

# Air piracy or air hypocrisy?

*CIB chairman Edward Spalton*

I first thought of entitling this article 'Pot calls kettle black', but decided that delicate souls might think that was racist. I then thought of 'Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander', but other easily offended people might believe that was sexist.

My inspiration was the recent address to the European parliament by **President Charles Michel** concerning the recent forced diversion of a commercial flight by the forces of Belarus. He began:

I think we can all agree that it is undesirable that commercial flights about their lawful business should be subject to such arbitrary, unilateral disruption.

**But just look back a few years to July 2013.** President Evo Morales of Bolivia was en route from Russia when his plane was forced to land in Austria because the CIA thought that the whistleblower Edward Snowden might be on board, and they wanted to interrogate him. Now, diverting a commercial flight is one thing, regrettable no doubt, but interrupting the flight of a head of state, who is due the highest protection of diplomatic immunity in the civilised conventions of conduct between sovereign states, is something on a completely higher scale of thuggishness.

At the time **Jen Psaki**, spokesperson for the US State Department, admitted that the US, had been in contact with a range of countries across the world who had a chance of having Snowden land or even transit through their countries. So Morales' plane was forced to land.

**Fast forward to 2021, and the same Jen Psaki is President Joe Biden's press secretary.** She says that the action by Belarus is a brazen affront to international peace and security. Doubtlessly so. But apparently it wasn't so when the same thing (and arguably much worse) was done under the orders of the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

I think we can take the manufactured outrage from the EU, the USA and almost certainly from our own tousel-headed, would-be Churchillian Prime Minister with a fairly large pinch of salt. He will, of course, wish to oblige President Biden sufficiently to receive a pat on the head and a confirmation that we still enjoy a special relationship with the USA, perhaps leading to a satisfactory trade agreement in due course, as long as we continue compliant.

## **The Ukrainian blunder**

The EU and the USA are giving Belarus much the same treatment which they gave to Ukraine to bring it closer to the EU both politically and economically . Between 2011 and 2013, the EU poured some 389 million euros into the process of destabilisation via multiple NGOs and front organisations, ostensibly devoted to civil rights. German political foundations, like the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, poured in money for years, grooming their own preferred candidates as the future puppet rulers when the great day dawned.

At the time of the putsch against the elected Ukrainian government in 2014, Victoria Nuland of the US State Department boasted that the United States had spent 5 billion dollars on the same project. Rabbis advised Jews to flee Kiev, as Nazi militias were taking over security and police functions.

Writing in Conservative Home of 12 March 2014, Bill Cash MP, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee, took a very balanced, common sense view

## **Wider still and wider**

We only sing Land of Hope and Glory in self-mockery these days, but the EU still believes in its own perpetual expansion. Known as the *Drang nach Osten* (push to the East), it was long a feature of German foreign policy and had been so for many years when the Kaiser's Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg formalised it as Germany's war aim on 9 September 1914:

It sounds a bit familiar, doesn't it?

Around the same time that the USA and EU powers were forcing down President Morales' plane in July 2013, David Cameron was visiting Kazakhstan, where he told his hosts that he looked forward to the day when the European Union stretched from the Atlantic to the Urals. But it appeared he had not consulted Mr Putin about that first! Oddly enough, that was a phrase used by the Nazis in the early Forties as they schemed for what they called their European Economic Community – a term which also sounds familiar!

Fortunately, it looks as if geography, self-interest and  
c o m m o n  
spite of strong American pressure, Germany has insisted on  
completing the Nord Stream II f