

Sen. Richard Lugar: Who is he really?

by Kathleen Klenetsky

When Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) became chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee late last year, conservatives breathed a sigh of relief. The youthful Indiana Senator might not be a Jesse Helms, but at least he isn't cut from the same superliberal cloth as his predecessor, Charles Percy.

He isn't? Lugar has turned out to be one of George Shultz's staunchest allies in the U.S. Senate.

The Burt nomination: Lugar worked with Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole and the State Department to ensure that then Undersecretary of State for European Affairs Richard Burt received unanimous approval from the Foreign Relations Committee as the new U.S. ambassador to West Germany, and then fought bitterly to ram the nomination through the entire Senate—despite an international outcry against the appointment of a man who not only leaked U.S. military secrets while working at the *New York Times*, but had close working relations with now-exposed East German intelligence agents, and pro-Soviet Social Democrats and the Moscow-controlled Green Party of West Germany.

Lugar stated on the Senate floor that he was fully cognizant of the “concerted telephone campaign undertaken . . . to oppose Mr. Burt’s nomination,” but then called the charges against Burt “unsubstantiated innuendo” and “without foundation.”

If anyone knows the truth about Burt, it is Richard Lugar. As a former Rhodes scholar and naval intelligence man in the coveted role of briefing officer to the National Security Council and other top government agencies, Lugar belongs to a select network with full knowledge of Burt’s activities—perhaps even control over them. And, as a member of both the Senate Foreign Relations and Intelligence committees, Lugar had full access to the information necessary to evaluate the charges against Burt.

Decoupling from Europe: Lugar has, albeit quietly, lined up consistently with the advocates of U.S. military desertion of Europe (“decoupling”), and, toward this end, has vigorously advocated a NATO “conventional buildup”—despite massive Soviet deployment of new intermediate-range nuclear missiles. In a meeting with Danish officials in July

1984, Lugar threatened that if European NATO members failed to improve their conventional weapons spending, American support for the alliance would diminish. But Europe, from a conventional standpoint, is absolutely indefensible—and Lugar knows this.

Early last year, Lugar became director of a European policy task force at the Center for Strategic and International Policy, a major center for “decoupling” agitation; Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski both work out of CSIS, and Lugar’s co-chairman on the new study group, former Ted Kennedy adviser Robert Hunter, has written extensively against the SDI, and in favor of NATO “restructuring.”

Deserting the Philippines: Lugar’s posture is wholly in keeping with State’s plan for deserting the Pacific to the Soviets. In remarks on the floor of the Senate July 30, Lugar blasted Sen. John Melcher (D-Mont.) for daring to attack State’s policy of requiring on use of “private” channels for Filipino import of U.S. agricultural products—an effective cut-off of exports to undermine the Marcos government. But Lugar called this “a substantial program of assistance for the Philippines aimed at promoting fundamental political, economic, and military reforms needed to preserve stability and restore economic health to a key allied nation.”

“I would like to make certain that there is no misimpression in the minds of members of this body that the Department of State is somehow working at cross purposes to administration policy with regard to the Philippines.” Indeed.

The SDI: Lugar, a Senate observer in Geneva, purports to support the Strategic Defense Initiative—but, does he support its use to defend the nation, or simply as an arm’s-talks “bargaining chip,” something to be negotiated away? This past March, he introduced into the *Congressional Record* a statement by fellow Indiana Republican Sen. Dan Quayle, urging the administration “to get off the kick of a perfect defense.” Lugar himself has proposed a comprehensive test-ban treaty. This, Lugar must know, would kill the SDI by preventing development of the x-ray laser, one of the most promising defense technologies.

The IMF: Lugar strongly supports the International Monetary Fund and Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker.

Agriculture: In April, he introduced the Agricultural Resource Conservation Act, which would take 30 million acres out of food production, by withholding price supports and loans from farmers who cultivate.

Richard Lugar is no asset of the United States. Nor is he very “clean” otherwise. *EIR* has learned that while he was mayor of Indianapolis, together with Republican bigwig L. Keith Bulen, he set up a secret account (the “Ellanbee Fund”) at the Union Bank in Basel, Switzerland. The fund was allegedly used to funnel illegal campaign contributions into the 1972 election campaign of Richard Nixon, who called him “my favorite mayor”—and rewarded him with the keynote speech at the Republican convention that year.