

## Focal Point network targets LaRouche

by Edward Spannaus

When the oligarchical families, on orders from their London masters, set in motion the process that they hoped would lead to the elimination of Lyndon LaRouche and his political movement, they turned to the "Focal Point" apparatus based in Northern Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area to implement key parts of their decision.

Such Focal Point operatives as Arthur "Nicky" Arundel, an original member of Gen. Edward Lansdale's "Civil Affairs" team in Vietnam in the 1950s, were brought "on line," while way down the ladder, at the gutter level, Deputy Sheriff Donald Moore, who bragged of his own "Civil Affairs" training and activity in Vietnam, and in Loudoun County in the 1980s, became a point man for the anti-LaRouche operation.

In the intervening levels, were countless, and many still unknown, tentacles of the Focal Point system's secret government apparatus. The Pentagon-backed ARGUS, a joint project of the Hanes and Ohrstrom-Bryant families, provided a "private" capability to provide heavy military equipment for use anywhere on the East Coast from its headquarters in Loudoun County; it was directly deployed in the 1986 raid in Leesburg against LaRouche and his associates—intended by some as a Vietnam-style "search and destroy" mission. Moreover, the Pentagon's still-existing Focal Point system was directly involved in that raid, as revealed by Defense Department documents later obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

### Loudoun County, a 'secure area'

Because of the cluster of military and intelligence facilities in the county and nearby, Loudoun County has been designated as a "secure area" since at least the 1950s. In the late 1950s, construction of the Pentagon's massive underground nuclear-war "Doomsday project" bunker was begun at Mount Weather, astride the Blue Ridge Mountains on the western edge of the county; the AT&T communications bunker sits on Short Hill mountain in northwest Loudoun. To the north of Loudoun County in Maryland is Camp David; to the south is the CIA redoubt, near Warrenton in Fauquier County.

(Ironically, Loudoun in its early history was regarded as just such a safe place, because of its *anti-British* population. During the War of 1812, the originals of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution were taken to an estate near Leesburg for safekeeping while the Redcoats



Following the Oct. 6, 1986 federal, state, local raid on offices of associates of Lyndon LaRouche, storage of materials seized was organized through the "Focal Point" system.

sacked Washington. Today, Loudoun is the last place one would try to hide something from the British!)

In the late 1950s, as plans were being made to apply "Civil Affairs" methods inside the continental United States, Arundel and other members of the CIA/Focal Point team were deployed into strategic domestic locations. Arundel's major local assignment was to take over and control the local news media in the Loudoun-Fauquier area. One of the initial functions of Arundel's takeover was to suppress information about the Defense and CIA facilities being constructed in the area; later, his news media played a central role in circulating black propaganda and attempting to isolate the LaRouche forces so they could be run out of the area or otherwise eliminated.

In 1983, Arundel's *Loudoun Times-Mirror* played a key role in "watergating" the previous sheriff, paving the way for the John Isom-Don Moore team to come in from Fairfax County in 1984.

Around 1983, Lyndon LaRouche and his associates received recommendations from certain security advisers and intelligence sources, that they relocate from New York City to Northern Virginia, and Loudoun County in particular, where they could be protected from terrorist and other threats. LaRouche was intensively involved in working with elements of the Reagan administration on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and various intelligence matters, which have been discussed in other published locations.

*Loudoun County Sheriff's Department "community relations officer" Donald Moore testifies in U.S. v. The LaRouche Campaign, Boston, March 28, 1988:*

**Q:** In what capacity while in the military did you have occasion to be dealing with the evaluation of intelligence materials?

**Moore:** I'd have to explain how Civil Affairs fits into the military organization. . . . It's commonly known to the public as the attempt to win the hearts and minds of the people. What it was, in fact, was—and my job in the latter portion of my tour in Vietnam—was to take charge of a village and with an interpreter and several other Marines you would build their defense forces, operate an intelligence network, and attempt to fight that village as its own entity. . . .

In that function I was trained down at the JFK School for Special Warfare to analyze such overt as opposed to covert forms of intelligence that I might gather. That is to say, walking around, talking to people, analyzing what they had to say, rating them as to their veracity, rating them as to the probability of the intelligence, using that information and reporting up the chain of command. . . .

I stayed in the Marine Corps in the Reserve capacity for another couple of years afterwards. And in Washington, D.C., there was the Fourth Civil Affairs Group which was the Reserve outfit. . . .

**Q:** So, I take it, it was in that capacity that you developed your familiarity with intelligence-type matters, is that correct?

**Moore:** Yes, sir.

LaRouche and his associates were at first welcomed into the county by many of its citizens and business people. However, for the families that comprise the Tory Hunt Country establishment, LaRouche was most unwelcome. Within a year of LaRouche's arrival in the county, and before the arrival of the majority of his associates from the New York area, a national-security investigation against LaRouche was launched at the instigation of Henry Kissinger and his cronies in the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB). This gave the families and their local Focal Point apparatus the opportunity they needed; almost simultaneously, Arundel got the ball rolling with slanders in the *Loudoun Times-Mirror*.

By early 1985, *EIR* and other publishing enterprises associated with LaRouche had relocated to Loudoun County. Arundel's first sustained campaign against the LaRouche movement centered around efforts to shut down a summer camp being operated by LaRouche's associates for children of their employees. The camp was located at Sweetwater

Farm, which happened to be within a mile or two of the AT&T telecommunications bunker. The *Loudoun Times-Mirror*, under Arundel's hand-picked editor, Vietnam Special Forces veteran George Barton, launched a furious campaign to deny a zoning permit for the summer camp. Arundel's power was such that the County Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals both denied the re-zoning; on further appeal, a judge brought in from outside the county ruled that there had been absolutely no legal basis for denial of the zoning permits.

The anti-Sweetwater campaign was organized in classic "Civil Affairs" fashion, with press propaganda, dirty tricks, and even door-to-door organizing among the "indigenous" peoples to try to mobilize them against the alleged "terrorist training camp." Crawling out from the woodwork to support this Focal Point operation, were a number of long-standing intelligence operatives, who rarely speak in public, appearing as "neighbors" (some of them actually were) to protest the children's camp.

### The Leesburg raid

"Community relations" specialist Deputy Moore played a key role in stirring up the locals against LaRouche. In the same testimony in which he boasted of his Civil Affairs training, Moore described how he had put his training to use in Loudoun County, going around to local stores, even to a butcher, to find out what the LaRouche people were buying, going through the garbage to see what they were throwing out, and even hiding in the bushes to see what else they were doing.

But, there was a more deadly side to Moore's psychotic fantasies. (Like his Vietnam tent-mate Oliver North, Moore was a real "Section 8," who was treated for mental disorders while in the Marines; he was later diagnosed as suffering from "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.")

On Oct. 6-7, 1986, over 400 federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel carried out a search and seizure operation in Leesburg against offices of publishing companies run by associates of LaRouche. Moore later bragged that he was prepared to carry out a bloody assault against LaRouche himself at Ibykus Farm near Leesburg, where LaRouche was being housed.

This was no idle boast. At the staging ground near Leesburg were personnel from the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team—the same unit responsible for the carnage at Waco, Texas and Ruby Ridge, Idaho. Also waiting for its orders was the ARGUS private army apparatus. It was only when LaRouche sent a personal telegram to President Reagan, that the planned assault on Ibykus Farm was called off.

Simultaneously with the Leesburg raid, heavily armed FBI agents served arrest warrants on a number of LaRouche's associates; the charges were obstruction of justice, for allegedly impeding a federal grand jury investigation of "credit card fraud" being conducted in Boston. Where did these

allegations come from? The prime instigator of the “credit card fraud” charges—alleged to have taken place in New York and Virginia—was the Bank of Boston, the renamed First National Bank of Boston, which has been identified as a key financial conduit for the Focal Point network since the 1950s and ’60s; the bank is controlled by Arundel’s patron, the family of Harold Coolidge.

## The Focal Point trail

But a few years after the Leesburg raid, the Focal Point showed up in a very direct way. During court proceedings in Boston, attorneys for LaRouche and his co-defendants were first told that two truckloads of documents which had been seized and carted off during the Leesburg raid had been taken to Quantico, Virginia, where the FBI has a training academy alongside a U.S. Marine Corps base. Later, during the trial in Boston in 1988, prosecutors admitted that the seized records had actually been stored in Henderson Hall, a Marine Corps building adjacent to Fort Meyer in Arlington, Virginia.

Even though the documents had been seized under both federal and state search warrants, and were supposed to be in the joint custody of the FBI and the Virginia State Police, the Virginia authorities were denied access to the documents for several weeks while they were being held at Henderson Hall.

The beginnings of a documented trail of the Pentagon role in the 1986 raid were disclosed in a partially declassified group of documents obtained in 1992-93 from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act.

The earliest document so far disclosed concerning the military role in the raid is a memorandum to Assistant Attorney General William F. Weld (now the governor of Massachusetts) from Kent S. Robinson, the Assistant U.S. Attorney in Alexandria, Virginia who was the lead prosecutor for the LaRouche frameup in that district. The Robinson memo is dated Oct. 1, 1986, and is entitled “Office Space at Henderson Hall Marine Base for LaRouche Investigation.” The memorandum was classified “Secret,” and was also stamped “URGENT.” (In the memo, OJCS stands for Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.)

The Robinson-to-Weld memorandum states:

“Attached please find a draft of a letter from you to the Director, Joint Special Operations Agency, OJCS, requesting the assistance of the military in providing secure office space for the storing of documentary materials we hope soon to seize from the LaRouche organizations. . . .

“As you will note, I have stamped both the letter and this memo ‘SECRET.’ The procedure by which the Department requests assistance from the military on matters such as this is classified. . . .

“This letter should not be mailed. Rather, [deleted] FBI Special Operations Division, will pick it up from you and hand carry it to the appropriate person. . . .”

The letter drafted by Robinson for Weld was addressed to the Director, Joint Special Operations Agency, OJCS;

Attn: Colonel Byron Hooten, Chief, Support Activities Branch. The Joint Special Operations Agency was the agency incorporating the JCS J-3 Special Operations Division and related functions, such as unconventional warfare, psychological operations, and civil affairs. As we have shown, the Special Activities Branch is the direct continuation of the Focal Point Office.

The official functions of this branch, as listed in DOD manuals, include:

“1. Represent the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the DOD POC [point of contact] with other Government agencies for required sensitive support.

“2. Serve as the Joint Staff POC and provide staff assistance for sensitive support to or support from non-DOD agencies. . . .

“5. Provide staff support to other Joint Staff directorates in planning, staffing, and executing sensitive operations and support involving participation of other Government departments. . . .

“7. Provide the focal point for a special channel within the worldwide communications system involving the Services, unified commands, and DOD and non-DOD agencies in the area of support activities.”

These are precisely the logistics and communications functions of the Focal Point Office.

On Oct. 9—three days after the Leesburg raid—a formal letter of approval was sent to the Department of Justice and the FBI by Colonel Hooten of the Support Activities Branch. A copy of the memo was sent to the “USMC FPO”—the U.S. Marine Corps Focal Point Officer. (Colonel Hooten also showed up in documents concerning the Iran-Contra affair, as the contact for DOD assistance for CIA covert operations in Central America.)

Note that in the Oct. 1, 1986 memorandum cited above, Robinson says that “the procedure by which the Department requests assistance from the military on matters such as this is classified.” The first question that comes to mind is this: If all that the FBI and DOJ were doing was asking for use of a building, then why go through the “classified” Focal Point channel? Why not just call up the people who handle facilities and ask them for a secure building? No person consulted on this question among various military specialists has been able to answer this question, except to point to the obvious: that this involved a clandestine operation and contrived “national security” issues.

What is thus known, is that the Focal Point system took control of two truckloads of LaRouche documents. What is not yet known, is exactly why this was done. Was it so that evidence could be tampered with, or false leads manufactured, in the event the Leesburg raid culminated in the bloodbath which the oligarchical families and their operatives like Don Moore planned and desired? Or did it have some other purpose?

The final chapter in this story has yet to be written.