

gence officials took place, and a Mossad electronic-bugging team was dispatched to Washington. One of their targets was the home telephone of Lewinsky.

As a result of this operation, the Mossad obtained wiretap tapes of about 30 hours of “X-rated conversations between the President and Lewinsky. These tap”es, according to the sources, were hand-carried back to Tel Aviv, and were then used to blackmail the Clinton Administration into calling off the search for “Mega”; the threat was that, if the investigation were not shut down, the Israelis would begin leaking material from the tapes.

Curiously, the reporter who first started investigating the Lewinsky story, Michael Isikoff, says that he first learned about a story involving the President and “an intern” in March-April 1997.

Gordon Thomas, the author of a book which describes these events, told the *New York Post* in March 1999 that “Mega” was probably still active, deep within the White House. “So far as anyone knows,” Thomas said, “the Israeli agent MEGA—a much more important spy than the imprisoned CIA traitor Jonathan Pollard, and probably his controller—is still in place at the White House.”

A tantalizing sidelight to this affair, is the fact that Kenneth Starr’s controller and a prime orchestrator of the assault on Clinton from 1993 on, Washington lawyer Theodore Olson, was also the lawyer for Jonathan Pollard during Pollard’s appeals, running through at least late 1993.

A Footnote

On May 5 of this year, a sequel to this story began circulating in a few media outlets in the United States, Britain, and Israel. This was that the White House internal telephone system had been penetrated by Israeli intelligence in 1997, when an Israeli-owned telecommunications company helped install new telephone lines in the White House.

The story was published by the *Washington Times*-affiliated *Insight* magazine, which reported that more than two dozen U.S. intelligence and law-enforcement officials told the magazine that the FBI believes that Israel has intercepted telephone and modem communications of the U.S. government on an on-going basis.

The story was picked up by the Rupert Murdoch-owned Fox News and the London *Sunday Times*. The *Sunday Times*, in a May 21 story filed from Tel Aviv, elaborated by reporting that Israeli agents had obtained access to the White House computer system, and that information was transferred to Tel Aviv two or three times a week.

As with “Mega” and other such stories, a flurry of denials were quickly issued, and the story died down. But, it may shed additional light on some of the factors responsible for President Clinton’s strange capitulation to hard-line forces in Israel and to their lobbyists in his own circles, including Al Gore and Leon Fuerth.

Nigeria Rolls Back IMF Fuel Price Hike

by Lawrence K. Freeman

After five days of a general strike, led by the Nigerian Labor Congress (NLC), which brought the country to a standstill, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo agreed to roll back 80% of a 10 naira (roughly 10¢) per liter fuel price increase which he had imposed just days before. In the wee hours of the morning on June 13, after hours of negotiations with NLC leaders, the government capitulated, realizing that the people of Nigeria were in full support of the NLC’s general strike, which had begun on June 8. The rollback lowered the price of fuel to 22 naira.

It is an open secret both in Nigeria and abroad, that the Obasanjo government had caved in under extreme pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), when, on June 1, the government imposed a 50% increase in the price of Premium Motor Spirit fuel, raising it from 20 naira per liter to 30 naira per liter. NLC President Adams Oshiomole immediately told the government, that such a price hike was completely unacceptable to the Nigerian population, who a month earlier had finally their minimum monthly wage raised from 3,000 naira to 5,500 naira. On June 6, Oshiomole called for a national general strike, to commence on June 8. All of the unions, and the non-unionized senior staff civil servant association SESCO, supported the NLC’s call. The strike also received full support of Nigerians, who made their feelings about the IMF dictating their nation’s policy known, by shutting down all domestic production and trade, forcing the government to bring the military in to replace the air-traffic controllers, after airport traffic had been brought to a standstill for two days.

The nationwide strike was considered the most “disruptive” action taken since the elected government of Obasanjo took office just over one year ago, on May 29, 1999. Not only did both the Nigerian Senate and the House of Representatives adopt resolutions calling on the government to suspend the price hike, but Obasanjo’s own party, the People’s Democratic Party, dissociated itself from his actions.

Acting on Whose Advice?

The day before the strike action ended, with the government reducing the price increase to 10%, or 2 naira, one of Nigeria’s leading dailies, the *Vanguard*, editorialized: “President Obasanjo [was] acting on the advice of the World Bank,

the International Monetary Fund, the technocrats now occupying the innermost corridors of power, and on his own instincts which favor the trickle down theory of economic development.”

Another commentary compared President Obasanjo’s “constant deference to the globalization hegemony of the West, the World Bank, and the IMF on economic matters” to former President Ibrahim Babangida, “who allowed the World Bank/IMF to pull a fast trick on the country in the form of a structural adjustment program, or SAP, which the people of Nigeria are still reeling from [that] disaster.”

The government rationalized its dramatic increase in the fuel price, imposed on 110 million poorly paid Nigerians, many of whom are living in poverty, by claiming that it has been subsidizing the domestic price by selling oil to the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. (NNPC) for domestic fuel consumption at \$9.50 barrel, far below the international

market price. This is compounded by the fact that the NNPC has to import 80-95% of its domestic refined fuel requirements, because the country’s four refineries operate at approximately 20% of capacity, worse production levels than under Gen. Sani Abacha. Aside from the known reality in Nigeria, that millions of dollars are made through the importation of refined fuel, there is little excuse the government can give for not acting immediately to upgrade the functioning of the refineries, in Kaduna, Warri, and Port Harcourt.

However, the real reason for the price hike, which President Obasanjo contemplated last December before the NLC forced the government to abandon such plans at that time, lies elsewhere.

While President Obasanjo has been making speeches around the world accurately attacking the huge unpayable debt strangling Nigeria and other poor nations, the IMF/World Bank, acting on behalf of the financial oligarchy,

Italian Senators Probe Abuses of U.S. Voting Rights Act, LaRouche

On June 14, a group of Italian Senators from across the political spectrum presented an inquiry in the Senate, asking the Italian Foreign Minister to comment on the violations of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in the United States. The initiative was discussed with Amelia Boynton Robinson during her recent visit to Rome. Here is the text of the inquiry:

Senate of the Republic

Inquiry requesting a written answer to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rome, Italy

Whereas:

Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson, collaborator of Martin Luther King in the movement for the right to vote of African-Americans in the 1960s, and recipient of the Martin Luther King Medal for Freedom in 1990, informed members of the Parliament and government representatives of the incredible decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, abolishing the Voting Rights Act, which since 1965 has guaranteed the right of each American citizen to participate in the election process, both as a voter and as a [candidate’s] delegate, declaring it “unconstitutional,” and upholding an earlier decision taken in the same vein by a local court;

The Italian Parliament was already aware of a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, a decision equally racist and profoundly unjust, regarding the death penalty, inclusively in cases of doubt concerning the innocence of the condemned person;

Following the decision by the Supreme Court which nullifies, unbeknownst to the public, 35 years of advancement by the movement for civil rights in the U.S.A., there have been a number of cases of violations of the right to vote, and of the respect for the right to vote, against some American Presidential candidates, among them, Democratic candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, as documented by Mrs. Robinson, as official observer in the Democratic Party primaries in the State of Michigan, and as brought to the attention of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights [of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] in Warsaw, due to the fact that they violate the fundamental principles of democratic right as stated in the OSCE Conference on the Human Dimension of 1990;

We ask:

Whether or not the government is informed of the extremely grave decision to abolish the right to vote for those Americans who are deemed undesirable by the leaderships of the parties, and what the Italian government thinks regarding this.

Rome, June 12, 2000

Signed: Sen. Giovanni Russo Spina, Sen. Ersilia Salvato, Sen. Fausto Cò, Sen. Aurelio Crippa, Sen. Antonio Carcarino, Sen. Francesca Scopelliti, Sen. Athos De Luca

stepped up its campaign against the newly elected Nigerian leader. The Presidency had been under severe pressure from these global financial robber barons to cut all subsidies, especially in the petroleum sector, and all indications are that the unilateral decision to raise fuel prices by 50% was one of the unwritten prerequisites demanded by the IMF and World Bank for obtaining a \$1 billion loan, that they have been dangling in front of the President since before he took office. This has been part and parcel of their “globalization” campaign throughout the developing sector, for deregulation, privatization, and the elimination of subsidies.

Enter Summers on Behalf of the Banks

After being unable to enter Nigeria because of the strike, U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers finally spoke in Abuja, the nation’s capital, on June 12, to let President Obasanjo know that, if Nigeria wants relief from its \$31 billion debt, it will have to adopt the stringent conditionalities of the IMF and World Bank. According to Summers, the United States would support “generous” debt relief from the Paris Club of creditors, if Nigeria made “significant progress on meaningful economic and financial reforms under the appropriate arrangements with the IMF and the World Bank.” In other words, he delivered an ultimatum: The Nigerian nation must cease any resistance to “globalization,” “deregulation,” and “privatization” by the “market forces,” if Nigeria wants to get minimal relief from its crippling foreign debt.

The Nigerian people made clear that they cannot absorb any more economic hardships; the fuel price hike was simply too much. President Obasanjo miscalculated badly, but has he learned from this bitter lesson? He cannot court the favors of the IMF, World Bank, Summers, and Western investors by implementing draconian austerity policies that will gouge the already meager economic existence of the population, and at the same time represent the real interests of Nigerians.

There is still a feeling of good will toward the administration, which is reflected in a statement by NLC President Oshiomhole. “President Obasanjo has good intentions for the country but his advisers are insincere,” Oshiomole said.

However, as long as the Nigerian President foolishly believes that Nigeria must prostrate itself before the Western banking establishment to win their “favors,” Obasanjo will unwittingly, or not, help create the conditions for further destabilizations of Nigeria, and a possible coup. As Lyndon LaRouche has often said, in this period, when the entire global financial and monetary system is in the process of blowing out, patriotic leaders committed to securing the welfare of their citizens must decide what side they are on: that of the people, or that of the banks. The people of Nigeria are hopeful that President Obasanjo makes the right choice.

NED Demands: Fox Must Win in Mexico

On July 2, Mexico will hold general elections to choose its next President, Governor of Mexico City, and other critical posts. The current front-runner, according to most polls, is the candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Francisco Labastida, who has a small but growing margin over the National Action Party’s (PAN) Vicente Fox.

But the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and its army of associated international non-governmental organizations which are deployed by London and Wall Street, will have none of it. As far as they are concerned, if their man Fox doesn’t win, “it ain’t democracy.” And they are hotly deployed to impose their will, much as they were in the case of Peru’s elections earlier this spring, where they unsuccessfully tried to topple the government of President Alberto Fujimori.

As in Peru, their objective is to shatter the national institutions and carve up its territory, the better to impose a Colombia-style “narco-republic.” And, in a virtual replay of the approach taken in Peru, the international media are now intensifying their drumbeat about the “corrupt” and “anachronistic” ruling PRI party, predicting its defeat in the July 2 elections. The polls inside Mexico, however, reveal that PRI candidate Labastida is likely to win, an event which is slated to trigger cries of “fraud” by the same “impartial” international observer missions which had tried to force the popular Fujimori to yield up his victory in Peru.

Soros and the Pro-Drug Push

Although Fox has been careful not to take a public stance on drug legalization, he is surrounded by advisers and backers who have done precisely that. One is influential PAN leader Fernando Canales Clariond, Governor of Nuevo León state bordering the United States. Another is Jorge Castañeda, erstwhile “leftist” and theoretician for Fidel Castro’s São Paulo Forum, who today serves as one of Fox’s top campaign advisers — and controllers. Indeed, Castañeda serves a similar purpose in the Fox campaign that Diego García Sayán, another outspoken drug legalization proponent, does with defeated opposition Presidential candidate Alejandro Toledo in Peru. So important is Castañeda to Fox, that the PAN candidate brought his adviser along on a March 2000 visit to the halls of power in Washington, D.C.

In its Sept. 6, 1999 edition, *Newsweek International* published a guest commentary by Castañeda, which is lifted straight from the script of George Soros’s drug legalization team at the Open Society Institute (OSI): “The time is