

EIR Feature

Fifty years of illegal ADL spying on U.S. citizens

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On April 8, 1993, as raids were proceeding against the San Francisco and Los Angeles regional offices of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the San Francisco police released nearly 800 pages of documents obtained during their six-month probe of illegal spying by the ADL. The documents spell out a massive illegal spy operation, run under the cover of the ADL. The April 8 action was the second such raid carried out against the ADL offices since last December. For the first time in decades, the ADL has been targeted by public officials for what it is: a treacherous agency engaged in spying on American citizens, subverting the proper functioning of government agencies at every level, spreading the mind-destroying New Age counterculture, and protecting organized crime.

The prospects of the ADL being brought to justice are greatly enhanced by the fact that the San Francisco spy scandal surfaced simultaneously with the release of a best-selling book by the editors of *EIR*, titled *The Ugly Truth About the ADL*, was released on Jan. 7 at press conferences in many world capitals and major cities throughout the United States. It has so far sold 70,000 copies and been through three printings. The book provides an encapsulated history of the 80-year-old group and its nineteenth-century "mother," the International Order of B'nai B'rith.

Since the book's release, *EIR* spokesmen have been touring the country providing more information about the ADL's perfidy to news outlets, government officials, and civic groups. Interest has been further sparked by the daily revelations from San Francisco about the scope of the ADL's illegal spying.

The *EIR* intelligence package which follows is devoted to an in-depth look at two past cases of ADL illegal spying—one involving U.S. government agencies, and another involving the government of Israel. Neither of these cases was treated in detail in *The Ugly Truth*, so this will serve as an appendix to that book. The lesson to be drawn from these two case studies is simple: The ADL's illegal espionage did not start in 1990 in San Francisco. It did not even start with the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy scandal, in which the ADL played a prominent and,



Who will have the last laugh? Left: Federal agents in 1986 cart away documents from offices of a publishing company associated with Lyndon LaRouche. The Anti-Defamation League played a leading role in the "Get LaRouche" task force behind that massive 400-man raid by state and federal agents. Right: ADL headquarters in San Francisco are raided on April 10, 1993, as seen on ABC News. Finally, the truth about the ADL's corruption and illegal activities is coming into the public view.

perhaps, decisive role. Such espionage has been going on for decades, and it will continue unless the appropriate agencies of government are compelled by the American people to take decisive action to shut down this center of subversion.

The San Francisco story

The April 8 raid on the ADL's offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco resulted in the seizure of "a mountain" of documents revealing that the ADL's illegal spying was not some rogue operation, but was carried out in a top-down fashion, centrally directed out of the League's national headquarters in New York City. The San Francisco investigation is still ongoing. The city's district attorney, Arlo Smith, has announced that the Anti-Defamation League is now the central target of his probe into illegal possession of secret government data, tax evasion, solicitation of violence, and foreign espionage.

At least two figures in the ADL spy operation, undercover sleuth Roy Bullock and former San Francisco police officer Tom Gerard, have been linked to illegal intelligence gathering by the government of the Republic of South Africa. Gerard, who fled the country last November, is now spilling his guts about his own illegal spying on behalf of the CIA in Central America and elsewhere. Assistant District Attorney John Dwyer revealed in open court in February that at least one target of illegal ADL spying, a Chicago grocer named Mohammad Jarad, had been arrested by Israeli authorities in late January when he arrived there to visit relatives. One

ADL investigator admitted to police that the League regularly passed dossiers to the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles.

Among the serious crimes for which the ADL is being investigated is illegal possession of confidential government data on American citizens. According to an affidavit by San Francisco Police Inspector Ron Roth, Bullock received police records, California Department of Motor Vehicle files, and other protected government information on scores of Americans who were not targets of any legitimate law enforcement investigation, but were political targets of the ADL. According to one report, an estimated 4,500 members of just one group, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (AADC), had their government files illegally obtained by the ADL.

Former Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., now a lawyer in San Francisco, has filed a class action suit against the ADL, charging that the League illegally gathered data on thousands of Americans simply because their views on apartheid and Israel's repression of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories conflicted with the views of the ADL and the governments of Israel and South Africa.

Growing national outcry

It may be weeks or months before the district attorney unseals indictments in the case. However, the release of the 800 pages of investigative documentation on April 8 triggered a flurry of national media attention, and prompted demands for similar probes of illegal ADL spying in a number

of other cities around the United States:

- Anti-apartheid groups in New York City have asked Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau (himself a longtime member of the ADL) to open a probe of ADL spying. The ADL maintains its headquarters in New York, and the League's Fact Finding Division head Irwin Suall, the man believed to have been in charge of the nationwide spying, has his offices there.

- The *Amsterdam News*, probably the most influential black newspaper in New York City, published an editorial on April 24, entitled "Story of ADL's Nationwide Political Spy Operation Continues to Unfold; Most of Nation Shocked by Revelation." Citing the ADL's spying against the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other black groups, it calls the ADL "the most powerful, and possibly most destructive Jewish organization in America."

- In Portland, Oregon (where police, according to the San Francisco probe, provided the ADL with dozens of dossiers on local skinhead groups), citizens groups and one local newspaper have demanded a full investigation. Mayor Vera Katz may have been herself a target of ADL illegal spying, as was the local head of a Jewish peace group, the New Jewish Agenda.

- In Colorado, the American Indian Movement (AIM) has demanded that the Denver Police Department review all of its correspondence with the San Francisco police to determine whether some of their files on the group's activities were illegally passed on to the ADL.

What triggered this nationwide outcry was the release of a list of 950 U.S. political organizations that were under surveillance by the ADL. The list, obtained from computer data banks, revealed that the ADL has been spying on virtually every activist group in America, from the radical left to the radical right. Such respected civil rights groups as the NAACP were targets, as was the White Aryan Resistance (WAR). Environmentalist groups like Greenpeace were targets, as well as "gay rights" groups like Act Up. In raids on West Coast ADL offices in December 1992 and April 1993, police found files on members of the United States Congress, including the current chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Ron Dellums (D-Calif.), and even longtime backers of Israel like Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.).

All told, the San Francisco ADL office maintained files on over 12,000 American citizens. A national inventory of ADL espionage targets would likely turn up a far greater total.

Not the first time

ADL officials were quick to deny any wrongdoing. Following the second raid, the ADL sent a team of top national officials, led by National Chairman Melvin Salberg, General Counsel Barbara Wahl, and Executive Director Abraham Foxman, out to the West Coast to arm-twist local officials and

news media into dropping the probe. Their efforts were of only limited success, and the League is now reportedly assessing its options. Local San Francisco ADL sleuth Roy Bullock could be set up as the fall guy, charged by the League with operating a rogue operation. Irwin Suall, who has directed the ADL's dirty tricks unit since 1968, could be put out to pasture and blamed for letting things get out of control.

But *EIR* investigations of the the Anti-Defamation League, an 80-year-old tax-exempt organization, reveal that this is by no means the first time that the ADL has been caught illegally spying on American citizens. In league with both the federal government and foreign states, the ADL has been repeatedly hauled into court or before congressional committees to answer charges of spying.

A careful review of the ADL's organizational chart and its official budget reveals that the group devotes nearly all its resources to the kind of activity for which it is now under criminal investigation in San Francisco.

- Since 1987, the ADL has regularly sponsored all-expenses-paid junkets for U.S. police officials to Israel. Suspected spy Tom Gerard was a participant in one such junket in May 1991. Another local police officer who traveled to Israel with Gerard admitted to San Francisco police investigators that the trip was a payment for "services already rendered" to the ADL, and that the purpose was to build closer "emotional" ties to Israel. Former Mossad officer Victor Ostrovsky, in his 1990 book *By Way of Deception*, revealed that Israeli intelligence used such activities to recruit thousands of agents of influence inside the United States.

- In February 1985, then-FBI Director William Webster ordered the 25 largest FBI field offices to establish liaison with the ADL. Long before this official "marriage order" from the director, the ADL maintained intimate ties to the Bureau. A review of the 950 groups that were under ADL surveillance suggests that the League was conducting its own Cointelpro (Counterintelligence Program) operation. According to some specialists on the ADL, the League may have been functioning as a private arm of the FBI. Indeed, one ADL regional director from the Pacific Northwest told reporters that the ADL's spy files in San Francisco may have been gathered as part of their "government work." ADL surveillance of political economist Lyndon LaRouche dramatically escalated in 1977, when the FBI officially shut down its illegal Cointelpro operation against LaRouche's political association, the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC).

This *EIR* feature is based upon archive material on two illustrative past instances of ADL espionage. It reveals a side of the ADL that is now at long last drawing nationwide headlines: its 50-year history of illegal spying for shadowy agencies of the U.S. government and for foreign states targeting the United States for espionage.

ADL foreign espionage didn't start with Jonathan Jay Pollard. ADL domestic spying didn't start with Roy Bullock and Tom Gerard. It is endemic, and it is time for it to stop.