

National News

Justice Department protects JDL assassins

The U.S. Justice Department has protected Jewish Defense League assassins in the United States, according to an article published in the *Village Voice* the first week of July, titled "Did this man kill Alex Odeh?" by Robert Friedman. Friedman identifies three JDL members, Keith Fuchs, Andy Green, and Robert Manning, all now resident in Israel, whose known role in the murder of Arab-American activist Alex Odeh is more than sufficient to justify an indictment for murder.

Federal agents followed Fuchs and Manning to Los Angeles one day prior to the Oct. 11, 1985 Odeh assassination, "lost track of them," and then followed them out of town one day after the murder.

"The names of Fuchs, Green, and Manning were mentioned as bombers while we were still in front of the burned out building," one unnamed police source reported. "The information that Manning and Fuchs had flown out on Green's credit card was available the first day."

An associate of JDL and FBI operative Mordechai Levy, Green's residence had been subject to an FBI search earlier that year. A detailed log of Jesse Jackson's movements was found. Intelligence sources report the JDL was maintaining a similar log on Lyndon LaRouche during the same period. Levy, who was also implicated in the murder of Tschirim Soobzokov, later became a star Justice Department witness against LaRouche in front of a Boston grand jury.

Rep. John Conyers has announced that he will hold hearings on the *Voice* revelations.

New LaRouche trial to be 'three-ring circus'?

If the "LaRouche case" goes back to trial a second time, there may be not just one trial, but two, and possibly three trials taking place simultaneously in separate courtrooms. This

was the suggestion made by Boston Federal Judge Robert Keeton July 7 during a hearing in which motions for severance of various defendants and counts were being discussed.

The original, 93-day trial of LaRouche et al. on charges of credit card fraud and conspiracy to obstruct justice ended in a mistrial in May, after lengthy hearings on government misconduct made it impossible for some jurors to continue. Jurors later said they would have voted for the acquittal of all defendants, leading many to question whether the government would even seek a new trial.

So far, the government has agreed to defense motions to sever the credit card case from the obstruction of justice case and hold two separate trials. The government has also agreed to motions made by individual defendants to separate the individuals from the organizational defendants.

The government's proposal was therefore to try the seven individual defendants first, only on the conspiracy to obstruct justice charge, and then, depending on the outcome, to hold a second trial of the organizations.

However, Judge Keeton said that he might want to have a different judge conduct the organizations' trial at the same time he was conducting the individuals' trial. But, if he thought the trial of the individuals on the obstruction charge would last longer than one year, "I will do more than you've asked," Keeton stated, he would try only three individuals in one trial, then the other four, or even conduct three simultaneous trials with three judges.

This prompted one defense attorney to remind Keeton of earlier warnings that the case could turn into a "three-ring circus." The Judge seemed to be conceding that the whole case is inherently untriable in the form the indictments were brought.

However, no defendant can be retried until the issue of double jeopardy is resolved. Defense attorneys have filed a motion to bar a second trial on grounds of the Constitution's prohibition against being twice put in jeopardy of life or limb. If Judge Keeton denies the motion, defense attorneys are expected to seek a postponement of the re-trial while they pursue the issue in the Appeals Court.

George Bush plagued by a 'gender gap'

George Bush "reminds women of their first husband," in the view of Stewart Fleming writing in an editorial column in London's *Financial Times* July 9. Fleming says that Bush is plagued by a "gender gap."

Dukakis would be more amenable to a corporatist solution to the economic crisis, "stressing that he wants to work in partnership with Congress, business, and the states, and is presenting himself as a man who wants to unite the country to meet the economic challenges that the voters fear."

Although Bush has benefited from his association with the "achievements" of the Reagan administration, "he will have to work hard to establish in the minds of the electorate the view that by selecting him they are, for example, opting for more of the same." The selection of the vice presidential candidates, continues Fleming, "could have a significant impact on the outcome in November."

Bush's biggest problem, the paper continues, is his "unfavourability rating." The lead in the popularity polls that Dukakis has held over Bush has narrowed somewhat, but "while few voters have an unfavourable view of the Governor, an astonishingly high percentage of voters do not like Mr. Bush." His rating, Fleming continues, is "higher than those of such dramatically eclipsed candidates as Senator Barry Goldwater, Senator George McGovern, President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale."

Moreover, "voters' views of him have been getting more and more unfavourable over the past year, particularly among swing voters and the professed Democrats who voted for Mr. Reagan in 1980 and 1984."

North trial set to begin Sept. 20

U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard Gesell ordered Oliver North to stand trial Sept. 20. Gesell also ordered the prosecution to turn

over to North any classified documents that showed his actions were approved by his superiors.

"It presently appears that, at a minimum, substantive charges of cover-up, falsification, and North's alleged receipt of personal benefit derived from his conduct as a government employee can proceed to trial," said Gesell in his order.

"This trial date is six months after indictment," he added. "It must be met."

California rules AIDS a handicap

The AIDS virus won a major victory in its battle for all civil rights normally accorded only to human beings, when a ruling handed down by a federal court in California July 8 extended the definition of handicapped to include "those who are perceived to be contagious because they carry the AIDS virus."

Lambda Defense Fund Lawyer Mickey Wheatley, who helped represent the virus in the California case, said the decision set a precedent for those who are seropositive for AIDS. "It really does give them significant new protection," said Wheatley, "and sends out a clear signal—that fear of contagion cannot be used to discriminate."

The case involved a "John Doe" who was excluded from an alcohol rehabilitation program when an AIDS test showed him seropositive. In a similar development in New York, the State Department of Health found that Westchester County Medical Center had violated the confidentiality of an AIDS-antibody carrier who was turned down for the job of pharmacist at the center because he had tested positive.

Reagan urged to charge ABM Treaty violations

At a meeting of the National Security Planning Group on July 6, three of five presidential advisers present, Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, CIA director William Webster, and arms control chief Gen. Wil-

liam Burns, urged President Reagan to accuse the Soviet Union of committing a "material breach" of the 1972 ABM Treaty when it constructed the huge phased-array radar station at Krasnoyarsk in Siberia, the *Baltimore Sun* reported July 11.

"If he accepts the recommendation without qualification," said the *Sun* article, "the stage would be set for the United States to abrogate the treaty, which is the cornerstone of the strategic arms-control relationship between the superpowers."

A second alternative would be for the United States to make a comparable, although not necessarily similar, breach of the treaty.

Although the report does not indicate who the two members of the panel who opposed the move were, only three men in addition to the President comprise the panel: Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, and National Security Adviser Colin Powell.

Is Bush concealing his CIA past?

George Bush was working as a CIA agent as early as 1960, according to reports appearing in the *Washington Times* and the *New York Daily News* July 11, based on a story published in *The Nation* magazine.

According to Joseph McBride, who authored the article in *The Nation*, an unidentified source "with close connections to the intelligence community" said that Bush "started working for the agency in 1960 or 1961, using his oil business as a cover for clandestine activities."

The source also claimed, "I know he was involved in the Caribbean. I know he was involved in the suppression of things after the Kennedy assassination." An FBI memo from J. Edgar Hoover to the State Department, dated Nov. 29, 1963, contained the statement that Hoover had briefed "Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" on the reaction of Cuban exiles in Miami to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Bush spokesman Stephen Hart denied the report.

Briefly

● **THE PENTAGON** has lifted a freeze on payments involving nine Navy contracts after a Navy review indicated that none of nine programs were tainted by the scandal. Among the contracts reinstated were those with Litton Industries for the Digital Communications Terminal; with Unisys Corp. and TRW, Inc. for the Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations Center; with Loral, Terracom, and Canadian Commercial Corp for a Digital Wide-Band Transmission System; and with Hughes Aircraft Co. and Raytheon Co.

● **THE SPACE PROGRAM**, "despite the Pentagon's self-proclaimed recovery from a series of disasters in 1986," wrote the July 12 *Wall Street Journal*, "remains anemic next to that of the Soviet Union. The military lacks the rocket launchers and satellites needed to collect intelligence and defend the nation in the next decade."

● **'THE DISTINCTION** between licit and illicit addictive drugs is not arbitrary, as we might be led to believe," wrote pharmacologist Dr. Gabriel Nahas in a *Wall Street Journal* commentary July 11. Only 8% of daily consumers of alcohol consume amounts "damaging to their health and to society," while the comparable figure for marijuana, cocaine, and opiates is "about 50%, 90%, and 95%, respectively."

● **GARY HART** has signed on with the Soviet press agency Novosti as a columnist for its Moscow News syndicate, which distributes material to 800 news outlets including *Pravda*. Hart, the *Washington Times* noted, is the first non-communist Westerner to write for Moscow News, and has already had two columns printed.

● **FORMER DUKAKIS** aide Gerard Indelicato, once a top education adviser to the governor, was sentenced to 2½ years in federal prison for defrauding Massachusetts of \$80,000. Indelicato pleaded guilty April 21 to charges of conspiracy, mail fraud, perjury, and tax evasion.