

PTL cover-up puts Justice Dept. bureaucracy on the hot seat

by Robert Greenberg

Accusations by former Charlotte, North Carolina U.S. Attorney Charles Brewer that he was fired by Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns and Associate Attorney General Stephen Trott for pushing an early investigation into the PTL Club has moved the Department of Justice to center stage in the ongoing intelligence warfare in Washington. While Attorney General Ed Meese had seemed to be the main target within the Justice Department during the course of the Iran-Contra hearings, the focus has shifted to the role of what some Washington insiders have termed "the permanent bureaucracy" within the Justice Department in running political operations against their opponents.

The targeting of this apparatus, which began with the July decision of Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh to subpoena all notebooks and memos of Justice Department officials pertaining to the Iran-Contra affair, is part of an effort to put U.S. policy back on a sane course, as represented also by the deployment in the Gulf. Walsh's investigation is thought to focus on the role of Trott and his associate, Criminal Division head William Weld, in helping their friends in the National Security Council by obstructing investigations into Southern Air Transport, a prime player in Contra supply operations, for involvement in drug and gun running.

Targeting this particular network within Justice is necessary, according to intelligence sources, because it has been central to most of the dirty back-channel arrangements set up between the Project Democracy crowd behind Oliver North, the Ariel Sharon faction in Israel, and the Soviets. Over the years, these arrangements have consistently resulted in adoption of U.S. policies to the benefit of either the Soviet Union or the Sharon group in Israel.

Obstruction of justice

The Brewer case provides a good example of the role that this permanent bureaucracy has played. In interviews with North Carolina news media, Brewer stated that he was ousted as U.S. Attorney in Charlotte, by top officials of the Justice Department, for attempting to pursue an aggressive investigation into the PTL Club shortly after the resignation of televangelists Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker in early May. According to Brewer, one aspect of his investigation would

have examined the potential interface between the PTL case, and aspects of the Wedtech case that had remained untouched.

By Brewer's own account, although he was told to stay out of the PTL case immediately, it was only after he mentioned this potential overlap, that Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns and Associate Attorney General Stephen Trott forced him out of his position. Although his term of office had run out, Brewer had been assured that he would remain as acting U.S. Attorney until his replacement had been confirmed by the Senate, which did not occur until early August.

The overlap between the two cases that seemed to generate the hysteria in the Justice Department revolves around the fact that both Wedtech and PTL had given hefty financial contributions to a Bronx-based church run by Rev. Aimee Cortese. A former board member of PTL, and the sister of Rep. Robert Garcia (D-N.Y.), indicted in the Wedtech case, Cortese is also the person who originally met with PTL's Jessica Hahn to buy her silence about her affair with Jim Bakker. Many of Wedtech's directors were also Christian fundamentalists tied to PTL.

It gets much dirtier. According to both U.S. and Israeli intelligence sources, Wedtech and PTL were involved in funneling money and weapons into the Sharon faction in Israel for many purposes, including that of gun-running into Iran.

The main purpose was to support the Jewish fundamentalist terrorist network acting on behalf of Sharon's Greater Israel project, known as the Temple Mount project. That project, as documented in the *EIR Special Report*, "Moscow's Secret Weapon: Ariel Sharon and the Israeli Mafia," was a joint Israeli-Soviet operation to drive the United States out of the Mideast, and to establish a Israeli-Syrian condominium to run the region.

One of the key features of this project was the triggering of a "holy war" throughout the Mideast by the blowing up of the Dome of the Rock, Islam's third holiest site, located in Israeli-run Jerusalem, by Israeli terrorist networks under the patronage of former Israeli Defense Minister Sharon. The main funding for this came from U.S.-based Christian fundamentalist networks, including the PTL Club.

The two lines of investigation, which if properly pursued would begin to get at the truth of this sordid affair, are:

1) the longstanding relationship between Wedtech founder, Fred Neuberger, and the Sharon faction of Israel's Likud Party; and

2) the role of Wedtech's Israeli subsidiary Carmo in gun-running to Israeli terrorist networks, as well as throughout the Mideast.

Thus a competent, unrestricted investigation into this overlap would have revealed another, as-yet-untouched aspect of a joint Israeli-Project Democracy operation involving gun-running and money laundering on a broad scale. What would also be revealed, according to informed law enforcement sources, is that like convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, one aspect of the Wedtech operation was the illegal funneling of U.S. defense-related secrets to the Israelis.

Covering up for the Israelis

From this vantage point, it is not surprising that top Justice officials Burns and Trott would go to such great lengths to prevent an honest investigation of the PTL-Wedtech connection. Burns's reputation as a low-key, behind-the-scenes bureaucrat, hides his longstanding ties to the U.S. side of the Sharon apparatus.

Known as a top fundraiser for Israel bonds, Burns is an active member of the Republican-Jewish Coalition established by Max Fisher of Detroit, a key figure in the U.S. side of the so called Israeli mafia. The coalition's reputation was recently called into question following the indictment and conviction of its financial chairman, Ivan Boesky, for Wall Street insider trading practices. Law enforcement sources have told *EIR* that some of the money Boesky had skimmed was used for illegal arms purchases.

Burns's law firm is also tied into the Israeli mafia through the placement of his New York law partner, Walter Feldsmann, on the board of Sterling National Bank. Founded by Meyer Lansky associate Frank Ericson, Sterling National is known as the bank of the Anti-Defamation League. Despite its undeserved reputation as a civil rights organization, the ADL is nothing more than an intelligence arm for the Israeli mafia.

Trott's relationship with this Israeli network, while of a different character, is nonetheless deep enough for him to take desperate measures such as the firing of Brewer. In his position as Associate Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, and responsible for overseeing the FBI, Trott has been the key Justice Department official working with the National Security Council in its Iran-Contra operations. Despite the efforts of the congressional committee to cover it up, the testimony of NSC officials, including Lt. Col. Oliver North, clearly established the deep involvement of Israel in the entire affair.

Justice Department officials such as Mark Richard, Theodore Greenberg, John Keeney, and John Martin, who serve

under Trott in the Criminal Division, also have their reasons for engaging in such a cover-up. In fact, such cover-ups are second nature to them since at least 1979, when Richard and Martin covered up the Billygate affair. If the truth behind the activities of President Carter's brother Billy had been brought to light, the policy of arming Khomeini's Iran and Qaddafi's Libya, in alliance with Israel, which got Reagan into so much trouble, would have been exposed back then.

Richard continued covering up for this operation, when in 1982 he and Theodore Greenberg, then in the U.S. Attorney's office in Alexandria, Virginia, took the Eatsco case away from Washington, D.C. U.S. Attorney Lawrence Barcella. Eatsco, or Egyptian-American Transport and Services Co., was established by Gen. Richard Secord, Albert Hakim, Defense Department employee Erich von Marbod, and ex-CIA operative Edwin Wilson, to ship weapons to various countries in the Mideast as part of the secret clauses in the Camp David accords. With the exception of Wilson, all those named above are known to be very close with Israeli intelligence. Michael Ledeen, another close friend of Sharon's Israeli faction, was also involved in the case.

Barcella had learned about the Eatsco operation in the course of his investigation and prosecution of Ed Wilson for running guns to Libya. Fearful of what might be uncovered if Barcella pursued a probe of Eatsco, Richard took the case away from Barcella, and gave it to Greenberg, who promptly arranged a deal in which the principals would merely pay a fine and walk away.

The institutionalization of the relations between the permanent bureaucracy of Justice, the Israelis, and the Soviets was the establishing of the so-called Nazi hunting unit, the Office of Special Investigations, back in 1979. Under the cover of hunting ex-Nazis, OSI is really a joint intelligence capability for a faction of U.S. intelligence, the Israelis, and the Soviets. Operations of interest to this U.S.-Israeli-Soviet network, such as the current attack on Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, and the assault on U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, are run through this channel.

The Brewer case, in concert with recent reversals in the witchhunt against LaRouche, is for the first time threatening to expose this apparatus and its dirty operations. Complementing these cases is the leaking of the fact that William Weld, the head of the Criminal Division, along with Mark Richard, was responsible for the fingering of Ed Meese as being the sole person responsible for the sloppy investigation of the Iran-Contra matter in its early days.

Much to the dismay of Weld, who clearly thought that this was to be the final blow to Meese, informed sources have told *EIR* that this has backfired. Meese, according to these sources, now knows that he has been set up, and is more inclined to help clean the dirt out of the Justice Department than resign. Such a move would be welcomed by a citizenry tired of cover-ups and dirty tricks.