

## A deeper matter of concern in the latest spy warfare

by Criton Zoakos

Virtually all the intelligence organizations of the Western alliance, virtually simultaneously, throughout 1985, are finding themselves in their profoundest turmoil since the end of the Second World War. At present, the center of public attention is occupied by two spectaculars—the dramatic series of defections, counter-defections, and exposures of spies in the German services, and, a vicious effort of the French Socialist government to gut and demoralize the traditional intelligence establishment of France, around the “Rainbow Warrior” affair.

Earlier in the year, a number of spy scandals erupted in the United States involving Soviet penetration within the American Armed Services. Meanwhile, the British and Israeli services, remained “scandal free” as they augmented dramatically their cooperation with the Russian service, especially on the strategic level. On the strategic level in particular, the British maintained a high profile effort to conform with two Soviet demands in particular: a) to stop or slow down the American “Strategic Defense Initiative,” and b) to “decouple” the strategic security concerns of the United States from those of Western Europe.

The highly publicized apparent failures of Western intelligence services, e.g., the “Walker Affair,” the “Tiedge Affair,” the Rainbow Warrior scandal, throughout the year, have been accompanied by virtually unpublicized, similar apparent failures of the Soviet services: the defections of the first secretaries from the Soviet embassies in Athens and Rome, the “disappearance,” in the West, of at least two senior Soviet scientists, and so forth. Yet, neither the Soviet defections, nor the Western defections and other embarrassments, are what they appear to be in newspaper coverage.

What, then, are they?

Official United States intelligence capabilities, even at their best, are at a tragic disadvantage, in their efforts to evaluate exactly what is going on in the current spate of intelligence warfare. Given that we now are before an emergency, having to live with the virtually complete destruction of U.S. on-the-ground “human intelligence” capabilities over the years, as well as the traditional neglect of rigorous analytical and methodological habits, it would perhaps be justified to suggest a “rule of thumb” for sorting out what might otherwise appear a “hopeless mess.”

As a rule, operations officers during this period, contrary to what they often believe, do not have access to “facts,” respecting what is going on during the present intelligence war. What appear to them to be “hard facts,” are, for the most part, vague “acoustical signatures” registering on their “sonars,” in the midst of this battle of “submarines.” When they capture the “acoustical signal” of a Soviet defector, they do not know whether they are dealing with a “real submarine” or a decoy. When they aim their torpedoes against an “acoustical signal” identified as foe, they do not know whether that signal has been deliberately latched onto a friendly object by the enemy in order to invite its destruction.

The following “rule of thumb” will be useful in clearing up the confusion and uncertainty: The known Soviet strategic objective between now and the projected Reagan-Gorbachov Summit is twofold: a) derail or slow down the Strategic Defense Initiative; b) “decouple” the national security policies of Europe from those of the United States. The battles fought in the present intelligence war are to be judged from the effect they have on these two Soviet strategic objectives.

The man behind the effort to wreck the French intelligence "establishment" over the so-called Rainbow Warrior Affair, more than anyone else, appears to be the notorious Regis Debray, Socialist President François Mitterrand's special intelligence advisor at the Elysée Palace, and a confidant of Madame Mitterrand. Regis Debray, in fact, is following the blueprint established by his mentor, one "Michel Pablo," a.k.a. Michael Raptis, who took apart and then put back together again the Greek intelligence services under Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. Both "Pablo" and Regis Debray are prominent, "high profile" members of a larger political intelligence network in France known as the "Curiel Network," named after the Egyptian Alexandrine Nazi-Communist Henri Curiel, the founder of the Egyptian Communist Party.

The "Curiel Network" initially was founded as a joint asset of the Nazis and the Cheka/Komintern after the infamous Tashkent Conference of the "Toilers of the East." Henri Curiel until his assassination in 1979, Michel Pablo until this day, their old bankroller, Nazi Swiss banker François Genoud, and their long-time partners in the intelligence organizations of Syria, Libya, Iran, and elsewhere, continued to conduct operations under their favorite "Nazi-Communist" political profile, but primarily as assets of Soviet intelligence organizations. In 1983-84, Michel Pablo, from his privileged position as confidant of Andreas Papandreou, succeeded in wrecking the traditional Greek intelligence service. During 1985, that service had been rebuilt as a junior asset of the Soviet KGB. Its current head, Air Force General Philipp Macedos, is an avowed Communist.

### What is up in France and Germany?

Regis Debray at the Elysée Palace, with the Rainbow Warrior Affair, has initiated a wrecking operation against the French services which is projected to be followed by a "restructuring" in the near future to make it serviceable to KGB use. To what end, we shall see below.

The West German intelligence crisis cannot be seen separately from the appointment of Richard Burt as United States Ambassador to Bonn. First of all, it will be recalled, that Richard Burt, in his capacity as Undersecretary of State for European Affairs and almost two weeks prior to his confirmation as ambassador by the Senate, was in Berlin arranging a very strange "spy exchange" over Checkpoint Charlie under the ostentatious glare of invited television camera lights. For reasons not yet known, Undersecretary Burt had his friends in the Social Democratic and Free Democratic party publications in West Germany circulate the impression that the "spy exchange" was the fruit of Burt's own tireless efforts.

No matter what the reasons for this curious publicity, the effect was that Richard Burt's work had been inextricably linked with that of Hans Joachim Tiedge, the counterintelligence chief of the West German Bundesverfassungsschutz who has now defected to East Germany. This is not the first time that Burt is discovered rubbing shoulders with East Bloc

intelligence. In 1981, the Senate Intelligence Committee investigated his role, then as journalist of the *New York Times*, in passing sensitive national security information obtained from then-NSC chief Zbigniew Brzezinski. So, what is the significance of the possibility that the new U.S. ambassador to Bonn being a "Soviet spy," or at least associated with Hans Joachim Tiedge?

The significance is in *policy*. Richard Burt, still in political association with Zbigniew Brzezinski, is an advocate of a policy which calls for the decoupling of Europe from the United States, exactly condition (b) of our "rule of thumb." The policy of decoupling is being advocated in public, both orally and in writing by Brzezinski, and all his colleagues in the resurgent Trilateral Commission, and by such "right-wing Social Democrats" as Irving Kristol, Ben Wattenberg, and the whole crowd at Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies, including current U.S. Ambassador to NATO David Abshire. Among this policy's chief advocates is Deputy Secretary of State John Cunningham Whitehead, of Goldman Sachs and the International Rescue Committee, which specializes in "East Bloc defections," and "spy exchanges."

The net effect, so far, of the massive "German spy scandal" which followed Richard Burt's "spy exchange" in Berlin, has been the virtually total, if, hopefully, temporary, cutoff of all intelligence cooperation between West Germany and other Western nations. Most significantly, as a result of the intelligence crisis, all U.S.-German cooperation on the Strategic Defense Initiative has, at least, again hopefully temporarily, been suspended. This again conforms with condition (a) of our rule of thumb: Soviet policy objective to derail the SDI.

Application of this rule of thumb to the entire panorama of intelligence warfare in the last few months will produce similar conclusions. No matter where operations appear to originate from, in most instances, the net result has been, one inch closer to "decoupling," one inch further from the SDI. The causes for the disorientation with the United States intelligence community can fairly be attributed to a certain problem at the top-wrung of the analysis and evaluations end: One influential group, around Leo Cherne, the chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, believes that a "decoupled" Europe will encourage Russian "nationalist" tendencies within the political elite of the Soviet Union, to the purported "detriment" of the Communist Central Committee. Brzezinski, Whitehead, Burt, and the entire State Department, are committed to this policy. Leo Cherne's and John Whitehead's International Rescue Committee, manufactures bushels-full of "Russian nationalist defectors" who put into circulation tall tales of "nationalist dissent" spearheaded by such "heroic Russian nationalist officers" and Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov.

The U.S. intelligence establishment is deeply penetrated by a Soviet operation which promotes this dangerous myth. This will be the subject of our installment next week.