

## Why President Reagan gave Haig the axe

by Richard Cohen, Washington Bureau Chief

President Reagan has declined to tell the American people and the world the real reasons why the traitorous Secretary of State Alexander Haig was axed. My White House sources say the decision to have the President “stonewall” all questions relating to Haig’s sudden departure, and to cover up the fact that Haig did not resign but had in fact been fired, was made at a June 30 morning meeting at the White House, where White House Communications Director David Gergen and White House Chief of Staff James Baker III argued fervently for that tactic. The language concocted at the morning meeting and later delivered by the President read, “If I thought that there was something involved in this [the Haig matter] that the American people needed to know, with regard to their own welfare, then I would be frank with the American people and tell them”; and later, “I don’t think there’s anything that in any way would benefit the people to know or that will in any way affect their good judgment.”

What the President, under strong pressure from senior White House advisers, has kept from the American people is the fact that Haig was fired, and that Haig’s firing was immediately triggered by mounting hard evidence supplied to Mr. Reagan proving that Haig was involved in a series of clandestine relationships with a number of foreign governments and key individuals in those governments without the knowledge of the President.

### Documentation of treason

Further, the evidence which came into the White

House’s possession during the week of Haig’s ouster is said to show that Haig’s secret associates were actively plotting against official presidential policy. In short, what the White House has suppressed is evidence that the former Secretary of State had been caught red-handed in a number of cases of outright treason against the U.S. government.

This journal had previously exposed Haig’s acts of treason, and through other channels, *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. had repeatedly warned the White House of Haig’s criminal activity. It is noteworthy that Michael Ledeen, a Haig confidante and intermediary to the seditious Propaganda-2 Freemasonic lodge based in Italy, is reported to have quit the Reagan administration in early June on the basis of foreknowledge of a move against his master. Starting in mid-1981, *EIR* exposed Haig’s and Ledeen’s clandestine links to P-2.

Haig’s conspiracies went beyond this connection. White House sources and Washington intelligence sources have told me that the clincher for Haig came only a few days before the final June 24 meeting between Haig and the President. According to these sources, it was at that time that the President and his senior advisers, most notably National Security Adviser William Clark, were presented with “hard documentation” proving that the Secretary was involved in a covert relationship with sections of the high command of the Israeli military. Reportedly, Haig had established an elaborate coded-communications channel to a wing of the Israeli military allied to Defense Minister Ariel

Sharon prior to Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

These sources further report that the "hard evidence" proved that Haig had withheld from the President and White House special envoy Philip Habib critical information obtained through these covert channels which identified Israel's plans to invade Lebanon.

While it is not clear whether the President was offered further evidence on the nature of the secret Haig-Sharon relationship, intelligence sources in Washington now insist that Haig had used this channel to report "classified activities" of highly placed U.S. officials, along with personal profiles identifying the state of thinking of influential U.S. cabinet members—replete with suggestions for Israeli political and diplomatic maneuvers to control opponents of the Lebanon invasion within the Reagan administration. These sources are convinced that, using this secured channel, Haig actively promoted the Israeli invasion tactic, in connivance with Sharon.

At about the same time the President received this information, leading Senators and Congressmen headed by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and Sen. S. I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.) informed the President that they were in possession of evidence showing that Haig had also entered into clandestine relations with the leadership of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The following day, June 24, the President dispatched Clark to Capitol Hill to meet with 13 of the Goldwater-led congressional group. At that meeting, Clark was reportedly told that Haig, operating through conduits unknown to the White House, had informed the PRC leadership, contrary to Presidential policy, that he would secure a cancellation of future U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. According to Capitol Hill sources, the congressional group told Clark that Haig was supplying the PRC with important "in-house" information and personal profiles to aid their White House lobbying effort.

Finally, on June 23, after attending a meeting between Mr. Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Haig announced to the White House press corps that the U.S. government now sides with the British legal claim to the Malvinas-Falkland Islands—undercutting attempts authored by Clark at repairing relations with Ibero-America. The following day the State Department was forced to retract the Secretary's "misstatement." According to intelligence sources, Mr. Reagan was also being informed of the existence of five Argentine peace proposals given to Haig by the Buenos Aires government during his "peace shuttle" but never delivered to the President.

Thus, between the time of President Reagan's June 21 meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his June 24 meeting with Haig, proof had come into the hands of the White House demonstrating criminal actions by Haig with respect to the Israeli

invasion of Lebanon, the Malvinas crisis, and the U.S. relationship with Taiwan. Sources familiar with the evidence told me that Haig's tactical proficiency in setting up clandestine operations well beyond the law were developed when Haig served under Kissinger at the National Security Council. Haig rose in the Kissinger hierarchy not least because of his role in running Henry's secret liaisons with Israelis, the PRC, and leading figures in the Socialist International such as Egon Bahr of West Germany.

### **The May-June buildup**

While Haig's ouster was precipitated by these revelations, the environment for his exit had been developing over the period from May through June, the period of overlapping crises in the South Atlantic and the Middle East. The major reason, according to the same source, is that Haig's secret empire had come under increasing policy challenge from Clark during the May-June period. Friction had developed early over Haig's insistence that he have day-to-day control over U.S. policy in the Malvinas crisis. Clark and Reagan were reportedly alarmed by Haig's wild anglophilic attacks on U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick during Malvinas negotiations; Clark was further outraged when, during the June presidential tour of Europe, Haig embarrassed the President and again insulted Kirkpatrick around a U.N. vote on the Malvinas. Then, when Israel invaded Lebanon, Clark ordered Haig not to go to Jerusalem. Upon return from Europe an enraged Haig is reported to have demanded outright control over the handling of the Lebanon crisis.

On June 23, a frantic Haig telephoned Clark to threaten to resign because, without Haig's knowledge, the National Security Adviser had entered into high level negotiations with the Saudis in order to outflank Haig's pro-war policy.

Clark had been dragged into the administration by Reagan and a number of the President's California intimates for the express purpose of watchdogging Haig. His final break with Haig thus represented a decision by the President and his closest associates to axe the Secretary. The many leaks suggesting that the equally anglophilic Bush clique in the White House, or New Right Heritage Foundation representatives, were responsible for anglo-agent Haig's departure are false. While these groupings have had knives out for Haig, they have never been able to oust him. Haig's firing was a Reagan decision.

While foreign policy moves into the hands of the White House, it is unfortunate for the nation that their first action was to hide the real reasons for Haig's ouster. As one familiar with the evidence told me, "Haig shouldn't have been fired, he should have been tried for treason."