

# Irangate figure gets eastern Europe post

by Scott Thompson

A leading figure in the Iran-Contra mess has been quietly working for the past two years as one of the Bush administration's operatives against eastern Europe. Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent Walter Raymond, who ran aspects of the arms-for-hostages deals as senior intelligence director at the National Security Council in 1982-86, was named by George Bush in August 1989 to head the President's Eastern European Initiative (PEEI). Although the PEEI is headquartered at the State Department's U.S. Information Agency (USIA), the unit is officially tied to the National Security Council. In effect, Raymond has been given the White House mandate to carry out the same illegal "Project Democracy" dirty tricks that supported the drug-trafficking Contras in Central America, against the people of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and other former communist states.

George Bush created the PEEI in August 1989 after he returned from a tour of the newly freed nations of central Europe. At that time, the President flatly rejected a request from Polish Solidarnosc leader Lech Walesa (now the President of Poland) for large American investments and development credits. Instead, Bush unleashed the "Project Democracy" mafia to spread the gospel of "free enterprise," and to throw up roadblocks to European aid programs independent of Washington control.

The PEEI under Raymond has sent armies of American "experts" into central Europe to recruit and "train" journalists, economists, jurists, and labor leaders. The results of that "advice" have been devastating inflation, industrial collapse, hunger, and political chaos. Poland, a major "Project Democracy" target, has seen the former Communist Party score major gains at the polls. Sending American experts into central Europe to aid in the process of rebuilding the economies and national institutions of countries recovering from 40 years of communist rule is dubious enough, given the way such experts have made the U.S. economy into a rustbucket. But Bush's choice of Raymond to oversee the effort betrays an intent which is not only presumptuous, but evil.

## Who is Walter Raymond?

Former colleagues say Raymond was a CIA hack who advanced his career by running a string of political front groups in western Europe during the 1960s and '70s after failing miserably as an intelligence analyst. Raymond's boss was Cord Meyer. In 1982, Raymond was picked by Donald

Gregg to join the National Security Council staff as director of intelligence when Gregg left the post to become Vice President Bush's national security adviser.

In January 1983, President Reagan signed National Security Decision Directive 77, creating an NSC Executive Committee to coordinate foreign covert intelligence operations. Raymond was made chairman and assigned to run a "public diplomacy" effort to deploy private sector money and personnel to give propaganda support for ventures like the illegal Contra supply operation and the overthrow of the Marcos government in the Philippines.

Among the private citizens recruited by Raymond as Public Diplomacy Coordinators for this secretive foreign policy agenda were a group of Anti-Defamation League (ADL) members and others with ties to British intelligence, including billionaire John Kluge, Archer Daniels Midland head Dwayne Andreas, disinformation expert Roy Godson, financier Richard Mellon Scaife, and British junk bond king Sir Jimmy Goldsmith.

Under Raymond's "public diplomacy" program, a domestic political "enemies list" operation was also run, according to court records and congressional testimony. One prime target of the "enemies" operation was political economist Lyndon LaRouche. Many of Raymond's White House Public Diplomacy Coordinators were joined by the ADL's Mira Lansky Boland and Pat Lynch of NBC News to work with Wall Street operator John Train in steering a smear campaign against LaRouche. Raymond's new eastern Europe portfolio has put him in a central position to run similar dirty tricks against LaRouche's European Productive Triangle program.

EIR's preliminary inquiries reveal that Walter Raymond has brought some of the same contaminated networks into his European operations that he relied on in the Iran-Contra fiasco. One is the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), which is being probed for corruption at the urging of the majority of the House of Representatives, the General Accounting Office, and the USIA Inspector General.

Raymond also works with a new government-private sector "public diplomacy" venture launched by Secretary of State James Baker III in February, the International Media Fund, which purports to train eastern European journalists to create a "free press." Its vice-chairman is longtime ADL National Commissioner Max Kampelman.

The fund's executive committee chairman, Leonard Marks is also treasurer of the private World Press Freedom Committee. A WPFC spokesman says there is an agreement to let Raymond's PEEI take charge of broadcast media in eastern Europe, while the WPFC concentrates on print media. Harold Andersen, chairman of the WPFC and retired publisher of the *Omaha World Herald*, has been a major booster of convicted swindler and accused pedophile Larry King, whose now-defunct Franklin Credit Union was used to launder Contra funds.