

Who's setting climate for hit on Reagan?

by Nancy Spannaus

Socialist-linked institutions on both sides of the Atlantic are currently working to create a climate in which President Ronald Reagan could be assassinated. The central-profiling feature of this operation is to portray the President as committed to bringing about "nuclear Armageddon."

The President did his best during the recent debate with Walter Mondale to dispel the idea that he believed nuclear war was inevitable. "I have never seriously warned and said we must plan according to Armageddon," the President said. He then proved it by proceeding to lay out his Strategic Defense Initiative as the means of eliminating the danger of nuclear war altogether.

Yet the propaganda campaign is escalating.

The key organizer of this campaign in the United States is an organization called the Christic Institute, which is running a 90-minute radio broadcast on 175 public radio stations all around the United States to warn against the President's "apocalyptic" outlook. "The possibility that President Reagan may personally believe that the end of the world is imminent raises a number of chilling questions about his ability to act rationally in a nuclear crisis," says Andrew Lang of the Institute.

Not just a review

On Sept. 29 of this year, the official publication of the Social Democratic Party of West Germany printed a play review in its weekly newspaper, *Vorwärts*. The play, *Judith*, was written by an "avant garde" playwright named Rolf Hochhuth. Its theme? Whether the heroine Judith would be morally justified in assassinating President Reagan in order "to save humanity"!

The heroine Judith is the daughter of a prominent Eastern Establishment family. She is convinced that President Reagan is planning to launch a nuclear war due to his "apocalyptic" outlook, hence her "moral dilemma."

Vorwärts's extremely favorable review concludes that "deeds alone will be recognized and taken seriously by the powerful."

Clearly such a play conforms exactly to the model of "profiling" media events which have been used to activate assassins such as John Hinckley, Jr., in the past. The broad media coverage portraying Reagan as a believer in imminent Armageddon couldn't be better suited to triggering such assassins. Could it perhaps be by design?

Ominous pattern

This campaign against the President first surfaced in April 1984, when the Washington D.C.-based Christic Institute authored an op-ed in the *Washington Post*. Under the title "Does Reagan Expect a Nuclear Armageddon?" author Ronnie Dugger used his article to review every occasion when the President had used the term, or associated with others who use it.

The issue was brought up again by Christic Institute board of directors member Rev. William Teska on May 28, 1984. In a memorandum entitled "Apocalyptic-Realist Theology and National Policy," Teska outlined a study project around the idea of Armageddon. "If the President and key military planners were under the influence of this world view, it could open the decision-makers to the possibility of seeing nuclear war as a positive good to be desired and provide them with the conceptual support system needed to undertake the unthinkable."

The first phase of the study was released by research director Andrew Lang on Oct. 6, and purports to demonstrate that the President and his supporters do indeed think in that way.

The kind of creatures who might be activated by such propaganda manipulation also went into action in early October. A member of the Center for Creative Non-Violence, an organization closely linked to the Christic Institute, released a jar of cockroaches inside the White House, and then proceeded to carry out his act of "civil disobedience" until he was removed by the police. It would not be far fetched to interpret such an otherwise foolish action as a testing of White House security.

What is the Christic Institute?

The Christic Institute was founded in 1975 by Jesuit Father Bill Davis and "former" Jesuit Dan Sheehan. Its ostensible purpose is to serve as a national coordinating center for legal cases against government and industry, a center to initiate "systematic change."

Among the key causes taken up by the Institute have been such "environmentalist," "anti-state" issues as the Karen Silkwood case (where a woman out to expose a nuclear accident died mysteriously), the fights of the pro-terrorist American Indian Movement, the Communist Workers Party, and the "accident" at Three Mile Island. Of course, this puts it directly up against President Reagan's commitment to technological progress.

All of these causes put the institute in direct touch with left-wing Jesuits and pro-terrorist circles which have provided the support apparatus for such openly terrorist groups as the Black Liberation Army, the Weatherunderground, and the United Freedom Front. Could their talk of "Armageddon" be geared to activating these groups against Reagan? An immediate investigation is needed before any such scenario has a chance to run its course.