

ly any kind of sophisticated weaponry can be purchased in the city. Nor is there any control over the flow of people into the region. On Nov. 25, the Argentine daily *La Nación* reported that sales revenues in Ciudad del Este alone are in the millions, and that robbery, murder, weapons and drug trafficking, prostitution, and illegal gambling are the order of the day. Local police don't even try to halt these activities.

On the Argentine side of the border, there is also a large flow of people and goods. According to *La Nación*, two Paraguayan congressmen recently charged that a large quantity of containers travel by railroad between the Paraguayan city of Encarnación and the Argentine city of Posadas; the containers are "pre-packaged in the country of origin" with weapons intended for the Southern Cone's black market. *La Nación's* investigative reporter asserted that this weapons business is run by mafia groups inside Paraguay with connections into both Brazil and Argentina. Most recently, he said, the Bulgarian mafia has also been working the route between Encarnación and Ciudad del Este.

In the middle of this frenetic contraband of every sort, sits one of the world's most famous tourist attractions: the gigantic Iguazú Falls on the river of the same name, which at that point forms the border between Argentina and Brazil. Tens of thousands of tourists visit the falls year-round; there are regular flights in and out of a local airport, and foreigners are commonplace in the area.

It's not surprising that in July of this year, a large casino, partially owned by the British firm Universal Casino Consultants, was set up in Iguazú on the trinational border. The other owners are the Malaysian firm Berjaya, involved in real estate operations, casinos, and hotels internationally, and the U.S. firm Mirage Resorts, whose owner, Stephen Wynn, is the boyfriend of Duchess Sarah of York, estranged wife of Britain's Prince Andrew. Casinos are a notorious vehicle for laundering large sums of money, and the Iguazú area has been additionally targeted by many dubious Arab "businessmen" seeking to build hotels, casinos, and other tourist attractions in the region.

What is Steve Emerson doing in Buenos Aires?

Steve Emerson, a former congressional staffer who later went to work for *U.S. News and World Report* and Cable News Network (CNN), is now a "freelance" writer and TV documentary producer, who has carved out a public image as an expert on Islamic terrorism. As we go to press, he is in Buenos Aires, Argentina, along with the FBI's former deputy director Oliver "Buck" Revell, organizing a Dec. 12-14 conference that will accuse the Menem government of allowing Islamic terrorists to build a base of operations and failing to take adequate measures to catch the terrorists who blew up the Argentine-Israelite Mutual Association in July.

Recently, public television in the United States aired a documentary written, produced, and directed by Emerson, charging that the United States has been harboring Islamic terrorists. That documentary, like most of Emerson's work, relied heavily on Revell.

Argentines should be wary. During the U.S. congressional investigations in the 1970s into illegal activities by the CIA and FBI, one of the most alarming crimes to come to light was the two agencies' widespread use of journalists as covert propagandists. Emerson and Revell speak for the intelligence community faction that wishes

to tar all Muslims with the image of anti-western fanatics and killers.

According to several of Emerson's colleagues, there have been persistent rumors that Emerson was spying for the Likud regime in Israel during the 1980s. "There, but for fortune, goes Jonathan Jay Pollard," remarked one former colleague, when asked to describe Emerson's rise. A second investigative writer went so far as to claim that Emerson had been caught stealing classified documents while working on Capitol Hill, and had been given the choice between a long jail term or collusion with the FBI.

One sure sign that Emerson is not to be trusted is his intimate link to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a group that was exposed in 1993 for running a nationwide spy operation targeting tens of thousands of American political activists. Among the priority targets of the ADL spy operation were Arab-Americans, American Jews backing the Middle East peace process, civil rights activists, and associates of political economist Lyndon LaRouche. Some of the police and FBI documents that the ADL illegally obtained were sold or passed on to South African and Israeli intelligence, and from there to the KGB.

In October 1993, Emerson was a featured speaker at a conference in New York City sponsored by the ADL's Klinghoffer Foundation. His speech on the growing threat of "Islamic terrorism" concluded with a call for a change in U.S. law to permit a revival of Cointelpro and similar programs, which enabled the FBI (and its surrogates in the ADL) to conduct "dirty tricks" against American citizens on an unprecedented scale.