

# Reorganization: behind-the-scenes coup

Under the direction of President Carter's Reorganization Project, established in 1977, a sweeping reorganization of the federal government is in process without fanfare and with little public notice. It is aimed at centralization of all foreign policy making and subordinating the economy to these foreign policy objectives. In effect a cold coup against constitutional government, the methods and underlying policies of the reorganization package bear close and ominous parallels to the process by which Adolf Hitler acquired dictatorial powers in Germany in the 1930s.

The objectives of the reorganization were spelled out by Samuel Huntington, former National Security official and advisor to the reorganization group, in his book *The Crisis of Democracy*. The book was written for the Trilateral Commission, when current NSC head Zbigniew Brzezinski was its director, and Brzezinski was deeply involved in writing the book. In the book Huntington declared, "Some of the problems of governance in the United States today stem from an excess of democracy...(What is) Needed instead is a greater degree of moderation in democracy." The Reorganization establishes the government structures

through which a President Haig is slated to implement global international austerity as the Council on Foreign Relations details in its 1980s Project.

Immediately after President Carter took office, plans for implementing government changes began, under the cry of cutting bureaucratic waste. In March 1977, Congress passed the Government Reorganization Act, giving the President authority to submit to Congress plans for reorganization that unless vetoed by the Congress would become law within 60 days.

The source of these sweeping proposals is the Reorganization Project established by Carter in the Office of Management and Budget, under the direction of OMB Director John White, a former top Rand Corporation official. With five major divisions and subdivisions, the project is a hidden government within a government. The most important division is the National Security and International Affairs division under the direction of Peter Szanton, one-time President of the defunct New York City Rand Institute.

The National Security and International Affairs division has three subdivisions, on trade, the consolidation of foreign policy and military command reorganization. The trade subdivision intends to put all the trade functions of State, Commerce, Treasury, Agriculture and the Export-Import Bank under one roof, either as a new Department of Trade or into one existing agency, which would serve as an effective coordinating point for trade warfare. Officially, this will be proposed by early May.

The National Security division also drafted the proposed International Development Cooperation Administration, which consolidates all Agency for International Development (AID) programs, Overseas Private Investment Cooperation (OPIC) which insures corporations abroad, and U.S. contributions to the UN aid agencies. It also establishes an Institute for Technological Cooperation geared to foisting "appropriate technology," more explicitly, deindustrialization programs on the Third World.

Carter declared in March that the aim of this particular reorganization, which will be formally introduced into Congress in late April, is to ensure that "the efforts of the U.S. bilateral programs and those of the multilateral development institutions are complementary," or that the international austerity policies of the International Monetary Fund and U.S. overseas lending programs work hand in hand.

The second subdivision of this group is consolidat-

## The precedent: Hitler's Enabling Act

The reorganization program of the Carter administration, which permits the Administration to enact sweeping changes in the structure of government unless specifically vetoed by the Congress, has an ominous parallel in a similar program in Nazi Germany. In 1933 the Reichstag passed a law titled Enabling Act, which gave Adolf Hitler the power to issue decrees which, unless voted down or otherwise changed by the Reichstag, were law. Eventually even that power to change decrees was eliminated. Ministries announced policies and issued decrees, while the power of the Reichstag was successively destroyed. Under the Enabling Act, ministries were at the same time created, merged, and consolidated, as required by the needs of Hitler's volatile war economy.

## Reorganizers talk about their program

ing the foreign policy making apparatus and ensuring that economic policy is coordinated with it. In the words of Peter Szanton, "We are working on national security, foreign affairs and foreign economic programs." Another aspect of this reorganization is to break the independence of the traditional U.S. military. "We want to look at the relationship between State, Defense, the NSC and the OMB. We want an integration of foreign policy and national security policy.

The third part of this division focuses on restructuring the military command structure, in particular breaking the chairman of the Joint Chiefs from his ties to the military services. Szanton is working closely with a reorganization group under Deputy Secretary of Defense Charles Duncan. Duncan's position has already been beefed up by Harold Brown; he functions as a coordinator of military and political policy.

Another section of the reorganization project is focusing on militarization of the country's natural resources. The Natural Resources and Environment division, in conjunction with the National Security Council, drafted plans last year for a crisis management command structure for all the emergency preparedness agencies.

Their emergency preparedness apparatus was accomplished in line with NSC policy memorandum PRM-32, drafted by the NSC staffer Samuel Huntington, which completely revamped U.S. military policy, and became law April 1.

Currently, this same team has drafted a scheme for a Department of Natural Resources to consolidate Agriculture's Forest Service and Commerce Department's National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency into a powerful Interior Department. The new agency would control mineral and agricultural development of extensive sections of the Western states as well as control offshore oil, gas and mineral development.

—Barbara Dreyfuss

*An interview with Mr. Ralph Furtner, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Defense Organization Staff under Harold Brown was made available to this news service.*

**Q:** *What are the programs that you looked at in the reorganization program?*

**A:** We have worked on three programs, departmental headquarters staff reorganization, defense resources management and the command structure. In late June the report will be ready for Harold Brown's decisions.

**Q:** *What was the command structure review all about? I understand there was an emphasis on making the chairman of the Joint Chiefs less responsible to the Joint Chiefs.*

**A:** In the command study, we looked at the relationship of the role of the Joint Chiefs to the national command authority. We looked at the fact that the joint chiefs have to function as head of a military service and as part of the joint chiefs. We have proposed that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs be strengthened as an independent military advisor to the President and Secretary of Defense. He would still speak for the Joint Chiefs but...we are asking him to speak out independently of the military branches on resources management.

**Q:** *What do you mean by resource management?*

**A:** What we mean by resource management is planning, programming and the budget acquisition process. On planning, we propose a planning office under the undersecretary for policy. We want to integrate political and military planning under the Secretary of Defense for policy.

**Q:** *Hasn't Secretary Brown already done some reorganization?*

**A:** We looked over the proposals that were made and done by Secretary Brown when he came in, particularly the role of the service secretaries. We decided that they were vital for the civilian control of the military. The undersecretary for policy was set up by Brown. This integrates the political and military policy.