

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

The FBI scandal: Part II

The story of Sir William Stephenson's 45-year-old gift to the Americas: illegal Bureau activity.

Last week our investigation into the intelligence operation known as the Social Democratic Party (PSD) unearthed the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose name also came up in the attempt to wreck Mexico's independent security-intelligence capabilities through the scandal around Miguel Nassar Haro, head of Mexico's Dirección Federal de Seguridad.

But this is not a recent phenomenon. It began with a deal made between the British covert-intelligence Special Operations Executive (SOE) and American intelligence in 1938.

The special arrangement that brought the FBI into Mexico was formulated by Nelson Rockefeller, then head of the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs; the Division Five of the FBI (counterintelligence) headed at the time by Canadian Louis Mortimer Bloomfield; and Bloomfield's boss at the British SOE, Sir William Stephenson ("Intrepid"). The wartime U.S. Office of Strategic Services was never permitted to operate in Mexico, and its successor, the CIA, came in only as a junior partner.

One of the first successes of this arrangement was the assassination of Leon Trotsky in the Mexico City suburb of Coyoacán in August 1940. The assassin, Jacques Mercador, had been permitted through the security screen President Lázaro Cárdenas had provided Trotsky, on the basis of recommendations

from the Communist Party U.S.A. and the Socialist Workers Party of the United States. As records later proved, both organizations had been under the top-down control of the FBI since 1936 at the latest. The operation also featured the cooperation, through London, of the predecessor of the Soviet KGB.

The coordination between these different intelligence agencies was upgraded by the 1950s and early 1960s "defections" of British agents Kim Philby, Guy Burgess and Donald Mclean from the top levels of the British Secret Intelligence Services to equally top posts in the Soviet apparatus—the most successful triple agent operation in history.

It was this British-FBI-Soviet nexus, directed by Stephenson and Bloomfield, that was the force behind the assassination of President John Kennedy in 1963.

The entrance of the CIA into Mexico in 1950 did nothing to bring a halt to the FBI, London, and Soviet interface. The man directing the CIA's operations in Mexico was James Jesus Angleton, a cohort of Stephenson and Bloomfield, and Kim Philby's liaison officer in the United States for 14 years. Angleton directed his CIA officers to give cover to FBI operations in Mexico.

His two men on the scene in Mexico in 1950 were E. Howard Hunt and William F. Buckley. Later, E. Howard Hunt would reput-

edly help arrange the Mexican contact points for Lee Harvey Oswald's return to the United States from the Soviet Union.

The Buckley family's allegiance to the FBI was so close that brother James, raised recently to the number 3 post in the State Department, ran at that time a club called "The Friends of the FBI."

Today the Buckleys are at the center of the Dope, Inc. conclave in Mexico centered around Acapulco boss and former President, Miguel Alemán, along with New York mob attorney Roy Cohn, Henry Kissinger, and the Baron di Portanova family.

It was not surprising, therefore, that the PSD's presidential candidate, Manuel Moreno Sánchez, received the endorsement of Mexico City's English-language daily, *The News*, on May 18. *The News* is run by some of Alemán's very close business cronies.

The editorial admits that none of the minor candidates can win, but is enthralled with the PSD's "co-participation" scheme whereby workers in state-owned industries would have to buy equity in the concerns, in Mussolinian fashion.

Postscript: the PSD has run into trouble, since it came under our scrutiny, in passing itself off as a political party. In mid-May, just six weeks before the elections, the PSD went to the Mexican Federal Election Commission to have 40 out of 120 of the names on its slate for national office changed. Rodolfo González Guevara, Commission head and a top Interior Ministry official, called the request incredible. The request was denied; the PSD's future as a registered party after the July 4 elections is uncertain.