

IMPACT OF THE 'SNOWDEN AFFAIR'

The Accelerating Demise of The Obama Administration

by Jeffrey Steinberg

July 8—While the so-called “Snowden Affair” has become the subject of Summer political soap opera on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world, the allegations by the 29-year-old Edward Snowden about massive illegal domestic spying by the National Security Agency (NSA) are only properly understood in the context of the accelerating drive for the demise of the Obama Presidency. Snowden’s whistle-blowing on U.S. intelligence espionage operations inside the United States, and targeted against America’s erstwhile allies in Europe and Asia, is but the latest in a series of well-timed exposés of illegal and unconstitutional programs, launched in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, by the George W. Bush Administration, and continued on an even larger scale by President Obama.

Well-placed sources inside a patriotic faction of the U.S. military-intelligence establishment have pointed out to *EIR* that the sequence and timing of these scandals have shattered the Obama Administration. They must be seen as a single, time-release series of exposés by government officials who have concluded that the abuses of power by the Executive Branch over the past dozen years must be halted now—before the last vestiges of Constitutional rule in the United States are destroyed. Core principles of the American Constitution had been violated on a massive scale, yet neither the U.S. Congress nor the Federal Judiciary—both crucial checks and balances against Executive abuses—has done its job in halting the runaway Unitary Executive.

Absent such Congressional and Judicial checks and balances, the sources have emphasized, individuals within the relevant government agencies and departments have taken the courageous steps of going to select media to blow the whistle on the abuses. Among the goals of this effort was to force Congress, in particular, to do its Constitutional job and bring the abuses to an end. The result is an onslaught against the Obama Presidency.

LaRouche’s Early Warning

In January 2001, nine months before the 9/11 attacks, Lyndon LaRouche had warned that the newly installed Bush-Cheney Administration would create a “Reichstag Fire” incident to create the conditions for imposing an outright police-state dictatorship on the United States. Again, in April 2009, in a now famous international webcast, LaRouche had warned that President Obama was not only a British Crown tool, but that he suffered from a severe narcissist personality disorder, and would seek further dictatorial control over the nation. It was LaRouche’s early warnings about the actual nature of the Obama Presidency that ultimately formed the basis for the revolt against Obama that is now playing out.

The belated pattern of exposés of Obama’s crimes began two months ago with hearings on the deadly Sept. 11, 2012 attacks on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya—attacks which resulted in the assassination of U.S. Amb. Christopher Stevens and three other American officials. State Department and CIA whistle-blowers exposed aspects of the Benghazi coverup, and days



EIRNS/Pavel Penev

Obama's rapid downfall began with Congressional hearings on the Benghazi attacks, and have culminated in the stunning revelations about NSA spying. Here, LaRouchePAC organizers at the "Restore the Fourth" rally in Washington, D.C., July 4, 2013.

later, dozens of internal Obama Administration e-mails and draft talking points were leaked to the media, proving that President Obama, Dr. Susan Rice (then-UN ambassador), and other top officials, lied repeatedly to the American people about what happened in Benghazi on the 11th anniversary of the original 9/11 attacks.

Subsequently, a Libyan arms dealer gave interviews to Reuters and the *New York Times*, confirming that President Obama was running a covert arms smuggling program, as of no later than April 2012, from Libya to the Syrian rebels. Obama has repeatedly lied in public, claiming that no such arms trafficking has taken place.¹

Days after the Benghazi whistle-blowers testified before the House Government Reform Committee in early May, it was revealed that the Internal Revenue Service had assembled an "enemies list" of conservative and progressive organizations which were critics of the Obama Administration. Tax-exempt status for those groups on the Nixonian Obama enemies list was delayed during both the 2010 midterm, and 2012 Presidential elections. The IRS is among the most hated of U.S. government agencies, and the image of a President using the IRS to target political opponents immediately raised the specter of Watergate in the public eye. When a senior IRS official,

Lois Lerner, refused to testify before Congress by invoking her Fifth Amendment rights, the stench of Watergate became even more powerful.

In rapid succession, following the Benghazi and IRS revelations, it was leaked to the media that the FBI and the NSA had been spying on reporters from Associated Press and Fox News. This caused a further furor and, for the first time, much of the American media began to seriously investigate and expose the crimes of the Obama Administration, which had previously been taboo.

It was only then that the Snowden revelations about massive illegal NSA domestic spying made headlines. Whatever the outcome of the "Snowden Affair," the cumulative impact of the sequence of revelations about Obama Administration

abuses of Constitutional authority have had a tremendous impact, and could very shortly lead to the demise of the Obama Presidency altogether.

Congress Begins To Act

The case of Syria is just one good example: Congress took virtually no action against Obama when he brought the United States to war in Libya without any Congressional approval as demanded by Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. But when Obama announced in June that he was going to begin officially arming the Syrian rebels, four Congressional bills and resolutions were immediately introduced by a bipartisan group of legislators, to block the arming of the Syrian rebels. Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) introduced House Concurrent Resolution 40, threatening immediate impeachment proceedings if a single American life is lost in the arming of the Syrian rebels.

When Secretary of State John Kerry and an unnamed senior CIA official held a closed-door session with both the House and Senate Select Committees on Intelligence, seeking their approval of the Syrian rebel support, they were turned down, and told to come back with more information about the proposed program.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel held a press conference at the Pentagon, in which Dempsey

1. See "Memo to Congress on Obama Gun-Running," under "Policy Statements" at www.larouchehub.com.

warned that the U.S. should not go to war without first giving the American people and the U.S. military a clear plan for winning the peace. Dempsey has warned, along with many others, that the al-Qaeda ties of many of the Syrian rebels pose a grave future threat to the U.S. and our Middle East regional allies, should advanced weapons be provided to overthrow the Assad government. In addition, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, in a number of recent interviews, acknowledged that he had opposed the Libya no-fly zone and was even more strongly opposed to arming the Syrian rebels. Gates and Dempsey both made clear that a no-fly zone is an act of war that inevitably leads to escalation.

The Snowden revelations, coming on top of these other developments were, in effect, the straw that broke the camel's back, putting the Obama Presidency under long-overdue public scrutiny. As one commentator observed last week, Obama talks like the ACLU, but behaves like Dick Cheney. The veil of protection surrounding Obama has been torn beyond repair. The U.S.-British special relationship, which has reached an all-time peak under Obama, is now under intense review throughout Europe, given Britain's recent role in blocking a formal European Union probe of the

American NSA spying, which was all done in secret partnership with Britain's own vast espionage organization, Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham, England.²

Obama Now a Liability

As LaRouche told viewers in two recent Friday night webcasts, the Obama Presidency is coming down, and this represents a fundamental shift in the global situation. While an extensive network of American patriots—including LaRouche himself—has taken the lead in finally taking on the unconstitutional abuses of power by Obama, it cannot be ignored that some of Obama's early sponsors, including powerful circles in Britain, have also come to the conclusion that he is now a liability, and may attempt to control the process of Obama's demise to their own advantage. That poses a new and dangerous strategic threat that must be carefully considered as events move forward in the immediate days ahead. The U.S. Congress is back in session as of today, following the Fourth of July recess. Events are certain to move very rapidly now.

2. See "The NSA: Is It American, or British?," *EIR*, June 28, 2013.

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