

had killed him, or whether it proceeded differently. The missing bottle of Beaujolais, the ritual-execution arrangement of the body, and the copy of Sartre in the middle of the unused bed, combined with the circumstances of the incident, tell the story vividly enough. Were the lives of Barschel's children saved by his willingness to register, unattended, at the Beau Rivage hotel? What might Adnan Khashoggi be able to tell?

Collateral leads

The *modus operandi* of the Barschel execution has prompted Austrian investigators to reexamine two recent deaths with almost identical characteristics. One was the July 1985 death of an Austrian ambassador, Herbert Amry, in Greece. The second, was the death of an executive of an Austrian arms-trading firm, Heribert Apfalter, on Aug. 26, 1987. Three very strange deaths, each with the body found in a similar ritual arrangement, and all three trapped in the center of desperate efforts by some very highly placed circles to cover up their deep involvement with Moscow in running weapons into Iran.

Moreover, it all leads directly back into the middle of both the Irangate and Contragate scandals inside the U.S.A. It takes us directly into the center of what Senate investigator Joel Lisker attempted to conceal during his trip to Denmark, a crucial aspect of the case which the joint committee of the Congress scrupulously kept out of the public side of the Irangate hearings. It is well known that AIPAC was at the center of some parts of the congressional side of the cover-up. Why was the Soviet participation in Ollie North's shipments of arms to Khomeini and the Contras also covered up?

So far, officially, a lid has been put on the death of Barschel, just as the deaths of Calvi and of Palme were so vigorously covered up earlier. "Suicide" by gunshot wound was the verdict handed down by the West German press, until the Geneva commissioner of police gave a press conference to announce that there was no pistol, no projectile, and no blood. "Suicide" was the official verdict in the end, according to the press reports at least, although almost no experts in such matters believe a word of it.

Did the Soviet KGB do it? The finger of suspicion is very strong. However, the Soviet KGB's "special purpose" units rarely carry out such assassinations directly; they either use resident assassins in the West, or order their Western business partners, "It is your problem; you take care of it." I know; the Soviets have put out such orders for legal and other operations against me to their Western business partners.

Calvi, Palme, and Barschel, are only three notable figures on a long list of mysterious deaths which have occurred since the Malmö, Sweden office of Karl-Erik Schmitz was raided. The epidemic of Iran weapons-trafficking linked deaths continues—perhaps my own included for reporting this story. Sooner or later, one of these cases will break wide open; when it does, all of the trees in the forest will fall.

Panama 'opposition' shows desperation

by D.E. Pettingell

The Panamanian oligarchic opposition, entering its sixth month of defeats and unsuccessful attempts to overthrow the constitutional government of Panama, is desperate and demoralized. The demonstration called Oct. 22 by Panama's Civic Crusade, an umbrella organization of rich bankers and businessmen, to demand the resignation of Gen. Manuel A. Noriega, the popular nationalist head of Panama's Defense Forces, was a total flop. Fewer than 400 youngsters showed up to what had been billed as the "beginning of the end" for Noriega.

After several incidents that strongly suggested that opposition activists were planning terrorism and sabotage, the government deployed security forces throughout Panama City. Order was maintained, despite the Civic Crusade's insistence that blood would run in the streets.

"The government of General Noriega won a major test of strength today when a protest march and general strike here fizzled," reported the *New York Times* in an article datelined Panama Oct. 23. "I'm embarrassed" at the lack of turnout, an opposition leader told Associated Press.

The cosmetic nature of the elitist opposition in Panama was best seen in the fact that the entire leadership of the Civic Crusade left Panama before Oct. 22 to come to Washington, preferring to continue their lobbying with Congress and the U.S. government rather than leading the "outcry" against Noriega. "We are concerned with the level of frustration of the Panamanian people; anger and fear have historically led to terrorism," Crusade leader Roberto Brenes said Oct. 26 in Washington. Although "violence is not our goal," nothing can guarantee that "things can't get out of control," Brenes threatened.

'Democracy' by force

The day of the failed demonstration, the Senate Subcommittee on Western Hemispheric Affairs, chaired by Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), sponsored hearings on Panama to push bills that, if enacted, would make the suspension of economic assistance to Panama U.S. law—a measure Congress has not even taken against such terrorist adversaries as Iran or Libya. At the hearings, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) asked Crusade leaders to stand up so that the audience and press could identify them. Helms explained that unfortunately they could not testify, because they are foreigners, but

that others would take up their cause at the stand.

Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) D'Amato (R-N.Y.) were two of those. Referring to the demonstration scheduled that day, Kennedy said, "The whole world is watching. . . . I fear the worst. I fear that the events of today in Panama will write one more sad and tragic chapter of bloody repression in a national history already filled with stories of murder, corruption, drug-running, and fraud."

Sen. Alan Cranston (R-Calif.) entitled "Democracy in Panama Act of 1987." Co-authors of the bill are Senators D'Amato, Kennedy, Helms, Dodd, Daniel Inouye (D-Ha.), son (D-La.)

sugar, syrups, or molasses that are products of Panama may be imported into the United States after the date of enactment of this Act. . . ." The bill concludes that the prohibition shall terminate if the President certifies to Congress that:

"1) the Government of Panama has demonstrated substantial progress in the effort to assure civilian control of the armed forces and that the Panama Defense Forces and its leaders have been removed from nonmilitary activities and institutions;

"2) pendent investigation into allegations of illegal actions by members of the Panama Defense Forces;

"3) a nonmilitary transitional government is in power; and

"4) antees to the Panamanian people are restored."

In addition, Senator D'Amato testified in favor of S. 1614 which complements S. 1650. His bill calls for cutting all economic assistance to Panama, including assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; sales, credits, and guarantees under the Arms Export Control Act; sales of nonfood commodities under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act; financing programs for export sales; financing under the Export-Import Bank Act; and assistance provided by the Central Intelligence Agency or by any other entity of the U.S. government.

Both bills are aimed at enforcing the non-binding resolution adopted by the Senate Sept. 24 by a vote 97-0. It is expected that both bills will be voted on and adopted by the full Senate before the 100th Congress adjourns.

The U.S.-run Panamanian opposition is relying on blatant U.S. meddling to overthrow the government since, as they have admitted, Noriega enjoys the broad support which the opposition lacks. "There is no way a solution to the crisis in Panama can not come from the U.S. . . . it is up to the U.S. to get rid of Noriega," said Crusade leader Roberto Brenes Oct. 19, before a jet-set like audience of Panamanian youth at Georgetown University.

On Oct. 27, the Washington-based Crusade leadership called a press conference to try to convince the U.S. media that although the Oct. 22 demonstration had been "poorly

attended," it was really "a step forward in the process of democratization." The speakers included Aurelio Barria, president of the Panama Chamber of Commerce; Eduardo Vallarino, former president of the National Caucus for Private Enterprise; Gilberto Mallol, former president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce; José Pretto, a private businessman; Roberto Brenes, head of the Crusade in Washington; and Rafael Zuniga, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce of Panama.

The "businessmen," all of whom claimed to have fled Panama in fear for their lives, explained their "strategy" to take power, which consists of calling for many "demonstrations" inside Panama in order to "militarily immobilize" the country. They plan to lobby at the Organization of American States Annual Assembly in Washington, D.C. Nov. 8-10 to try to force the OAS to call for the resignation of the Panamanian government.

Barria, Mallol, Vallarino, and Pretto have visited Venezuela, Colombia, Norway, and Spain to ask those governments to intervene into Panama to help the oligarchy overthrow the government. They claimed to have gotten a good reception from Venezuelan ex-President Carlos Andres Pérez and Spanish Premier Felipe González.

The Crusade leaders bitterly accused the U.S. government, particularly the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon, of backing Noriega. "Noriega has been a member of the CIA for 19 years," Mallol stated. "But our fight is for democracy, our fight is to free our people of the type of support Noriega receives from abroad."

'Noriega ain't ours'

It has been a long-standing rumor in Washington that Noriega is an "asset" of the CIA and the Pentagon and, according to media analysts, the Reagan administration is torn between pulling the plug on Noriega in favor of the banker-dominated opposition, while risking chaos and violence, or keeping him as a reliable friend of U.S. interests. The administration has denied such rumors.

"Noriega is not our baby . . . this guy ain't ours, we deal with all kinds of characters around the world," an infuriated National Security Council Latin American director Ludlow Flower told his Panamanian friends at the Georgetown Oct. 19 forum, in response to the audience's hostile accusations. "Noriega is a Panamanian creation, an unwanted offspring of your own nationalism," Flower concluded. Indeed. Noriega is the heir of the Panamanian nationalist movement built in the 1970s by the late Gen. Omar Torrijos, the Panamanian leader who won the Panama Canal back for the Panamanian people, a right that will be fulfilled in the year 2000.

Like any Ibero-American anti-communist nationalist, Noriega believes, or probably believed, that the United States is Ibero-America's ally and friend. Thanks to Moscow's "useful fools" in the Senate and the U.S. government, in Ibero-America the assumption is no longer taken for granted.



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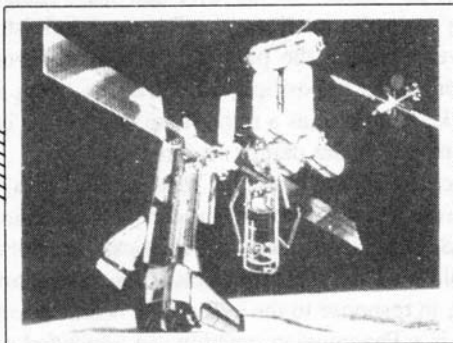
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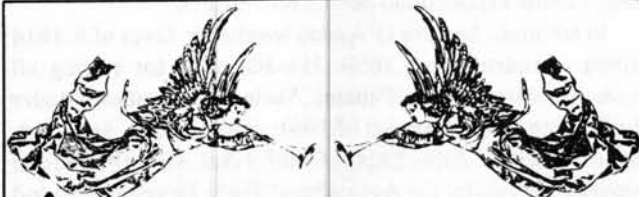
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