

phers on the roof? Because if he had . . . they would have then had to request those photographs. . . .

‘Let the truth reign’

Let me close by saying to you that long after people forget what has been said in this courtroom, all the words that you’ve heard from witnesses and lawyers, . . . they are going to remember what was done here. . . . They are going to remember one thing . . . the verdict of this jury, because you have heard evidence that has never before been put on in a court of law. . . .

That is why your decision at this point in time is the most significant decision that will have been taken in 31 years in terms of this case. Please don’t underestimate the importance of it. . . .

But when you look at the wealth of evidence that has come forward, and you understand how this case has been conducted, and you understand how it has been covered up, and when you see how unresponsive elected officials and government has been, and how complicit they have been, you can come to no other choice. Governmental agencies caused Martin Luther King to be assassinated. They used other foot soldiers. They caused this whole thing to happen. And they then proceeded with the powerful means at their disposal to cover this case up.

This is a conspiracy that involved—and that’s a nasty word. People insult people in this country who use the word “conspiracy.” Nowhere else in the world . . . is it viewed that way. In Italy and France, conspiracy is taken for granted, because they have lived with it so much longer. Remember that there were 39 daggers going into Caesar. . . .

What we’re asking you to do at this point in time, is send a message. We’re asking you to send a message, not just right a wrong. That’s important, that you right a wrong, and that you allow justice to prevail once and for all. Let it prevail!

Let justice and truth prevail, lest the heavens fall. No matter what, let it prevail. Let it come forward. . . .

Ultimately, truth crushed to earth will rise again, and it has risen in this courtroom, ladies and gentlemen. Send that message. You, you twelve, represent the American people. You are their representatives with respect to justice in this case. They cannot be here. The media will keep the truth from them forever. You represent the people of this land. You must speak for them.

[Y]ou have an opportunity to act in a most significant way that perhaps you can ever imagine, because your verdict of conspiracy in this case, your verdict of liability for the defendant and his other co-conspirators, means history is rewritten, means textbooks have to be rewritten, means the actual result of this case and the truth of this case now must come forward formally.

We ask you to find that conspiracy existed, and, once and for all, give this plaintiff family justice, and let’s cleanse this city and this nation of the ignorance that has pervaded this case for so long. Let the truth reign in this courtroom once and for all.

Trilaterals incite China-bashers on Panama Canal

by Carlos Wesley

Did you hear the one about the guy who stayed up all night with his shotgun waiting for an invasion from outer space, and while he had his eyes on the sky, ready to blow away any UFO carrying little green men, his neighbor broke into his house, stole his money, and raped his wife and daughter?

Something akin to that is taking place among conservatives in the United States over the handover of the Panama Canal. Everyone, from Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.), to Frank Gaffney’s Center for Security Policy and the John Birch Society, is screaming about an imaginary “Red Chinese” plot to take over the Panama Canal, when the Republic of Panama assumes full jurisdiction of the Canal on Dec. 31, 1999. Meanwhile, the very real threat posed to the waterway by Colombia’s FARC and ELN narco-terrorists, and their countergang, the AUC “paramilitaries,” is being largely ignored.

Ironically, the conspiracy-mongering John Birchers are following the lead of Sir Caspar Weinberger, an alumnus of their old nemesis, the Trilateral Commission, who was knighted by the Queen of England on Feb. 23, 1988.

The U.S. establishment media are treating these ravings with utmost seriousness, feeding into the ongoing hysteria that the Chinese “are stealing our nuclear secrets,” and similar McCarthyite propaganda. Things have gotten so hot, that President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stayed away from the Dec. 14 ceremonies in Panama marking the transfer, leaving it to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter—who negotiated the Canal treaties with Panama’s late Gen. Omar Torrijos 25 years ago—to show the flag.

But, consider the following: On Dec. 12, some 600 FARC narco-terrorists, using mortars, explosives, tear-gas grenades, and small weapons, attacked a police barracks and naval base in the Pacific coast town of Juradó in Colombia, just 10 miles across the border from Panama, and killed at least 23 and maybe as many as 65 Colombian soldiers. Incursions across the border into Panama’s Darién Province are frequent. In May, an estimated 500 narco-terrorists seized the Panamanian town of La Miel; there was a similar incursion in November. The narco-terrorists have gotten so bold that hostages are being taken for ransom in downtown Panama City itself. The narco-terrorists are better armed than Colombia’s Armed Forces, not to mention Panama’s, where there hasn’t been an

army since George Bush's invasion in December 1989. The FARC even has its own air force, which it expanded by stealing two helicopters from Panama in November.

So, how is *this* very real threat to the Panama Canal being dealt with? Clinton never submitted the request to Congress for a \$1 billion-plus package needed to help Colombia fight the FARC/ELN, nor was Congress willing to approve it.

More than 13,000 ships a year, carrying 200 million tons of raw materials and manufactured goods, use the Panama Canal. This includes 15% of all U.S. exports and imports, including 40% of its grain exports.

The Hong Kong menace?

Weinberger, former U.S. Defense Secretary and current publisher of *Forbes* magazine, testified before the Senate Armed Forces Committee on Oct. 22, that there was a security threat to the Canal, posed by the fact that the Hong Kong-based Hutchinson Whampoa Ltd. won the concession to handle two privatized ports on either terminus of the Canal—Cristóbal on the Caribbean, and Balboa on the Pacific. Hutchison, he suggested, is a front for the People's Republic of China. "They were willing to bid nearly twice as much as the nearest [competitor] for this contract and these privileges," he said. "Twenty-two million dollars a year. I understand that one of the closest other bids was about \$2 million a year to the government of Panama. . . . [There was] such a huge spread between the next bidders that it raises the question of whether or not they had any other reasons for wanting to get this rather than the purely commercial." What other reason? "Any company, Chinese or anything else, acquiring the rights [knows] that they have will have an enormously important intelligence platform—a basis for gathering intelligence, for conveying intelligence, for utilizing the very important place in the world that is occupied by the Panama Canal," he said.

In fact, the closest bid to Hutchison's was \$10 million. The lowest bid, the one for \$2 million, was made by California-based Bechtel, Weinberger's former employer, although he did not tell the committee that. As Panamanian officials tell the story, in 1995 the bidding process to privatize the ports was already set when Bechtel officials summoned Panama's then-President Ernesto Pérez Balladares to its San Francisco headquarters. Everything was scrapped so that Bechtel could submit its bid, which offered the least money for the ports' concession. Although Panama twice cancelled the bidding process and implored Bechtel to sweeten the pot, the company refused to significantly raise its offer.

Prodded by Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), Weinberger was forced to backpedal on some of the wildest claims and misrepresentations of fact he made both to the committee, and in an article in *Forbes*, in which he had cited Lott to the effect that, "U.S. naval ships will be at the mercy of Chinese-controlled pilots. . . . Our naval ships could be denied passage through the Canal by Hutchison . . . an arm of the Chinese Liberation Army."

Is it true? Levin demanded. "Well," lamely offered Sir

Caspar, "it's cloudy. Again, it's one of the problems with the interpretations that are possible under the various language it uses."

The problem, as Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche said in a Dec. 11 address to his supporters in Los Angeles, is that "these men are not only greedy people, but they're very foolish people. These are the people who want us to get into major wars in Asia and elsewhere," as long as their money on Wall Street is protected (see p. 60 for full text).

While it does business with China, Hutchison Whampoa is, in fact, a British company. Its chairman, billionaire Li Ka-shing, and his family hold a hereditary post on the board of London's premier dope bank, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank (now HSBC). Li Ka-Shing is reportedly a buddy of British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Not only are most of Hutchison's managers in Panama British or Australian, but they have no Chinese among their 500 employees in Panama, according to the Dec. 8 *Washington Post*.

A \$36 billion conglomerate, Hutchison administers a dozen of the world's most important ports, and controls 10% of the world's container traffic. Its holdings include Felix-towe, the United Kingdom's largest container port, Freeport Harbour Co. in the Bahamas, Hong Kong International Terminals, Myanmar International Terminals, a container terminal in Kenya, and Shanghai Container Terminal, according to the Panamanian magazine *Análisis* of June 1997.

'The last of the Romans'

The scenario being played out has an eerie resemblance to the plot of the 1996 espionage thriller *The Tailor of Panama*, by Brit spy novelist John Le Carré. Le Carré, a former intelligence agent, is part of that British tradition of spy-cum-novelists as H.G. Wells, George Orwell, and Graham Greene, whose plots are often barely fictionalized accounts of real intelligence operations. In his novel, Le Carré lays out a scenario in which Her Majesty's intelligence services set out to manipulate the U.S. government to tear up the treaties, invade Panama, and retake the Canal. This they achieve, in part by feeding the gullible Americans a passel of lies to turn them against Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega, and by getting them to believe in a nonexistent conspiracy against the Canal, which the Brits have cut from whole cloth. Le Carré's enemy image is the Asian. "The Chinks want the same as the Japs," Le Carré has one of his characters say. "The Chinks and the Japs are blood brothers, and it's we, Olaf, the deluded round-eyes, who are destined to suck on the hind of it."

To what end? To "return to the Golden Age when tweed-jacketed sons of Yale and Oxford sat side by side in the same panelled rooms, pooling their imperialist fantasies!"

Not only is the treaty "misbegotten," but the Americans are "proposing to *honor* it," says one of Le Carré's characters. We "must show them the error of their ways. To resume our rightful place at the top of the table. It is the oldest tale of them all, Andrew. We're the last of the Romans. We have the knowledge, but they have the power."