

The Lobster



pamphlets



state research

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Who Owns Agca?

The Time of The Assassins: The Inside Story of the Plot to Kill the Pope

Claire Sterling, Angus and Robertson, London 1984

The Plot to Kill the Pope

Paul B. Henze, Croom Helm, London 1984

These two books cover the same ground, more or less, and have the same thesis: the KGB used the Bulgarians, who used Agca to shoot the Pope. Sterling's is much the more impressive of them, better documented, more detailed and just generally more convincing. Henze's is thin, padded out with barely relevant material (80 pages on previous Soviet calumnies, for example). Maybe Sterling just had more time - Henze published ahead of her - and maybe, as a working journalist, she is just better at the job. For whatever reason, Henze's little book is going to get buried by Sterling's, and it is hers I will concentrate on.

As with her last book, *The Terror Network*, much of her 'evidence' is attributed to unidentified police and intelligence officers. This bothered me less than it did with *The Terror Network*. This book is more modest in its ambitions, more tightly focused, the unattributable assertions more thoroughly supported by (potentially) checkable material.

Her thesis, and the book, is in two sections. In the first she takes the reader through the stages of her discovery that Agca was an agent/employee of the so-called Turkish Mafia. Heavily involved in the drugs/guns network in that part of the world, this Mafia has extensive links both to European neo-fascists and to the Turkish Gray Wolves. Agca had links to the latter, though Ms Sterling (and Henze) are at pains to convince us that Agca was not a fascist: 'With them but not of them' is how I think she puts it. This drugs/guns smuggling network was identified as working with the cooperation of the Bulgarian state as far back as 1974, by a team of journalists working for *Newsday*. I have their book on my shelves. Ms Sterling discovered it too. (1)

This section seems to me to be entirely plausible, made more credible by the recent (brief) reports in the Western media that Agca has admitted that his first assassination, the shooting of a Turkish newspaper editor, was done at the behest of said Turkish mafia. The editor was planning to publish articles exposing their guns/drugs business.(2) Where Henze attempts to play down the Gray Wolf/Mafia connections, Sterling looks them straight in the face.

So far, then, so solid: Agca linked to the Gray Wolves, and both parties linked to the Turkish Mafia operating with the cooperation/protection of the Bulgarian state. It is an unexceptional picture. Intelligence services all over the world are plugged into the drugs/guns business. Even our own MI6 tried it, as the Howard Marks story revealed some time ago. (3) That the Bulgarians should be so engaged should surprise only the innocent, and shock only the most blinkered enthusiasts for the Soviet bloc. Heroin is the universal currency.

From this point on, however, her thesis gets more tenuous. She links Agca with Bulgarian officials living in Rome. The Bulgarians deny this and have offered counter-

factual evidence. Who is lying? Not that it matters greatly, for even if Agca is ultimately linked to these Bulgarians, Sterling is unable to demonstrate that this means that the Bulgarians were involved in an official plot to knock off the Pope; and on the KGB link, as she acknowledges, there is nothing at all. These sections consist of arguments of this form: 'If X then Y must be true'. If the Bulgarians in Rome were meeting Agca then they must have been a part of the plot. If they were part of the plot it must have been an official Bulgarian plot: and if the Bulgarians were involved then the KGB must have been behind them. All of which may indeed turn out to be true: but asserting it doesn't make it so.

In a sense, the first half of her book, so convincingly linking the Bulgarians to the Turkish Mafia in the guns/drugs traffic, rather weakens the political thesis in the second. For Sterling, like Henze, just assumes that the Polish Pope/Solidarity episode explains Agca. Agca shot the Pope because the Soviet state was afraid of the Pope's influence in Poland.

But there was another drama rumbling away parallel to the Solidarity story: the whole P2/Calvi/ Ambrosiano/Gelli/Vatican finances mess was just coming to the surface at the same time. Again, to her credit, Sterling doesn't duck this entirely. On p142, for example, she describes an investigation by an Italian judge into the guns/drugs traffic as depicting

"Billions of dollars, powerful banks, men of unassailable repute, freemasons, ranking military officers, Vatican financiers, terrorists, murderers, Eastern and Western intelligence services - and remarkable eyewitness testimony."

That, unfortunately, is all we get. To my knowledge the report she is describing never surfaced in the Western press. Nonetheless someone who was prepared to do some serious digging could quite easily begin to create another scenario leading to the shooting of the Pope. Here is just a tiny sketch of one or two of the surface starting points.

Calvi was the protege of Sindona who was linked to the American Mafia, notably the Gambino Brothers, who are into heroin. (4) Gelli had connections with the Bolivian Army, which is in control of the drugs traffic there. (5) Gelli and Calvi were in P2. Some of the heroin shipped out by the Turkish/Bulgarian network was going to the US via the Sicilian mafia.(6) Sindona (and maybe Calvi) were linked to those Sicilians. An empty branch of Banco Ambrosiano was found to contain guns and heroin.(7)

These tenuous linkages could be pursued indefinitely. They suggest - no more - another background to the shooting in St Peter's Square, a shooting which Sterling persuasively argues was carried out by a member of the drugs/guns network, and (she believes) organised by officials from the one state which has been identified as wittingly involved in the heroin traffic - the Bulgarians. Was the Vatican about to do something which threatened the interests of the drugs/guns network? Was the shooting a warning to all involved to keep quiet? On this it is worth noting that Agca himself has pointed out that he wasn't actually trying to kill the Pope, merely wound him. Agca points out that had he tried to kill him he would have emptied his automatic pistol at the Pope, rather than just firing the two shots he did.

For me such a scenario is no less immediately plausible than that which says that the

Soviet State, in a fit of paranoid anxiety, ordered the Pope's death - and botched it. For the difficulty with the KGB thesis is that on examination, the assassination plot as described by Henze and Sterling, is far from being the cunning master-stroke they present it as.

Henze and Sterling propose that the Bulgarians were used to keep the Soviet Union's hands clean. But they both go to some lengths to demonstrate that we - i.e. the West's intelligence services and well informed writers like themselves - know a great deal about the Soviet-Bulgarian relationship (from Soviet and Bulgarian defectors, for example, who are quoted in both books), and there is no chance at all that the Bulgarians could have operated like this without Soviet (KGB) control. Why then should we believe that the Soviets believed using the Bulgarians would protect them?

Henze and Sterling see Agca chosen for the role of assassin because his public person as a rightist (Gray Wolf) would lead investigators off the real scent.

Yet both of them claim to have seen past this without difficulty almost as soon as they began checking Agca's background.

In a refinement of that last point (really a prop for it), Henze and Sterling both believe that the Bulgarians' plan must have been to kill Agca after the shooting, leaving a dead assassin with his rightist face showing to con the world. (There is no evidence for this, of course.) One wonders if the plan was to kill Agca on the spot. (How would that be explained?) Or did it mean killing Agca after he escaped? But how was he supposed to escape from that crowd?

Henze and Sterling suggest that Agca was wandering about Europe and North Africa for a year or so under Bulgarian control. But why would they allow him to leave his footprints all over the place, including Bulgaria?

In short, how incompetent are these Bulgarians (and their KGB controllers) supposed to be? Are we really to believe that the KGB gave the go-ahead for a plan to shoot the Pope with a hand-gun, fired overhead (offering no certainty of hitting anyone), in the middle of a crowd, in front of TV cameras? And by a hit-man linked to the Turkish mafia, the Bulgarians' partners in the guns/drugs traffic? Apparently so. In Sterling and Henze's view, this was the best they could come up with. Were I in the KGB I would feel downright insulted. Personally I don't buy this story any more than I buy the Soviet Union's attempts to lay the blame at the CIA's door. (8)

Sterling describes in some detail the attempts by the West's governments/intelligence agencies (especially the CIA - of course) to bury this 'Bulgarian connection'. She professes to find this puzzling, probably demonstrating a refusal by such agencies to acknowledge the real nature of the Soviet regime. (9) This may be the case, but she will first have to demonstrate that the three wise monkeys act she kept bumping into wasn't just tacit acknowledgement by those Agencies that, in this instance, their hands were not clean enough for them to cast the first stone. It would hardly be a major surprise to discover that the CIA, MI6 and all the rest of them were connected to the drugs/guns traffic in the region.

Also averting their eyes, she tells us, were the liberal media in the US, especially (of course) the *New York Times*. Herman and Brodhead, two critics of Ms Sterling's earlier, Readers' Digest version of the 'Bulgarian Connection', are just as critical of the

same media for peddling this 'Bulgarian connection'.(10). It sure is hard being a liberal in the US these days.

RR

Notes

1. *The Heroin Trail* (members of Newsday) Signet/New American Library 1974.
2. AP report from Istanbul citing military indictment. *International Herald Tribune* 25th January '84.
3. See e.g. *Guardian* 27th October 1981 and Bloch and Fitzgerald's *British Intelligence and Covert Action* (London 1983) pp 223-5
4. *The Calvi Affair* Larry Gurwin (London 1983) p180
5. Gurwin p193
6. Sterling p142
7. Italian TV pictures of this - including the piles of guns and bags of (it was said) heroin, were shown on BBC 2's Newsnight. At the time (innocently) I assumed that a story of such magnitude would appear shortly in the British press. It didn't and I forgot about it. If someone wants to they could write to Newsnight for a transcript of the programme but the BBC's transcription costs are prohibitive.
8. Such attempts, as both Henze and Sterling say, have been pretty silly so far. See, for example, *Soviet Weekly* (London) 9th and 16th July '83. It should be noted that the Soviets claims that Henze is ex CIA seem to be true. Edward Jay Epstein described Henze as former CIA station chief in Turkey. Henze acknowledges in his book that he lived 30 years in that country, and had been on the NSC staff during the Carter regime. Not that any of this is 'evidence' that Henze had anything to do with the assassination, as some Soviet writers have claimed.
9. This, of course, is one of her major underlying theses. It is also one of the themes of the Readers Digest (which paid for her research.) In the mid 1970s RD paid half a million dollars to Edward J. Epstein for his *Legend*, which tried, unsuccessfully, to attribute Lee Harvey Oswald to the KGB. On Legend, see my essay in *Lobster* 2.
10. *The KGB Plot To Assassinate The Pope: A Case Study In Free World Disinformation* Frank Brodhead and Edward S. Herman in *Covert Action* No 19.

Starting Notes On The British In Vietnam

It is well known that counter insurgency expert Sir Robert Thompson, after his 'success' in Malaya, went to Vietnam, under the title of British Advisory Mission, to help the Americans. He was head of the mission until 1965, subsequently visiting Saigon a number of times before being appointed a special consultant by President Nixon. Less publicity has been given to the involvement of other British military personnel in the Vietnam war.

"More sensitive operations, such as those in Vietnam, have been refuted by political sleight of hand..." (Whisper Who Dares Terence Strong, Coronet, 1982)

Some 'experts' deny totally the idea that SAS (and other regiments) personnel saw service in Vietnam.

I was told, some years ago, by a soldier who had worked with the SAS, that the most respected SAS men were those who had fought in Vietnam, the most popular stories in the bar at Hereford being those from that particular war. A similar account came from a member of the Parachute Regiment who told of drunken nights in West Germany where the songs were from Vietnam.

Rumours that members of the SAS had secretly joined US Special Forces in Vietnam were confirmed when it was discovered that the June 1969 issue of the SAS Regiment's normally discrete magazine 'Mars and Minerva', printed a photograph of SAS Sergeant Dick Meadows receiving the US Silver Star for his service in Vietnam. (The Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier, Duncan Campbell, Michael Joseph 1984.)

The close relationship between the SAS and the US Special Forces began in 1961 when an exchange training scheme was set up. It would appear that some men were seconded to Fort Bragg, the home of the Special Forces, where they were then inducted into the US Army. (See 'Delta Force', On Exchange Between The Two Countries, Col. Beckworth, Arms and Armour 1984)

US forces were trained by SAS personnel in Borneo (Labuan) where they received in depth instruction on jungle warfare. One SAS soldier has said that they weren't successful with the Americans. They were too noisy and haphazard in covering their tracks, leaving chewing gum wrappers on the trail. He was seriously injured himself training US troops in the 'Halo' parachute jump (high altitude, low opening).

Some SAS men were at a training school in Saigon whilst South Vietnamese troops were trained in Malaysia (Kotce Timpyt)

Individual SAS members were transferred - through the British Military Attache in Saigon, Colonel John Waddy - to Australian and New Zealand SAS units, as an auxiliary force for the US expedition there. (*The Kitson Experiment*, Faligot)

One such soldier would seem to be Capt. Robin Letts who was awarded the Military Cross for an operation in Borneo, for 'what was undoubtedly a classic of its kind'. He transferred to the Australian SAS (in 1966?) soon afterwards so 'as not to miss the Vietnam war, which he survived.' (*SAS The Jungle Frontier*, Peter Dickens, Arms and Armour Press, 1983)

It would be worth looking at the involvement of regiments other than SAS because it is known for instance, that the Royal Engineers were in Thailand as a support unit.

It is probable, as well, that mercenaries were used for particular missions. British mercenary John Banks claims (in *Firepower*, Dempster/Tomkins, Corgi 1978) that he was flown to Saigon in February 1971 having been recruited by Watchguard. He then went to DaNang where he joined a small army of mercenaries, mostly ex-SAS men.

The mercs were organised into ten-men 'killer' groups and infiltrated into North Vietnam to carry out specific tasks of demolition, sabotage, kidnapping, and assassination. One of the targets was a Chinese general. This operation, it is alleged, was financed by the Australian government. Banks is not terribly reliable but there is

probably a grain of truth in this. (A fuller account is in Banks' own book *The Wages of Fear*, Leo Cooper, 1978).

The British also provided air facilities for the Americans in Vietnam. Changi in Singapore was the main transit base for the RAF, the route being Guam, Singapore, Hong Kong. Equipment from the UK went either direct from Guam, or was transhipped at Singapore.

There are accounts of equipment being flown from Hong Kong to the Americans during particularly heavy fighting in Vietnam. It is also known that we provided transit facilities for Australian and New Zealand units. We were involved through Anzuk and Seato. (Information from personal accounts.)

Besides the human complicity was the transfer of material goods. We provided most of the napalm and 500lb bombs. The US ran out of production capacity for this size of bomb which is the one most commonly used on fighter bombers (A4's and F4's, Phantoms). An excellent account of the involvement of Rolls-Royce and Elliot-Automation in the supply of military hardware to US forces in Vietnam is given by Stephen Merrett in 'Red Camden', April/May 1969.

During the Vietnam War the GCHQ monitoring station at Little Sai Wan in Hong Kong (UKC 201 in the international Sigint network) provided the Americans with intelligence up to 1975, long after Harold Wilson had - publicly at least - expressed his Government's opposition to the war.

The NSA co-ordinated all signals intelligence in SE Asia, and Little Sai Wan was linked to this operation. Its intercepts of North Vietnamese military traffic were used by American military command to target bombing strikes over the north. Together with NSA stations in Thailand and the Philippines, it also monitored North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile sites, enabling warnings to be relayed to bomber crews in mid-flight, allowing them to choose the safest air corridors to their targets. Such help by the British was explained away by the reference to Australian involvement.

Diplomatic intercepts by GCHQ were also helpful to the US during the build-up to the 1972 Paris peace conference. President Nixon and Dr. Henry Kissinger, then National Security Adviser, attached great importance to the mood of the North Vietnamese and the Hong Kong station's information, which suggested that Hanoi was far from capitulating, led to the decision by Nixon and Kissinger to 'bomb the North Vietnamese to the conference table'. (*Observer* 22nd June 1980)

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Western Goals

LA Police Settle For \$1.8 million

Leonard Doyle, *Guardian* 24th February 1984.

Sued by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for illegal surveillance of private citizens, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) settled out of court. LAPD's Public

Disorder and Intelligence Division were accused of 'organising a massive spying operation providing right-wing organisations with a sophisticated computer and handing on extensive files on suspects.'

Here is the tip of an enormous iceberg. The best (brief) account we know of is February's issue of *The Hustler*, the US porno mag. owned by Larry Flynt. Much of what follows is lifted from that.

LAPD had set up the Public Disorder and Intelligence Division and the Criminal Conspiracy Section (PDID and CCS) in the 1960s. In 1971 one of the CCS agent provocateurs, Louis Tackwood (a black), began exposing their activities. Tackwood later wrote a book, a fairly extraordinary book called *The Glasshouse Tapes* (Avon NY 1973) describing his activities and those of LAPD'S CCS. Among his more startling claims is one that CCS planned 'left wing' riots and the assassination of Nixon for the Republican Convention of 1972, apparently in the hope of installing Vice President Agnew as some kind of dictator. Although this story is quite widely accepted among the US conspiracy buffs, the exact status it has remains unclear to me.

Tackwood linked two of the Watergate 'plumbers', McCord and Hunt, to the LAPD. (The various official Watergate enquiries managed to miss all this.)

In 1975 the Los Angeles Police Commission (a civilian body somewhat akin to our Police Committees) ordered 2 million police intelligence files accumulated since the 1950s, to be destroyed. Nothing was done.

In 1983, ACLU, representing 183 clients, mostly left/radical groups, filed suit against LAPD for various breaches of civil liberties. It then emerged that an LAPD PDID officer was transferring the aforementioned intelligence files into a computer for a right-wing intelligence agency called Western Goals. (A private intelligence agency, something like our Economic League). Western Goals was headed by Larry McDonald, the Chairman of the John Birch Society. McDonald subsequently died in KAL 007.

Larry Flynt suggests in his *Hustler* piece that KAL 007 was sent into Soviet airspace precisely in the hope that it would get shot down and rid the Reagan administration of an embarrassing individual - Larry McDonald. (The source of the embarrassment is detailed below.) Flynt's hypothesis seems implausible (there are easier ways to kill people) but, as Flynt points out, Howard Hunt's wife, Dorothy, was killed in a plane crash during the Watergate mess in very peculiar circumstances. (On this see ch 7 of Carl Oglesby's *The Yankee and Cowboy War* (Kansas City 1976))

The Western Goals links are interesting in two directions. One leads to Reagan himself: the law firm defending the LAPD officers has, as a partner, Reagan's Attorney General, William French Smith. (The same firm also represents Reagan's personal interests.) The second leads back to Joseph McCarthy. The No 2 man at Western Goals is John Rees, whose wife, Louise, used to work for McCarthy and Roy Cohn in the 1950s. (Cohn is also connected to Western Goals, on the Advisory Board.)

These connections explain why sections of the US conspiracy buff world are getting excited about this affair. They also make one wonder why the Democrats have made so little of it.

Larry Flynt, the owner/publisher of *The Hustler* and other porno mags in the US, is an interesting man. He's a conspiracy buff, and in the late 1970s he bought a failing underground paper (the LA Free Press, I think) and turned it over to a group of Kennedy assassination buffs. They produced a one-off issue devoted to the assassination, included in which was the offer of \$1,000, 000 from Flynt for information leading to a conviction in the Kennedy case. A short time after this Flynt was shot and paralysed from the waist downwards. His assailant was never found. Flynt believes the shooting was connected to the offer of money and has said, once on British television, that he was shot by the FBI. To my knowledge he has yet to produce any evidence for this belief.

Flynt is now producing a new magazine in the States, *The Rebel*, which, we hear, contains a deal of conspiracy/parapolitical material. If anyone reading this has a copy we'd very much like to see it. He is also currently paying Mae Brussel to send her taped radio programmes to the members of Congress.

Flynt is currently in jail for contempt of court. He refused to tell a court where he had obtained the FBI video tapes of one John De Lorean buying drugs.

With an estimated \$50,000,000 fortune to spend, Flynt may yet turn out to be a serious threat to various ruling elites in America. If he survives that long.

RR

Kincoragate - Loose Ends

It has been claimed (in Sunday News 20th Feb. and The Phoenix, 19th Feb.1983) that at the heart of the disclosures over the Kincora scandal is an internal row in the intelligence services. A dissident faction is thought to have formed in the Secret Service. The scuffles over revelations concerning Kincora started with the writing of a book by Rupert Allason, pen name Nigel West, son of a leading MI6 officer.

The original fight was about whether the KGB had deeply penetrated every aspect of British Intelligence. Now a lot of dirty linen is being washed in public and the background to the purges in British Intelligence in Northern Ireland and, perhaps, some details of the private life of Sir Maurice Oldfield, the MI6 chief, are likely to emerge.

"Bachelor Oldfield's dislike of women except his aged mother was so notorious that even the *Sunday Times* included mention of it in an obituary. It is often wrongly assumed that Oldfield's links with Ireland date only from his appointment as Ulster Security Coordinator in 1979. But as Director of MI6 throughout the 1970s he was not only closely connected with Irish affairs, including the Kincora operation, but was a regular visitor to Belfast." (S.N. as above)

One story released, though not included in the Terry Report on Kincora, is the homosexual assault made on the attractive male personal secretary of Oldfield. At least one statement was made about the incident which occurred in Oldfield's private apartment on the top floor of Stormont Castle. A senior English civil servant found the attractions of Maurice's assistant too much and attempted to molest him. A scuffle

ensued among the exclusively male gathering, as a result of which the civil servant returned to London.

The Counter Intelligence branch of the Secret Service, MI5, is now believed to be running the show in Northern Ireland after the removal of MI6's top man in Ulster, David Wyatt. Mr Wyatt, a casualty of the internal row in the intelligence services, was replaced by an MI5 officer. Described by one source as being a 'link with the foreign office', he was trusted by the Foreign Office mandarins even more than security overlord Sir Maurice Oldfield, appointed by Mrs Thatcher in 1979. The appointment in 1980 of Sir Brooks Richard, an ex-diplomat, as Security Co-ordinator in Northern Ireland, was seen as giving the Foreign Office 'game set and match in the mandarins' rivalries over who runs the various bits of British Intelligence.' (*Guardian* 23/2/81)

When Wyatt departed his two MI6 assistants went with him, leaving MI5 in sole charge of 'mainland' intelligence operations in Northern Ireland.

In recent months some public figures have claimed that a special security squad has been involved in several disputed killings of terrorists. A source of the Sunday News suggested that there might be a link between the new hierarchy and such a squad, which is alleged operates direct to the Home Office. The intelligence masters are widely believed to operate from the old Speaker's House in the grounds of the Parliament buildings at Stormont.

* * *

The new Kincora inquiry will be chaired by a retired English circuit judge, William Hughes. When asked on 'The World At One' (BBC Radio 4, 18th January 1984) if the inquiry would take evidence on the alleged activities of the intelligence agencies, James Prior, Northern Ireland Secretary of State, replied that if there was any evidence, it would. This appears less than likely because the published terms of reference (*Times* 29th Jan. 1984) stated that the enquiry would look at the administration of children's homes in Northern Ireland, indicating that the Terry Report had already dealt with the 'wilder allegations'.

Only one week after the announcement of the new inquiry it was revealed (Sunday News 29th Jan. 1984) that the Northern Ireland Eastern Health Board is fighting for a blanket ban on homosexuals in 'direct caring roles'. The DHSS recommended that information from police records should be sought on suspect applicants for jobs in children's homes. The department would establish a 'pre-employment consultancy service', which boards and voluntary organisations would be obliged to use. It provides for files based on police records and the opinions of past employers to be kept on all those people applying for residential caring posts.

One Board member said "I believe the Board is trying to cover itself after Kincora. They wanted to get this through before the Terry Report so that they could say 'We have done everything necessary.'"

* * *

Still unreleased (as far as I know) are reports on two inquiries. One (Sunday News 29th May 1983), the RUC detectives who probed the Kincora affair, also investigated incidents at another children's home. Involved in the homosexual assaults at the

Craigavon Home was a "military intelligence warrant officer." The assaults on young boys took place over a two year period. Two, (*Times* 26th September 1983) alleged homosexual activity within the RUC. Four men were suspended after Sir John Hermon, RUC Chief, received a letter believed to be from a former woman police officer. Investigations centred on alleged activities in West Belfast more than two years ago. I should make it clear at this point that I have nothing against homosexuality per se. The problem being that in Northern Ireland, as Kincora clearly showed, homosexuality is open to blackmail and intimidation - even in these enlightened times - by the intelligence services.

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Lord Avebury, and the Duke of Norfolk

More on Colin Wallace (See *Lobster* 1). Liberal Peer, Lord Avebury, and the Duke of Norfolk, have joined forces to help prove his innocence. Avebury has written to witnesses who gave evidence at the 1981 trial ('It's A Knockout') of Wallace, who was information officer of the Duke's local Arin Council in Sussex at the time. The Duke has had discussions with Avebury at the House of Lords, and apparently says that there are mysteries about the case. (*Daily Express* 7th Feb.1984) Wallace's wife, Eileen, is secretary to the Duke at Arundel Castle.

Closely involved with Wallace on psyops was Paratroop Colonel Maurice Tugwell, initially head of the Information Policy Unit. Tugwell has previously been an intelligence officer in Palestine, and had also served in Malaya, Cyprus, Arabia and Kenya. He stayed at Lisburn till March 1973, when he transferred to Iran as an instructor at the Imperial Armed Forces College. He was awarded the CBE the same year. In 1975 he went to Nottingham, and in 1976 he took up a defence fellowship at King's College, London, where he wrote a thesis on 'The Problems of Dealing with Revolutionary Propaganda'.

Tugwell's job as Colonel General Staff (Information Policy) was, as described by terrorism 'expert' Richard Clutterbuck, 'not merely to react to the media -or events - but to take a positive initiative in presenting the news to best advantage for the Security Forces'.

In early 1973, Tugwell, in the wake of internment, published an article, 'Revolutionary Propaganda And The Role of The Information Services in Counter-Insurgency Operations'. In it he stated 'Interrogation methods used by the Security Forces in 1971 brought in a mass of valuable information. These methods, combined with the internment of known terrorists, threatened to destroy the IRA's capacity and to destroy it quickly... None of those interrogated by those methods suffered any injury or ill-effects.'

Tugwell later turned up at the University of New Brunswick in Canada. (Ireland and the Propaganda War - Liz Curtis, Pluto Press 1984 pp232/3 - reviewed in this issue.)

The Soviet 'threat'

"Russia Puts The Brake On Military Spending"

Ian Mather, *Observer* 19th Feb. 1984

Recent Nato study concludes that USSR's spending on arms in past 7 years has been increasing at less than half the rate previously thought.

Notice that the headline is completely misleading: the report actually describes a change in NATO estimates of Soviet military spending. What they are actually doing is anybody's guess.

This study, taken with an earlier version by the CIA which came to similar conclusions, marks the end of a period in which inflated estimates of Soviet military spending have been accepted (at least in public) by Nato members' governments for their political utility in justifying increases in their own military spending.

The basis for all this was the now notorious 'Team B' exercise in 1976 when Bush, then DCIA, invited a group of 'hawks' to rework the CIA's estimates of Soviet military spending. Given the right-wing orientation of that group, no one was surprised when they concluded that the CIA's figures were too low. The 'Team B' estimate (little more than a crude fraud) then became 'fact' and the 'dollar gap' was born.

The major mystery of this episode is not that the right-wing should attempt such a fraud, but that the liberal wing of the American ruling elites, especially the New York end of it, should allow them to do so with so little protest. Almost the only voice raised against the 'Team B' fraud was ex CIA Arthur Cox, who exploded the 'Team B' exercise in the *New York Review of Books*, 6th November 1980.

The bureaucratic struggle within the US government over the estimates of Soviet military capability tends to get overlooked in favour of the more exciting aspects of US foreign policy and the work of US intelligence agencies. This is a pity, because those estimates form the basis for the official US government definition of 'reality'. A low estimate of Soviet spending/capabilities makes it difficult to persuade Congress to fund the military's programs.

There is a very interesting and much neglected study of this process by Lawrence Freedman (now Professor Freedman), *US Intelligence and the Soviet Strategic Threat* (Macmillan 1977). Freedman, in this minutely detailed account of the post-war estimates 'game', attempts to steer a course between, on the one hand, the way intelligence estimates are simply doctored to extort money out of Congress, and, on the other, are the consequences of genuine uncertainty and disinterested academic study.

Freedman's relatively sanguine (1976) view of this balance can hardly have survived the gross fraud perpetrated by 'Team B' and the subsequent open manipulation of the estimates for political ends.

This Nato study looks like a fairly tricky piece of work. It seems to want to justify the scare-mongering of the past 8 years by claiming that the 'Team B' estimates were

correct at the time, while simultaneously claiming that Soviet military spending has slowed since then. This will justify reductions in future NATO increases in military spending. (Without reading the actual report it is impossible to know how its authors manage to convince us - or themselves - that the USSR's military spending should be slowing down during a period of rapid NATO increases.)

I would guess that this study signifies a somewhat belated recognition of the damage the current enormous US military expenditure is doing to the world economy via the Federal deficit and the resulting high US interest rates. In one sense, the US deficit just is that military spending; and in the end US capitalism is first and foremost interested in its own health, regardless of the niceties of ideology. Somewhere inside the Reagan administration the US business world has been ringing alarm bells about US military spending, just as it did in the late 1960s over expenditure on the Vietnam War.

This time round, it remains to be seen if the Pentagon can, in fact, be reined in.

RR

Northern Ireland

In this issue, as in No 3, we are recycling a lot of material from Irish newspapers, and one in particular, the Sunday News. One of our Irish readers describes the Sunday News as 'almost wholly Catholic..Nationalist ... moderately Social Democratic Labour Party rather than moderately Republican.'

We have no way of checking the veracity of many (most) of these stories. We offer them because they are interesting; because even if they turn out to be wrong in detail they are indicative of the kinds of things that the British state is doing in Ireland; and because, as far as we are aware, no one else on the mainland UK is taking much notice of events in Northern Ireland.

The Sunday News may or may not be reliable. Our impression is that it probably is, in general. Its reporters, notably one Frank Doherty, seem to have a wide range of sources inside the state apparatus on both sides of the border.

One final thought. The Sunday News is published in Belfast, and Belfast is in the UK.

This means that the same conditions - D notices etc - which apply to the *Times*, *Guardian* etc also apply to the Sunday News. Yet the Sunday News chooses to ignore those 'agreements' with the British state and publishes an enormous amount of material which would cause real trouble for any mainland UK paper.

Is it that the Sunday News is especially bold, or merely that when it comes to the crunch the major mainland UK dailies are always willing to roll over for the state when it comes to Irish questions?

Perhaps one of our readers working for those dailies would care to explain.

CIA in Northern Ireland

The Irish Republic's Military Intelligence (G.2) discovered that the CIA were behind a

plot to spy on loyalist paramilitary groups. (Sunday News 27th November 1983)

Lyn Macrey, who does welfare work for UDA prisoners, was approached by 'The Hettinger Institute', a phoney 'Conflict Studies Institute' set up in Norway by, it is claimed, the CIA.

G.2 also discovered that a number of other people in Northern Ireland are acting as 'consultants' for the Institute, including a top Unionist politician. "The politician made one of his first international trips to meet his CIA spymasters in autumn of 1982 according to intelligence sources in Dublin". (Could be a smear).

Lyn Macrey had been approached first by letter and later had seven visits from a 'Stuart Delroy' who said he was born in Zambia and worked for the Institute.

Nairac Linked to Killing of IRA Members in Republic?

Security forces in Ulster are investigating claims (or looking the other way) that Capt. Robert Nairac was involved in the killing of IRA members in the Republic during the mid-seventies. (Sunday News 27th November 1983)

Capt. Nairac, the SAS officer who was abducted and killed by the Provisional IRA, has been linked with three murders by a former British Military Intelligence Officer ('X').

Nairac's ex-colleague maintains that the SAS man enlisted the help of some members of the UDA and RUC in carrying out plans to eliminate Provo suspects who were operating from bases in the South. One was IRA 'Staff Captain' John Green who was shot dead at a farm house in the Republic in January 1975. Nairac is alleged to have produced a polaroid of the body taken after the 'execution' of Green.

As *Lobster 4* was being prepared this story broke on Channel 4's *Diverse Reports* and in the *Guardian* and *New Statesman*. It is of interest, re the reliability of Sunday News reports, that in this instance their story was correct. More on this in *Lobster 5*.

Phone-tapping in Northern Ireland

Former 'spy officer' - the same 'X' as above? - claims that Military Intelligence has tapped the phones of many Ulster politicians including Ian Paisley, Paddy Devlin, Gerry Fitt and Harry West. The latter tapped after an approach from MI6 to stand against Bobby Sands in the Fermanagh by-election. (Sunday News 5th June 1983)

'X' is quoted as saying:

"It's impossible to say how many phones are being tapped at one time. The RUC Special Branch tap a lot ... others, including Box 500 (MI5), Six (MI6) and 12 Int (Military Intelligence). Sometimes you get a local 'research cell' (Brigade or Battalion Intelligence) doing their own tapping on a particular target..a favoured method being to put a special recorder on a line to show what calls have been made.. intelligence signallers from the 14 Sigs. Regiment are the technicians who put on the military intelligence taps ... the person who needs the information seldom listens directly to a phone-tap. He only gets a typed summary of what has been

said ... these are produced by 'translators' - special intelligence people who analyse each call to find out what the conversation means.

.... British Intelligence cracked the Provisionals phonetapping system in a swoop codenamed 'Operation Nightingale'.. they had a big Sig. Int. (eavesdropping system) running in several parts of Belfast. The man who organised it was Brian Keenan, who is now in jail in Britain a joint SAS, Army Intelligence Unit set up an elaborate decoy system - sending out recorded messages on the undercover channel, which we had discovered the IRA was monitoring using computerised radios ... the decoy messages led them to relax their security - and the SAS pounced, catching most of them..several were British Telecom workers from Telephone House in Belfast. Hundreds of phones had been tapped over the years - including the General Officer Commanding line at Lisburn HQ".

The Anti-CND Groups

'The Men Who Are Dying To Win', in *Sanity* February 1984. A very good article with much valuable information on the American connection which neatly dovetails with the article in *Lobster* 3.

More on Francis Leonard Holihan. He was linked to the Heritage Foundation and, it is claimed, misappropriated funds from them intended for the Coalition For Peace Through Security, transferring them into his own Washington Bank account.

When not dropping names - Ed Meese, Michael Deaver - Holihan would use the offices of The Heritage Foundation and Fairness Committee, running up large bills which went unpaid.

In 1983 he schemed with right-wing Oklahoma lawyer R. Marc Nuttle ('National Field Consultant' to the Committee For The Survival of a Free Congress) to lure Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to a luncheon for the Private Enterprises Foundation. It is claimed that Holihan's share of the proceeds was to be nothing less than \$50,000. Unfortunately for Holihan the June 1983 election intervened and Thatcher cut short her US visit following the Williamsburg summit meeting.

ANON.

* * *

The *New York Times* obtained transcripts of conversations between Charles Z. Wick, Director of the US Information Agency, and James A. Baker, White House Chief of Staff. (*International Herald Tribune* 5th January 1984).

Wicks asked Baker to arrange for President Reagan to meet a group of businessmen he had put together under the banner 'Project Democracy', a propaganda effort to 'support democratic institutions abroad'. They were to contribute \$300,000, and the group included Sir James Goldsmith, Rupert Murdoch and a representative of Axel Springer - all international publishers.

A meeting on the project took place on March 21st 1983. Among those present were: Joachim Maitre ('Axel Springer's man'), Goldsmith, George Gallup (the pollster), Peter H. Dailey, the US Ambassador to Ireland and John W. Kluge, Chairman and President of Metromedia Inc.

Ingrams

At the end of last year the Ulster Volunteer Force, the illegal wing of the Ulster Defence Association, issued pictures of new Ingram submachine guns it had acquired. (*Sunday Times* 6th November 1983)

They were produced as evidence that the UVF is "well prepared to deal with any undemocratic enforced initiatives." UVF sources said politicians who attempted to compromise the constitutional position of Ulster would be their prime targets. The Ingram is not a very democratic weapon.

The Ingram is something special, a perfect killing machine; and to acquire one legally you need the permission of the U.S. State Department.

The M10/11, hand held, almost recoilless weapon was designed by Gordon Ingram and Mitch Werbell II, a mysterious White Russian, OSS-China veteran small arms manufacturer and occasional US intelligence operative. Werbell has been termed a 'creative genius' by weapons historians for his designs of noise suppressors for automatic weapons and for his other 'silent kill' devices. He has been called the 'principal supplier of the CIA's most sophisticated weapons' (in "Ken Burnstine" by Gaeton Fonzi, in *Gold Coast* May 1982).

Werbell's firm, Studies in the Operational Negation of Insurgents and Counter Subversion (Sonics) produced the M10/11 silenced machine pistol. The sales company was Parabellum, a Miami-based arms sales firm set up by 'soldier of fortune' Gary Patrick Hemming, and headed by Cuban exile Anselmo Alliergro IV, who dealt with Latin American sales.

In 1974 Werbell was involved in a "conspiracy among the CIA, Robert Vesco (international fugitive and Nixon campaign contributor) and various corporations to finance clandestine guerilla activities in South America. Vesco wanted to purchase Werbell's stock of 2000 silenced M10 pistols. When Werbell failed to secure an export licence, he devised a plan to smuggle the weapons to Vesco." (*The Great Heroin Coup*, Henrik Kruger, Black Rose, Montreal, 1980)

In 1976-77 large batches of the Ingram ended up in the hands of European fascist terrorists. In Italy in the hands of Ordine Nuovo; in Spain, through a purchase by Spanish Intelligence agency OGS, in the hands of the Guerillas of Christ the King, linked to Albert Spaggiari.

In 1980 Gerald Cunningham led FBI agents to a warehouse where he had 1000 M10's hidden. He told the agents his company Weapons International Engineering and Research, had bought the weapons from Werbell. He didn't tell them that he was Werbell's partner in Defense Weapons International, or that Werbell and international drugs smuggler Ken Burnstine had manufactured hundreds of Ingrams without serial numbers for shipment to Chile when the CIA was providing aid to the military junta.

If the UVF have more than merely pictures of the Ingram, where did they get them from? Without the serial numbers its hard to say, but it is known that the UVF "tried to rearm itself with sophisticated weapons and trips to buy arms were made to Belgium, the Netherlands and the US." (*Guardian* 12th April 1983)

In April 1982 Joseph Bennett, a 'supergrass', gave evidence about a conspiracy to import arms for the UVF in 1980. It involved negotiations with the neo-Nazi VMO (Flemish Military Order). The deal between Bennett and John Irvine of the UVF and Albert Eriksson, a leader of the VMO, was simple: the VMO would supply £50,000 worth of guns but would supply explosives free if the UVF began a campaign of bomb attacks against Jewish targets on the British mainland. This was refused but the following Christmas two VMO representatives travelled to Belfast for further talks. Eventually VMO activists did train in bomb making and explosives handling.

In the meantime the UVF had successfully brought a consignment of weapons from the US. (*Searchlight* May 1983).

The VMO, now illegal in Belgium, has extensive links with the European neo-fascist movement, particularly France's FANE, and Britain's League of St. George.

SD

The CIA and Mountbatten

"What would they want with me?" Lord Mountbatten had imperiously said to his secretary shortly before his death..... (1)

Ulster Unionist M.P. Enoch Powell suggested that the CIA were involved in the murder of Earl Mountbatten of Burma in August 1979..."The Mountbatten murder was a high-level 'job' not unconnected with the nuclear strategy of the United States" (*Guardian* 9th January 1984), the belief being that US policy is directed towards ensuring that Ireland can be used for strategic defence purposes within NATO. Powell presented no evidence, but drew attention to the subsequent Anglo-Irish summit meeting in October 1979, at which he claims a secret agreement was reached which governed subsequent policy, the objective being that the Irish Republic abandon its military neutrality and join NATO.

The Mountbatten murder was surrounded with suspicion from the beginning. Two men were arrested before the explosion, one of them later sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder. Many CND members have felt that the murder was not unconnected to a controversial speech that Mountbatten gave in May 1979 at Strasbourg in which he suggested that nuclear arms had no military purpose and questioned the growing opposition to the Salt agreement.(2)

There is no evidence of CIA involvement, but what do we make of the following passages from Richard Deacon's book 'With My Little Eye' (Frederick Muller, London 1982). Deacon's contact 'Poe', who had served with OSS and CIA told him:

"At the time of your security scandals in the early sixties we tried to coax our computer to check on our findings on some of your top people in the services and intelligence services. The computer couldn't tell us who was

or wasn't a spy, but it could assess people as to what extent they were a security risk. Do you know who came top of our security risk list? None other than your own Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Mountbatten. He rated six times higher than Philby. If he had been anyone other than Mountbatten it is almost certain that he would not have survived our positive vetting tests. He was the perfect target for KGB blackmail.

... Maybe he was the best of patriots but he gave us every reason to believe that, patriot or otherwise, he was highly vulnerable. We know he had a leftish streak in him and we doubted that this was entirely due to his wife's influence, as she was a kind of Bollinger Bolshevik, having the best of both worlds. We traced the original leftist influence to a pal of his at Cambridge when they were undergraduates. This chap was a communist sympathiser and remained in close touch with Mountbatten for many years.

...He was not the only left winger engaged in work of national importance by Mountbatten. The late J.D. Bernal, who joined the CP in the 1920s and later wrote anonymous articles for the Communist Review under the pen name 'The Sage', was another of Mountbatten's scientific admirers in WW2. Even in the early '60s some of his injudicious associations had us worried.

... The Soviets have pinned their hopes increasingly on obtaining a network of top level 'moles' in all the leading Western countries. If they could have won over a Secret Service chief in the West, or one of your Admirals of the Fleet, or a member of your Royal Family, (Mountbatten was all three) they would do so. There have in fact been various attempts to involve members of your Royal family in the past forty years.

...the aim was two fold: to obtain intelligence but even more to demoralise the West by making revelations of such infiltration as soon as they have ceased to be of any value. Disinformation was cunningly fed to Mountbatten who was well known to be vulnerable to flattery."

It is true that Mountbatten had had a close friendship with Tom Driberg MP, and was noted for some unconventional and illegal sex preferences which opened him up to blackmail. But this is a pretty straightforward smear attempt. The next stop would be the conclusion that the Soviets were behind his anti-nuclear views.

Who, in the CIA, could be behind such smears and, possibly, though I find it hard to believe, behind an assassination? Mountbatten was known to be a bitter enemy of the group around the White Russian Knights of Malta who had strong links with American intelligence agencies. This group had endorsed the Polish defector Colonel Michael Goleniewski in his claim to be the last Romanov King of Russia. (He claimed to be Prince Aleksei.)

Mountbatten, who was related to the Romanovs, had spent a considerable amount of money disputing this, and Goleniewski considered Mountbatten to be the leading opponent of his claims to the Russian throne. (on all this see Guy Richards' *Imperial Agent*)

A major Goleniewski supporter in the CIA was the late Herman Kimsey, a top assassination expert, who was also Associate Chief of International Intelligence for the White Russian Knights of Malta. Kimsey was also an expert at disinformation.

SD

Notes

1. *International Times* Jan/Feb 1980
2. Mountbatten had headed research on the 'Broken Back' project designed to discover how Britain could continue fighting after a nuclear holocaust. Of course, we couldn't.

"Operation Brogue"

In the mainland UK press the bugging of a house used by Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, was presented as (merely) another mysterious and rather inept example of 'dirty tricks' in Irish politics. (See eg *Guardian* 20th February 1984) A brief story appeared and then vanished again.

But Irish press reports suggest that the bugging was merely one part of a complicated story which leads to a failed 1982 MI6 coup against then Prime Minister Charles Haughey.

The story (*Sunday News* 25th March 1984) is long, complicated, and itself apparently based on press reports from the Irish Republic. These, in turn, are based on information from former Irish Republic Counter Intelligence personnel. But these, albeit at third hand, seem to be the main points. And if it isn't very clear it's because the *Sunday News* report is pretty fuzzy in places.

1. The bugging led to the discovery that Britain's MI5 had recruited a group (numbers unspecified) of Irish Special Branch personnel, apparently to get information on IRA activities in Dublin. One of the MI5 recruiters was a 'Michael' who 'posed as a civil servant dealing with security matters at Stormont Castle'.
2. above led (somehow) to the discovery of 'Operation Brogue', an MI6 attempt to run a coup against Haughey.
3. Details of (2), the coup, include:
 - the planting of false stories about Haughey in the British press.
4. Irish Counter Intelligence (CI) put the MI5 officer responsible for the false stories under surveillance.
5. But some of the CI people were the Special Branch personnel recruited by MI5 (see 1 above).
6. When MI6 offered a £100,000 bribe to one of Haughey's Cabinet colleagues, the offer was recorded by CI.
7. Irish CI then prepared to arrest the MI6 people. But MI6 was tipped off by the MI5-recruited Special Branch people, (This I have inferred from the text) and somehow stage-managed a scandal involving Irish Justice Minister Doherty.
8. Information on the CI surveillance was leaked to the press and Doherty had to resign and CI was purged.

9. Two KGB men in the Irish Republic, Salines and Lippasov, who knew about this, were hurriedly expelled from Ireland.
10. The purged CI people took their files with them and began leaking the story to the press.
11. Ex CI personnel and Haughey's party have called for a full judicial enquiry into the affair.

Confused? Perhaps we won't be when we get hold of The Phoenix's version of all this.

The thought does occur that the MI5 man 'Michael' referred to above might be Bettaney. Although the press reports of Bettaney's MI5 career are sketchy, the Phoenix did claim that Bettaney had been in MI5's Irish section.

If this 'Michael' does turn out to have been Mr Bettaney, it may in the long run shed some light on some of the odd features of the official version of Bettaney. For the version we have, the right winger who sees the light and goes left, doesn't convince me. The most interesting part of it is the claim that Bettaney, while a serving MI5 officer, joined the Labour Party. But joining the Labour Party entails membership of a trade union. Are we really to believe that MI5 personnel are allowed to join trade unions? In the absence of information to the contrary, eg that Bettaney lied about either his union membership, or lied when becoming a union member, this particular episode in Mr Bettaney's implausible story has a very distinct smell about it.

RR

Exposures Of The Rich

As a recent TV programme (James Bellini's 'The Polite Conspiracy' 4th April 1984 BBC2) made clear, the rich have devised some artful ways of avoiding tax. Of course they also have a government committed to drastically reducing their tax 'burden' (e.g. Nigel Lawson's abolition of investment income surcharge, formerly payable on high unearned incomes.)

Naturally, the secrecy surrounding the wealth of the rich and the methods they use to hide it is massive. As far as Britain is concerned there are few directly critical studies of the subject. Instead, the few things which filter through come from apologist or semi-apologist studies, or from practical guides which are written for the rich and their well-to-do colleagues.

An example of the first category is W.D. Rubinstein's 'Men of Property' (1981). Rubinstein gives some interesting facts about the rich in Britain, but his aim appears to be to prove that the rich are not that rich. In order to do this he has to neglect certain areas, such as the export of fortunes into havens overseas - with Britain's old colonial connections, the rich have had a million nooks and crannies for many years in which to hide their wealth. Rubinstein does, however, recognise one inadequacy of his account - he hints that the more sophisticated City operators (in particular the well-established merchant-banking families) are able to hide their wealth in trusts.

It is this last aspect which Edouard Chambost's book, *Bank Accounts: A World Guide*

to Confidentiality' (John Wiley and Sons 1983) provides further clues about. This work is an example of the second category mentioned above, a practical guide for those with fortunes but lack of nous. Chambost, so the flyleaf tells us, is a Paris lawyer who specialises in international tax and finance and who has already written 'Using Tax Havens Successfully' (Institute for International Research, 70 Warren St. London W1, 1978). His book, therefore, aims to inform the "roving depositor" where and how best to deposit his fortunes.

Bank-havens often coincide with taxhavens, so amongst the leading bank-havens we find Bahamas, Cayman Islands and Vanuatu. Also listed are Liechtenstein, Panama, Singapore, Switzerland (of course), Andorra, Bahrain, Hong Kong, British Virgin Islands, Jersey and Guernsey and Luxemburg (again, some of these are well-known taxhavens.) More surprisingly Hungary and the USSR are also given some prominence as bank-havens.

In dealing with secrecy, it appears that there are two main instruments - direct and indirect. The first centres on the internal confidentiality of banks themselves, including "numbered accounts". The second concerns the ability or possibility of a depositor remaining unknown to the bank itself. This basically boils down to the use of trusts through which money is deposited in a bank. Chambost's treatment of this is actually rather sketchy, but it is clear that the law has been brought to bear on trusts, so that great ingenuity (and, obviously, expense) are involved in their establishment. Only the richest of the rich can afford to hide their identities so perfectly, and Chambost's book is evidence of the lengths the rich will go to preserve their names from inquiring minds.

Chapter 9, "Banking Secrecy and Politics" is disappointing, but then Chambost is not writing for outsiders. He uses the chapter to trace the fate of the Algerian National Liberation Front's Fighting Fund, which appears to have vanished through the Swiss banking system during the 1960s.

Perhaps one of the more useful parts of this book, from the point of view of outsiders, is its detailed bibliography. General works of a technical and non-technical nature are listed here, as well as books on all the main countries involved. There are also three periodicals dealing with taxhavens etc - all are produced by the aforementioned Institute for International Research Ltd. It would be interesting to know who runs this body and who it is connected with.

Finally, Chambost gives his conclusions on the limits of banking secrecy:

"The true limits are probably moral rules accepted internationally as being the minimum requirements for acceptable behaviour.." (p269)

He then proceeds to modify this rule to the extent that it means ...nothing. Instead he opts for the more "realistic" term, "balance", instead of "morality", presumably because it is less "value-laden". But Chambost does believe in some limit to morality or balance. Slave-traders, he believes, would not be given the protection of bank-havens these days, once the bankers knew what their business was. Perhaps it is better for bankers, then, that they do not know the business of all their clients; or, perhaps it would be truer to say that it is better for the bankers that the general public does not know.

E.H.

In Brief

Kissinger Commission

Letter in *International Herald Tribune* 22nd January 1984 from one Eugene L. Stockwell who testified before the Kissinger Commission on Central America. He writes:

"During my hour and a half testimony most of the commissioners repeatedly indicated that they believed today's Nicaragua to be as bad or worse than Nicaragua under Somoza; Mr Kissinger made it clear that he believes Nicaragua is as bad as or worse than Nazi Germany."

Assassination of Robert Kennedy

Just published in the UK is Thomas Noguchi's *Coroner To the Stars* (Coronet 1984)

Noguchi was Los Angeles coroner and had a lot of famous corpses to examine. One of them was RFK's. In this book he repeats his original conclusions that Kennedy was shot at point blank range from the rear - i.e. not by Sirhan, who was in front. The assassin was almost certainly a man called Eugene Thane Cesar, dressed as a security guard, standing just behind Kennedy.

Committee For A Community of Democracy

New group mentioned in passing in *Guardian* 17th January 1984. Anyone seen other references, details of membership, aims, funding etc?

Smersh

Ian Fleming always claimed Smersh was a real organisation but references to it are scarce. One such is in the report of the death of a Soviet defector, Boris Hatton, in London. Hatton is said to have been in Smersh just after the war. *Guardian* 1st March 1983

The SDP in Dallas

Lord Vaizey, once plain old John Vaizey, a good socialist and significant influence on education policy in the 1960s, has now turned his gaze on world history now that he is (a) a Lord and (b) a member of the SDP. In his recent *The Squandered Peace* (London 1983) he tackles Kennedy's assassination. In one half page (p294) he tells us (a) that Oswald had been arrested for distributing pro-Castro leaflets in Florida (actually it was in New Orleans); (b) that Oswald was 'mentally unbalanced' (said who?); and (c) that he was in "active contact with low-level FBI agents." (which almost the whole JFK buff world believes but can't prove).

What is it about Kennedy's death that encourages people to go into print without doing any of the reading?

Longer Articles

The Myth of the Lone Wolf

Robin Ramsay, Undercurrents No 62. Jan./Feb.1984

Written nearly three years ago, and essentially an immediate response to the Hinkley attempt on Reagan, pointing out the obvious inconsistencies in the press reports.

Much has happened since. Hinkley has spoken of the group he was part of (reported on NBC's Nightly News 14th November 1983), and two journalists at the scene, Judy Woodruff and Jessica Savitch, have spoken of seeing a second gunman. Savitch has since died in an accident (or 'accident'), in October 1983.

As far as we are aware there is as yet no detailed study of the event, nor any plausible explanation of it. U.S. conspiracy buffs, accustomed to scenarios in which liberals/leftists - Kennedys, King, Panthers - are assassinated by the right-wing, seem to be both confused by, and disinterested in, this particular shooting.

Banking On the City

Counter Information Services No 33

Disappointing and rather superficial look at the City of London. As always with CIS reports, beautifully produced and illustrated, but such useful information as it contains is lost amidst the (relative) trivia. It would have been of interest 5 years ago: today it doesn't make it.

Britain's Cold War Security Purges: the Origins of Positive Vetting.

Peter Hennessy and Gail Brownfield, *Historical Journal* 25(4) 1982.

Title explains the content. Covers 1948-52. Nothing startling in it but it includes an extremely useful diagram of the security and vetting structures of the British state.

Capital: the Neglected Face of Power?

D. Marsh and G. Locksley in *Pressure Politics* ed. D Marsh (Junction Books 1983)

Very interesting, both for its content - statistics on concentrations of financial power, examinations of lobbying organisations such as CBI and the City - its discussions of the various theoretical questions involved, and for its rarity. For, as the authors note in their opening sentence,

"It is surprising that relatively little work has been done on the role of capital in British politics".

Pressure Groups: Right Thinking People

Labour Research Feb. 1984

Profiles of, personnel involved in, financial contributions to: Adam Smith Institute, Aims of Industry, Centre for Policy Studies, Coalition for Peace Through Security, Common Cause, Economic League, The Freedom Association, Institute of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs Unit.

Ernest Bevin's Black Propaganda Unit

and

Here Is The News - Courtesy of MI6

Richard Fletcher, *Tribune* 2nd September and 9th September 1983

Two large pieces. The first is on the work of the Information Research Department of the Foreign Office: the second describes the formation of a world-wide network of news agencies and publishing companies created by MI6 to put out material created by IRD.

These are essentially expansions of previous work by Fletcher - see, e.g. his piece in the *Guardian* 18th December 1981 - and are based on a large study commissioned by UNESCO. This latter fact may give some hint of UNESCO's current unpopularity with the UK and US governments.

BOSS in Britain

James Barber, *African Affairs*, July 1983

A valuable compilation of the various reports and incidents involving BOSS (South Africa's Bureau of State Research) going as far back as 1967. Drawn from existing sources, and written as a by-product of the author's study of the UK-South African relationship.

Books

Behind World Revolution: The Strange Career of Nesta H. Webster. Vol. 1

Richard Gilman, Insight Books, Ann Arbor (U.S.) 1982

As one of the major sources of the Jewish/ Illuminati fantasies of the loony right on both sides of the Atlantic, Nesta Webster has a lot to answer for. Her books, it has to be said, are not only total junk, they are turgid in the extreme. On both occasions I tried to read one I gave up pretty quickly. Most of the right-wing's conspiracy theorists are short on documentation and logic, but some, notably Gary Allen, just about carry this sceptical reader along. Reading Nesta Webster, on the other hand, is a complete chore.

Gilman's biographical sketch of Webster appears to be the first of its kind. There isn't much of it but anything's better than nothing. More importantly, he has compiled what appears to be a near exhaustive listing of her output and the critical response to it, and there is a very interesting bibliography on conspiracies and conspiracy theorising.

However, the central question - how she came to believe the dotty things she did believe - remains unanswered, and, in all probability, unanswerable.

But this is a significant book. Ten years ago it would have been safe to dismiss the right-wing conspiracy theorists as just an intellectual oddity, something worth collecting only for their curiosity value. Today we have an American President whose own 'thinking' - such as it is - is not so very far away from Webster's contemporary followers in the John Birch Society. Those with long memories will recall that Reagan was a Goldwater supporter in 1964, the year the Birchers had captured much of the grass roots of the Republican Party. Through the Birchers and related groups this Illuminati gibberish carries on; and, laughable though they are, Nesta Webster's fantasies still matter.

In the promised second volume Gilman will produce a critique of Webster's ideas. Such a study is obviously needed, even though it will be akin to dealing with a serious-minded member of the Flat Earth Society. I look forward to the book, glad that it's not me that has to read her appalling books.

RR

Available in this country from The Alternative Bookshop, 3 Langley Court, Covent Garden, London.

Ireland and the Propaganda War

Liz Curtis, Pluto Press, 1984

I used to hate picking up Pluto Books, badly written garbage; but thankfully things have changed and we have recently seen a growing list of books well worth buying. Here's another one.

Liz Curtis' account of British misinformation and BBC Censorship tactics on Ireland deserves close attention. Well documented, with excellent notation and index, there can be no argument with its contents. As Kincoragate shows, the mainland UK knows little of the real conflict in Northern Ireland and the form in which that conflict takes place.

Whilst blame lies with the British state, what of the complicity of journalists and broadcasters who, in general, escape attention in this book?

Consider... "Peter Lennon reports (*The Listener* 30th June 1983) that there is only one broadcast journalist in the province with senior editorial rank who is not an Ulster Protestant. The exception is Stephen Claypole, the BBC's Editor, News and Current Affairs, fourth in seniority. He is English. Lennon asked all the broadcasters whether they considered the root cause of conflict in the province sectarian, social or political. All placed 'sectarian' first (two preferring to call it 'tribal sectarian'), with the sole exception of Claypole, whose order was 'political, social and sectarian'. (*Times* 1st July 1983) And... "Big noises were made from Northern Ireland when it was learned that Sir Hugh Greene was to be appointed head of the BBC. The problem being that Greene is Catholic." (*A Variety of Lives* by Michael Tracey, London 1983)..

SD

Clippings Jan./Feb. 1984

Policing

Opinion survey (*Sunday Times* 8th January 1984) on public view of the police. Major findings:

60% plus wanted

1. stop/search of anyone police think is suspicious.
2. use of plastic bullets, water cannon, tear gas on 'probably violent' demonstrations.
3. police to fingerprint everyone in an area where a serious crime has been committed.

But 80% disapproved of police phone tapping.

Police and Criminal Evidence Bill

Government guaranteed pupils' confidential school records will be immune from police seizure. *Daily Telegraph* 18th January 1984.

Police Intelligence Files

A box of said found on rubbish tip in Edinburgh. Contents confirm that the police are keeping files on almost everybody. Described by police spokesperson as 'basic criminal intelligence', files were mostly about non-criminals. *Sunday Times* 8th January 1984.

DHSS fraud squads to be trained by police at police colleges. *Guardian* 3rd February 1984

Police Use of Guns

Police use of guns in Camden dropped 80% in one year after protests by (unofficial) Camden police committee. *Tribune* 3rd February 1984.

Humberside Police personnel posed as market researchers during survey of public views of police in Humberside. *Guardian* 19th January 1984

The Police Use of Computers

In L3 we printed some sections from the Association of Chief Police Officers' *The Police Use of Computers* purporting to describe the joint Humberside/Kent system due to 'go live' in 1985.

Information given by a rather garrulous Humberside officer involved in the system's development at a meeting of the Humberside Police Committee (19th Jan 1984) indicates that this description is misleading.

The officer stated that the force's 'collator cards' - i.e. the intelligence files - will be

included in the system. The system will have a 'criminal intelligence' function. This is not included in the ACPO account of the system. *The Post (Hull)* No 6.

The Met Computer

Report that computer company CTL built computer system for Metropolitan Police's criminal intelligence system in 1979. Did we know this already? I suspect not.

Guardian 28th February 1984

Merseyside and the Police Computer

Merseyside County Council to shelve police computerisation of existing criminal records (ie details of convictions) unless amendments are made to the Data Protection Bill. The amendments propose creation of a new official who will have the power to investigate databases of those systems (such as the police's) which are to be exempt from inspection under the Bill as it stands now. *Computing* 23rd February 1984

Data Protection Bill and Police Computers

Large explanatory piece on the implications of the combined effects of the Data Protection and Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

"Together these acts ... allow (the police) access to any computerised database."

Computing 9th February 1984

Computers and Northern Ireland: Bringing the War Home?

Report (*Guardian* 12th January 1984) of police camera/computer checks on car licence plates on M1. (See also *New Scientist* for details 12th January 1984). The system, linked to the Police National Computer (PNC) at Hendon, provides 24 hour automatic surveillance of the movements of all cars whose licences are on the PNC.

This smells like the beginning of the introduction of something like the system now in operation in Northern Ireland.

There the Army are operating a computer system, apparently known as Big Brother Vengeful, which records and stores for 7 days information on all cars sighted at border crossing points. The system, when accessed, will respond with up to 16 sightings of the nominated vehicle for the previous 7 days. *Sunday News* 5th June 1983

The other Northern Ireland development of interest is the plan to introduce computer terminals into all Royal Ulster Constabulary cars. £110 million is being spent. The system will log all incidents and the location of all the computer-linked vehicles.

Sunday News 22nd March 1983.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Report on them in *Observer* 19th February 1984. Major conclusion is that they are popular in middle and upper class areas and not with the working class.

Alderson's warning

Ex Chief Constable Devon and Cornwall, James Alderson, warned of the danger of British police becoming the arm of an authoritarian government. This, before the miners' strike. *Guardian* 19th January 1984

Immigration Act

Home Secretary acknowledges that confidential instructions to Immigration officials are in breach of the 1971 Immigration Act. *Guardian* 9th February 1984

Paramilitary Group

Report on London-based 'Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth', a private paramilitary force of 2000, members of Government funded Reserve Forces Association, linked to Civil Defence Network. *New Statesman* 10th February 1984

Surveillance

Large explanatory piece about the implications of the National Insurance plastic cards and DHSS computerisation. *Guardian* 25th January 1984

Large explanatory piece about machine-readable passports and development of European-wide surveillance of travellers. *New Scientist* 5th January 1984

State Secrecy

Increasing number of post-war official papers due to be released under 30 year rule being withheld by Government. Examples given. *Guardian* 10th January 1984

Large explanatory piece on Canada's Access to Information and Privacy Act.

Computing 9th February 1984

British Psywar Operations

Documents released under 30 year rule reveal UK interest in and use of psywar techniques against Mau Mau in Kenya. *New Scientist* 12th January 1984

British Defoliation

UK used dioxide based defoliants in war in Malaya 1951-53.

New Scientist 19th January 1984

CIA'S MK Ultra Programme

9 Canadians, victims of CIA brain washing experiments under MK Ultra are suing the US government.

There is a suggestion that the UK government was involved in similar operations. Part of the surviving CIA documentation on MK Ultra (most was destroyed on Helms' orders) reads: "allied governments where the security services has people under its control."

New Scientist 2nd Feb. 1984

Companies House Searches On The 'Security' Industry

Security Research Ltd

Address: 1 London House, High St, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6AA

Andrew Bowden MP was host at a reception given by Security Research at the House of Commons. (*Times* 14th July 1983). Among those present were members of the diplomatic corps, Dept.of Industry, Ministry of Defence, Met. Police and the defence industry.

What Security Research is up to isn't clear. Formed out of Software Resale (Data Processing) in April 1982, it apparently designs and markets 'security equipment'. The 'company turnover is exempt from disclosure' but it has received £15,000 from the Government and a £50,000 loan from Barclays Bank. It spent £85,000 on the development of 'something' but has no income. Curious.

Directors

John Henry Wilson

Little Leys, Golden Common, Bramley, Surrey. Formerly of 'Morecroft Securites Ltd.

Sophia Hardy

(as above)

Robert Patrick Broadley-Wilson

(as above)

David Martin John O'Brien

The Company Secretary.

10, Vallance Road, Hove, Sussex

- Joseph Apper, Braychoice, Cronekin, Castplace, Howhand, Hernclass, Medisport.

Anthony Lawton Godard

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127 Portland Road, London W11

Polygraph Security Services

Address: 20/30 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HH

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Triangle PD Ltd., Beneficial Arts Ltd.
Owns 44 of the 100 shares.

Philip Austin Tite
4 Sandwell Mansions, West End Lane, London NW6
Triangle PD Ltd.
Owns 44 of the 100 shares and is Administrative Executive.

Sir George Terry
85 London Road, Hailsham, East Sussex.
Owns 5 shares and is Chairman.

Jeremy Guest Barrett
7 Hazlewell Road, London SW15
C.I. International Ltd, Market Shooters Ltd, Anchor Winch Ltd.
Owns 7 shares

Defence and Security International

Security Centres Holdings has set up a joint venture with Defence Systems and the Middle East Institute for Strategic Studies. (*Guardian* 13th March 1984) The latter is based in Jordan and is active in the Middle East advising on implementing security counter-measures. (Any information on MEISS would be welcome)

Called Defence and Security International, the new venture will operate from Cyprus to 'provide the most complete package available to clients on security matters.' This apparently ranges from 'threat assessment' to 'system design and response force organisation'. It considers the potential profits for Financial Year 1985 and beyond to be 'substantial'. This is a high-powered operation.

Security Centres Holdings is controlled by the Aitken Brothers (of TV AM fame). It is an international company in the field of alarm systems and security guards which has made dramatic progress in the last few years, branching out into America (SCUSA) and Ireland. It seems to have plenty of money. In December 1982 it had \$11,000,000 on deposit at Nassau Bahamas branch of the National Bank of North America.

Directors

Jonathan William Patrick Aitken MP (Deputy Chairman)
21 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1
- Aitken Hume Companies, A.L. Bilad (UK), R.H. Sanbar Consultants (UK), Fadace

Ltd.

Brian Damian O'Connor (Chairman)

113 Southwark Street, London SE1

- Aitken Hume, Old Swan Hotel (Harrogate), Leisuretime, Pildtway, Zone Park Ltd.

Timothy Maxwell Aitken

1 Worship Street, London EC2

-Aitken Hume, Newaygo Trading Co, Old Swan Hotel, Leisuretime, Elephant and Castle, Drovegate Ltd, Stalford Ltd.

Defence Systems Ltd

PO Box 20632, Manama, Bahrein.

35 Albemarle Street, London W1

"..On Nov.17 last year (1982) employees of a shadowy British firm called 'Defence Systems International' arrived at the mines, ostensibly to help stop smuggling. But the men, who are still there, have military backgrounds, and many are ex-SAS. One told me he had been recruited privately and had no experience of preventive security operations. Like all expatriates, he denied having any access to weapons."

Quote from an interesting article on diamond mining, smuggling and security (*Times* 14th Oct. 1983)

It should also be noted that Philip Warner, mentioned below, is probably the historian who wrote *The SAS* (Sphere, 1983)

An impressive looking rostra, but what do they do in Bahrein? Warner has added weight as a former Managing Director of Heckler and Koch (Technical Systems) which puts them in touch with a major arms manufacturer.

Directors

Maj. Gen. The Viscount Monckton of Brenchley OBE, MC, DC

Runhams Farm, Rynham Lane, Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent.

- Ransome Hoffman Pollard, United and General Trust, Self Financing Services, Country Building Society.

Alastair George Angus Morrison OBE MC

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Martyn Dietrich Alexander Pocock

21 Orlando Road, London SW4

John Jeremy Windham

PO Box 5006, Manama, Bahrein

Philip Courtney Thomas Warner.

6 Holland Park Mews, London W11

- Brettanham Trust, Cheam Court, Nelsontrex, Rumwand, Warner Estate Holdings.

David Wilfrid Abbot
24 Lichfield Avenue, Hereford.

AMAC Corporation

10 The Drive, Hove, Sussex.

Considerable publicity has recently been given to AMAC-1, a new vehicle for controlling riots. It is equipped with grenade launchers, 18 gun ports, armoured bodywork (which is electrified), searchlights, water cannon and infra-red cameras. The AMAC Corp. is selling the vehicle in South America and is promoting it in Pakistan, India, Indonesia, the Middle East. (*Times* 11th April 1984)

Designed by Michael Comber, a former security adviser, said to be ex-SAS (*Daily Mail* 13th April 1984)...'It is not an aggressive vehicle essentially. It is designed to avoid people killing each other. It is intended to look and be frightening'.

AMAC was formed out of J. P. Cors Ltd, and appears to be involved in arms, vetting surveillance and security services. It has backing from Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd, with one L and G's personnel on AMAC's board.

Bernard Vaizey's various air and shipping freight companies under the Vairon banner (18 City Road, London EC1) would seem to provide the necessary overseas contacts.

Directors

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11 Wyndham Street, Brighton, Sussex
- Latham, Braley Cowan Ltd.

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- Lion Holdings.

The Lobster is a journal/newsletter about intelligence, parapolitics, state structures and so forth. (The scope of our interests should be obvious from this issue.)

We welcome clippings, articles, letters, reviews, on these areas. Although we will exercise editorial control over any material sent to us, nothing will be cut without prior consultation with the author.

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All enquiries/correspondence/subs/orders to: Robin Ramsay, 17c Pearson Avenue, Hull, HU5 2SX, UK.

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Robin Ramsay / Steve Dorril

Robin Ramsay
17c Pearson Avenue
Hull HU5 2SX
UK

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