

# U.S. State Department fingered LaRouche to Muslim Brotherhood

by Edward Spannaus

In December 1979, while pan-Islamic terrorists were holding Americans hostage in Iran, and while the Iranian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood was sending out assassination squads to Europe and the United States to kill its enemies, the U.S. State Department was passing lies about Lyndon LaRouche to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

Some of the information about LaRouche, contained in a Dec. 29, 1979 State Department cable, had been provided by the FBI from its files—even though FBI dissemination of such information to anyone other than a government agency had been barred by a court order entered nine months earlier, in March 1979.

These actions of the FBI and State Department were reminiscent of the FBI's 1973 operation in which—according to official FBI documents—it attempted to effectuate the “elimination” of LaRouche, using the good offices of the Communist Party, U.S.A.

## ‘Reassure your contact’

The classified State Department cable was sent from Washington to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, and is captioned “Subject: Anti-Muslim Brotherhood Propaganda.” (See *Documentation*).

The cable contains information from the FBI and supplemented by slanders from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), laundered through the *Washington Post*, on Lyndon LaRouche and the philosophical association he founded, the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), “which has reportedly circulated [the] anti-Muslim Brotherhood pamphlet” which was cited in a previous cable to Washington from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

The cable describes the NCLC as the creation of one man, LaRouche, and as having been characterized as “Marxist-Leninist.” The political arm of the NCLC was the U.S. Labor Party (USLP). The cable lies that LaRouche had stated that the USLP “supports Russian Communism because the Soviet Union is the only power which can assure world peace.”

The ADL's contribution to the cable's lies is the statement that LaRouche and the U.S. Labor Party had recently “swung violently to the right” and that the USLP is now “authoritarian and anti-semitic among other things.”

Astoundingly, the State Department says that this information can be passed to the Muslim Brotherhood, and then tells the Cairo Embassy that they can “reassure your contact”

that most Americans would not take LaRouche seriously.

The FBI's formulation about LaRouche supporting the Soviet Union is particularly significant, in light of the fact that Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski was openly promoting Islamic fundamentalism as a “bulwark against communism.”

## ‘Treason in Washington’

The “pamphlet” to which the cable refers is most likely the one published about a month earlier by Citizens for LaRouche, Lyndon LaRouche's campaign committee for the 1980 Presidential elections. The pamphlet was entitled “Treason in Washington: Who's Behind the Mad Khomeini?” It targeted Zbigniew Brzezinski, Cyrus Vance, and other Carter administration officials, as well as private citizens such as Henry Kissinger, for acting on behalf of the European oligarchy and British intelligence to bring Khomeini to power in Iran. The lower levels of the operation were defined as Bernard Lewis and Richard Falk of Princeton University, and others who functioned as the “political intelligence controllers who maintain the interface between the [Carter] administration and the Muslim Brotherhood.” (Bernard Lewis was British intelligence's author of the infamous “Bernard Lewis Plan,” a blueprint for breaking up the Middle East along religious and ethnic lines, and which called for promoting the most fanatical elements within Islam.)

The back cover of the LaRouche pamphlet called for two types of action to be taken. First, that Congress begin an investigation into the Iran crisis, leading to the arrests of Brzezinski, Vance, Kissinger, and others on charges of treason; and, second: “Hold the Muslim Brotherhood responsible for Khomeini's bloodshed. Lyndon H. LaRouche has stated that if a ‘single American is hurt in Iran, every member of the Muslim Brotherhood must be relentlessly hunted down worldwide.’ The Muslim Brotherhood is the semisecret organization, controlled by British secret intelligence, which brought Khomeini to power and controls him now. In the United States, the members and collaborators of the Muslim Brotherhood are working with officials in the U.S. government to jeopardize the lives of American citizens in Teheran.”

On Nov. 4, 1979, the U.S. Embassy in Teheran had been taken over by Iranian “students,” and 62 Americans were taken hostage. Fifty-three of the hostages were held captive

for over a year, until they were released on the day of Ronald Reagan's inauguration as President, Jan. 20, 1981.

Besides holding the American hostages in Iran, Muslim Brotherhood networks were also carrying out acts of terrorism internationally. On Dec. 8, Ayatollah Khalkali of the Fedayeen-e Islam, the Iranian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, announced that he had sent killer squads into the United States to assassinate leading U.S. political figures and "enemies of the revolution." On Dec. 4 in Paris, the nephew of the Shah of Iran was assassinated. Khalkali and the Fedayeen took credit for the killing.

Iranian sources told *EIR* at the time that, in the period after the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, numerous armed and trained Iranian terrorist personnel had entered the United States on false passports. In an interview with the Paris newspaper *Libération*, Khalkali boasted that his hit teams had been trained in the Middle East and in the United States itself. And on Dec. 20, Khalkali was reported to have sent a Fedayeen squad to Panama to assassinate the Shah.

Six months later, on July 22, 1980, the former Iranian press attaché in the United States, Ali Akbar Tabatabai, was shot to death in a Washington suburb. His killer, an American black Muslim named David Belfield, escaped and is reported to be living in Teheran to this day.

The alleged banker for the Tabatabai assassination, Iranian oilman and arms dealer Cyrus Hashemi, was protected by both the Carter administration and the Reagan-Bush administration for years. During this time, Hashemi's lawyer and business partner in illegal arms shipments was Stanley Pottinger, a former Justice Department official and close friend of George Bush.

### Yesterday's and today's terrorists

On Dec. 12, 1979, President Carter had ordered the expulsion of 183 Iranian diplomats from the United States. But on Dec. 19 (ten days before the State Department cable was sent), *EIR* had discovered that Capt. Siavash Setoudeh, the Iranian military attaché, was operating out of an Arlington, Virginia building used by the Office of Naval Research, under the Office of Naval Intelligence, with a 16-man staff still coordinating arms and spare parts deals with the Khomeini regime. *EIR* and its sister publication *New Solidarity* exposed the Setoudeh operation beginning on Dec. 24. Setoudeh quietly disappeared from sight.

This was the context in which the U.S. State Department provided information from FBI files on a U.S. citizen, who was also a U.S. Presidential candidate, to the Muslim Brotherhood.

This is reflective of the fact that official U.S. policy at the time was to cultivate pan-Islamism. This is the same time frame in which the U.S. government was promoting virulent anti-western Islamic "fundamentalism" in Afghanistan—even prior to the Dec. 24, 1979 Soviet invasion. This was to spawn the legions of today's "Afghansi"—the core of the current form of international terrorism.

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## Documentation

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*Following are relevant portions of the classified State Department cable, dated Dec. 29, 1979.*

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
CONFIDENTIAL STATE 333773  
SUBJECT: ANTI-MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD PROPAGANDA  
REF: CAIRO 25635

1. (C) Following is information supplied by FBI (unclassified) and supplemented by recent column in Washington Post on Lyndon LaRouche and the National Caucus of Labor Committees which has reportedly circulated anti-Muslim Brotherhood pamphlet cited reftel.

2. (U) National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) is an organization which at least at one time was characterized as Marxist-Leninist. . . . The NCLC is primarily a creation of one man—Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, Jr., also known as Lynn Marcus. The political arms of the NCLC is the United States Labor Party (USLP). LaRouche has been the candidate of that party in past elections. LaRouche has stated that the USLP supports Russian Communism because the Soviet Union is the only power which can ensure world peace.

3. (U) According to a column in Washington Post 12/19/79 by Richard Cohen, LaRouche and the USLP have more recently swung violently to the right and USLP is now authoritarian and anti-semitic among other things. According to Cohen, Party publications state, "Zionist circles funded the founding and continuation of the American Nazi Party," that LaRouche is targeted for assassination and the chief conspirator against LaRouche is Zbigniew Brzezinski.

4. (U) In current election campaign LaRouche is running for president as a 'Democrat.' According to Cohen this is to take advantage of regulations governing the distribution of matching contributions from the USG to presidential candidates. . . .

5. (C) Paras. 2-4 may be passed to Muslim Brotherhood official cited reftel. Bottom line, of course, is that LaRouche at best represents small fringe group in U.S. Moreover, most Americans noting manner in which he throws about accusation and names of public figures as in quoted pamphlet would hardly take him seriously. We trust details provided will be sufficient to reassure your contact.

Christopher.