

# Probe into ADL's espionage expands

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Official inquiries are now under way in Portland, Oregon and Los Angeles, California into the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The ADL has been the target of an eight-month probe by San Francisco police, who uncovered a vast spying operation in which 20,000 American citizens and over 950 political, religious, and ethnic groups were illegally surveilled and targeted for harassment by the League.

Some of the spy data gathered by the ADL was funneled to the governments of South Africa and Israel. The South Africans paid an ADL undercover operator at least \$16,000 for confidential information about anti-apartheid activists. The ADL passed government information and surveillance data to Israeli officials, and in return received confidential Israeli files on American citizens.

One member of the current spy operation, former San Francisco police officer Tom Gerard, was indicted in early May on five felony counts for illegally passing confidential government data to the ADL. San Francisco District Attorney Arlo Smith has promised that there will be other indictments in the case before June 15. His office has identified the ADL's national Fact-Finding Director Irwin Suall as a prime target.

Sources close to the San Francisco probe have expressed to *EIR* their fear that a massive arm-twisting campaign by the ADL to quash the criminal investigation might block investigators from getting to the heart of the operation. The fact that parallel investigations have now been opened in two other jurisdictions, as the result of documents initially uncovered in the San Francisco probe, is seen by San Francisco prosecutors as virtually assuring that the investigation and indictments will not be short-circuited.

## Portland probe forced

When San Francisco Police Inspector Ron Roth filed a search warrant affidavit on April 8, 1993, he appended over 700 pages of evidence, including inventory of documents seized in the initial Dec. 10, 1992 raids on the ADL offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and the homes of ADL sleuth Roy Bullock and Gerard. The inventory of documents taken from the San Francisco ADL office included scores of Portland police intelligence memos on a wide range of white supremacist groups.

In early May, *Oregonian* reporter Phil Stanford was able to review those police files, which Portland police officials had claimed were public documents. The material passed on

to the ADL included name, address, and other personal data on individuals with no proven ties to any organizations under criminal investigation. When Stanford broke the story on May 12, he reported that Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schrank had announced that his office had "launched an official review of the police intelligence files."

Stanford noted: "In 1981, in order to prevent a recurrence of the Red Squad operations conducted here during the '60s and '70s, the Oregon Legislature approved a law forbidding law enforcement agencies from collecting or maintaining information about 'political, religious or social views, associations or activities of any individual or group . . . unless such information directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities.'" The Portland police files passed on regularly to the ADL appear to have contained information forbidden under that law.

According to sources close to the Portland probe, the district attorney is looking into illegal surveillance by the Portland police, possibly in conjunction with the ADL.

## Los Angeles, a hotbed of ADL spying

On May 10, Ronald C. Banks, deputy chief of police of Los Angeles, wrote to Khushro Gandhi, a Los Angeles leader of Lyndon LaRouche's political movement, that the Los Angeles Police Department had initiated a probe of the ADL spy operations in southern California. The letter was written in response to a March 30 request by Gandhi for the LAPD to launch just such a probe.

According to San Francisco police investigators, confidential files from 20 different police agencies from California were found in the raids on the ADL offices. According to former Los Angeles ADL "fact-finder" David Gurvitz, several Los Angeles police and sheriff's officers were regular sources of data for the ADL. It is a felony in the state of California for private citizens to possess confidential government data, including Department of Motor Vehicle records. When police raided the home of Bullock and seized computer files, they found DMV records on over 1,300 California residents.

The Banks letter to Gandhi read in part: "In your correspondence, you expressed your concerns regarding the Anti-Defamation League and requested an investigation to determine the extent they have corrupted the Los Angeles Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies. Let us assure you that when concerns of this nature are brought to our attention, they are taken very seriously. Accordingly, Chief of Police Willie Williams has ordered an investigation into this matter. It is his intent to ensure that every aspect of this matter is investigated both thoroughly and objectively. The *Los Angeles Times* and the San Francisco *Examiner* report of the Los Angeles Police Department's refusal to assist San Francisco authorities in their investigations was due to poor communication between agencies rather than a refusal to cooperate. This problem has been remedied, and both agencies are cooperating at an optimum level."