

# 'Defector' Hashemi imprisoned in London

by Edward Spannaus

Formal criminal charges have now been filed in Great Britain against Jamshid Hashemi, the high-level defector from the George Bush-Henry Kissinger circles, whose revelations were featured in the Aug. 8 issue of *EIR*. Should the case ever go to trial, Hashemi is expected to attempt to issue subpoenas for court testimony to prominent British officials, including Baroness Margaret Thatcher, former Home Secretary Leon Brittan, former Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, and ex-Tory Member of Parliament Sir Dennis Walters.

The charges, while not unexpected, are more comprehensive than had been anticipated by some persons familiar with the proceedings against Hashemi in London, which have been pending for a year. Because of strict laws in Britain regarding pre-trial comments by defendants and lawyers in criminal cases, the effect of the lodging of charges may be to prevent Hashemi from discussing what he knows about the Thatcher government's involvement in supplying arms to both Iraq and Iran in the 1980s.

Although the investigation in London grew out of a *civil* case in the United States, involving a U.S. defense contractor, Octagon, Inc., and was being run in London by an attorney from the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, it has now apparently expanded to include a multiplicity of alleged offenses dating back to 1987; Hashemi's former lawyer, Michael J. Palmer, has been formally charged as a co-defendant with Hashemi in the "Statement of Offence" filed on Aug. 19.

## Kissinger-Bush actions against LaRouche

During June and July, Hashemi disclosed information concerning the planning of actions to be taken against this magazine's founder, Lyndon LaRouche, during the early 1980s. Hashemi's account included a description of a dinner meeting in London in 1984 with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former U.S. Justice Department official Stanley Pottinger, in which Kissinger and Pottinger plotted out operations targetting LaRouche, whom they both blamed for their own legal problems and the publicity that exposed their dirty operations. Neither Kissinger nor Pottinger (the latter a self-proclaimed friend of George Bush) had any government position at the time, yet they discussed how to get the FBI and Justice Department to go after LaRouche to "shut him down."

Kissinger's efforts to instigate U.S. government actions against LaRouche first came to light in early 1985, when this news service obtained FBI documents showing correspondence between Kissinger and FBI Director William Webster during the latter part of 1982, and then Kissinger's successful efforts to get the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board to trigger FBI action against LaRouche in January 1983.

## Hashemi and Thatcher

According to journalistic sources and published accounts, Hashemi had four personal meetings with Margaret Thatcher. One such meeting was at Sir Geoffrey Howe's official residence; another included Sir Leon Brittan at the Carlton Club in London.

Leon Brittan, then Home Secretary, signed the papers giving Hashemi asylum in the United Kingdom in 1984, after Hashemi had been whisked out of the United States by CIA officers, one step ahead of FBI and Customs agents who were about to arrest him for illegal military shipments to Iran. His brother Cyrus Hashemi was also a fugitive, and died mysteriously in London in 1986, after a sudden hospitalization.

After leaving the United States, Jamshid Hashemi was picked up by Britain's MI-6 foreign intelligence service, and arranged shipments of weapons during the Iran-Iraq War, as well as carrying messages back and forth between Iran and the U.K. "I used to pass messages between the ruling regime in Iran and the British government, and then out of the blue I am charged with fraud," Hashemi said. "Every deal I did since I arrived in Britain in 1984, the British authorities knew about." That Hashemi and his lawyer are now being charged with fraud around a number of these deals, is likely to provoke some fierce behind-the-scenes battles in London.

Hashemi was first arrested in August 1996 on what is called in Britain a "holding charge"—that is, there was no formal charge and no evidence presented, and he was jailed for about four weeks at that time. He was released on bail, after a prison doctor warned that there was a risk of his suffering a heart attack "leading to sudden death," if he remained in custody.

In need of a second coronary bypass operation, he asked for permission to travel to the United States to have the surgery performed by the same medical team which had operated on him the first time in 1988. Permission to travel was repeatedly denied, and, as his medical condition worsened in July, Hashemi reportedly attempted to travel to the United States without permission. He was detained, and temporarily released, and suffered a mild heart attack a few hours later, necessitating early surgery. Shortly after having the second by-pass operation, he was sent to prison again, despite warnings from a prison doctor that the prison hospital staff could not deal with a cardiac surgery patient so soon after surgery. Hashemi is now being held in the hospital wing of Her Majesty's Prison Brixton, in metropolitan London.