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Pope John Paul II and the work of the CIA

By Harold H. Dorland

The attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul is probably the work of the CIA and its rightist associates. From what I can tell, the CIA has decided to go on a rampage of political assassinations here in the United States and overseas. What I want to do in this article is point out to readers what the possible political motives are.

The CIA is now in the control of a group of extremely paranoid right-wingers who believe that we must fight the Soviet Union in an all-out showdown—the sooner the better. Within the last seven days, we've witnessed Vice President (Mr. CIA) Bush attack Cuba in some of the harshest language used by an American politician since the Bay of Pigs. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Haig (long known as a "CIA general" when he was in the Pentagon and on Nixon's staff) is fanning the flames of hatred against the Soviet Union in speech after speech. Domestically, the economy is rushing toward complete collapse, and even while this is happening, Reagan et al. are pushing for extremely large increases in military and CIA spending. Europe, meanwhile, is pushing far ahead of the United States. It is becoming unified, its wealth is growing, it is going socialist, and it is expanding its democratic base.

But why would the CIA try to assassinate the pope? A couple of years ago the CIA assassinated Aldo Moro in Italy because he was "guilty" of reaching an agreement with the Italian communists. The agreement was to bring them into the Italian government (for the first time). Very soon this issue of official communist participation in the executive offices of a NATO government will again arise in France, with the election of Socialist Mitterrand as president.

In the eyes of the CIA, what political crimes is the pope guilty of? First of all, he played a very significant role in preventing a Soviet invasion of Poland. The CIA has long wanted the USSR to march in, perhaps to start an all-out war between the Soviets and the West. I suspect we'll soon begin to learn of numerous "dirty tricks" the CIA has been carrying out in Poland to suck the Soviets into precipitous action. And we may also find out that if it had not been for the pope, the Soviets would have moved across the

border.

The pope's next "crime" was his speaking out against the rising probability of nuclear war. Just recently he visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Although he did not explicitly direct his concern to the U.S. government, he was, in effect, saying to us, "Do not start a nuclear war."

While on the Asian trip, the pope also lectured Philippine President Marcos about his domestic authoritarianism. Here is Marcos doing precisely what the CIA wants done within the United States and in every other "non-communist" nation in the world, and the pope lectures him against it.

Finally, we ought to weigh carefully the role of the Catholic Church in stopping cold the recent beginnings of a Vietnam-type venture in El Salvador—one undertaken by the CIA. While most of us assumed the moving force in reversing El Salvador was the U.S. Catholic Church under the very able leadership of Minnesota's own Archbishop Roach, the pope himself may have played a private role, which I and others hadn't noticed, but which the CIA may have been cognizant of.

Thirty-six years ago, the CIA took up the "anti-communist" campaign that Hitler "bungled" and that was relinquished by British intelligence. Here we are, hundreds of CIA political assassinations later, in the worst crisis America has been in. We simply have to stop CIA assassinations and begin to solve our domestic and international political problems using the tools of democracy and maturity: negotiation, bargaining, campaigning, debating policies, etc.

Who will stop CIA political assassinations? You, and I, and nobody else. The way to achieve this is to force the reality of assassinations out into the open. If we citizens fail to do this, we'll run the risk of total nuclear war up to near certainty. Meanwhile, we'll continue suffering as our economy worsens and as the forces of covert authoritarianism tighten in America. Maybe Europe will come to believe it must war against America to put an end to the virulent fascism that migrated from Germany to the United States in 1945.

One prediction I can safely make is that we are going to see hundreds more CIA political assassinations, domestic and foreign. The CIA will not stop killing until Americans stop the CIA.

Harold H. Dorland was a member of the board of directors of the Washington-based Committee to Investigate Assassinations and was president of the Minnesota Action Council for Political Assassination Disclosures.