

Under SOE, similarly, Churchill deployed men into staff positions that ranged from responsibility for securing war materiel from North American industry to more glamorous paramilitary and espionage tasks. As assistant secretary to the Ministry of Supply and, later, to the Board of Trade, Peter Jay's father was a member of this Churchill/Beaverbrook team.

After World War II, SOE undertook a reorganization of finance and industry throughout the British Commonwealth. Thus, Lord Robert Thomson, the appointed heir to Beaverbrook's publishing empire, built a media network which centers on *The Times* of London for which Peter Jay worked as economics editor from 1967 until his appointment as ambassador to the U.S. in 1977. Another major task undertaken by such SOE members as Sir William Stephenson and Canadian financier E.P. Taylor was to build up the Bahamas, establishing the infrastructure for Carey Energy's Freeport refinery, as well as the offshore dirty-money laundering facilities that made the Bahamas an attractive place for Robert Vesco to relocate with his over \$200 million in stolen assets.

In addition to Jay, word of the Charter transaction was also relayed to the President by Jack McGregor, a personal friend of Billy Carter who had been chief counsel for Carey Energy and who was retained as a consultant by Charter. On April 4, 1979, Jack McGregor met with Jimmy Carter to discuss his brother. "I alerted the President to Billy's general financial problems and the possible need for a legal defense fund and legal representation," McGregor said in testimony before the Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

In August 1979, McGregor also served as go-between for a meeting in Georgia of Billy Carter and his financial assistant, Randolph Coleman, with Lewis Nasife, president of the Charter Crude Oil Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Charter. Arrangements were discussed for Billy to obtain guarantees of crude oil shipments to Charter that would not be subject to embargo in the event of a Libyan oil embargo against the United States. Billy was to work out the details with his Libyan friends in early September during his planned visit for the tenth anniversary celebration of the Qaddafi regime.

Sources formerly in the highest levels of Libyan intelligence have stated that in payment for his services, the Charter Co. placed \$25 million in offshore bank accounts for Billy Carter, where it is currently held for him. Senate investigators are also in possession of evidence which documents that Billy Carter received substantially more money from the Libyan government than the \$220,000 "loan" payments made shortly after his second trip to Libya as a Charter representative.

Vesco's network: offshore and on

The first major public break in the Charter oil scandal occurred on Aug. 22 when the company revealed in a special report to Senate Judiciary subcommittee investigators that two top executives of the Charter Co. made over a half-dozen trips in 1978 and 1979 to the armed enclave of fugitive financier Robert Vesco, who built his lair in the Bahamas after looting over \$200 million from Investors Overseas Services (IOS).

At one late-January 1979 meeting between Vesco and Charter Co. chairman Raymond Mason, which followed a few days after Mason met with Billy Carter's friends in the Libyan government, the oil company chief executive sought financing from Vesco for a planned takeover of the Carey Energy Corporation and 50 percent of its Bahamian refinery, the fifth largest in the world. In late March 1979, according to the Charter report, Vesco phoned Mason claiming that he was instrumental in Charter's proposed acquisition and therefore entitled to a \$5 million finder's fee.

Arms, bribery and White House intrigue

With this latest "Billygate" revelation, Robert Vesco, whose illegal contributions to President Richard Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign played a significant part in Nixon's resignation, was once again a prime suspect in a congressional probe into the corrupt practices of an incumbent President. Nor was this the only time that Vesco has been linked to substantial bribes of Carter White House officials in which Jimmy Carter has been directly implicated.

The networks associated with Vesco in these influence-peddling schemes include some of the world's dirtiest operations, involving drug running, arms smuggling, and hot money laundering throughout the offshore haven of the Bahamas and the politically tense Middle East. As we will show, these networks, handling a large chunk of the estimated \$200 billion annual earnings of the international narcotics cartel, are also heavily involved in certain aspects of the oil industry

(including the Charter acquisition of Carey Energy) whose total earnings nearly rival those from drugs and organized crime.

A few days after the Charter Co. report was released and Billy Carter appeared before the Senate Judiciary subcommittee, the President's brother was again subpoenaed to testify under oath, this time before a federal grand jury in the Southern District of New York, where Robert Vesco had been indicted on five separate occasions in the past. Multiple sources report that a major focus of the grand jury is to investigate an alleged \$30 million slush fund that the Libyan government placed at Vesco's disposal to bribe White House officials for the release of eight C-130 planes purchased by the Qaddafi regime, but never delivered due to political pressures from the Zionist lobby.

Former U.S. intelligence sources report that as a result of bribes offered to such figures as White House chief of staff Hamilton Jordan and former Office of Management and Budget director Bert Lance, the Carter administration was prepared at one point to release the aircraft. These sources further corroborate the polygraph-verified statements Vesco made in the presence of Senators Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz), who are directing the judiciary subcommittee probe of "Billygate," that Jordan and Democratic National Chairman John White were involved in Vesco's efforts to deliver the planes. Reputedly, substantial bribe monies were offered to White by an associate of Vesco who was working as an FBI informant.

Two embargoed 747s were released as a "token of good faith" to the Libyans; however, the deal is believed to have blown up when nationally syndicated columnist Jack Anderson exposed another \$12 million bribery scheme involving Jordan in an attempt to take the legal heat off Vesco. In a series of articles on this scandal that began in September 1978, Anderson exposed the fact that President Carter actually directed then Attorney General Bell to meet with Vesco's "bagman," Spencer Lee IV. (See "Vesco's Links to the Carters," *EIR*, Vol. 7, No. 31, Aug. 12, 1980, for a report on the plot, codenamed "Operation Kingfish," through which the Justice Department under Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti planned to kidnap and assassinate Vesco to cover up the evidence.)

In addition to Billy Carter, a prime suspect as the "passthrough" for the C-130 bribe money now reportedly under investigation by the New York grand jury, is said to be Frank Terpil, a notorious arms merchant who is now under indictment in New York and Washington, D.C. for, among other charges, conspiracy to murder an enemy of the Libyan government. Sources close to the ex-CIA agent report that Terpil, who has sold

millions in small arms to Qaddafi, as well as peddling sophisticated assassination and torture devices to former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, was a constant companion of Billy Carter during his trip to Libya in September 1979.

It was during this visit for Libya's tenth anniversary celebration that Billy Carter sought guarantees of embargo-free oil supplies for the Charter Co. Billy confirmed his link to Terpil on this trip, stating that the indicted arms smuggler and hitman Terpil was functioning as his "interpreter."

Who is Robert Vesco?

Robert Vesco, the common thread throughout these and other scandals involving the Carter White House, is the son of an Italian immigrant auto worker in Detroit. In 1965, he began to move toward control of Investors Overseas Services with assets estimated at well over \$1 billion.

In his rise to wealth and in his later flight with over \$200 million in stolen IOS assets, a flight which ended in the Bahamas, Vesco has acted as an agent of influence for two overlapping networks that the authors of the bestselling book, *Dope, Inc.*, have identified as the "real kingpins of organized crime," namely, the British oligarchy, which operates in this regard through the British Special Operations Executive team groomed by Sir Winston Churchill and Lord Beaverbrook in World War II, and SOE's Zionist mafia auxiliary. Both the SOE and Zionist mafia collaborate closely with the real controllers of Billy Carter's Libyan friends in the Italian black nobility (e.g., Prince Spadafora) in dirty tricks operations.

IOS was run by precisely the same combination, as an examination of its chief underwriters and board members confirms. Bernie Cornfeld, nominal chief executive of the firm, was sponsored by the Paris-based Zionist lobby leader Edmond de Rothschild and the European black nobility-linked Dreyfus Fund. Under Cornfeld, IOS became a vast international dirty money laundry which interfaced with Zionist mafia leader Meyer Lansky, drug-running and casino gambling operations such as Resorts International in the "Silver Triangle" of the Caribbean, and the Banque de Cr dit Internationale run by the chief of logistics and finance for the Israeli Mossad, Tibor Rosenbaum.

Vesco himself had gotten his start in "international high finance" with backing from Edmond de Rothschild, who provided him with several millions in loans to purchase International Controls Corporation, Vesco's first base for his conglomerating operations. Exemplary of his shadier ties was his 1969 bid to takeover Geneva's Exchange and Investment Bank, which New York City investigations showed had received over \$2

million a week in receipts from narcotics and gambling handled by Lansky's hot money manipulators in Miami, Florida and the Bahamas.

In the early 1970s Bernie Cornfeld's financial legerdemain had drawn the attention of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission officials and authorities in several Third World countries who found their nations' assets being smuggled off to IOS coffers by the firm's U.S. military intelligence-trained operatives. At this point, Sir Kenneth Keith, a director of the drug-linked Eagle Star Insurance and chairman of Hill Samuel (one of IOS's chief underwriters), determined that at least a cosmetic change in leadership was in order. As a result, Vesco was virtually handed control of IOS, which he bought with a \$5 million loan from IOS itself!

Vesco began next to look for partners to maintain control of his multibillion dollar money laundry, and one of the prime candidates was Raymond Mason, the future chairman of Charter Co., whose conglomerating activities closely paralleled Vesco's own. According to a "Summary of Contacts between the Charter Company and Robert L. Vesco 1971 to Date," which the firm submitted to the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on Aug. 22:

Vesco, then president of International Controls Corp., first contacted Raymond K. Mason, President of Charter, during mid-1971 regarding a possible purchase by Charter and St. Joe Paper Company of the controlling interest in IOS, which was controlled by Vesco at that time. Such discussions continued between Mason, Vesco and Edward Ball, Chairman of the Board of St. Joe [the largest stockholder in Charter—ed.] until June 1972 when they terminated without any agreement ever being reached.

Throughout the period covered by these negotiations with Charter Co., Vesco triggered a series of contrived financial crises within IOS to secure his control. Under this smokescreen he also began asset-stripping on such a grand scale that he touched off an international financial panic, which is precisely what his Anglo-Zionist patrons wanted. The threat of an IOS collapse is credited with forcing President Nixon's capitulation to City of London demands that he implement Friedmanite "Phase I-IV" austerity measures. Vesco, meanwhile, skipped off to the Caribbean with his loot.

Intrigues in the Bahamas

Throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Bahamas were being transformed into an offshore haven for dirty operations by such leading SOE members as E.P. Taylor, the chairman of Roywest—a leading

Bahamian investment bank formed by an amalgam of Royal Bank of Canada, National Westminster of London, and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The latter has been identified by the authors of *Dope, Inc.* as the central controller of heroin traffic from the "Golden Triangle" in Asia.

Under Taylor's direction, D.K. Ludwig and Charles Allen undertook the development of Freeport, one aspect of which was to build a major oil refinery, a task undertaken by Carey Energy Corporation. Charles Allen, chairman of Allen & Co., one of the largest and least known investment banks, is a personal friend of Raymond Mason of Charter Co. He is also the man who introduced Armand Hammer, whose Occidental Petroleum Co. would become a major partner of Charter in international oil production, into Libya.

Another project promoted by Taylor, Ludwig, and Allen was the building of the Resorts International casino on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. Vesco had salted millions of IOS funds into the casino in preparation for his flight to the Caribbean. It has since been revealed that as part of his negotiations with Mason on the Charter-Carey deal he proposed a complete takeover of Resorts as well.

It was this group which overrode Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden Pindling's decision, just as the Charter-Carey deal was to be signed, to back instead a bid from a rival company for the refinery he thought was more in the country's interest. Pindling had been installed by this group to rubberstamp its decisions. In addition to Mason's personal ties to Allen and Vesco, Charter stockholders had other levers they could pull to pressure the colonial government, if necessary.

Several law enforcement sources have confirmed that the extensive cocaine and marijuana trade in the Caribbean "Silver Triangle" has been controlled by Robert Vesco since he took up residence in the Caribbean. These same sources have identified Max Fisher, the Detroit-based Zionist lobby leader, as one of Vesco's chief partners in this operation through Fisher's control over United Brands (formerly the United Fruit Co.). Since Max Fisher took over and reorganized United Brands, Drug Enforcement Agency personnel have stated that more than half the cocaine entering Florida from the Caribbean is transported on its banana boats.

Max Fisher was elected temporary chairman of United Brands when Carl Lindner of American Financial Corp. purchased over 21 percent of the company's stock acting as a frontman for the politically powerful interests behind Fisher. At the same time that Lindner helped engineer Fisher's United Brands takeover, he extended \$30 million in unsecured loans to the Charter Co. (considered almost bankrupt at the time) and he is today one of Charter's major stockholders.