

Kissinger Associates' conflict of interest in Central America

by Joseph Brewda

He stands to make a killing in Central America. His resumé of current financial dealings with that region show him to be in violation of the "conflict-of-interest" ethics treasured by U.S. Senators and Watergaters. Henry Kissinger's policies of genocide aside, the wealth he will gain for himself by imposing those policies as appointed chairman of the President's Bipartisan Commission on Central America make him ineligible for that position—by all standards of American political propriety.

At present, Kissinger, who was required to formally disaffiliate himself from his corporate holdings while Secretary of State, retains the following paid positions with agencies with vested interests in Central America:

- Kissinger Associates—partner;
- Chase Manhattan Bank—counselor and former chairman, International Advisory Committee;
- Goldman, Sachs & Company—adviser;
- National Broadcasting Company—special consultant, world affairs and;
- Rockefeller Brothers Foundation—trustee.

Aside from these often lucrative positions, Henry Kissinger is the official agent of each of the following organizations which orchestrate policy affecting Central America, including debt collection policy, providing him with financial benefit:

- Foreign Policy Institute—director;
- Aspen Institute—senior fellow;
- New York Council on Foreign Relations—member, former chairman;
- Trilateral Commission—member, former chairman, and;
- Center for Strategic and International Studies—counselor.

Kissinger Associates

It is by examining the consulting firm Kissinger formed last year that the conflict of interest in Kissinger's appointment becomes most obvious. Kissinger Associates partners have admitted that the firm specializes in Ibero-America and maintains particular expertise on questions of the debt crisis. While Kissinger Associates keeps secret the list of its clients—who reportedly pay \$250,000 for the prospect of being considered—the consulting firm does business on behalf of its

partners who, along with Kissinger, include:

● **Lord Peter Carrington**—chairman, The General Electric Company, Ltd.; former foreign secretary, Great Britain; former chairman, Australia and New Zealand Bank; former director, Barclays Bank, Rio Tinto Zinc, Hambros Bank, and British Metal Corporation.

● **Pehr Gustaf Gyllenhammer**—chairman, Volvo; chairman, Swedish Ships Mortgage Bank; director, Skandia Insurance; member, Chase Manhattan International Advisory Committee.

● **Robert O. Anderson**—chairman, Atlantic Richfield; chairman, Aspen Institute.

● **Thomas Jefferson Cunningham III**—secretary, Kissinger Associates; former president, Orion Bank's London branch. (The now disbanded Orion was a consortium of Chase Manhattan, Royal Bank of Canada, National Westminster, Mitsubishi Bank, Credito Italiano Holdings, and Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale.)

● **Gen. Brent Scowcroft**—chairman, Scowcroft Commission; International Six, Inc.

● **William D. Rogers**—partner, Arnold and Porter; former assistant secretary of state for Latin America; former undersecretary of state for Economic Affairs; attorney for Kissinger Associates; attorney for Henry Kissinger; good-offices-agent of U.S. Senate on Panama Canal treaty negotiations; President Carter's 1980 emissary to El Salvador.

Arnold and Porter

The leading law firm of the Harriman wing of the Democratic Party, Arnold and Porter, is more than counselor for Kissinger Associates and Henry Kissinger himself. The Washington-based firm has admitted its close financial ties to Kissinger Associates, whose clients, Arnold and Porter has acknowledged, are many of the same which are serviced by Arnold and Porter.

In 1981, Arnold and Porter was the registered foreign agent, under the provisions of the Foreign Registration Act, for the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. According to the Department of Justice, and as acknowledged by Arnold and Porter, the law firm "advised the principal [Nicaragua] on U.S. laws, regulations and policies, arms exports [not imports], and trusts and estates. Registrant represented the principal in connection with U.S. legal proceedings against

Nicaraguan nationals and negotiations over a disputed contract." For the period of employment from January to August 1981, Arnold and Porter was paid \$126,765.

It is not clear whether Kissinger Associates partner Rogers was formally involved in representing the Sandinistas, although it is likely since representing Latin American states is his expertise at Arnold and Porter. During the same period, Rogers was an attorney for Israel, for which the firm also had to register with the Department of Justice. Rogers represented the Israeli Corporation for Economic Development; Arnold and Porter was paid \$77,000 for Rogers's work—allegedly for advising the Israelis on irrigation and television development. Israel is known to have supplied 100 percent of the arms reaching Nicaragua immediately prior to the Israeli-orchestrated overthrow of Somoza.

Among Arnold and Porter's other clients are:

- The American Jewish Committee of **Max Fisher**. Fisher is former head of United Brands (previously known as United Fruit), whose policies gave Central American nations the "banana republics" epithet. United Brands has repeated been accused of massive smuggling of illegal drugs from Central America into the United States.

- The government of Venezuela. In 1980 William D. Rogers and two of his partners at Arnold and Porter represented Venezuela as external bond counsel. Rogers secured a \$1.8 billion syndicated Eurodollar bond offering to Venezuela, and in 1982 Rogers secured another \$600 million from the same sources. The firm also represents the Venezuelan government on tax questions and Petroleos de Venezuela, the state-owned oil firm.

- The finance ministry of Brazil. Arnold and Porter partner Joseph Guttentag represents the ministry on tax and related questions. Chase Manhattan, which Kissinger advises on international loans, holds more than \$5 billion in loans to Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina.

- The World Bank, sister agency of the International Monetary Fund, whose austerity conditionalities are imposing genocide on Ibero-America.

- The government of Switzerland and leading Swiss banks involved in Ibero-American finance. Bank Julius and Baer and Co., Switzerland's largest private bank, and Banque Populaire Suisse, Switzerland's fourth largest bank.

- The government of Panama.

- Xerox, whose former board chairman, Sol Linowitz, also has extensive investments in Panama and is close to Kissinger.

- The London *Sunday Times*. Rogers negotiated for the *Times* with the Argentinian government following the Malvinas War for the release of three British nationals arrested for espionage while in Argentina during that war. The *Times* claimed that the nationals were its correspondents.

- Fairchild Camera, a military-related subsidiary of Schlumberger, Ltd., involved in Israel's Lavie Project to enable Israel to militarily secure domination of African resources.

Ginsburg, Feldman, Weil & Bress

This firm was represented by Arnold and Porter when charged with securities fraud. **David Ginsburg**, senior partner of the firm, is a frequent attorney for Henry Kissinger.

Arnold and Porter client **Myer Feldman** of Ginsburg, Feldman et al., a mover on the Democratic National Committee, has been the long-time attorney for Armand Hammer and Occidental Petroleum. He introduced Hammer to Lyndon Johnson, when Feldman was LBJ's special counsel. Feldman later represented Hammer when Hammer was successfully prosecuted for giving Richard Nixon an illegal contribution through Bebe Rebozo. Like Ginsburg et al., Arnold and Porter is also the law firm for Occidental Petroleum. Kissinger Associates partner William Rogers personally handles the Occidental account, which provides ties to the Qaddafi Libyan government and perhaps the Hammer-linked Charter Oil of Billygate fame.

Ginsburg and Feldman attorney **James Hamilton** is special counsel for the Albosta subcommittee investigation of Reagan in the U.S. Senate which was instrumental in getting Kissinger back in power. Hamilton was formerly the attorney for Marina Oswald.

Ginsburg, Feldman, Weil & Bress was the registered foreign agent for the government of Morocco at least as late as 1981. During 1981 Ginsburg et al. was paid \$250,000 for "advising the principal on U.S. policies affecting Morocco and on potential U.S. investors, discussing foreign investment in Morocco with representatives of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Department of Commerce and meeting with a State Department official on the status of U.S.-Moroccan relations and U.S. economic assistance programs."

During 1981, Kissinger intimate and case officer on Central America **Vernon Walters** was paid \$300,000 by Environmental Systems Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia for his arranging the sale of tanks and laser tank rangefinders to the government of Morocco. According to various sources, these tanks were bound for Morocco only as a transshipment point. It is known that Israeli arms for Central America frequently are shipped through Morocco. Walters has long had close ties to the Moroccan government and King Hassan. Walters left his position with Environmental Systems and the Nicaraguan-based Basic Resources to become U.S. ambassador-at-large with assignments in Central America.

Although not ultimately controlled by the Rockefeller interests, Henry Kissinger has long been in the pay of those interests, who are known to view Ibero-America as their backyard. Aside from the other positions he holds as a result of David and Nelson Rockefeller's patronage, Kissinger is trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, which is chaired by former Treasury Secretary D. Douglas Dillon. The museum, along with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Chase Manhattan, is a long-term owner of the Carlyle Hotel of New York. Certain transactions in the rooms of that hotel have furthered Kissinger's financial and other positions.