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**Editorially**

**The Price Rise**

No mystery about this: we're not making enough money and hope that our readers will not be put off. (The original Lobster was 16 pages and cost 50p. 75p for 32 pages still seems reasonable value).

As the list of shops on the rear cover shows our distribution is slowly expanding - due entirely to the work of Lobster readers. To them, our thanks. The Lobster is a curious sort of project and couldn't survive without more than usual interest from some of its readers. We are now printing 500 of each issue and selling about 400 (although no-one has counted.)

There must be lots of people out there who could write for The Lobster. Do! One of the main reasons we started this was because the existing journals/mags wouldn't print the kind of stuff we were interested in. We do want book reviews, notices, little bits and pieces - anything. At worst your piece will be rejected with an explanation why.

This issue, as usual, is out a bit later than intended. This is simply the result of pressure of other commitments. From now on no more promises/self-imposed schedules. We'll get it out as fast as we can and if this strays from the bi-monthly idea, too bad.

A final note on the meeting of Lobster readers/writers. 10 of us gathered, talked our heads off and went home again. Everyone seems to have enjoyed the experience and we will repeat it in the spring or early summer.

**Robin Ramsay/Steve Dorril**
A conversation with Peter Dale Scott

This conversation with Peter Dale Scott was recorded in London at the end of August 1984. For the most part it is verbatim Scott: my contributions have been tidied up a good deal. As anyone who has met me knows, I am not as concise and articulate as the 'RR' presented here.

This text is about 60% or so of the entire transcript. Some bits were left out because Scott wanted them removed, some because we digressed away from whatever the main point was at the time, and some because it was just too long and something had to go.

Faced with the idea of interviewing someone like Scott I chose not to attempt a detailed poke through the man's writing. That would have been fun for me, interesting for a couple of dozen JFK buffs, but probably unintelligible to most people. Inevitably we got onto the JFK assassination, but not, I hope, before some other, equally interesting, material.

Peter Dale Scott has a number of 'hats'. He is Professor of English at the University of California, a literary critic, a poet, a translator of poetry. He is also a scholar of the post-war history of US involvement in S.E. Asia. (See, for example, his wonderful book *The War Conspiracy* (US 1972) and his essay in Volume 5 of the Gavel Edition of *The Pentagon Papers*) But he is probably best known for his writing on the Kennedy assassination. The 1978 Penguin book, *The Assassinations* contains two of his essays on that subject, and they are, in my opinion, the best writing on the assassination that has been published. I have to put it that way because Scott's 'magnum opus' on the assassination, *The Dallas Conspiracy*, has never found a publisher. (And, I should add, it is a measure of the extent to which I am not a serious student of the assassination that I do not have one of the photocopies of that work that are in existence, nor have I read it.)

I expected meeting Scott to be either a disappointment or an ordeal. It was neither. He is - and there is no way round this cliche - a really nice guy, unpretentious, and amazingly unaffected by the neglect his work has suffered at the hands of the timid intellectual establishment on both sides of the Atlantic.

RR: It says in the front of *The Assassinations* (1) that you were a diplomat.

PDS: Yes, well, if I hadn't been a diplomat I wouldn't have had the courage to say anything about Vietnam, which I did, near the beginning (2) What I said at first wasn't terribly radical, just trying to get the facts straight and so on. As I did the research I was being educated - not just in terms of what I learned about Vietnam - but perhaps, even more significantly, about the failure of the American system to respond to the developments the way I had naively expected they would.

RR: You don't agree with the recent Gelb thesis that 'the system worked'.

PDS: In a way I suppose I came out thinking 'Yes, the system did work; that the whole thing was to consolidate American capitalist power, and that even in defeat that's what happened.' America is much better ensconced now in the rest of South East Asia than it was at the beginning of the war. But I wouldn't have believed that at
RR: That's interesting because I remember all the various versions of what the war was really about - oil in the South China Sea, or heroin. Your version is that it was just American capitalism.

PDS: My version, in everything I wrote - certainly in The War Conspiracy (3) - was that American finance wanted to have a shield for investment in South East Asia comparable to the shield which the NATO alliance had given them for investment in post-war Europe. And that was something explicitly said by American banking interests, which I quoted. One of the positions you didn't mention there, usually given by the establishment, is that they were thinking about global security and so on. Of course there is an element of that, but I think they had a really specific interest, not in Vietnam as a country, but in South East Asia as a region, very much in Japan. There was a feeling that Japan could only be viable if they somehow recreated the co-prosperity sphere which World War 2 was, in a sense, fought to destroy. I think that that kind of regional thinking had elements in it both of the global and, of course, the thinking that we (i.e. the U.S.) had lost one country - Laos - and we couldn't lose another - Vietnam. That was a factor, too, but I think that the regional thinking was central.

RR: And spokesmen for American capital actually said it as explicitly as that at the time?

PDS: What suited my purposes was a representative of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

RR: Well, that's fairly representative. This brings up the role of the 'national security' intellectuals who don't talk like that.

PDS: And who don't hear you if you talk like that. Well, I think they are sincere in what they are doing. This is a very big issue.

RR: What I was thinking was if you read Foreign Affairs, say, or the newer one, the slightly hipper one, Foreign Policy, people in there never talk directly about American interests.

PDS: It's always considered vulgar to make 'interest' into something concrete. There's a sort of sociology of language here. People are well-trained as to what they can and cannot talk about.

RR: Presumably they stick to certain vocabularies not because they're told to in any real sense, they just learn them, acquire them, because they, in turn, are taught by people at university who have inherited the same thing. So this goes back a long way - you have an institutional memory.

PDS: It doesn't go back all that long, because if you go back to the 1950s people did talk quite nakedly about it. That was the decade in which there was a great scare about finite raw materials in the world. Nelson Rockefeller played a big role in this. He had an article in Foreign Affairs about how ultimately nations would be as powerful as the percentage of world raw materials they could lay their hands on. When people talked about South East Asia in those days they talked about tin, oil, and rubber.

RR: You can get the quotations in the 1950s?

PDS: And the interesting thing is you look for those quotations in the sixties and you won't find them. There's been a kind of cleansing, partly I think because in the sixties people knew they were much closer to going into the areas than they were before and were therefore more conscious of how this kind of language could be used against them by the inhabitants of the region. I mean, you don't want to talk
about how you're doing this to make America strong: it's just not going to go over very well with the Indonesians and the Philippinos.

RR: You're describing a degree of acquired sophistication.

PDS: Yes, but I don't want to suggest that the intellectuals are somehow hypocrites. You set up little sub-sets of intellectual discourse and people become prominent by succeeding in those subsets. They learn both what they can and cannot talk about, and do not look critically at themselves while they're doing it. That's really why I left the Canadian Foreign Service. Some people learn to close their minds to certain issues.

RR: When did you leave?

PDS: I went in in '57 and came out in '61.

RR: So you came out when Kennedy was in? How did Kennedy strike the Foreign Service?

PDS: Well, I was in Poland when Kennedy was elected - I resigned from Poland - but I saw enough of the correspondence to say that people had been very frustrated with Eisenhower, and Kennedy, that promise of dynamism..

RR: They believed that sort of stuff?

PDS: Yes, they were anxious for it.

RR: I have great difficulty with the Kennedy thing, deciding whether he meant anything or not; whether he was just a rich son of a gangster, a slightly deviant elite-manager; or whether, as you have suggested, that there was a radical change coming, as in the withdrawal from Vietnam he seemed to be proposing.

PDS: There's a case for both sides but I will only respect those assessments of Kennedy which make a distinction between the man who was elected to office - and I have few good things to say about him; he was a regular Cold Warrior who came in with a 'missile gap' threat, who was going to do a lot of the things Reagan has done - and the Kennedy who had been to the brink in the Cuban Missile Crisis and had had to think about what it really meant to use nuclear weapons as a threat against a nuclear power. The only Kennedy I find interesting - indeed, this is true of both the brothers - is that year, after the Missile Crisis, when they had (a) backed down and (b)

RR: You see it as backing down?

PDS: Well, from an American point of view.. all the way through, that he didn't follow up on the Bay of Pigs - he took two years of shit from Congress, from the press, from everybody. Then in the Missile Crisis the idea was, originally, I think, that they would blockade Cuba to the point where the Cuban Government fell. In the end it was the Republicans who said 'Hey, there's been some kind of deal here, that the Russians will take out the missiles and the Americans will not overthrow Castro.'

What happened in '63 was mostly symbolic: the Test Ban Treaty - which probably did more harm than good in the development of the arms race but which was very important symbolically, the first treaty that had been signed in 8 years between the Americans and the Russians. The American University speech was rhetoric, but a very different kind of rhetoric from what he's been elected on. I think that some leftists underestimate the importance of symbolism in actually affecting historical directions.
Most U.S. presidents have not had to go through the re-thinking of the nuclear threat that Kennedy really did. I think it had brought him to the point of meaningful accommodations with the Soviet Union; and, of course, as you've already mentioned, I believe that Vietnam was an area where he was not just contemplating that but had actually taken the first steps in terms of the symbolic withdrawal of troops.

RR: Why do you think that fact, which has been quite widely documented

PDS: NSAM 273 has been declassified and it says what I said it did.

(4)

RR: Why hasn't this been taken on board by the conventional historians of the period?

PDS: Or the left-wing people like David Horowitz, who are not interested at all. They build up a portrait of the Cold Warrior from the first two years and they don't want to complicate the picture.

RR: That's interesting, the word 'complicate', because if work like yours does anything, what it does is complicate everything.

PDS: I think if I were cleverer I would come up with some simplification underneath it all - and I would still like to do that - but no, I'm only clever enough to see the complexity.

RR: There are lots of obvious connections between the kind of work you've done and what are called diplomatic historians. The diplomatic history of the Cold War is now getting so minutely organised that they'll soon be documenting peoples' behaviour and statements day by day in certain crucial periods. And in a sense that's what people like you have been trying to do for the sixties, to produce that kind of density for key periods. Your work is closer in intent and assumptions to diplomatic history than it is to any marxist or neo-marxist history. And I would regard your work as infinitely more radical than the marxist version precisely because theirs lack the attention to detail and doesn't try to explain what's going on in terms of the behaviour and thinking of real people.

PDS: Well, it's hard for me to see where I am because unlike many people in America I accept the economic interpretation of American imperialism. But it's true that whereas I can be very educated by marxist writing when if they're talking about debt structures and things like that they do tend to be not very helpful sometimes in foreign policy. Some people just don't get into fine tuning at all, and others, who do, are usually trying to test some theoretical model rather than just get to what the facts are. On the other hand I don't want to group myself with the diplomatic historians because they tend to leave an awful lot out. What I like to see is an awareness of economic activity that is not confined to abstractions but is actually looking at particular players, particular corporations in the Far East, particular banks in the Far East, how they link to government planning. You know that I write about the Council on Foreign Relations, and I've talked about the role of policy integrators there, where people come from the banks, the various agencies of government and so on, with their priorities and try to work out, informally at first, and then formally, the policies that will maximise the interests.

RR: You think it's that explicit? I'm sure they would deny this.

PDS: I don't think they would accept the language I use but I think it would turn out we're talking about the same thing. I think, for example, in late 1970 when people
had become concerned about the high profile of the CIA and its lack of adaptation to current needs, the idea that you would sack a large number of ageing officers and have a smaller Washington headquarters working with a larger number of agents through third nations - use the intelligence forces of other countries rather than the CIA - which was implemented by Nixon in '72 or so. But the whole idea, which involved the material interests of the people I've talked about, bankers and so on, was floated, tried out in the CFR before it was turned into an executive order by Nixon. The important thing is that it was all being discussed on the private level - whatever you call the CFR level; maybe it's wrong to call it private - at that level before the instruments of government were promulgated to implement it. And this is a little picture of what used to happen. I'm not sure that Reagan has that kind of relationship with the CFR. Certainly Carter did. It seemed at first that Reagan represented the western interests.

RR: The 'Cowboys'.

PDS: The old 'Cowboys'. Even then I think that 'Cowboys' - when push comes to shove - they're disguised 'Yankees', people like Cap Weinburger and Schultz from Bechtel. Bechtel is a San Francisco-based corporation, a privately held multinational, but a multi-national like the others. It is not like Murchison and H.L. Hunt.

Let me say a word about Yankee/Cowboy. I always tried to argue with Oglesby (5) that it was really vulgarising an important argument to make it so geographical, that what was important here was global capitalism, multinational capitalism, versus national capital.

RR: Rather than where the base office was.

PDS: Right

RR: One of the great difficulties for me is working out the shift from economic interest to political activity. When I first began reading this material I just ignored it, assumed it was there - the way some lefties do - some invisible transmission system. When, in fact, it is extremely complicated and sophisticated and difficult to pin down.

PDS: The process is much more sophisticated than the individuals. Instead of looking for variations in foreign policy in the temperament of a Haig, predictable behaviour is generated out of bureaucratic organisations; and nobody has to be given specific semaphore signals about what economic interests are. Each bureaucracy has its own language of ideals which it is working for, but there are overall governing forces to make sure they don't get out of hand. The system is able to bring a maverick agency (like the FBI under Hoover) back into line. The classic example of this is the Presidency, Nixon and Watergate. Here is an interesting case where a President was perceived by other elements in the system as amassing more than his share of the power and he had to be brought to heel. He was totally humiliated by a group of institutions - like the Washington Post, the big TV networks - all of whom thought they were fighting for their lives. They didn't see themselves as the ruling class applying a little pressure to bring some little upstart to heel. The Washington Post thought it would lose its TV licences, which was big business for them. In other words, the system has a logic to it which no particular individual is in a position to command. Left-wing people have been trained to think in terms of capitalism, but I'm moving in a slightly Schumpeterian direction because I think that more and more we will see in the Soviet Union similar instances of the system exercising itself against this or that interest.
RR: But then the bureaucracies remain and the political appointments at their head change and, in this country at least, political scientists would say that this means that the bureaucracies will have their own policies which the politicians attempt to move. Given this, one way of looking at some of your work is to say that you seem to suggest that Kennedy was a threat because he seemed to be going against the established policies of a great many people or groups. When you ask the 'cui bono?' question after Kennedy's death the list is extraordinarily long.

PDS: So long as to make it perfectly safe to be on the list.

RR: So, if Kennedy was bucking these policies, these bureaucracies, these groups - which ones?

PDS: Well, I've just had to make certain decisions for myself. I've estimated that, by and large, Johnson's claim to represent continuity with Kennedy policies was largely true in the purely domestic area. It's when you get to the area of foreign policy that you see not only significant shifts - and, in some cases, real discontinuities - but even a conspiratorial approach to this. That is to say, discontinuities which were disguised from the American people. There were some people who had just always been against Kennedy. There was the whole story of the war against organised crime and how that could have kicked back. And I don't want to say that I don't think those things aren't relevant, but I think that if we're getting down to a real sort of shift that (a) allowed a crime like this to happen and (b) much more importantly, allowed it not to be pursued as an ordinary crime would be, I think there was a need for shifts at the foreign policy level which Kennedy wasn't going to give. The word 'threat' is a bit simple. I think there were just people who wanted certain things very badly and Kennedy - alright - threatened not to meet those needs, or even, as in the case of Vietnam, threatened to go in the opposite direction. I think it was felt very much that you needed to escalate the US presence in South East Asia, and there was a real threat - I think the word is legitimate here - that Kennedy would turn round and scale back instead of up the US presence. That was important. I think there was a need for a crisis decision on Indonesia, whether to go on supporting Sukarno or start shifting all the aid into support of the Indonesian Army. There was a shift there. In Latin America there was the question of whether the Alliance for Progress was supposed to move Latin America in the direction of more civilian governments and more civilian participation, or whether it was to tolerate, as traditionally America had, military overthrows. This was a question which had been accentuated by a military overthrow in the Dominican Republic in October '63 which Kennedy refused to recognise. There was a significant shift there.

RR: Given the role of Johnson as the incoming President, I was wondering what you thought of the recent news of Billy Sol Estes' remarks that LBJ ordered the murder of Henry Marshall. This, added to the picture painted in Robert Caro's recent biography of Johnson's early years, suggests that LBJ was certainly capable of Kennedy's murder. And the 'cui bono?' list has LBJ at the top, with a great many domestic scandals brewing in late '63 - TFX, Estes, Baker - all of which disappeared when Johnson became President.

PDS: He was in great trouble, and every time he was in trouble it was never something personal, always the whole power nexus he represented. TFX, Baker, these were scandals about the administration of power and the exercise of power and that involved hundreds of people, not just Johnson personally.

RR: The whole system.
PDS: Yes, and the two scandals were coming to involve each other. And it's so interesting to note that the General Counsel for Henry Crown, who was the major stockholder in General Dynamics that had got the TFX contract, was named to the Warren Commission essentially as the person whose job it was to find out if there had been a conspiracy.

RR: One of the striking things about David Lifton's book (8) was his account of the way the whole Warren Commission investigation was the work of lawyers, and his account of the way lawyers think. That was perhaps the biggest single insight of the entire book for me.

PDS: I must say I've run across it too. You think something until there's a legal reason to think differently. It has nothing to do with ordinary common sense.

RR: Lifton's central thesis is that the corpse was altered, and he seems to end up saying that the assassination conspiracy must have included altering the corpse in its plan, which to me is an absurdity.

PDS: It's hard to know what are necessary parts of his theory and what are just flourishes. And I'm not sure he's entirely clear. I think it's possible to accept a good deal of his book on the assumption that it was a rushed corrective, that things hadn't gone quite right, for which they had some rough preliminary arrangement.

RR: 'They' being who?

PDS: Well, the Canadian who directed the CBC film I was in, he did another film on Lifton and said, for Canadian television, what few people have dared to say even among the assassination buff community, that it had to be the military who planned this; that it was done at such a high level - the use of military facilities - that we are talking about a plot inside the US military. And the only difficulty I have with this is: what do you do with all the Secret Service who are involved? What do you do with the CIA people who contributed so much to the Oswald legend? If Lifton is right - or half right - it brings the conspiracy back home to the highest levels of the US security bureaucracy.

RR: That brings us to the question of whether we are dealing with a great big high-level conspiracy, or a small-time Texas bush-wacking conspiracy; whether it's Johnson cronies hiring a couple of Texas gun-men to try and solve Johnson's political problems.

PDS: Well I think it's certainly more than some kind of Texas bush-league conspiracy. The real answer to that is the cover-up. The people pushing hard on the cover-up from the very beginning are Kennedy people, people Kennedy appointed. The Deputy Attorney General, Katzenbach, who rushes in the next day, who says we need a commission to establish that Oswald was the lone assassin, is a Kennedy appointee. So I think more than personal politics were involved.

RR: Don't you think that those people would have responded like this whether they knew who had done it, no matter who had done it? To bury a conspiracy per se because that's not acceptable?

PDS: Not, I think, with the efficiency that they did. To have moved so ruthlessly and at such legal risk - this meant, for example, upstaging the State of Texas which wanted to have its own enquiry. This suggests, of course, that if it really were the Johnson people, why not let the State of Texas do the enquiry and let them take the heat? I think it is really possible that one reason the Warren Commission came out with the hypothesis that Oswald acted alone was to deal with the rather carefully planted evidence - which was false - that Oswald was acting on behalf of Castro or Khrushchev or both of them. Johnson had a lot of power in
Washington, particularly in Congress. We mustn't minimise that. He had very powerful financial connections to the Rockefellers, people in Wall Street, Ed Weizel, who was a partner in Lehman Brothers and so on. He was very well connected but I don't think that as an individual and as Vice President he had enough clout to close the circle and come out with as unified a rebuttal to a conspiracy explanation as the system, in fact, produced. I think that the people who were threatened by all this had to be more than just Johnson because up to that time Congress was proceeding to investigate the Johnson related scandals, particularly the TFX. It is very dramatic to read the session of the TFX enquiry that closed on November 20th. The Chairman, McClelland, was saying that we will meet at the same time next week. You know when it next met? 1969, six years later. It came to a dead stop, and the Baker investigation too. What's true in all this - and I've been saying this now since 1970, and no-one listens - is that the key people who were getting named in the Baker investigation are the people who are in charge of Marina Oswald and getting her to change her testimony - particularly a man named Bedford Wynne, who just disappeared. You couldn't see him for 15 years, and now he's back. If you keep doing your parapolitical investigations into the banking scandals, he's back in the picture. So I don't want to exclude the hypothesis of Johnson's vulnerability and it's being taken care of by giving him the Presidency, but I don't think that's enough of an explanation - just as organised crime alone is not enough of an explanation. They did have a motive, and they were involved, but they could never pull this crime off by themselves.

RR: One question I can never resolve for myself from reading is whether I should take the Kennedy's 'war' on organised crime seriously. Was it a 'war' against organised crime or against certain sections of it who were contributing money to the Kennedy's' political opponents?

PDS: Well, I think you should take it seriously, but it was more like the second than the first. Obviously it was a 'war' against certain sections of organised crime: that's the only kind of 'war' you're ever going to get. But it's a little bit over-simplified to say they were giving money to the Kennedy's' opponents, because a lot of the people they were going after were giving money to the Democrats which meant that some of them had given money to the Kennedy campaign. Some of them genuinely felt that they had been double-crossed by the Kennedys. They thought they had got a deal with the old man and thought the old man could call the shots for the sons, and that didn't work out in the case of Bobby.

RR: It was something I read - was it in Nevasky's book about the Kennedys? (9) - he quotes somebody who was a spectator in the Kennedy 'war' and he described how the Kennedy people would come into town - a gang of attorneys would appear - go round, make a few enquiries, and magically all the local Democrats would switch to the Kennedys.

PDS: Well, you certainly can't exclude that. I think I said myself that we can see the Kennedy 'war' as an attempt by them to gain total control over their own party. Just as you can see Nixon's moves after Watergate as an attempt to get total control over his. On the other hand I don't think we should vulgarise their motives too much. The Kennedy version of that 'war' was: we are in an impossible position if we are going to make war on organised crime and all the Federal judges in the State of Michigan are pro-Hoffa because they were put there by the Democratic National Committee member for Michigan who happens to be Hoffa's personal attorney. That's their excuse for having brought a rather cheap case against Hoffa way down in Tennessee. It was a kind of dirty war on
both sides, but from their point of view it was either a dirty war or no war. You couldn't separate the war on Hoffa from a war to change the political influence in the Democratic Party that affected the appointment of Federal judges.

RR: Some people, notably I suppose, Jack Newfield (10), have presented a version of Bobby Kennedy as seriously radicalised in '67/'68. Was that true?

PDS: I've heard it from other people whom I respect - Frank Mankiewitz and Daniel Ellsberg. They feel that Bobby's politics had changed. Remember he switched on the Vietnam War. In the '68 campaign the McCarthy people were furious with Kennedy for getting in the campaign. But the Kennedy people were furious with McCarthy for getting in because Bobby had made his break with the Vietnam War before McCarthy, back in '67.

RR: That's not in most of the books. The version you usually get is Bobby saw a political advantage to be gained after McCarthy broke the ground for him, and made a classic cynical Kennedy move.

PDS: I felt that myself in '68. But since then, when I realised how many CIA people were in the McCarthy campaign - without derogating from McCarthy's personal sincerity - I always wondered if it wasn't the other way round, that the McCarthy campaign was pushed on him in order to steal Bobby's thunder.

RR: I've never seen anything on McCarthy and the CIA.

PDS: Top level people like Tom McCoy, one of the CIA's top operatives in Laos. He believed the war in Vietnam was a bad thing because it stopped the CIA from doing the right sort of thing in Laos. And he was one of the top people in the McCarthy campaign. Let's put it this way: it would be wrong to think that all the cynical politics were in the Kennedy camp and the McCarthy campaign was nothing but pure unadulterated idealism. The Kennedys did bear a big responsibility for the Vietnam War, but having seen it go so sour, Bobby coming out against it - you talk about threats: that was probably more threatening in '67/68 than anything the Kennedys had already done, except maybe in the last days of '63.

RR: Bobby was an election winner.

PDS: Put it this way: Johnson was an election loser. And the way the American system works they don't mind if somebody's going to lose because they usually control the other guy too. But the Kennedys were never exactly controllable because they had so much money of their own. And Bobby was really going off the scale when he opposed the war.

RR: Another good reason for having them killed: their financial independence made them a loose cannon rattling around.

PDS: And I think Nixon became threatening when he tried, through CREEP, to give himself the same kind of financial independence.


PDS: Yes, particularly if you're saying it was a high-level operation. Why not just give him something which made him have a heart attack? That's a very good question. I've thought about this before and I used to talk about a two or three-tiered conspiracy in which what might happen would be A learns that B is going to kill the President; and whereas A normally might be able to stop it, A's culpability is allowing B to go ahead and do it. That's why I don't totally rule out the organised crime thing at all. I just simply said from the very beginning that the cover-up
proves that it was sanctioned at a level higher than organised crime. No way that Blakey can explain the cover-up. He has to pretend that a cover-up didn't occur. And this is particularly sensitive for him because Blakey himself was in the Justice Department close to the area that was the responsibility of Howard Willens. And Howard Willens was seconded to the Warren Commission to become a kind of key man, assigning A to do this and B to do that and nobody at all to find out who killed the President.

RR: Steve Dorril was interested in your views on the American Security Council in all this.

PDS: In the book that didn't get published I said a lot about them. There's like a two-party system in the American power structure and I think the ASC are the opposition to the CFR. The CFR, ultimately has an interest in peace which the ASC don't have. When I said there was a lot of screaming and hollering going on in '62/'63 about Kennedy policies, probably the most vigorous spokesmen were from the ASC. And who are the ASC? It's people like General Dynamics who were being threatened by those Congressional investigations at the end of '63. The ASC overlaps with some other committees - the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba, for example. And when you start looking at the details of the anti-Castro Cuban politics of that period then this group, Claire Booth Luce and so on

RR: The old China Lobby hands.

PDS: Very heavy over-lap - I won't say interlock because it's an earlier period - with the China Lobby of the 1950s. My analysis of that period is to say that Kennedy had a Cuban lobby problem in the same way that Eisenhower had a China Lobby problem.

RR: A personal question: how did you feel when NSAM 273 was published and it confirmed your analysis of it?

PDS: I guess I felt relieved first of all that I hadn't made a mistake. There has been a lot of debate in America as to whether Kennedy had changed on Vietnam and nobody seems to bother to look at the documents. I find that very frustrating.

RR: Has anybody in your part of the world dug up the FBI documents on their Cointelpro operations against the Fair Play For Cuba Committee which were going on in '62/'63?

PDS: We've tried to. They release what they want to. In our library we have all the Cointelpro documents on microfilm. So many of them are really interesting, but when you get to the FPCC they are really penurious, there's nothing there. I think substantial numbers of them are being withheld - for the obvious reasons. Incidentally, thinking of this and Oswald's role, I have come across another Marine who served in the Far East, came back to America, proclaimed himself to be a left-winger, and started not only reading but actually selling the Daily Worker. He was not working for the FBI but for one of those private industrial security firms, which the defence industries are required by law to have. This Marine was parading himself up and down as a reader of the Daily Worker - exactly what Oswald was doing - and this man's reports went back to his employer and they, in turn, sent them all on to the FBI. The FBI liked this man's work so much that eventually they recruited him. As soon as he got membership in the CPUSA he became an official informant in the FBI. So I think it is very logical to see Oswald's behaviour as being like this other Marine.

RR: What about the persistent little rumours that Ruby was a homosexual?

PDS: Both Ruby and Oswald. That was part of the initial conspiracy, one of the
conspiracy angles. And that's where I disagree with so many about the David Ferrie material, even though the House Committee took it seriously. I suspect all that Ferrie thing because the point of it was to show (a) that Ferrie had a homosexual connection to the members of his little troop (11), and (b) that he had chased down to Texas, had gone to the same city that Ruby had gone to from Dallas. I think that was all planted at the time, a sleeper story that was eventually served on the world by Jim Garrison. The number of people in Dallas who were coming forward to the police saying that Oswald was staying at the YMCA - which he had been - which was frequented by homosexuals, including Jack Ruby.

RR: I wanted to ask you about the Operation Mongoose episode. On the one hand the right-wing are accusing the Kennedys of doing a deal with Castro, while at the same time the Kennedys set Mongoose going underneath everything. It looks like a contradiction. Is it?

PDS: This is particularly complicated because the Church Committee chronology suggests that there were new operations authorised against Castro in June '63, which, of course, seems to work against my thesis that they were learning to live with Castro. Let me say a broad and a more subtle thing about that. The broad thing is that the Kennedys usually did things in pairs - the carrot and the stick - and pressure on Castro to remind him of where his interests were, that is possible. But in a more narrow way I suspect I know what those June '63 initiatives were. I think that the Kennedys really had started a new type of Cuban exile movement against Castro, the chief element of which was that there would be money to go anywhere else they liked, in the Caribbean, to find their bases. They would get money for training and they would get a green light, but it meant the Cubans got out of the US. Because this was becoming very embarrassing: remember Alpha 66 attacking the Soviets ships and so on, from the US. So the Kennedy strategy was to authorise a new type of organisation, under new leadership which would get them all out of the US. And I think this operation was penetrated from the very beginning. This may be the key to the assassination, in fact.

RR: Penetrated by whom?

PDS: First of all by the CIA because they wanted to know what was going on, for a minimum. But this was another slap at them: the Kennedys doing what they were supposed to do. And they, that is the CIA, were being accused by Bobby Kennedy of having dealt with organised crime people. And I think the first thing the CIA did was to get Cubans into the operation who quickly turned round and started dealing with organised crime figures. This was the so-called Junta. I think in its inspiration it was really - I don't want to say legitimate - but its motives were mostly to get the Cubans away from the US. And they got involved with Frank Sturgis, Gerry Hemming, Loran Hall - all of the weird names who turn up in the Kennedy assassination literature, many of them because they were spreading false stories about Oswald immediately after the assassination. The CIA files on this operation, the Junta, make it look more and more like an organised crime operation from beginning to end. The House Committee, rather foolishly, without interviewing anybody, put the contents of this file into Vol 10 of its report as if it were all fact. Now, what a perfectly invulnerable vantage point to have shot Kennedy from, if you used the assets of that operation to kill him. That would explain Bobby's sense of paralysis, because it was his operation.

RR: Who was running this Junta? Which bureaucracy was handling the money?

PDS: It was a Cuban lawyer in Chicago. Initially in '62 Bobby Kennedy had worried
about all the Cuban professionals who were washing dishes and stuff like that. Via the White House, Bobby got the Cuban lawyers of America organised into a Cuban Lawyers Association. It was a Cuban attorney who did this. I've talked to this man - at great length - and he says his employer called him into his office (the vice president of the corporation confirms this) and someone promised him a lot of money if he could organise under the following terms: unify the Cubans and get them out of America. Then he went down to Miami and tried to organise them all into a Junta. It may very well be that what really silenced the Kennedys was that the murder was committed through this, their own creation, for which there was very little authority, even less than the CIA had. The Junta material is what I was going to put in my book that didn't get published.

Vol. 10 of the House Committee report, based entirely on CIA files, gives this totally distorted picture of what was going on. And it is interesting that the CIA files were getting full of material about the organised crime activities of this Junta just before the assassination. I think there is even a wrap-up report that's dated November 21. The Junta itself was wound up and all of its arms were given to Alpha 66, which was the biggest group in it, a few days before the assassination.

Apropos of Oswald being a penetration agent and an informant, there was this odd Sheriff who made a report that he obviously wasn't meant to that Oswald had been hanging around this 3128 Harlendale address in Dallas. Well that (3126 Hollandale) was the Dallas address of Alpha 66. In other words Oswald was penetrating the groups that were engaged in activities for the Junta. I can't tell you whether he was doing it for the CIA, who hated the Junta, or, alternatively, for the less militant in the government who favoured the idea of the Junta but didn't like the fact that they were breaking the ground rules. Because one of the chief ground rules was no military operations based in the US, and in the previous 3 or 4 months that's almost exclusively what the Junta group were doing, groups like Alpha 66 and the 30th November, who were totally unsympathetic to the Kennedy idea of putting an arms length between the US and anti-Cuban activity.

RR: Thinking of the term para-politics which is used to describe the kind of work you are doing, and which The Lobster is interested in, is it possible that the term is becoming redundant as the whole political world is slowly revealed as para-political?

PDS: No. I don't think so, because it is a method of analysis. There is room for all kinds of other political analyses - the Marxist, whatever - which are looking at more public and broadly-based movements. But the phenomenon of the covert manipulation, of the covert involvement, that is a legitimate specialisation. It isn't the whole truth, just part of the truth, but a part which hasn't been looked at very much. What I regard as the best of the assassination research community is not going to limit itself to, understands that you can't just be interested in, the Kennedy assassination in isolation. You will never understand it that way. So it becomes a commitment to move into research of these recurring phenomena.

RR: When people say 'Why take an interest in the Kennedy assassination?', I say it is the door-way into everything else: you go in there and work backwards and forwards.

PDS: Particularly because by a weird political fluke it produced a flood of documentation. If a sociologist wanted to see how the FBI investigated a case, the best one to look at is the Kennedy assassination. There is no other case which begins to have that kind of documentation.
RR: Do you actually expect there will be a solution to the case?

PDS: You shouldn't expect to find who was the gunman on the Grassy Knoll. But on the other hand that would be such a trivial piece of information, not what we really want to know at this stage. The things we do want to know are larger questions, and I think that someday they may be discovered. The small, immediate, Dealey Plaza questions may never be answered, but may also cease to interest the real student of the Kennedy assassination.

RR: Who, one would hope, eventually become coterminous with a student of American politics. You can't understand contemporary American political history without studying the assassination. And the academic text-books which attempt to do so are just an absurdity.

PDS: Or the left-wing model which has no room for these kind of anomalies.

Notes

6. This broke in the States in early 1984. To date there has been no elaboration of the initial press reports.
7. The best contemporary account of this I know of is Joachim Joesten's *The Dark Side of LBJ* (London 1968 or 1969)
9. *Kennedy Justice* by Victor Nevasky (US)
11. Oswald was briefly in a unit of the Civil Air Patrol which was commanded by Ferrie.

**Kennedy assassination miscellany**

*The Shadow Warriors*

Bradley F. Smith (Andre Deutsch, London 1983)

The network of close personal connections established in O.S.S. (the fore-runner of the CIA)

"helped bridge some of the widest gaps in American society and could be called upon in cases of need long after the war ended. For example, when in 1964 former British intelligence man Hugh Trevor Roper had the temerity to attack the Warren Commission report in the *Sunday Times*, commission member Allen Dulles turned for advice on what to do to former CIA and OSS man Frank Wisner. Wisner in turn contacted ex-OSS man and former Kennedy adviser Arthur Schlesinger, who
recommended that since Bernard Levin had just published a piece attacking Trevor Roper, it would therefore not be necessary for Schlesinger himself to produce a rebuttal. But it is difficult to imagine that any other American WW2 agency created a system of intimate contact between people as diverse as Schlesinger, Wisner and Dulles that was capable of such rapid and smooth communication twenty years after the end of the war." (p414)

No comment is necessary, is it?

**Flashbacks**

**Timothy Leary (Heinemann, London 1983)**

Most people are not going to regard Leary as a reliable source, but the titbits in this book about his friend Mary Meyer Pinchot are fascinating.

As noted in *Lobster* 2, p16, Pinchot had an affair with John Kennedy. Following her mysterious death James Angleton (then head of CIA counter intelligence) took responsibility for her diaries. Leary claims that he didn't know at the time that the person she was referring to in their conversations was Kennedy, nor that her husband had been Cord Meyer, an old enemy of Leary from their student days.

In 1947 Meyer had been President of the United World Federalists, a cold war organisation with internationalist links and right-wing financing. (It contained a lot of Rhodes Scholars.) While in the American Veterans Committee Meyer had spearheaded an anti-red faction which had gained control. In 1951 Meyer joined the CIA, in 1954 becoming head of one of the major operating divisions of the Department of Plans - a cover for covert operations - part of that being the secret funding of liberal foundations and student organisations. When these activities were revealed (via Ramparts magazine) in the 1960s, Meyer was kicked upstairs to become head of the CIA London station.

In the spring of 1962 Mary Pinchot introduced herself to Leary:

"I have this friend who's a very important man. He's impressed by what I've told him about my own LSD experiences and what other people have told him. He wants to try it himself. So I'm here to learn how to do it. I mean, I don't want to goof up or something." (p129)

And then, later:

"It's time you learned more. The guys who run things - I mean the guys who really run things in Washington - are very interested in psychology, and drugs in particular. These people play hardball, Timothy. They want to use drugs for warfare, for espionage, for brainwashing, for control." (p155)

In May 1963 Pinchot told Leary that her love affair was over. It had been revealed at a party to a room full of reporters but the whole thing was covered over. She was now beginning to worry:
"If you stir up too many waves they'll shut you down... or worse." (p163)

Pinchot called Leary on December 1 1963, a few days after the assassination:

"They couldn't control him any more. He was changing too fast ... they've covered everything up. I gotta come to see you. I'm afraid. Be careful."

(p194)

She died on October 13, 1964, shot once in the chest and twice in the left temple as she walked along the Ohio canal towpath near her home in Georgetown. It was 12.45 in the afternoon. A friend of Leary's was told by a police intelligence officer that a lot of people believed it was an assassination and not a robbery or assault as the police had originally claimed. (p228)

Leary tried to start an investigation but no-one was interested. A criminal lawyer told him:

"That acid must have rotted my brain or else I would understand that nobody wanted this incident investigated." (p230)

The book *Katherine The Great* by Deborah Davis (Harcourt Brace Jovanich, 1979), which has its own fascinating publishing history, apparently contains material on Pinchot. I haven't got a copy and would appreciate a copy of the relevant pages if any one out there has a copy at hand.

**The Dismissal**

The recent series on ITV Channel 4, *The Dismissal*, was excellent for its reconstruction of the events leading to the downfall of Gough Whitlam's Australian Government. It didn't tell the whole story; absent were the intrigues of the CIA which played some part in 'the loans affair'; and there was no mention of the Pine Gap project at Alice Springs, the public disclosure of which so infuriated Ted Shackley, the CIA's East Asian chief, that he set in motion a virtual coup d'etat.

Relevant to the Kennedy assassination is the fact that the prime contractor for the Pine Gap base in 1966 was Collins Radio, of Dallas, Texas. At the time Collins described itself as "devoted solely to the design, manufacture, installation and support of electronic equipment."

Although the Pine Gap project had been set up by the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), from the beginning Pine Gap was a CIA operation using the Department of Defence as a cover. Its top personnel were senior CIA officials. (see *A Suitable Piece of Real Estate: American Installations in Australia*, by Desmond Ball (Hale and Ironmonger, Sydney 1981)

Throughout the summer of 1962 George de Morenschildt, who was Lee Harvey Oswald's intelligence 'babysitter', visited the home of Admiral Henry C. Bruton. The story was that De M. went there to use the swimming pool, but Bruton's background is too interesting for that explanation.

Bruton had been a lawyer in Virginia before becoming a submarine commander. Eventually he rose to be Director of Naval Communications. In that capacity he had
undertaken to reorganise the global system which the US Navy uses to communicate with and control movements of its submarines, surface ships, airplanes and missiles. (The system is also used to pinpoint the location of enemy vessels.) Bruton had supervised this top secret project until 1960 when he retired from the Navy and joined Collins Radio as Vice-president, where he continued to work on modernising and refining the Navy's communication system. (see *Legend*, Edward Jay Epstein, London 1978)

It seems that De Morenschildt tried to get Oswald a job with Bruton. (*Legend* p183) "(he) claimed to vividly recall once bringing Oswald over to meet Admiral Bruton, and Bruton saying something to the effect of 'Get this man away from me."") (*Legend* p337) Now why should he say that? Oswald, of course, was an ex-marine who had extensive experience of radar, particularly at Atsugi in Japan where he monitored U-2 flights. Maybe he had heard of Oswald's defection to the USSR, or maybe there's more to it. Collins Radio had many interesting projects...

In April 1963 it was announced that Collins Radio would construct a modern radio communications system linking Laos, Thailand and South Vietnam. It was to be paid for by 'US grants and loans (including a $3 million dollar military assistance grant) to Thailand'. (*Wall Street Journal* 29 April 1963). It had additional important contracts for building high-powered listening posts with intercepts capability in Taiwan. This took place even though Laos was neutral at the time, and the 1962 Geneva Agreement forbade the introduction of war material and technicians into Laos. 'Yet the US military, using personnel from Collins Radio as a civilian cover, proceeded to build the communications infrastructure for a generalised Indochina war.' (*The Dallas Conspiracy* by Peter Dale Scott, unpublished manuscript, Ch 11, p3)

In late August 1963 Collins won an important sub contract from General Dynamics to install high-fidelity radio equipment (at $100,000 per plane) in the extremely controversial TFX fighter. Some of the people involved in this project come into Oswald's orbit.

On November 1 1963, The *New York Times*, investigating charges by Fidel Castro, printed a picture of a 174 vessel, The Rex. The NYT learned that the ship had been bought by J.A. Belcher of the Belcher Oil Co. in Miami from a Nicaraguan company, Paragon, owned by the family of the then Nicaraguan dictator, Luis Samoza. In turn Belcher had leased the boat for 'electronic and oceanographic research to the international division of the Collins Radio company of Dallas'. (*NYT* 1 November 1963)

This description of elint or electronic intelligence activities (familiar to all who have read about the Pueblo incident off North Korea) suggests that one intelligence activity, elint, - provocative but undoubtedly authorised - had been used as a front for another (gun-running from the US) which had been recently prohibited by the State Department.. the next day, in Havana, a captured exile confessed that he had landed with a boatload of arms in Cuba from a motor launch of the Rex, and that "the CIA organised all arms shipments." (*NYT* 3 November 1963 (Peter Dale Scott, *Dallas Conspiracy* ch 8 p17)

And in one of those coincidences which mark the Kennedy assassination, it seems an employee of Collins Radio, who had a security clearance, was parked in the car park where Oswald allegedly dropped a jacket shortly after the murder of Officer Tippit.
"BOSS assigned me to monitor the activities of Richard Gibson (exposed in 1969 as a CIA agent), who was a talented journalist then representing Negro Press International and 'Tuesday' magazine. I discovered that Mr Gibson, born in California in 1931, was an amazing character. He had been involved in anti-Cuba activities in Miami yet had been a member of the 'Fair Play for Cuba Committee' (emphasis added) .... he had been a founding editor of 'Revolution Africaine' in 1962, yet was later exposed by its editor-in-chief, Mr Jacques Verges, as 'agent provocateur'. Mr Gibson then married a white woman in London, had broadcast on the African Service of the BBC, had worked for CBS news in New York and Agence France Presse in Paris as a specialist in African affairs." (pp431-2)

There were stories, disinformation, linking Oswald to the Miami area and to its Fair Play for Cuba Committee. They came mainly from the Frank Sturgis crowd, so it would be extremely interesting to talk to Mr Gibson. According to Winter he lives in Brussels, Belgium, where he is said to be dying of cancer. (I have been unable to trace him).

In a letter (13 December 1983) Winter wrote:

'A general (named Walters I seem to remember) masterminded the JFK killing according to BOSS files. It was done to get rid of JFK and bring long-time CIA man Lyndon Johnson to power. (Johnson being named as a top CIA man in Julius Mader's *Who's Who In The CIA*, published by Mader at 69 Mauerstrasse, East Berlin, in about 1968/9).'

He can only be referring to Vernon Walters.

SD

JFK and Patricia Johnson McMillan

For Kennedy assassination buffs Svetlana Alliluyeva's remarks in the *Guardian* (17 November 1984) on her reception in the West on defecting are of interest. She says the book she wrote on her arrival was 'a collective creative production', the result of her signing a contract with 'a powerful American law firm with close links to the State Department.'

The point is that the book appeared with Patricia McMillan (nee Johnson) named as 'translator'. It was MacMillan who met Lee Harvey Oswald in Moscow while ostensibly working there as a journalist. But one unpublished Warren Commission document listed MacMillan as an employee of the State Department at the time, something MacMillan always denied. (See *Assassinations* London 1978 p262). Svetlana appears to be confirming (albeit indirectly) MacMillan's role with the State Department.
All of which, in turn, tends to confirm the suspicions that assassination buffs have always had about MacMillan's relationship with Marina Oswald which resulted in the dreadful and misinforming *Marina and Lee* (London 1978). Another wrinkle in this is the fact that in the 1950s MacMillan was on the then Senator John Kennedy's staff as an 'expert' on the Soviet Union.

MacMillan's husband, George MacMillan, is supposed to have spent the last decade writing a book about James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin of Martin Luther King. Someone I know who knew both MacMillans in the States says that MacMillan was obsessed with the idea of the 'lone assassin', and that the MacMillans' 'marriage' looked suspiciously like one of convenience, as neither party had anything in common with the other.

RR

George Korkala's address book

George Gregory Korkala was the 'soldier' in the activities of 'lieutenant' Frank Terpil and 'leader' Edwin Wilson. Wilson and Terpil are both ex-CIA, though when their relationships with the 'company' ended is not known.

Korkala was arrested in February 1982 at a trade fair on security devices in Madrid. Spanish police carried out the arrest at the request of the US government. Korkala fought extradition but was flown to the US on 11th March 1982. He now faces charges in connection with the sale of 10,000 machine guns, part of an international gun-running organisation.

What follows is the contents of the address book Korkala sent to Marie McCarthy (friend of his and Terpil in Beirut) from his cell before FBI agents spirited him back to New York. She says the book contains the names of top CIA and other intelligence officers in the Middle East and Europe.

Obviously most of those named lead completely legitimate lives and were involved with Korkala in apparently legal business deals with his company Amstech. These would include Commander Frank Eagan of the Irish Army Ordnance and Peter Gurney of Scotland Yard, a bomb disposal expert. But others are more interesting, like Jock Wilson of Scotland Yard, who has a long career in Special Branch and is said to be a link to MI5/MI6.

We apologise for any mistakes: the original was none too clear. If you recognise any of the names please contact us. Thanks to SC for the address book.

SD

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Dave Dennis 203 775 1626 - 3466
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Joe Hanmer 313 581 1665
Otto Hoeller 203 324 6118
Cybil Gernintov 233 3836
Ralph Hanson SAS 612 647 0500
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Jim Hamill 202 332 2827
Hoffman La Roche 235 4248
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Eddie Ho Kowloon 3-372373 (H)
3-8297503 (O)
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Gen Ali Dusa
Maj Ahmed Aboud Syria
Islamic Defence League 235 9832
Col Mukarram Ali (H) 7899482
ITT Bob Hawks 212 752 600
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IRS McRory 2789500 x8353
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Al Leberman 212 632 0200
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Judge Irwin Kimmelman 325 2700
Ron Wiss
Kastners Hamdid 667 1384
Kensington Hilton 603 3355
Hans Kunz
28 Chaban 13?7H Geneva
Lea - Carl Lande 751 0001
Lybia Embassy 589 5235
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Lenzar - Jim Davis
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Topo Gigio - Piccadilly
Carlos Place Fulham Road
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Jim Megis Paris (H)
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Carl Mione Atty 212 875 5537
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Howard Wilson 766 3095
Luther Moone 212 425 1550
John Mills 203 888 3334
Maria Malazuk 484 2241
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Metals Test Dave 203 288 8225
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M Muir 203 874 1422
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MG O'Malloy TWA 2832231
Mercedes (?????) 337 7320 661-2233
Andy McGill 0 608 737325
Charlie Mojsouski (Tlx) 11390 Yu Jubnem
S Rajh Jughemia 11867
Alexander 371 2399
Momtaz Ali 303 390-0693 212 371 1152
Carry Majgurski 212 988 5550
Michael W Yarbourough MGT Group Inc 505-268 4100
MOD Roger Dach Maj 2184164
Larry Majewski 9885550
Murbe Abdul 305 723 2311
Murbe's mother (Marjon):
Kenya - 23436
Geo Carsten (MOD) 632 6444
Peter Ford  - Sip -
Fred Miller 703-8205552 (O) 8922211
Tlx 901102 Clifford Flittee
MacMillan Oil Co 212-867-0250
John Shaheen - Pres 689-8330
Craig Matthews - Tele - 7480976
Tlx - 8951917
Capt R Malouf - Dir of Intelligence
MOD - Yarze - Lebanon
Tlx - 20901 Tel 420450
F G Mason Ken Johnson 203 255-3461
Microlab\Fxr
Andrew Daino 992-7700
Syrian MOD
Col Nazih Zrar - Intelligence
Tlx - 11902 Nafd Sy
Mandel-Wagreich 212 867-9844
Monowave Transmitters 239-8858
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NJB Geo Menzl 881-5744
Intl 881-5303
Nutley Police 667-3300
Nutley Savings - J Kelley 661-3200
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NW Air Frt 961-4690
Nutley Sun 667-2100
- Richard Newing 9410221
Nutley Equip J Dunn 429-8879
Nutley Trael (Cathy) 235-1234
Nortec Jim Simpson 509 375-9141
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New Security Concepts 203 929.5367
Theodore Nicolodu 6513982
NYPD - Teddy Barabush 4779700
Nutley Camora 'Bill' 667-4166
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Pres of Mexico 905 522 3551
Leopoldo Falcon 522 3512
Dick Peugot 404 939-6130
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Frank Orrcchio
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Dave Pheatt
Matt Polita
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PDM Ray Brinzer
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Princeton Elect Al Freeland 287-4448
Len Phillips Slough (75) 43528
Polina (Harry) 525-0696
Joe 335-9305
RCA 914 916-4700
Bob W??????? - Sherwood -
Dennis Hensley - 800 4265966
Racon - Sam Stone 208-2327531
Roger Smith Htl 47th Lex 755-1400
Royal Gardens - 9378000
Kensington High St
Hassan Raaad 800800
Tlx 20944 Beirut 20944
Jan Rostorowski 535-2409
Harry Rastatter 408-287 3946
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Jerry Sloan 664-6708 779-0059
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Roy Halfpenny Jeremy Taylor
Peter Gurney
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Syrian Air Ldn 498-4700 4932851
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Maurin Jamal 7490025(H) 8974284
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C Coniaria Lopez
Secret Service 202 566-6940
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Lou Mainville 395-6093-94
Doc Carver 634-5894
Sunair - Sue Steadman 305-5251505
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J Walter Thompson 925. 531 3400 x146
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Tiberica 6293561
Frank and Marylin Terpil 703 821.8558
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Tlx 963457 N Haven
Tower Hotel 4812575
Theatrevision PJ 575-6611
TRW Nick Passarell 216 868-6441
Tec Cast 935-3885
Torr X-Ray 213 534-4320
Ed. Val Tavinier 652-2940
Tradyne 529-1800
V Liberators - Ray Leavesley
Mike Tessi 661.4873
Terraquip 134467 201344.8786
(Misssee Componants)
Uganda House 9490110
Morbe 07042 949 0093
Parapolitical bits and pieces

Ex-British intelligence officer Richard Winch said KGB defectors regularly named 7 'MPs, trade union leaders and 1 former Conservative Cabinet Minister' as KGB agents. (Daily Telegraph 24 and 27 September 1984)

What, only 7? According to Frederick Forsyth's 'sources' in the British labour movement there are 20. (See Times 31 August 1984). And doesn't Chapman Pincher talk of 60 plus in his various books?

Confirmation - if any were still needed - of the grotesque time-wasting that goes on under the name of 'counter intelligence' given in story of self-confessed 'anarchist', Peter Edge, and his dealings with British and East German intelligence. (Observer 7 October 1984). Edge apparently came forward with his story because he felt he was in danger (of being bored to death?).

For those interested in the continuing saga of the ramifications of the Golitsyn story (see Lobster 5 review) the Times' Peter Hennessy, a sort of apprentice Pincher, produced a resume of the story so far (Times 8 August 1984) In this Hennessy, brave fellow that he is, attempts to convince his readers that these intelligence 'wars' really do matter:

"...if the KGB has the benefit of agents in the West capable of massaging the assessment of the intelligence product, it can influence decision-takers in high places upon whose performance the successful management (sic) of the cold war depends. The consequences of failure
"in this area are stark."

Oh yeah? What are they? What people like Hennessy always forget is that it is the state of the economy - and domestic political considerations - which determine expenditure on weapons etc, and not the intelligence assessments produced by the bright little paranoids in the intelligence services. The present Conservative government is about to start cutting expenditure on the armed forces, not because the assessment of the Soviet 'threat' has changed, or because the KGB has got agents who are 'massaging' those assessments but because the Ministry of Defence (sic), like other government departments is having its budget trimmed by the Treasury. On the logic of the 'mole' hunters, the place to look most closely for KGB agents would be the Treasury, where the important decisions are taken, and not in the intelligence services whose chief (intelligence) function is to provide rationalisations for decisions taken elsewhere.

It is never possible with old spooks like Julian Amery to know if they are pulling our legs or giving out serious information. But, with that reservation, there is a curious final sentence to an Amery letter to the Times (23 November 1984) on the Falklands and the question of Sovereignty:

"Should we not approach a defeated and bankrupt Argentina.. and lead her into a South Atlantic community (emphasis added) in which we would continue to play our full part as one of its sovereign components."

Is this an Amery kite being flown, or someone else's?

Cyprus

One of the problems facing any future Labour/socialist government in this country will be what to do about our spooks? A sort of answer is being given in Greece where the (nominally) socialist administration is sacking large numbers of its security personnel. (Daily Telegraph 8 October 1984).

With this and Papandreou continuing to make anti-Nato noises, somewhere in the Pentagon the Greek-coup computer model will be getting a spin. A flare-up in Cyprus might be the first stage. (On Cyprus, Christopher Hitchens' Cyprus (1984) is of interest, especially to those who are interested in the veracity of Kissinger's memoires. Hitchens does a fine hatchet job on the sections which refer to Cyprus.)

Seychelles

Two reports (Guardian 6 October and Times 15 October 1984) on events in the Seychelles which suggest that the US is trying to destabilise the government of President Rene. The Guardian report (from Reuters) quotes Rene as denying allegations that he had received $5 million worth of fuel that could be used by the Soviet navy. The Times has him denying allegations that he is creating close links with the USSR and has agreed to provide the Soviet navy with facilities. The Times report mentions leaflets circulating in the island and a denial from the US ambassador that the US has been supporting opposition groups.

This has that familiar destabilising ring to it. And is no surprise. In Lobster 3 we reported a piece in the Times (7 July 1983) by the well-known CIA flak Brian Crozier,
describing the Seychelles as one of 4 countries which 'stand out as qualifying for low risk or no risk intervention: Angola, Seychelles, Grenada and Surinam.'

We have been warned.

The 'Bulgarian Connection' is still rumbling along. Tana De Zuleuta reported in the Sunday Times (4 November 1984) that the French counter-intelligence chief had received advance warning of an attempt on the Pope's life by East European agents and had sent two 'senior officers' to the Vatican to carry the message. The head of French CI at the time is quoted as saying that the warning wasn't taken seriously.

None of this is made more credible by the role in it of the American journalist and frontman for right-wing elements in US intelligence, Arnaud de Borchegrave, co-author (with Robert Moss) of the excruciatingly badly written and misinforming 'novel' The Spike. De Borchegrave, it appears, is the source of the early-warning story. But who would believe anything he says after The Spike?

On things Italian ... an interesting piece in Sunday Times (9 September 1984) claiming that Licio Gelli escaped from Switzerland using papers forged for him in Argentina.

One other aspect of the confusing jigsaw surrounding the Pope shooting is the claim by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) that KINTEX, the Bulgarian state trading agency and alleged cover for Bulgarian intelligence, has been in the drugs/guns business for at least 14 years. DEA claims that at least 10% of the heroin coming into the US comes via Bulgaria. (Guardian 26 July 1984). All of which may well be true, but its credibility isn't helped by the DEA also accusing the Nicaraguan government of involvement in the cocaine trade. The accusation is based on 'evidence' said to have been collected during continuing US interest in Robert Vesco, who DEA is apparently saying, helped finance the Sandinista revolution. (Ho ho) (Sunday Times 12 August 1984)

There was a flurry of press interest in late September/early October 1984 as Lord Chalfont and ex Tory Minister, Sir Peter Blaker charged that the 'Generals for Peace' organisation were a 'danger to Western security'. (Original press report Daily Telegraph 25th September 1984; reply by Michael Harbottle, Telegraph 5th October 1984; Chalfont/Blaker reply Telegraph 9 October 1984).

Assumptions that this was just a routine piece of scare-mongering by Chalfont/Blaker, who are inclined to see the hands of the USSR pretty well everywhere on the left and in the 'peace' movement might be tempered by the review of the 'Generals for Peace' book, The Arms Race to Armageddon published in the New Statesman (26 October 1984) by Martin Ryle.

Ryle (now dead) and one of the British 'peace' movement's bigger names, writes:

"The authors not only endorse Soviet negotiating positions... they endorse the official Warsaw Pact line almost in its entirety ... (they) present recent Soviet missile deployments in Poland, Czechoslovakia and the GDR as legitimately defensive " etc.

A large (two page) piece on the murder of Hilda Murrell (the anti-nuclear campaigner) in New Statesman (9 November 1984), laying out all the oddities in the case.
Tam Dalyell's repeated claims that this was a British intelligence operation that went wrong are obviously of interest, but I have the suspicion that someone has fed him something to make him sound ridiculous on this particular case in the hope of then discrediting his other sources.

Without knowing what his information is, a priori the problem with his story is that it hinges upon extraordinary incompetence by said British intelligence. Any reader of spy fiction would have been able to create a more plausible scene for the police to find than that left by 'British intelligence'.

Rather more plausible would be that some private security firm was employed to do the break-in to find out what Ms Murrell had on the nuclear industry and they, without the experience, then panicked and bungled. That makes a degree of sense. There have been other mysterious burglaries of anti-nuclear campaigners (one is referred to in the *New Statesman* piece) It just is difficult to believe that British intelligence would be that sloppy in something as important as this.

A sudden rash of suicides (or: 'suicides') using the old car exhaust fumes trick. Two partners in an engineering firm facing criminal charges as part of an international black market in stolen British naval parts. (*Observer* 28 October 1984), and an army major in MOD intelligence (plus his wife and 2 kids). (*Sunday Telegraph* 2 September 1984)

The newsagency, Reuters, is so widely assumed to be a routine cover for British intelligence agents, that when one of Reuters' people in the Lebanon, a Jonathan Wright, went missing (*Times* 5 September 1984), Reuters' managing director felt obliged to issue a statement declaring that Reuters "had no association with any government and did not represent the interest of any one country." (*Guardian* 11 September 1984)

Wright, 'aged 30 from Oxford, with fluent Arabic' was due to become Reuters' bureau chief in Oman......

When Wright was finally released after 23 days he flew back to London saying he could not identify his captors. (*Daily Telegraph* 23 September 1984)

US State Department official Jeffrey Davidov claims UK intelligence bugged Joshua Nkomo's delegation during the Lancaster House negotiations on Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. (*Observer* 2 September 1984). This information appeared somewhere else. Does anyone remember where?

And in the same part of the world in a piece in the *Daily Telegraph* (5 October 1984) there is reference to 'Renamo' an 'anti-communist resistance force' operating in Mozambique, 'a movement organised by the old Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organisation in 1977... believed to have more than 10,000 men under arms and operating in most of Mozambique's 10 provinces.'

10,000! A Kitson-esque pseudo-gang writ very large indeed! Curious, isn't it, that no-one in this country has examined all the left-wing/Trotskyist/Marxist-Leninist groups operating in this country in the light of our knowledge of the pseudo-gang techniques developed by the British state in Kenya, Malaya and Northern Ireland. What about Militant for example?
Two Irish stories worth recycling. One is the information (new?) that at the time of the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974 - attributed, wrongly in my opinion, to the Provos - emergency legislation which became the Prevention of Terrorism Act six days after the bombings, was 'already in draft form'. (Guardian 21 November 1984)

If one assumes - as most people who bother to check the bombing story do - that the Provos didn't do it, this new bit of information makes it rather more likely that the bombings were the work of the British state, jogging the arm of the legislature. A similar move had been made when the Irish Republic was considering legislation against the IRA. An hour or so before the crucial vote in the Irish parliament a couple of car-bombs went off in Dublin. Although the evidence is nothing like conclusive, it seems probable that the bombs were the work of the British intelligence/ military. (See The Kitson Experiment by Roger Faligot, London 1983, p101/2).

The news of the prepared anti-IRA legislation is all the more striking in the light of Kenneth Littlejohn's recent remarks that he was doing bank jobs and planning assassinations for the British intelligence services with the intention of forcing "emergency legislation against the IRA." (Quotation remarks in the original story in the Guardian 26 June 1984)

The second Irish piece is Enoch Powell's return to the Mountbatten assassination. In a speech quoted in the Guardian (24 November 1984) he spoke of a 'plot' to reunify Ireland, 'a plot woven before 1979, and dyed with the blood of Mountbatten and the soldiers who perished at Warrenpoint'

This, surely the most staggering charge by a senior British politician since the war, will, of course, receive no further attention in the British mass media.

In an interesting review article on Chapman Pincher's latest magnum opus in the Times Literary Supplement (14 December 1984) Nigel Clive points out the ambiguous nature of Pincher's relationship with the wilder aspects of Golitsyn's story. For where Pincher is happy to use some of G's revelations - and the information supplied by some of G's intelligence supporters, like Peter Wright - he has, to date, neither accepted nor rejected G's claims of the SinoSoviet split et al being disinformation exercises.

In that review Clive reports Pincher as claiming that the famous Anglo-American tunnel dug under Berlin which allowed Nato intelligence to tap into Soviet communications was a source of nothing but misinformation. (I should say I haven't yet read Pincher's book.) This claim about the tunnel is also made by the US writer of spook fiction, Charles McCarry, in his 1984 The Last Supper. That book is virtually a thinly disguised history of the CIA - or, at any rate, bits of it. McCarry is the best of the spook fiction writers. His previous books - The Secret Lovers, Tears of Autumn, and The Merniek Dossier, all feature a CIA agent named Paul Christopher (as does The Last Supper.) Christopher is a 'singleton', an agent who works on his own.(This, incidentally, is the role that McCarry had while he was in the CIA.) McCarry presents a fairly positive picture of CIA people and activities (he was obviously on the liberal wing of the agency) and to judge by the acknowledgement by Alexander Haig to McCarry in the front of Haig's memoire Caveat (1983) for assistance with its preparation, McCarry has clearly not blotted his copybook with the agency.

This suggests that 'revelations' like the tunnel-as-source-of-Soviet-misinformation are
CIA-approved. It is in this light, then, that we might also regard McCarr's 'solution' to
the assassination of Kennedy - the subject matter of Tears of Autumn - namely, that
Kennedy was killed by members of Diem's family in revenge for his (Diem's) own
assassination in Vietnam. This latter thesis, incidentally, was described by that other
well known ex CIA man Miles Copeland, as being the one 'solution' the CIA was most
loathe to have considered, itself a sure sign that the opposite was true!

A very striking piece in the Observer (11 November 1984) on the Migs-in-Nicaragua
nonsense, describing how the 'crisis' was created by a group of ideological hardliners
known inside the administration as the 'Cabal'. The Observer names as 'Cabal'
members NSC adviser MacFarlane, NSC member Menger, and messers Ikle, Sanchez,
Reich and General Paul Gorman, all second-level members of the military/intelligence
establishment. (The 'Cabal' is, of course, strikingly similar to L. Fletcher Prouty's
'secret team'.)

The most interesting point in the Observer piece is the claim that the crisis was being
stage-managed primarily to screw-up the approaching arms/disarmaments talks with
the USSR. Although I know nothing of Reich and Sanchez, Ikle, Fred Ikle, was one of
those strategic 'theorists' who spent the seventies warning of the arrival of Soviet
nuclear superiority (Minuteman vulnerability, the window of opportunity etc).

Still unresolved, to my knowledge, is the question of whether the reports of large-scale
military deployments inside the US during the crisis were real or mere factoids. This is
more than an academic question, for if the movements of men and equipment were
real, the 'Cabal' have more power than the ability to manipulate the world's press (no
big trick), and the 'crisis' may have been rather more serious than it is now presented
as.

The following assertions - without evidence to support them - were made by someone
called John Judge in Penn Jones' The Continuing Enquiry (June 1984).

World Vision, a world-wide anti-communist missionary operation based in California,
with links to CIA, DIA and USAID - refugee work includes management of the camps
at Sabra and Shatilla, and along Honduran/Nicaraguan border - manages Cuban
refugee camps in the US and has links to Cuban terror groups Alpha 66 and Omega 7 -
employed Mark Chapman, assassin of John Lennon - on World Vision's board is John
Hinkley Snr, father of attempted assassin of Reagan, John Hinkley Jr.

Judge suggests that World Vision is 'an elaborate cover for the recruitment, training
and placement of assassins world-wide.'

Well, maybe. Other explanations are available. But information on sources on World
Vision would be most welcome.

Tucked away in the middle of a piece on freemasonry in the law (Observer 9
September 1984) is the information that William Whitelaw is a mason.

All this current interest in the masonic sub-structure of our society is really rather
amusing. Five years ago - maybe even less - anyone who suggested in public that the
police, Home Office, judiciary and uncle Tom Cobley and all were riddled with
masons, all scratching each others backs and covering up their messes, would have
been dismissed as a hopeless crank, not least by all those journalists and editors who
are now busy churning out the mason stories.

The sudden change in view is entirely down to Stephen Knight's book *The Brotherhood*. So who says books don't change things?

This arrived, as it is, anonymous, from someone in Amsterdam. We hope he or she will consider writing more for us. Material like this we can take a lot of.

Amsterdam: 14/12/84

For Irish readers whose curiosity may have been aroused by Jonathan Marshall's article, (*Lobster* 5 & 6), the following is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta 'first XII' in Ireland in 1981:

| President & Senior Executive:          | Noel L. Peart, GCM, KSG |
| Vice President & Chancellor:          | Dr. Patrick C.D. MacClancy MB, FRCSI |
| Treasurer:                           | John Desmond Moran |
| Hospitalier:                         | Michael J. Egan, LLB |
| Councillors:                         | Malachy Powell, MD Carroll Moran Dr. Thomas Joseph Healy, MB, BCH, BAO Dr. Robert Finbarr O'Donoghue, FRGOC Joseph C. McGough, BL Kenneth Paul O'Reilly Hyland Dr. Thomas Joseph Campbell Thomas Mary Augustine Dunphy, MRIAI |

These members of the 'most exclusive club on earth' met regularly at 32 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland.

source; ANNUAIRE 1981 (SMOM Internal publication / French edition)

Attention should also be paid to an article which appeared in the July 1981 issue of ROUND TABLE - The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs.

The article dealt with British (and Western) security in the event of a political and military withdrawal from Ireland and pointed out that the possibility of a united Ireland joining NATO was the option most frequently discussed at the meeting between Haughey & Thatcher, in December 1980.

The author of the article was Kenneth Whitaker, former governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, and Secretary of the Irish Department of Finance. Whitaker was regarded as a powerful figure in the Irish bourgeoisie establishment, and has been widely accredited as the architect of Irish economic policy from the mid-1950s to the late 1960s.

The result of Whitaker's influence is a present-day economy with 65% to 75% of the investment capital controlled by foreign interests; almost complete destruction of the
indigenous agricultural and marine industry; and an unemployment figure of 25% and rising...fast.

The 'attractions' offered (including interest-free loans, tax-free profits etc.), to British, North American, and Japanese industrialists to 'set-up shop' in Ireland, by successive Dublin governments in the 1950s and 1960s, literally amount to one of the greatest economic rip-offs in Europe since WW 2, in financial as well as human terms.

Clippings Digest: August - November 1984

Policing

(a) and the miners

- 3 page overview in Labour Research (September)
- Officers being sent straight from training school (Guardian 20 November)
- Police installing alarms in homes of (some) working miners. (Guardian 27 November)
- Police officers being charged a 'fee' of a bottle of whisky to get on lucrative picket duty. (Daily Telegraph 25 October)
- Detection rates falling because of picket deployment (Times 7 September), but reported crime apparently not rising. (Guardian 3 September)
- Police wrecking miners' cars. (Guardian 15 August)
- Police using council flats as observation posts without permission. (Daily Telegraph September 12)
- Soldiers on picket duty? Paddy Ashdown thinks so (Guardian 12 September)
- Police roadblocks given limited approval (Times 23 November). During first 27 weeks of strike police stopped 164,000 pickets entering Notts. (Guardian 10 October)
- McClachlan, Notts. Chief Constable says use of roadblocks as a tactic emerged 'when several of us went to the Home Office weeks before the strike began' (Sunday Times November 25)
- Met. police on picket duty used Tory Party clubs as temporary police stations. (letter in Leveller Supplement No 2, December 1984)

(b) and public order

- Met. Police 'exceeded their powers' in arresting people outside South African embassy. (Times August 2)
- Met. Commissioner Newman said 'prevention of public disorder was at the top of their list of priorities', and 500 men in Police Support Units were available at 15 minutes notice. (Guardian 17 October)
- Moves afoot to change laws on public demonstrations. 'Consultations' taking place following 1983 Law Commission recommendations of new offences of riot, violent disorder, affray and conduct intended or likely to cause fear of violence or provoke violence. Police Federation wants new Riot Act. (Guardian 13 November)
- Peace protesters arrested outside army base in Hampshire held under armed guard in a pit. (Guardian 19 November)
After arrest at Faslane base women held for 30 hours, 4 to a cell, continuous lighting, no bedding. (*Guardian* 1 September - letter)

Peace protesters charged with conspiracy - first such charge for 20 years. (*Times* 1 September)

(c) and computers

- Home Office doubts about value of computers. There is no evidence that they reduce crime or save manpower. (*Guardian* 21 November)
- Association of Chief Police Officers request to store 'special register of criminal incidents in mining areas' on Police National Computer. This, if it happens, will be a major change in the kind of data officially stored on the PNC.
- NCCL asks for withdrawal of the request. (*Times* 26 October)
- Another step towards national police computer network in introduction of Home Office (large) Major Enquiry System (aka Holmes). It is expected all forces will have it from next year. Although being introduced in the wake of 'Ripper' case for use in large-scale enquiries, the system will store 'any form of information whether opinion or not' (emphasis added), that is received from any source.
- It will also have a 'free text retrieval' capacity - ie the ability to produce all data including any designated word or words.
- The data should only be released to people 'legitimately concerned' with the main enquiry, 'or to officers who have good reason to believe that information relevant to another enquiry is held by the system' - a licence to go fishing. (*Guardian* 10 October)
- This, when installed will be a national intelligence-gathering computer system, and, like other police systems, will be exempt from the Data Protection Bill.
- Home Office to control the purchase and use of police computers more closely, expand PNC, and encourage police forces to buy only mini and micro computers. *Computing* 29 November).

(c) and 'community' policing

- Greater Manchester Police Authority call for end of police involvement in youth work (*Times Educational Supplement* 14 October) Report claims police involvement in youth work may lead to 'a dangerous extension of police functions'. (This, it should be said, has already happened all over the country as any quick perusal of the annual reports of the country's Chief Constables makes obvious.)
- Account of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in *New Statesman* 21 September. See also letter in 12 October. (Met. now has 806 such schemes in operation)

(d) and accountability

- Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, asks for a 'clear definition' of the powers and responsibilities of the CC from the Home Office following GM Police C'ttee decision to disband police band. (*Daily Telegraph* 11 October)
- This is just one of a series of challenges to Chief Constable authority mounted by Police Authorities since the miners' strike began. (Survey of them in *Observer* 14 October).
- Police Federation Chief Curtis said 'the excuse is financial but the motive is political'. (Daily Telegraph 19 September).
- CC McClachlan of Notts. (and new head of Association of Chief Police Officers) expressed fear that "there is going to be a very strong attempt to bring the police under more political control." (Daily Telegraph 11 October)
- West Yorks County Council setting up working party to investigate Police Authority/Chief Constable/ Home Office relationship. (Guardian 31 October)
- Manchester City Council setting up a unit to monitor Greater Manchester Police. (Daily Telegraph 20 October)
- General discussion of the fuzzy nature of the 1964 Police Act as it bears on Chief Constable/Police Authority relationship. (Guardian 11 October)
- Anderton of Manchester and Ian Oliver of Central Scotland call for an 'apolitical police committee'. (Anderton in Times 16 October). Oliver suggests Northern Ireland system should be copied: Secretary of State for Northern Ireland appoints members of police authority and they have to sign Official Secrets Act, and they meet in secret. (Guardian 9 November)

(e) and National Reporting Centre

- CC Knight of West Midlands admits NRC is ordering local police forces to send police to pits. (Guardian 20 August - letters)
- ex-CC Alderson says NRC has this power under 1964 Act. (this isn't strictly true), and argues for a genuine national force to deal with riots. (Guardian 17 October)

(f) and Association of Chief Police Officers

- An example of ACPO policy forming. Report in Sunday Telegraph (25 November) on police response to Animal Liberation Front says the 'crime committee' of ACPO meeting to 'discuss what to do about ALF.'

(g) and CS Gas

- South Yorks Police now has stocks of CS gas (Daily Telegraph 23 October)

(h) and plastic bullets

- Conflicting evidence on number of British forces with plastic bullets: Home Office says 15 (Guardian 30 October): Police Federation says 13 (Guardian 24 October)

(i) miscellaneous

- After TV prog. showing two Met. detectives setting-up an armed robbery, TV company's switchboard 'flooded with calls alleging similar set-ups' (Guardian 21 November)
- More indications of a national police force being organised piece-meal. Labour Research (October) notes that in 1983 report of Chief Inspector of Constabulary there is reference to establishment of Regional Criminal Intelligence officers in the police regions of England and Wales; and in April (1984) they all went 'live' on the Police National Computer.
Phone-tapping

- In a piece on the aftermath of European Court of Human Rights decision on phone-tapping, the author states 'British Telecom follows the established Post Office procedure of handing meter records on request.' (Guardian 4 August). Did we know this?
- Greater Manchester Police tapping their own calls via computerised switchboard. (Observer 28 October)
- S.W. CND telephone network (telephone tree) disrupted: dozens of people found phones dead on same evening. Joan Ruddock and Bruce Kent also believe their phones tapped. (Tribune 3 August)

Mail opening

- Letter from miner to NGA official opened and two paragraphs cut out of letter, then resealed and sent on. (The Miner 2 November) Is this the first such recorded incident?
- Lawyers working for Clive Ponting have their mail opened. (Guardian 5 September)

GCHQ

- De-unionisation of GCHQ apparently resisted by Sir Douglas Wass (at the Treasury) and Sir Frank Cooper (at MOD) when it was first suggested in late 1982. (Times 28 August)
- GCHQ staff being asked to allow security staff to see their medical records. (Daily Telegraph 1 November)

Censorship/Secrecy/F.O.I.

- Detailed account of Swedish FOI legislation in action (Guardian 19 September)
- Lord Croham (Sir Douglas Allen) one of the group of ex-mandarins taken on board by FOI Campaign (see Lobster 6) condemns Sarah Tisdall (Times 23 November)
- In an earlier piece (Guardian 13 September) statement from Croham in 1977 giving warning to Ministers that unless they agreed to a voluntary code ensuring more openness they would face strong pressure for wider freedom of information legislation. So now we understand these mandarins' interest in the FOI campaign.
- Government about to change positive vetting rules to include membership of pressure groups, notably CND. (Guardian 22/10)
- Chairman of Granada TV, Sir Dennis Forman, on threats to independence of broadcasting:
  - 'the protection of government information has become undiscriminating and obsessional with the resulting suspicion that frequently the motive is not so much to protect the security of the state as the political comfort of ministers.' (Times 27 August)
- Story, already printed, due for Times (of 23 August) claiming Mrs Thatcher present at Naval HQ when Belgrano was sunk, was withdrawn at last minute by editor, apparently after conversation with Rupert Murdoch. (Guardian 4 October)
• Book about Falklands war by head of MOD's naval history department refused publication by junior defence minister John Stanley (Observer 30 September)

**Special Branch**

• SB attending Friends of the Earth and NCCL meetings in Manchester. (Guardian 29 November)

**MI6**

• Interesting piece on Tony Jones, London solicitor accused of being MI6/MI5 informant, including the information that Michael Bettaney was the source of the information, in Black Flag 27 November.

• Political intelligence service of Hamburg police prepare weekly report on political activity which is sent to, among others, MI6. (Parapolitics (Paris) September 1984)

**Articles**

• Extensive excerpts from the CIA's manual *Psychological Operations and Guerilla War* published in Tribune November 16 1984

• Bizarre white-washing piece on the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty during the 1967 war published by Atlantic (September 1984) The authors are two senior Israeli journalists and the piece entirely fails to counter the other versions of the incident, e.g. Anthony Pearson's *Conspiracy of Silence* (London 1978) God knows why Atlantic published it. Has the Israeli lobby got to them, too?

• If anyone has the patience to wade ankle-deep through the half-truths, Paul Johnson is at it again in Encounter (November 1984), this time, inter alia, blaming the New York Times for Nixon's 'plumbers unit': 'Nixonian plumbing was a defensive response to aggression'. Ignorance masquerading as sophistication.

• Interesting piece about Soldier of Fortune magazine, the World Anti Communist League and General John K.Singlaub in New Statesman 2 November 1984. (The War Against 'Communism') The author is Chris Horrie who is, if memory serves me, also editor of CND's magazine Sanity. It should be said that one's inclination to believe Horrie isn't assisted by his statement that William Colby is the Director of the CIA. Was, Mr Horrie, was.

Anyone interested in Soldier of Fortune should read the far bigger and better piece in Covert Action Information Bulletin No 22. CAIB is available through Housman's in London.

• A reasonable (ie reasonable for a British journal) piece on Reagan's backer and friend Paul Laxalt (Senator for Nevada and Chair of the Republican National Committee) and his links with organised crime (Nevada contains Las Vegas) in Tribune August 31 1984

• A much longer and better account of the Laxalt/organised crime link (and, who knows? maybe the source of the British piece) is in Counterspy (July-August 1984). Counterspy is broadening its focus these days. It is available from Housman's bookshop. Piece on Laxalt and his links to the Hughes organisation in Playboy October.
Peter Dally
In Lobster 5 we asked for information on Peter Dally, Chairman of the British Anti-Communist Council.

The British Anti-Communist Council (BACC) is based at 31 Seneca Way, Cheltenham, GL50 4SF, and is the British affiliate of the World Anti-Communist League. The Tory MP Sir Patrick Wall is the BACC Hon. President.

BACC joined the WACL in 1983.

Dally is ex-RAF, and was an agent for the Conservative Party for 11 years. He worked for something called Intelligence International Ltd. from 1969 to 1984. BACC recently published a book by Dally, The Hong Kong Time Bomb.