

EIR Feature

Long hot summer for Irangate's 'invisible men'?

by an EIR Investigative Team

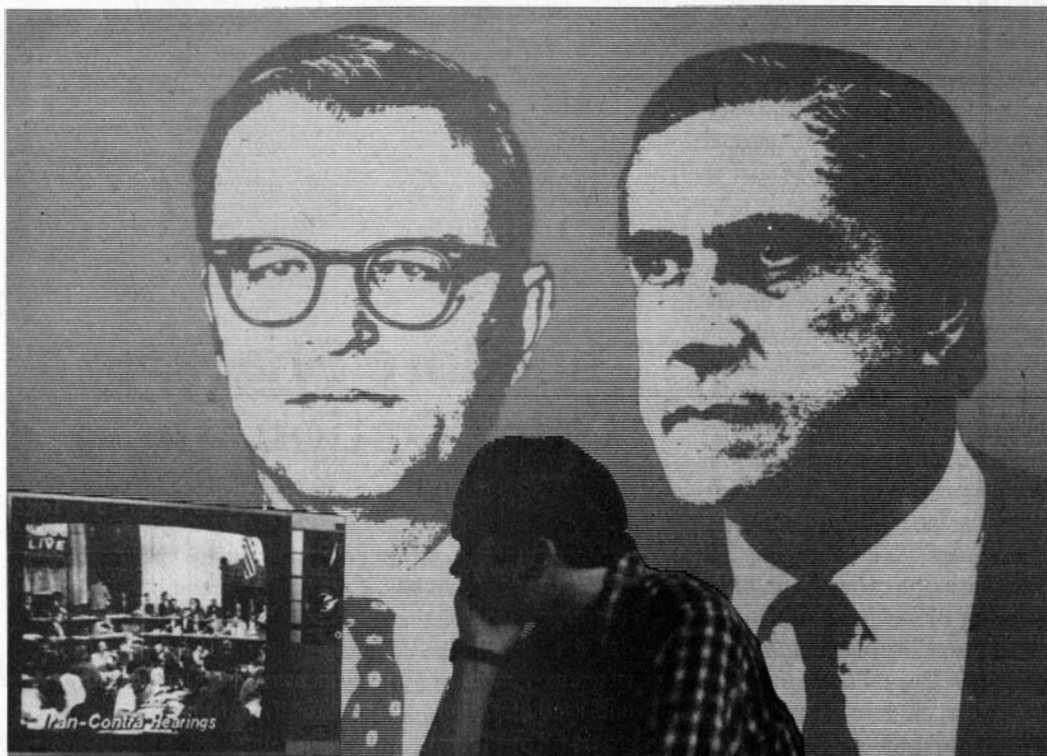
Two of Irangate's most "invisible" figures, ex-CIA deputy director of covert operations, Theodore G. Shackley, now a northern Virginia oil industry consultant, and British business magnate, Roland "Tiny" Rowland, may soon be forced to shed their cloaks of anonymity as the result of a string of high-profile legal actions and at least one covert assassination-gone-awry.

While Messrs. Shackley and Rowland have never been publicly associated with one another, *EIR* found that their paths crisscrossed throughout the formative stages of the Iran arms fiasco in 1984-85, and that they both show up currently as major players in a series of Anglo-American oil and raw materials deals stretching from Oman to southern Africa that are pivotal to the New Yalta "regional matters" arrangements being negotiated between Washington and Moscow.

These pending revelations may once again blow the lid off the Irangate scandals, opening a new and dramatic Anglo-Dutch chapter. The implications for the presidential campaign of Ted Shackley's former CIA boss George Bush may be staggering. A reported speechwriter for Bush's 1980 presidential campaign, Shackley is said to be a close family friend. This relationship may explain one "private" channel Bush used to personally oversee the Iran and Contra arms deals. If Shackley falls, Bush may come down with him.

As *EIR* reported in an exclusive story last week, just-declassified CIA documents may soon reopen the trials of Edwin P. Wilson, the rogue CIA operator and Libyan arms merchant now serving a 40-year prison sentence. Those documents, if proven accurate, identify Shackley, Wilson, Gen. Richard Secord, and Eric Von Marbod as secret partners of Thomas Clines in an arms transporting company, EATSCO, that stole millions of dollars from the Pentagon while handling an exclusive contract to ship arms to Egypt from 1979-82, under the terms of the Camp David accords.

According to one of those documents, a top-secret White House session on March 21, 1983 led to a decision to cover up the EATSCO conspiracy, leaving Wilson to rot in jail and leaving Clines, Secord, and Shackley free to play out their roles in the ensuing Iran-Contra debacle.



Roland "Tiny" Rowland (right) of the British Royal Household's Lonrho conglomerate, and ex-CIA operative Theodore Shackley; their names were carefully kept out of the congressional Irangate hearings.

Civil RICO trial vs. The Enterprise

Even if the complexities of the Wilson case delay any retrial until after November, Shackley and all of his alleged EATSCO co-conspirators are due to go on trial late in June in a Florida federal court in a civil RICO (racketeering) suit brought by the Jesuit-sponsored Christic Institute on behalf of two reporters who were victims of the La Penca bombing. In that 1984 incident, several reporters were killed or injured when a bomb blew up at a Nicaraguan border press conference given by Edén Pastora, the ex-Sandinista turned Contra commander. Shackley was named, along with Secord, Lt. Col. Oliver North, and a dozen other major Irangate players as part of the bomb plot conspiracy in the May 1986 Christic suit that prefigured Irangate by six months.

Although attorneys for Shackley filed a motion to dismiss the ex-CIA official from the civil suit on March 1, the judge has not yet ruled, and is likely to weigh the just-declassified CIA papers before making any decision. Wilson, according to sources close to the case, will be the plaintiffs' first witness when the trial begins.

If such old ghosts still continue to dog the former CIA executive, equally disturbing may be recent revelations centering around oil-rich Oman and its relations with the Soviet Union and the Republic of South Africa.

On June 14, the *Wall Street Journal* published a pair of articles about the strategically located Gulf sheikhdom that also houses the U.S. Central Command. A reportedly prominent Shackley client and financial patron, Dutch oil trader John Deuss, was named as the architect of an effort on behalf

of the Omani oil ministry, to create a bigger-than-OPEC global oil cartel that would, for the first time, include the Soviet Union in a monopoly over oil supplies and prices.

The *Journal* piece provoked widespread speculation that Deuss—and by implication Shackley—may be playing a behind-the-scenes role in the U.S. regional matters sellout to Moscow.

Those regional matters may extend beyond the Persian Gulf into the heart of southern Africa, where the State Department and the Kremlin are apparently working hand-in-hand to dictate a "settlement" of the Angolan, Namibian, and South African conflicts. Deuss has been widely identified as the largest supplier of oil to the boycotted Republic of South Africa, drawing upon his access to both Soviet and Omani petroleum. *New York Times* reporter Jeff Gerth has also reported that Oman has been the Reagan-era base for supplying arms to Afghani rebels fighting against the Soviet occupation army in their country. Several U.S. intelligence sources have told *EIR* that the Oman-Afghan operation was run as part of an arms-for-oil arrangement with Johannesburg. These sources charge that enormous profits were skimmed off the Afghani covert arms pipeline by greedy middlemen, although they declined to name specific individuals or companies.

According to a second *Wall Street Journal* story in the same June 14 issue, a jury in Covington, Kentucky recently ruled that an American oil company with documented ties to the intelligence community had passed million of dollars in kickbacks to two key advisers to the Omani government in

return for assurances of delivery of Omani oil following the 1979 U.S. ban on Iranian oil purchases. The recipients, retired British army officer Tim Landon and Libyan exile businessman Yahia Omar, have both been identified by several U.S. intelligence and media sources interviewed by *EIR* as associates of Ted Shackley.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic

Simultaneous to these potential problems for oil consultant Shackley, the London headquarters of Tiny Rowland's Lonrho, Ltd. has been rocked by a series of scandals. Rowland, the initial moneybags behind the Iran arms initiative following Ted Shackley's November 1984 secret meetings in Hamburg, West Germany with Iranian representatives, is in the middle of a violent feud with a former business associate, Mohamed Al-Fayed, over the latter's buy-out of London's prestigious Harrads department store. Acrimony has turned to public scandal-mongering as the two multi-millionaires and associates of the Sultan of Brunei have taken to the pages of the British press to hurl damaging revelations about the other's role in the Irangate affair. The Sultan provided at least \$10 million in seed money for the Iran-Contra deals, operating through his resident "spiritual adviser," the Swami Chandra, and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

This exposure of Rowland would be almost comic opera were it not for a far more serious charge widely circulating against Rowland: that he was behind the recent assassination of RENAMO (Mozambique National Resistance) leader Ivo Renaldes in Lisbon. Rowland, despite his British Tory profile, is the British Crown's bridge to the African frontline states, and is widely known to be "Mr. British Foreign Office" in Africa. A Lonrho subsidiary is training an 8,000-man counterinsurgency force for the Mozambique and Zimbabwe governments, and that subsidiary is suspected of sending out the hit men to eliminate "counterrevolutionary" Renaldes.

Intelligence hands point out that one of Lonrho's behind-the-scenes consultants is former CIA official Miles Copeland, who has long-term experience in running such operations in the Middle East and Africa. Copeland recently became notorious for authoring a piece, in the March issue of *National Review*, entitled "Spooks for Bush," which put forward the strange idea that a Bush administration would be far more sophisticated in running intelligence operations than Reagan's. Another reported consultant to Rowland is Ashraf Marwan, the son-in-law of former President Nasser, and a longtime Bush-connected spook. Marwan and Rowland are reportedly on the best of terms with Muammar Qaddafi's cousin, Ahmed Qadafadam, the Libyan regime's top assassin.

The RENAMO hit has prompted speculation that other leading "resistance" fighters in Africa, notably Dr. Jonas Savimbi, and his ally, Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, may be on the same target list—for their resistance to U.S.-Soviet joint pacification programs across the continent.

Theodore Shackley's 'Third Option'

"Looking at the list of disasters Shackley has presided over during his career, one might even conclude that on the day the CIA hired Shackley, it might have done better hiring a KGB agent; a Soviet mole probably could not have done as much damage to the national security of the United States with all his wiles as Shackley did with the most patriotic of intentions." (Jonathan Kwitny, *The Crimes of Patriots*, W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 1987, page 291.)

If convicted arms merchant and CIA covert operator Ed Wilson wins his petition for a retrial based on newly released CIA files, chances are that a whole clique of career CIA officials—all bearing familiar names, and all associated with Irangate—will emerge as the real defendants. Not so much because of "smoking gun" proof of concrete crimes like drug trafficking, arms running, money siphoning, influence peddling, and assassinations, but because they presided over the destruction of America's vital intelligence capacities.

Since his resignation from the CIA in September 1979 to join his longtime aide Thomas Clines in a string of "off the reservation" intelligence-consulting ventures, Theodore G. Shackley has emerged as the leading apologist for a philosophy of intelligence and covert operations that he refers to as the "third option."

At a March 4-5, 1983 symposium on low-intensity conflict sponsored by the National Strategy Information Center and Georgetown University, Shackley summarized his "third option" proposal:

"[A] special mechanism of government [should] be established to control all special operations and their assets . . . dedicated to the multiple tasks of counterinsurgency, guerrilla warfare, and anti-terrorist operations. . . . [T]he intelligence focus could then be applied to apparent opportunities in Mozambique, Angola, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and perhaps even the Western Sahara."

According to published proceedings of the conference, Lt. Col. Oliver North was sitting in the audience.

In an earlier book-length version of the same proposal, and in a December 1980 version of his "Reagan Doctrine" proposal, delivered at a Roy Godson-sponsored event,