vision and political fortunes could be sacrificed. They need to move fast because the timetable is extremely tight.”

From Our Archives

Suspected Soviet Cell Wrote Reagan’s Long-Term Strategy

by Jeffrey Steinberg


On Feb. 19, 1988, Washington Post associate editor Bob Woodward published a front-page story detailing the Pentagon and CIA’s futile search for “Mr. X,” the designation for a high-level intelligence community mole who was believed to be providing Pollard with top-secret code numbers of classified military documents that Pollard, a counterterrorist analyst at a Naval Investigative Service facility in Suitland, Maryland, would then pilfer and pass on to Israeli and Soviet intelligence. Shabtai Kalmanowitch, a Russian-born Israeli multi-millionaire, soon to be tried in Israel as a KGB spy, is widely believed to have been one of the Israel-Soviet “back channels” through which the “Mr. X” loot was shared with Moscow.

According to one Pentagon source, the elusive “Mr. X” is actually known to be an entire cell of shared Soviet-Israeli agents, rather than just one well-placed individual. While Woodward’s headline-grabbing revelations about “Mr. X” were aimed at blocking the Department of Justice from shutting down its Pollard investigation altogether, under reported strong pressure from State Department chief counsel Abraham Sofaer and Secretary of State George Shultz himself, Pentagon and CIA officials have been reportedly aware that they are dealing with an “X Committee,” buried deep inside the American national security establishment.

One version of the “X Committee” list, reportedly passed from the office of the general counsel to the Secretary of Defense and on to the FBI early this year, contained such prominent Reagan Administration figures as: Iklé, Richard Perle, Steven Bryen, Doug Feith, Andy Marshall, Henry Rowen, and Frank Gaffney, Jr. All were, up until very recently, senior officials at the Pentagon, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the CIA’s National Intelligence Estimates Board.

For the past month, a team of EIR investigators has conducted an extensive background cross-check of these named individuals and others closely associated with them, such as Michael Ledeen, Roy Godson, and Neil Livingstone. This preliminary special report summarizes the findings to date.

Albert Wohlstetter Recruits a Net

Decades before there was Pollard and Kalmanowitch, Dr. Albert Wohlstetter had already established himself as one of America’s preeminent “nuclear strategists”—certainly one of the figures upon whom the early 1960s character “Dr. Strangelove” was based. First at the RAND Corporation and the University of Chicago, and later at his own consulting firm, Pan-Heuristics, Wohlstetter groomed literally scores of protégés for future sensitive government posts.

Using the Senate offices of the late Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) and Clifford Case (R-N.J.) as stepping stones for placing his epigones into the Washington, D.C. policymaking circuit, Wohlstetter had succeeded, by the time the Reagan Administration entered office, in placing his assets in sensitive and powerful positions at the Pentagon. Dr. Fred Iklé, a Wohlstetter protégé from their days together at RAND, became the Deputy Secretary of Defense. Richard Perle, who had come under Wohlstetter’s wing while still a student at Hollywood High School, and who survived a 1970 near-arrest, reportedly for passing secrets to the Mossad while on Scoop Jackson’s staff, became President Reagan’s most trusted arms control adviser up until his departure from the Pentagon late last year. Perle was the actual author of the disastrous INF treaty proposal jumped on by Soviet boss Gorbachov at Reykjavik. . .

Wohlstetter apparently went to great lengths to distance himself from his years of activity as a figure in the American communist movement in the 1930s and 1940s.

By 1983, Wohlstetter and his network had so penetrated the national security apparatus of the Reagan Administration that the “father of America’s MAD strategy,” as Wohlstetter was known, was formally appointed—at the same time as Henry Kissinger—to the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a post he retains today. While not exactly an operational assignment, membership on PFIAB entitles Wohlstetter to access some of America’s most important and operational intelligence secrets.

When the Reagan Administration set out to define a long-term strategy for confronting the Soviet threat going into the early decades of the 21st Century, a “private” blue ribbon commission was empaneled by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The co-chairmen of the panel were Wohlstetter and Iklé.

The final product of the Wohlstetter-Iklé Commission, once one grasps the implications of the “X Committee” authorship, was predictable. Released at a Pentagon press conference on Jan. 12 of this year, Discriminate Deterrence, a Report from the Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy, made two particular policy pronouncements that were

First, the report stated categorically that the United States should formally remove its nuclear umbrella from its European NATO allies, thus virtually assuring the Soviets of an unchallenged conventional military takeover of Western Europe at any moment they might choose.

Second, the report called for the abandonment of the President’s Strategic Defense Initiative by refocusing on the more narrow objective of a point defense of America’s land-based nuclear arsenal. By abandoning the overall doctrinal shift to Mutually Assured Survival based on a broad defense against all Soviet nuclear weapons, the report called for killing the whole program while at the same time abandoning the post-war doctrine of deterrence by massive retaliation.

As if to remove any doubt as to the intention of the report, co-author Wohlstetter told an EIR journalist at the Pentagon press briefing, “The SDI will eventually die of embarrassment [because] the notion that the Soviet Union would launch a nuclear attack against the population of the United States is absurd.”

The Search for ‘Mr. X’
by Joseph Brewda

Reprinted and excerpted from EIR, June 3, 1988, this profile of leading candidates for the “X Committee” controlling the espionage of Jonathan Pollard, exposes much of the warhawk leadership of the Pentagon today.

U.S. government investigators are hot on the trail of “Mr. X,” the senior U.S. government official deemed responsible for having placed convicted Soviet-Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard in a sensitive post at U.S. Naval Intelligence. Without such an official, or officials, Pollard could never have reached his position. EIR has received a list of suspects currently being investigated by the U.S. government for having played that treacherous role. It is EIR’s judgment, moreover, that the individuals on the list, far from being a random collection of suspects, constitute a tightly organized conspiracy, which was responsible, as a whole, for patronizing and protecting Pollard. Perhaps the best description of them is “Albert Wohlstetter’s children.” . . . Wohlstetter was one of the founders of the RAND corporation, a center of crackpot strategies, together with Andrew Marshall, Henry Rowen, and Herman Kahn.

Altogether, the list includes:
Henry S. Rowen. Currently a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Rowen joined Wohlstetter and Kahn at the newly formed RAND corporation in 1951, following graduation from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His most recent government post was chairman of the National Intelligence Estimates Board at CIA, 1980 to 1983.

In 1951, Rowen and Wohlstetter succeeded in expanding their penetration of U.S. defense circles through a RAND study on the vulnerability of Strategic Air Command bases to Soviet surprise attack. Rowen and Wohlstetter designed the insane doctrine of “flexible response” and “controlled escalation” at RAND, and later sold it to Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.

In 1959, Rowen, Wohlstetter, and Andy Marshall became key figures in the John F. Kennedy campaign. Following Kennedy’s election, Rowen was appointed Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary under McNamara, where he advocated the “Mutually Assured Destruction” deterrence thesis, in opposition to the traditional military doctrine of “war-winning.” Rowen served as President Johnson’s assistant director at the Bureau of the Budget, and then returned to RAND. Rowen reemerged as the leader, with Wohlstetter and Kahn, of the team which wrote Jimmy Carter’s notorious PD-59, a policy which removed the strategic nuclear umbrella from Western Europe.

Andrew Marshall. Currently the director of the Defense Department’s Office of Net Assessments, a post he has held since 1973, Marshall oversees all Pentagon studies comparing the relative strengths of the U.S. and Soviet military. The office’s assessments have been notoriously incompetent. A founder of RAND, Marshall assisted Albert Wohlstetter and his wife, Roberta, in their influential study on the vulnerability of the Strategic Air Command. While at RAND, Marshall also trained future Defense Secretary James Schlesinger.

In 1957, Marshall joined H. Rowan Gaither in directing the Council of Foreign Relations-linked Gaither Committee, which concluded that the United States would not be able to follow the doctrine of “massive retaliation,” and had to, they insisted, accept the idea of U.S.-Soviet strategic parity. The committee’s ideas were later picked up by Henry Kissinger. In 1973, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger hired his mentor Marshall to become director of the Office of Strategic Assessment. Under Marshall, it became the key Pentagon office overseeing the subcontracting of strategic assessments to private firms, such as RAND. Marshall has also served as the key liaison with the Israeli Defense Ministry. In 1982, Marshall, Fred Iklé, and Richard Perle co-authored the Reagan Administration’s guidelines on defense guidance.

Fred Charles Iklé. Product of an elite family associated with the National Bank of Switzerland, Iklé was trained at the RAND Social Sciences department under Wohlstetter and Marshall. From 1981 through February 1988, Iklé was Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. He is the co-author with Wohlstetter, of the recent Pentagon study, Discriminate Deterrence.

In addition to serving in his family’s Zurich-American Insurance Company and teaching at MIT, Iklé directed the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under President Ford. He has served as the main patron of the “X Commit-