

Kissinger maneuvers to finish off Reagan

by Richard Cohen

Starting several months before the August 1980 Republican National Convention, Soviet agent of influence and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and his associates have relentlessly sought to capture White House policy, including the political soul of Ronald Reagan.

Grave policy flaws in the California-based "Reagan team," plus political insecurities exacerbated in election periods, have provided a broad window of opportunity through which Kissinger and his accomplices have successfully maneuvered.

Many of Reagan's closest supporters were revolted when, at the 1980 convention, Reagan and his California intimates led by PR man Michael Deaver openly bargained before a national television audience with Kissinger over the possibility of a "Gerald Ford co-presidency." This display of cowardice and moral ineptitude almost led the already nominated presidential candidate and his opportunist advisers to sell out their new administration. The price Kissinger was demanding in exchange for the unfortunate former president's vote-getting appeal was something these Reagan supporters quickly sought to blot from their memory.

Fortunately, the greedy Kissinger, whom Reagan identified as a virtual traitor during the 1980 presidential campaign, raised the asking price, demanding control over the nomination of almost all key cabinet positions, including his own restoration as secretary of state. On this note, the "co-presidency" talks collapsed.

Yet Kissinger and his co-conspirators inside and outside the Reagan administration moved confidently over the succeeding years, seizing increasing chunks of policy control.

EIR founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, speaking to a nationally televised audience on March 17, explained that he will not waste his time as a Democratic presidential candidate

running against Gary Hart, Walter Mondale, or Ronald Reagan—he is running against Henry Kissinger. If a shock is not delivered soon to Washington and the White House, Soviet agent of influence Kissinger's control over the administration will become unbreakable.

The official Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* led its "International Observer" column on March 18 by proclaiming that "Henry Kissinger could once again become Secretary of State. With two ifs—if Reagan were re-elected . . . and . . . would offer the post to a man who for a long time was held at a distance and now, it seems, is coming closer to his own person." *Izvestia* proceeded to extol its asset's "unusual mind" and "great energy," in effect endorsing his March 5 *Time* magazine essay pushing the decoupling of Europe from the United States by noting that it shows Kissinger "understands" the fear of Europeans that NATO strategy means nuclear disaster.

The first week of April, Kissinger's Trilateral Commission will hold its annual meeting in Washington. In a slap at his own political base and the anti-Trilateral attack which led him to a crucial victory over George Bush in the 1980 New Hampshire primary, the President has scheduled the Trilateral Commission for a major meeting on April 1 at the White House. Some intelligence sources report that the dramatic weakening of the President may be clinched at that meeting.

The application of physical terror

The escalation of physical threats against the President—threats modeled on the "lone assassin" prototype of would-be Reagan assassin John Hinckley—began when a car tried to ram one of the White House gates. That same night, March 15, a Pennsylvania resident named David Mohansky who

had been on both the FBI and Secret Service lists of potential threats to the President was found parked outside the White House grounds in possession of a sawed-off shotgun; he was later wounded in a shoot-out.

On the weekend of March 17, a youth began shouting in Washington's Union Station that he had a bug implanted in his head that was telling him to kill the President. Then on March 19, a 17-year-old New Jersey youth fired several shots at a U.S. Capitol Police cruiser near Capitol Hill, shooting himself in the head after a brief auto chase. That night a Washington, D.C., woman rammed a White House gate with her car; found in her possession was a copy of *Mein Kampf*.

As of March 19, all White House personnel as well as outsiders must undergo a thorough search before entering White House grounds. The White House is receiving a different message than FBI Director William Webster is giving out (he has been publicly stating that there is no threat of terrorism in the United States), as evidenced in the new procedures. The "lone assassin" threats are compounded by threats from Libya and Iran.

The Meese affair

The President, operating under this heightened security threat, is being counseled by leading White House political advisers to dump his former counselor Edwin Meese. On March 15, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) announced under pressure from Democrats on the committee that hearings on Meese's nomination as attorney general would be reopened. Committee staffers had discovered that in 1981 Meese's wife obtained an interest-free loan from long-time Meese associate Edwin Thomas; subsequently, Thomas and his wife got senior government jobs in Washington and California.

Liberal Howard Metzenbaum and other committee Democrats were already pressing Reagan to drop one of his most trusted confidants. By March 19, leading Kissinger-linked Republican senators including Majority Leader Howard Baker and Judiciary Committee member Charles Mathias publicly reported that if a Justice Department investigation of Meese's finances were to lead to the appointment of a special prosecutor, Meese would have to step down. Attorney General William French Smith, operating on the advice of the FBI, decided to start a Justice Department investigation. Following that announcement, staunch Meese supporters including Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) reported that a special prosecutor will be necessary if a hint of "cover-up" is to be avoided. By March 20, senior White House sources also pointed to the inevitability of a special prosecutor—the tripwire for Meese's demise.

On March 18, Trilateral Commission board member and syndicated columnist Joseph Kraft, who often speaks for Kissinger, assaulted the Meese nomination and Meese's alleged corruption as another of many gross indiscretions committed by Reagan's friends in the administration.

By March 20 House Democratic Campaign Committee

chairman Rep. Tony Coelho joined Kraft in a call for cleaning out the "sleaze" in the Reagan administration. Coelho announced that the Democratic Party would launch a nationwide campaign including television ads identifying the top 20 senior Reagan administration appointees who have committed these indiscretions. On the same day, presidential candidate Gary Hart launched his own attack on corruption in the Reagan administration, followed shortly by Walter Mondale.

A broad array in both parties is now awaiting White House withdrawal of the Meese nomination as a signal of presidential vulnerability that will give the go-ahead for a broad purge of Reagan intimates. Already Federal Judge Green has ordered the Justice Department to appoint by mid-April a special prosecutor in the case of the previously dormant "Briefinggate" scandal.

Indeed, there are persistent reports that any broad Department of Justice investigation into the Meese affair would have to cover the briefing book caper, since there is an alleged paper trail implicating Meese in the scandal. On March 18, *Washington Post* columnist Bob Woodward insinuated that, though the Meese case does not measure up to a Watergate, the briefing book scandal comes close. Sources predict that, while a full investigation will not touch the President, it will hurt people close to him. Many believe that the key individual is CIA Director and 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign head William Casey. The toll could climb, according to Washington sources, if the Kissinger crowd decides to escalate the "sleaze" stigma by introducing the long-buried "Vicky Morgan tapes."

Back-channel revelations

After the President's agreement to cut his proposed defense budget (see article, page 7), shattered Pentagon planners—reportedly including Secretary Weinberger himself—are said to fear more than the President's readiness to appease his economic blackmailers. Sources close to the Pentagon are concerned about State Department and Kissinger-related back-channel negotiations with Moscow.

The sources report that this concern centers on State Department attempts to sabotage an open airing of massive Soviet arms control violations, plus the State Department's eagerness to send new Soviet Communist Party Chairman Konstantin Chernenko a friendly message by forcing substantial concessions in three peripheral arms negotiation areas (chemical weapons, a threshold ban on warheads, and the MBFR conventional-force reduction talks). In all these areas, plus a reported State Department effort to force a U.S. concession on an anti-satellite weapons ban, war has broken out between the Pentagon and Foggy Bottom.

Sources on Capitol Hill report that Weinberger was behind recent testimony by Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle conducted before the Senate Armed Services Committee; Perle charged that election-year pressures were restraining the administration from not only detailing the range of Soviet arms-control violations, but from responding

in kind to those violations by abandoning arms-control treaty limitations. Perle particularly cited the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Mideast: another friend goes down

On March 18 Soviet agent-of-influence Kissinger, appearing on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," detailed his demands for the next phase of U.S. Middle East policy. His advice on the Middle East: U.S. policy should be aimed at doing nothing between now and at least the presidential elections next November.

Admitting that the Soviet Union and its friends in Syria would be given free rein under these conditions, Kissinger argued that Soviet expansion into the area should not be worrisome since the Soviets would have to remain cautious and restrained in order to avoid descending into a quagmire.

This Neville Chamberlain line of reasoning was identified by George Shultz at a March 20 press conference as U.S. policy. Kissinger and Shultz were shutting the door on an earlier effort launched by Jordan's King Hussein to shock President Reagan into carrying out his now almost completely abandoned peace plan, announced in September 1982. Hussein, echoing the sentiments of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who unsuccessfully tried to deliver the same shock therapy to Reagan in February, told the *New York Times* that U.S. policy in the Mideast has failed because of unwillingness to deal fairly with the Palestinian question and because, following the Lebanon debacle, the United States had lost credibility in the region. Hussein repeated these statements on national television on March 18, reporting his frustration and desperation after months of Reagan administration refusal to budge Israel in order to facilitate Hussein's negotiations with the Yasser Arafat wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization, an essential ingredient if the 1982 Reagan Plan for the Mideast were ever to get off the ground.

Reagan, fixated on the "Jewish vote," nevertheless made a public plea on March 14 before the United Jewish Appeal in New York for the Zionist Lobby to back off from its opposition to the sale of ground-to-air Stinger missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The President's weak-kneed attempt came too late. With the "Reagan Plan" in a shambles and congressional opposition mounting to the Stinger sales and to the training of a Jordanian task force to spearhead potential intervention into the Persian Gulf (a crucial element of Weinberger's Mideast plan), Hussein saw himself as the next victim of Kissinger and Shultz, after Arafat and the Gemayel government of Lebanon.

On March 21, under near-public lobbying from Shultz to abandon the arms sale to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the President once again capitulated and announced the cancellation of the Stinger sale.

Central America: a Vietnam environment

In the days leading up to the March 25 El Salvador national election, the beginnings of an "anti-Vietnam War"

atmosphere have been nurtured by significant forces allied with Henry Kissinger. On March 19, a demonstration of 2,000, largely associated with the left-wing Philip Agee-connected Institute for Policy Studies, took to the streets of Washington to protest Reagan's arms sale policy in Central America. That night, CBS national television attacked U.S. arms sales to El Salvador, reporting that U.S. bombers sent to the Salvadoran government have killed civilians in areas controlled by the leftist guerrillas. On March 21, CBS went further, hauling Walter Cronkite out of retirement to assert that the Central Intelligence Agency is behind the death squads in El Salvador and that the leader of these death squads is Roberto D'Aubuisson, possible winner of the upcoming elections.

In the meantime, on March 20 Kissinger intimate Sol Linowitz took to the *New York Times* op-ed page to attack Reagan's Central America policy; on March 21 the *Washington Post* editorially did the same. Despite the appointment of Kissinger as head of the President's Bipartisan Commission on Central America, the administration will be unable to legislatively sustain its Central America aid program which has all but collapsed. One intelligence source in Washington reports that winning congressional approval for arms sales to El Salvador is now the administration's number-one obsession.

The Soviet Union chose the week of March 19 to send its most sophisticated surface naval force into the Caribbean, a force with advanced anti-submarine capability—which helped Kissinger stir up the President's "anti-communist" determination to enmire the United States in the Central America conflicts. In addition, U.S. intelligence officers are saying that during the first three years of the Reagan administration more Warsaw Pact arms—quantitatively and qualitatively—have gone to Cuba than during the last three years of the Carter administration.

Washington intelligence sources believe that this Soviet deployment and arms transfer policy toward Cuba is aimed at beefing up their anti-submarine warfare capability off the coast of the United States—a policy which could easily enhance their strategic margin of superiority.

If D'Aubuisson wins in El Salvador, Congress will take over U.S. policy-making toward the region. Whoever wins, there will be an escalation of the conflict both in that nation and in the United States, creating a "Vietnam climate" during an election period.

Having no serious policy and succumbing more and more to Kissinger's direct influence, the President is totally vulnerable; trying to muddle through, he is trapped. Within the parameters of his assumptions, which ignore the Jesuit control over most of the "right" and "left" in Central America and fail to appreciate the Soviets' overall drive toward confrontation, he cannot begin to meet the challenge facing the United States. As the crisis hits, Soviet asset Henry Kissinger has positioned himself to be the one to whom the President must turn to "work things out" with Moscow.