
Investigative Update

'Manchurian Candidate' pattern behind assassination potential

by Scott Thompson

In the week following the March 30 arrest of John W. Hinckley, Jr. for attempting to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, a trail of leads has emerged which suggest strongly that Hinckley is a programmed assassin—a “Manchurian Candidate”—created and deployed by a broader network. This profile was almost conclusively confirmed by the April 7 arrest of Edward Richardson, who was arrested en route to Washington, D.C. carrying a .32 caliber pistol. Richardson had sworn “to bring to completion Hinckley’s reality.”

Richardson’s life “eerily parallels” that of Hinckley’s, according to federal investigators. And, it makes very concrete the statement of an intelligence source last week that “the arrest of Hinckley will touch off a wave of copycat assassins.” Other sources close to the intelligence community believe an unknown number of programmed assassins may still be at large.

On April 8, two new individuals—Harry Thomas Smith of Raleigh, North Carolina and Steven A. Seach of Philadelphia—were arrested for threatening President Reagan’s life. Smith had been sentenced twice earlier to prison terms for making threats against a President.

Richardson’s trail was initially picked up in New Haven where he was stalking Jodie Foster, the actress in a movie about assassinating a U.S. senator titled *Taxi Driver*, whom Hinckley had also been obsessed with. FBI investigators have stated that Hinckley’s motive was his rejection by Foster, who is now a Yale student.

However, Hinckley’s obsession with Foster may provide clinical evidence as to the nature of his brainwashing. It has been reported that Hinckley’s mother’s nickname was Jodie and that 20 years ago she bore “an astonishing resemblance” to the actress.

While in New Haven, Richardson stayed in the same Park Plaza Hotel as Hinckley had earlier. When he left Monday, without paying his bill, a maid discovered a photograph of President Reagan with an X drawn on his forehead and the inscription, “Targeted for Death”; three .32 caliber bullets; and two notes written during his four-day stay in the city, one of which threatened the President’s life (see above).

A third letter had been hand-delivered to Jodie Foster’s dormitory; it read: “I will finish what Hinckley

started. RR must die. He (JWH) has told me so in a prophetic dream. Sadly though your death is also required. You will suffer the same fate as Reagan and others in his fascist regime. You cannot escape. *We are a wave of assassins throughout the world* [emphasis added].”

The letter was signed: “International Peoples Court”—a possible reference to the Symbionese Liberation Army, which Richardson had been fixated on, according to friends. Manson family member Lynette (Squeaky) Fromme, who attempted to assassinate President Ford, was also fixated on the SLA.

Richardson’s obsession with Jodie Foster was not the only parallel between the two would-be assassins. Richardson, whose parents today live in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, was raised in Lakewood, Colorado. From December 1980 until mid-March 1981 he lived with his two sisters, who still reside there. Hinckley was in Lakewood on March 8-23, 1981, staying at the Golden Hour Motel in Lakewood, Colorado.

According to some intelligence community sources, Hinckley had a routine schedule during his Lakewood stay of getting up at 9:00 a.m. and going to bed at 9:00 p.m. At regular intervals Hinckley would receive a telephone call ordering him to a predesignated phone booth where his apparent “controller” would issue coded instructions. The motel manager, Ginger Ancourt, confirmed this schedule, and when Hinckley was questioned by her as to his activity, he would only state that he was “going to work.”

While no direct connection has been made between Hinckley and Richardson in Lakewood, their overlapping presence may pinpoint the location of a behavior modification center used for final programming. Both Richardson and Hinckley have profiles of instability that would make them susceptible to “brainwashing.” Both had a history of drug use, including “experimentation” with tranquilizers.

In 1976 Richardson joined the Air Force and was stationed in Texas. He was discharged within six months after an incident in which he was stabbed. Hinckley had undergone five months of psychiatric care in early 1980 with Evergreen Consultants in Human Behavior in Evergreen, Colorado. Evergreen Consultants practices a

wide range of psychiatric techniques, some of which are admitted to be unorthodox.

Little is known about Hinckley's personal psychiatrist, Dr. John J. Hopper, except that he completed training in Texas in the mid-1970s. Dr. Foster W. Cline of Evergreen Consultants revealed to the *Baltimore Sun* that he personally practiced "rage therapy" to force patients to release pent-up infantile emotions.

As last week's *EIR* Special Report detailed, the Evergreen-Lakewood area is dotted with radical psychiatric programs, including a number of "therapy communes," according to Marilyn Ferguson's recent book *The Aquarian Conspiracy*.

Two institutes of possible significance for the Hinckley-Richardson investigation are:

- **Naropa**, located in Boulder, Colorado. The city is a center for environmental and Arab terrorist groups in the region. The assassin of Saudi Arabia's King Faisal was tracked to the Boulder area. Naropa has been preliminarily linked with Timothy Leary, the sponsor of drug-induced behavior modification experiments developed in the MK-Ultra program.

- **Mt. Airy Hospital**, an exclusive psychiatric hospital specializing in drug and alcohol addiction treatment. As yet unconfirmed reports have Hinckley staying there as a patient. Dr. Edmund Casper, who claims to have taught Hinckley's psychiatrist at Evergreen, Dr. Hopper, his "street-wise sense," is on Mt. Airy's staff. Casper was a division psychiatrist with the U.S. Army in Vietnam at the time when behavior modification techniques of the sort developed at the Tavistock Clinic in England were first introduced.

Permindex connection?

Richardson's and Hinckley's families also share involvement in religious institutions with known intelligence connections. Edward Richardson converted from Catholicism to become a "born again" Christian.

From 1979 until his stay in Lakewood, Colorado, Richardson attended the Shelton Bible College, whose founder, Rev. Carl McIntire, is also the founder of the American Council of Christian Churches (ACCC). Shelton is a nonaccredited college whose facilities have traveled from Collingswood, N.J.—also the base of McIntire's 20th Century Reformation Hour—to Florida when Richardson was a student.

Personnel associated with the ACCC had been directly implicated in the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison, who traced the Kennedy assassination to Permindex Corporation (the same entity French intelligence also believed responsible for over 30 attempts to assassinate French President Charles de Gaulle in the early 1960s), indicated Eugene Bradley, West Coast head of the ACCC, as a co-conspirator. (See *EIR*'s Special Report

in the April 14 issue for more on Permindex.)

A profile of the ACCC as a cover for a Mexican-based professional hit team is reported in two studies of the Garrison investigation: William Torbitt's *Permindex Papers* and Paris Flammonde's *The Kennedy Conspiracy*. According to these sources, the Mexican team was founded in 1942, under direct orders through two channels, Division Five (Counterintelligence) of the FBI and Albert Osborne (also known as John Howard Bowen) of the ACCC.

It was Osborne who is said to have met Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans and accompanied him to Mexico in late September 1963, when he made his well-known visits to the Soviet and Cuban embassies there. Osborne set up a mission in Puebla, Mexico where youth were indoctrinated in a fundamentalist religious belief structure at the same time they received training as future assassins. According to these same sources, Osborne had regular contact with Clay Shaw, head of Permindex's New Orleans branch who acted as Oswald's "control" there, and with others indicted by Garrison, including David Ferrie.

This reported modus operandi used by Osborne at his Puebla, Mexico mission to train multiple assassins raises interesting questions for the cases of Richardson and Hinckley. Dr. Cline, the associate of Hinckley's psychiatrist in Evergreen, works as an adviser with Colorado Christian Home, which specializes in youth with a proclivity toward violence.

The home itself is partially funded by the Disciples of Christ, an Indianapolis-based sect involved in the early phases of Rev. Jim Jones's People's Temple Cult.

John Hinckley's father underwent conversion from the Episcopalian Church to become a "born again" Christian. He funds one of the largest nondenominational, religious relief agencies called World Vision International. WVI's original base at its founding five years ago was in Pasadena, California, the former West Coast base of ACCC. According to Robert Ainsworth, the head of the U.S. Ministries Division of WVI and a former political-military affairs specialist for the State Department, Hinckley, Sr. and he traveled to the Sahel and Zimbabwe in Africa on WVI-related matters.

According to highly informed intelligence sources in the U.S., WVI has been actively involved in intelligence operations. The exact nature of these activities is unclear. It began in Korea in 1950 under the direction of Dr. Robert Pierce, an evangelical minister associated with Youth for Christ. Today, it has operations in Kampuchea, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Another lead is a March 30, 1981 WVI ad on world hunger in *Der Spiegel* which quotes from Richard Barnet, a founding member of the Washington, D.C. based terrorist-linked center, the Institute for Policy Studies.