

Whose 'disinformation'? The case of Roy Godson

by Scott Thompson and Herb Quinde

Roy Godson of Georgetown University and the National Strategy Information Center has emerged in recent years as a right-wing expert on Soviet strategy and disinformation. Prompted by the gross inaccuracies and infantilism of Godson's work, however, an *EIR* investigation has discovered that Godson is merely the second-generation spawn of networks associated with Jay Lovestone, the former secretary general of the Communist Party U.S.A. It is this "Lovestonite" heritage that accounts for the amateurish inaccuracies of Godson's Soviet studies.

Roy Godson can best be understood as a product of the Trust, which brought Western oligarchic layers into contact with the "Cosmopolitan" Right and Left Oppositions in Russia, under Nikolai Bukharin and Leon Trotsky, respectively, that are purged by Stalin during the 1937-39 period.

Every one of Godson's major academic works is heavily laden with praise for the "Bukharinite" Jay Lovestone's Right Opposition, or with projects of the Western half of the Trust. Godson inherited this bias from his father, Joseph Godson, who was far more important than he, and who opened many doors for his son. Joseph Godson was a Lovestonite to the core, who introduced his son to such top members of the network as Irving Brown, Jay Lovestone's right-hand man from the period that they joined Julius Hammer and others as founders of the Communist Party U.S.A.

Godson's so-called hardline "anti-communism" is nothing more than the anger expressed by Right Opposition Bukharinites against Stalin's purges, which ripped up the Trust arrangements that had been the subject of earlier vitriolic debates within the Bolshevik leadership.

From this perspective, it is even stranger to witness Roy Godson's latest metamorphosis from labor expert into expert

on security policy, whose Consortium for the Study of Intelligence has brought together leading erstwhile conservative members of the U.S. intelligence community in symposia on all aspects of U.S. intelligence policy. Within that network, Godson has been especially close to the same right-wing Social Democratic grouping behind "Project Democracy," a focal point of the Iran arms and "Contragate" probes.

Godson was hired as a National Security Council consultant by the Reagan administration after wary "old boys" torpedoed his chance, of becoming the legislative liaison for the Central Intelligence Agency. He stood in line for this post because of his work on the Reagan transition team on intelligence matters. While Godson may yet be indicted for money laundering tied to Oliver North's Contra project, he and the network around him represent one of the most dangerous "mole" networks within the U.S. intelligence establishment today.

Enter Joseph Godson

Roy Godson's influential father, Joseph Godson, was born in Poland on Jan. 15, 1913. An emigré to the United States, he entered the Right Opposition layers of the U.S. Communist movement through the Jewish Labor Committee, whose godfathers were the Lovestonite Communist Charles Zimmerman and Lovestone's primary patron, David Dubinsky. Through the Jewish Labor Committee, which worked closely with Lovestone in the International Rescue Committee, Joseph Godson was involved in the project to bring top opposition leaders of the Communist and Socialist parties of Europe to the United States before and during World War II.

This led to early penetration of U.S. intelligence, since the International Rescue Committee, especially, became a

virtual hiring hall for the Office of Strategic Services of Gen. William Donovan. Many of the people hired from among those rescued by groups like the Jewish Labor Committee were later discovered to be deep-cover “moles” for the GPU, Stalin’s intelligence service.

Joseph Godson went from the Jewish Labor Committee into the State Department in 1950, where he was posted abroad in a series of locations as a labor attaché. This was a time when the entirety of the labor attaché service was an adjunct of Jay Lovestone’s network, which had since shifted to the International Department of the AFL-CIO. According to a recent interview with Irving Brown, Joseph Godson and he worked closely together, while Roy Godson grew up as a playmate of Irving Brown’s son. In the same interview, Brown praised the program for the rehabilitation of Nikolai Bukharin pushed by some inside the Soviet Union, as “something to be encouraged,” if Mikhail Gorbachov’s *glasnost* policy was to have any real meaning.

Until a recent stroke, Brown was also a coordinator of the Trotskyite Fourth International in Europe. He has been interviewed extensively, and his expressed views, along with those of Trust agent Averell Harriman, formed the basis of Roy Godson’s first book, *American Labor and European Politics*.

Who is Jay Lovestone?

Joseph Godson was a Lovestonite Communist to the core. It is therefore worth reviewing the career of Jay Lovestone, who co-founded the CPUSA, and was then imposed as its general secretary by Nikolai Bukharin over the more popular William Z. Foster.

In 1929, after he had consolidated his power, Josef Stalin gave a “graveyard speech” to the Lovestonites at the Sixth Comintern Congress, when he stripped Nikolai Bukharin of his post on the Politburo and other positions. An International Communist Right Opposition was formed, led by Brandler in Germany, which remained in covert support of the Soviet Union up until the final purge of Bukharin in the 1937-38 period. Jay Lovestone himself, according to defectors and U.S. intelligence sources, remained in secret collaboration with the OGPU until at least this period, well after he had founded the International Rescue Committee apparatus with which Joseph Godson was associated.

Some leading OGPU and GRU intelligence operatives of the World War II period, including members of the “DORA” and “Lucy” networks, as well as the overlapping Red Orchestra (Rote Kapelle,) were intimately tied to the International Right Opposition—e.g., Jules Humbert-Droz. Although the Lovestonites were pitted against the Stalinists in the postwar period, the thaw began with Nikita Khrushchov’s “de-Stalinization” efforts, when the Trust was reborn in 1957. Irving Brown’s own recent statements about the possibility of a Bukharinite revival are evidence that the entire Lovestonite apparatus remains part of the Trust, still working on

behalf of its goals.

Actually, at the height of the so-called Cold War battle to keep Europe from going Communist—a period chronicled by Roy Godson’s *American Labor and European Politics*—the work of Irving Brown and Jay Lovestone was conducted in active collaboration with the Soviets. Exemplary is the case of the Force Ouvrière (FO), which Godson considers the showcase of Irving Brown and Jay Lovestone’s anti-communist crusade. Brown’s hand-picked leader of the FO, Leon Jouhaux, had been rescued from Europe by the International Rescue Committee. He had been an anarchosyndicalist utopian when he headed the CGT trade union in France from 1919-39. French anarchosyndicalism, especially the pro-Soviet kind with which Jouhaux was associated, is somewhat akin to an outbreak of swine fever. According to CIA documents published in 1979 in the study *The Rote Kapelle*, Jouhaux knowingly employed agents of the Soviets’ DORA network and the Rote Kappelle.

Among those Soviet agents protected by Jouhaux was Alexander Abramson, whom Jouhaux, in 1947, would make his special assistant and adviser. Jouhaux used his power as president of the French Economic Council to intervene on Abramson’s behalf. Abramson had a history with the Russian Information Section of the International Labor Organization, which worked closely with Noel Field, who defected to the East bloc after the war, triggering “Operation Splinter Factor”—the exposure to Stalin of U.S. intelligence assets in the West, prompting his wholesale slaughter of agents, as well as many “honest Communists.”

Edward Vincent Carter of the Institute of Pacific Relations attempted to “rescue” Abramson from Nazi-occupied France, but the request to permit his visit to the United States for the duration of the war was denied when Abramson’s name surfaced as part of the Soviet espionage networks centered at the ILO. In the summer of 1944, Abramson was found by combined counterintelligence to have been the cutout for payments to a Swiss network by Russian military authorities in Canada.

While Force Ouvrière does have a significant faction of French patriots who strongly oppose Soviet hegemony in Europe, Irving Brown’s hand-picked leader, Jouhaux, had several Abramsons up his sleeve, and Brown himself maintained close ties with the International Right Opposition through his association with Boris Souvarine in France.

Retiring from the State Department in 1968, Joseph Godson stayed in England where he headed several institutions that placed him in contact with the Socialist International. From 1976 until his death, Joseph Godson was European coordinator of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. From 1974 onward, Godson was director of the Labour Committee for Transatlantic Understanding, which is part of the British Labour Party.

Roy Godson has frequently been in contact with the LCTU, and there is evidence that he used it in activities that

parallel his money laundering on behalf of Oliver North.

Through the LCTU, Joseph Godson worked closely with such Labour Party leaders as Dennis Healey and David Owen, while the German side of the LCTU placed him in contact with a wing of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD) linked to former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Godson's top European collaborator was Peter Corterier, a defense expert in the Schmidt wing of the SPD, who today works at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Roy Godson's close ties with the Socialist International in Europe were thus built by his father, as well as the remnants of the International Right Opposition, through his father's collaborator, Irving Brown.

The Mellon Scaife connection

An important connection to a mysterious financier of right-wing causes, Richard Mellon Scaife, was established by Roy Godson when he began as an instructor at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh from 1967-69. While there, Godson was simultaneously executive director of the World Affairs Council. According to the introduction to his first book, Godson received financial assistance from R. Daniel McMichael, "author, foundation executive, and friend," who "made it possible for me to take leaves of absence to complete the research in Europe."

For 35 years, R. Daniel McMichael has been one of the closest advisers and friends of Richard Mellon Scaife, who, it is estimated, has given upward of \$5,165,822 as of 1981 to Godson's National Strategy Information Center. This funding continues at the present. In 1985, just one of several funding sources maintained by Scaife, the Scaife Foundation, awarded \$260,000 to the National Strategy Information Center with an additional \$70,000 earmarked especially for Godson's NSIC Consortium for the Study of Intelligence. R. Daniel McMichael is one of the leading officials of the Scaife Foundation.

The Scaife connection to Roy Godson has already figured in a special deposition of Godson by the congressional "Irangate" committee. Lt. Col. Oliver North testified that in 1985, he, Godson, then-National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, and a fourth man met at the White House; there Godson agreed to help North in "fundraising efforts" to support Project Democracy's Central American activities.

On July 15, the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* reported that the fourth man at the 1985 White House meeting was Clyde H. "Terry" Slease III, formerly the chief attorney for Richard Mellon Scaife, who had wide-ranging powers of attorney for the New Right financial angel. Slease and Godson solicited from Pittsburgh businessman John Donahue a \$100,000 contribution which was laundered through the Heritage Foundation and given to the Institute for North South Issues (INSI)—the latter being run by indicted Contra fundraiser Richard Miller.

The Heritage Foundation is another of Richard Mellon

Scaife's pet New Right projects. Between 1974 and 1979, he gave Heritage \$2.6 million. In the 1980s, the Scaife Foundation alone increased its donations to the Heritage Foundation to over \$1 million annually.

Richard Miller of INSI next transferred \$80,000 to a Cayman Island account called I.C., Inc. (Intel Co-Operation, Inc.) which had been set up at North's request. A balance sheet of the account at Barclays Bank, released by the congressional panel, indicates that \$7,300 was sent to Richard Secord's Lake Resources account in Switzerland.

The evidence points to Godson's role as a ringleader in a conspiracy to violate federal tax statutes, similar to the violations that led independent counsel Walsh to issue his first indictments. Miller and conservative homosexual fundraiser "Spitz" Channell have pleaded guilty of conspiracy to solicit tax-exempt contributions that went to support the Contras.

Godson himself, according to Bob Havel, press spokesman for the House Select Committee on Iran and Contragate, has been under investigation since February, and has been deposed by House investigators on three separate instances of money laundering to the Contras, according to other Committee sources. Congressional sources believe he may have been a central figure in Project Democracy's web of money-laundering fronts worldwide.

We shall return to Roy Godson's money-laundering activities.

Godson's seamy world

Roy Godson has many "anti-Communist" published works to his credit. An examination of those works shows an overwhelming ego, a person who has done little real work, except the work of an agent of the Trust in covering up the actual nature of the beast that he is studying. Next to his *American Labor and European Politics*, two such works are *Eurocommunism* and his latest book, *Dezinformatsia*.

Eurocommunism is a complete cover-up of the role of the Willy Brandt wing of the Socialist International in creating this phenomenon with Italian Communist ideologues during the period of détente. The point of the book is summarized in the introduction by the following quote: "If the Communist Parties do move in a more liberal direction, and break with the Soviets, then this would serve to weaken them by splitting the militants loyal to the Soviet Union and ideological orthodoxy from the more 'reformist' elements, which might in turn encourage the 'reformists' to develop into democratic socialists. It would also encourage further strains in the relations between the Communist Parties and the Soviet Union, as well as encourage liberal and dissident forces under Soviet control. Whilst continuing to isolate the Communists from power, the West should encourage change within the Communist Parties so that it can exploit the tension between the Communist Parties and Moscow. The specific tactics that should be employed to achieve this objective await further study."

That scenario is a formula for playing the game of the Trust. Although he gives a cautious analysis of the "Euro-communist" parties, which concludes that they are a net asset of the Soviet Union, he persists at the conclusion of the book in holding out the promise: "They could, of course, be an important asset to the West. They would add their weight, and that of the important non-governmental actors they control, to the solution of the economic and social problems of Europe and the Atlantic world. They might also solidify Western defense efforts simply by removing the threat that pro-Moscow forces assuming a major role in government now pose to the Atlantic Alliance. But in the unlikely eventuality that the parties evolve in this way, they will probably split. The result of a series of such organic splits might create an intriguing new political terrain on the left. Relatively small pro-Moscow factions would be consigned again to the outer fringes of European politics; and the energy, organization, and vitality of the main party machinery would be harnessed to the democratic left in Europe."

Godson's book *Dezinformatsia* contains similar Walt Disney interpretations of Soviet "active measures" campaigns against the West. This is clearest in his treatment of the "world peace" front operations of the Soviet Union. Godson makes not one mention of the role that such movements have played as the cannon fodder for the Soviet *spetsnaz* special forces used to disrupt entire societies like West Germany, creating near civil war conditions at the drop of a hat. The "peace movement" is the first echelon in the Soviet order of battle, but Godson treats it as merely a source of Disinformational opposition to Western defense preparedness.

Godson concludes the book by stating that it is Project Democracy that will save the West from Soviet active measures: the same Project Democracy that has been the focus of the year-long Iran and Conragate scandal. "During the last years of the Carter administration and during the Reagan administration, however, there has been growing recognition in Washington of the importance not only of countering Moscow's campaigns, but also of assisting democratic forces. The creation of an intergovernmental coordinating mechanism for what is now called 'public diplomacy' through National Security Decision Directive 77, and the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy, designed to promote democracy abroad, are tangible indications of Washington's general direction in the early 1980s."

Actually, the core participants in Roy Godson's Consortium for the Study of Intelligence series on intelligence requirements in the 1980s included key players in the Oliver North-linked activities of Project Democracy.

- Theodore Shackley, the man to first make contact with Israeli agent and Iranian businessman Manucher Ghorbanifar and discuss an arms-for-hostages exchange.

- John Norton Moore, the international law consultant to the Intelligence Oversight Board who, Colonel North testified, had advised him that no laws were being violated by

covertly arming the Contras. Moore is a board member of the National Strategy Information Center.

- Kenneth de Graffenreid, Director of Intelligence Programs at the National Security Council, from whose office Colonel North and Fawn Hall obtained the documents that were shredded.

- Dr. Angelo Codevilla, a member of the Reagan Intelligence Transition Team with Godson, who, with de Graffenreid, was the author of the secret government's mandate, Executive Order 12333.

- Midge Decter, director of the Committee for the Free World, the umbrella group of neo-conservatives who led the charge in support of the no-win Contra policy. Decter, assisted by Arnaud de Borchgrave, editor of the Moonie *Washington Times*, set up the first public effort to finance the Contras through private donations. She is also mother-in-law to Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams.

- Penn Kemble, founder of Prodemca, an abbreviation for Project Democracy Central America, which was heavily funded by the National Endowment for Democracy.

Perhaps the strangest bird to grace the Consortium for the Study of Intelligence series was Adda Bozeman, a liberal Democrat who literally called for the adoption of the Venetian secret services as the model for U.S. intelligence, complete with a Council of Ten running everything from behind-the-scenes.

The Jamaica caper

While a paid consultant to the National Security Council, Godson coordinated the financing for the creation of the Jamaica-based International Youth Commission, which hosted the 1985 International Youth Conference in Kingston. The International Youth Commission and the Institute for North South Issues appear on a flow chart of Project Democracy fronts found in Colonel North's safe, with "INTL YOUTH COMM" connected to "FDN," the Adolfo Calero-led Contra group.

Youth leaders formerly involved in the U.S.-based International Youth Year Commission (IYYC), which participated in the Jamaica conference, have accused Godson of diverting to various Contra organizations federal funds that had been paid to IYYC and the International Youth Commission. Godson coordinated the financing for the operation and worked with Walter Raymond, NSC Director of International Communications. Godson, Raymond, and North were regularly seen at IYYC meetings up through 1985.

The International Youth Commission got at least \$2 million of publicly documentable funds. The National Endowment for Democracy, the aboveground side of Project Democracy, kicked in \$107,000, and the Agency for International Development \$1 million. West Germany's Konrad Adenauer Foundation, an original supporter of the conference, gave \$150,000.