

Editorial

An Executive Order to replace 12333

On Aug. 7, President Reagan sent a letter to the chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, informing them that he intends to take measures to replace methods and procedures "concerning presidential approval and notification to Congress of covert action programs—or so-called special activities." This was President Reagan's announcement that he is about to scrap the infamous Executive Order 12333 of Dec. 1, 1981, which, since at least late 1983, has been the secret charter under which an illegal, parallel government operated in the United States.

The President's Aug. 7 letter to Senators Boren and Cohen makes it clear that the new Executive Order now in preparation will thoroughly replace the discredited "methods and procedures" of E.O. 12333, with other, new, "methods and procedures," which will purportedly be "clean," "just," and "moral," in the sense meant in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, in which ethical behavior is defined as the pursuit of immoral or even criminal ends by moral means only.

During the Irangate hearings, we all were lectured that "the ends, no matter how moral, do not justify the (immoral) means employed," which is what E.O. 12333, purportedly, did. Now, to correct this deficiency, the guardians of our Republic's morality are about to introduce a new set of rules which will ensure that only "moral means," will be employed. No covert action without both written presidential authorization, and simultaneous full and complete consultation with Congress. Presumably, these new "methods and procedures," will safeguard the morality of the way we shall be doing things. They, most certainly, do not ensure either the morality, or the constitutional legality of the "ends" for which these new "means" will be employed.

President Reagan's advisers in this matter are strongly urged to review, once more, very carefully, the recommendations which presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche made in his Draft Executive Order to replace 12333. It is essential, for the preservation of this Republic, that prior to discussing "methods and procedures," any future executive order replacing

12333, first identify the national purpose for which policies are selected and pursued, the "National Mission," as candidate LaRouche names it; otherwise, reforms merely put the U.S. intelligence community and Executive Branch back into some altered form of the same mess from which we are attempting to extricate them.

Our "National Mission" is an immutable sense of national purpose so deeply embedded, implicitly, in both the Declaration of Independence and 1787 draft of the Constitution, that any later policy which might contradict this notion of purpose must never be allowed. All that might be, and must be altered during the course of decades since 1776-89, is to restate that original national purpose in terms of modern circumstances. The President's authority is limited to perceiving this thus historically defined National Mission correctly, not to choose his policy-preference, and, as an afterthought, to interpret National Mission in whatever manner concides with his policy-preference.

Our strategic mission, in any particular period of time, is, simply, our National Mission translated into the terms of the existential challenges to our republic during current history. This must never deviate in principle from the specifications of the higher, immutable authority, the National Mission. This is the general policy correlative of military war-planning.

The function, within the national and strategic mission, which is assigned, as policy, either in terms of policy governing the functioning of an element of the intelligence community, or governing a task in which one or more elements of the intelligence community participate, is a properly authorized specific mission.

Without enslaving the intelligence community to national mission thus prescribed, the result must be that the same lawlessness in government simply continues in a slightly altered form. The issue is whether choices of covert operations are consistent with national mission; the number, scale, and purpose of covert operations, must flow only from the requirements of fulfillment of the national mission.