

Bush-League CIA

By the Editors of *Covert Action*.

George H.W. Bush was the perfect head of the CIA during troubled times. According to his successor, Stansfield Turner, "The reason they had a great love for Bush [at the CIA] was that he let them do whatever they wanted. He came in and said: 'What do you want to do?' Then he said: 'OK, go ahead and do it.'"

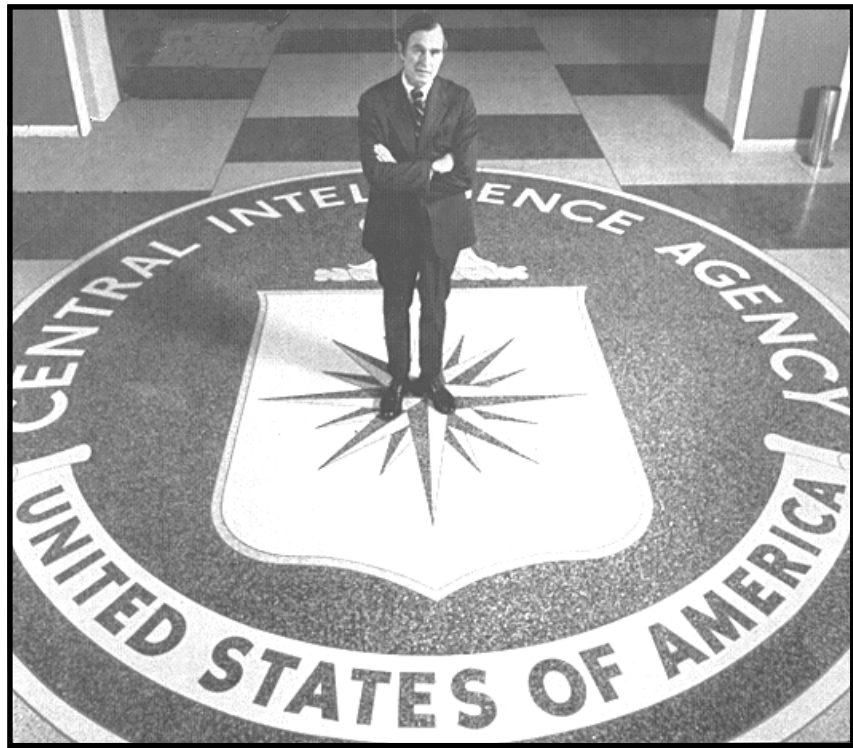
A former Senator, as well as former Ambassador to China and the UN, Bush had credentials to impress the old boy network in Congress. He frequently testified before committee hearings and assured the overseers that the CIA was out of the assassination business for good. His deferential style made Members of Congress believe that maybe he was telling the truth.

In the 1988 Presidential campaign, Bush faced the charge of wimpishness. He needed to look tough. So, he paraded out a Black man named Willie Horton and assured the public that he would be tough against crime and not let the bad guys out of jail. That is not only toughness, it is racist.

He imitated Clint Eastwood and exclaimed, "Read my lips." He beat up on Dan Rather in a television interview. Suddenly, George Bush had been "spun" into a "real man."

Then, after the election hoopla had died down, Bush seemed to be back to his nondescript, vague self.

Ronald Reagan was no wimp. He was just plain stupid. He will be remembered as the president who pro-



claimed that trees are a major source of air pollution, that ketchup was a vegetable and who routinely dozed off in Cabinet meetings. Reagan was truly "out of the loop" while the men and women around him played politics with Machiavellian vindictiveness.

Bush was the CIA's master when Edwin Wilson, Frank Terpil, Tom Clines, Ted Shackley and Rafael Quintero ran their arms and assassination business with special support from CIA proprietaries. Bush helped stall the investigation of the 1976 Letelier/Moffitt murders [i.e., the Chilean diplomat and aid murdered in Washington], and met time and time again with CIA-asset Manuel Noriega.

Isn't it ironic that Shackley, Clines, Quintero and Noriega show up less than ten years later in the thick of another CIA scandal? Isn't it also ironic that Donald Gregg, Vice President Bush's closest adviser on national security issues, was caught running a *contra* resupply effort from Bush's of-

fice and that Gregg would later end up as Ambassador to South Korea, where he had been CIA station chief (1973-1976). The intelligence business is a small world and the same players keep popping up again and again.

At the same time that Clines, Wilson and Terpil were making millions selling arms and explosives to just about anyone, right-wing extremists and CIA assets Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles were plotting acts of terrorism as revenge for Cuba's revolution. In October 1976, a Cuban airliner was blown out of the sky over Barbados and all 73 passengers were killed. A few days later, Bosch and Posada Carriles were arrested and were eventually convicted of the act. Bosch later escaped from a Venezuelan prison, some say, with CIA help. He then turned up in Miami, fighting extradition and seeking assistance from Bush's son Jeb and President Bush Sr.

Posada Carriles also escaped from prison. He surfaced in El Salva-

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dor helping Felix Rodriguez in a CIA "counterterrorism" operation. He later compared this operation to the CIA "pacification" program he took part in under William Colby in Vietnam.

Rodriguez, as noted in the Iran/ contra hearings, is a good friend of Donald Gregg. He and Gregg served with the CIA in Saigon when Theodore Shackley was station chief.

How is it that George Bush, the man appointed by Ronald Reagan to head the South Florida Task Force and the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System, could be so tied-up with drug dealing?

Besides his relationship with Noriega, Bush had connections to other alleged drug smugglers. Rodriguez, besides being Donald Gregg's helper, allegedly passed money from the Medellin cartel to the *contras*. Richard Armitage was to be Bush's choice for Secretary of the Army, but declined the nomination. There is speculation that the confirmation hearings would have brought up unpleasant questions about Armitage's role in heroin smuggling in the Golden Triangle during the Vietnam war.

What other secrets should we recall about George Bush?

Bush was brought in as head of the Republican National Committee during the downfall of Richard Nixon. Bush immediately got tough and tried to stop the Senate Watergate Committee's chief investigator, Carmine Helion. The day after Archibald Cox subpoenaed the infamous "White House tapes," Bush jumped into the fray claiming that Bellion had himself tried to wiretap the Republican National Committee 13 years before.

Robert Mosbacher, Bush's friend, business partner and campaign finance chair has had his share of shady dealings. He collected millions from a Philippine business deal which

reportedly stole from the Filipino treasury and also enriched Ferdinand Marcos. A few years later, in a toast to Marcos, Bush exclaimed, "We love your adherence to democratic principles – and to the democratic process."

When Reagan accepted the blame for Iran/ contra, we interpreted this to mean, "I didn't really understand what was going on, but I'll take the blame." When George Bush claimed to have been out of the Iran/ contra loop, we *knew* that he was lying.

There is a great deal of evidence to show that Bush's vision of a "kinder, gentler America" was also a lie. If Bush was so interested in a "softer" image why did the CIA intervene in Nicaraguan elections? Why did Bush support El Salvador's murderous government? Why is the Republican party [particularly the Republican Heritage Groups Council] littered with fascists?

If Bush was so interested in "a thousands points of light," why did he appoint ex-CIA officials as ambassadors to China and South Korea? If he had such a great vision for the U.S., why does he belong to clubs which openly discriminate against women and subtly discriminate against African-Americans and other minorities?

And, if all this were not enough to demonstrate that George Bush should not be viewed as a wimp, but as a dangerous threat to world peace, his unconscionable invasion of Panama [and Iraq] present powerful confirmations. He continued the Reagan administration's complete disregard for international law.

He was a president with an old agenda: Power politics, gunboat diplomacy and privilege for the wealthy but alms for the poor.

Source: Editorial, "George Bush: From Langley to the Oval Office," *Covert Action*, Winter 1990.

How Prescott Bush Recruited Nixon

By Russell S. Bowen

According to Nixon's biography, his personal and political ties with the Bush family go back to 1946, when Nixon claims he read an ad placed in an L.A. newspaper by the Orange County Republican Party and a group of wealthy businessmen led by Prescott Bush, the father of George H.W. Bush.

They wanted a young candidate to run for Congress. Nixon applied and won the job, becoming a mouthpiece for the Bush group, progressing to the U.S. Senate and, in 1952, the vice presidency.

In 1960, Vice President Nixon was scouring the world seeking the presidency. At his side was Prescott Bush. Congressman Gerald Ford was helping raise funds, as was George H.W. Bush.

It took Nixon eight more years to reach his goal. The canny politician always remembered who helped him to get there. It was payback time for George. Nixon appointed him chairman of the Republican National Committee [1972-1973], and later U.S. ambassador to China [1974-1975].

By 1976, Gerald Ford, who succeeded Nixon after Watergate, paid his due bill. He picked out a big job for his old crony, Bush: the CIA. But this time Bush would not be an underling. Now he would be head man.

Source: Excerpt, *Immaculate Deception: The Bush Crime Family Exposed*. Carson City: America West, 1992.

Retired Brigadier General **Russell S. Bowen**, a WWII fighter pilot, says he was involved in major narcotics trafficking with the CIA and its precursor, the Office of Strategic Services.

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