

Facts Behind Terror by Jeffrey Steinberg

Behind the 'rise of the right' scare

The Klan is being consolidated with some interesting collaboration, says Investigative Leads.

As EIR has reported, a major right-wing versus left-wing terrorist buildup is occurring in the United States, as part of an effort to destabilize the incoming Reagan administration. While the Communist Workers Party and left-wing terrorist regroupment represents the most immediate threat of violence, the growth of the right-wing terrorists also represents a serious problem for law enforcement.

According to highly reliable sources, the current unprecedented news media buildup of Bill Wilkinson's branch of the Ku Klux Klan is the result of a secret deal Wilkinson has worked out with the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith. In exchange for refraining from agitation against Jews, Wilkinson's "Invisible Empire of the KKK" will receive concerted publicity, and recruitment into his organization will be facilitated. Ultimately, insider sources state, Wilkinson hopes to centralize control over all Klan branches in the country, with himself as national "Imperial Wizard."

In addition to the news stories already broadcast which detail Wilkinson's paramilitary training camps, the following pattern of information concerning the Wilkinson-ADL deal is available:

- NBC-TV is planning a debate, or parallel interviews in debate format, with Bill Wilkinson and Irwin Suall, director of the ADL's Fact-Finding Commission intelligence unit, to be aired on the "Today" show in the near future.

- David Duke's branch of the Klan has been systematically dismantled over the past year, with several sections moving directly into Wilkinson's group.

- Joseph Dutton, a printer based in Louisiana who formerly worked for David Duke printing Klan propaganda, is known to have given Wilkinson membership lists of Duke's organization, as well as Duke's extensive files.

- Wilkinson is also recruiting members out of the United Klans of America, which has virtually folded in the recent period.

- In North Carolina, one of the centers of the right-versus left conflicts, Virgil Griffin, the former leader of the Federated Knights of the KKK in the state, has been replaced by Joseph Grady, a close associate of Wilkinson.

The exact reasons for the selection of Wilkinson's Klan over other branches of the KKK for this new arrangement are still not clear. However, Wilkinson himself admits to having spent over eight years in U.S. Naval Intelligence with a top-level security clearance prior to founding his branch of the Klan, which strongly indicates his connection to the contaminated elements of the U.S. intelligence community that have repeatedly been found to maintain links with domestic terrorist projects.

In January 1980, for example, EIR identified the arms supplier for Muslim Brotherhood terrorist networks inside the United States as

Iranian Captain Siavash Setoudeh, whose office was located in the U.S. Office of Naval Research in Arlington, Virginia.

During the past three years, Wilkinson has also developed ties with the National Front in Britain, an ultraright-wing organization whose roots are in the avowedly fascist groupings headed by Oswald Mosley beginning in the 1930's.

In addition to Wilkinson's KKK activation has been the growth of Frank Covington's neo-Nazi organization. Recently several experienced neo-Nazi organizers have been brought into North Carolina, where Covington is based. The purpose is to build up North and South Carolina as a base of operations for nationwide neo-Nazi activities. Covington has been solidifying relations with the Federated Knights of the KKK, recently taken over by Wilkinson.

Other emerging Wilkinson alliances are with the anti-Semitic Christian Defense League and with Robert DePugh, who is currently attempting to rebuild the paramilitary Minuteman organization.

While the Department of Justice has launched an investigation into Wilkinson's Invisible Empire at the request of President Carter, the investigation has thus far been limited in its scope to exclude all inquiry into the higher levels that have encouraged the organization to grow. Wilkinson has invited a full Justice Department inspection of his paramilitary training camps.

This column is adapted from the Dec. 15 issue of Investigative Leads, EIR's biweekly law-enforcement report.