

THIS JUST IN...

EDITED BY SCOT LEHIGH

BEAMING RON UP

By now, the 1984 election has been analyzed pretty much to death. But here's an interpretation of why Reagan won that you've not read anywhere else. From *New Solidarity*, the newspaper of far-righter and beam-weapons fanatic Lyndon LaRouche Jr.: "Lyndon LaRouche broadcast a hard-hitting half-hour program that ruthlessly exposed Walter Mondale's role as a Soviet agent of influence, including the dates, times, and places of meeting at which Mondale and his Minnesota political machine had received their marching orders from top-level Soviet operatives to stop the president's beam-defense program at all costs."

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IN DARK OF NIGHT

From the perspective of the Cambridge police, it was a minor incident. It didn't even make the police log. But on the night of November 27, there was a string of curious break-ins in the basement offices of Harvard Square's Old Cambridge Baptist Church, break-ins seemingly targeted at three groups actively opposing US intervention in Central America: the Central American Solidarity Association (CASA), a well-established Boston clearing-house for Central America-related groups; the regional office of the New England Central American Network (NECAN), which coordinates some Central American activism in all six New England states; and the New Institute of Central America (NICA), which runs a Spanish-language program for North Americans in Nicaragua.

In all three cases, file drawers were pulled out and files apparently examined, but no money or items of value were taken. In NECAN's office, a handbag containing cash and credit cards was left undisturbed. The only thing missing from any of the offices, strangely enough, was the tape on NICA's telephone-answering machine.

The incident took place at a time when the church — which houses offices of 16 groups, six of them Central America-related — has been stepping up its involvement in Central American issues. Just this week, the church joined the ranks of churches across the country that are giving sanctuary to Central American refugees in this country without proper authorization. The Harvard Square church is protecting a Salvadoran trade unionist who fled her country in the face of death threats.

Although the break-in was eerily reminiscent of illegal government intelligence-gathering activities of the '60s and '70s, activists are cautious about pointing a finger. "It could be anything from just a right-wing kook to a government agency," says Bob Warren of CASA. "It's clearly intimidation, but by whom?" wonders John Roberts, director of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (CLUM). "We have to be honest and say we don't know what it is. But we never knew what it was [in the '60s and '70s]. You could never get your finger on it. It was like trying to grab vapor."

The FBI, for one, denies that it was involved. Bureau spokesman John Cloherty said, "As far as us being responsible for a break-in, that's categorically denied." Cloherty, however, would not comment on whether any of the three groups are under FBI scrutiny.

Despite that denial, CLUM thinks it's worthwhile to take precautions. According to Roberts, his agency is preparing an organizers' manual, which he hopes will alert the current generation of activists to the past government efforts to divert and undermine left-wing organizations.

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City of Cambridge

13.

COUNCILLOR D. SULLIVAN

IN CITY COUNCIL

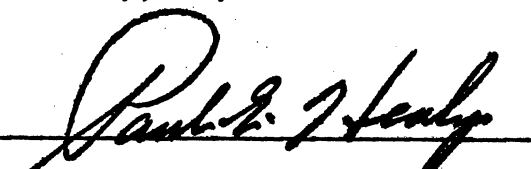
December 10, 1984

- WHEREAS: The freedom of speech, of association, and of petitioning the government without fear of harassment are among the most precious rights of Americans; and
- WHEREAS: The attached item in the December 11 Boston Phoenix reports a suspicious pattern of recent break-ins into Cambridge offices of organizations opposing the present national administration's policies in Central America; and
- WHEREAS: These break-ins are particularly disturbing because, although no money or other valuable items in plain view were taken, files were apparently examined and a telephone answering-machine tape is missing; therefore, be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager request from the Police Department a full report on what action it is taking to investigate these crimes and on any other information it may have about this situation; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager report in writing to the City Council as soon as possible.

In City Council December 10, 1984.
 Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.
 Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-


 Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

Order # 13

F-423

C.D. Sullivan order re: Police Dept. to submit a report through the City Manager
Re: action being taken to investigate reports of a suspicious pattern of recent break-ins to Cambridge offices of organizations opposing the present national administration's policies in Central America.

In City Council,

December 10, 1984

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12/10/84

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