

Meese's mandate: to clean up the FBI

The National Democratic Policy Committee testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the nomination of Edwin Meese as Attorney General on Feb. 29. Excerpts follow:

. . . The immediate questions facing the Attorney General of the United States are: first, the development of a competent strategy to eradicate terrorism; second, the utilization of all treaties, international sanctions, and forums for the prosecution of Ayatollah Khomeini for crimes against humanity perpetrated in his conduct of the Iran-Iraq war, including the conscription and kidnapping of children as combatants; and third, a thorough review and cleanup of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is presently engaged in irregular, objectionable, and illegal behavior. . . .

The 'narco-terrorist' international

First and foremost, the key challenge facing U.S. law enforcement is the interrelated problem of terrorism and drugs. Over the last years, a phenomenon known as "narco-terrorism" has emerged with virulence. It is increasingly clear that the Latin American cocaine and marijuana traffic is inextricably tied to terrorism; and this development now threatens the very governments, such as Colombia, which are battling to eliminate these drug gangs. Because of the incompetence, if not outright corruption of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States has not had an adequate intelligence or policy response to this problem.

Since April 1983, the United States has been hit with the most violent wave of anti-U.S. terrorism in our recent history. In April 1983, our embassy in Beirut was bombed. This was followed by the brutal October 1983 suicide strike against our Marine position in Beirut, resulting in the death of nearly 300 U.S. Marines, which led to the withdrawal of our peace-keeping force and the collapse of our Lebanon policy. In December 1983, the United States Embassy in Kuwait was bombed. In January 1984, Malcolm Kerr, the President of American University in Beirut, was assassinated. In January 1984, Major General Robert G. Ownby, Jr. was assassinated, while the FBI incredibly labeled the murder a "suicide," drawing the astonished disbelief of Pentagon and other intel-

ligence circles. In February 1984, the U.S. representative to the Sinai force, Leamon Hunt, was assassinated in Rome by Red Brigade terrorists operating on behalf of Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalists. . . .

To establish an effective counter-terrorism program, the Attorney General must lead in creating an effective inter-departmental and inter-agency body, similar to Vice President Bush's National Narcotics Border Interdiction System, that will fight internationally against terrorism. For reasons elaborated below, the responsibility cannot be left with the FBI, which was made the "lead agency" against terrorism as the result of a 1982 classified presidential order. . . .

The problem of the FBI

In a national TV broadcast Dec. 18, 1983, FBI Director William Webster shocked the country and caused considerable concern within the U.S. intelligence and law enforcement community by repeatedly insisting that the United States does not have an active terrorism problem.

The following are excerpts from a discussion between Webster and reporters George Will and David Brinkley during a television broadcast:

Mr. Will: Are the intelligence signals that you are getting about terrorism directed at the United States up significantly, not up?

Webster: No, not up, but we've had 31 incidents this year, compared with 51 or 2 last year; six deaths compared with seven; two injuries compared with 26. . . . We've had no Middle East terrorist incidents in the United States this year. That doesn't mean that tomorrow we won't have such an incident; but we have not had any this year. And I think that's reasonably significant. . . .

Mr. Brinkley: . . . In recent years, we have had the Red Brigades, the IRA. . . . Puerto Ricans mainly in New York; the PLO. . . . Is something like that developing in this country, some kind of gang, underground, or something with violent intentions?

Webster: I don't think so. We—the closest thing we had to that developed out of the Brink's robbery. Those groups have been largely wrapped up. Very few domestic organizations of any size . . . nothing cohesive at all."

Webster's downplaying of the terrorist threat is consistent with his year-long insistence that the Soviet Union does not control the U.S. peace movement. That view conflicts with the findings of both the law enforcement and intelligence agencies of the United States and allied countries.

Part of Judge Webster's coverup of the Soviet role in the peace movement is clearly political. In May 1983, a 26-person delegation of Soviet officials made a tour of the United States, launched at a week-long parlay with top U.S. peaceniks closely connected to the political apparatus of

Democratic presidential hopeful Walter Mondale. At that meeting, the Soviet delegates, including one identified Soviet intelligence official, Gen. Mikhail Milshtein, gave precise policy orders to these members of the Mondale apparatus associated with the leadership of the peace movement in the United States. Yet the FBI and Judge Webster continue to cover up the Soviet direction of the peace movement's activities in the United States.

According to eyewitness accounts in Mexico, the FBI was directly deployed to assist the PAN, a fascist, insurrectionary party allied to the Mexican communist party, in elections in Sonora. At home, the FBI has covered up the terrorist networks deployed by the Ayatollah Khomeini—terrorist networks still in place, targeting anti-Khomeini leaders and U.S. nationals. . . . Iranian terrorist networks linked to Khomeini-KGB asset Bahrain Nahidian escaped prosecution for their role in the 1980 assassination of anti-Khomeini leader Ali Akbar Tabatabai.

Illegal 'dirty tricks' of the FBI

The National Democratic Policy Committee is constantly subject to the illegal "dirty tricks" of the FBI, particularly against [former NDPC advisory board chairman] Lyndon LaRouche, and against associates of LaRouche and the NDPC in the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC).

The FBI's history of irregular activities against the NCLC begins no later than 1968, when the FBI surreptitiously published provocative leaflets against LaRouche's associates and

the Labor Committee at Columbia University. . . . The faction with which the FBI allied was none other than the future leadership of the Weatherunderground terrorist organization—the same organization which Judge Webster said was "no cohesive threat" in his Dec. 18, 1983 television broadcast.

The FBI's questionable, and illegal, activities are the subject of an ongoing lawsuit in federal court, *LaRouche et al. vs. Webster* (S.D.N.Y., 75 Civ. 6010). These activities, exposed some years ago as Cointelpro activities, are still ongoing. Another lawsuit, *LaRouche vs. NBC et al.* filed this month in the Eastern District of Virginia, will also expose the ongoing illegal operations of the FBI in collusion with NBC television's "First Camera" show against LaRouche and the NDPC.

The NDPC and other organizations associated with LaRouche, such as *Executive Intelligence Review*, have consistently taken strong stands against terrorism and drug trafficking. These organizations have also contributed substantially to the law enforcement understanding of the terrorist problem, by providing some of the most important intelligence breakthroughs for combatting terrorism internationally.

The FBI's continuing irregular operations against organizations and associates of LaRouche raise important questions about its competence. The FBI and Judge Webster, in particular, are either dead wrong or deliberately misleading law enforcement on the terrorism problem. . . . The crucial question of confirmation of Mr. Meese is whether he is willing, and able, to accomplish this vital task.

FBI sabotages the President's war on drugs

The FBI has come under heavy attack by the House of Representatives Select Committee on Narcotics. Committee chairman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), "charged that the administration is failing on all fronts—international cooperation, law enforcement, education, and prevention, treatment and research," the *New York Daily News* reported Feb. 25. The House report was particularly critical of the FBI, which got into the anti-drug trafficking operation by taking control of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), a move the National Democratic Policy Committee had lobbied to stop since 1981. The fact that the DEA is now "totally subservient to the FBI is contrary to express congressional intent," stated the report.

Francis Mullen, DEA administrator and FBI assistant director, demonstrated his incompetence by declaring at

the hearings that his agency should concentrate on stopping the drug traffic after the drugs get into the U.S.A., rather than putting emphasis on countries which manufacture illegal heroin and cocaine. Intelligence sources say the FBI's use of the DEA is aimed at securing foreign intelligence capabilities violating the FBI's federal charter.

In line with this plan, the FBI is sending a 50-man team to the U.S. embassy in El Salvador, allegedly to coordinate activities against left and right death squads; it will assume jurisdiction over military, security, and policy matters. The FBI is also sending a 10-man team to the U.S. embassy in West Germany.

The expansion dovetails with indications that the FBI is moving to build a Gestapo-like, totally unconstitutional national police force.

While officially discounting the possibility of terrorist acts at the 1984 Los Angeles summer Olympics, the Republican and Democratic conventions, and the New Orleans World's Fair, the FBI has moved to gain control over all intelligence on terrorist activities, and anti-terror operations. The dismantling of the Los Angeles Police Department's anti-terrorist intelligence unit fits into this FBI gameplan.