

Panama Report by Carlos Wesley

White House, Israeli, drug lord triangle

Bush could be hurt by shocking new revelations: The man hired to kill Noriega eased drug lords' takeover of Colombia.

Col. Yair Klein, an Israeli hired by former White House operatives to eliminate Gen. Manuel Noriega, was part of the network that paved the way for the cocaine traffickers and assassins of the Medellín Cartel to seize whole chunks of Colombia's government with the connivance of President César Gaviria. The new revelations by Bogotá's daily *La Prensa*, which *EIR* reported last week, have set off a scandal that is shaking the Gaviria government to its roots.

The scandal threatens to reach the highest levels of George Bush's campaign and to revive the Iran-Contra scandal. Among those implicated is Richard N. Bond, former deputy chief of staff to Vice President Bush, and former deputy chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC).

Much of this information is known to Bush's Democratic Party opponents. But don't hold your breath waiting for Gov. Bill Clinton, during whose watch the Mena Airport in Arkansas was used in these operations, to sling any of this dirt.

The deal between the narcos and Gaviria dates back at least to August 1989, when Gaviria came from nowhere to suddenly become the Liberal Party's presidential candidate, following the mafia's assassination of the anti-drug candidate and front-runner Luis Carlos Galán. According to the new evidence, Gaviria surrounded himself with a security guard that included *known employees* of escaped drug lord Pablo Escobar and Eytan Koren, an Israeli who, according to the Aug. 23 *La Prensa*, "had been

linked by DAS's [Colombia's FBI] Gen. Miguel Maza Márquez . . . with mercenary Yair Klein."

The resurfacing of Klein's name in connection with the Gaviria ties to Escobar's cocaine mafia, lends further confirmation to *EIR's* charges that Bush is directly responsible for Galán's murder and the subsequent cartel takeover of Colombia. Despite repeated attempts at a coverup, Klein, like Banquo's ghost, keeps returning to haunt Bush.

A reserve Israeli Army colonel, Klein is charged with training Escobar's army of narco-assassins from at least 1988 until he was forced to flee Colombia in 1989, with his team of Israeli and British mercenaries.

At his sentencing hearing July 10 in Miami, Florida, Noriega said that the case against him was orchestrated by the same people "who sought to discredit me through the charges or to kill me during the invasion, as they were unable to kill me before with the commando group led by the Israeli [Col. Yair Klein], which was trained in the Caribbean and which later sold their weapons to [Colombian drug lord Gonzalo Rodríguez] 'the Mexican' Gacha."

According to a former diplomat, a formal complaint was presented to the government of Israel early in 1989 when it was discovered that Klein had sneaked into Panama and was stalking Noriega. Klein was working with a Mossad operative, renegade Panamanian Col. Eduardo Herrera, a former ambassador to Israel and admitted CIA stringer, in a CIA-sanctioned op-

eration against Noriega. The operation was financed with Panamanian funds illegally seized by the Reagan-Bush administration. The plan, said Herrera, was to attack Noriega with a commando force. "We would have seized him, arrested him, maybe burned him," said Herrera.

The Israelis were brought into the operation in 1988 by John Zagame, a former aide to Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.). Zagame was getting at least \$15,000 per month plus expenses from the impounded Panamanian funds for his consulting services, which he operated out of 1001 Prince St. in Alexandria, Virginia. Operating out of the same address was yet another "consultant" who was getting paid at least \$10,000 a month plus expenses, Richard N. Bond. Bond would later join with Frank Donatelli, former political director for the Reagan White House, to continue consulting from 211 North Union St. in Alexandria, which was also listed as both the residence and business address for Zagame, the go-between with Klein.

Klein tried to set up a training camp for Herrera's commandos on the Caribbean island of Antigua. Weapons were purchased from Israeli Military Industries with funds provided by former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams. When Bush decided to invade Panama, the operation was canceled and the weapons were diverted—aboard the *Seapoint*, a ship whose agent was Guillermo Endara, the Bush-installed President of Panama—to drug lord Rodríguez Gacha, number three in the Medellín Cartel organization after Escobar and the Ochoa clan. The Israeli-made Galil rifle serial number 7-1721058, which figured in Galán's murder, was part of that shipment sent by Klein.

Zagame went on to handle public relations for North, while Bond was picked by Bush to head the RNC.