

# Dukakis mole in the Attorney General's inner sanctum?

by Jeffrey Steinberg

*EIR* has learned that a key player in the Dukakis campaign's recent dirty-tricks effort to smear prominent Eastern European backers of Vice President George Bush as "Nazis" and "anti-Semites," has been promoted to a sensitive position within the office of Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. Mark Richard, a Johnson-era Justice Department careeerist who was appointed Deputy Assistant Attorney General under Jimmy Carter, has been recently elevated to the special status of senior adviser to Attorney General Thornburgh. While retaining his post as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division, Richard is serving as a counsellor to Thornburgh, a role that was filled by Bradford Reynolds during the tenure of Edwin Meese.

Richard's role in the Dukakis campaign's "Nazigate" against Bush was that of a conduit for Soviet and Israeli-manufactured allegations against a dozen Captive Nations activists in the Republican Party's Ethnic Heritage group. These allegations, heavily laced with KGB- and East German-authored forgeries and perjuries, were contained in a 100-page dossier published by a Cambridge, Mass. front for left-wing and dope lobby interests called Political Research Associates, Inc. The nominal author of the Soviet propaganda tract was Detroit "investigator" Russell Bellant, a paid staffer of the pro-Dukakis United Auto Workers Solidarity House, and, as of 1986, a researcher for the Democratic National Committee.

In his capacity as Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Richard maintains oversight over the Office of Special Investigations, the "Nazi-hunting" unit of DoJ created in 1979 under the sponsorship of then-Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.). Holtzman has been widely mooted as the next Attorney General if Dukakis is elected.

OSI maintains formal ties with both the KGB and the Israeli Mossad, drawing heavily on East bloc and Israeli "archives" in pursuing criminal prosecutions against wartime victims of Hitler and Stalin who allegedly falsified their immigration applications, and are therefore subject to deportation. It was the OSI-accessed files that provided much of the material for the Bellant manual, "Old Nazis, the New Right, and Reagan."

Richard has already been implicated in the Watergating of his former boss, Ed Meese. While Meese and longtime Reaganite Lowell Jensen were being tarred as the architects

of a coverup of the Iran-Contra affair, it was Richard himself who was the senior DoJ official working in tandem with FBI Deputy Director Oliver Revell to shut down a Miami U.S. Attorney's office probe of Oliver North's role in conducting arms to the Contras.

According to published depositions by Miami Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Feldman and FBI Special Agent Kevin Currier, Miami U.S. Attorney Leon Kellner "sat on" the North-Contra case for six months after receiving orders from Richard. At the time of the coverup, Richard's boss in the Criminal Division was William Weld, who resigned from the department early this year in "protest" over Attorney General Meese's alleged "corruption."

In his own deposition before the congressional Iran-Contra panel on Aug. 18, 1987, Richard denied any role in the Irangate coverup. He did, however, catalogue a career built upon the patronage of key Democratic Party activists, including Carter era Criminal Division chief Phillip Heyman, now on the faculty of Harvard Law School.

Old school ties die hard, as Mark Richard demonstrated in December 1987 when he took a six-month sabbatical to study at Harvard Law under his old boss Heyman, and under Dukakis-Weld mentor and ex-Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox. Richard's arrival at Cambridge coincided with that of PRA, Inc. "research director" Chip Berlet, the publisher of the "Bellant Report" and a former bureau chief for the dope lobby's *High Times* magazine.

## Purging a Meese ally

Now back at the DoJ in Thornburgh's office, Richard, according to Washington, D.C. sources, has continued to play a behind-the-scenes role in the purge of Reagan-Meese allies from the department.

According to the *Washington Post* of Sept. 27, a team of "career prosecutors" staged a protest over the nomination of a former Meese aide, H. Robert Shower, to the post of Deputy Assistant Attorney General, replacing Victoria Toensing. Shower's job would have placed him in charge of all DoJ fraud prosecutions.

According to department sources, Ted Greenberg, a prosecutor in the fraud section, teamed up with Richard to foist a complaint against Shower with the DoJ's inhouse ethics unit, the Office of Professional Responsibility. As the result of the allegation that Shower sought to destroy a department memo, Thornburgh temporarily suspended him and took fraud section oversight out of his hands, giving control over that unit back to Richard.

Months after William Weld's departure from Washington, Republican conservatives have figured out that the Boston Brahmin had been a longstanding "mole" for New England interests backing Dukakis. With the final month of the election season promising to be a mine field of dirty tricks, it remains to be seen whether the Bush campaign will take note of the danger in their midst.