

DOJ Joins Cover-Up of Diana-Dodi Murders

by Jeffrey Steinberg

EIR has obtained a copy of a letter from a senior official of the U.S. Justice Department (DOJ), to attorneys representing Mohamed Al Fayed, implicating the DOJ in the continuing cover-up of the wrongful deaths of Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed on Aug. 31, 1997.

On Sept. 14, 2000, Wilma A. Lewis, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, wrote to attorney David Kendall, who represents Al Fayed, informing him that the DOJ had concluded that there was “insufficient credible evidence to mount a criminal prosecution” against Oswald LeWinter and several other U.S. citizens, who had attempted to extort \$20 million from Al Fayed, in return for purported “CIA documents” proving that British Intelligence had assassinated Princess Diana and Al Fayed’s son, Dodi.

According to sources familiar with the case, the Justice Department refused even to send investigators to Vienna, Austria, to interview LeWinter about the forged documents, and the roles of his co-conspirators, including Hollywood attorney Keith Fler and self-described “former CIA agent” Pat McMillan. LeWinter has already been convicted in Austria for his role in the \$20 million phony document scheme, and is serving a four-year jail sentence there.

While the Justice Department has claimed that there is insufficient evidence to prosecute LeWinter’s acknowledged co-conspirators, Al Fayed’s representatives have emphasized that the U.S. government’s attitude toward the case changed drastically once it was discovered that LeWinter was one of the players in the multimillion-dollar scam. While the U.S. government has consistently denied that LeWinter ever had any formal relationship with the CIA or any other U.S. intelligence agency, sources inside the CIA have told *EIR* that LeWinter, indeed, was an “informant” for the Agency through the late 1970s, and may have maintained relations with individual officials in the Operations Directorate more recently. Furthermore, LeWinter figured prominently in the efforts to cover up the so-called “October Surprise” affair, in which the Republican Party purportedly blocked the release of American hostages in Iran until after the November 1980 Presidential elections, to secure the defeat of Jimmy Carter and the election of Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Behind the Forgeries

LeWinter, who publicly touts the fact that he was, at one

time, a CIA operator, has told reporters that, although the documents that he tried to sell to Al Fayed in April 1998 were indeed forgeries, the content of the documents was based on actual material in U.S. government possession. The documents seized by U.S. and Austrian authorities at LeWinter’s Vienna hotel room after his arrest, suggest that MI6 had contracted Israeli covert operations teams based in Europe, to stalk Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed, and set up their “accidental” deaths in the Aug. 31, 1997 Paris car crash.

Even while determining not to pursue the case further, U.S. Attorney Lewis did acknowledge that Al Fayed was the target of a criminal fraud; and, at the outset of the investigation, prosecutors in her office had admitted that the LeWinter gang, including Fler and others, had committed interstate wire fraud and other crimes. Indeed, Al Fayed, at the behest of the Justice Department, had provided LeWinter, Fler, et al. with \$25,000, to cover their travel costs to Austria, where U.S. and Austrian police set up a “sting.” Al Fayed is still out the \$25,000, but now the DOJ is saying that there is no basis for prosecuting even on the interstate wire fraud charges.

While the DOJ has now been publicly caught, advancing the effort to bury the evidence about what truly happened in Paris in the Alma tunnel three years ago, this latest cover-up may not hold.

As *EIR* reported last week, on Aug. 31, Al Fayed filed a Federal lawsuit in Washington, under the Freedom of Information Act, seeking records from every major U.S. government intelligence and law enforcement agency, including the DOJ, relating to the Paris crash and the LeWinter extortion scheme.

The National Security Agency has admitted, in writing, to having more than 1,000 pages of documents related to Princess Diana. The U.S. Congress is probing the NSA’s “Echelon” computer surveillance system, which tracked Princess Diana’s telephone conversations.

Al Fayed has charged that the British establishment, the House of Windsor, and MI6 were all complicit in the murder of Diana and Dodi. He has not accused the United States government of playing any role in the actual events in Paris; however, he is convinced—with good reason—that documents in the possession of U.S. intelligence agencies could hold the key to unraveling the Paris events. And he is likely to pursue that fight, using every means at his disposal.

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