

Senate report attacks 'parallel government'

by Joseph Brewda

Senator David Boren (D-Okla.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, released his committee's preliminary report on the Irangate affair the first week of February with a great deal of fanfare. Appearing on ABC's "Nightline," Boren, in statements rarely heard from an elected official, blasted the role of the National Security Council's "part-time consultant," Michael Ledeen, and the Israeli Mossad intelligence service. Boren identified Ledeen as a representative of a "parallel government," which has been running U.S. policy "since the time of Lumumba, and the Bay of Pigs." In the same explosive interview, Boren denounced White House Chief of Staff Don Regan and called for his resignation, for closing off senior cabinet officials from access to the President, while "parallel government" people like Oliver North had countless presidential meetings.

In comments on ABC's "Good Morning America," later in the week, Boren elaborated on this parallel government, when he spoke of the "strange involvement of private individuals, not in the government . . . people like Michael Ledeen sent off to meet with heads of state, and even in some cases, foreign nationals who seem to be not only carrying out, but having a great impact on, American foreign policy." In the same interview, Boren denounced the Reagan White House's policy of evading the normal government chain of command, which so effectively allows "outside consultants" to direct U.S. intelligence operations. Boren singled out Don Regan, the White House czar who "seems to have been allowing some very odd and unexplained meetings with the President . . . with low-echelon people," while "closing out the Secretary of State. . . . I would hope Mr. Regan would understand that in the interests of the country, it would be best for him to step down."

While Boren was addressing the nation on these vital

issues, staff members of Senator Inouye's (D-Hawaii) recently empaneled select committee mandated to investigate Irangate must have been quietly grinding their teeth in rage. Inouye's committee had been formed to prepare a year-long, thorough study of Irangate, and, as is standard practice for such allegedly comprehensive investigations, hired several "private figures" to oversee its operations. Among the posts filled by "outside figures" in the Inouye panel are the positions of chief counsel, associate counsel, and chief investigator, posts now occupied by New York attorney Arthur Liman, former FBI official Joel Lisker, and former CIA operative Thomas Polgar, respectively.

The parallel government

These newly appointed additions to Inouye's staff had already been delivered a copy of Boren's preliminary study. In that study, they noted, the role of "Israeli interests" and "private parties" is highlighted, and Ledeen is depicted as the key architect of the arms-for-hostages policy. Boren's committee's formal study concludes with a series of unresolved questions, emphasizing the need to investigate the role of Israel, and the private parties typified by Ledeen, in the affair. It did not escape Inouye's newly hired investigators and counsels, that Boren's widely reported denunciation of a "parallel government," and "private interests," was intended to prevent a cover-up by the Inouye investigation, and the separate investigation being carried out by special prosecutor "Independent Counsel" Judge Lawrence Walsh.

The parallel government to which Boren referred, dates back to the reign of Teddy Roosevelt, who entered government with the objective of transferring control of several federal agencies to the clique of Boston and New York bankers he represented. Often referred to as the "Bankers' CIA,"

this network has more or less directed U.S. foreign policy ever since, especially since the spectacular termination of President John Kennedy's efforts to buck the New York and Boston banking crowd.

Beginning with Henry Kissinger's installation as National Security Adviser in the Nixon administration, the National Security Council has become the central institution used to provide U.S. government cover for implementing the policies of the private foreign policy establishment earlier directed by Roosevelt. Since Kissinger, an increasing number of intelligence functions of all kinds have been "contracted out" to an ever-expanding number of alleged U.S. intelligence "proprieties," or "assets," notably including Don Regan's Merrill Lynch, the Bank of Boston, and the Israeli Mossad. The NSC has claimed that such private interests would always act in the U.S. national interest, a lie now exposed by Irangate.

Under the Reagan administration, this policy of what Boren describes as "privatization," has been aided by the creation of dozens of interagency committees, outside of the formal government table of organization, bearing such names as the "208 Committee," "Operations Support Group," or the "Restricted Interagency Group," whose functions, members, and chain of command is rarely revealed. Typically, these task forces have been controlled by "part-time consultants," such as Michael Ledeen.

The Crédit Suisse connection

If Inouye's committee, and the special grand jury directed by independent prosecutor Walsh, are determined to actually investigate the parallel government exposed by the Irangate affair, they must start with the fact that virtually all funds used to finance the Reagan administration policy of sending arms to Iran and the Contras, were under the control of private individuals, operating out of the same elite Swiss bank. Revelations on the activities of Col. Oliver North, the NSC puppet of this private network, already show that:

- North established three shell accounts at the Geneva branch of Crédit Suisse, which were used to divert the profits of U.S. government arms sales to the Contras, the Mossad, and the Afghan rebels. The signatories of the accounts were Albert Hakim and Gen. Richard Secord (ret.), private individuals linked to former CIA official Theodore Shackley. The attorney of record for the accounts was a curious U.S. citizen by the name of Willard Zucker.

- The same branch of Crédit Suisse maintained the \$100 million account of the Iranian government which Manucher Ghorbanifar used to buy U.S. weapons for Iran. Ghorbanifar has been identified by the CIA as a shared agent of the Iranian Savama and Israeli Mossad.

- The same branch of Crédit Suisse was used by Mossad agent Yacov Nimrodi to manage the sale of Israeli-owned, U.S.-made weapons to Iran and the Contras.

The above-mentioned Hakim, Secord, Zucker, Ghorban-

ifar, and Nimrodi have maintained close business ties since they began selling arms to the Shah of Iran in the early 1970s. They have continued to supply Iran ever since, without any interruption occasioned by the NSC-directed overthrow of the Shah and installation of Khomeini. Willard Zucker, an expert on the finances of such matters, was the bagman for Hakim, Secord, and probably their partners for this entire period. He incorporated all the known shells used by Oliver North to run the operations exposed by Irangate.

Zucker's ties to Crédit Suisse go back to the early 1970s, when he headed the legal department of the notorious Investors Overseas Services (IOS), whose operations were also run out of Crédit Suisse. IOS had been formed in the 1960s by Meyer Lansky's adviser, John Pullman, as an international laundromat for illicit funds. IOS also had the closest of relations with the Mossad.

In the early 1970s, IOS was looted to death by Robert Vesco, who had been placed in control by Zucker's law firm, the New York-based Willkie, Farr and Gallagher. The collapse of IOS led to numerous suits by aggrieved stockholders, many of whom were tied to neither Lansky nor the Mossad. One of these class action suits resulted in a \$35 million fine against Zucker's Willkie, Farr and Gallagher for its aid to its pawn, Vesco. Crédit Suisse, meanwhile, still is in litigation with other IOS stockholders for its illegal cooperation with Vesco.

Who's investigating whom?

Some of those now charged with investigating Irangate should be investigated in Irangate.

When Vesco was sued by stockholders and the Securities and Exchange Commission, his attorneys included Zucker, then head of the IOS legal department, and New York attorney Arthur Liman.

Liman is today the chief counsel to Senator Inouye's special committee mandated to investigate Irangate!

During the same period, Vesco also retained Washington attorney Edward Bennett Williams as his counsel. Williams, the former counsel of the CIA, has long represented some of the top figures in the Lansky crowd. According to reports, Williams is currently the attorney for Colonel North. Meanwhile, Williams's partner, Sven Holmes, has been appointed chief counsel of the House committee empaneled to investigate Irangate, paralleling that of Senator Inouye.

Liman's associate counsel with Inouye's committee is "anti-terrorism expert" Joel Lisker. During the Carter administration, Lisker directed the section of the U.S. Justice Department that handled the registration of foreign agents. In that capacity, Lisker played a central role in covering up for the "Billygate" scandal, which exposed the links of the Carters to Libya. The same scandal exposed the Carters' ties to former IOS mobster Robert Vesco.

Incidentally: Lisker is a decades-long associate of another "anti-terrorism expert," Michael Ledeen.