

Inslaw brief says OSI tied to theft, murder

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The long-running saga of the Washington, D.C.-based computer firm Inslaw, Inc. has taken a dramatic turn. On Feb. 14, Inslaw owners Bill and Nancy Hamilton, joined by former Attorney General Elliot Richardson and other attorneys representing the firm, filed a 29-page memorandum with Attorney General Janet Reno charging that the Office of Special Investigations in the Department of Justice (DOJ) houses a covert operations unit and that it is tied to at least one murder.

The memorandum was filed as an addendum to an earlier brief submitted in response to the final report of Special Counsel Nicholas Bua, a Bush appointee who conducted a brief probe of the Inslaw affair during 1992-93.

Since the mid-1980s, Inslaw's owners, Bill and Nancy Hamilton, have been in court against senior officials of the Reagan DOJ, charging them with stealing the company's proprietary software program, Promis, and illegally disseminating it to U.S. intelligence agencies, foreign governments, and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The thievery deprived Inslaw of as much as \$1 billion in fees and service contracts, and nearly drove the company into bankruptcy.

Two federal judges ruled in Inslaw's favor, finding that the DOJ used "trickery, fraud, and deceit" to steal the Promis software. However, several years ago, an Appellate Court panel overturned the lower court rulings on purely technical grounds, sending Inslaw's legal efforts back to square one.

During the closing days of the Bush administration, the House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.), issued a stinging report substantiating many of Inslaw's charges of criminality against top DOJ officials, who were working in league with private business associates of several top Reagan and Bush administration officials. Officials of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, were also implicated in the theft-conspiracy.

In response to intensive pressure from the House Judiciary panel, President Bush's last attorney general, William Barr, appointed former federal judge Nicholas Bua to conduct a probe of the Inslaw allegations. Bua's report, issued in March 1993 and submitted to Attorney General Reno in the Clinton administration, was a thorough whitewash of the scandal.

In response to a request for comments on the Bua report, Inslaw submitted an initial brief on July 11, 1993. The unearthing of dramatic new evidence, provided by a number of sources inside the U.S. intelligence community and the DOJ itself, prompted the Hamiltons and their attorneys to draft the addendum.

OSI: more than 'Nazi hunters'

According to the Inslaw brief, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, the unit responsible for tracking Nazi war criminals who illegally entered the United States at the close of World War II, has also been used to house a DOJ covert operations unit. Among the covert operations allegedly run under the OSI cover were the theft of the Promis software and the murder of investigative journalist Danny Casolaro.

From the Executive Summary of the Inslaw brief: "One of the organizational units that reports to Mark Richard is the Office of Special Investigations (OSI). OSI's publicly declared mission is to locate and deport Nazi war criminals. The Nazi war criminal program is, however, a front for the Justice Department's own covert intelligence service, according to disclosures recently made to Inslaw by several senior Justice Department career officials.

"One undeclared mission of this covert intelligence service has been the illegal dissemination of the proprietary version of Promis, according to information from reliable sources with ties to the U.S. intelligence community. Inslaw has, moreover, obtained a copy of a 27-page Justice Department computer printout, labelled 'Criminal Division Vendor List.' That list is actually a list of the commercial organizations and individuals who serve as 'cutouts' for this secret Justice Department intelligence agency. . . . The Justice Department's secret intelligence agency also has its own 'proprietary' company that employs scores of agents of diverse nationalities, as well as individuals who appear to be regular employees of various departments and agencies of the U.S. government or members of the U.S. Armed Forces, according to several sources."

According to the Inslaw brief, one of the Israeli officials who participated in the theft of the Promis software in February 1983 was Rafi Eytan, a legendary Mossad covert operations chief who at the time was heading a secret Israeli spy unit called LEKEM, which recruited and deployed Jonathan Jay Pollard. U.S. and Israeli sources have corroborated that it was Eytan, using the identity of an Israeli Justice Ministry official, Dr. Joseph Ben-Orr, who visited the Inslaw offices and later illegally obtained a proprietary copy of the Promis software from the DOJ.

The surfacing of Eytan in the Inslaw affair coheres with the allegations about the cover mission of the OSI. Eytan headed the Mossad team that kidnapped Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann and brought him to Israel to stand trial in

ADL's Foxman blasts Rabin, Clinton, and peace process

It's been a long time coming, but finally, in the April 2 issue of the Hollinger Corp.'s *Jerusalem Post*, Abe Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), came out with a blast at the PLO-Israel peace process, the Rabin-Peres government, and the Clinton presidency. Anyone familiar with the ADL's longstanding covert sponsorship of Israel's leading warhawk Ariel Sharon, and the Jewish Defense League terrorist "scum" who carried out the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, had to have suspected it would only be a matter of time before the ADL would show its true colors by coming out against Middle East peace.

After months of lip service to the "peace process," while at every turn assailing the idea, first put forward by Lyndon LaRouche in 1975, that large-scale economic development of the entire Middle East is a precondition for lasting peace, Foxman issued a blunt denunciation of Rabin and Clinton for "seeking to restrain American Jewish opposition."

Foxman cited three recent instances in which the Rabin government pressured the ADL and other U.S. Zionist

organizations to drop plans to interfere in the peace process. Most recently, Israel pressured the ADL to stay out of the negotiations on the U.N. Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre, whose final wording included a reference to the status of Jerusalem as a negotiating issue. Earlier, the ADL had tried to drum up support for a congressional resolution by Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) that would have linked formal U.S. recognition of the PLO to an end to the Arab boycott of Israel. The ADL had also wanted to launch a campaign to defeat the nomination of Strobe Talbott as deputy secretary of state, but, again, the Rabin government interceded against them.

Foxman charged that the Clinton and Rabin governments are colluding to dominate American Jews "by remote control."

An Oct. 10, 1993 rally near Washington, D.C. featured a crew of ADL operators, including Midge Decter, Rael Jean Isaac, Dr. Uri Ra'anani (onetime Mossad liaison to the ADL and B'nai B'rith), and Yosef Bodansky. They all professed a preference for a new Middle East war over the successful conclusion of the PLO-Israel accords. Shortly after, Gen. Ariel Sharon toured the United States and Canada raising funds for the Jewish settlers movement, traveling with a leader of the Kiryat Arba settlement from which the Hebron massacre was run.

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the 1960s. During the Likud governments of Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, Eytan was a pivotal spymaster, working with Iran-Contra figures such as Oliver North, while at the same time directing one of the most damaging spy operations ever run against the United States.

Unsolved murder of Danny Casolaro

The Inslaw brief contains another allegation which, if proven, could shut down the corrupt apparatus that has been deeply ensconced in the DOJ for decades. According to the brief, the August 1991 so-called "suicide" of investigative journalist Danny Casolaro in West Virginia was actually a murder carried out by hit-men deployed through the OSI!

From the brief: "According to written statements of which Inslaw has obtained copies, another undeclared mission of the Justice Department's covert agents was to ensure that investigative journalist Danny Casolaro remained silent about the role of the Justice Department in the Inslaw scandal by murdering him in West Virginia in August 1991. Inslaw has obtained copies of relevant written statements furnished to a veteran investigative journalist by a national security operative of the U.S. government, several months after Casolaro's death. The individual who reportedly transmitted these written statements to the journalist by fax has testified under oath to being a national security operative for the FBI and the CIA."

The Inslaw brief identifies the national security operative as Dr. Frederick Von Bodungen. In January 1992, Dr. Von Bodungen faxed a note to journalist George Williamson attached to a published account of Casolaro's death. The note read: "As you know, Casolaro was killed by agents of Justice Department."

The Inslaw brief contains allegations about the OSI and other U.S. government agencies, buttressed by documentation and eyewitness statements that are simply too serious to ignore. The fact that a former U.S. attorney general, Elliot Richardson, signed on to the brief is a further testament to the seriousness of the charges. OSI's longtime director, Neal Sher, recently quit the DOJ to take the job of Executive Director of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee. A useful starting point for the attorney general or the House Judiciary Committee might be to question Sher. At long last, the time appears at hand for the appointment of a special prosecutor to get to the bottom of the Inslaw affair.