

Poindexter convicted; will truth about Irangate now come out?

by Herbert Quinde

Admiral John Poindexter, the former national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan was found guilty on April 7 on five felony charges stemming from the Iran-Contra scandal. The conviction decisively establishes that there was a broad conspiracy to cover up the worst debacle of the Reagan-Bush years. "High men in government office that have the responsibility for the national security of this nation ought not to be allowed to commit crimes to pursue their own self-interest," said chief prosecutor Dan Webb. The conviction has breathed life into Independent Counsel Judge Lawrence Walsh's investigation, which has been continuously obstructed by both the Bush administration and the U.S. Congress.

Leaks have already appeared in the national media to the effect that Judge Walsh is developing a list of new targets for perjury indictments. Walsh and his staff for the first time are systematically reviewing immunized testimony given to Congress by both Lt. Col. Oliver North and Admiral Poindexter, and are comparing it to the sworn testimony given by other members of the "Iranamok" administration. Because immunity was given by Congress to the two White House staffers, Walsh and his team of prosecutors were prevented from using the transcripts earlier, while North and Poindexter were still on trial.

Judge Walsh has the option of hauling North and Poindexter before a grand jury and compelling them to reveal whether other Iran-Contra players committed perjury before the Congress or in court testimony. If that happens, both Presidents Bush and Reagan would again be in the hot seat. This is no idle threat. National Public Radio and the *New York Times* have speculated that both Presidents may be targets. Pat Buchanan, the conservative ideologue and syndicated columnist, also sounds the alarm in the April 11 issue of the *Washington Times*. He writes, "Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh now wants to recall to the grand jury all Reagan officials connected to Iran-Contra, including the ex-security adviser to then Vice President Bush. Purpose: Produce for his Hill patrons a report that will document the depravity and sweep of the great conspiracy, and tar, if possible, the new President of the United States."

Those heading the target list for potential perjury indictments include U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Donald Gregg and former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams.

Ambassador Gregg is best known in Washington as "Bush's bodyguard of lies." Although Gregg was a career CIA official and served as Vice President Bush's national security adviser, he has maintained that he never told his boss anything that would confirm widespread speculation that Bush knew what North and Poindexter were up to, in diverting proceeds from Iranian arms-for-hostages deals to the Nicaraguan Contras. During his confirmation hearing before the Senate, prior to being shipped away from the clutches of congressional investigators and inquisitive journalists, Gregg put on two performances of outrageous lying which left some legislators commenting that he was seemingly incapable of shame. When one memorandum surfaced explicitly stating that the agenda of a meeting he had with Bush and another CIA operative was about "Contra" aid, Gregg blamed his secretary for mistyping what he said should have read "copter" aid.

Elliott Abrams, who is now at the American Enterprise Institute, a haven for social democratic moles who served the Reagan administration, was formally responsible for coordinating the Contra program through the Restricted Interagency Group (RIG), yet contends he knew nothing of North and Poindexter's illegal activities. The April 10 *New York Times* reports, "Mr. North testified at his trial last year that his activities were widely known within the Reagan Administration. The current prosecutors could be interested in questioning him about his discussions with the Restricted Interagency Group, a committee whose members included officials deeply involved in policy on Central America."

EIR's April 1987 Special Report, "Project Democracy: The 'Parallel Government' Behind the Iran-Contra Affair," documented that the "RIG was formed in 1981 by then-Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, and longtime CIA hand, Thomas Enders, to coordinate the Contra policy of regional wars in Central America. When Enders left his position at State, to become ambassador to Spain, the RIG chairmanship was given to . . . Elliott Abrams. . . . The RIG served to reconstitute a number of covert operations under Enders' 'old boy' network. This network had worked together for two decades, going back to the Phoenix program in Vietnam. RIG's membership . . . included: Duane Claridge, representing the covert operations division of the CIA; Nestor Sanchez, former CIA operative, representing the Defense Department's Latin American division; Vice Adm.

Arthur Moreau, representing the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Since 1983, Lt. Col. Oliver North was permanent member of RIG, representing both the NSC, and the FBI anti-terrorism sections assigned to him under Executive Order 12333."

The frameup of LaRouche

It comes as no surprise that Judge Walsh's target list includes senior government officials who played a role in the political frameup of Lyndon H. LaRouche and associates. Among other pieces of evidence, attorneys for LaRouche are in possession of a letter obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, written by Elliott Abrams to the FBI in 1984, attacking LaRouche's policies. Investigators established that Abrams was part of a network at the State Department which included Bureau of Intelligence and Research head Morton Abramowitz and others, who reported LaRouche's activities and policy influence with the Reagan administration to Leo Cherne, the vice chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the godfather of Oliver North's "Project Democracy."

Donald Gregg was part of the "CIA cell" directed by Cherne and CIA director William Casey, which included Walter Raymond. Raymond is an expert in political dirty tricks, which is why Gregg had him brought to the White House from his career position at CIA, to run "public diplomacy" campaigns at the NSC in support of the covert agenda of Project Democracy's "parallel government." Court testimony in the LaRouche trials given by a former White House aide revealed that Raymond, along with other social democratic moles linked to the Anti-Defamation League working at the NSC, agitated to blacklist LaRouche and undermine his policy input in support of the Strategic Defense Initiative and the War on Drugs.

LaRouche's opposition to an unconstitutional "parallel government" that had seized the reins of power by the time of Reagan's second term, meant that he had to be silenced. LaRouche and associates were jailed in January 1989, for exposing the insanity of numerous Reagan-Bush foreign policy gambits which were the foreplay to the intimate relationship that has subsequently developed between Moscow and Washington. Among those foreign policy disasters was the selling of arms to the terrorist government of Ayatollah Khomeini, then using the profits to purchase weapons from the communist government of East Germany, which were used to arm the Contras.

The refusal of President Bush to release thousands of "LaRouche File" documents is a critical part of the coverup. The FBI, whose former director William Webster is now head of the CIA, has admitted to LaRouche's attorneys that at least 5,000 pages of the file have been withheld for "national security" reasons. It would seem that investigators for both the independent counsel and Congress would have an interest in having the documents released, if they want

to crack the Iran-Contra coverup.

LaRouche: Don't put the lid back on

The day of Poindexter's conviction, congressional candidate Lyndon LaRouche released a statement about the jury findings. He said, "I have just reviewed the initial reports on the conviction of Admiral Poindexter on the charges in his recent trial. My reaction to Poindexter's plight is, for understandable reasons, emotionally inert; and thus I can speak with a certain special kind of objectivity perhaps lacking in some other commentators.

"First of all, I regret deeply that the truth of Contragate did not emerge to the public in any of the trials so far. What went on in the back rooms, of course, I don't know; but the important thing is that the public, the U.S. citizens, finally be told the truth about what was behind the Iran-Contra scandal. That truth has not been served by this conviction, because those issues have not yet been addressed before the public, except as I and a few others attempted to present them.

"I am emotionally inert on the issue, because Poindexter and North were an integral part of the task force, a conspiracy in government, which was determined to have me set up for imprisonment. They were part of the accomplices and there was a conspiracy. Of course they weren't charged with that, but they were guilty of that. On what Poindexter was charged of, to the best of my knowledge, Poindexter was carrying out orders from above, and I'm not certain that the orders from above were those of President Ronald Reagan. There was another Enterprise involved, a larger Enterprise, which is somewhat independent of elected officials, and higher officials in that Enterprise had something to do with what Poindexter was doing, as well as with my present plight.

"So, I do not think the truth has yet come out. I wish Admiral Poindexter to receive justice, because everybody must receive justice, whether we like them or not; and I frankly don't like Admiral Poindexter, for good reasons, but he should still receive justice. I hope that he's given justice; but I fear that the sentencing of Admiral Poindexter, some weeks down the road, will be used as a pretext by some in Washington, to attempt to put the lid on the whole affair, and thus prevent from coming to the surface, the real truth about U.S. weapons traffic to Khomeini's Iran, beginning the period of the Carter administration. That truth has yet to be addressed; until it is, the lid should not be put on this legal process."

One source close to the Poindexter defense reports that the White House is confident the lid will be kept on: The admiral will keep his mouth shut, if he is assured no jail time. The *New York Times* in an April 9 article titled "Tough call for Bush: A Presidential Pardon for Poindexter," says the "decisive verdict could make the pardon risky." On the other hand, the source says the "arrogance of power" dominating the White House has the President thinking more like the *Mad* magazine's Alfred E. Newman, whose cynical slogan is, "What, Me Worry?"