

'Irangate' sparks policy shifts, NSC clean-up

by Jeffrey Steinberg

While the congressional "Irangate" hearings were grabbing headlines, informed sources in Washington, D.C. ascribed far greater import to the quiet housecleaning begun by President Reagan's new national security adviser, Frank Carlucci. An experienced administrator with close ties to the CIA and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Carlucci lost no time in making personnel changes at the Old Executive Office Building, bringing in a three-star general who had served as the senior military assistant to Secretary Weinberger, and announcing the likely appointment of another top Pentagon aide, Grant Green, to a post in his new office.

Press reports say that Carlucci will thoroughly clean up the NSC, replacing acting national security adviser Alton Keel, longtime Kissinger asset Peter Rodman, congressional liaison Ronald Sable, and Howard Teicher, the immediate boss of Lt.-Col. Oliver North and the author of the disastrous Jan. 17, 1986 "intelligence finding" that argued for the existence of a "moderate" faction within the Khomeini regime. Teicher is widely viewed as part of an informal Mossad circle, linked to a faction of the Israeli intelligence service—a circle which has been misguiding strategic estimates and policy deliberations at the White House, State Department, Defense Department, and Department of Justice for years.

Carlucci's new chief deputy is Lt. Gen. Colin L. Powell, the commander of the U.S. Army 5th Corp., headquartered in Frankfurt, West Germany. One of the highest ranking black officers in the U.S. armed forces, Powell is an Army Ranger, paratrooper, and a highly decorated veteran of the Vietnam war.

While the personnel shakeup is significant, the purging of the Kissinger and Mossad-contaminated elements is only the surface reading on an expected deeper change, in both the structure and substantive policy orientation of the Reagan

administration. This "deeper" housecleaning was the subject of a nationally syndicated column by Richard Reeves, published in the *Houston Post* on Dec. 8. Reeves traced the origins of the NSC's rogue elephant role to the tenure of Henry A. Kissinger as national security adviser, stating:

"... the Congress has to get tough and demolish or rebuild the little secret house of the NSC. It really isn't a Reagan house. The principal architect was Richard Nixon's national security adviser Henry Kissinger. What Kissinger did was to construct a hidden back door to the White House. Colonels no one ever heard of, beginning with Alexander Haig, slipped through that door to appear suddenly in the corridors of civilian power. Agents of all sorts slipped out on secret missions that may have been known only to the colonels. A secret cell within the government often playing the White House off against the State Department and Department of Defense. Henry Kissinger's backdoor led to Lt.-Col. Oliver North's rat hole. Agents, weapons, and money began slipping through chinks to Tel Aviv, Beirut, Teheran, Tegucigalpa, Managua, and who knows where else. . . . What does all this have to do with the American System on the 200th anniversary of our Constitution?"

While the Kissinger-instigated emergence of the NSC as a power center has been associated with the idea of an "Imperial Presidency," exactly the opposite was true. Cut off from more competent policy input and more experienced clandestine capabilities at the Pentagon and the CIA, a succession of Presidents has become increasingly enslaved to an NSC staffed by Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski clones and wedded to policies that would have the U.S. concede Eurasian hegemony to Moscow's New Yalta "détente" and foster the spread of an inherently anti-Western Islamic fundamentalism. Through this process as well, the

NSC became a prime point of influence of the Kissinger-linked Israeli circles of Ariel Sharon.

Carlucci will now, according to a range of Washington, D.C. sources interviewed in the preparation of this article, preside over the downgrading of the NSC to its originally conceived role of facilitating broader policy input from executive departments charged with national security responsibilities. In this long overdue reform—complemented by the Joint Chiefs of Staff's comeback as a strategic planning body, particularly with respect to low intensity-unconventional warfare—some of the deepest pockets of Mossad penetration of our national security establishment are expected to be revealed.

Anticipating the deeper implications of the NSC shakeup and the appointment of Carlucci, syndicated columnists Evans and Novak wrote on Dec. 5 that Carlucci's first big test will center around breaking the policy-estimates impasse on the recently discovered massive Soviet radar installation on the Polish border. With the discovery of the newly operational installation on Nov. 10, it is clear that Moscow is on the verge of deploying a nationwide three-tiered missile defense system—its own SDI. State Department and Arms Control and Disarmament Agency analysts have tried to downplay this discovery, a flagrant violation of the 1972 ABM treaty, while DoD and CIA have argued that this poses a major threat of a Soviet thermonuclear-war breakout.

Less than a week after the Evans and Novak column appeared, Secretary Weinberger, speaking before the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C. blasted Soviet violations of SALT II and ABM, breaking the administration's public silence on the Soviet radar break-out.

Other trees are falling

Two other elements of the unfolding exposures have stood out in recent days.

The first is the continuing, now clearly bipartisan movement to dump White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan. During his open testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Dec. 8, Robert C. McFarlane, former national security adviser, pointed a finger at Regan as the "higher authority" at the White House who approved the diversion of Iran arms profits to the Contras while keeping the President uninformed.

However, the Don Regan issue has moved far beyond "Irangate" to a broad attack on the former Merrill Lynch CEO's management of the presidential office. Such terms as "incompetent," "egomaniac," and "vindictive" were tagged onto Regan. A parade of visitors descended upon the presidential living quarters at the White House to urge Mr. Reagan to fire his chief of staff. Among the callers were Senators Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.) and Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), former Secretary of State William P. Rogers, and ex-Democratic National Committee chairman Robert S. Strauss. Strauss has recently joined the board of the Austin, Texas based West-

mark Corp., a new defense corporation chaired by Admiral Bobby Ray Inman, and including Donald Rumsfeld and Drew Lewis on its board.

Special relationship finished

The second element emerging is the termination of the perverse "special relationship" between Washington and Tel Aviv, which is fundamental to the more profound policy changes than even the Regan question. Architected by Henry A. Kissinger and certified with the secret clauses of the 1979 Camp David agreements, this "special relationship," instead of drawing on the best of the common, technology-proud and progress-oriented heritage of the United States and Israel, is based on a geopolitical notion of Israel as a "New Venice" conducting its diplomacy via arms smuggling, and within a "New NATO" featuring a nuclear-armed Israel led by a dangerous lunatic, Ariel Sharon. It is no coincidence that this "New NATO" plan was hatched by the same Kissinger-Brzezinski faction that began the Islamic fundamentalist "arc of crisis" game by installing Ruhollah Khomeini in power in Iran in 1978. This "special relationship" has begun coming apart at the seams as the result of a series of high-profile media exposures in the United States. Many key features of those revelations were the subject of an *EIR* news briefing in Washington, D.C. in early December.

● On Thursday night, Dec. 11, ABC-TV's 20/20 news magazine aired exclusive interviews by Barbara Walters with Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi and Iranian arms merchant and "Irangate" middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar. Both men provided damning evidence against Israeli intelligence and known U.S. Mossad assets for pushing the false notion that a pro-Western "moderate" faction of the Khomeini regime was prepared to deal with Washington. Both confirmed that the Reagan administration relied predominantly on Israeli arms merchants Al Schwimmer and Jacob Nimrodi to provide the "bona fides" on Ghorbanifar, and that an American with known, deep ties to the Sharon faction of the Mossad, Michael Ledeen, had been the initial "U.S. government official" detailed to Tel Aviv to get Israel's approval of the Iranian shyster.

● The very next day, the *Washington Post* devoted front-page coverage to the fact that the Israelis had been the primary sources drawn upon by CIA director William Casey in certifying a CIA intelligence estimate prepared by Middle East specialist Graham Fuller in early 1985. Apparently, Fuller's early report suggesting the "moderate mullahs" gambit was based on contact between Khashoggi, Ghorbanifar, and a former top CIA official, Theodore G. Shackley in Hamburg, West Germany in late 1984 and early 1985. Shackley's meetings were reportedly known to Michael Ledeen before the former aide to Alexander Haig traveled to Tel Aviv to see Schwimmer, Nimrodi, and David Kimche; Kimche is a former European station chief of the Mossad and director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.