

The death of Diana: Many questions unanswered

by Jeffrey Steinberg

One year has passed since the Aug. 31, 1997 automobile crash in a Paris tunnel that claimed the lives of Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed, and Henri Paul. And, despite the best efforts of the French police, the British monarchy, and the vast majority of the European and American media, to pronounce the crash a routine case of drunk and reckless driving, evidence continues to accumulate that it was anything but an accident.

One year after he began, Judge Hervé Stephan, the man in charge of the official French government probe of the crash in the Place de l'Alma tunnel, is nowhere near completing his investigation. On June 5, 1998, he convened an extraordinary group interrogation, of a dozen eyewitnesses, and nine paparazzi photographers who may yet be indicted on manslaughter charges.

At the same time, Judge Stephan ordered a new and more thorough probe of the failure of emergency rescue units to get Princess Diana to a hospital, for nearly two hours after they arrived at the crash site. It is now widely believed that the Princess would have survived the crash, had she received competent emergency medical care. This is also a life-and-death issue for the Jospin government of France, because two senior officials, Paris Police Chief Philippe Massoni and Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, were, at the tunnel and at the hospital, directing the rescue effort and the initial investigation, while rescue workers were taking 1 hour and 43 minutes to deliver Diana to a hospital 3.8 miles from the crash site.

Priorities for further investigation

On Aug. 27, 1998, Judge Stephan issued a statement through the prosecutors office, only his third public comment on the probe since it began a year ago. He stressed four priority areas for further investigation: the mystery surround-

ing the near-fatal levels of carbon monoxide found in driver Henri Paul's blood tests; the evidence that the Mercedes 280S had serious mechanical problems, including water in the brake fluid; the whereabouts of the missing Fiat Uno that collided with the Mercedes 280S, causing the fatal crash; and the delay in getting Princess Diana to a hospital, following the crash.

Mohamed Al Fayed, the father of Dodi Fayed, and the owner of both Harrods department store in London and the Ritz Hotel in Paris, remains convinced that there was more to the Paris crash than the "traffic accident" version peddled by the boulevard press. He has vowed to use all the resources at his disposal to uncover the truth about what happened. As a civil party to the French investigation, Al Fayed's attorneys are privy to all of the material in Judge Stephan's file.

Al Fayed's determination has made him the target of a vicious media smear campaign, led by City of London and Buckingham Palace establishment assets. Australian media baron Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* has described the British establishment attack against Al Fayed as "blood sport."

Up until his sudden death in July 1998, Tiny Rowland, the head of Lonrho, the British African raw materials cartel, and a lifelong operative for Britain's foreign intelligence agency, MI6, had conducted a decade-long personal vendetta against Al Fayed, which he resumed shortly after the tragedy in Paris. Rowland attempted to instigate criminal proceedings against Al Fayed and several senior Harrods employees, on theft charges. Ultimately, the Queen's Prosecutors concluded that there was no merit in Rowland's allegations, but, nevertheless, investigators from Scotland Yard spent months chasing down Rowland's lies.

With both British and French security services locked into



EIR has played a unique role in exposing the continuing political significance and evil character of the British monarchy, and in investigating the highly suspicious death of Princess Diana. Shown here is a sampling of our coverage, dating back to the widely circulated special report of Oct. 25, 1994, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor."

an attempted cover-up of the events in Paris on Aug. 30-31, 1997, Al Fayed recently asked the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Intelligence to look into whether the Central Intelligence Agency or other U.S. intelligence branches may have any information that would shed light on the fatal crash.

The role of EIR

Long before the tragic events in Paris, the editors of *Executive Intelligence Review* had been closely tracking the political turbulence around the British royal family. Beginning on Oct. 25, 1994, *EIR* published a series of documentary reports detailing "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor," singling out the Royal Consort, Prince Philip, as a particularly nasty figure, capable of mass murder. Copies of the stories were sent to all members of the royal family. Only Princess Diana responded, with a pair of letters, dated June 5, 1996 and March 6, 1997, from her private secretary, expressing thanks for the "most interesting enclosures." "Your letter meant a great deal to the Princess," Mrs. Colin MacMillan wrote to *EIR*'s Scott McClain Thompson.

On Sept. 4, 1997, Lyndon LaRouche wrote a brief note, accompanying the publication of the Diana correspondence, in *EIR*'s edition of Sept. 12: "We at *EIR* did serious soul-searching in the course of reaching the decision to publish the

late Princess Diana's correspondence to my representative. On balance, we were persuaded that these letters show, more simply and effectively than any other facts available to us, that Princess Diana was a far different person than that pack of hyenas known as the international daily news-media have, chiefly, painted her thus far."

Over the past year, *EIR* researchers have travelled back and forth to London, interviewing eyewitnesses and confidential sources. *EIR*'s Paris bureau has conducted an exhaustive on-the-scene investigation. As the result, we have come to the firm conclusion that the deaths of Diana, Dodi Fayed, and Henri Paul were the result of either manslaughter or premeditated murder.

In the pages that follow, we chronicle the fruits of that year-long investigation. Unlike the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, or the 1968 assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the deaths of Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed, and Henri Paul are not yet shrouded in mystery, decades after the fact. The vast majority of eyewitnesses are still alive. The forensic evidence, for the most part, is available. The chief investigator, Judge Stephan, is still on the job. By placing a public spotlight on the actual evidence, and the unanswered questions, it is our intent to assure that the truth does come out, and that, in death, Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed achieve a level of justice befitting them.