

tional Committee and the Democratic Party of Arizona, depriving the rest of that slate [of candidates supporting LaRouche]. There was a full slate. They had paid their filing fee.

LaRouche had paid \$1125.00 filing fee. He was a serious candidate. And they were deprived of the right to vote and to become candidates.

In the other cases — in fact, the Virginia Democratic Party has already been declared to be subject in the dicta, I agree, of Justice Stevens in the *Morse* case, which said the Republican Party and the Democratic Party of Virginia are unique, and they are given certain rights and are, therefore, subject to preclearance of their party rules.

Your Honor, this is not unusual. Party rules have been submitted for change since 1972. A very interesting article of the *Harvard Civil Rights Law Review* in 1972 points out that such disparate party organizations, such as New York Democratic Party, the North Carolina Democratic Party, the Republican Party of Alabama, as well as the Democratic Party of Alabama in 1972, when this Act was new, had already submitted [for preclearance].

Judge Sentelle: Have the national parties ever submitted anything?

Mr. Schoener: Not to my knowledge. Your Honor, I have written three letters to the Justice Department asking for that information. I finally called about two weeks ago and said, “Can I get an answer to this?” and they said, “They’re working on it upstairs, and we’re sorry. We can’t give you an answer now.”

Judge Sentelle: We’ll look forward to your FOIA suit, I guess.

Mr. Schoener: I guess that’s the way I am going to get it. . . .

There is one thing that we have in this particular case. We have an Act that the Congress has said should be broadly construed. It should be construed against the perpetrator and give the victim a chance to at least place their position on the record. And that’s why we say this National Committee, when it acted, assumed the cloak of state action. It assumed a position of ordering those states in those states that are subject to the Voting Rights Act.

Two changes occurred. One was the rule, and where was the rule issued out of? The District of Columbia. The letter that became an order to these various covered jurisdictions was issued out of here.

This is the court that should have and should take jurisdiction. As Justice O’Connor also pointed out, they expected this court to become the experts on the Voting Rights Act. And I submit that there have been a lot of things come through the District Court for the District of Columbia on voting rights things. And the court is obviously well-versed in what the act is all about. And I think that under those circumstances, there is no question that this court is the proper jurisdiction. . . .

Weldon hearings seek to revive Cold War

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) turned a hearing room in the stately Rayburn House Office Building into a three-ring circus on Oct. 26, by flashing what he proclaimed was a replica of a Soviet-made “suitcase nuclear bomb” in front of a room packed with press, Congressional staffers, and observers, including 50 college students bused in from his home district for the occasion. The show-and-tell routine by Weldon and a former CIA officer, Peter Pride, took place at the outset of hearings on “Russian Threat Perceptions and Plans for Sabotage Against the United States,” which featured Cambridge MI6 historian Christopher Andrew and former KGB London station chief Oleg Gordievsky.

Andrew is the co-author of the recently released book, *The Sword and the Shield: The Mitrokhin Archive and the Secret History of the KGB*, a huge hoax proclaiming that the Soviets had recruited tens of thousands of agents in every key institution of the West, and had planted vast caches of arms, radio transmitters, and other sabotage tools in every NATO country (see “New British ‘Big Lies’ Target Russia, Germany, and United States,” *EIR*, Oct. 1, 1999).

Andrew had earlier co-authored an equally flagrant hoax with Gordievsky, in which they claimed that Moscow was moments away from launching a thermonuclear attack on the United States in late 1983, in response to President Reagan’s March 23, 1983 announcement of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), which the authors claimed the Soviets had misinterpreted as a plan for an American nuclear first strike against the U.S.S.R.

But, whatever propaganda the Cambridge don and his KGB “defective” had in store for the U.S. Congress, was upstaged by the “suitcase nuke” antics. Weldon, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Research and Development of the House Armed Services Committee, began the hearing with a prepared statement in which he promised to provide “some of the most startling testimony ever to be received by the United States Congress.” While he was ostensibly referring to Andrew and Gordievsky, Weldon proceeded to deliver his own tirade, charging that Moscow had planted suitcase nukes inside the United States, and citing as his source, a former colonel with the Soviet GRU military intelligence agency, Stanislav Lunev, who had appeared at similar “scare-

em” hearings of the subcommittee on Aug. 4, 1998. It was apparently on the basis of Lunev’s testimony about Soviet assassination plans against Western leaders, using “small man-portable nuclear weapons that could be disguised to look like a suitcase,” that he and former CIA officer Pride concocted their own mock-up “bomb.” Weldon railed that his man Lunev had told the subcommittee that Russian leaders still, to this day, considered war with the United States to be “inevitable.”

Flashing the attaché case in front of TV cameras, Weldon fumed, “The model is based on unclassified data on the components in an atomic artillery shell, to see if such a system could be reassembled in a suitcase. Indeed, as it turns out, the physics package—neutron generators, batteries, arming mechanism, and other essentials of a small atomic weapon—can fit, just barely, in an attaché case. The result is a plutonium-fuelled gun-type atomic weapon having a yield of one to ten kilotons, the same yield range attributed by General [Aleksandr] Lebed to the Russian ‘nuclear suitcase’ weapon.”

Perhaps a bit embarrassed that he had upstaged the British-Russian team of hoaxsters, Weldon said, “My remarks have perhaps dwelled excessively on ‘nuclear suitcases.’” He then turned the floor over to MI6 “historian” Andrew, who went into his own more subdued tirade.

Arms caches all over America?

Andrew told the Congressmen that, throughout the Cold War, both KGB and GRU assassination and sabotage teams, known as “DRGs,” had planted caches of arms and radio equipment in NATO countries. He claimed that, among the 25,000 pages of handwritten and typed notes compiled by KGB “librarian” Vasili Mitrokhin, and smuggled out of Russia by MI6 super-spies, were details about several of these secret caches, located in Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. He claimed that in December 1998, Swiss authorities, using the details from the Mitrokhin papers, had uncovered one of the caches, which was booby-trapped.

Andrew assured the Congressmen that he was “certain” that there were similar arms and radio caches located in the United States, intended to be used by Soviet “illegals” on the day of the launching of a Soviet nuclear first strike against the United States. He cited U.S. dams, power lines, and oil refineries as priority targets of the GRU and KGB squads, as well as political leaders, who would be assassinated to sow maximum chaos on the eve of a Soviet first strike.

Representative Weldon, puffed up with indignation, announced that he had written to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, demanding that she ask the Russian government to immediately provide details on the locations of these secret caches, as a “good faith” demonstration that Russia does not still intend to launch a war against America. Weldon reported that he had met for one hour with FBI chief Louis Freeh,

and had been assured that the FBI is carefully reviewing the Mitrokhin files. However, Andrew admitted, under questioning from other members of the subcommittee, that the Mitrokhin files contained no specific site information on caches in the United States, except for a general reference to Brainard, Minnesota, near the Canadian border. Asked point blank whether he believed that the Soviets had successfully smuggled nuclear devices into the United States, Andrew said, “No.”

Oleg Gordievsky obligingly “corroborated” the Andrew-Mitrokhin tale that there are arms caches under every tree, by assuring the Congressmen that he had personally gone out with a shovel and planted radio equipment in the ground in Sweden and England, as part of his duties as a KGB officer. But, he added ominously, the assassination and sabotage work was largely handled by the GRU, and therefore the KGB was only involved in a minor way in the planting of bombs and weapons in preparation for “Day X.”

Primakov bashing

As a central theme of his testimony, Andrew developed the idea that, today, Russia is not much less of a threat to the West than the Soviet Union was at the height of the Cold War. He singled out former Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov as the man who, he claimed, personified this continuity from Soviet to Russian policy. Both he and Gordievsky charged that President Boris Yeltsin has been thoroughly coopted by the intelligence service, which is the last bastion of “Soviet imperialism.” They pointed to the fact that the past three prime ministers, Primakov, Sergei Stepashin, and Vladimir Putin (still in office), all came out of the SVR, the foreign intelligence service which had superseded the KGB, as his “proof” that the hard-liners were back in control in Moscow, and that entente with Russia is illusory, as long as these Russian KGB dinosaurs are on the scene.

Andrew also retailed the lie that Primakov was on the payroll of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, a preposterous charge that was made by Seymour Hersh in a recent issue of the *New Yorker* magazine.

The Oct. 27 hearings were the latest in a series of Russia-bashing shows hosted by Weldon. A week earlier, Weldon had chaired hearings of the same subcommittee, dealing with the threat of biological and chemical weapons attacks, which featured Ken Alibek, another Soviet defector, who, until 1992, had been the First Deputy Director of Biopreparat, which he described as the “civilian arm of the biological weapons program.” In his introduction of Andrew and Gordievsky, Weldon had assured the audience that the Russians still have an illegal biological weapons program that poses a devastating threat to America.

But Weldon’s biggest thrill was his August 1998 hosting of GRU Colonel Lunev, who inspired him to build his own demo suitcase nuke.