Murder of a Princess

Thomas Sancton is the Paris bureau chief of Time magazine. Scott MacLeod is a Middle East correspondent for Time. The two men have done an impressive job of assembling a detailed chronology of the events leading up to, and following, the Aug. 31, 1997 tragic car crash in Paris, that claimed the lives of Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed, and their driver, Henri Paul.

The Paris crash has almost universally been blamed on the driver of the Mercedes, Henri Paul. Within 48 hours of the crash, French police told reporters that post-mortem blood tests showed that Paul had been drunk at the time of the “accident,” and that he had been driving at over 120 mph.

The Sancton-MacLeod book goes a long way towards debunking this “official” account of what was probably the most significant political assassination to take place, since the murder of President John F. Kennedy.

From the moment that the world learned about the tragic death of Princess Diana and her companions, the French police have been engaged in a shameless coverup. The blood tests done on Henri Paul, according to several leading European forensic experts interviewed by this reviewer, were so badly bungled, that no reliable conclusions can be drawn.

Eyewitnesses, including Trevor Rees-Jones, the bodyguard of Dodi Fayed, who was the sole survivor of the crash, have seriously challenged the official claim that Paul was drunk.

In a tantalizing footnote that they never pursued further, the authors noted that Henri Paul’s blood also contained near-fatal levels of carbon monoxide. Does this suggest that the car was sabotaged?

While French police claimed that the Mercedes was travelling at over 120 mph at the time of the crash, independent forensic experts, as well as the manufacturers of the car, have proven that the speed was no more than 60 mph. The Time reporters did a thorough job of debunking this feature of the official French coverup.

And, in one of the most controversial points made by Sancton and MacLeod, the authors showed that Princess Diana stood a good chance of surviving the crash, had she received the kind of emergency medical treatment that would have been provided in the United States, and even in Britain. Although doctors at the scene immediately concluded, correctly, that Princess Diana was bleeding internally, it took rescue workers nearly two hours to get her to a hospital. She bled to death just moments before emergency surgery began.

Sancton and MacLeod contend that Diana might have been alive today, had she been rushed to a hospital, and operated on within an hour. On this issue, they are unquestionably correct.

The Fiat

The biggest unsolved mystery surrounding the crash is the missing Fiat Uno. A dozen eyewitnesses told French police that the Mercedes was being chased by a number of cars and motorcycles. At the entrance to the tunnel, the Mercedes collided with a Fiat Uno. Paint scratches from the Fiat were found on the passenger side of the Mercedes; and fragments of the Fiat’s tail light were also found at the site. The Fiat fled the tunnel, and disappeared from the face of the Earth.

The disappearance of the Fiat defies benign explanation. This reviewer, writing in the pages of Executive Intelligence Review in November 1997, charged that cumulative forensic and eyewitness evidence suggests that the Fiat carried out a premeditated vehicular attack against Diana’s car. As the result of mountains of evidence, this reviewer wrote that the crash probe should have already been formally pursued as a murder-conspiracy investigation.

I firmly believe the authors of Death of a Princess share this view. Unfortunately, instead of stating their conclusions about the events of Aug. 31, 1997, they chose to conclude their book with a chapter, titled “Was it Murder?” in which they cited this reviewer’s EIR magazine coverage as the most credible of the “conspiracy theories” about the crash. They reported that Mohamed al-Fayed, the father of Dodi Fayed, is also convinced that the couple were murdered.

They also missed the boat on one very crucial facet of the story. Focusing on the blossoming love affair between Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed, the authors failed to identify the overriding reason why the British Royal Family, particularly the murderous Royal Consort, Prince Philip, might wish to see Princess Diana dead.

As EIR magazine consistently reported since 1994, Princess Diana had been in a running war with the House of Windsor, from no later than 1990. She correctly saw the Windsors as the world’s most powerful dysfunctional family. Beginning in 1992, she made her views known publicly, first, through her cooperation with British writer Andrew Morton, who published a 1992 tell-all book about life inside the House of Windsor.

In November 1995, Princess Diana
The House of Windsor and the Hitler Project

The “mainstream media” have treated this book as a series of soap-opera vignettes. However, the truth is that Kelley’s book is a serious attempt to present a history of the centuries-old House of Hanover in its 20th-century incarnation as the House of Windsor. Kelley conducted more than five years of research, and conducted hundreds of interviews with insiders, who provided her with a “fly-on-the-wall” viewpoint on the internal workings of the principal members of the British Royal Family. The book’s main flaw, is Kelley’s lack of a deeper knowledge of the history and geopolitical goals of the Royals.

A prominent feature of how the mainstream media have sought to blunt the book’s impact, is how they selected one paragraph from Kelley’s book, in order to discredit it. That paragraph was based upon a high-level source report, that King George VI was impotent, which necessitated that his daughters, the future Queen Elizabeth II, and her sister Margaret, be conceived through artificial insemination. Interestingly, no one had the audacious humor to ask: “If this report is true, then what species was used for the artificial insemination?”

This is especially true in terms of Kelley’s documentation that it was not just King Edward VIII (HRH The Duke of Windsor, upon his abdication), who was a party to the House of Windsor-directed project to impose Adolf Hitler on a prostrate Germany, as the marcher-lord for British geopolitical goals to destroy both Russia and Germany through Hitler’s Drang Nach Osten [Drive to the East]. Kelley provides some of the documentation to show that, among other royals, the royal consort, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, had ties to the “Hitler Project.”

The Royals and the Nazis

First, Kelley identifies the pro-Nazi sentiments of George V’s successor, King Edward VIII, who was forced to abdicate in 1936. Actually, King Edward VIII’s abdication represented a cold coup d’état by a faction of the Club of the Isles, which had come to see Hitler as an uncontrollable Frankenstein monster. Kelley notes that after the Duke of Windsor’s abdication, he entered into negotiations with Adolf Hitler, who was then considering an invasion of the United Kingdom, and who offered to reinstate the Duke and Duchess of Windsor upon the British throne as puppet monarchs.

Actually, as Arts & Entertainment documented in a recent Biography television broadcast, the Duke of Windsor’s treason went even deeper than Kelley suspected. When a Luftwaffe aircraft crashed carrying the Nazis’ plans for their thrust through Belgium, it was the Duke of Windsor who informed Hitler that the plans had been captured. Hitler was thus able to reorganize 60 divisions, so that he flanked the Allied defending forces, which had taken up positions thinking Hitler would carry through his original plan. Within 37 days, the Nazis were marching through Paris, and the Duke of Windsor deserted his post for the Iberian Peninsula, where, during his negotiations to return to the British throne at the head of the Wehrmacht, he sent a message that Britain would capitulate to aerial bombardment. That bombardment began the day Sir Win-

It was this issue—the strategic battle over the fate of the House of Windsor—that the authors failed to raise, in the course of their otherwise worthwhile attempt to sort out the fact from the fiction about the death of a princess.

—Jeffrey Steinberg