

Kissinger Runs Guns; Heads Global Terror

July 23 (IPS) — U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in his capacity as head of the National Security Council (NSC) is coordinating an international gun-running and terrorist operation, according to a report released yesterday by the Knight Newspapers wire service.

The Knight release indicates Kissinger's direct responsibility for coordinating a massive gun-running operation by Colt Industries, a CIA-linked firm in Hartford, Conn., to right-wing terrorists in Lebanon.

Ongoing investigations by the security staff of the International Caucus of Labor Committees had already pinpointed that Colt, a major arms manufacturer, played a central role in the domestic and international distribution of arms and ammunition to terrorist organizations under the top-down control of Kissinger's NSC.

Already, according to informed Washington sources, Kissinger has moved to clamp down on further investigation of the Council's gun-running, terrorist links under the guise of a major State Department "reorganization."

The Falange Connection

The Knight dispatch, reported in the major press yesterday, disclosed that in early May, the State Department authorized a major shipment of handguns and ammunition by Colt Industries to a "private" agent and distributor, identified as Sarkis Soghanalian, in Beirut. Sources at the

State Department later identified Soghanalian as Colt's agent in Beirut.

Several weeks ago, authoritative Arab sources revealed to this news agency that the State Department was overseeing U.S. shipments of firearms to Beirut, destined for the right-wing Falangist terrorists.

An examination of the series of developments surrounding this case yesterday and today reveals the order for a cover-up by Kissinger.

As yesterday morning's U.S. press carried the preliminary Beirut-Colt-State Department story, a representative of Colt Industries was still scheduled to testify at hearings today before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime on "gun leakage" and "gun thefts" from their Hartford plant.

Colt Cancels Testimony

By late afternoon, after IPS conducted an informative interview with Bernard A. Femminella, deputy director for Munitions Control in the State Department's Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, subcommittee sources told IPS that the Colt representative had "canceled out" of scheduled testimony.

Simultaneously, the Labor Party's request to testify on Colt's connections to gun-running was denied.

Earlier, deputy director for Munitions Control Femminella—who spent two decades as a "labor affairs" specialist attached to U.S. embassies and consulates throughout Latin America—said that the "political decision" for issuing licenses for such deals rested with Secretary Kissinger and

Undersecretary Joseph Sisco. "We all work for Mr. Kissinger," Femminella said. The Munitions Control Office itself but he confirmed at least the "possibility" that the arms wound up with Falangists.

Today, Thomas Stern, the deputy director of the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, told IPS that the Beirut deal was "simply one mistake out of thousands of routine approvals." "No one above a deputy assistant Secretary's level" knew about the Soghanalian deals, he alleged. Stern then revealed that after consultations with Kissinger, Director George Vest ordered a "complete re-evaluation of Department procedures" relating to licensing and international gun shipments "on a worldwide scale."

This "re-evaluation of procedures," reliable sources said today, is certain indication that Kissinger, in direct consultation with Colt Industries, has arranged for the National Security Council to coordinate an international "checkpoint" shake-up. This will involve re-deploying U.S. intelligence agents from the various agencies concerned, in an effort to cover up the fact that Kissinger himself is in operational control of international and domestic terrorism and gun-running.

This new Kissinger cover-up attempt parallels NSC efforts to hide the actual role of the Council and Kissinger in setting up, ban rolling, and deploying the Black September terrorists. The groups emerged in 1972 in the so-called Munich Massacre of Israeli Olympic athletes.