

Police state piloted in Virginia county

The same "secret, parallel government" that shipped U.S. arms to the Khomeini regime to fund the Contra war in Central America, sought to turn Loudoun County, Virginia into a mini-police state, according to recent testimony at a trial in Boston, Massachusetts. According to Loudoun County Deputy Sheriff Donald Leigh Moore, Jr., that clandestine police state effort has been, and continues to be, partly financed by Loudoun County tax dollars.

This story emerged during an evidentiary hearing ordered by Federal District Court Judge Robert Keeton to determine the extent of government misconduct in the prosecution of Lyndon LaRouche and six other defendants on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice.

One key feature of the domestic covert interagency operation was recounted by Deputy Moore during several hours of testimony on March 28. Moore, who joined the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department in January 1984, has been a deputized Special U.S. Marshal since December 1987 (such a status has been the hallmark of special interagency operations during the Reagan-Bush era, according to federal law enforcement sources). By no later than September 1987, Moore was sent by Loudoun County Sheriff John Isom to Boston to work for the U.S. Attorney's office. According to Moore's testimony, while working full-time "on loan" as a "facilitator" for Assistant U.S. Attorney John Markham, his salary has been paid by Loudoun County.

Moore did not specify who was paying his expenses, which include a furnished apartment at The Devonshire, one of Boston's most luxurious and expensive high-rise apartment towers.

To hear Moore tell his story, the FBI's 18-month LaRouche probe on allegations of credit card fraud was "fixated" and at a dead-end when FBI Special Agent Timothy Klund of the Alexandria, Va. field office, whom Moore referred to as the "redheaded stranger," invited him to Boston to make a presentation at a war council convened by U.S. Attorney William Weld in early February 1986.

Moore told the court that, despite the fact that there were "no specific or solid allegations of wrongdoing" against LaRouche or any of his associates, by no later than summer 1985 he had begun amassing files and putting together a network of informants monitoring the activities of LaRouche and his associates—including Ryan Quade Emerson, who according to court-released documents, has been a confident FBI informant since 1964, and who was surveilled entering a LaRouche office.

Under what authority did Moore launch his spy network, which conducted continuous surveillance of the "stone house," an office used by LaRouche associates on South King Street in Leesburg? "They were strangers in town, judge," Moore told the court. "They were buying expensive cuts of red meat. . . . People began dropping by to see me with information."

About Emerson: "He was untrustworthy. . . . His bills were unpaid and then he shows up with hundred dollar bills. . . . He didn't keep his fly up. . . . [O]n several local occasions he was confronted as a 'LaRouchie' and he denied it. . . . He [Emerson] was publishing a newsletter on terrorism out of his house in North Fork on the old Kelly farm. The newsletter was garbage."

Civic action, 'Vietnam style'

Pressed by defense attorney Odin Anderson to account for his expertise in intelligence methods, Moore launched into a detailed account of his experiences in Vietnam as a Marine Corps civic affairs officer, whose job it was to set up informant networks in captured villages, referred to as "strategic hamlets," to root out and eliminate Viet Cong infiltrators. This was the "hearts and minds" program, Moore told the court, adding that he had been put through a special civic action training course at the JFK Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, which taught him techniques for gathering and evaluating "intelligence."

Moore's civic action work continued at home after Vietnam. He told the court he served in the Fourth Civic Affairs Group in the Marine Reserves. Marine Corps sources have described the unit as part of the Pentagon-Federal Emergency Management Agency civil defense structure, that would take charge of government functions during a period of national emergency.

Moore's testimony, cross-gridded with testimony at the congressional Iran-Contra hearings, suggests that some people around the North-Secord NSC "secret government" decided to jump the gun and impose emergency measures, minus the emergency.

Moore's personal relationship to Lt. Col. Oliver North goes back to when both were battalion commanders and one-time tent-mates in the 3rd Marine Division, Kilo Company in Vietnam in the late 1960s. While Moore denied having maintained personal contact with North after 1969, Moore was somehow designated as the principal media source of photos and war stories on North when the Iran-Contra affair hit the headlines in November 1986.

A second Irangate track, to be explored in future articles in this series, centers around one of Loudoun County's other suspected Irangate figures, Donald Lowers. The owner of American Security Systems, an electronic security systems company with offices in Leesburg and Middleburg, Virginia, Lowers is a former associate of Edwin P. Wilson of Mt. Airy Farms at Upperville, Virginia, the ex-CIA agent now in federal prison for selling arms and explosives to Qaddafi.