mark of the following video:

Editor's note: The video includes a balloon in the first several seconds promoting a MySpace page that includes profane language and music and is not endorsed in any way by WND.

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theguardian

Pope calls for a new world order

UN's failure to halt US war on Iraq leads to new initiative

John Hooper in Rome

The Guardian, Thursday 1 January 2004 20.05 EST

Pope John Paul II launched one of the most important diplomatic initiatives of his long papacy yesterday when he called for a new international order to replace the one that emerged from the second world war.

Though he did not offer a detailed plan, his words appeared to show he wanted the UN replaced in light of its failure to block the use of force by America in Iraq.

The Pope called last month for the reform of world institutions and deplored any failure to respect international law. But in a sermon during a mass at St Peter's in Rome yesterday, he went much further, referring to the UN as if it were already a part of the past.

"More than ever, we need a new international order that draws on the experience and results achieved in these years by the United Nations," he declared during a service to mark the Roman Catholic Church's World Day of Peace, celebrated on January 1.

He was flanked at the altar by two of his most senior international representatives: the secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, and the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Cardinal Renato Martino, who outraged many Americans last month by expressing "pity" and "compassion" for the captured Saddam Hussein.

The congregation included the heads of all the diplomatic missions accredited to the Holy See.

In his homily, the Pope said the new world order he wanted "would be able to provide solutions to the problems of today ... based on the dignity of human beings, an integrated development of society, solidarity between rich and poor nations, and on the sharing of resources and the extraordinary results of scientific and technological progress."

The Pope believes that not enough of these goals are being achieved with the present system of international organisations that emerged in the late 40s, including the UN, the IMF and the World Bank.

But the central issue, seen from the Vatican's point of view, is the growing irrelevance of a painstakingly constructed body of international law which is being ignored by the US administration during its "war on terror".

Cardinal Martino first signalled the Pope's disquiet last month when he presented a document written by the pontiff to mark the World Day of Peace. Without naming the US, the Pope warned: "Peace and international law are closely linked to each other: law favours peace". He also pointedly observed that "democratic governments know well that the use of force against terrorists cannot justify a renunciation of the principles of the rule of law".

The Pope acknowledged that current international law was ill-suited to dealing with rebels or terrorists and called for new treaties and reform of the UN. But yesterday's appeal was for an altogether more sweeping change.



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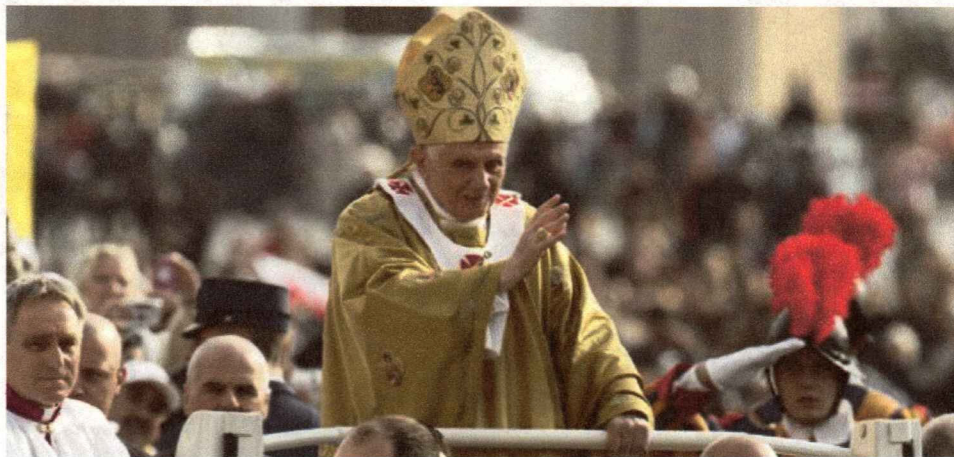
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Vatican Calls for New World Economic Order

Published October 24, 2011 Associated Press



Oct. 23, 2011: Pope Benedict XVI, center, delivers his blessing as he arrives in St. Peter's square at the Vatican to celebrate a beatification mass. (AP)

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VATICAN CITY – The [Vatican](#) called Monday for radical reform of the world's financial systems, including the creation of a global political authority to manage the economy.

A proposal by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace calls for a new world economic order based on ethics and the "achievement of a universal common good." It follows [Pope Benedict XVI's](#) 2009 economic encyclical that denounced a profit-at-all-cost mentality as responsible for the global financial meltdown.

The proposal acknowledges, however, that a "long road still needs to be traveled before arriving at the creation of a public authority with universal jurisdiction" and suggests the reform process begin with the [United Nations](#) as a point of reference.

Vatican pronouncements on the economy are meant to guide world leaders as well as the global church. [United States](#) Roman Catholic bishops, for example, have released a voter guide for the 2012 election that highlights social concerns such as ending poverty.

"It is an exercise of responsibility not only toward the current but above all toward future generations, so that hope for a better future and confidence

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VIDEO: North Korea's Kim Jong-Il turns 67

Brown sees 'new world order' after crisis

Sun Jan 25, 7:15 pm ET

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AFP/Pool/File - Prime Minister Gordon Brown, pictured in 2008, said Monday the financial crisis must not be an excuse ...

LONDON (AFP) - Prime Minister Gordon Brown said Monday the financial crisis must not be an excuse to retreat into protectionism and instead be viewed as the "difficult birth-pangs of a new global order".

In a speech, he will urge countries to avoid "muddling through as pessimists" and "make the necessary adjustment to a better future and setting the new rules for this new global order", according to his office.

Official data confirmed Friday that Britain is in recession. Days earlier, the government unveiled a new package of measures to help the flow of credit in the economy, but Brown has argued global action is needed for a quick recovery.

He will warn Monday that the crisis has given the world a choice: "We could allow this crisis to start a retreat from globalisation.

"As some want, we could close our markets - for capital, financial services, trade and for labour - and therefore reduce the risks of globalisation.

"But that would reduce global growth, deny us the benefits of global trade and confine millions to global poverty.

"Or we could view the threats and challenges we face today as the difficult birth-pangs of a new global order - and our task now as nothing less than making the transition through a new internationalism to the benefits of an expanding global society."

Britain is hosting a summit of the Group of 20 (G20) advanced and developing nations in London on April 2, and Brown has held preparatory talks with the French and German leaders, as well as new US President Barack Obama.

He will meet with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, South Korean Prime Minister Han Seung-Soo and Japanese premier Taro Aso, as well as World Bank chief Robert Zoellick at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos this week.

Brown's Downing Street office said he would discuss with them "how we can best work internationally on financial reform, economic expansion and the creation of jobs in new sectors such as the environment."

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updated 9:59 p.m. EDT, Wed April 1, 2009

Analysis: Crisis may lead to new world order

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By Robin Oakley
For CNN

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LONDON, England (CNN) — Can this G-20 summit prove to be anything more than group therapy for a bunch of fingernail-gnawing, troubled individuals?



U.S. President Barack Obama and British PM Gordon Brown want financial stimulus assurances from the G-20.

1 of 3

The prospects are not good.

The men and women called together in London by UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown to counter an economic slump are politicians — just at a time when the world's electorates are demonstrating their lack of faith in governments and in their ability to understand, let alone sort out, the economic mess.

Thirty, 20, even 10 years back there used to be some belief that getting the power-players together could solve problems, or at least give others a push in doing so.

But it was once said of a former U.S. Secretary of State, "There was never any world situation so bad that a few well-chosen words from John Foster Dulles couldn't make it a hundred times worse."

The main task of this London summit may be

simply to avoid doing that.

The British talking down of expectations over the past few days has been significant. Up front, on camera, ministers make optimistic noises. Behind the scenes diplomats warn of a potential lose-lose scenario.

If the summit fails to agree, it will destroy what is left of any confidence in the world's trading centers.

Who's who at the G-20 »

But if the G-20 leaders do sign up to an agreement, it is likely to be so anodyne that it won't make any difference, other than boosting a few participants' opinion poll ratings at home a notch or two for being seen to try.

It was always unreal to imagine that the economic ministers of the G-20 nations were going to re-write their budgets in 24 hours in London.

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And since the G-20 doesn't have a permanent secretariat, who is going to enforce anything they do agree?

The run-up to the summit has revealed essential differences in approach between the principals.

U.S. President Barack Obama and Brown both favor driving on fiscal stimulus, even if the governor of the Bank of England is cautioning his

prime minister he can't afford to throw any more money at the problem.

Obama, Brown together before the G-20 summit »

Brown and Obama have limited room for maneuver since both their countries have such hefty current account and budget deficits.

They just don't have the money to do it themselves, and they may have trouble persuading those who do have the cash to use it.

In an uncomfortable reminder of serious divisions over the Iraq war, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and France's President Nicolas Sarkozy, each with more national traditions than Obama and Brown, and with their welfare states already pumping money into their economies as unemployment increases, are pursuing a different agenda.

Blaming "Anglo-Saxon economics" and dodgy banking practices for the mess, they don't want more funds injected. Watch the view from France »

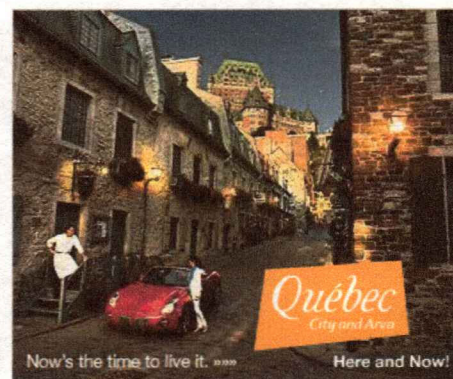
They want to focus on tougher regulation of the financial community. They want the summit to start re-writing the global rulebook on capitalism.

Sarkozy: a man constitutionally uncomfortable unless the spotlight is

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G-20: Shaping a new world order

U.S. economic mettle is tested as emboldened leaders from throughout the world gather in Washington.

By Steve Hargreaves, CNNMoney.com staff writer
Last Updated: November 14, 2008: 11:48 AM ET

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NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- The role of the United States as the world's economic leader will be tested this weekend when 20 significant world leaders meet in Washington to address the global financial crisis.

Some European leaders are hailing the summit as the next Bretton Woods - a reference to the historic talks in the latter days of WWII that, in effect, made the dollar the world's dominant currency and laid the foundation for the economic order of the past 60 years.

The United States basically ran those meetings. Close to prevailing in the war, it was the world's undisputed military and economic leader.

But today, with the current credit crisis partly rooted in America, and with the rising economic might of China and a unified Europe, that dominance is being challenged.

"The Europeans see themselves as taking a position equal to the U.S.," said Irene Finel-Honigman, an international affairs professor at Columbia University specializing in international banking. "We're looking at a different composition of players and a different powerplay. It's going to be fascinating to watch."

Europe's heavy hand

To bolster their position, the Europeans come to the meeting emboldened by their belief that the credit crisis didn't originate on their soil.

They say that means the more tightly regulated European banking model has triumphed over the more lax laws favored in America.

"The initial response was accusing the U.S. of cowboy capitalism," said Finel-Honigman. "But as the weeks passed, it's become clear we're all in this together."

Together or not, deep divisions still exist between the United States and the Europeans, who initially called for this meeting and will be pushing an agenda heavy on new rules.

Their proposals include: Greater oversight of hedge funds and investment banks; increasing how much money banks need to keep in reserve; more transparent and universal accounting standards; and limits on executive pay.

All that would be accompanied by a new global network of regulators - regulators that would presumably have power over U.S. banks, a potential non-starter with the Bush administration.

"Self-regulation to solve all problems, it's finished," French President Nicholas Sarkozy was quoted saying in the

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CNN: Crisis may lead to "New World Order"

April 2nd, 2009 | [New World Order](#)

By: George @ 8:44 AM - EST



For decades groups like the Birch Society have been warning of a plot by high level co-conspirators in business, banking and government who would like to harness the power and wealth of the western world under the yoke of tyranny.

These power elite feel they are the most capable at deciding how the world resources are used and who benefits from them. All they needed was a crisis to lead the masses into a new form of global governance.

But none dare speak of this plot lest they be called conspiracy theorist. Yet over the last several months media and world leaders have insesently spoken and written of a new world order or a new global currency.

News articles and Television sound bites abound with world leaders agreeing there is a world economy and a world wide crisis that can only be solved with global solutions.

Welcome to the conspiracy, what George H. Bush so gleefully called a "*New World Order*."

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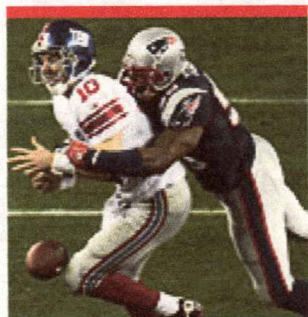
Bilderberg: The Uberpowerful Global Elite Meet In Closed Doors in St. Moritz

By ANNE FOURNIER / LE TEMPS / WORLD CRUNCH Thursday, June 09, 2011

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Hotel Suvretta in St. Moritz, the site of the Bilderberg annual meeting, according to local media, June 9, 2011

Miro Kuzmanovic / Reuters

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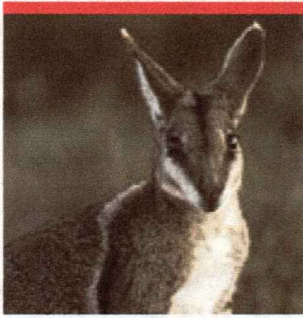
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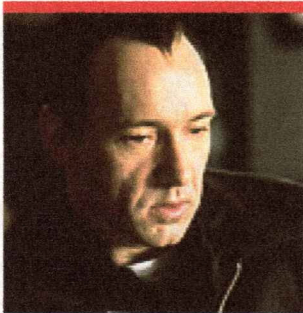
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*translates stories of note in foreign languages into English. The article below was originally published in **Le Temps**.*

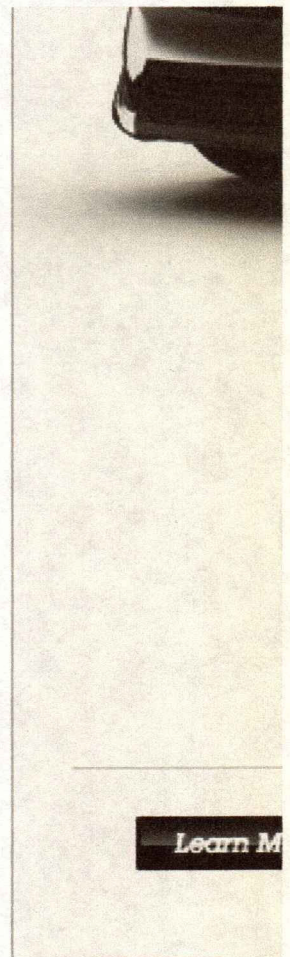
(ST. MORITZ) — Dominique Strauss-Kahn will not be stepping out of a limousine this year. That much is sure about this year's Bilderberg conference, which the former IMF chief, awaiting trial for his alleged sexual assault of a hotel maid in New York City, is said to have attended several times in the past. But little else is known about this secretly organized, unofficial meeting of some 100 powerful figures, slated to take place June 9 to 12 in a luxury hotel in the Grison station. Indeed, not even the dates of the gathering are confirmed.

The canton is to ensure the tranquility of its guests with the help of the federal security service. Two of its ministers will take part in some of the discussions. But the canton is not commenting on the measures in place or the cost of the operation.

(See pictures from Dominique Strauss-Kahn's legal battle.)

The Bilderberg group is one of the world's most famous clubs. It gathers bankers, politicians, industrialists, media movers and shakers, scholars and billionaires in a different location each year, usually in Europe. All the attendees share one condition of membership: discretion.

Created in 1954 by Prince Bernhard of Holland in order to bring together European and American elites, this annual meeting is named after the hotel of the Dutch village Oosterbeek where it took place for the first time. Henry Kissinger, Helmut Schmidt, Gerhard Schröder, Daniek Vasella, the heads of Coca-Cola, Shell and Fiat and even the Queen of Holland are among the participants regularly mentioned. What do they do there? What do they want?



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Bilderberg: The ultimate conspiracy theory

By Jonathan Duffy

BBC News Online Magazine

The Bilderberg group, an elite coterie of Western thinkers and power-brokers, has been accused of fixing the fate of the world behind closed doors. As the organisation marks its 50th anniversary, rumours are more rife than ever.

Given its reputation as perhaps the most powerful organisation in the world, the Bilderberg group doesn't go a bundle on its switchboard operations.

Telephone inquiries are met with an impersonal female voice - the Dutch equivalent of the BT Callminder woman - reciting back the number and inviting callers to "leave a message after the tone".

Anyone who accidentally dialled the number would probably think they had stumbled on just another residential answer machine.

But behind this ultra-modest façade lies one of the most controversial and hotly-debated alliances of our times.

On Thursday the Bilderberg group marks its 50th anniversary with the start of its yearly meeting.

For four days some of the West's chief political movers, business leaders, bankers, industrialists and strategic thinkers will hunker down in a five-star hotel in northern Italy to talk about global issues.

What sets Bilderberg apart from other high-powered get-togethers, such as the annual World Economic Forum (WEF), is its mystique.

Not a word of what is said at Bilderberg meetings can be breathed outside. No reporters are invited in and while confidential minutes of meetings are taken, names are not noted.

The shadowy aura extends further - the anonymous answerphone message, for example; the fact that conference venues are kept secret. The group, which includes luminaries such as Henry Kissinger and former UK chancellor Kenneth Clarke, does not even have a website.



Leiden in Holland, the inauspicious base of the Bilderberg group

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Tony Gosling's anti-Bilderberg site
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In the void created by such aloofness, an extraordinary conspiracy theory has grown up around the group that alleges the fate of the world is largely decided by Bilderberg.

DISCREET AND ELITE

This year Bilderberg has announced a list of attendees. They include BP chief John Browne, US Senator John Edwards, World Bank president James Wolfensohn and Mrs Bill Gates.

In Yugoslavia, leading Serbs have blamed Bilderberg for triggering the war which led to the downfall of Slobodan Milosevic. The Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, the London nail-bomber David Copeland and Osama Bin Laden are all said to have bought into the theory that Bilderberg pulls the strings with which national governments dance.

And while hardline right-wingers and libertarians accuse Bilderberg of being a liberal Zionist plot, leftists such as activist Tony Gosling are equally critical.

A former journalist, Mr Gosling runs a campaign against the group from his home in Bristol, UK.

"My main problem is the secrecy. When so many people with so much power get together in one place I think we are owed an explanation of what is going on.

Mr Gosling seizes on a quote from Will Hutton, the British economist and a former Bilderberg delegate, who likened it to the annual WEF gathering where "the consensus established is the backdrop against which policy is made worldwide".



Timothy McVeigh was among those who believed the conspiracy theory

"One of the first places I heard about the determination of US forces to attack Iraq was from leaks that came out of the 2002 Bilderberg meeting," says Mr Gosling.

But "privacy, rather than secrecy", is key to such a meeting says Financial Times journalist Martin Wolf, who has been invited several times in a non-reporting role.

"The idea that such meetings cannot be held in private is fundamentally totalitarian," he says. "It's not an executive body; no decisions are taken there."

As an up-and-coming statesman in the 1950s, Denis Healey, who went on to become a Labour chancellor, was one of the four founding members of Bilderberg (which was named after the hotel in Holland where the first meeting was held in 1954).

His response to claims that Bilderberg exerts a shadowy hand on the global tiller is met with characteristic bluntness. "Crap!"

"There's absolutely nothing in it. We never sought to reach a

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Rich, Famous and Powerful Converge at Bilderberg

Published: Thursday, 9 Jun 2011 | 4:29 AM ET

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By: Peter Guest

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Dominique Strauss-Kahn, naturally, isn't attending this year, and his likely successor Christine Lagarde is in China, but the Bilderberg Conference which kicks off in the Swiss resort of St. Moritz on Thursday retains its conspiratorial chic and pulling power.

The attendee list of Bilderberg is still pretty much the only thing that is not a closely guarded secret, as 120 of the world's richest and most powerful people meet behind closed doors, this time at the **Suvretta House hotel** in Switzerland, a venue which not only boasts a "fairytale castle" design, but also its own "**Teddy World**."

U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron and Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne are known to have attended in the past, although it seems unlikely that either will attend this week.

A spokesperson at the U.K. Treasury press office



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said it "didn't know" whether or not Osborne would go this year, but promised to call CNBC.com back. They did not. Given the secretive spirit of Bilderberg, that could well be taken as a confirmation.

The first Bilderberg meeting in 1954 was an attempt to stamp out post-war anti-Americanism in Europe, bringing together senior U.S. and European figures to meet and discuss the international challenges of the day.

Since then, the rich and powerful have continued to meet. The **2010 event, in Sitges, Spain**, included on its agenda "The Growing Influence of Cyber Technology," "Security in a Proliferated World," "Promises of Medical Science," and "Can We Feed the World." according to its official website.

Its secrecy only serves to add fuel to the **innumerable conspiracy theories** that circulate around the event, with Internet message boards often channelling Da Vinci Code author Dan Brown and putting the "club" in the same bracket as the Freemasons and "Illuminati."

The 120 participants attend in a private capacity and, officially, they do not forge agreements over global economic policy.

"Bilderberg is a small, flexible, informal and off-the-record international forum in which different viewpoints can be expressed and mutual understanding enhanced. Bilderberg's only activity is its annual conference. At the meetings, no resolutions are proposed, no votes taken, and no policy statements issued," the official Bilderberg website says.

In which case, you might ask, what is the point of Bilderberg?

Andrew Kakabadse is professor of international management development at Cranfield University. For his recent book "**Bilderberg People**," co-authored with Nada Kakabadse and Ian Richardson, Kakabadse interviewed a number of past attendees in order to understand how the network of global influence works.

"It's a meeting. It's not an organization. It's not an official summit," he told CNBC.com. "It's basically a meeting of friends."

"The Bilderbergs are probably the most influential global network of all time. It's an honor to be invited, it's a tremendous honor. Part of it is recognition for work done and part of it is for contribution to enabling world affairs."

"The people we talked to are quite genuine. Mostly they don't understand the conspiracy bit, because they say when you go there what you find is people of all

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