

Bush nominee Kimmitt tied to Iran-Contra

by Scott Thompson

President Bush has insulted Germany by nominating Robert M. Kimmitt to replace Vernon Walters as U.S. ambassador. Evidence is surfacing that Kimmitt was a principal figure in the Iran-Contra scandal, and in secret arms-trafficking deals with Iran. According to staff members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which will oversee Kimmitt's confirmation hearings, a dossier is being prepared by the general counsel. One staffer told *EIR* that the Kimmitt hearings might attain the same notoriety as the ill-fated attempt by Bush to push through National Security Council (NSC) deputy director Robert Gates as Director of Central Intelligence, which, despite Bush's tantrums, has been placed on hold.

Like Gates, Robert M. Kimmitt, who served on the NSC during the Ford, Carter, and Reagan administrations, has been a witting party to the Iran-Contra coverup. During 1989 hearings on his nomination to become Undersecretary of State for Policy, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) asked Kimmitt if it was not true that he was implicated in Iran-Contra crimes. On page 27 of the transcript, Kimmitt responds:

"I am aware of some of the documentation that was going through the system, certainly up until June of 1985, when I left. In terms of the Iran part of it, however, it appears to me that was initiated after I left. On the Contra side, I was certainly aware of the policy that was being pursued, but only of very few of the specifics that came out later in subsequent investigations."

There are big holes in this story. During June 1985 Senate Finance Committee hearings on his nomination as general counsel of the Treasury, Kimmitt submitted a *curriculum vitae* where he listed himself during 1983-85 as "Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Executive Secretary and General Counsel of the National Security Council." According to his NSC colleague Constantine Menges, in his book *Inside the National Security Council*, all NSC staff paperwork and assignments flowed through Kimmitt while he was executive secretary.

Second, NSC documents declassified under the Executive Order 12356, show Kimmitt did know. He worked directly with Oliver North to plan "public diplomacy" campaigns to convince Europe and Congress that it was a vital U.S. interest to back the Contras. For example, North, in a Feb. 20, 1985 memorandum (formerly classified "secret") to National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, refers to "we" (himself and Kim-

mitt) as planning a "public diplomacy" effort to get around the congressional ban on military aid to the Contras.

Bashing the allies

Bush has also chosen a man who has run vicious propaganda against U.S. allies. In his 1989 confirmation hearings, Kimmitt talked about how German industries (using money laundered through Switzerland) were, along with the Japanese, most responsible for the chemical warfare plant being built in Rabta, Libya. Kimmitt thus foreshadowed a Bush black propaganda campaign against those two industrialized nations that CIA head William Webster later said must be targeted for economic warfare.

Apparently, Kimmitt thinks he is a "Europe handler." For example, declassified NSC documents show Kimmitt writing frequent memos describing a "public diplomacy" campaign to gain European support for the Contras. One feature, according to Kimmitt, would be sending copies of the Kissinger Commission report to European leaders and having Kissinger interviewed on Euronet.

After graduating from West Point in 1969, serving in Vietnam for over a year, and receiving a law degree from Georgetown University, Kimmitt got a job at the NSC from 1976-77, where he worked as "arms transfer policy officer" under Brent Scowcroft.

After a year as a law clerk, Kimmitt returned to the NSC at the same job (1978-82) through the Carter and Reagan administrations. Kimmitt's criticism of Germany and Japan for technology transfer to the Middle East is especially hypocritical. Could he have been unaware that his boss, Carter National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, helped initiate the arms-for-hostages policy to support his "Islamic fundamentalist card"?

Kimmitt, after five years defying the congressional ban on military support for the Contras, was among the first in the Bush administration to call for expanding Cocom to block technology transfer to the Third World before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at his 1989 confirmation hearings, and also attacked Germany and Japan as chemical-biological weapons (CBW) proliferators.

Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act also show that Kimmitt worked with North to block a reply to a March 6, 1984 letter from Lyndon LaRouche, to President Reagan. LaRouche's letter warned the President that there was an even more insidious side to Kissinger's Central America Commission report, based upon a Rand "Second War of the Pacific Scenario." *EIR* has also learned that Kimmitt, from at least 1985 to 1987, was a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Law and National Security. Its members, such as John Norton Moore and Morris I. Leibman, provided legal cover to North's Iran-Contra crimes and backed Executive Order 12333 that codified a "project democracy secret government" apparatus, which eventually railroaded statesman LaRouche to jail.