

# The Dietz network and would-be assassins

by Ira Liebowitz

Ongoing investigations of the spate of “blind terror” incidents targeting President Reagan, Pope John Paul II, the U.S. presidential candidates, and other public figures since August, have drawn attention to a network in the forensic psychiatric profession headed by Dr. Park Elliott Dietz of the University of Virginia’s Institute on Terrorism and the Law, and the American Academy of Forensic Medicine.

Since the case of assassin John Hinckley, in which Dietz was involved, concern has grown that law enforcement agencies charged with protecting public officials might be contaminated, and suspicion has fallen on the sociologists, psychiatrists, and other “ologists” who function in “behavior sciences” adjuncts to the agencies.

Dietz is in such an FBI Behavioral Sciences task force for “threat evaluation” at Quantico, Va. He appears to be an “intake officer” for a network of state forensic psychiatric specialists on “threats to public officials” in cases like that of Ohio mental patient Dwain Wallace, who was shot trying to run Pentagon security Aug. 5. Experts believe that incident targeted Defense Secretary Weinberger. Other incidents (detailed in previous *EIR* issues) have involved individuals under psychiatric or related “counseling.”

Dietz was the prosecution’s chief psychiatric witness in the trial of “Manchurian candidate” Hinckley, and is believed to bear great responsibility for the cover-up ruling that he was a “lone assassin” suffering from naturally occurring insanity. This took Hinckley’s psychiatrists, John Hopper and Edmund Casper, off the hook. Off the hook as well was Dr. John M. MacDonald, Colorado’s top forensic specialist on “evaluating threats to public figures,” who was in a position to possibly have selected Hinckley as a candidate for conditioning. MacDonald is linked to a spin-off network of the London Tavistock psychiatric institute, the A.K. Rice Institute, with which Dr. Morris Parloff of the National Institute of Mental Health is associated.

It is reported that Dietz produced a 700-page unpublished manuscript on Hinckley—as part of the suspected damage-control effort—that is the textbook for handling such cases to this day. Dietz associates Phillip J. Resnick and Howard Sokolov in Ohio, Ames Robey of New Hampshire and Maine, Henry Weinberg and Richard Rosner of New York, and others hold posts equivalent to MacDonald’s.

Following the national spectacle of the Hinckley trial where wildly contradictory (and sometimes double talking) paid-for psychiatric testimony was delivered, opinion polls found that 40% of the public has no confidence, and 20% only slight confidence in psychiatrists’ testimony. A Canadian survey found psychiatrists are rated by the public to be high in honesty and ethical standards only 28% of the time.

Law enforcement agencies that would like to protect intended victims from “new Hinckleys” are still bitter at their inability to penetrate the screen of “doctor-patient confidentiality” that keeps psychiatric records inaccessible. Dietz’s network is the broker.

A precedent-setting lawsuit in Colorado federal court in 1982 by the Secret Service and police officers shot by Hinckley, failed to gain access to psychiatric records. And since 1981, Dietz’s colleague Dr. Irwin Perr of New Jersey, and others have succeeded in opposing federal legislation to open the records to law enforcement.

Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has called for the immediate suspension of psychiatric and medical licenses, pending full investigation, of any professionals who fail to report to law enforcement agencies threats to public officials by their patients, or whose patients threaten or commit violence against public officials or others.

## Fair-haired boy

Although widely published, the 40-year-old Dietz has almost no clinical experience, odd for one so powerful in his profession. He graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1975, completed psychiatric residency under Dr. Robert Sadoff of the University of Pennsylvania in 1977, and served as chief forensic psychiatrist at Massachusetts MacLean Hospital for chronic alcoholism from 1978 to 1980. At that time, MacLean ran staffing for Bridgewater Hospital in Belton, the controversial forensic hospital that performs evaluations of most of the area’s criminal suspects. Teaching at Harvard University, he was also on staff at the Harvard Program on Psychiatry and the Law, currently headed by Dr. Thomas Gutheil, prior to the Hinckley case.

Dietz is well connected in the intelligence community as a collaborator of a legal specialist, Dr. John Norton Moore at the University of Virginia. Moore is a top consultant to the Intelligence Oversight Board, established by presidential Executive Orders 12333 and 12334 on domestic intelligence activity, orders which were signed in part in response to the Hinckley shooting.

Moore was named during the recent congressional hearings on “Iran-Contra” operations as having advised Ollie North’s operatives that the Iran-Contra operation was legal. In other words, Moore is smack in the middle of the bitter “neo-conservative” intelligence faction that was cleaned out of the National Security Council as a result of the scandal, and which now faces criminal investigations by Lawrence Walsh’s Irangate office.