

Facts Behind Terror by Jeffrey Steinberg

LAPD under attack

An apparatus that supports terrorism has targetted the nation's most effective police intelligence unit for dismantling.

A combination of forces have been brought together into a major effort to dismantle the Los Angeles Police Department, specifically focused on the Public Disorders Intelligence Division. The LAPD is known to have one of the most effective law enforcement intelligence operations in the nation.

Although the LAPD has been attacked for a number of years, they have now become the number one target of anti-police activity nationwide. The object of the attack is to dismantle the LAPD's capability to gather preemptive intelligence on terrorist operations.

The operation centers around the Citizen's Commission Against Police Repression (CCPR), the Los Angeles arm of the Campaign for Political Rights in Washington, D.C. The CCPR was established in 1977 as a project of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). It is now nominally independent, though the AFSC still manages its funds—which come from the Youth Project, a conduit for Wall Street foundations; Playboy Foundation, a major funder of the “drug lobby” group NORML; and the Veach Program of the Northshore Unitarian Church in New York.

The head of the CCPR campaign against the Los Angeles police is Linda Valentino, a long-time “new left” activist, and a specialist in anti-police work. In 1974, Valentino worked with the authors of

the book *The Glasshouse Tapes*, the original exposé of Los Angeles police intelligence activities. Valentino then worked with the AFSC and ACLU in Seattle against the police intelligence unit. Freedom of Information Act files released during this campaign showed that the AFSC was directly involved in “safehousing” members of the terrorist George Jackson Brigade. At the same time the AFSC's Families and Friends of Prisoners organization was being run by Ed Mead and John Sherman, both leaders of the George Jackson Brigade.

Working with Valentino to run the CCPR operation is Jeff Cohen from the Urban Policy Research Institute (UPRI) in Beverly Hills, California. UPRI has been instrumental in setting up numerous anti-police operations in Los Angeles. In September 1978 UPRI launched a series of anti-police publications entitled “Know Your Local Police” dealing with the subjects of brutality, intelligence gathering, etc. The series was paid for by a grant from the Field Foundation. This has been followed up by investigations by members of the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR), a creation of UPRI and the *Los Angeles Times*. Earlier this year the CIR helped produce a television show attacking the LAPD aired on the BBC in Britain and ABC 20/20 in America. Currently, the UPRI is investigating police, again funded by the Field Foundation.

The national umbrella for the CCPR, the Campaign for Political Rights (formerly the Campaign to Stop Government Spying) was founded in 1976 to broaden the activities of the Institute for Policy Studies' Counterspy anti-intelligence project. Both Counterspy and the Campaign for Political Rights serve as the intelligence network for terrorist operations, shielding them from intelligence and police investigation. Counterspy is responsible for targeting members of the intelligence community for terrorist hits, and took full responsibility in 1975 for the assassination of Richard Welsh, CIA station chief in Athens. The Campaign for Political Rights claims credit for initiating the destruction of the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU) carried out by Rep. John Conyers' (D-Mich.) House Subcommittee on Crime, and the Government Accounting Office, last year. The LEIU was established in California specifically to monitor the national increase in terrorism and organized crime activities.

The CCPR has succeeded in mobilizing Los Angeles City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky to hold hearings into LAPD spying.

At the same time Councilman Yaroslavsky began his hearings the *Jerusalem Post* identified Los Angeles as an “Israeli Mafia” center. This was followed by the arrest of a group of Israeli citizens in Los Angeles for murder of several drug dealers. Sources in California have also indicated that these networks are actively being investigated by Los Angeles police intelligence for their involvement in illegal diamond and drug smuggling into and out of Mexico.