

## The Iran-Contra affair: end of the Kissinger system

by Webster G. Tarpley

In order to gain immortality, the great hero of the ancient world Hercules was called upon to perform a series of extraordinary feats for his cousin Eurystheus. For various reasons, the most celebrated of the 12 labors Hercules carried out has been the cleansing of the stables of King Augeas of the Epeans in Elis, where 3,000 oxen had been penned for 30 years, thereby creating a considerable stink. The genius of Hercules, of course, was to clean up that accumulated mess without having to plunge his own hands into the filth. This he accomplished by diverting the river Alpheus, which scoured the Augean stables clean in less than a day. Hercules, in the process, had not so much as soiled his little finger.

The problem today in Washington is of similar proportions. The productive exploitation of the Irangate crisis requires the dismantling and cleaning out of a policy and a policy apparatus that date back to January 1969, when Henry Kissinger began his tenure at the National Security Council. Although the roots of the current crisis reach back to the Truman administration, it is above all a series of institutional arrangements, implemented by Kissinger and then carried forward through the Carter and Reagan years, which must now be demolished as a matter of national survival. No such elegant solution as that devised by Hercules is in sight: The work will be messy.

The Malthusian outlook shared by Kissinger and his alter ego Brzezinski is premised on the pessimistic thesis of inevitable Soviet world domination. The Yalta lines of demarcation, they argue, must be redrawn to reflect U.S. decadence and Soviet military supremacy, consigning Western Europe,

the Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean basin, plus much of Asia, to the Soviets.

Brzezinski's version of the New Yalta emphasizes a kind of scorched-earth policy toward the areas to be vacated by the United States, with the pestilence of Shi'ite obscurantist fundamentalism being used to destroy pro-industrial nation-states in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The "China card" buncombe called for China to fill part of the vacuum the United States would leave behind in the Far East.

The insane Kissinger-Brzezinski doctrine includes the corollary of creating a chimerical "Israeli superpower" ranging from the Euphrates to the Congo, with vital interests in Central America and the Far East: truly a global superpower. Israeli influence was to be mediated not so much by diplomacy as by arms sales, with Israeli arms merchants directly controlling more than one-third of all world arms traffic.

How could the tiny resources of Israel support such grandiose designs? Only through U.S. subsidy, granted with such a vengeance that Gen. George Brown of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was moved 10 years ago to describe Israel as "a burden."

In such circles as the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), all this was taken to the radical extreme that the United States must have no allies in the world, except for Israel. The NATO alliance, in this view, is a useless relic that must be abandoned. The United States must never cease augmenting its aid to Israel . . . for the vast power of Israel is the only hope for saving the United States from the Soviets.

The ultimate in such lunatic logic was the idea that key

attributes of U.S. sovereignty, including covert operations and intelligence gathering, could only be maintained by Israel. Everything that has become known under the heading of Irangate, and far more that has not, is coherent with this underlying doctrine. When we recall that one of the two dominant factions in Israel, the one associated with Gen. Ariel Sharon, is a strategic ally of the Soviet Union, and a sincere admirer of Ayatollah Khomeini, the extent of the U.S. predicament on the eve of Irangate can be appreciated.

This is the policy that Kissinger institutionalized in the mastodontic Washington bureaucracy, during the interval 1969-77, when he was in power, but also thereafter. It is a truism in Washington that every time a post is vacated in the State Department, the Pentagon, the NSC, and other key branches of the Executive, Kissinger is on the scene with a replacement. As the Reaganite loyalists were burned out in factional warfare, or were enticed by the perspective of fast bucks in the private sector, Kissinger was always there, building his networks of careers dependent on him.

### **The 'Kissinger structures'**

The most concentrated distillation of this Kissinger system of government came to reside in the Old Executive Office Building, the old State-War-Navy Building in the White House compound, the seat of the NSC. Under Kissinger, the NSC usurped the role lawfully reserved for the cabinet. In Kissinger's notorious series of "end runs" around other agencies, the NSC became the chief executive arm of the government. The NSC became the headquarters for coups d'état, destabilizations, and sundry stabs in the back.

The most typical operative cog in this system is the 208 Committee, an engine of treason quartered in a room of the Old Executive Office Building. Here, for example during the first months of 1986, an interagency task force met to supervise the overthrow of President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines. The participants were generally of sub-cabinet rank, from deputy secretary to assistant secretary: Abrams and Wolfowitz of the State Department Mossad cell, their superior Armacost, Armitage of the Pentagon, Claire George of CIA, and Poindexter. At the service of this interdepartmental consensus stood the 208 list, a series of assets, covert operations capabilities, and agents of influence across the world, almost all of them really controlled by foreign powers, especially Israel. The 208 Committee had, of course, to pay attention to the wishes of the President, but primarily for purposes of self-protection. The players owe their careers to the Kissinger-Brzezinski establishment.

At the Georgetown CSIS conference back in June, it became clear that the Eastern Liberal Establishment intended to destroy all vestiges of morality and will in President Reagan by subjecting him to a merciless pounding in a series of concurrent crises in economics and strategy, to the point of extorting Reagan's despairing assent to the New Yalta some-

time in the spring of 1987.

So, by the autumn of 1986, the ultimate triumph of this Kissinger system seemed foreordained, as the battered hulk of the Reagan administration lurched from one debacle to the next. The last serious internal revolt against the Kissinger order had taken place back in 1982, when Adm. Bobby Inman of the CIA had taken exception to the late Lord Louis Mountbatten's networks at the British Admiralty leaking U.S. secrets to the Soviets, and protested the arrangements with General Sharon set up by Secretary of State Haig and his sidekick, Michael Ledeen. But Admiral Inman had then departed the CIA.

The Irangate affair has brought a watershed in power relations around Washington. The proponents of an impossible status quo presided over by the familiar faces of the Trilateral Commission (Shultz, Don Regan, Kissinger) have been significantly weakened. The faction seeking the all-out Watergate of the President (Jimmy Carter, Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), and much of the media) is hampered by its own past and present sponsorship of the pro-Khomeini policy that President Reagan foolishly adopted.

This leaves the way clear for decisive victories for a patriotic faction favorable to a strong and successful conclusion of the Reagan presidency, above all through a transformation of administration economic policy—a faction whose necessary program has been provided by Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. The leading voice of this outlook within the administration has been Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who proceeds from the advantage of having been the only top official to have condemned the attempted rapprochement with the Khomeinians as "absurd" and based on "very bad advice." Weinberger's clout has been much enhanced by the advent of his former deputy Frank Carlucci as the chief of the NSC staff. Others tending in this direction include senior military figures in the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the NATO command, such as Gen. Bernard Rogers. Attorney-General Ed Meese might tend to support this grouping, if he were sufficiently intelligent, and the same can be said of Vice-President George Bush.

The progress of factional warfare in the various agencies of the executive branch can be summed up as follows:

- **The White House:** The most imperative next step for advancing the necessary cleanup is the ousting of Chief of Staff Don Regan. Regan, the Wall Street drug-money laundering technician, must pay the price for the abortive Reykjavik summit, for the loss of the Senate in the November elections, for the policy of doing nothing about AIDS while covering up the spread of the pandemic, and for the economic depression. Don Regan's big lie of an economic recovery has generated more rage against the White House than any other single factor. Don Regan, given his autocratic management style, can be certified as knowing all about the Iran-Contra

scam. Nancy Reagan senses Don Regan's treachery, and his exclusion from the Reagans' New Year's celebration in Palm Springs, California, is hopefully a harbinger of his early ouster. Accepting Don Regan's resignation would be the biggest favor the President could do himself, and a very promising signal concerning the President's mental state.

● **National Security Council:** A far-reaching, and perhaps total purge of the 180 officials of the NSC staff is now being carried out by a transition team directed by the new NSC chief, Frank Carlucci. Carlucci is a former top official of the CIA who served as Caspar Weinberger's deputy in the first Reagan administration. He has also been a diplomat. Carlucci has been given a bad press by the pro-Kissinger media. The reason is that the invariant of Carlucci's career has been his unremitting opposition to Kissinger and Kissinger's system. Carlucci's deputy will be Gen. Colin Powell, an outspoken opponent of decoupling Western Europe from the United States who presently commands an army corps near Frankfurt, Germany. Powell is one of the highest-ranking black officers in the Army. Carlucci will also be joined by long-time associate Col. Grant Green.

Several key firings have already been announced, including those of acting NSC director Alton Keel and Howard Teicher of the pro-Mossad tendency. The State Department is taking care of its own by giving Keel the post of NATO ambassador in Brussels, where he will replace departing Kissinger clone David Abshire. Also leaving NSC will be Jack Matlock, a theoretician of the crumbling Soviet empire, who wants to replace Kissinger-man Arthur Hartman in the Moscow embassy. The replacement for Matlock is Fritz Ermarth, who made a reputation at the CIA during the Carter years as an opponent of SALT II.

Carlucci's watchword must be thoroughness. Until only yesterday, the NSC was home to the likes of "consultant" Ledeer, who had been brought in by McFarlane. Kissinger-sponsored types like Peter Rodman should be ushered out. The Carlucci NSC must be ready to tip the balance against the State Department in looming battles over SDI, strategic arms, and Soviet aggression.

● **CIA:** By supporting the "moderate mullah" thesis, Director William Casey, the old friend of Leo Cherne, showed once again that he embodies the subordination of U.S. intelligence to foreign powers, especially Israel. Because of his most unfortunate performance before the congressional committees, Casey's ouster has become urgent. His present illness may not allow him to continue in office in any case. Along with Casey must go an entire entrenched CIA faction, associated with names like Colby and Shackley. Replacements can be found along the same Pentagon-CIA institutional interface typified by Carlucci.

● **State Department:** George Shultz's performance at the recent NATO foreign ministers' meeting, where he attempted to wreck everything accomplished by Weinberger one week before, leaves no doubt that the Tartufe of Foggy

Bottom will never be a "team player" and must be jettisoned. Shultz should not be spared because of considerations of institutional perception. Augean labors of the type that must be carried out at the State Department are sometimes distasteful, but they must be faced.

● **Department of Justice:** As *EIR* has stressed, this is the heart of the Irangate cover-up, stretching back over many years. Stephen Trott's order to suspend an FBI probe of Southern Air Transport on national security grounds involving sensitive hostage negotiations in the Middle East shows that he knew of the Contra-Iran connection long before it was announced by Meese on Nov. 25. William Weld stopped the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland Faith Whittlesey, as the Public Integrity division of the department had recommended. Now, the Swiss press says that Whittlesey helped Oliver North set up his Swiss bank accounts. Both Trott and Weld are pressuring New York U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani to let former Israeli General Bar-Am, a close friend of Ariel Sharon, off the hook. Weld's business ties to the Boston *Real Paper* link him to Emma Rothschild, and thus perhaps to the assassination of Olof Palme and certainly to KGB disinformation campaigns on that affair. Trott, Weld, and Oliver Revell should be the first target for the investigation to be conducted by independent counsel Walsh, and by the new Senate and House Select Committees.

Nothing of enduring value can come out of Irangate without one further ingredient: the informed will of Ronald Reagan. Up to now, the President has displayed a streak of Irish stubbornness, refusing to admit that his whole Iran policy is a Carteresque monstrosity, and refusing to repudiate his pragmatic deals and rotten compromises. If he should persist in defending Regan and Shultz, or cling to the fetish of the "magic of the marketplace," there is an abyss yawning for him not too far down the road that will make Watergate seem quite mild.

Reality will intrude on the President in the form of Soviet Marshal Ogarkov's resolve to be ready to unleash World War III, if necessary, between January and June 1989. The Soviets are preparing to break out of the ABM treaty with a nationwide anti-missile defense: They have the radars, and soon will have lasers. The SS-24s and SS-25s are rolling off the assembly lines. To survive, the United States will need to accelerate both SDI and Weinberger's MX deployment targets. That will in turn require a clean break with Gramm-Rudman and Don Regan's deficit-reduction guidelines, and a national defense emergency mobilization of the kind LaRouche has proposed. A great interagency and congressional battle on this whole policy question will dominate the first weeks and months of 1987, shaping the State of the Union address, the budget, and the whole direction of the country and the alliance. Beyond that, the next two years must be a transition away from the failed policies of the last two decades, and toward a LaRouche presidency.