

Do Congressional Dems Have The Guts To Impeach Obama?

Special to EIR

April 16—At the height of the Watergate probes in the 1970s, a group of leading Congressional Republicans concluded that President Richard Nixon had to go, for the sake of the nation and for the survival of the Republican Party. Ultimately, a delegation of House and Senate GOP leaders went to Nixon and offered him three options: Resign, face a bipartisan Senate impeachment, or face removal from office under the 25th Amendment. Nixon wisely chose to resign, with the assurance that his successor, Vice President Gerald Ford, would issue a Presidential pardon to the disgraced Nixon.

Today, leading Congressional Democrats face the same choice. President Obama has so tarnished the Democratic Party that hordes of former loyal Democratic voters are deserting and will likely vote to bring in a Republican majority in the U.S. Senate in the November mid-term elections. Such a Republican victory would doom the United States, just as the continuation of President Obama in office does. The question now is: Will a grouping of patriotic Democrats act in time to save the nation and the Democratic Party?

Behind the scenes, a vast number of Congressional Democrats have come to hate President Obama and his Wall Street- and London-directed policies to destroy the United States. They whisper in the corridors of the Capitol about their disgust with the man and his policies. With his recent actions, President Obama has given them cause to act on their private anger and bring him to Constitutional account. During the next two weeks of Easter recess, Members will be facing the

wrath of their constituents and will do well to consider the consequences of their continued capitulation to Obama and his masters.

Obama In-Your-Face

President Obama has gone out of his way recently to taunt Congressional Democrats, daring them to act against him, in a manner which could fuel Democratic anger at Obama for covering up the monstrous crimes of his predecessors George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

And it's not just a political coverup: Under U.S. statutes and international treaties, the United States government is required to investigate and prosecute war crimes such as torture. Obama's refusal to investigate the crimes of Bush-Cheney puts Obama himself in violation of U.S. and international law.

When Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) led the Senate Intelligence Committee to submit a 400-page summary of the findings of their 6,300-page report on the CIA interrogation, detention and rendition (i.e. torture) program to the President for review pending public release, Obama instead sent the report to CIA Director John Brennan, and gave the Agency the authority to decide what should be redacted from the report. This was despite an explicit request from Feinstein for the White House, not the CIA, to take the lead on a declassification review.

When the Senate Intelligence Committee voted 11-3 on April 3 to send the report to the White House for declassification and public release, Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) noted that the Administration had three op-



White House Photo/Pete Souza

President Obama with “Yats” (Arseniy Yatsenyuk), the unelected Prime Minister of Ukraine, who was installed by a U.S.-backed coup in February. Obama’s war confrontation with Russia is one of many reasons he should be impeached.

tions: The White House could undertake declassification itself, refer it to the Director of National Intelligence, or give it over to the CIA. In an April 7 letter to the President, Feinstein wrote: “As this report covers a covert action program under the authority of the President and the National Security Council, I respectfully request that the White House take the lead in the declassification process.”

(Feinstein made an important point: that the detention and interrogation program carried out by the CIA did not originate there, but in the White House—then under the control of Bush-Cheney. In fact, as *EIR* reported at the time, many in the CIA were opposed to Cheney’s program, both on moral and ethical grounds, and because they expected it would come back to haunt the Agency.)

McClatchy news service reported that Feinstein’s letter also highlighted concerns over the CIA’s relationship with the Senate committee and the Executive branch, further showing why it would be inappropriate to allow the CIA to determine which parts of the Senate report should be withheld from the public. “The committee’s report contradicts information previously disclosed about the CIA Detention and Interrogation Program, and it raises a number of issues relating to how

the CIA interacts with the White House, other parts of the Executive branch and Congress,” McClatchy quoted the letter as saying.

The next day, April 8, defying the Senate, Obama did indeed send the report to the CIA for review and redactions. On April 9, Feinstein sent another letter to Obama, politely but firmly asking that he reconsider his decision.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) came to Feinstein’s support, saying that he fully understood her concerns. “She doesn’t trust the CIA. I think she’s probably right. I don’t trust them either,” he told McClatchy. “This is the same outfit that destroyed the videos of the interrogations. That’s one of the most outrageous things I’ve ever seen in my life.”

Support for Feinstein’s position also came in an April 8 editorial in the *Los Angeles Times*. “It’s now up to President Obama to ensure that the [CIA] doesn’t mount a rear-guard attempt to censor or sanitize the committee’s findings in the name of national security,” the editorial said. Noting that the CIA has complained about alleged inaccuracies, and has a vested interest in suppressing information that would damage its reputation, the editorial concluded: “That is why the President, who has sent mixed signals about the importance of confronting the abuses of the past, must make thorough and timely declassification of this report a personal priority.”

House Democrats Weigh In

A significant portion of House Democrats sent a letter to Obama on April 10, asking him to declassify and release the Senate report’s executive summary *in its entirety*. Forty Democratic caucus members signed onto the letter initiated by Rep. Adam Schiff (Calif.), a leading member of the House Intelligence Committee.

“We respectfully urge you to order the declassification of the report’s executive summary and findings expeditiously and in their entirety,” the House Democrats said. “The American people need and deserve a full account of the actions that were taken in their name through the use of torture and enhanced interrogations on detainees.”

The letter is particularly significant, in that it is the House that impeachment proceedings against the President must be initiated. And as Obama continues to demonstrate that he is nothing but a continuation of the criminal Bush-Cheney regime, impeachment becomes an increasingly urgent imperative.