

INTRODUCTION  
*The Spaghetti Theory of Conspiracy*  
by  
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## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!*  
— Oz the Omnipotent

It is characteristic of the primitive conditions on this backward planet that virtually nobody knows any of the basic facts about how the human race is actually governed. For instance —

1. Governments are not nearly as important as most people think. Since we live in a post-barter economy—a money economy—those who **control the money supply effectively control the planet**. Governments gave up all attempt to coin or control money in the 19th Century, mostly because they did not trust one another, i.e. no nation had faith that the coinage or currency of another nation was really worth what it claimed to be worth. The great International Banks stepped into this vacuum and, by demonstrating more fiscal rectitude than governments had in the past, became the creators of money in the modern world.

After the banks had control, they no longer needed to be quite so prim in their fiscal rectitude. Nobody could challenge them.

This means that governments cannot do *anything*—good or ill, wise or foolish—unless the banks first lend them the money for the project. The power is in the banks. The governments survive on the permission of the banks. If the banks cut off their credit, governments die. Any government that resists has its credit cut off and dies.

As Buckminster Fuller stressed in all his writings (especially *Critical Path* and *Grunch of Giants*) this means that, in the modern world, banks act and governments only re-act to the situations the bankers have ordained. Even earlier, historian Brooks Adams wrote of the British financier Samuel Loyd, in *The Law of Civilization and Decay*,

He comprehended that, with expanding trade, an inelastic currency must rise in value; he saw that, with sufficient resources at command, his class might be able to establish such a rise, almost at pleasure; certainly that they could manipulate it when it came, by taking advantage of foreign exchange.

In other words, as soon as the great multi-national banks had control of the money supply, they saw that they could manipulate cash and credit to maximize profits. They would have been rather dense if they had not seen this. Nonetheless, while these financiers quite sanely and legally maximize profits, the rest of us are at their mercy; but we never elected them to this position of power, and, by and large, we do not even know who they are.

2. In the present decade, it costs \$50,000,000 to run a campaign for the presidency of the United States, \$10,000,000 to run a campaign for the Senate and \$5,000,000 for the House of Representatives. (These figures are documented in Buckminster Fuller's *Grunch of Giants*.) This means that the U.S.—the strongest country in the West—is not only “owned” (in trillion-dollar debt to) the banks, but also governed by persons who are either (a) millionaires or (b) heavily in debt to millionaires. In the words of ex-Senator Pettigrew, we now have “government of the corporations, by the corporations, for the corporations.”

3. As Edward Luttwak documents in his cheerfully Machiavellian little text, *The Coup d'Etat*, more governments have been changed, since World War II by the *coup d'Etat* than by any other method. More governments have been changed by *coup* than by all the democratic elections and revolutions combined.

Since every *coup* is by definition a conspiracy, this means that conspiracies have had more effect on the past 40 years of world history

than all the electoral politics and all the popular revolutions added together. That is rather ominous, in a period when "educated" opinion holds that it is infamous, nutty, eccentric or downright paranoid to think about conspiracies at all. We are, in effect, forbidden to think about how the planet is actually governed.

4. If governments cannot act without permission of the banks—without loans or "lines of credit" granted by the banks—and if the U.S. government is "owned" by the multi-millionaire (or billionaire) banking and corporate elite, and if other governments are, more often than not, changed by conspiratorial *coup*, the major portion of humanity is economically-politically controlled by persons who are largely unknown to the general public and/or have never been elected to any office. Democratic theory is beautiful and inspirational, but has nothing to do with the actual situation of the domesticated primates of this boondocks planet.

5. If the masses of the planet are politically-economically controlled by shadowy financiers and conspiratorial adventurers, the same masses are *intellectually* controlled by persons who are more visible but equally unpalatable to the Rationalist view of history. In blunt language, nearly 300 years after the Age of Reason was prematurely announced, most people in most nations most of the time are mentally in total bondage to religious leaders who operate on sheer bluff, i.e. on the basis of claims that cannot be proven and appear clearly insane to everybody who hasn't been raised within their frameworks.

The Methodist can see how absurd are the beliefs of Roman Catholics. The Catholics can see the obvious insanity of the Sikh militants who blow up airplanes because there are a few Hindus aboard. The Sikhs, no doubt, can see how nonsensical Scientology is. But none of the people processed by any of these cults can see how crazy their own cult is. It is often quite hard for a rational observer to determine if the leaders of these cults are just cynically raking in the cash or are genuinely as deluded as their brainwashed followers.

One can acquire a reputation as a satirist, a wit, a cynic, etc. simply by stating blunt facts. For instance, it is quite clear from the above that the human race is largely governed politico-economically by unknown financial cliques and criminal scoundrels and governed intellectually by borderline psychotics and charlatans. But we have all been so conditioned and indoctrinated that to state the facts simply makes it sound as if one is being sarcastic or perhaps even trying to be "shocking."

Let us look at the situation of this planet in a little more detail.

# SOCIOBIOLOGY OF DECEIT

*All men are born liars.*

— Liam O'Flaherty, *Autobiography* (first sentence)

Conspiracy is the first manifestation of intelligent life.

The original organic molecules formed affinity groups and conspired to exploit the resources of this planet. Working in small cells originally, these DNA conquistadores quickly developed organizations of higher complexity and spread a network of hungry, predatory Life over the previously dead Earth. In less than 3,500,000,000 years this network has expanded from the ocean beds to the very peaks on the Himalayas. No square centimeter of Earth is uninfested.

The trapdoor spiders formed their own secret society and went underground. They lurked silently, hidden beneath a plausible surface of twigs and soil, waiting to pounce out and devour any beetle or other tasty-looking morsel that happened to pass by.

The day of the undercover agent had come.

This technique of cover-up and disguise has proven an evolutionary success and is widely copied everywhere. Thousands of species of conspiratorial insects even today still hide behind ingenious make-up that deceives us into thinking they are only branches or rocks.

Other species got even smarter even faster. Polar bears donned white fur coats to fade into snowy landscapes. The leopard's spots make it hard to distinguish from speckled sunlight on foliage. The Norway rat (*mus rattus Norwegicus*) learned to hide by day and come forth under cover of darkness.

The first human beings looked about them and very sensibly concluded, "It's a jungle out there."

Human psychology has remained jungle psychology. As historian Carl Oglesby writes in *The Yankee and Cowboy War*

... a multitude of conspiracies contend in the night. . . . Conspiracy is the normal continuation of normal politics by normal means . . . and where there is no limit to power, there is no limit to conspiracy

As soon as we find evidence of human beings on this planet, we find

evidence of secret societies. Paleolithic paintings show that they met, typically, in the deepest, darkest caves, and they plotted sorcery and mischief against all competing species.

In every tribe known to anthropology, we still find secret societies. Most tribes have all-male secret societies, but many also have all-female secret societies. Most readers will probably remember that they had their own secret societies as children, with passwords and quasi-Freemasonic grips determinedly hidden from the adults.

From this evolutionary perspective, every paranoid is partly right. The major error of the paranoid appears to be his characteristic belief in one jumbo Mega-Conspiracy that explains everything. This is impossible, because it violates basic laws of primate psychology. Domesticated primates like wild primates are mischievous, sly and have a keen sense of humor: **the double-cross is their most characteristic invention.**

George Washington, who rose to power by conspiring against his king, said with blunt honesty, "Nations have no permanent allies, only permanent interests." This is why governments, corporations and other large-scale conspiracies all have a *natural life-span*, like other living systems. There is no government on this planet that has existed in its present form for more than 200 years; aside from the Dutch East India Company, most corporations rise and fall within 100 years (average). Outside of paranoid fantasy and Romantic fiction, most conspiracies collapse of their own "internal contradictions" within months or years. (Thus, if there actually is one big jumbo-conspiracy governing this planet, it must be, as Donald Holmes wittily suggests in the following pages, of non-human origin.)

The study of conspiracy *as a branch of primate psychology*, has great interest in itself, as Machiavelli knew; but real conspiracies are not as clever or long-lived as the ones that paranoids and ideologists imagine; they are simply much dirtier.

It is one of the ironies of our time that conspiracies and secret societies have proliferated more than ever **at precisely the same time it has become impolite and uncouth to discuss them.** In this sense, the Nazis defeated the Liberal Democracies in World War II, because they have achieved a form of Thought Control over the Liberal Mind. Liberals are afraid to think of conspiracies because that might lead to the One Big Mega-Conspiracy, i.e. to "thinking like Hitler." But a mind chained by Tabu is a mind unfree. I believe it is time we broke Hitler's power over our minds and began to think in terms of the facts instead of being restrained by Tabu.

Disguise, deception and group-action have a long evolutionary history, and primates have all these traditional evolutionary habits, which in political jargon are called conspiratorial habits. Even if it is Tabu to think about it, that seems to be the way things are on this planet.

## TRUE CONFESSIONS

*When four sit down to conspire, three are  
fools and the fourth is a government agent.*

— Duncan Lunan, *Interstellar Communication*

Frankly I myself never dared to violate the Liberal Tabu—"Thou shalt not think about conspiracies"—until I was virtually *forced* to think about them.

In the 1960s in Chicago, I was involved in the anti-war movement. Congressional investigators later revealed that there were over 5000 government agents assigned to infiltrate peace groups in Chicago alone—some working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), some for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and some for Army Intelligence. From 1968 on, the FBI was following a program code-named COINTELPRO. The purpose of COINTELPRO was to make sure the anti-war movement *knew* it was infiltrated, in order to spread suspicion, distrust and paranoia among individuals and groups who might otherwise have cooperated harmoniously. Working in the peace movement in those days was, accordingly, like living in an Eric Ambler novel. In any given week I would be warned perhaps three times that somebody I trusted was really a government agent, and, of course, somebody who was accused one day might very well be around to accuse somebody else the next day. Over 20 years later, I still don't know who was a government agent and who was not. I enjoyed it all rather than being terrified only because I basically agree with Helen Keller that "Life is either a great adventure or it is nothing."

I encountered the same Spy Story atmosphere in the early 1970s when involved in the campaign to secure the release from prison of the controversial scientist, Dr. Timothy Leary. At one time or another,

everybody in the Leary Defense Committee suspected everybody else of being a government agent (I think the poet, Allen Ginsberg, suspected me for over a year) and eventually government "leaks" in the press attempted to persuade us that Dr. Leary himself had become a government agent. I still relish that classic John Le Carre touch, especially since some people believed it.

Eventually it was confirmed that Leary's son-in-law, Dennis Martino, had been entrapped into becoming a government agent. Dennis later died in Spain and three press reports in two days claimed the cause of death had been murder, suicide and accident. That mystery is still unsolved, at least in America. Presumably, the Spanish authorities finally came up with a coroner's verdict, which may or may not be the truth, but by then the U.S. media had lost interest. As far as you can learn from American sources, Dennis Martino accidentally overdosed, committed suicide *and* was murdered, all on the same day. Evidently, nobody in the U.S. media wanted to find out what the hell really happened.

But there are wheels within wheels in this modern Machiavellian world.

During the last year of my employment as Associate Editor of *PLAYBOY*, a certain executive came into my office one day and closed the door behind him. He told me that my home phone was tapped and that I was under heavy surveillance by the Red Squad of the Chicago Police Force.

I was stunned, and asked how the hell he knew this.

He replied that certain people in the *PLAYBOY* empire had made an arrangement with a Chicago police official. The official received regular money through some circuitous route that was not explained to me; in return, he notified his *PLAYBOY* contacts whenever an executive of the firm was under police investigation.

That was when I first realized how often there are spies spying on spies.

Incidentally, my informant told me *why* I was under heavy surveillance. A police informer in the Black Panthers, he said, had reported that I was involved with a group of white radicals who were buying guns for the Panthers.

Despite my cynicism about cops, I was shocked. I explained heatedly that there was no truth in this at all. "We know, we know," said the executive, who was very close to Hefner. "We trust you."

And they did trust me. They never made any attempt to ease me out

the back door, or dissociate the Bunny Empire from me. They even offered to pay my legal expenses if the police ever busted me on this absurd charge.

It was years before I wondered why the Bunny Empire decided to trust me in such an explosive matter. My guess, now, is that they had me under surveillance, too, along with their other editors—but that's only a guess. Maybe it was just that I have an honest face. I'd like to think that.

Of course, I was *not* buying guns for the Black Panthers. I had met a few Panthers at Peace rallies, and the informer had seen me. He or she had probably "improved" the story to impress the Red Squad. A *PLAYBOY* editor talking to Black Panthers is not all that sensational, but a *PLAYBOY* editor buying guns for the Panthers was a story that made the informer seem on the edge of discovering a major conspiracy.

I could tell several similar stories, but I would again have to conceal the names of my sources and you would probably not believe me. Truth is much, much stranger than melodrama.

Instead I will examine the neuro-economics of conspiracy and then relate some notable conspiracies that have become matters of public record. We will see that the theories outlined by Dr. Holmes in this book are, however shocking, no more bizarre than the world in which we live.

## WEALTH AND "MONEY"

*A banker is a man who will loan you  
money if you can prove you don't need it.*

— attributed to Mark Twain

Just as most people have no idea how this planet is governed at this barbaric stage of evolution, most people have no concept of where "wealth" comes from. This is because most of us have never learned to distinguish between wealth and *money*.

Money was originally created by the State, as I mentioned at the beginning; this is why King Lear says his persecutors can't accuse him of counterfeiting. The State was, in those days, the only legal creator of



coin: a legal coin was, by definition, a State coin.

As States learned the advantages to be gained by issuing debased coinage—a matter discussed with great clarity and wit in Jonathan Swift's little-known but brilliant *Drapier Letters*—every State and every individual became the potential victim of coins that did not contain the amount of gold stamped on them. Eventually, no State would trust any other State in this area and, more and more, the *paper* of the great banking firms began to seem the only “safe” medium of exchange.

The U.S. Constitution, amusingly, says that Congress shall have the power to coin money and regulate the value thereof, but Congress has not exercised that power in over a century. Official U.S. money is issued by a private bank, just like the money of all other nations (except Albania, a lonely heretic), but, because U.S. money says “Federal Reserve Note” on it, most Americans assume it is issued by the Federal government. It is issued, actually, by the Federal Reserve Corporation, a private bank, owned largely by the Rockefellers and Morgans. We do not “owe the National Debt to ourselves” as the late Franklin Roosevelt once said; we owe it to the Rockefellers and Morgans.

Irish money says “Bank of Ireland” on it and English money says “Bank of England,” and so on; all across Europe, most people know that the banks are in control of the creation of money. Only in America, because the word “Federal” in **Federal Reserve** is thought to mean “*federal*” and because the Constitution says Congress shall coin money, is there a lingering belief that the government is still a sovereign entity not owned by the bankers to whom it is in debt.

None of this has anything to do with Real Wealth in the sense of classical economics.

Real Wealth, in the economic sense, consists of tangible assets. It includes, not only plants in operation “owned” by individual or corporate capitalists, but known resources, inventions, bridges, roads, scientific data—all the creations of human intelligence that can be concretely applied to make the human environment more pleasant for somebody or for everybody.

Thus, if all the Real Wealth disappeared over night, *the world would be entirely different*. We would literally be back in the Old Stone Age, and no amount of Federal Reserve Notes or other paper would change our situation. We would have to re-invent and re-create all the science and technology of the past 30,000 years step by step.

On the other hand, all the money in the world—all the Federal Reserve Notes, Bank of England notes, etc. and all the stocks and bonds—

could disappear over night and *the world would be exactly the same physically*. There might be a hell of a fight over *who owned what*, but the human world of Real Wealth would still be here.

In kindergarten language, Real Wealth consists of “things” that can’t be stored in banks or computers, while money consists of “tickets” or symbols that can be stored in banks or computers.

Of course, Real Wealth is more than solid “things.” I have been arguing for 30 years, in various publications, that Real Wealth is essentially pure information. It has finally dawned on me that nobody understands that but a few mathematicians and computer buffs, so I now say, more simply, that Real Wealth is **ideas that work**. In the terminology of General Semantics, Wealth is ideas that are similar in structure (isomorphic) to the energy systems of space-time.

Wealth is created by analysis: by extracting higher-order structure from the raw signals perceived by the senses. You can starve to death in a wheat field if your mind has not analyzed the energy system of space-time sufficiently to recognize that wheat is edible and nourishing.

Money, then, is not Real Wealth, but consists of tickets for the exchange of Real Wealth. Such tickets are necessary in an advanced technology-economy-society, because barter becomes cumbersome and unwieldy.

Most money, however, does not exist in tangible form at all, not even as *paper*. Most money, in today’s advanced techno-society, exists only as computer records or, in less advanced outposts, notations in ledgers. Banks may legally lend up to *eight times* the amount they have on deposit, and as Penny Lernoux documents in her invaluable *In Banks We Trust*, they often go far beyond this and hope to cover their tracks before the bank examiner comes around.

Michele Sindona, a kingpin of the Vatican/Mafia/P2 clique and founder of the infamous Franklin National Bank, was convicted of murdering a bank examiner in Italy, after being convicted of 65 counts of bank fraud in the U.S. His principle flaw appears to have been that he was more reckless than older and wiser financiers who have been running the world longer and more judiciously. (We shall return to the Sindona/P2 case history.)

When banks lend eight times what they have on deposit, or more than that, they are gambling that everybody will not come in and withdraw their funds on the same day. It is a safe gamble, most of the time. But it means that paper wealth has become even more metaphysical and ghostly than the most debased coinage of the most

corrupt Tudor or Stuart monarchs. It means that, by a species of magic, the Real Wealth of the planet can be manipulated as the ghostly paper is maneuvered from one computer to another. And it means that the really bold adventurers and pirates can alchemically transform totally unreal paper into ownership of resources, factories, roads, bridges and whole nations on occasion, as they, following Samuel Loyd, "establish a rise . . . at their pleasure," or just as easily establish a fall.

The reader should consult some of the books I will be summarizing here—especially illuminating is Richard Hammer's *The Vatican Connection*, which tells how Johnny Roselli and his friends in the American Mafia printed one billion dollars worth of counterfeit stocks which disappeared into the Vatican Bank/Banco Ambrosiano feedback loop in such a manner that the New York District Attorney's office, which had wiretaps on most of the felons, never did find out where the \$900,000,000 of the \$1,000,000,000 finally landed.

Buckminster Fuller, in *Grunch of Giants*, describes the modern world as governed by MMA&O—Machiavelli, Mafia, Atoms and Oil. You know the Mafia. Atoms and Oil are the multi-national corporations. Machiavelli is the symbol of the paper-magic wizards, or international banks, who make the whole system possible. GRUNCH stands for GROSS UNiversal CASH Heist. It's another book you really ought to read.

## NEURO-GEOGRAPHY OF CONSPIRACY

*Go West, young man.*

— Horace Greeley

As I pointed out in *Prometheus Rising* (Falcon Press, 1983), the Real Wealth of the world has been doubling every generation since statistical economists started collecting data in the 18th Century. This is a side-effect of the accelerated doubling of knowledge that has been occurring in the past two milleniums. (Information, or ideas-that-work, is the source of Real Wealth. Remember?) As George Anderla, a French statistician, determined, if we take all the knowledge of 1 A.D. as our base, then knowledge has doubled at the following rate since then:

1 AD	1 unit
1500 AD	2
1750 AD	4
1900 AD	8
1950 AD	16
1960 AD	32
1967 AD	64
1973 AD	128

A glance at world-historical trajectories indicates that this doubling of knowledge-and-wealth has followed a western (and mildly northern) vector, as has been documented e.g. in Brooks Adams' *Law of Civilization and Decay*, Timothy Leary's *The Intelligence Agents* and Buckminster Fuller's *Critical Path*.

Bronze Age tools first appeared in Southeast Asia, followed by large-scale agriculture, slavery and war. By 1 A.D. all the technology thusfar produced was being processed through the schools and banking establishments of Rome. By the time this knowledge/wealth doubled in 1500, the universities of North Italy and the great Florentine banking families like the Medici held the hot center of power. By 1750, the next doubling was occurring mostly in England, the first Empire "on which the sun never set."

By 1900, the U.S. was becoming a rival to England; by 1950, the American Empire had replaced the English Empire. The years since 1950 have witnessed what Prof. Oglesby calls "the Yankee and Cowboy war" as Eastern bankers like the Rockefellers try to hold on to control and are challenged by Western mavericks like Howard Hughes.

The more adventurous and innovative persons—those with nervous systems programmed by maverick genes and/or bizarre imprints and conditioning: the "misfits"—have been moving steadily westward for about 5000 years. They have been moving away from centralized Authority, out into the perimeters and frontiers, because that is where misfits and geniuses can function.

Clausewitz described war as a continuation of politics by other means; Oglesby calls conspiracy "the normal continuation of normal politics by normal means." Conspiracy, the murky territory between politics and war, is part of our glorious primate heritage, which is why Ambrose Bierce defined peace as "a period of cheating between two periods of fighting."

The role of conspiracy in human history, I suggest, is a period of

cheating during which two power centers are struggling, one of them Eastward and representing established ideas and old wealth, the other Westward and generally representing maverick ideas and new wealth. Enclaves of "outlaws" move in the shadowy territory between these two power poles, running their own games and exploiting the paranoia of each side where and when they can.

Anthropologist William Irwin Thompson has suggested, in a recent address in Oslo, Norway, that the Reagan administration's Strategic Defense Initiative—the so-called "Star Wars" program—is more radical, and less reactionary, than it looks on the surface. Thompson alleges that, under the pretext of military bluster, SDI actually represents the total re-alignment of American society into a scientific-technological paradigm. Only the most "patriotic" rhetoric, Thompson says, could sell to the American people a program which amounts to the most expensive and most daring scientific research-and-development project humanity has ever attempted. In this context, Reagan represents the "Cowboy elite" that Oglesby sees as being on the edge of toppling the Rockefeller and other Yankee empires. The Cowboys are looking for a High Frontier, and they are computerized Cowboys now.

Werner von Braun used Disneyworld—both the amusement park and the TV show—to "sell" NASA's more adventurous ideas to the politicians by first selling them to the people. General Graham, who gave the "Star Wars" idea to Reagan, is following the same scenario. Amid the 24 separate-and-interlocking conspiracies struggling over the turf on this planet, the Cowboys are struggling for higher and more imaginative lands in the stars. Why not? They are, in the 20th Century, the same sort of mavericks the Yankees were in the 18th Century—namely, "the products of the Protestantism of the Protestants and the dissidence of dissent," as Edmund Burke said of the wealthy radicals who wrote the Declaration of Independence. The coming dominant looks to be, like California, a mad mixture of Hollywood, computers, special effects, apocalyptic visions and dope. Reagan does not fully understand the neuro-geography of the historical forces he represents.

The next dominant will probably be further west and more technological.

If we revise our chart of the doubling of knowledge (Real Wealth) to include these factors we find:

DATE	KNOWLEDGE FACTOR	CENTER OF POWER	PRINCIPLE ENEMIES
1 AD	1	Rome	Greece, Egypt

DATE	KNOWLEDGE FACTOR	CENTER OF POWER	PRINCIPLE ENEMIES
1500 AD	2	Florence	Turks
1750 AD	4	England	France, Spain
1900 AD	8	England	Germany
1950 AD	16	New York	Russia
1960 AD	32	California	Russia
1967 AD	64	California	Russia
1973 AD	128	California	New York
?	Japan	California	

The rising power always seems to the West or Northwest of the declining power that struggles against it; it is always richer and more powerful than any previous Empire; it always seems to the older power center (and its kept intellectuals) exactly what California seems today—a kind of sociological Granola made up of equal parts of fruits, nuts and flakes.

## THE C.I.A. & THE MAFIA

*Patriotism, sir, is the last recourse  
of the scoundrel.*

— Dr. Samuel Johnson

In the 1960s, the CIA conspired with two Mafia leaders, Sam Giancana and Johnny Roselli. Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli provided professional Mafia assassins and the CIA trained them and sent them to Cuba to kill Fidel Castro. Like most real conspiracies, this was unsuccessful; Senor Castro is still alive. This conspiracy was also well documented in Congressional hearings and broadcast in the news media internationally, so you are not considered a crank if you write about it.

You will begin to understand what I call the Spaghetti Theory of Conspiracy when I remind you that Johnny Roselli was also involved in printing one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) worth of counterfeit stock for the Vatican Bank. That is documented fully in *The Vatican Connection* by N.Y. *Times* reporter Richard Hammer, which I again recommend to your attention.

According to Anthony Summers' book, *Conspiracy*, there is a good *prima facie* case that Johnny Roselli was also an instigator of the assassinations of both John and Bobby Kennedy, in collaboration with Sam Giancana—the same Giancana who had previously collaborated with Roselli in providing assassins for the CIA. While Summers' evidence is not conclusive, it is chillingly plausible.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded, on the basis of the hard scientific evidence of acoustics, that there were two gunmen shooting at John Kennedy in Dealy Plaza, one from the front and one from the back. On the basis of softer but persuasive supporting evidence, the Committee concluded further that a conspiracy of more than two persons was probable and that the possibility of Mafia involvement was worthy of deeper investigation.

The Chief Counsel for the Committee, Prof. Howard Blakey, was willing to be more definitive in a press conference. "I am now firmly of the opinion that the mob did it," he said. "It is a historical truth." (Quoted by Summers in *Conspiracy*.)

Sam Giancana was shot dead in June 1975, after testifying once before the committee and while negotiating with their investigators about further questions they wished to ask him under oath. Giancana was shot through the mouth—the *sasso in bocca*, traditional Mafia punishment for suspected informers.

Johnny Roselli was shot dead in July 1976, after he, too, had been called once before the Assassinations Committee. According to journalist Jack Anderson, Roselli had told him that he was not involved in the Kennedy assassinations but another Mafia "family" was.

The Mafia has acquired its international empire only because the most popular drugs of our time are illegal. In the past 40 years, the rulers of the Mafia have graduated from multi-millionaires to billionaires *only* because these absurd anti-drug laws remain on the books.

It is permissible in "liberal" "educated" circles to say that these laws remain in force because of stupidity or conservatism or superstition. If you say the laws remain because somebody is making a profit out of them, you are supposed to be eccentric or downright nutty.

Nonetheless, the ancient Romans knew that the basic question about any social policy was—*cui bono?* (Who profits from it?)

## INTERLUDE & KOAN

In CIA jargon, a "useful idiot" means somebody who is working for them but doesn't know it.

My involvements with controversial politics have left me with one lasting legacy. Whenever I suspect that I am taking myself or my theories too seriously, I stop and ask myself, "Have I become a *useful idiot* yet?"

## THE STATE AS CONSPIRACY

*The more laws that are written,  
the more criminals are produced.*

— Lao-Tse, *Tao Te Ching*

It is likely that the State as we know it is an innately conspiratorial organism. As the sociologist Franz Oppenheimer pointed out in his remarkable book, *The State*, there is no anthropological or historical evidence that anything like Rousseau's "Social Contract" ever happened in pre-history; on the contrary, the State appears in human affairs only after conquest by armed force. It is to maintain themselves in power over the conquered that a conquering elite create those institutions—police, army, taxation—that make up the skeleton of the State as we know it historically. There is no record of a tribal people peacefully "contracting" to set such a machinery of oppression above themselves. Conquerors impose it upon them.

Bakunin argued in *God and the State* that nobody has ever *seen* "God" or the "State." This, although startling, is true. Human beings, called priests, claim to represent "God," and other human beings, called civil servants, claim to represent the "State," and this metaphysical sleight-of-hand is alleged to justify acts which would be regarded as not only criminal but barbarous if it were remembered that mere human beings were doing these things. Similar verbal magic—meaningless words like "heresy" and "treason"—are used to convince the victims that resistance is evil, escape or flight is just as evil, and even thinking that you are being victimized is somehow sinful.

In simple language, anybody who robs you is a thief, unless he claims to be an agent of the "State"—in which case, he is not a thief but only a tax-collector. By the same metaphysical trick, anybody who murders millions is a lunatic, unless he claims to be an agent of "God"—in which



case he is a Crusader. You can resist an ordinary bandit with a perfect sense of righteousness, but you feel guilty about resisting the Churchman or Statesman, since that is called "heresy" or "treason."

Since the State was founded in conquest and is maintained by metaphysics (or, in the Logical Positivist jargon, "abuse of language"), it follows Oglesby's rule—"where there is no limit to power, there is no limit to conspiracy."

We have already cited Anthony Summers' book *Conspiracy*, to indicate that there is real evidence, not mere paranoia, behind the claim that the Mafia was involved, perhaps centrally, in the Kennedy assassinations. According to Summers' more recent book, *Goddess*, there is also good evidence that Sam Giancana and Johnny Roselli had arranged for the electronic bugging of the bedroom of a house belonging to Peter Lawford, where Marilyn Monroe and Bobby Kennedy met for romantic dalliance in what they thought was privacy. Jimmy Hoffa of the Teamsters' Union, who had been imprisoned by Bobby's "get-tough" Justice Department, was allegedly also involved in this plot, which was intended to obtain material with which Bobby could be blackmailed. A BBC documentary on Summers' book—"Say Goodnight to the President," BBC-TV 1985—supported all of Summers' charges.

Giancana and Roselli were both shot in the mid-1970s, as we have seen. Jimmy Hoffa simply "disappeared" and has never been found dead or alive. Rumor claims he is buried beneath an interstate highway in Illinois.

Norman Mailer, many of you might remember, became convinced, while researching his biography of Marilyn Monroe, that there was some kind of "cover-up" connected with her death. Mailer even implied that there was a definite possibility of murder.

According to Summers' *Goddess* and the BBC documentary previously cited, there was indeed a conspiracy in which Marilyn's death was concealed for three hours while persons unknown removed from her house all documentia of her love affairs with John and Bobby Kennedy. The weight of circumstantial evidence suggests that this conspiracy was instigated by Peter Lawford, who had, as we noted, loaned his house as a trysting place for Marilyn's affairs, and who was also brother-in-law to the Kennedys. It is not demonstrable that Lawford ever thought, or allowed himself to think, that he might also be concealing clues in a murder case. He probably thought, or wanted to think, that he was merely concealing politically embarrassing sexual

dalliances. The possibility of murder remains only a possibility, although it is still insisted upon by Hank Messick, a former consultant to the New York Joint Legislative Committee on Crime. Massick claims that unnamed informants in the Mafia told him Marilyn was killed to lure Bobby Kennedy into a trap and then blackmail him into ending his crusade against the Mob.

All one can say about that theory is "Maybe."

Nonetheless, another of John Kennedy's mistresses—although he did not pass her on to Bobby—was one Judith Exner. Ms. Exner, the House Select Committee on Assassinations later noted, was, curiously enough, the mistress of Mafioso Sam Giancana before, during and after her affair with the President. The Committee was of the opinion that it was probable that Mr. Giancana more or less shoved Ms. Exner into the President's bed, for blackmail purposes. Mr. Giancana, you may remember, was also suspected by the Committee of having a hand in JFK's assassination, and died of gunshot wounds—through the mouth—while under investigation.

Another of JFK's *amours* was with a Mary Pinchot Meyer, a most interesting lady. She was married to Cord Meyer, a top CIA official who happens to be the only man to have received the Agency's Distinguished Intelligence Medal three times. Mary Pinchot Meyer was also a dear and good friend of Dr. Timothy Leary; and, according to his book, *Flashbacks*, Mary told Dr. Leary in 1962 that the CIA wanted to stop him and other scientists from publishing LSD experiments, because they wanted to keep the mind-altering properties of LSD one of their own little secrets.

In 1964, about a year after John Kennedy was assassinated (or about two years after the somewhat mysterious death of Marilyn Monroe), Mary Pinchot Meyer was shot dead on a street in Washington.

Thereafter Dr. Leary was repeatedly arrested, and although every case against him except one was dismissed by the courts, he was finally convicted in that one case, which involved alleged possession of one half of one marijuana cigarette. He was sentenced to 37 years—although the penalty for that crime in that state (California) was normally six months—and was released after serving over five years. Dr. Leary claims he was framed by the arresting officer; he also claims there was a cover-up in the shooting of Mary Pinchot Meyer. Nobody much cares what Dr. Leary claims, because for over a year before his release government officials had leaked to the press claims that he had become an informer. There is no record of any person or persons

convicted on the basis of Dr. Leary's testimony, oddly, but the rumor has stuck to his name and "everybody knows" he is a government agent these days.

As the French say, it gives one ferociously to think.

## PROPAGANDA DUE (P2)

*Make him an offer he can't refuse.*

— Don Carleone

As most people know by now, the first degree initiation into Freemasonry contains the warning that if the candidate ever betrays his fellow Freemasons he will be hunted down and hanged where the rising tide will cover his dead body. We are not supposed to think about that at all. That is only "ritual" and isn't meant to be taken literally. Besides, Hitler had delusions about Freemasons and therefore to think about Freemasons hanging people means that we are becoming weird and might turn into Nazis overnight if we don't watch ourselves.

On the morning of 18 June 1982, the body of Roberto Calvi, a Freemason, was found hanging from Blackfriars Bridge in London, where the rising tide had covered his dead body.

Liberal opinion—or as it also calls itself Education Opinion—absolutely forbids us to think a rather obvious thought at this point.

Still, it does seem **possible** that Signor Calvi was killed by Freemasons or by persons who devoutly wish us to believe he was killed by Freemasons.

At the time of his death, Calvi was in flight from Italy where he had been indicted for massive stock and currency frauds. As president of Banco Ambrosiano, Calvi had been one of the principle managers of Vatican financial affairs, due to the close symbiosis between Banco Ambrosiano and the IOR or Vatican Bank; his financial piracy had left the Vatican in debt hundreds of millions of dollars. His widow, Clara Calvi, has repeatedly asserted that persons "high in the Vatican" ordered the murder of her husband.

Mrs. Calvi's claim is not supported by English journalist Stephen Knight who argues in *The Brotherhood* that Calvi was killed by his fellow

Freemasons in the notorious **P2 (Propaganda Due)** lodge. Two other investigative journalists, Foote and della Torre, however, offer a third verdict; in their *Unsolved: The Mysterious Death of God's Banker* they endeavor to prove that Calvi, who had admittedly been "laundering" Mafia drug money through Banco Ambrosiano and the Vatican Bank, had been killed by the Mafia for double-crossing them in a heroin deal.

The first coroner's hearing on Calvi's declared, admittedly on the basis of incomplete evidence, that the banker hanged himself. After widespread press criticism, a second coroner's hearing returned an "open" verdict, meaning that the cause of Calvi's death is unknown. The major argument against suicide, discussed in all the books on the case, is that Calvi was hanging from an under-girder of the bridge which appears to be difficult of access even for a trained acrobat—and Calvi was 62 years old, overweight and never seems to have been concerned with exercise or physical fitness at all.

Is it paranoid or extravagant to suspect conspiracy in the Calvi death?

Calvi was found with bricks stuffed down the front of his trousers, a hard fact to explain rationally; but the symbolism reeks of Freemasonry.

The day Calvi was found hanging from the bridge in London, his secretary Graziella Carrocher, died mysteriously in Milan: she fell or jumped or was pushed out of a window of Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano.

The quasi-Freemasonic secret society to which Calvi belonged, **P2**, has been accused by Italian investigating magistrates of multitudinous financial frauds, laundering Mafia drug money, infiltrating over 950 agents into the Italian government, carrying out terrorist bombings, and conspiring to install a fascist government in Italy by *coup d'Etat*. Financial reporter Penny Lernoux, in her book, *In Banks We Trust*, adds to this that there is considerable evidence that **P2** was the main financial backer of fascist regimes in Latin America and helped many Nazi war criminals, including the notorious Klaus Barbie, find new identities and employment in the CIA-backed death squads which maintain the power of these fascist governments. **P2**, Lernoux documents, was largely responsible for the return to power of the fascist Peron regime in Argentina, and Peron personally thanked Licio Gelli, Grandmaster of **P2**.

In 1978—four years before Calvi died in London—the editor of a Rome magazine, *L'Osservatore Politico*, Mino Pecorelli, sent Pope John Paul I an issue of his journal in which he named over a hundred **P2** members and/or members of other Freemasonic lodges who had jobs

in the Vatican (especially in the IOR or Vatican Bank, which worked so closely with Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano). The Pope died shortly thereafter in ambiguous circumstances—no autopsy was performed and the Vatican has refused to show the death certificate to enquiring journalists.

David Yallop's controversial *In God's Name* is an attempt to prove that the Pope was poisoned by a conspiracy of Vatican officials who were members of, or allied with, P2. Mr. Yallop does not, in any legal sense, prove his case, but he does make it highly plausible.

Whatever the facts about the death of Pope John Paul I may be, there is no mystery at all about the death of Signor Pecorelli, the editor who sent the P2 list to the Pope. Pecorelli was shot dead in his car. Both fatal bullets entered through the mouth, in the classic Mafia form of execution—the same *sasso in bocca* that was used by the killers of Sam Giancana. It seems undeniable, then, the Pecorelli was killed by the Mafia or by persons who devoutly wish us to think he was killed by the Mafia.

## COCAINE, THE C.I.A. AND THE POPE

*Cocaine is just nature's way of telling you  
that you have too much money.*

— Richard Pryor

The most provocative moment in the famous "Watergate tapes" occurs when President Nixon agrees to pay E. Howard Hunt \$1,000,000 not to spill "that whole Bay of Pigs thing." It is hard to imagine what Bay of Pigs "thing" had not been revealed by 1973, when that conversation took place, or why Nixon would pay such a huge sum to keep it covered up.

Part of the answer probably relates to the odd symbiosis between the CIA and the Mafia which we have already noted. Mr. Hunt was an employee of the CIA at the time the Agency was involved in assassination plots with Mr. Roselli and Mr. Giancana, and while the Bay of Pigs invasion was being plotted.

Another part of the answer, perhaps, lies in the story of the World Finance Corporation, a bank in Miami, Florida, which went bankrupt after its top officials were indicted, in 1981, for knowingly laundering the cocaine money of various Latin American dictators. The President of the World Finance Corporation was one Hernandez Cataya, who had also served in the CIA with Mr. Hunt while the Bay of Pigs was being plotted.

Two other executives of the World Finance Corporation also turned out to be former CIA employees.

To be a "former" CIA agent can mean one of two things. It can mean that the person has left the Agency and has no more connection with them, or it can mean that the person is still working for them and receiving compensation through a numbered Swiss bank account although no longer on the records as their employee. Only God and the CIA know what it means in the case of the World Finance Corporation and its lucrative cocaine business that also supported some of the Agency's favorite dictators.

Financial reporter Penny Lernoux, who discusses this curious bank at length in her *In Banks We Trust*, quotes members of both the District Attorney's staff of Dade County and a Congressional Committee who say bluntly that attempts to discover the exact role of the CIA in the World Finance Corporation were blocked by a CIA smokescreen.

However, it was learned that the cocaine money was laundered by the WFC sending it on a strange carousel that began with an even shadier bank in the Bahamas, called Cisalpine. The major owners of the Cisalpine Bank were Roberto Calvi (remember him?) and Archbishop Paul Marcinkus of the Vatican Bank. Ms. Lernoux believes the drug money passed through Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano and the Vatican Bank on its way to some financial Black Hole where law enforcement officials will never find it.

Lernoux claims—as does David Yallop in his *In God's Name*—that this profitable conspiracy was masterminded by Licio Gelli, the Grandmaster of the P2 secret society. Gelli, who has been indicted in Italy for conspiracy, murder, fraud and plotting to overthrow the government (among other things) is presently hiding out in Uruguay, after being arrested in Switzerland and escaping, in less than a week, from an allegedly escape-proof prison.

It seems that P2 was Signor Gelli's invention from the beginning, but this has been challenged by various investigators. Stephen Knight in *The Brotherhood* claims that Gelli was working for the KGB and tries to

prove that P2 was a Soviet experiment in destabilizing a Western government; Knight bases this chiefly on the claims of a British Intelligence agent, from which we may deduce either that Gelli was working for the KGB or that the lads in MI5-London have their own reasons to wish us to believe he was working for the KGB.

Both Yallop in *In God's Name* and Lernoux in *In Banks We Trust* indicate that, while there is evidence that Gelli was recruited by the KGB at one point, there is even stronger evidence that he had been recruited by the CIA even earlier—in the 1950s, he arranged the assassinations of several Italian labour union officials whose politics were distasteful to Washington—and the weight of the data strongly suggests that Gelli was deceiving both sides in the “Intelligence war” for his own profit.

Many Italian journalists have tried to prove that Gelli and P2 were both “fronts” for another, older Freemasonic group. Larry Gurwin of the *Institutional Investor* (London), in his book, *The Calvi Affair*, quotes one former P2 member as saying this mysterious lodge was headquartered in Monte Carlo.

But Gurwin also notes that Gelli was a member of the Grand Orient Lodge of Egyptian Freemasonry before P2 came into existence. The Grand Orient is well known to students of conspiracy literature. It was founded in 1771 by the duc de Orleans and the enigmatic “Count Cagliostro” and is believed by many to have manipulated events during the French Revolution so as to advance Orleans to the kingship. If so, it was as unsuccessful as most such plots—Orleans, of course, ended on the guillotine, not the throne. Nonetheless, the Grand Orient has played a role in so many political adventures and high crimes that British Freemasons refuse to recognize it as a “real” Freemasonic lodge.

Grandmaster Licio Gelli's escape from a supposedly “escape-proof” Swiss jail has led many to speculate that P2 is as strong as it ever was, despite the prosecutions of hundreds of its members in Italy. Both Yallop and Lernoux indicate that P2 lodges are still very active throughout Latin America; Yallop insists that there is still a powerful P2 lodge in the United States.

Here it is worth noting some opinions of Roberto Calvi, as a man in a position to know what goes on below the surface of things. According to Yallop and Gurwin, Calvi recommended Mario Puzo's novel about the Mafia, *The Godfather*, on numerous occasions, saying it was the one book that tells “how the world is really run.” Calvi believed in what Italians call *potere occulto*—hidden power that operates behind the scenes. His son, Carlo, says Roberto was “fascinated by secret societies” and

Calvi's lawyer said to Gurwin that Roberto Calvi believed "the world is run by conspiracies."

The plural is significant. Amateurs in this field always seem to fall into the trap of thinking in terms of One Big Conspiracy, singular. This is because conspiracies, like a bowl of spaghetti, contain endless entanglements and overlaps; but to mistake the spaghetti for a coherent or intelligent organism is like mistaking the debris and flotsam on a beach for the outline of an invading army.

It is noteworthy that Gurwin, although employed by the conservative *Institutional Investor*, concludes *The Calvi Affair*—after tracing the criss-crossing paths of the Vatican, the Mafia, the CIA and Freemasonry through jungles of fraud and double-dealing—"Roberto Calvi's world view may have been far more accurate than anyone realized."

## LOONY TUNES AND MERRY MELODIES

*The chessboard is the world . . . the player  
on the other side is hidden from us.*

— Thomas Henry Huxley, *Collected Essays*

All secret societies have their own myths, like the Freemasonic allegory of the Widow's Son; but for that matter, all human groups seem to feel the need for symbol or transcendental "truth"—i.e. for myth and allegory.

Some secret societies, of course, may have real secrets, because conventional "history" and conventional "truth," in any tribe or nation, always turns out to be, as Marx said, the myth of the ruling class. The truth is always "hidden with seven seals," because **nobody is more paranoid than professional conspirators**, and the ruling elites are always afraid to let any real knowledge get into general circulation.

Those who horde money, land titles, etc. also horde information; it is a mammalian reflex. It is always a key rule of strategy in all competitive games, as von Neumann and Morgenstern documented mathematically in their *Theory of Games and Economic Behavior*. Hiding information and spreading false information are successful strategies in poker, economic



competition and hot and cold wars. All the existing government stamps saying **TOP SECRET** or **FOR YOUR EYES ONLY** are exemplifications of this primate habit of hoarding information.

In this connection, consider first Father Juan Kronh, who attempted to assassinate Pope John Paul II at Fatima in 1982. Father Krohn told the court at his trial that the Vatican has been taken over in recent decades by a conspiracy of "Freemasons and Satanists." This was the doctrine of the renegade Archbishop Lefebvre in France, who ordained Father Krohn and played a large role in Krohn's intellectual development. Many have wondered why Lefebvre, whose denunciations of the Vatican are now legendary, has never been excommunicated. According to Lincoln, Leigh and Baigent in their controversial and speculative *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, a disciple of Lefebvre's, in England, claims the dissident prelate holds an "earth-shaking weapon" over the Vatican.

Whatever Lefebvre's "weapon" may be, it is probably not any inner knowledge of the Freemasonic/P2 infiltration of the IOR (Vatican Bank); that has already been widely publicized, and the Vatican handled it as priests have always handled unwelcome news, as witness the *Irish Press* for 23 June 1983 in which the Pope replied to an enquiry about the frauds and drug-dealing of the Vatican Bank with the following well-chosen words:

Many incredible things can be read in the newspapers, things which have no basis in truth. You must never let your faith be shaken by what you read in the newspapers.

W.C. Fields could not have replied with more aplomb.

We are still in the dark as to what "earth-shaking weapon" the heretic Lefebvre holds over the Vatican. According to Father Malachi Martin, S.J. (in his *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church*), Lefebvre sent the late Pope John Paul I a portfolio of documents concerning Freemasonic affiliations of Vatican staff members—together with photos of Cardinals with their boy friends and other such unsavory matters—but the Pope was taken suddenly dead before he could respond in any way. Lefebvre's right-hand man, the Abbe Ducaud-Bourget said to the French press on the Pope's demise, "It is hard to believe this death is natural."—which was some kind of new high, or new low, in the propaganda war between the Lefebvrites and the Vatican—but something still remains unexplained, one feels.

According to Jean Delaude's *Le Cercle d'Ulysse*, both Archbishop Lefebvre and the Abbe Ducaud-Bourget are members of the Priory of Sion. Delaude identifies the Priory of Sion as an ancient Catholic order, strongly conservative, which is currently pledged to make Lefebvre the next Pope. Delaude also says the Abbe Ducaud-Bourget is the current Grandmaster of the Priory of Sion, having succeeded Jean Cocteau in 1963.

A rather different view of the Priory of Sion is given in Gerard de Sede's *La race fabuleuse*. As de Sede tells it, the Priory is made up of persons descended from Merovingian kings and certain allies who are devoted to the Merovingian cause. Another group, not named by de Sede but sounding suspiciously like the Vatican, has been persecuting and assassinating the Merovingians for over a thousand years; they killed the last Merovingian king, Dagobert II on 23 December 689 and (perhaps out of a sense of symmetry) they killed de Sede's principle informant, an elusive "Marquis de B." on 23 December 1971. At the very end of this odd and undocumented saga, de Sede reveals the secret of the Merovingians and the Priory of Sion—they are superhuman beings, descended from the intermarriages in ancient Israel between the Tribe of Benjamin and extraterrestrials from Sirius.

De Sede does not mention Archbishop Lefebvre at all; but then, he doesn't need to. The extraterrestrials are exciting enough.

The Swiss journalist, Mattieu Paoli, gives a different account in his *Les Dessous d'une ambition politique*. Paoli does not mention Archbishop Lefebvre either. He says the propaganda of the Priory of Sion is circulated in Switzerland through the Grand Loge Alpina, the largest Freemasonic lodge in the country and the one that allegedly controls Swiss banking. (Curiously, Yallop's *In God's Name* indicates that the Freemasons in the Vatican Bank included members of the Grand Loge Alpina along with members of P2.) Paoli found that *Circuit*, the newsletter of the Priory of Sion, was distributed through the Grand Loge Alpina, was devoted mostly to obscure articles on astrology and occultism, and, according to its title page, was published by the Committee to Secure the Rights and Privileges of Low Cost Housing, indicating some hermetic humor on the part of some of the Priory. *Circuit* was actually published, Paoli discovered, out of the offices in Paris of the government department called the Committee for Public Safety.

The directors of the Committee for Public Safety at that time were Andre Malraux, the well-known critic and novelist, and Pierre Plantard

de Saint Clair, about whom we will soon learn more and understand less. Both Malraux and Plantard served under de Gaulle in the Free French forces during World War II, and both had remained close associates of his after the war. Paoli was admittedly stumped in trying to fathom what the Priory of Sion was, but the conclusion of his book is that the Priory reaches very high in the French government and has considerable influence on Swiss banking.

De Sede's book on the extraterrestrial-Hebraic roots of the Priory had not appeared when Paoli published *Les Dessous*, so it is amusing that he reproduces without comment the cover of one edition of the Priory's magazine, *Circuit*. The cover shows a map of France with a Star of David superimposed on it and something that looks like a spaceship hovering above . . . I suspect hermetic humor again. That cover seems well calculated to push the paranoia buttons of both anti-semites and the more demoniac UFO theorists.

It is only a coincidence (I hope) but Paoli was shot as a spy in Israel shortly after his book was published.

Literature on the Priory of Sion continues to proliferate.

According to Lincoln, Baigent and Leigh in *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, the secret of the Priory of Sion is that, as de Sede claimed, its leaders are descended from the Merovingian kings—but the Merovingians themselves were descended, not from extraterrestrials, but from Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene. The authors also claim (as de Sede only hinted) that the Vatican murdered Dagobert II, but they do not imply that the Vatican is still trying to murder off all the descendants of Dagobert (i.e. also of Jesus). They identify Pierre Plantard de Saint Claire, not the Abbe Ducaud-Bourget, as the Grandmaster of the Priory of Sion, and attempt to prove that Plantard is a direct descendant of Jesus and Magdalene.

M. Plantard actually gave an interview to the authors and was brilliantly occult and evasive. He did not comment on his own bloodline but volunteered that the Priory of Sion is in possession of a treasure that belongs to Israel, that the treasure is not material but spiritual, and that it will be returned to Israel "at the proper time." That may contain some broad hints, or it may be magnificent misdirection.

According to Michael Lamy's *Jules Verne: Initiate et Initiateur*, Verne was a member of the Priory of Sion, which was originally a front for the Illuminati conspiracy in 18th Century Freemasonry—of course, the Illuminati and the Grand Orient, from which P2 is descended, were virtually identical—and the great inner secret of the Priory is that they

know a temple in Rennes-le-Chateau which has, in the basement, a hole leading down to the center of the Earth, where there is a race of immortal superhumans. Verne hinted at this in several of his novels, of course.

Like de Sede's yarn about the extraterrestrials mating with Hebrews, this thesis that some of Verne's science-fiction was science fact is not well documented. There is a temple in Rennes-le-Chateau mentioned in most other books on the Priory of Sion. It was built in the 1890s by an eccentric priest named Father Sauniere, is dedicated to Mary Magdalene, and, for some odd reason, Sauniere wrote over its door the gnostic inscription, **THIS PLACE IS TERRIBLE**. (Of course, to an orthodox Catholic the thesis that Jesus had a child by Magdalene and their descendants are all around us would be rather terrible.)

According to Eon Begg's *The Cult of the Black Virgin*, the mysterious Black Virgins in European churches—there are over 400 of them, regarded as inexplicable by most historians and a profound embarrassment to the Vatican—were placed in the churches by the Priory of Sion in the 13th Century. Begg, who is more given to esoteric hinting than to clear exposition, says the Priory also introduced the Tarot cards to Europe at that time and that all this has something to do with Mary Magdalene and the Sufi Order of Islam.

Going back a bit, *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* insists that Father Sauniere's temple to Mary Magdalene in Rennes-le-Chateau has some distinctly odd Stations of the Cross, including one which seems to show Jesus being carried out of the grave during the night as if by conspirators planning to fake the Resurrection. Another one, not so blasphemous but rather spooky if you think of it, shows a Scotsman in kilts watching the crucifixion.

Father Sauniere was, all sources agree, an associate of, and perhaps a member of, the Hermetic Brotherhood of Light, in Paris. This was another secret society, which at various times included composer Claude Debussy, Gerard Encause and Aleister Crowley. Debussy was, according to several of our sources, a Grandmaster of the Priory of Sion. Encause, better known under his pen-name, "Papus," wrote one of the most influential books on the Tarot and was later closely associated with Rasputin in Russia, and thus with shadowy doings before the Russian Revolution. Crowley also wrote an influential book on the Tarot, and became Outer Head of the Ordo Templi Orientis (yet another secret society, which alleges descent from the Sufi Order and the Knights Templar). Crowley also worked for German intelligence

in World War I, although he oddly remained a good friend of the acting chief of British Naval Intelligence, leading some to think he was at least a double-agent.

According to Francis King's *Satanism and Swastika*, the Outer Head of the Ordo Templi Orientis before Crowley, Dr. Theodore Reuss, was also an employee of German intelligence and assigned to spy on no less a personage than Karl Marx.

It is useless to try to make sense of all this in terms of a rational paradigm. Remember the bowl of spaghetti metaphor, and remember that conspiracies, like nations, have no permanent allies, only permanent interests. It is worthy of note, however, that Father Sauniere, who built a temple to the Magdalene and called it terrible and who associated with the Hermetic Brotherhood of Light and the Priory of Sion, became a very rich man by unknown means. According to *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, Father Sauniere was given his riches in one huge gift from the Archduke Johann von Hapsburg.

According to Maynard Solomon's *Beethoven, the Emperor Joseph Cantata*, Beethoven's first Major work, was commissioned by the Illuminati. The *Cantata* glorifies Emperor Joseph von Hapsburg as a bringer of light and a foe of "darkness and superstition." The Emperor's enlightenment seems to have been demonstrated chiefly by the facts that he made Freemasonry legal in Austria (including, of course, the Illuminati lodges) and that he closed the Catholic schools, replacing them with public (secular) education.

We might jump to conclusions when noting that one von Hapsburg in the 18th Century was a friend to Freemasonry and a hero of the Illuminati and another von Hapsburg in the 19th Century gave huge wealth to a strange priest associated with the Priory of Sion.

We might even think strange and Romantic thoughts if we were to put these facts together with the Merovingian genealogies in the Bibliotheque Nationale, attributed to Leo Shidlof. According to these genealogies the von Hapsburgs are of Merovingian descent. They are thus related to Jesus and Magdalene, if one believes *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, or to extraterrestrials from Sirius, if one believes *La race fabuleuse*.

The current scion of the family, Dr. Otto von Hapsburg, has attracted the attention of conspiracy buffs, however, because he is one of the leading members of the Bilderbergers—the secretive group of financiers who meet once a year (always at a different place) and never answer press enquiries about what they discuss or what their purposes are. Along with Dr. von Hapsburg, the two best known members of

the Bilderbergers are David Rockefeller, who virtually controls American banking, and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

Prince Bernhard also has Merovingian genes, according to the Shidlof geneologies. This means either that he is descended from Jesus, or from extraterrestrials, or that some members of some secret societies enjoy planting false leads to baffle profane investigators.

## TRILATERAL SPAGHETTI

*Every bank of discount is downright corruption, robbing the public for private individuals' gain; and if I said this in my will the American people would pronounce that I died crazy.*

— John Adams, letter to Benjamin Rush  
*Works*, Vol IX, p 638

David Rockefeller is, of course, the principle financial backer of the mysterious Trilateral Commission in addition to owning Chase Manhattan Bank and belonging to the esoteric Bilderberger club. Lyndon Larouche, the eccentric right-wing former Trotskyist, believes that the Trilateral Commission is nothing else but Rockefeller's attempt to take over the world; but then Larouche also believes Queen Elizabeth II is the mastermind behind the international drug trade. Others far less bizarre than Larouche have worried about the Trilateralists. For instance, Sean MacBride—winner of the American Medal of Justice, the Lenin Peace Prize, the Dag Hammarskold Medal of Honor of the UN and the Nobel Peace Prize—has also claimed that the Trilateral Commission is a front for Rockefeller's banking interests.' MacBride also finds it sinister that even so small a nation as neutral Ireland has a Prime Minister and two cabinet members who are also members of the Trilateral Commission. Throughout the Western world, Trilateralists are found in higher numbers in all the NATO governments.

Penny Lernoux, in *In Banks We Trust*, treats the Trilateral Commission as David Rockefeller's major folly, arguing that if it is intended to further Rockefeller's financial interests, it is a total failure, since its

members seem to spend most of their time quarreling.

Again we must return to the spaghetti metaphor and remind ourselves that most conspiracies are not nearly as clever as they think they are. The Trilateralists are not "running the world" yet, but they are intertwined like spaghetti with every other affinity group that wields considerable power. Through Prince Bernhard, they have a communication channel at least to the Bilderbergers and, probably, the financial wing of the Priory of Sion, which, for all its mysticism, once operated out of an office of the de Gaulle government and which is cozy with the Grand Loge Alpina and the "Gnomes of Zurich" (Harold Wilson's name for the Swiss banking cartel). Through Chase Manhattan, Rockefeller was involved financially with the World Finance Corporation and its strange links to the CIA and the Mafia; through Chase Manhattan, Rockefeller is still financially involved with the Vatican Bank.

Licio Gelli, incidentally, was not only Grandmaster of P2 and a sometime employee of both the CIA and KGB, but also a Knight of Malta. The Knights of Malta, one of the most secretive of Vatican orders, dates from the 12th Century; membership in it gave Gelli a fraternal bond to William Casey, head of the CIA, and who is also a Knight of Malta, and to General Alexander Haig, another Knight of Malta, who was advisor to President Nixon and Secretary of State under President Reagan. This may explain why Gelli's colleague in the cocaine trade and bank frauds, Michele Sindona, was a guest at Nixon's inaugural ball and why Gelli himself was a guest at Reagan's inaugural ball.

David Rockefeller is also a major financial backer of the Republican Party, and two of his brothers became governors of New York and Arkansas respectively. The spaghetti metaphor must be invoked again to explain why Nixon, who, like all Republican Presidents, owes a great deal to Rockefeller, was also a good and dear friend of Rockefeller's arch-enemy, Howard Hughes.

The war between Rockefeller and Hughes is the major theme of David Tinnin's *Just About Everybody VS Howard Hughes*, a book just as important for one who wishes to understand modern Capitalism as Machiavelli's *The Prince* for one who wants to understand politics. Briefly, David Rockefeller set out to capture control of Trans World Airlines from Hughes, who vowed he would "burn down the plant" before allowing Rockefeller to take it over. The conflict was protracted, lasted over decades and left Hughes a clinical paranoid, convinced that

Rockefeller owned the U.S. government lock, stock and barrel. The question is: did Hughes think such things because he always had a tendency to paranoia, or did he become paranoid because of what happened to him in fighting Rockefeller in the American courts?

One of the loose ends left over from Watergate is the question of why President Nixon loaned "the plumbers"—his own private espionage and dirty tricks gang—to Howard Hughes, for whom they burglarized a newspaper office looking for God-knows-what. As Carl Oglesby indicates in *The Yankee and Cowboy War*, Hughes had previously given Nixon's brother, Donald, \$1,000,000; Hughes had been equally lavish in buying the affections of literally hundreds of Western politicians, in his endeavor to fight off what he saw as the death grip of Rockefeller upon Eastern seaboard legislators and judges. By the end of it all, Hughes was not only paranoid, locked in a room, fearful of human contact, but had his financial empire heavily infiltrated, as Oglesby proves, by the Mafia, whom he had been fighting for control of the Las Vegas gambling casinos.

The Knights of Malta, to which Licio Gelli, William Casey of the CIA and General Haig all belong, is discussed in Gordon Thomas's *The Year of Armageddon*. Thomas claims that Pope John Paul II has weekly meetings with CIA officers in Rome and uses the Knights of Malta as couriers of secret communications with CIA headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. It all tends to remind me of a remark I once heard from the philosopher Alan Watts: "The principle error of academic historians is their belief that the Roman Empire 'fell.' It never 'fell.' It still controls the Western world through the Vatican and the Mafia." Our evidence, however indicates that the Vatican/Mafia group does not control the West, but only tries to, and that in the huge bowl of spaghetti which is primate territorial politics, every other affinity group is aiming at similar control. They all cooperate at times, and they all double-cross each other whenever that is to their advantage.

The Franklin National Bank, which went through the most shocking bankruptcy of the 1970s, was also a client of Chase Manhattan and Mr. Rockefeller. Franklin National was founded by Michele Sindona, manager of Vatican finances in the United States and a member of P2. Sindona, who started his career as a lawyer for several Sicilian Mafia families, bought huge shares in Paramount films, Procter and Gamble and the World Trade Center for the Vatican; he also seems to have looted \$55,000,000 from Franklin National, right under Rockefeller's nose—Chase was the major guarantor of Franklin's



loans—and was convicted later, in New York, of 65 counts of stock and currency fraud, and in Rome, of the murder of a bank examiner. Sindona died in prison while awaiting trial on the further charge that he conspired with Roberto Calvi, Licio Gelli (Grandmaster of P2) and General Musemicci, chief of the Italian Secret Police, in the 1980 Bologna railway bombing. Reports differ as to whether Sindona killed himself or was poisoned by his former associates. The motives of the Bologna bombing are not clear, either—one's interpretation depends on whether one regards P2 as chiefly a tool of the CIA or of the KGB or as a band of adventurers exploiting both sides in the Cold War for their own financial gain. The only sure thing about any of this is that Lord Acton was right when he said all power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.