



## Vesco's link to the Carters

by Scott Thompson

Over the next few weeks at least two congressional committees will once again probe corrupt connections between fugitive financier Robert Vesco and an incumbent President. Revelations from Senate and other investigators have already substantiated illegal contributions from Vesco to White House staff members, and it is reportedly Vesco, with indicted arms smuggler Frank Terpil, who was instrumental in establishing White House connections to Libyan officials—the focus of Billygate.

Robert Vesco, a strategic pawn in the growing “Dump Carter” movement, is representative of one of the world’s dirtiest operations, involving drug running, arms smuggling, and dirty money-laundering. Each new revelation of Carter family ties to Vesco has the potential to hammer another nail into Jimmy Carter’s political coffin if it is directed toward the central crime: the political alliance of the Carter administration with the Khomeini regime and the international terrorist body, the Muslim Brotherhood.

The financial shenanigans of Billy Carter et al. are the useful, clumsy footprints of the systematic decisions made by the bipartisan U.S. foreign policy establishment to foster “New Dark Ages” regimes. This establishment, from Henry Kissinger through Zbigniew Brzezinski and William Casey, now runs all three so-called major candidates—Carter, Reagan, and Anderson.

### Damaging revelations

Over the past year, four scandals have emerged which link Robert Vesco and his associates to the Carter administration. Each is of sufficient gravity, if proven, to merit impeachment proceedings against the President.

The first was revealed by investigative reporter Jack Anderson, who charged President Carter’s confidant, Charles Kirbo, and his chief of staff, Hamilton Jordan, as conspirators in a \$10 million political fix to quash extradition proceedings against Vesco in exchange for this sum in stock being transferred to administration officials. Among the evidence revealed by Anderson

was a note from Jimmy Carter to then Attorney Griffin Bell which read: “Please see Spencer Lee from Albany [Georgia] when he requests an appointment.”

In a grand jury probe of this affair, Spencer Lee IV, a long-time crony of Hamilton Jordan who was appointed by Carter to the judicial nominating committee, admitted that he received a \$10,000 retainer from Vesco. According to Anderson, the Securities and Exchange Commission also established that Lee and his confederates had actually received the \$10 million in stolen stock certificates intended to buy off the White House. Despite the revelations, there were no indictments by the grand jury, whose foreman, Ralph E. Ulmer, repeatedly requested that he be relieved in a letter charging “duplicity,” “manipulation” and “coverup.”

In a July 27 column, Evans and Novak reported new evidence in this scandal, charging that Edward Bennett Williams, a former member of the Democratic National Committee and of the elite President’s Foreign Intelligence Board, actually arranged for a telephone conversation between Vesco and Ham Jordan to negotiate the terms of a fix. Williams, who in his career as an attorney has represented everyone from Sen. Joseph McCarthy to Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa—and, most recently, the White House in a threatened suit against Jack Anderson—was just named chairman of the committee to draft a new Democratic Party presidential candidate.

As the grand jury probe of this alleged political payoff scheme was drawing to a close, Bob Collins, an investigative reporter with the Camden, New Jersey *Courier Post*, revealed a second major scandal in a May 1980 series. According to Collins, the Justice Department under Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti had developed a plan codenamed “Operation Kingfish” to kidnap and possibly kill Robert Vesco. Elements of this top-secret plot to silence Vesco were subsequently confirmed by Arthur Nehrbass, special agent in charge of the FBI’s Miami, Fla. office, and by David Valente, an FBI undercover operative who allegedly threatened reporter Collins’ life if he wrote the story.

### The Billy Carter connection

Perhaps the most damaging revelation thus far came out in a seven-page memorandum from Vesco to Senate Judiciary Committee investigators working for Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) which stated that Vesco was responsible for establishing Billy Carter’s first ties to Libyan officials. According to polygraph-verified statements Vesco made in the presence of the two Senators, Hamilton Jordan and Democratic National Chairman John White were also involved in Vesco’s efforts to arrange delivery of eight embargoed C-130 cargo planes to Libya.

According to FBI informants whose statements have been partially corroborated by tape transcripts and

photographic surveillance, Vesco established contact with Chairman White through Texas political power-broker James Day. In several meetings, payoffs to White were discussed by Day and Vesco. While no evidence exists that money was actually paid to White, the FBI photographed him keeping a rendezvous with Mansur Rashid Kikhia, the Libyan representative to the U.N. Later, according to Day, Hamilton Jordan traveled to Texas to meet with him on the question of the embargoed aircraft.

According to Senator DeConcini, "Vesco says his motive in getting the Libyans to pay Billy Carter is vengeance toward this administration. . . . [Mr. Vesco] takes credit for orchestrating the entire matter—for authorizing, suggesting or recommending that the Libyans pay him."

Vesco also told the senators that he was responsible for arranging the \$220,000 "loan" the Libyans paid to Billy Carter and that he had also made arrangements for Billy Carter to act as broker for Libyan oil. As part of the outcome of this collaboration, Vesco states that he obtained the release of two embargoed 727s which were later used to fly military equipment by the Qaddafi regime to Idi Amin.

Perhaps the most interesting part in the Vesco-Billygate connection was played by indicted gun-smuggler Frank Terpil, a crony of Vesco's who was photographed sitting next to Billy Carter at a pilot meeting of the Libya-Arab-Georgia Friendship Association, a meeting also attended by Ahmed al-Shahati, head of the Libyan Liaison Office. A few months later Terpil was arrested in New York for selling 10,000 Sten machine guns to New York police posing as Latin American "revolutionaries." At the trial, Terpil's attorney told news media that he would prove that Billy Carter worked with Terpil in Libya, specifically referring to attempts to secure release of the C-130s for which the Libyans offered an \$8 million commission.

Terpil, who has maintained working relations with British, Israeli, and U.S. intelligence, has reportedly sold \$2.5 million in arms to Libya; and he had also been a major supplier of torture instruments, sophisticated assassination devices and other terrorist weaponry to Uganda's Idi Amin. Frank Terpil has trained terrorists inside Libya, including, according to his own boasts, the infamous "Carlos."

### **Who is Robert Vesco?**

Robert Vesco, the son of an Italian immigrant auto worker from Detroit, rose within seven years, beginning in 1965, to control International Overseas Service (IOS) with assets estimated at over \$1 billion.

IOS had been founded by Bernie Cornfeld under the sponsorship of Paris-based Zionist lobby leader Ed-

mond de Rothschild; under Cornfeld IOS became a vast international dirty money laundry which interfaced with Israeli mafia leader Meyer Lansky, drug-running and casino gambling operations in the "Silver Triangle" of the Caribbean, and the Banque de Crédit Internationale run by the chief of logistics and finance for the Israeli Mossad, Tibor Rosenbaum.

Vesco himself had gotten his start in "international high finance" with backing from Edmond de Rothschild, who provided him with several millions in loans to purchase International Controls Corporation, Vesco's first base of operations. In 1969 Vesco attempted to further expand his conglomerate through the takeover of Geneva's Exchange and Investment Bank, which New York City investigations at the time showed had received over \$2 million in deposits a week in narcotics and gambling receipts from Lansky operatives in Nassau and Miami.

In the early 1970s Bernie Cornfeld's financial legerdemain had drawn the attention of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission officials and of the Brazilian government, which discovered after one raid on an IOS office that the firm had conducted tens of millions of dollars in hot money from investors seeking to avoid taxes.

At this point the Rothschilds and such IOS board members as Sir Kenneth Keith of Hill Samuel determined that a cosmetic change of leadership was in order. As a result, Vesco was virtually handed control of IOS, which he bought with a \$5 million loan from IOS itself!

After securing control of IOS through a series of contrived financial crises, Vesco began asset-stripping on such a grand scale that he touched off an international financial panic, which was precisely what his Anglo-Zionist sponsors wanted. In 1969 the Geneva syndicate had been credited with pumping nearly \$800 million of foreign investment into the United States. Under threat of an IOS collapse, President Richard Nixon capitulated to demands from Friedmanite monetarists to adopt "Phase I-IV" austerity measures.

One of the people who made possible Vesco's plundering of IOS was William Casey, currently chief of staff of the Reagan campaign, who at the time chaired the SEC. In 1968 IOS had bought a third of Casey's firm, Multiponics, Inc., which subsequently went bankrupt, leading to multimillion-dollar lawsuits against Casey. In aides-memoire, Vesco informed Casey that his "fraudulent misrepresentations" of the firm had violated the 1933 Securities Act—a blackmail tactic that secured Casey's rubberstamp of Vesco's own manipulations and ultimately led to Casey's dismissal as SEC chairman.

It is estimated that Vesco siphoned some \$200

million in assets out of IOS before Edmond de Rothschild ordered him jailed in 1972. Some of this money was invested in the Resorts International casino on Paradise Island in the Caribbean, where Vesco fled after his release. Several law enforcement sources have confirmed that the extensive trade in cocaine and marijuana in the Caribbean "Silver Triangle" has been controlled by Vesco since he took up residence in Costa Rica and the Bahamas.

Another venture that Vesco pursued with his IOS plunder was an attempted takeover of Intra-Bank, which controlled the Casino du Liban, Middle East Airlines, and 45 subsidiaries concentrated in Lebanon, Egypt and Libya. More importantly, the Drug Enforcement Agency and other law enforcement investigators pinpointed Intra-Bank as a major factor in illegal narcotics and contraband weapons trafficking to the Middle East, working in collaboration with the terrorist networks of the Muslim Brotherhood. Brotherhood-controlled factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization reportedly were funded by skimming from the Casino du Liban, while extensive arms shipments were arranged by such figures as Frank Terpil of Billygate notoriety.

## Carter's man in the Democratic Party on the take?

by Barbara Dreyfuss

John White, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, accepted massive amounts of money from fugitive financier Robert Vesco in return for using his influence in the White House, an FBI informer charged in an interview this week with the Swedish newspaper *Expressen*. James Feeney, a New York businessman who said he was working with the FBI, declared that Vesco was bribing White with money from the Libyans, in exchange for his help in persuading President Carter to release eight Hercules C-130s and a number of Boeing 747s that had been sold to Libya but not delivered.

Feeney declared that he had presented evidence, including tapes and photos, to the Justice Department, but that Assistant Attorney General Phillip Heymann was sitting on the case. Now, in the context of revelations that even Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti has been covering up for White House activities, Justice Department officials may be forced to pursue the White investigation.

According to FBI-man Feeney, he acted as the go-between for Vesco and former Texas State Representative James Day, White's close associate. Day made the contact for Vesco with John White. In an interview with the *New York Times* on September 30, 1979, Day admitted meeting with Vesco, and negotiating with the Libyan government, though he denied the two were related. White, in turn, admitted meeting with Day, whom he says asked for White's help in getting a meeting with President Carter for the Libyan Ambassador to the United Nations, Mansur Kikhia. White did not set up a meeting with Carter; instead, according to Justice Department sources, he himself met with Kikhia. The Justice Department is reported to have photographed the meeting.

*Expressen* quotes Feeney in part as follows.

"I and Robert Vesco are the only people besides the FBI and the Justice Department's own investigators that know the whole story.

"I've known Vesco for years. We had the same bank and the same lawyer in Geneva before he left the country. . . .

"At the end of 1978, I was contacted in New York by a broker I know . . . Jim Brewer. . . . He told me that a former Texas senator [sic], Jim Day, needed \$50,000 in order to get John White to influence President Carter so that Libya could get eight Hercules C-130s and a number of Boeing 747s.

"He said that there was big money to be made. Vesco, a good friend of the Libyans, guaranteed that they would pay \$15 million to get the plane deal through. . . .

"I was supposed to get 20 percent if I could get John White to take a bribe.

Jimmy Day and Mark Wollenhaus were in charge of the Washington office and I was in charge of the New York office. . . . I reported to the Libyan embassy.

"Our budget was \$1.5 million. According to the contract we signed, \$500,000 was to be delivered to Nassau, i.e., Vesco's company, Mexical . . . \$100,000 was to go to a certain group in the White House, etc.

"Jim Day explained that John White needed the money since he was going to resign as party chairman after the 1980 elections and run for mayor of Austin, Texas.

"The public relations firm would give him around \$100,000 a year for the coming 15 to 20 years.

"I gave the FBI a copy of the contract . . . At the end of last summer I noticed that the investigation was being wound up. The prosecutor, McNamara, suddenly disappeared to a job in Texas and in comes a man [to replace him—ed.] with good contacts to the Democratic Party, Raymond Levettes.