

# Epilogue

On October 18, 1978, the authors of this book met in Washington, D.C., with eight officials of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, including Mr. John E. Ryan, director of Banking Supervision and Regulation, and Mr. Robert Mannion, director of the Board of Governors' legal department. Present were two lawyers for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, including the HongShang's chief legal counsel in the United States, Mr. Steuart L. Pittman. At this meeting, the authors presented evidence incriminating the HongShang in the international narcotics traffic and argued that the Federal Reserve should block HongShang's proposed acquisition of 51 percent of the shares of the \$20 billion Marine Midland Bank of New York. On October 25, a similar meeting was held with officials of the New York State Banking Authority, including New York State Deputy Superintendent of Banking William Heany.

Also, portions of the manuscript have circulated in photostat form for several weeks prior to publication through the State Department, Treasury Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, and related enforcement and regulatory agencies.

In public meetings and radio and television appearances in a dozen cities in the United States, the authors have outlined the contents of this book before a broad and diverse audience. Through these various channels, word has gotten out.

Most readers will have asked themselves the question that the authors have been asked often in the course of this report's preparation: "How will the powerful men who stand behind the narcotics traffic react to this exposure?" The answer is already evident, at least in part. On November 11, European collab-

orators of the U.S. Labor Party team conducted a public meeting in Paris to present the results of the investigation. The meeting was attacked by 20 hooded and armed members of the fascist organization, Betar. French police were on guard and prevented injuries to members of the audience, but one policeman was injured by the assault. The French authorities believe that the attack was ordered by the Mossad, Israel's foreign secret service. The Betar was founded in the 1930s by Yakob Jabotinsky, a Polish Zionist who modeled himself on Benito Mussolini, and who was the mentor of present Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Undoubtedly, the decision to launch an attack against not only the collaborators of the authors, but the French police — who know well how to deal with such matters — indicates a great fear in the perpetrators of the narcotics traffic.

What this report has intersected, however, goes far beyond the petty thuggery of the Mossad. Discreetly, officials of the HongShang warned the authors shortly after the cited meetings in Washington what would happen to the United States if they persisted: "You know, of course," an official said, "that the British government has made representations to the American authorities on behalf of the HongShang, which is after all a British bank. American banks have had pretty much a free run of it all in London, and we British rather feel that we should have the same privileges here. If the American authorities give us any trouble, the Bank of England will start exhuming skeletons from the closets of the American banks."

In fact, the British had already surfaced an undercover agent in New York's Citibank in mid-July, a junior official named David Edwards, who sued the bank for \$14 million and made numerous allegations of illegal money transfer operations. Recently, after the HongShang official made the statement quoted above, the Edwards case has taken a new turn. On November 5, Katharin Graham's *Washington Post* added major new exposé material to Edwards's original allegations, citing its own sources inside Citibank. The authors have learned that Katharin Graham is personally directing Edwards's appearances before one Senate and three House of Representatives committees.

Coming at a time when the British banks are making a massed bid to acquire American banking assets, the inside-outside job against Citibank is ominous. Apart from the HongShang's cited plan to acquire Marine Midland, the Canadian Bank of Montreal wants to buy out 81 retail branches of New York's Bankers Trust; Standard and Chartered Bank wants to buy up the \$3 billion Union Bank of California; and buy-out attempts or branch office openings are in the works involving Barclays Bank, National Westminster Bank, Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, and other financial institutions implicated in the world narcotics traffic. An invasion is on against the already weakened American monetary system, and the evidence suggests that the British dope-runners are deliberately seeking to destabilize American banks to further this invasion.

Apart from the dirty tricks operations aimed at American banks, numerous other attempts will emerge from the dope-traffickers to cushion themselves from the impact of this report. Lower-level operatives, expendable portions of the network may be sacrificed, the way that assassins like Lee Harvey Oswald or Sirhan Sirhan were sacrificed by their masters.

But the enemy cannot recoup what it has lost. The \$200 billion dope trade cannot be hidden; it can only be protected through misdirection. The web of lies now hangs in tatters. If the American public forces its legislators and law enforcement officials to act, Dope, Inc.'s defense will no longer avail. The first blood has already been drawn from a group of gentlemen who have been long accustomed to working at a distance from the combat zone. The terms of the battle have been redrawn to make an American victory possible.

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