

“national security clearance” at the EDI Corporation in Arlington, Virginia. She is also advising Graham at High Frontier’s office, and sharing its assessments of administration decisions on space-related defense systems.

L-5 circles overlap networks based at Michael Murphy’s Anglo-Russian Esalen Institute in California, Willis Harman’s Stanford Research Institute, the Institute for Noetic Research of Palo Alto, and the Paranormality Institute at Duke University. These centers, and spinoffs such as the Lifespring and est, are coming under scrutiny for their “psychic research” programs, many of which involve collaboration with Soviet “ESP” researchers. The concern is Soviet espionage and brainwashing capabilities.

Philip Chapman, current president of L-5 and a researcher at the Arthur D. Little Company in Boston, professed shock at Graham’s statement in *Time*, and quipped “I certainly think there are more effective defense” policies than ESP. Asked whether Graham’s High Frontier organization grew out of the L-5 Society, Chapman said: “What it grew out of is the Citizen’s Advisory Committee on National Space Policy, of which I’m a member. And to some extent it [CACNSP] is sponsored by L-5. It was established in early 1981; in large part it was organized by Jerry Pournelle, because the Reagan administration had no adequate transitional policy to formulate space policy. Danny Graham was in parallel with that sort of thing.”

CACNSP’s meetings on space-related defense include congressmen and people from the major aerospace and defense companies. Jerry Pournelle is an L-5 leader who says he writes CACNSP “consensus reports” for the administration. He is the co-author of a current bestseller, *Lucifer’s Hammer*. Pournelle says his role in these discussions is to work out “compromises” on space-related defense systems, overcoming so-called personality conflicts between “Teller’s people, Graham’s people, Hunter’s people, people from Wallop’s office, and others,” i.e., undercutting advocates of a full-scale beam-weapons program.

In contrast to Graham’s proposal for government funding, Pournelle favors private funding of research on the paranormal. Citing the Stanford Research Institute, the Institute of Noetic Science, and Duke University, he says, “I would not die of shock if ESP were proven to work.” He believes “everyone has had at least one experience of psychic phenomena.” His occurred when a book by Robert Morris (a doomsday writer) fell off his bookshelf.

Current and former advisers and directors of L-5 include John Glenn (who has been endorsed for president by L-5 and given \$5,000 by its PAC); Rep. Newt Gingrich (D-Ga.); Mark Hopkins, L-5 executive director, economist at the RAND Corporation; Isaac Asimov and Robert Heinlein; Kathy Keaton, chairman of *Omni* magazine; Marvin Minsky, MIT artificial intelligence specialist; former Sen. Frank Moss (R-Ida.); Frank Haig, S.J. (Al Haig’s brother); former Gov. Jerry Brown of California; and Robert Anton Wilson of the Illuminati cult.

State Department

Alec von Bennigsen and the ‘Islamic Card’

by Allen Douglas

In mid-February, shortly after the U.S. Marine withdrawal from Beirut and the collapse of U.S. policy and influence in Lebanon, ABC-TV evening news ran a “human interest” story on the 1 million-strong Shi’ite Muslim population of Lebanon. The message? Well yes, the U.S. strategy for Lebanon has collapsed, but since these Shi’ites are fiercely anti-communist, at least the Russians won’t make headway. Two weeks before, in a quiet series of meetings at the State Department and in Congress, the same line of “Islamic fundamentalism as a bulwark against communism” was being hammered home throughout the administration by the one man who over the past decades had done more than anyone else to promote it: Count Alexandre von Bennigsen, Russian nobleman and lifelong member of the Russian Orthodox Church.

It was, of course, the Bennigsen line, as mouthed by the Jesuit-trained Zbigniew Brzezinski, which served as perhaps the most important rationalization in convincing many military professionals and U.S. intelligence officers to acquiesce in an insane plan—the overthrow of the Shah of Iran and his replacement by the Shi’ite “divine,” Ruhollah Khomeini. Now, at five minutes to midnight for the U.S. position in the Middle East, it is time the mask is ripped off the “respected though somewhat crankish elder statesman of Central Asian Studies,” the man whose grandfather was keeper of the hounds under the last Russian Czar, Nicholas II. The obvious must be stated at long last. Count Bennigsen is now, and has been for a number of years at least, deployed on behalf of the strategic policy objectives of the Soviet KGB.

The question of motive

As the howls go up from academic and State Department circles who regard “dear Alec” as a venerable, albeit slightly fanatical spokesman for an important field of study, it is worthwhile to ask whether dear Alec, in helping to destroy the secular nation-states of the Middle East on behalf of Islamic fundamentalism, *knows* that he is working for the KGB? As the U.S. presence is driven out of nation after nation by Moscow-associated Islamic fundamentalists, the question in that form misses the point. Just as the Shi’ite fanatic who rams a hexogen-laden truck into a U.S. Marine compound may think he is doing the work of Allah, while on this side of Paradise, he is aiding and abetting a Soviet takeover of the region.

If we presume that Bennigsen is not reporting in Paris to KGB emissaries of Shi'ite Politburo member Geidar Aliyev, one of two possibilities presents itself. Either he is working directly for the Soviets and doesn't know it, or he is working for very old oligarchic interests in the West who are currently in alliance with the Soviets to destroy the United States, though with often considerable secondary disagreements. In the first case, over the past 15 years Soviet émigrés and defectors have flooded into the West and ensconced themselves in often sensitive positions in U.S. foreign broadcasting and intelligence evaluations networks. In some cases these are witting KGB agents. But some of the more interesting and effective cases could pass lie detector tests as to their hatred for the Soviet state and Marxism-Leninism—yet are nonetheless controlled through “cut-outs,” often by circles associated with the Russian Orthodox Church. Through such cut-outs, their information finds its way back as useful espionage to the very Soviet state they hate so much.

It is notorious among insiders that Bennigsen travels in a Russian Orthodox circle in Paris, observing Orthodox rites, as his family has done for over a hundred years after the former Baltic merchant family assumed a leading position in the court of the Czar.

Oligarchic patrons

The most likely option is that Count von Bennigsen is deployed by oligarchical circles in the West, who are committed to someday destroying the Russian Empire from within by aid of religious and integrist insurgencies, but are first *aiding that empire to destroy these oligarchs' chief enemy: the Augustinian republican culture of the West*, represented most powerfully, though less and less consciously, by the United States. These British, Venetian, and Swiss families often include important White Russians, such as the de Menils of Paris and Houston.

For instance, the recently deceased Jean de Menil sat on the board of the corporate front, Permindex, investigated by New Orleans D.A. James Garrison as the organization behind the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and his wife (née Schlumberger) is a very powerful figure in her own right. These families' hatred of Augustinian and Renaissance culture is expressed in institutions such as the “Eastern religions”-oriented Rothko Chapel in Houston, and the de Menils' prior sponsorship of the Russian Orthodox “modernist” painter Mark Rothko, a man so moved by his own output that he killed himself.

Judging by his life story, the émigré Bennigsen, fleeing from the Bolshevik hordes, was picked up by oligarchic circles in Istanbul and Paris, then trained by the Sufi mystic Louis Massignon, “dean of French orientology.” Bennigsen's own books and seminars at the Sorbonne and the University of Chicago have propagandized for the very core of Islamic irrationalism, Sufism, with the line that the revolutionary Naqshbandi Sufi Brotherhoods of the Northern Caucasus and Central Asia, could, if aided by the West, over-



A Sufi dervish: contaminating the West and Mideast, not subverting the Soviets.

throw the Soviets. It is therefore not surprising to see Bennigsen in de facto alliance with Khomeini-sponsoring circles in the West such as Cyrus Vance and the other controllers of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. On Sunday evenings the cathedral's cavernous vaults are often host to ceremonies where aging liberals and spaced-out Columbia University students spin around in circles, hyperventilating and “seeking truth” in the rites of the Sufi *zikr*.

‘What are his sources?’

One last question remains regarding Count von Bennigsen. His colleagues often say, “I wonder just where Bennigsen gets his information?” Judging by the statements of his daughter and co-author, Marie Broxup, some of it he just plain makes up. Take the claim of the bank clerk-turned-Central Asian scholar Broxup that the Soviet Muslims have not been used for diplomacy since the collapse of the Tashkent conference in 1980. This statement—the core of an argument that the Soviet Muslims are a great internal threat to the Soviet state—*EIR* has demonstrated as utterly false, citing numerous instances to the contrary readily available in the Soviets' own press (see *EIR*, Nov. 8, 1983).

Further light may be shed on Bennigsen's sources by the head of Foreign Relations for the Tashkent Muslim Spiritual Board, Yusuphkan Shakirov, at the Vancouver World Council of Churches conference in 1983. After some preliminary chit-chat, the smiling, urbane mullah was asked by *EIR* whether it were true that he briefed Alexandre Bennigsen. The suave Shakirov turned white, looked to see who might be listening, and fled without answering.