

Reporter sues reporter

Former N.Y. Times correspondent alleges he was libeled in book by Wall Street Journal reporter who linked him to the CIA during Iranian coup

By Andrew Radolf

A former *New York Times* foreign correspondent is suing *Wall Street Journal* reporter Jonathan Kwitny for libel over criticisms made in Kwitny's book *Endless Enemies, the Making of an Unfriendly World* about the way the correspondent covered the 1953 coup in Iran.

That coup on August 19, 1953, overthrew Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh and restored Shah Reza Pahlevi to his throne.

Former Timesman Kennett Love is also charging copyright infringement, claiming that Kwitny published without permission extensive excerpts from his 1960 term paper on the coup, "The American Role in the Pahlevi Restoration," which he wrote for a Princeton University graduate course on Iranian history.

The suit is seeking a permanent injunction barring use of the excerpts in the book and over \$5 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

Commenting on Love's own account in his paper of his actions during the Iranian coup, Kwitny says the document shows that the former correspondent overstepped the bounds of journalistic neutrality and took an "activist role" in the coup on the side of those seeking to overthrow Mossadegh, which included the Central Intelligence Agency.

Kwitny also says in his book that Love's 1960 term paper shows that the Times correspondent in 1953 knew of the CIA's involvement in the coup but that he never reported on it in his dispatches from Iran.

Love never published the 1960 term paper. He did, however, send a copy in 1966 to former CIA director Allen Dulles who included it in his papers stored at Princeton.

Kenneth Kelly, editor of the newsletter *Counterspy*, published excerpts from Love's paper in 1980. Kelly, who is also a defendant in the suit, later helped Kwitny get a copy of the paper which was cited extensively in the hard cover version of the book published by Congdon & Weed, which later went bankrupt.

In the paperback edition, published by Penguin Books, the excerpts from Love's paper have been deleted and numerous blank spaces left in their place.

Kwitny said the paperback edition was published after a year of negotiation with Penguin over the wording of a note on the litigation that appears just before the first chapter. The note explains that the deletions are the result of the libel and copyright infringement suit and states that the author and bankruptcy estate of the hardcover publisher have denied the allegations and are defending the lawsuit.

Kwitny said he would only agree to language that made it clear he was not retracting any of the originally published material.

Love said his paper on the coup "was never intended for publication" and that he never gave Kwitny permission to publish it.

Love told how he helped distribute leaflets which announced that the Shah had appointed a new premier to replace Mossadegh.

At another point in the narrative, Love states: "I myself was responsible, in an impromptu sort of way, for speeding the final victory of the royalists."

Love then relates that he went to the government radio station after it fell to the royalists to request permission to transmit a dispatch.

At the radio station, Love said there were a half-dozen tanks "swarming with cheering soldiers . . . I told the tank commanders that a lot of people were getting killed trying to storm Dr. Mossadegh's house and that they, the tank commanders, ought to go down there where they would be of some use instead of sitting idly at the radio station." Love continued that the tank commanders took his advice and "put

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Kwitny stated that he received permission from Love after talking with him at length on the telephone. He has produced both notes from their conversation and a record of his phone bill.

Love's paper also did not have a copyright mark on it, he said, and should be considered a public document.

"As far as I'm concerned, it was a valuable public record from Dulles' papers," Kwitny said. He noted that Counterspy held a press conference in 1980 when it published excerpts from Love's paper and the *New York Times* covered it at the time.

In his paper describing events surrounding the coup, Love mentions several activities of his which may have overstepped the boundaries of journalistic neutrality. At one point,

the three tanks at Mossadegh's house out of action."

Kwitny comment on this passage reads: "And there we have it, folks — the Iranian correspondent for the *New York Times* directing the successful tank attack on the home of the Iranian prime minister, overthrowing the government, fixing one-man rule in Iran and setting off a chain of events that would include the loss of Iranian oil to the U.S. markets and invasion of Afghanistan."

Elsewhere in his comments, Kwitny wonders how Love was aware that certain U.S. embassy officials at the time of the coup were actually working for the CIA and questions whether Love himself was a CIA agent.

"Love has denied that he was ever actually employed by the CIA,"