

The battle over the cover-up of Princess Diana's murder escalates

by Scott Thompson

On Sept. 30, *EIR* editor Jeffrey Steinberg appeared on the nationally syndicated Geraldo Rivera Investigative Report television show, where he exposed crucial features of the ongoing British and French governments' cover-up of the murder of Princess Diana. Steinberg's TV appearance, as part of a panel of six well-known personalities familiar with the life of the Princess of Wales, fueled growing widespread interest in *EIR*'s coverage of the tragic crash, which took place in a Paris tunnel on Aug. 31, 1997, and led to appearances by Steinberg on the popular Bob Grant radio show, and on a half-dozen other radio broadcasts from coast to coast.

The Steinberg appearance on the Geraldo Rivera show occurred on the same day that French authorities were launching the second phase of their increasingly desperate effort to suppress the mounting evidence that Princess Diana's death was a sophisticated assassination. As *EIR* reported two weeks ago, the French cover-up began to unravel in mid-September, as a half-dozen witnesses stepped forward to provide details of the crash, revealing the involvement of a dark-colored Fiat Uno, several motorcycles, and the apparent use of an extremely powerful flash of light that incapacitated Henri Paul, the driver of the Mercedes 280-S that was carrying the Princess, her friend Dodi al-Fayed, and their bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones.

Lyndon LaRouche spelled out this evidence in an interview with the internationally broadcast weekly "EIR Talks" radio program, on Sept. 30. "It's getting wild," LaRouche commented. "The British government and the French government, recently, through their representatives, have met, to have an agreement that the French government would see to it that evidence which was not *acceptable* would be *suppressed*. And, in honoring that agreement, the French government has stepped up its cover-up efforts, and has recently staged an elaborate show, a dog-and-pony show, to try to indicate that the driver was drunk, when there is positive evidence which had been submitted, that this whole thing is a fraud. The woman and her companion—with one survivor of course—were *murdered!*"

"For example," LaRouche continued, "it is admitted that

there were two motorcycles, and a vehicle, a Fiat, which were harassing the vehicle, the Mercedes 280-S, in which the Princess and her companions were riding. . . . There is also admission of the flashes and the sound; that things were done with light flashes, and with something else, as well as harassing the vehicle in a manner to bring about an accident. This has all been stated, reported by government circles, or admitted by government circles. So, when they come out and say it was drunken driving, it indicates that there's a real cover-up in process. This woman was murdered by vehicular homicide. Who did it is not certain. But what is certain is that . . . this case of murder, is a threat to the interests of the House of Windsor; whoever did the murder, the threat, the immediate threat of the impact of the fact that it *was* a murder, is most greatly focussed against the House of Windsor. Therefore, the House of Windsor, in its desperate effort to keep control of the British Commonwealth, has made an agreement with their friends in France, to do everything possible to stage a cover-up, a fraudulent cover-up of an assassination. It's not going to work, but that doesn't mean they're not going to try."

Breaking the U.S. media blackout

In his interview with Geraldo Rivera, Steinberg provided the American public with the first details of the debriefing of the lone survivor of the crash, Rees-Jones, in which he described the Mercedes coming under attack from at least one car and two motorcycles. Up until Steinberg's appearance on TV, the American media had stuck with the British and French government cover stories, that Rees-Jones had lost his memory, and would be unable to shed any light on the tragic events of Aug. 31. Steinberg also had the opportunity to review the accounts of several of the key eyewitnesses, and to detail Princess Diana's role in the effort to bring down the House of Windsor. He ended the broadcast by calling for a thorough public airing of all of the evidence in the case, to avoid the kind of rush to judgment that led to the suppression of the truth about the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., still ongoing after more than 30 years.

Re-enactment of the crash

As Steinberg's appearance on the Geraldo Rivera show was airing in the United States, French authorities, following a secret agreement with their British counterparts, and with media executives from both countries, escalated their vicious effort to suppress the truth. On Sept. 30, French police, led by investigative magistrate Hervé Stephan, staged a re-enactment of the crash, in front of over 100 reporters. Each of the reporters had been personally called by French police officials and "tipped off" to the planned re-enactment. The police trucked the wreckage of the Mercedes to the site of the crash, and spent five hours, ostensibly studying the forensic evidence. These very same French authorities have, to date, rejected offers from the automobile's manufacturer, Daimler Benz, to send its engineering experts to help determine precisely what happened in the Seine River tunnel in the early hours of Aug. 31.

The reason for the lack of interest in assistance from the Daimler Benz personnel is that spokesmen for the firm have already made statements that fly in the face of the French cover-up. For example, the French police seized on the fact that rescue workers arriving on the scene of the crash found the speedometer of the Mercedes stuck at over 120 miles per hour. This "evidence" has been pivotal in the French claims that driver Henri Paul was wrecklessly speeding. But, Daimler officials explained, in a public statement, that a high-impact crash will cause the speedometer of the Mercedes 280-S to freeze either at zero, or at the maximum speed. There is, in fact, no evidence that Paul was driving at that unsafe speed at the time of the crash. Eyewitnesses have said that the Mercedes was travelling at no more than 60 miles per hour, just seconds before Paul entered the tunnel.

The re-enactment was actually a pretext for misinforming an all-too-willing press corps, that new forensic tests on the hair and skin of the deceased driver had revealed that he had been on a week-long drinking binge, and that the sole cause of the crash was Paul's drunken state. Even the paparazzi, who had stalked the Princess from the moment that she and al-Fayed had arrived at a Paris airport on the morning of Aug. 30, are about to be given a clean bill of health. Attorneys for the nine photographers who were held for possible complicity in the Princess's death, told the media that they were now confident that their clients would soon have all the investigations against them dropped.

In fact, days before the staged media event by the French magistrate and the police in the Alma Tunnel, a British reporter who had participated in the initial media investigation of Paul, told *EIR* that no one has been able to turn up *any* location where Paul had been seen drinking on the night of the crash. French police had earlier admitted that just 48 hours before his death, Paul had successfully gone through a rigorous physical exam, to renew his airplane pilot's license. No evidence of alcoholism had turned up. So far, neither the al-Fayed family nor anyone from the media has

seen the detailed forensic tests that purport to show the Paul was affected by alcohol and prescription drugs on the night of the crash.

A blinding flash of light

Despite the latest effort of the French and British governments to suppress evidence, there continue to be eyewitness reports that, seconds before the crash, a powerful flash of light was seen, which appeared to have blinded Paul. On Sept. 9, an attorney for the al-Fayed family, who was privy to some of the early forensic evidence gathered by police, told Associated Press that there were photographs, apparently taken by a paparazzo from a car or motorcycle just in front of the Mercedes, showing Paul covering his eyes, and bodyguard Rees-Jones flipping down the sun visor.

While French police initially suggested that the light may have been a flash from a camera, *EIR* is investigating estimates from several security professionals, that the light was a far more powerful, blinding flash, that may have come from a sophisticated irregular warfare device, employing laser technology (see article which follows).

'Mend it, don't end it'

As French authorities were redoubling their efforts to suppress the evidence of murder, the battle over the fate of the House of Windsor was heating up across the English Channel. On Sept. 29, Andrew Morton, the author of a controversial 1992 biography of Princess Diana that exposed many damaging details about the House of Windsor, revealed that he had received most of the information for the book from the Princess herself. He announced that he would be re-issuing the book, with several new bombshell revelations, as an autobiography of Princess Diana, as told to him. American author Kitty Kelley's just-published exposé *The Royals*, has also added new fuel to the anti-Windsor effort.

But, on Sept. 28, Martin Walker, the European editor of the London *Guardian*, who previously served for nine years as chief of the paper's Washington, D.C. bureau, penned a review of the Kelly book in the *Washington Post*, which claimed that an outright overthrow of the House of Windsor is next to impossible, and, that Prime Minister Tony Blair is leading the effort to "reinvent" the royal family, and shape a new power-sharing arrangement between the Windsors and the other leading British figures within the Club of the Isles oligarchy. "Mend it, don't end it," was Walker's description of the Blair-led effort, which he heartily endorsed.

All of these efforts to strike a new "gentlemen's agreement" between the Windsors and their rivals will come to naught, however, if the cover-up of Princess Diana's murder is broken. At that point, the 10 million British subjects who turned out for the Princess's funeral, in an act of national defiance against the Windsors, would have the ultimate say about the fate of the royals; and at that point, all bets would be off.