

National News

Elliott Abrams caught lying on Contragate

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, long exposed in this publication as an operative of the illegal "parallel government," lied about his role in Contra arms-supply operations, according to testimony by Maj. Gen. (ret.) John Singlaub before the Senate Irangate panel on May 19. Singlaub said that Abrams played an active role in raising money, notably in May 1986. Abrams had earlier told the Tower Commission, "We did not engage in, nor did we really know anything about this private network."

According to Singlaub, Abrams first agreed with him to give a "signal" to Taiwan and South Korea that a request he made for funds came from someone at "the highest level." Then Abrams reportedly backtracked, and arranged for the signal to be "delivered by someone else." This was when the Boland amendment prohibited such activity. On this incident, Abrams had told the Tower Commission that he told Singlaub, "I can't do that. It's just not right."

Singlaub also told the hearing that by the spring of 1986, "the principal contact for activities in Central America, specifically the Nicaraguan democratic resistance, was Elliott Abrams."

LaRouche Dems win 15-44% in Pennsylvania

Nearly 30,000 western Pennsylvania voters turned out to vote for LaRouche Democrats in the May 19 municipal primaries. The candidates polled especially strongly in former steel-producing areas.

Robert Bowen, who led the slate of six candidates, won 26,555 votes (15%) in his bid for Allegheny County commissioner. Constance Komm, running for the district attorney post, won 18%. Gary Forrest and Irene Battle, competing for one of five Pittsburgh City Council seats, captured 6% and 9%, respectively, in a field of 15 contenders.

Bowen polled a high of 44% in former steel centers along the Allegheny and Monongahela River valleys, and many towns gave him over 30% of the vote. In a statement on the outcome, Bowen stressed: "Tuesday's vote is a vote in support of LaRouche's program to declare total war on AIDS, including mandatory testing and quarantine; a vote in support of LaRouche's program for a top-to-bottom emergency defense mobilization for deployment of the SDI to stop the Russian barbarians in their drive for global supremacy; and a vote for debt re-organization and great enterprise projects as the key to a real economic recovery."

Frank Mahr, the Democratic supervisor in Moon Township, who came in fourth behind Bowen in the county commissioner race, was quoted in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* saying: "If a LaRouchie can come in third, we've got a lot of problems coming!"

Walsh to probe FBI's ties to Ollie North

The FBI's relationship to Lt.-Col. Oliver North is to be a major focus of the Irangate investigation, reported the *Wall Street Journal* on May 20. The FBI opened 41 separate criminal investigations of private Contra-aid efforts going back to 1979, but many of them were quashed by North or FBI Deputy Director Oliver "Buck" Revell.

As *EIR* reported last fall, Revell was briefed by *EIR* investigators in the early 1980s on Iranian terrorist activities in the United States, and instead of acting, maintained the cover-up.

According to the report, "Col. North relied on a wide network of acquaintances, contacts and associates inside the FBI for information and assistance. This group included agents who helped guard his home, interviewed him in his White House office, and served as a link to a secret brotherhood of 'free-lance' U.S. intelligence operatives whom he described to the FBI as 'rogue' Central Intelligence Agency agents. . . .

"Overall, Col. North and Rear Adm. John Poindexter . . . attempted to sidetrack

or interfere with five separate federal criminal investigations during the past two years, according to lawmakers and FBI documents. They convinced Mr. Revell to give Col. North updates on some probes. They also persuaded senior FBI and Justice Department officials to disregard bureaucratic protocol and urge the Customs Service, which is run by the Treasury Department, to restrict the scope of some of its inquiries. . . .

"But despite efforts by the FBI chief [William Webster] and his allies in Congress to deflect criticism, questions about the bureau's activities won't go away. Independent counsel Walsh already is looking into Col. North's dealings with the FBI and senior Justice Department officials."

'Publish McFarlane's testimony in Ripley'

In a statement released by the News Bureau of the LaRouche Democratic Campaign on May 16, presidential contender Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. declared, "The best place to publish former National Security Adviser 'Bud' McFarlane's televised testimony, would be Ripley's *Believe It or Not!*" I can not imagine that any informed person around Washington could believe a single piece of testimony McFarlane has given."

LaRouche described McFarlane's role in the series of foreign-policy debacles now generally known as "Contragate," and continued:

"What is really galling, is to watch this same 'Bud' McFarlane, on national TV, giving holier-than-thou sermons on the need to change the Constitution. Here is a lad, a sworn defender of the Constitution, himself caught in the middle of violations so serious that they threaten the stability of the U.S. presidency, trying to suggest that it all is simply the fault of the founding fathers. . . .

"True, our foreign policy is a mess. . . . It is a mess, to a significant degree, because of none other than "Bud" McFarlane himself.

"The trouble is not with our Constitu-

tion. The trouble is, it is being savagely violated, especially by the Justice Department and by an Executive Branch which has been operating as the kind of parliamentary form of government our founding fathers had the sense to recognize as not a fit way to run the government of the United States. The trouble is, that too few of those in our Executive Branch, who have sworn repeatedly to uphold this Constitution, even seem to know how to read it. . . ."

Robert Owen charged with murder plots

Former Contra leader Eden Pastora has accused Lt.-Col. Oliver North's assistant Robert Owen of helping plan the assassination of Panamanian Contra leader Hugo Spadafora, and an attempted assassination of Pastora himself, Agence France Presse reports.

Owen denied the charge, although he admitted in testimony before the Senate Irangate hearings, that he had tried to set up a rival group to Pastora and Spadafora.

Pastora, who was wounded in a bombing attack in Costa Rica in 1984, said that Owen arrived in the country four days before the bombing, and left one day afterward. He charged that Owen planned the bombing with the help of John Hull, a CIA agent who owns a "farm" near the Nicaragua border used for Contra operations, and also brought in the money to pay for it.

Pastora said that Owen was also responsible for arranging the assassination of Spadafora, which murder was subsequently blamed on Panama's Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, in a noisy campaign mounted by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and the U.S. State Department.

The Panamanian newspaper *Crítica* commented on May 20 that Pastora's story and Owen's testimony in the Irangate hearings, establish with near certainty that not only was Owen involved in the Spadafora assassination, but that a trap was set to blame General Noriega for the killing, and use this as a pretext to oust him from power.

FBI arrests two Sikh terrorists

Two Sikh terrorists were arrested in New Jersey May 14 by the FBI. Sukhuminder Singh and Ranjid Singh Gill were charged with masterminding the assassination of India's Gen. Arun S. Vaidya in the summer of 1986 and the murder of member of parliament Lilat Makan in 1985. Both suspects were denied bail pending extradition, over the protests of their lawyer, William Kuntler.

The victims were close associates of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. General Vaidya was the Indian chief of staff who supervised the raid against Sikh extremists who seized the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984.

According to the Indian Embassy in Washington, Singh was the most wanted fugitive in India and his capture culminated an eight-month hunt tracing them from Illinois to California and New Jersey.

Health service wants to screen aliens

The U.S. Public Health Service on May 15 proposed that all immigrants seeking permanent residence in the United States be screened for AIDS. The proposal, which must be approved by Health and Human Services Secretary Otis Bowen and the Office of Management and the Budget, will affect approximately 500,000 legal immigrants per year.

Federal immigration officials said the proposed rule would probably also apply to an estimated 4 million illegal immigrants expected to apply for permanent residence status under the new amnesty program.

According to the 13-page memo sent to Bowen by Dr. Robert Windom, assistant secretary for health, the AIDS virus should be added to the list of "dangerous and contagious diseases" that are grounds for denying immigrants permanent residence.

Briefly

● **DEMOCRATIC PARTY** leaders from Atlanta, Georgia fear that the party's 1988 nominating convention cannot take place there as scheduled, because of the scandal implicating local party officials in cocaine use, the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* reported on May 15. Mayor Andrew Young is a suspect in the federal Grand Jury investigation of obstruction of justice.

● **GEORGE BUSH** is the target of an investigation by independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, for possible fundraising irregularities vis-à-vis the Contras, according to the *National Law Journal*.

● **THE PROLIFERATION** of non-entity candidates in the Democratic presidential race is part of Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn's non-campaign campaign, according to commentator Jon Margolis in the *Chicago Tribune*. One Democratic "insider" said that some party leaders want to "get a lot of 'favorite sons' in, keep it all kind of mixed up for a while and delay a decision so Nunn can come in kind of late."

● **SURGEON GENERAL C. Everett Koop's** erstwhile friends boycotted a testimonial dinner for him in Washington May 19, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Several "Republican presidential hopefuls" stayed home, and conservative activists Phyllis Schlafly and Paul Weyrich wrote that the dinner "will clearly play right into the hands of those promoting the gay rights agenda, which is to teach children how to use condoms for premarital promiscuity with either sex."

● **GEN. JOHN GALVIN**, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, has issued a call from Panama City for "increased U.S. assistance to nations of the region to keep foreign debts, leftist guerrillas and drug traffickers from undermining new democracies throughout Latin America."