

Bush Sets Up Apparatus For Crisis Management

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On Jan. 31, the U.S. Commission on National Security, a bipartisan group set up by Congress, issued sweeping recommendations which include creation of a Cabinet-level agency to coordinate all internal security functions. The plan would consolidate the functions of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Border Patrol, and Coast Guard under one White House-based organization—a “super-FEMA.” And, the role of the National Guard would be greatly expanded, to cover a wider range of domestic security contingencies.

While there are, unquestionably, credible reasons to worry about American vulnerability to terrorist attack and other forms of low-intensity warfare, the recent confirmation of John Ashcroft as Attorney General of the United States, and the Bush Administration’s hideous bungling of the Western states energy crisis, create the strong prospect of these emergency powers being abused, to the point that the U.S. Constitution is torn up, and the country subjected to “rule by decree” police-state measures.

It was precisely in response to this imminent danger that Lyndon LaRouche led a national and international campaign to defeat the Ashcroft nomination, and prevent the Bush Administration from being turned over to the lunatic social base of right-wing fundamentalists who are anything but “Christian.”

The Commission Speaks

The Commission’s third report, released within days of the Bush inauguration, ominously warned, “In the new era, sharp distinctions between ‘foreign’ and ‘domestic’ no longer apply. We do believe in the centrality of strategy, and of seizing opportunities as well as confronting dangers. If the

structures and processes of the U.S. government stand still amid a world of change, the United States will lose its capacity to shape history.”

The authors continued: “The combination of unconventional weapons proliferation with the persistence of international terrorism will end the relative invulnerability of the U.S. homeland to catastrophic attack.” The Commission asserted, “A direct attack against American citizens on American soil is likely over the next quarter-century. The risk is not only death and destruction but also a demoralization that could undermine U.S. global leadership.”

The proposed National Homeland Security Agency (NHSA) would be given vast powers “in event of a national security emergency,” and would “not only protect American lives, but also assume responsibility for overseeing the protection of the nation’s critical infrastructure.”

The Bush Secret Government

Such schemes proliferated in the 1980s, when Vice President George Bush ran covert operations from within the Reagan Administration. Bush, as head of the Special Situation Group and Crisis Pre-Planning Group in the White House, deployed Lt. Col. Oliver North, of Iran-Contra infamy, to draw up emergency plans to round up tens of thousands of Americans, in case protests against the “secret wars” in Central America, Africa, and Afghanistan got out of hand. The Justice Department and FBI joined in by creating a “Terrorist Photo Album” containing the names of thousands of innocent Americans who would be thrown into detention camps, in the event of a declaration of a domestic crisis.

It is no small irony that spurring a “super-FEMA” is the threat of a “terrorist Pearl Harbor” on American soil, likely

carried out by Middle East terrorists linked to such figures as Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. Bin Laden, inflated to comic book super-villainy, is but a part of the “Afghansi” terror apparatus spawned by Anglo-American covert operations gone awry against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

It was President Jimmy Carter’s National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, now with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), who first peddled the idea of exploiting an “Arc of Crisis” along the southern tier of the Soviet empire, by backing Islamic fundamentalists with billions of dollars in weapons and special forces training in the black arts. These very veterans of Brzezinski’s and Bush’s Afghanistan War adventure are now the feared “Afghansi” terrorists who threaten the United States with weapons of mass destruction. Intelligence professionals call this kind of colossal blunder, “blowback.”

Some in and around the new administration are out to use the threat from bin Laden and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to justify new police-state measures. It was for this reason that President Bush was nearly hysterical in his demands that the Senate ratify Ashcroft as Attorney General.

Indeed, *EIR* has come into possession of the Department of Defense Civil Disturbance Plan, a 256-page document, last updated during the Presidency of Sir George Bush on Feb. 15, 1991. Known as “Garden Plot,” the Civil Disturbance Plan, which is currently in force, states unambiguously:

“The responsibility for the management of the Federal response to civil disturbances in the United States, its possessions, and its territories, rests with the Attorney General. The Attorney General coordinates all Federal government activities during a domestic commitment of military forces in response to a civil disturbance situation. Within DOJ [Department of Justice], the lead agency for the operational response to a civil disturbance incident is the FBI. In light of this, the DOJ is the primary Federal agency responsible for the collection, use, retention, and dissemination of civil disturbance information.”

CSIS at the Cutting Edge

The U.S. Commission on National Security, chaired by former Senators Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and Warren Rudman (R-N.H.), was commissioned several years ago by the U.S. Congress to conduct the most far-reaching review of U.S. national security policy in 50 years. In addition to Hart and Rudman, the commission included Anne Armstrong, chairman of CSIS, and a former member of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board; former Speaker of the House and “Mr. Contract on America,” Newt Gingrich; former Defense Secretary and CIA director James Schlesinger; and Leslie Gelb, president of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, among others.

Although the commission formally made the proposal for the creation of a Cabinet-level super-FEMA, it was CSIS that actually did the legwork, in preparation for this push for a

Terrorist Photograph Album
FD-432 (Rev. 2-8-83)

1. Name: Jeffrey Steinberg

2. Alias:

3. Date and Place of Birth: July 29, 1947, Irvington, New Jersey

4. Citizenship: U.S.

5. Sex: Male

6. Race: White

7. Height: 5'10"

8. Weight: 155

9. Hair: Brown

10. Eyes: Brown

11. Scars, marks and identifying characteristics:

12. Single Married Separated Divorced

13. Residence: 109-C Davis Ave., S.W., Leesburg, Virginia 22075 (703) 777-1342

14. Occupation/Employer (includes academic institutions): Director of Counterintelligence, Executive Intelligence Review, Campaign Publications, 823 HS King St., Leesburg, Va. (703) 435-8617 and (703) 435-7400

15. Identifying information:
Passport No. C1803992 Date of Issue 7/12/72
A245631, C186981 Country of Issue U.S. Date of Issue 7/28/80
Social Security No. 136-38-9546 Alien Registration No. 7/15/82
U.S. Person Yes No Naturalized U.S. citizen Yes No

16. Terrorist affiliation: _____ Official position: _____

17. Narrative of activities:
The primary allegation in this investigation is that Jeffrey Steinberg is involved in recruiting former CIA employees in Northern Virginia, and possibly on duty CIA employees in the San Antonio, Texas, area, to facilitate the assassination of unnamed drug dealers in Columbia and Bolivia, South America. During the preliminary inquiry, a second allegation surfaced in that representatives of the Executive Intelligence Review (EIR) were involved in an extortion of Quesisipi Cabaffi (PH) in Italy, and are involved in an attempt to overthrow the government of Italy. The EIR is a publication produced by Lyndon La Rouché, a recent presidential candidate. Steinberg is the director of Counterintelligence for EIR.

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An FBI document from its “Terrorist Photo Album” of EIR editor Jeffrey Steinberg, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. When Steinberg wrote a series of articles in the early 1980s, exposing the Bush-North apparatus involvement in guns-for-drugs trafficking in Central America, he was placed on the FBI’s list of suspected terrorists, who would be among the first to be rounded up and detained, in the event of a state of emergency. The FBI spent 19 months investigating bogus charges against Steinberg, only to shut the investigation—but leave Steinberg’s name and photo in the TPA.

high-visibility police-state structure, parallel to Britain’s Home Office.

For the past 18 months, CSIS has been running a special project, “Defending America: Redefining the Conceptual Borders of Homeland Defense.” Ironically, the Homeland Defense Working Group was chaired by Fred Iklé, an Undersecretary of Defense in the Reagan Administration who was probed for suspected links to Jonathan Pollard, an American convicted of spying for Israel, whose material was being passed to the Soviet Union. He was also a director of the National Endowment for Democracy, which was in the middle of the Iran-Contra mess. Also in the working group were Arnaud de Borchgrave, former editor-in-chief of the *Washington Times*, and Dov Zakheim, another Reagan-Bush national security figure suspected of links to Pollard.

The CSIS project issued its own recommendations, calling for the Vice President to head the Homeland Defense

apparatus. It also emphasized the importance of building the National Missile Defense system; suggested that U.S. cities be eventually ringed by sensors to thwart terrorists carrying biological, chemical, radiation, or nuclear weapons; and demanded that means be developed for sealing the U.S. borders

Iklé's contribution was particularly rabid. In his own position paper, "Defending the U.S. Homeland: Strategic and Legal issues for DOD and the Armed Forces," published in January 1999, he spelled out one scenario that could become reality sooner than most think. After arguing that, in the event of a terrorist attack involving the use of weapons of mass destruction, FEMA and the DOJ would be the lead response agencies, he wrote: "A different approach will be needed if mass destruction weapons are used against the U.S. homeland as part of an enemy strategy in warlike situations, not merely as an isolated terrorist act. Illustrative of such a contingency would be another Gulf war, in which the United States would confront a shifting coalition of hostile countries in the region, all of which might possess WMD [weapons of mass destruction] of some sort. The United States, while preparing for such a war or already engaged in it, might have credible yet ambiguous information that a member of the enemy coalition has managed to smuggle a few mass destruction weapons into the United States. Or conversely, as the United States is about to win this war, a biological or nuclear attack might actually occur in a U.S. city. Clearly if the U.S. homeland is in danger of such attacks in wartime, the Defense Department—not the Justice Department—will have to be prepared to take the lead. . . . For such a contingency—an attack worse than Pearl Harbor—the American people would expect and, indeed, demand that they could count on DOD and the armed forces to protect the homeland."

License To Kill

Not to be outdone by the Beltway think-tanks, at least one member of the U.S. Congress is pushing to give the President a literal license to kill, in keeping with the drive to forge a "national security state," to combat enemies real and imagined.

On the opening day of the 107th Congress, Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.) introduced H.R. 19, the "Terrorist Elimination Act of 2001," which would officially lift the ban on government-sanctioned assassinations and assassination conspiracies. The last President to officially ban political assassinations was Ronald Reagan. The ban was included in Executive Order 12333, signed on Dec. 4, 1981, which, otherwise, ironically, privatized U.S. national security operations, and provided the legal "cover" for Sir George Bush and Oliver North's "secret parallel government."

What goes around, comes around, and, now, apparently some "Friends of Dubya" are pushing the idea that that secret government should come out of the closet and flaunt the fact that the grave economic and financial crisis will be "managed," by jackboot methods.

State Lawmakers: Requires Opposing

As of the end of January, the impact of the hyperinflation in fuel and electricity costs had created power supply and price emergencies in states other than California. Marcia Merry Baker interviewed three state Democratic lawmakers, from Nevada, Alabama, and Vermont, on their situations and initiatives.

Interview: Joseph Neal

Using Nevada's 'Public Purpose' Law

Nevada State Sen. Joseph Neal (D-Las Vegas) has been in the middle of a fight to roll back deregulation. The State Legislature opened on Feb. 6, and a primary topic of debate was the soaring energy costs. On Jan. 30, when legislators said that there was little they could do to reverse price increases, Senator Neal responded that the legislature should take a "dramatic step," and that he favored taking over the utilities. "I don't think [Governor] Kenny Guinn will like the idea," Neal said, "but it has a chance if voters get upset about what is happening. Energy is a necessity for people." In Fall 2000, energy deregulation, authorized to go into effect, was delayed in Nevada by Governor Guinn, after Senator Neal had intervened for a go-slow approach. Senator Neal spoke with Marcia Merry Baker on Feb. 3.



EIR: Senator Neal, Nevada is important, because it is right next door to the California energy crisis, and because of its response to its own energy problems; plus, you yourself are an international leader against the deregulation energy policy—you have been organizing against it in Mexico, Ohio, Califor-