
The Media

NBC 'assassination plot' a total lie

After observing the NBC-TV "First Camera" segment libeling him on March 4, Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued a statement saying that, since he is already suing NBC and the ADL for their campaign of libel, there is only one feature of the broadcast which requires his comment now: the allegation that he plotted, during 1977, to kill President Jimmy Carter and officials of his government.

Calling the story "a total fabrication," LaRouche described the circumstances NBC reported to have been the occasion for the alleged plot. During early August 1977, while visiting in West Germany, LaRouche was advised by high level intelligence community sources that he was "No. 2" on a list of assassination targets of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist organization which had just murdered banker Jürgen Ponto; LaRouche was also advised that because of extreme hostility from top levels of the White House, he could expect no cooperation from that source.

LaRouche says that he employed the services of a private security consultant, Col. Mitchell WerBell, who assigned a veteran of the Vietnam war, Capt. Larry Cooper, to function as liaison-officer, to contact relevant U.S. and other security agencies in Western Europe to seek technical advice and services.

"After making initial contacts with official agencies, Captain Cooper informed me that the State Department was blocking any cooperation with me," and "indicated his strong desire to take the next return flight to the U.S.A. Deciding that in his indicated state of mind, he was useless to me and himself, I released him immediately from the assignment. I immediately changed the plans for my security, dropping those recommended by Captain Cooper, but reported my actions to Colonel WerBell, and retained his counsel on matters of security up to the time of the premature death of that great soldier and national hero this past December."

LaRouche stated that he was contacted weeks later by an official of the security forces in Wiesbaden, West Germany, "who asked me questions bearing on the allegations that I might have at some time threatened the person of former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger."

It turned out, LaRouche reports, that "one Gordon Novel, an FBI 'Division Five' informant from New Orleans, Louisiana, reportedly under federal warrant by another federal

agency at that time, approached one George Franklin. George Franklin is a member of the Trilateral Commission and leading figure of the New York Council of Foreign Relations, and is self-described as Henry A. Kissinger's original supervisor at the New York Council on Foreign Relations. George Franklin and Gordon Novel manufactured between them the fabrication that I had plotted assaults against Henry A. Kissinger during the period Captain Cooper was in West Germany, and cited Captain Cooper as the source of this information.

"According to Colonel WerBell, he had received telephone calls from various quarters, in Britain and elsewhere, attempting to influence him against accepting the position as my security consultant, within hours of his contracting the assignment. During the same period Henry A. Kissinger had telephoned him, to discuss weapons-sales matters." Kissinger, LaRouche notes, had used his position in government to coordinate covert operations against LaRouche as early as 1975. "It was our working hypothesis that Mr. Kissinger's telephone call to Colonel WerBell at that particular time was a most curious coincidence. What was discussed in the presence of Captain Cooper was the possibility that Mr. Kissinger might be or become complicit in influencing State Department channels to deny me cooperation, and that if this were confirmed, Kissinger must be publicly exposed for such immoral activities.

"It was confirmed by eyewitnesses that at a subsequent time, Gordon Novel visited Colonel WerBell's farm in Georgia, and did have an extended discussion with Captain Cooper on Colonel WerBell's porch. It was, apparently, out of what Gordon Novel said to Cooper on that occasion that the false complaint to government agencies by George Franklin was manufactured. Official agencies investigating George Franklin's cock-and-bull story soon understood the character of the hoax being perpetrated by Franklin and Gordon Novel, and the matter was discreetly relegated to the files.

"Despite exhaustive investigations, no evidence of any wrongdoing was ever uncovered. I and my associates have cooperated fully with authorities on threats to the President and other presidential candidates."

LaRouche noted: "Novel is notorious in intelligence and law enforcement circles as a 'confidence' hoaxster. The tale of the elaborate plot, as concocted by Novel and Franklin, resembled a typical Novel fabrication." Gordon Novel has been indicted seven times on federal charges since the late 1950s. According to law enforcement sources and Novel's own testimony, these charges include arson, illegal electronic eavesdropping, illegal possession of firearms, and bail jumping.

LaRouche said that his staff and legal counsel repeatedly offered NBC that he "would answer in writing any list of questions submitted to me in connection with the proposed 'First Camera' broadcast. NBC never presented any list of questions, and never investigated this wild charge of the 'assassination plot' prior to the broadcast."