

There is no doubt that the Wolfowitz/Perle duo is at the heart of the network that can use Israel in the “breakaway ally scenario.” Indeed, Wolfowitz is one of great hopes of right-wing extremists in Israel, including among the radical settlers movement, who are demanding the assassination of Arafat and the expulsion of all Palestinians from the Occupied Territories (see coverage in *International*). But, Wolfowitz and Perle are *not* “Israeli agents.” Rather, they are second-generation operatives both mentored by the RAND Corp.’s Albert Wohlstetter, a former Trotskyite communist turned nuclear strategist. Nor are the cabal war-mongers *Seven Days in May* militarists.

A key member of the cabal is Richard Armitage, the number-two man in the U.S. State Department, who was investigated in the Iran-Contra scandal, and who is a longtime collaborator of Wolfowitz in the targeting of Iraq. The cabal also has high-level operatives at the National Security Council (NSC):

Gen. Wayne Downing, former Commander in Chief of the Special Operations Command, was just appointed as Director of Combatting Terrorism for the Homeland Defense Board, headed by former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge. In 1997-98, Downing drew up a military plan to overthrow Saddam, by assassination, if necessary. The plan hinged on heavily arming dissident gangs of Iraqi Shi’ites in the south of Iraq, and Kurdish fighters in the north. Invasion by U.S. Special Forces ground troops was not ruled out. The promoter of the neo-Conservative yahoos in Congress and the think-tanks was Wolfowitz, then head of the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Unable to ram this plan through the Clinton Administration, Wolfowitz shopped the plan to Perle, an expert in “chain-letter” pressure politics, who garnered signatures. Now at the NSC, Downing has the ready-made plan to hit Iraq.

Richard Clarke, Adviser to the President for Cyberspace Warfare. Clarke, who was originally with the State Department during the elder Bush’s Administration, was demoted for covering up Israeli violations of the Arms Exporting laws. In August 1998, Clarke was one of the key figures who planted false information about Sudan’s involvement in the East Africa U.S. Embassy bombings, which led to U.S. cruise missile attacks on a Sudanese pharmaceutical company in Khartoum. Clarke shopped in disinformation from British-Israeli covert operations stringer Yosef Boddansky that targetted Sudan.

Elliott Abrams, NSC staff. Abrams, who was convicted in the Iran-Contra scandal, was quietly placed on the NSC as a specialist in “religion and human rights.” He is a longtime member of the right-wing Zionist networks that infiltrated the U.S. security establishment. He worked closely with Secord and North in Central America, also providing a link to the Israeli gun-running networks that delivered arms to Khomeini’s Iran.

Ashcroft’s ‘Emergency Laws’ Are Rushed Toward Passage

by Edward Spannaus

In a manner similar to that in which the Nazi emergency measures, the *Notverordnungen*, were put into effect in 1933 Germany on the pretext of the Reichstag Fire, Attorney General John Ashcroft is using the Sept. 11 attacks, along with the recent wave of bioterrorist scares, as his own “Reichstag Fire” justification for ramming “anti-terrorist” laws through Congress which will give the Justice Department widely expanded powers of surveillance, detention, and prosecution.

As we have previously pointed out (see *EIR* Oct. 5), Ashcroft is using the opportunity to force through Congress many provisions and powers which the Justice Department has been seeking for years, but which Congress has, up to this point, refused to give them.

McDade Repeal Sought

Furthermore, the Justice Department and its supporters in the Senate are making another, even more cynical move, having quietly inserted into the Senate anti-terrorism bill, a repeal of the 1998 McDade-Murtha law. That law, co-sponsored by Pennsylvania Reps. Joe McDade (R) and John Murtha (D), was passed in October 1998, after a major nationwide campaign led by the LaRouche movement. The provision enacted was one part of the broader Citizens Protection Act of 1998 (known as the “McDade-Murtha bill”), the portion declaring that Federal prosecutors should be subject to the same laws and rules of conduct as any other lawyers.

Even though the other parts of the McDade bill, which would have given teeth to the ethical-standards part, were stripped out, the Justice Department still went to work to repeal the portion that was passed. Bills to repeal it have been introduced in each session, but have stalled. There is strong opposition to repeal of McDade in the House—where it had passed overwhelmingly in 1998 by a 345-82 vote—and in the House Judiciary Committee in particular.

On Sept. 19, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) introduced into the Senate, what he called the “Professional Standards for Government Attorneys Act,” to repeal the McDade law. Leahy claimed that the McDade law is wreaking havoc in Federal law-enforcement investigations, and that it “seriously threatens to impede” the investigations into the Sept. 11 at-



Attorney General John Ashcroft is using the Sept. 11 attacks as a pretext to seize dictatorial powers.

tacks. Subsequently, Leahy's bill was incorporated into the Senate's version of the anti-terrorism bill (the "U.S.A. Act"), passed in the Senate on Oct. 14 with only one dissenting vote, that of Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.).

Pass It, But Don't Read It

The McDade repeal is not included in the House version of the anti-terrorism bill, which was voted up by a 337-79 vote on Oct. 12. Under intense pressure from the White House, and in a crisis atmosphere colored by the FBI's warning of possible new terrorist attacks issued the previous day, the House leadership dumped its own bipartisan version of the anti-terrorism bill—which had passed the House Judiciary Committee by a unanimous vote—and instead hurriedly voted up a bill much closer to the version passed by the Senate and desired by the Justice Department. Many House members were outraged by the procedural maneuver, and complained that almost no one had even had a chance to read the substitute version.

Some of the key provisions of the House bill, which still has to be reconciled with the Senate bill, are that it:

- Allows a nationwide search warrant to seize certain electronic records, such as e-mails, rather than having to obtain a separate warrant in each jurisdiction;
- Allows "roving wiretaps" to cover multiple phone lines used by a suspect;
- Gives authorities greater power to seize voice-mail messages and to monitor Internet traffic;
- Permits prosecutors to share secret grand jury information with intelligence agencies, and, as well, allows information obtained from "national security" wiretaps and electronic interceptions to be used in criminal cases (this is considered the biggest and most significant change by many observers); and
- Allows the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to detain a foreigner up to seven days, before deciding whether to file charges or seek deportation. Currently, there is a two-day limit, but the Justice Department was seeking the power of indefinite detention.

The House passed a separate bill on Oct. 17 with anti-money-laundering provisions similar to those contained in the Senate anti-terrorism bill. On this issue, pressure against those provisions is coming from banks and some Republicans—such as Rep. Dick Armey of Texas, who claims that legislation which would crack down on offshore tax havens, is actually just a guise for raising taxes.

Even while the House was adjourned due to the anthrax incidents, House and Senate conferees were attempting to hammer out a compromise version of the bill, in discussions, as well, with the Justice Department. On Oct. 18, Ashcroft announced that agreement had been reached on a number of key provisions, including those for wider use of national-security wiretaps, roving wiretaps, and sharing of grand jury information. Other reports indicated that the administration had agreed to accept a four-year sunset provision, and that the compromise bill will include money-laundering provisions, with final language still to be worked out.

Other Justice Department Measures

Even without the bill being passed, the Justice Department has carried out a roundup of suspects, witnesses, and others since Sept. 11, which is unprecedented in modern times. At least 700 persons have been picked up and detained, many without access to a lawyer, and without being allowed to communicate with family or friends. Some sources believe that the number of detainees is much higher than is officially acknowledged. Many of those detained are being held under conditions of total secrecy, without any record in a court docket or a log of prisoners, which is normally available to the public.

Moreover, Attorney General Ashcroft has made additional moves to restrict public access to government records under the Freedom of Information Act. Over Justice Department objections, the Clinton Administration had broadened public access to records, and also hastened declassification of older records. Attorney General Janet Reno had told government agencies in 1993 to maximize release of records, and she advised the various agencies that the Justice Department would only defend a decision to withhold records if release of the records in question would be harmful. But on Oct. 12, Ashcroft issued a new memorandum revoking the Reno policy, and directing government agencies to be much more cautious in releasing records to the public. This goes well beyond records involving national security, which are already highly protected, and includes commercial and business information, and internal government deliberations.

The mentality behind all these moves was rather obviously displayed in late September, when White House spokesman Ari Fleischer warned that, in times like this, "all Americans . . . need to watch what they say, watch what they do." However, in what some called true Big Brother fashion, the White House then removed the words "watch what they say" from the official transcript of Fleischer's press briefing.