

FEMA's structure for fascist rule

by Kathleen Klenetsky and Herbert Quinde

"You have an authoritarian structure . . . with FEMA."
—Harold Relyea, chief specialist on presidential directives at the Congressional Research Service, in an interview with EIR

The Federal Emergency Management Agency was founded during the presidency of one Trilateral Commission member, Jimmy Carter, and it seems increasingly likely that its fundamental purpose—to seize control of the reins of government through emergency fiat—will be realized under the presidency of another, George Bush.

The Trilateral link is no accident. Together with the other leading Eastern Establishment think tank, the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the Trilateral Commission effectively brought FEMA into existence.

The leading theoreticians behind the creation of FEMA were Samuel Huntington, a National Security Council consultant under Carter, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, who served as Carter's national security adviser. Before that, Brzezinski was executive director at the Trilateral Commission, a "New



Zbigniew Brzezinski

Ager" who envisioned a "technetronic society" in the United States. Nominally a Democrat, Brzezinski nevertheless became a leading adviser on strategic policy to George Bush's 1988 presidential campaign, and continues to serve as an informal consultant to the Bush administration. Huntington is currently a member of the FEMA Advisory Board. Both Huntington and Brzezinski belong to the CFR.

FEMA was established in March 1979 by Presidential Review Memorandum 32, with the mandate to maintain "the continuity of government" (COG) during a national security emergency. PRM 32 bypassed the U.S. Constitution, and awarded power to the *unelected* officials at the National Security Council to direct U.S. government operations by emer-

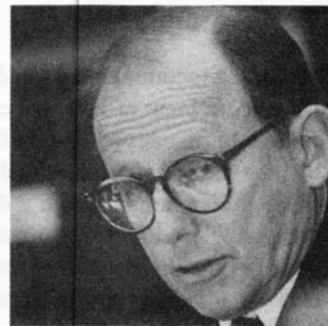
gency decree. By placing FEMA under the NSC's control, Huntington, Brzezinski, et al. turned the NSC into a shadow technocratic dictatorship, waiting for a real or manufactured crisis to seize control of the country.

Although FEMA was sold to Congress and the public as the vehicle through which the United States could mount an adequate, centralized response to natural and other disasters, the agency has consistently failed to fulfill that purpose. In its last major interventions, in 1989's San Francisco earthquake and Hurricane Hugo, FEMA's ineptness and bungling enraged disaster victims and local officials. FEMA was more interested in psychologically profiling the population's response to the disasters, than it was in assisting their physical survival. That was typical of FEMA's 10-year record, which began with its panic-mongering handling of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in 1979.

Burying the Constitution

FEMA has proven by its own actions that it is not a disaster preparedness agency. Its true purpose is found in the 1970s policy decisions of the CFR and the Trilateral Commission, decisions which ushered in the "post-industrial society" and "limits to growth" era which brought the United States into the current depression.

It is clear from reviewing these policy decisions, that the Establishment had made a conscious decision to deal with economic contraction and concomitant social unrest by resorting to fascist emergency rule and other forms of "fascism with a democratic face."



Samuel Huntington

In one of the earliest Trilateral Commission reports, "The Crisis of Democracy," published in 1975, Huntington demanded that democratic government be curbed in times of economic crisis. "We have come to recognize that there are potentially desirable limits to economic growth," he stated. "There are also potentially desirable *limits to the indefinite extension of political democracy*. . . . A government which lacks authority . . . will have little ability, short of cataclysmic crisis *to impose on its people the sacrifice which may be necessary*" (emphasis added).

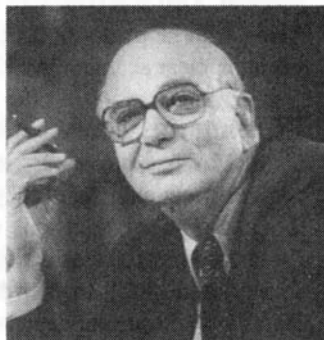
In 1973, the Council on Foreign Relations launched its "1980s Project," which it called the "largest single effort in our 55-year history." By its own account, the 1980s Project was aimed at "describing how world trends might be steered toward a particular desirable future outcome." Zbigniew Brzezinski belonged to the 1980s Project's governing body, and Samuel Huntington served on its coordinating group.

Among the most important products of the project was

Alternatives to Monetary Disorder, by the late Fred Hirsch, senior adviser to the International Monetary Fund. Hirsch wrote: "A degree of controlled disintegration in the world economy is a legitimate objective for the 1980s and may be the most realistic one for a moderate international economic order. A central normative problem for the international economic order in the years ahead is how to ensure that the disintegration indeed occurs in a controlled way and does not rather spiral into damaging restrictionism."

"Controlled disintegration" became the policy of Jimmy Carter's Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, whose high interest rates wrecked the U.S. industrial and farm base during the Carter and Reagan years.

Another key 1980s Project document was *International Disaster Relief*, by Stephen Green. It predicted that the future will bring about "megadisasters" that will "create conditions of political instability and, in all likelihood, of conflict, which will further erode the capacity of societies to cope with natural disasters."



Paul Volcker

Green recommended rapid implementation of new disaster preparedness efforts. He called for the creation of a central, global agency, under the United Nations, with a mandate to intervene in disaster situations, despite opposition from local governments. "Such a shift," he wrote, "would reflect increasingly widespread dissatisfaction with the constraints posed by the recognition of sovereign national jurisdictions" and the "abstract notion of national sovereignty" (emphasis added).

"Disaster relief" thus became an excuse for tossing out existing forms of government which stand in the way of the fascist economic policies (for which "sacrifice" and "controlled disintegration" are merely euphemisms) which the Eastern Establishment has decided must be imposed.

Oliver North and FEMA

FEMA's powers have been enhanced during the Reagan and Bush administrations to the point that the agency is now positioned to take over the country in the event of a national security crisis, such as a war with Iraq or an interruption of oil imports.

A preview of a FEMA dictatorship can be found in the Iran-Contra affair. One of the key components of the FEMA apparatus is a group of 100 persons it has positioned throughout the government bureaucracy. Known as the "continuity of government" (COG) structure, these 100 individuals are charged with running government departments in times of crisis. One member of this group was none other than Oliver

North—whom President Bush called a "national hero."

Bush was at the center of both the Iran-Contra fiasco, and the broader FEMA-linked crisis management apparatus set up during the Reagan years. In early 1982, Reagan created the Special Situations Group (SSG), designating Vice President Bush as its chairman.

In May 1982, the Reagan administration issued a memorandum which announced that the SSG "is charged, *inter alia*, with formulating plans in anticipation of crisis. In order to facilitate this crisis pre-planning responsibility, a Standing Crisis Pre-Planning Group (CPPG) is hereby established."



Oliver North

North was assigned to the CPPG—and later helped to write the 1984 FEMA "Rex" exercise for police-state rule in the United States.

Through an outgrowth of this structure, the Iran-Contra controllers wielded extraordinary power and ran various foreign and domestic initiatives, including the overthrow of President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines through what became the Project Democracy apparatus, the Iran-Contra affair, and the government's effort to jail Lyndon LaRouche, who was rightly seen as a major threat to the FEMA network's "government by fiat" scheme. (As *EIR* has previously reported, Buster Horton, the foreman of the jury which found LaRouche guilty on trumped-up charges in December 1988, belonged to the same 100-man COG structure as North.)

On July 22, 1982, President Reagan issued his National Security Decision Directive 47 to complement the operations of the SSG and CPPG. Titled "Emergency Mobilization Preparedness," NSDD 47 defined the responsibilities of federal departments and branches of the U.S. government to respond to a national security crisis or domestic emergency. The President charged the Emergency Mobilization Preparedness Board with implementing the programs detailed in the directive, which included a restriction of civil rights, bordering on explicit police-state measures (see accompanying article).

As one of his first acts in office, Bush issued National Security Directive 1, which boosted the powers of the National Security Council, the body that runs FEMA.

Bush also stacked the FEMA leadership with "old boys" from the intelligence and covert operations networks, among them Jerry Jennings, who was confirmed as FEMA deputy director in May. Jennings's background includes nearly a decade of White House service as an adviser to the President's national security adviser under four administrations, beginning in 1973. Before that, he worked for the CIA in the Far East during the gearup of the Vietnam War (1965-68), and for the FBI, where he specialized in drugs.