

Did Warren Christopher torch your neighborhood?

by James Duree, Jr. and Khushro Ghandhi

In April 1991, *EIR* investigators prepared a preliminary intelligence analysis, which was given limited circulation at the time, warning that the American establishment was planning to detonate a race riot in Los Angeles as part of a broader national "strategy of tension" aimed at America's crumbling inner cities. This evaluation had already been tentatively arrived at before the videotaped arrest of Rodney King on March 3, 1991. But the enormous media-centered campaign around the Rodney King case, orchestrated by the Trilateral Commission and U.S. intelligence agencies, confirmed that the race-riot scenario was operational at least a year before the verdict in the Rodney King-Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) case.

On April 15, 1991, Samuel Huntington, who authored a study for the Trilateral Commission entitled *The Crisis in Democracy*, which was a blueprint for ending democracy in the United States, told a reporter: "The book is basically a road map for how to make decisions, and decision-making has broken down. I would not be surprised to learn that it is an idea whose time has come."

The so-called 'riot'

No riot, in the sociological sense of an upwelling of emotions by some part of "the people," ever occurred. What did occur was the deployment of approximately 500 urban guerrillas in an attempt to start a race riot. The primary activity in the disturbances did not involve mobs, but small squads of disciplined urban guerrillas, deployed to set 3-10 fires per hour, combined with well-armed guerrillas deployed for drive-by shootings and sporadic sniper activity. In the wake of the ensuing anarchy, various people took advantage of the

opportunity to loot, a wholly apolitical activity which had nothing to do with politics or the Rodney King verdict.

The only quasi-political demonstrations which led to rioting were led by a handful of hard-core white Maoist terrorists grouped around the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), formerly known as the Revolutionary Union (RU). The RCP is well-known for both its function as riot provocateurs deployed by intelligence agencies, and as the American support apparatus for the Peruvian terrorist network Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*). The script is a classic insurgency tactic, exemplified by the following passage in Tom Hayden's 1967 manual, *Newark Rebellion: Official Violence and Ghetto Response*:

"The role of organized violence is now being carefully considered. During a riot, for instance, a conscious guerrilla can participate in pulling police away from the path of people engaged in attacking stores. He can create disorder in new areas the police think are secure. He can carry the torch, if not to all the people, to white neighborhoods and downtown business districts." Hayden, at the time, was a member of the pro-terrorist wing of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

Thus, the Los Angeles rampage was a hard-core terrorist operation, run using the RCP, in league with the only other local social grouping with a similar paramilitary capability, the drug-pushing street-gangs known as the "Bloods" and the "Crips." Only days before the rampage broke out, a meeting was held between the two gangs, normally considered rivals, at the Jordan Downs housing complex in South Central Los Angeles. The meeting functioned as a key coordination point for the insurgency to come. A "Crip" leader interviewed by



An April 13, 1982 RCP press conference in New York City. Members of the Revolutionary Communist Party were among the white, Maoist urban guerrillas deployed to set fires in Los Angeles.

Ted Koppel on the ABC News program “Nightline” stated: “This isn’t about Rodney King; this is between us and the cops.”

On April 30, the Compton Police Department revealed that it had arrested six youths for arson, and that when questioned about their activities, the youths said they were “on a mission to burn down 10 buildings an hour.” Their car contained 10 gallons of gasoline for use in these fire-bombing operations. Law enforcement sources also report that many of those arrested during the disturbances had identical cover stories, indicating coordination and control.

The day before the Rodney King verdicts were released, a leaflet was mass distributed in South Central Los Angeles by the RCP entitled “There’s No Justice in the Courtroom—It’s Right to Rebel.” The flyer was an attempt to trigger the urban-terror scenario, regardless of the outcome of the trial.

Christopher and the Trilateral Commission

The secret behind the Rodney King incident was not what occurred on the streets of Los Angeles, but the massive media attention it received. The Hollywood media establishment, especially Ted Turner’s Cable News Network (CNN) and NBC, gave the incident non-stop coverage, using Rodney King as a “wedge issue” to foment racial tension and misdirect the very real anger of the population against “racist cops.”

Within days of the incident, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, a member of the Trilateral Commission, used the

press-orchestrated clamor for “police reform” to put a Trilateral Commission counterinsurgency apparatus in place, which then launched a virtual war on local law enforcement, effectively paralyzing, if not destroying, those functions.

Bradley appointed fellow Trilateral Commission member Warren Christopher to form the “Independent Commission to Investigate the LAPD.” Christopher, whose specialty is riots and urban insurgency, is a partner in the key patrician law firm of O’Melveny and Myers. In the early 1960s, Christopher and fellow Trilateral Commission member Cyrus Vance, then at the Pentagon, drafted “Operation Garden Plot,” a plan for martial law in American cities in the event of domestic civil disorder.

Christopher was one of the creators of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) during the Johnson administration, when he was deputy U.S. Attorney General. LEAA was one of the early attempts to implement a top-down federal takeover of local police departments. While at LEAA, Christopher worked with Patrick Murphy, who went on to become one of the principals of the Police Foundation, which has functioned as a privatized LEAA, pushing liberal reforms on police departments. Murphy is now on the national board of directors of the Drug Policy Foundation, the most important lobby group pushing for drug legalization in the United States. Murphy and his Police Foundation associates, James Fyfe and James Q. Wilson, are advisers to the Christopher Commission. Christopher also sat on the McCone Commission, chaired by former CIA director John McCone,

which "investigated" the Watts riots in 1965.

Others appointed to the Christopher Commission by Bradley include Mickey Kantor and Willie Barnes, both law partners of former Democratic National Committee chairman Charles T. Manatt. Both Manatt and Kantor are products of O'Melveny and Myers. Kantor is currently the national campaign manager for Arkansas governor and Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton. A key adviser to the commission is Richard Drooyan, a partner in the law firm of Skadden Arps, the firm of former Anti-Defamation League (ADL, otherwise known as the "American Dope Lobby") national director Kenneth Bialkin.

Stanley Sheinbaum and dope decrim

Bradley also revamped the Los Angeles Police Commission to coordinate operations with Christopher, by appointing Democratic Party kingmaker and intelligence insider Stanley Sheinbaum as president. Sheinbaum, who married into the Warner Brothers studio interests, is a close associate of Christie Hefner and the Playboy Foundation, a leading advocate of drug legalization. He is also the publisher of *New Perspectives Quarterly*, the magazine of Robert Hutchins's

and Rexford Tugwell's Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. The magazine is edited by Richard Dennis, the major funder of the Drug Policy Foundation. Mickey Kantor is also on its board. Sheinbaum is a left-wing "social democrat" who works closely with Michael Harrington and the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee.

When the Police Commission attempted to suspend Chief Gates and was sued by him, the commission hired the key Dope, Inc. law firm of Skadden Arps to represent them. At the same time that the Christopher Commission went into action, the federal Justice Department and FBI, then under Richard Thornburgh, launched a wide-ranging "civil rights" investigation into the LAPD, and announced plans to extend this to police departments all over the country. U.S. Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.), a former FBI agent, sponsored legislation which would have empowered the feds to put any local police department into receivership under color of federal civil rights law.

Two weeks after the Rodney King arrest, a series of suspicious "racial incidents" erupted in the Los Angeles area, apparently pitting blacks against Koreans, almost identical to the operations run by Rev. Al Sharpton in New York City.

Flier, media inciting violence in Los Angeles

Reports continue to surface that the violence in Los Angeles was not a spontaneous action by citizens of the city, but has been initiated by disciplined bands of urban guerrillas and gangs, and fanned by the media.

The May 5 *Los Angeles Daily News* included an article headlined "Police Probing Fliers Inciting Gang Violence." The article stated:

"Police are investigating the authenticity of handbills inciting a new wave of gang violence against offices of the Los Angeles Police Department [LAPD] in the wake of the Rodney King verdict and at the height of the rioting, officials said Monday.

"The fliers were found Friday, as rioting was abating two days after the acquittals of the four LAPD officers in the King case, officials said. The fliers refer to the King verdict and the Latasha Harlins case in which a Korean store owner got five years' probation in the 15-year-old's fatal shooting.

" 'It's On' the fliers said. 'It's open season on LAPD, to Crips and Bloods, lets unite and don't gang bang and let it be a black thing for the little black girl and the homey Rodney King. And eye for and eye a tooth for a tooth. If LAPD hurts a black will kill two. Pow. Pow Pow.'

"Also on the fliers: 'Crips, Bloods, together we stand.'

" 'It was being posted and handed [out] in several locations,' said Cmdr. Ron Banks. 'The gang people indicated to me at that time that it didn't seem like anything they could verify as coming from a specific gang. We certainly cannot discount it. It's another piece of intelligence that indicates that there's something out there we need to worry about.'

"Deputy Chief Matthew Hunt, commander of the South Bureau where the violent spree occurred, said he learned about the flier Monday.

" 'We're trying to verify that information—we're trying to check out if there is some authenticity to it, or is it just an individual trying to get a rise out of it,' he said."

On the ABC News program "Nightline" on May 1, there was further confirmation from gang leaders themselves that the Rodney King verdict had little to do with the eruption of violence. Host Ted Koppel interviewed two people identified only as members of the gangs the "Bloods" and the "Crips." Koppel gave them 15 minutes to present their case, nodding in agreement when they said the looting and arson was "justified" by the Rodney King verdict. One of them added, "This really isn't about Rodney King. It's about us and the cops. We [the gangs] want to get them, and they want to get us."

Koppel repeatedly stated that he found them to be "extremely articulate" and offered his services as a "mediator" between them and church leaders.

Small proto-riots against Korean-American-owned liquor stores were led by Danny Bakewell, Sr., head of the "Brotherhood Crusade."

A case study in ghetto counterinsurgency

The Brotherhood Crusade gets its start back in the late 1960s, out of the "reforms" implemented on the recommendation of Warren Christopher and the McCone Commission after the Watts riots of 1965. At least two vice presidents of Xerox Corp., owned by dope legalization advocate and Bradley campaign funder Max Palevsky, have been on the board of Bakewell's Brotherhood Crusade.

In addition to grants from the Model Cities program, Bakewell received grants from the Cummins Engine Foundation and the Irwin Sweeney Miller Fund. The Cummins fund had been exposed years prior to this, along with the J.M. Kaplan Fund, as a key CIA money conduit. J. Irwin Miller is the chairman of the Cummins Engine Co., and is the controller of both the Miller fund and the Cummins Engine Foundation.

Miller is also a member of the Trilateral Commission, a trustee of the Ford Foundation, and, perhaps most important of all, a signer of the original Manifesto issued in February 1975 by the so-called "Initiatives Committee for National Economic Planning." ICNEP was a group founded by former United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock, which expressly promoted running the country on the basis of corporatism, which the committee itself described as "fascism with a democratic face."



A building burned out in the Los Angeles riot—you can thank Warren Christopher, for one.

Profile of an urban guerrilla organization

The Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) is a key element in the street provocations and urban irregular warfare now taking place in Los Angeles and other cities around the country. Originally founded as the Revolutionary Union (RU) in the late 1960s as the Students for a Democratic Society splintered into RYM I and RYM II, the RU was from the outset, along with the Weather Underground, one of the most violent of the splinter groups. RU was formally linked to the Maoist intelligence services in the People's Republic of China, with many RU leaders traveling to the P.R.C. during the late 1960s and early 1970s for training. After a series of riot provocations in the 1970s, RU founder and current leader Bob Avakian fled to Paris, France where he is still operating in exile.

RU leaders also have ties to U.S. intelligence agencies. William Hinton, a State Department socialist who

spent many years in China after Mao's Long March and who became a leading publicist for the Cultural Revolution, was one of the behind-the-scenes controllers of the RU/RCP. Captain H. Bruce Franklin, an Air Force Intelligence officer who spent several years at the Sorbonne, was another RU founder and early leader.

In recent years, the RCP has founded an international movement called the Revolutionary International Movement (RIM), which publishes a quarterly journal entitled *World to Win* (until recently, published by the Bertrand Russell House, London). Among the dozen or so member groups of RIM is Shining Path in Peru. At last year's anti-war demonstrations in Los Angeles, RCP was actively present as a Shining Path contingent.

RCP was directly involved last year in small-scale riot provocations in the Adams-Morgan area of Washington, D.C. and in the Haitian community in Miami, Florida. They are known to work closely with ghetto street gangs, including gangs that peddle drugs. In virtually every city where violence erupted following the Rodney King acquittal, the RCP has had a longstanding presence.