



LOBSTER



Behind right-wing conspiracy theories

Alrey Neave: the aftermath

Korkala, Terpil and Ireland

The friends of Robert Hawke

The Pinay Circle

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Editorially

OK, we did say no more apologies for being late, but this issue *is* late. The explanation is that the Ramsay half of this operation was persuaded to spend April as an election agent for the Labour party. (And lost!). If the Labour Party and the Lobster seems an odd combination, it is worth pointing out that several of the people at the Lobster readers/writers meeting were members of the Labour Party.

This will be the last issue of Lobster in its present A5 format. As of issue 9 it will be A4. This should get it onto better display spaces in bookshops. That's the idea, anyway.

Lobster is growing. It's in increasing numbers of shops (too many to list now) and is attracting more and more writers, as this issue demonstrates. Onwards and upwards.

There is no Clippings Digest in this issue. When it came to paste-up there was too much other copy. We would be interested to know if the Digest is missed. If it isn't we'll abandon it. If it is of use we'll carry on with it next issue. Please write on this. We need to know.

Robin Ramsay/Steve Dorril

Behind right-wing conspiracy theories

Part 1

The world of ultra-right conspiracy theory is of interest to researchers into clandestinism for 3 reasons. First, because critics of research into clandestinism frequently attempt to bracket it together with ultra-right believers in The Protocols of Zion and similar fantasies.(1); secondly because the ultra-rightists, in the last decade, have been showing an interest in some bodies of real interest to researchers, such as the Council on Foreign Relations; and, thirdly, because some versions of ultra-right conspiracy theory have been not without influence in intelligence and government circles.

When one attempts to analyse right-wing conspiracy theory it soon becomes clear that much of it is vacuous in the extreme, with little connection to genuine research.(2) Dubious and fictitious quotes and 'facts' get repeated from book to book with little originality.(3) Thus Nesta Webster and one or two other writers laid the basis for much right-wing conspiratorialism in the 1920s and for forty years others did little but rehash these works. It was not until the sixties that Gary Allen of the John Birch Society and a few others added something new. (4)

The idea of sinister people meeting in secret to plot the overthrow of religion and society is a very old one, clearly visible in the allegations made against mediaeval heretics, and during the witch mania of the 16th and 17th century. It reappeared in the controversies surrounding Freemasonry in the 18th century.

Modern Freemasonry grew out of the guilds and trade bodies of working masons in the 17th century. It was finalised in its modern form by the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, and spread to Europe during the first half of that century.

Its origins give little support to the ultra-right myths of Masonry as a subversive force conspiring against Church and State. Many of the late 17th century Freemasons seem to have been Jacobites, supporters of the exiled Catholic King James II, who helped to spread Masonry across Europe. (5)

The example of Masonry became catching and secret societies became something of an 18th century craze. Many other societies aped the masonic claims of origins of great antiquity. The Druid Order was reconstituted in London. On the continent the Rosicrucian Order grew out of Masonry and claimed descent from the alchemists of the Middle Ages. (6)

These were in no sense fringe organisations. Their members included aristocrats and prominent people in many countries. Their popularity reflected the ideas of the Enlightenment when the hold of Christianity on the European mind was weakening and being replaced with occultism and a fascination with antiquity. Educated men believed in a vague human brotherhood and tolerance, to be brought about by a benevolent elite. (7)

The real foundations of modern ultra-right conspiracy theory can be traced back to the foundation and proscription of the Illuminati. Founded in 1776 by Adam Weishaupt, a Bavarian professor, it combined the elaborate rituals and claims to great antiquity of

earlier secret societies with explicitly political aims. (These aims were gradually revealed to members as they rose through the degrees of the order.) The Illuminati were anti-clerical, republican, and sought to fulfil these aims by education and infiltration of Freemasonry. They enjoyed a brief vogue but alarmed the Bavarian government and were suppressed in 1785, accused of involvement in poisoning plots and similar activities.

Four years later the French Revolution broke out. The ideologies of the Revolution bore many similarities to those of the secret societies. Like the Masons, the revolutionaries believed in a vague deism and devised new religious ceremonies of their own to replace Christianity with the worship of the 'Supreme Being'. The early stages of the Revolution, in which aristocrats renounced their privileges for the common good, had obvious overtones of masonic ideas of human brotherhood under the tuition of a benevolent elite. However, as the Revolution went on, many masonic aristocrats became victims of the guillotine and lodges were sacked by mobs.

In spite of this defenders of Ancien Regime began to see Masonry as the sinister force behind the revolution. In 1790 Marie Antoinette wrote to her brother, Leopold II of Austria, blaming the Revolution on the Masons, and the first full-length expositions of right-wing conspiracy theory began to appear.

Le Tombeau de Jacques Molay published in Paris in 1794, contains many themes that still recur in contemporary right-wing conspiracy theory. Its thesis was that Jacques Molay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, the mediaeval crusading order crushed by the French monarchy in the 14th century, had, before his execution, formed a secret society to wreak vengeance on the French crown and the papacy; that his successors had formed links with the Order of Assassins of the Moslem world, had assassinated Henri IV of France in 1610, had been the secret power behind Cromwell, founded Freemasonry, and planned the French Revolution. (8) The French emigre L'Abbe Barruel, in his *Memoires Pour Servir a L'Histoire du Jacobinism*, named Weishaupt and the Illuminati as the real organisers of the Revolution. In non-revolutionary Europe suspicion of conspiracy and secret societies became widespread.

The French Revolution was followed by the rise and fall of Napoleon and, after 1815, by the restoration of reactionary regimes which declared war on the Enlightenment of the 18th century. In many countries the opponents of such regimes banded together in secret societies to plot their overthrow. For example, in Italy, the ideal of national unification was kept alive by the Carbonari, or Charcoal Burners, who, like the Masons, claimed to originate in mythical remote past. (9) Similar societies existed in other countries seeking revolution and national liberation, such as Poland and Greece. Even the early trade unions in Britain incorporated oaths and rituals drawn from the traditions of the secret societies. (10)

For the reactionary regimes the hand of the secret societies was visible in any expression of discontent. In 1819 Metternich of Austria proposed an international alliance against secret societies in terms similar to the Reagan administration's rhetoric against 'international terror.' In the aftermath of the revolutions of 1848 Disraeli (in his *Life of Lord George Bentick*) made it clear that he saw the secret societies as involved in an age-old struggle against Christianity:

"The origins of the secret societies that prevail in Europe is very remote. It is probable that they were originally confederations of conquered races

organised in a great measure by abrogated hierarchies The two characteristics of these confederations that cover Europe like a network are war against property and hatred of the semitic revelation (ie Christianity - RS). These are the legacies of their founders - a proprietary despoiled and the servants of altars that have been overthrown."

By the 19th century both real secret societies and conspiracy theories had played an important part in European political life. The next part of this study will examine how they became linked with political anti-semitism.

Notes

1. Richard Hofstadter's *The Paranoid Style in American Politics* is a good example. It describes phenomena such as 19th century anti-Catholic scares and the McCarthy era and suggests that the assassination researchers are the contemporary equivalent. This type of analogy was popular in newspaper pieces on the JFK controversy in the sixties. It is hard to know what these 1960s anti-paranoids would have said about anyone who had hinted at what is now known of the CIA/Mafia anti-Castro plots.

Incidentally, as another example of how unwise it can be to automatically dismiss someone as paranoid, one 1964 account of the Kennedy assassination (*Red Roses from Texas* by Nerin E. Gunn) quotes, as an example of vicious anti-JFK propaganda, a rightist broadsheet headlined 'Kennedy Keeps Mistresses'.

2. I am well aware that there are left conspiracy theories as ridiculous as right-wing ones. The all-time ripe example is Albert Kahn's *The Great Conspiracy Against the Soviet Union*. Published in the 1930s, this is an extremely long regurgitation of the Moscow trials which seems to have been taken seriously at the time and still occasionally gets quoted by some Soviet apologists. A contemporary example would be *Europe: First Continent of Lasting Peace* by Denis and Cynthia Roberts (Harney and Jones 1984). This oddly titled book consists of an account of alleged US attempts to destabilise the 'socialist' countries since 1945. It has some interesting tit-bits but ultimately topples into absurdity as it recruits E.P. Thompson and the Trotskyist groups into the 'great conspiracy'. In a very real sense it is a mirror image of right-wing conspiracy theories. Where the rightists see a US establishment bent on surrender to the Soviet Union, the Roberts see a US establishment bent on the destruction of the Soviet Union. Neither perspective allows for intra-elite conflicts, or considers that the Cold War may have more to do with the US determination to dominate the Third World or Western Europe than hostility to the Soviet Union.

I gather that among some British communists the idea that anything wrong with the Soviet Union is the result of the CIA is known as 'James Bondism'.

3. On a visit to the US I saw a book in a library - whose title I've forgotten - which investigated some favourite quotes from Lenin and others that turn up time and time again in ultra-right propaganda. It came to the conclusion that many of them are, in fact, totally imaginary. The contemporary neo-Nazi 'Holocaust Revisionism' propagandists also seem to be fond of inventing imaginary quotes.

4. As an example of just how inane this literature can be one can take two examples, *New Unhappy Lords*, from Britain, and *Pawns In The Game*, from the US. The former is by A.K. Chesterton who was a member of the National Front and other right-wing groups in Britain. It represents about the nearest thing to a cogent full-length exposition of the NF world view. It purports to be a reevaluation of the influence of 'international intrigue' on 20th century history. It opens with the engagingly frank statement that there will be footnotes or references since these make a book boring, but Chesterton has checked everything in the book and it's all true! *Pawns In The Game*, written by William Guy Carr, a Canadian ex-naval officer, in the 1950s, but still distributed by the US ultra-right, is even more bizarre. This is a disgusting anti-semitic fantasy claiming to reveal the Satanic forces behind the last 200 years of world history. Since the author is incapable of getting the most elementary historical facts right, and is clearly obsessed by orgies and sexual blackmail, the reasonable conclusion would be that he was mentally unbalanced at the time of writing.

It may be that material like this is part of the reason there is so little in the way of serious studies of right-wing conspiracy theories. In fact there even seems to be a widespread ignorance in this country that such things exist at all. As an example, take coverage of the National Front when it was at its height in the mid seventies. It was the subject of several TV documentaries and academic studies. However, while TV programmes traced the history of the Front, and academics analysed the sociology of its supporters and the patterns of its voting performance, neither showed much interest in discussing what the Front actually believed, or seemed aware that a conspiracy theory was at the centre of their ideology. Exceptions to this are the analyses of NF ideology contained in Michael Billig's *Fascists* (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanich, 1978), David Edgar's *Racism, Fascism and the Politics of the National Front* (Institute of Race Relations 1978) and his play *Destiny*. And, of course, Searchlight magazine.

For a serious discussion of the historical roots of such ideas in this country we seem to be limited to two books: Norman Cohn's *Warrant For Genocide*, which traces the history of the myth of the Jewish conspiracy, and J.M. Roberts' *Mythology of the Secret Societies*, which examines the fear of revolutionary secret societies in the early 19th century. Both of these books have been heavily drawn on for this article.

5. Roberts (see Note 4) refers to theories that the formation of the Grand Lodge of England and its subsequent royal and aristocratic patronage represents an attempt by Hanoverian supporters to wrest control of Masonry from the Jacobites.
6. The Hell-fire Club in England specialised in drunken orgies surrounded by rituals parodying those of the secret societies.
7. The interest in occultism and antiquity also accounts for the popularity of the gothic novel and the career of pseudo-occult tricksters like Cagliostro and Casanova (who combined Masonic membership with occultist con-games and intelligence activities.)

Not surprisingly the era of the English Civil War seems to have been a hotbed

of secret societies of various kinds. The suggestion has been made that the societies of working masons was first joined by outsiders in large numbers during the Civil War. Certainly, at a time of social crisis, the assistance members of these bodies gave to each other would have been very useful to merchants and others who travelled around.

Masonry had not been in existence very long before anti-Masonry emerged as a political current. Although Catholics, including priests, had been members of the early lodges, the Papacy first condemned Masonry in 1738. Although the official reason was that masonic rituals and beliefs were opposed to Christianity, Roberts mentions suggestions that the Pope was influenced by the Jacobites who, by that time, had lost their influence on Masonry.

8. An interesting example of the bizarre interactions of different currents of 18th century thought, including the Enlightenment and occultism, is supplied by the career of the mysterious Comte de Saint-Germain, 'the deathless'. A French courtier of obscure origins, he dabbled both in experiments with industrial chemistry and occultism, and became the subject of beliefs that he was really thousands of years old. At one time he was a friend of Casanova and was arrested as a Jacobite spy in London during the 1745 uprising. Barruel (see above, just after (8) in the text) names him as one of the Masonic super-conspirators behind the French Revolution. His name still crops up in occult paperback trash: there's even a recent claim that he was really an alien from space.
9. If it turns up at your local film society, see the Taviani Brothers marvellous film *Allonsanfan* in which Marcello Mastroianni plays a disillusioned ex-secret society member in post Napoleonic Italy.
10. Later, in the last quarter of the 19th century, a new wave of working class secret societies - including the Oddfellows, Buffaloes and Forresters - appeared. These groups, based on the highly conservative world of British Freemasonry, were an important index of the emergence of a working class politics based on acceptance of the social order (and male domination).

As socialism emerged out of 19th century radicalism it took on elements from the traditions of the secret societies. Michael Bakunin, the anarchist and joint founder of the First International, devoted much effort to unsuccessful plans to organise a Russian revolutionary secret society called the Social Democratic Alliance (yes!) .

Part 2

In 1838 a novel called *The Hebrew Talisman* was published in London. This story, which purports to be narrated by 'the Wandering Jew', begins in old Jerusalem as the Jew rescues the Seal of Solomon from the Roman conquerors. Then, over the centuries, he uses its occult power to enrich himself and his fellow Jews and to despoil the Gentiles. It depicts the Jews as first backing the extravagance of Louis XVI and then withdrawing their support- thus precipitating the French Revolution - and passing on the power of the Seal to the Rothschilds who use their resulting wealth to bring about Britain's triumph in the Napoleonic Wars.

This novel was obviously inspired by various contemporary events, notably the rise of the Rothschilds and moves towards Jewish emancipation in Britain. However, relevant here is that its plot represents a new synthesis of ideas. Part 1 of this article described the influence in the 18th century of fears of political activity directed from behind the scenes by occult secret societies. *The Hebrew Talisman* links these fears to Mediaeval ideas that the Jews were a sinister force plotting against Christians by means such as ritual murder and mass poisoning. Where earlier conspiracy theorists had seen the plotting of the secret societies as consisting of traditional activities such as assassination and the fomenting of unrest, this novel sees financial manipulation as central to their activity. A synthesis that has continued to exercise a baleful influence to this day was in being.

It seems unlikely that the novel's anonymous author simply thought up these ideas himself. Presumably the conflating of anti-secret society panic with anti-semitism was a connection that was beginning to be made in other quarters at this period. Another 19th century novel, *Biarritz*, published in Germany in 1868, shows the ideas developed even further. The novel's heroes hide in the Jewish cemetery in Prague. There they witness a meeting between elders from each of the twelve tribes of Israel at which various plans are laid to bring about Jewish world domination. While some tribes plot to enrich themselves by financial manipulation, others scheme to raise revolutionary mobs to overthrow Christian rulers. At the culmination Satan appears to the assembled elders to indicate his approval of their plans.

Another element has been added to the synthesis in this book - the idea of a secret alliance between financial manipulation and political revolution. With this idea all the main planks of modern political anti-semitism were present. They were to coalesce into organised political movements in two countries, France and Russia.

In spite of the veneer of romanticism around late 19th century Paris, the France of that era was a deeply divided society. The Third Republic had been formed in the aftermath of defeat at the hands of the Prussians and the bloody, vicious civil war around the Paris Commune. Its legitimacy was challenged from many quarters. Clericists and Monarchists dreamed of a regime that would restore the values of pious, peasant, rural France; nationalists and militarists of one that would restore Napoleonic glories. The doctrines of anarchism and syndicalism found audiences among the working class, bringing both violent strikes and spectacular acts of terror.

It was also the heyday of occultism and secret societies. The Catholic Church was identified with hostility to the Republic and consequently many sought alternatives. French Grand Orient Freemasonry, unlike its British counterpart, was explicitly anti-clerical and its members included very many leading politicians. Occult societies, claiming to be heirs to the traditions of the alchemists and the Knights Templars flourished. (1) (2)

Not surprisingly the situation was ripe for the pedlars of right-wing conspiracy theories. Opposition to Masonry and secret societies mingled with anti-semitism. The Jews, an urban population, aroused the hostility of the Clericists and other sections of the Right whose politics were based on a rural constituency and a hostility to the cities that were seen both as the homes of big capitalism *and* socialist subversion. Such politics came to a head with the Dreyfus affair which the Rightists believed to be the work of a mysterious syndicate linking Masons, Radicals and Jews, controlled by the Prussian General Staff.

The literature of the French Right of this period has a venomous quality that anticipates the Nazis. The Catholic Archbishop of Mauritius could end a denunciation of Freemasonry with the claim that it was controlled by the Jews and could make a near explicit call for a Final Solution:

"Do not hope, O Jews, to escape the calamity which threatens you...We do not wish to be the slaves of Jews..We will stand together against the enemies of God. Victory is certain."

The depths of credulity to which the anti-Masons and anti-semites of the period could sink was revealed by the audience that was prepared to take seriously the grotesque hoaxes of the publicist Leo Taxil. Taxil claimed to be a renegade Freemason and described such scenes as the personal appearance of Satan at Masonic meetings in the form of a piano-playing crocodile, and claimed that underneath Gibraltar lay a laboratory in which demons synthesised plagues to wipe out Christian Europe. (3) (Taxil turned out to be an anti-clerical who had concocted his tales to expose the gullibility of his enemies.)

Late 19th century Russia was another society in crisis. Religious mysticism and occultism flourished. As in France, clerical reactionaries looked askance at urbanisation and industrialisation, seeking to restore the values of traditional rural society. As in France, the Jews became the symbol of such urbanisation and reaction intermingled with anti-semitism, finding expression in the activities of the Black Hundreds political grouping. Nurtured by the authorities, it organised large-scale pogroms in the aftermath of the 1905 revolt. In Russia, however, occultists too were involved in spreading anti-semitism. Madame Blavatsky, the founder of Theosophy, had written in the foreign press in the 1880s defending Russian anti-semitism. At the time of the 1905 revolt considerable influence over the Czar and his family was exercised by 'Papus' (Gerard Encausse), a French occultist and former disciple of Madame Blavatsky, who warned against Freemasonry and Jewish influence, counselling stern repression.

It was in this climate that the notorious Protocols of the Elders of Zion appeared. This document was first published as an appendix to a treatise by Sergei Nilus, a ruined landowner turned religious fanatic on the advent of the Antichrist - a favourite theme of Russian mystics of the period. The Black Hundreds, then engaged in the 1905 pogroms, publicised it eagerly and the Metropolitan of Moscow ordered his clergy to preach sermons on the Jewish menace that the Protocols claimed to expose.

The Protocols claimed to be the minutes of a secret session of the Zionist Congress held in Basle in 1897. They describe a plan for world domination similar to that depicted in the novel *Biarritz*, involving both subversion and financial manipulation. Although their bogus nature should have been obvious from the first, the exact mechanics of the forgery did not come to light until some years later. The Protocols' sources lay not within Russia but came from France. They were, in fact, based on *Dialogue aux Enfers*, an 1860s satire on Napoleon III and his repressive regime, to which had been added references to topicalities of 1890s Paris (including the building of the Paris Metro which, according to the Protocols, was built so that Jews could, when the need arose, fill it with gunpowder and blow up Paris.) The forgery was the work of the Czarist secret police whose activities covered Europe as they monitored Russian emigres and the radicals in other nations they associated with. The responsibility for bringing the Protocols from France to Russia seems to belong to

Yulinka Glinka, a Czarist spy in Paris and former associate of Madame Blavatsky, the famous occultist and founder of the Theosophical Society. (4)

Belief in anti-semitic conspiracy theories was not confined to France and Russia at the beginning of this century. Such belief were widely encountered in Edwardian England. One of the best-selling novels of the period was *When It Was Dark*, a conspiracy thriller describing a plot by a Jewish millionaire to bring about the destruction of Christianity and the downfall of European civilisation by faking archaeological evidence of the career of Jesus. Rudyard Kipling's collection of historical stories, *Puck of Pook's Hill* includes one, *The Treasure and the Law*, which depicts the Jewish money lenders of Mediaeval Europe meeting in secret to plot the future of the continent. Even radical opposition to the Boer War was, on occasion, couched in terms of opposition to Jewish gold millionaires who were blamed for the war.(5)

As many British Jews were recent immigrants, hysteria against German 'spies' and 'aliens' became readily mixed with anti-semitism when WWI began. Some sections of the press talked of the 'Hidden Hand' which, in the words of one historian, was believed to be:

"a confederacy of evil men taking their orders from Berlin, dedicated to the downfall of Britain by subversion of the military, the cabinet, the Civil Service and the City, and working not only through the Establishment but through spiritualists, whores and homosexuals. Some even believed that the 'Hidden Hand' was a single individual inconceivably malign: they did not rule out Lucifer himself."(6)

The Russian Revolutions fuelled such ideas and they persisted after the war ended. The Protocols of Zion was disseminated among the White armies in the Russian civil war and when the Whites went into exile they spread them to many of the countries where they were exiled. In Britain they were serialised in the influential Fleet St. daily *The Morning Post* and attracted a wide audience.

The climate of the period can be judged from John Buchan's famous novel *The Thirty Nine Steps*, published in 1920. In the first chapter, set in early 1914, Colonel Scudder, the secret agent, explains that behind every major company in Europe is "a Jew in a wheelchair with eyes like a rattlesnake", and that the cause of the coming war is that "the Jew has his knife into the Russian Empire." (7)

It was this climate that produced one of the most influential of all rightist conspiracy theorists, Nesta H. Webster. The wife of a Surrey country gentleman, she believed herself to be a reincarnation of a French countess guillotined at the time of the French Revolution. (8) She developed a considerable interest in the period and became influenced by some of the conspiratorial interpretations of the Revolution described in part 1 of this study. The post WWI climate encouraged her to interpret contemporary politics in the same light and in 1921 she produced *World Revolution: the Plot against Civilisation*. Her thesis was that revolutions and unrest raging in the aftermath of WW1 were the result of an evil alliance of "Grand Orient Masonry, Theosophy, Pan-Germanism, International Finance and Social Revolution." She traces the conspiracy back to the French Revolution and the Illuminati, and beyond this, via the history of Masonry, to the Mediaeval Knights Templar and the Order of the Assassins. (Such ideas, as shown in Part 1 were current at the time of the French Revolution.)

At the time, such ideas were very far from being part of the political fringe. Nesta Webster was invited to expound her ideas to meetings of Army officers on several occasions and no less a figure than Winston Churchill stated in a newspaper article written in 1920 on the forces behind the Russian Revolution that:

"This conspiracy against civilisation (dates) from the days of Weishaupt ... As a modern historian Mrs Webster has so ably shown it played a recognisable role in the French Revolution." (9)

In the same year *The Times* took such ideas seriously enough to editorialise:

"Have we, by straining every fibre of our body politic escaped a Pax Germanica only to fall into a Pax Judaeica? The Elders of Zion as represented in their protocols are by no means kinder task masters than William II and his henchmen."

The success of the Protocols was repeated in other nations, notably Germany, where the Right cherished the myth that the Army had been "stabbed in the back" in 1918, and where the Elders of Zion became allies, not of the German High Command, but of the British Empire. The ground had been laid for the Nazi genocide. (10)

Roger Sandell

Notes

1. An excellent account of the occultist climate in the early years of the century in France and other countries is contained in James Webb's *The Occult Establishment* (Richard Drew 1981), an enormously detailed survey of this aspect of twentieth century thought. It includes a particularly relevant chapter 'The Conspiracy Against the World' detailing the part played by French and Russian occultists in spreading anti-semitic conspiracy theories.
2. Any mention of French secret societies in the 1890s raises the question of what to make of the book, *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* by Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln (1983). Briefly, this book claims that there exists in France today a secret society called the Priory of Sion, a centuries old body descended from the Knights Templar, which is one of the forces behind moves towards European unity. That the Priory exists seems not unlikely, even though Lincoln et al rely for some of their material on writers of paperback occultist trash. But there seems little evidence for it having much real influence, or for its alleged antiquity being any more than the standard grandiose claims of secret societies. As for their final claim, that the Priory was founded to preserve a line of descent from Jesus (who, according to the authors, fathered children who migrated to Gaul), and plan to have one such descendant crowned as king of a united Europe, it is surely too absurd to take seriously.

Incidentally, Count Otto von Hapsburg, the diplomat who the authors claim to be a member of the Priory, also features in the conspiracy theories of the US Labour Party.

3. The belief in sinister and mysterious bodies that are deliberately spreading diseases is a very clear link between the witch mania of the Reformation and

contemporary conspiracy theory. One recent example is the belief of the US right-wing conspiracy theorist Hugh C. McDonald that Soviet planes are introducing flu germs into US air space. (see McDonald *Appointment in Dallas*, US 1975)

4. The full tale of the origins and the early bibliographical history of the Protocols is very convoluted but the best summaries currently available are to be found in Norman Cohn's *Warrant for Genocide* and in Webb's *The Occult Establishment* (see above).
5. In Britain too, there seemed to be a big overlap between occultism and conspiracy theories. The Theosophical Society had republished The Hebrew Talisman in 1888. Alastair Crowley's turn of the century occultist group, The Golden Dawn, included two members later to be associated with conspiracy theories. These were Catherine M. Stoddart who wrote a book in the 1930s called *Light Bearers of Darkness*, which accused other occultists and spiritualists of being pawns in a Jewish Bolshevik plot, and Captain (later Major-General) J.F.C. Fuller, the military historian, who was an associate of Oswald Mosley and wrote anti-semitic conspiracy pieces in the Fascist press. (He was also the only Englishman invited to Hitler's 50th birthday party in April 1939).
6. E.S. Turner *Dear Old Blighty* (Michael Joseph 1980). This is one of the few books to deal with this aspect of World War I Britain in any detail. It should come as no surprise that Dr. Ellis Powell, one of the leading Hidden Hand propagandists was also an Occultist.
7. The part played by thrillers in disseminating right-wing conspiracy theories is an interesting one, with Frederick Forsyth's *The Fourth Protocol* being the most recent example. Several thriller writers like Dennis Wheatley and Ian Fleming have had real backgrounds in the intelligence services and the John Buchan quote is a particularly notable example of the acceptability of such beliefs since he was a friend of George V and later Governor-General of Canada.
8. Recent accounts of Nesta Webster have included Richard Gilman's *Behind World Revolution* (US 1982), Richard Griffiths' *Fellow Travellers of the Right* and John Michell's *Eccentric People and Extraordinary Notions* (London 1984). The latter includes suggestions that she may have had connections with British intelligence.
9. *Sunday Herald* February 8 1920. Neo-nazis seem rather fond of this quote so it is worth mentioning that the article is in fact pro-Zionist and argues that Zionism is an ally against Bolshevism among the Jews. John Buchan seems to have believed something similar since he combined apparent support for anti-semitic conspiracy theories with backing for Zionism and friendship with Dr. Chaim Weizmann.
10. The evidence in this piece about the links between occultism and conspiracy theories raises the question of the occult connections of the Nazis. Unfortunately this field is complicated by the highly dubious (to put it mildly) treatment of the subject in Pauwels and Bergier's *The Dawn of Magic* (also

titled *The Morning of the Magicians*) a book which, since the 1950s, has laid the basis for a generation of sensationalist books in this and several other fields, which merely repeat its claims without acknowledgement. The best serious treatments of this subject are, again, Webb (see above) and Dusty Sklar *Gods and Beasts: the Nazis and the Occult*, which although a trifle thin on primary documentation, is, unlike many books on this subject, written from an explicitly rationalist and anti-Fascist viewpoint.

Assassination Archives and Research Centre

We got a note and an advertising flyer from Bud Fensterwald announcing the establishment of this centre.

Fensterwald is an interesting figure in the history of clandestine America since 1945. He has frequently been described as CIA although, to our knowledge, nothing resembling evidence for these claims has ever surfaced.

The AARC's purpose is "to collect, organise, preserve, and make available to serious researchers all variety of materials relating to assassinations, both national and international."

The current Board of AARC includes Paul Hoch, Phil Melanson, Mary Ferrell and Gary Shaw - all respected figures in American conspiracy research circles.

AARC is at 918 F. St. N W, Washington DC 20004. USA. Please send inquiries to them, not to *Lobster*.

Korkala, Terpil and Ireland

According to the Dublin magazine *Magill* (August 1984), Frank Terpil was 'kicked out' of the CIA in 1972. He apparently admitted this while visiting Beirut in the autumn of 1980. He also claimed to have worked for the UN in New York and to have been Idi Amin's advisor there. These 'revelations' were made at an intimate little social gathering in the basement restaurant of the Wilner House Hotel (where Terpil was staying with a travelling companion called 'Ruth'). Those present included Marie McCarthy, who managed the restaurant; her Dutch boyfriend Gerrit; and George Korkala who claimed to be a 'dealer in electronics' and who had been a frequent visitor to the restaurant in the weeks preceding Terpil's visit. Korkala introduced Terpil as 'Jim', and *Magill* states that it was only after 'Jim' returned to Damascus (where he apparently lived) that Marie McCarthy found out he was Terpil.

The following year McCarthy and Gerrit were living in London. Gerrit returned to Beirut in September and met Korkala who was living in their old apartment. Gerrit claims that it was only then that Korkala told him he was wanted in the US for jumping bail in connection with gun-running charges. He said he wanted to discuss the case 'with the American people outside the confines of a courtroom', and asked Gerrit to set up a newspaper or TV interview. He was (apparently) speaking for Terpil as well.

The interview was arranged from London with Mike Wallace of CBS's 'Sixty Minutes' (McCarthy knew Wallace from her time with the UN in New York) and took place in

Beirut. It was transmitted on Sunday, 7th November 1981.

Shortly before the scheduled broadcast Korkala and Terpil disappeared. It was rumoured that they had been kidnapped (though by whom and why is still not known), and McCarthy, Gerrit and Donna Korkala (Korkala's wife who had flown in from the US) set off for Beirut to search for the 'missing' men.

Although they found no trace of the two men during the 10 days they spent in Beirut, they did discover Korkala's address book 'lying around the flat', and Donna suggested McCarthy take it and contact some of those listed to see if they knew of his whereabouts.

Korkala surfaced on New Years Day, and Terpil early in 1982. Within two months Korkala was arrested at an arms fair in Spain, held in a Madrid jail, and extradited to the US on 11 March 1982.

The Beirut/London episodes take up 2 pages of the 8 page article - the remaining 6 cover McCarthy's 'Irish connections' (which are/were normal family ties), and the shoddy nature of the Irish media fraternity. It also throws some curious light on Gordon Thomas (best-selling author of a growing pile of rubbish), who made a number of desperate attempts (one word used is 'hysterical') to get his hands on whatever documents McCarthy might have relating to Terpil and (presumably) Korkala.

Thomas became involved when he was contacted by McCarthy's brother who had heard that his sister was the subject of police enquiries concerning a crashed BMW car which belonged to the wife of a fugitive ex-CIA agent. (This came about when Marie McCarthy and Gerrit used Marilyn Terpil's car to visit McCarthy's family in Cappoquin, County Waterford, in January 1983.)

Magill claims that during 1982 Marilyn Terpil (who lived in Wales), contacted McCarthy and Gerrit in London on a number of occasions, and shortly before Xmas that year she decided to sell out and move back to the US. She left the BMW in London with McCarthy, apparently asking them to sell it for her. Instead, they took the opportunity to head for Ireland via the Fishguard-Rosslare ferry. En route to Cappoquin, Gerrit crashed into a bridge and this resulted in the Irish police 'finding' the car weeks later. Their inquiries eventually led them to the McCarthy family in Cappoquin, whom they questioned about Gerrit, the CIA, international gun-running and Idi Amin!

John McCarthy (Marie's brother) had heard Gordon Thomas being interviewed on Irish radio a few weeks earlier about his latest book 'Pontiff', and figured he'd know about the CIA and people like Terpil. Thomas (who lives tax-free in Ashford, County Wicklow) used John McCarthy to lure his sister to Ireland, claiming she was being hunted by the FBI, CIA, Scotland Yard and the Irish Special Branch. Thomas also referred to 'high level' sources in Washington when he told McCarthy that Gerrit was a member of the CIA, and, hinting that the Vatican was involved, mentioned that the present Pope was "the most political of all Popes".

Magill doesn't make it clear whether Thomas actually got his grubby paws on any 'relevant' material, though it does state that McCarthy's papers were tampered with the night she spent at Thomas' house in Ashford (22 March 1983), and that although the

file she brought to Ireland contained a lot of information on Terpil (from press cuttings) and Korkala's address book, it was examined (and presumably photocopied) by the Irish Special Branch and found to contain "nothing that any police force anywhere would be interested in".

Thomas wrote two articles about the affair in the *Sunday Press* (27 March and 3 April 1983) in his usual 'well-researched' sensationalist style. Under a headline "What has a car crash in Wexford to do with a plot to kill the Pope?", the opening paragraph of the first article reads:

"A car mishap on an Irish road has raised the shattering spectre that the US Central Intelligence Agency is implicated in the plot to assassinate Pope John Paul 2 in Rome in May 1981." According to *Magill* "from reading the article in the *Sunday Press* it is impossible to see how this conclusion is drawn."

The same day another Dublin paper, the *Sunday Independent* (which had been contacted by McCarthy the previous day following a TV programme the night before which had been 'inspired' by Thomas, and was similar to the *Sunday Press* piece) carried a lead story: "Irish girl denies Pope plot link". The following Sunday Thomas expanded on his theory by saying that from conversations with Marie McCarthy he concluded that "Terpil had been in the CIA when they trained Ali Agca to shoot." He also wrote that the *Sunday Independent* "engaged in the kind of reporting of a story that simply gives journalists a bad name."

The affair seems to have petered out there, at least as far as the Irish media is concerned, until the *Magill* article 16 months later. I should say at this point that in the past *Magill* has produced some excellent investigative and accurate articles concerning corruption in Irish politics and criminality in the Irish police (of which the 'Kerry babies' tribunal being conducted at present is yet another cruel example), but it is rather weak when it has to tackle the international parapolitical underworld. The article on Marie McCarthy is no exception, with no sources given for the comings-and-goings between Beirut and London in 1981/2 - so I'm assuming this is McCarthy's and Gerrit's version of events - and overall the article has a Catholic 'self-righteousness' about it.

McCarthy is portrayed as an innocent abroad, trying to bring a little joy to a troubled world, who came under the influence of the big, bad ex-CIA wolves (a sort of parapolitical Little Red Riding Hood).

Her innocence is proclaimed on the cover of the magazine, and this eliminates the possibility of an objective article. However the piece does raise some interesting questions.

1. Was it really Korkala's address book reproduced in *Lobster* 7? And if so, is it the same one that was examined by the Irish Special Branch and dismissed as being of no value to any police force (and, by inference, of no value to anybody else)?
2. Did the Irish SB let the significance of the book slip through their fingers? Or are there two address books, one useful (for parapolitical purposes) and one useless?
3. When did McCarthy come into possession of the book? (a) in Beirut in 1981,

or (b) through the post in 1982? (She may, of course, have returned it after Korkala surfaced in January 1982 - Magill (McCarthy) isn't clear on this point and makes absolutely no reference to any contact, physical or otherwise, between Korkala and McCarthy after the latter gave up managing the restaurant in Beirut.) The article is clear, however, in stating that she had the address book in her possession in Ireland a year after Korkala's extradition. Did she 'edit' it to pass police inspection, or did Thomas get his hands on something of value before the SB.? Again, Magill isn't clear about this point either.

4. Who does Gordon Thomas represent? Who are the 'high level' sources in Washington he referred to? Is the man simply a buffoon, a sort of second-rate Robert Moss, and these some of the ingredients for his next 'torrid' work?
5. Finally, what is McCarthy's precise role in the whole affair, and when did she change from 'innocent abroad' to parapolitical 'mole'? Or did she change at all?

O'Cuilleagain

Korkala postscript

One of the entries in Korkala's address book (see *Lobster* 7) is Jim Megis (Paris). The *Sunday Times* (23 December 1984) reported the deportation from Britain of a Jim Megis. He had been held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act after his arrest on November 28th. *The Times* claims "his interrogators accused him of being the 'Mr Big' of terrorism", and added that "privately police are saying Megis was 'doing a bit of work for the Libyans.' "

Given Korkala's connections to the Wilson/Terpil story this is interesting in itself. More interesting is the statement by Megis' lawyer in Paris that he (Megis) was working for the CIA.

This is made more plausible by information we received recently identifying a 'Jim Megis' as an anti-narcotics officer with the US Armed Forces in Paris in 1969/70. The (anonymous) author of the letter we received says s/he was at school with Megis' son in Paris, and that Megis used to tell them stories of his experiences in Vietnam, interrogating prisoners.

The Paris-based 'Jim Megis' arrested and deported from London was 51. This would make him 35 in 1969, old enough to have a teenage son in 1968/69. If this is the same Megis - and that seems quite plausible - how many 'Jim Megis's are there likely to be in Paris? - the Armed Forces story he told his son's friend in the sixties was presumably a routine CIA cover story.

The *Sunday Times*, while not terribly specific, has Megis assumed to be working for the Libyans by (a) the French, (b) the Austrian and (c) the British authorities. The tempting inference through all this is that whatever complicated games Wilson/Terpil were playing with the Libyans are continuing.

Megis, it should be said, has claimed that he has been framed by the Libyans, and the CIA has denied that Megis is working for them.

RR

Robert Hawke

Blanche D'Alpuget (Penguin 1984)

"I had the idea that one could not be a businessman and stay a human being." Sir Peter Abeles

If we are moving into the century of the Pacific Basin, then the starting date for Australia was probably March 1981. At a meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce, Alan Carroll, the American representative of Business International, gave the keynote address. Among Business International's Australian clients were Chase Manhattan, IBM, General Electric, Rio Tinto, to name a few. They relied on Carroll to keep them informed on economic and political trends in Australia and South East Asia. He outlined to them the strategy to bring Robert Hawke to power.. He forecast that Hawke would be Labour Leader by late 1982 and Prime Minister by 1983. Hawke would also be in power for ten years and not for one term. (*Hawke PM* John Hurst, London 1983, p266)

Hawke, of course, did become Prime Minister and has recently won another term. He is what we would see as a social democrat, a strong supporter of the Americans and big business, increasingly at odds with the left-wing of his party. He is pro MX, pro Israel, pro uranium mining and a promoter of economic policies which Thatcher would endorse. He is also immensely popular, but recently support has begun to slide and the election victory wasn't as decisive as he wanted. "He has subsequently admitted that his campaign performance was affected by his concern about his daughter, a heroin addict. After the election he almost went into hiding for a month." (*Guardian* 1 April 1985)

Heroin has become an issue in Australian politics, the heroin business growing from nothing ten years ago to a turnover estimated at 1.7 billion dollars. Obviously that fact was brought home to Hawke by his daughter's addiction. But one feels when he went into hiding he was reflecting on close personal connections with this other American big business..

The connection between Australian mobsters and American Mafia figures and the heroin trade are explored in Alfred Mckoy's *Drug Traffic* (Harper and Row, Australia 1980). Briefly, they centre around Australian drug traffickers Bela Csidei and Murray Riley to Jimmy Frattiano, Mike Rizzitello, Rudy Tham, and Salvatore Amarena, a former Trafficante-Marcello man.

"Connections have included meetings with top Australian businessmen. One of whose name has cropped up in American investigations is an industrial knight. A police reference to his company being 'backed by money' from an American crime syndicate was dropped from the final transcript of the Moffit Royal Commission. His chief general manager is on record as flying to America from Sydney for a meeting with Rudy Tham. The knight himself is alleged to have met Frattiano in New York to discuss the possibility of investing in the Westchester Premier Theatre - the theatre where top eastern organised crime leaders met at a show given by Frank Sinatra in the latter part of 1977." (*Sydney Bulletin* 7 November 1978)

Although not named, we know that the knight in question is Sir Peter Abeles, a close friend and drinking partner of Robert Hawke, a person regarded by Hawke as a father figure, "we became trusted friends." In 1973, as head of the union ACTU, Hawke was

responsible for promoting involvement in business enterprises. One he established was a joint ACTU-New World Travel venture. The partnership was with Thomas Nationwide Transport whose managing director, later chairman, was Sir Peter Abeles.

Abeles has connections - though slight - to the Nugan Hand Bank scandal through business partner John Charody, who was a bank representative. (*Tribune* 3 September 1980). He also figures in some reports of the New South Wales Corporate Affairs Commission which detail his role as a go-between for the deals of mining magnate Alexander Baron and one Bela Csidei. Csidei, a peripheral Nugan Hand associate, was convicted in 1977 of growing marijuana on his property with cash and seeds from Jimmy Frattiano. Interestingly, Frattiano has mentioned one Hungarian-Australian member of the Knights of Malta, Ivan Markovics, but not Bela Csidei who had a diplomatic passport issued by the Knights of Malta. Abeles is also a Hungarian-Australian..."With Hungarians he speaks their own language." (D'Alpuget p 238)

In 1982 Frattiano testified, in a New York trial, that he had been given free transportation for his San Francisco clothing store from the American trucking subsidiary of Abeles' Thomas Nationwide Transport. He also said that Venera 'Benny Eggs' Mangano, a member of the old Genovese family, told him Abeles paid Mangano \$25,000 "So that there would be no problems on the docks. He told me he took care of it and was going on Abeles' payroll". The total paid to the Mafia was put at \$300,000. (UPI 23 July 1982) Rudy Tham, who introduced Abeles to Frattiano in 1976, protected Abeles from Teamster Union harassment.

"Bob shows his emotions, and more than his intellect, more than arguing, I find that most attractive about him. It is only the Anglo-saxons who say a man cannot show his emotions. But I'm a European. When I've had personal problems I cry." Sir Peter Abeles. (D'Alpuget p236).

(Thanks to Jonathan Marshall's *Parapolitics USA* nos 3/4 p12; no.2 p22; and no.7 p 28 for the above material.)

SD

Miscellany

Elite Jottings

Fascinating letter in the *Daily Telegraph* (see 4 January and 9 January 1985) on the career of Dom Mintoff, recently retired as Prime Minister of Malta. Mintoff was a Rhodes Scholar (1939-41) and the 4 January letter informs us that "in the flush of the George Cross award (to Malta) he wanted integration (three MPs at Westminster) with Britain."

Integration of Britain with America was one of the Round Table group's pre WW2 ambitions. One of the US end of the Round Table network, Clarence Streit (Rhodes Scholar 1920/21) wrote a couple of books advocating this. (See *Union Now With Britain*, Jonathan Cape, London 1941). Streit's biography in the Register of Rhodes Scholars notes that he was President of the International Movement for Atlantic Union as late as 1961, publishing *Freedom's Frontier - Atlantic Union Now* in that year. (Some ideas die hard!)

While in Quigley country somewhere in one of his books on all this he remarks that the Round Table network had a stranglehold on the (writing of the) history of the British Empire/Commonwealth through having its members or allies in all the important jobs in the academic/publishing/journalism world.

An interesting example of something akin to this appeared in the *Observer* (10 February 1985). In the review section page 26 is taken up with two book reviews. One is a review of a biography of Lloyd George by John Grigg. Lloyd George had a whole slew of Round Tablers (led by Lord Milner) in his cabinet just after WWI, and the grandfather of Grigg, Edward Grigg, was part of the early Round Table's inner circle. The reviewer of this book is David Watt (aka D.C. Watt), a leading light in today's Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA), itself an early Round Table 'front' organisation. (And the *Observer*, of course, was owned for a time by Lord Astor, one of the Round Table's inner circle.)

The second review is of an autobiography of Lionel Brett. Brett's grandfather, Lord Esher, was also a member of the Round Table's inner circle. The reviewer quotes Esher saying, in refusing the Viceroy of India job, that he saw no point in "throwing away the substance of power for the shadow". Part of that 'substance' was his membership of the Round Table's inner circle.

Financial Times (7 December 1984) reported on another of those elite groups, The Group of Thirty. Set up (with Rockefeller Foundation money) in 1978, its new chairman is Lord Richardson, former Governor of the Bank of England.

Anyone got anything else on this group?

Destabilisation

The destabilisation of Greece and the Seychelles continues. (See *Lobster 7*)

Two brief reports from the Seychelles. President Rene reported calling a press conference "to dispel what he said were attempts to portray his country as under Soviet influence." The report notes that the Seychelles "is full of rumours of enforced socialism and mounting Soviet influence." (*Times* 1 December 1984)

An example of this rumour-mongering appeared in the *Observer* (9 December 1984). "Russia's hold on this one-time tropical paradise is tight...etc" (quoted from a French report.)

It might all be true, of course.

In Greece the now familiar pattern is visible, even in the British press.

1. *Daily Telegraph* (19 December 1984) "The Greek government is causing uneasiness within the Western Alliance following the announcement that it is changing the country's defence orientation away from confrontation with the Warsaw Pact to face a threat from Turkey."
2. *Guardian* (8 January 1985) "Richard Burt, US Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs" warned in an interview.. that Greek-American relations "Can't be a one-way friendship."
3. The Cyprus connection, predicted as a probable trigger for a US-backed coup

- in *Lobster 7*, duly appears. *Daily Telegraph* (4 February 1985) reported a "previously unknown organisation" claiming the credit (sic) for a bomb blast in a US air force base in Greece which injured 78 people. The organisation, calling itself the National Front, said the attack was because the Americans "were responsible for the continued situation in Cyprus." "Previously unknown organisation" is usually a euphemism for 'an intelligence operation'.
4. *Daily Telegraph* (16 February 1985). US preparing contingency plans to remove its bases from Greece in 1988 when present leasing arrangements expire. Oh sure. Anybody remember when the US last quietly packed its bags and left?
 5. *Daily Telegraph* (24 February 1985) A piece headlined "Athens - new terrorist capital of West". Apparently there are 17 unsolved political assassinations in Greece in the past decade.(17! How many in Northern Ireland?) The article claims Greece has become the centre of Arab terrorism. This is such blatantly intelligence-inspired bullshit
 6. Report in *Times* (23 February 1985) on mysterious, allegedly left-wing '17 November' group which claims to have killed a Greek publisher. 'November 17' is said to have left a note at the scene of the murder "arguing that the publisher had been helping the CIA to create a climate of uncertainty in Greece."

The World Anti-Communist League

The World Anti-Communist League (WACL) has had a lot of attention recently. Less attention has been paid to the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League (APACL), the parent body of the WACL. The APACL puts out a magazine *Asian Outlook* (now into Vol 19). Consisting almost entirely of speeches from APACL worthies and turgid anti-communist rhetoric, *Asian Outlook* bears a remarkable resemblance to the stodgier output of its ideological enemies, and must be a strong contender for the title of 'Most Boring Journal in the World'.

Still, from the August 1984 edition we learn that Peter Dally, Chairman of the British Anti-Communist Council (BACC - see *Lobster 7*) is also Vice Chair of something called the European Council for World Freedom, aka the WACL Council for Europe; that Jill Knight MP is Secretary General of the BACC; and that two British MPs attended the APACL Captive Nations Week shin-dig in Taiwan - Henry Billingham and Stephan Terlezki.

Anybody who wants to subscribe (or try to cadge a free copy) the address is *Asian Outlook*, Box 22992, Taipei. Taiwan. Subs. are \$10 per year.

Memoirs from Lord Rothschild

An exquisite example of how the British State operates is to be found in the droll but thin volume of memoirs from Lord Rothschild (he of Think Tank fame), *Random Variables* (Collins, London 1984)

This on page 75:

P.M. "would you give me an example of the type of problem you want the Unit (ie the Think Tank) to tackle"

Mr Heath."Concorde."

At that moment I thought, perhaps wrongly, that I detected some anguished vibrations emanating from Sir Burke Trend and Sir William Armstrong, as they then were, who were hovering in the background.. an hour before they had told me that it was precisely things like Concorde that the Government Think Tank would not be expected to study.

General Vernon Walters

Perhaps the single most interesting thing I've seen recently was in the *New Statesman* (8 February 1985) profile of General Vernon Walters, the probable replacement for the dreadful Jeanne Kirkpatrick as US ambassador at the UN. It included this:

"In the early 1960s, as military attache in Rome, he (Walters) was closely involved with the Italian intelligence service and with blocking the Kennedy Administration's 'opening' towards the Italian left."

I could be wrong but my 'nose' tells me this will turn out to be a major lead. Not that the Kennedy 'apertura' was a secret. As soon as I checked some of the basic texts on the Kennedy administration (Schlesinger's *One Thousand Days*, for example), there it is. Although there are no details, it was included in the standard histories. I haven't had time yet to do a proper trawl through the libraries on this, but in one or two of the standard academic studies of domestic Italian post-war politics the 'apertura' merits merely a line or two. But with hindsight, and the recent events in Italy in mind, this is surely an area which will repay further study.

This reminds me again of how important it is to re-read everything. I haven't looked at Schlesinger's book for at least 5 years, and five years ago the 'apertura' to the left wouldn't have meant anything to me.

In the light of ex BOSS agent Gordon Winter's remark that BOSS had the Kennedy assassination marked down to 'a General named Walters' (see *Lobster* 7), this latest fragment about Walters is of the greatest possible significance. Walters's own memoirs *Silent Missions* (1978 I think) which I skimmed last year, contain two striking omissions. One is any reference at all to John Kennedy. The other is any information at all on where Walters was during 1963.

USS Liberty incident

Nice to find the big battalions on your side once in a while. December's *Atlantic* contains two pages of outraged and gob-smacked letters from authors of books on Israel responding to the outrageous article on the USS Liberty incident. (See *Lobster* 7).

Three books are mentioned which deal with the episode:

- Stephen Green's *Taking Sides*
- James Ennes' *Assault on the Liberty*
- Donald Neff's *Warriors for Jerusalem*.

Of these three only Green's book seems to have been published in the UK. And the list

ought to contain Anthony Pearson's *Conspiracy of Silence* (Quartet 1978) Pearson hasn't exactly been visible since then. Anybody know where he is and doing what?

Active British Servicemen

"British servicemen (are) active in nearly 50 countries world-wide."

Thus, Hugh Hanning, Director of Studies for the British Atlantic Committee, writing in the *Daily Telegraph* (5 January 1985) in the course of an article arguing for an aggressive, expansionist British military posture ('an extrovert defence policy'). This is apparently known as 'horizon stretching' in Whitehall. Sandhurst and the SAS go world-wide!

The Belgrano business

Bob Woodward (of Woodstein fame) quoted in the *Observer* (24 Feb. 1985) on the Belgrano business:

"It's pretty obvious that the information the Government claim is secret is the position of the American spy satellites."

This may be a pretty educated guess. As Jim Hougan reveals in his *Secret Agenda* (reviewed in this issue), Woodward had a very important job with US Naval Intelligence before becoming a journalist.

Blood revenge: the aftermath of the assassination of Airey Neave

"The anomaly of going to war in your own country was not lost on Harry." (*Harry's Game*, Gerald Seymour, Fontana, London 1975)

Airey Neave was killed in March 1979 by a bomb planted beneath his car just outside the Houses of Parliament. The then little known Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) soon claimed responsibility. The widespread shock which greeted his assassination was probably nowhere more clearly felt than by Mrs Thatcher, then leader of the Conservative opposition.

Neave had masterminded Thatcher's rise to power in the Conservative Party, organising her election as party leader. It was probably him who directed the 'dirty tricks' campaign against Heath which proved so effective. From 1975 until his death Neave headed Thatcher's private office.

It was expected that he would be an important influence on her when she was elected to power: no-one else had been quite so close or had kept the faith for so long.

As Shadow Spokesman on Northern Ireland it was assumed that, following the election of a Conservative Government, his normal posting would be Northern Ireland. But it was revealed (*Private Eye* 13 April 1979) that he would have been selected as Minister without Portfolio with responsibilities for the intelligence complex.

Neave had strong intelligence connections. During WW2, after escaping from Colditz, he became a leading figure in MI9, the escape organisation controlled by MI6. Towards the end of the war he was involved with a sub-section called IS9(WEA) attached to SHAEF, a section some called 'another secret army'. It included future Conservative MPs Maurice McMillan and Peter Baker.

Shortly after the war Neave used his legal training at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, and then spent a curious year with the Territorial version of IS9 (WEA) before becoming an MP.

His record in Parliament was hardly impressive - perhaps he deliberately kept to the background. It appears though that his intelligence connections were maintained because shortly before his death he discussed with former operatives of the intelligence services the possibility of 'stopping' Tony Benn MP if Labour came to power. (*New Statesman* 20 February 1981).

Unlike her predecessors, Mrs Thatcher had maintained an interest in intelligence matters while in opposition. Through journalist Chapman Pincher, Maurice Oldfield of MI6 expressed MI6's desire "to keep in touch with her." Prime Minister Callaghan allowed the MI6 director to brief the leader of the opposition. Oldfield and Thatcher became firm friends. The day after her election as Prime Minister she requested the head of MI6 and the Director of MI5, Arthur Franks and Howard Smith, to brief her on intelligence matters.

The briefing "followed the same pattern as that given to her predecessor when he came to office: it was non-specific in terms of actual cases, but highly detailed in explaining the basic modus operandi of MI5 and MI6 operations ... although we can't be sure it is a fair guess that Neave's killing came up at that briefing." (*Magill* June 1979)

Following this "The personal involvement of Mrs Thatcher with Airey Neave led to an unprecedented move. An intelligence sub-committee was set up to hunt Neave's killers. The then Paymaster General, Angus Maude, well known right-wing Minister, liaising with the Co-ordinator of Security and Intelligence in the Cabinet, Brooks Richards, headed it.. He promised unlimited financial resources to capture Neave's killers". (*Magill* above)

"I want the maximum effort to get the killers and fast. I don't want an investigation that runs a month, two months or six months". (*Harry's Game*)

For British Intelligence in Northern Ireland there was a problem in tracking down Neave's killers. It knew next to nothing about INLA though it knew something of the political organisation, the Irish Republican Socialist Party which was allied to it. The IRSP had been established by a break away militant faction of the Official IRA, led by legendary Republican figure, Sean Costello, following the Official IRA's ceasefire in 1974. INLA itself appears to have formed - initially as the Peoples' Liberation Army - in late 1974 when feuding, lasting a year, broke out with the Officials. (Costello himself was assassinated in 1977)

Costello was assassinated in 1977. Kenneth Littlejohn had claimed that Costello was already on a British Intelligence assassination list. It was thought that the shotgun blast which killed him in a Dublin street had also destroyed the IRSP and INLA. But they returned to prominence with the Airey Neave killing and received formal recognition

when they were proscribed by the Thatcher government in July 1979 (*Guardian* 18 May 1981)

Military intelligence in Northern Ireland, represented by the 12 and 14 companies of the Army's Intelligence Corps, had little on INLA. Neither had the other intelligence groups, MI5, MI6, DIS, the Anti-terrorist squad, and Scotland Yard - all came up empty handed. A Defence Intelligence staff report (Document No 37) obtained by the IRA in early 1979, was published in part in May of that year. It made little mention of INLA. Mrs Thatcher was apparently appalled by the disparity of reports she received on intelligence in Northern Ireland. (*British Intelligence in Action*, Kennedy Lindsay)

"British intelligence officers met their contacts and talked ... all were to report later that night to their controller that nothing was known." (*Harry's Game*)

Intelligence appointees were confined to 'tasking' - delineating collection areas for different services - and arbitration in inter-service disputes, of which there were many. Thatcher had decided major changes were required and appointed a security co-ordinator for Northern Ireland.

First choice was 'tough man' Sir John Killick who had a long career in intelligence going back to the war. He declined but she persuaded her close friend Sir Maurice Oldfield to come out of retirement. (At the time he was writing a book on international affairs at All Souls College, Oxford).

Oldfield only lasted six months and had to retire through ill-health. His replacement in May 1980 was Francis Brooks Richard. During the war he had been involved in intelligence work, running the secret Telford Flotilla, and was President of the Special Forces Club. Around the time of his appointment "the Dublin weekly *Hibernia*, stated that it had received confidential reports showing that if the INLA unit responsible could not be found, other sections of the movement could serve as acceptable substitutes." (*The Kitson Experiment*, Roger Faligot, Zed Press 1983)

"The Prime Minister was virtually inaudible. 'We'll need some results and soon.' " (*Harry's Game*)

If it is hard to accept the thesis that Thatcher was seeking revenge for Neave's death, events in Northern Ireland were certainly taking a bloody turn. Miriam Daly, a lecturer at Queen's University and former President and founder of the IRSP (which was close to INLA) was brutally murdered. She was shot five times in the head in her Belfast home. She had been tied hands and feet to a chair and a pillow had been used as a silencer. The phone had been cut off. Four well-dressed young men were seen leaving the house. The weapon used and the manner of execution were totally at odds with the usual Loyalist killing methods. Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, along with Costello, founder member of the IRSP, suggested at the time that the killing bore the characteristics of an SAS-style operation.

In June John Turnly, a leading member of the Republican Irish Independent Party and a former SDLP member, was shot nine times in front of his Japanese wife Myoko and their two children, as he arrived to address a meeting in the village of Canrough, County Antrim. The true significance of this episode became apparent later.

On October 15th two leaders of the IRSP, Noel Lyttle and Ronnie Bunting, were

murdered. Bunting was a Protestant, the son of Major Bunting, a former aide to the Reverend Ian Paisley. "It is understood Bunting was a leading member of INLA - probably Belfast commander but possibly as Senior as Chief of Staff." (*Guardian* 18 May 1981) They were killed by a group of men who moved into the house after opening up the front door with a sledgehammer. The attack was too well planned, carried out by men who were cool and calm and knew what they were doing... they wore green ribbed pullovers with suede patches on their shoulders and ski-type masks which covered their whole faces, with only holes for their eyes." (*Irish Press* 29 October 1980) They also spoke with English accents.

On October 20th a similar raid took place at Provisional Sinn Fein advice centre where a meeting to plan publicity and strategy for the Provisionals' hunger strike was being held. The troops wore balaclavas and blue anoraks with orange armbands and carried automatic weapons and sledgehammers. Official sources would not say whether SAS troops had been involved but neighbours said that soldiers and policemen did not arrive until later and a regular major was told to 'go away by one of the raiders' (*Daily Telegraph* 21 October 1980)

The men did not identify themselves but all spoke with English accents. They arrived in a convoy of four cars and a van, surrounded one house before breaking in the front door. A 14 year old girl and her mother were tied up by troops but later released. One shot was fired and a youth was later treated for a hand injury. One witness recalled that at least one masked man carried a 'handgun with a silencer.' (*Daily Telegraph* 21 October 1980). Was it a 9 mm army issue with silencer of the type found to have been used to kill Miriam Daly?

Bernadette McAliskey and her husband were shot at their home in the country on the evening of 16 January 1981. Three gunmen drove up to the house and smashed down the door with a sledgehammer. Firing handguns they hit Bernadette in the chest, arm and thigh. They found her husband in the kitchen and shot him. The attackers tore out the telephone.

The RUC were denied details of what took place at the McAliskey's for several hours by the British Army. On the afternoon before the attack the regular Army patrol was replaced by the Third Battalion of the Parachute Regiment which normally operated on the border near Crossmaglen. It appeared that they had staked out the house.

Spokesmen for the loyalist paramilitary group the UDA had boasted openly to journalists that it was responsible for attacks on H Block activists. A UDR member had told a British journalist that Bernadette McAliskey was on their assassination list. (*New Statesman* 23 January 1981). Following the attempt on her life it was suggested that the Red Hand Commando had been responsible. (*Guardian* 17 January 1981). It is strongly believed by some that the Red Hand had been used in the past as a pseudo-gang by the British Army. Formed in 1972, and outlawed in 1973, they had little prominence in the next five years. A shadowy group, they overlapped with the UFF which, in turn, had strong links with the UDA.

In 1982 three men were jailed for the assassination of John Turnly, mentioned above. They claimed membership of the UDA. One of them, Robert McConnel, said that he agreed to work for the Army's secret undercover men two months before he killed John Turnly. Two SAS men, Sgt. Tom Aiken and Corp. McGow had given him weapons, uniforms, intelligence gathering equipment, and they also talked of

gathering information on Turnly, Miriam Daly and Bernadette McAliskey. (*Guardian* 11 March 1982)

This had taken place at the very time of the suspected new initiatives against INLA and others, and the appointment of Sir Brooks Richards.

While the killings seemed to come to an end, the hunt for the killers of Neave did not. Four years after the event *The Mail On Sunday* (24 July 1983) exclusively disclosed their names. According to a Scotland Yard intelligence dossier revealed in Paris on May 22 1983 they were: Brendan O'Sullivan, Vincent Ford, and Michael Plunkett, a member of the IRSP.

Plunkett and 3 others had been arrested in Dublin 8 days after the Neave killing, charged with possessing explosives. Plunkett escaped while on bail, apparently hiding out in France. No other evidence has been presented which links Plunkett to the Neave killing. He was arrested along with Stephen King and Mary Reid, both alleged to be members of INLA, in August 1982, near Paris. (This was only a few days after President Mitterand had gone on television to announce a government crackdown on 'international terrorism'.)

The police who carried out the arrest were from the GIGN (Groupe D'Intervention De la Gendarmerie Nationale), a counter-terrorist squad responsible for the personal security of the President and for carrying out hostage rescues. They had been given the secret dossier in December 1982 by John Wilson, the operational head of Scotland Yard's Special Branch.

Although initially seen as a spectacular success, doubts soon arose about the real importance of the three 'terrorists' and the circumstances of their arrest, doubts which eventually led to their release by the examining magistrate. (*Times* 23 May 1983). The GIGN, who claimed to be members of the SAS, were already coming under increasing criticism. Capt. Paul Barril faced charges of giving detonators to an extreme right-wing group before the victory of the socialists at the French general election. Barril had swooped on the flat of Plunkett and the others with Major Commandant Christian Prouteau who was directly linked to the Elysee. Prouteau had been brought in by Mitterand to oversee his personal security. Barril had issued a statement in which he said he had acted on orders from his superiors - ie Prouteau. It was also claimed at the time that a police superintendent involved in the arrest was to be questioned about links to the British Secret Service.

The *Mail On Sunday* article concluded..."The three were not wanted for offences in Britain". Since one of them, Plunkett, was being accused of the Neave assassination, one wonders where journalists Chester Stern and Nicholas Polven thought the Houses of Parliament were situated.

Another supposed participant in the Neave assassination was Dominic McGlinchey (*Guardian* 16 August 1983). This is claimed even though he didn't join INLA until 1981, two years after the killing. In an attempt to gain information about his movements, MI6 set up Caruso Holidays. Belfast Republicans Henry and Bridget Logue and IRSP members Tony and Mary Hyde 'won' holidays in Spain from Caruso. While on holiday both couples were approached by MI6 agents who offered money, substantial sums, for information on IRSP and republican members. They also inquired of the Hydies about McGlinchey who they knew slightly. The invitations were

declined.

'Caruso Holidays' had an address at Albermarle Way, an alleyway off the Clerkenwell Road in London. The phone number given for the firm belonged to what is believed to be the London station of MI6 - 60 Vauxhall Bridge Road, the Government Communications Bureau. (*Sunday Times* 12 October 1983)

McGlinchey was eventually captured and extradited to Northern Ireland where he was imprisoned for life for a number of terrorist offences. The Neave assassination was not mentioned. This showed once again that the authorities were no nearer to finding out the true assassins, but in this 'game' that didn't matter. Others, with only the slimmest connections to INLA, were perfectly acceptable victims.

There is, of course, not enough hard evidence to sustain the idea that Thatcher called for a blood revenge. Only an official enquiry could achieve that and we are not going to get one. In the end it comes down to our perception of Thatcher, sections of the British State and the intelligence empire. The question is: does the shoe fit?

SD

This article is based on a small section of Roger Faligot's book, *The Kitson Experiment: British Military Strategy in Northern Ireland* (Brandon/Zed Press 1983). Faligot was, I think, the first to put into print details of the bloody aftermath of Neave's killing and its possible origins.

The Pinay Circle

The following is extracted from the book *Sniffing Planes, Extreme Right, Intelligence and J. Violet* by Pierre Pean (Editions Fayard, France, 1984). This, in turn, is based on a secret report written by a West German intelligence official, Hans Langemann, which was published in 1980 by *Der Spiegel*.

Langemann was, at the time he wrote his report, chief of security of the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior.

Material similar to this version taken from Pean's book is reproduced in *Parapolitics/Intelligence* (October 1984)

It should be said that while there has been no doubt about the authenticity of the 'Langemann report', it contains a number of what appear to be striking errors: viz it describes Nicholas Elliot as "former director of SIS". We are conscious of the fact that the report in *PP/Intelligence* may well be the end product of a complicated translation process: from German into French, and then French into English and this may explain what appear to be errors.

The Pinay Circle is an informal group which meets twice a year in different locations. It includes conservative and anti-communist politicians, journalists, bankers etc., and occasional guests, all of whom originally gravitated around former French President Pinay.

A meeting took place at the Madison Hotel, Washington, on Dec. 1st 1979.

Participants included Julian Amery MP (ex SOE, the Albanian operation, ex Air Minister); William Colby (ex head of CIA); Feulner of the Heritage Foundation; Paul Volker of the US Federal Reserve Bank; Italian Minister of Finance, Pandolfi; South African, General Fraser; former West German minister, Mertz; and Paris lawyer Jean Violet, director of the circle, with ties to western intelligence agencies, including MI6.

The circle met on the 5th and 6th of January, 1980, in Zurich. Attending were: Violet, Count Huyn, Brian Crozier, Nicholas Elliot (ex MI6), General D. Stinwell (Stilwell?) (ex US Defence Intelligence Agency - DIA), and someone called Jameson (ex CIA). They discussed executive matters including:

1. How to improve the international image of Franz Joseph Strauss (help was given in the January 1980 election: Crozier launched a 'Victory for Strauss Project group');
2. How to influence the situation in Rhodesia and South Africa according to a conservative European view;
3. The construction of a powerful radio transmitter in Saudi Arabia to transmit Islamic programmes to the Middle East and the frontiers of the USSR.

"Recently we noticed the creation inside the circle of a 'General Staff' which is trying to organise the major axes of activity around current political questions. The success of Brian Crozier (transnational security) has already been discussed."

Der Spiegel (Spring 1982) noted that Crozier was a CIA agent for several years. Moreover, none of his activities are unknown to the agency in Langley. He is acquainted with most important former members of western intelligence services including Count de Marenches, ex Director of the SDECE; Temple Franks and Nicholas Elliot of MI6. "Crozier, Elliot and Franks recently (ie 1982) visited Mrs Thatcher at Chequers for discussions and work."

Crozier's group designed to ensure victory for Thatcher, Strauss, and to combat terrorism, etc. The group can furnish articles, access to media, support of powerful lobby groups, covert finance and the co-operation of intelligence services, with offices in London, Washington, Paris, Munich and Madrid, each with its own appropriate cover and directed by a regional co-ordinator for each zone.

Books

Secret Agenda: Watergate, Deep Throat and the CIA

Jim Hougan (Random House, US 1984)

Those who read Hougan's last book *Spooks* will know that the arrival of a new one is something of an event. As expected, his latest has so many trails to follow, intriguing little tidbits to ponder that one read is insufficient to do justice to what I expect to be a major work. Having read it once - and then as if it was a political thriller (which it is) - I will be brief and leave it to others to gauge its true status.

Hougan has looked afresh at Watergate from the opposite end of the investigative telescope. Instead of looking at the cover-up he focuses instead on the burglary at the

Watergate buildings. He finds the media already lined up to have a go at Nixon, ignoring the details of the burglary and consequently missing the real heart of the Watergate affair.

He sees the burglary as a cover for other illegal activities being carried on in the same district: namely, a CIA-controlled surveillance of a call-girl set-up which is providing information on both Democrats and Republicans in Washington. Problems arose when the operation began to be threatened with exposure because of the overlapping activities of the White House 'Plumbers unit'.

More importantly, Hougan attempts to show that the 'Plumbers unit' was infiltrated by members of the CIA who were still working for the Company. Not only were they working for the CIA, Hunt and McCord were involved in the penetration of the White House: McCord's CIA section had its own men amongst the White House Secret Service personnel - ponder the implications of that for the Kennedy assassination if there was similar penetration in 1963 - while Hunt appears to have been engaged in building character profiles of the White House staff for the CIA.

In the words of one observer the CIA were engaged in a "coup d'etat in the making". We are talking here of elite battles at the highest levels of American politics. Nothing surprising to assassination buffs, but curious that only Carl Oglesby's *Yankee and Cowboy War* seems to have viewed Watergate this way before Hougan.

It seems the military were also planting spies within the White House and the National Security Council. This episode, 'the Moorer-Radford affair', was actually referred to at the time as 'Seven Days in May'. Hougan's reading of this period, and the implications of Watergate, build to a chilling 'black' view of American power politics, summed up by Alexander Haig in his best Haigspeak: "With respect to Watergate and its consequences, clearly one of the most dangerous periods in American history, change occurred within the provisions of our constitution and established rule of law. This was not a foregone conclusion during those difficult days." (*Newsweek* 16 July 1979)

Hougan tackles the identity of 'Deep Throat' and comes to two conclusions: one, that it was Haig, a popular candidate; second, although not named, he is situated in the past of *Washington Post* journalist Bob Woodward. Hougan says that Woodward worked for Naval Intelligence at the highest levels and speculates that Deep Throat was connected to Admiral Zumwalt who was opposed to Nixon's foreign policy.

Woodward has denied this, as perhaps he would, but has slammed *Secret Agenda* with such viciousness, it makes one believe Hougan has got near the truth.

A few other titbits. Surprisingly, the R. Mullen Company, a CIA-linked operation which employed Howard Hunt, actually received little attention during the Watergate investigations. Part of the reason for this is that it was (indirectly) linked to the forced retirement of over 2000 CIA employees which may have been a way of getting rid of a Soviet agent inside the CIA. (The Company, it appears, was extremely worried about a mole in the 'W.H.' - the White House or Western Hemisphere division of the agency.)

Charles Colson saw the CIA file on Watergate and made some notes on its contents which included a reference to a CIA operation smuggling gold bullion to S.E. Asia. Recently there was a reference (*Times* 20 March 1985) to Nixon and an episode in 1964 when he apparently went to Vietnam and exchanged gold bullion for American

soldiers captured by the Viet Cong. Did this exercise carry on?

Finally, Hougan discusses the story of Woolston-Smith who knew about the break-in of the Watergate building before it took place and warned the Democrats. Hougan attempts to show that Woolston-Smith has strong CIA (and British intelligence) connections. One link Hougan misses is Robert Morrow who was working with Woolston-Smith in the early seventies. Morrow had been in the CIA and claimed to have been involved in anti-Cuban operations which had Nixon's backing. He dealt with this later in his book *Betrayal* (Regency, US 1976), and had some influence on members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Morrow wrote that the CIA was heavily involved in the Kennedy assassination which had its roots in the Nixon-Kohly operation in which he was involved.

Woolston-Smith and Morrow both appear in *The Pencourt File* in which our intrepid journalists Penrose and Courtier blunder into Washington ignorant of all around them. In return for some information on the assassination, which Morrow says they can get from the State Department, Morrow supplies them with information on Harold Wilson and the Thorpe affair.

SD

Secret Contenders

Melvin Beck (Sheridan Square Publications, US 1984)

The CIA Christmas party of 1958 found 48 year old all-American boy, Melvin Beck, getting the offer of overseas work with Clandestine Services. He "struck like a hungry bass" and landed in Havana in 1959, just as the first Russian freighter was arriving.

Fairly early on Beck's narrative begins to resemble the 'Get Smart' TV spy spoof. He dresses up as a tourist and hangs around the docks with his Brownie, in the bar of the Hilton, and at a travel agents' convention which appears more like an international gathering of secret agents all getting pissed together.

CIA stations carry our propaganda and study the Russian Intelligence Service (RIS) and local left activity. But Beck learns that by the 1960s RIS had long since ceased using foreign Communist Parties for espionage. In Havana he manages to identify the local KGB chief, but that's about all, even after endless tailing.

Because CIA chiefs are so paranoid about RIS penetration, officers are only given instructions and told nothing about the 'big picture' developed by the information processors at HQ. Beck blames this in part for the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961. Officers didn't know if what they were reporting was important or just drivel. They resented being kept in the dark and not being allowed to trade info with each other.

The Cuban agents who were used were often abandoned to their fate when operations went wrong. Bargaining for their release would mean an admission of CIA guilt. Beck says "Case officers led safe if not sane lives. Others took the risks." Agents usually made contact with case officers rather than vice-versa, usually out of fear of having their travel prospects to the US curtailed. This was especially so in Mexico City where Beck went to handle double agent cases after the US spooks were thrown out of Cuba.

He writes:

"Any case officer contemplating a double agent operation assumes the opposition knows of his or her CIA connections and that he or she may be a plant. What ensues may be likened to a game of chess in which moves and counter moves are studied, projected and applied. That is the simplest description of what double agent operations are - games."

The aim is to tie up opposition resources.

The best example Beck gives of what the CIA and KGB are mostly about is the chapter on Mexico City University in the sixties. US students who played sports or hung out with Russian students were expected to report on their conversations to the Embassy where the CIA would either recruit them or warn them not to fraternise with the commies. The recruits would report on other US students who didn't report their contacts with Russians. The KGB did the same with Russian students. The intelligence value was nil.

In the early sixties the CIA placed a lot of hopes on 'mind control', experimenting with drugs, hypnosis and programming a la 'Manchurian Candidate'. The most bizarre episode in Beck's book concerns an attempt by a CIA shrink to hypnotise a suspected double agent with the agent's knowledge. A spectacularly embarrassing failure results.

Beck looks back on his career as a lot of fun but generally futile. The book was written in 1975 and blue-pencilled by his former employers at that time. The indicated deletions (never more than a few words) get a bit irksome in the section on the Bay of Pigs. One wonders if Beck hasn't covered up a lot of the CIA's more murderous activities and left a lot of stuff out. But then his bosses, who were always reminding him that 'only bad guys get results', were probably aware of his oddball nice-guy tendencies and kept him off the worst cases.

David Black

The Men with the Guns

G.F. Newman (Sphere, London 1984)

I've got a lot of time for G.F. Newman. He's written some of the best, sharpest, things about contemporary Britain: the Law and Order series and the Terry Sneed novels are the obvious places to start. But this - perhaps because of the shift to an American location and American characters - isn't so good.

The 'men with the guns' are the gunmen who shot Kennedy, and the book's plot concerns a hunt for them a decade or more later. It's a good idea but it doesn't quite come off, neither as a thriller, nor as a roman a clef about the Kennedy assassination. But there is material of interest here for the student of conspiracy theories. For this, to my knowledge, is the first book which has included within it the basic thesis from The Gemstone File, an American samizdat which has been floating around the world since 1976.

The Gemstone File is interesting to me because it got me started in all this muck when it appeared in the late lamented *International Times* in 1977. Being the pedantic

academic that I am, I responded to its appearance by saying 'hey, far out', but then going through a couple of libraries trying to check out some of its more startling claims.

(For those unfamiliar with the Gemstone File, its central thesis is that a 'Mr Big' has been in control of things for most of the post-war era - one Aristotle Onassis - and he knocked off Kennedy, organised the Vietnam war, kidnapped and murdered H. Hughes etc etc.)

The thesis is, of course, almost entirely baloney, the paranoid megalomaniac fantasies of its author, someone called Bruce Roberts. But it is spiced with enough 'solid' bits and pieces to make it interesting. But then it isn't clear if I should believe 'the thesis' at all. For there are several versions of the damned thing floating around - at least four that I know of.

There's the 'original' 1976 version, a much photocopied version with the imprint of the 'Jessie James Press, New York' on it. As far as I know this version came via the Californian conspiracy buff, Mae Brussel. The author, Roberts, gave Brussel his entire oeuvre - about 400 pages of hand-written ravings. Brussel then handed them over to someone else to make sense of - and so the world received the Skeleton Key to the Gemstone File, a precis of the more intelligible sections.

At this point things get complicated. Another version - the original, slightly expanded - appeared in Larry Flynt's magazine *Hustler* in 1978. A third version appeared in 1980, entitled *Beyond The Gemstone Files*. It claimed to have being 'written' by one Peter Renzo, who claimed to be an ex-CIA agent. (A story and excerpts from this appeared in the Boston Globe April 19 1980). Renzo was, of course, a bullshitter, and, as the excerpts show, all he was peddling was Roberts's original with one or two things added.

Of more interest was the fact that the publisher of Renzo's little scam was *Fighting Tigers Inc*. I don't know who this is, but it bears a striking resemblance to the 'China Lobby' - linked organisation of the Chennaults.

Finally a fourth version appeared, a compilation of three other versions, put together by the American researcher, Ace Hayes Jnr.

RR

The Great Betrayal

Nicholas Bethel (London 1984)

This is either a 'snow job', designed to discourage further research in this area (British intelligence attempts to destabilise Soviet and communist influenced regimes), or is just a poor effort on Bethel's part.

One can't deny that it is useful - after all, it is the first book written solely about an MI6 operation - but one is disappointed by its thinness and its viewpoint. Bethel's (partly legitimate) excuse is that documentation is unavailable because of Kim Philby's involvement in the planning of the Albanian operation. The spectre of 'national security' is raised, but as usual it is just another red herring. There are many files

available under the Freedom of Information Act in the US on Philby, Burgess and Maclean, (see, for example, *Sunday Times* 31 March 1985), and the top secret State Department decimal file for Albania 1948/9 is available for all to see in the National Archives.

Philby was definitely responsible for blowing some of the operation (one wonders how much the Russians told the Albanians) but his crime was, as Verrier puts it, treachery against MI6 and not against his country.

It was an ill-conceived and badly thought-out operation which was, in reality, another Special Operations Executive (SOE) attempt to put a corrupt king back on his throne. There is evidence that the training camps for the guerillas were infiltrated, and that the intelligent use of radios (like the XX Committee during the war) by Hoxha's Albanians was largely responsible for the 'betrayal'.

Bethel ignores - or didn't know - that the British and Americans were planning guerilla campaigns in Albania and Romania in 1946. (Bethel does mention that the British were dropping supplies into Bulgaria in 1948).

The man who was recruiting for these operations was, of all people, Klaus Barbie.

"The operation was run by D.A.D. out of Frankfurt with a British intelligence team under the cover of BICOG (The British High Commissioner) which also had a liaison officer with D.A.D. (American Counter Intelligence) in the I.G. Farben building." (John Loftus, *The Belarus Secret* Penguin 1984)

Not surprisingly, Bethell ignores the evidence that the Albanians on the CIA-sponsored Free Albania Committee were principally recruited from those "who had previously been denied visas as Nazi collaborators and war criminals." (Loftus, above). Hardly the stuff of freedom fighters.

SD

The Secret War: an account of the sinister activities along the border involving Gardai, RUC, British Army and SAS

Patsy McArdle (Mercier Press, Dublin 1984)

McArdle is a journalist with Downtown Radio in Northern Ireland. Journalists sometimes write really good books, but McArdle's is a stinker, little more than a jumbled collection of recycled press clippings. Which is a pity because the subject of the book is of real significance.

What McArdle has failed to do is document any of the claims he makes. There are no sources and no index. And with material as tricky as SAS assassination squads, for example, documentation, even if it is scanty, is essential.

Instead of documentation we get stuff like this (taken from p69 after opening the book at random). The emphases are mine.

Discussing the murder of one Eamon McMahon, McArdle says:

"McMahon, a debonair type, was a Republican from a fiercely Nationalist family. He was generally recognised as a shadowy paramilitary activist by the security forces. He had identified himself with the IRA in South Armagh in the early 1970s, but in later years he was involved with the INLA. He was questioned on a variety of occasions by the British Army and RUC and detained for varying periods under the Emergency Provisions Act in Northern Ireland. He was excluded from Britain under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. All three factors would appear to indicate pro British involvement in the killing. There is also the likelihood that McMahon's companion was murdered because he knew the killers from their accents or the circumstances in which their car was stopped on the roadway."

Well, yes, maybe. But life is more complicated than that (especially in Northern Ireland). The fact that X is a(n apparent) supporter/member of the IRA/INLA in itself says nothing about who killed X. And, as if to acknowledge this, having elaborated this framework of probability, McArdle promptly adds that:

"some of McMahon's close friends have since maintained he was the victim of ruthless elements whose wrath he incurred in the handling of cash some weeks before he and Mackin were murdered."

Which leaves us where? And the whole book is like that: supposition, probability - what someone once named 'the apparently syndrome'. 'Apparently there was this SAS patrol on the scene..a giant pink UFO..apparently there were 6 gunmen playing checkers on the Grassy Knoll'.

There is one final thing worth mentioning. On p62 there is a new (to me) euphemism for 'fuck off'. I think Norman Mailer coined the most famous, 'fug', in his *The Naked and the Dead*. McArdle offers us 'feck off'. I don't read enough Irish material to know if this is an original, but the fact that a book describing a whole catalogue of alleged British 'secret war' activities from assassinations down can't just print 'fuck' says quite a lot about the cultural climate in the Republic of Ireland, does it not?

Reading 'feck off' my sympathy for those in Northern Ireland who don't want a united Ireland went up a notch. Feck the Pope! (Especially this one)

RR

St. Peter's Banker, Michele Sindona

Luigi Di Fonzo (Mainstream, Edinburgh, 1984)

This is an important publication from a new Scottish publishing house, Mainstream. It runs through Sindona's life, showing how he came to be in such a strong financial position that he could buy the Franklin National, one of the largest banks in the USA.

Inevitably, all the usual ingredients of Italian politics - finance and corruption (the terms are virtually synonymous) - feature in this story. Equally inevitably, much of the information cannot be verified in printed sources, having come from interviews with

people whose lives would be at risk if it became known that they had betrayed the Mafia 'omerta' - no idle threat, as many of the participants in this drama found to their cost.

Of particular interest to parapoliticians (sic) is Di Fonzo's explication of the Strategy of Tension which has plagued Italian society for the past twenty years. Although the puppetmasters of Licio Gelli have been explicitly named, Di Fonzo credits Gelli with explaining to Sindona the outline of the strategy and the part he (Sindona) was expected to play in it.

"Il Momento di Passare all Azione" (The Time for Real Action) was a multi-phase operation. The first part was to enlist the support of military leaders. (Many of them would be expected to be sympathetic, but equally as many had got into positions of power through fighting Fascism and could be expected to be hostile?).

The second part was a three-phase operation: 1) Smuggle lira out of Italy and convert them to a stable currency, preferably dollars or Swiss francs; 2) Reinvest the hidden capital in businesses inside Italy, thereby taking control of important industries; and 3) funnel profits out of Italy, completing the cycle that would disrupt the country's balance of payments and ultimately cripple the economy. (There appears to be an element of contradiction here as phase 3 could only operate in the very short term as it would bankrupt the very companies that had been taken over, even allowing for the creative accounting of their bankers, Sindona and Calvi.)

The final part of the plan was for Gelli to foment the use of political violence - bombings, murder and kidnappings - and then, when he had created sufficient chaos, make use of propaganda designed to prepare Italians psychologically for the new era of Fascism. (All this 20 years ago! I couldn't think of a more effective explanation of what has happened in Italy since then, or, more sinisterly, a more convenient one!)

Focusing more narrowly on Sindona, the book reveals the vast sums of money that he laundered for his friends and allies, including the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars for the Christian Democrats (some of which was provided by the CIA), and similar sums for the Mafia - in the main, profits from the heroin trade.

As expected, the Vatican, the SID (Italian secret police), generals, judges and politicians also feature in this book (including some interesting Nixon connections).

Another very interesting claim that Di Fonzo repeats is that made by Aldo Moro's widow to the effect that the CIA were behind the Red Brigades' kidnapping and killing of Moro (anything to keep the PCI out of government!).

In short, this is a valuable contribution to the Italian conspiracies collection.

Richard Alexander

The Uneasy Relationship

James Barber (Heinemann/RIIA London 1983)

A curiously dull little book, like an 'O' level text. I find it baffling (a) that something like the RIIA should find this worthy of publication and (b) that it should get the good

reviews it has had to date. Something is going on here but I've no idea what. Interesting (just) for pp 68-74 which discuss the South Africa Foundation and the UK-SA Trade Association.

Barber, incidentally, is the author of the article on BOSS in Britain (*African Affairs* July 1983) mentioned in *Lobster* 4.) Read the article, ignore this.

RR

The Flight of KAL 007: evidence of conspiracy

R. B. Cutler

Cutler is the editor/producer of the Grassy Knoll Gazette, one of the JFK assassination journals. Over the years he has produced a great many books/pamphlets on the case. This is a 40 page pamphlet full of Cutler's beautiful drawings and maps which argues that 007 was not shot down by a Soviet interceptor, but was destroyed by an onboard explosion. "The Soviet Union was trapped into becoming a patsy."

Cutler sees the event as analogous to the Gary Powers U2 incident which blew the Eisenhower/Khrushchev summit in 1960.

The same argument is offered by L. Fletcher Prouty in an article in the US porno mag *Gallery* (May 1985) which Cutler kindly sent me and which he acknowledges as a source in his pamphlet.

My difficulty is that I have not studied the case closely enough to decide whether or not Cutler and Prouty are onto something significant. Their material is convincing as far as it goes, and Prouty (the author of *The Secret Team*) is somebody I take very seriously indeed. So, the best I can do is this: if there is a reader who has studied this event and would care to read and review these two pieces, get in touch. Meanwhile Cutler's pamphlet is available from him at Cutler Designs, Box 1465, Manchester MA 01944 USA, priced \$10.

RR

M. Fennema: "International networks of banks and industry"

(Martinus Nijhoff, PO Box 2501, CN The Hague, Netherlands: Distribution in Europe by Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, PO Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands. Distribution for US and Canada by Kluwer Boston Inc. 190 Old Derby St., Higham, MA 02043, USA).1982

Very little academic work has been done in Britain on the subject of interlocking directorships (IDS). That is one good reason why Fennema's book deserves attention. Judging from this work, though, it seems that ID studies have progressed a long way in Holland and have even given rise to some sophisticated mathematical techniques for examining the significance of the networks which IDS give rise to. (1)

Fennema began work on international ID networks in the 1970s inspired by a study of IDS in the Netherlands made by Mekken and Stokman.(2) The result is an exhaustive

study of one aspect in the analysis of imperialism and the financial oligarchy. This should not be lost sight of and, indeed, Fennema admits that IDS alone are not sufficient for a thorough analysis of financial groups and their power. He also refers to an interesting observation made by Rudolf Hilferding in 1914 (3):

"As Hilferding argues, only a central relation in decay is characterised by overtly exercised power. A stable control relation does not show the exercise of power... if it is true that control is only visible when in jeopardy, the research of control through interlocking directorates might show only those cases." (p3)

Fennema adopts some formal rules in assessing the significance of the various interlocks he deals with - concerning the degree of connectedness and the direction of control. But while this is convincing, it is only a part of the network which exists. Nevertheless, Fennema has pushed the study of this part of the analysis of the financial oligarchy and imperialism in a promising direction. His results, generally speaking, back up earlier studies of the subject. He also shows that the networks he is studying have become more compact during the 1970s.

Much of this book is couched in fairly ordinary language and deals with reasonably familiar themes - for instance, in chapter 1 he surveys the literature on finance capital, comparing various theories on the subject. However part of the book is inaccessible to the majority of people since it makes use of some fairly obscure mathematical methods - graph-theoretical concepts etc.

The book also contains useful empirical material in the form of flow-charts and tables. Finally, there is an excellent bibliography covering studies from all over the world.

A short review such as this cannot do justice to the hard work that has gone into this book. It ought to be studied by all those interested in the subjects of imperialism and the ruling class. There is, of course, always a danger with studies of this kind that they become detached from the political economy of capitalism, ending up as specialist avenues for research by a few academics. But if more people read these books in a critical and intelligent fashion, that tendency may be overcome and studies such as Fennema's will contribute towards a strengthening of consciousness of the working class and its allies in the political struggle that lies ahead. I, for one, will look forward to more work from Fennema and those like him in Holland.

E.H.

Notes

- (1) Graph-theoretical concepts and so-called Mokken scales, for instance.
- (2) *Graven naar macht* (Traces of power). 1975. Later work by these two appears to have been published in English.
- (3) Rudolf Hilferding *Organisationsmacht und staatsgewalt* in *Neue Zeit*, Vol 32, 1914.

Alan Turing: the enigma of intelligence

Andrew Hughes (Unwin 1985)

If you have a chance, read *Alan Turing: the enigma of intelligence* by Andrew Hughes (Unwin 1985). Now in paperback, Hughes' excellent biography rescues from near obscurity a true eccentric genius. It is of interest to us because of Turing's essential work on the Ultra project and related subjects at the government Code and Cypher School (now GCHQ) during the war.

There is now enough material around for a good book on GCHQ and its history. Who's going to write it?

KGB Today: The Hidden Hand

John Barron (Coronet 1985)

John Barron's *KGB Today: The Hidden Hand* is now available in paperback (Coronet 1985). Chapman Pincher in *Too Secret Too Long* says 'Fedora' was 'definitely not Viktor Lessiovsky, as has been claimed. The most likely candidate seems to be Vladimir Chuchuken, a KGB agent at the UN in New York from 1962 to 1977' (p609). Chuchukin is named as a KGB disinformation officer in Barron's previous book *The KGB* (1974) (p212). Surely the FBI had more sense than to recruit a disinformation expert...

Just to point out that there are now at least five books out now on Klaus Barbie, none of which contain more than a page on Barbie's recruitment by British intelligence in 1945. Tom Bower's (revised, updated, Corgi 1985) and John Beattie's (Methuen 1984) are available in paperback.

Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution

Stephen Knight (Panther 1977),

Nearly every household has a copy of Stephen Knight's book on Freemasonry (Granada paperback 1985), and they probably accept its central point that freemasonry has a very important influence on British life (as we accept it). Unfortunately the book is garbage.

I must admit I was, for a time, taken in by his previous book, *Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution* (Panther 1977), until fundamental flaws were discovered, such as the fact that Sickert (who plays an important part in the story) did not have a studio in Cleveland Street. "In fact No.15 was pulled down a year before the murders." Donald Rumbelow, ex-policeman, completely demolishes Knight's book in his study of the evidence and different theories. (*The Complete Jack the Ripper*, Star Books, 1979). "Long before the end of the book one is asking over and over again 'Where's the evidence?' The answer, of course, is that there isn't any. Knight has skilfully woven his story and tells it well. But where he can be checked, using the same documents, he falls down badly." (p154)

Knight, of course, does have a get-out clause when it comes to evidence in his present book. "He told me he had never come across a case of the KGB using freemasonry in England, and added 'Of course that does not mean that it has not happened.' (*The Brotherhood* p 290)

Special Boat Squadron

Barry Pitt (Corgi 1985)

Special Boat Squadron by Barry Pitt (Corgi 1985) deals with operations carried out in the Aegean during WW2. Pitt had hoped to write a detailed history of the post-war SBS but..(p220) "The author was by no means surprised when all his applications for information on post-war SBS activities were turned down - with the utmost charm and politeness, but with an equally unyielding implacability ... the SBS was of such vital importance decisions had been taken at the highest levels that no information should be officially released which might impair it."

The Pornbrokers

Martin Tomkinson (Virgin 1982)

We take it as fact that our underworld is small potatoes compared to that of the USA, though we wouldn't know if it wasn't the case, so few books have been written about it. Bert Wickstead's (ex Scotland Yard) slight but useful *Gangbuster* (Futura 1985) is welcome. It contains some material on gangland boss Bernie Silver. Which is by way of recommending *The Pornbrokers* (Virgin 1982) by Martin Tomkinson which has recently been remaindered. Silver, it is said, organised the recruitment of prostitutes who worked in Northern Ireland on behalf of British intelligence. Anyone know more? For the American side an excellent introduction is Martin Short's book of the ITV series *Crime Inc.: the story of organised crime*. (Methuen 1984)

SD

Coroner to the Stars

Thomas T. Noguchi (Corgi Books, London 1984)

One of the things I asked Peter Dale Scott which didn't go into the interview in *Lobster 7* was why so little work had been done on the Robert Kennedy assassination. After all, at first glance, the 'conspiracy angle' was quite plain: the autopsy proved - without qualification - that Sirhan Sirhan didn't (couldn't have) fired the shots which killed Robert Kennedy. Scott's answer was simple: such research is dangerous: dangerous to the researcher. People are scared.

Just how dangerous this case seems to be is demonstrated by the coroner on the case, Thomas Noguchi. In this recent book, Noguchi systematically demolishes the Sirhan-as-lone-assassin thesis and then, in the final pages, cops out.

"My own professional instinct instructs me that Sirhan somehow killed Senator Kennedy alone..' (although "the existence of a second gunman remains a 'possibility')."

This, despite "scientific evidence of soot and divergent bullet angles, and a host of witnesses who did not actually see Sirhan fire the fatal shot." (Not to mention "the trails of 12 bullets..found at the scene and Sirhan's gun contained only eight.")

This is worth buying for the chapter on RFK. The rest of it is dreck.

RR

Books forthcoming

Dr. Anthony Glees, who wrote an interesting study of German *Exile Politics in WW2* (Clarendon Press 1982) is shortly bringing out a book on *Communist Subversion and British counter-intelligence 1939-45* (Jonathan Cape). Our view of that might be influenced by the fact that he has written for the new *Encounter* magazine.

Michael Scammel, who has just published a massive biography of Solzhenitsyn, is turning to a study of the CIA-funded anti-communist propaganda operations of the 1950s. No doubt this will include *Encounter*

September should see the publication of Henry Hurt's *Reasonable Doubt: the assassination of John F. Kennedy*. Originally commissioned by Reader's Digest, it was cancelled when new editorial staff took over. Don't be put off by the *Readers' Digest* tag. It should be a major work, extremely well-researched (see his previous work on Shadrin) with many new interviews and material.

Due soon from Carter's Director of the CIA, Admiral Stansfield Turner (Rhodes Scholar 1947), is *Security and Democracy: the CIA in transition*.

And a new blockbuster is on the way from Anthony Summers, he of *File on the Czar* and *Conspiracy* fame.

Friends in High Places: the Bechtel Story by McCartney. (See Mother Jones, June 1984) for Bechtel's relevance to the Reagan regime, and earlier periods in the Middle East ... and *Citizen Hughes: how Howard Hughes tried to buy America* - by Drosnin, already partly serialised in Playboy (Sept/Oct 1984) and recently in the *Sunday Times* colour supplement. It seems that Hughes' power extends beyond the grave in as much as Hughes so completely bankrolled Reagan's key adviser Senator Paul Laxalt it is possible to see Reagan as Hughes' dream come true: his own man in the White House.

It may be interesting to read C. M. Woodhouse's *The Rise and Fall of the Greek Colonels* (Granada). Woodhouse worked for MI6 after the war in Greece and Iran, then became a Tory MP.

William Keegan's column in the *Observer* is the most informative economic view of Britain so his *Britain Without Oil* (Penguin) should be worth a look, as will *The Price of truth: the story of Reuters' millions* by John Lawrenson and Lionel Barber which will no doubt skim over Reuters' connections to British intelligence.

Former Labour Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, although he says he's for Freedom of Information, will likewise be closemouthed in *Northern Ireland: a personal perspective* (Methuen)

Out soon from academic Dr. Christopher Andrews, *Secret Service - a look at the British intelligence community from the Crimea to WW2*. Andrews is going to present documentary evidence of "at least one Cambridge mole recruited by the Comintern in the mid 1920s" (*Times* 14 August 1984). I hope this new book is going to be better than *The Missing Dimension*, co-edited with David Dilks (Macmillan 1984) which is plain boring and unrevealing.

Blunt's memoirs are apparently safely locked up in the British Library along with the Magna Carta. Out this year is *Dear Anthony* by American John Costello and BBC researcher Cherry Hughes. Hughes, who has spent three years researching the book, says "He was a lot more important than has so far been admitted. It's been in the security services interest to downgrade him and, of course, he still has a number of acquaintances who don't want these things written." (*Daily Express* 14 August 1984). Susan Crosland is also writing a biography of Blunt for release in 1987(1).

SD

Magazines/Articles

Parapolitics/Intelligence

November 1984 - February 1985

The usual invaluable mixture of precis of stories from the world's press plus reprints of some entire articles and the occasional original piece. November's includes a long and excellent piece by Jonathan Marshall on the Strange career of Ronald Hedley Stark.

PP/Intelligence subscriptions \$20 payable to ADI at ADI, 16 Rue des Ecoles, 75005, Paris.

Critique: a journal of conspiracies and metaphysics

PO box 11451 Santa Rosa, CA 95406 USA

This is a curious journal, somehow archetypically Californian. The articles range from the serious, well researched, to the downright sloppy and cranky. (To be kinder I might say the editor has catholic taste.) The editor describes it as 'exploring unusual, esoteric disturbing and mysterious realities.'

So, in the current issue, for example, alongside a reprint of our piece on Golitsyn, there is something titled "Return of the Baal" (a courageous esoteric analysis of global events), "the paper/tree plague" and "Satanism and America."

Individual copies \$11 - not cheap but the journal averages 150 pages. Worth a look if you've got the money.

Foreign Policy

Every few years an American academic writes a long piece bemoaning the inability of the US intelligence services to accurately predict world events. The latest example is

from Allen Goodman (ex CIA) in *Foreign Policy*, Winter 1984/85.

It's the usual catalogue of disasters, and the usual catalogue of ignorance and self-deception. These academics are always either surprised or shocked to discover that American politicians are inclined to shoot the messenger bearing the bad news and, as a result, the intelligence agencies do their best to bring only good news. (Which is usually inaccurate.)

About the only interesting sections in this piece are those describing the way the Reagan administration has taken the logical step of trying to get the intelligence agencies to produce 'proof' of their various conspiracy theories about the world.

The logic of Goodman's article appears to be that what the US intelligence service needs is a bunch of Marxists to do its analyses for it. With the US empire in decline, a Marxist perspective would produce an accurate picture.

Grassy Knoll Gazette

The February 1985 edition of the *Grassy Knoll Gazette* (see also the review of the 007 pamphlet) contains the transcript of a radio phone-in conversation with Gordon Novel. Novel is one of those people who have appeared at various points in the clandestine history of the US from 1963 onward. Novel's jumbled contributions are difficult to make too much sense of but he does clearly state that "Garrison found out from Walter Sheridan ... that I'd been working with Bobby Kennedy to expose Garrison's investigation as a fraud."

Did we know this? I didn't.

Survey of personnel and income of Adam Smith Institute, AIMS, CPS, Economic League etc in *Labour Research* February 1985.

Anyone interested in the details of Oleg Bitov's statement/fairy story concerning British intelligence's 'kidnapping' of him can see some of them in *Current Digest of the Soviet press* Vol 36 no.38

Interesting report in *Western Daily Mail* (2 January 1985) about the existence of secret societies in Wales, one of which is said to have been in existence for 300 years. Article based on a collection *Crisis of Economy and Ideology* from British Sociological Association.

Profile (*New Statesman* 23 November 1984) of Cransley Onslow MP, detailing some of his background in British intelligence in the 1950s and '60s.

The LaRouche Connection by Dennis King and Ronald Radosh. (*The New Republic* 19 November 1984)

A long, detailed account of the loony Lyndon LaRouche and his org. This includes a history of LaRouche's thinking (sic) and, more relevant for today, an account of some of the connections these fruitcakes have made with minor figures within the Reagan administration.

Interesting conspiracy theory claiming - but not proving - that the CIA have been

behind the 'strategy of tension' in Italy. Specifically that the CIA have: (a) been behind the Red Brigades (b) organised the current Mafia/P2 episodes to discredit Andreotti. (*New Statesman* 25 Jan. 1985)

Also in the *New Statesman* (11 Jan 1985) Duncan Campbell (Thatcher goes for Nerve gas), using leaked documents, shows that this government is on the verge of ordering nerve gas for the British military.

We have to say that we have had information (Special Branch please note: not written anywhere, so please don't turn us over looking for it) that this is all a smoke screen, and the UK government is already buying it using GEC (America) as its front.

A new catalogue is out from Tom Davis Books, formerly Aries Research. this is the greatest mail order catalogue extant on parapolitics/conspiracies etc. This new edition is even more mind-boggling than the last. Invaluable even if you can't afford to order any (many) of the books. The catalogue enables you to order them from the library. Write for a copy to:

PO Box 1107, Aptos, CA 95001-1107. USA.

Reproduced below is his magazine section.

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- ***Echoes of Conspiracy***, four to six issues a year for \$10.00, on JFK assassination and related subjects only. Write 1525 Acton St., Berkeley, CA 94702. Editor is Paul Hoch.
- ***The Grassy Knoll Gazette***, POB 1465, Manchester, MA 01944. Six or more issues a year for \$10.00. Bob Cutler writes about the major assassinations plus current events.
- ***Coverups!*** This bi-monthly by Cary Mack on the JFK and other majore assassinations is only \$12.00 per year. Write him at 4620 Brandingshire Place, Fort

Worth, TX 76133. USA.

- ***The Lobster***, 17c Pearson Avenue, Hull, HU5 2SX, UK. This bi-monthly covers conspiracies, assassinations, covert action, parapolitics and is \$12.00 per year (surface).
- ***Mae Brussell and World Watchers International***, POB 22511, Carmel, CA 93922. Send Mae \$5.00 for a sample weekley (on Mondays) hour long tape cassette commentary. She covers the World!
- ***Candor***, POB 1107, Aptos, CA 95001. Single issue \$2.00. Numbers 4, 6 & 7 only available.

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Hull, HU5 2SX, UK.

If possible enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

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