

EIR Feature

FEMA: The Carter legacy haunts the Bush presidency

by an EIR Investigative Team

The picture was worth a thousand words. Running four columns across the top of the front page of the *Washington Post* of May 10: President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle staring respectfully at their honored White House guest, just returned from a special overseas assignment—ex-President Jimmy Carter.

For the millions of Americans who still recall the horrors of the four years of Carter-Mondale and who came to vividly associate those disaster years with the Trilateral Commission, the symbolism of the picture could not have been more chilling. George Bush, the one-time Trilateralist, born-again conservative, holding court with the man who did even more than Henry A. Kissinger to destroy the United States as a world power.

In fact, the early warning signs of a Bush-Carter *modus vivendi* had been presented last month in a series by syndicated columnists Evans and Novak and by *Washington Post* writer Jim Hoagland, in which they proposed that President Bush preferred former Carter National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski's version of a superpower "New Yalta" to the version of the more visible Henry Kissinger.

While it is still too early to draw any definitive conclusions about the rehabilitation of Jimmy Carter, it is already clear that one of the key legacies of the Carter-Trilateral regime is alive and well under the "kinder and gentler" Bush White House. That legacy is the "crisis of democracy," a Trilateral buzzword that was used during both the Carter and Reagan presidencies to put into place a crisis-management, government-by-degree structure—to be unveiled at the moment a crisis explodes.

In the mid-1970s, Zbigniew Brzezinski spelled out his dream of a technocratic corporatist state drawing upon all of the resources of the "computer revolution," cybernetics, etc. to impose a dictatorship. He called it the "technetronic revolution." Borrowing a leaf from the New Age liturgy, Brzezinski proclaimed that the world was "between two ages" and that the emerging order would be dominated



U.S. Army

A U.S. Army civil defense command post. Many who supported the creation of FEMA saw it as reviving legitimate civil defense and other emergency planning needs, but its Trilateral Commission creators always had in mind an end to democratic forms of American government.

by “information” rather than industrial production.

Fellow Trilateraloid Samuel P. Huntington of Harvard University, under Brzezinski’s tutelage, first at the Trilateral Commission and later on the staff of the National Security Council, put his blueprint for crisis-management government into place in 1979, with the creation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ostensibly a reaction to the abysmal state of U.S. civil defense, FEMA was in reality the seed-crystal for an ambitious and unconstitutional parallel government—within the government—that would take charge in moments of “national emergency.” The very drabness of the FEMA structure was seen as the perfect cover.

Interviews by *EIR* investigators revealed that during the Reagan era, FEMA was initially viewed by some of the President’s California loyalists, such as Ed Meese and Judge William Clark, as a possible safe home for White House special projects and intelligence activities that the Reagan-aunts did not wish to run through the permanent bureaucracy. This naive effort was quickly crushed, and FEMA was set back on its originally conceived path toward a police state.

By the closing months of the Reagan presidency, a new series of Executive Orders and National Security Decision Directives were signed, that further amplified and streamlined the emergency management structure. In his first days in office, President Bush signed a National Security Decision Directive that even further tightened the grip of this government within a government.

Already by 1984, a “continuity of government” apparatus, made up largely of career civil service managers drawn from all of the Executive Branch departments, had been

assembled to draft and then test out the effectiveness of the new structure. A few media accounts at the time provided an inkling of what was going on. A full-scale war game testing the crisis response apparatus was conducted in 1984 under the code name REX 84 Bravo. However, it was not until 1987 that any news outlet even took note of the event. Even then, the coverage was heavily weighted to the fact that Lt. Col. Oliver North, already an Iran-Contra celebrity, had been one of the architects of the FEMA upgrading. The Trilateral roots of the emergency-rule scheme were lost on most.

FEMA is now the action arm of the National Security Council, reporting directly to the President and the Vice President. A private FEMA Advisory Board (FAB), dominated by members of the New York Council on Foreign Relations, is the consulting arm of the National Security Adviser and FEMA boss.

Over 1,000 draft Executive Orders and National Security Decision Directives are sitting in the President’s office, merely awaiting signature—at the moment a crisis erupts to trigger the “continuity of government” dictatorship. No such crisis has yet occurred. With the exception of localized “disasters” like the Alaska oil spill or last year’s floods in the American South, FEMA remains in the wings. However, with an array of domestic and global crises clearly on the horizon, it is safe to assume that it is only a matter of time before the emergency powers are invoked.

With the specter of Carter and Brzezinski, added to that of Henry Kissinger, emerging over the White House at this moment, the time is ripe for a thorough, public airing of the facts about this secret parallel government.