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## Investigative Leads

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# Hospitaller knights of a new dark age

by Scott Thompson

Investigation into the networks responsible for the May 12, 1982 attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul II has now uncovered the fact that Secretary of State Alexander Haig is a witting participant in a secret-cult network that poses the principal assassination-threat potential against both President Ronald Reagan and the Pope.

This network centers upon the transnational branches of the **Hospitaller Order** (a.k.a. **Order of St. John of Jerusalem**, a.k.a. **Knights of Malta**). Directly associated with Haig in this secret-cult network is a John Birch Society member, **Rep. Larry McDonald** (D-Ga.), head of the cult's military-subversion front organization, Western Goals, Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia and Munich, West Germany, and **Gen. Jack Singlaub**. The Hospitaller network represents a higher-level control point over the same network of assassins behind the two attempts upon John Paul II and the attempted killing of President Reagan (see *EIR*, June 8).

### Origin of the Hospitaller order

The Hospitaller order was founded about 1050 A.D. in Jerusalem by Pope Gregory I and Venetian merchant banking interests, to serve as a crusading, military, and religious order for the oligarchs who brought feudalism to Europe after the Carolingian city-builders were routed. From the outset, the Hospitalers' main strength lay in a vast political intelligence capability.

In the first half of this century, it was the oligarchic families that hold commanding positions within the Hospitaller network, including the **Thurn und Taxis**, **Wittelsbach**, and others, who created Hitler's Bavarian Nazi Party. Though they successively distanced themselves publicly from their Nazi creation, especially after the 1938 Anschluss, these families did not completely dump the Hitler project until after Stalingrad in 1943. With the aid of secret agreements worked out between Prime Minister Winston Churchill and OSS representative Allen Dulles, typified by Dulles's negotiations for a secret surrender with SS Gen. Karl Wolff, arrangements

were made to preserve strains of the Nazi experiment for use in the ensuing Cold War.

### Major branches of the Order

There are four primary branches of the original crusading Hospitaller Order in existence today:

The **Sovereign Military Order of Malta** (SMOM) was rechartered by the Papacy in 1815. When Napoleon conquered the Hospitaller's island base of Malta in 1798, Czar Paul I of Russia assumed protectorship of the Order. After his assassination, his son, Alexander I, relinquished this office to the Papacy. The SMOM remains affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church, though it has been condemned by Popes John XXIII and Paul VI. It is the only branch with true sovereignty, and has diplomatic immunity for its emissaries and offices on the Via Condotti in Rome. Under the current Grand Master, Prince Angelo de Mojana di Colonna, the SMOM is controlled by the leading families of the Italian "black nobility," including the House of Savoy, Pallavicinis, Orsinis, Borgheses, and Spadaforas.

The SMOM represents the higher-level control over the Propaganda-2 Masonic Lodge of former Mussolini secret police (OVRA) official **Licio Gelli**. All the former chiefs of military and intelligence sections in Italy who were ousted for their secret membership in the P-2 Lodge had also been invested into the SMOM. Italian magistrates are currently investigating P-2 as an international coordination center for narcotics and for repeated coup d'état attempts and assassinations deploying "red" and "black" terrorism ranging from the Italian Red Brigades to Ordine Nero. The first exposés of P-2 were made by Vatican-linked officials in retaliation for the May 13, 1981 attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul II.

Outside Italy, leading members of the SMOM include those prominent families of the Hapsburg Holy Roman Empire such as the Thurn und Taxis family of Regensburg, Bavaria and the closely intermarried **Lobkowitz** family of Bohemia and **Braganza** family of Portugal that bear immediate responsibility for the May 12, 1982 attempt to assassinate the Pope at the Our Lady of Fatima shrine in Portugal. These oligarchic families jointly oversee a network of feudalist cults that have burrowed within the Catholic Church, including followers of the schismatic **Archbishop Lefebvre**, who personally ordained Pope John Paul II's would-be assassin, **Fr. Juan Fernández Krohn**; the far-reaching **Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima** cult; and **Tradition, Family and Property** (TFP), the Braganza family-founded paramilitary group whose members in Brazil have been photographed using a picture of John Paul II for target practice. (See *EIR*, June 8).

The **Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem**, affiliated with the Anglican Com-

munion and under the direct protection of Queen Elizabeth II, is a revival of the English Priory of the Hospitalers that had been dormant since Henry VIII broke from the Catholic Church. Its revival in 1831 was part of the Oxford Movement ("Tractarian") effort to penetrate the Catholic Church and foment schisms. Under its current Grand Master, **the Duke of Gloucester**, the MVO has recruited from among the wealthiest and most influential families of Great Britain, the Commonwealth, and the United States. Members of the MVO dominate the boards of the four major City of London clearinghouse banks (Barclays, National Westminster, Standard and Chartered, Lloyds), the five major banks of Canada (Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto Dominion, Canadian Imperial), and in the United States members dominate the boards of Morgan Guaranty Trust, major media, and many defense-related advanced electronics industries. The U.S. command center of the Most Venerable Order is the **Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine** in New York, under **Bishop Paul Moore**, an heir to the Morgan-allied Moore family, and **Canon Edward West**, the protocol officer of Queen Elizabeth II.

Almost every major figure involved in laundering the estimated \$500 billion annual income from illicit narcotics trade has been invested into the Most Venerable Order, including such former "bootlegging" families as the Bronfmans, Jacobses, and Kennedys, who built the drug routes out of their early whiskey smuggling activity. Another member of the MVO is **Maj. Louis Mortimer Bloomfield**, a former high-ranking member of Division 5 of the FBI, who was a key coordinator of the **Permindex** "Murder, Inc." corporation. Permindex, whose board includes several other members of the SMOM and MVO, was identified by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison as responsible for the John F. Kennedy assassination and by French intelligence as responsible for dozens of attempts to assassinate French President Charles de Gaulle in the early 1960s. Canon Edward West, in his capacity as chairman of the **Tolstoy Foundation**, oversees a crucial intersection point between British intelligence and the "Solidarist" networks of White Russian and Eastern European fascists in such paramilitary, terrorist groups as **Narodnyi Trudovoy Soyuz** (NTS—code named "Death to Tyrants").

The **Johanniterorden**, affiliated with the Lutheran Church of Germany, was largely crushed during World War II as part of Churchill's campaign to destroy the Humboldt-trained Prussian nobility. After the war, the Johanniterorden, which maintains extensive political intelligence networks in the Baltic States and especially East Germany, was largely taken over by the Anglican Most Venerable Order. Its associations in the Netherlands and Sweden split off, and are now under the

respective control of former SS officer **Prince Bernhard**, the co-founder of the **Bilderberg Society**, and the Swedish royal house.

In 1961, these three major Hospitaller branches signed a "Convention of Alliance" to form an International Secretariat that is based in Geneva and Zürich, Switzerland. One of the chief officials of this alliance, **Sir Fernand Oltramare**, is a close relative of Georges Oltramare, the founder of the Swiss Nazi Party which served as part of Allen Dulles's networks in liaison with top fascist circles in Germany and Italy during the war. Oltramare is, in turn, an associate of the Swiss banker **François Genoud**, who is the chief financial source for post-war activities of the "fascist international." According to well-informed sources, castles maintained by the Orders in Geneva, and also in Luxembourg, provide facilities for training assassins, similar to the facility in Malaga, Spain that trained Fr. Juan Fernández Krohn. Krohn was implicated as an assassin in two earlier cases.

The "Fourth Order," **The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem** (a.k.a. "the Russian Order"), descends from a group of Knights who sought the protection of Czar Paul I after Napoleon's conquest of the Order's base in Malta. The Order was revived in the early 20th century by the Russian nobility who feared impending revolution, and, following 1917, its leaders, including the Grand Duke Alexander and Grand Duke Cyril, worked in exile to help launch the Nazi experiment as a means to reconquer Russia.

Affiliated variously with the Uniate Roman Catholics, the Lefebvrist "Traditionalists," the Russian Orthodox Church, and other Orthodox Churches and sects, the Russian Order is today splintered into 16 or more subgroups which act as "throwaway" spinoffs for political intelligence operations of the other major orders. The most visible threat to the life of President Reagan at this time comes from a throwaway branch of the Russian Order chartered in 1963 by **King Peter II of Yugoslavia**, who became a leading asset during and after World War II of the British royal family's Secret Intelligence Service. It is to this branch that Rep. McDonald belongs, while **Al Haig** is a member of a closely affiliated Danish Association founded by Prince Peter of Greece and Denmark.

Ironically, for McDonald, Singlaub, and Haig, through this Fourth Order's ties to the Russian Orthodox and Antiochian Churches, both are brought into association with KGB-contaminated circles of the Andropov-Suslov-Kim Philby "Russian chauvinist" faction of the Soviet Union which is every bit as fascist as the Nazis. The KGB faction in the Kremlin is well aware of the importance of the Hospitalers. It offered to exchange ambassadors with the SMOM before World War II, and has maintained a special bureau to monitor the Order since the Bolshevik Revolution.