

Eleven days before the *Post* article, the Washington television affiliate of NBC reported that the Pike statue may be "the next to go" among controversial racist symbols. The evening newscast said flatly that "Pike was the founder of the Klan."

Masons counterattack, defend KKK

The politically powerful Scottish Rite Freemasons have moved to defend the statue, which they erected in 1901. As *EIR* reported in the March 5 issue, C. Fred Kleinknecht, the current Sovereign Grand Commander for the Southern Jurisdiction, sent to the world's top Caucasian Masonic leaders a Feb. 1 memorandum defending the Ku Klux Klan and attacking the anti-Pike campaign "directed by Lyndon LaRouche." The Rite has traditionally exercised great power among judges, legislators, intelligence and police officials, and the news media.

The 17-page Kleinknecht memorandum came to light following a dramatic Feb. 15th session of the Des Moines, Iowa, City Council, where an anti-Pike resolution was considered. It was later disclosed that Des Moines city officials had blindly followed the lead of the Scottish Rite memorandum in rejecting the resolution.

The Kleinknecht memorandum asserts that the KKK was created after the Civil War "to deter" the "assault, rape, destruction of property, and thievery against the populace," crimes which the Scottish Rite attributes to freed slaves and U.S. lawmen rather than to the KKK. Kleinknecht admits that "violence broke out in some of the subordinate bodies of the Klan," but claims that the peaceful KKK leadership "imposed many restrictions on the Klan's operations."

The memorandum contends that there is no "legitimate proof" of Pike's criminal KKK role, but then quotes from the Klan's own histories which document Pike's KKK career in depth. Kleinknecht says they show that, at least, Pike asked the Southern people to stay peaceful.

Park Service keeps study secret

Stung by growing protests against a statue they spend taxpayers' money to maintain, the U.S. National Park Service on Oct. 5, 1992 secretly commissioned an internal study of Albert Pike. The rangers' report one month later verified from most its historical sources that Pike was indeed a KKK leader. Only the Scottish Rite's spokesman said otherwise.

But the Park Service, whose D.C. regional historian Gary Scott is a Masonic follower of Pike and Kleinknecht, did not disclose this study. The anti-terrorist Special Weapons and Tactics Team was deployed to counter the statue rallies, and the arrest of Reverend Bevel and Chaitkin was effected on Nov. 13. Preparing their legal defense, the defendants discovered and retrieved the Park Service documents under the Freedom of Information Act. Several Park Service officials have been subpoenaed to appear as witnesses in the forthcoming trial.

CAN implicated in Waco bloodbath

by Harley Schlanger

Investigators have confirmed that the Cult Awareness Network (CAN) and allied associations in Australia were responsible for setting up the bloody shootout last month in Waco, Texas which resulted in the deaths of four federal agents and at least four members of the Branch Davidian sect whose compound was raided.

The abortive raid was conducted by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), who were acting on the basis of intelligence provided by so-called cult experts, who had "deprogrammed" former members of the sect. These "experts" had convinced BATF officials that members of the Branch Davidian sect were preparing to follow their leader, David Koresh, in some violent action, either a mass suicide, an attack on the citizens of Waco, or the assassination of a political figure.

Intending to preempt such an event, BATF agents went to the compound on Feb. 28, to execute a sealed warrant, which alleged violations of federal weapons laws. To deliver the warrant, BATF sent more than 100 armed officers, backed up by three helicopters, to launch an all-out assault on the sect's compound. The deaths occurred during a 45-minute gun battle, from which BATF agents were forced to retreat.

Post-raid coverup

Though a BATF spokesman initially blamed the failure of the action on being "outgunned," the evidence being compiled shows that it was inaccurate information, provided by CAN and its affiliates, that caused the bloodiest day in BATF history.

BATF officials insist that the raid would have been successful had the element of surprise been maintained. They are focusing efforts on discovering the source of a leak, someone who tipped off Koresh that a BATF raiding party was coming, as a scapegoat for the disaster. This explanation has come under attack from both anti-terrorist experts and law enforcement officials. Col. Charlie Beckwith, the founder of the U.S. Army's Delta Force commando unit, blamed poor intelligence for the raid, which he described as "ludicrous" and "an embarrassment."

Former McLennan County (Waco) District Attorney Vic Fezell, who studied sect members when he unsuccessfully prosecuted them in 1988, characterized the raid as "a vulgar display of power." In contrast to the recent bloody fiasco, Koresh (then named Vernon Howell) and six others turned themselves in, at the sheriff's request, in 1988. "We treated them like human beings, rather than storm-trooping the place,"

Feazell told reporters.

Feazell reiterated what Beckwith and others have alleged, that it was faulty intelligence which caused the disaster. The Branch Davidians, he said, are "protective of what's theirs. They're protective of their land. They view their land as Muslims do Mecca and Jews view Jerusalem. . . . If they'd [the BATF] called and talked to them, the Davidians would've given them what they wanted."

But the BATF had no intention of calling first, based on the apocalyptic view of the sect provided to them by operatives of CAN and its affiliate in Australia.

There were at least three reports that shaped the BATF intervention. One came in the form of anonymous letters sent to local, state, and federal officials from "former members" in Michigan. They charged Koresh with "child abuse and neglect, tax evasion, slavery, and reports of possible mass destruction." It is a general practice of CAN to produce this kind of report on groups they target. CAN operatives produce chilling reports, allegedly from former members, to justify actions against the group (and the high prices they themselves charge to do the kidnapping and brainwashing).

"The deprogramming process," says Dr. Isaac Brooks, director of the Deprogramming Survivors Network, in a March 8 release from the Friends of Freedom, "is nothing more than old-fashioned brainwashing used on prisoners of war. They [CAN operatives] kidnap the victim or deceive them into going with them, then hold them against their will in total isolation, while they bombard the victim for hours or even days on end with hate literature, video tapes, and propaganda against the group they had joined."

An FBI memo of Feb. 23, which was obtained by the *Dallas Morning News*, referred to the Michigan letters, adding that "to date, no information has been developed to verify the allegations."

A second CAN input into BATF was more direct. Rick Ross, who is described by CAN's leaders as one of their best deprogrammers, served as a consultant to BATF in planning the Waco action, according to press reports. Ross had "deprogrammed" one former member, and had been hired to do another. As is the case with many of the sleazy characters who work with CAN (such as Galen Kelly, now under house detention as a "repeat offender" following his latest indictment for kidnapping), Ross has a criminal record, convicted on a felony count in a 1975 robbery.

In spite of the bad advice Ross provided to BATF, and his criminal past (he is wanted in Washington state on a kidnapping charge), he has been featured by the media, including network news programs and CBS's "48 Hours." Ross, Kelly, former CAN chairman Priscilla Coates, and others have been presented as "cult experts." This has not only given them a chance to cover their tracks for their role in the Waco planning (Ross has been somewhat critical of the raid in comments to the press); according to Dr. Brooks, they "stir up paranoia, fear and publicity in efforts to get relatives to pay thousands of dollars to

deprogrammers . . . to kidnap their relatives and brainwash them. . . ."

The Australian connection

The most bizarre input to BATF planners came from Australia, from Geoff Hossack, a private investigator hired by former Branch Davidian members. Hossack travelled to the United States three times to "build his case." After meeting with representatives of various law enforcement agencies in Texas, who were not convinced by his report, he turned to the U.S. consulate in Melbourne.

Consulate representative Sandra Stevens filed a report with the State Department after receiving a letter from Hossack which warned that "Howell was heading in one of the following directions: a final Jonestown massacre; an armed confrontation with authorities; or some bizarre behavior, such as an attempted assassination of a public figure." This report was passed on to BATF agents.

The report had a significant effect on BATF officials, as Hossack's formulations became their official line on Koresh after the tragedy in Waco. In justifying the tactics of the raid, BATF spokesman Jack Killorin said that the agency concluded that "Koresh would either launch an attack on Waco residents or instigate a mass suicide." Another official, speaking off the record, said the timing of the raid "was a [coin] flip over whether they would attack the citizens of Waco or do a Jonestown."

In interviews with Australian press, Hossack went further with his scare stories. He said there was a "very real probability" that a child would be sacrificed at the compound, "possibly on Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of Atonement." He told Channel 10 in Melbourne that police should dig up the grounds of the compound to discover a "secret cemetery" there.

It is unlikely that Hossack's charges were given credibility because they were believable, but due to his association with CAN networks in Australia. Investigators have learned that Hossack does jobs for the Arnold Bloch, Leibler law firm, whose partner is Mark Leibler of the infamous Leibler family. He and his brother Isi, who is co-chairman (with Edgar Bronfman) of the World Jewish Congress, have longstanding ties with both the Mossad (Israeli intelligence) and the U.S. Anti-Defamation League (ADL). A recent *EIR* series on the Leiblers (Feb. 5, 12, and 26) documented their role as part of Dope, Inc.

CAN works closely with the ADL, which has run a protection racket for U.S. organized crime since its founding. Isi Leibler has been spreading the same slanders against U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche in Australia as have CAN and the ADL in the United States.

Any competent inquiry into the disastrous events of Feb. 28 must begin with a full investigation into the role of CAN and its affiliates, and steps must be taken to prevent these networks from shaping and directing the investigations of law enforcement agencies in the future.