
DOSSIER

Probe International: the spooks who launched the devaluation campaign

by Timothy Rush

President José López Portillo, in his address to the Fifth Meeting of the Republic, Feb. 5, 1982, in Guadalajara, Jalisco, denounced “hidden foreign interests” who “are coordinating [efforts] to force a change in our monetary policies.” He was referring to rumor campaigns and international press manipulation designed to force a sharp devaluation of the Mexican peso and foster a withdrawal of financing and investment from Mexico. On a previous occasion, the President referred to these campaigns as “information terrorism.”

The following is a fact sheet, prepared by *EIR* on one of the dirtiest components of the foreign operations denounced by President López Portillo. This is the U.S.-based private intelligence unit called Probe International, headed by Benjamin Weiner.

Benjamin Weiner called particular attention to his activities one week before López Portillo’s speech by notifying a series of Connecticut newspapers that Mexico City Mayor Carlos Hank González owned a million-dollar home in New Canaan, Connecticut. Carlos Hank González’s connections to dubious business dealings are a matter of record, and lead into the Italian-based masterminds of flight capital and drug trafficking arrested in the Propaganda-2 (P-2) Freemasonic lodge investigations. But Weiner put a different twist on the story in his press release, asking if Hank González’s move did not mean that Mexico City had become “untenable and potentially dangerous. Is there an implicit warning or signal here for the U.S. business community in Mexico?”

Through Weiner’s direct efforts, the story appeared on page one in the *Hartford Courant* Feb. 3. Weiner is prominently cited in the story, stating that Hank’s Connecticut home “is politically important. When you have the mayor of what may be the world’s largest city raising his family in another nation, you wonder—is this some indication of serious political or social problems in the home country?” The article proceeds to describe Hank González as a “close political ally of President José López Portillo,” a slanderous effort to implicate the President—who is widely known to be an enemy of the mayor—in Hank González’s dealings.

In coordination with Weiner, the *Hartford Courant* put the story on the national wire of its parent company,

the Times-Mirror Corporation of Los Angeles. From there it was picked up and printed on page one of the *Miami Herald*, also Feb. 3, 1982, a location guaranteed to make it common knowledge throughout the *Herald’s* extensive Latin American readership.

Probe International is a private intelligence unit whose public activities involve providing risk-analysis assessments to multinational corporations. It was founded in 1970 by **Benjamin Weiner**.

In addition to consulting for multinational corporations, Probe International specializes in sponsoring up to a half-dozen exclusive seminars for business executives each year. Some of the titles of these conferences, barred to the press, have been “Political Realities and U.S. Business Abroad”; “Eurocommunism: The Impact on France, Italy, Spain;” “U.S. Business and the Middle East”; “Political Violence Abroad;” and “Religion, Politics and U.S. Business Abroad.” Weiner’s clients reportedly include several major oil companies, Rockwell International, McGraw Edison, and Foremost-McKesson, Incorporated.

Who is Benjamin Weiner?

Benjamin Weiner, president of Probe International, began his career with the U.S. Foreign Service in 1956. He served in Penang, Malaysia, 1956-58, working closely with British officials during the transition to Malaysian independence from status as a Crown colony (1957). He was assigned to Berne, Switzerland, 1969-to-71, and became special assistant to the Office of Deputy Undersecretary of State for Administration, 1963-66. In 1966, he left formal affiliation with the State Department.

In addition to the more formal programs of Probe International, Weiner issues special memos to selected clients and contacts on “what he calls his ideas and thoughts on world events,” according to a Feb. 7, 1982 profile in the *Hartford Courant*. These memos also reach a group of press contacts whom he has cultivated over a number of years. **Neil Ulman**, foreign editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, states that he has worked with Weiner since the founding of Probe. Sources indicate a possible connection with the Times-Mirror Corpora-

tion, owner of the *Los Angeles Times* and *Hartford Courant*.

Weiner is known as a "spook's spook." Because of his own past connections to U.S. intelligence, and ongoing close association with former Central Intelligence Agency director **William E. Colby**, Weiner is often believed to be an operative of a faction of the CIA. *Barron's* magazine noted in 1977: "Probe's research is in some respects more proprietary than the Central Intelligence Agency's."

However, Weiner's own associations and loyalties place him much closer to British intelligence and that faction of U.S. intelligence which functions as an adjunct of British intelligence.

Probe International's specialty is supplying scare stories regarding targeted regions of the world. *Barron's* notes that Weiner is "little schooled in economics," but "regularly harrows clients with predictions that the world is growing more violent, more fragmented and generally less hospitable to capital." In Weiner's own words, "It's a gloomy picture we get across."

The pool of speakers whom Weiner regularly features at his conferences, and some members of his board of advisers, are among the top-level controllers of the political unrest which he predicts. Particularly noteworthy in this regard are former U.S. Attorney General **Ramsey Clark** and British intelligence's **Lord Caradon**.

Weiner's first area of specialty when he founded Probe International was U.S.-China relations. In 1973, he began intense work on Quebec separatism. Starting in 1976, his chief focus shifted to Middle East political instability, combined in recent years with work on the Balkans. In 1979, he began advising clients on the importance of Latin American "liberation theology" as a movement capable of reproducing the revolutionary effects of Islamic fundamentalism on Iran.

Dovetailing with one of the densest areas of British intelligence activity, Weiner has made the relationship of politics and religious movements a specialty of Probe's intelligence. At the June 1979 Probe seminar entitled "Religion, politics and U.S. business abroad," one of the panels was specifically dedicated to "Industrialization and religious activism. How the frustrations of industrialization fuel fundamentalist movements."

Weiner maintains an emphasis on global terrorism. One of his closest associates is **J. Bowyer Bell**, formerly a senior research associate, Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University. Bell is one of a group of experts on terrorism who misinform corporate officers and government officials that terrorism is a "sociological phenomenon" and therefore cannot be eliminated. Their joint philosophy on terrorism was summed up by Bell: "In the end there is no solution."

Bell is on the Board of Advisers of Probe International, whose other members include:

- **J. Bowyer Bell.**

- **Lord Caradon** (Hugh Foot), viewed by specialists as among the most powerful British intelligence figures dealing with the Middle East. Caradon served with the British Colonial Office in Palestine, 1929-42, was Colonial Secretary in Cyprus, 1943-45; and governor and commander-in-chief, Cyprus, 1957-60. He was British ambassador to the United Nations and Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, 1964-70, during which time he authored U.N. Resolution #242.

Together with his brother, Labour Party leader Michael Foot, Caradon helps run the Socialist International component of British intelligence operations, coordinated with the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation (Russell Tribunal). Caradon is spokesman for the Center for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU); a prime mover in Islam and the West, the liaison agency between the Club of Rome and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Lord Caradon served as **Colonial Secretary to Jamaica** from 1945-47, the period that the New York office of the British wartime Special Operations Executive (SOE), headed by **Sir William Stephenson**, redeployed as a unit under private business cover, to establish the Tryall Compound at Montego Bay. Tryall was the official address for Stephenson's original corporate front established in 1946, the World Commerce Corporation. The World Commerce Corporation then merged into the larger complex of corporations established by SOE's Stephenson and the Canadian who ran the FBI's Division Five during World War II, Louis Mortimer Bloomfield: the Centro Mondiale Commerciale of Italy and the Permanent Industrial Expositions (**Permindex**), founded in 1957. Permindex's French office was shut down by French security police when it was implicated in repeated assassination attempts on President de Gaulle; it was similarly at the center of New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison's investigation into the Kennedy assassination. At least one authority places a key planning session for the Kennedy assassination at the Tryall Compound.

After helping install Stephenson on Jamaica, 1945-47, Lord Caradon returned to the island as Captain-General and Governor-in-chief from 1951-57, the years leading to the formal incorporation of Permindex as the "Murder, Inc." wing of the SOE apparatus.

In the late 1960s, Lord Caradon was a founding member of Gen. William Draper's **Draper Fund** (now **Population Crisis Committee**). The Draper Fund/Population Crisis Committee is a core neo-Malthusian planning agency, connected to NATO and the Club of Rome, dedicated to genocide in the Third World under the rubric of "reducing population pressures." Caradon is currently head of the International Board of the **Population Institute**. The Population Institute funded

the writing and production of soap operas in Mexico, in collaboration with Mexico's **Televisa**, which applied sophisticated psychological conditioning techniques to create sentiment for population reduction among the Mexican population. The Population Institute/Televisa project is touted by the Draper circles as the model generally for brainwashing in the Third World. Caradon spoke at at least five major Probe International seminars in the 1977-80 period.

- **L. Dean Brown.** U.S. Ambassador to Jordan during the period of the "Black September" massacre of PLO cadre; he was later appointed President Ford's special envoy to mediate the 1975 Lebanon crisis. Known in intelligence circles as a personal protégé of Lord Caradon, Brown currently heads the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., which maintains close ties to British intelligence. The Middle East Institute co-sponsored with Probe the 1979 seminar, "Religion, politics and U.S. business abroad." Brown was a speaker at Probe seminars on a regular basis starting in 1977.

- **William E. Colby** (left Probe International board of advisers in 1981). Head of the CIA, 1973-76; Colby currently heads a Washington, D.C.-based risk analysis office, International Business Government Counsellors, Inc. He played a particularly significant role in directing U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Colby was first secretary of the U.S. Saigon embassy, 1959-62; CIA chief, Far Eastern division, 1962-67; and director of civilian operations and rural development support, Saigon, 1968-71. It was during this last period that the **strategic hamlet** concentration camp policy reached its height.

- **Lucius D. Battle.** Chairman of the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute. Battle was a former ambassador to Egypt, and head of **Islam and the Year 2000 Project**, involving top-level **Muslim Brotherhood** networks.

- **Otto Dax.** Hungarian born, recently retired chief of U.S. operations for West Germany's **Siemens Corporation**. Siemens, which operates a major private intelligence capability, is known within European industrialist circles for operations against nuclear energy from within the nuclear industry. Dax is in close contact with **Armin Mohler**, the director of the **Siemens Foundation**. Mohler, who served in the Nazi SS, today remains an unabashed apologist for fascist programs and ideology.

- **Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.** Former chief of U.S. naval operations. He is a leading hawk linked with **Committee for the Free World** circles. In the Navy, Zumwalt led efforts to destroy the traditionalist wing of the service, and introduce "group dynamics" leadership methods based on the work of the Tavistock Institute, and the psychological warfare division of British intelligence.

- **Edmund A. Gullion.** Dean Emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Somerville, Massachusetts.

- **Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.** Retired Air Force general.

Case study: Mexico

What Iran and the Middle East were to Probe International five years ago, Mexico is today. Callers to Probe headquarters today are told: "*We no longer do Middle East work. We are concentrating on Latin America. That's all we do these days.*"

The transition period was 1979-80, when Probe began to warn clients that "Latin America is next" for the Iran treatment. This was the message of Probe's June 1979 seminar, "Religion, politics and U.S. business abroad." The 12 agenda items were roughly evenly divided between the role of Muslim fundamentalism in the Middle East and radical church movements in Latin America, both the Jesuit-run Theology of Liberation movement and the co-thinking Protestant operations linked to the World Council of Churches.

Those meeting behind closed doors included, from the Middle East side of Weiner's work, **Lord Caradon**, **William Bijlefeld**, **L. Dean Brown**, **Isma'il al Faruqi**, and **Colin W. Williams**. From the Latin American side: **Keith Bridston**, executive director, U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches; **Father Joséph A. O'Hare, S.J.**, editor-in-chief, *America* (official publication of the Jesuit order in the United States); and **Philip Scharper**, editor-in-chief, Orbis Books, Maryknoll Fathers. Spanning the two groups is Ramsey Clark.

In an early 1980 interview with Weiner, the *New York Post* (Jan. 8, 1980) promoted Weiner as the man who "accurately forecast" both the Iranian Revolution and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. "Now he's telling his corporate clients that a parallel revolutionary situation is developing within the Catholic hierarchy in certain Latin American countries."

Mexico is without a doubt the primary focus of Weiner's current work. A risk analyst collaborating with Weiner's seminar program states that "Weiner's favorite theme is that Mexico is down the tubes." The refrain: "Mexico is the new Iran."

At a late October 1981 Probe seminar on Mexico held in Atlanta, "a checklist submitted by Mr. Weiner illustrated some remarkable similarities between Iran in 1976 and Mexico in 1981," wrote the *Journal of Commerce* (Nov. 2, 1981). "Although Mexico does not have a large number of visibly alienated students nor has it spent huge sums on military expenditures, at least not yet, as did Iran, Mr. Weiner noted that the revolution swept through Iran even though it did not suffer from high unemployment or trade deficits. Mexico does, he said. . . . The major underlying cause behind these upheavals are separatism, religion and food. In the case of Mexico, its greatest sore point is the country's inability to feed itself."

This is the context for Weiner's issuance of a press

release on the Connecticut home of Carlos Hank González.

The Mexico activities of William Colby and Ramsey Clark, both long-time Weiner collaborators, indicate strong affinities with Weiner's work.

Colby is a fanatic population-reduction advocate whose special target is Mexico. In an August 1979 article in *San Diego Magazine*, Colby wrote:

"An intelligence report which clearly indicated an invading force of many millions immediately off our shores, threatening turmoil and disruption of the lives of our citizens and physical destruction of our urban areas, would . . . cause immediate emergency action by our national leadership. In fact, all of these threats stand starkly before us, but most Americans have scarcely noticed the threat. . . . The reason for our lack of interest is that the forces off our shores are economic and social rather than military. The population of Mexico today is about 65 million [and] is confidently predicted to at least double by the end of the century."

Colby has stated that it would be futile to attempt to seal the U.S.-Mexico border because "there aren't enough bullets to go around."

Starting in early 1980, Colby discussed with Weiner an in-depth study on the U.S.-Mexico border and immigration flows. Weiner reported to interviewers at the time that the study "will predict what will happen if the United States decides to go ahead with shutting down the border."

Starting in the fall of 1981, according to a *New York Times* profile (Oct. 29, 1981), Colby's principal advice to clients on Mexico was: "*Expect a devaluation of Mexico's currency before next year's general elections.*"

Ramsey Clark's shift from Iran to Mexico was simultaneous with Weiner's, in the winter of 1979-80. On Feb. 7, 1980, he co-chaired a panel of the PEN International writers club in New York convened to examine human rights violations in Latin America. A theme of the conference was that Mexican human rights violations were parallel to those of the Shah in Iran.

In an interview shortly thereafter, Clark stated that "the first thing that comes to my mind in thinking about Mexico is the example of Iran. Iran is the perfect case study on how oil revenues caused a disaster by pushing industrialization. . . . What has to be questioned is the desirability of industrial expansion, especially in a country with the cultural tradition of Mexico. The Mexico government is in fact highly aristocratic. And once you have that, and once you add rapid urbanization, popular resentment and chaos begin, and you have a revolution."

Clark is currently commuting between the United States, Central America, and Mexico, in public support of the Jesuit and Socialist International-directed forces in the Central American bloodbath.

Wharton School Mexico must halt

by Kathy Burdman

"In Mexico City, the growth of the city and the population altogether is mushrooming out of control. . . . We must forcibly introduce contraction, reverse the process where the population is growing out of bounds.

"It's already 14 million, which is ridiculous for any city! Why, if it keeps growing at this rate, it's going to be over 40 million by the year 2000. This city can't support even 14 million, let alone twice that number. It's an impending population catastrophe."

Is this the voice of Dr. Aurelio Peccei of the Club of Rome? Or is it some radical Mexican leftist?

No, this is the quiet voice of Dr. Russell Ackoff, Professor of Social Systems Science and Director Emeritus of the Busch Center at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania. The Wharton School, the world's largest business school with nearly 4,000 students and 200 faculty, has trained many of the professional managers running the world economy today, from the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund to the U.S. government, and major corporations. It has also trained a great many managers of Mexican private corporations, and some in government.

But, contrary to what is expected of a business school, Wharton is training managers to *overthrow* the current Western system of capitalist-based industrial growth and technological progress, and implement a zero-growth new world order based on the policies of Parson Malthus.

Wharton's Busch center, headed by Dr. Ackoff, and the Wharton Econometric Model, run by Nobel Laureate Dr. Lawrence Klein, sell their advice in Mexico as "sound business practice." In fact, their economics and computer-based econometrics sell only one thing: policies of economic contraction deliberately designed to kill upwards of 20 million Mexicans over the next decade.

The quiet Dr. Ackoff, in an interview with a European journalist below, for example, details his plan to ship 7 million people out of Mexico City, and prevent another 26 million from entering or being born in the city during the next 18 years. This is to be done by first "forcibly" removing all industry from the city, shutting down factories, and creating mass unemployment. Secondly, Ackoff advises dismantling the Mexican federal government