

Irangate revelations close in on George Bush's central role

by Herbert Quinde

The alligators snapping at Vice President George Bush from the murky swamp known as the Iran-Contra scandal, scored a hit on his posterior at the end of March.

Clayland Boyden Gray, Vice President Bush's chief counsel and "bodyguard of lies," has been named as a key figure in the "crisis management planning" structure, operationally headed by Bush, that directed the biggest intelligence and foreign policy fiasco of the Reagan years. The new revelations not only add evidence of Bush's knowledge and involvement in the Iran-Contra mess, but also his participation in the illegal KGB-style political police apparatus empowered to suspend the Constitution to neutralize critics of the secret government grouping that calls itself "Project Democracy."

The revelations originate from the ongoing political trial of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, his associates, and editors of *EIR*. One intelligence community source who reviewed the information emerging from that trial said, "LaRouche might have Bush's political future in his hands."

Two longtime professional government informants, **Gary Howard** and **Ronald Tucker**, who say they were recruited by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to infiltrate the "LaRouche organization," identified C. Boyden Gray as their contact at the White House. Interviewed by the *Washington Post*, Howard and Tucker reported that they and a third man, **Sgt. Maj. Fred Lewis (ret.)**, met with the vice president's chief counsel in May 1986, to discuss information they had about "international terrorism."

Known as a "savvy politician," Gray early in December 1986 broached the question of a pardon for **Lt. Col. Oliver North** with then Department of Justice Criminal Division head William Weld, seemingly in the hope that the scandal could be contained. Gray has also done yeoman's duty in protecting Bush's national security adviser, **Donald Gregg**, from investigations into his deep involvement in the Contra supply operation. Before becoming chief counsel to the vice president, Gray was a law partner for 14 years with Lloyd Cutler, a darling of the Eastern Liberal Establishment. Cutler was Jimmy Carter's chief counsel and is an outspoken advocate of ripping up the U.S. Constitution.

The question begging an answer, is why, in May 1986, did Bush's chief counsel meet with "Three Stooges" who are "private contract agents" in the orbit of Colonel North's clandestine operations? Although there is an abundance of evidence that Donald Gregg was up to his eyeballs in the Contra supply operation, Bush has held fast to the line that he was very distant from Colonel North's operations.

Target: opponents of the Contra policy

Documents released by the congressional panel that investigated the Iran-Contra mess, demonstrate that May 1986 was the high point of the period when Colonel North and other government officials were scrambling around trying to silence critics of the illegal Contra supply operations. Documents released as a result of the incompetent FBI investigation of the Committee in Support of the People of El Salvador (CISPES), combined with the congressional documents, clearly suggest that "international terrorism" was the codephrase designation on FBI and NSC documents as well as the transparent excuse used to investigate, harass, and intimidate critics.

Earlier the same month, Lewis, a former member of the elite U.S. Army special forces counterterrorism team, Delta Force, had gathered "info against LaRouche" which was apparently being passed on to Colonel North. An electronically generated memorandum found by FBI agents in Colonel North's safe when special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh raided his National Security Council office, was addressed to North from **Maj. Gen. Richard Secord**, who headed the nominally private "Enterprise," which was composed of a network of dummy companies across the globe utilized by Project Democracy.

The memo, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, stated in part, "Lewis has met with FBI and other agency reps and is apparently meeting again today. Our man here claims Lewis has collected info against LaRouche—let's see how polygraph goes. Rgds, Dick."

Howard, Tucker, and Lewis have provided some pieces of the puzzle. They say that their entrée to government was **John Cupp**. A right-hand man to Secord on the logistics side of the Iran-Contra affair, Cupp worked for a Secord-connected company, American National Management Services,

headed by **Lt. Col. Richard Gadd (ret.)**. Cupp had previously served with Lewis in Delta Force during the late 1970s. Lewis also created a firm, Rhyolite Management System, Ltd., which sources report was a subsidiary of Gadd's company.

Intelligence community sources report that Lewis was "a second- or third-echelon field security operative" who as early as 1983 was involved in developing a counterterrorist program for the El Salvador National Guard. Later, when Donald Gregg's Vietnam buddy, **Felix Rodriguez, a.k.a. Max Gomez**, directed the Contra supply operation from El Salvador, Lewis reportedly was a member of the support staff.

Phil Mabry, who served as a domestic political operative for Colonel North through the summer of 1986, supporting the Contra cause, has corroborated that the "LaRouche organization" was a target of Project Democracy. Mabry has stated that Colonel North personally asked him to "keep a file of news clippings and LaRouche publications," which he would send to North. Mabry said that North characterized LaRouche as "too far to the right" politically. A March 1, 1988 editorial in the *Boston Globe* described Mabry as a "former CIA contract agent."

What did Bush really know?

But was Bush responsible for all these goings-on? Yes, according to National Security Decision Directive 3, Crisis Management, issued in early 1982, which made the vice president the senior executive for all U.S. intelligence operations, effectively superseding the Director of Central Intelligence. NSDD 3 appointed Bush as the chairman of the the Special Situation Group (SSG), which empowered the Standing Crisis Pre-Planning Group (CPPG) to create any and all "interagency groups" for crisis management pre-planning and execution. In 1982, when the CPPG had its founding meeting, Oliver North coordinated the event as the representative from the NSC. (See *EIR*, March 18, 1988.)

Much maligned as a wimp throughout the presidential primary season, Bush throughout the Reagan presidency in fact has been the CEO of an expansive network of paramilitary "CIA knuckle-draggers" carrying out an insane foreign policy. For opposing their policy of selling arms to the terrorist regime of Ayatollah Khomeini and using the profits to buy arms from communist bloc countries for the Contras, LaRouche and associates qualified as "too far to the right" in the eyes of Bush and North.

Over the last year, more and more evidence has surfaced confirming that Bush's adviser Donald Gregg was a major player in creating and directing the Contra supply operation. This has intensified the perception that Bush is lying about his involvement. The evidence was conclusive for former Sen. Nicholas Brady, chairman of the commission that investigated the October 1987 stock market crash and a top adviser to Bush. It was Brady who privately urged Gregg to

resign early in 1987, hoping to protect Reagan's heir-apparent.

Bush and Gregg have testified that they did not know anything about the diversion of profits from the Iran arms sales to the Contra supply effort before Nov. 25, 1986. Gregg says he knew nothing of the Contra operation itself before Aug. 8, 1986. Yet, the documents keep piling up pointing to the contrary, and intelligence operatives involved in different aspects of the fiasco are going public.

A 13-year veteran of the CIA who has worked closely with both Israeli and French intelligence operatives and arms merchants, **Richard Brenneke**, has stated that he was involved in trying to broker a deal for Czech weapons that were to be sent to the Contras. Brenneke says he spoke to Gregg to make sure he was working with sanctioned arms brokers. He first surfaced after the 1986 arrest in Bermuda of Israeli Gen. Avraham Bar-Am and 16 co-conspirators at the request of the Justice Department, charged with violating the U.S. embargo on arms shipments to Iran. Brenneke produced documents proving that Bush's office was well aware of the deals.

In a March 1985 letter to Dr. Mario Castejon, Bush directed the pro-Contra Guatemalan leader to meet with Colonel North about providing aide to the Contras. Interviewed by the *Miami Herald* in March 1987, **Craig Fuller**, Bush's chief of staff, minimized the significance of the letter, but conceded that it indicated that Bush knew more about North's secret projects than had been admitted by the vice president.

A document made public by *U.S. News and World Report*, dated March 17, 1983, is the earliest known documentation of the NSC's involvement in directing paramilitary operations in Central America, leading to George Bush's doorstep. The memo is from Gregg to **Robert McFarlane**, then NSC chief, proposing a plan for "Anti-Guerrilla Operations in Central America." The memo credits Felix Rodriguez and another individual described as "in charge of what is left of the para-military capability at CIA," who later is reported to have directed the mining of Nicaragua's harbors in early 1984, part of the plan. *U.S. News and World Report* writes, "Though Rodriguez wrote that the plan 'will be ideal for the pacification effort in El Salvador and Guatemala,' an attached map showed concentric circles drawn over shaded strike zones that included Honduras and Nicaragua. One intelligence source who examined the plan said, 'It is clear that targets inside Nicaragua were to be targeted.' "

Two documents released by the congressional committee investigating the Iran-Contra affair also prove that both Bush and Gregg knew about the Contra supply operation much earlier than they have publicly admitted. In an April 16, 1986 "Schedule Proposal" and an April 30, 1986 "Briefing Memorandum for the Vice President" for a meeting with Felix Rodriguez, it is stated that Rodriguez "will provide a briefing on the status of war in El Salvador and resupply of the Contras."