

## Will Justice Dept. officials go to jail in 'Iran-gate'?

by the Editors

When Attorney-General Edwin Meese, in applying to the Court of Appeals for an independent counsel to conduct the "Iran-gate" investigation, hinted that a "possible conflict of interest" may be involved in having the Department of Justice investigate the matter, he told a greater truth than he may have imagined. The Department of Justice bureaucracy has been more deeply involved in covering up both for Iranian terrorism in the United States and for arms shipments to Khomeini, than any other agency in the U.S. government. *EIR* has the evidence to prove this charge, and will submit documentation to this effect to the independent counsel, as soon as he or she is appointed.

Much of this evidence was presented at an *EIR* press conference on Dec. 4 in Washington. On the evening of that same day, FBI deputy director Oliver "Buck" Revell, one of the subjects of our documentation, withdrew from the investigation, on grounds that he was part of the same National Security Council team as Lt.-Col. Oliver North, who had been relieved of his duties on Nov. 25 for his role in coordinating illegal weapons shipments to Iran. Buck Revell's history of guilt in covering up both for Iranian terror assassinations and gun-running will be documented below. Following Revell's withdrawal from the investigation, we learned that both Associate Attorney-General Stephen Trott, the "number two" of the Department, and Director of the Criminal Division William Weld, the "number three," have been applying discreet pressure on U.S. Attorney for New York Rudolph Giuliani, to drop the trial—scheduled for January—of Israeli Gen. Avraham Bar-Am and numerous other co-defendants, on charges of conspiring to export some \$2 billion worth of U.S. arms to Iran.

Trott and Weld's covert actions to pressure Giuliani are *prima facie* obstruction of justice—and directly in conflict with both President Reagan's and Attorney-General Meese's stated policy of "full disclosure" in the matter of Iran-gate. This obstruction of justice by the Justice Department is neither new nor surprising.

The Department's entrenched bureaucracy contains the densest concentration of illegality in the U.S. government. It is not accidental that the leading American apologist of the Khomeini regime is former U.S. Attorney-General Ramsey Clark,



*EIR editors (from left) Robert Greenberg, Paul Goldstein, and Edward Spannaus present the evidence of the Justice Department's obstruction of justice, at a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 3.*

who, during the time of Khomeini's revolution, led demonstrations of hundreds of thousands in the streets of Teheran, carrying placards with the inscription "Death to America." Nor is it accidental that the leading Iranian gun-runner in the United States, Cyrus Hashemi, had as his personal lawyers: 1) another former attorney-general of the United States, Elliott Richardson, who today is a registered foreign agent for the communist government of Angola, and 2) J. Stanley Pottinger, an associate attorney-general from the Ford administration. It was Pottinger who advised Cyrus Hashemi to sue *EIR* for "libel." It was in the course of litigation of that libel case, and in associated researches and investigations, that *EIR* developed most of the documentary materials presented here.

Why the Justice Department contains such a high concentration of law-breakers and corrupt persons is not really a mystery: It is under the thumb of a few old, famous, and treacherous Eastern Establishment law firms, whose record of treachery goes back to the famous lawyer Aaron Burr and the American Revolution. It is through the influence of these forces, that the Justice Department has developed a tradition of treason which goes back to Theodore Roosevelt's reforms and his "progressive ideas."

The present Justice Department Iran-gate cover-up dates back to the mid-1970s, when the Khomeini revolution was still being planned by the Trilateral Commission and Henry Kissinger. The broader policy under which the primitivist Khomeini movement was hatched, had been given the name "post-industrial society." The name was invented by Zbigniew Brzezinski and was popularized by Kissinger's political

patrons in high society. "Post-industrial society" policy meant, essentially, two things of relevance to the Justice Department: irrationalist political movements (like Khomeini's) and anti-industrialist policies, at home as well as abroad. This meant providing legal protection for domestic irrationalist and radical movements (such as the infamous "Levy Guidelines"); it meant Buck Revell's own protection of assassins such as Bahram Nahidian and Cyrus Hashemi, as well as the various "environmental protection" legal rackets which have bankrupted thousands of U.S. industrial enterprises. The Justice Department's various "Brilab" and "Abscam" operations and selectively targeted corporate raids have been a major instrument in pursuit of the goals of "post-industrial society."

Today, the Department's Stephen Trott and William Weld, according to their own official testimonies, are further committed to a policy of witchhunts against defense contractors and corporations participating in the nation's defense effort. They are out to shut down what the Russians call the "military-industrial complex."

These are the broader policy commitments of the den of anomie hiding inside the Justice Department. Their cover-ups and other illegalities associated with Iran-gate, are simply the consequence of those broader commitments.

### **The case of Oliver 'Buck' Revell**

*EIR* is in possession of documents which positively identify the FBI's deputy director, Oliver "Buck" Revell, at the center of a long-standing Justice Department cover-up of U.S. government backing for weapons-trafficking to the terrorist dictatorship of Ayatollah Khomeini.

The evidence concerning Revell exists in two sealed Justice Department affidavits, classified as "secret," used to block *EIR* from obtaining copies of official documents bearing upon the U.S. government's massive cover-up of the Iran weapons-trafficking of Cyrus Hashemi. One of the affidavits was represented by the Justice Department as sworn to by Revell; the second, initially submitted in unsigned form, was purported to have been submitted on behalf of then-Attorney-General William French Smith.

---

---

*EIR's files, and the legal record in the continuing aftermath of Hashemi vs. Campaigner Publications, EIR, et al., are the key to unraveling Iran-gate. If the administration were to cover up any part of the facts shown by those files, the administration would fall in disgrace very quickly.*

---

---

The Justice Department affidavits were submitted on March 7, 1983, in response to subpoenas issued by attorneys for *EIR* and Campaigner Publications, in connection with a frivolous libel suit brought by weapons-smuggler and banker Hashemi. *EIR* issued subpoenas to five government agencies: the FBI, CIA, National Security Council (NSC), State Department, and National Security Agency (NSA). The State Department and NSC denied having any documents responsive to the subpoenas; the NSA and CIA claimed statutory exemption from the subpoena (although the CIA subsequently released four documents in redacted form). The FBI claimed that its files concerning Hashemi were privileged under the "state secrets" doctrine, and that disclosure of its documents would harm the national security of the United States (see *EIR*, March 29, 1983).

This action proves that the Justice Department and FBI had knowledge of continuing unlawful shipments of U.S. weapons to Iran dating back to 1979-80.

The Justice Department's 1983 action in blocking *EIR's* access to the relevant documents may not have been an act of obstruction of justice in itself. However, there is strong suspicion that the Department was guilty of obstruction of justice in failing to report to the President that a violation of laws against export of weapons to Iran was in progress. The Justice Department's intervention to block *EIR's* access to documents in the Hashemi case is seen by observers as very strong

evidence of probable obstruction of justice by Justice Department and FBI officials.

Therefore, if Attorney-General Ed Meese wishes to get to the bottom of Iran-gate, his key lead is the FBI's Revell. Hashemi's frivolous legal action against *EIR*, and the history of *EIR's* counteractions against Hashemi and Hashemi's attorneys, provide the means to unravel the entire Iran-gate scandal.

Over recent weeks, Cyrus Hashemi has been publicly identified as having been the middleman in the Iran-gate scandal. In fact, Hashemi has been protected by the Department of Justice since at least 1980, as this news service has repeatedly charged. Hashemi operated with impunity for years in the United States both before and after his indictment in 1984 for arms smuggling.

Hashemi's name first surfaced in the current Iran-gate scandal, when the *New York Post* reported that U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani had put the Reagan administration in touch with Hashemi. This was after Hashemi turned "double agent," helped set up the indictments and arrests of the General Bar-Am arms-smuggling ring in April 1986, then offered to help the administration set up an arms-for-hostages deal. Although indicted in 1984, Hashemi was never prosecuted by Giuliani, and was allowed to travel freely outside the United States even though he was out on bail. On Nov. 12, former Attorney-General Elliott Richardson, who held various positions in the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations, said that Hashemi was *his* client, whom he had put in touch with Reagan administration officials to see if Hashemi could help gain the release of the hostages in Lebanon.

Cyrus Hashemi died suddenly under mysterious circumstances in a London hospital in July 1986; one of his brothers charged that he was killed because of his role as a government informant during the Bar-Am investigation. Shortly after the arrests of the Bar-Am gun-running ring, Israeli spokesmen attacked the U.S. government for using Hashemi as an informant to set up the "sting" operation against General Bar-Am.

### **Hashemi and the Tabatabai assassination**

Cyrus Hashemi first came to the attention of this news service during 1980, while U.S. hostages were being held in the U.S. embassy in Teheran. Numerous confidential sources reported that Hashemi was financing pro-Khomeini terrorism in the United States, that he was involved in laundering money from sales of hashish and cocaine, and that he was a ringleader in the United States of Khomeini's secret-police apparatus, the Savama. The names of Hashemi and his First Gulf Bank and Trust Company came up particularly around the July 22, 1980 assassination of the former Iranian press attaché in Washington, Ali Tabatabai. It was well known around Washington at the time that the FBI had thrown a "national security" cover over the murder case, as part of the Carter administration's secret deal with Khomeini.

Hashemi was "the Ayatollah's banker" in the United

States. Shortly after the installation of the Khomeini regime, Hashemi was appointed one of the three members of the revolutionary "Komiteh" operating in New York, and he was put in charge of the two Iranian banks in New York, Bank Sepah and Bank Mellī. These banks, plus his own First Gulf Bank and Trust, were used to conduit money into the United States for pro-Khomeini demonstrations and terrorism, as well as for arms deals.

All of this was well known to the FBI and the Department of Justice. The secret deal between the Carter administration

---

---

*Every root and branch of the policy of using Israeli weapons-dealers to traffic in arms to terrorist nations, must be ripped out of government and its immediate environment. The President is suffering now, for having failed to read his copies of EIR more carefully.*

---

---

and the Khomeini regime provided that Iranian terrorists would have a free hand in the United States, in return for promised favorable treatment for the hostages. This deal continued through the transition period and into the Reagan administration, through the direct intervention of Henry Kissinger.

Hashemi maintained his gun-running and financial dealings continuously from 1979 to his death in 1986. Although Hashemi was the subject of numerous federal investigations for gun-running and other illegal activities from 1979 on, he remained untouched for five years. An internal document of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms shows that ATF was requested by another agency, probably the FBI, *not* to conduct an investigation of Hashemi, after ATF received information about arms sales to Iran. Hashemi's 1984 indictment revealed that the FBI had conducted electronic surveillance of his offices from October 1980 to January 1981, overhearing former Assistant Attorney-General Stanley Pottinger advising Hashemi on how to circumvent the U.S. arms embargo against Iran. FBI agents had also raided the offices of Hashemi's First Gulf Bank and Trust in 1981.

Later, in another act of obstruction of justice, the FBI "lost" the tapes of the electronic surveillance, which prevented former Justice Department official Pottinger from being indicted.

During the spring of 1982, there was an active federal

grand jury investigation of Hashemi and Israeli gun-running to Iran, conducted in the Southern District of New York. A subpoena issued by the grand jury named not only Hashemi and various of his front companies, including First Gulf Bank and Trust, but also a number of Israeli-linked companies. Still, no indictments were handed down. When Hashemi finally was indicted in 1984, the action was apparently taken at the instigation of a task force headed by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Customs, not the Justice Department.

Currently, *EIR's* documentation on the history of the Hashemi case, including a persisting U.S. government cover-up of U.S. weapons-trafficking to Iran since 1979, is in the possession of numerous appropriate persons and agencies around Washington, D.C. *EIR* has been the only agency which has been tracking this weapons-trafficking operation consistently over these years. Over the entire period, agencies of the U.S. government have repeatedly deny such activities, or to suppress admissions of this activity under the cover of "national security." The State Department and the Justice Department have been at the center of this cover-up for eight years. That evidence is now on the table.

Attorney-General Meese erred, in assigning Justice Department officials Stephen Trott and William Weld to conduct the investigation. The same kind of mistake was made in appointing Brent Scowcroft and Ed Muskie to the special review board investigating the White House's side in the affair. Scowcroft is a Kissinger man; the policy under which Carter began the U.S. weapons-trafficking to Khomeini was created by the Trilateral Commission circles of Kissinger and Brzezinski. Muskie was Carter's secretary of state during a period in which the State Department was deeply involved in covering up this weapons-trafficking.

*EIR's* files, and the legal record in the continuing aftermath of *Hashemi vs. Campaigner Publications, EIR, et al.*, are the key to unraveling Iran-gate. At this point, if the administration were to cover up any part of the facts shown by those files, the administration would fall in disgrace very quickly.

Many familiar faces around Washington will have to go very quickly, if the President himself is not to be brought down by his linking himself to the continuing operation set up by the Carter administration and Kissinger's circles. Not only the White House, but State, Justice, the CIA, and the Pentagon, as well as all involved in the recent years operations of the "208 Committee," must be purged from the vicinity of government. The question whether those officials and influentials merely acted on orders, or were initiators, and the question whether this or that individual is potentially indictable or not, is irrelevant. Every root and branch of the policy of using Israeli weapons-dealers to traffic in arms to terrorist nations, must be ripped out of government and its immediate environment.

The President is suffering now, for having failed to read his copies of *EIR* more carefully.