

The truth Sy Hersh couldn't find

by Carol White

American Leviathan: Administrative Fascism under the Bush Regime

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On April 29, author Seymour M. Hersh was featured in the *New York Times* under the provocative headline, "Did They Protect Reagan?" Coming at a time when hostages are again in the headlines, this blow at the ex-President is timely, to say the least. Hersh harkens back to the original congressional investigation of the Iran-Contra scandal, attacking the committees' November 1987 report as a coverup. He particularly singles out joint committee chief counsel Arthur Liman for protecting President Reagan.

Liman admitted that he and his fellow members on the Iran-Contra investigative committees had been inhibited from vigorously pursuing the truth, because of President Reagan's reversal of his conviction that the Soviet Union is an evil empire. In other words, as long as President Reagan was willing to march down the track of appeasement to the Soviets, he would not be seriously threatened by findings of the committees. Although Hersh does not make the point, merely turning this statement around raises the strong possibility that President Reagan was *blackmailed* into reversing policy at the October 1986 Reykjavik summit. Was the President threatened that if he did not concede U.S. defense capabilities to the Soviets, he would face impeachment?

Hersh focuses on two explicit coverups: first, that the testimony of Chief Officer Yoeman Radzinski, who was in charge of routing top-secret documents to President Reagan through Poindexter, was suppressed because he claimed to have routed a document about the diversion of funds—a document which subsequently disappeared; and second, downplaying evidence about the diversion of funds to Israel, intended to pay for secret operations.

Mention of Israel in this connection is suggestive, since it comes at a time when the U.S. administration is engineering a policy shift away from Israel and Iraq, to embrace the terrorist states of Syria, Iran, and Libya. Release of the hostages—with the helpful intervention of the Soviets—has been key in this. These three countries, ironically enough, are still on the State Department's list of states which sponsor terrorism; yet

the administration is claiming that they were not involved with the "hostage-takers"—this to justify a payoff to Iran of money, cluster bombs, and other military supplies.

But while turning the heat on President Reagan and the House and Senate for refusing to pursue possible impeachment, Hersh's exposé strangely omits any hint that the coverup also protected, and continues to protect, Vice President, and now President, George Bush.

Bush as 'intelligence czar'

Readers who want to penetrate the truth about the coverup would be well advised to read *EIR*'s Special Report on the affair.

On Dec. 4, 1981, President Reagan issued two Executive Orders, 12333 and 12334, which provided the basis for the creation of a special crisis management group, the Special Situations Group (SSG), which was led by then-Vice President Bush. The report details how, in fact, the vice president was the "crowned czar" of U.S. intelligence. While all of these facts are known, the congressional committees which investigated the Iran-Contra scandal chose not to explore them; nor does Sy Hersh do so at this time.

The *EIR* Special Report details a remarkable overlap between the operations of the "Get LaRouche" task force and the SSG and its extra-governmental offshoots. Indeed, under the Thornburgh Doctrine, which states that the United States is justified in trampling upon national sovereignty, the kind of covert dirty operations which were run against Lyndon LaRouche and which characterized the Iran-Contra affair are being flaunted openly. The unwarranted and illegal invasion of Panama is a case in point. This was an operation which President Reagan had refused to approve.

One overlap connecting LaRouche's enemies and the Iran-Contra gang, was the bizarre accusation that LaRouche's associates had been involved in the murder of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme. This slander was featured in the Soviet press, and in an hour-long Soviet state documentary. Here, too, there is a trail to George Bush: Apparently, three days before the murder, a telegram was sent to a close collaborator of Bush, with the instructions, "Tell our good friend Bush that the Swedish tree will be felled."

American Leviathan deals extensively with George Bush's connections to the Iran-Contra affair, including the bombing of PanAm Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec. 21, 1988. But its scope goes far beyond this, to document the claim that George Bush's administration is fascist in character. It includes a study of how the Thornburgh Doctrine has evolved—starting with the Panama invasion—along the lines of Teddy Roosevelt's Big Stick doctrine, and it also looks at Bush's China policy.

This book will be an extremely useful weapon in the hands of those who are concerned to effect a policy shift in the United States.