

The State, Espionage and Counter-revolution

By Chris Anglin

Secret Manoeuvres in the Dark

Corporate Spying on Activists

Eveline Lubbers

Pluto Press 2012

£19.99

This book uncovers the depth of the covert relationship between, and extent of spying activities of, state and private security companies against protesters, political activists, trade unionists and socialists, expanding in scope to include covert military action against national liberation movements.

It begins from the historical with the infamous strike-breaking and union-busting Pinkerton's Detective Agency, infiltration, black propaganda, citizens' committees and company thugs

in the USA during the 1920s and 30s.

Founded in 1919, the anti-Communist Economic League in Britain performed a similar function in Britain, specialising in blacklisting trade union activists and communists.

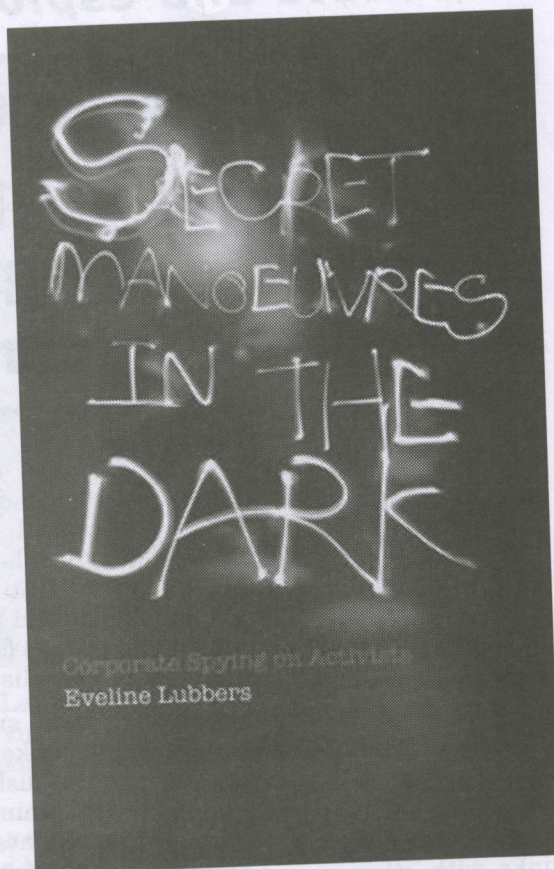
Case studies of anti-protester

espionage are then examined in some detail. These include the corporate spying strategies in the Nestle baby-milk substitute scandal, Shell's operations in Apartheid South Africa, the anti-MacDonald's leafleting protest, and cyber surveillance.

The Hakluyt Company, heavily staffed with ex-MI6 personnel, also spies on and infiltrates militant left-wing political groups and organisations. One of its members was the late Sir Fitzroy McLean, Winston Churchill's wartime special envoy to Marshall Tito in Yugoslavia.

Finally and most ominously, Lubbers examines the para-military role of mercenaries and lethal chemical poisons associated with the Threat Response International spy files and Operation Lock in southern Africa, and its rabidly anti-Communist spymaster Evelyn le Chene.

A self-professed activist, researcher and investigative academic, the author opines that more research into the



The Newbury by-pass protest was infiltrated by 'Threat Response International' spies

political economy of covert surveillance will expose the secrecy and danger of private surveillance operations, 'resist corporate strategies' and defend freedom and democracy in the 21st century.

The Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT), a pacifist Christian-based protest group, was infiltrated by up to 8 intelligence agents to counter its campaign against the £500 million sale of Hawk jet fighters to Indonesia by British Aerospace in the mid-1990s.

These spies were provided by Threat Response International (TRI), a security company owned by one Evelyn le Chene. TRI also spied on UK road-building protests, including the Newbury by-pass protesters.

An agent provocateur, a Frenchman called Adrian Franks, was used to undermine links with other organisations. He was eventually exposed as the son of Evelyn le Chene by an internal CAAT investigation following the receipt of two anonymous letters.

le Chene headed an organisation committed to exposing the dangers of communism and the left

Other circumstantial evidence included his preference for more radical and violent action in which he never took part, access to plentiful funds, and travel by car and plane which was incongruous for a committed environmentalist.

Most suspiciously, he had an outspoken preference for eating meat dishes in the midst of radical animal liberationists, normally associated with vegetarian or vegan lifestyles.

The final proof was provided when The Sunday Times published the TRI spy files in 2003 after receiving them from a whistleblower.

Evelyn le Chene and the West European Defence Association

As the first director of the WEDA in 1985, le Chene headed an organisation committed to exposing the dangers of communism and the left, acting as a clearing house for other new, pro-NATO bodies to promote anti-communism.

In 1985 WEDA held a pan-European conference in the NATO headquarters in Brussels and planned another on 'subversion and terrorism' at the Conservative Party headquarters in 1986.

It promoted Jonas Savimbi



Pinkerton agents armed against strikers. The Pinkerton Detective Agency was the prototype of private security aimed at unions and socialists; its modern descendants are Blackwater

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and his right-wing Unita military forces, backed by the apartheid regime in South Africa, and its war against the Cuban-backed MPLA government in Angola.

Press conferences were organised for Soviet dissidents and alleged victims of communism in Cuba, South Africa and Nicaragua.

As WEDA director, Le Chene communicated with Brian Crozier, a special advisor to the then British Prime Minister Margaret.

He advised Thatcher about countering alleged Soviet subversion in the UK and more specifically how to prosecute her war against the miners in the 1984-85 NUM strike.

Crozier set up a 'covert operational group,' named 'The 6I', a private sector operational intelligence agency to 'provide intelligence in areas which governments were barred from investigating'.

Even the title 'The 6I', which stands for the 'Sixth International', referring to the Trotskyist 4th International, is consciously and virulently anti-Communist.

Further, its aims 'were to conduct secret counter-subversion operations in any country in which such actions were deemed feasible'. Clearly this is an escalation from gathering intelligence about protest groups and developing corporate counter-strategies against them.

Crozier admits that the CIA part-funded his group, but claims that most of the other 95 per cent came from wealthy private individuals and some companies. In 1993 'The Times' also revealed that 'The 6I' successfully planted moles in the Militant Tendency in the Labour Party and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

Le Chene's letters also reveal that in 1985 and 86 WEDA shared a London office address at 35 Westminster Bridge Road with two organisations run by

The Unita leader Jonas Savimbi was a darling of the right, backed by Evelyn le Chene, the apartheid government, the US and smuggled funds



now Tory MP Julian Lewis, a notorious right-winger virulently opposed to trade unions and socialism.

Le Chene herself had a special interest in chemical and biological warfare (CBW), and, at various conferences, pushes her extremist agenda of the alleged dangers of the possibility of such weapons falling into the hands of communists, terrorists and protest activists.

One such annual conference she regularly attended from 2001 to 2009 was that of the Chemical and Biological Treatments Symposia (CBMTS), where she continued to push an alleged terrorist threat.

One Brian Davey, who organised and chaired the conference, ex-head of the innocuous-sounding Health and Safety department of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), became the Medical Director of the UN in New York in January 2007.

However, his real professional experience was gained earlier from 1986 in the South African Defence Force under Apartheid in the 7 Medical Battalion, commanded by Dr. Wouter Basson.

As director of Lifestyle Management, not a health club, but a front for obtaining funding for Project Coast, a secret programme which supplied experi-

mental chemical and biological poisons to the apartheid SA Army special forces and death squads for use against enemies of the state.

Davey also developed protective clothing and training programmes for the army and a defensive CBW mission for the SADF as offensive CBW programmes are banned under international treaties.

At this point the focus of the book departs dramatically from the mere investigation and exposure of secret state and corporate spying to counter the damage caused by protest groups, reflecting the development of dictatorial control by the state and corporations over any obstacle to the desperate search profits.

Le Chene had strong links with Project Coast and propaganda work for Jonas Savimbi and was the only 'researcher' who backed the fictitious claims of Jonas Savimbi, who also funded the original research behind the allegations, that the MPLA government in Angola had used CBW against Unita.

Undercover mercenaries in southern Africa.

Using a secret scheme which aimed to eliminate rhino and

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elephant poaching and the smuggling of rhino horn and ivory, Project Lock assisted the SADF in establishing a network of military bases throughout the tribal 'homelands' in southern Africa under the guise of anti-poaching operations.

Evelyn le Chene was a senior member of Project Lock from the beginning in early 1988 to at least April 1989. She personally met the late Prince Bernard of the Netherlands about funding for the World Wildlife Fund for Nature in Africa with a £800,000 donation – to save the rhinos.

In 1987, WWF head John Hanks, to counter the well-armed smugglers and poachers, recruited KAS Enterprises, set up by SAS-founder Sir David Sterling, whose key personnel consisted of former SAS soldiers, now rented out as private mercenaries.

Operation Lock publicly aimed at secretly infiltrating the black market of the poachers and smugglers by going 'undercover'. It recruited informers, expoachers, and corrupt officials,

and not a few spies from SADF military intelligence.

A web of smuggling routes were uncovered in the four years of its existence during the widespread nationalist insurgencies and guerrilla warfare raging throughout the region in the late 1980s. Its operations ran in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Swaziland and Botswana. Many SADF counter insurgency soldiers were also trained as 'game wardens,' as were personnel destined for Mozambique.

Finding these heavily trafficked routes could not have been too difficult with the SADF, irregular forces, including Renamo and Unita, and smugglers moving through them.

The South African regime feared that their industrial-scale secret ivory and horn smuggling for the counter-revolutionary Unita and Renamo movements would be exposed, but a trade-off was agreed in which SADF intelligence would exchange tips about other rival

smugglers for KAS information about anti apartheid activists.

The limited scope of the book prompts investigation of private security companies such as Blackwater in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the upsurge of private security contractors replacing conventional national armed forces in current imperialist wars.

What is apparent in this informative volume is that the author's alarm at the threat to democracy by secret surveillance and covert operations cannot be defeated by activist protests and by academics developing activist intelligence and covert corporate strategy as a field of research, however informative this may be.

To defend democratic rights requires a socialist revolution to disband all capitalist state forces, secret and overt, and establish workers' democracy, nationalise all major companies under workers control to preserve the environment and to guarantee housing, health services, education and employment for all.



Even the World Wildlife Fund was drawn into the web of intrigue surrounding rhino horn poachers and private security personnel to police troublespots throughout southern Africa