

Unanswered questions about the attempt to assassinate the President

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In preparing this initial investigative report, *EIR*'s counterintelligence editor and his staff polled dozens of law enforcement and intelligence professionals all over the world. Out of these discussions, a number of questions have repeatedly been posed that represent the key to unlocking the "Manchurian Candidate" closet and unraveling the full story behind the events of March 30.

1) Where did John W. Hinckley Jr. receive his weapons training? Careful review of the videotape film footage of the assassination attempt demonstrates conclusively that Hinckley was an extremely proficient shooter, particularly skilled in the execution of rapid fire under combat stress conditions. His choice of weapons and his now-speculated use of explosive bullets bears all the earmarks of an individual technically prepared to succeed in his mission: kill the President from close range.

Not one word has surfaced publicly as to Hinckley's training in combat handguns. Furthermore, the speed and accuracy of his firing on March 30 would have required consistent practice with the designated assassination weapon during the period leading up to the attempt on President Reagan's life. Are there any records of Hinckley's turning up at shooting ranges in Washington, D.C., Evergreen, Colorado, or Hollywood, California over the last two-month period?

2) Why did the FBI fail to act on the basis of the arrest information received on Hinckley in Nashville, Tennessee during October 1980? Hinckley was detained by Nashville airport police attempting to board a New York City flight carrying at least three weapons and 50 rounds of ammunition. Yet the U.S. attorney's office in Nashville reports that the FBI did not indicate that multiple weapons had been seized. Despite the fact that Hinckley was flying into New York City, where both President Carter and candidate Reagan were scheduled speakers—from a city where both had been scheduled to appear—no report was made to the Secret Service or to the Alcohol, Tobacco

and Firearms Division. Was Hinckley possibly already a known entity to federal agencies at the time of his Nashville arrest?

3) Did Hinckley's psychiatric treatment at any point intersect: behavior modification institutions involved officially or unofficially in MK-Ultra or any other drug-conditioning experiments; "est" or any other Lewinite sensitivity training; the Church of Scientology or any other cult-therapy centers employing linguistics methods of brainwashing; the Esalen Institute; the RAND Corporation; the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies; clinics and/or therapeutic communes run by Dr. Frederick Hacker, Dr. David G. Hubbard, or any of their protégés; any U.S.-based institutions affiliated with the London Tavistock Institute and its affiliated Center for the Study of Conflict? These institutions in their totality represent some of the leading witting centers of brainwashing that currently operate in the United States. Any one of these institutions possesses the resources and the trained personnel to create a "Manchurian Candidate" assassin.

At this point, the totality of evidence made available through public channels and through sources accessed by *EIR* overwhelmingly points to such a "Manchurian Candidate" profile of Hinckley.

Numerous prior cases, such as that of the Symbionese Liberation Army and the Black Liberation Army, and another purported "lone assassin" David Berkowitz, have all been documented by *EIR* specialists to have been the work of professional behavior modification programs. These programs, such as the Vacaville Prison behavior modification unit run by Dr. Frederick Hacker, employ behavior-conditioning techniques first rigorously employed at the pre-World War II Tavistock Clinic in London and subsequently massively exported to the United States. Drugs such as prolyxin and thorazene, as well as torture techniques such as electroshock and sensory deprivation, are rigorously applied to targeted vic-

tims. The result is programmed killers, whether they belong to so-called political cells, to Satanic cults, or even to the growing ranks of "lone assassins."

The past decade's proliferation of drug use among the nation's youth, the epidemic proportion outbreak of homosexuality, and the popularization of T-Group and other self-brainwashing techniques among particularly the nation's middle and upper class population, have created a massive recruiting ground and labor pool for "Manchurian Candidates" schools such as those listed above.

Both *Playboy* magazine and key affiliated sections of the motion picture industry have played pioneering roles in the fostering of this climate. *Playboy's* sponsorship of homosexuality, drugs, and cultism has recently been documented in a special report prepared by a team of *EIR* investigators. The role of the motion picture industry has already become a matter of direct concern to the Hinckley investigation.

Script writer Paul Schrader's screenplay for *Taxi Driver* had remarkable parallels with the psychological profile of the assassination attempt by Arthur Bremer against George Wallace. Hinckley has cited that film as one of the triggering factors in his own attempt on the life of President Reagan. While the media publicity surrounding the *Taxi Driver* revelations has been principally directed at proving the bogus "lone assassin" claims, the same evidence points in a fruitful direction as well: the witting role of elements of the motion picture industry in profiling and popularizing vulnerability to efforts such as the March 30 effort to assassinate the President.

The fact of such mass aversive conditioning of the American people, and the more targeted and recruiting of Manchurian Candidate assassins, poses a necessary further question: *How many more John W. Hinckleys are presently roaming the streets as controlled human time bombs?*

4) Has the summer meeting of the Group of Five heads of state been designated as a high-feasibility time and place for a second attempt on the life of Ronald Reagan? The fact of that conference's taking place in Ottawa, Canada should be a matter of grave concern to all individuals responsible for the security of the President and the other heads of state scheduled to participate.

It is a confirmed fact that during President Reagan's recent trip to Canada to meet with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, there were a string of severe security breaches that several times placed the life of the President in immediate jeopardy. *EIR* investigators have established that those security breaches were part of a "dry run" profiling of the Reagan security screen; and that personnel on the private staff of Trudeau, on the prime minister's Crisis Management Staff, and within the Privy Council were all witting in this effort. Affiliates of the

International Law Association connected to a forthcoming conference on international terrorism at Carlton University in Ottawa have been identified as part of this "dry run" profiling team. These same individuals, including Thomas Mitchell, acknowledge at least correspondent collaboration with Dr. David G. Hubbard and Dr. Frederick Hacker, both cited above.

both cited earlier in this memorandum.

The special role of Canada in current and future assassination efforts against President Reagan and other political targets of opportunity is underscored by the prevalent political power exerted over that "British Crown Colony" by the remnants of the wartime Special Operations Executive (SOE) within British intelligence. The SOE networks, through the person of Major Louis Mortimer Bloomfield, sponsored the "joint assassination bureau" of the 1958-68 period that was identified as the control over the assassination of President John Kennedy and the aborted assassination efforts against French President Charles De Gaulle. This Canada-based SOE network, known in the 1958-68 period as "Permindex," is itself a subsidiary capability of the broader intelligence apparatus that includes Tavistock, *Playboy*, and other component elements cited.

The five levels of investigation

The following memorandum was released by Investigative Leads, a subsidiary of EIR.

March 31, 1981, 1500 hours—On the basis of the first 24 hours of investigation following yesterday's assassination attempt against President Ronald Reagan, the *IL* counterintelligence staff has developed the following grid of investigative leads. These leads represent five different levels of command, all of which would have potentially been involved in aspects of the assassination effort. This initial memorandum will be updated as appropriate new elements of the investigation are developed.

1) John Warnock Hinckley, Jr.

John W. Hinckley, Jr., presently in FBI custody for the attempted assassination of President Reagan, bears the initial profile of a "Manchurian Candidate" assassin. Based on his proficiency with the .22 revolver he used at the Washington Hilton scene, his technical abilities are those of an expert gunman. However, no professional "hit man" would have ever attempted to carry out a presidential assassination under the circum-