

San Francisco probe bares gross ADL illegalities

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On March 18, Captain John Willett, commanding officer of the San Francisco Police Department's Special Investigations Division, wrote to two Los Angeles-based associates of Lyndon LaRouche informing them that they had been targets of spying by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL). The two LaRouche associates, Khushro Gandhi and Ted Andromidas, were provided with copies of computerized index cards obtained in a Dec. 10, 1992 raid on the Sausalito, California houseboat of former SFPD officer Tom Gerard.

The computer files, part of a data collection system reportedly designed by an ADL operative, Roy Bullock, were designated "Right Alpha File" (apparently an abbreviation for "Right-wing Alphabetical File"). The computerized forms had space earmarked for personal data, including addresses, telephone numbers, California driver's license information, organizational affiliations, and comments. The files were assigned numbers which, according to sources familiar with the police probe, corresponded in some cases to more extensive files with surveillance information, photographs, and other personal data.

San Francisco District Attorney John Dwyer told a packed courtroom before Judge Leonard Louis in February that the files seized in the Dec. 10 raids on the ADL offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles and the residences of Gerard and Bullock had turned up surveillance data on over 20,000 American citizens. The vast majority of the ADL targets were residents of the western states. Police investigators now say that the ADL's full-time West Coast undercover spy Bullock was only one of at least a half-dozen operators on the ADL payroll carrying out illegal snooping. In California, it is a crime for private citizens or organizations to possess government files on individuals, including motor vehicle records.

The ADL spy scandal, however, goes way beyond the

ADL's illegal possession of classified government data. The investigation was initiated several years ago when FBI officials discovered that stolen FBI documents were being sold to agents of the South African government. Bullock, who had been hired in 1990 as a paid informant for the FBI, emerged as a prime suspect in the theft and suspected sale. When court-ordered wiretaps were placed on Bullock's phone, conversations between him and Gerard turned up new evidence of a more broad-based ADL-directed espionage ring, according to sources familiar with the probe.

Details of the early phase of the investigation are contained in a series of affidavits written at the time that the original search warrants were requested. Those affidavits were placed under seal by Judge Louis, but are expected to be released to the public in the near future. Among the details expected to be revealed is the name of the Los Angeles law firm which was serving as the go-between for Bullock and the ADL.

In early November 1992, Gerard was interrogated by the FBI about stolen FBI files on black Muslims in the United States. Within days, he fled the United States, eventually turning up in the Philippines, which has no extradition treaty with the United States.

In the meantime, San Francisco city investigators who picked up the ADL-Bullock-Gerard trail discovered in February that Arab-Americans under surveillance by the ADL were possible targets of Israeli government action. One Chicago man, Mohammed Jarad, who was a target of ADL spying (his name appeared in the computer tracking file seized from Bullock and Gerard), was arrested by Israeli police in late January and charged with membership in the fundamentalist group Hamas. He has been held in an Israeli detention center ever since.

Part of Israeli propaganda drive

The Jarad arrest in Israel, apparently triggered by ADL spy data passed on to Israeli authorities, has become a pivotal feature of an ambitious Israeli propaganda drive to demonize Islam and to cajole the Clinton administration into reviving the special intelligence ties with the Mossad. Those ties were cut back when Naval Intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard was caught spying for Israel in November 1985. Pollard's spying activities were linked to the ADL.

As part of the drive to revive the U.S.-Israel strategic counterterror collusion, Israeli officials, up to and including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, have charged that Hamas and other Islamic fundamentalist groups pose a grave terrorist threat to the United States. While there are legitimate concerns about possible Islamic terrorism, the scare tactics being peddled by the Israeli state and American Zionist groups led by the ADL are so far out of proportion as to evoke memories of the worst days of the McCarthyite Red Scare in the 1950s.

The propaganda offensive began last December, right after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians from the Occupied Territories into a no-man's land in southern Lebanon, based on charges that they were leaders of the Intifada. To deflect attention away from the egregious Israeli human rights violations, Zionist lobby agencies led by the ADL and the American Jewish Committee began circulating inflammatory reports about Islamic terror squads operating on U.S. soil. In a recent *Washington Post* story, ADL and AJC officials admitted that the reports had been written off briefings provided by the Israeli Army. Those Israeli Army reports were in part based on some of the illegal spy data gathered by the ADL on people like Jarad.

When the FBI began arresting members of an Islamic network for the Feb. 26 World Trade Center bombing, the Israeli and Zionist lobby propaganda offensive escalated.

According to Washington sources, during the annual convention of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee held in Washington in February, Israeli officials heavily lobbied the Justice Department and the Congress for a shutdown of the San Francisco probe. Reportedly, the officials argued that the ADL spying was in the best interest of the United States, and that the ADL was only doing the job that should have been done by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies.

ADL scandal spreading to Los Angeles

While the news media have so far been ridiculously slow to pick up on the San Francisco Gerard-Bullock scandal, some attention has been generated in Los Angeles, where an estimated 8-9,000 people were targeted for illegal spying by Bullock and the ADL. According to a March 9 story by *San Francisco Examiner* reporters Dennis Opatrny and Scott Winokur, San Francisco police studying the seized documents believe that 20 separate police agencies in California alone were infiltrated by the ADL. The San Francisco investigators believe that four Los Angeles Police Department

(LAPD) officers were cooperating with the ADL.

The LAPD was initially hesitant to cooperate with the San Francisco probe, even refusing to participate in the search of the ADL's Los Angeles offices. This gun-shy attitude is probably due in part to fears among Los Angeles police of a repeat of the 1983 scandal, in which another ADL paid operative, John Rees, was discovered paying a police intelligence sergeant, Jay Paul, to feed classified files into a computer data base run by a private Virginia think-tank, Western Goals Foundation. As the result of that scandal, the LAPD's Public Disorders Intelligence Division was shut down.

Full probe demanded

A number of Los Angeles-based activists are now, however, pressing for a full probe of the ADL scandal by the Police Commission, the sheriff's department, and the district attorney's office, all of which are believed to have been infiltrated by the ADL.

On March 26, the *Los Angeles Times* published a letter to the editors by Sami Odeh, the brother of the late Alex Odeh, an Arab-American leader on the West Coast who was killed in a terrorist bomb attack by the Jewish Defense League in 1985. Odeh wrote: "The ADL's systematic gathering of data on law-abiding American citizens for the purpose of selling it to racist regimes in Israel and South Africa is spying, and as such it is an illegal act that must be punished. . . . It is true that extremists of all backgrounds represent a potential danger to our society. I ought to know. Jewish extremists blew up my brother and the building that housed his office in Santa Ana in 1985. The true danger to our democracy is organizations such as the ADL that conduct illegal activities on a regular basis and seek to inhibit our freedoms and constitutional rights."

Four days later, at a press conference outside the Parker Center where the Police Commission was holding its weekly meeting, James Duree, Jr., an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, announced that formal requests had been submitted to the commission, the district attorney, and the county sheriff demanding "a thorough investigation into the extent to which . . . local law enforcement agencies have been penetrated and corrupted by an organization with documented links to organized crime and international dope-trafficking, the ADL."

Before testifying at the Police Commission, Duree circulated documents showing the extent to which the ADL was instrumental in instigating a trumped-up investigation of LaRouche political activities in Los Angeles County, including Proposition 64, the 1986 statewide ballot initiative calling for AIDS testing. In 1988, LaRouche associates filed a lawsuit, *American System Publications v. Ira Reiner et al.*, in Los Angeles Superior Court charging the district attorney's office with civil rights violations. Many of the 15,000 pages of documents released in that case detailed the role of ADL officials in instigating and directing the unwarranted investigations.