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*Executive Reorganization*

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## DOJ terror role at core of agency war

by Jeffrey Steinberg

A knockdown drag-out fight has publicly broken out between the FBI and the CIA over the question of a proposed reorganization of the intelligence communities' guidelines for domestic operations. While the battle has taken on the visible character of a bureaucratic infight over such matters as jurisdictional authority and budget allocations, strong evidence exists that a much bigger issue is at stake.

*Executive Intelligence Review*, and its subsidiary counterintelligence newsletter *Investigative Leads*, have for the past year documented the fact that sections of the Justice Department—most notably the Community Relations Service—are up to their necks in domestic terrorism and civil disorders. Such sections of the DOJ as the Community Relations Service, the Office of Special Investigations, and the FBI's counterespionage units are repositories of protégés of former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and former FBI Division Five chief Major Louis Mortimer Bloomfield.

Clark and Bloomfield worked together to execute, and then cover up, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Among other things, the CRS heirs of the Clark-Bloomfield apparatus have more recently sponsored the creation of the National Black United Front, a nationwide collection of black militants presently leading the efforts to orchestrate race riots against the Reagan administration. These black militant networks have been linked to the government of Ayatollah Khomeini and to Khomeini's U.S. intelligence chief and leading terrorist handler, Bahram Nahidian. It was the Community Relations Service and the FBI that played a central role in protecting the Nahidian Iranian terrorist networks within the U.S. during the height of the hostage negotiations when these networks were getting away with literal bloody murder on U.S. soil.

It is this terrorist fifth column within the Justice Department and the FBI that would be the first point of investigation for any noncomplicit intelligence service mandated to crack down on domestic terrorism and its controllers.

For reasons very much related to this issue, the FBI and the Carter administration holdovers within the Department of Justice moved swiftly this week to sabotage

the rewriting of the Executive Order guidelines governing Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Department, and National Security Agency activities within the United States. Under Jimmy Carter, a January 1978 Executive Order was issued that all but shut down CIA and related domestic efforts against terrorism, narcotics trafficking, and foreign agent activities. The director of the FBI and the attorney general were given thorough oversight authority over these other agencies' domestic activities.

When an interagency task force responded to a request from the new President to recommend revised guidelines by proposing a more balanced set of rules that would allow for CIA, DOD, and NSA domestic intelligence gathering, FBI Chief Webster, the *New York Times* editorial board, and the KGB-linked *CounterSpy* networks linked to Philip Agee geeked out in chorus. Jerry Berman, a former *CounterSpy* editor, now the director of the American Civil Liberties Union, admitted to an *EIR* interviewer this week that his office—along with the *New York Times*—had commandeered a copy of the classified interagency memo; and that the prevailing evaluation within top-level CIA circles is that the FBI did the leaking.

The *New York Times* has been building a crescendo of demands for President Reagan to strongly rebuke the reorganization proposal and continue the Carter guidelines, thereby retaining an FBI-Justice Department monopoly over domestic intelligence efforts. On March 12, the *Times* ran a frantic lead editorial titled "Son of Operation Chaos" in which they all but vowed to watergate President Reagan if he were to go with the proposed reorganization. The editorial was flanked by an equally livid op-ed column by Ken Bass III, the Carter administration's Justice Department Office of Intelligence Policy and Review chief who was the author of the Carter Executive Order that gave the FBI and Justice Department the total control.

As *EIR* goes to press, the prevailing mood in Washington, D.C. indicates that the FBI will come up on the short end of the bureaucratic fight. A number of respected law enforcement and military specialists have been placed in key executive branch posts dealing with international terrorism and international narcotics trafficking. This group is typified by Gen. Louis Guiffrida, the newly nominated director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

On the CIA side, there are numerous reports of former Agency hands preparing to come out of retirement and re-enter the service as consultants and advisers. To the extent that seasoned veterans with decades of accumulated experience do return to active intelligence duty, and to the extent that the networks behind the drug-terror epidemic are the proper subject of attack, the nation cannot help but benefit.