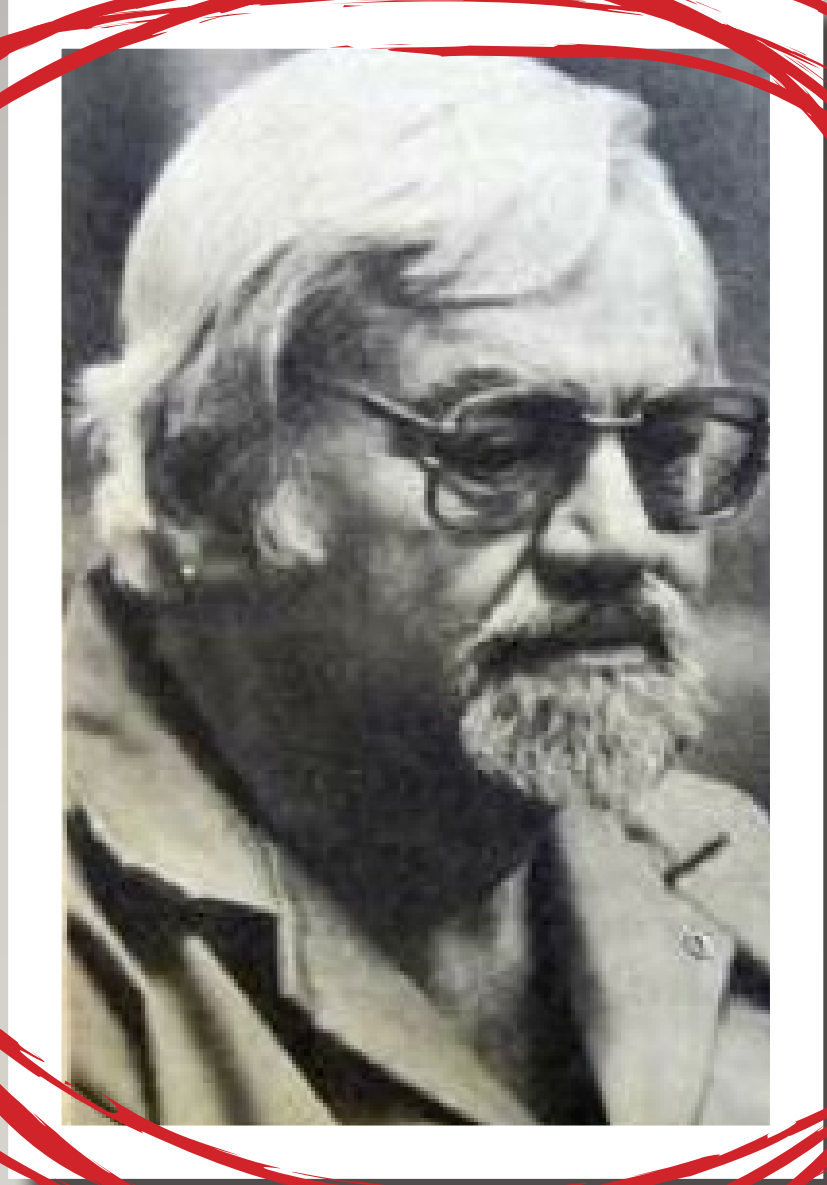


# 1



## Dr. John

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“Dr. John,” the character in the play, is representative of the real-life JOHN PHILIP NICHOLS, who had a long and varied resume before he began managing the financial assets of the CABAZON RESERVATION **2** in southern California in 1978. He was ex-CIA, most likely starting with the agency in the 1960s. He spent most of the 1970s in various South American countries, including a stint as the manager of a Coca-Cola plant in Brazil. In that time he worked as a labor and community organizer, registering voters and managing union funds. He also claimed to be a “simple social worker” who had directed mental health programs in Kentucky, Wisconsin and Michigan. “Doctor” was in reference to his PhD in Theology from the Philateia Theological Seminary of the Free Protestant Episcopal Church in London, Ontario, but he never finished his degree.

Although he was not Native American himself, his leadership of the Cabazon Reservation launched them into selling tax-free alcohol and cigarettes and helped start the gaming business. In 1985 he was convicted of (unsuccessfully) soliciting the murder of two people and served two years in prison. He died of a heart attack in 2001.

# 2

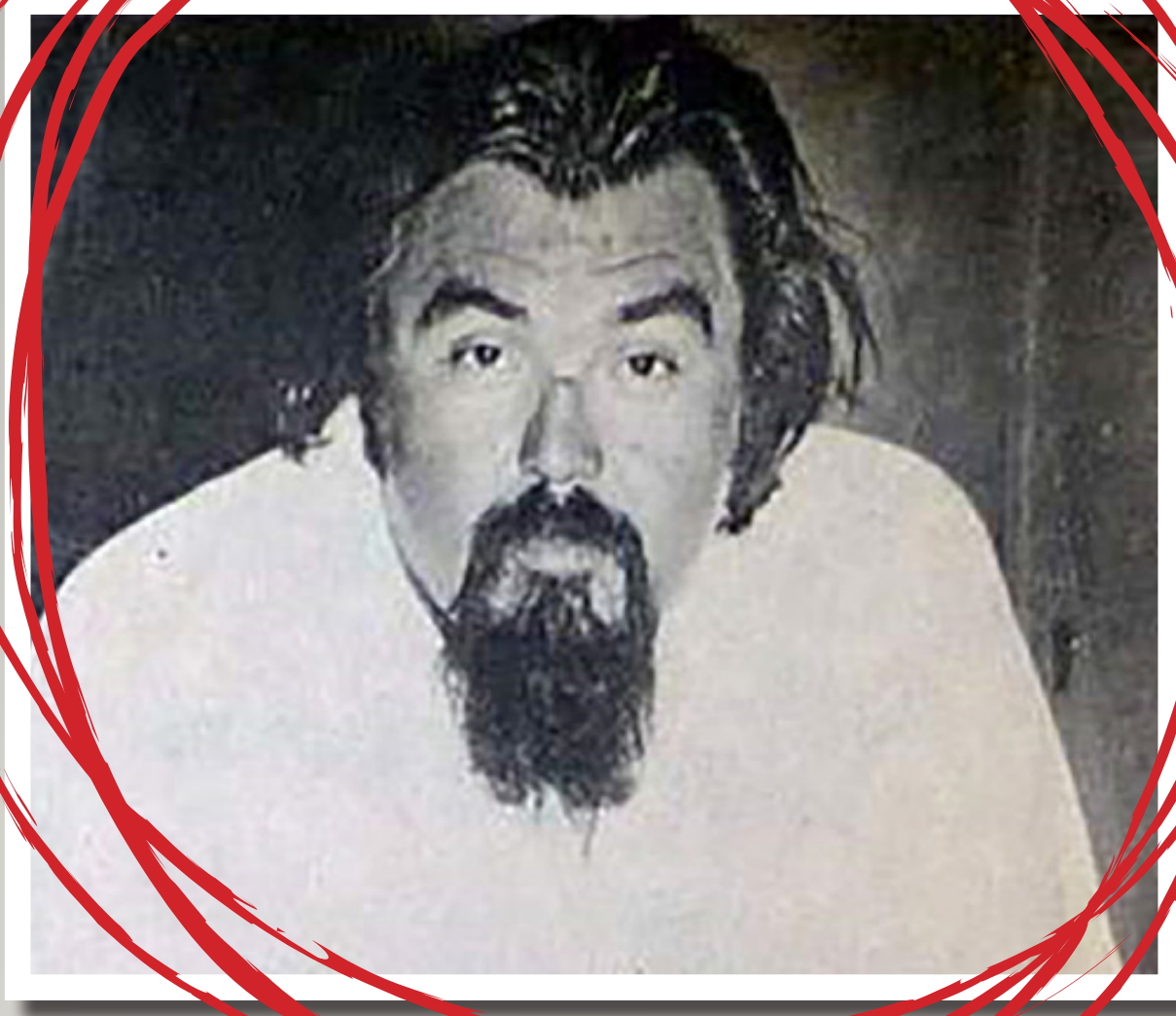


## Cabazon Reservation

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The Cabazon Reservation is a small parcel of land (about 3.5 square miles) located outside Indio, California, in the Coachella Valley east of Los Angeles. During the last 30 years, the reservation has gone from a small and impoverished segment of desert to a major tourist attraction with a casino, a resort and spa, a mall, and a housing development. In 1978 Dr. John Philip Nichols **1** became the reservation's financial manager, using the tax-exempt, sovereign-nation status of the land to make deals with outside investors. In the early 1980s, Dr. John allegedly helped create a partnership with Wackenhut Security **18** to manufacture weapons for the Department of Defense. While these contracts were supposedly lucrative for the tribe, some members of the tribal council, including a man named Fred Alvarez **3**, objected to Dr. John's leadership. After voicing his complaints, Alvarez and two of his friends were found murdered.

# 3



## Fred Alvarez Murder

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Fred Alvarez was a member of the Cabazon tribe, vice chairman of the Cabazon Tribal Council, and the security chief of the tribe's casino. He and the tribal council chairman had planned to meet with an attorney to start proceedings to remove Dr. John Philip Nichols **1** from managing the tribe's money, since they believed he was embezzling. On the day of the meeting in 1981, Alvarez was found shot to death at his home in Rancho Mirage, California. Reporters investigating the murder believed Alvarez had discovered that weapons manufactured on the Cabazon Reservation **2** were being sold to Iran **14**. Shortly before his murder, he told those close to him he was receiving death threats. His murder remained a mystery until 2009 when police charged Jimmy Hughes, a former associate of Dr. John, for soliciting the murder. Hughes claimed Dr. John paid him \$25,000 to facilitate Alvarez's murder.

# 4



## PROMIS Software and Scandal

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The Prosecutors Management Information Systems, or PROMIS, software was the product of Inslaw, Inc., a small software company created by Bill Hamilton **5** in the 1970s. PROMIS could track and log people (criminals, witnesses, attorneys), arrests and motions, and other details of ongoing investigations. The software worked across computer platforms and languages and made information exchange between agencies seamless.

In 1982 Inslaw won a bid from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to install PROMIS in U.S. attorneys' offices nationwide, but the DOJ never honored the contract **6**. Hamilton took the DOJ to court and a judge ruled that the DOJ was guilty of stealing the software. The DOJ appealed the case and ultimately won.

Once in DOJ hands, the software allegedly was reprogrammed to track things beyond criminal justice cases such as credit card purchases, stock market activity, entry and exit visas, and telephone and utility usage. Several foreign governments, intelligence agencies, private businesses, and even terrorist organizations claimed to have bought the software. Some tech experts believe PROMIS is the predecessor to the PRISM software currently used by the National Security Agency.

# 5



## William "Bill" Hamilton

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William "Bill" Hamilton is originally from St. Louis. As a college student during the Vietnam War, he was recruited to the National Security Agency (NSA) because of his aptitude for languages. After the war, Hamilton did translation work for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He worked for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), a unit of the Department of Justice (DOJ), under the Carter Administration **13**. After that unit was dissolved, Hamilton founded Inslaw (short for Institute for Law and Social Research), a private software company, which created the PROMIS software **4**.

In 1982, Inslaw won a contract with the DOJ for PROMIS, but within a year the DOJ claimed not to have a contract with the company **6**. Hamilton sued. Although the case was found in Hamilton's favor initially (one judge said the DOJ used "trickery and deceit" to steal the software), it was appealed and Inslaw went bankrupt.

In 1990 Hamilton convinced a House Judiciary Committee to do an investigation into the contract. The Committee's report, published in 1992, initiated an investigation into the DOJ's possible wrongdoing (and into Danny Casolaro's death **9**). In 1994, the Attorney General determined that PROMIS was in the public domain, and Hamilton lost his case for good.

# 6



## Peter Videnieks

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Peter Videnieks has worked for various U.S. government agencies, including the Department of Justice (DOJ), the U.S. Customs Office, the IRS, and the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

While working for Customs, he oversaw contracts between the U.S. government and Earl Brian **10**. While working for the DOJ he oversaw the contract with Inslaw for PROMIS **4**. Videnieks was inconsistent during the House Judiciary Committee investigation into the PROMIS software. Internal DOJ memos showed that he was involved in illegally terminating the PROMIS contract, but he testified that the DOJ's contract with Inslaw granted them unlimited rights to any versions of the software.

Videnieks allegedly threatened Michael Riconosciuto **20** not to tell anyone investigating the Inslaw case **5** about PROMIS being modified on the Cabazon Reservation **2**. Riconosciuto said he recorded the threat. At the House Judiciary Committee hearings, Videnieks testified that he did not know Riconosciuto. The tape was never found.

# 7



## Operation Pseudo Miranda

Operation Pseudo Miranda allegedly was a program run by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the 1980s that involved making deals with Central American drug lords, importing cocaine into the U.S. illegally, and using the profits from drug sales to aid the Contras **14**. According to a former operative, the CIA helped the large drug lords eliminate small cocaine cartels in Central America in order to make one large cartel that would do business exclusively with the United States. Drug shipments supposedly were escorted by U.S. military aircraft into U.S. airspace. Many shipments were said to come into the Mena Airport in Arkansas, and some have accused Bill Clinton of being a Pseudo Miranda insider. Conspiracy theorists believe this accounts for the increase in urban street drugs during the early 1980s.

# 8



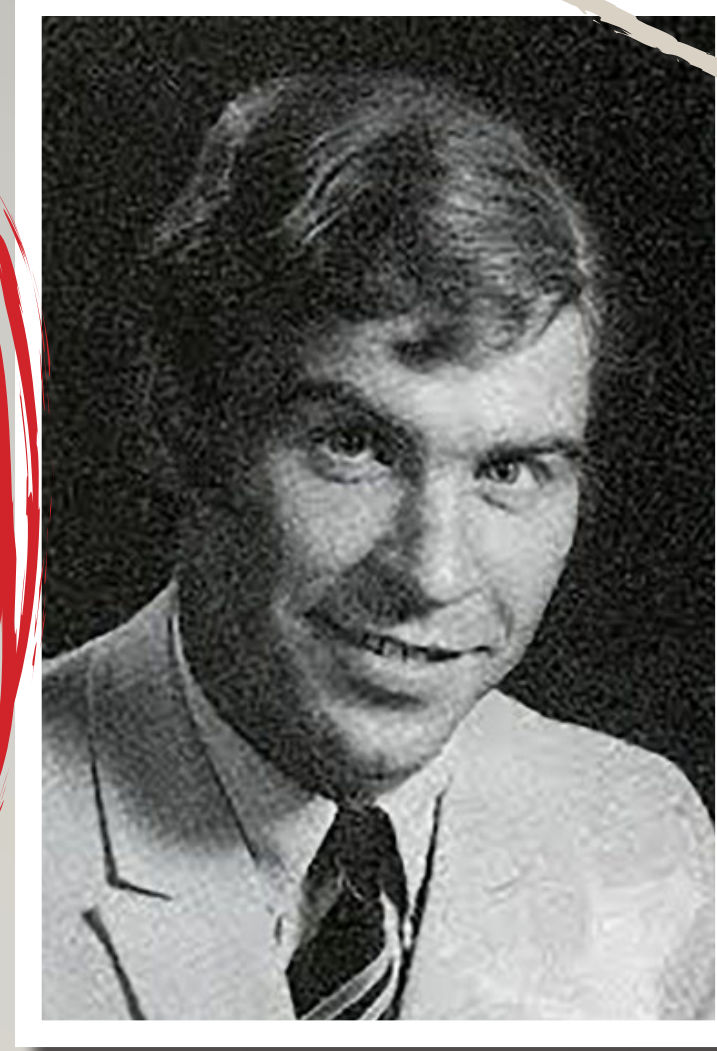
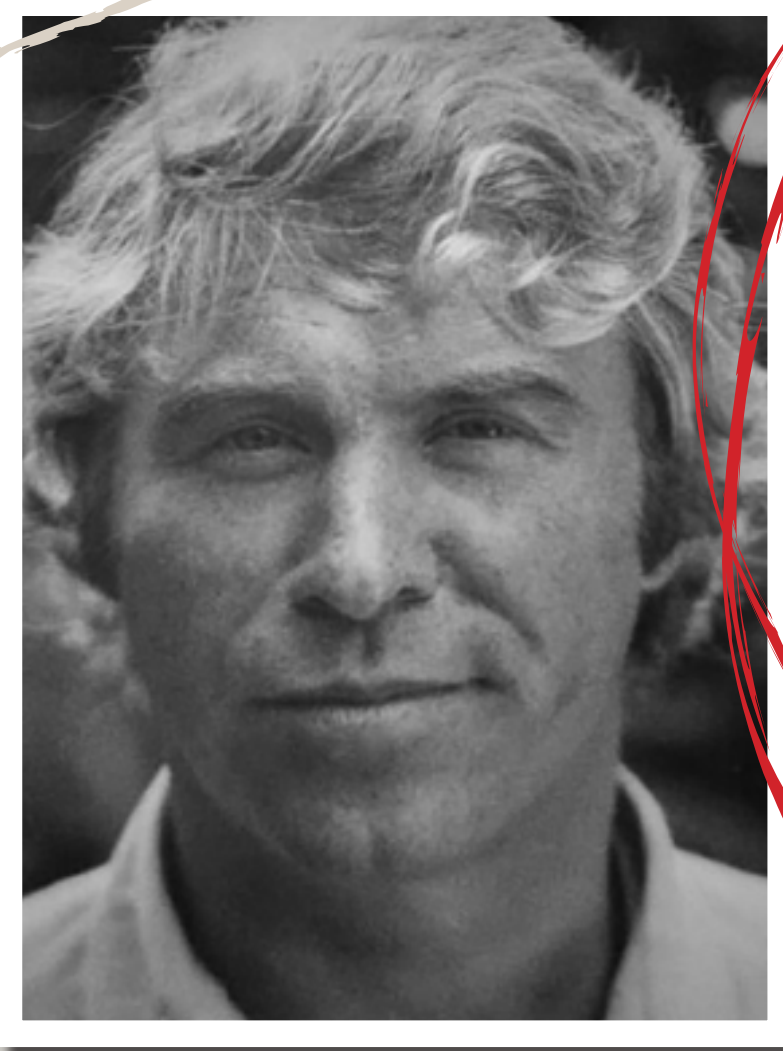
## Project MKUltra

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Project MKUltra was a long-running series of experiments overseen by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) between the 1950s and 1970s. Scientists tested the effects of various drugs, chemical weapons, torture techniques, and psychological procedures on American citizens without giving them full disclosure. The experiments dabbled in hypnosis and brain washing. One branch of the project included administering hallucinogens to test subjects, without their knowledge and with no medical personnel on site. Several subjects died. The U.S. Senate held hearings about the project in 1976 and 1977 and discovered that the overall goal for the project was to develop covert weapons for the U.S. military.



# 9



## Danny Casolaro

Joseph Daniel “Danny” Casolaro was a freelance writer and journalist who lived near Fairfax, Virginia. He was from a large and close Italian-American family with five siblings and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He left college before graduating to take a trip to Ecuador. Danny married his college sweetheart and had one son, “Trey.” The family raised horses on a 3-acre farm. After being married for 13 years, he and his wife divorced. Friends described Danny as a congenial, open-minded and trusting soul and the ultimate nice guy. He enjoyed playing the piano, listening to Elvis Costello music, and reading.

Danny mostly wrote for magazines—the *Washington Crime News Service*, *Home and Auto*, *The Washington Star*, *The National Enquirer* and *The Globe*—but he did have one novel, *The Ice King*, published by a vanity press in 1981. He also published a short story collection and wrote for two small films.

In August of 1991, Danny went to Martinsburg, West Virginia **15** to meet with a source. Before leaving, he told his brother Anthony, “If anything happens to me, don’t believe it’s an accident.” He was found dead in his hotel room a few days later. Martinsburg ruled it a suicide, released his body to the funeral home before an autopsy, and did not treat the hotel room as a crime scene. His friends and family do not believe he committed suicide.

# 10



## “Brian Ehrlich”

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“Brian Ehrlich,” the character in the play, is representative of the real-life Dr. Earl W. Brian, who began his career as a combat physician in the Vietnam War and worked on Operation Phoenix, a CIA political assassination program notorious for torture. After the war, he became Secretary of Health for the State of California under Reagan **13**. He also ran several private businesses, including Xionics, Biotech Capital Corp., and Hadron Inc., all of which had either contracts with the U.S. government **6** or high-profile government official board members or stock owners.

During the Reagan Administration, Brian was the White House appointee on health care issues. Brian was supposedly one of the brokers of the October Surprise **16** of 1980 that allegedly negotiated with Iran to hold U.S. hostages until after Reagan was elected president. Brian denied any knowledge of the PROMIS software **4** or ever having met Michael Riconosciuto **20**. However, a report from California’s Riverside County Sheriff’s Office and District Attorney states that Brian and Riconosciuto both attended a weapons demonstration on the Cabazon Reservation **2** in 1981.

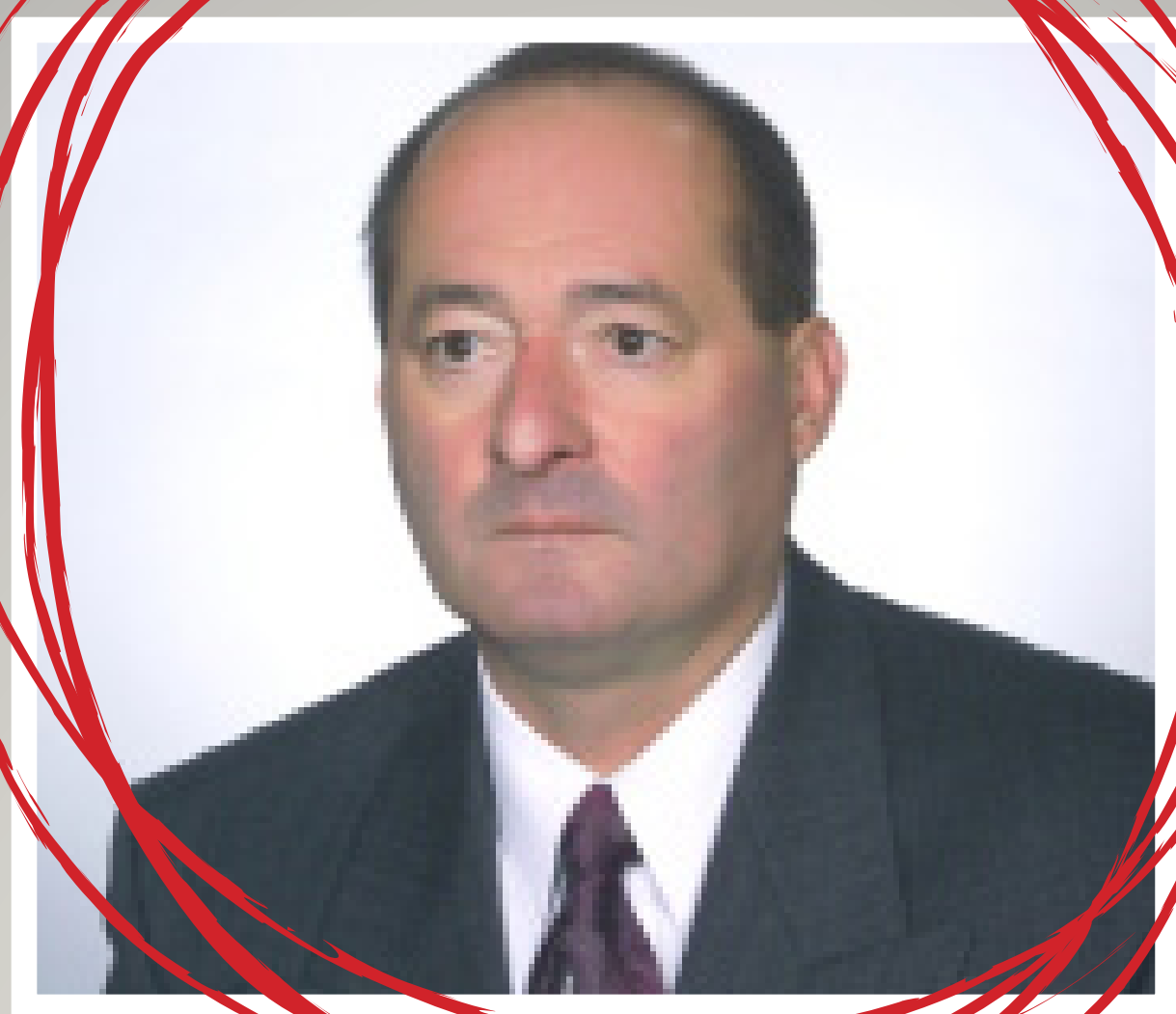
# 11



## Mujahideen

The word "Mujahideen" means a group of Muslim rebels (or "strugglers"), and there have been multiple mujahideen in history. The most well known is the mujahideen that started in response to Soviet troops invading Afghanistan during the Afghan/Soviet War (1979-1989). Although the mujahideen was not a unified ethnic or political group, they successfully took control of most of the rural areas during the war and gained support from a large portion of Afghan civilians. The Soviets called the Afghani mujahideen "insurgents," but the United States called them "freedom fighters." Ultimately the mujahideen neutralized Soviet airstrikes with sophisticated weaponry obtained from the United States. The Soviets withdrew their troops and the mujahideen disbanded.

# 12



## Joseph Anthony Cuellar

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Joseph Cuellar was a U.S. Army Special Forces covert intelligence officer. He graduated from West Point in 1976. He has master's degrees in Strategic Intelligence (from the National Defense Intelligence College) and Security Studies (from Georgetown). He is bi-lingual in English and Spanish with a working knowledge of several other languages, including Portuguese and Arabic. He has lived all over Europe, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. He now works as a private consultant for Behavior, Management, and Foreign Affairs Consulting Intl. LLC and lives in Athens, Georgia. He also is involved with the National Society for Hispanic Professionals and is an expert on exotic birds.

# 13



## President Jimmy Carter

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James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. (Democrat) served as the 39th president of the United States from 1977 to 1981. Prior to being president, he was a Georgia State Senator and the Governor of Georgia. His status as a Washington outsider helped him win the election during the Watergate scandal.

Some of the most significant moments of his administration were the Iranian Revolution (1979), the Soviet/Afghan War (1979-1989), and a domestic economic recession. During the Iranian Revolution, U.S. hostages from the Embassy in Tehran were held for 444 days **14**. The Revolution also interrupted petroleum shipments to the United States, resulting in an energy crisis.

When the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979 **11**, Carter refused to ratify the United States arms treaty with the Soviet Union, despite having agreed to the terms during the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks II earlier that year. He also led the United States in the boycott of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Carter lost his campaign for a second term to Ronald Reagan in 1980.

# 13



## President Ronald Reagan

Ronald Wilson Reagan (Republican) served as the 40th president of the United States from 1981 to 1989. Prior to being president, he was a film actor and the Governor of California. He campaigned on improving the U.S. economy and on taking a more aggressive stance in the Cold War.

Some of the most significant aspects of Reagan's presidency were his economic plan ("Reaganomics"), a mass build-up of the U.S. military, and the Iran-Contra Affair **14**. Reagan made large tax cuts for the top income bracket and reduced public program spending to stimulate the economy. He also increased military spending and U.S. weapons production. He publicly denounced the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." **11**

Because Reagan was anti-communist, he supported the Contra movements in Nicaragua and other South American countries. Although it was illegal to sell weapons to the hostile government of Iran and to support the Contras, Reagan officials did both. Investigations later found Reagan to have little to no knowledge of either program.

# 13



## President George H. W. Bush

George Herbert Walker Bush (Republican) served as the 41st president of the United States from 1989 to 1993. Prior to being president, he was Reagan's vice president, a congressman, and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The most significant aspects of Bush's presidency were his tax increase, the end of the Cold War, and the Gulf War (1990-91). After promising "no new taxes" in his campaign, Bush was forced to renege in order to alleviate deficits from the Reagan presidency. After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, Bush began talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which led to promises not to attack one another and an arms treaty that deescalated weapons development in both countries.

In 1990, Bush led the Gulf War in which the United States and coalition forces successfully ended an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Bush lost his campaign for a second term to Bill Clinton in 1992. One of his last acts as president was to pardon those indicted for their part in the Iran-Contra Affair **14**.

# 14



## Iran-Contrra Affair

In 1979 the Iranian Revolution began and the Sandinistas, a socialist party, overthrew the dictatorship in Nicaragua. Iranian revolutionaries took hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. As a result, the United States instituted an arms embargo against Iran.

In 1982, Congress passed a law, called the Boland Amendment, that said the United States could not aid the Contras, or counter-revolutionaries fighting the Sandinistas, in Nicaragua. In 1985, Reagan Administration **13** senior officials began illegally selling weapons to Iran and using the profits to secretly fund the Contras. The sale of weapons to Iran was supposed to help free the American hostages, and the scandal was called "arms for hostages."

In 1986, journalists broke the story. Reagan at first denied the accusations, but later admitted to selling arms to Iran and apologized. Both a U.S. Congress Select Committee and the 3-person Reagan-appointed Tower Commission investigated the scandal. They were thwarted by the fact that Oliver North, a National Security Council officer, had destroyed countless documents.

President Reagan ultimately was exonerated, but several senior officials were indicted. All were pardoned during George H.W. Bush's presidency.



# 15



## Martinsburg, West Virginia

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Martinsburg, West Virginia is a town of about 18,000 people located about 75 miles northwest of Washington, D.C., in the Eastern Panhandle of the state. It is the county seat of Berkeley County. The major employers in Martinsburg are the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) **6**, the Veterans Administration Center, and the U.S. Coast Guard's Operations System Center. The IRS in Martinsburg processes most of the country's electronically filed tax returns. Martinsburg is also home to a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) investigation facility.

Other than its proximity to Washington, D.C., Martinsburg has these government offices due to Senator Robert Carlyle Byrd, one of the longest-serving U.S. Senators, who lobbied for them during his tenure.

In 1991, Danny Casolaro **9** was found dead in a room of the Sheridan Hotel in Martinsburg.

# 16

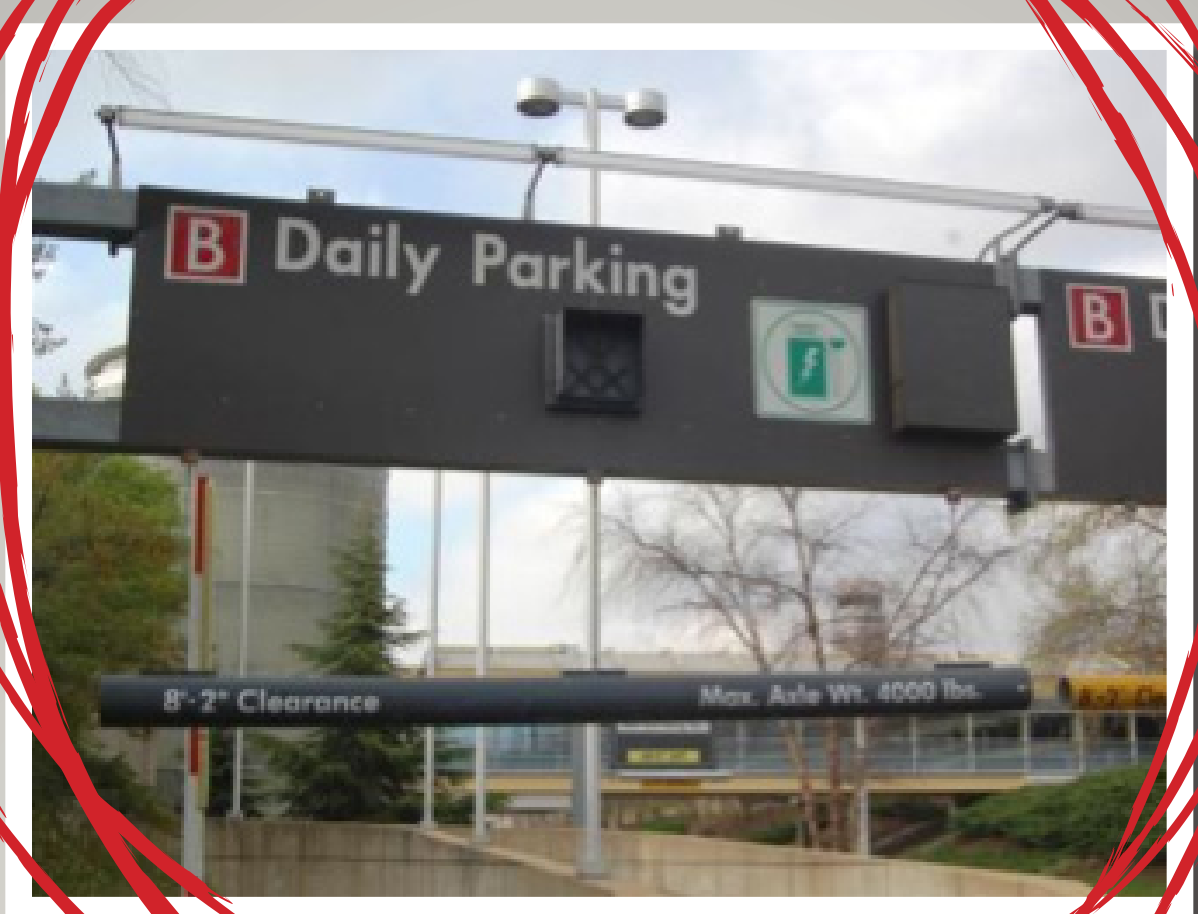


## October Surprise

The October Surprise of 1980 is the theory that the Reagan **13** presidential campaign met with officials from the Iranian government on the weekend of October 17 - 21, 1980, in Paris. The deal, according to the former Iranian President, an ex-Israeli spy, and a former CIA contract agent, included promising \$40 million worth of weapons to the Iranians if they would agree not to release the hostages before the U.S. presidential election in November. The Reagan campaign allegedly worried that if the hostages were released on Carter's watch, that he would be re-elected.

Supposedly, the Iranians agreed to the deal and released the hostages during Reagan's inauguration. Those who claimed to be present at the meetings said Earl Brian **10**, William Casey (Reagan's campaign manager and later his CIA director), and George H.W. Bush **13** attended the meeting. Allegedly the money was transferred through the Bank of Credit and Commerce International **19** and the agreement precipitated the Iran-Contra Affair **14**.

# 17



## “Alan Spar”

“Alan Spar,” the character in the play, is representative of the real-life Alan Standorf, a National Security Agency clerk who was found dead in his car in the Washington (Reagan) National Airport parking lot on January 29, 1991.

Standorf was a resident of Warrenton, Virginia, and worked gathering electronic intelligence from spy satellites and other sources around the world. Originally from Pennsylvania, he became an Army intelligence officer after high school. He later graduated from the University of Wisconsin and stayed active in the Army Reserves. He never discussed his job with his family, even when he resigned in December of 1990 because his Reserve unit had been called up for the Persian Gulf War.

His body was found on the back floor of his car, under a pile of luggage and personal items, weeks after his death. His death was caused by a blow to the back of his head. Both the FBI and the Army investigated his death, along with the police, but because of the amount of time between his death and when he was found, they were unable to solve the case.

# 18



## Wackenhut

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Wackenhut Security Services is the world's largest private security agency, providing security for prisons, nuclear facilities and test sites, embassies, and military installations worldwide.

The company was founded in 1954 in Florida by George Wackenhut, a former FBI agent and extreme conservative. Early on the company won contracts with the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral and with government nuclear bomb testing sites in Nevada. Additionally, the company created and kept an enormous database of criminals and U.S. dissidents. The company is rumored to have close connections, if not outright contracts, with the CIA.

After several human rights scandals in the 1990s at their private prisons, and amidst accusations of misusing federal funds, Wackenhut was sold to the Danish company Group 4 Falck in 2002 and then merged into the British-owned G4S in 2004.

# 19



## Bank of Credit and Commerce International

The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was an international bank started in Pakistan in the 1970s with branches in more than 70 countries before it folded in the early 1990s.

Precipitating the bank's collapse, auditors discovered that the bank handled accounts for Saddam Hussein, Manuel Noriega, Colombian **7** and Russian drug cartels, and had helped make the Iran-Contra Affair **14**, the sale of the PROMIS software **4**, weapons sales to the mujahideen **11**, and the October Surprise **16** possible.

Many U.S. presidents (Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush **13** and Bill Clinton) and the CIA allegedly had used BCCI, although the bank was not legal in the United States because of its loose regulation and records policies. BCCI officials secretly bought First American Bank in Washington, D.C., and installed a board unaware of the connection to BCCI, including D.C.-area lawyer Clark Clifford, to assuage suspicion.

In 1991 a U.S. federal investigation revealed all this and the First American Bank was closed. Later an international commission investigated BCCI and the bank collapsed.

# 20



## Michael Riconosciuto

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At 10 years old, Michael Riconosciuto rewired his neighborhood's phone lines to undercut Bell Telephone. In 8th grade he won a science fair with a homemade sonar system. When he was 16, he became a summer research assistant for Nobel Laureate and Stanford physicist Dr. Arthur Schawlow, after bringing him a homemade argon laser. After Stanford, Riconosciuto went to Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco, where he worked for an underground newspaper.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, Riconosciuto was vice president of Meridian Arms, Inc., where he developed weapons technology with Robert Booth Nichols **21**. He was allegedly Director of Research for a Cabazon **2**/Wackenhut **18** arms manufacture, and he said he developed the air heat bomb used in the 1983 Beirut Marine Barracks bombing.

He claims to have participated in the October Surprise meetings **16**. During the House Judiciary Committee's investigation into PROMIS in 1991, Riconosciuto swore an affidavit saying he reprogrammed the PROMIS software **4**. He was arrested a few days later for making methamphetamine. He is still serving that sentence.

# 21



## Robert Booth Nichols

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Robert Booth Nichols was born in Los Angeles, the son of a doctor. Allegedly he was an assassin and participated in CIA mind control programs **8** during the Vietnam War. He supposedly worked for the Yakuza, the Japanese mafia, as a young man living in Hawaii, and ran a rum-importing business at the same time, later revealed to be a cover for heroin trafficking.

Nichols was also connected to the Medellín Cocaine Cartel in Central America. He was president of Meridian Arms, Inc., a California company licensed to possess, transport, and sell automatic weapons. Michael Riconosciuto **20** was the vice president. Meridian Arms allegedly partnered with Wackenhut Security **18** and the Cabazon Reservation **2** to manufacture arms that were later sold to the mujahideen **11**, Iran **14**, and Hezbollah. Nichols allegedly also participated in the October Surprise meetings **16**.

In the 1980s and early 1990s, Nichols consulted for MCA Entertainment, a Hollywood film company. The FBI **22** began investigating Nichols and MCA in 1987 for its alleged ties to a \$500 million stock fraud and the Gambino crime family.

Prior to his death in Switzerland in 2009, he was the subject of multiple lawsuits and investigations, but he was never arrested.

# 22



## FBI Agent Thomas Gates

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Thomas Gates served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, and went to college at Ball State University. After the war he worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in the Los Angeles division office. He spearheaded an FBI investigation into Robert Booth Nichols **21**, begun in 1987.

The investigation tapped Nichols' phone lines in his office at MCA Entertainment after it was alleged that Nichols was connected to La Cosa Nostra, or organized crime, particularly the Gambino family. Nichols sued Gates for slander, but lost when a judge ruled that Nichols could not sue Gates personally since Gates was acting as a representative of the U.S. government.

Gates retired from the FBI in 1996. He now runs his own homeland security/counter terrorism/information technology consulting company in Florida. He also does charity work for the PGA Tour Charities Birdies, a branch of the PGA that raises money for military personnel.