



THE BUSINESS OF TREASON

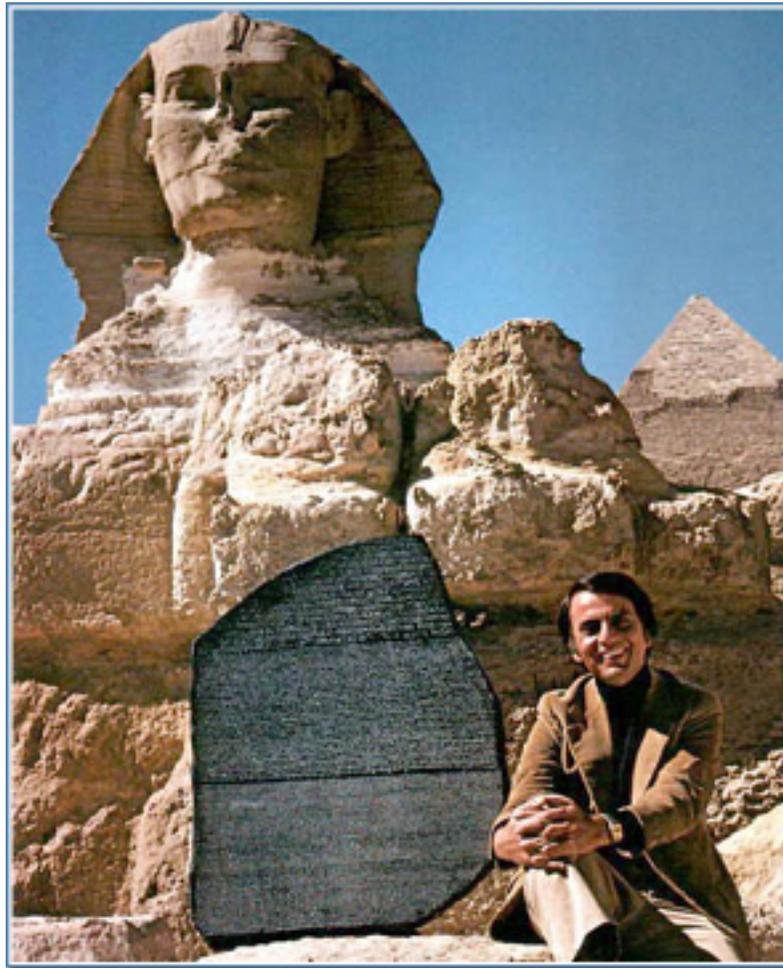


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A. MARTINEZ

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“Extraordinary Claims Require Extraordinary Evidence.”

The late astronomer Carl Sagan



“Extraordinary Crimes Require Extraordinary Investigation.”

The victims of 9/11

Introduction

This project began with a compelling story. A terrible tale that I, like most of the people on the planet, had been told at a terrible time -- when I was angry like I've never been angry before. A story told when I was suddenly scared for the lives of my children and utterly captured by an urgent need to protect them. It was a story, therefore, that I was more than ready -- eager actually -- to believe.

And believe it I did. For four years and eight months.

At which point, in late April of 2006, the same story -- seen more clearly in the context of its aftermath, and with certain previously hidden truths about it brought to light -- began to fall apart.

The film *United 93* was released that month, and I was among the many thousands of Americans who considered ourselves intrepid enough to defy the widespread handwringing over whether it was "too soon" to revisit our national tragedy. I went to see it.

To review, *United 93* is director Paul Greengrass' take on that mythical flight, the last to have been hijacked on September 11th. It is an amazing and difficult experience to take the ride -- a ride we have all imagined at some point in time. Blown away by it, and more than a little troubled by a few of the surprising details in the narrative, I went back a few nights later for a second look.

The film reminded me that I had flown from LA to NYC shortly after that day, and will always remember how blatantly some of the male passengers, myself included, circulated among our fellow travelers as we waited to board. We were looking into the various faces of this gathered group of strangers, and making quick assessments about who each of these people might actually be. There was a sense among us that a message was being sent: Anyone who means to do something bad to this flight will be challenged. The example of the reports of heroism among the *United 93* passengers was still vividly etched in our minds.

The movie is shot in the casually observed style of a documentary, which contributes greatly to its power. The plot is designed to unfold in a time frame that corresponds to known, actual events of the day, as lived through and recorded by the thousands of people in positions of official responsibility across the eastern United States. These were people of good conscience who were taken by surprise by the attacks -- masked as they were by the six astoundingly coincidental, simultaneously staged "war games" which mimicked their every aspect -- and these good people struggled to respond coherently.

Several of the Air Traffic Controllers who actually manned the consoles on 9/11 play themselves in the movie -- brilliantly -- as does Ben Sliney, at the time the National Operations Manager of the FAA. Historians will note that September 11th was Mr. Sliney's very first day on the job.

There are many strangely haunting aspects to the chaos that marked our government's lack of useful response to the grandly executed brutality, and the movie mostly lays them out without comment or explanation. At one point early in the crisis an FAA official tells Sliney that he just called the "hijack control center" for help, but there was "no one at the desk and no back up..." I had heard reference to that particular oddity a couple of years before, but let it slip my mind.

"What exactly is the hijack control center?" I asked myself this time.

And how could such an apparently crucial post be left unmanned? Why hadn't that turned into a scandal? Wouldn't someone's head roll if they showed up late for work that day or otherwise blew that assignment? I wondered who took the fall for it and what might have been written about that little nugget.

Typing the words "hijack control center" into Google, I was immediately ushered into the ocean of speculation that has risen around so many aspects of the infamous day.

Though my skepticism meter was red-lining as I began to read -- four years and eight months, after all, is a long time to devote to a fiercely held point of view -- I decided to explore.

Two years of study have since gone by.

Along the way, I've encountered some of the wackiest thinking and most random butchering of logic and language a person could imagine. There is some preposterous bullshit out there; leaps to outrageous conclusions that only the most reckless psychic acrobat would dare to try. People can be so easily rendered irrational by their unsated rage and fear.

That being said...

There is no longer any doubt in my mind that the truth about what happened on 9/11 has been withheld from the American people and eventually misrepresented, in a profound and deeply troubling way.

The import of this cannot be overstated:

The course and very consciousness of our nation, and indeed the entire world, has shifted abruptly because of September 11th; modern history instantly and forcibly altered. There cannot be a crime that screams for a more thorough examination, and any patriotic American citizen might think that such an examination would have been undertaken immediately by our government. In this case, the citizen would be wrong.

When you familiarize yourself with some basic facts about the day -- and then read how those facts were dealt with in the official "report" of the reluctantly convened 9/11 Commission -- you quickly realize that the Commission had no intention of learning or reporting the truth.

It is quietly routine, for example, for military jets to scramble, engage, and divert errant airplanes in the skies above America. As 9/11 approached, this well practiced response was recurring roughly ten times a month, and was typically launched within minutes. Yet on the day of the attacks -- in a week which had been widely specified in advance to be particularly "dangerous" -- no intervention whatever was accomplished during a siege which lasted for more than an hour and three quarters.

The need for clarification of the reasons for such a bizarre and unlikely stand down is overwhelmingly obvious.

Yet when any judgment of the changing, contradictory, and incriminating explanations offered by those in charge could be avoided by the 9/11 Commission -- it was. When it couldn't be avoided -- it was often stripped of its implications by a bald-faced distortion of fact. No further questions asked.

To leave other considerations aside for a moment and focus only on the tragedy in New York: The murder of thousands of human beings and the destruction of the three towers -- the two that were hit by airplanes and the one that wasn't -- was surely the most widely watched and terrifying crime ever committed, and yet somehow most of us who witnessed it have been made to accept an explanation of how it happened which cannot possibly be true. I'm ashamed that I remained ignorant of that fact for such a long time.

Walking through lower Manhattan in the aftermath, I had been moved to tears repeatedly by the desperate messages of hope and the tattered pictures of lost loved ones and the families they left behind that seemed to cover every inch of every available wall and post. Pleas for information that might lead to miracles -- miracles that the totality of the destruction would not allow.

So much horror visited on so many people, in so short a time. The horrific gray powder covering everything; a powder so fine it looked like mayonnaise; its stench inescapable for blocks on end. It is nothing less than a crime against the remembered lives of the innocents -- each and every one of the human beings who were literally turned to dust before our eyes -- not to have demanded to know what caused such horror to happen.

Ominously for our future -- most of us do not understand science, and thus we may be lied to with transcendent confidence.

But the fact remains, that in the history of the world -- before and since September 11th -- no steel-framed building has ever collapsed due to fire. On that day, we were told it happened for the first time, and then, remarkably, for the second. What are the odds?

And finally -- God must've averted His eyes -- for a third time.

It is a telling observation that half of the American people do not have even a vague knowledge that World Trade Center Seven also exploded to its demise on 9/11 -- some seven hours after the failures of the twin towers. The math, of course, gets more difficult here: Two planes must somehow be made to knock down three buildings.

When asked, authorities first blamed several small fires of unknown origin. Building Seven, however, was possessed of a state of the art fire prevention system, due to the fact that its tenants included the CIA, the IRS, the Secret Service and Mayor Giuliani's \$23 million Emergency Command Bunker -- not to mention the SEC, where millions of pages of precious data, including that of the federal investigations into the Enron and WorldCom scandals, were stored.

Then authorities instead blamed damage to one corner of the base of Building Seven, said to have been incurred from the destruction of Building One -- though the two stood 355 feet apart and another seven-story building stood between them. A single, authentic-looking photo was released, which showed such damage from an odd angle, but interestingly showed not a trace of the jagged rubble which supposedly caused it.

But no matter. As any lumberjack -- or toddler -- can tell you: a tall thing that falls due to a weakened bottom corner is going to tip right on over like a big tree. But the 47 Stories of Building Seven -- two seconds after multiple huge explosions were heard from inside it -- collapsed directly down into its own footprint in six and a half seconds.

How exactly did Usama bin Laden do that?

I look at the videos now, including the ones I watched on the day and so many times since, and think: "How could I have been so clueless... ?" The answer, of course: I was too stunned and too angry to think.

Shock and awe.

To use the favored terminology of Donald Rumsfeld.

And of course, so much of what has happened since has served to reinforce the paralyzing effect of that original dose of "terror" that two billion people, all over the world, were dealt on that indelible day. We have heard our leaders use the word "evil" a lot in the intervening years, applied to the various "terrorists" and "terrorist-harboring states" that are now so firmly focused in the cold efficiency of our military vengeance.

But truly the "evil" of 9/11 stands alone. Such a small word, in fact, fails to adequately convey the soul-searing depth and the world-wide breadth of so horrendous a series of events. A word like "monstrous" might come closer to describing it.

And who are the monsters? We've been told. But do we truly know?

Remarkably, the posing of those rather important questions is considered bad manners by a large number of smart and reasonable people. On more occasions than I can count, a person with whom I've begun to talk about 9/11 -- and the lies and the theft and the killing that have followed in its wake -- has quickly looked for an exit by summing up the unanswered questions as a "conspiracy theory." Though this moment does nothing to address the questions or end the killing -- it usually ends the conversation.

The fact that such a simple, two-word description can so consistently terminate uncomfortable thinking got me wondering again: Is there no such thing as an actual conspiracy? Is that why it's considered a mark of foolishness to even think about the possibility? Since thinking about possibilities, of course, leads to the formation, in the human mind -- of ideas? Which may sometimes be embarrassingly described as.... theories?

In an attempt to answer these questions, I decided to do a little investigating into the history of this curious phenomenon -- and to write about it. Maybe I'm wrong, but if you have children, or friends, or parents -- or hopes for the healthy future of our country -- I think you'll find this report worth reading.

The Business of Treason unfolds in twelve illustrated chapters which run less than 200 pages. A lot of material is covered fairly quickly, with references embedded throughout. In the early chapters, these references serve mostly as lists of connections to the outside sources of my research. As the chapters progress, the references expand to include a great deal of directly quoted material -- much of which will amaze you -- and all of which is linked. Afterward, a selection of various articles of interest is appended.

The piece is designed to provide an accessible approach to what is, for most of us, a challenging set of new ideas. If we are to continue to thrive, we have a lot to learn, and as you will hopefully agree, the time to "sit silently and hope America will be okay" has passed us by. With that in mind, my one request of you is this: If you value the effort -- please pass it along to others. You have my permission to copy **The Business of Treason** in its entirety; to print it, post it elsewhere on the web, share it in any way that you wish -- as long as you do not do so for profit. The pages through "Ben Franklin" are formatted to be printed onto three-hole paper, which can easily be entered into three-ring binders, for those who'd prefer to hold these words and pictures in their hands.

For gaining a solid understanding of the forces this document seeks to address, there is no substitute for reading the books and watching the DVDs which are cited in Reference 11.10. (You can call up this list at any time by jumping to page 902.) For many people, a pivotal shift arrives when they spend 90 minutes watching the movie, **911 Mysteries** -- a vividly unforgettable piece of work. The address below provides a free stream of it, along with ordering info for the DVD, if you'd like to gather your friends and share it.

http://www.911weknow.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=34&Itemid=31

Thank you in advance for taking the time to explore. It's not an easy journey. But it is surely one we owe to the founders of our marvelous country; and to the millions of her citizens who have sacrificed so much over the years to honor America's profound and ongoing impact on the dreams and development of all humankind. Their voices call out to us today as if from the very soul of our nation -- and ask, most urgently, that we turn our eyes from all that is routine, and open our minds to the crucial tasks at hand.

As history will remind us in these pages, great lies will often last for decades, especially when profit is involved. But not forever. They cannot survive the attention of patriots.

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In 1957, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson
brings his legendary powers of persuasion to bear on Senator Theodore Green,
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Business of Treason, Illustrated
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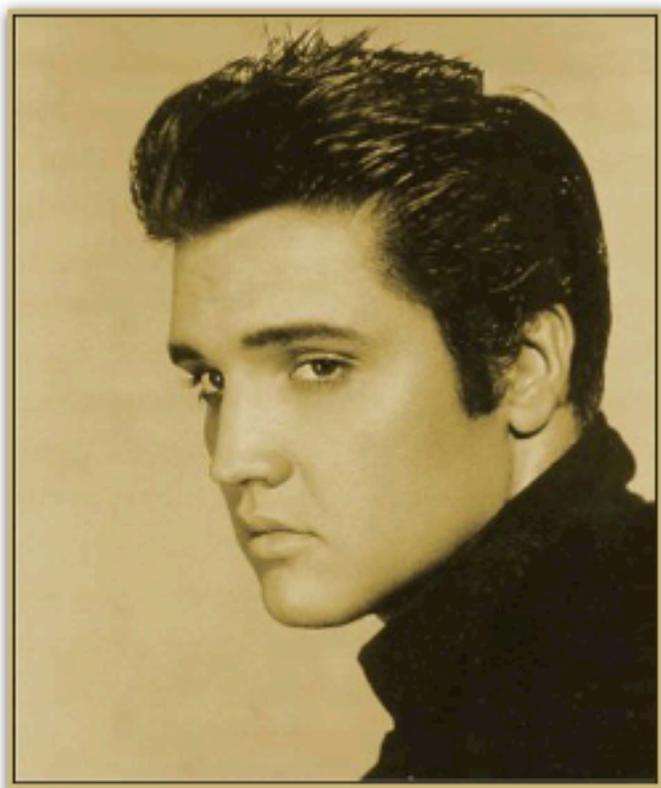
**EYEBALLING THE BONA FIDES
OF A BUTT UGLY BEAST**

Though
citizens of our country
are charged, tried and convicted
of the
Crime of Conspiracy
on a daily basis,
citizens who allege the possibility of
Conspiracy in High Places
are widely
and
forcefully discredited.

We are
Conditioned to Believe
that such citizens are
Traitors or Fools.

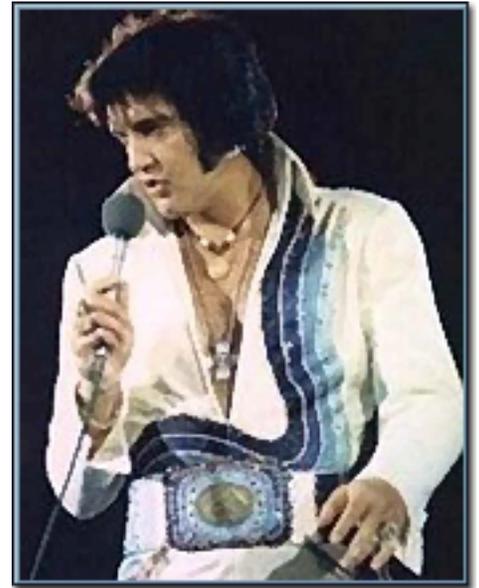
By this conditioning,
the disconnect between the
fact of constant punishment for this crime
and the
claim that people of great wealth and power
may be
equally deserving of such punishment --
but escape it --
is carefully maintained.

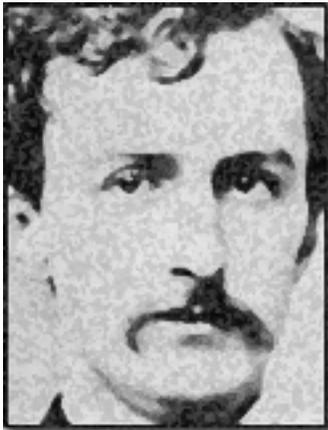
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Upon the occasion of his August 1977 death from heart disease at the tender age of 42, Elvis Presley was said to be consuming 65,000 calories a day.

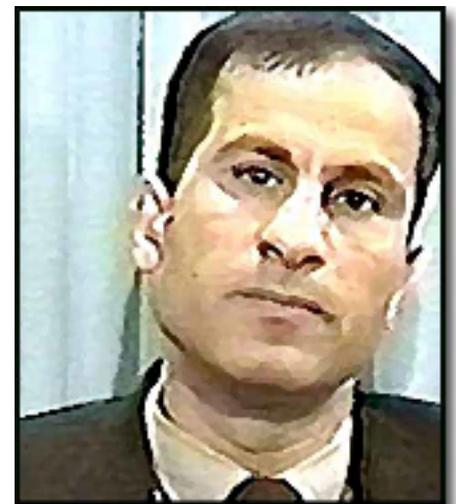
Though the recommended maximum intake for an adult male (according to the British) is 2550 calories a day; and though pumping 65,000 calories a day is the equivalent of wolfing down 108 Big Macs (which is widely considered dangerous); and though his bloated, stone cold corpse was identified at the scene in one of his many elegant Graceland restrooms -- many thousands of people consider Mr. Presley's reported passing a "fabrication." Scores of his fans around the world claim to have seen him in the years since -- alive and chillin' -- still and always -- the "King."





John Wilkes Booth was the Johnny Depp of his day -- America's most compelling actor. And yet, though widely successful and respected, he came to feel that acting was beneath him. With the Civil War raging toward resolution, and the Confederacy beginning to falter, the way of life that Booth had been raised to revere was clearly in terrible peril. His political opinions grew ever more vociferously anti-Lincoln and pro-slavery, stoking the desolation of the many friends (and hangers on) whose loyalties mirrored his own. Long drawn to the light, this celebrated "leading man" began to imagine for himself a role so grand as to deliver his legend to immortality.

In the spring of 1993, an Al-Qaeda operative by the name of Ali Mohamed provided extended security services for the American fund-raising tour of the soon-to-be infamous Ayman al-Zawahiri (Usama bin Laden's chubby right hand man). Only weeks before, Mohamed had been detained in Vancouver while attempting to pick up another suspected Al-Qaeda, a man who was carrying two false passports at the time. Upon his arrest, Mohamed instructed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to call his "handler" at the FBI. They did, were told Mohamed worked for the Bureau, and that the Bureau would like to see him released. The Mounties complied immediately.





Originally published in 1905 by Sergei Nilus, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* is a document that has been quoted and referenced in countless countries for more than a hundred years. Currently most often in play in the Arab world, this treatise, said to delineate the “secret plans of the Jewish race to conquer the world,” was first used to political effect in the waning years of Tsarist Russia. Upon the revolutionary 1917 victory of the Bolsheviks, among whom were many Jews, the “protocols” experienced a surge of interest worldwide, which led to its debut in London, where it was first presented in an English translation in 1920 and titled, *The Jewish Peril*.

Henry Ford was among its most aggressive supporters in the United States, but it was Adolf Hitler who employed the piece to most devastating effect. In *Mein Kampf*, he quoted it as direct justification for his accusations against Jewry. Telegraphing the murder of millions that his National Socialist Party would soon undertake, Hitler declared, “...the whole existence of this people is based on a continuous lie...”



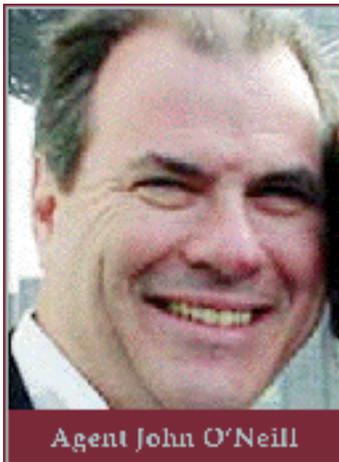
In October of 1990, the soulful, strikingly beautiful Nurse "Nayirah" (Nijirah al-Sabah) of Kuwait, was summoned to America to testify before the United States Congress about the horrors she had witnessed in a maternity ward at the hands of the invading Iraqi Army. “Nayirah” was only 15 years old at the time.

***** 5 *****

The abduction -- and subsequent beheading -- of reporter Daniel Pearl in Karachi, Pakistan in January of 2002 was a crime condemned throughout the western world as "beyond... comprehension," "senseless and pointless... an outrage," "an act of barbarism," and, for good measure, as foolishly "working counter" to the "goals" of the perpetrators. But was it? Astute observers, though reluctant to comment, could easily see how such a murder made sense -- if it were true, as time would make clear, that Mr. Pearl's commitment to uncovering hidden relationships in inconvenient places was getting perilously close to revealing the clandestine role of Pakistan in the horrors of 9/11.



In San Francisco, on February 14, 2003 (Valentine's Day) the web portal <http://www.insanereagan.org/> announced that scientists had finally discovered the long debated "missing link" between Saddam Hussein and Usama bin Laden.



Agent John O'Neill

In the late summer of 2001, FBI Agent John O'Neill, the bureau's leading expert and most effective investigator of Al-Qaeda, made his last public appearance at a counterterrorism conference held at a three-star hotel in the Spanish resort town of Salou. A few days later, hijacker-in-waiting Mohamed Atta checked into the same hotel. O'Neill returned to the states to find that someone in the FBI had leaked information about him that would immediately end his long and formidable career. Luckily, through his contacts in the intelligence community, another job opened up. On September 11, 2001, O'Neill reported for his second day of duty as the Director of Security for the World Trade Center. He never made it home.

"Sources" within the intelligence community claim that the "unnamed" former Secret Service Agent who had "begun to buckle" and took his own life in 1968, was in fact Emory Roberts, who'd become the subject of dark speculation as the man in charge of John Kennedy's security detail on November 22, 1963 in Dallas.

First he was surprised. Then he was annoyed. The Port Authority had notified its tenants, including Fiduciary Trust, where Scott Forbes was a Senior Database Administrator working on the 97th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center, that all power above the 50th floor would be shut down over the upcoming weekend, for



a period lasting 36 hours. Such a thing had never before happened in the three and a half years that Scott, an Englishman, had worked in the tower. It was, in his words, "extreme and unprecedented." It meant carefully and methodically shutting down a computer network that was always up, thereby cutting off Fiduciary's connections to all clients and vendors, certifying that backup data stores were 100% valid before taking them offsite for security, and then standing by at the end of the 36 hours to bring everything back online in time for the opening of business on Monday. A similar "pain in the ass" process would have to be carried out by various other IT guys in various other offices up and down the tower. The official explanation for this widespread inconvenience was that the building needed to be "re-cabled." The weekend

arrived. Around noon, normal lighting was suspended, security cameras stopped functioning, and electronic locks became non-operational, allowing unusually fluid access throughout the building to the men in jump suits now populating the place, their gear and toolboxes in hand. As the hours progressed and the workers went about their business, Scott paid them little mind. The date of this unprecedented suspension of security -- was Saturday, September 8th, 2001. It lasted through the night, and finished up sometime in the afternoon on Sunday.

The common thread running through the brief narratives above is that each introduces elements of a story that someone somewhere sometime has described as evidence of a conspiracy. Another thread running through them is that sometime somewhere and by someone -- if not by nearly everyone -- the very idea that any of these stories signaled even the possibility of any such underlying conspiracy has been attacked as ludicrous.

And on the last day of the sovereignty of the American Republic, if the last patriots who mourned her passing are able to gather to watch the sun go down, there will most probably still be disagreement among them about much of what actually happened -- as opposed to what merely seemed to have happened -- as she teetered through the last difficult days of her betrayal, and surrendered to the calming call of the long night.

It's in the nature of human beings, it seems, to perceive the meaning of things differently from one another, each of us filtering our sense of reality through a unique combination of direct experience, reverie, contemplative reasoning, fantasies born of pleasure and pain, joy and fear -- and perhaps most powerfully -- through well designed and carefully communicated stories, which may, if absorbed widely and deeply enough, take on the weight of myth. A weight which suffocates our capacity for thought.

Shunning the urge, then, to jump to absolutes, let's spend a few moments rummaging through the stories above with an eye toward measuring such judgments of their "conspiratorial bona fides" as history has rendered against them.....

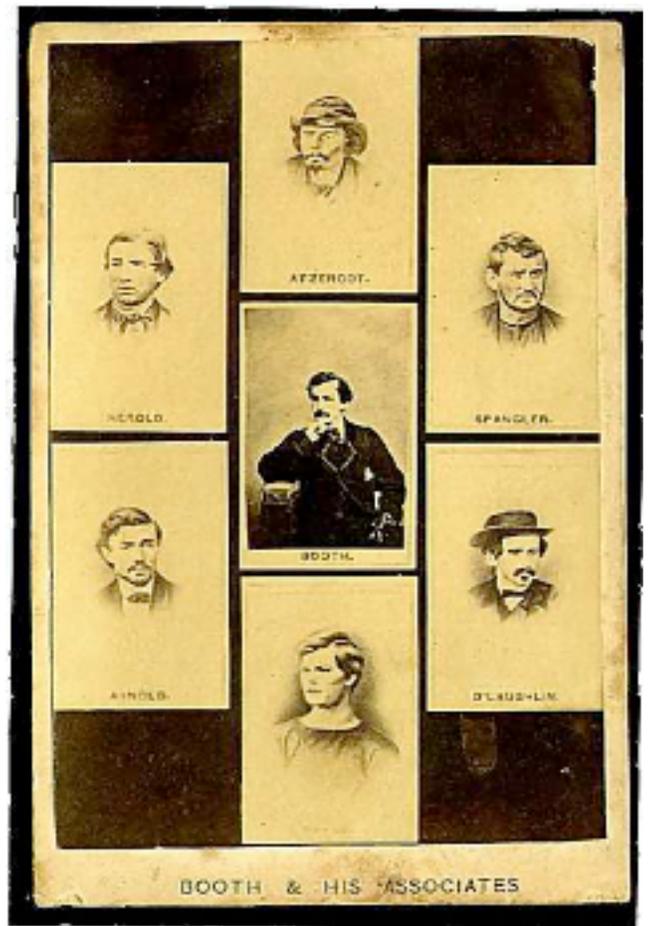
Given that he administered the gunshot as a paid member of the audience at Ford's Theatre -- before breaking his leg in a dramatic leap from the Presidential Box to the stage below -- John Wilkes Booth was no doubt the driving force behind the act which ended Abraham Lincoln's life. Without Booth's passion, the ambitions of the eight men who were hanged or imprisoned for assisting him would likely have died short of action. Dave Herold, for example, was known as a thoroughly ineffectual fellow. Though the details have been in contention from time to time -- regarding the identity and numbers of the plotters who may have escaped discovery in the aftermath -- there is no debate among historians that the actor, for all his grit and grandeur, had a lot of help. (1.1)

#

If they doubted her veracity, there were precious few voices among the members of Congress who listened to Nurse Nayirah's chilling tale with the courage to say so. She told of watching in horror as the occupying Iraqi Army stormed the maternity ward of Al Adan hospital in Kuwait City, where she -- a refugee -- was working as a volunteer. The rampaging soldiers dumped Kuwaiti infants out of their incubators and "on to the cold floor to die." Nayirah's testimony -- replete with heartfelt tears -- so outraged her audience that six Congressman and seven Senators referenced it as they debated whether to commit America to the Gulf War with Iraq. The resolution to do so passed the Senate by a vote of 52-47.

Someone somewhere, however, smelling something amiss in the timing of Nayirah's stellar performance, "theorized" an alternate version of reality. Upon research, it became apparent that she was actually only a "refugee" -- from the truth. She'd been in Paris at the time she claimed to have witnessed the Iraqis' barbarity in Kuwait City.

"Citizens for a Free Kuwait," it turned out, organized by the exiled Kuwaiti government, had hired the American public relations firm of Hill & Knowlton to create a campaign to gain support for a US counter strike against Iraq. (The same Hill & Knowlton, by the way, that until recently provided gainful employment for the wife of Senator and former Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate Joe Lieberman.) The firm's tab for its effective "Intervene in Kuwait" campaign was a cool \$10.8 million, and the image of a tranquil, "just minding our own business" Kuwait -- devoid of any whiff of its heinous reputation for human rights abuses and its aggressive subjugation of women (which would have made Iraq look like a feminist paradise by comparison) was totally absorbed at all levels of American society. It was not revealed until later that the lovely





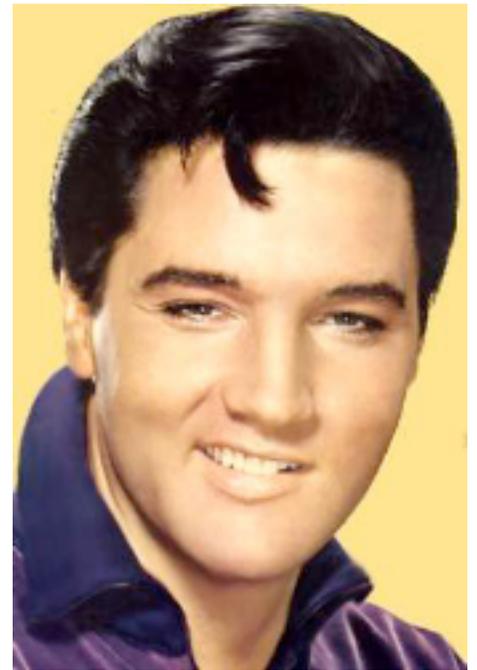
young “Nurse Nayirah” was actually the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States. Two of the real maternity nurses in the ward, Frieda Construe-Nag and Myra Ancog Cooke, consequently explained to investigators that they had never seen the persuasive but fake nurse there and that the baby-dumping had never happened.

Credit for coaching Nayirah and inventing her heart wrenching story eventually came to grace the resumé of Lauri Fitz-Pegado, (*left*) later to become President Clinton’s Assistant Commerce Secretary. Ms. Fitz-Pegado also prepared Iraq-invasion testimony for the UN which was later discredited, and later still promoted a book about the “heroic” rescue of PFC Jessica Lynch. (1.2)

#

The fate of Mr. Presley provides a clear window into the enduring Power of Legend. If Legend were a boxer, it would always win the first few rounds of any fight with Reason.

I can still recall how happy it made me when the singer first cheated death -- that being the moribund state of his career in the mid-1960s after the Beatles-led British Invasion had revolutionized Rock. From the very edge of irrelevance, Elvis mounted an epically masterful “comeback” to Reclaim America in a national television special in December of 1968. The show was a slam-dunk triumph, both commercially and artistically, and people who had forgotten -- remembered. It launched a coast-to coast-tour of ecstatically received sold-out performances which proved beyond the shadow of any lingering doubt that the King Was Not Dead.



Time, of course -- and the King’s embrace of drug addiction -- would eventually kick back in and resume its deadly business.

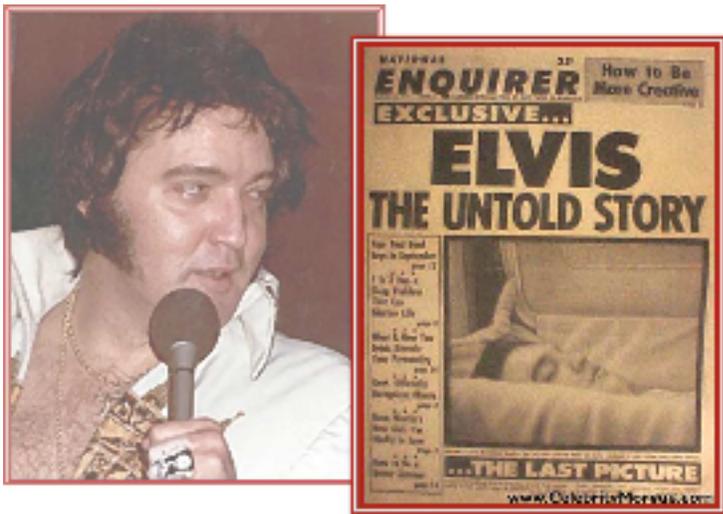
Optimistic by nature, I have always experienced difficulty when confronted by an ugly truth which seeks to undo the power of a cherished belief. It is a difficulty which is perfectly captured in this man’s story. And it is a difficulty which is very well understood by those in the communications industries whose job it is to nourish the cultural mythologies which mold our perceptions of reality.

Such myth-making work is accomplished in the shaping, withholding, and careful positioning of information. The deceptions inherent in this process are among the truths it seeks to obscure. Unpleasant claims about these deceptions, however, sometimes threaten to emerge from beyond the most carefully tended boundaries -- volatile ideas which, left unchecked, might prove to undermine the more comfortable assumptions that keep "the powers that be" so firmly empowered.

Dangerous, truth revealing ideas -- if they cannot be made to disappear -- must be deflected or discredited. It is in the process of associating them with other, more easily dismissible claims that ideas with such unwelcome truth in them are most efficiently rendered impotent. It is a tried and true technique -- known as the mounting and killing of a "Straw Man" in the parlance of the trade -- and anyone who wishes to better understand it would do well to investigate "logical fallacies" and "the art of debate."

When information first began to emerge that the Bush Administration had processed specific and detailed intelligence predicting 9/11 -- but failed to act on it -- Presidential Press Secretary Ari Fleischer was asked point blank to comment. Without even drawing an extra breath, Fleischer retorted that people who believed such information were no doubt members of the "Grassy Knoll Society" -- instantly equating doubts about 9/11 with those of the die-hard students of tragedy (mocked for decades as "Conspiracy Nuts") who've never quite made peace with the lies attending the 1963 murder of President Kennedy. Ari's instant deflection was not born of a lack of practice.

The fact that the administration was eventually moved to admit that such reports about 9/11 were true -- and retreated instead to a claim that there was simply "too much" intelligence -- put not the slightest dent in the highly calibrated machinery of such idea management. Attempts to discredit legitimate claims of deception by associating them with previously discredited claims -- or better yet, ludicrous ones -- continues unabated. For years, the nicely modulated flow of such Bad Brain Candy as "Elvis's Ongoing Secret Permanent Vacation" has played a small but dependable role in this process.



Amazing "facts" which have kept the King Alive include the observation that his coffin weighed some 900 pounds -- most likely explained by the presence of a wax dummy inside which could not be kept from melting except for the thoughtful inclusion of a very heavy electric fan to keep it cool.

And the "sightings" have never stopped. According to the testimony of a very lucky fan from Virginia, Mr. Presley's Legendary Generosity --

and his Excellent Taste -- have not wavered a bit since his passing. A Mr. Moon Duepre explained that he had surprised Elvis -- singing alone in an abandoned schoolhouse --

and that The King, in gratitude for Moon's promise not to blow his cover, had sent him off with instructions to visit his local car dealer the next day. There, his gift from Elvis -- a pre-paid Cadillac -- was waiting for him to drive away in. Which is exactly what he did, Moon said: "I put 214,000 miles on it before it quit on me."

Rumors that Ari Fleischer has taken a job at Elvisalive.com are probably not true, but it might be interesting to see who is manning the computers at the websites churning out stories that the US Moon Landing Was Staged, and the various hilarious reports (which no one of sound mind would ever believe, of course) that Space Aliens have taken to choosing sides in America's Presidential Elections.

It does get confusing for some, however, when they read of President Bush's decision to continue the decades-long US governmental policy of exempting Groom Lake -- more commonly known as Area 51 of "UFO Landing" fame -- from environmental laws which might force the release of classified documents pertaining to its history.

And the President only muddies the waters further when he labels an important passage in his budget proposal -- as he did in 2003 -- with the question: "Where are the Real Space Aliens?"

A certain symmetry eventually descends on all these tales, of course. With a sense of coming full circle, perhaps, we read that Elvis was actually abducted by the aliens our President seems to be looking for, but being the King, got even by impregnating them. Apparently Marilyn Monroe is out there among the aliens as well, so hopefully the King won't be lonely. (1.3)

All in good fun, of course.

Nothing To Be Taken Seriously.



#

One year after the first English translation of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* appeared in print, the London Times exposed it as a fraud -- and a clumsy one at that. In a three-part series of articles that ran from August 16 through 18, 1921, Times correspondent Philip Graves, acting on a tip from a gentleman by the name of Lucien Wolf, completely demolished any further claim to the Protocols' veracity.

The hate-stoking piece had been promoted as the stealthily acquired "minutes of a meeting" of Jewish leaders at the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897,

in which “the Jews” plotted to take over the world. Graves illustrated how the record of that “meeting” was actually lifted -- almost phrase by phrase -- from a book titled *Dialogue aux enfers entre Machiavel et Montesquieu* (Dialogues in Hell between Machiavelli and Montesquieu), by the French satirist Maurice Joly, which had been published more than fifty years earlier. Joly’s satire sought to draw attention to the excesses of Napoleon III by inserting the Emperor’s supposed strategies for domination and suppression into the mouth of an imagined Machiavelli. It had nothing to do with -- and made no mention of -- Jews. Though the piece remained obscure (and Joly was thrown in jail for having written it), its reincarnation as the leading document of worldwide anti-Jewish propaganda would be anything but.



Niccolò Machiavelli **Master of the dark arts**

An illustration of the lack of subtlety that defined the plagiarism of Joly’s original ideas would be...

Dialogues, p. 43:—

Machiavelli: “You do not know the unbounded meanness of the peoples... groveling before force, pitiless towards the weak, implacable to faults, indulgent to crimes, incapable of supporting the contradictions of a free régime, and patient to the point of martyrdom under the violence of an audacious despotism... giving themselves masters whom they pardon for deeds for the least of which they would have beheaded twenty constitutional kings.”

Protocols, p. 15:—

Jewish Leader: “In their intense meanness the Christian peoples help our independence—when kneeling they crouch before power; when they are pitiless towards the weak; merciless in dealing with faults, and lenient to crimes; when they refuse to recognize the contradictions of freedom; when they are patient to the degree of martyrdom in bearing with the violence of an audacious despotism. At the hands of their present dictators, Premiers, and ministers, they endure abuses for the smallest of which they would have murdered twenty kings.”

Though the Protocols had already been exposed as a hoax by the time Adolf Hitler received his copy, the Fuhrer pretended otherwise. Hitler, of course, never wavered from his stance, since the "Jewish problem" was the issue that disguised, impassioned and excused so much of his breathtaking epoch of terror.



The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is perceived by many to have been the first example of a modern conspiracy theory, and it is certainly the most egregious example of the horrific power of such a theory unchecked, and malignantly employed. This was a conspiracy theory that was proven to have been a heinous lie.

The flip side of the coin, of course, is that the conspiracy behind the creation of this conspiracy theory -- was very real.

Had there been, among the common populace of the day, the knowledge, will, energy and means to undo these real conspirators before their Big Lie metastasized into Enduring Legend -- eleven million lives might have been saved.

Philip Graves, the journalist who exposed the conspiracy, was eloquent regarding the unparalleled magnitude of the crime...

"The Protocols" was invented with the deliberate intent to instill an imaginary and racist view of what caused problems in the world. The fact that we simply do not have a word in English (or for that matter in Italian, German, or French, at least that we could think of) to describe this level of deceit is part of the reason that "The Protocols" could work. People simply do not expect to be lied to on such a scale.....

It is so hard to conceive, let alone believe, that we don't have words for it."

The nexus of this unprecedentedly vicious undertaking was embedded within the Imperial Russian Secret Service -- the dreaded Okhranka.

Sergei Nilus, whose name appeared as publisher of the Protocols -- and who told different versions of how he acquired it upon the occasion of each of its first three printings -- was a Tsarist Official in Moscow with ties both to the church and the secret service.



A woman by the name of Yuliana Glinka was an accessory to the plot. Ms. Glinka was the well-born daughter of a diplomat, and known to have been a fervent disciple of the legendary "occultist" Madame Helena Blavatsky (left). It was Ms. Glinka who was described in the "discovery story" as having "acquired" the Protocols in France, from whence she was said to have smuggled them back to Russia and delivered them to Sergei Nilus.

Russian historian Mikhail Lepekhine credits the work of the actual forgery to the double-agent Mathieu Golovinski, a then infamous mover in the world of espionage and political propaganda. Assistance in the process was credited to an Okhranka agent by the name of Pyotr Rachkovsky (described as Ms. Glinka's paramour), and to another Okhranka agent by the name of Ivan Manusevich. The efforts of this group were successful beyond their wildest hopes. Their Epic Lie would spur and nurture an irrational hatred that would eventually unleash a siege of barbarity beyond imagining.

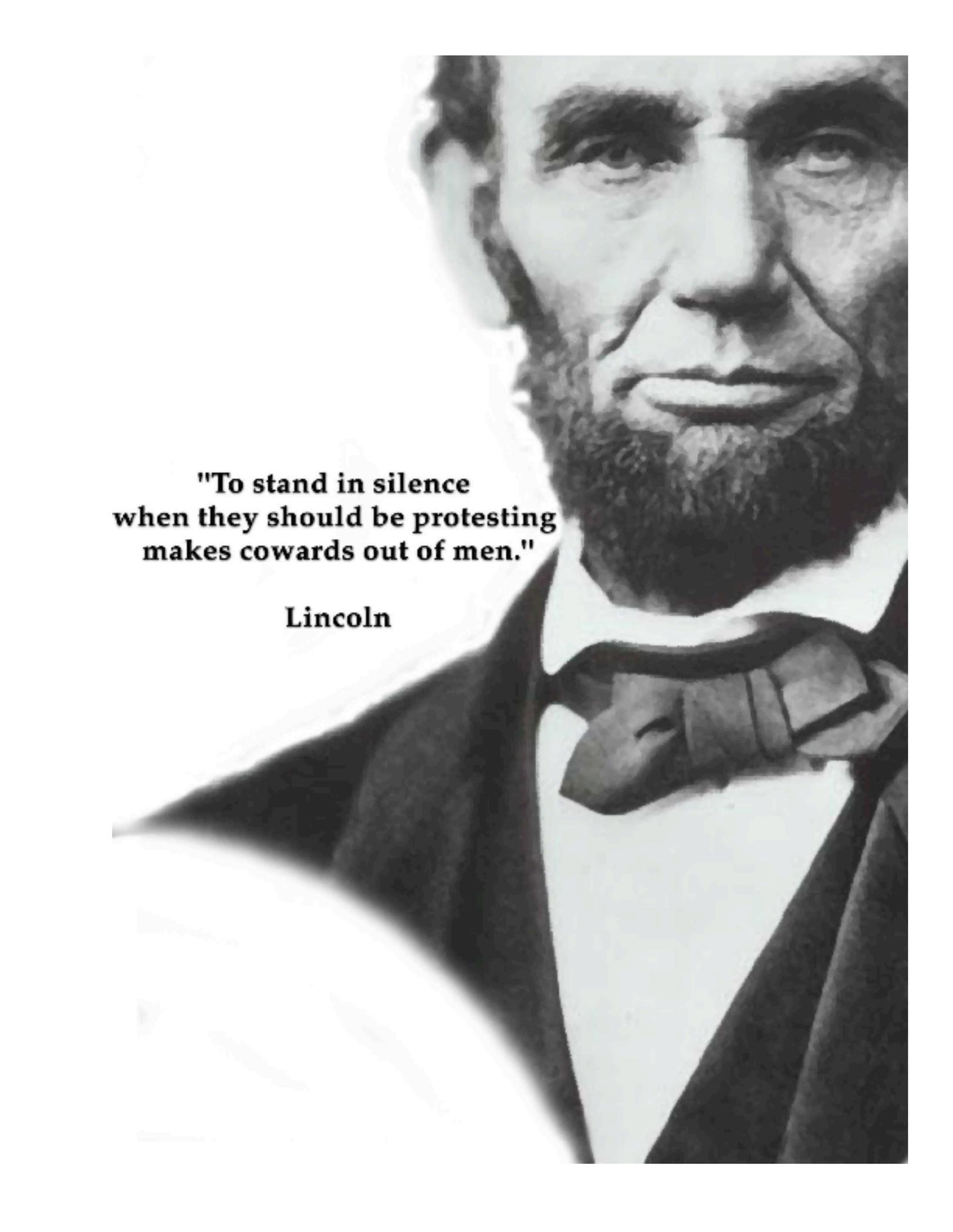
*Enablers of the Holocaust
Rachkovsky, Golovinsky, and
Nilus, from left*



As fortune would have it, Golovinski had worked for a time in Paris at *Le Figaro*, where he was introduced to a colleague by the name of Charles Joly -- the son of the man who had written the original "Machiavelli in Hell" piece from which the "Protocols" would be plagiarized.



The younger Joly would later make a trip to Russia around the time of the first known public mention of the soon-to-be-launched scandal. Russian journalist Mikhail Menshikov, in his regular newspaper column, "Letters to Neighbors," mentioned having heard about "The Protocols" from Yuliana Glinka, and titled his article, "Plots Against Humanity." Within months of this "teaser," *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* would be published and condemned, and history -- by way of the true conspiracy behind the false one -- changed forever. (1.4)



**"To stand in silence
when they should be protesting
makes cowards out of men."**

Lincoln

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of John F. Kennedy, shown from the back. The image is mostly black, with the white highlights of his hair and the contours of his suit jacket and shoulders. The number '2' is printed in the top right corner.

2

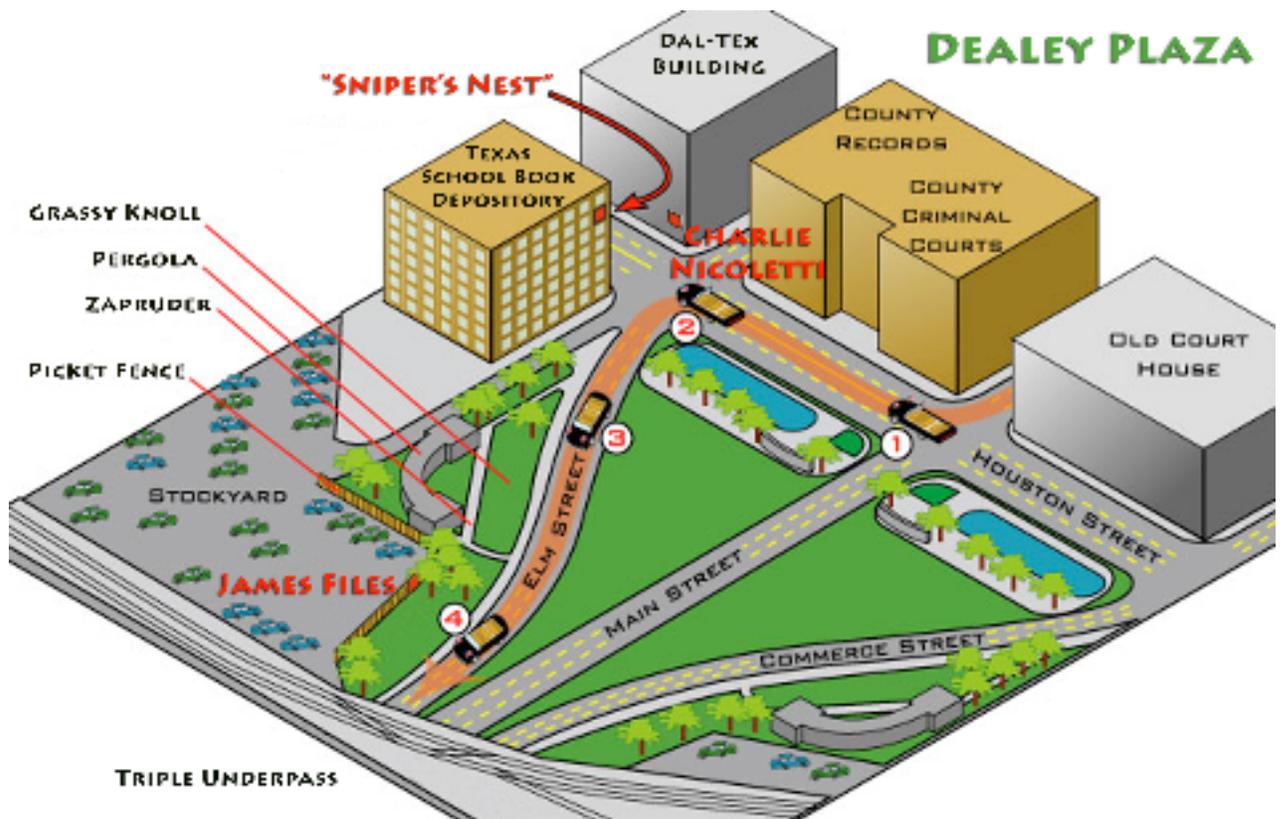
John Fitzgerald Kennedy
35th President of the United States
Sworn to Duty: January 20, 1961
Assassinated: November 22, 1963



As President John F. Kennedy's motorcade was leaving Love Field to drive into Dallas on November 22, 1963, Head Secret Service Agent Emory Roberts was reported to have pulled Agent Henry Rybka away from the rear bumper of the President's limousine, even though "Wanted for Treason" posters of JFK had been distributed throughout the city on the preceding day, death threats were in the wind, and the President was riding in an open convertible without the protection of a "bubbletop."

Moments later, when the shots that would end the President's life began ringing out, Agent Roberts ordered the President's sworn protectors "not to move." Agent Clinton Hill, who was assigned to Jackie Kennedy's detail, and was present only at her personal request, was the one agent to defy that instruction and move to the President's car.

Seconds later, as the Presidential Motorcade sped to Dallas' Parkland Memorial Hospital, Agent Roberts made a radio transmission to Vice-President Lyndon Johnson's car in which he stated, "They got him. They got him."





One Moment

Two Men / Two Cars

One Grabbing his Throat in the Throes of his Final Thoughts

It was not until years later that video surfaced to verify the foreshadowing event: Agent Roberts standing up from his seat in the moving follow-up car as it departed Love Field Airport, and commanding Agent Rybka to withdraw. The video images of Agent Rybka's pointed -- and repeated -- protests of this order seem all the more poignant in light of what we now know was to come. Though questions surrounded the actions -- and obvious failure -- of the US Secret Service on the fateful day, Agent Roberts was never interviewed by the Warren Commission. (2.1)

The Commission would conclude that Lee Harvey Oswald (who was himself murdered two days later while in the care of the Dallas Police Department) had plotted and carried out the assassination of President Kennedy without confederates, firing down (and through trees) with rapid, deadly accuracy on the President from his "Sniper's Nest" on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. (2.2)

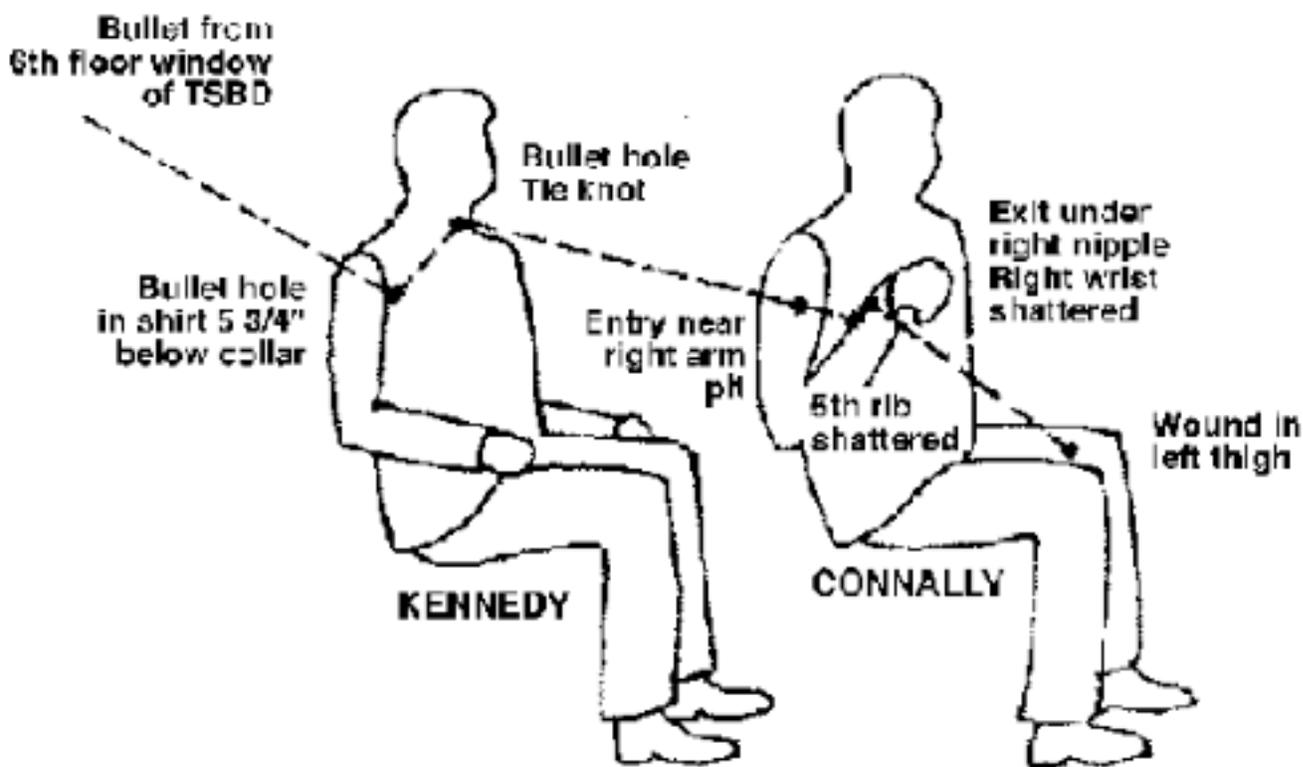
Among the Commission's more intriguing findings (reminiscent to some of Satam Al Suqami's passport turning up clean amidst the reeking muck that covered 9/11 Manhattan) was the loose bullet which was supposedly discovered lying on the stretcher of Texas Governor John Connally, who had also been wounded in the attack, as he was being admitted to Parkland Memorial. It was this bullet (*below*) that was later described by the Warren Commission as having entered the President's back, deflected upward out his throat, then veered downward again to penetrate Governor Connally's right armpit, plunging down to shatter his fifth right rib, then exiting below his right nipple and slamming into and out of his right wrist, shattering it in the process, then diving downward again to pierce his left thigh. Through all of which -- the bullet -- like no other similarly lethal (and acrobatic) bullet ever observed, retained its original shape perfectly.



Since all these wounds occurred close to simultaneously, had more than one bullet caused them, the concept of Oswald as the “lone assassin” would have collapsed. In truth, the Commission was hamstrung by its hidden mandate, which was -- as revealed by documents released many years later -- to conclude that Oswald acted alone.

An example of what the “thorough and impartial” investigation faced at its inception was the opening statement of this memorandum from Deputy US Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach (2.3), written three days after the murder of Kennedy and one day after the murder of Oswald:

*“The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin;
that he did not have confederates that are still at large...”*



Hence, the Commission’s determination to cling to the fantasy of the “magic bullet.”

It was also this bullet that tied Lee Harvey Oswald to the cheap, mail-order rifle that he supposedly left behind a cardboard box as he fled his assassin’s perch. The gun, a Mannlicher-Carcano, was tested for accuracy by the FBI and found to be...

“Inaccurate from 15 yards... During efforts, supervised by the FBI – to duplicate the shooting accuracy allegedly achieved – no FBI, military or civilian (National Rifle Association) expert was ever able to match Oswald’s performance.”

And again, starkly reminiscent of the reviews offered of the 9/11 hijackers by their flight instructors (“Attention span of zero,” “Didn’t live up to standards,” “Incompetence at the controls,” “Advised to quit,” “English horrible... mechanical skills worse,”) it should be noted that Lee Harvey Oswald was a “Non-Qualifier” on the rifle range as a member of the US Marine Corps. (2.4)

In finding that Lee Harvey Oswald “acted alone,” the Warren Commission classified millions of pages of documents that pertained to the assassination investigation, and designated that they remain sealed. This raised an obvious question: Why? It fueled rampant speculation that the truth was being hidden, as to who and/or what was really behind the murder of the American President.

In 1975, after two more “lone gunmen” had ended the powerful lives and iconoclastic political careers of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and two more notably unconvincing “investigations” had come and gone, Congress yielded to insistent public pressure and convened its own inquiries.

The first, chaired by Senator Frank Church, looked into many long claimed abuses against the civil rights of American citizens on the part of the CIA and the FBI -- and found many of these accusations against the agencies to be true, noting that the checks and balances supposedly built into the American system of government were “failing to function.” (2.5)

The Church Committee eventually gave birth to the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

That committee uncovered evidence, among other damning information, that the CIA had suppressed knowledge of someone identified as “Oswald” making a late summer trip to Mexico City, during which he visited the Cuban and Soviet Embassies, purportedly in a vain attempt to secure a visa. Special Agent James Hosty, who headed the Oswald investigation for the FBI, admitted that the Bureau was aware that this Oswald character, while in Mexico City, had met with Valery Vladimirovich Kostikov, the Soviet Vice Consul. And that Mr. Kostikov was -- in the Bureau’s description -- the agent “in charge of assassinations” for the KGB. (2.6)

Further compromising the credibility of the original “investigation,” it was disclosed that Lyndon Johnson, the newly sworn President, had been informed by FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover on the day after Kennedy’s assassination that the CIA had photographed and recorded this “Oswald” in Mexico City, only to discover that the man had somehow morphed into an impostor. It further developed that someone impersonating “Oswald” had been making himself memorable all around Dallas in the weeks preceding Kennedy’s murder -- shopping for guns, cashing big checks and the like -- at one point even sporting a very much pregnant-looking version of Oswald’s Russian wife, Marina. None of this, of course, was revealed in 1963, though known at the highest levels of government.





..... LBJ then asked, "Have you established any more about the visit to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico in September," an event of no little interest to the inner circles of government. Hoover replied, "No, that's one angle that's very confusing for this reason. We have up here the tape and the photograph of the man who was at the Soviet Embassy, using Oswald's name. The picture and the tape do not correspond to this man's voice, nor to his appearance. In other words, it appears that there is a second person who was at the Soviet Embassy down there." (2.7)

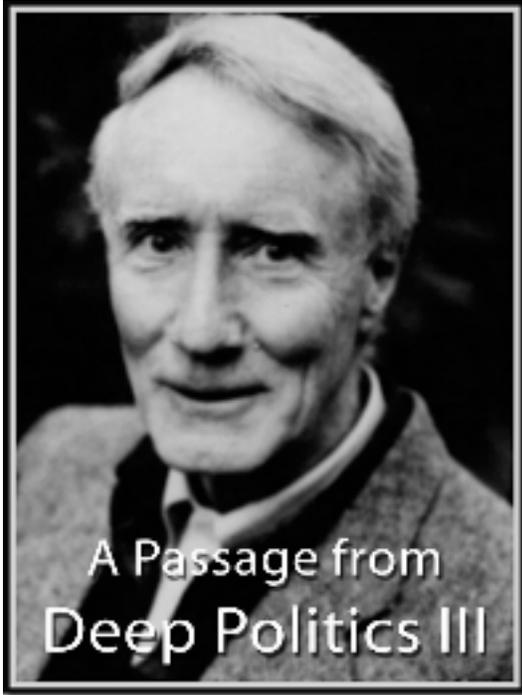
November 23, 1963



Lee Harvey Oswald,
at left

At right,
a man using the name
"Lee Harvey Oswald"
visited both the
Cuban (pictured)
and Soviet Embassies
in Mexico City
where he applied for a visa
(thereby leaving a paper trail)
just weeks before the assassination
of President Kennedy





**The CIA, Drug Traffic,
and Oswald in Mexico
by Peter Dale Scott
(Former Diplomat and
Lifelong JFK Researcher)**

The CIA and FBI conspired to suppress a major clue to the existence of a pre-assassination conspiracy. This was that an unknown person had falsely presented himself as Lee Oswald in a phone call to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City. The FBI initially reported that the person making the recorded call "was not Lee Harvey Oswald." Later the FBI and CIA conspired, swiftly and clumsily, to conceal both the falsity of the impersonation and the fact that FBI agents had exposed the falsehood by listening to the tape. The Warren Commission learned nothing about these two facts.

It is important to understand that this suppression was entirely consistent with intelligence priorities of the period. This important clue had been planted in the midst of one of the most sensitive CIA operations in the 1960s: its largest intercept operation against the telephones of an important Soviet base [Cuba]. One can assume that this clue was planted by conspirators who knew that the CIA response would be to suppress the truth. As a result the CIA protected its sources and methods (in accordance with the responsibilities enumerated in its enabling statute). The result was obstruction of justice in a crime of the highest political significance.

In an open society, all of the Oswald facts and allegations would have reached the Warren Commission, whether or not they were true. The absence of objective evaluation and review allowed these facts and allegations about Oswald in Mexico to become enabling instruments of power: first to create the Warren Commission, and later to curtail its investigations.

The power of these covert agencies to control US politics through the manipulation of truth is only one more reason for us to refer to them as kryptocracies, agencies of government which (in contrast to conventional bureaucracies) operate secretly and are not accountable for their actions and procedures. At this stage, I shall refer to kryptocracies in the plural, to make it clear that I am not talking about some single omnipotent Secret Team. On the contrary, we shall see... that different kryptocracies or intelligence agencies, and even different branches within these agencies, were in conflict with each other over the matters raised by Lee Harvey Oswald. (Emphasis added)

The point is rather that, in major powers like the United States, bureaucratic behavior, which in principle is publicly recorded and accountable, is in some respects determined by the kryptocratic behavior at its center, which is not. As we shall see in the following pages, one of the important sources of the kryptocracies' power is their ability to falsify their own records, without fear of outside correction...

This passage excerpted from:

<http://www.history-matters.com>

Deep Politics III: The CIA, Drug Traffic, and Oswald in Mexico by Peter Dale Scott

Nor did the Warren Commission take a serious look at the web of “coincidental” relationships that ran like so much barbed wire from the US government Intelligence agencies, through angry international banking interests, and into and around the anti-Castro and anti-Kennedy movements of the day. These movements very obviously defined the nasty underbelly of political ferment raging against the President -- fueled by rich and powerful men in danger of losing position to Kennedy’s revolutionary plans for reform.



Lee Harvey Oswald was known by and/or connected to “players” in a shockingly high percentage of these elements. The story of his life, really, is a litany rife with random, criminal, covert implication, much of it poured out in the apparent service of inexplicably contradictory ideas and organizations of grand (though conflicting) political intent. As is so often the case with intelligence operatives, the question of which cross was the original -- and which the double (or triple) -- remains tantalizingly obscure. Clearly though, from the earliest days of his youth, the fatherless Oswald was living among people who were operating in the sphere of organized crime, most notably his uncle, Charles “Dutz” Murret, an ex-prize fighter and bookie beholden to Carlos Marcello (left) -- at the time the head of the Mafia in New Orleans.

The teenage Oswald’s membership in the Civil Air Patrol led to his recruitment into the Marine Corps at the age of 17. He soon became a radar specialist, and earned a security clearance. He was assigned to the Atsugi Air Base in Japan -- a highly secure location which functioned as the CIA’s Central Far East Station and was the base from which the United States launched its U2 surveillance flights over the USSR.

Oswald was mocked by his fellow Marines for his openly expressed “love of Marxism” and his diligent study of Russian. Seven months after the Marine Corps tested him for proficiency in the language -- he purportedly “defected” to the Soviet Union. (2.8)

These paradoxical dynamics continued to manifest during the course of his exile, which included such oddities as a less than convincing “suicide” attempt upon the KGB’s recommendation to deny his application for asylum; a public renunciation of his American citizenship at the US Embassy (which kept his passport out of Russian hands); interviews with members of the international press about his loathing for capitalism and his high level of valuable knowledge of US Military radar secrets which generated, according to their own records -- no particular interest on the part of the CIA.





Upon becoming “disillusioned” shortly thereafter by the drab routine of his work life in Minsk, Oswald (*at left, chilling cool with his Soviet co-workers*) managed to exit the country with his new Russian wife and return to the United States with relative ease.



Marina Oswald, near left, with Priscilla Johnson. Ms. Johnson was a State Department official at the American Embassy during Oswald’s stay in the Soviet Union.

She was the source of most of what the American press -- and public -- came to learn about the personal life of Lee Harvey Oswald. The House Select Committee on Assassinations noted her formal application, in 1952, for work with the CIA and her subsequent provision of “cultural and literary” information for the Agency. A declassified State Department memo to the FBI described her contact with Oswald in Russia as “official business.”



On March 22, 1978, before the House Select Committee on Assassinations,

Former CIA Accountant James B. Wilcott

swore under oath that he believed Lee Harvey Oswald was a "regular employee" of the Central Intelligence Agency, receiving "a full-time salary for agent work, for doing CIA operational work," a belief corroborated by conversations with "dozens, literally dozens" of CIA employees. Wilcott testified that he was told by a CIA Case Officer that he (Wilcott) had personally disbursed funds for "the Oswald project or for Oswald." In the excerpt below, Wilcott is questioned by Representative (now Senator) Christopher Dodd. The full transcript of this testimony resides at www.jfklancer.com. It was withheld from public scrutiny for 20 years.

3

Mr. Dodd: [...] You were not aware at the time you made the disbursement that it was, in fact, an Oswald project?

Mr. Wilcott: That is correct, sir.

Mr. Dodd: It would have been a cryptonym and he was telling you, you had, in fact, made a disbursement?

Mr. Wilcott: Yes, sir.

Mr. Dodd: And this would have been, now, shortly after the assassination?

Mr. Wilcott: Yes, sir.

Mr. Dodd: Talking about hours afterwards or a day afterwards?

Mr. Wilcott: It was at least a matter of weeks and perhaps as much as three months after.

Mr. Dodd: After the assassination actually occurred?

Mr. Wilcott: Yes.

Mr. Dodd: When you were told all of this?

Mr. Wilcott: Yes.

Mr. Dodd: And it includes the information that Oswald was an agent?

Mr. Wilcott: Yes, sir.

Mr. Dodd: Was he described as an agent to you or was he described as an operative or a paid informant?

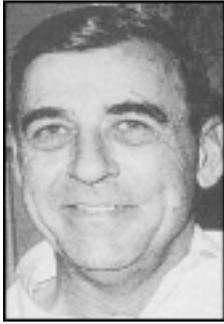
Mr. Wilcott: No, sir; he was described to me as an agent and I was led to believe, from the conversations that he was an agent.

Mr. Dodd: As a point of information, are people who work within the Agency fairly careful in their language in describing what the category of certain people are, who work for the Agency?

Mr. Wilcott: Generally so, I would say, at the time.

Mr. Dodd: And it is your clear recollection that he was described as an agent?

Mr. Wilcott: Yes, sir.



General Edwin Walker was an ultra right-wing activist who'd faced off against JFK over integration and whose hatred of the President was forged in Kennedy's subsequent termination of his military career. On April 10th, 1963, someone took a shot at Walker (*left*) from across the street outside his Dallas home. Though the General was a stationary target at the time -- sitting at his desk -- the shot missed. Marina Oswald would later claim that her husband had confessed to

the crime. An eyewitness, however, noted that the two men who fled the scene that night left in two different automobiles. Lee had never learned to drive. (3.1)



Back in New Orleans for the summer, Oswald hooked up with a young cancer researcher by the name of Judyth Baker, whom he quickly introduced to his mentor, David Ferrie. (Ferrie had been the leader of the Civil Air Patrol Unit out of which Oswald became a Marine.) Baker and Oswald held cover jobs at the Reily Coffee Company during this time. With Lee acting as a courier and Ferrie consulting, Baker worked on a project to isolate a form of cancer virulent enough to function as an injectable -- and dependable -- bioweapon. The project, funded by the CIA, overseen by Dr. Alton Ochsner and run by Dr. Mary Sherman -- had Fidel Castro in mind. (3.2)



Civil Air Patrol Squadron. David Ferrie (far left). Lee Harvey Oswald (far right).

And yet -- the image of Oswald as a "Marxist" was continually tended. In August he visited a store managed by Carlos Bringuier, a Cuban refugee and leader of an avid anti-Castro group, and was reported to have expressed an interest in joining the struggle to topple the Communist dictator. Oswald supposedly boasted of his Marine Corps training in guerilla warfare and returned the next day to leave his *Guidebook for Marines* with Bringuier. A few days later, however, a friend of Bringuier saw Oswald on the street passing out pro-Castro "Fair Play for Cuba" leaflets -- in the presence of television cameras -- not far from Bringuier's store. When Bringuier arrived on the scene, he loudly confronted Oswald. The scene garnered a lot of local media attention, and got Oswald, Bringuier and his friends arrested for disturbing the peace. Immediately thereafter, at his own request -- Oswald was visited in jail by an FBI agent. (3.3)



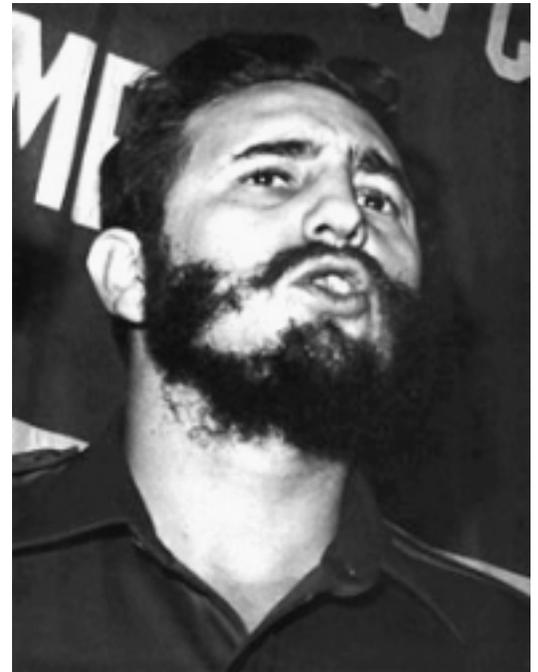
Within days of his release Oswald was debating the very same Bringuier (*left*) about Castro and Cuba on a local radio program. Days after that, he was back on the streets passing out his leaflets, this time in front of the International Trade Mart, which was run by the devoutly right-wing, anti-Castro businessman Clay Shaw, (3.4) whom CIA director Richard Helms, in 1979, admitted under oath had been a “contact” of the CIA. Among Oswald’s fellow Leaflet-Spewing “Castro Lovers” on this day was one Chauncey Holt, the Meyer Lansky-connected master forger who operated out of the CIA’s “Document Mill” in Los Angeles. (This same Mr. Holt would later be discovered hiding in a weapons-laden

railroad car behind the Grassy Knoll in Dealey Plaza on the day of Kennedy’s assassination -- from which he was perp-walked into custody -- but released without being interrogated, photographed or fingerprinted by the Dallas PD.) (3.5)



*Oswald distributing
“Fair Play for Cuba” leaflets*

Fidel Castro

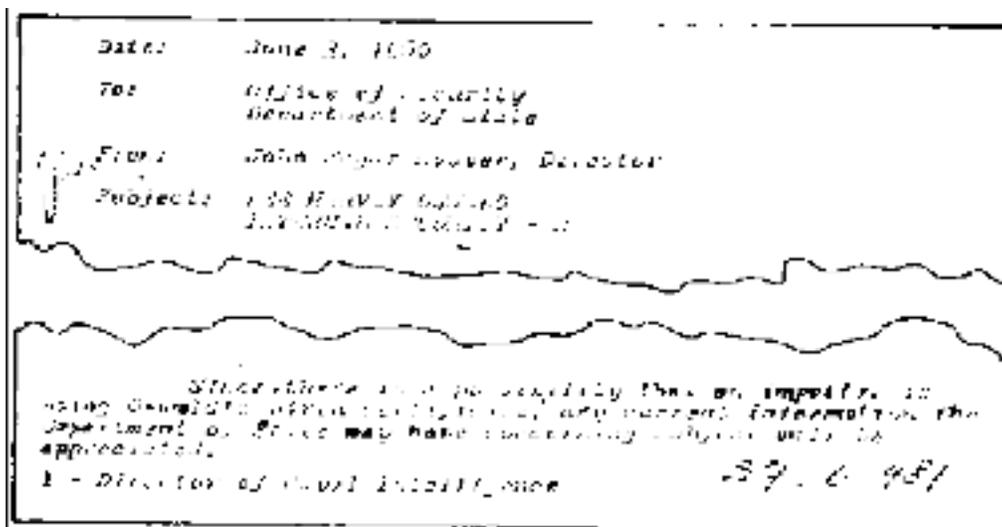


It was not until recently, with the further declassification of JFK related documents, that the full scope of the CIA’s obstruction of the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) would become clear. Though the agency had held otherwise whenever inquiries were made, internal memos revealed that it was in fact actively pursuing the assassination of Fidel Castro at the time of President Kennedy’s murder; and that the agency was financially responsible for the existence of Carlos Bringuier’s anti-Castro organization, the DRE (Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil) at the time Oswald was doing his media drama with the group.

When the HSCA, trying to clarify Oswald’s true function among these people, sought to examine the CIA’s relevant files on the period, the agency, professing its willingness to “cooperate fully,” assigned one George Joannides to facilitate the task. The CIA’s cooperation, however, fell short of disclosing that this same Joannides had also been the agency’s point man with the DRE during the 1963 run up to Kennedy’s assassination.

Thus, after first lying to investigators by claiming the CIA had no relationship to this group at the time, it then brought (out of retirement) the man who was in fact conducting that very relationship -- and placed him in a position to control the Congressional inquiry. Needless to say, since this deception was not discovered at the time, there were no files on the DRE and Oswald's relationship to it to be found.

In another belatedly clarifying development, a memo from J. Edgar Hoover dated June 3, 1960, and titled: LEE HARVEY OSWALD -- INTERNAL SECURITY, revealed that the FBI was concerned that an "impostor" may have been using Oswald's birth certificate while the future assassin was busy being a defector in Russia.



Date: June 3, 1960

To: Office of Security
Department of State

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
-- INTERNAL SECURITY

Since there is a possibility that an impostor is using Oswald's birth certificate, any current information the Department of State may have concerning the subject will be appreciated.

1 - Director of Naval Intelligence

This document speaks very clearly to the evidence that would later develop of two different men using the "Oswald" identity prior to the President's murder. (3.6) And, of course, given that it was written by the FBI Director himself, it also exposed the lie behind the Bureau's claims that Lee Harvey Oswald was of little or no interest to them at the time. Though the Warren Commission would later go out of its way to avoid the issue -- Oswald was in fact connected not only to the CIA, but to the FBI as well. (3.7)

His network of relationships was riddled with connections to others also identified to have been deeply involved with organized crime and covert intelligence activity. Beyond his family and anti-Castro connections to Carlos Marcello, Oswald was often observed socializing and working alongside and/or "against" such "dark ops" actors as the aforementioned Bringuier, Shaw, and Ferrie, and the well known Guy Bannister.

Bannister, tellingly -- who was a highly successful, rabidly reactionary, ex-management level FBI, anti-Communist, anti-Civil Rights Movement, John Birch Society-affiliated Castro Assassination Plotter -- somehow found it in his heart to give the dead broke, Puny Freak Loner Pro-Castro Marxist Leaflet-Passing-Out Oswald a break.



According to Dan Campbell, a senior investigator at Bannister's New Orleans Private Detective Firm, Bannister (*left*) immediately assigned Oswald an office in the firm's suite when the little man walked in off the street. Oswald used the back door to Bannister's offices as his address on the "Fair Play for Cuba" leaflets. (3.8)



District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of the role Oswald and these various other New Orleans based operatives played in Kennedy's assassination shone a great deal of light on the intelligence associations of the group -- and put a great deal of pressure on them. In February of 1967 a frightened David Ferrie admitted to Garrison's investigators that he had indeed done CIA contract work and revealed Clay Shaw's connections to the agency as well. Four days later Ferrie was found dead, two unsigned suicide notes beside his body. The cause of death was described as a "brain aneurysm." (3.9)



Clockwise from upper left: Bannister, Oswald, Ferrie and Shaw. Shaw, an ex-Major General in the U.S. Army, is the only one of these men who did not die young -- and abruptly.

The day after Ferrie's death, his friend Eladio Del Valle -- an exiled anti-Castro Cuban who was implicated in the assassination and whom Garrison had been trying locate for questioning -- was found murdered by a close-range gunshot to the head. (3.10)

Then there is the matter of the Dallas-based George De Mohrenschildt, the once wealthy, Russian born nobleman who became Oswald's "best friend" upon Lee's return to America from the Soviet Union, their lack of compatibility in terms of education, culture, and social standing notwithstanding.

De Mohrenschildt's resumé included a claimed part in a pro-Nazi plot to kill Joseph Stalin, and reported connections to both the German and French intelligence services (according to British intelligence, which warned US intelligence of these connections upon De Mohrenschildt's emigration to America). After the Second World War, he settled in Dallas and went to work for oil baron Clint Murchison.

De Mohrenschildt introduced the Oswalds to Ruth Paine, who became their landlady. A few weeks before the President's visit, Ms. Paine helped Lee get a job at the Texas School Book Depository. It's not clear whether Oswald knew of Ms. Paine's connections -- through her father and brother-in-law -- to the CIA.

Meanwhile, De Mohrenschildt had moved to Haiti. After Kennedy's murder, he was called as a witness by the Warren Commission, at which time he was moved to state under oath that he "believed he had discussed" Oswald prior to the assassination with Dallas CIA operative J. Walton Moore.



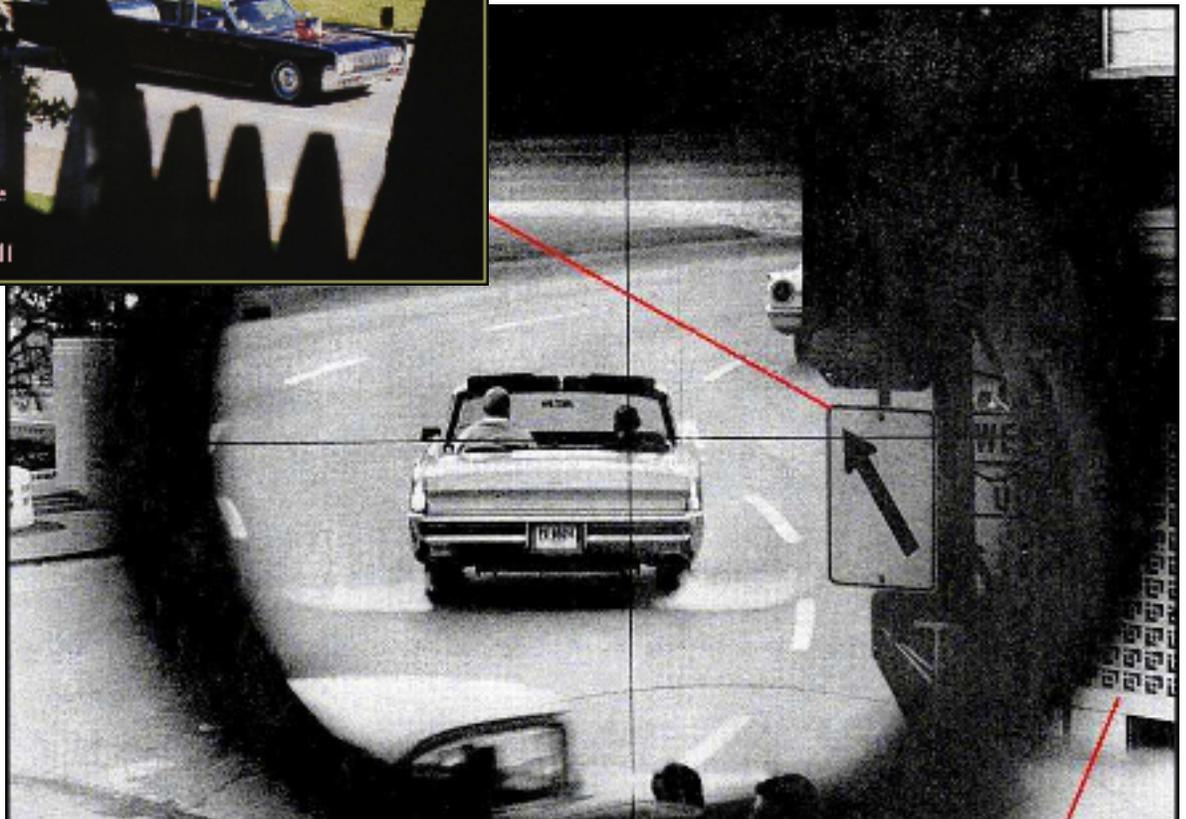
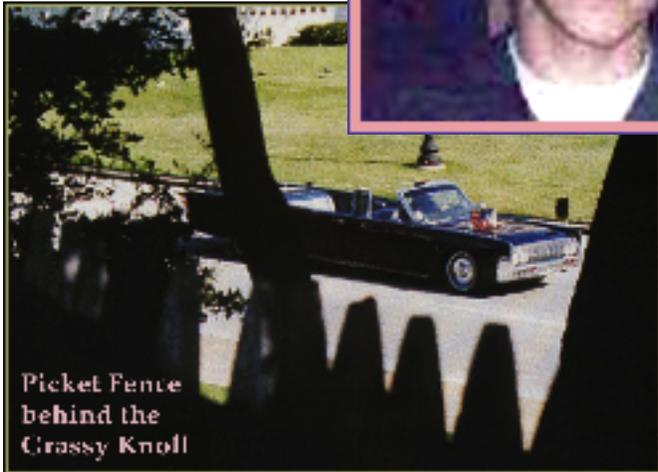
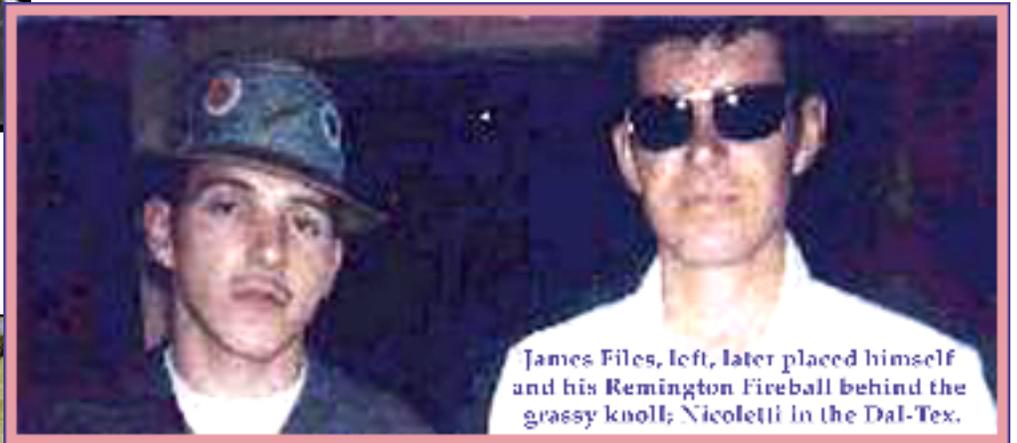
In 1977 he traveled to Belgium under the auspices of a foreign journalist who had arranged to interview him and had set up a meeting for him with an agent of the KGB. On the eve of that rendezvous, however, De Mohrenschildt slipped away and flew instead to the United States. In Florida now, claiming financial difficulty, he agreed -- in exchange for \$4,000 -- to be interviewed by Kennedy researcher Edward Epstein about his unlikely friendship in the early sixties with the newly repatriated Oswald.

In the interview, De Mohrenschildt admitted to having approached Oswald originally at the behest of the CIA, who in turn had helped him with a business deal that he was negotiating with Haiti's tyrannical Head-of-State, Papa Doc Duvalier. (According to CIA Agent Herbert Atkin, however, De Mohrenschildt's underlying business in Haiti had more to do with his supervision of a CIA sponsored plan to overthrow Duvalier.)

Midway through De Mohrenschildt's recollections, on March 29th, 1977, he and Epstein broke for lunch and decided to meet again at 3:00 pm. The ex-nobleman returned to his room to find that a lead investigator for the House Select Committee on Assassinations had been there earlier looking for him, and had left word that he would return. George De Mohrenschildt's body was found later in the day. Though he left no note, he had apparently committed suicide by discharging a shotgun into his mouth. (3.11)



Charlie Nicoletti, (left) a notorious contract killer for Chicago mobster Sam Giancana, who was reported by numerous sources to have been a key part of the "A-team" in Dallas on the day, firing on the President from low in the Dal-Tex building -- directly behind JFK's retreating limousine and a markedly easier shot than was possible from the School Book Depository -- met his own grisly end. On the same day De Mohrenschildt died by shotgun in Florida, Nicoletti, in Chicago, took three bullets in the back of his skull. (3.12)



From the same building where Oswald lay in ambush, a telescopic lens constructs an approximate line of what the killer saw at the school of Texas. Texas School Depository

This widely published photo claimed to have been taken from the building where "Oswald lay in ambush," but was actually taken from the second floor of the Dal-Tex Building. The corner of the Depository is seen at right.

Having been subpoenaed to appear before the same House Select Committee on Assassinations, Nicoletti's old boss, Giancana, though depending on the "shelter" of the Federal Witness Protection Program, turned up dead in his kitchen the night before his scheduled testimony. A massive wound to the back of Giancana's head played in stark counterpoint to a circle of six bullet holes around his mouth -- Mafia symbology for having ignored the need for silence. (3.13)



Giancana, left, and Roselli, right

Johnny Roselli was interviewed by Jack Anderson of *The Washington Post* in July of 1976. He told Anderson:

"When Oswald was picked up, the underworld conspirators feared he would crack and disclose information that might lead to them. This almost certainly would have brought a massive US crackdown on the Mafia. So Jack Ruby was ordered to eliminate Oswald."



Within a week of making this statement, Roselli left home in Florida to play golf. He never arrived at the first tee. Ten days later his body was found floating in an oil drum in Dumfoundling Bay. He had been garroted. His legs had been sawed off and squashed into the drum with the rest of his body. (3.14)

#

The House Select Committee on Assassinations -- provocative of all this bloodshed -- made a show of trying to arrive at a better understanding of the profound forces of antagonism at work against the Presidency of John Kennedy. Death, the passage of time, the political courage born of public insistence, and the release of millions of pages of previously concealed information made such a show impossible to avoid. The committee cited new audio evidence in support of the many eyewitness reports of frontal gunfire on the infamous day, originating from the "grassy knoll" and/or the upcoming triple underpass, simultaneous to the gunfire from behind the motorcade. This evidence was consistent with the "back right" quarter of the President's skull being blown out -- as was described by at least two dozen medical and security people who saw or attended the President's mortal wounds either immediately after the incident or at the autopsy, including Special Agent Clint Hill; Special Agent Roy Kellerman (the President's bodyguard); Dr. McClelland in the hospital Emergency Room; Dr. Carrico; Dr. Peters and Dr. Kemp, the presiding Director of Neurological Surgery -- and as was hauntingly etched by Jacqueline Kennedy crawling out onto the trunk to retrieve it.



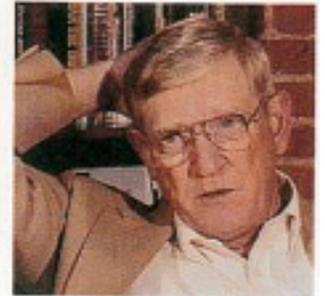
Paul O'Connor
 "[There was] an open area all the way across into the rear of the brain."



Dr. Robert McClelland:
 "It was in the right back part of the head—very large ... a portion of the cerebellum fell out on the table as we were doing the tracheotomy."



Nurse Audrey Bell:
 "There was a massive wound at the back of his head."



Aubrey Rike
 "You could feel the sharp edges of the bone at the edge of the hole in the back of his head."



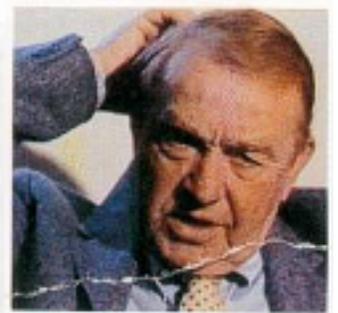
Dr. Paul Peters:
 "... right there, occipital parietal."



Dr. Charles Carrico:
 "There was a large — quite a large — defect about here [pointing] on his skull."



Dr. Charles Crenshaw:
 "The wound was the size of a baseball."



Frank O'Neill
 "... a massive wound in the right rear."

All of which supported the presence of -- at least -- a second shooter. As Kellerman, who was sitting directly in front of John Connally at the time, had originally put it to investigators: "...A flurry of shells came into the car." Kellerman, though, has remained a character of curious intent throughout the ensuing years. It was Kellerman, after all, who bore responsibility to command the driver, William Greer, to speed away at the first sign of trouble. Instead, the car began to slow as the attack commenced, coming to nearly a complete stop before the fatal head shot arrived. Nor was Kellerman ever moved to comment on the bullet hole in the car's front windshield, the fragmented exit side of which was no doubt staring him in the face as they sped to the hospital. (3.15)

Dr. McClelland's Drawing



He shepherded the President's body through the departure from Dallas (ignoring the orders of a local judge) and back home to Washington, and arranged for an ambulance to meet the plane upon arrival and take the President's body directly to Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was never asked to explain, however, why the coffin that was loaded onto the plane was not the one that debarked. (3.16) He stood watch over the autopsy; viewing the X-Rays alongside the doctors and was present at their discovery, well into the process, of the wound to the President's back -- six inches below his collar line. This wound did not yield an exit path (and could not, therefore, have accommodated the Warren Commission's "magic bullet" theory). He observed a "small finger" sized entry

wound to the right side of the President's head, and an exit wound which had caused the absence of the right rear quadrant of his skull, consistent with what he had observed lying on the back seat of the open Limousine upon the President's removal from the vehicle in Dallas. He also described a wound to the President's neck, just below the knot of his tie, which the Emergency Room doctors in Dallas had documented as an entry wound before opening it further for purposes of a tracheostomy. Though the comprehensive photographs and X-rays of the skull wound that snuffed out the President's life were later widely reported to have been replaced (3.17) -- it wouldn't have mattered much in 1964. For during the course of its "investigation....."

the Warren Commission never looked at any of them.

Earl Warren,
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who had publicly blamed the murder on right-wing extremists, was blackmailed into presiding.

Gerald Ford,
later the only man non-elected as both Vice President (Spiro Agnew scandal) and President (Richard Nixon scandal).

Richard Russell,
Lyndon Johnson's foremost mentor in the US Senate.

John Cooper,
member of both Houses of Congress, twice elected to the Senate, delegate to the UN.

John McCloy,
ex-World Bank President. As German High Commissioner, released Nazi war criminals. Rumored to have attended the pre-assassination meeting at Clint Murchison's mansion.

Hale Boggs,
ex-Senate majority whip.

Allen Dulles,
ex-Director of the CIA, who had overseen successful right-wing coups in Guatemala and Iran. JFK fired him from CIA after Bay of Pigs disaster.

Arlen Specter,
chief mouthpiece for the "lone gunman/magic bullet" theory. Recently Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

David Belin,
later Executive Director of the Commission on CIA Actions within the United States.



Many, however, among the millions who'd loved the President, resolved that his tragedy would not be brushed aside with such disdain. They pressed for truth. And slowly through time -- playing out like some haunted ballad of lament to the execution of the elected leader of the world's most powerful country -- it developed that...

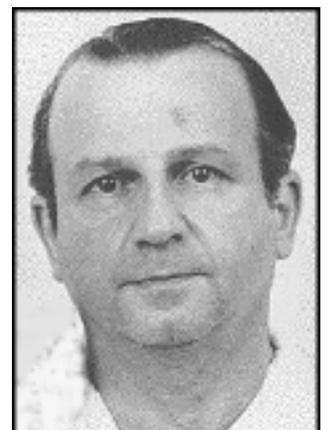
Lee Harvey Oswald had been carrying the home phone number of FBI Agent James Hosty in his wallet when he was booked for the murder. (3.18)

Though Oswald claimed to be a "patsy," and though he pleaded for two days with his wife, his mother, his brother and various members of the Dallas Police Department that he be granted access to his lawyer -- or any lawyer -- that access was denied him. (3.19)



Though the Dallas Police Department ran a paraffin test on Oswald's face to reveal the telltale traces of gunpowder residue that would surely testify to the three rifle shots he was purported to have squeezed off -- eyeball to scope -- the test came up clean. (3.20)

Jack Ruby was mob-connected and well known to the Dallas PD, as officers who visited Ruby's strip joint, "The Carousel," drank for free. Oswald is said to have known him by his nickname: "Sparky." Ruby was a continuous presence during the two days of Oswald's detention, hovering around headquarters and asking about the prisoner's whereabouts. In a room full of cops and cameras, he finally made his move.



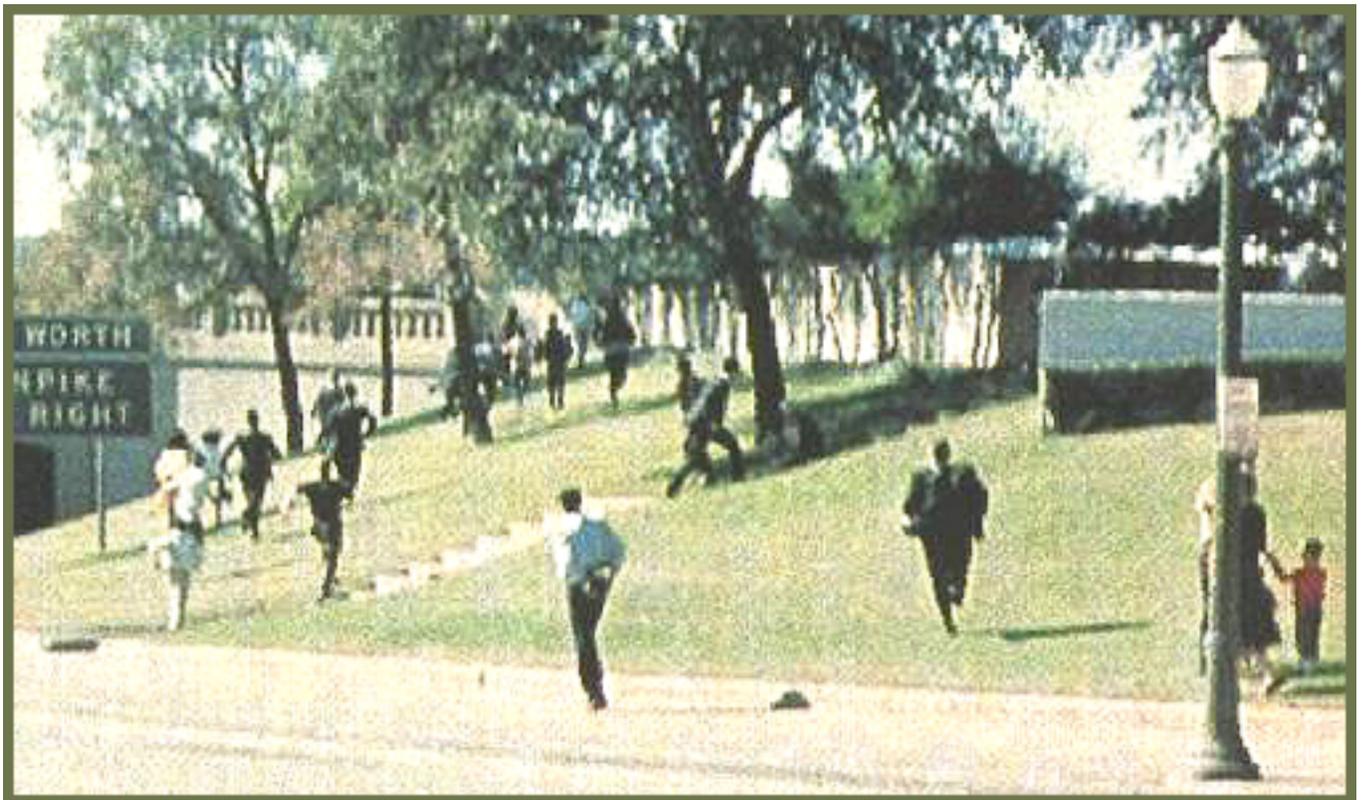




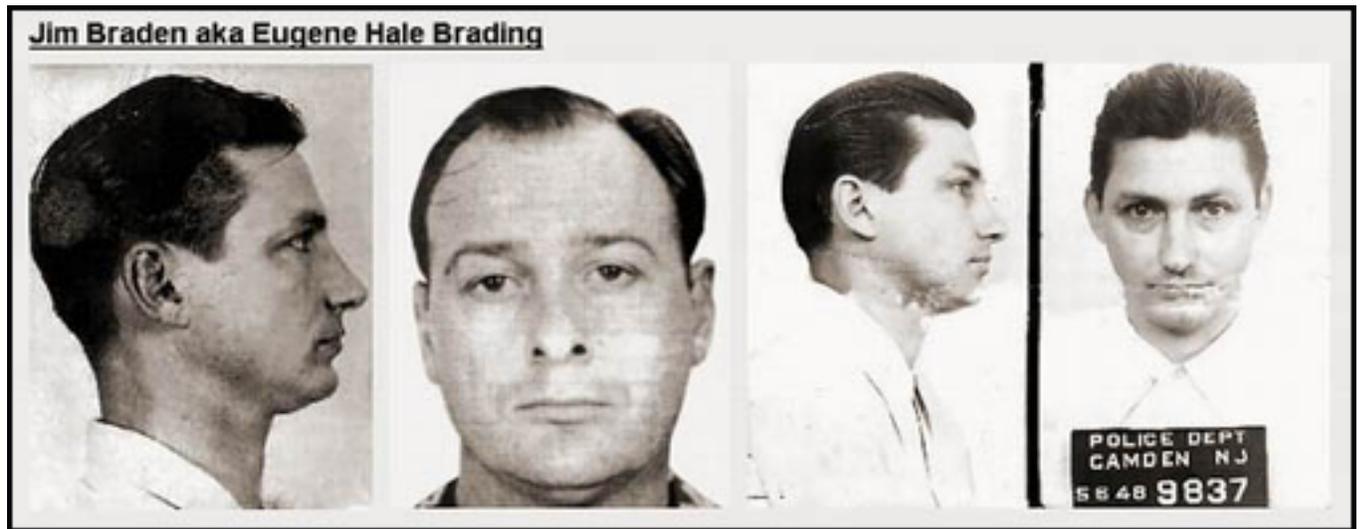
The murder was performed on national television.

Two days previously, Dallas Policeman J. M. Smith, smelling gunpowder immediately after Kennedy's assassination, had confronted a man behind the "grassy knoll" (*below*). Though every US Secret Service Agent in the vicinity was, at that moment, strapped to the Presidential motorcade speeding its way to the hospital -- the man behind the knoll flashed very convincing "US Secret Service" identification at Officer Smith, who allowed him to walk away.

The ID -- which was expressed both as booklets and as specifically marked lapel pins -- had been ordered only seven days before, according to CIA document specialist Chauncey Holt, and presented a challenge that marked a new level of achievement for his outfit. Holt, the oldest of the legendary "three tramps," would be roused two hours later from a boxcar on the railroad tracks a hundred yards behind these trees. (4.1)



Jim Braden, a Mafia enforcer with more than thirty arrests on his record (and long ties to Carlos Marcello, Santo Trafficante and David Ferrie) had arrived in Dallas the previous day and checked in to the Cabaña Motel, after which he visited the offices of billionaire oilman H. L. Hunt. Jack Ruby, that night, chose the same Cabaña motel for a midnight meeting with some friends who'd just come in from Chicago. Though Braden was arrested for "acting suspiciously" in the Dal-Tex Building overlooking Dealey Plaza immediately after the assassination, he was released. (4.2)



Four years later Braden would turn up in Los Angeles upon the occasion of the killing of the President's brother, newly crowned Democratic Presidential frontrunner Robert Kennedy. Again, Braden -- though questioned by police -- would walk away.

Bobby Kennedy, who had just become the frontrunner for the Democratic Presidential nomination following his victory in the California primary, ended up murdered on a greasy kitchen floor in the Ambassador Hotel of Los Angeles. Though evidence and eyewitnesses screamed otherwise, a "lone gunman" was blamed.



Steelworker Richard Carr, who'd watched the JFK motorcade from the seventh floor of a construction project overlooking Dealey Plaza, told the police that he'd noticed a stocky man in a tan coat and tie, wearing horn-rimmed glasses and a hat, standing in a window of the Book Depository shortly before the assassination. Carr stated that after the gunfire, most of which came from the grassy knoll (and drove the people on the knoll to the ground) he saw three men run out from behind the Depository and scramble into a Rambler station wagon which was parked facing the wrong way in front of the building. They sped away so quickly that one of the car's doors was still open. After which, Carr saw the man in the horn-rimmed glasses walking quickly away from the scene in his direction, repeatedly looking over his shoulder. The FBI told Carr he was confused and to "keep his mouth shut." Upon his reluctance to do so, he was threatened, arrested and told to leave town. He moved his family to Montana. Despite

discovering three sticks of dynamite wired to the ignition of his car one morning, Carr made plans to testify in the New Orleans JFK conspiracy trial of Clay Shaw. Fifteen days before it began, he was shot at on his front porch. He testified anyway and moved to Atlanta. He was attacked by men wielding knives, who stabbed him in the back and arm. He reciprocated by pulling a gun and blowing one of them away. A grand jury refused to indict him. Rumored to still be living, he no longer answers his phone. (4.3)

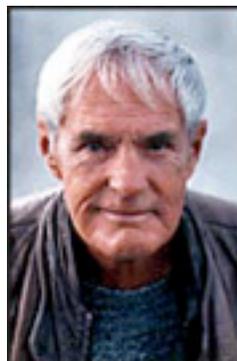
Four days after the assassination, Grant Stockdale, a close friend of the Kennedys -- but not a steelworker -- flew to Washington and met with JFK's brothers Robert and Edward. On his return home Stockdale told several of his associates that "the world was closing in." On December 1st, he spoke to his attorney, William Frates, who later recalled: "He started talking. It didn't make much sense. He said something about 'those guys' trying to get him." On December 2nd, Stockdale fell to his death from his office on the thirteenth story of the Dupont Building in Miami. (4.4)

CIA Operative Gary Underhill told his friend, Charlene Fitsimmons, that he was convinced that Kennedy had been killed by members of the CIA. "Oswald is a patsy. They set him up... I've been listening and hearing things. I couldn't believe they'd get away with it, but they did." Underhill expressed fear for his life. "I know who they are. That's the problem. They know I know." On May 8, 1964, the right-handed Underhill died from a gunshot wound to the left side of the back of his head. (4.5)

On November 24, 1963, journalists Bill Hunter of the Long Beach Press Telegram and Jim Koethe of the Dallas Times Herald interviewed Jack Ruby's roommate, George Senator. Earlier in the day Senator and attorney Tom Howard had visited Ruby in jail. That evening Senator arranged for Koethe, Hunter and Howard to search Ruby's apartment. It is not known what they found.

On 23rd April 1964, Hunter was shot dead by policeman Creighton Wiggins in the pressroom of a Long Beach police station. Wiggins called it an accident. Koethe, having begun work on a book about the assassination, died on September 21, 1964. A man had broken into his Dallas apartment and killed him by a karate chop to the throat. Tom Howard died of a heart-attack, aged 48, in March, 1965. (4.6)

Mary Pinchot Meyer, the sister-in-law of CIA connected journalist Ben Bradlee (of *Washington Post* Watergate era fame) and the ex-wife of Cord Meyer, a senior figure in covert operations for the CIA, was also rumored to have been intimately involved with the President. On the day after Kennedy's death, she called her friend, Harvard LSD researcher Timothy Leary and said, of JFK, "They couldn't control him any more.... They'll cover everything up. I gotta come see you. I'm afraid."



On 12th October, 1964, Mary Pinchot

Meyer was shot dead as she walked along the Chesapeake and Ohio towpath in Georgetown. (4.7)



Winston Scott was the CIA's station chief in Mexico. Scott retired in 1969 and wrote a memoir about his time in the FBI, the OSS and the CIA. He completed the manuscript, *It Came Too Late*, and made plans to discuss the contents of the book with CIA director Richard Helms in Washington on 30th April, 1971. Four days before the agreed meeting, Scott died of a heart attack, and CIA counterintelligence chief James Angleton personally removed Scott's manuscript from his family's possession. (4.8)

Dorothy Kilgallen (*right*), of television's "What's my Line?" fame, was also a leading crime reporter for the *New York Journal*. As tenacious as she was glamorous, Kilgallen obtained a private interview with Jack Ruby, and told friends afterward that she had information that would "break the case wide open."

Aware of what had happened to Bill Hunter and Jim Koethe, she turned over her interview notes to her friend Florence Smith for safekeeping. On the 8th of November, 1965, Kilgallen was found dead. It was reported that she had committed suicide.

A cerebral hemorrhage claimed Florence Smith two days later. (4.9)



Dallas Deputy Sheriff Roger D. Craig was on duty in Dealey Plaza on the 22nd November, 1963. Fifteen minutes after Kennedy's assassination, Craig claimed to have seen Lee Harvey Oswald picked up by a dark complected man in a station wagon. Oswald, when confronted by Craig about it, described the car as owned by his wife's landlord, Ruth Paine, who had helped Oswald land his job at the Texas School Book Depository. Oswald asked Craig to "leave her out of this."



Deputy Craig (*left*) also insisted, as did fellow officer Seymour Weitzman, that the rifle found in the sixth floor "sniper's nest" was a 7.65 Mauser and not a Mannlicher-Carcano, like the one that had been tied to Oswald. (Certain gun-savvy citizens may wonder why Oswald would have purchased so cheesy a weapon as the Mannlicher-Carcano -- which necessitated that the shooter remove his eye from the scope each time he threw its bolt -- when the Mauser could be had for pretty much the same price.) Unlike Weitzman, however, Craig could not be persuaded to "change his mind" about what he had seen. He became unpopular with senior police officers in Dallas when he testified before the Warren Commission -- even though the Commission discounted his testimony -- and lost his job.

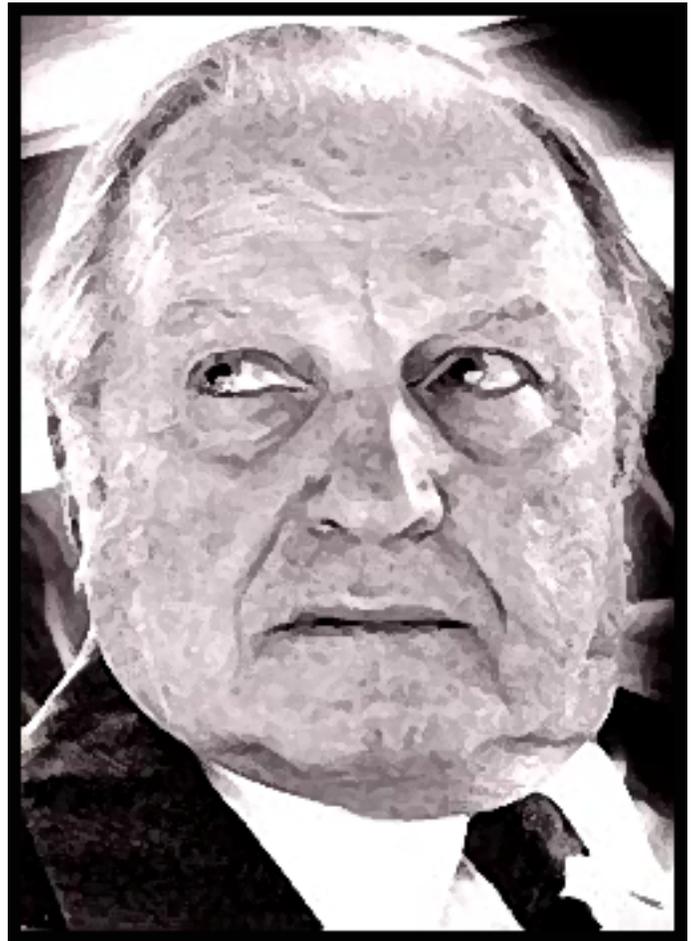
In 1967, Craig traveled to New Orleans to testify as a prosecution witness at the conspiracy trial of Clay Shaw. Later that year he was shot at while walking to a car park. The bullet grazed his head. In 1973 a car forced Craig's car off a mountain road. He was badly injured but survived the accident. In 1974 he survived another shooting in Waxahachie, Texas. The following year he was seriously wounded when his car engine exploded. Craig told friends that the Mafia had decided to kill him. He was found dead on the 15th of May, 1975. It was decided that the good deputy had died as a result of multiple self-inflicted gunshot wounds. (4.10)

Shortly before his own death, David Ferrie called Judyth Baker and warned her that she would be killed if she spoke about the CIA-financed cancer-as-a-weapon project they'd worked on with Oswald, alluding to the fate of their supervisor in the work, Dr. Mary Sherman, who had been murdered earlier in New Orleans. Sherman had been stabbed in the heart, arm, leg and stomach, and her laboratory set on fire.

And Jack Ruby himself finally met the demise he had predicted for so many years. Preparing to testify before Congress, he was visited in his cell by doctors who injected him against his will. Three weeks later he died of a "galloping" lung cancer of a type not previously observed to have generated in the human respiratory system. (4.11)

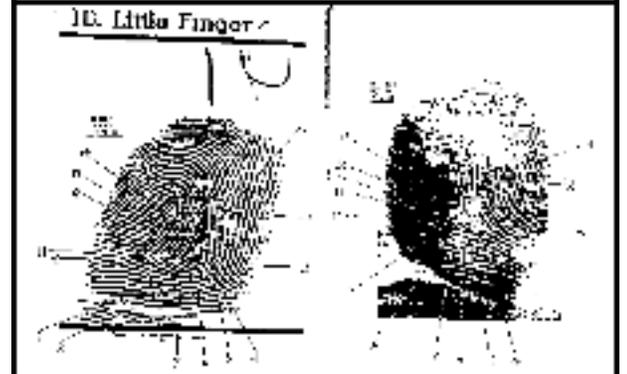
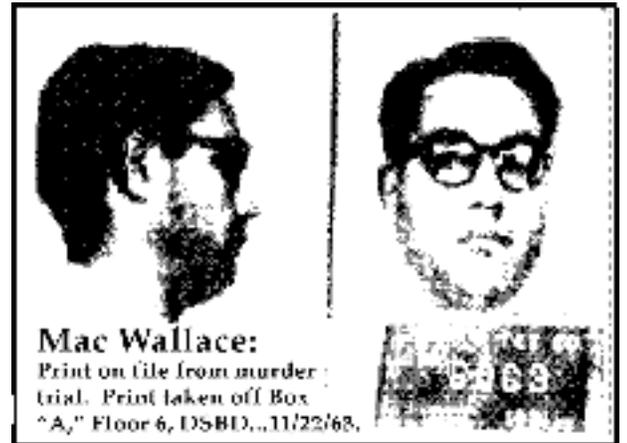
Unlike these and others of the dozens of less fortunate figures in the grand drama that overthrew the government of the United States, Mafia godfather Santo Trafficante died peacefully. On his deathbed, he was said to have left his longtime lawyer Frank Ragano with a simple, remorseless observation. "Carlos fucked up. We should not have killed Giovanni (John). We should have killed Bobby." (4.12)

Santo Trafficante and Carlos Marcello

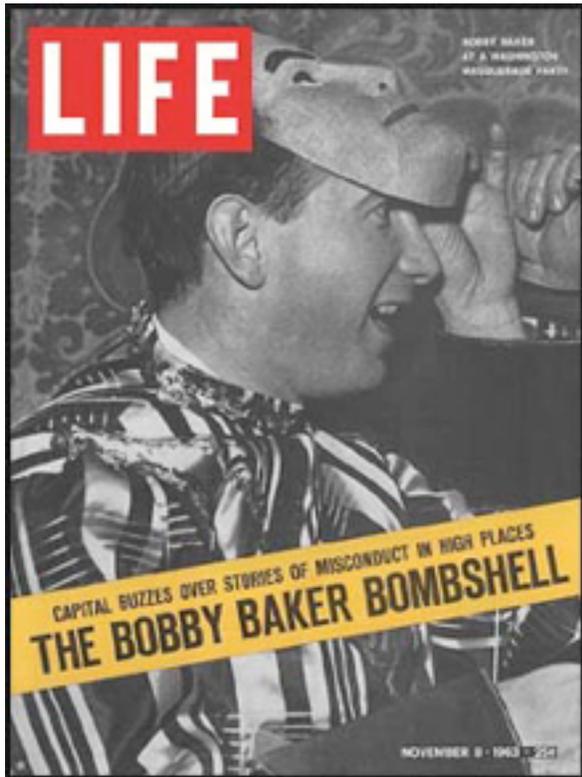


On June 19, 1992 -- in what can only be described, under the circumstances, as the typical courage and integrity attending his training -- former US Marshall Clint Peoples told friends he had discovered documentary evidence that an associate of Lyndon Johnson had been one of the team of "shooters" in Dealey plaza on the day Kennedy perished. Four days later Clint Peoples was killed in a one-car automobile accident. (4.13)





On March 12, 1998, the lone “unidentified” finger print found in the Dallas School Book Depository’s sixth floor “Sniper’s Nest” was finally attributed to its maker. It was proven to belong to Mac Wallace, the convicted murderer and long time, widely known in Texas political circles “wet man” -- street speak for assassin -- of Lyndon Baines Johnson. (4.14)

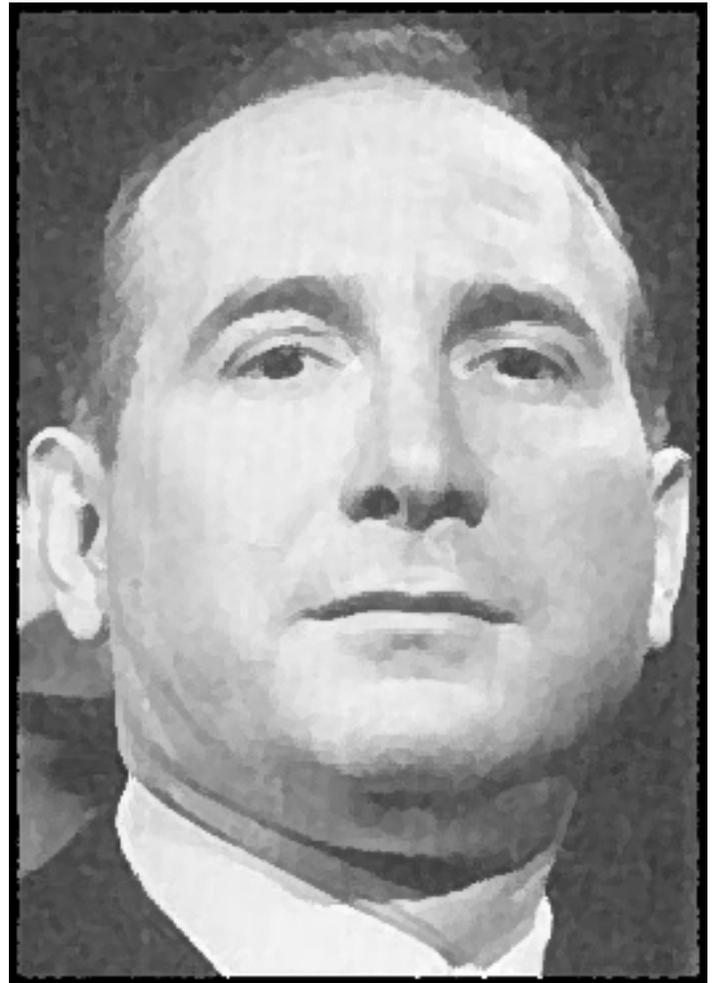


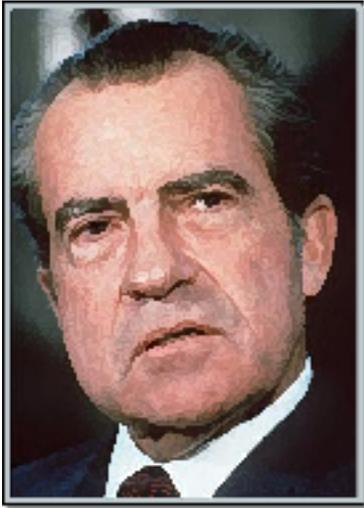
Among the many powerful, troubled and angry men who benefitted from the spilling of Kennedy's blood, Johnson, perhaps, can be said to have gained the most.

*Cover of Life Magazine,
published 14 days before Kennedy's assassination*

As Dallas approached, Lyndon Johnson was facing a reckoning. Bobby Baker, his protégé, former secretary and eventual political advisor from Johnson's days as Senate majority leader, was about to be indicted -- and he would be taking Johnson down with him. Baker's numerous corrupt business dealings with the likes of mobsters Meyer Lansky, Sam Giancana, Ed Levenson and the Jimmy Hoffa associate Benny Siegelbaum -- too outrageously lucrative not to show up in Baker's lifestyle -- had finally exposed him. And Baker, as everyone knew, had learned his trade at the feet of the master and had always been Lyndon's boy.

Johnson's own corrupt connections to the underworld, and the lethally amoral tactics he'd always employed to smooth out any incriminating "kinks" that popped up, would prove impossible to separate, once the gathering storm began to break. (4.15)





Richard Nixon, whom Kennedy had defeated for the Presidency in 1960 -- also happened to be in Dallas on assassination week (and would later offer conflicting versions of when he left town and how he got the "terrible news"). Between meetings with associates, Nixon made time to talk to local reporters about Kennedy's plans to contain the coming "Bobby Baker" political damage by dumping Lyndon Johnson from the Democratic ticket. The Dallas morning papers ran headlines on November 22nd quoting Nixon to the effect that LBJ's head was already on the chopping block, and Kennedy had lifted the ax. (4.16)

Johnson, however -- as ruthless a player as the ultimate bloodsport of Texas politics has ever produced -- kept faith in a kinder fate: Kennedy, after all, had come to Johnson's home turf, and everywhere Lyndon looked he saw powerful men who hated the President, men who had suffered for his new ideas and were in the process of being diminished by him. Though he lost his last battle with Kennedy -- over where John Connally (LBJ's friend) would ride in the motorcade (JFK wanted the popular Governor near him in the open Presidential Limo; LBJ wanted him in his own hard top trailing car) -- Johnson won the war.



Instead of being dumped from the 1964 Democratic ticket -- as the morning papers on that very day had headlined he would be -- his career brought to ruin; his indictment on Federal racketeering charges sure to come and prison time likely to follow -- Lyndon Johnson, instead, became the President of the United States.

Immediately thereafter, by Executive Order, he declared that his friend, J. Edgar Hoover would be the head of the FBI for life, and all investigations into Johnson's past crimes were quietly abandoned. (4.17)

The House Select Committee on Assassinations noted among its many regretful findings that on November 22, 1963, certain unnamed members of the United States Secret Service had been "deficient" in their sworn duty to protect our nation's leader.

Though a poll three years earlier in the Detroit News reported that 87% of the American public did not believe that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone, it was not until 1979 -- sixteen years after his death -- that the panel concluded that President John Fitzgerald Kennedy had most likely been murdered at the hands of a "conspiracy." (4.18)



**The Cloak of Treason:
888 Pages**

“When I think of President Kennedy,
I think of what Shakespeare said in Romeo and Juliet.

‘When he shall die, take him and cut him into the stars
and he shall make the face of Heaven so fine
that all the world will be in love with night
and pay no worship to the garish sun.’”

Robert Kennedy
1964



5



That Dudley Do-Right was indeed as square-jawed a hero as has ever stood for "Truth, Justice and the Canadian Way" is not in contention here. And that "The Mounties Always Get Their Man" is -- what? A Rallying Cry that was probably true at one time? Possibly true, at least? It sure did sound good.

Maybe the Mountie Mojo was better suited to a simpler time -- when the bad guys were more easily distinguished from the good. Or maybe a "gentlemen's agreement" to "forgive and forget" regarding the apprehended "assets" of one country's intelligence agencies and another's was in place long before Dudley ever mounted a moose.

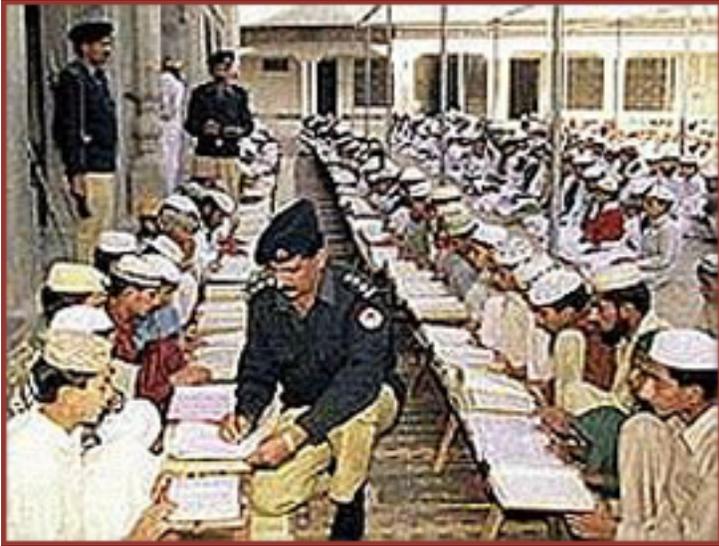
In any case, we can say, regarding their release of Ali Mohamed, that the Mounties had a lot of company when it came to keeping this player in play. Their part in his twisting journey was only one early chapter of the great unwritten novel about the man's exploits. Over the course of his career Mohamed has slithered so effortlessly between the contending political organizations of the west and Radical Islam that one might be forgiven for thinking he was simply working two branches of the same job.

For example -- he was a major in the Egyptian Army in 1981 when he joined the Islamic Jihad and left to begin training in the US Army Special Forces School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While Ali studied Covert Ops and Terrorism 101 in the US, colleagues in his Army unit back home were busy carrying out the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

In 1985 Mohamed conducted a whirlwind six-week courtship of an American woman he'd recently met on a plane, marrying her in Reno and setting up house in her hometown of Santa Clara, California. A year later, moving back to North Carolina alone, he officially joined the US Army and began teaching classes to US soldiers about the culture and politics of the Mideast. Among his supervisors at Fort Bragg was Col. Norvell De Atkine, an expert on "the political aspects of military operations" and a contributing author to the *Middle East Forum*, the aggressively neoconservative journal edited by Neo-Con scribe Daniel Pipes. De Atkine would later speak in defense of the US Army's relationship with Mohamed -- thoughtfully pointing out that the intriguing young man was "not a bomb thrower."

Though reported to have stolen top secret documents and passed them to Islamic Militants while he was producing and appearing in US Army training videos about combating Islamic Militants, Mohamed soon made a successful transition, as the story goes, to a new career as an operative for the CIA. Over the course of most of two decades, he moved around the United States and throughout the Mideast, staying in regular touch with and providing "western" training to various Radical Muslims.





He had a front row seat to the massive worldwide program of recruitment, indoctrination and training of Islamic Jihadis that was overseen and financed by the CIA and MI6 (British Intelligence) beginning in 1979. (5.1)

This effort, during which CIA expertise and US dollars stoked the aggressive expansion of the virulently anti-Western madrasas in Pakistan, first brought the US into a working relationship with Usama bin Laden.

One of the ensuing high points of Mohamed's resumé was his 1994 trip to the Sudan where he not only provided US military-style training for the personal body guards of Mr. bin Laden, but is also credited with having arranged an introductory meeting between bin Laden and Imad Mugntyah -- at the time the security chief for Hizballah.

It was not until 1998 that Mohamed was finally arrested by the United States -- for his purported role in the bombing of the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania -- and not until 1999 that he was indicted. Though expected to testify at the trial -- he did not. And though his "co-conspirators" were sentenced -- he was not. His whereabouts remain unknown, and the Associated Press reported on New Year's Eve, 2001, that his sentencing had been "postponed indefinitely."

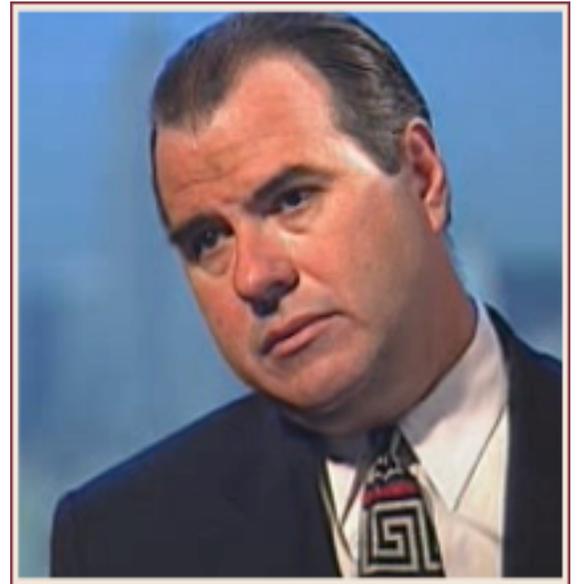
Larry Johnson, a former CIA agent and the State Department's Director of Counterterrorism during the elder Bush's administration, had this to say about Mohamed: "The reason he didn't testify was so they wouldn't have to face uncomfortable statements on the FBI. They are more interested in covering their ass."

*Johnson, (center)
flanked by former CIA analyst and case worker
Col. W. Patrick Lang (ret.), (left)
and former CIA analyst Jim Marcinkowski, (right)*



Mohamed was the subject of several articles after 9/11, but by the time the 9/11 Commission issued its final report in 2004, the scope of his far-reaching and widely observed activities had been reduced to a couple of references to his connections to the bombings of the embassies and the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. No mention whatever was made of his years of collaboration with the CIA and the FBI. (5.2)

Eager, as always, FBI Agent John O'Neill left Chicago and drove straight through to Washington in February of 1995 to begin his new assignment as a counterterrorism specialist in the bureau's national headquarters. He arrived in town on Saturday, and reported to the office on Sunday. With few people around, it was O'Neill who answered the phone that morning when Richard Clarke, head of counterterrorism for the Clinton Administration, called from the White House.



Sources within Pakistani Intelligence had tipped the administration that Ramzi Yousef, the man deemed responsible for the 1993 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, was about to make a move. Yousef would briefly abandon his deep cover in Pakistan in the process of relocating to Afghanistan. This might prove to be the last chance to apprehend him for a very long time. "Can you help?" asked Clarke.

O'Neill, though brand new to counterterrorism, brand new to his office and brand new to the culture of Washington, answered, "I'll see what I can do."

With nothing but a telephone at his disposal, he went to work with a "don't even think of turning me down" tenacity that proved impossible to deny, quickly establishing a hierarchy and cobbling together a network of elements from half way around the planet, pressing with the brilliant brute force of his prodigious persuasive powers to inspire commitment and coordinate the efforts of his many new "friends" into a cohesive strategy. Forty-eight hours later Ramzi Yousef was in prison. (5.3)

O'Neill threw himself into his new position with the same energy -- a ferocity rarely witnessed within the confines of a bureaucracy. He took the job home with him, spending his nights rubbing elbows with his fellow restless spooks, networking, bonding and "getting his Irish up" in the company of a wide swath of the intelligence community, establishing the kind of valuable friendships that sped his education and quickly broadened his reach. It was a fact as well -- according to every one who knew him -- that he did not suffer fools.

He saw the depth of the challenge ahead with a clarity that escaped the majority of his colleagues, and began making noises about the need for better technology and better thinking; pushing for a paradigm shift that would move the organization's focus from solving domestic crime toward a more global and long term analytical posture.

People at the very highest levels of the national intelligence apparatus began to mutter about his "sharp elbows" and his "intensity." His warnings about the gathering challenges posed by the rise of Islamic fundamentalism earned him the mocking title of the "Prince of Darkness." He was said to be "pushing too hard."



The Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia were bombed in June of 1996, killing nineteen Americans, and a high-level contingent from the FBI was dispatched to investigate. On the 14 hour flight to Saudi Arabia, O'Neill sat beside FBI Director Louis Freeh and gave him a crash tutorial on what he had learned about Islamic Terrorism.

King Abdulaziz bin Abdelrahman Al-Saud, founder of Saudi Arabia; Louis Freeh, former Director of the FBI (lower right)

The investigation proved profoundly frustrating, with the Saudis speaking reassuringly of their desire to get to the bottom of

who might have been responsible for the attacks, but having difficulty providing the American team with the kind of information they were seeking. The Saudis prevented the bureau's agents from interviewing civilians who'd witnessed the bombings, even as they professed their desire to produce them. On the way home, FBI Director Freeh was circumspect about the experience; willing to give the Saudis the benefit of the doubt as to the depth of their sincerity. O'Neill was outraged, and blunt: "They were blowing smoke up your ass." (5.4)



The Saudis later stipulated that they had in fact been obstructing the investigation (though their cited reason: "a desire to maintain calm" with Iran did not necessarily ring true) and O'Neill's observation was thereby vindicated. It soon developed that certain high ranking American government officials began to regard John O'Neill as the "go-to guy" on questions of terrorism. Attorney General Janet Reno began calling him directly for advice, bypassing the normal protocols of communication.

It was around this time that O'Neill began to communicate among colleagues his conviction that Saudi Arabia was not only the key to understanding the mechanics of international terrorism, it was also deeply implicated in its spread. He expressed dismay at our government's obvious appetite to continually "look the other way," when it came to our decades-long partners in the oil business -- the Saudis. And this opinion was formed more than five years before 9/11, when the presence of 15 Saudi Passports among the 19 purported hijackers would bring the idea into clearer focus -- for the few people in the United States inclined to publicly comment on the import of such simple, glaring facts.





O'Neill was hearing things from his now well-developed network of international contacts, and began pushing hard to get the intelligence agencies to allocate more resources toward investigating the activities of a handful of Jihadist operatives known to have emigrated to the United States. His repeated entreaties, however, fell on consistently deaf ears.

When the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed simultaneously in 1997, O'Neill made immediate preparations to fly overseas and jump the trail of the perpetrators. He knew that the most important aspect of investigating is to begin quickly, before people disperse and leads begin to cool. Amazingly -- though John O'Neill was widely understood to be among the most knowledgeable and effective people on the planet when it came to these exact matters -- the bureau, after considering its options, told him to stay home. (5.5)

US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya (right)

It was not until the great crisis of confidence that came with the celebration of the millennium that O'Neill got a chance to reposition himself. He and his team jumped all over the arrest of Ahmed Ressam at the Canadian border in Vancouver. The discovery -- thanks to an alert Peace Officer -- of Ressam's plans to do damage in America was strongly supportive of O'Neill's instincts, and had come without the spilling of blood on American soil.



When the USS Cole was bombed, there was no doubt that O'Neill would be heading up the team of 200 FBI Agents that immediately mobilized for Yemen. And there, his fate began to take what would prove to be a terminal turn for the worse. His aggressive leadership generated leads, every one of which was explored under great pressure and deplorable conditions. O'Neill and his men had come to a Muslim country -- the birthplace of bin Laden himself, no less -- to try to arrest Muslims. They were sleeping on floors and struggling to get enough to eat, and they were hated out of hand by dangerous Yemeni security forces. In Survival Mode, they took to traveling together in fast driving caravans and posting their own armed guards around any perimeter they were forced to establish in the course of their queries.



Though it was obvious that to investigate with timidity was to invite attack, the US ambassador to Yemen, Barbara Bodine (*right*), chose to counter her own country's declared goal -- which was, supposedly, to solve the crime. Ignoring the centuries-old wisdom that law enforcement cannot function in a hostile environment without a projection of its own power -- she went after O'Neill for doing his job.



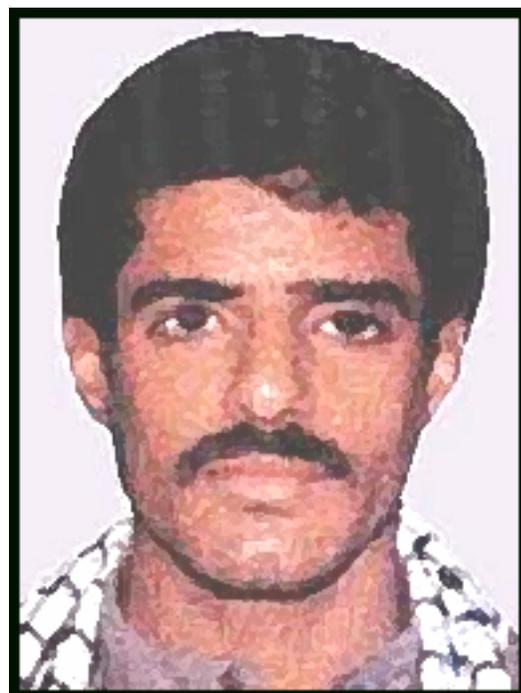
But even then -- as always -- the strength of the man's character was impossible to resist. He won converts to his cause among the Yemeni police and began to make progress. By the time he took a desperately needed sabbatical around the holidays, returning home having dropped twenty-five pounds, he could count many among his Muslim counterparts as friends. He brought some of them with him back to the states. He was excited to "show them New York." They had taken to calling him "brother."



Ambassador Bodine, meanwhile, had taken to calling the White House.



October 18, 2000, Norfolk, VA. President Clinton consoles a sailor injured in the Cole attack, in which 17 US servicemen died. Tawfiq bin Attash (below), who lost a leg to the Soviets in the eighties, and had attended the CIA-monitored January Al-Qaeda "summit" in Malaysia -- was purported to be the mastermind.



When John O'Neill prepared to return to Yemen after the holidays, he was told he'd been barred from the country. According to the official version of the impasse, his investigation -- an operation described as crucial to our nation's security -- was curtailed because the local ambassador didn't approve of the FBI's "bad manners." Few people in America even noticed. Again, the "bad guys" would walk. (5.6)



O'Neill had long since grown frustrated at the great disparity between the United States government's officially proclaimed strategies for countering terrorism -- especially as related to Usama bin Laden -- and the actual performance of those strategies.

The man was wholly convinced to the day he died that the key to dismantling Al-Qaeda -- should such dismantling of the "great threat" truly be a goal at the highest levels of corporate financed American power -- was staring everyone in the face.

As he put it to French Journalist Jean-Charles Brisard, who interviewed him for the book *Bin Laden: Hidden Truths* -- "All the answers, everything needed to dismantle Osama bin Laden's organization, can be found in Saudi Arabia." (5.7)

Which was, after 9/11, the righteously vengeful focus of the leaders of our government. (5.8)

For almost six whole months.....

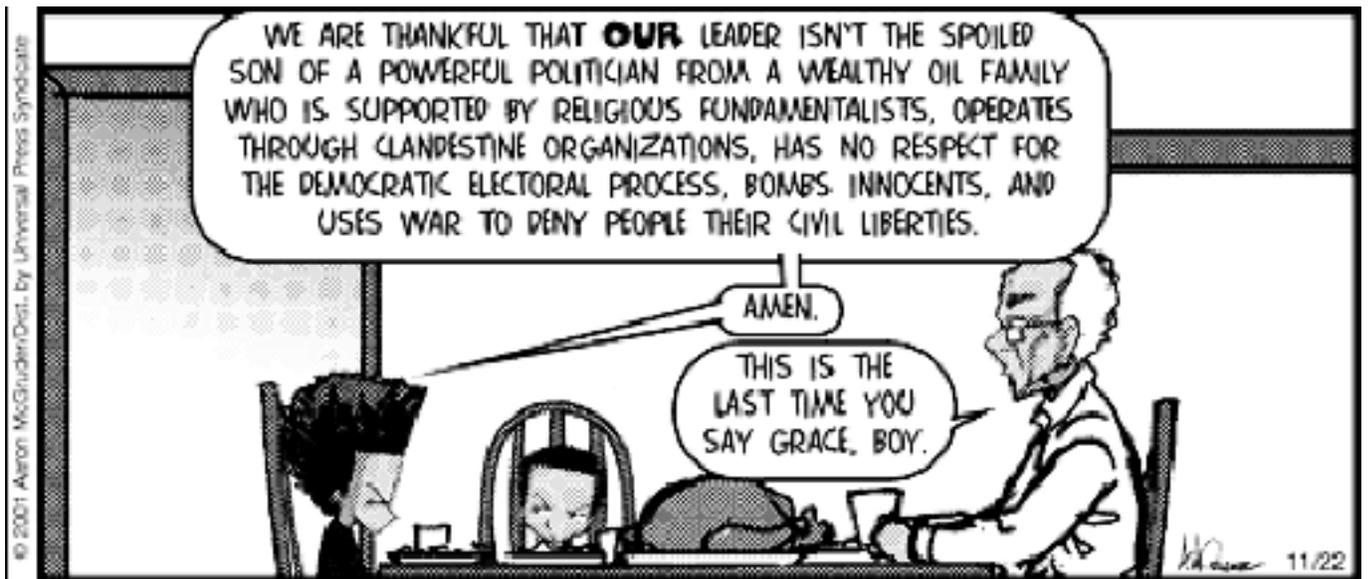
"The most important thing is for us to find Osama bin Laden. It is our number one priority and we will not rest until we find him."

- G.W. Bush, 9/13/01

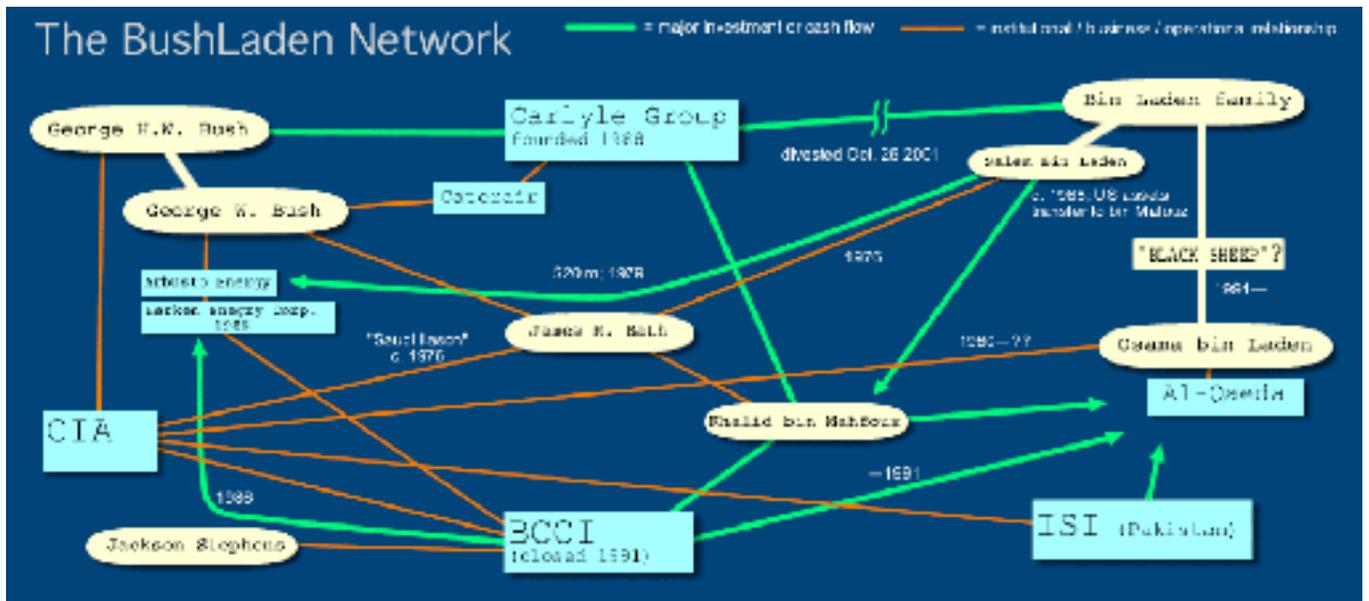
"I don't know where bin Laden is. I have no idea and really don't care. It's not that important. It's not our priority."

- G.W. Bush, 3/13/02





In reality, however, effective investigations into bin Laden were consistently thwarted from above by senior American government officials and oil interests who didn't want to embarrass the Saudis or those American officials and companies tied to the Royal Family. These same officials and their interests, of course -- are also tied to bin Laden.



Where was anyone in the American press with the political courage to step up and expose the lies required to sustain such duplicity?

Where was anyone anywhere with the political courage to speak of the multiple examples -- one after another after another after another -- of elements within the United States government intervening against its own supposed efforts to close the deal on these bad guys?

O'Neill could cite chapter and verse of such glaring examples (among dozens) of the vast difference between what we say about our "enemy" and what we actually do, as...

- Ø The Clinton administration's February, 1998 rejection -- over the protests of the FBI -- of an offer from Gutbi al-Mahdi, the head of Sudan's intelligence agency, to hand over the comprehensive Sudanese intelligence files on bin Laden and his associates (then living in Sudan) that could have prevented the Embassy attacks in Kenya and Tanzania that killed hundreds of people.
- Ø The Clinton administration's answer to an inquiry from Qatar later in 1998 upon the occasion of bin Laden, having left Sudan on a chartered jet with 150 of his family and associates onboard, preparing to land in Qatar for refueling on his way to Pakistan. The question from Qatar: "What should we do about this guy?" The answer: "Let him go."
- Ø The unilateral decision of CIA Director George Tenet to cancel a May 29, 1998 CIA operation poised to capture bin Laden in Afghanistan, citing concerns for the "quality of intelligence." This intelligence had been coordinated -- and was vigorously defended -- by the head of the agency's own bin Laden unit.
- Ø The failure of US Naval commanders to maintain the element of surprise in their August 20, 1998 Cruise missile attacks on bin Laden -- tipping their hand hours before the launch by moving multiple destroyers into position rather than relying on submarines, as they supposedly had been ordered to do.
- Ø The Bush administration's decline of a March 2001 offer from Taliban Minister Sayed Hashimi to "hold bin Laden in one location" long enough to effect his capture or demise.
- Ø The Bush administration's intervention in the summer of 2001 that stopped dead in its tracks an FBI investigation into two of Usama bin Laden's brothers -- Abdullah and Omar -- for their ties to the World Assembly of Muslim Youth; an organization that had previously been prosecuted for terrorist activities in the Philippines, Pakistan and India -- and operated out of a building situated three blocks away from the apartment of four of the purported 9/11 hijackers.
- Ø The 10-day kidney disease-related stay of bin Laden in the American Hospital in Dubai, during which he was visited -- on July 12, 2001 -- by local CIA agent Larry Mitchell, yet allowed to leave in peace.
- Ø The midnight journey on November 10, 2001 -- which lasted hours -- of the top leadership of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban from Kabul, the capitol of Afghanistan, to Jalalabad, under skies owned by the US Air Force. Said an eyewitness, upon their safe arrival: "We don't understand how they weren't all killed the night before -- because they came in a convoy of at least a thousand cars and trucks."
- Ø The midnight journey on November 14, 2001 -- again lasting hours -- of the top leadership of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban from Jalalabad to the mountain caves of Tora Bora. This time, the convoy was comprised of many hundreds of vehicles and was judged by American Intelligence sources to have been joined

in Jalalabad by bin Laden. As it proceeded -- the US Air Force was kept busy bombing the Jalalabad Airport, but left the convoy unmolested.

- Ø The airlift on November 25, 2001, which involved dozens of aircraft in a tightly scheduled and systematic evacuation of thousands of Al-Qaeda and Taliban officials from Konduz into Pakistan. This operation, which unfolded over the course of the entire night, remained undisturbed by United States Forces. (5.9)

All of which pre-dated the preposterous closing gambit of our fiercely bloodthirsty quest for justice in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, wherein the United States Army, having isolated and trapped Mr. bin Laden in Tora Bora, refused to allow its own elite 10th Mountain Division troops to move against him. The US chose instead to delegate his capture to the very same Afghan Warlords for whom the legendary Usama has towered for years as the greatest Muslim hero since the prophet Mohammed himself.



Meanwhile, American military leadership was content to have surrounded Tora Bora -- on three sides. The fourth side features two centuries old footpaths that lead from the mountains down into Pakistan. The US Air Force bombed the holy living hell out of one of these footpaths. The other, inexplicably, completely escaped their attention.

In light of this indefensible "error," Mr. bin Laden and his colleagues -- in yet another example of their "terrifying and diabolical brilliance" -- simply walked away. (5.10)

“.... Brig. Gen. James N. Mattis, the commander of some 4,000 marines who had arrived in the Afghan theater by now. Mattis, along with another officer with whom I spoke, was convinced that with these numbers he could have surrounded and sealed off bin Laden's lair, as well as deployed troops to the most sensitive portions of the largely unpatrolled border with Pakistan. He argued strongly that he should be permitted to proceed to the Tora Bora caves. The general was turned down.”

(www.wehaitians.com/how%20osama%20bin%20laden%20...)



President Clinton's new \$165 million library... was funded in part by gifts of \$1 million or more each from the Saudi royal family and three Saudi businessmen

That John O'Neill was not going to look the other way or keep his mouth shut with the fires of such hypocritically stoked rage engulfing him was obvious.

Plans were made to “smear” his reputation, thereby destroying any possible future for the man at the FBI. That much is very clear. What plans might have been made for his post-FBI retirement years are less clear.

What is most telling, perhaps, is the degree to which the “transgressions” that caused Mr. O'Neill to finally resign in protest from a thirty-year career -- his “overly aggressive” relations with authorities in Yemen; and a briefcase of classified documents he had briefly misplaced eighteen months earlier at an FBI conclave in Tampa -- were suddenly deemed worthy of news coverage immediately before his death.

For years, O'Neill had enjoyed a vivid reputation and the respect of colleagues within the Intelligence community and elsewhere in government, and had been interviewed on occasion, but he was far better described by his excellent work than his public profile.

Somewhere within the powers that be, however, someone saw a need to put an end to his obscurity.

Out of the blue, stories about his previous “deficiencies” as an agent -- followed the very next week by the relatively unimportant news of his retirement -- were covered extensively by both the Washington Post and the New York Times.

Among his legions of friends, the coincidence of the unwelcome attention and the tragedy that would follow proved difficult to fathom.



It was as if the amazingly ironic circumstances of the imminent death of Mr. O'Neill.....

- Ø among the most thoroughly knowledgeable anti-Usama bin Laden operatives the United States had produced;
- Ø the most aggressive and most successful in his approach to al-Qaeda;
- Ø who is suddenly singled out for reputation-destroying attention in a high-profile, "FBI sourced" PR campaign to force his retirement;
- Ø who immediately thereafter lands beneath the tailor made "golden parachute" of the high-paying Director of Security for the World Trade Center gig;
- Ø but who dies within days at the hands of his "prey" in the rubble of 9/11.....

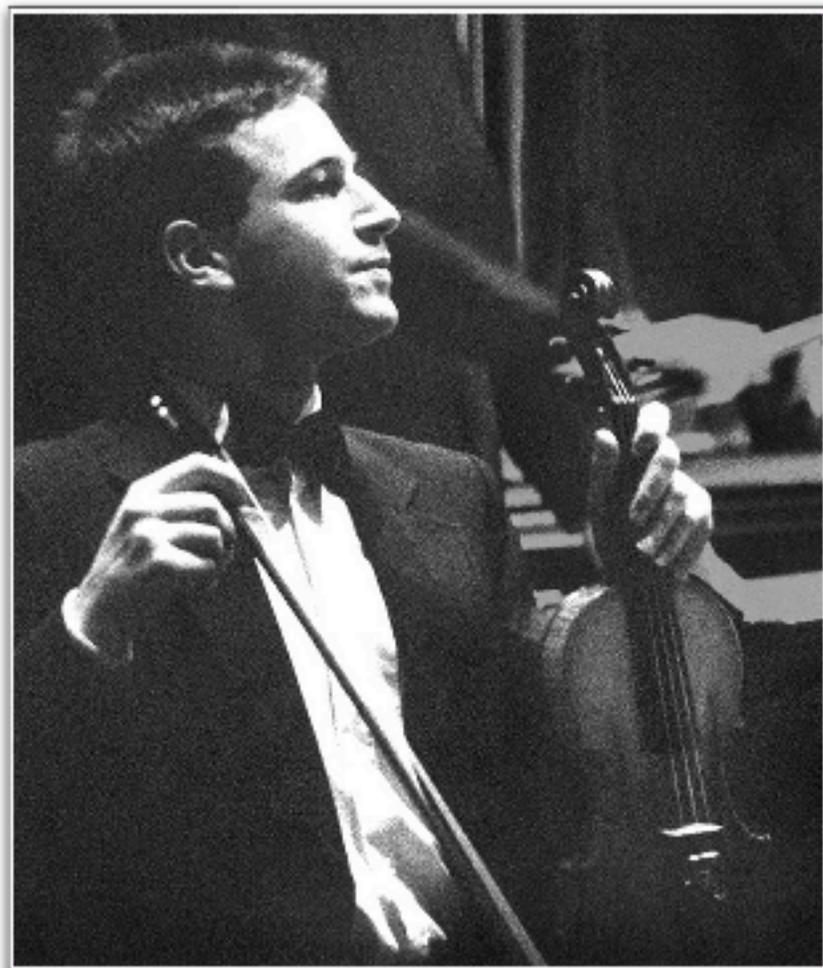
..... had demanded a published preamble.

In Chaim Kupferberg's riveting article about the questions raised by John O'Neill's death (<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP206A.html>), we are offered astute observations on the long campaign of storytelling that prepared the American public to react to the horrors of 9/11 along pre-inscribed lines. Kupferberg has been paying attention, and reveals an overview of many widely, but randomly reported pieces.

He points out that it is a very small circle of people who have actually reported almost everything that is "known" in the west about Mr. bin Laden -- all the "facts" on which his Legend is based. Most of these stories have been re-configured and repeated ad infinitum in a "top down flow" by other "reporters," as the Specter of His Myth has come to be taken as a nightmare completely divorced from the rarely reported efforts of our Government to empower him in the first place. And to sustain him -- purposefully and indefinitely -- as our Great Enemy.



It is in the more complicated dance between the "terrorist mastermind" and the CIA, the ISI and MI6, that a truer picture of Mr. bin Laden's role as a mechanism for imposing control in the west might be gained. But to form useful thoughts about that dance requires some reading, and a little dispassionate thought. Mr. Kupferberg's writing for the *Centre for Research on Globalisation* is an excellent place to begin. (5.11)



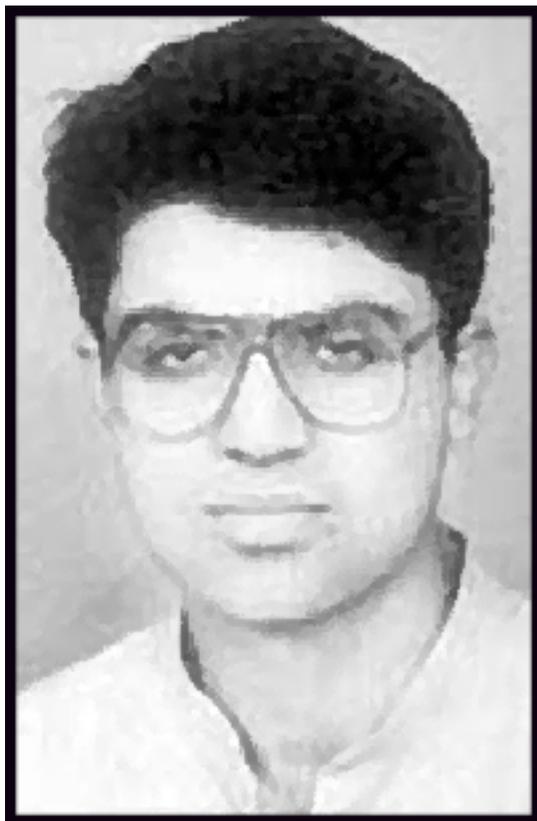
Young Danny

Among his peers, Daniel Pearl was not only considered an excellent reporter, but one of the all-time "great guys," his singular brilliance underscored by grace and humor in dealings with competitors and friends alike. In the end, it was the man's straightforward appetite for the truth -- in a covert culture where deceit is the common currency -- that cost him his life.



To comprehend the dark beast that consumed him, it's necessary to back track a bit, and make ourselves familiar with another remarkable young man -- a thug/terrorist/freedom fighter by the name of Omar Saeed Sheikh. In the words of the London Times, Omar Saeed is "a man who has connections that reach high into Pakistan's military and intelligence elite and into the innermost circles of Usama Bin Laden and the al-Qaeda organization."

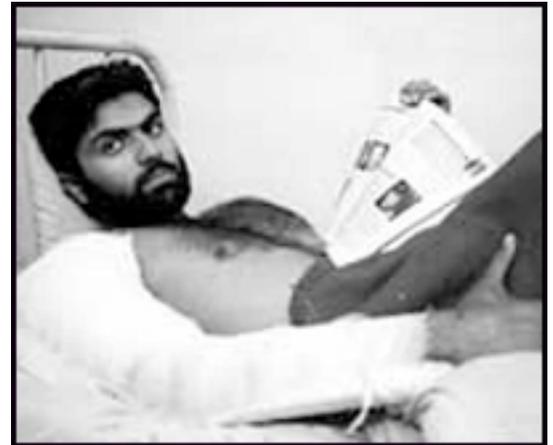
Saeed grew up in London, the son of a wealthy Pakistani clothing manufacturer, and developed early into a man of superior mental and physical powers. While still a student at the London School of Economics -- specializing in statistics and mathematics -- he founded a successful shares and equities business and distinguished himself as a world class arm wrestler and expert in the martial arts. His chess was of championship caliber. (6.1)



Radicalized by charity work during the Bosnian War in 1992, where he witnessed Serbian atrocities perpetrated on Bosnian Muslims, Saeed emerged in Pakistan as a new and gifted player in the world of Jihad. His skills in economics and mathematics, his physical prowess, his command of English and the intricacies of Western Culture -- and his fanaticism -- were not lost on recruiters for the Inter-Services Intelligence organization, better known as the ISI. In 1993, Saeed became an asset of the ISI -- the CIA-spawned "government within the Pakistani government" -- which had given birth to the Taliban. The ISI immediately sent him to Al Qaeda's Khalid Bin Waleed training camp in Afghanistan. In short order, Saeed was teaching the classes he had come to take, and had caught the eye of bin Laden, who took to calling him "my special son." Saeed returned to Afghanistan a second time in December 1993 to study "surveillance techniques, disguise, interrogation, secret codes, and how to

mount attacks and night ambushes” at a camp run by the Pakistani Army's Special Services Group. (6.2)

In 1994, Saeed set up a kidnapping operation in India that netted three British tourists and an American, whom he attempted to trade for the freedom of Kashmiri separatists. Indian police foiled the proposed deal and arrested the kidnapers after a counter attack in which Saeed was wounded. Though the ISI interceded, offering to post his bail, Saeed was convicted and began serving a long sentence in India's Tihar prison. Ever the player, he was soon the “emir” of the mostly Muslim prison population, and described by his keepers as a “model inmate.” In 1999, Great Britain offered Saeed asylum and forgiveness of his crimes if he would return to England and reveal his working knowledge of Al-Qaeda. He apparently refused.



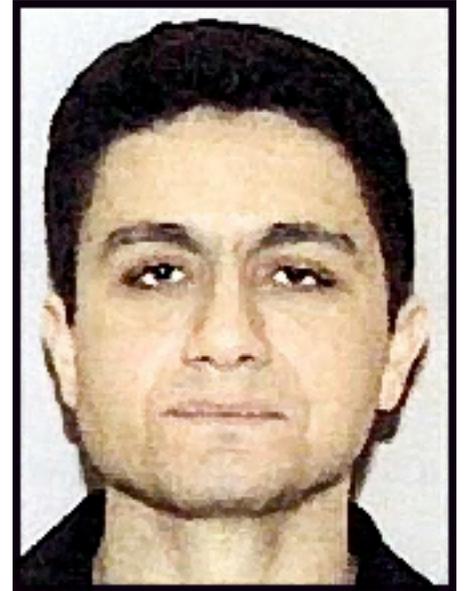
In December of 1999, Muslim radicals hijacked an Indian Airlines jetliner and negotiated a ransom deal with the government of India whereby the 154 passengers they had taken hostage would be freed in exchange for the release of Omar Saeed and two others. Free again, Saeed was taken to a guest house in Kandahar where he was visited by Usama bin Laden and Mullah Omar, the leader of the Taliban. (6.3) A few days later, Saeed returned to Pakistan and got busy.

While living, according to Newsweek, “openly, and opulently, in a wealthy Lahore neighborhood” -- in a house given to him by the ISI -- Saeed divided his time between a variety of tasks: In Afghanistan he worked as a trainer with men later connected to the 9/11 hijacking crews and assisted in the development of an encrypted communication system for Al-Qaeda; in Pakistan he worked as a planner on various projects that would eventually play out as deadly terrorist attacks in India, Kashmir and Calcutta. Notably, he helped set up another kidnapping scheme which generated ransom money that would eventually turn up in the American bank accounts of the 9/11 hijackers.

Around this time, sources in the US Government first declared the obvious: that Saeed was a “protected asset” of the ISI, noting that he did little to hide his connections to terrorist organizations, even while attending swanky parties thrown by senior Pakistani government officials. Others in the Pakistani government, meanwhile, were muttering another tune, speculating that Saeed's brazen demonstration of his power -- he visited England twice in this period and was untouched -- was due to his more formidable connections to the CIA, be they reflective of bin Laden's own history of assistance to American Intelligence, or something more recently and independently configured.

In any case, as 9/11 descended, the untouchable charm within Omar Saeed's viciousness began to falter. Within days of the attack, the western press -- working from the same script -- began to "chase the money," and Saeed's aliases were picked apart by MSNBC, The London Times, the Guardian, and eventually, by Newsweek, who finally identified him as the Jihadi released from prison in the 1999 hijacking exchange.

The role of "Usama bin Laden's 9/11 Paymaster," thereby, was formally cast, and just in the nick of time -- given bin Laden's public denial of complicity in the attacks and the urgent need to justify the invasion of Afghanistan. Omar Saeed, after all, was one of bin Laden's favorites -- his golden boy -- and it was Saeed (*near left*) who had wired \$100,000 to lead hijacker Mohammed Atta on the day before the tragedy. It was Omar Saeed who'd been sending such money for months. Therefore, the story went, the money must have come from bin Laden.



Unfortunately, the tidy symmetry of this "smoking gun" connecting The Evil Usama to 9/11 was obliterated within days by further revelations about the amazing Omar.

While Saeed's extensive history as a thug and terrorist and "known associate" of bin Laden was flooding the media-driven new mass consciousness -- his equally extensive history as an accomplished and "untouchable" intelligence asset was not.

Oops.



Enter General Mahmood Ahmed, the Director of Pakistan's ISI, and one of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's closest allies. It was General Mahmood's pivotal support that allowed Musharraf to oust the elected Pakistani government in the 1999 Coup d'Etat in which he seized power, and Musharraf had installed General Mahmood as the head of the mega-powerful ISI in return. (6.4)

Musharraf, left, shakes the hand of General Mahmood

It so happens that General Mahmood had come to America one week before 9/11 for the purpose of continuing a series of high level meetings with members of the US government that had been going on for months. In May, CIA director George Tenet and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage had visited Pakistan, where Tenet had

conducted "unusually long" consultations with President Musharraf. (Armitage is well known to politically aware Americans for his connections to the Iran-Contra crimes -- and to DBT/Choice Point, the company whose "80% accurate" data on the identity of supposed felons empowered Jeb Bush to kick almost a hundred thousand law-abiding blacks and hispanics off the Florida voting registries on the eve of his brother's 537 vote "victory" in the 2000 Presidential election. Within the US government, Armitage is also very well known for his "large circle of friends in the Pakistani military and ISI.") (6.5)

In August a delegation of high ranking US Congressional leaders met with General Mahmood in Pakistan, "discussing terrorism," and no doubt taking advantage of the ISI's exceedingly intimate knowledge of all things Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda. Back in Washington now, as the days to 9/11 dwindled down to a precious few, General Mahmood's calendar was literally crammed. He took meetings at the Pentagon and with the National Security Council, as well as meetings with CIA Director Tenet, (right), unspecified officials at the White House and still others at the Pentagon, and a "most important meeting" with Mark Grossman, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. During this week, warnings about an imminent attack against America were pouring in from many countries -- but Pakistan was not among them.



It is worth noting, however, that the good General's flurry of activity did not go unnoticed at home. On September 10, an article in a leading Pakistani newspaper noted that the last time [Mahmood's predecessor] spent so much time in Washington, "domestic [Pakistani] politics turned topsy-turvy within days [a reference to Musharraf's Coup]. That this is not the first visit by Mahmood in the last three months shows the urgency of the ongoing parleys." (6.6)



The pre 9/11 meetings between General Mahmood and US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Mark Grossman, left, were cited as particularly important in an article which appeared in The News International, Karachi, Pakistan, on September 10, 2001.

Indeed.

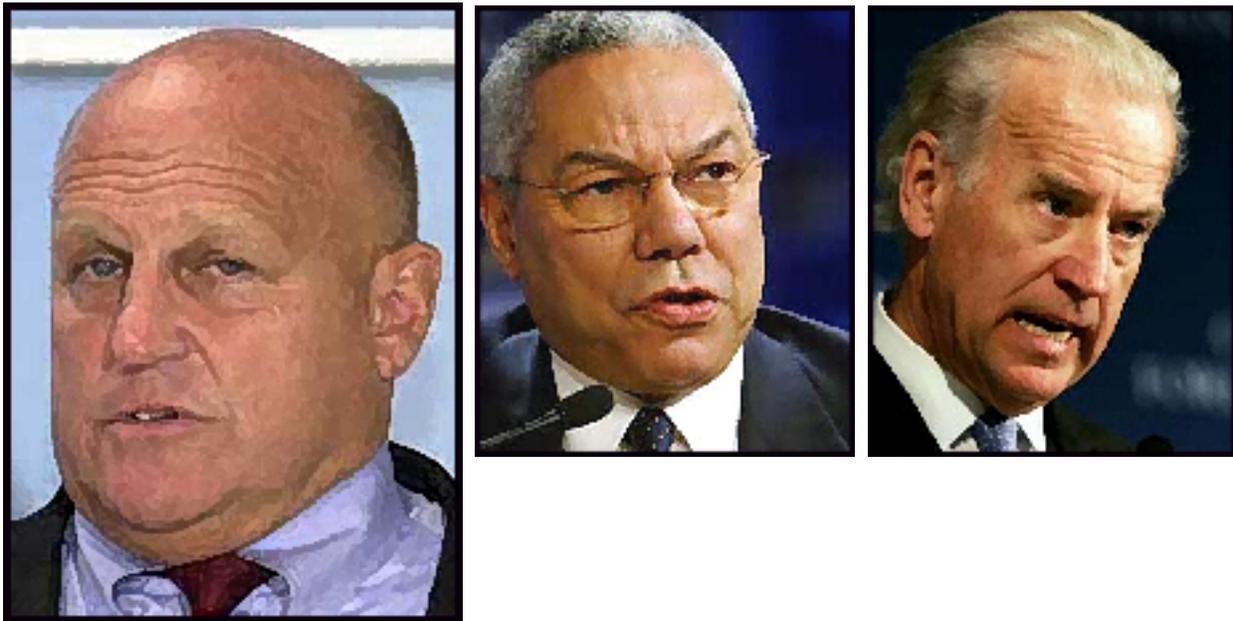
The world certainly did flip upside down on the following day.

On September 11, General Mahmood made his way to Capitol Hill, where he sat down to breakfast with Representative Porter Goss (R) and Senator Bob Graham (D), the chairmen of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, respectively. The meal ended at the moment the second plane hit the second tower. (6.7)



Within weeks of this most memorable breakfast with Mahmood, the same tandem of Goss (*near left*) and Graham would go on to head the joint House-Senate investigation into the September 11 attacks. Mahmood, for his part, instantly segued into a key role as the official coordinator of Pakistan's post 9/11 assistance to America in the newly proclaimed "War on Terror." On September 12 and 13, Mahmood met -- again -- with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Senator Joseph

Biden (*below right*), the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Secretary of State Colin Powell (*below center*). The details of Pakistan's new role were reportedly hammered out by Mahmood and Armitage (*below left*).



At this point, with President Bush championing the "extraordinary cooperation" of our new strategic partners, the Pakistanis -- as negotiated by General Mahmood -- and Omar Saeed, though publicly outed as the "9/11 Paymaster," still moving without hiding from Dubai through Pakistan and into Afghanistan -- an odd thing happened.

Someone decided to look a little more closely at the mechanics of these relationships.....

Unfortunately for those who work so diligently to obscure disturbing truths, reporters for several newspapers in Pakistan and the Times of India had been nosing around and came to discover that it was not Usama bin Laden after all who had ordered Omar Saeed to send the last \$100,000 payment to the hijackers.

It was General Mahmood.

In other words, the same man who had been conducting these feverish negotiations for months with multiple officials at the highest levels of the US government -- and who had directly represented Pakistan in the establishment of that government's new "pro-American" role immediately after the murder of three thousand Americans -- had quietly made time to cover the less lofty business at hand. He made sure the lead murderer -- Mohamed Atta -- got paid.

And Congressmen Goss and Graham, the same two men with whom he'd been eating breakfast on 9/11, would soon be leading the official congressional investigation into the same murderous crime which Mahmood had facilitated.



What is more surprising -- and profoundly more unsettling for what it implies about the integrity of the supposedly "free" western media -- is that the complete coverage provided to the American people of this hideously ominous complication of the "Official 9/11 Story" was a single item buried in the online version of the Wall Street Journal, which mentioned, in passing, that "US authorities ... confirm[ed] the fact that \$100,000 [was] wired to WTC hijacker Mohammed Atta from Pakistan by Ahmad Umar [Saeed] Sheikh at the insistence of General Mahmood." (6.8)

Pakistan, of course, cannot be passed off as a band of crazies lurking in caves. Pakistan possesses nuclear weapons and its scientists have been prone to selling nuclear secrets to rogue states like North Korea. Pakistan teaches Radicalism on a scale unsurpassed on the planet, and has been doing so for years in close cooperation with the United States. (6.9) As is the case with Intelligence agencies the world over, the CIA was present at the birth of the ISI, and promoted Islamic Jihad largely through the offices of the ISI.

Despite which -- and equally indicative of the widespread acquiescence to domestic disinformation among the owners of the mainstream western media -- the concept of Pakistan, rather than Afghanistan -- or Iraq -- bearing responsibility in the greatest crime ever perpetrated against the United States has been left virtually unexamined.

And in keeping with this theme, the amazing Omar Saeed was also abruptly flushed into media oblivion. Immediately and almost without exception, the roguish, colorfully brazen “9/11 Paymaster,” having been perp-walked throughout the western world only days before -- the “smoking gun” who supposedly connected Usama bin Laden to the “Attack on America” -- disappeared in the post 9/11 press as if he’d never existed.

For a while. In contrast to the murderous complicity of General Mahmood -- which was suppressed in the west from the moment it surfaced -- Saeed’s story had been promoted far too enthusiastically to escape the long-term curiosity of committed observers. His fate would have to be accounted for.



Enter Daniel Pearl.

In the months following 9/11, Pearl -- a notable non-coward -- had begun to focus on the obvious. A list of the projects Pearl was known or rumored to be working on (6.10) would include:

- Ø A published piece about the ties between the ISI and a Pakistani organization that was working on giving bin Laden nuclear secrets before 9/11.
- Ø A published piece about the curious fact that Jaish-e-Mohammad (a known terrorist group with which Omar Saeed was associated) still had its office running and bank accounts working, even after President Musharraf claimed to have banned the group.
- Ø An investigation into links between shoe bomber Richard Reid and Pakistani militants connected to the ISI.

- Ø An investigation into the protection provided to known terrorist and gangster Dawood Ibrahim by the ISI.
- Ø An investigation into the activities of purported 9/11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, on which Pearl was working with former CIA agent Robert Baer (the prototype for George Clooney's character in *Syriana*).
- Ø An investigation into US training and backing of the ISI.

It would be the kidnapping of Daniel Pearl which would provide for the "re-casting" of Omar Saeed, whose original prominence as the "9/11 Paymaster" had been almost -- but not quite completely -- expunged from the public consciousness.

Pearl was by this time in Pakistan, asking impertinent questions and seeking to meet with certain "likely suspects" in the world of Pakistani intelligence. As Pearl began to stir things up, Omar Saeed suddenly began to matter again to the United States government.

American authorities began to apply pressure, making no mention of 9/11 but finding it belatedly expedient to indict the terrorist for his 1994 kidnapping of the American citizen which had landed Saeed in the Indian prison, but which had been ignored by the US for nearly eight years.



FBI Director Robert Mueller flew to the Mideast, where he met with investigators in India who "told" him that they had evidence Omar Saeed had sent the \$100,000 to Mohamed Atta on September 10, 2001.

This revelation was treated as "news," even though it had been reported in the press more than three months previously, at which time no effort had been made to arrest the freely circulating Saeed.

The date of Mueller's meetings in India was January 22, 2002.

The very next day, January 23, Daniel Pearl was kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan.

The very next day, January 24, Mueller flew to Pakistan for a meeting with President Musharraf -- in which he was reported to have discussed the United States' renewed and keen interest in -- Omar Saeed.

On January 29, Daniel Pearl was murdered. Though his fate was kept secret for a month, and though his kidnappers had originally presented a list of political demands to the media, it was clear in retrospect that they had planned to kill him all along.

As President Musharraf himself would later opine.....

"Perhaps Daniel Pearl was over-intrusive. A mediaperson should be aware of the dangers of getting into dangerous areas. Unfortunately, he got over-involved in..... 'intelligence games.'"



With an unknowing world still waiting and rooting for Pearl's release, Saeed's name was leaked as the "mastermind" of his capture, and international outrage was appropriately galvanized. The Pakistani government -- which had pretended to be "looking for him" all through January at the request of the US, even while Saeed was regularly attending parties in the company of the many high-ranking government officials he counted as friends -- finally turned on him. They took his family into custody to force his hand.



Even now, however, Musharraf dissembled, claiming ignorance of Saeed's whereabouts during the eight days the "ex-Paymaster, newly charged Kidnapper" worked out a deal in the headquarters of his colleagues at the ISI. The deal defined the limits of how much Saeed would reveal of his knowledge of the activities of the ISI -- in return for a light sentence in the trial he must undergo in the Daniel Pearl affair.

Saeed was typically cocky at the outset, bragging that he would never be extradited to the US and that he was sure he would do no more than "three or four years" for his non-lethal "consulting role" in Pearl's abduction. He refused to discuss 9/11, and when pressed by the presiding judge, threatened that the jurist would be killed if he didn't adjust his attitude. The trial seemed to be going well for Saeed, since many of the witnesses the government needed to make its case against him were mysteriously unable to show up to testify.

What Saeed didn't seem to realize at the time, however, was that he himself had been maneuvered into sharing Daniel Pearl's fate. Like Pearl, Saeed had come to be identified as a high profile player in possession of knowledge considered unacceptably volatile to the carefully tailored requirements of the Afghan/bin Laden/Iraqi focused

“War on Terror.” In a departure from its normal timidity, the Washington Post went so far as to remark of his trial, “The [ISI] is a house of horrors waiting to break open. Saeed has tales to tell.”

President Musharraf thought so too, and moved to quash the possibility. The “three or four year” sentence Saeed had won in his deal with the ISI was summarily replaced by a sentence of death. Though he immediately withdrew his “confession” and demanded an appeal, he has not been heard from since.

On March 3, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, whose reputation was once centered on his supposedly unimpeachable integrity, officially denied any possibility of a link between the ISI and the murder of Daniel Pearl. London’s The Guardian was among the only public voices calling him out on this obvious lie -- given that the man convicted of the crime had been on the ISI payroll since 1993, a fact that even Donald Rumsfeld, perhaps inadvertently, had publicly acknowledged.

Powell (right) in the throes of his brilliant, unscripted Iraq-Invasion-Justification performance before the United Nations. “Saddam’s anthrax could be transported in a vial JUST LIKE THIS, etc etc etc!”



But again, what is even more remarkable in all of this is the way it was underplayed in the western press. Omar Saeed was, after all, not only the convicted murderer of Daniel Pearl and a known associate of Usama bin Laden and a brazenly untouchable agent of the ISI and a convicted criminal/terrorist/thug with an international rap sheet that included dozens of terrorist bombing related human deaths -- he had also been publicly proclaimed the “9/11 Paymaster” -- just four months previously. One would think that an examination of this man would make front page headlines all over the world.

But outside of India and Pakistan, most accounts of Pearl’s trial neglected to mention any of it.

Other accounts chose to mention one or two of Saeed’s roles but not the others, as if the obvious implications that would ensue by “connecting the dots” -- that this man was known throughout the US government and beyond to have been simultaneously involved in a damning combination of activities and associations that profoundly alters the official “Legend of 9/11” -- were better left unconsidered.

It was as if a directive that been handed down that specified each media outlet needed to make a choice: Report Saeed’s story through the prism of his ties to Al-Qaeda and 9/11; or report Saeed’s story through the prism of his ties to Daniel Pearl and the ISI -- but do not linger on both.

Taking this “better left incomplete” tack to the story were such stalwart repositories of the public trust as ABC News, the Boston Globe, the Associated Press, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Daily News, CNN, The Guardian, The Independent, Time Magazine, the New York Post, the Evening Standard, the Sunday Herald, USA Today, Cox News, the Observer, the Telegraph, Newsweek, the National Post, and MSNBC.

Take, for example, an October 6, 2001 broadcast on CNN during which correspondent Maria Ressa had officially unveiled Omar Saeed as the pseudonymous 9/11 money man: "He [Omar Saeed] is ... linked to the financial network feeding bin Laden's assets," she had informed us, "So therefore he's quite an important person ... because he transfers money between various operatives, and he's a node between al-Qaeda and foot soldiers on the ground ... It provides another key link to bin Laden as the mastermind of the overall [9/11] plot."



Yet just four months later, on February 6, when the network fingered that same Omar Saeed as the FBI's main suspect in the kidnapping of Daniel Pearl, CNN (and Maria Ressa) were stricken by a curious case of the same amnesia that infected news outlets throughout the west -- neglecting to mention that Saeed had been previously (and dramatically) outed by them as the 9/11 bag-man.

In all of the west, it was only the London Times and the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review which found the wherewithal to note that Omar Saeed had been connected simultaneously to Al-Qaeda and the ISI, and only the London Times -- on April 21, 2002 -- which had the simple courage to outline the whole of the story:

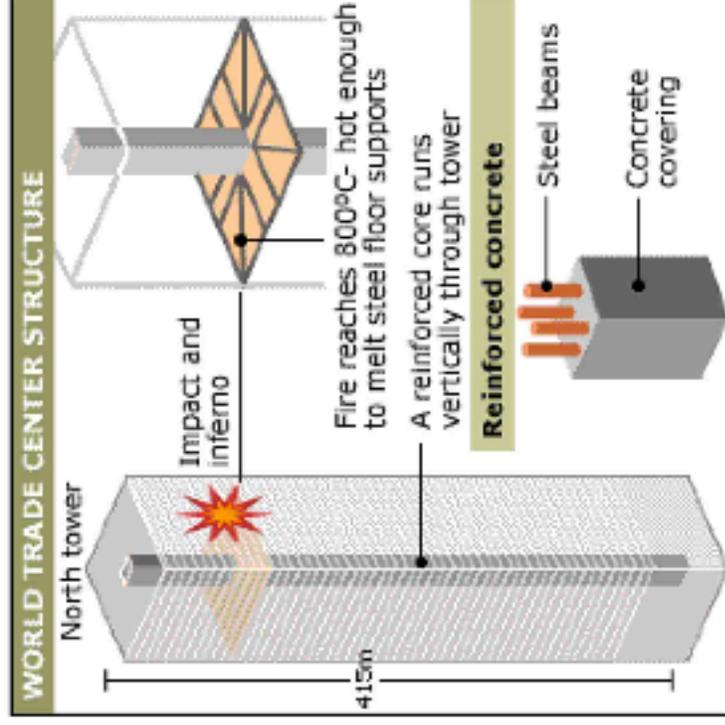
That not only had Omar Saeed been implicated in the training of the 9/11 “hijackers;” he was also working for the official Intelligence Agency of Pakistan, and acting on a direct order from its Director, General Mahmood Ahmed -- one of the highest ranking officials in the government and a man closely allied with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf -- on the day he paid Mohamed Atta the “go-ahead” money that led immediately to the mass murder of three thousand innocent human beings.

Though it was a blatant, brutal, and outrageously incriminating indicator that the truly heinous demons beneath the 9/11 Legend have been shielded from justice, our nation’s leaders -- for reasons that remain unchallenged -- pretended not to notice.

To this day -- not a single one of them has ever been made to publicly speak this truth.

You can look it up. (6.11)

In the wake of 9/11, the illustration below was quickly produced by the BBC and distributed throughout the west. It is a remarkable study in lies -- featuring a misleading description of the size and nature of the Core Structures of the World Trade Center, the true construction of which (at right) featured 47 steel box columns, measured 87 x 133 feet and did not contain concrete, which, unlike steel, can spall in a fire. In addition, the document makes a false assertion about the fires, which did not sustain temperatures anywhere near 800°C (as evidenced by their black smoke; the videotaped presence of a doomed but hopeful woman waving from the impact hole; and the published findings of the National Institute of Standards and Technology). Finally, the BBC tells a blatant lie about the melting point of steel, which is -- in truth -- 1370°C.





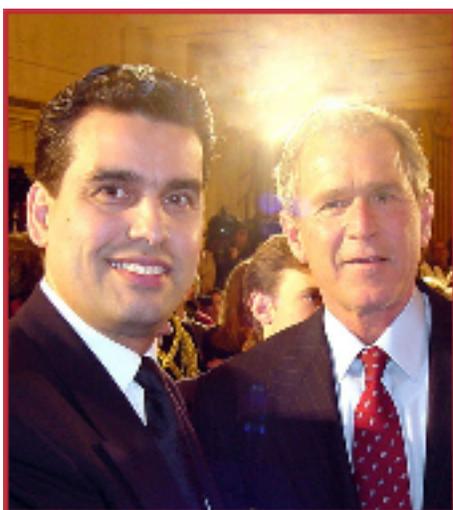
With regards to Scott Forbes and the “re-cabling power down” that was visited upon the South Tower during its last weekend of existence -- some may choose to chalk up such an odd occurrence as one more coincidence. It clearly speaks, however, in support of the hundreds of statements from firemen and policemen and medical technicians and reporters and eyewitnesses and survivors and victims -- who described seeing, hearing, feeling the shock waves of, and in many cases being knocked flat down by -- a series of huge explosions. An objection raised by supporters of the Official Version of Events to the extensive testimony of these witnesses has always been: “Those hundreds of people were mistaken. The bad guys couldn’t have planted explosives without prior access...”



Scott, by the by, had been scheduled to take the following Friday, the 14th, off from work, but a last minute swap with a colleague (who survived) gave him September 11th off instead. That morning, at home, as he watched the tragedy unfold, his thoughts came back to the crew that took over the building during the power down.

Over the course of the ensuing months, he sent letters and emails to the Port Authority, and then repeatedly to the 9/11 Commission, asking that a possible relationship between those men, that time, and the “global disintegrations” of the buildings which ensued be investigated. He received no response.

Upon returning to England in 2003, Scott was contacted by London Police and asked to come in for debriefing regarding his experiences. But neither he, nor any of his American colleagues, including the many who were actually in the buildings on 9/11 and survived, were ever contacted by any investigative body in the United States. (7.1)

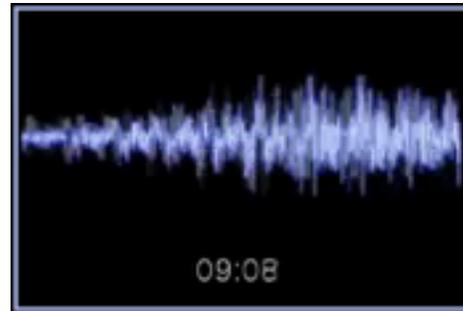


Which is ridiculous, but completely in keeping with a pattern of avoidance that has killed real investigation. William Rodriguez, for example, was the twenty year veteran of the North Tower maintenance crew who had the only set of keys to all the floors on 9/11. William had thrown himself into a hero’s duty that morning: leading firefighters up the stairwells unlocking doors as they went; grabbing people in trouble and humping them out of the building before turning around and heading back in. He is credited with the rescue of fifteen people on 9/11, and was among the last persons to make it out the door on the day -- diving under a fire truck beneath the roar of the suddenly concrete air.

Rodriguez’ heroism got him a photo op with President Bush, but it didn’t buy him any respect from the 9/11 Commission. Leveraging his celebrity to force the Commission’s hand in the face of their bizarre reluctance to interview him, he finally got a chance to sit

down before them and testify. (In private session -- off limits to the press.) (7.2)

William was with co-workers, preparing for his shift in a sub-basement of the North Tower, when a massive explosion detonated -- below them. This explosion melted the skin off a co-worker's body, knocked walls down, and obliterated a 50-ton hydraulic press. Seconds later, they heard the first plane impact the tower, 95 floors above them.



Despite the fact that his description of an underground bomb going off just prior to the arrival of the plane -- though corroborated by dozens of others, Philip Morelli (knocked down by massive underground explosion, made it into a bathroom before the airplane impact above, exited to rubble, chaos, and injuries -- "walls gone.... faces knocked off"), Jose Sanchez (whose co-worker suffered a broken leg and a broken kneecap and had to be dragged out of the basement), Mike Pecoraro & Felipe David (the burn victim) among them; and despite the fact that the two distinct events were recorded on audio tape in a room full of business people across the street in One Liberty Plaza -- the plane crash following the first explosion after a nine-second delay. (Frame captures above are from the DVD: Loose Change Second Edition, in which you can HEAR the separate explosions interrupt the meeting); and despite the fact that New York Police reported yet another basement explosion some eight minutes later -- the first of many in both buildings throughout the whole grinding horror of the agonizing death watch....

And despite the fact that the use of multiple devices is a basic terrorist strategy -- not a single word of William Rodriguez' testimony was included in the 9/11 Commission's report. Nor was any mention whatever of the hundreds of other reports of explosions which methodically prepared each building for its failure -- and then obliterated it. To mention these explosions would have forced two questions:

- Ø When were these charges planted in the buildings?
- Ø Given the obvious professionalism of the job -- who planted them?

Please do not leave this project without making yourself familiar with the transcripts, video, and audio evidence of these explosions. The huge, prolonged one that preceded the North Tower's obliteration is hauntingly recorded on the DVD: 9/11 Eyewitness.

Despite the damning presence in Manhattan of men identifying themselves as FBI agents, circulating in the immediate aftermath of the tragedies -- suppressing interviews and repeating that "IT WAS FIRE THAT BROUGHT THE TOWERS DOWN" -- the first responders' testimony about these explosions is very persuasive. (7.3)



FOX NEWS ALERT
ONE TOWER OF WORLD TRADE



Hundreds of firemen, policemen, medical personnel, reporters, bystanders, survivors -- and victims on the phone with loved ones -- described multiple **EXPLOSIONS** throughout the ordeal



ATTACK ON AMERICA
FOURTH HIJACKED PLANE
CRASHED IN PENNSYLVANIA



Their testimony was suppressed within days

TERRORISM



Not a **SINGLE WORD** OF IT appeared in the 9/11 Commission Report



FOX NEWS ALERT
A: 4TH EXPLOSION ROCKS



Why not?

Firefighter Louie Cacchio: After he reached the 24th floor, he and another fireman “heard this huge explosion that sounded like a bomb [and] knocked off the lights and stalled the elevator.” After they pried themselves out of the elevator, “another huge explosion like the first one hits.”

Survivor Teresa Veliz: “There were explosions going off everywhere. I was convinced there were bombs planted all over the place and someone was sitting at a control panel pushing detonator buttons..... There was another explosion. And another. I didn't know where to run.”

Steve Evans of the BBC: “I was at the base of the second tower..... that was hit..... There was an explosion..... The base of the building shook..... [T]hen there was a series of explosions.”

Sue Keane, New Jersey Police Department (ex-U.S. Army Sergeant): “[I]t sounded like bombs going off..... I knew something was going to happen..... It started to get dark, then all of a sudden there was this massive explosion.”

WNYW FOX 5 TV Anchor: "There is an explosion at the base of the building..... white smoke from the bottom..... something happened at the base of the building! Then another explosion.”

Assistant Fire Commissioner Stephen Gregory: "Before Number Two came down..... I saw low-level flashes..... I saw a flash flash flash and then it looked like the building came down..... You know like when they demolish a building, how when they blow up a building, when it falls down?"

Paramedic Kevin Darnowski: "I started walking..... towards Vesey. I heard three explosions, and then we heard like groaning and grinding, and Tower Two started to come down.”

Emergency Medical Technician Gregg Brady, regarding Tower One, sixteen minutes later: “I heard three loud explosions. I look up and the north tower is coming down now.”

Captain Karin Deshore: “Somewhere around the middle of the..... Trade Center, there was this orange and red flash coming out. Initially it was just one flash. Then this flash just kept popping all the way around the building and that building had started to explode..... and with each popping sound it was initially an orange and then a red flash came out of the building and then it would just go all around the building on both sides as far as I could see. These popping sounds and the explosions were getting bigger, going up and down and then all around the building.”

Firefighter Richard Banaciski: “There was just an explosion in the south tower. It seemed like on television when they blow up these buildings. It seemed like it was going all the way around like a belt, all these explosions.”

Deputy Fire Commissioner Thomas Fitzpatrick: “It looked like sparkling..... around the building..... exactly the way it looks when they show you those implosions on TV.”

Beth Fertig of WNYC Radio: “It just descended like a timed explosion - like when they are deliberately bringing a building down..... It was coming down so perfectly..... I was thinking, 'They got everyone out, and they're bringing the building down because they have to.'”

Paramedic Daniel Rivera: “[I]t was [like a] professional demolition where they set the charges on certain floors and then you hear 'Pop, pop, pop, pop, pop.'”

Firefighter Dennis Tardio: "It was as if as if they had detonated ... as if they had planned to take down a building, boom-boom-boom-boom-boom-boom-boom-boom.”

Survivor in Hospital: "...and then all of a sudden it started like..... it sounded like gunfire..... you know, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang and then all of a sudden three big explosions.”

Firefighter Paul Isaac: "There were definitely bombs in those buildings..... the 'higher-ups' forbid discussion of this fact.”

Is any of this evidence of the “C” word? Well, regarding 9/11 -- of course it is. Unless we are to believe that each of the purported hijackers got the idea for the crimes independently of one another -- we know that a conspiracy planned and executed them. The questions that remain unanswered are:

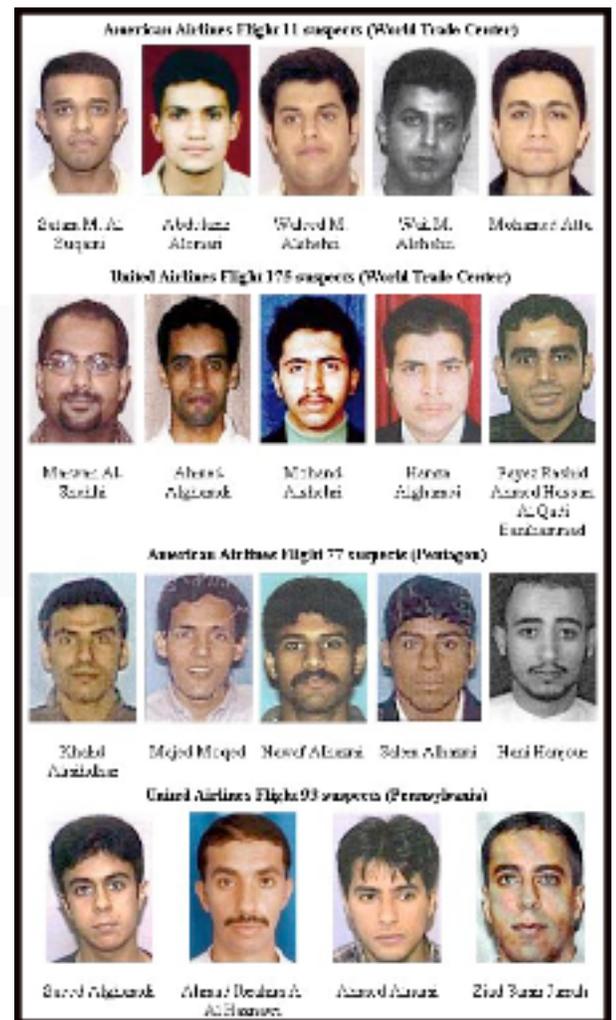
How long is the list of conspirators?

What combination of allegiances and associations describes them?

What was the ultimate purpose of the crime?

In our need to find “closure,” we find it difficult to ask these questions, especially when those in authority have declared them -- in defiance of all reason -- unnecessary.

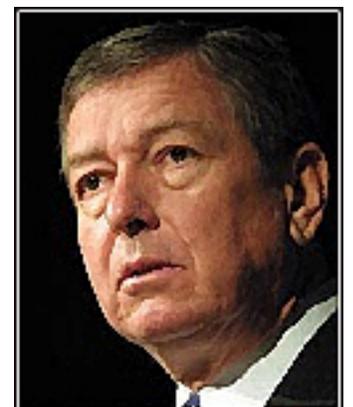
On the contrary. For the sake of our children -- given that the very essence of how we practice democracy has suddenly been cast into doubt by this crime -- it is critical that we step back and consider these questions carefully.



How long is the list of conspirators?

Ø Even as the mugshots of the nineteen “martyrs” were being broadcast to the country, Attorney General John Ashcroft began announcing that the hijackers had depended on the assistance of many accomplices within the United States. First we heard of “six hijack teams,” then a group of “fifty” conspirators, then “75 individuals who are currently detained,” then “over 480 people arrested,” and soon “nearly 1,000 individuals.....”

All of which drove home the “terrorizing” idea that America had been invaded by an Army of Dangerous but Invisible Aliens now lurking within -- and that American citizens would therefore need to accept a reduction of their Constitutional rights in order to guarantee their security.



Meanwhile, Americans who were waiting for the comfort of watching these hundreds of “terrorists’ accomplices” brought to justice would have a long wait. A year after 9/11 only six of them were still being held -- and to this day, not a single one has been charged with any terrorist related act. (7.4)

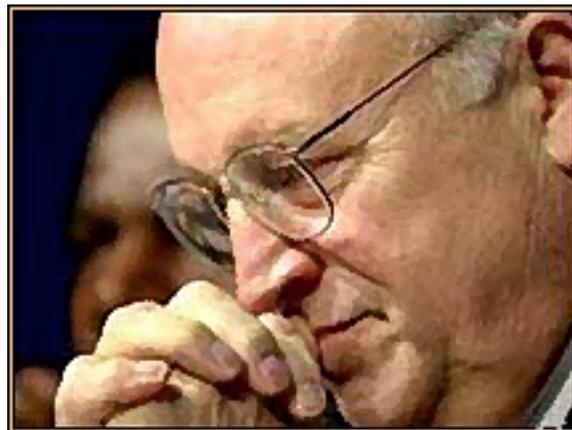
What combination of allegiances and associations describes them?

- Ø As we have learned, the revelation of evidence of State Sponsorship of the Crime -- the "go ahead" payment to Mohamed Atta which was directed by one of the highest-ranking officials of Pakistan -- was officially ignored by the United States. Immediately, though, the US responded to the discovery of this complicity by disappearing its own internationally trumpeted "Bin Laden 911 Paymaster" story, rather than re-naming it -- truthfully -- as the "Pakistan 911 Paymaster" story.

When a government lies to its people -- that government has something to hide: That the interests of the ISI are often indistinguishable from those of the CIA, perhaps? Instead of any sober measure that might have pursued the criminal truth, the public was hammered anew with "Al-Qaeda" and "bin Laden," up to and through the invasion of Afghanistan. As soon as bin Laden himself and virtually all of his Taliban "hosts" were allowed to slip away, however, the mantra shifted abruptly to "Iraq" and "Saddam" and "Weapons of Mass Destruction."

This, despite overwhelming and long-standing evidence that Saddam and Usama were deeply committed mutual enemies, that Saddam had never allowed even a whiff of Al-Qaeda anywhere near Baghdad, and that Iraq, obviously, had nothing whatever to do with 9/11.

And this, in retrospect, brazenly ignoring the profoundly unethical, impeachment-worthy campaign that the White House -- and Dick Cheney in particular -- had mounted against the CIA to get that embarrassed agency to produce "actionable intelligence" on these "WMD" that would justify the taking of Iraq. In an act of shame that bloodied his hands and will follow him to his grave, CIA Director George Tenet succumbed to Cheney's pressure. (7.5)



In the years since, many CIA agents of good conscience have come forward to reveal that such sketchy and outdated intelligence as they were able to dig up was thereafter willfully and boldly distorted by the Bush administration -- a federal crime -- to justify their long held plans. (7.6)

Which dovetails cleanly with the revelation that Mr. Cheney's secret "Energy Task Force" meetings had featured maps of Iraq's Oil Fields spread out before Enron and Halliburton Executives and the various other Corporate Giants in attendance -- five months before 9/11. (7.7)



Which dovetails cleanly with the chilling plans for the Subjugation of the Mideast first spelled out in detail in the summer of 1997 by the.....

Project for the New American Century

~ P N A C ~

..... of which Dick Cheney was an original and central member.

This Neo-Con Political Action Committee, whose 25 founders included Cheney, Don Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Jeb Bush, Scooter Libby, Richard Armitage, Ex-Iran-Contra Criminal Elliot Abrams and Ex-Unocal Exec & Future Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalizad among them -- was set up by men and money tied to.....

- Ø the Oil Industry
- Ø the Weapons Industry
- Ø the Step Aside While We Rebuild Your Freshly Broken Country Industry

PNAC's seminal document of intent, signed on June 3rd, 1997, called for unprecedented hikes in military spending, American military bases in Central Asia and the Middle East, toppling of non-complying regimes, abrogation of international treaties, control of the world's energy sources, militarization of outer space, total control of cyberspace, and the willingness to use nuclear weapons to achieve "American" goals. (7.8)

In 1998 the group sent a letter to President Clinton, challenging him to invade Iraq. Clinton declined.

Two years later, at the dawn of the Bush administration, sixteen of the signatories to PNAC's important letters of intent were installed into key positions in the US government. Cheney, of course, became Vice-President (after nominating himself) and Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz took the top two offices at the Pentagon, bringing in their colleague Douglas Feith to run a brand new Office of Special Plans.

While the PNAC manifesto had stated very clearly that the massive reallocation of US financial resources away from domestic concerns and into the unilateral military buildup necessary to launch a new, world dominating American Empire would be a tough sell, efforts to realize the group's goals nevertheless began in earnest. (7.9)

PNAC Think Tank

As the New Century Loomed, Certain Foundations of the Big --
Big Weapons, Big Oil & Mega Reconstruction -- Built Themselves a Tank.
They Opened it to Thinkers. A Question was Asked and Its Answer Fashioned:
What Best Serves Our Future? America Must Conquer the World. And to Begin --
Big Weapons, Big Oil & Mega Reconstruction -- Must Make a Truly Massive Killing.

Dick Cheney
Don Rumsfeld
Paul Wolfowitz
Lewis Libby
Jeb Bush
Elliott Abrams
Eliot Cohen
Gary Bauer
George Weigel
Frank Gaffney
Francis Fukuyama
Henry Rowen
Gordon Adams
Hillel Fradkin
Frank Carlucci
Randy Scheunemann
Peter Galbraith
Peter Rodman
Reuel Gerecht
Richard Armitage
Aaron Friedberg
Richard Perle
Richard Allen
Robert Gelbard
Robert Zoellick
Dan Quayle
Ron Asmus
Rudy Boschwitz
Stephen Rosen
Steve Forbes
Thomas Donnelly
James Woolsey
Vin Weber
William Bennett
William Kristol
Dov Zakheim
Donald Kagan
Fred Ikle
Zalmay Khalizad
John Bolton



In September of 2000, PNAC -- with startling prescience -- declared that for their imperialistic military goals to be achieved in a timely fashion, it was necessary that the American public be galvanized beyond debate, and for that to happen.....

America would need to suffer some
“catastrophic and catalyzing event --
like a New Pearl Harbor.”

(http://www.oldamericancentury.org/pnac_timeline.htm)

Nine months into the Bush Presidency, these unflinchingly bold and visionary men saw their wish come true.

After you have explored this project and have had a chance to absorb the amazing number of “coincidences” that allowed the 9/11 attacks to succeed..... please reflect again on these most startling “coincidences” of all:

- Ø That the “need” for 9/11 had been declared in a Statement of Political Intent by the same Weapons/Oil/Infrastructure-tied Men who had ascended to power shortly before it happened.
- Ø That these men and their corporate sponsors gathered secretly to establish Energy Policy and were known to be scrutinizing maps of Iraqi Oil Fields from February through May of 2001.
- Ø That George Bush, by Executive Order, had declared in May of 2001 that Dick Cheney alone would immediately take over the total coordination of all US anti-terrorism policy and planning.
- Ø That international “intelligence chatter” about imminent Terrorist Attacks on America were picked up all over the globe in the summer of 2001 -- chatter that took the shape of specific warnings to the US from at least eleven countries and included such details as “suicidal intent, multiple hijackings, planes used as weapons against national symbols” (specifically mentioning the World Trade Center) and were reported to a multitude of members of the administration in great detail.
- Ø That on the morning of September 11, 2001, Dick Cheney (in his Presidentially appointed role) was responsible for Six Wargames in America -- one of which (Operation Tripod II) had brought an army of emergency personnel to New York

City only the night before to set up Emergency Equipment and begin preparation for a simulated "Catastrophe in Lower Manhattan."

That another 9/11 "game" diverted military aircraft away from the northeastern United States; that another simulated multiple airline hijackings and caused multiple "false" radar images of "fake" hijacked planes to be inserted onto the screens of NORAD; that another caused the evacuation of key reconnaissance personnel due to a simulated airplane attack.

That taken as a whole, these widespread and well-coordinated exercises ensured that elements of the US military were rehearsing every aspect of the actual 9/11 attacks, even as the "real" attacks began to unfold simultaneously to the Games, thereby guaranteeing a muddled response among the confused and depleted assets of American Air Defense. (7.10)

- Ø That no one in the Bush administration, though in possession of all that intelligence from all those sources -- "multiple and suicidal hijackings" -- saw fit to pick up a phone and alert the Port Authority in New York that a terrorist attack was underway and that the Second Tower should be evacuated before the tragedy worsened.
- Ø That before the end of that day, Donald Rumsfeld had jumped ahead of his colleagues who had thrust Usama bin Laden's name into the spotlight, and was calling on the US Intelligence community to find evidence of Iraq's hand in the crimes -- a call that would eventually bear fruit as Saddam's non-existent Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- Ø That within weeks of 9/11, the Patriot Act was rammed into law, instantly undermining two and a quarter century's worth of checks and balances built into the US Constitution, but creating massive worldwide revenue streams for the new "War on Terror" business. This historically disfiguring legislation had been written in advance of the attacks.
- Ø That Iraq was quickly implicated in a storm of harrowing and incessantly repeated lies and the US military sent reeling into a brutally misconceived "Big Bang! Now What?" duty it was never designed to attempt -- in service of the new international "Constabulary" role envisioned for America by PNAC.

- Ø That the War Profiteering Businesses connected to PNAC have since proceeded to line up and gorge themselves at the richest, sloppiest, and most corrupt corporate feeding trough in history.
- Ø And that those in charge on 9/11 have since lied, lied and lied again about their actions on the day, so that all investigations into the STENCH wafting up under the nostrils of a shocked and wondering world -- much more aware than most Americans of the MASSIVE COINCIDENCE THEORY at the heart of the Official US Government Version of These Hellish Events -- have been suppressed, hamstrung and attacked as “unpatriotic” by the very same gang of now wealthier men who’d declared the “need” for just such a World Changing Dose of Hellishness in the first place -- only one year before.



Meanwhile, while paying constant lip service to the depth of its respect for the bravery and sacrifices of the thousands of young men and women who have taken up arms and gone to Iraq to protect America from

Saddam's
Non-Existent
Weapons of Mass Destruction



the Bush Administration's
actual demonstration of that respect --
as expressed in its
attempts to cut military combat pay,
its attack on medical benefits for veterans and their families
and its failure to provide adequate armor for soldiers' vehicles and
for soldiers' bodies

has spoken louder than its every
patriotic slogan.



Supporting Our Troops

a passage from

Hostile Takeover
by David Sirota

Even **soldiers wounded on the battlefield** are not immune from being **sacrificed on the altar of tax cuts**. Just look at what happened in the lead-up to the Iraq war. In late 2002, as the president began formulating plans to send our soldiers into Iraq, the Bush administration ordered veterans' hospitals to stop publicizing health care benefits that veterans were entitled to. The reason? Budget deficits meant VA hospitals needed to lower costs, and the fewer veterans who knew about their health care benefits, the less money would have to be spent.

Yet on January 7, 2003, Bush said his government was so flush with cash that America could afford his \$364 billion plan to eliminate all taxes on stock dividends – a proposal that **gave the average American \$226 and the average millionaire more than \$90,000 a year**.

But then, ten days later, the Bush administration said the government was so strapped for money it had to **cut off health care benefits for 164,000 veterans**. Deficits, though, weren't enough to stop Bush from signing the dividend tax cut into law in September 2003. But deficits were enough to prevent adequate funding of health care services for soldiers wounded in battle. As United Press International discovered a month after Bush signed his dividend tax cut, **"hundreds of sick and wounded U.S. soldiers including many who served in the Iraq war are languishing in hot cement barracks while they wait – sometimes for months – to see doctors."**

In 2004, it was the same. In January, the president **proposed spending \$2 trillion on income tax cuts, primarily for the wealthy**. That very same month, the White House **refused a request by its own Veteran Affairs Secretary for \$1.2 billion in emergency funding for veterans' health care**.

In February, it got worse. *Slate* magazine reported that the White House was **skimping on funds to provide adequate armor** for the thousands of troops being sent into combat in Iraq. In the very same budget that **proposed new tax cuts**, the White House earmarked **zero dollars for various armor production programs**. The consequences were severe. As *Newsweek* reported in April of that year, a study by one defense consultant circulating throughout the army noted that **"one in four of those killed in combat in Iraq might be alive if they had had stronger armor around them"** and **"thousands more who were unprotected have suffered grievous wounds, such as the loss of limbs."**

In 2005, this tax and deficit bait-and-switch reached a new low. On January 25, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that a top Bush administration official publicly **blamed veterans' health care spending – not tax cuts – for jeopardizing national security resources**. "The amounts [spent on veterans] have gotten to the point where they are hurtful. They are taking away from the nation's ability to defend itself," said David Chu, the Pentagon's undersecretary for personnel and readiness... Two days later, reporters uncovered evidence that the Bush administration was **forcing wounded soldiers to pay for their own hospital meals**. The next month, the White House released a budget that proposed **raising health care premiums on veterans, citing (you guessed it) deficits**.

***Summing Up the More Recent Examples of Disrespect,
Rolling Stone reported that the Pentagon in 2007***

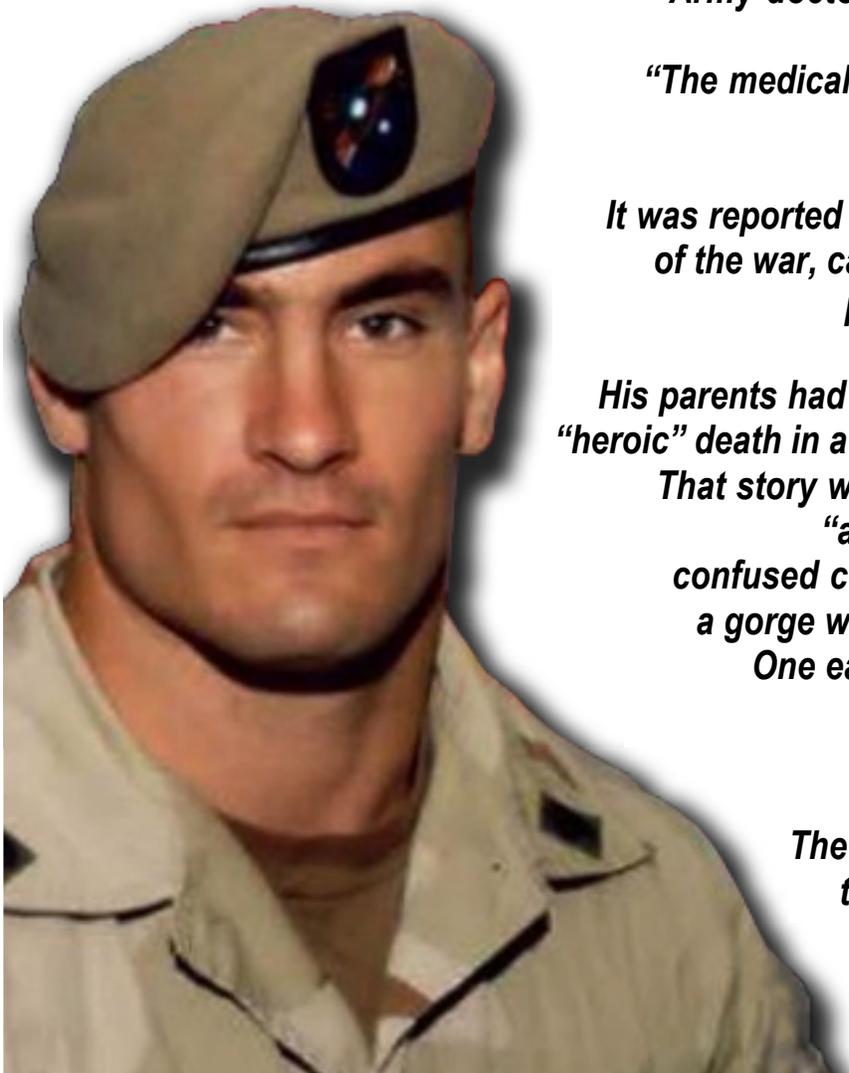
***required that soldiers discharged early because of battlefield injuries
repay their enlistment bonuses;***

***sent the longest-serving National Guard unit home after 729 days of combat in Iraq --
one day shy of the 730 that the soldiers needed to qualify for education benefits;***

omitted 20,000 cases of brain trauma from the official tally of injured troops;

***and denied medical benefits to 22,000 veterans suffering from
post-traumatic stress by discharging them for having enlisted with
“pre-existing personality disorders.”***

***And the original Cover-Up of the 2004 “Friendly Fire” Killing in Afghanistan of former
NFL standout Pat Tillman (below) took an ugly twist when it was revealed that an
Army doctor who examined Tillman’s body
had informed his superiors that
“The medical evidence did not match up with
the scenario as described.”***



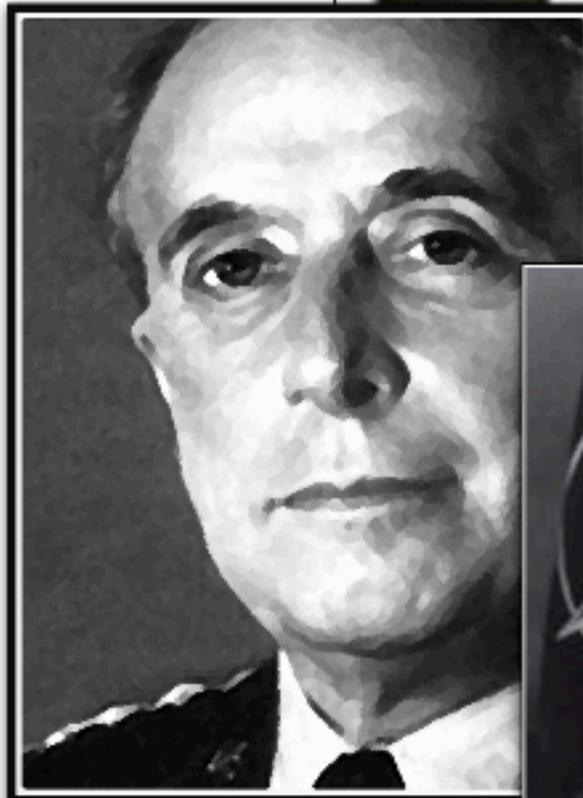
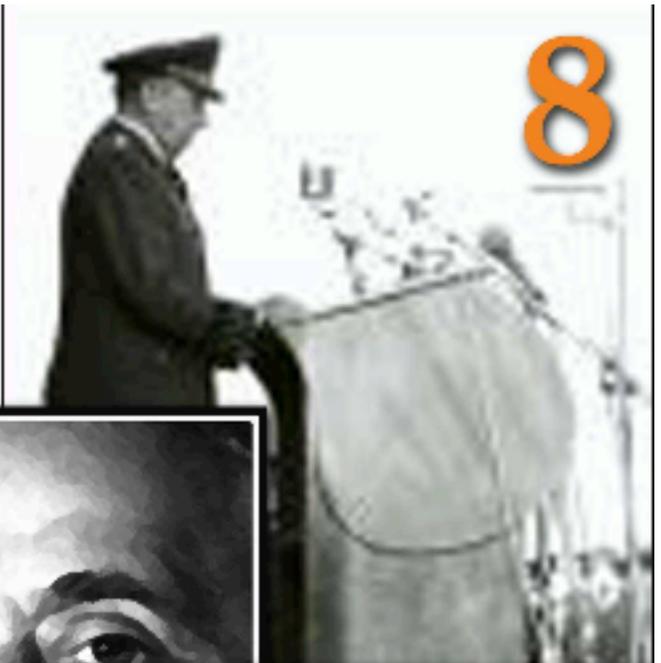
***It was reported that Tillman had become a critic
of the war, calling it “illegal,” and that he was
preparing to speak out against it.***

***His parents had been lied to for weeks about his
“heroic” death in a firefight with Afghan insurgents.
That story was eventually changed to one of
“accidental” death at the hands of
confused comrades who were firing across
a gorge while burdened with bad visibility.
One early version called it a “drive by”
under great duress.***

***Evidence was destroyed.
Silence enforced.***

***The doctor, though, described three
tightly grouped bullet wounds to
Tillman’s forehead, delivered
at a distance of no more
than “ten yards.”***

**General
Lyman L. Lemnitzer,
Chairman of the
Joint Chiefs of Staff,
1960-1963**



**Operation Northwoods
proposal to John Kennedy:
"An aircraft at Elgin AFB would
be painted and numbered as an
exact duplicate ... will begin**

**transmitting a ... MAYDAY message
... transmission will be interrupted by
the destruction of the aircraft ... triggered by
radio signal ... which would serve as an incident
upon which to base overt intervention."**

What was the ultimate purpose of the crime?

Ø This question is usually approached by asking another: Who benefitted?

Al-Qaeda and Usama bin Laden? Certainly a case can be made that 9/11 represented a great day for these most infamous “Enemies of Freedom.” What the hijackers lacked in numbers and technological savvy they obviously made up for with their hatred of America and their willingness to die for that hatred. Or so the legend goes -- seared into our souls as it was: Quickly, and in bold, scary strokes.

The legend loses its power, however, when exposed to the light of the facts. Such as the fact, for instance, that the widely reported cell phone calls from the doomed passengers that defined the “heart of the story” could not actually have been made from the sky in 2001; that not a single one of the evil-doers’ names appeared on the flight manifests of the airliners they purportedly hijacked; (8.1) that their bodies failed to arrive on the autopsy slabs of the pathologists who processed the dead; (8.2) and most appallingly -- that at least seven of the nineteen suicidal nutjobs had the bad manners to remain alive after killing themselves. (8.3)

Such disconcerting weirdness brings to mind the legendary “Operation Northwoods” proposal. This plan by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1962 to create false identities for false terrorists who would destroy a false American airliner for the purpose of justifying the invasion of a foreign country was a classic “False Flag” conspiracy. (8.4)

The Chairman of the JCS was General Lyman Lemnitzer; the President was Kennedy; the country to be blamed and invaded was Cuba. JFK declined to pursue the murderous scheme, which angered many leaders of the American Military-Industrial Complex -- the same Military-Industrial Complex which President Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican and a lifelong soldier, had pointedly warned the nation to be vigilant against as he left office.

It is also curious, perhaps, that unlike previous terrorist attacks throughout history, no one from the ominous outside world of the “others” took credit for 9/11 -- this greatest of all blows to the great enemy.



Dwight David Eisenhower
Commander of the Allied Forces, WW II

Until, that is, for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's purported Post Gitmo Torture/Secret Military Tribunal "Confession" in early 2007 that he alone was "responsible for the 9/11 operation from A to Z." (8.5) (Which thankfully covered S, L and P -- the 9/11 phenomenon otherwise known as the "Suspension of the Laws of Physics.")

Mr. bin Laden denied having anything to do with the crimes, even though to claim them would certainly have marked the crowning achievement of his storied legend. (8.6) (The FBI's "Wanted Poster" against him doesn't even mention 9/11.) The video of his purported "proof of guilt" dinner party that was "discovered" by our government on the eve of the invasion of Afghanistan is an odd thing indeed. Not only did the Pentagon-provided translation of the murky soundtrack prove to be inaccurate, (8.7) but the happy joker playing Usama in the thing (E below) seems to have forgotten to be left-handed for the occasion and to have forgotten how old he was supposed to be. This Usama, if indeed it's him, is reminiscent of the pre-kidney disease version -- dramatically younger and heavier. Or perhaps he'd had his nose shortened and his cheeks plumped up for the sake of the camera -- though in his very next video sermon a few weeks later (A) he'd managed to regrow his original nose and lose all the baby fat. Memo to the Disinformation Squad: Who's slacking here? Is it the Time-Stamp Keeper? Or the Casting Director?



On the other hand -- in terms of who benefitted from 9/11 -- we'd have to steal at least a passing glance at the breathtakingly well-positioned Corporate Juggernaut suddenly driving the single most dynamic new sector of the economy of the western world: The War on Terror.

Talk about good timing. Unlike other wars throughout history, the war behind this stunningly huge windfall -- especially to the industries which originally funded PNAC -- has been declared by Vice-President Cheney to be a "war without end." There is now a veritable army of well-connected private contractors doing the excellent work the US has thus far accomplished in Iraq. As of March 2008, these businesses had pocketed roughly half of the \$522 billion that American taxpayers had forked over for the privilege of eliminating the WMD that were not there.

Mr. Cheney, of course, not only served as a founding member of PNAC, but as past CEO of Halliburton as well. Perhaps it is no surprise, then, that Halliburton's no-bid contract for its slice of the Iraq Pie was coordinated directly through his office; has thus far generated \$21 billion in revenue; and is set up as "Cost-Plus." (8.8)

(For the record -- in the twelve month period ending in October, 2005, Cheney's 433,333 Halliburton stock options had increased in value from \$241,498 to more than \$8 million -- an increase of 3,281 percent in only one year.) (8.9)

"Cost-Plus" works like this: The more the contractor spends -- the more it makes. The "Plus" in the equation stands for profit. If that profit is pegged at, say, 3% of an expenditure, and Halliburton, needing hotel rooms for its employees in nearby countries, chooses any place but the most expensive Five-Star Resort -- the company leaves money on the table that would otherwise have filled its pockets.



*Welcome to the Ritz, boys!
In the DVD, Iraq for Sale: the War Profiteers,
we are provided a first-hand look at the theft such contracts have empowered.*

One Halliburton Exec had the good sense to lease himself an SUV at \$7,000 per month for 36 months, instead of just buying it outright for \$50,000 or so. The profit on the lease (36 times \$7,000 equals \$252,000; and \$252,000 times the 3% add-on profit equals \$7,560) is much higher than the purchase would've yielded (\$50,000 times 3% equals only \$1,500). (8.10) The fact that the US taxpayer had to come up with an extra \$208,060 for the guy's car is completely beside the point. Lest we forget: such strategies are about one thing and one thing only. Defending liberty.

There is no evidence whatsoever that Halliburton has defrauded the US for a penny more than \$1.8 billion in Iraq. (8.11) Mr. Cheney's personal net worth is now approaching \$100 million. He and his greed-diseased cronies will quickly remind people with a sense of ethics that the government "saves money" by privatizing the waging of such a war, due to the greater "efficiencies" available to these behemoth companies -- a claim best measured by such Freedom on the March details as.....

Individual loads of soldiers' laundry being washed by Halliburton subsidiary KBR for the phenomenally cost-effective sum of only \$100 per load. (Soldiers who feel their freshly laundered clothes are not actually sufficiently clean -- a common complaint -- are prohibited from washing their own apparel.)

Brand new \$80,000 Halliburton purchased military vehicles being put into operation without such accessories as spare tires, then being ditched and burned by the side of the road -- and reordered -- when the company can't change a flat.

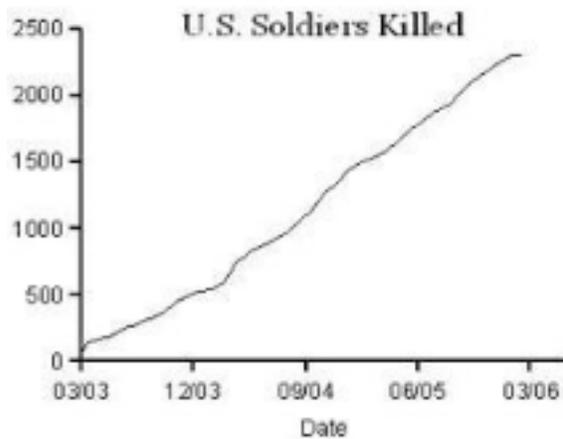
Massive garbage pits full of flaming pyres of incorrectly ordered Halliburton office equipment and computers, being torched by company employees before being invoiced as combat-incurred losses.



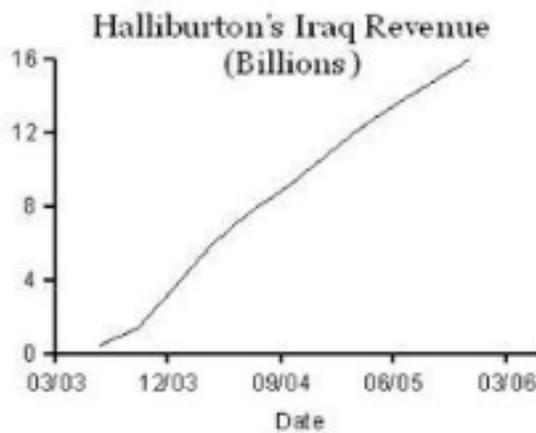
Convoys of Halliburton trucks being driven regularly from city to city in Iraq so as to keep the income from such transport duties flowing, thereby risking the drivers' lives -- even when nothing has been requisitioned and the trucks remain empty.

The provision of hundreds of barely screened, unqualified, untrained, and unmonitored "linguists" (by Titan) to produce error riddled (and therefore useless) translation services in support of the supposedly critical function of military "intelligence" in opposition to the Iraqi insurgency.

The willful decision by Halliburton to send civilians in fuel convoys of US military trucks along perilous routes (without maps) at times when those routes had been declared "off-limits" to US military personnel due to intense levels of insurgent violence, a decision which was in direct violation of those civilians' contracts -- resulted in the brutal deaths of those civilians -- and has never been investigated.



The refusal of Halliburton subsidiary KBR to provide round-the-clock access to food on outlying military bases, forcing US soldiers to stand outside in long lines for up to an hour -- subject to repeated enemy mortar attacks at regularly scheduled and widely known times -- to get their chow.



The side-by-side outrage of Halliburton and KBR employees living in comfortably air-conditioned, state of the art "hooches," while the soldiers whose nearby tents they've been paid to supply suffer chronic respiratory illnesses due to the mold that infests them.

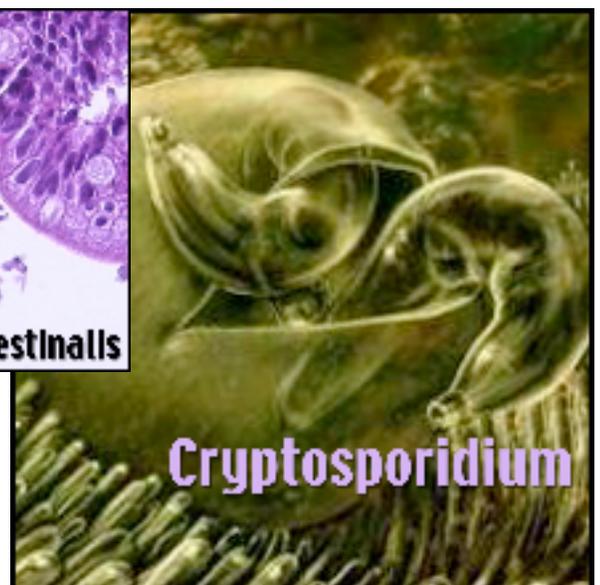
The outsourcing to Halliburton of a wide range of specialized military construction and repair functions that has forced the US soldiers originally recruited and trained to perform these functions to instead teach their privately-hired "replacements" to do the same tasks -- at five times the expense -- leaving the specially trained soldiers to pass the remainder of their tours on guard duty.

Source: HalliburtonWatch.org

The willful decision by the security firm Blackwater to send a team of its civilian employees into a seething Fallujah -- undermanned, without appropriate (and contractually guaranteed) armor or weaponry or even a map, then rushing Capitol Hill for Damage Control -- without so much as an apology -- as the men's charred bodies hung in the streets. Blackwater's punishment? More and bigger contracts.

The coverup of the failure of Halliburton to provide contractually guaranteed clean water to military personnel that has obscured the fact that 63 of its 67 water treatment facilities

serving the occupying forces produce water that is rife with pathogens -- often parasitical and slow-acting -- which will be carried home within the bodies of these veterans without their knowledge. (8.12)



Abu Ghraib. (8.13) Where “interrogation” management was cleverly outsourced to a huge company (CACI) originally contracted to sift computer data. This group, littered with poorly trained and psychologically suspect operatives, was redeployed to beef up US “intelligence gathering” in the face of the unexpectedly fierce resistance to US “liberation.” Analysts subsequently concluded that the vast majority of their chaotically rendered “detainees” had nothing whatever to do with the insurgency -- but everything to do with brutal suffering and shame. As in TORTURE. The worldwide broadcast of images culled from the mocking emails of participating US troops ensured that further American claims of high moral purpose would be utterly discredited. The troops were court martialed. CACI International was awarded another \$16 million contract.



What happens when you torture people is, they figure out what you want to hear and they tell you.

Bob Baer, former CIA official, interviewed in Slate

Brutalization doesn't work. We know that. Besides, you lose your soul.

Dan Coleman, former FBI agent, interviewed by Jane Meyer

The photographing of prisoners, both in Afghanistan and in Iraq, seems to have been not random but, rather, part of the dehumanizing interrogation process. ... [Hayder Sabbar Abd, an Abu Ghraib survivor] told Ian Fisher, the Times reporter, that his ordeal had been recorded, almost constantly, by cameras, which added to his humiliation. He remembered how the camera flashed repeatedly as soldiers told him to masturbate and beat him when he refused.

Seymour Hersh, in "Chain of Command," The New Yorker

There's an absolute ban on torture for a very good reason. Torture taps into the deepest recesses, unexplored recesses of human consciousness, where creation and destruction coexist, where the infinite human capacity for kindness and infinite human capacity for cruelty coexist, and it has a powerful perverse appeal. And once it starts, both the perpetrators and the powerful who order them, let it spread.. ... [W]ithin months, we were torturing hundreds of Afghans at Bagram near Kabul. A few months later in 2003, through these techniques, we were torturing literally thousands of Iraqis. You can see in those photos, beyond the details of the techniques that we've described, you can see how that once it starts, it becomes this Dantesque hell, this kind of play palace of the darkest recesses of human consciousness. That's why it's necessary to maintain an absolute prohibition on torture. There is no such thing as a little bit of torture.

Alfred McCoy, University of Wisconsin, interviewed by Amy Goodman

Eventually, if you don't accidentally kill them first, torture victims will tell you something just to make you stop... If you torture 100 people, you'll get 100 different stories. If you gain the confidence of 100 people, you may get one valuable story.

Rear Admiral (ret.) John Hutson, former Judge Advocate General for the Navy

"The use of force, mental torture, threats, insults, or exposure to unpleasant and inhumane treatment of any kind is prohibited by law and is neither authorized nor condoned by the US Government. Experience indicates that the use of force is not necessary to gain the cooperation of sources for interrogation. Therefore, the use of force is a poor technique, as it yields unreliable results, may damage subsequent collection efforts, and can induce the source to say whatever he thinks the interrogator wants to hear."

Army Field Manual 34-52 Chapter 1

“Spook Country”

by William Gibson

EXCERPT:

Tito watched the old man fold the copy of the New York Times he'd been reading. The light was going. Fading above this other ocean, the Pacific, which Tito had never seen before.

“I remember proofs of a CIA interrogation manual, something we'd been sent unofficially, for comment,” the old man said. “The first chapter laid out the ways in which torture is fundamentally counterproductive to intelligence. The argument had nothing to do with ethics, everything to do with quality and depth of product, with not squandering potential assets.” He removed his gold-rimmed glasses. “If the man who keeps returning to question you avoids behaving as if he were your enemy, you begin to lose your sense of who you are. Gradually, in the crisis of self that your captivity becomes, he guides you in your discovery of who you are becoming.”

“Did you interrogate people, yourself?” asked Garreth. The three of them were seated in the back of an open jeep, the black Pelican case under Garreth's feet.

“No,” said the old man, “I only reviewed the product. It's a terribly intimate process. An ordinary cigarette lighter will cause a man to tell you anything, whatever he thinks you want to hear. And will prevent him ever trusting you again, even slightly. And will confirm him, in his sense of self, as few things will.” He tapped the folded paper. “When I first saw what they were doing, I knew that they'd turned the SERE lessons inside out.

That meant that we were using techniques the Koreans had specifically developed in order to prepare prisoners for show trials.”

He fell silent.

Tito heard the lapping of waves.

[SERE refers to the US Military program which first specified wartime protocols for Survival, Evasion, Recovery and Escape.]

<http://www.williamgibsonbooks.com/books/spook.asp>

“There are huge profits to be made from a global war on terror...”

“Torture gets you false confessions...”

**“[A] false confession of guilt
by a brown person with a Moslem name has a
very high economic value,
and a very high political value, right now.”**

Excerpted from Randi Rhodes’ Interview with Naomi Wolf, November 6, 2007

**“The detainee arrives at the interrogation booth.
His hood is removed and he is bolted to the floor.”**

Not everyone at Guantánamo was enthusiastic. The FBI and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service refused to be associated with aggressive interrogation. They opposed the techniques. One of the NCIS psychologists, Mike Gelles, knew about the [torture] brainstorming sessions but stayed away. He was dismissive of the administration’s contention that the techniques trickled up on their own from Guantánamo. “That’s not accurate,” he said flatly. “This was not done by a bunch of people down in Gitmo — no way.”

That view is buttressed by a key event that has received virtually no attention. On September 25, as the process of elaborating new interrogation techniques reached a critical point, **a delegation of the administration’s most senior lawyers arrived at Guantánamo.** The group included the president’s lawyer, **Alberto Gonzales**, who had by then received the Yoo-Bybee Memo [which was created to provide legal cover]; **Vice President Cheney’s lawyer, David Addington**, who had contributed to the writing of that memo; the **CIA’s John Rizzo**, who had asked for a Justice Department sign-off on individual techniques, including waterboarding, and received the second (and still secret) Yoo-Bybee Memo; and **Jim Haynes, Rumsfeld’s counsel.** They were all well aware of [Detainee 063, Mohammed] al-Qahtani. “They wanted to know what we were doing to get to this guy,” [Major General Michael] Dunlavey told me, “and Addington was interested in how we were managing it.” I asked what they had to say. “They brought ideas with them which had been given from sources in D.C.,” Dunlavey said. “They came down to observe and talk.” Throughout this whole period, Dunlavey went on, **Rumsfeld was “directly and regularly involved.”** [...]

That was a green light from the very top — the lawyers for Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and the CIA. The administration’s version of events — that it became involved in the Guantánamo interrogations only in November, after receiving a list of techniques out of the blue from the “aggressive major general” — was demonstrably false.

Excerpted from “Torture and the White House: The Green Light”
Philippe Sands, Vanity Fair, May 2008



At 2:00 am on November 4, 2003, Manadel al-Jamadi, an Iraqi wanted for questioning regarding a suicide-bomber's deadly attack on a Red Cross facility, was rousted from his home by a platoon of Navy SEALs.

After a "forceful" interrogation session, al-Jamadi was removed to Abu Ghraib, where he was taken to a shower room and hung up by his wrists, which were shackled behind him.



There, five and a half hours after the onset of his "detainment," Army guards were summoned to "reposition" him -- his interrogators having declared that the prisoner was "not cooperating." Upon releasing his body from its suspension, the guards found that al-Jamadi's continuing refusal to talk was due to the fact that he was dead.



Sgt. Jeffery Frost, among the soldiers at the scene, reported that al-Jamadi's arms were stretched behind him in a way he had never before seen. The sergeant recalled that he was surprised the prisoner's arms "didn't pop out of their sockets," according to a summary of his interview. As his body was released from hanging, blood gushed from al-Jamadi's mouth "as if a faucet had been turned on."

Al-Jamadi's wife and son

Perhaps it goes without saying that no information was gained in this interrogation. Nevertheless, as al-Jamadi's corpse began to grow foul, it was packed in ice and used as a prop for a couple of triumphant "War on Terror" photo ops. The resulting images would eventually circle the globe as potent new symbols of America's Abandonment of International Law.



Nothing has more legitimized future suicidal attacks against the West in the eyes of humiliated young Muslim men the world over than the sight of these naked, hooded, beaten prisoners, their penises tied together, bleeding and writhing against one another on the concrete floors where Saddam did his worst. Beside them now: Smiling, Attack Dog Loosing, Anal Probing Americans -- leering at their agony and giving a jolly "thumbs up" to the camera.

Who among us doubts that our children's children will pay for the unconscionable corruption that has caused so dark a stain to descend on the face of our country? Or that such an outrage matters little to the men who are making this black magic happen? For at the end of the day -- all the hatred in the world will pale beside the realization of their goals:

They get the immediate profits. The biggest chunk of the massive blood-stained funding debt that will burden your family and mine for generations is going directly -- as usual -- into the pockets of these very men, and the corporate sponsors whose interests they so lucratively serve.

They get control of the oil. Near term, and long term. In the near term, the invasion accomplished a dramatic suppression of output that helped drive the price of crude to once unimaginable highs. Long term, through the tireless efforts of the governments of the US and the UK, a system of Production Sharing Agreements is being pushed on the Iraqi "Parliament" which will ensure that control -- and hundreds of billions of dollars of Iraq's national wealth -- will land in the hands of the major oil companies. (8.14)

They get the permanent new revenue streams they've stolen by obliterating the Iraqi economy. The banking industry was sold off to foreign companies less burdened by the Muslim reluctance to impose usurious interest rates. All tariffs were instantly outlawed, unleashing a tidal wave of subsidized, cheaply produced imports which drowned Iraqi businesses by the thousands. Bankruptcies swept the country and 60% of the populace was thrown out of work. The new "agricultural chief" dismissed Iraq's longstanding ability to feed itself by burying the domestic agriculture industry under hundreds of thousands of tons of cheap wheat imported by a company of his own affiliation. (8.15)

They get the permanent military bases (in the two countries bordering Iran) from which they will eventually launch the crucial gambit on "The Grand Chessboard:" the subjugation of the truly promised land -- The Republic of Uzbekistan. (8.16)

Best of all, they get to send a message to humanity: We have decided to run the planet -- to the detriment of all other values -- in the service of our permanently expanding power and profit. Before you even think to resist, understand: We can -- and will -- kill you.



Before the cosmic arrogance of such brazen theft could even be dreamed, the predators behind it required a paralysis of the political norms of the US government -- and the acquiescence of the American people. They got both. Whether or not luck is, as some would say, the residue of design -- 9/11 has been very good to these men.

That they mean to parlay the windfall into a universal subjugation is patently obvious. And therein will be joined the true struggle for freedom that we in America have long been conned into believing was coming at us solely from the pages of the Qur'an. Our earliest exposure to the "Muslim Means Terror" storyline arrived simultaneously with clandestine efforts to give it some real teeth. To this day we remain ignorant of the fact that much of the recent advent of virulent, anti-western Islamic Radicalism has been directed and financed by the Intelligence agencies of the US led western powers. (8.17)

Many tens of thousands of Islamic Jihadists have been recruited, organized, trained and armed -- since June of 1979 -- by the highest level covert operatives of the West.

The official justification for this seemingly self-destructive strategy was to seduce the competing economic system of the USSR to its overextended ruin in Afghanistan. Yet CIA support of the Radical Jihadist movement, most notably in the financial support of the Pakistani madrasas that mold young Muslim boys into angry, anti-western zealots, continued for years after the Soviets had crawled away.



The same is true of CIA support for Al-Qaeda itself. There is abundant evidence that thousands of Al-Qaeda connected operatives were paid by the CIA and functioning in the service of "American interests" during the subsequent conflicts in Kosovo, Bosnia and Chechnya, (8.18) as well as for reasons of political control in oil-rich Algeria, and the maintenance of a climate of semi-stability favorable to Western Business Interests in the Philippines. It works like this:

- Ø **In any strategically significant location -- especially where valuable natural resources exist -- the "War on Terror" must be fought.**
- Ø **The "War on Terror" demands the intervention of the "Protectors of Freedom."**
- Ø **Where the "Protectors of Freedom" intervene, Predatory Corporate Hegemony flourishes unopposed, enabling the theft of local resources and the destruction of local mechanisms of political and economic autonomy.**
- Ø **Which has become, in the era of "Free Trade," the dominant political and economic dynamic on earth.**

More recently, US cultivation and support of the most virulent strains of Revolutionary Islamic Wahhabism in the Far East stands as a countervailing force to the emerging power of China in the region, much as the same strategy was employed by the US in Afghanistan and then in Chechnya against the fading power of Russia. Yet we are constantly told that Al-Qaeda is “America’s Enemy” -- which very effectively obscures the way our fear of this “enemy” is used by our Planet’s Landlords against the interests of middle and working class peoples the world over -- Americans included. (8.19)

The question of when exactly -- as is claimed -- Al-Qaeda ceased to be a dependable “asset” of the CIA and became a legitimate antagonist of the US has neither been asked nor answered in the mainstream, though anyone familiar with the CIA’s oversight of Al-Qaeda’s very creation and the long and fruitful history of synchronization between the group’s activities and western goals would have compelling reason to wonder.

Epecially in light of PNAC’s stated intentions. And the Big Lie that became Iraq.

By what logic should we presume that Al-Qaeda was not used in New York City in the same way it was used in Algeria? Or in Chechnya? Or in Afghanistan?

As a means to create short term paralysis and mortal fear -- thereby to justify Criminal Corporate Aggression in the pursuit of long-term control of the world’s remaining oil.

It is well-documented, for instance, that many of the Al-Qaeda connected “hijackers” were extremely well-surveilled by multiple agencies within the US intelligence apparatus in the months leading up to 9/11, yet repeated requests by field agents to intervene in their plans were turned down at the highest levels of those agencies. (8.20)

Two of the alleged 9/11 ringleaders had actually spent the summer living with an FBI asset in San Diego. (Long after the pile of mass-murder facilitating coincidences has become a mountain -- does yet another even matter?)

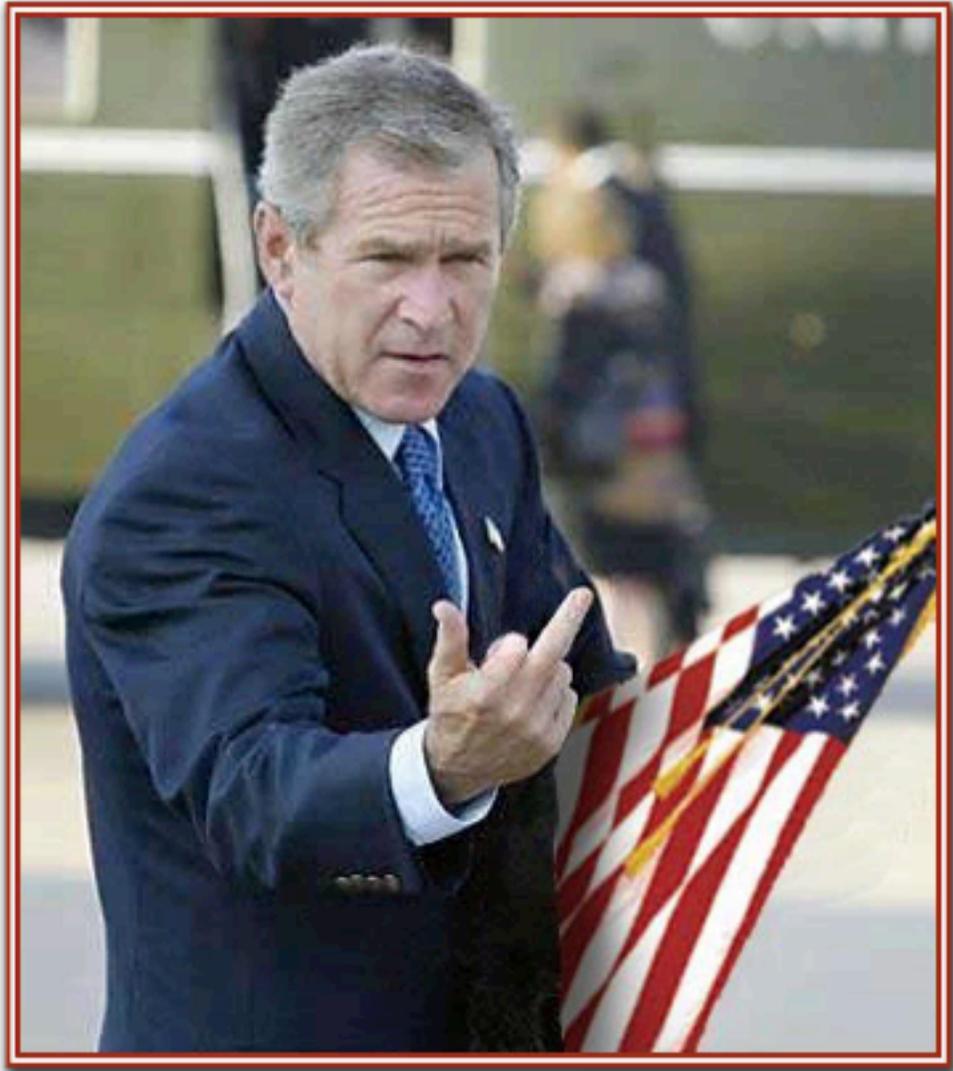
People who dare to speculate about such possibilities tend to provoke outrage and attack -- given the brutal reordering of our sense of reality necessary to follow the train of such wrenching thought.....

But the idea -- of some level of complicity somewhere close to home -- goes a long way toward explaining why so many utterly inexplicable things happened around 9/11.

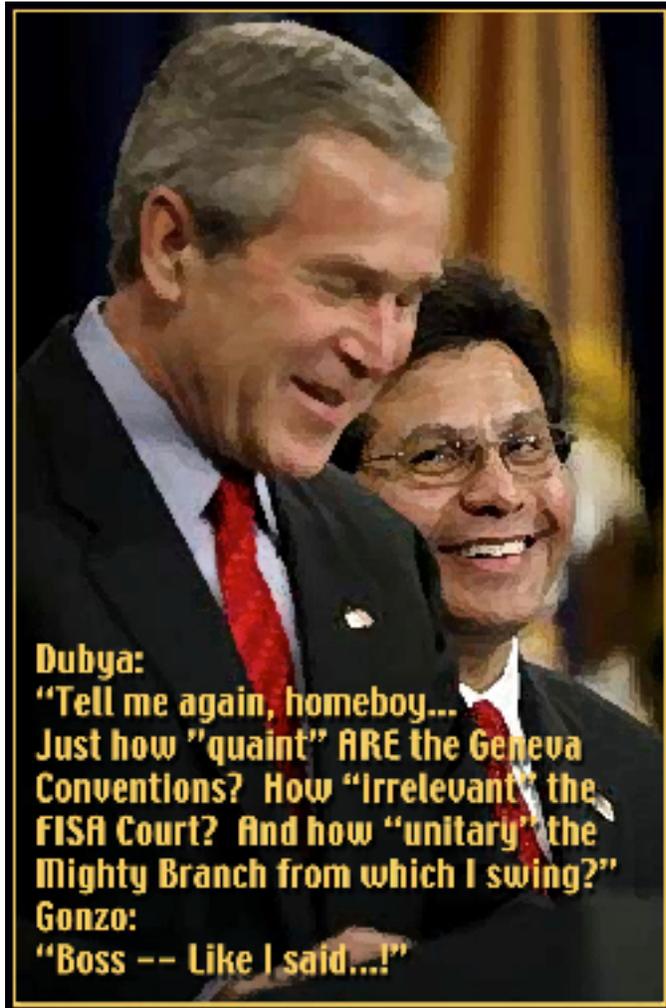
A long way toward explaining why so many powerful people have fought so long, so dirty and so hard to obscure so many of the troubling lies within the official mythology.

Toward explaining why -- despite the sincere efforts of thousands of focused and well-trained professionals -- there has always been someone in the mix who “sticks his foot out” and trips up the good guys just when they’re about to bag the Evil Usama.

It’s been happening for at least thirteen years. The recurring whiff on the same dancing boogie man. And honestly, how hard must we work to continue to call it a coincidence?



The agenda of the Post 9/11 New World Order calls for a suppression of dissent designed to bring the United States more closely in line with the norms of the dictatorships young American students were once taught to pity.



The malignant beauty of this assault on the US Constitution is that 9/11 provided it with both shelter and impetus.

Though the Patriot Act was written well before the attacks, the minimal resistance to it mustered by a few clear-thinking congressmen was easily dispelled by a dose of anthrax in the mail and a ferocious media blitz against Usama that was driven into the psychic wound of the exploding towers like a barbed spike -- and stoked a primal howl for revenge that left little room for reason. (9.1)

Thus, right in the face of a stunned and fearful nation, the immediate deconstruction of American constitutional rights was begun, and deemed to be permanently necessary in the new and never-ending War on Terror.

The administration's flagrant disregard for the jurisdiction of the FISA court -- a direct violation of federal law -- is a prime example of this deconstruction.

FISA is the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which established, in 1978, a legal regime for "foreign intelligence" surveillance separate from ordinary law enforcement surveillance.

FISA provides the government with broad, powerful protocols for intercepting the communications and apprehending the operatives of foreign states as well as "terrorist" groups deemed hostile to the interests of the United States -- protocols which extend the government's intrusive reach far beyond that available to "non-intelligence" related law enforcement. The court convenes in secret and findings from the surveillance orders it empowers are routinely shielded from defendants' attempts to challenge their validity.

And yet it provides a typically American check on the possibility that someone in a position of power might fall prey to the temptation to employ its sweeping scope in improper ways -- toward entities deemed "hostile," for example, that may actually pose more of a personal political threat to the petitioner than a threat to national security.

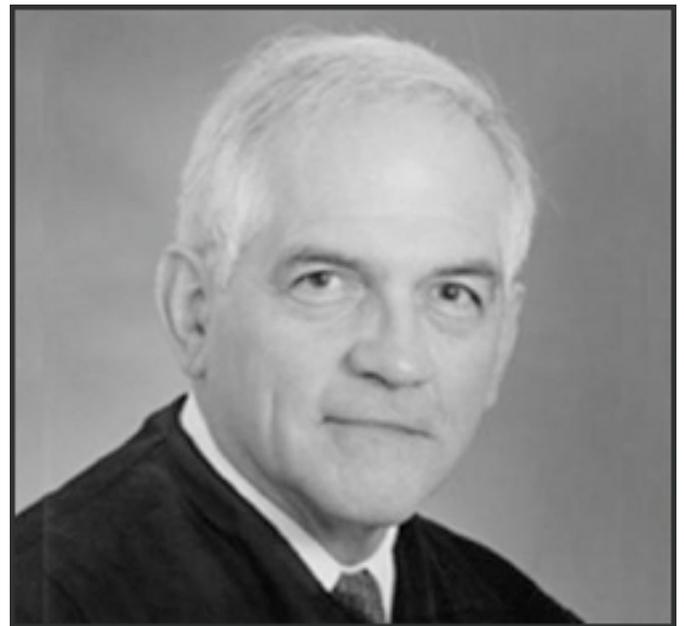
It is important to note that in the first 27 years of its existence, the FISA Court approved 18,761 orders for surveillance -- and turned down only five. (9.2)

Yet the federal laws that demand adherence to the FISA protocols, very much like the tenets of the Geneva Conventions and very much like the laws of physics -- as we shall see -- were suddenly and unilaterally deemed by the Bush Administration to be irrelevant in the wake of 9/11.

The Administration -- even while lying to the American public for eight months that the laws were being upheld -- began operating completely outside the purview of the Court. Which is, in and of itself, a blatant and impeachment-worthy crime against the United States Constitution. For which charges have not been brought.

Instead, amazingly, fascist-inspired justification for this crime was floated in the form of claims that no one would be "targeted" by the administration's illegal warrantless wiretapping -- if every American were monitored. (9.3)

And despite the administration's assurances -- when caught in the FISA lie -- that its unilateral surveillance in the U.S. was scrupulously focused on "Al-Qaeda," in May of 2006 the public learned that AT&T and its "competitors" have been allowing the NSA to access the phone records of **millions of Americans**. It will never be known whether the truth about this covert breach of federal law would have come to light were it not for the conscience of U.S. District Judge James Robertson, (*right*) who chose to resign his place on the FISA bench (9.4) and speak out, rather than continue to accommodate the Administration's criminal dishonesty.



And even while the President insisted that the NSA was not "mining or trolling through the personal lives of millions of innocent Americans," his operatives pushed Congress for explicit permission to do exactly that: to monitor the conversations and phone records of people in the US without benefit of any independent oversight of any kind.

Cheney-Specter Bill, S. 2453, better known as The National Security Surveillance Act, would have gutted the Fourth Amendment. It would have declared **judicial review** of the Domestic Surveillance of US Citizens to be **permanently optional**, thereby enabling Presidentially mandated computer-driven data mining of all information of any citizen and round-the-clock surveillance of their conversations, indefinitely. (9.5)

Thirty years ago, in the aftermath of the Watergate crime which drove Richard Nixon from the White House, Senator Frank Church presided over an Inquiry into reports that

the US Intelligence services had begun spying on Americans. Discovering widespread abuse, including the compiling of dossiers on lawful political activities and the secret opening of citizens' mail, the Church Committee moved to protect the American people from the surveillance technology of the NSA. Such technology, it found, could easily be turned against the public by those in power to extinguish the exercise of democracy.



Responding, in his urgent endorsement of the creation of the FISA Court -- which simply asks the government for the most cursory explanation before abrogating the right to privacy -- Senator Church (*left*) was blunt about what was at stake. Like few men willing to speak about it, he had peeled back the curtain of "intelligence" and stared the beast in the eye. His words:

"I know the capacity that is there to make tyranny total in America, and we must see to it that [the NSA] and all agencies that possess this technology operate within the law and under proper supervision, so that we never cross over that abyss.

That is the abyss from which there is no return." (9.6)

The Bush Administration (to the benefit of the Multi-National Corporate Elites whose interests it so assiduously served) violated the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the United States to a critical degree. And has, to this point, gotten away with it. Anyone who is aware of the details of the assault, and does not believe that our Democracy has been cracked to its core as a result, is failing to acknowledge the power of precedent.

With a disdain unparalleled in the history of our country, for example -- George W. Bush chose to ignore the Presidential power of veto.

For an American President to veto a bill, if he does not want to sign it into law, allows Congress a second chance to exercise its Constitutional Mandate: The Creation of the Laws which Govern the United States. If the legislative body can pass a vetoed bill again -- this time by a two-thirds majority -- its exercise of its will, as the collective and directly elected voice of the American people -- shall prevail over the Executive's objections.

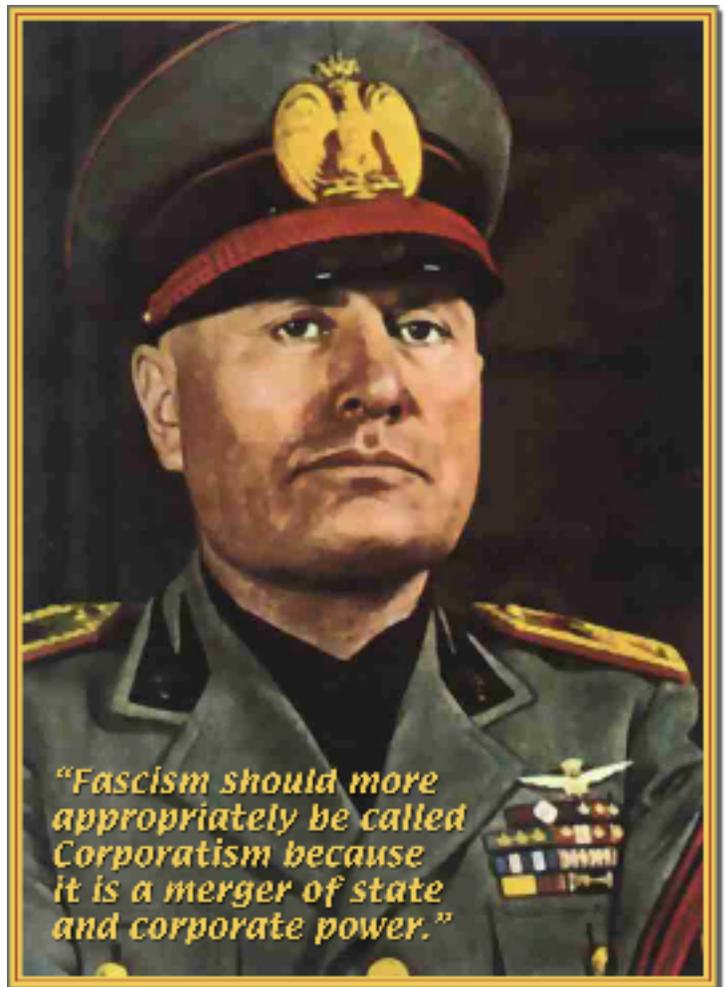
By refusing to exercise a veto -- but choosing instead to append a "Presidential Signing Statement" to a bill as he signs it, Bush very effectively nullified one of the most crucial components of the system of Checks and Balances built into our Constitution.

Until the Reagan Presidency, such Signing Statements were a rarely exercised PR tool, but that changed with the efforts of a young Reagan lawyer named Samuel Alito Jr. (whom Bush eventually appointed to the US Supreme Court). Alito believed that the power of the Executive should be enhanced by formalizing its opinions on the original intent and constitutional validity of new law -- functions the Founding Fathers had carefully vested in the other two branches of our government. Bush expanded this power shifting concept to declare any portion of a new law to be null and void if it did not agree with his vision -- and his vision alone -- of the needs of the Executive Branch. Rather than an objection to a Congressional act, this stance became an objection to the authority of Congress itself. By the end of 2006, Mr. Bush had summarily obliterated the Constitutionally guaranteed will of the American people as exercised by their representatives by employing such nullifying statements more than 800 times. (9.7)

That the 109th Congress (of Tom DeLay/Duke Cunningham/Jack Abramoff infamy) was easily the most corrupt in history did not mitigate the damage such Presidential disdain has inflicted upon America. And, again, these crimes -- by the man who once dismissed the US Constitution as a "goddamned piece of paper," were tolerated for years with barely a peep of protest from the "liberal" mainstream press. Which is more truly, of course -- exactly as liberal as the six massive corporations that now own all of it. (9.8)

To be sure, Mr. Bush, though performing as poorly when called upon to speak off the script as any President in history, sputtered along as a reasonably sharp looking figurehead in the service of the politically sophisticated Neo-Cons who operated behind and beyond him -- and that he would finally be pushed aside to make his further millions was always a given. The legion of corporate predators who feasted on his watch, however, will barely miss him in his passing, secure in their knowledge that Bush has left behind an America that is frightened, ignorant of the fact that it has lost control of its own elections, and well conditioned to keep its mind off difficult ideas.

If history teaches us anything -- it is that democracies are as rare as they are fragile. Unless "We, the People" choose to rouse ourselves and take a stand against the ongoing destruction of our rights, our children will never know the blessings of freedom we grew up taking for granted.



Benito Mussolini
Fascist Dictator of Italy

NEWS: SUPERIOR COURT CONFIRMS BUSH'S RIGHT TO DETAIN CITIZENS WITHOUT A FAIR TRIAL



For the first time ever, a person in the US may now be removed from his or her life and incarcerated indefinitely without ever gaining access to the judicial system. This loss applies not only to people suspected of plotting or carrying out acts of aggression against 'American' interests -- but to people deemed to be in support of such people. (9.9)



The Greediest and Most Arrogant among the Elite are betting that the rest of us have neither the will nor the energy to stem this tide. Though they still speak of “spreading democracy” with the usual patriotic fervor, their strategic documents (which are freely available to read) reveal that -- for many of these Architects of the New American Empire -- constitutional democracy has become the problem.

In his blueprint for dominion, “The Grand Chessboard,” Zbigniew Brzezinski (left) -- the erstwhile Rockefeller Protégé, Founder of the Trilateral Commission and Reigning Godfather of Western Political Aggression -- openly describes American Democracy as being “inimical” to the exercise of imperial power in the Mideast. (9.10)

For such well-advantaged, “men of best quality” to maintain their centuries long dominance of the world’s resources and

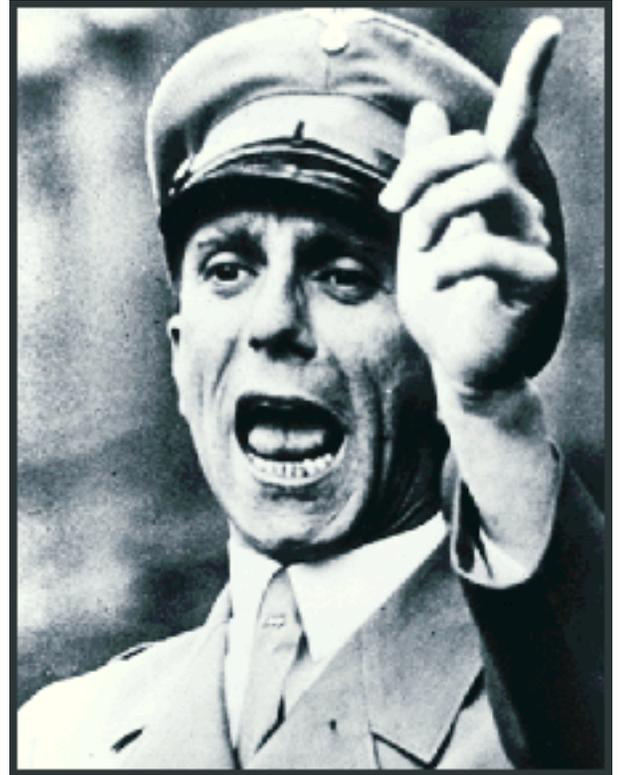
the power that flows from that dominance, democracy -- allowing as it does for the needs of people of less domineering aspirations -- has become the problem. Democracy, therefore, must be curtailed. But how? The Evil Commies, after all, have long since been vanquished. How to get the “E Word” back in play?

Ahhhhhh, of course. Let's fire up those Radical Muslims we've been Grooming and Find a Way to Make It Hurt.

There has never been a tyrannical regime -- anywhere -- that did not depend on the threat of outside "enemies" to force its own citizens to accept the elimination of their rights. In the words of Dr. Joseph Goebbels, Adolf Hitler's Nazi propaganda minister...

"The people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country."

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent..." (9.11)



As a student, I was taught that this kind of fear-based recipe for control is not supposed to be necessary in a truly functioning democracy, let alone one as accomplished as the United States. Yet here we are, caught up and cooking in just such a recipe, whistling in the cauldron of our willful and continuing ignorance of....

- Ø Massive evidence of Election Fraud in our country. This critical wound to the Body of the Republic is not even a subject of conversation.
- Ø Ninety thousand African-American voters were illegally thrown off the Voting Roles in the months leading up to the 2000 election in Florida. The subsequent NAACP lawsuit in response to this crime was quietly settled out of court by (original PNAC member) Jeb Bush's state government (a small price to pay for the 537 vote victory which spawned his brother's illegitimate Presidency). (9.12)
- Ø The Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which followed, and was supposedly designed to counter such crimes, instead enabled the most egregious theft of a Presidential election in U.S. History, as it privatized the essence of democracy itself, and ushered in the era of Corporate Owned and Unverifiable Black Box Balloting.

Thanks to HAVA, complete control of the majority of the votes cast in America has now been entrusted (for billions of dollars) to a handful of companies that have openly bragged of their allegiance to the Republican party, defied efforts to force their compliance with certification laws, and refused to offer any mechanism by which to conduct recounts or otherwise verify election results.

These companies have provided thousands of machines which must be constantly “tweaked” by company employees before and during elections and which repeatedly malfunction or are “inadvertently under allocated” in Democrat dominated precincts.

Unbelievably, they have been allowed to maintain completely unmonitored control of their own notoriously hackable secret software, whereby any person in possession of any one of several built-in “backdoor pass codes” may produce untraceable, fraudulent results in any election in less than sixty seconds. (9.13)



... took it upon herself to Google “Diebold Election Systems” until she came upon the motherlode -- the FTP site where the company shared its secret codes, which allow every one of its employees to function as an “administrator” and switch the results of any election without detection. Blackboxvoting.org (which Bev founded) has since uncovered massive evidence of election fraud in 2002 and 2004, and recruited a National Army of Monitors to safeguard the 2006 elections. The laws which enable such abuse remain in effect.

As a Trojan Horse of a Side Deal, HAVA also provided for a huge surge in the number of Provisional Ballots distributed to voters in poorer districts which cannot afford the new machines. It did not provide, however, that these provisional ballots actually be counted. Through the rejection of more than a million of them, along with the rejection of hundreds of thousands of so-called “Spoiled” Ballots, along with the rejection of half a million Absentee Ballots on the most dubious of grounds, and the Ongoing Purge of Black and Hispanic Voters before they even arrive at a polling place -- the 2004 re-election of Bush/Cheney was engineered in the wreckage of a national tally that left **More Than Three Million Votes Uncounted.** In every one of the above described categories of rejection, the loss of votes was overwhelmingly weighted in a singular, class-descriptive direction.

This is how a man Shown by the National Exit Polls to have been Defeated -- among Male Voters, 51% to 49%, and among Female Voters, 53% to 47% -- can again be Declared the Winner of the Presidency of the United States. Obliterate the Expressed Will of the People of Iowa, where according to votes actually cast he lost by 2%, New Mexico, where he lost by 2%, and Ohio, where he lost by 4%, and -- Presto! The Loser is Switched. Case Closed. Questions Will Not be Entertained.

Though the US Census Bureau would eventually peg the discrepancy between its tabulation of voters who voted and those whose votes were tallied at a crisp 3.4 million, nary a whimper of protest was noted in the “free” American press. (9.14)

- Ø Such an historically unprecedented discrepancy between the exit polls and the “counted” votes in our supposedly sacred electoral process has never before been allowed by the United States to stand unchallenged anywhere in the world where “American interests” were declared. (9.15) It is no doubt such craven embrace of corruption which necessitated.....
- Ø The disbanding in 2004 of the Voter News Service and its replacement with the National Election Pool. This brand new organization, charged with conducting those telltale exit polls, was thereby compelled to produce -- for the first time in history -- statistically impossible last minute revisions of the exit poll percentages which attempted (unsuccessfully) to nudge the above mentioned discrepancies out of the realm of total absurdity. (9.16)
- Ø Which, in light of the mainstream American media’s disinterest in this issue, was only necessary to temper the haunted laughter that was directed at the US from the rest of the civilized world -- many of whose citizens are profoundly more aware of what has been happening to America than the average American.

As an embarrassing example, it was widely reported -- by the highly respected International Election Observer Mission; the European Parliament; the NATO Parliamentary Assembly; and the Council of Europe -- that the 2004 Presidential Election in the Ukraine “did not meet democratic standards.”

This finding was seconded by Republican Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Referencing the glaring discrepancies between the official results and a wide range of surveys of voters at polling places -- exit polls -- Senator Lugar concluded that “a concerted and forceful program of election-day fraud and abuse was enacted with either the leadership or cooperation of governmental authorities.” And Senator Lugar was not the only American government official to pay attention to these polls in the Ukraine.

The Bush Administration had helped pay for them -- understanding all too well that the long-time history of accuracy attending such surveys is a sure-fire way to detect fraud. The irony of the Neo-Cons paying for the same polls on the other side of the planet that they were allowed to dismiss as “irrelevant” here in America was not lost on everyone:

“Eastern bloc observers noted that balloting in Ohio, New Mexico and Florida did not meet Ukrainian standards, but applauded America's attempt to restore democratic institutions after the overthrow of elected government in 2000.” (9.17)

May we take a moment here to reflect on how many millions of American servicemen and women have literally laid down their lives to protect our democracy against the exact travesties noted above?

Before any one of us decides not to investigate these crimes further, he or she would do well to remember how much blood has been spilled to safeguard against them. To what does the hallowed concept of "Our Freedom" refer -- if not to this?

As the Grand Pageant of "Decision '08" built to a climax and the media debated its Buzzed-Up Questions regarding Taxes and Toughness and the Proper Tone of the "War on Terror" -- stark against the backdrop of the "Latest Great Shock," this one economic -- we waited in vain for a voice to crack the chatter and demand aloud: Who will be barred from the polls this time? How many votes will be disappeared?

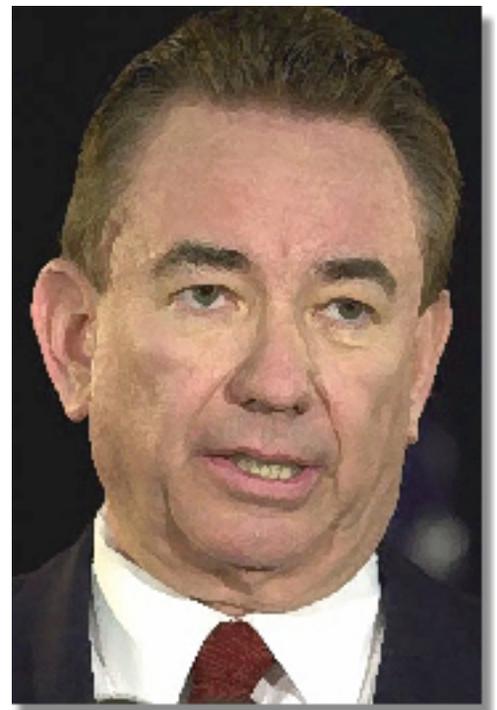
We will wait forever to know these truths and still we will not know -- if all we do is wait. There is ample evidence that plans to steal the 2008 election were designed and primed years before it arrived. We cannot act if we do not understand. (9.18)

- Ø Moving along to a more expansive view of the Endless Menu of Ways to Destroy a Great Country in the Name of Ever Greater Corporate Power, we come to the Bush Administration's brutal attack on the sanctity of science: its politically mandated distortion of scientific research in support of fraudulent policy decisions regarding the environment, health, medical research and nuclear weaponry. Formerly independent research by the National Science Foundation and other organizations which used to be published according to the rigors of peer review and was answerable first and foremost to its intellectual integrity -- came to be vetted by the likes of Karl Rove for its political ramifications -- the public be damned. (9.19)

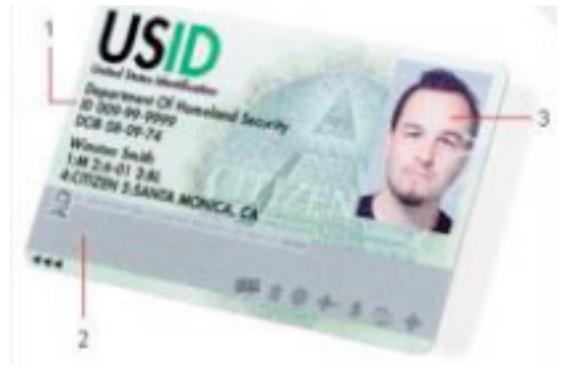
To cite but one example of corruption trumping truth -- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention set about planning to strengthen lead poisoning regulations, in light of newly discovered scientific evidence that much smaller amounts than previously understood were implicated in brain damage among children.

Before the panel could act, however, Bush's then Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson (*right*) rejected the recommendations and replaced two members of the panel with individuals tied to the lead industry. (9.20)

It should be noted, of course, that the children left at risk in the wake of this decision are not really that important in the grand scheme of things. They are, after all -- poor.



- Ø The soon to be introduced U. S. National Identity Cards which will be disturbingly indistinguishable (except for the proposed retinal scan requirements and radio tracking chips embedded within them) from the “Internal Passports” once used to identify citizens of the Soviet Union. (9.21)



- Ø The currently optional, about to be mandatory inclusion of Global Positioning Satellite technology in all American motor vehicles. (9.22)

- Ø The currently cutting edge, but projected to be indispensable Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) -- implanted into human bodies -- which are easily scannable from any direction without the knowledge of the person being scanned. Already entering our homes hidden in products we buy, RFID will next be pushed as the perfect solution to identity theft, and eventually as the "secure" prerequisite for all financial transactions. (9.23)



- Ø The emerging “hit list” of teachers at colleges and universities who do not conduct their classes along the same political and intellectual processes as those mandated by Fox News. A phalanx of right-wing political committees and government entities have thus drawn dead aim on one of the last engines of independent



inquiry still functioning in the United States. Many of these teachers remain stubbornly committed to old-fashioned ideas about truth and justice. They tend to have difficulty ignoring obvious lies, and often insist on asking questions even after being told what to think. Dangerously out of touch with the requirements of the New Imperialism, they are now attacked as a threat to freedom, and their employing institutions urged to stifle or fire them. (9.24)

Brigham Young Physics Professor Steven Jones is an outrageously blatant case in point. A conservative, devoutly church going Mormon scientist, Jones had the courage to follow up the troubling news he heard about the giant pools of molten steel still burning in the rubble beneath all three failed buildings of the

World Trade Center -- more than three months after the attacks. Being a scientist, the professor was not blessed with the "ignorance is bliss" shelter that allowed the average American citizen (had he or she possessed knowledge of this phenomenon) to consider such molten pools a normal result of the 9/11 attacks.

Jones (and thousands like him throughout the world) knew immediately that these pools testified that **the official explanation for the three towers' failures was a lie.**

His white paper, "Why Indeed Did the WTC Towers Collapse?" set out to compare the official story against the hypothesis that molten steel burning for weeks -- as is commonly observed in thermite reactions, but never associated with jet fuel or furniture fires -- was evidence that actually favored an alternate explanation of the destruction. Such as demolition, which commonly employs thermite to break steel.

Unlike jet fuel or carpet or drywall or desks or computers or drapes or coffee cups -- thermite contains its own oxygen. It is this rare attribute which allows thermite -- unlike every other known substance in the pulverized towers -- to burn for weeks.

Because of his evenhanded approach and adherence to the scientific method; because he did not speculate on who might have been responsible; because he invited peer review -- and has been upheld by it.....

..... but mostly because he included video of the Third Tower's astonishing 6.5 second implosion (and own resulting molten pool of steel) in his inquiry -- Jones' paper has taken off across the world as the single most damning document in contradiction to the government enforced Cover-Up. (9.25)

On August 31, 2006, George Bush traveled to Utah to meet with Gordon Hinckley, the Head of the Mormon Church. Eight days later, Professor Jones was relieved of his classroom duties and his White Paper removed from the BYU website. (9.26)

- Ø The capitulation of Yahoo and AOL to demands that they permanently store -- and make available to the government -- the Search Engine Records and Websites Visited by the American citizens who use their services. While such Congressman as James Sensenbrenner and the recently disgraced pedophile Mark Foley have tried to pass this off to the need to protect children from sexual predators, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales let it "slip" that it's really more about compiling political information critical to the "War on Terror." (9.27)
- Ø The quiet construction of Civilian Detention Centers throughout the United States -- another "no-bid" win for Halliburton -- for the purported purpose of immigration control, though the possible need to quell civil unrest has also been mentioned..... should domestic "dissent" get out of hand. (9.28)



- Ø The destruction of the Posse Comitatus Act -- which has long forbidden the use of United States Military Forces against the citizens of the United States. This hidden wound to the Bill of Rights was accomplished by President Bush under cover of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which he signed on the same day.

With the Military Commissions Act, Bush plucked from Congress a bit of shelter from the outraged worldwide accusation that his administration practices war crimes. With its passage, the secret designation of certain individuals as "unlawful alien enemy combatants" by the US, and their subsequent anonymous rendition to secret prisons where they are "disappeared" into a world of secret torture on the farthest edges of reality was "officially" endorsed and continued.

While the Need for Such Torture was being loudly discussed, the Posse Comitatus Act was quietly pushed into the abyss -- gutted by revolutionary changes to the Insurrection Act, then buried in a huge, "quick decision to support our troops, no scrutiny necessary or possible" appropriations bill. Thus was removed -- without our knowledge -- this most powerful impediment to Martial Law. It had protected us from Executive tyranny for 130 years.

Its repeal grants the President the unilateral power, upon his declaration of a "public emergency," to take control of state-based National Guard troops and station them anywhere in America -- without the consent of the governor of their state of constitutional origination, and without the consent of the governor or military officials or local law enforcement authorities of the state designated for occupation -- in order to "suppress public disorder."

It is interesting to place this dictatorial prelude beside the observation of the retired Chief of US Military Operations, General Tommy Franks. The general has been quoted to say that he does not expect America's "experiment in democracy" -- as embodied in the US Constitution -- to survive a terrorist "attack employing WMD."

Beyond the discretionary power to define an "emergency," the new law bestows on the Executive the power to decide which kind of "protest" is potentially beneficial to "terrorists" -- and thus subject to military intervention and forced relocation to the above-mentioned Halliburton constructed domestic detention camps. "Undesirables" and "potential terrorists" are mentioned alongside "illegal aliens" in early discussions of likely detainees. The Homeland Security press release announcing the awarding of the Detention Center contracts to Halliburton also pointedly referred to the camps' availability for use in the "rapid development of new programs."

Why, may we not wonder, did the Bush administration feel the need to remove America's longstanding roadblock against Martial Law? Does an answer lie in the expectation that many Americans will object to being quarantined -- and to the forced vaccination of their children with substances they know nothing about -- should the next "Attack on America" involve bio-terrorism -- or worse -- as has been consistently described by certain officials in our government as "likely?" (9.29)



THE PATRIOT ACT

(without the inconvenience of serving a warrant) allows Government Authorities to:

Search your home while you are away. Confiscate items and place cameras and microphones to monitor you at home.

Monitor your email, internet usage, phone calls, credit cards, bank accounts, student, medical & library records. And, as a bonus -- Americans may now be jailed indefinitely without a trial, a lawyer, or even a phone call to the outside world.

But we have been ASSURED, by the very same leaders who.....

Seized and have held political power through comprehensive election fraud.
Lied about their actions on 9/11.
Lied about their ties to al-Qaeda.
Lied about their intent to investigate 9/11.
Declared Pakistan an 'ally' only days after the Head of Pakistani Intelligence made the last payment to the 9/11 hijackers.
Lied about their vast pre-knowledge and actual practice sessions for everything that happened on 9/11.
Lied about the poisoned air our heroes breathed after 9/11.
Scrubbed the 9/11 crime scenes and disposed of evidence in direct contravention of Federal Law.
Held not a single person in all the US Government responsible for any of the multitude of failures to perform their lawfully mandated duties on 9/11.

Lied about the melting point of steel.
Lied about the laws of gravity.
Destroyed government stores of the Ames Strain of Anthrax when it was discovered that this strain -- sent by 'Terrorists' to Democrats who wanted to read the Patriot Act before passing it -- had been manufactured by the US Army.
Fought in court for three and a half years to suppress Hundreds of Statements of First Responders on 9/11 -- statements describing the massive explosions that wracked the buildings but were excised completely in the official 'investigations.'
Suppressed the fact that Marvin Bush -- the president's brother -- was a central figure in the company that provided security for the WTC Towers on 9/11.
Lied about circumventing the FISA court.
Lied about their illegal wiretapping.
Lied about their access to Mr. bin Laden.
Lied about their reasons for invading Iraq.
Lied that combat operations were over.
Placed in mortal danger -- by illegally revealing her identity -- the life of an American CIA agent because her journalist husband DID NOT LIE about the fact that there were no WMD in Iraq.
Lied that they did not operate secret prisons around the world.
Lied that they were not practicing torture.
Denied all responsibility for the personal setbacks that dozens of courageous Americans have suffered immediately after speaking out against these lies -- setbacks that have included demotions, loss of jobs, public ridicule, confiscation of property, violent destruction of property, threats on lives -- and death.....

..... **that we may rest easy.**

Yes, we have been ASSURED by these very same "Patriots" that the "Patriot Act" will never, ever be used to suppress dissent in America.

EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF

FASCISM

POWERFUL AND CONTINUING
NATIONALISM

DISDAIN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

IDENTIFICATION OF ENEMIES
AS A UNIFYING CAUSE

SUPREMACY OF THE MILITARY

RAMPANT SEXISM

CONTROLLED MASS MEDIA

OBSESSION WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT
INTERTWINED

CORPORATE POWER PROTECTED

LABOR POWER SUPPRESSED

DISDAIN FOR INTELLECTUALS & THE ARTS

OBSESSION WITH CRIME & PUNISHMENT

RAMPANT CRONYISM & CORRUPTION

FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS



Some people, familiar with history, might contemplate the preceding developments and see in them a certain dramatic foreshadowing.

The end of privacy and the right to dissent is no longer some vague totalitarian nightmare lurking on the horizon of someone else's pitiful country. It is the people of America now who are confronted with the loss of our rights -- a fascist-friendly future to which we are being systematically conditioned to capitulate.

Terrorism is a key tool of this conditioning, and two things about it are critical to grasp.

First, while the power of unforeseen violence has always been a part of human reality -- and will likely continue as a tactic of resistance among otherwise dominated people -- its effectiveness is already assured if the "freedom" it is supposedly directed against has long since been surrendered by its intended victims.

Second, throughout history, the True Perpetrators of Terrorist Attacks have often -- especially among countries with ambitions toward empire -- proven to be the Powers Supposedly Under Attack.

Such events are known as **False Flag Operations**. And as even the quickest analysis of Global Push and Shove will reveal -- False Flag Ops occur with stunning frequency.

That this simple fact is so widely ignored by Americans is a testament to both the power and the failure of our mainstream media. The power is expressed in the media's overwhelming capacity to forcibly embed almost any idea in our minds, pounding away with emotionally loaded catch phrases and carefully chosen, incessantly repeated imagery. The failure is expressed in the media's growing refusal to investigate or even raise questions when those in power make any claim -- no matter how poorly substantiated -- that can be played off as bearing on national security.

As a result, we as a people are encouraged to banish any whisper of doubt we may carry about the legitimacy of the constant fear of alien attack that gets injected into our lives. Whether from the mocking likes of Rush Limbaugh, or the supposedly "progressive" voice of a "Mr. K" (as he smirks at the "Building 7" crowd), we are assured that we must be dead flat crazy if we think there is any possibility we are being lied to about who our real enemies are -- or the true motivations behind the actions of our "protectors."

We are basically told that, "Lies about the true source of mass violence are too big to pull off. Those sworn to protect us, for instance, would never allow us to be attacked for political gain while blaming the attack on someone who didn't really do it. That level of deceit would demand that a whole lot of people would have to keep a very difficult secret for a very long time. And as we all know -- that's just not possible."

Sounds like a No-Brainer. We don't think twice.

However. If -- through some righteous act of will -- our very busy brains were to become aware of how remarkably common the unthinkable scenario above actually is -- might we pause to think again?

Let's test that possibility for a moment with a short and shallow (not to mention highly incomplete) recitation of the lurid.....

History of False Flag Terrorism:

What was **Nero** thinking when he **Burned Rome** and blamed it on the Christians? Did he actually think he could get away with it?

What was **Hitler** thinking when he **Burned the Reichstag** -- the Seat of Parliament -- and blamed it on the Communists, even as his Storm Troopers were running through the underground tunnel back to Goering's bunker, their flaming torches hot in hand?

Did he likewise think he could get away with it? Or does it matter what he thought? Since not only did he get away with it -- the Shock of the Act of Terror Launched the Third Reich, and gave the Führer an instant excuse to grind the norms of Europe's then strongest democracy into the choking dust of his Empire Lusting Madness.

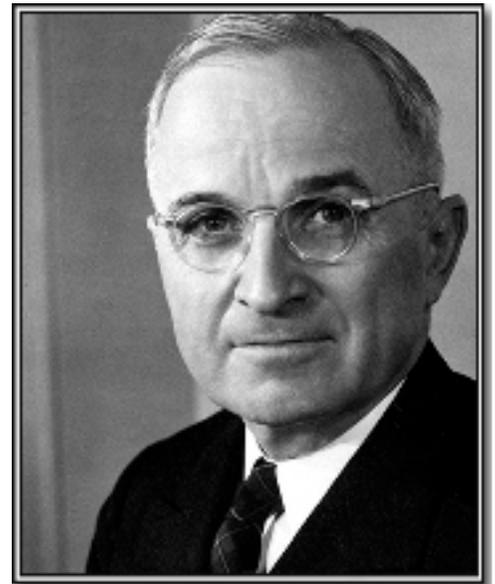
His second False Flag Attack -- **Operation Himmler** in 1939-- provided the Nazis with justification to occupy Poland, as the Gestapo took over and faked an assault on the German radio station at Gleiwitz. They dressed some political prisoners to look the part of Polish Saboteurs and murdered them on the spot. The next day, Poland was invaded.

It is perhaps worth noting here that as World War II drew to a close and Hitler's ruin became inevitable, the Head of Nazi Military Intelligence -- Reinhard Gehlen (*right*) -- reached out to the United States for asylum. In return for access to the mountains of data that he and his closest associates had compiled on the Soviet Union, Gehlen struck a deal with Allen Dulles, the co-founder of the CIA, which provided for his safe passage to America.



The deal with Dulles -- **Operation Paperclip** -- provided Gehlen with the wholesale transplant of his entire Nazi Intelligence unit directly into the CIA. And it paved the way for more than 700 elite Nazi scientists to bring the lessons of their most outlandish research in human cruelty into the US Intelligence community as well. (Search for MK-ULTRA / ARTICHOKE, OPERATION MIDNIGHT CLIMAX, etc.) American Law expressly forbids the immigration of such people -- hundreds of whom had directly participated in just-concluded programs that accomplished **the mass torture and murder of literally millions of people.**

President Harry Truman (*right*) directed that the transplantation of these War Criminals to America would not be allowed. Dulles nodded and defied him -- as good as spitting on Truman's back as he was walking away -- and simply instructed his CIA underlings to scrub the dossiers of the former Nazis of all references to their true affiliations and crimes.



Dulles (*below*) thereby brought these beasts directly into the belly of the United States Intelligence community, which seemed to digest their arrival with a deplorable ease. Their hard-wired fascist loyalties meshing perfectly with the anti-Socialist zeitgeist of the day, these brightest minds of the Nazi War Machine went directly back to work as if without interruption.



Almost immediately, the CIA and England's MI6 conspired with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to establish a **Vast Network of Secret Stay-Behind Armies Throughout Europe.**

This action expressed the utter disdain of the Western Intelligence Establishment for the "will of the people" in numerous countries considered "allies" and "democracies." Massive caches of arms and munitions were hidden. Hand-picked men drawn from various military and intelligence services were tightly organized into secret, powerful, and virulently right-wing groups.

Ostensibly justified as the "seeds of resistance" against the threat of a Soviet invasion, these groups were charged with monitoring and manipulating the political process within each state -- ready to pounce at the first evidence of a drift away from rightist policies or the rise toward the head of government by anyone affiliated with the left.

In several countries, the secret armies remained content to master their skills with explosives and wait. In many countries, however, the "waiting" was thrown aside for the active harassment and destabilization of democratically elected governments, the assassination of key leaders, military Coups d'Etat, and multiple, wildly horrific acts of terrorism that resurrected the **random mass killing of thousands of innocent people.**

A **False Flag Terrorism** -- barely imaginable in its scope, its true source continually and brutally obscured -- that was **Directed Against the European Public for Decades.**



Secrecy endured, though the continent-encompassing campaign -- codenamed **Operation Gladio** in Italy (from the Latin "gladius," the sword) -- involved the active complicity of literally **thousands of clandestine operatives in at least sixteen countries.**

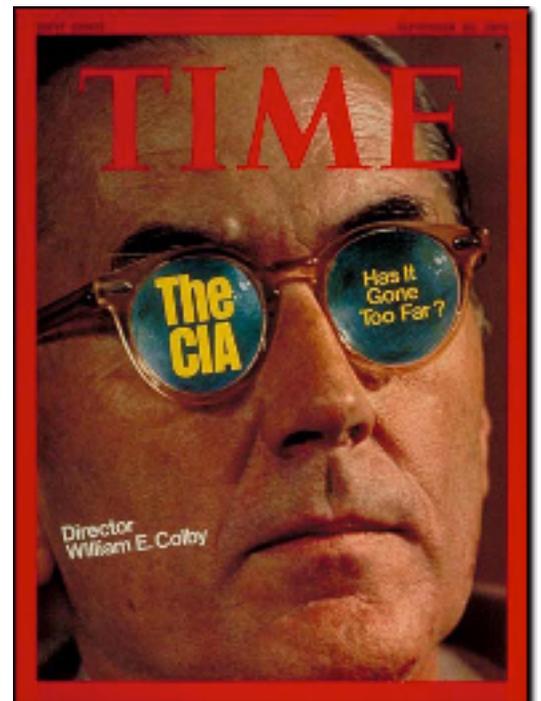
So deeply submerged were the organizations that Austrian President Thomas Klestil, who had publicly declared that no such secret army could ever undermine his country's sovereignty, was shocked to learn in 1996 that the "Austrian Hiking, Sports and Society Club" was just such an army. After Franz Olah, who had set up the "Club" at the CIA's bidding, confessed that "there must have been a couple of thousand people working for us," President Klestil demanded an apology and requested a full-on investigation from the United States. The Clinton Administration responded with silence.

Austria's ignorance of its own loss of internal political legitimacy was just one example of the reach and power of this most Sweeping and Historically Successful of False Flag Operations. Though these Western financed, trained and coordinated Armies of Dark Actors were found to be responsible for Brutal Acts of Terrorism in Italy, Ireland, Turkey, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, and Sweden -- the blame for the ongoing atrocity was impeccably focused on "Leftists."

Thus, for decades, the public -- blinded to the true sources of their continuing agony -- reached out for "protection" to the very same agencies which secretly harbored their murderous assailants.

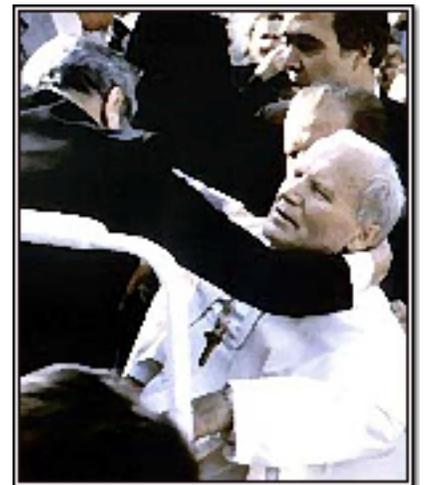
For decades.

*CIA Director William Colby
(at right in September, 1974) would
eventually confirm in his memoirs that
Gladio had been a "major program" for the Agency.*



Highlights of the Decades of Terror linked to these False Flag Operations would include:

- Ø The December, 1944 **Athens Massacre** in Greece, blamed on radical leftists, in which British troops were seen standing side-by-side on rooftops with domestic paramilitary operatives machine-gunning the crowd below.
- Ø The Dirty War -- "**La Guerra Sucia**" -- waged for years by Spain's Gladio-linked Death Squads in the 1980s, during which 27 men associated with the Basque Separatist Movement were murdered.
- Ø The 1980 **Military Coup in Turkey**, by which the commander of the Gladio-affiliated "Counter-Guerilla" organization, General Kenan Evren, seized control of the government -- one day after 3,000 US military personnel began "maneuvers" on Turkish soil. More than 600,000 citizens were arrested on political grounds; a quarter of a million tortured; countless murdered.
- Ø Evren's rule facilitated the **Killing and Torturing of Thousands of Kurds** in the 1980s. In a withering reign of false flag attacks, Counter-Guerrilla operatives attacked numerous villages, dressed up as Kurdish leftist PKK fighters, and raped and executed people randomly.
- Ø In Spain, the 1976 **Montejurra Massacre** and the 1977 **Massacre of Atocha**, both of which targeted trade unionists. In Atocha, assassins bent on killing Union Leader Joaquin Navarro opened fire with submachine guns on the people they encountered in their search for the man. Then they killed him too.
- Ø The bloody 1967 **Military Coup in Greece** staged by the Gladio-linked "LOK," during which scores of people were killed and more than 10,000 arrested.
- Ø The deadly **Oktoberfest Bombing** of 1980 in Munich, Germany, after which the Neo-Nazi Heinz Lembke lead police to 33 hidden arm-caches, where huge amounts of military equipment were found. Lembke committed suicide in his prison cell shortly after announcing he would name names. Immediately all investigation was dropped, and a "lone bomber" blamed.
- Ø The **Failed Coup in Algiers** against the government of Charles De Gaulle by the Organisation Armée Secrète (OAS) in 1961, which was spear-headed by "retired" right-wing military officers from the French Colonial War in Vietnam.
- Ø The 1979 **Murder of Turkish Newspaper Editor Abdi Ipekçi** by Mehmet Ali Agca, the infamous Gladio-linked "Grey Wolves" member who would undertake, in the following year, the **Failed Assassination of Pope John Paul II.**



-
- Ø The 1969 **Murder of Anticolonialist Leader Eduardo Mondlane** by Aginter Press, the Portuguese secret stay-behind army.
 - Ø The 1977 **Trade Union Rally Massacre at Taksim Square** in Istanbul, Turkey, during which Counter-Guerilla snipers opened fire on a panicked and pinned-down crowd of 500,000 people. For twenty minutes the gunmen fired, killing 38 and wounding hundreds, while the thousands of police ringing the throng stood and watched.
 - Ø Continuing in Turkey -- the **Bahçelievler Massacre** of seven university students on October 9, 1978; the **Beyazıt Square Massacre** of another seven students on March 16, 1978; and the **Kahramanmaraş Massacre** (*below*) of December 23, 1978, during which 111 people were killed, according to the official figures, though the actual number was believed to be much higher.
 - Ø The **Brabant Massacres** in Belgium in the 1980s, during which at least 28 people were murdered in random, precisely executed attacks. During the siege, a large Gladio-related weapons cache was discovered outside the nearby village of Velp.
 - Ø The 1974 **Piazza Della Loggia Bombing** in Brescia, Italy, which killed eight and injured more than a hundred.
 - Ø The **Piazza Fontana Bombing** of 1969, which obliterated sixteen people and seriously wounded 90, and was described as the “detonator” by which Italian military authorities would declare a state of emergency. Communists were blamed.
 - Ø The 1974 **Italicus Express Bombing**, in which explosives planted on the crowded Rome to Munich train left twelve people dead and forty-four injured.
 - Ø The 1973 **Bombing of the Plane Argo 16**, which killed all aboard and was long blamed on Israel, was later attributed by General Geraldo Serravalle, secret head of Gladio from 1971 to 1974, to Gladiatori who were refusing to hand over their clandestine arms.
 - Ø The May, 1972 **Peteano Murders**, in which three policemen were slain, supposedly at the hands of the Communist “Red Brigades.” The Gladio Operative Vincenzo Vinciguerra would later confess that the murders were actually his, and that he was spirited away in the aftermath to the shelter of Fascist Spain by members of the Italian Secret Service.



- Ø The **Murder of Former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro**, the leader of the Christian Democracy Party, who had recently reached an historic compromise with the Italian Communist Party (PCI), and was on his way to formalize it when he was kidnapped in 1978, purportedly by the Red Brigades. During his detention, Moro wrote several letters to various prominent political figures (including Giulio Andreotti, the man who had succeeded him as Prime Minister -- and who would finally confess in 1990 to the existence of Gladio).

After 54 days of captivity, Moro was murdered, and his body dumped in an abandoned car.

Reporting on the crime, investigative journalist Mino Pecorelli wrote that Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, Italy's Head of Counter-Terrorism, had known Moro's exact whereabouts during his capture, and would later oversee the discovery of a cache of Moro's letters, knowledge of which he withheld from the public. At least one of these communiqués from the doomed former head of state made reference to the involvement of both NATO and the CIA in an Italian-based "secret service, parallel army."



Journalist Pecorelli not only revealed the existence of the letters, but drew a connection between the "secret army" they described and doubts about the professed affiliations of Moro's assassins. Pecorelli went on to predict that Dalla Chiesa, by virtue of his undisclosed complicity in the crime and his first-hand knowledge of the historically important letters, was in mortal danger. The journalist would prove a skillful fortune teller, though perhaps less comprehensive than he might have wished. For Pecorelli himself was murdered in 1979, and Dalla Chiesa not until 1982.

It was not until 1990, when Italian Judge Felice Casson forced the above-mentioned Giulio Andreotti to take the stand in an investigation of domestic terrorism, that the secrecy shrouding the operations finally began to unravel.

On August 3rd, 1990, Andreotti -- a Three-Time Former Prime Minister of his country -- revealed that Italy's Secret Gladio Army had been hidden all the while within the Defense Ministry, as a subsection of the Military Secret Service.

General Vito Miceli, a former director of that Secret Service, upon hearing of Andreotti's testimony, would protest: "I have gone to prison because I did not want to reveal the existence of this super secret organization. And now Andreotti (*below, at right*) comes along and tells it to parliament!"

The Veteran (and remarkably named) Gladio Operative, Vincenzo Vinciguerra (*below, left*), went before Judge Casson and explained the simple logic behind the viciousness:

"You had to attack civilians, the people, women, children, innocent people, unknown people far removed from any political game."

"The reason was quite simple. They were supposed to force these people, the Italian public, to turn to the state to ask for greater security."



"This is the political logic that lies behind all the massacres and the bombings which remain unpunished, because the state cannot convict itself or declare itself responsible for what happened."

As a result of Judge Casson's inquiry, the Existence of the Secret Stay Behind Armies and the Scope of their Murderous Operations eventually came to be acknowledged all across the continent, though pressure against meaningful investigation and legal remedy continues to this day.

(A great deal of material related to Gladio is included in Reference 10.1 of this piece. Daniele Ganser's 2005 book, "NATO's Secret Armies," is likely the most authoritative examination currently available. For a look at current False Flag Terrorism, including comprehensive research on Al-Qaeda's ongoing relationship with Western Intelligence in the light of 9/11, see Nafeez Ahmed's superbly presented book, "The War on Truth.")

**Among the more profound aspects of Operation Gladio,
this plain fact:
That the "Big Lie" Behind "Leftist Terrorism" in Europe
was successfully maintained from
the mid-1940s through 1990.**

Though knowledge of Gladio was held, to varying degrees,
by military and intelligence operatives numbering in the thousands,
based in a multitude of countries,
trained, supplied, and organized by the Western Intelligence Establishment,
and though their Terrorist Operations repeatedly accomplished
The Mass Murder of Innocent People,

The History-Altering
False Flag Conspiracy Behind the Attacks
remained a Secret
for More than Forty Years.

On the 27th anniversary of John Kennedy's assassination -- November 22, 1990 -- the European Parliament issued a Special Resolution, calling for a "a full investigation into the nature, structure, aims, and all other aspects of these clandestine organizations or any splinter groups, their use for illegal interference in the internal political affairs of the countries concerned, and the problem of terrorism in Europe."

Though revelations have since spilled forth in the time-honored tradition that follows any breakthrough to honesty, a "full investigation" -- in the legal sense -- has not been undertaken.

And those who look beyond the headlines will note that an Odd Sense of the Surreal has still not been solved in the Ongoing Tales of Terror. There is hardly a corner of the planet, it seems, able to shield itself from such episodes of shocking, high-yield violence -- attributed always to "extremists" -- as are eventually connected in one way or another to the Intelligence Services of governments.

Most of us are made aware of the more outrageous of these violent episodes: The breaking stories keep on coming. It's a lot harder to get the facts about the follow-up -- the part where "ongoing investigation" and an "unnamed source" suggests that the story first told was, at the very least, misleading.

In 2002, for instance, I heard about the Terrorist Bombings in Bali.

But I missed the part where former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, the man often referred to as the "conscience" of his country, observed on television that: "The orders to do this... [bomb the Sari Club] came from within our armed forces, not from the fundamentalist people." And I likewise missed the part where former terrorist Umar Abduh said: "**There is not a single Islamic group either in the movement or the political groups that is not controlled by (Indonesian) intelligence.**"



And so it goes. Beyond the Spanish government's immediate phone calls to major newspapers begging that the March 11, 2004 **Madrid Train Bombings** be blamed on Basque Leftists -- an appeal that eventually failed in favor of a fallback "al Qaeda" scenario, since abandoned as well for lack of evidence -- we are left with the largely ignored facts that two of the accused bombers (who "blew themselves up" before they could be brought to trial) were longtime police informants.

And that the man accused of supplying the military grade explosives, which murdered 191 people and wounded 1,755, was found to be in possession of the Private Phone Number of the Head of Spain's Civil Guard Bomb Squad. Golfing buddies, maybe? Squash?

Which eerily echoes the awkward climax of **The Chechen Terror in Russia**, where a **Series of Bombings** played out behind the rise of former KGB Head Vladimir Putin to National Power. These bombings would claim 300 lives and injure more than a thousand, and would eventually be blamed on Arabs fighting for the independence of Chechnya. The explosions -- which began in a **Moscow Mall**, continued outside a **Buynaksk Apartment Building**, then claimed an **Apartment Building in Pechatniki**, then obliterated an **Eight-Story Apartment Block on the Kashirskoye Highway**, then a **Nine-Story Apartment Complex in the City of Volgodonsk** -- finally sputtered to a standstill in in the **Basement of an Apartment Building in Ryazan**.

There, on the night of September 22, 1999, an alert citizen saved his own life by calling the local police when he noticed two suspicious men carrying sacks into the building from a car with Moscow license plates. The cops found three hundred-pound sacks of white powder in the basement. A detonator was attached and a timing device set for 5:30 in the morning. The head of the local bomb squad disconnected the devices and tested the white substance with a gas analyzer (MO-2). The substance was identified as Hexogen (RDX), the same military explosive used in each of the previous bombings.

In the subsequent forced evacuation of 30,000 residents through tight roadblocks manned by 1,200 police officers with automatic weapons -- the perpetrators were caught. They quickly produced identification cards from the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB). Their phone records showed that they had called the Moscow office of the FSB immediately upon fleeing the scene.

The Bombers were, in other words, Agents of the Russian Government engaged in the Murder of Russian People, in an Ongoing Campaign of Terror which was Officially Blamed on Rebel Chechens. Nevertheless, they were shortly released.

On September 24, 1999, FSB director Nikolai Patrushev declared that the incident had been a "training exercise" -- and the terrorist bombings abruptly stopped. That same day, the War on Chechnya was launched.



Flashing forward, we might note that the July 7, 2005 **Terrorist Bombings in London** -- **intriguingly replicating a particularly haunting aspect of 9/11** -- were undertaken for real while a **massive “rehearsal” for just such an event**, involving the same locations and the same attack profile was taking place “coincidentally” at **exactly the same time**.

<http://www.julyseventh.co.uk/july-7-terror-rehearsal.html#kirstylang>

Coincidence is a bitch, is it not? And a hypnotic one, at that. For we would have to be hypnotized to believe that the published “proof” of the London Bombers entering the subway to do the deed should be treated as genuine. For instance, as “Hasib Hussain” takes his last steps into the tube, we see his reflected image in the glass wall behind him. But instead of that image showing the back side of his body, like any mirror behind any human truly would, it shows the front side of him again. Whoever executed the digital tweakage of this “evidence” remains a class or two shy of a Photoshop Master rating.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge7ozv7G1w0>

One might wonder also about reports that the “backpack bombs” involved somehow caused the steel floors of the destroyed subway cars to curl upwards in their mangled ruin; or that the government claimed for an hour and a half that a “power surge,” not bombs, was responsible for the throttling of the system; or that the double-decker bus which blew up an hour later in Tavistock Square had been the only such vehicle diverted from its regular route that day, before meeting its explosive demise.

52 people were murdered. 700 were wounded. As was, of course, everyone on the planet who is not directly profiting from the War on Terror.

The Line of Profit in this Newest War can be traced directly from Halliburton/KBR's current, historically huge windfall in Iraq all the way back to its more modest days of profiteering as the Chief Financial Engine of Lyndon Johnson's Political Career.

In a relationship that Launched its Rise to Mega-Power, the company (then known as Brown & Root) was the lucky beneficiary of Johnson's decision to escalate hostilities in Southeast Asia. This escalation by the New President reversed the plans of his recently deceased predecessor, John Kennedy, to withdraw American troops. (Those plans were declassified in the 1990s. See: <http://www.history-matters.com/vietnam1963.htm>).



Johnson, about to be sworn in as President aboard Air Force One on the runway in Dallas, standing between his wife, Lady Bird, and a grief-stricken Jacqueline Kennedy, turns to field a "wink" from his pal, Texas Representative Albert Thomas

Soon -- out of the infamous **Gulf of Tonkin Incident** of August 2 and 4, 1964 (in which the North Vietnamese Navy was reported to have attacked the Destroyers USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy), Johnson would fashion a national television speech announcing his order of **Air Strikes Against North Vietnam**. He announced to our country that "aggression by terror against the peaceful villagers of South Vietnam has now been joined by open aggression on the high seas against the United States of America."

Even as he demanded -- and got -- the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution from Congress, which empowered him to Attack Militarily without a Declaration of War, and to undertake a "surge" that saw troop levels eventually jump from 23,000 to 542,000, Johnson was confiding privately that, "For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there."

An investigation by the NSA in 2005 would conclude -- forty years after the fact -- that “[I]t is not simply that there is a different story as to what happened; it is that **no attack happened** that night. [...] In truth, Hanoi's navy was engaged in nothing that night but the salvage of two of the boats damaged on 2 August.”

The Ultimate Value of the **Gulf of Tonkin False Flag Attack Against America** -- and the Vietnam War it enabled -- may be measured in several ways:

- Ø It taught the American Military that the American Press must never again have access to what is actually occurring in America's Name overseas.
- Ø It cost the lives of 5.1 million Vietnamese and 58,217 Americans.
- Ø It guaranteed that Johnson's lifelong political benefactor, **Brown & Root** -- folded snugly into the Four Corporation Consortium that gobbled up a Solid Decade of No Bid Contracts -- walked away from the jungles of Southeast Asia with **hundreds of millions of dollars in profits**.

Johnson, it turns out, was not done, though his last attempt to redirect history beneath the Winds of Deception would come to naught. It's appropriate, perhaps, to close our **Short History of False Flag Terror** with an episode which also measures.....

The Long Life of a Big Lie:

The Attack on the USS Liberty is just such an episode.



On June 8, 1967 -- the third day of the legendary Six Day War between Israel and the Arab states of Egypt, Jordan and Syria -- the Liberty, a US Navy Spy Ship, was sailing in international waters off the coast of Egypt. The ship prominently flew the Stars and Stripes, and had been identified as American and “friendly” in repeated Israeli flyovers during the previous two days.

Crew members who were sunning themselves on deck were stunned from their reverie at 2:00 pm when several Unmarked Fighter Jets suddenly descended upon them with blazing machine guns and killed many of them instantly.

The jets followed with a heat-seeking missile attack which destroyed the ship's active communication antennas and then began dropping Napalm, stem to stern. An Electronics Technician by the name of Terry Halbardier managed to get off an SOS from an antenna that

had been powered down as the assault began. His message -- **stating that the USS Liberty was under attack by unknown aircraft** -- was picked up by the USS Saratoga and the USS America of the nearby Sixth Fleet, both of which launched jet fighters to come to the ship's rescue.

Before they could reach the Liberty -- fifteen minutes away -- these fighter aircraft were ordered to turn around by US Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, in Washington. Liberty survivor David Lewis, Officer of the Deck (OOD) during the attack, recalls the **amazement of Sixth Fleet Rear Admiral Lawrence Geis at the overriding of his orders:**

"He told me that since I was the senior Liberty survivor on board he wanted to tell me in confidence what had actually transpired. He told me that upon receipt of our SOS, aircraft were launched to come to our assistance and then Washington was notified. He said that the Secretary of Defense (Robert McNamara) had ordered that the aircraft be returned to the carrier, which was done. RADM Geis then said that he speculated that Washington may have suspected that the aircraft carried nuclear weapons so he put together another flight of conventional aircraft that had no capability of carrying nuclear weapons. These he launched to assist us and again notified Washington of his actions.

Again McNamara (*below*) ordered the aircraft recalled. He requested confirmation of the order, being unable to believe that Washington would let us sink. This time President Johnson ordered the recall with the comment that he did not care if every man drowned and the ship sank, but that he would not embarrass his allies."

That the attack was the work of "allies" was not so quickly clear to the Americans fighting to stay alive, since the aircraft portion of the surprise assault had gone on for quite a while. In the words of survivor Phillip Tourney:

"Soon after the jets were done with us we see 3 motor torpedo boats approaching our ship at a high rate of speed. We then learned who our attackers were. We saw 3 flags marked with the Star of David.

We were in shock because the Israelis were supposed to be our allies! We had had no idea who was attacking us until then. The attacking jet aircraft were unmarked.

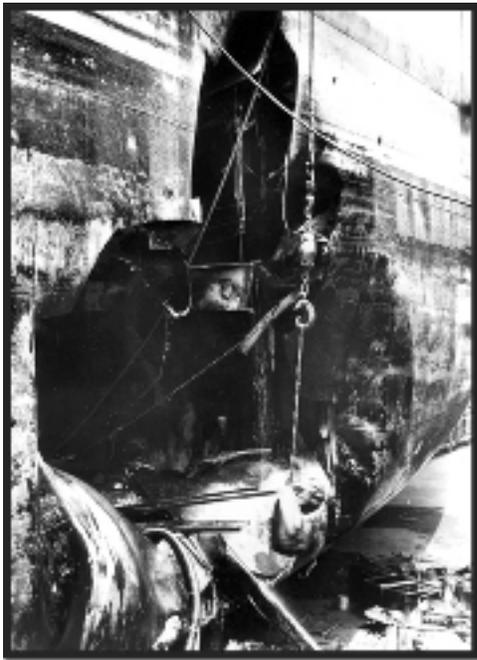
The torpedo boats maneuvered themselves into a torpedo launch attitude, now come the 5 to 6 torpedoes. The captain was doing his best to maneuver the ship to avoid sudden death. The torpedoes whizzed by our ship, forward and aft with 1 hitting its mark, almost dead mid-ships, blowing to bits 25 American heroes who stood their ground below the water line and accepted their fate, doing their duty for the United States Government... "



The attack went on for 75 minutes. Because she took the torpedo hit directly upon a mid-ship brace, the Liberty was spared being cut in half, despite the thirty foot hole in her hull. Afterward, though US aircraft remained fifteen minutes away, the ship -- her seven by thirteen foot American flag riddled with bullet holes -- was left alone and "dead in the water" for more than sixteen hours, as if some demon somewhere were muttering imprecations that she might yet succumb.

She did not.

More than 200 Americans on board, however, had been wounded in the ordeal, and 34 of them would die.



The government of Israel claimed its pilots and torpedo boat captains had believed the Liberty to be the Egyptian vessel "El Quseir" -- a 1920s vintage horse-cavalry transport that was half the Liberty's size -- and called the attack a "tragic mistake."

Former Intelligence Analyst Steve Forslund of the 544th Air Reconnaissance Technical Wing begs to differ. On the day, Forslund was manning the teletype machine behind the sealed vault door at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, as real-time surveilled chatter began rolling in. He remembers:

"The [Israeli] ground control station stated that the target was American and for the aircraft to confirm it. The aircraft did confirm the identity of the target as American, by the American flag... The ground control station ordered the aircraft to attack and sink the target and ensure they left no survivors."

Forslund's statement has been confirmed by James Gotcher, then serving with the USAF Security Service's NSA-linked 6924th Security Squadron, and Air Force Captain Richard Block, who was at the time commanding an intelligence wing of more than 100 analysts and cryptologists actively monitoring Middle Eastern communications.

Oliver Kirby, as the NSA's Deputy Director for Operations at the time, had access to surveillance transcripts of the actual attack, and has spoken pointedly of their content:

“They said, 'We've got him in the zero,' whatever that meant -- I guess the sights or something. And then one of them said, 'Can you see the flag?' They said 'Yes, it's U.S. It's U.S.' They said it several times, so there wasn't any doubt in anybody's mind that they knew it.”

This conclusion was echoed by the Senior Counsel to the USS Liberty Court of Inquiry, US Navy Captain Ward Boston, Jr., JAGC, who had been charged, along with Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, to oversee the Navy's immediate official inquiry into the event.

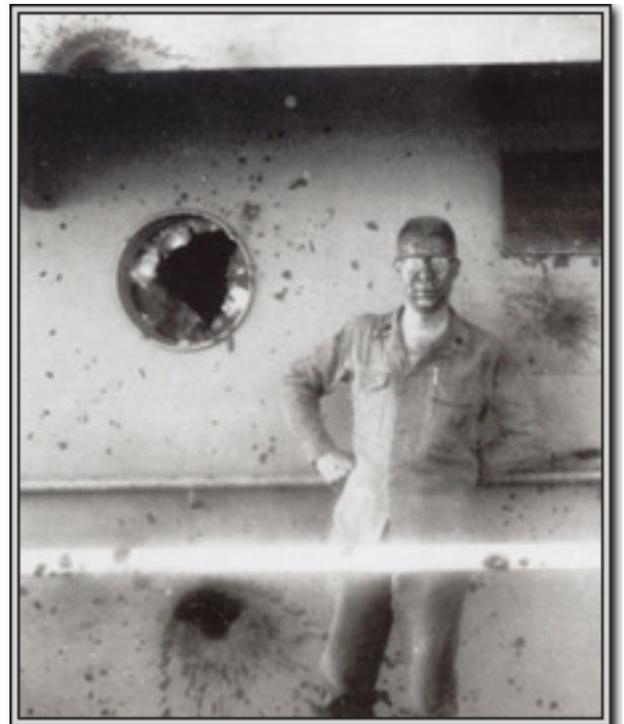
Commander John S. McCain, Jr., Chief of US Naval Forces in Europe (and father of the US Senator), was their superior in the effort. Captain Boston and Admiral Kidd were convinced that a proper Court of Inquiry into an attack of such magnitude would take at least six months to complete, and requested such time from McCain. They were given one week. In a sworn deposition on January 9, 2004, Boston declared:

“For more than 30 years, I have remained silent on the topic of USS Liberty. I am a military man and when orders come in from the Secretary of Defense and President of the United States, I follow them. However, recent attempts to rewrite history compel me to share the truth. [...]

The evidence was clear. Both Admiral Kidd and I believed with certainty that this attack, which killed 34 American sailors and injured 172 others, was a deliberate effort to sink an American ship and murder its entire crew. [...] I am certain that the Israeli pilots that undertook the attack, as well as their superiors, who had ordered the attack, were well aware that the ship was American. [...] Not only did the Israelis attack the ship with napalm, gunfire, and missiles, Israeli torpedo boats machine-gunned three lifeboats that had been launched in an attempt by the crew to save the most seriously wounded -- a war crime. [...]

I know from personal conversations I had with Admiral Kidd that President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ordered him to conclude that the attack was a case of “mistaken identity” despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. [...] [I]t is important for the American people to know that it is clear that Israel is responsible for deliberately attacking an American ship and murdering American sailors, whose bereaved shipmates have lived with this egregious conclusion for many years.”

*In the aftermath,
Staff Sergeant Bryce Lockwood*



Despite four decades of unrelenting suppression, evidence that the **Official Explanation for this Mass Murder is a Brazen Lie** has fairly screamed to be heard.

The Liberty remains the only attack on an American military vessel in our nation's history not to be investigated by Congress. The Navy's own investigation, beyond the aforementioned "one week" time limit imposed upon it, was further hamstrung when the Judge and Counsel were forbidden to even speak with the Israeli pilots involved -- or to anyone in Israel, for that matter. Those American survivors who remained in service to their country were separated from one another in subsequent assignments and threatened with Court Martial if they spoke about their experiences.

Their questions, however, have not gone away.

Why were they attacked? Why is the attack covered up?

Various answers have been floated. Some have speculated that Israel was genuinely bent on removing America's ability to surveil the harsher and more controversial details of its brilliant and devastatingly quick redefinition of the balance of power in the region. Others have argued that President Johnson was actually deeply concerned -- first and foremost -- that Israel not be "embarrassed" by their mistake when he railed that the Liberty should be allowed to sink. But even for a man with Johnson's prodigious appetite for political brutality, this seems a stretch. Especially when one considers that both Johnson and McNamara seemed to know the identity of the Liberty's tormentors even before such knowledge had begun to come to those aboard the ship.

In September of 2003, British journalist Peter Hounam published "**Operation Cyanide**: How the Bombing of the USS Liberty Nearly Caused World War III." The book introduces us to a little-known clique of "hawks" within the Johnson Administration called the "303 Committee," which the late CIA Director Richard Helms described as a "device for examining covert operations of any kind and making a judgment on behalf of the President, so he wouldn't be nailed with the thing, if it failed."

In 1966, that committee fashioned a project called "Frontlet 615," the goal of which was the destruction of Egypt's President, the charismatic Gamal Abdel Nasser. President Nasser, much admired at the time (five million people would mourn him in the streets when he died), was then promoting a new "Pan-Arabism," seeking to inspire a sense of pride and empowerment throughout the region. He was big and getting bigger. He was a builder. And he was every bit a genuine visionary.



As such, Nasser threatened to jeopardize the leadership of America's favorite Arab Partners -- the Saudis. He had also begun to look increasingly to the Soviet Union for financial aid, and the Soviets were seen to have designs on control of the Suez Canal.

Hounam's research indicates that the USS Liberty rescue jets which Lyndon Johnson and Robert McNamara commanded to return on June 8, 1967, were not the only jets they were moved to recall that afternoon. Another squadron was launched in the immediate response to this "unprovoked attack on America" -- a squadron bound for an airbase outside of Cairo.

Stationed at this base were a number of Soviet bombers.

Thus was the US poised to join Israel in her stunning success. But even as these jets were streaking toward Egypt, the Needed Justification for America to "Legitimately" Engage -- the Sinking of the USS Liberty -- was Steadfastly Refusing to Manifest.

Though the Liberty had been a Sitting Duck, barely armed, she was failing to follow the script. She had suffered instant mass casualties inflicted by the surprise machine gun attack. Her communications antennas were supposed to have been taken out. She'd been set ablaze by Napalm and white phosphorus weapons, all the while repeatedly strafed with cannon fire, and targeted by at least five powerful torpedoes, any one of which should have been enough to take her down -- and one of which did in fact score a direct hit, at her very center.

Yet she would not sink.

Three minutes before reaching their target, in **Operation Cyanide's** telling, the Cairo-bound US Jets were recalled, and America remained, officially at least, on the sidelines of the Six Day War.

By keeping her right and fighting to stay afloat, the American sailors who correctly identified their "enemy" that day truly altered history. Had they failed, and the Liberty gone down, Egypt would have taken the blame for her loss.

And much as North Vietnam had been successfully blamed -- at great profit -- for a similar "Attack on America" less than three years previously, the "Arab Aggressors" would have been very thoroughly punished. This time, it was not to be.

Which illustrates that even a country as powerful as the United States cannot depend on the cover of a **False Flag Attack**, if its victims have witnessed the **True Flag Behind It** -- and lived to tell the tale.

Which is not to suggest that such a job gone wrong might easily threaten the apparently inexhaustible will of so many well-trained covert operatives to **Sustain the Big Lie**.

Their continuing business demands it.

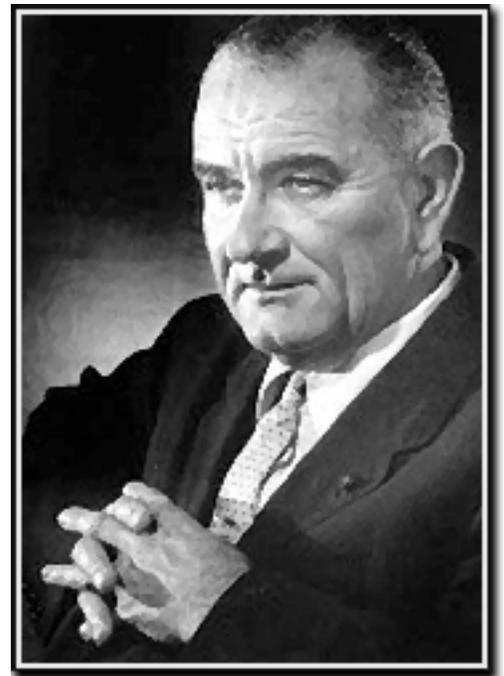
On June 8, 2007, Liberty survivor Lt. James Ennes, Jr. attended a gathering in Virginia which honored his shipmates who died. It was an emotional, quietly observed hour-long ceremony on the banks of the Potomac. Ennes was asked later how it had felt.

“The thoughts that always come back to me -- time and time again -- is that this ‘thing’ is still being covered-up,” he replied, “after forty years.”

The USS Liberty Memorial Website may be accessed at: <http://www.gtr5.com/>

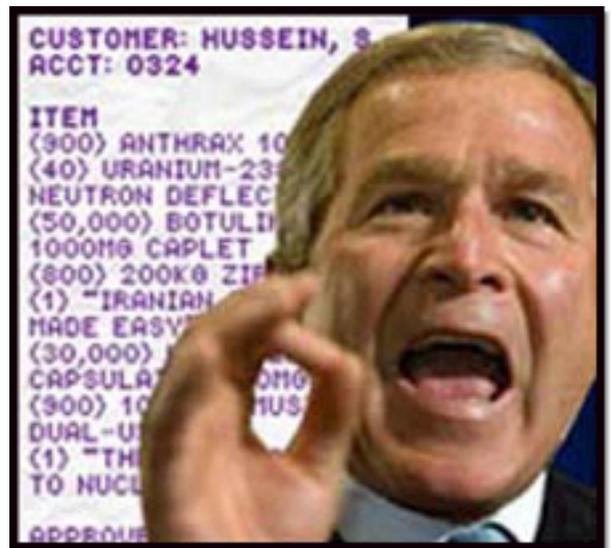
In sum, then, we can see that the **History of False Flag Terrorism** not only reveals how **Commonly Such Events are Used by People in Power to Achieve Political Goals**, but also how **Amazingly Long Lived are the Lies Told to Support Such Deception** -- if we do not know our history. (10.1)

With that in mind, it's interesting to look at the differences between the publicized “threats” we are repeatedly told we face and the details of the actual deeds that follow. When we think about it -- how many times do these post 9/11 stories about “barely thwarted attacks” lead to actual arrests? It is remarkable how often -- and quietly -- they collapse days or weeks or months later into “mistaken assessments” based on “faulty intelligence.” Recall that almost all of us believed Colin Powell's passionate speech before the UN on Saddam's “Weapons of Mass Destruction.” And despite the leak in Great Britain of the “Downing Street Memos” -- which proved the speech was based on lies -- more Americans today believe it was true than they did a year ago. Is more powerful evidence needed that we are simply not paying attention? (10.2)



Contemplate, if you will, the pattern of how such lies are used against us. (10.3)

Begin to pay attention to how consistently a widely publicized “new terror threat” will follow any compelling news about the real world that might give us reason to pause for a moment and consider the actual damage that is piling up around our shredding Bill of Rights; our historically out-of-whack trade deficits; our unprecedented national debt loads; the tens of thousands more Americans that fall beyond the reach of health insurance every single month; the corporate profit-driven outsourcing of millions of middle class jobs which have been promised by virtue of their years of education to our own children; the ominously destabilizing weather all around our planet; and the degree to which our relationships with the other nations of the world have come to be measured by their willingness to acquiesce to the appetites of our corporate masters -- a willingness that is always rendered now in the light of our capacity to destroy them.



“You’re either for us or against us!” comes the blustering schoolyard throw-down out of our leaders’ lockstep mouths -- speaking for the United States of America.

Absent even the faintest acknowledgment of their profit and complicity in the “crisis” the globe must now endure.



Imagine how such threats have landed, all across the human race, coming from the society that has excelled like no other in modern times. The culture of unprecedented opportunity. The last best beacon of hope -- a guiding light to repeated generations of struggling humans, stranded together in the void of space and cursed with the same daunting problems -- but buoyed always by the unshakable confidence of America -- the brightest and most capable of all countries.

What kind of message does it send, from a nation that has done so majestically well for so long? As it is known in every trial-tested life on the planet -- it is his appetite for aggression which betrays the bully’s sense of his inner weakness. And we, the people -- standing by while these angry, insatiable men scream their lust for Total Domination deep into the gathering black -- look away as if to agree:

“Once we were not only powerful -- but great. Great in all the generosity of our promise. A country to be emulated; to be respected and depended upon. Now, we will be feared.”





Cheney's Pals at Halliburton etc. Get Hundreds of Millions in Iraq No-bid Contracts





The hideous irony in this is that the future damage that genuine Jihadism will inflict upon the West is no doubt gathering momentum like a virulent cancer, provoked to metastasize by our brutally misbegotten “liberation” of Iraq.

As the National Intelligence Estimate of April 2006 starkly concluded, the Big Lie that took us to Baghdad has proven to be an engine, rather than a brake, to the spreading threat of Radical Islamic violence. (10.4)

The implications are obvious and staggering:

The centerpiece of Usama bin Laden’s International Call to Jihad has long been his prediction that the United States, driven by greed, was making plans to invade and occupy an oil-rich Muslim country. (10.5)



With patience, wise commitments to real alliance, and the careful, cooperative efforts of multinational police work, we could’ve discredited bin Laden in the eyes of those hundreds of millions of moderate Muslims who want to believe otherwise -- even as we captured him. Instead -- opting for Surgery by Sledgehammer -- we’ve made the man a prophet.

This might be considered stupid in retrospect. But only if capturing bin Laden and eliminating the “threat of terror” were really the goal of the master criminals who conned us, instead, into this Profit Drenched Bloodletting. 9/11 afforded them the opportunity to accomplish their true goals, and relinquishing their stranglehold on power by promoting peace is not among them.

Pouring gasoline on the fire is more like it.



For while the American mass media “protects” us at home from the gory details of what an utterly broken, weapons infested, criminal gang-ridden free-for-all actually looks like, the daily infusion of images of maimed and dying Muslim children that is being force fed into the psyches of millions of young Muslims the world over continues unabated -- and yet to be avenged. (10.6)

This is what they see, beamed into their homes...

Thus, disastrously, does the United States of America conduct the “War on Terror.” Contextualized by the covert Savaging of the Geneva Conventions -- as defined in the torture of captive men and the rape of captive women and children -- and as enabled by the overt and preemptive destruction of a sovereign foreign government. War Crimes, in brazen contravention to the moral imperatives of International Law which have stood for more than a hundred and forty years -- the violation of which has always been held in the highest contempt by America. And this in a time when our leaders seek to cast Radical Islam as “barbaric” in the court of international opinion. (10.7)

So plays out the calculus of the tough talking men who call the shots -- most of whose lives are tellingly unmarked by the personal sacrifice of any military service of their own. And we, the citizens of America, deeply frightened after 9/11, vulnerably ignorant of history, continue even now to abide their lies -- and their heinous, criminal greed.



True masters of shadow play, brilliant in deflective disguise, these men would quietly kill -- even while singing its praises -- that which common Americans hold precious. Such duplicity is a central principle of the political philosophy in which they’ve been trained. They believe and benefit in the process. They have been practicing for decades. (10.8)

If American democracy is to survive the fear driven assault they’ve begun, it is critical that we as citizens stand up and demand accountability from these men. We cannot do so if we do not arm ourselves with knowledge -- from sources beyond their control. We need to read -- to familiarize ourselves with the observations of thoughtful people who speak beyond the interests of Empire. Think. Outside of our comfort zones. Seek -- rather than flee -- differing points of view. Share and compare ideas. And most importantly -- ask questions. Of our media. Of our representatives. Of one another.

Real investigation of the True Scope of the 9/11 Crime and the destabilization of the entire world which has followed in its wake is not only warranted -- it is utterly critical. And the time to act is quickly passing us by.

Our Republic will not stand if we continue to pretend that the wounds now mounting against it are someone else’s business. The reckoning is upon us. And truly, if not for Americans -- who will save America?



**Pyroclastic Flow is observed on the Planet Earth in three contexts:
Volcanic Eruptions,
Undersea Earthquakes,
and Explosive Demolitions.**

Why the Pancake Theory never quite cut it among New Yorkers.

11

To review...

Lincoln's assassination: a conspiracy.

Nurse Nayirah's rage-inducing exposé of the Inhuman Iraqi Baby Killers which came undone upon a closer examination: a conspiracy.

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion: a conspiracy theory which was proven to have been the cruelest hoax in the history of the world; and a hoax which was proven to have been created and promoted by -- a conspiracy.



LBJ with Bobby and Jack

The assassination of John Kennedy (though originally passed off as the terrible deed of a disgruntled "loner," eventually judged by the majority of historians, two congressional investigations and a trail of bloody corpses to have been): a conspiracy.

Which bring us to the "breakthrough" research posted in San Francisco regarding the long rumored connection between Saddam Hussein and Mr. bin Laden. It turns out that both of these evil men were assisted to power and provided with weapons, training, and extensive strategic and political advice during the 1980s, under the direction of one-time CIA Director, one time Vice President, one time President of the United States: the honorable George H. W. Bush. In Saddam's case, it took two CIA sponsored Coups to install him as Iraq's Strongman -- his itchy trigger finger having aborted the first try.

But eventually all three of these Leaders of Lesser Men would settle into a comfortable fluency when it came to that most important of connective issues: Currency. Through the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (or BCCI -- famous for its dirty role in the Iran-Contra Scam and the preferred money launderer of drug and arms traffickers, financial fraud artists, corrupt officials, dictators and terrorists the world over), the three leaders shared more than a common deposit slip. Beyond his weapons, Usama got a Life Lesson in Black Market Finance; Saddam got a 15% Cut Off the Top of his multi-billion BCCI weapons loans; and the elder Bush got to bring BCCI to the rescue of young Dubya's Struggling Oil Company just before it went Belly Up. Even the Saudis behind BCCI did well: Something close to \$15 billion went missing in the chaos of the bank's collapse. (11.1)



President Bush Sr. has more recently been drawing his "big bank" from the Weapons Selling Carlyle Group, where the business of making war -- as the bin Laden family itself can attest -- has always been the best kind of business. (11.2)

Chaos, as always -- the favored state to obscure wrongdoing. Thus chaos, as always, in history's telling ledger -- the tried and true midwife to the birth of a lock down tyranny.

As a point to make in summation of the above historical judgments, we might want to ponder the fact that over the course of the last sixty-five years or so, there have been 92 actual or attempted Coups d'Etat among the countries of the world -- quite a few of which did not result in someone later reporting the involvement of the CIA. (11.3)

But even aside from the obvious exceptions to that statement -- such as the JFK assassination, the toppling of the Prime Minister of Iran and the Installation of the Shah in 1953, the overthrow of the Iraqi government in 1963, the second coup in Iraq in 1968, the coup in Chile in 1973, the murder of hundreds of government officials in the 1980s by the US financed Contras in Nicaragua, the 48 hour failed coup in Venezuela in 2002, and so forth -- it might be useful to note that not a single one of these 92 undertakings was the work of less than two people. Which means that every single one of them involved -- to employ a term almost guaranteed to invite ridicule -- a conspiracy.

#

Which brings to mind -- a question.

When did the word "conspiracy" become automatically joined in the popular psyche to the word "theory?" Despite the fact that any time two or more people plan to do anything they know to be wrong -- an actual conspiracy has occurred; and despite the fact that criminals throughout the land are charged, tried, and convicted of conspiracy on a daily basis -- it has become impossible in the current culture to utter the word "conspiracy" without the word "theory" attaching itself like a string of dancing tin cans clattering down the highway behind our favorite newlyweds' mythical limo.

Who among the political thought police first imagined the permanent melding of these two concepts into such a lethal tool of instant dismissal? It's a remarkable accomplishment, and one would hope somebody got a medal for it. Just utter the mantra (seven magic syllables that roll off the tongue -- there's even a "hiss" in it) and we are immediately granted a pass from having to form conscious thoughts about other, more numerous and unpleasant syllables that might be spilled in our direction by some troubled, unpleasant person standing well outside the parameters of pleasing conversation. Thank God for the shelter of instant "CT" thought ejection.

But of course, in post twentieth century America, it's really not that hard anymore to find ways to stick our fingers in our ears, so to speak. It's almost a matter of necessity, given the constant racket that assaults us.





True, shutting out as much unpleasantness as possible might make it easier for well-focused forces to pull a fast one on us. But what else can we do? It's just gotten so damn hard to keep up with it all. Who can take the time or risk the trouble to look at the men behind the curtain? Like the Wiz told our beloved Dorothy: "Pay no attention..."

Fine with us. We'd rather not, anyway. We scramble like crazy just to deal with what gets thrown at us already -- day in and day out.

And regarding that one particular, horribly traumatic day which knocked us so far off balance that we'll probably never feel the same again -- why not just accept the myth of it, and stay in line: The only reason our well-meaning leaders couldn't find a way to respond against the enemy on 9/11, which

meant that all those Americans had to die, right in front of our eyes, is that our well-meaning government is, you know, really inefficient. Who would even think to argue?

Hasn't it already been accepted as history?

It feels like it has been. It feels like a bad dream that came true, from which you want to wake up, but somebody keeps pushing you back down in the dark, speaking in hypnotic tones and trying to make what isn't real about it seem insignificant.....

"Do not fret, children. It just so happened that on 9/11 all our top military leaders assumed that an airliner crashing into the World Trade Center had to be an accident. What else were they supposed to suspect?

Those warnings from all those other countries about imminent attack? About terrorists flying planes into buildings? And the year before, when the President slept on a riverboat in Germany for three nights because German Intelligence got warnings he was going to be targeted by terrorists flying a plane into his hotel? And the Al-Qaeda turncoat who told the FBI in April 2000 he'd been training to fly a plane into a building? And Attorney General John Ashcroft who stopped flying on commercial jets a couple of weeks before? And all the Pentagon brass that canceled their flight plans the night before September 11th..... ?

Our leaders thought every one of those details was sort of like..... a coincidence.

That's why they kept on doing the important meetings and photo ops they had previously planned for that morning, instead of jumping to duty when the attacks began, which they no doubt would've done, had they only understood. (11.4)

The Laws of Physics do not allow for such massive structures to disappear at the speed of free-fall, you say? Unless assisted by the application of an external source of disintegrating energy?

Where'd you get that notion? The formula is widely published throughout the world and free for anyone to compare to the videos, you say? Cheesh. We're talking fanatical Muslims here, kids. Didn't you read the program? Muslims have no respect for the Laws of Physics -- so why, in the name of God, would you?

And those stories somebody told you they thought they might've heard about the firemen and the policemen and the medical technicians and the survivors and the victims and the reporters and the eyewitnesses that morning who all reported powerful, repeated explosions going off -- in and below the towers during the rescue effort? And the video that recorded the sounds of those explosions? And the video of the smoke coming up from the towers' basements after many of those explosions? And the video of the flashing "cutter" charges going off like white hot firecrackers within and below the towers' plunging disintegration waves? They were all just mistakes and optical illusions and auditory anomalies. We'll explain what they thought they saw and heard later. (11.5)

And those other videos of the tops of the towers exploding wildly into massive clouds of microscopic dust -- massive chunks of steel beams hurled sideways like darts into buildings four hundred feet away? No need to keep watching those. We'll come up with a theory for that -- and you can bet your bottom dollar it won't be a conspiracy theory. No one around here could ever pull off anything so cunning as blowing up those buildings.

That would take professionalism and a selfish, iron will and a blatant disregard for the laws of our country.

The third building that fell?

What third building...?



Oh.....



Building 7.

Tenants: CIA. IRS. SEC. Department of Defense. Secret Service. \$23 Million NYC Emergency Management Command Bunker etc.

47 Stories. Steel framed. Didn't get hit by a plane.

Yeah, well we know the owner seemed to be admitting on TV that they brought it down on purpose because it seemed like the "smartest thing to do" under the circumstances would be to "pull it," just like the demolition guy said later in the same show about "getting ready to 'pull' Building 6"-- which would mean that Building 7 was pre-wired with explosives -- and then Building 7 imploded and fell 47 stories into its own footprint in 6.5 seconds like it had been pre-wired with explosives -- after giant sounds of explosions were heard on video coming from inside Building 7 and explosive squibs were seen on video ejecting from it -- but obviously just because he said that was going to happen and we saw that happen and heard that happen doesn't mean... that's what actually happened. (11.6)

And yeah, the BBC might've overreacted when they yanked their live feed from New York just five minutes before the demolition. But you'd have been embarrassed, too, if you'd already announced the event; and your reporter on the scene was going on and on about how sad it was that yet another building had collapsed -- the third skyscraper to perish on this horrible day, she reminded us -- with the actual building itself still standing there unbroken, strangely yet to disappear, looming directly behind her as if in defiant protest -- even as she eulogized it. Can't you just imagine the frantic transatlantic phone calls? (11.7)

"You damned morons! You can't have the frigging building collapse live on international television twenty-three minutes after you've announced its collapse! It's supposed to be spontaneous! Cut the damned feed NOW!

The insurance policy? Hot Dang, children -- you are working way too hard here!

So what if the owner took it out just six weeks before the attacks and he may now be asking for the whole seven billion dollar payoff? That's just good business! He had fourteen million of his own money in the trade center! And so far the courts have only awarded about five billion in compensation so there's really no reason to suspect that the demolitions might've actually..... had any..... (11.8)

Tell you what. We'll get back to you on that, too."

Or so it seems we are told, though without benefit of so many words. Because truly, no serious questions about any of these preposterously discrediting problems with the Massive Coincidence Theory at the heart of the tragedy have ever been asked of our "leaders." And therefore, answers have not been required. (11.9)

A truer version of the core message delivered to people with questions goes more like this: Anybody who doubts the official story of this tragic Crime Against Freedom is not only a pathetic conspiracy theorist -- but a traitor as well.

Which is no doubt why the only people to have been fired or demoted in the aftermath are those who said, "Wait a minute..."

No one in a position of authority was held accountable.

No one.

It's enough to make you stop and think.

And read. [\(11.10\)](#)



The Windsor Building endured a fire that ravaged 88% of its floors and burned for an entire day. Yet it, like every other burning steel-framed building in the history of the world except for -- the THREE -- on 9/11, did not fail.

Now, having studied the long-delayed report of the 911 Commission, and the joke that was FEMA's pass ("the scenario we herein provide has only a low probability of having actually occurred, blah blah blah") and the tortured pretzel logic of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's absurd attempt to avoid anything remotely resembling scientific method or non-manipulated, empirical truth -- I, personally, have come to realize -- no one ever had any intention of "getting back to us."

Each of the above exercises mixed a variety of compelling and verifiable facts into a smokescreen of tangents designed to distract us from the unanswered questions that really matter:

Who was actually behind 9/11? How did they pull it off? Why were we so utterly helpless in the face of it?

As a rule -- these questions have remained unasked when possible; unanswered when asked; and solved by lies when a response was forced.

For example -- as we skim the highlights of the NIST's report, to which many a fire fighter's widow must have turned for the answer to the same haunting question her husband was facing as he died:

*Why did this building do
what no other steel building in history has ever done?*

After performing its forensic duties, the NIST investigators noted (and the press ignored) that only 2% of the steel remnants from the towers had been heated above 250°C.

And that they could find no steel that had been heated above 600°C. Which is:

770°C cooler than the melting point -- 1370°C -- of such steel and
500°C cooler than the temperature -- 1100°C -- such steel could be softened
sufficiently to be susceptible to sagging -- if exposed for several hours.

The NIST further noted that the hottest portions of the fires were of short duration (the south tower went from whole to gone in 56 minutes) a finding consistent with the early darkening of the smoke (which indicates cooling) that was widely observed.

Adding these findings to the fact that non-pressurized hydrocarbon fires, such as those attending jet fuel, cannot possibly burn hotter than 825°C -- and nowhere near that hot if diffused, as all visual and forensic evidence attested these fires were -- the NIST's own published August 2003 metallurgical study of the towers stated that it was prepared to

"rule out weak steel as a contributing factor in the collapse."

And yet, in its final report, issued fourteen months later in October of 2004, with no new data having arisen, and the deaths of 3,000 American citizens still awaiting justice.....

.... the NIST went ahead and ignored its own findings and

ALLOWED THE LIE --

THAT FIRE SOMEHOW CAUSED 200,000 TONS of STRUCTURAL STEEL

TO DISINTEGRATE IN SECONDS --

TO STAND.

(11.11)

And that is the way this damnable game has gone. Repeatedly, every which way one looks, and ever since that day: the United States Government has lied about 9/11.

The question is therefore forced: Why?

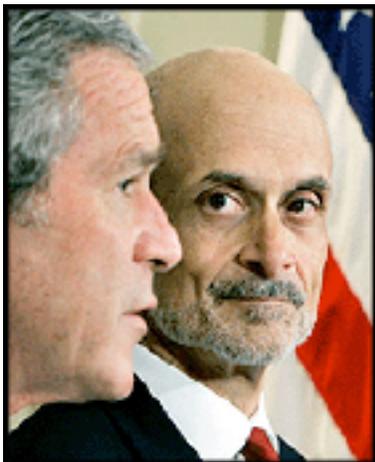
Some people point to the *Popular Mechanics* issue which seeks to debunk the “poisonous claims” of the 9/11 truth movement. The cover story (now a book and soon a comic book) was put together by Benjamin Chertoff (who was installed in the job just before the attacks, and who, while we’re on the subject of lying, then tried to pretend he is not related to the CEO of the biggest new growth industry in America -- his cousin Michael, the Chairman of the Department of Homeland Security).



The issue takes a mighty swing at the growing tide of skepticism that is “sadly... seeping into mainstream America.” In the introduction to the magazine’s article, James Meigs (also installed just prior to 9/11), holds forth as follows:

...the American people have questioned why we were caught off guard and have demanded to know the whole story behind the events of that terrible day. But as a society we accept the basic premise that a group of Islamist terrorists hijacked four airplanes and turned them into weapons against us. Sadly, the noble search for truth is now being hijacked by a growing army of conspiracy theorists.

Right there, I began to suspect I was not gonna find answers in the pages of *PM*, since the single most offensive aspect of the entire 9/11 nightmare is the fact that our government has so obviously and willfully defaulted on its promise, as stated by our President (*below with Michael Chertoff*), to get to the bottom of the “whole story” -- the “noble search for truth” that even the condescending Meigs cites as the American people’s right to demand. (11.12)



Thousands and thousands of independent researchers all over the world have reordered their lives and spent money, time, and little chunks of their health in an effort to answer the questions our government hasn’t even bothered to ask.

Imagine a friend of Dick Cheney’s, a military guy perhaps, having a brewski with the veep after a tough week, and casually asking, “Dickster, my man, are you aware that no steel-framed building ever in the history of the world was brought down by fire -- except for that one on 9/11? And that second one on 9/11? And that... third one? If there wasn’t another angle to it -- how could that be possible?” (A question, by the way, that *Popular Mechanics*, preferring easier, wackier targets, does not touch.)



Mr. Meigs (*left*) brands the people who ask such questions “extremists” and accuses them of “disgracing the memories of the thousands who died that day.”

Before he utters another syllable about disgrace, Mr. Meigs needs to spend some serious, contemplative time looking at himself in a mirror.

Breaking the bottom.
Obliterating
everything else.

Floor detonations
delayed at
75 milliseconds.
Core detonations
delayed at
300 milliseconds.
Scenario of a free-fall
speed pulverization,
which was -- though
profoundly effective as
"SHOCK AND AWE"
-- a mistake.

In a free-fall speed failure
such as the one at right,
the Laws of Physics
require the controlled
application of powerful,
destructive energy
to overcome the
building's resistance to
its own disintegration.
This energy must be
powerful enough to
eliminate the resistance of
every floor BEFORE
the floor above it arrives.

If ANY floor encounters
ANY resistance, failure
cannot occur at
the speed observed.

The 9/11 Commission
did not even attempt to
reconstruct the event --
except to say that it
lasted "ten seconds" --
thereby avoiding its duty
to define the source of the
energy that caused it.



Not yet half-way down, and it is clear there will be no stack of "pancakes" at the bottom. Nor will any portion of the massive core be standing, though there was nothing above it but the middle of the roof. The smoke of the last basement explosions, however -- the ones that caused the building to begin to "moan," and hundreds of onlookers to begin running away from the area in sudden anticipation of the calamity to come -- is clearly visible rising from the street below.

Whereas such past tragedies as the Challenger Disaster, the sinking of the Titanic, and the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor generated government investigations that began within a week of the event, it took the Bush Administration 441 days to launch the 9/11 Commission, which it had vigorously fought to avoid.

That they finally allowed even the pretense of an investigation is a testament to the dogged insistence of a small group of 9/11 families who refused to take the offered financial recompense and call it a day. These people represent a class of Americans whose tragedy-forged sense of justice has moved them beyond the reach of hush money. You can get to know them -- a profound pleasure -- in the DVD: *9/11 Press for Truth*. (11.13)

They are pressing for answers to the haunting questions that surround their loved ones' untimely deaths, and they have practically had to gang tackle the leaders of our government into making an effort to answer those questions.

Kristin Breitweiser, a registered Republican who voted for President Bush in 2000, was horrified to learn of the overwhelming number of sources that had provided government leaders with specific warnings about "planes as weapons" before 9/11, upon which our leaders did not act. Remarkably, no one even picked up a phone, though the predicted scenario was very obviously unfolding.

"My husband was in Tower II. If he knew that it was a terrorist attack, he wouldn't have stayed in the building."



The seriousness of the "effort" our elected officials finally came up with can be summed up by a single claim: According to the Commission's Final Report, the government's failure to pin down the identity of whoever put up the money that paid for 9/11 -- the most heinous crime ever committed against the United States -- was not important.....

In the commission's own words,
the identity of the unknown financiers was
"of little practical significance....."

Call me crazy. I would think the identity of the people who put up that money might actually be quite significant. What we all know, though we never hear it said out loud, is that we were the victims of a vicious conspiracy that day, one that did not remain a theory. What we do not know -- and therefore still need to learn -- is who in hell was really behind it. Whoever paid for such monstrosity would seem -- to me -- to be a good place to start looking. Call me crazy.

But don't insult me.



On Condoleezza Rice's recommendation, the Bush administration brought in her erstwhile writing partner -- Philip Zelikow -- to oversee the findings of the 9/11 Commission. (11.14)

Dr. Zelikow's qualifying credentials?

He is acknowledged to be among the world's greatest experts in a process he has described as:

The Creation and Maintenance of Public Myths.

Excuse me.....

Is it possible to arrange some face time with this man? Alone in a room?

I'm an American. My life has been changed. My children will grow up in a world much more threatening than the one that existed the day before this happened. I'm paying very close attention now. And I'm damn sure gonna ask myself:

What are the odds that all of the amazingly unfortunate circumstances that had to come together on that fateful morning to create the complete lack of meaningful response demonstrated by those in our government sworn to protect us can actually have been coincidental?

Slim to none -- that's what those odds are.

My duty to my country, therefore, will not allow me to quit seeking some semblance of the truth, despite the fact that the only way to approach it at the beginning of what is proving to be a difficult journey -- is with a "theory."

Though it is a cold, sobering fact that it is impossible for those of us at this distance to solve the whole puzzle of what truly happened, it does not follow that we should therefore surrender to an explanation for it that we can easily understand to be riddled with lies. Morally, we are not allowed that luxury.



As they approached the fifth year of their catastrophic ordeal, Iraqi citizens were being slaughtered at the rate of 120 a day. At least six hundred thousand human beings have now died in Afghanistan and Iraq. (11.15) And there is no way yet to count those who will die in the coming years due to the seeds of rage such brutality has planted in the hope-killing psychic wounds of the bloodshed -- bloodshed which continues even as we read these words.

Thousands of young American men and women have come back home in coffins, and we rarely hear even a passing reference to the tens of thousands of Americans who've survived horrific events with horrific injuries to their brains (the majority of our wounded) from which there will never be a complete recovery. (11.16)

Countless more lives among the people who loved these people have been scarred forever because of what we, in America, were told was done to us on 9/11, and by whom.

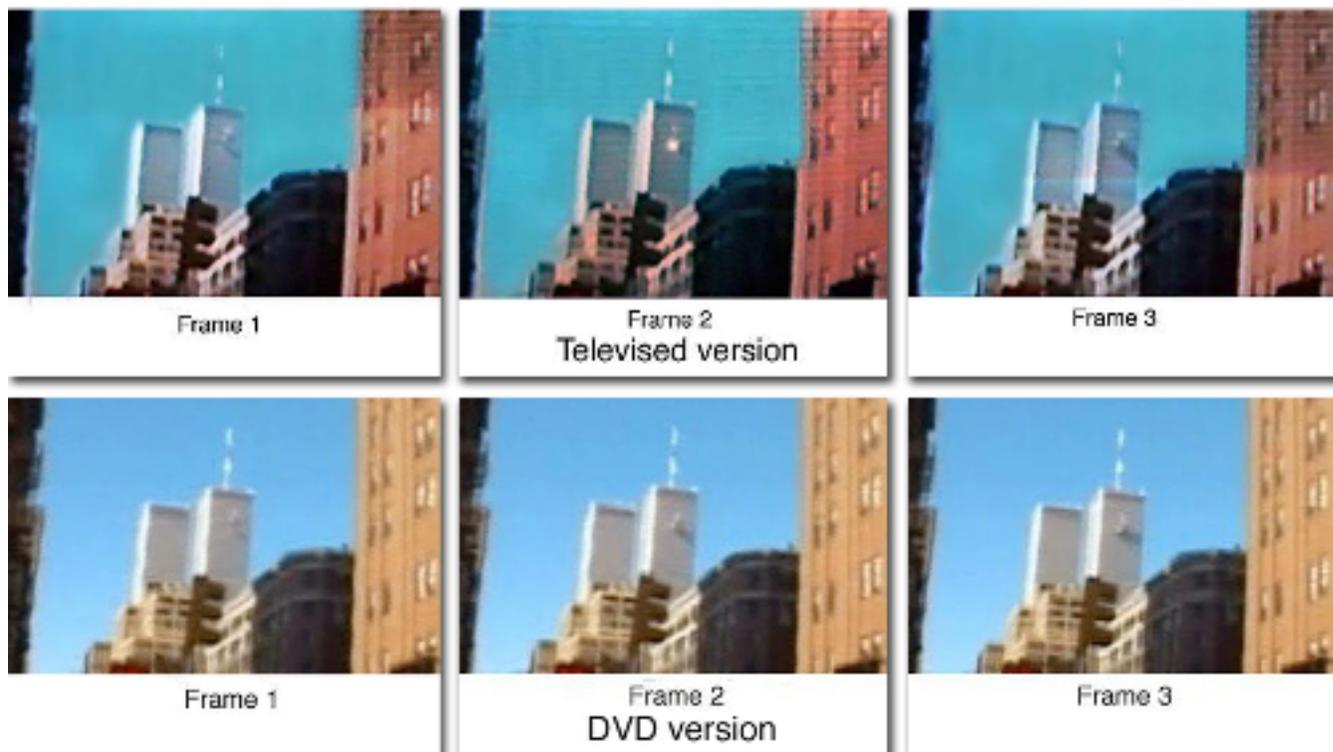
Whereas our leaders claimed they couldn't protect us from such sneaky Muslim fanatics as the ones who "got us," they were easily able to tell us -- almost instantly -- who the "evil-doers" were, and how they did it.

To an overwhelming degree -- almost all of us believed what we were told.

Myself included.

Yet from that day forward, those same leaders and their appointed "investigators" have presided over a campaign of lies, lawlessness and suppression that could not possibly have been necessary -- had they simply been telling us the truth.

In conclusion -- may we take one last pass at these most glaring nuggets of wonder....



At the instant the Second Plane (next page) touched the steel columns of the South Tower, a sharp, fiery flash was seen to emanate from the tip of its nose cone. Defenders of the Official Story have denied this, though the flash was recorded by many cameras.

When confronted by the images, official denials have turned into dismissals:
The flash must be a "reflection," or "static electricity."

And yet, a similarly bright explosion of energy occurred as the First Plane (above) touched the North Tower, as well. It was clearly observed in the Naudet Brothers' documentary footage of the attack which appeared on television throughout the world on September 12th. Interestingly, the frame which shows the flash (top row, center) was scrubbed to eliminate it by the time the film was released on DVD.

Why was the image altered?

Was it evidence of the presence of a nozzle? As might be attached to an airplane which had been converted into a re-fueling tanker, like the fleet of such planes reported to have been leased by PNAC member Dov Zakheim?

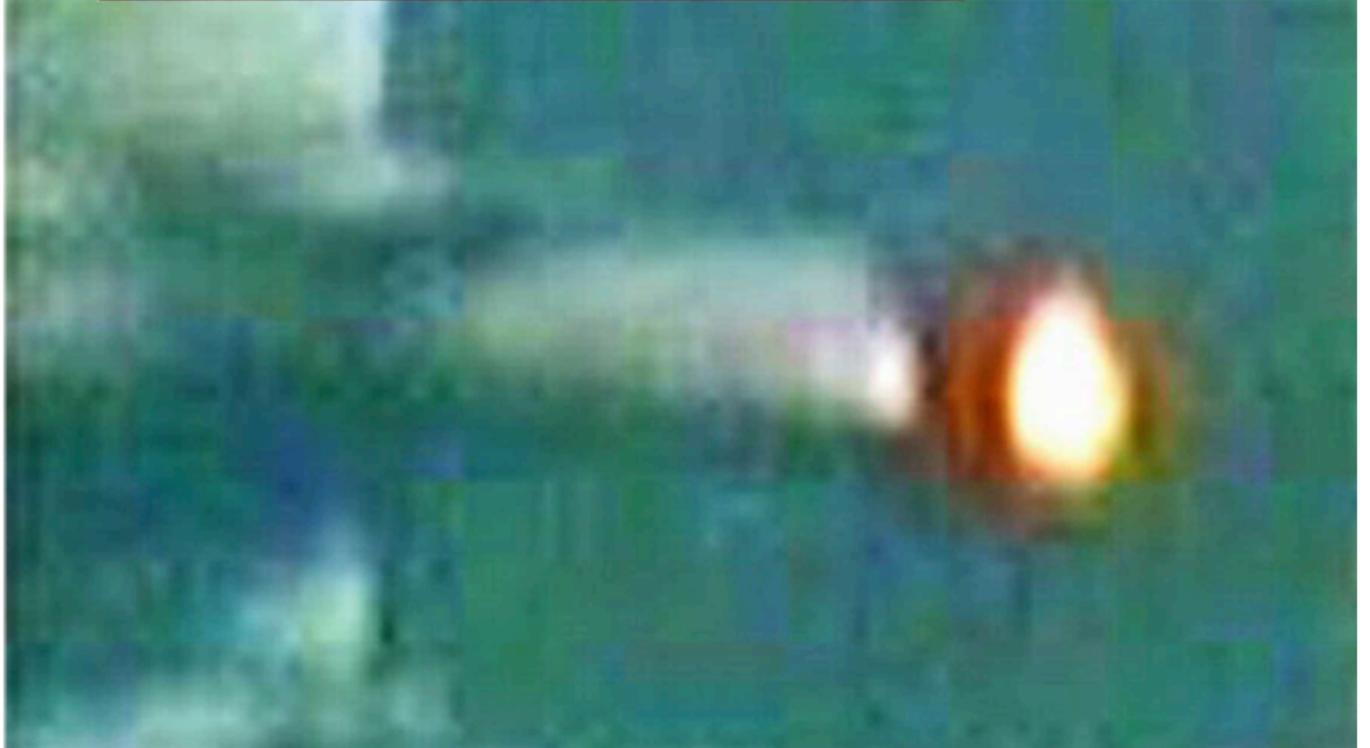
Or are these flashes related to those which emanated later from the helicopter seen hovering in the smoke above the South Tower in the DVD, 911 Eyewitness?

Flashes which were followed -- almost instantaneously -- by the disintegration of the building.



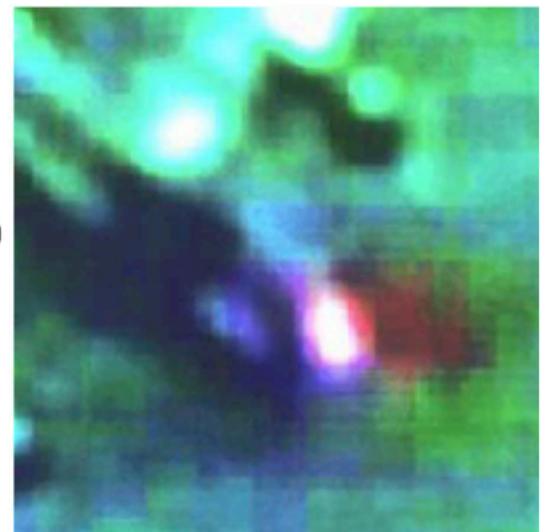


The Second Plane



By some observers -- familiar with physics and electromagnetic weapons -- this effect has been dubbed the 'Scalar Flash' or the 'Garage Door Opener,' in honor of the possibility that it is related to the airplane's capacity to seemingly melt (top left and right) into the building, rather than collide with it.

Defenders of the Official Story have instead held that there was no flash; just as there was no object attached to the bottom of the plane, an object which did not, therefore, cast its own shadow on the preceding page.



At 8:13 am on September 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 11 was instructed by air traffic controllers to climb to 35,000 feet. The plane did not obey and its transponder was turned off, which immediately tagged it as a possible hijacking and should have triggered the scrambling of military jets. At 8:25 controllers were hearing "Don't try to make any stupid moves" from the cockpit, yet NORAD claims it was not notified until 8:40 that the plane had been hijacked. At 8:46 it crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

This fact and the fact that a second plane was now incommunicado, wildly off course and also heading for Manhattan, and that a third plane had abruptly turned around over Ohio and was flying back toward Washington, DC was now known to the FAA, NORAD, the National Military Command Center, the Pentagon, the White House, the Secret Service, Canada's Strategic Command, and the man pictured to the right: the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States.



Though such an attack had been explicitly predicted – the Commander chose to stick to his previously scheduled "soft event:" a photo op to promote a reading initiative among second graders in a Sarasota, Florida classroom.

At 9:03 am, seventeen minutes after the onset of the most terrifying sequence of wounds ever inflicted upon the citizens of his country – in an attack that had been widely and urgently predicted – the Commander entered the classroom to sit among the children. Almost simultaneously, United Flight 175 slammed into the South Tower. Seconds later, the Commander's aide, Andrew Card, whispered in his ear that America was "under attack."

In the White House, Secret Service Agents were at this moment grabbing Dick Cheney by the belt and speeding him to "safety" in the basement bunker. Though the Commander, in Florida, was appearing live on local television, surrounded by innocents in a location that had been publicized steadily for four days – and though the classroom where he sat pondering the concept of "airplanes as weapons" was situated three and a half miles from an airport – he did nothing. Nor, in an unprecedented violation of sworn protocol, did the Secret Service Detail assigned to protect him.

The minutes ticked away, even as Americans in New York were choosing suicide over their continuing agony. Two more minutes of student recitation of "My Pet Goat" became five, then seven.

The press was dismissed, but the crisis could wait. The Commander lingered, chatting up the seven year olds, cracking wise and posing for photos. Even the conservative journalist Bill Sammon, who would later write a fawning piece on the President's "cool under fire," had to chide him at one point for behaving like the "Dawdler in Chief."

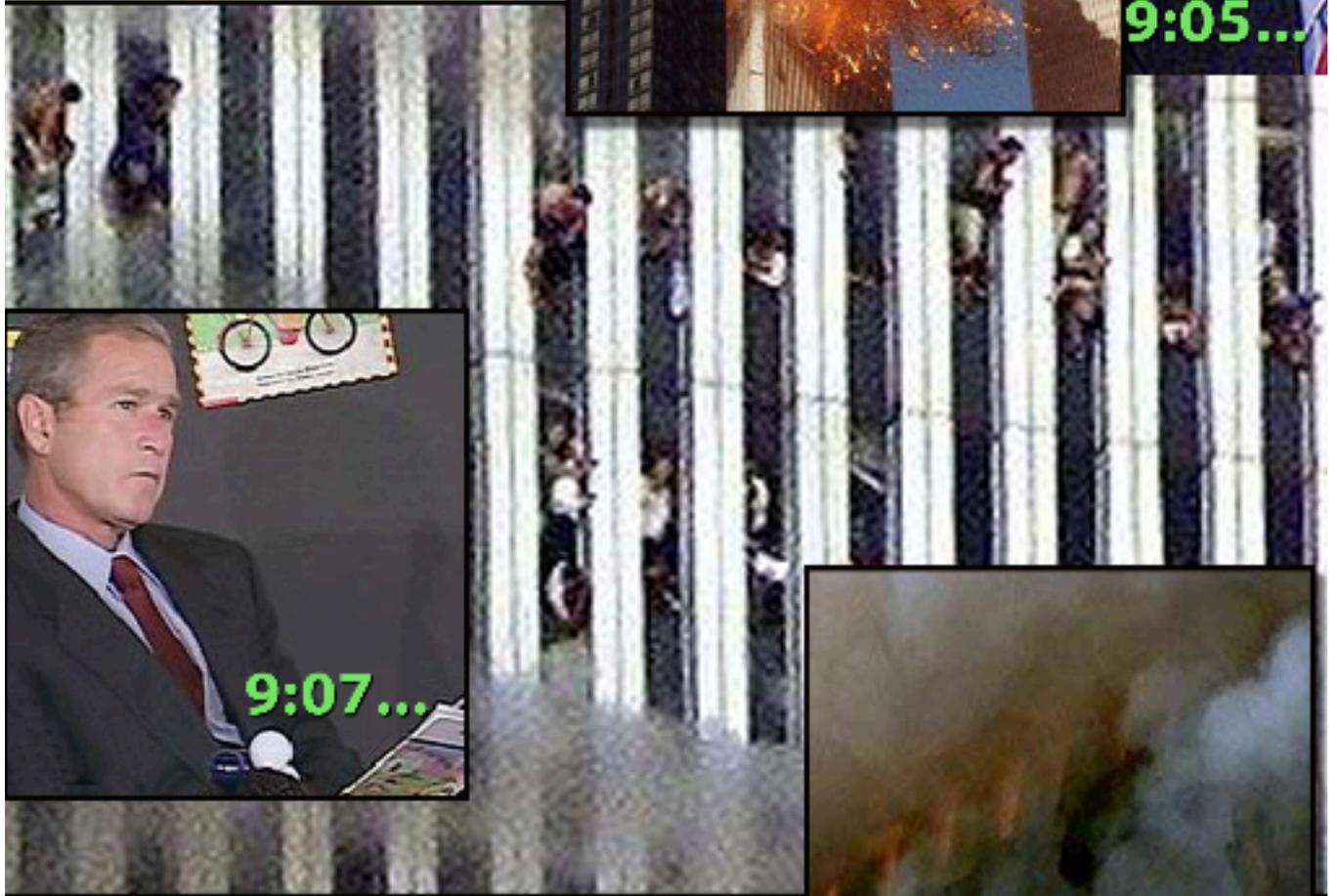
At 9:30, still seemingly oblivious to the mortal danger his continuing presence constituted for all those somber children gathered behind him, the Commander made a short speech from the school.

Then he made his way back to Air Force One, took off, and began to fly in circles for the next several hours, while Dick Cheney managed America's response to the Attack on Freedom. The story was floated that the Commander had to stay away from Washington because Air Force One was targeted. It was revealed as a lie within days – but no matter. The fact that no one had bothered to call for fighter jets to protect the Commander's plane was already more revealing of the truth. Military escorts finally showed up two and a half hours later.

In the weeks to come, the Commander and his aides would offer lie upon lie to take the stink off their recollections of this inexplicable behavior. Even the classroom teacher would chime in – claiming the President never heard the children's lesson because duty had claimed him. Andrew Card: "When he heard, he left within seconds." Two American reporters who were present wrote differently of the Commander's actions on the day. Both were fired.

But Sammon's book *Fighting Back: The War on Terrorism*, Michael Moore's film *Fahrenheit 911* and Allen Woods & Paul Thompson's piece *Bush on 9/11: An Interesting Day* (http://www.williambowles.info/911/interesting_day.html) finally arrived to do that troublesome duty that liars hate so much. They revealed what had really happened – and what had not. Thus begging, one more time, the obvious, unasked question: Why?

At 8:13, the "Attack on America" began with the hijacking of an airplane – an act that had been repeatedly and explicitly predicted in reports from eleven countries which included the words "suicidal" and "multiple." At 8:46, the first Americans died.....



Seventeen minutes later, having been informed, and with the Secret Service standing by, the "Commander in Chief" sat down in a classroom full of seven year olds, three and a half miles from an airport..... and did not move.



The reasons for this, like so much about the tragedy, remain untold.

But these are among the things we know.....

- Ø Numerous high-ranking government authorities (George Bush, Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice, Richard Meyers, and Donald Rumsfeld among them) lied about their reasons for inaction (“we couldn’t imagine planes used as weapons”) though they’d been repeatedly and explicitly warned of exactly that. (12.1)
- Ø On the evening of 9/11 Bush stated to all of America:

"Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C. to help with local rescue efforts." (12.2)
- Ø At a Town Hall Meeting in Orlando Florida on December 4, 2001, Bush stated:

"Actually I was in a classroom talking about a reading program that works. And I was sitting outside the classroom waiting to go in, and I saw an airplane hit the tower -- the TV was obviously on, and I used to fly myself, and I said, "There's one terrible pilot." And I said, "It must have been a horrible accident." But I was whisked off there -- I didn't have much time to think about it." (12.3)
- Ø Again at a town meeting in Ontario, California in January 2002, Bush:

"First of all, when we walked into the classroom, I had seen this plane fly into the first building. There was a TV set on. And you know, I thought it was pilot error and I was amazed that anybody could make such a terrible mistake. And something was wrong with the plane." (12.4)

These second and third statements make the first statement into a lie -- of course.

In which case the Presidential Lying had begun within hours of the Crimes.

But the video the President claims to have seen of the first plane’s attack did not -- of course -- appear on television until the following day. So unless he saw some Live Secret Service Video Feed of the 9/11 Operation in his Presidential Limo..... these second and third Bush statements about his actions were lies as well.
- Ø Authorities lied about standard air defense protocols, claiming intervention was not a process typically undertaken, attempting to suppress the simple fact that military jets had been scrambled and errant flights diverted 129 times in the year 2000 and 67 times in a nine month period prior to 9/11. (12.5)

- Ø They lied about being unable to locate the crucial, data-recording black boxes from the hijacked planes, even though the boxes are almost never irretrievable, and even though the workers in New York City who conducted the searches told reporters exactly where and when the boxes had been found. (12.6)
- Ø They destroyed audio and data tapes recorded by the air traffic controllers who handled the New York flights. (12.7)
- Ø They scrubbed the crime scenes even as they denied funds, access, manpower and time to investigators and attempted to dispose of the evidence before it could be analyzed forensically -- in direct contravention of federal law. (12.8)
- Ø They lied about the hideously toxic, asbestos, dioxin, benzene and glass laden sub-micronic dust infusing the rubble piles after the attacks, thus ensuring that the men and women who did the cleanup would face the early ruination of their health.

These men and women endured week after week of close exposure to the poisonous smoke emanating from the molten pools of steel, titanium, vanadium, lead and nickel (a metal not present in the buildings but an end product of fuel-oil combustion) that burned beneath all three towers for more than three months.

Though these fires suspended metals in the air at levels never before recorded in the United States, the Bush Administration convinced the EPA to officially declare that the air was “safe” to breathe. Authorities followed up this reckless and deceitful manipulation of thousands of grieving, generous Americans by turning a deaf ear to the pleas for assistance of the earliest victims among them -- as their failing health led to the loss of their jobs and then their medical insurance.



Though these first responders have now fallen prey to a full-blown epidemic of life-threatening respiratory illness and early-onset cancers -- and have now begun to die in otherwise inexplicably high numbers -- no one -- even to this day -- has been held accountable for the vicious, murderous lie embedded in this largely unexamined chapter of the 9/11 crime. (12.9)

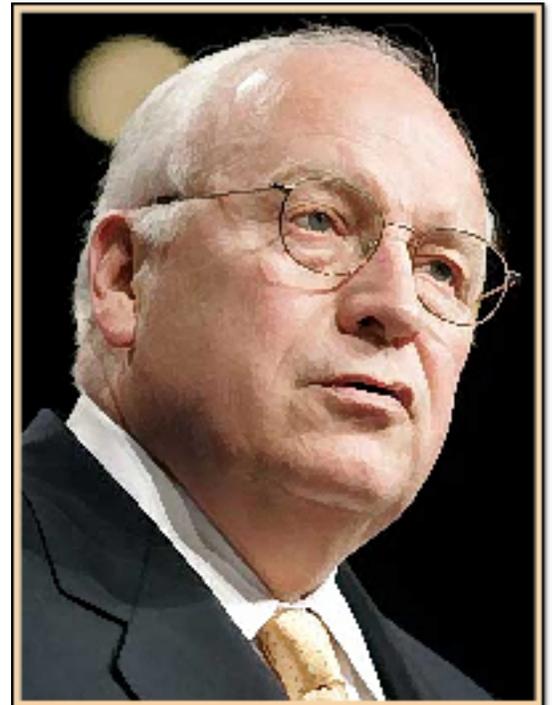
- Ø Authorities quietly disposed of the US government stocks of the same strain of Anthrax that was sent by the “terrorists” to the Democratic Senator who questioned the wisdom of adopting the Patriot Act without even reading it, and then to the Democratic Senator who publicly demanded that Attorney General Ashcroft stop ignoring a constitutionally mandated inquiry of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and then to the journalists who used the word ‘demolition’ in their reporting of the catastrophic failures of the three towers in New York. (12.10)

- Ø They lied about the melting point of steel and dispersed patently false and misleading information about the true design of the towers in an attempt to sell a second brazen lie about the 'Infernos of Fire' that supposedly overcame the most basic laws of physics -- for the first, second and third time in all of world history -- on the same day. (12.11)

They were very much aided in this process by the fact that many human beings chose to jump to their deaths to escape the torture of the smoke and flames that morning, bowing to the fact that temperatures which are utterly insignificant to the integrity of steel -- 200° C for instance -- are utterly devastating to a human being.

- Ø They withheld access to the Construction Blueprints of the Twin Towers from each of the officially sanctioned 9/11 "investigations." (12.12)
- Ø They fought in court for three and a half years to suppress the release of the Oral Histories of the first responders, hundreds of whom had described repeated "explosions" in the towers. (12.13)
- Ø They fought in court to suppress release of the audio tapes of the Fire Chief who reached the 76th Floor of the South Tower and reported the presence of "two small pockets of fire," seven minutes before his violent death. (12.14)

- Ø They suppressed public knowledge of the six separate 9/11 War Games which were being conducted under the coordination of Dick Cheney at the time of the attacks, games which had caused US Military Aircraft to vacate their standard assignments around New York and Washington; and games which had brought a small army of government operatives to gather on the West Side of Manhattan on the night before 9/11 to prepare for a "simulated catastrophe;" and games which included a "simulated domestic air crisis" involving a hijacked plane being flown into the National Reconnaissance Office -- America's spy satellite coordinating "eyes in the sky" -- which caused that agency's personnel to begin evacuating the building three minutes prior to the attack on the Second Tower and to be sent home without ever laying eyes on the satellite photos of the critical day -- photos which were classified the following morning; and games which caused numerous false radar blips of "simulated multiple hijackings" to be inserted into NORAD radar screens and therefore contributed greatly to the sense of confusion that hampered the efforts of many decent public servants to do their jobs as the real hijackings and attacks unfolded over the course of one hour and fifty minutes of utterly complete official non-intervention. (12.15)



- Ø This official non-intervention began with the very first act of aggression. As neither the first, nor the second, nor the third, nor the fourth pilot of the doomed 9/11 flights keyed the code for 'hijack' into his transponder. Each of these highly accomplished professionals was trained to do so at the first hint of a hijacking -- yet not a single one of them did.

Commander Ted Muga, who piloted Grumman Jets for the US Navy and Boeing 727s for Pan-Am, comments: "There's a very, very simple code that you put in if you suspect that your plane is being hijacked. It takes literally just a split-second for you to put your hand down on the center console and flip it over. And not one of the four planes ever transponded a hijack code, which is most, most unusual."

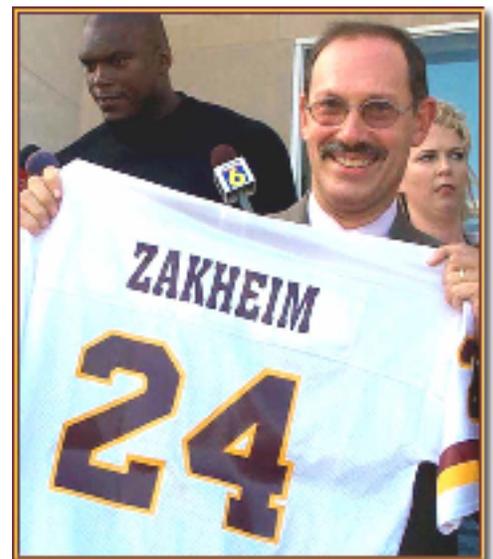
What to make of this? Pilots and aeronautical engineers familiar with the process have pointed out that when failure to perform such a crucial action is so perfectly replicated -- the action was most likely not possible. (12.16)

- Ø At a press conference in late summer 2001, Donald Rumsfeld stood before the national media and said that more than \$2,000,000,000,000 in Pentagon funds could not be accounted for. "By some estimates," he gravely intoned, "we cannot track 2.3 trillion dollars in transactions." The Comptroller of the Pentagon at the time was a friend of both Rumsfeld and Bush by the name of Dov Zakheim.

If we have difficulty recalling the national outrage that accompanied this admission -- given that such a mountain of missing money breaks down to \$8,000 in evaporated income taxes for every man, woman and child in America -- perhaps it's because of the way it was timed. Coincidentally -- the announcement was made on September 10, 2001.

Mr. Zakheim, it turns out, is connected to the 9/11 Storyline in even more interesting ways. As his Pentagon stint began, for example, he was serving as the CEO of System Planning Services International, a high-technology research, analysis, and manufacturing firm. In May of 2001 -- four months before the attacks -- a subsidiary of Zakheim's firm oversaw a belated investigation of the first "terrorist" attack on the World Trade Center in 1993.

Zakheim borrows Champ Bailey's number as the Washington Redskins raise funds for 9/11 survivors



This "look back" included extended scrutiny of the security system and structural blueprints of the WTC. Securacom, the WTC's Kuwaiti-American security company, shared this data with Zakheim's group pre-9/11, but was curiously compelled to withhold it from investigators after the tragedy. Securacom was run, coincidentally -- by Bush's cousin Wirt Walker and employed his brother Marvin.

Meanwhile, Mr. Zakheim's own company, System Planning Services, was busily promoting its prize product -- an indispensable bit of "War Games" enhancing military magic called the Flight Termination System:

"System Planning Corporation is proud to offer the Flight Termination System (FTS), a fully redundant turnkey range safety and test system for remote control and flight termination of airborne test vehicles [airplanes].....

Because many installations require several remote CTS [Command Transmitter System] units that can be controlled from either the remote site or a centralized site, the FTS has been developed to control a fully redundant automated network of transmitters. The system can be configured to operate as a single local site or with up to eight remote sights over an extended range. Each CTS unit may be controlled locally (manually), or as part of the larger FTS system. The fully redundant central control unit also supports either manual or automated modes of operation."

According to the firm's website, the Flight Termination System, in conjunction with its Command Transmitter System, can actually control up to eight aircraft at the same time. And best of all, this unprecedentedly powerful system of Remote Control allows the tech-savvy "good guys" who possess it to literally "hijack the hijackers" in case of a national emergency like the one we endured on 9/11.

One potential drawback -- the pilot of a plane suddenly Remotely Controlled in this fashion would not be able to broadcast the hijack code from his transponder.

Though his flight would proceed with remarkable precision -- his transponder, like every other electronic system in his aircraft, would no longer be under his control.

His 'black box' flight data recorders might also prove less than critical to recover -- should the aircraft crash. These recorders, which commit data in a recurring loop, would begin recording nothing from the instant of remote intervention.

Since leaving his post at the Pentagon, Mr. Zakheim has gone on to a lucrative position at the prestigious strategy consulting firm of Booz, Allen & Hamilton. Booz Hamilton -- coincidentally, of course -- is connected to both the notorious Terrorist-financed, US Government Agency Favored Software Company Ptech [to be referenced several pages hence], and the charitable foundation Blessed Relief -- widely described in intelligence circles as a front for Usama bin Laden.

And Mr. Zakheim -- like Cheney and Rumsfeld and Libby and Wolfowitz and Quayle and Perle and Jeb and Bolton and Abrams, Armitage, Khalizad et al -- is also a veteran of the organization which declared, a year before it happened, the necessity of a "New Pearl Harbor" to quickly realize "America's" Imperial Goals.

He is, in other words, yet another of the Bush Administration's Bevy of 9/11 Empowered Neo-Con Players who was also a member of PNAC. (12.17)

- Ø Authorities claimed that the remarkably high velocity of impact and remarkably intense fire that characterized the attack on the Pentagon caused the body of the 200,000 pound Boeing 757 supposedly involved to “vaporize” in the immediate aftermath; yet claimed they were somehow able -- through the amazing survival of the infinitely more fragile, flesh and blood dependent remains of human DNA -- to identify almost every single one of the 189 victims who died at the scene.

Neither Donald Rumsfeld’s statement six weeks later that it was a “missile” which hit the building, nor the possibility that the 9/12 burying of the Pentagon lawn under sand might have been necessitated by a problematic lack of any evidence of damage to the grass has been addressed. Such damage might have been expected given the low angle of attack (light poles knocked down a mile away) and the wild thrust of the two 9,000 pound, redlining jet engines which every Boeing 757 heretofore observed carries suspended from its wings some twenty feet below the nose of its cockpit. A cockpit which supposedly, in this case, penetrated the ground floor of the building. (12.18)

- Ø They suppressed public knowledge of the troubling contradictions surrounding the Heroic “Let’s Roll” Legend of United Flight 93, including the fact that the flight -- which did not actually appear on United Airlines’ flight schedule for 9/11 -- was reported (and confirmed on the day by the airline) to have landed and been evacuated on the tarmac in Cleveland due to a bomb scare, even as the airport itself was being evacuated of all civilians (who were forbidden to use their cars to leave).

The Mayor of Shanksville (among the first on the scene of the purported crash site) later remarked on camera that “there was no plane.” The local coroner later called it “eerie” that he had “not, to this day, seen a single drop of blood -- not a drop.” And rather than nose-dive to earth as the passengers struggled valiantly to gain control, whatever aircraft was truly being chased in the sky that day by a “white military-looking jet” -- as reported by numerous eyewitnesses -- left a debris field that stretched over eight miles of Pennsylvania farmland.

Since it formed the inspiring centerpiece of the repeatedly told story of the heroism of common Americans on the day, it’s understandable why this particular detail remains carefully unmentioned in the official mythology: That the courageous, heartbreaking cell phone calls from the doomed passengers -- several of whose private numbers reportedly showed up on their loved ones “Caller IDs” and/or were described as having originated from locked toilet stalls in the back of the plane -- could not possibly have been made from a commercial airliner at thirty-five thousand feet on 9/11. The technology to complete such calls did not yet exist.

Extensive tests by researcher A.K. Dewdney confirmed this fact, as have members of the telecom industry. In July of 2004, Qualcomm would proudly announce that American Airlines had finally conducted a trial run on a modified aircraft which permitted such calls, and that “travelers could be talking on their personal cellphones as early as 2006.”

Mastery of real-time human voice-cloning technology, however, had been demonstrated to both Colin Powell and General Carl Steiner by psyops military scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory more than two and a half years before 9/11.

And most interestingly, according to easily replicable research by Wing TV's Vincent Sammartino -- when the 45 names listed as passengers on the tragic flight are punched into the Social Security Death Index -- only six turn up as belonging to people actually reported to have died.

This death-defying rupture in the scripted historical myth of the "flight of heroes" is perhaps mirrored by the airplane itself (tail number N5IUA) -- which was spotted by United Airlines' employee David Friedman on April 10, 2003 at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. In 2006, the plane was listed as still valid with the FAA.

To understand these anomalies, it's useful to take a look at Operation Northwoods. Northwoods was the plan pushed on John Kennedy by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1962 whereby the CIA would create a fictitious list of passengers and "kill them" by shooting down a drone plane painted and numbered as an exact replica of an actual registered airplane. The objective was to justify a US invasion of Cuba. Some believe that Kennedy's rejection of this plan cost him dearly. (12.19)

- Ø Authorities suppressed public knowledge of the high-level obstruction of FBI investigations into the purported hijackers' activities prior to 9/11. (12.20)
- Ø They lied about the much wider than reported extent of the insider stock trading that preceded the attacks and peaked -- from within the towers -- during them. (12.21)
- Ø They lied about their stunning lack of interest in vigorously investigating these trading anomalies, as if knowing the identities of the persons whose pre-knowledge of the attacks brought them profit was unimportant.

One high-ranking FBI official, brazenly ignoring the overwhelming flood of evidence -- which triggered investigations to be launched by over a dozen nations and at least eight US government agencies, exchanges and commissions into globally distributed illicit profits estimated by knowledgeable analysts to have totaled in the "billions of dollars" -- had the gall to declare that there were "no flags or indicators" of insider trading. This officially sanctioned, bald-faced lie was widely disseminated in the US press as a prelude to its subsequent silence on these most damning and brutally callous of greed crimes. (12.22)

- Ø They refused to acknowledge Pakistan's obvious complicity in the attacks, and conducted a stifling campaign of disinformation -- aimed at mainstream journalists, and by extension, the American people -- to keep any meaningful examination of the decades long connection between the CIA and the ISI out of the public consciousness. (12.23)

- Ø They lied about their efforts and numerous opportunities to catch or kill Usama bin Laden, and actively suppressed public knowledge of the actual details of the United States government's recent, long-standing and repeatedly cooperative relationship with Al-Qaeda. (12.24)
- Ø Colin Powell promised a "White Paper" from the State Department to establish Al-Qaeda's authorship of the attacks. He never produced it, nor did anyone else. (12.25)
- Ø George Bush promised, within hours of the attacks, that the "full resources of the federal government" would be brought to bear in an effort to get to the truth.

After which, he presided instead over his administration's prodigious efforts to fight the formation of an investigative body, until, defeated in this effort -- he compensated by underfunding it and obstructing its efforts at every turn.

The White House stacked the panel with Washington insiders whose resumés were littered with conflicts of interest; tried to set up (Saudi Enforcer) Henry Kissinger as Chairman; opposed the Commission's request for adequate funding and adequate time to cover even the appearance of legitimate service to its appointed task; directed Presidential Chief Counsel Alberto Gonzalez to make last minute phone calls seeking to undermine the pending testimony of Richard Clarke; lied outright that Condoleezza Rice should be shielded from appearing due to the "long standing principal that sitting national security advisors do not testify before Congress," though no less than five such advisors had done exactly that in far less important circumstances; severely limited the panel's access to the "Presidential Daily Briefs" which preceded the attacks -- allowing only four commissioners to look at 24 of the 360 documents they had requested, and then refusing to allow these commissioners to retain possession of their own notes on these documents.

And finally, the White House -- in an arrangement surely made mandatory by the bizarre differences between the President's behavior in Florida on the day, and that of his Vice-President in Washington -- insisted that Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney would speak to the panel only on the conditions that neither be sworn; no recording be made of their recollections of their actions; and that neither would speak a word without the other by his side. (12.26)

- Ø The 9/11 Commission responded to these affronts by rolling over and playing deaf, dumb and blind. Various government officials representing the US military, NORAD and the FAA came before it to tell conflicting, contradictory versions of their respective actions and responses during the crisis -- contradictory stories that by definition had to include lies. The once respected values of truth and justice -- even the pursuit of useful information -- were simply trampled, as the lies and liars were left unchallenged. The commission thanked everyone instead and reassured a "War on Terror" focused nation that "It was not our intention to assign blame."

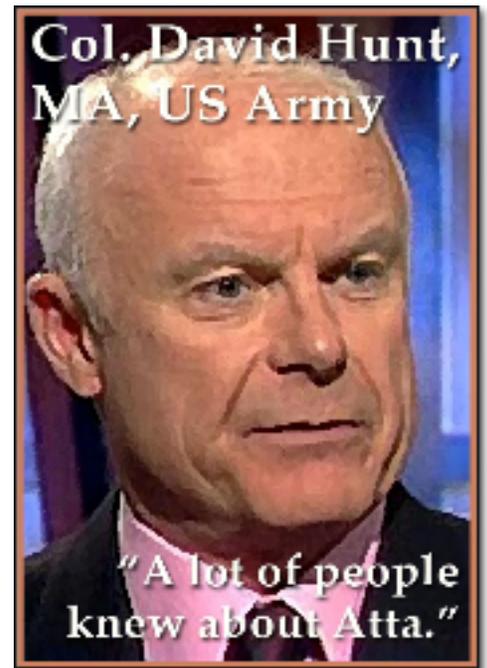
The panel's final report devoted exactly one paragraph of its hundreds and hundreds of pages of rhetoric to the single most crucial event of the entire experience: the cause of the mass murders in New York.



The Commissioners refused to call the many eyewitnesses who contacted them about the need to investigate the explosions they had survived in the twin towers, nor to address the overwhelmingly plentiful reports and the mass of visual and audio evidence of these explosions. Though William Rodriguez -- publicly acknowledged as a hero -- finally forced them to interview him, they included not a single word of his testimony anywhere in their report. (12.27)

- Ø The 9/11 Commission dealt with the unexplained, 6.5 second implosive failure of the 47-story World Trade Center Building 7 -- whose group of tenants constituted one of the most powerful blocks of governmental regulatory clout ever gathered in one massive stack -- as if it had never happened. Not one word was offered to explain -- much less even acknowledge the occurrence of -- this profoundly incriminating event. (12.28)
- Ø An obviously newsworthy roster of prominent officials have gone on record to express their doubts about the veracity of the Official 9/11 Story. Included among them are many professional pilots, members of the US Congress, current and retired high-ranking officers of the US government, the US intelligence services, and the US military, the three leading third-party candidates for President in the 2004 election, a member of the 9/11 Commission who resigned in protest, a former high-ranking adviser to the George W. Bush administration, former high-ranking

ministers to the Italian, German, British and Canadian governments -- notably including intelligence officials, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Air Force, 100 luminaries who signed the "9/11 Truth Statement," and the Presidents and Prime Ministers, past and present, of many of the world's nations. Though all have raised questions about one or more aspects of the Official Legend and the massive evidence of cover-up which has followed in its wake -- their questions have been studiously ignored. (12.29)



- Ø Scott Shuger of Salon.com, the very first journalist to raise questions about the obvious lies embedded somewhere in the conflicting reports of NORAD's inability to respond -- was found dead in a scuba diving accident not long after. (12.30)
- Ø Richard Siegel, an internet television producer who shot footage of the towers from across the Hudson River throughout the ordeal, was visited in his offices by the FBI, which summarily confiscated all of his computers. Siegel's simple but haunting work, however, has survived, as has his courage. His "9/11 Eyewitness" DVD is clear, irrefutable audio and video evidence of the repeated, massive explosions that wracked the buildings throughout their death throes. (12.31)
- Ø Michael Ruppert, the ex-LAPD detective who wrote the brave and brilliant book "Crossing the Rubicon," in which he makes a case for the indictment of Dick Cheney as complicit in the attacks, had his home and business offices ransacked, his computers ripped from their connections, piled in the center of a room and sledge-hammered into oblivion. (12.32)
- Ø Professor Steven Jones, whose White Paper "Why Indeed Did the WTC Towers Completely Collapse?" is as thoroughly non-accusatory as it is devastating to the Official Legend, drew the personal intervention of President Bush. Bush went to Utah, met with the Head of the Mormon Church, and censured BYU for having allowed one of its professors to employ science toward uncovering truth. Seven days later Jones was removed from his classes, and his paper withdrawn. (12.33)

Professor Jones' work has been distributed throughout the world, however, and can be accessed at:

<http://journalof911studies.com>

His paper, "Why Indeed Did the WTC Buildings Completely Collapse?" is included in its entirety in Appendix H of this piece, and resides on the web at:

<http://journalof911studies.com/volume/200609/WhyIndeedDidtheWorldTradeCenterBuildingsCompletelyCollapse.pdf>

- Ø Indira Singh, a high level IT executive with JP Morgan Chase, survived 9/11 because she was late reporting for work in the company's offices on the 106th floor of the WTC. As fate would have it, it was Indira, early the following year, looking for outside help to instigate a very sensitive company-wide software upgrade, who would stumble on an amazingly well-funded and well-connected firm which wanted the job very badly.



Though small, this firm -- Ptech -- boasted a roster of clients which included the White House, the US Secret Service, the CIA, FBI, IRS, both houses of Congress, the US Air Force, Navy, and Department of Energy, IBM, Enron and Booz Allen & Hamilton (Dov Zakheim's future home). Obviously -- these Ptech guys were the go-to guys. Imagine Indira's chagrin, then, when the firm's chief scientist showed up in her office and suggested she immediately dump JP Morgan Chase's internal data onto his laptop so they could develop the new custom software on the spot -- an aggressive bit of weirdness that instantly stalled the deal.

Then imagine Indira's deepening chagrin as her subsequent investigation into the history of Ptech revealed that its chief early investor was Saudi terrorist financier Yasin Al Qadi (who is said to enjoy "cordial relations" with Dick Cheney); and that the FBI had been looking for many suddenly scarce Ptech employees immediately after 9/11. It seems that by 2001 -- "Care International" (notorious in intelligence circles as the Muslim "charity organization" at the center of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing) -- was being run out of Ptech.

In a previous incarnation, "Care International" was part of Maktab al-Khidamat (MAK), the accounting mechanism put in place by the CIA in 1988 to pass its illicit Iran-Contra BCCI money through to the Pakistani ISI -- and on to Usama bin Laden.

Indira went to FBI headquarters, told them what she'd learned and asked them to open an investigation. They demurred. When she insisted that the agent she spoke to should take it to his superiors -- he told her he'd already tried that: Ptech was not to be touched. Indira went to her own boss, seeking counsel. He responded by demanding she reveal her sources, and told her that the people who had educated her about Ptech "should be killed."

From that point forward, her own company's attitude toward Indira was that she should "shut up and stay in [her] place." She says her boss told her that if she could do that, she would have a long and prosperous career at JP Morgan Chase.

Indira no longer works there. (12.34)

- Ø Coleen Rowley was once the chief counsel in the Minneapolis office of the FBI. It was in that capacity in 2001 that she struggled to overcome the agency's high-level deceit in the case of Zacarias Moussaoui -- the so-called "twentieth hijacker." Rowley's office had been alerted to Moussaoui's dangerous nature thanks to a tip from a local flight school. His instructors had reported that the French Moroccan student was dutifully taking lessons on a simulator that would enable him to pilot a commercial airliner, but was refusing to learn to land it.

Local agents investigated and detained Moussaoui on an immigration violation. They were soon told of his public comments that it was okay to kill anyone who had harmed Muslims, and that he approved of Muslims who died as 'martyrs' in such attacks. When the agents asked to examine the contents of his computer, his response signaled that he had information he needed to hide. They immediately notified FBI headquarters in Washington of their discovery of this "TERRORIST IN WAITING" and petitioned for a FISA warrant to examine his stored data.

Though intelligence had been pouring in from around the world that a Jihadist attack involving airplanes was well beyond the planning stages -- intelligence which included an urgent FBI memo just three weeks earlier from the Phoenix office that Usama bin Laden's "foot soldiers" were now known to be training in American flight schools -- FBI headquarters refused to provide the warrant.

The Minneapolis office -- suddenly frantic for help -- contacted officials in French Intelligence in hopes of bolstering their case. Jackpot! They were told that Zacarias Moussaoui was associated with French Jihadists connected to Usama bin Laden. Now drowning in probable cause -- Minneapolis contacted FBI headquarters again. The agent at the center of the obstruction -- head of the Radical Fundamentalist Unit, SSA David Frasca -- refused once more to let them look at Moussaoui's computer, hanging his objection this time on the pathetic observation that there "might be more than one" Zacarias Moussaoui in France! Rowley and her colleagues were dumbfounded. They tried to go around Frasca -- directly to the CIA's Counter Terrorist Center. Frasca chastised and threatened them even as he re-wrote their requests for a warrant -- eliminating, in the process, all references to French knowledge of Moussaoui's bin Laden ties.

And finally, on the morning of September 11th, with the attacks in full swing and a desperate Rowley petitioning still for a look at Moussaoui's hard drive -- Frasca, on the phone from Washington, insisted that it might yet all be a "coincidence," and admonished her to "do nothing." Within days, FBI Director Robert Mueller began holding forth with such remarkable comments as, "There were no warning signs..." and "The fact that there were a number of individuals that happened to have received training at flight schools here is news, quite obviously..."

In May of 2002, Coleen Rowley wrote a memo to Mueller which very respectfully contrasted the active obstruction outlined above to the "if only we'd known" nature of his comments. She invoked the word "integrity." Shortly thereafter, she was demoted, and eventually left the agency. Dave Frasca got a raise. (12.35)

Ø Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer is the distinguished, CIA trained senior intelligence officer and Bronze Star Medal recipient whose 22 year career as a cutting edge operative has seen him thrive in some of the highest risk operations ever undertaken by the United States. He was a key player in the Special Operations Command program known as Able Danger, a domestic surveillance operation which had uncovered two of the three "terrorist cells" which would be blamed for 9/11 -- a full year before the attacks. Mohammad Atta was shadowed by this program on thirteen separate occasions. Early in 2001, the Director of Operations for the (Pentagon commanded) Defense Intelligence Agency called Shaffer in for a meeting, and requested that he recite the details of the notably successful and ongoing operation. After which, the Director -- a two-star general -- told Shaffer that he wanted him and his unit to abandon the surveillance program. Over Shaffer's repeated objections: "Sir, this is important... Sir, if not us, then who?" -- the General told him that such concerns were none of his business and insisted that he drop his efforts on behalf of Able Danger.



Four years later, on the eve of Shaffer's congressional testimony about the history of Able Danger and this bizarre intervention against it in the months leading up to 9/11, his security clearance was yanked by the US military, instantly ending his career. Republican Congressman Curt Weldon intervened on Shaffer's behalf -- first in the House of Representatives and then to Lou Dobbs on CNN -- accusing the government in very blunt language of attempting to smear the good name of a great patriot. To no avail. Former FBI director Louis Freeh would later agree with Shaffer and Weldon that Able Danger was the kind of "tactical intelligence" that could well have made the difference in advance of 9/11. Why was it curtailed? Weldon: "The buck stops with Rumsfeld." Of course. (Is it necessary to re-state at this point that everywhere one looks in the brutal soup of 9/11 facilitation, one's eyes are assaulted by the bobbing head of yet another member of PNAC?) (12.36)

Ø Love of her adopted country led Sibel Edmonds to become a translator for the FBI following 9/11. She happily embraced the work, which involved the surveillance and translation of telephone calls conducted in foreign languages. But things began to change when a new colleague by the name of Melek Dickerson arrived and immediately began pressuring Sibel to join the American-Turkish Council (ATC), an organization which Sibel -- and Ms. Dickerson -- both knew was a target of FBI wiretaps. Sibel declined. Soon Ms. Dickerson, the new colleague, had conspired with their supervisor to ensure that she alone would audit all monitored communications within the group and judge their value and meaning. Several weeks later an FBI official came to Sibel with concerns that the new colleague's



reports on many counterintelligence targets at ATC were following a pattern: Conversations -- even lengthy ones -- were dismissed as "not pertinent" or summarized, absent any detail, as containing "nothing of interest." The official asked Sibel to retrieve the calls from the archives and do her own translations of them.

Dickerson, it would later be learned, had neglected to mention on her FBI work application that she had actually spent two years working at the ATC -- the FBI-targeted organization for which she now controlled the FBI's investigation. Among the "people of interest" at the organization were close personal

friends of hers. Perhaps this explains why calls she'd marked "nothing of interest" contained such non-pedestrian subject matter as "dead drops" of "money in exchange for secrets." Dickerson had buried such tidbits as: instructions from a Turkish official to a US State Department staffer on where he should report to pick up \$7,000 in cash; payments to a Pentagon official who seemed to be involved in weapons-procurement negotiations; and suggestions that Turkish groups had been sponsoring doctoral students at US research institutions in order to acquire information about black market nuclear weapons. Much of what Sibel heard on the "not pertinent" recordings concerned old-fashioned crime: There was talk, she would later tell investigators, of laundering the profits of big money narcotics transactions and of selling classified military technologies to the highest bidder.

When Sibel blew the whistle on the suppression of this information, she was quickly encouraged by certain superiors to "re-think" her observations. The man who had asked her to investigate in the first place suddenly turned into a puff of smoke -- explaining that his own superiors had instructed him not to touch the case, calling it a "can of worms." He complied. Sibel did not. She was threatened. Then she was fired.

Before Edmonds left, Dickerson sought to stop her with a fear bomb. According to Edmonds, she asked some very pointed questions: "Why are you doing this, Sibel? Why don't you just drop it? You know there could be serious consequences. Why put your family in Turkey in danger over this?"

Outraged, Sibel sued, and went to congress. Attorney General John Ashcroft, in response, tried to wipe out her legal action by invoking the State Secrets Privilege. This recourse, which is derived from English common law, has never been the subject of any congressional vote or statute. Such privilege is invoked (rarely) when the government wants to resist the legal "discovery" in court of a specific piece of evidence that it claims might harm national security if publicized. But in Edmonds' case Ashcroft argued that the very subject of her lawsuit was a state secret. That even to air her claims in front of federal judges must remain forbidden.

Later, in 2004, an outside law firm sought to depose Sibel for a pending case on behalf of the families of 9/11 victims. Again, immediately, Ashcroft asserted the privilege. The law firm submitted a list of questions it wanted to ask Edmonds, almost all of which were prohibited. Among them: "When and where were you born?," "What languages do you speak?," and "Where did you go to school?"

In the observation of Sibel's attorney, such absurdity begs yet another question:

What in the world is the government trying to hide?

Meanwhile, Sibel's sister in Turkey was fortunate to not be at her home when the police arrived at her front door. They left a notice commanding her to appear at police headquarters to be interrogated regarding an "intelligence matter" -- or face arrest. Knowing that Turkey -- a longtime "friend" of the US -- routinely brings torture to bear in such interrogations, and that it is not uncommon for detainees to fail to return from them, Sibel's sister dropped her life and fled instead.

Though Sibel is forbidden by the State Secrets Privilege to even discuss the details of her ordeal, there are many people familiar with it who have rallied to her support and spoken in her place. And Sibel herself has been instrumental in forming an organization for the empowerment and protection of truth tellers, recently drawing members from the FBI, CIA, National Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security and other agencies to gather in Washington, where they briefed staffers from the House and Senate about the punishments they've faced. Their crimes? They have revealed the truth about the appalling government misconduct they've witnessed, which each of their original employment contracts bound them legally -- and ethically -- to do.

At a press conference after the briefings, Congressman Edward Markey, Democrat of Massachusetts, praised Edmonds and her colleagues as "national heroes," pledging that he would introduce a bill to make it a crime for any agency manager to retaliate against such individuals. "When they took on Sibel," says Mike German, who is now the coalition's congressional liaison, "they made the wrong woman mad."

When Sibel was eleven, Iranian fundamentalists had tried to arrest her for wearing an "immodest" head scarf. Her father, a surgeon who had saved the lives of many Iranian soldiers during the bloody war with Iraq, told the thugs that if they bothered his daughter, he would retaliate by making sure that the next soldier to appear on his operating table with an injured wrist would have his "arm cut off at the shoulder." The thugs shrank.

Her father's stance made a lasting impression on his daughter: "The day the Iranians tried to arrest me, my father told me, 'Sibel, you only live your life once. How do you choose to live? According to your principles, or in fear?'"

I have never forgotten those words." (12.37)

- Ø And finally -- during and after all of the preceding -- and in fulfillment of the Next Stage of the PNAC Manifesto (the stage after the "New Pearl Harbor"), the Bush Administration -- with its every prominent member spewing the same fear-drenched buzzwords, updated weekly and driven home relentlessly -- lied and lied and lied again: "Saddam and the WMD! The Anthrax! The Yellow Cake Uranium! Yipes! The yada yada yada sis boom bang -- MUSHROOM CLOUD!"

Until inevitably -- the very idea of reasoned inquiry was shouted down in a storm of "Save us daddy! We'll do anything!"

Excellent. Stand back and watch -- better yet, don't -- as we blast and bulldoze our way into the epic and deadly quagmire of ancient Mesopotamia one more time, where innocent people have now been killed and maimed by the hundreds of thousands, and from which the unprecedented international rage against American aggression will surely make its vengeful mark on our future.



But from which the original PNAC Business Model -- otherwise known as Empire 101 -- has proven infallible yet again: Convince the people that the Motherland is under attack from outside forces, and their love of country will move them to spill their blood. It works every time, exactly as it's working in Iraq, which continues to this day to bear the predictable fruit: a financial killing of truly historic proportions.

The hard part was the New Pearl Harbor.

Given that aggression requires justification, False Flag Operations are used often in the service of empire. They are risky undertakings, and though typically executed by the most daring and skilled of professionals, are rarely simple to accomplish. The architects of 9/11, however, enjoying certain obvious advantages, acted with remarkable boldness. They depended -- as they knew they could -- on the public's general lack of education in matters of science, and the corporate media's well-established reluctance to ask dangerous questions. They went for the grandest of grand statements: The single most terrifying day of all time. And they pulled it off.



Or did they?

For even with all that fear, deceit, and criminality in play --

**It actually takes less than an hour of inquiry for anyone who cares
to Grasp the Center of the 9/11 Lie:**

Ø Play a video of the destruction of the South Tower.....

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/wtc2_abc_3.mpg
is excellent. It is one of many available at.....

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/index.html#southtower>

Ø Time how long it takes for the tower's roof (which stood at 1362 feet) to plunge to the ground. (The 9/11 Commission, relying on Seismic Data from nearby Columbia University, called it ten seconds.)

Ø Compare that observed time to how long it would have taken for the tower's roof to plunge to the ground in a complete vacuum. Which is easily learned, using.....

Galileo's Law of Falling Bodies

**To Calculate the Time in Which an Object
Will Travel a Certain Distance in Complete Free Fall**

Galileo's formula

which has served for nearly four hundred years,
and is available all over the internet and in every physics book,
reads:

$$\text{Distance} = 16.08 \times \text{Seconds Squared}$$

Reminder: To find the Square of any number, you simply multiply it by itself.

Example: 7 Squared is 49 (7 x 7)

and the Square Root of 49, therefore, is 7.

We will solve the problem to find the number of SECONDS it would take
for the roof to hit the ground if nothing were resisting it --
not even air.

-
- Ø First, to find the number of seconds squared, we divide the distance -- it was 1362 feet -- by 16.08.
 - Ø That leaves us with 84.7 -- which we now know is the number of seconds SQUARED that it would take for the roof to hit the ground in a vacuum.
 - Ø To get the actual seconds, we now calculate the SQUARE ROOT of 84.7.
 - Ø Using a calculator (the square root button is the one that looks like $\sqrt{\quad}$) we get the actual number of seconds it would have taken the roof to hit the ground = 9.2.

So it would have taken the roof of the South Tower

9.2 Seconds

to hit the ground in a complete free fall -- absent any resistance whatsoever.

Add a couple of seconds for the resistance that the air would actually provide
(the slight 'drag' of the air being pushed ahead of the falling roof's surface area)
and you get roughly 11 seconds it would have taken in the real world --

if there had been nothing but air between the roof and the ground.

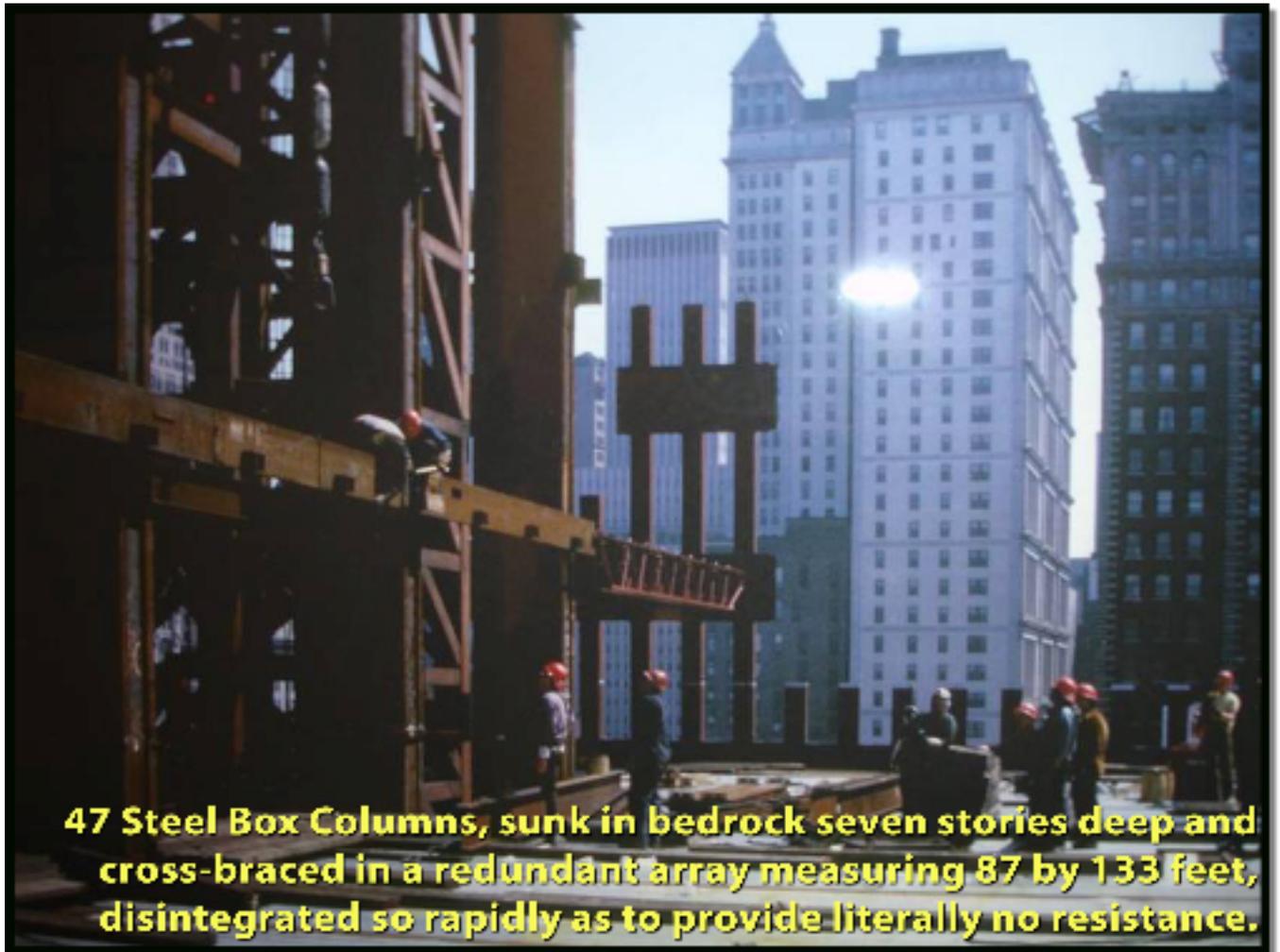
In other words.....

The roof hit the ground in virtually the same amount of time it would have taken if the 500,000 ton building supporting it had simply NOT BEEN THERE.

The entire structure of the building provided NO RESISTANCE WHATSOEVER.
Not even the MASSIVE CORE.

The lowest 85 STORIES of the CORE,
which was constructed of 47 MASSIVE STEEL BOX COLUMNS,
weighed 200,000 CROSS-BRACED TONS,
was touched by NEITHER PLANE NOR FIRE --
and could not have been "PANCAKED"
since there was NO WEIGHT ABOVE IT BUT THE WEIGHT OF THE ROOF,

DISINTEGRATED
AT THE SPEED OF FREE FALL.



AND THEN BURNED
as a massive pool of molten metal,
buried in a hole five to seven stories deep --
well beyond the reach of any efficient source of oxygen --
FOR THREE MONTHS.

THERMITE --
which contains its **OWN OXYGEN**,
generates **MOLTEN IRON** as an **END PRODUCT**
and is the most widely used compound in the world for the work of
EXPLOSIVE DEMOLITION --
explains both of these phenomena.

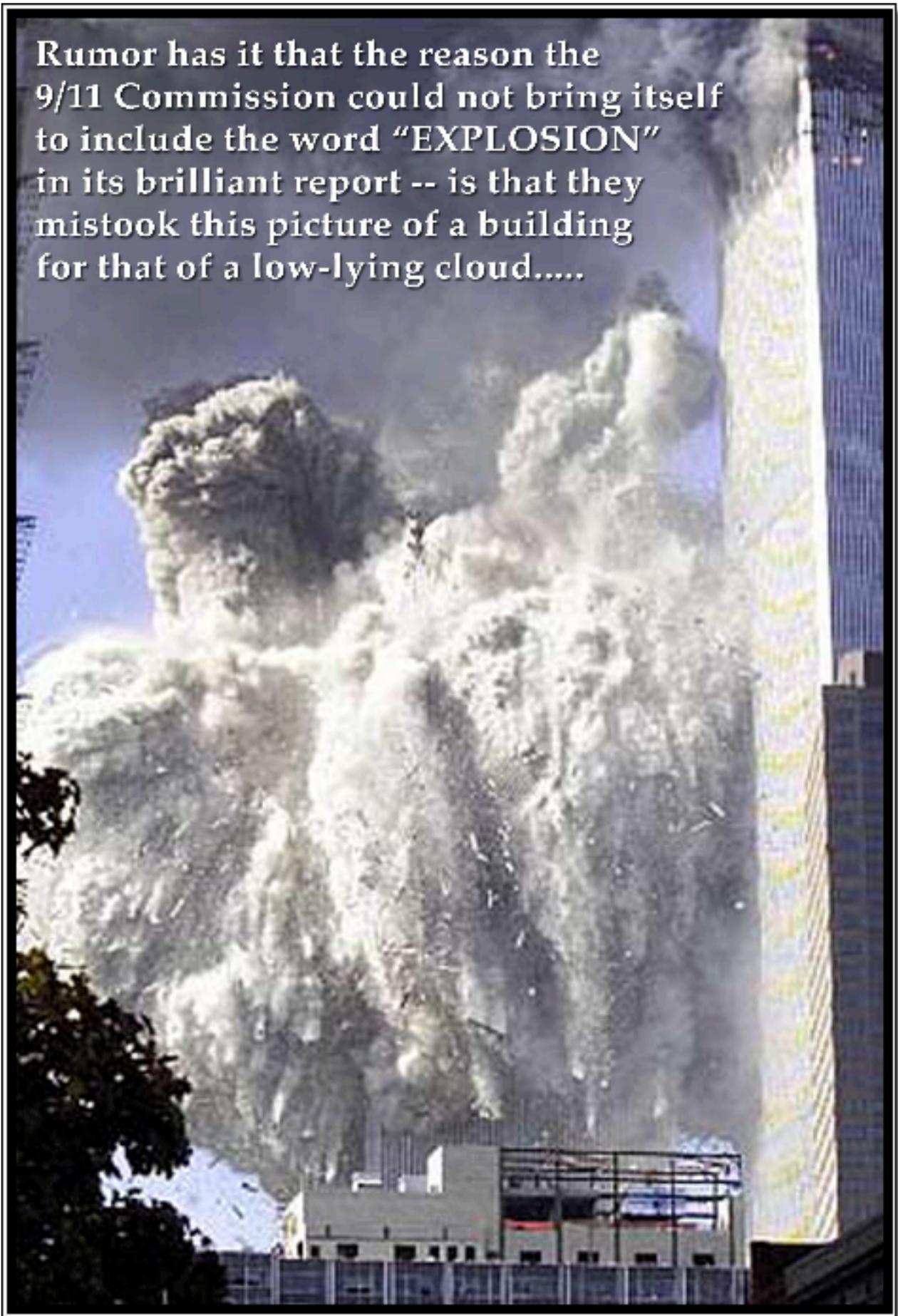
Why do you suppose it is then,
that the 9/11 Commission Report,
which spent hundreds and hundreds of pages "examining" the crime,
devoted exactly one paragraph to the death of this building,
(which became the instrument of instant mass murder),
and did not offer even a single word of explanation
toward the actual mechanism of its demise,
deeming it sufficient to observe that
"the building collapsed in ten seconds."

Call me old fashioned,
but I was raised to believe that such an
unconscionable dismissal
of the
violent murders of thousands of innocent human beings

IS AN OUTRAGE.

And must not be allowed to stand.

Rumor has it that the reason the 9/11 Commission could not bring itself to include the word "EXPLOSION" in its brilliant report -- is that they mistook this picture of a building for that of a low-lying cloud.....



Which leaves us... where?

In my own recent struggles to respond to such difficult knowledge, my conscience has begun to speak in simple terms: Courage is contagious.

As is the almost overwhelming urge to deny.

It is true that anyone can choose to ignore, out wait, dismiss, mock and/or attack those unpleasant voices among us who are urgently sounding warnings about this ongoing tragedy and asking for assistance at so pivotal a passage in America's history.

But the crimes will not stop screaming in the trade: Thousands of us were murdered. Hundreds of thousands of innocents have died in reaction. The lives of untold hundreds of thousands more -- and the future of life on the planet -- are exactly what hangs in the balance.

Covert operations and those who carry them out have many advantages over the efforts of any person or organization that conducts business with transparency.

That's why democracy is so hard. It is designed to depend on that transparency.

Those who work the "dark side," as Dick Cheney has referred to it, enjoy significant freedom from legislative oversight, their own source of constant, off-the-books funding (courtesy of their connections to the massive international drug trade) and the finest technology -- especially when it comes to the tools of the trade: weaponry, surveillance, disinformation.



The first thing that covert operators have to fear therefore, is -- by definition -- scrutiny.

If the people who have been profiting from all these heinous lies are not challenged to explain what it is they have really done to make such lying necessary -- it will be that much easier for them to do it the next time. And the time after that.

Any time they believe us restless worker bees need another dose of "Shock and Awe."

A dirty bomb, maybe?

On the west coast this time?

They have already signaled that they expect the next "attack on America" to be nuclear, and that a Shadow Government -- designed to replace the US Constitution -- is already in position and poised to provide a "seamless transition." (12.38) Everything else these men have signaled has come to pass.

On February 1, 2007, no less powerful an insider than former National Security Advisor **Zbigniew Brzezinski himself** -- the longtime geopolitical heavyweight and a Senior Member of both the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission -- went to the US Senate and warned it to stand **vigilant against a sudden False Flag attack**, "some provocation in Iraq or **terrorist act in the US blamed on Iran**, culminating in a 'defensive' US military action against Iran that plunges a lonely America into a spreading and deepening quagmire....."

This profound event tells us that the measure of the PNAC Calamity is taken at the very highest levels of Western power. That a man of Brzezinski's stature would sound such a warning in such a setting is clear evidence of the danger in the ongoing recklessness. It is evidence as well that the Meticulous Staging, Relentless Lying and Mythic Fear-Mongering that Erected the 9/11 Legend is not the work of "our government." It is the work of a well-focused gang. A gang that has made strong enemies in very high places.

The arrogance that drives such a group depends on a single, critical assumption: that those of us not benefitting in their crimes will continue to allow them. In that regard, each of us is encouraged to take on a supporting role: that of Victim One or Victim Two. Victim One plays the trusting innocent, offering a never-ending benefit of the doubt to leaders who have repeatedly trampled our laws, shamed our nation and sailed to fabulous wealth on a river of the deepest human suffering. Victim Two simply turns away from the whole sordid mess and refuses to do the math: that our dear, beloved country -- even as we strain to pretend otherwise -- is growing darker, more dangerous, and less able to sustain its own ruthlessly pillaged economy by the day.

Though history will record that as of November, 2007, fully 53% of US Citizens believed that Mr. Bush should be impeached and removed from office and 61% believed the same of Mr. Cheney (see the American Research Group poll), history will also record that only a tiny fraction of those citizens ever bothered to communicate that judgment to Congress -- the only place it can make a difference.

How can this have come to pass? How could we have become so dazed and confused as to willingly stand aside for the gutting of our country?

In his State of the Union Address of January 28, 2003, President Bush stood before the American people and said that Saddam Hussein had "recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." Both the administration and the CIA knew at the time that this statement was false, which is why CIA chief George Tenet had explicitly instructed Bush not to use it in a speech only three months earlier in Cincinnati.

But false though he knew it to be, the President went ahead and used it against his own people anyway.

For this particular lie was the perfect set-up for his chilling pay-off punch -- the dependable emotional wound that he well understood would instantly enrage and re-terrorize the post 9/11 American mind: His viciously outrageous claim that failing to attack Iraq was to risk the horror of a "mushroom cloud."



After evidence of the use of this treasonous deception to launch an illegal war was leaked to the media -- thanks in no small part to the candor of Bush staffer Stephen Hadley -- Condoleezza Rice was compelled to sit down with reporter Tim Russert on national television to explain. Asked directly why the President had made the very same terrifying claim to all of America that his own Intelligence Agency had told him he could not truthfully make, Ms. Rice was left to answer -- with a straight face -- that it was because the White House "didn't remember."

One wonders.....

How long does it take to pick up the phone or send a simple email to a member of Congress? How long does it take to request that a member of Congress do what simple decency has demanded be done? To remind that member of a moral obligation to act in accordance with the sacred oath that each and every one of them swore on the day he or she assumed office -- a sacred oath to defend the Constitution of the United States? Would fifteen minutes cover it..... ?

Our forefathers included the remedy of impeachment in our Constitution for a wise and crucial reason -- to protect the Republic from treason. In our disgust, we find it difficult to dredge too deeply in the cesspool of criminality of men who would be tyrants. Even so, if we were to use a long stick to merely ripple the surface, we'd quickly recall them.....

Obstructing all legitimate investigation of the gravest crime ever committed against the United States -- the mass murder of thousands of Americans. Rushing to dispose of the forensic evidence crucial to the solving of that crime in direct violation of federal law. Instructing the Environmental Protection Agency to lie about the deadly poisons consumed by the thousands of men and women who rallied in their grief to help. Demanding and promoting fraudulent intelligence to drag our country to war. Spying without warrant on American citizens and lying about it. Revealing the identity of an agent of the CIA as political punishment. Refusing to enforce literally hundreds of laws by declaring them incompatible with the views of the Executive Branch of Government.

Systematically meeting to design -- in the residence of the President of the United States -- the depth and specific details of a clandestine program of torture which was inflicted worldwide against men who were kidnapped, rendered to secret, distant prisons and summarily deemed "enemy combatants" without benefit of counsel or trial.

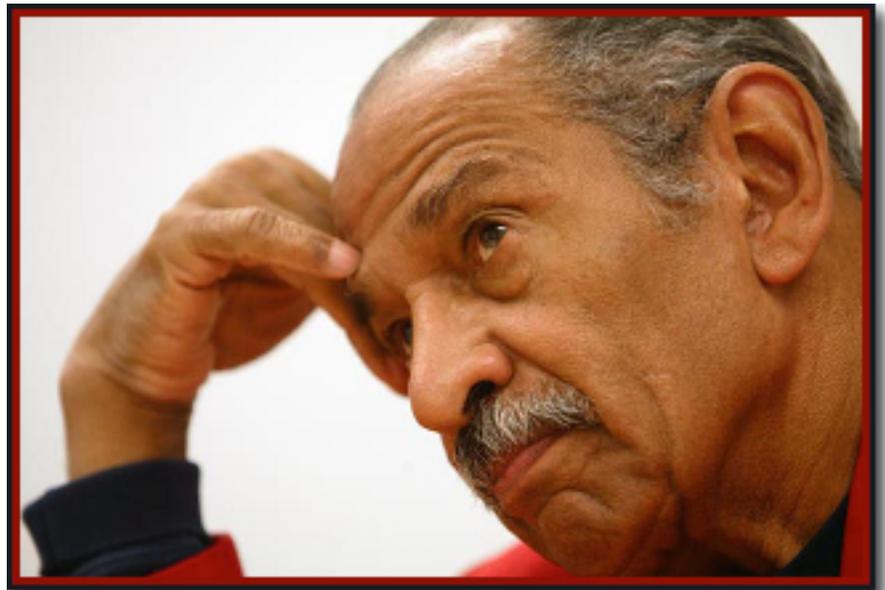
It bears recognition that at least one member of this torture planning group, which not only included Bush and Cheney and Rice, but Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, George Tenet and John Ashcroft as well, expressed misgivings about defecating on the Geneva Conventions amid the halls where Lincoln once lived. "Why are we doing this in the White House?" Ashcroft is said to have asked. "History will not judge this kindly....."

Congressman John Conyers of Michigan was looking toward history as well in December of 2005 when he took it upon himself to generate a comprehensive, step-by-step report on the runup to the war (House Resolution 635, 182 pages long and backed with more than a thousand footnotes), which has very persuasively defined the Bush administration's invasion of Iraq as a crime perpetrated on the American people.

Journalist Lewis Lapham asked Conyers why he had gone to so much trouble -- given that the impeachment he has worked to achieve seemed highly unlikely given the quiet timidity of the populace and the "pragmatism" of so many of his colleagues.

Why, still, has he chosen to raise his voice? Lapham reported Conyers' answer:

"To take away the excuse," he said, "that we didn't know." So that two or four or ten years from now, if somebody should ask, 'Where were you, Conyers, and where was the United States Congress?' when the Bush Administration declared the Constitution inoperative and revoked the license of parliamentary government, none of the company now present can plead ignorance or temporary insanity, can say that 'somehow it escaped our notice' that the President was setting himself up as a supreme leader exempt from the rule of law."



*John Conyers
An Act of Conscience*

Would House Speaker Nancy Pelosi have dared to declare impeachment "off the table" if she knew that the literally tens of millions of Americans who want it "on the table" were actually going to insist that Congress hold these criminals accountable?

Such wise and decent action would encourage patriots of good character to step forward and reveal the Truth about our Reasons for Seizing Iraq. And given that the current targeting of that accursed country was first proposed by PNAC in 1997, the proceedings would almost certainly force a closer look at the "chain-of-incredible-coincidence" mechanisms by which PNAC's wish for a "New Pearl Harbor" was made to come true.

A Real Investigation, in other words, into the Murder of Three Thousand American Citizens on the Morning of September 11, 2001.

The mind reels at the scope of the possibilities. Though they sneak back to business having ducked all justice, calls for Election Fraud, Racketeering and War Crimes Trials might yet keep these thieves busy on the American Public's Agenda for a change.

Such trials would signal their sponsors that "We the People" are not necessarily going to drop to our knees over every Big Bang Fright Show they put up on our TV screens.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio has promised to seek them. Will we support his constancy and courage -- his simple, unassailable will to do the right thing?

Think for a moment about just how much it would mean to our sense of national morality to see each of these arrogant liars put his hand once more on the Holy Bible -- with the powers of discovery and subpoena this time in play.

Think of each of them -- separately -- being asked to speak to the American people about why he fought so hard to obstruct a real investigation into 9/11.

Think of each of them -- separately -- being asked to speak to the American people about what he was really doing on that day.

And in the feverishly secretive months before.

What was actually being discussed by the members of your administration, gentlemen, during all those urgent summertime meetings with the very same man who paid Mohammad Atta the last of the 9/11 Blood Money?

What did you say to Justice Scalia before he ruled to deny our right to know what was being planned at the February 2001 Task Force Meetings on American Energy Policy? The ones with the maps of Iraq's oil fields spread across the table. Perhaps you missed the memo: In a democracy the public actually participates in the formation of policy.

To what degree was the secrecy surrounding the identities of the corporations present necessitated by their desire to avoid later culpability in the gasoline price-gouging these policies have inflicted upon us in the years since? Were the Saudis represented?

Feel the need to keep lying? Lie to our faces for a change. Under the weight of the laws you have sworn to uphold. Under the weight of your solemn oath -- so help you God.

Thomas Jefferson would dance in his grave. Thrilled to witness such a righteous and long overdue defense of the nation that he and his fellow patriots once risked their lives to build. And untold millions throughout the world -- including who knows how many young hope-starved Jihadists who have been radicalized by the cruelty of our government's decades-long support of the dictators who oppress them -- would be delivered instantly to an unprecedented new respect for the American People. (12.39)

No? Too bold, you say? Tuck me in tight then, mama, and lend me shelter through the coming storms of reckoning.....

- Ø It's not just Justice for the Mass Murdered that is begging to be addressed.
- Ø It's the Chance to Survive the next few years for Hundreds of Thousands of People in the mideast.
- Ø It's the way we will have to wise up and weed out the True Sponsors of Terrorism in America -- investigating and punishing Political Crimes the same way we investigate and punish all crimes -- with our privacy preserved and our rights to freely assemble and freely speak still intact.
- Ø It's the Lost Sanctity of our Elections.

It's now been six years since Congress sold off the right to count our votes to a handful of corporations which privately operate and repeatedly "tweak" the error-prone software they use, but won't allow the public to monitor its own election processes due to the companies' claims that their "trade secrets" -- in what are supposed to be adding machines -- would be put at risk by citizen oversight. The technology to easily "fix" any outcome -- illegal last minute code patches; hackable nonsecure uploads; and modems that aren't supposed to be installed (drive by wi-fi ready) -- has been slipped into these systems while we've been busy watching the "War on Terror" Show. The "results" they yield can no longer be challenged through recount since paper ballots have been abolished. This travesty is slated to eventually replace the ongoing disenfranchisement of literally millions of working class Americans by the cruder methods currently favored.

Is the protection of so critical a trust as the counting of our votes -- without which democracy cannot exist -- to be so cheaply abandoned now in the United States?

- Ø It's the Gathering Crisis in the Planet's Weather that has been denied for decades by the same deceitful big-money interests which wanted -- and got -- 9/11.

The threat of "Global Warming" has been attacked as a "Nutjob Theory" since scientists first raised it. Years of snide jokes about Better Sunscreen are a not-so-hilarious testament to the widespread ignorance these interests have carefully cultivated: No public discourse whatever regarding the violent storms, the epic flooding, the killing, famine-generating droughts and eventually the Ice Ages that have always attended such conditions as we are now boldly accelerating toward.

- Ø And along the way, as is just beginning to dawn in the minds of so many, this crisis is about The Undoing -- politically, physically, and economically -- of the American Middle Class. Make no mistake: the Loss of Our National Sovereignty -- the next sacrificial corpse on the altar of "Globalization" -- will not be far behind. It will begin with the folding of the United States into a North American Federation with Canada and Mexico, the secret talks for which are already underway.

In a political reality based on honesty, in which the greatest democratic government ever imagined would be allowed to function outside the clutches of mass deception that work so hard now to strangle it, the leaders of our country would be urgently spear-heading an effort to educate the American public as to the true nature of the global forces now aligned against us: Forces manifested according to class -- not religion.

They would be sounding sirens to warn us of a deepening global attack on the interests of all who are not rich. An attack born of The Empowerment Beyond All Government of the World's Biggest Multi-National Entities. An attack that would thin our ranks.

Indeed, our elected representatives would be telling the truth to the people who supposedly elected them about what is really in danger of happening to all of common humankind: a worldwide plunge into poverty and powerlessness that threatens to move the means of dignified survival beyond the reach of billions.

They won't all be Muslims. They won't all be citizens of other countries.

And our leaders would be telling us -- straight-up -- that we are about to engage in the most difficult environmental transition we have ever faced. A transition of barely imagined aspects; a gauntlet defined by a deepening worldwide scarcity of ever-more selfishly hoarded resources at a time when the planet itself will be growing less and less hospitable to the sustenance of human beings.

To navigate such a time with grace will require a profound commitment to reason and the most noble of all human values -- those of charity and a genuine accommodation to the basic brotherhood of all men -- our differences notwithstanding. Told the truth about the challenge, rather than constantly 'managed,' we could be making informed preparations and providing real counsel to our children. We could be examining our readiness -- or lack of it -- in the context of how we are actually living our lives.

Imagine that.

The course our current leaders continue to dictate to us does not travel through such possibilities. It travels instead by way of constant, manipulative lies and an escalating, brutal domination of the many by the favored few. It leads without apology or troubled conscience to the outcome that billions may be fated to die before their time, but very few of them will be rich; that the planet may be poisoned into wildness and ice, but the rich on high ground will know shelter; that the violence born of unspeakably desperate conditions may be endless and horrific among the many, but the rich will keep excellent weapons. To leave this course unchallenged is a crime against humanity itself.

Its current, gathering momentum is not unrelated to the unprecedented new imposition of citizen surveillance -- as articulated by the Patriot Act, Domestic Wiretapping, Mass Coordinated Data Mining and such innocuous "innovations" as the coming move toward Mandatory GPS on every American Motor Vehicle. The total destruction of privacy would be joined to overwhelming new capabilities for the destruction of life.

The development of Global Weather Modification Applications capable of provoking hurricanes and tsunamis has been underway for years now, per the HAARP project in Alaska. Such Pentagon faves as the Earth Orbiting Hyperkinetic Technology Vehicle -- enabling precise delivery of a cleansing dose of highly focused electromagnetic energy anywhere on the planet within an hour -- are already proposed and in the works.

This misbegotten union -- all potential dissidence constantly surveilled in an environment of massive destructive capability -- would be institutionalized in the service of the same Predatory Lust for Global Dominion which has already inflicted the theft mechanisms of NAFTA, CAFTA, the World Bank and the WTO upon the lives and aspirations of working people the world over.

And again -- those of us in the United States who comfort ourselves with the assumption that the "rich" in such a scenario includes "us" and the "poor" refers to everybody else have not been paying attention to the clearly declining prospects of the American middle class.

In the throes of that illusion, it is instructive to remember that 70% of the American public was against the adoption of NAFTA. It was rammed down our throats anyway -- on the barest lubricant of lies from the likes of Bill Clinton and Bob Rubin, who were marketed to the American people as friends of the working class.

Like the song says: NAFTA put you in a world of hurt, Burt. But don't go lookin' to knock down NAFTA's door or call 'em up to complain. There ain't no door. And there ain't no phone.

Healthcare, energy, food and water -- the costs head for the horizon.

Jobs fly, unions break, pensions disappear. We barely blink in protest.

The domestic economy hollows out as our trade deficit swells to cosmic (or is it comic) proportions. A bottomless, mind-numbing national debt pools like a bloody lake beneath the gaping, jagged rupture of Iraq.

Where Social Security bleeds to death -- month by gruesome month -- in the gutters of Baghdad.

#

Which brings us one last time to the current crux of the issue.

The Keepers of This Glorious Game once vanquished their Most Difficult Rival by drawing the Soviet Union to its doom in Afghanistan. They created Al-Qaeda to do it.

Will Iraq mark doom? And if so -- for whom?

It is through this prism that we measure the brilliance of class war strategy.

Some would say that the wounds to working class America are made to come in waves.

- Ø First, our children who answer the call to service are damaged in theatre -- finding death, permanent loss of capability after terrible injuries, the ongoing depression which follows spiritual trauma, and for many the breaking of their families.
- Ø Second, these personal losses play against the grievous financial damage to all aspects of our long-term collective needs, as precious resources for investing in everything not related to war are poured into the black hole. We thus mortgage a future of dwindling productivity in the face of the favored "New Kid in Town" -- China -- beyond all reasonable possibility of recoupment.
- Ø Third, the Al-Qaeda credited 9/11 event which enabled Iraq also enables the ongoing attack on the American Bill of Rights, which has stood for almost two and a half centuries as a sentinel of freedom and democratic empowerment to every citizen of the United States.
- Ø Fourth, the globally-condemned suffering our intervention has unleashed -- acting as self-fulfilling prophecy -- creates new and widely dispersed converts to the cause of Jihadism in numbers not previously approached. We thus create the very thing we are told we must give up our rights to avoid: People who want us dead.

Brilliant.

The "war" was sold at home as self-financing, crucial to our security, likely to be short, and a gift to a grateful nation. The subsequent damage control has seen Don Rumsfeld move to a smaller office in the Pentagon, but the killing -- of all sorts -- continues.

A "war," about which our leaders continue to bicker, pathetically and unconscionably, in terms of "strategy" and "surge," but of which barely a handful dare to speak the simple truth:

That it is an ugly, criminal corporate heist of the assets of an entire nation -- and the economic prospects of another -- financed by the future of the American Republic.

And that it continues a pattern which has been in place for decades, whereby Big Oil -- ever since the Arab Loathing Winston Churchill first carved the borders of Iraq out of his brilliant, history cognizant imagination -- has illegally conspired to keep the international price of crude as inflated and profitable as possible.





*Arc of the Brutal Servant
From Rummy's Best Wishes to the End of His Rope*

Beginning as long ago as 1920, the international oil cartel policy that Iraq's massive reserves -- in service of "price stability" -- should remain underdeveloped and its national output limited has been repeatedly and violently enforced.

The real crime of the CIA installed thug puppet called Saddam was that he dared to play loose with that policy. Pressured, he toyed with the levers of consistent scarcity. All the rest of his transgressions, we somehow found a way to live with.

Mid-course adjustment summarily accomplished.

Blow up the whole country while you tie the broken puppet to a sturdy string, and the raging flow of wealth in an upward direction is restored once again. This time to history-breaking levels.

Or shall we mark it down as the seven hundred thousandth "coincidence" in the Ongoing 9/11 Horror Story that the five biggest US based Multi-National Oil Companies saw their profits triple in the first three years of the Bush Administration's Courageous Campaign to Protect America from the Threat of This Evil Man?



Doing the Math in Badr City

Absent:

Work
Water
Food
Electricity
School

Available:

Sewage
Weapons
Rage

When the Dubya 2000 Mafia (led by Karl Rove and Dick Cheney with CFR Kingmaker James Baker in the Wings watching Brother Jeb do the Pre-Election Dirty Work in Florida) first hijacked the US Presidency -- oil could be had for about \$18 a barrel.

The suppression of Iraqi output demanded by their corporate sponsors was dutifully accomplished in an attack that went purposefully beyond Iraq's government to obliterate the bulk of its social and economic and law enforcement institutions as well.

In a matter of weeks -- close to two-thirds of the working Iraqi public were "liberated" from their jobs. Such a strategy created hunger and panic among millions, hundreds of thousands of whom not only had suddenly desperate, hungry families to feed -- but weapons at hand. A production sabotaging 'insurgency' was thereby guaranteed.

The cost of crude has since exploded beyond \$100 a barrel.

Which means, for example, that ExxonMobil -- which is, after the disgraced and ruined Enron, the biggest lifetime contributor to the Bush campaigns -- has seen the value of its oil reserves increase by one trillion dollars during the rigors of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

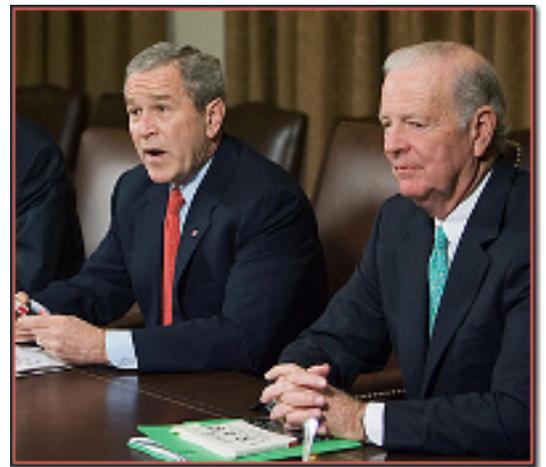
A trillion dollars -- lest our minds cloud over -- is one thousand billion dollars. Yet the amount now being extracted from the American public will eventually dwarf even that incomprehensible number. In the judgment of the Nobel Laureate Economist Joseph Stiglitz, the actual cost to the United States will finally surpass **Three Trillion Dollars**.

We are witnessing, therefore, a truly unprecedented event -- the largest illicit plunder of any nation's wealth in the history of the human race. A wealth that was once our own.

Meanwhile, such players as the above mentioned Super Lawyer Jim Baker, who recently stepped from the shadows to take a bow as co-author of the "Iraq Study Group" Report -- in which his "new plan" for "staying the course" failed to acknowledge his hand in the crafting of an "original plan" for "staying the course" -- are thriving as never before. This is especially true of Baker's clients: the Oil-Rich Dictators who rule Saudi Arabia.

As we bring this piece to a close, it is fitting to offer a nod to the wondrous powers of this man, whose presence at the pivot point of many of history's more dramatic recent crises -- 9/11 included -- cannot be ignored. It was Secretary Baker, after all, who signed off on the State Department's last message to Saddam as he pondered the 1990 invasion of Kuwait: "We have no opinion on Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement." The brutality that followed our "disinterest" included the day long "Fish in a Barrel" US Jet Fighter Video Kill-Game Murder of tens of thousands of trapped, retreating Iraqi conscripts on the "Highway of Death;" and the decade-long "Oil for Food" sanctions that are estimated to have killed 500,000 Iraqi civilians -- most of whom were children.

Until 2005, Mr. Baker -- who had earlier bragged to a gathering of Russian Oil Barons that he'd "fixed the election in Florida for George Bush" -- held sway as Senior Counsel for the Carlyle Group. Carlyle, of course, is the Global Weapons Dealing Organization which has provided such fine social connections and wildly profitable 'tools of death' investment opportunities for many of the most misunderstood blood money profiteers in the world. A group which has included not only the Bin Laden family -- in their noble struggle for a bigger piece of the ongoing global misery -- but the elder President Bush as well.



In his spare time, as Counsel for the Defense Ministry of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Baker has done excellent work to prevent the families of the victims of 9/11 from learning about the Ministry's funding of organizations known to front for Al-Qaeda. Though few would dare suggest that this well-placed patriot had anything to do with the 28 Pages of the Report of the US Congressional Investigation of 9/11 which were deemed too damaging to the sensibilities of the Saudi Royals to be shared with the American public for at least another thirty years -- it is nonetheless passing strange to behold the odd juxtaposition of seemingly conflicting interests so curiously poised in his "allegiances."

Not to be too picky about it, Jim -- but how many of the nineteen "9/11 hijackers" had Saudi passports? Was it only fifteen of them?

And as if Dick Cheney alone were not a sufficiently dependable shotgun for our President in these Days of Untraceable Terror, the great Mr. Baker has felt compelled to set up his own office in the White House. As Greg Palast points out in his hair-raising book, "Armed Madhouse" (the followup to "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy"): "This may be the first time in the history of the Republic that a lawyer in the employ of foreign sovereigns has an office in the presidential residence."

Who among us will take stock of such dynamics, think about them in terms of what has happened -- and what is happening -- to America, and fail to note the stench? As the rot of a literally murderous corruption is visited upon our beloved country, it has become urgently obvious that the time to stand up for her is now.

We've got to start making loud and serious noise -- right now.

We've got to start asking hard questions and demanding real accountability.

For truly -- how can we expect our representatives to assist us if we don't even signal we care?

Like many members of the corporate press, the members of Congress are under constant, well-financed and well-organized pressure to look the other way as crime disguised in the rhetoric of patriotism does its best to cut us down.

Against this, it is the call of our voices which lend our representatives strength.

It is our voices which stand to protect the clarity of good conscience.



On 9/11, a woman identified as Edna Cintron stands in the impact hole of the first plane, waiting to be rescued.

In the references which accompany this document, many enlightening resources are listed, and many are quoted. [See Reference 11.10 for a list of books and DVDs]. Please approach them with a sense of urgency -- and let them lead you where they may.

For it is imperative that we begin to learn as much as we can as quickly as we can, and share it with one another -- writing letters and conducting purposeful conversations.

Knowing as we do -- that it will always be easier to turn away from that which is painful and deeply troubling to observe. Treason is a brutal beast.

Some of us literally do not have the nerves or the stomach to call it by its name.

But those of us who are fortunate enough to still be strong, and capable of clear thinking; those of us who can actually handle the burden of hard knowledge, bear an obligation to the blessings of our station.....

We are Americans, by the grace of fate.

We are Americans.

How shall we dare, then, to turn away from the pressing alarms of so many of our fellow citizens -- without at least taking a look -- at what they've discovered?

Because someone on talk radio says that people who have found reason to raise questions are fools? Or traitors? Because it really makes us feel bad to think about it?

If our own sense of curiosity is so easily brushed aside --

If our own sense of justice is so easily removed from even the simplest inquiry --

We may find it horribly difficult in the years to come, when we are forced to answer up to our grandchildren for the greatest loss of the twenty-first century.

When we are forced to explain what happened -- on our watch -- to the profound, hopeful promise that had lived and flourished for more than two hundred years within the American Dream.....



“Yeah, it got away from me somehow. I knew things were getting a little too nasty to make sense, and I could hear some voices at the fork in the road.....

But I just didn't want to go there. It would've made me a conspiracy theorist.”

#

**As Ben Franklin
departed the closing session
of the Constitutional Convention of 1787,
a concerned citizen called out to him:
“Well, Doctor, what have we got?
A Republic, or a Monarchy?”**

**Franklin replied:
“A Republic..... If you can keep it.”**

The Business of Treason **Illustrated** **References Section**

**Where you encounter the word "NOTE:" -- or brackets such as "[...]" --
an observation not found in the original text has been inserted.
Emphasis is added throughout.**

**At the completion of each of the references, a link is provided
which will return you to the body of the main piece.**

The Business of Treason
Illustrated
Chapter 1 References

1.1 John Wilkes Booth and the Murder of Abraham Lincoln

BOOK: "American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies,"
by Michael W. Kauffman, New York: Random House. (2004)

The Lincoln Assassination: Images and Reporting from the Scene
Civil War Harper's Weekly, April 29, 1865

The April 29, 1865 edition of Harper's Weekly is a first edition description of the Assassination and Death of President Abraham Lincoln. We present below, for your research and perusal, the entire newspaper. Click on the thumbnails to be taken to the full, readable, rendition of that page.

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war/1865/April/booth-killing-lincoln.htm>

The Life and Plot of John Wilkes Booth

"For six months we had worked to capture. But, our cause being almost lost, something decisive and great must be done."

<http://home.att.net/~rjnorton/Lincoln72.html>

John Wilkes Booth Overview: His Life, Times, the Assassination Plot

"In the summer of 1864, Booth met with several well-known Confederate sympathizers at The Parker House in Boston, Massachusetts."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wilkes_Booth

Abraham Lincoln's Assassination:

A compilation of theories regarding the depth of the plot.

Approximately 7 hours before shooting the President, Booth dropped by the Washington hotel which was Vice-President Andrew Johnson's residence. Upon learning from the desk clerk that neither Johnson nor his private secretary, William A. Browning, was in the hotel, Booth wrote the following note: "Don't wish to disturb you Are you at home? J. Wilkes Booth."

www.home.att.net/~rjnorton/Lincoln74.html

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1.2 Nurse Nayirah and the Iraqi Baby Killers

Hearing before the United States Senate Committee.

May 25. Washington, D.C. U.S. Government Printing Office. Faircloth, L. (1994)

They're jumping in head first.

Haaretz. September 30. Fidar, A. (2002)

Nurse Nayirah

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nayirah>

Lauri Fitz Pegado

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Lauri_J._Fitz-Pegado

Hadassah Lieberman's Connection to Hill & Knowlton Public Relations

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/14/nyregion/14hadassah.html>

VIDEO: Nurse Nayirah's Brilliant Performance

http://secure.reopen911.org/video/cte_11_lo.mov

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1.3 The Death of Elvis

OBITUARY: Rock Idol Elvis Presley Dies at 42

By Larry Rohter and Tom Zito
Washington Post Staff Writers
Thursday, August 17, 1977

Elvis Presley, who revolutionized American popular music with his earthy singing style and became a hero to two generations of rock 'n' roll fans, died yesterday in Memphis, Tenn. He was 42.

Shelby County Medical Examiner Dr. Jerry Francisco said last night an autopsy indicated Presley died of "cardiac arrhythmia," which he described as a "severely irregular heartbeat" and "just another name for a form of heart attack." He said the three-hour autopsy uncovered no sign of any other diseases -- though Presley had in recent years been treated at Baptist Memorial Hospital for hypertension, pneumonia and an enlarged colon -- and there was no sign of any drug abuse.

Presley's body was discovered at 2:30 p.m. Memphis time by his road manager, Jerry Esposito, in a bathroom in the singer's multimillion-dollar Graceland Mansion. He was rushed to the Baptist Memorial, where he was met by his personal physician, Dr. George C. Nichopoulos, and pronounced dead.

Dr. Willis Madrey, a specialist in liver disease at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, said yesterday that two years ago Presley's doctors sent him a sample of Presley's liver for analysis. "It showed no significant abnormalities." Madrey said, "nothing of any help at all in evaluation."

"I had understood he was having some gastrointestinal problems his doctors were trying to evaluate," Madrey said. But "well over a year ago," Madrey added, he saw one of Presley's doctors and was told "he seemed fine" and "the only problem he had medically was obesity."

Ginger Alden reportedly Presley's fiancée and members of his staff were all at the mansion yesterday at the time the singer was found unconscious, Nichopoulos said.

In 1956, when Presley came crackling out of every radio and speaker in the land, young Americans notions about independence -- from parents, from religion, from the values of the time -- were forming. Elvis became "The King" of rock 'n' roll, but also of the emerging youth culture. He was a young, hip-thrusting, white singing music that was essentially black. Part of his attraction was that the '50s teenagers viewed him as epitomizing everything they thought their parents feared they would become -- cocky, slick, brash, tough, black-leather clad, motorcycle straddling, stiletto-shoed.

Their hunches of their parents' fears were well confirmed after Presley's appearance on a 1956 Ed Sullivan show. While millions of teenagers screamed in unison across the land, a Catholic priest in New York scorned Sullivan for this "moral injury" and condemned Presley for his "voodoo of defiance and frustration."

Overall, he sold more than 500 million records worldwide and made 33 films. He

was a millionaire many times over and lived in a style that reflected it: ensconced in his Graceland Mansion behind locked gates, like the reclusive characters in "Citizen Kane," handing out jewels and Cadillacs to friends and even casual acquaintances.

No American performer had so broad an impact on culture around the world. In 1958, Communists blamed the influence of Presley for a riot in East Berlin as youths threatened to kill a border guard. In 1964, Presley received a write-in vote for President. A Memphis businessman who got in a fistfight with the singer had to close his shop because fans picketed the place.

His career began its ascent at virtually the same time of James Dean, another young star with a tough image, and Presley felt a sense of kinship with Dean.

Presley "knew I was a friend of Jimmy's," said Nicholas Ray, director of Dean's second film, "Rebel Without a Cause," so he got down on his knees before me and began to recite whole pages from the script. Elvis must have seen "Rebel" a dozen times by then and remembered every one of Jimmy's lines.

Presley's songs, particularly the early ones, expressed succinctly the rising rebellion of young people beginning to break from the Cold War doldrums of the Eisenhower era: "Have you heard the news/There's good rockin' tonight:" "You can do what you want/but lay off my blue suede shoes:" "Everybody in the whole cell block/Dancin' to the jail house rock:" "Don't be cruel/To a heart that's true:" "Baby, let's play house."

Born in Tupelo, Miss., on Jan. 8, 1935 -- his twin brother, Jesse Garon, died at birth - - Elvis Presley was 18 when he walked into a Memphis studio and paid \$4 to record "My Happiness" and "That's When Your Heartaches Begin" as a present for his mother.

Raised in a religious atmosphere, Presley had begun his singing career by performing hymns and gospel tunes with his parents, Vernon and Gladys, at concerts and state fairs. His parents bought him his first guitar at age 11, and he remained close to them even after acquiring a rebellious image -- his feelings for his mother, who died at age 46 of a heart attack were known to be especially strong.

Sam Phillips, owner of the studio, intrigued by the rough, soulful quality of the young truck driver's voice, invited him back to practice with some local musicians. A few months later Phillips' Sam Records released Presley's version of the blues tune "That's All Right," backed by the country song "Blue Moon of Kentucky," and the singer's career was launched.

The synthesis of black blues and white country music made Presley a unique artist from the start and Memphis was quick to appreciate that. Presley's recording went to the top of the local charts almost immediately, eventually selling 20,000 copies, and Presley was invited to appear on the Louisiana Hayride country show and at the Grand Ole Opry.

At the Opry, however, the first of the many controversies that were to engulf Presley almost caused him to give up his career. Told by the talent booker there that he was no good, Presley broke into tears and left his performing costume in a filling station.

He recovered quickly, though, and went on to record a whole string of hits for Sun Records, which sold his contract for \$40,000 -- then a record -- to RCA in 1955. His first record for RCA was "Heartbreak Hotel," which early in 1956 made him a nationwide sensation.

Months earlier, in November 1955, Col. Tom Parker, an established country music agent, had concluded a management agreement with Presley. Parker was instrumental in arranging Presley's switch from Sun to RCA and was to remain Presley's manager to the end, shrewdly guiding his client's career, limiting or encouraging public exposure in such a way that Presley was almost always able to command top dollar on the competitive concert and recording circuit.

Once, after Presley had been made an honorary narcotics agent by President Nixon, a White House staffer contacted Parker to request a musical performance. Parker told the staffer that Presley would be honored, and that his fee for the occasion would be \$25,000. That ended that.

Six months after the record "Heartbreak Hotel" had rippled heartthrobs through teenage America, Ed Sullivan promised to bring "The King" into the nation's living rooms: for \$50,000 Sullivan signed Presley to three performances.

When the first show hit the airwaves on Sept. 9, 1956, the response was predictable. Sullivan showed him only from the waist up, rocking around on the tube. Record sales soared, and the critics had new ammunition.

"It isn't enough to say that Elvis is king to his parents," wrote jazz musician Eddie Condon. "That still isn't a free ticket to behave like a sex maniac in public before millions of impressionable kids. According to a scholarly friend of mine, Jackie Gleason, we'll survive Elvis. 'He can't last,' said Gleason, 'I tell you flatly, he can't last.' "

New York Times critic Jack Gould observed: "Mr. Presley has no discernible singing ability. His specialty is rhythm songs which he renders in an undistinguished whine: his phrasing, if it can be called that, consists of stereotyped variations that go with a beginner's aria in a bathtub. For the ear he is an unutterable bore, not nearly so talented as Frank Sinatra back in the latter's rather hysterical days at the Paramount Theater.

"From watching Mr. Presley it is wholly evident that his skill lies in another direction. He is a rock-and-roll version of one of the most standard acts in show business: the virtuoso of the hootchy-kootchy. His one specialty is an accentuated movement of the body that heretofore has been previously identified with the repertoire of the blonde bombshells of the burlesque runway."

And at the Washington Post, Richard Coe, reviewing an early Presley movie, spoke of the singer's popularity as a manifestation of an "adulation of youth, youth that is raw, untrained, and undisciplined, youth which worships the most primitive urges and physical appeal, youth which has no truck with its elders.

"...This youth lives in a crowd and insists that it is lonely and misunderstood, appears to have no education, respect for customs or elders and no manners whatsoever."

Other performers, on shows with Presley, were puzzled by the strong reaction the young singer got from audiences. Jerry Lee Lewis took to closing his shows by standing on the piano in an attempt to upstage Elvis. But it did no good. Presley was even able to take others' material -- like Carl Perkins' "Blue Suede Shoes" -- and make it a hit of even greater magnitude.

"Elvis had the looks on me," Perkins once told an interviewer. "The girls were going for him for more reasons than music. Elvis was hittin' 'em with sideburns, flashy clothes and no ring on that finger. I had three kids. There was no way of keeping Elvis from being the man in that music."

A month after the first Sullivan appearance, 20th Century Fox was readying Elvis' first film for Thanksgiving release. Originally titled "The Reno Brothers," it was changed to "Love Me Tender" to capitalize on the song Presley had introduced on the Sullivan show. The studio made 575 prints of the film for its first run -- the largest in Fox's history.

A year later Presley was drafted into the U.S. Army. Boarding a troop ship for an 18-month tour of duty in Europe as a Jeep driver, he told a reporter: "The first place I want go is Paris and look up Brigitte Bardot."

Presley was just another cog in the military machine, stationed in Friburg, West Germany. But Col. Parker had ensured that Presley would not be forgotten during the two years he was away by having him record a stack of songs before leaving for Europe.

During his period of military service, Presley made no public appearances and completed only one recording session. Of the five singles released during Presley's absence from the U.S. rock 'n' roll scene, all eventually became million sellers.

When Presley was discharged a sergeant early in 1960, he was still "The King," though stars such as Ricky Nelson had come along in the interim.

Presley returned from the Army to find that rock 'n' roll tastes had changed dramatically in his absence. Presley himself underwent a drastic change of style, eschewing his trademark sideburns and hip-shaking music in favor of romantic, dramatic ballads, such as "It's Now or Never" and "Are You Lonesome Tonight?"

These records proved to be as popular as his hard-rocking numbers, but Presley by this time was more interested in making movies than anything else. After an appearance on a Frank Sinatra TV special, in which he alarmed old fans by performing in tails, Presley retired from concerts and television for nearly a decade.

His movies during this period included such potboilers as "Fun in Acapulco" and "Girls! Girls! Girls!" disilluioning some fans even further. But in 1968, Col. Parker engineered a change of direction, and Elvis who had seemed to many to be old fashioned after the emergence of the Beatles in 1964, once again became the hottest thing in pop music.

"It was a staggering moment," writes Greil Marcus in his book "Mystery Train." "In the months preceding, Elvis had begun to turn away from the seamless boredom of the movies and the hackneyed music of the soundtrack albums, staking out a style on a few half-successful singles, presenting the new persona of a man whose

natural roughness was tempered by experience. The records had been careful, respectable efforts, but now he was putting everything on the line, risking his comforts and his case for his chance to start over."

The vehicle of Presley's comeback was a Christmastime TV special, broadcast by NBC. The response to that show encouraged Presley to get together with guitarist James Burton and pianist Glen D. Hardin; two of rock's top recording session musicians and go out on the road again.

His audience on that concert tour -- and on his subsequent tours, which brought him to the Washington area three times in recent years -- was more mature than that of a decade earlier, reflecting perhaps the fact that Presley himself was settling down.

On May 1, 1967, Presley had married Priscilla Beaulieu, the daughter of a U.S. Army colonel. On Feb. 1, 1968, a daughter, Lisa Marie, was born to the couple. The marriage ended, after lengthy and expensive divorce proceedings, in October 1973.

After the divorce, Priscilla Presley, who the singer had begun dating while in the Army, was given custody of the child. Presley never married again, but it was recently reported that he was about to marry 20-year-old Ginger Alden. She was reportedly spotted wearing a \$50,000 diamond engagement ring from Presley.

Reports of Presley's declining health and increasing weight first date from the time of his divorce. By 1976, in the authoritative "Rolling Stone Illustrated History of Rock 'n' Roll," critic Peter Graining was moved to say, "It seems to be a continuing battle ... and Elvis is not winning. His hair is dyed, his teeth are capped, his middle is girdled, his voice is a husk, and his eyes film over with glassy impersonality. He is no longer, it seems, used to the air and, because he cannot endure the scorn of strangers, will not go out if his hair isn't right, if his weight -- which fluctuates wildly -- is not down. He has tantrums onstage and, like some aging politician, is reduced to the ranks of grotesque."

Earlier this year, Presley canceled several performances in Louisiana and returned to Memphis for what his physicians said was exhaustion. And in Baltimore, he cut short a show and disappeared from the stage for several minutes, only to return claiming he had merely been answering "the call of nature." But after hearing of Presley's death, Baltimore fan Beverly Hochstedt, who sat patiently outside the Baltimore Civic Center for 40 hours when tickets for his show there last March first went on sale, recalled not the erratic show, but the man.

"Oh, God, what can I say," sobbed the 31-year-old fan. "I just feel so lost, I feel shattered. I feel like I lost a very, very, close, very, dear friend, part of my own family."

Reaction among fans, performers and music industry executives elsewhere was also emotional. In Santiago, Chile, newspapers stopped the presses and radio stations changed their evening programming to recount the life of "El Rey de Rock 'n' Roll." In Memphis, the telephone system was reported unable to handle the volume of calls coming into the city from around the country. Hundreds of weeping fans gathered outside Baptist Memorial and Graceland Mansion last night.

Two European radio stations also suspended regular programming as soon as Presley's death was announced. Radio Luxembourg, the continent's most widely listened-to pop station, canceled all its commercials to play Presley's music nonstop.

"This is the end of rock 'n' roll," said Bob Moore Merlis, an executive with Warner Bros. Records, who compiled an anthology of Presley's early material several years ago for RCA. "The void he will leave is impossible to gauge," said Pat Boone, an early rival of Presley's.

"The King is dead," said former Beatle John Lennon last night. "But rock 'n' roll will never die. Long live the King."

"His music was the only thing exclusively ours," said Carl Wilson of The Beach Boys. "His wasn't my and mom and dad's music. His voice was a total miracle in the music business."

The White House said last night that President Carter will "probably issue a statement on Presley today."

No arrangements have been announced yet for Presley's funeral.

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<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/longterm/elvis/epobit.htm#obit>

The NBC Television Special:

Elvis' Great Comeback

Elvis, starring Elvis Presley, was the title of a 1968 United States television special. It was directed by Steve Binder and produced by Binder and Bones Howe. The executive producer was Bob Finkel, musical director Billy Goldenberg. Sponsored by the Singer Sewing Machine Company, it aired on December 3, 1968 on the NBC television network. The special is commonly referred to as the '68 Comeback Special, because of subsequent developments in Presley's career, but the soundtrack album was released simply as NBC-TV Special.

Original Concept

Scheduled as a Christmas season broadcast, Presley's manager, Colonel Tom Parker, wanted the show to be little more than Presley singing Christmas carols. He believed the special could simply be a TV version of the Christmas radio show Presley had contributed to the year before. Binder argued that the special was an opportunity to re-establish the singer's reputation after years of formula movies and recordings of variable quality. He and Howe hired writers to script a show with specific themes: they envisaged large set designs, dance sequences and big productions of Presley's hits. However, Binder was open to any variations on this that would showcase the singer's talent, and Presley was apparently very happy to go along with this flexible approach.

The special eventually included an extravagant musical sequence featuring Gospel-style numbers, a semi-autobiographical "mini-movie" centered around the song

"Guitar Man" and other re-recordings given lavish set designs. Network censors forced the removal of one segment set in a bordello which featured the song "Let Yourself Go". The special ends with Presley appealing for world peace with the song "If I Can Dream."

Studio recordings for these segments were made at Western Recorders in Hollywood, California between June 20 and 23 and featured an orchestra and the The Blossoms as background vocalists: Fanita James, Jean King and Darlene Love (see 'Trivia'). Other musicians included drummer Hal Blaine, pianist Don Randi, guitarist Tommy Tedesco and harmonica player Tommy Morgan.

The Live Segments

It was after rehearsals at Western Recorders that Binder took special note of how Presley and the other musicians would spontaneously unwind by improvising old blues and rock 'n' roll numbers. Binder commented: "...and that's when I really got the idea: Wouldn't it be great if I had a camera in here and they didn't know I was here?"

Presley is said to have been very apprehensive about the idea of performing live. His last live concert had been at the Bloch Arena in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on March 25, 1961. Binder offered a lot of support and reassurance to stop the singer from rejecting the idea of any live segments. He realized some songs already re-recorded or scheduled would need to be cut (The special was only an hour long). He quickly arranged for rehearsals to take place to capture the feel of Presley's informal studio jamming, drafting in the surviving members of Presley's original backing band - Scotty Moore and D.J. Fontana. He also brought in Presley's friends Alan Fortas, Lance LeGault and Charlie Hodge to encourage Presley and make him feel at ease. Two sessions took place, each about two hours in length; the first on June 24 and the second on the 25th. Both took place in the informal surroundings of the dressing room at NBC. They were recorded by Presley's friend Joe Esposito using the singer's own tape recorder. Many songs were tried, including "Danny Boy", "Blue Moon", "That's My Desire" and "I Got A Woman", before the final repertoire was decided for the actual TV recording.

Subsequently, at 6.00pm, June 27, Presley took to the stage for the first time in over seven years, resulting in four one-hour live shows being taped at NBC's Burbank studios. A black-clad Presley sat down and jammed with band mates for two shows, each show having a different audience. There was a one hour break between them (enough time for Presley to shower and have his outfit dry cleaned after performing under the hot studio lights). In the second two, recorded at 8.00pm, June 29, he remained standing and sang live to a mix of live and pre-recorded backing, again in front of two different audiences. These four sessions are often referred to collectively as "The Burbank Sessions", the name coming from not just the venue, but the titles of two collectible bootleg LPs which feature them. The role of each musician at the two sit-down performances was:

- * Elvis Presley: vocals, guitars (acoustic and electric - he and Scotty Moore use the same ones and swap them)
- * D.J. Fontana: drumming, using a guitar case
- * Alan Fortas: guitar back-slapping, occasional vocals
- * Charlie Hodge: acoustic guitar, occasional vocals
- * Lance LeGault: guitar back-slapping, tambourine (see 'Trivia')
- * Scotty Moore: guitars (acoustic and electric)

Filmed in the round, only a small portion of these - and the stand-up sets - were included in the televised special. Presley and the others played and sang while interjecting personal stories of his music and early performances. Referring to music and his religious upbringing in a break between songs, Presley says: "Rock and roll is basically gospel (music), or rhythm & blues (is too). It sprang from that, people have been adding to it." He also makes reference to the new groups of the time, like The Byrds and The Beatles, and notes how things have improved and not just changed, like the standard of musicians and sound engineering. Presley is also prompted to speak about a Florida concert at which a judge had forbidden him to move and the police filmed the show.

Presley sings many of the songs he was famous for including: "That's All Right", "Heartbreak Hotel", "One Night", "Love Me" and "Are You Lonesome Tonight?". He also reprises Jimmy Reed's "Baby What You Want Me To Do" on several occasions and includes the less well known songs, "Tryin' To Get To You" and "When My Blue Moon Turns To Gold Again". As each session progresses, he can be observed playing and singing with such gusto that he occasionally feels the urge to rise up and sing off mike, even when he uses the electric guitar with no strap (during a reprise of "One Night").

In both sit-down shows, Presley sits between two of the women sat at the edge of the stage to sing the final song, "Memories". Although this move was Binder's idea, Colonel Parker had originally been concerned that the audiences would contain older, more reserved adults and that this might give the impression that Presley had lost some of his appeal (The only time Presley had 'bombed' at a live gig was in front of a mature audience in Las Vegas in 1956). Parker had therefore arranged that young women should be seen nearest the stage during filming.

The stand-up shows feature Presley performing a similar energetic set by himself, mostly without guitar. He performs on the same small stage (no more than ten feet square) which is closely surrounded by the audience. Musical backing this time comes from an unseen live orchestra and the Blossoms. Presley also sings to a pre-recorded track on a few songs that were intended to be integrated into other parts of the show.

Acclaim

The edited broadcast of December 3 - combining the big, choreographed numbers, lavish sets and some of the informal live sessions - was an enormous success. The show was the highest-rated television special of the year. According to Binder, it was probably the first one-man TV special to appear on commercial American television. Previously, TV specials tended to be packed with guest stars, like Frank Sinatra's Timex Special of 1960, in which Presley himself appeared with other celebrities.

At the beginning of the '68 Special project, a nervous Presley had said to the executive producer Bob Finkel: "I want everyone to know what I can really do." Critics generally agree that the broadcast did show what Elvis Presley really could do - in addition to making profitable, if generally uninspired movies and soundtracks. The '68 Special is widely credited with revitalizing his career: chart statistics for the summer of 1968 suggest that Presley's recording career was becoming all but non-existent. After the special, he began his stint in Las Vegas and toured, achieving a string of record-breaking sell-out performances across

America. Chart successes returned, including a U.S. number one in 1969 ("Suspicious Minds") and a U.K. number one ("The Wonder of You", (1970)) - his first since 1965.

The live segments of the '68 Comeback Special in particular gave the audience more than a glimpse of Presley's charismatic and emotionally charged performing style that won him his first fans in the 1950s. This is arguably even more evident in the later uncut versions of the special (see below). His career had been considered by many to be artistically fallow since his return from the Army (1960), the subsequent Beatles invasion and since the new and varied musical directions forged by the likes of the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix.

The dominant image of the special for many fans and critics is not of any of the lavish set pieces, though the giant red 'ELVIS' background sign is memorable. For many it will be the sight and sound of a toned 33-years-old Presley in a custom-made black leather outfit - an image of the performer arguably at his peak (The costume was preserved and has been on display with hundreds of other personal items at Presley's Graceland home in Memphis, Tennessee)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis_Presley's_'68_Comeback_Special

Top Ten Reasons to Believe Elvis is Alive

1. ELVIS IS IN THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM

Most people know about Elvis' famous meeting with President Nixon. What they don't know is that during this meeting Nixon issued Elvis Presley a DEA badge, a clue that Elvis was helping investigators with a major case and later had to enter the federal witness protection program. It's ludicrous to believe that the DEA would have issued a badge to someone not working for them, even Elvis Presley.

2. ELVIS' NAME IS MISSPELLED ON HIS TOMB.

Elvis' father, Vernon, misspelled Elvis' middle name on the grave—Aaron instead of Aron, as his mother named him. This is a sign that Vernon Presley knew that it was not his son in the tomb.

3. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CORPSE DON'T RESEMBLE ELVIS

In 1977, the National Enquirer paid a third cousin of Elvis to smuggle a mini-camera in to the viewing of Elvis' body. The resulting picture was published in the Enquirer, and caused shock waves among fans around the world. The eyebrows, chin, and fingers all looked unlike Elvis.

4. THE COFFIN WAS TOO HEAVY

The coffin weighed 900 pounds: Elvis is known to have been overweight at the time of his death ... but not that much. The only plausible account for that weight would be if the body was a wax dummy and there was an air conditioner inside the coffin to keep the wax dummy from melting.

5. COL. PARKER'S STRANGE QUOTE

Col. Tom Parker, Elvis' manager, said in a press conference shortly after Elvis' death: 'Elvis didn't die. The body did. We're keeping up the good spirits. We're keeping Elvis alive. I talked to him this morning and he told me to 'carry on.' Is it possible that there was a double entendre to those words: that they had literal truth to them that no one suspected at the time?

6. INCONSISTENCIES IN THE STORY

The circumstances of death are described in conflicting ways. Witnesses disagree as to how the body was found and what Elvis was wearing, when the body was found, whether it was dead already, when death was declared, and whether AR was tried.

7. THE BOOK DID NOT EXIST THEN

The book about the Shroud of Turin he is supposed to have been reading when he died was not published until a year later.

8. EVIDENCE THAT ELVIS WAS PLANNING ON THE END

There seems to be evidence that Elvis was preparing for the end:

- Ø Why, for instance, did he order no new costumes for a new tour due to start on August 16th, 1977?
- Ø Why did he fire several old friends shortly before his death?
- Ø During his last tour he sang 'Blue Christmas' although it was summer: was he warning his fans?
- Ø Five months before hand, family members were suddenly cut out of his will. Did he realize he would need that money for his new life?

9. MYSTERIOUS FIGURE LEAVING MEMPHIS THE DAY AFTER

On August 17th, 1977, one day after Elvis' death, a ticket to Buenos Aires was bought at Memphis airport by a man looking like Elvis and using the name John Burrows, a code name Elvis frequently used when making hotel reservations for the Elvis entourage.

10. NEW ELVIS RECORDING EMERGES WITH SONGS FROM THE 90'S

In 2002, an independent label released a CD entitled Kingtinued featuring Elvis' voice singing at least fourteen well known songs which were not written and did not exist prior to August 16th, 1977.

<http://www.elvislives.net/>

An Elvis Sighting:

Honor Elvis

Moon S. Duepre, a former railroad track walker, was looking for root berries in a field outside the town of Midlothian when he spied a man he was certain was Elvis stepping into an abandoned old schoolhouse. "I know it was him, because he had a cape on and white satin pants with bell bottoms and lots of them spangle things that catch the sun and glitter sewed onto them pants," said Duepre.

When he approached the building Duepre said he heard "a voice humming the strains of that Hunka Hunka Love song. There was no mistaking that voice. It was Elvis's sound. I went in the door real fast and surprised Elvis. He said he had just gone in there to find some momentary relief and asked me to respect his privacy. I told him I surely would because I truly had respect for him and his kind. He said he appreciated that and to thank me I could pick up a new Cadillac automobile at the Midlothian dealership, which I did the next day and put 214,000 miles on it before it quit on me.

<http://honorelvis.com/sightings.htm>

Bush's Budget Gets Spacey

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 2003

Is the truth out there? The White House thinks it might be. (AP)

Quote:

"Perhaps the notion that 'there's something out there' is closer to reality than we have imagined."

The president's fiscal 2004 budget

Proof that life exists outside the boundaries of Earth continues to elude scientists, but President Bush's budget suggests that "space aliens" may be out there somewhere.

And it could just be a matter of time before they are discovered.

In a brief passage titled "Where Are the Real Space Aliens?" Mr. Bush's budget document says that several important scientific discoveries in the past decade indicate that "habitable worlds" in outer space may be much more prevalent than once thought.

The passage acknowledges that hard evidence of alien life has yet to emerge.

"Despite all the space aliens that appear in science fiction movies and books, we have yet to find conclusive evidence for life, even microbes, anywhere in the universe besides Earth," it reads, but then adds, "Researchers have found life in very harsh environments on Earth, which expands the possible kinds of places where life might exist."

Other recent finds include evidence of currently or previously existing large bodies of water — a key ingredient of life — on Mars and on Jupiter's moons.

Astronomers also are finding planets outside the solar system, including about 90 stars with at least one planet orbiting them.

"Perhaps the notion that 'there's something out there' is closer to reality than we have imagined," the passage concludes.

The budget justifies the funding for one space project by mentioning the chance that life exists beyond this planet.

The president calls for \$279 million next year and \$3 billion over five years for Project Prometheus, which includes building the Jupiter Icy Moons Orbiter.

"This mission will conduct extensive, in-depth studies of the moons of Jupiter that may harbor subsurface oceans and thus have important implications in the search for life beyond Earth," the budget reads.

Mr. Bush is not the first president to show an interest in the possibility of extraterrestrial life.

Clinton aide Webster Hubbell claims in his autobiography that after President Clinton appointed him to a Justice Department post, the president asked Hubbell to investigate whether UFOs existed, as well as determining who was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy.

The budget is the second time in recent months that the Bush administration has addressed questions about life in space.

On Dec. 24, the White House issued a September determination by Mr. Bush in which he followed his predecessors' lead by issuing a determination exempting the Air Force facility near Groom Lake, Nevada, from environmental laws allowing the release of classified information about the area.

Groom Lake is the place that UFO buffs call Area 51.

"I find that it is in the paramount interest of the United States to exempt the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake ... from any applicable requirement for the disclosure to unauthorized persons of classified information concerning that operating location," the president wrote.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/02/03/tech/main539116.shtml>

Bush Links NASA Budget To Search For Space Aliens

When a Bush Watch reader called our attention to an ANANOVA news service story that "Bush Backs Alien Evidence" we did a double-take. The story said "The US President used his budget document to declare that there may be 'space aliens' to be discovered.," so we went to the same budget document that Congress is presently pouring over to see for ourselves. The relevant passage sandwiches its interest in space alien discovery between a request for \$3 billion in power and propulsion technologies with requests for \$31 million in communications technologies and \$39 million in human research.

As you can see from the Bush Budget excerpt below, "important discoveries" suggest that the possibility of space aliens is not as far-fetched as previously believed, giving romantic members in Congress a provocative reason to approve the requested funds. At any rate, we wonder if Bush consulted with his faith-based friends to get their take on the subject. --Politex, Bush Watch, 02.04.03

<http://www.bushwatch.com/space.htm>

Bush and the Aliens

The leader of the free world included in his Budget speech a section entitled Where are the space aliens? Now I'm not objecting to someone saying that extraterrestrial life may exist, I've been waiting for them to bring elvis back for a few years now, but using the term space aliens sort of reduces ones credibility a bit wouldn't you say?

Of course, if you need a distraction from that whole "war with Iraq" and "North Korea has nukes" thing, what better to use than "Space Aliens".

<http://ufies.org/archives/000480.html> Bush Backs Alien Evidence
Posted on Thursday, February 06, 2003

"George W Bush says there is mounting evidence to suggest there is alien life on other planets.

The US President used his budget document to declare that there may be "space aliens" to be discovered.

A passage entitled, "Where are the Real Space Aliens?", states that important scientific research over the last 10 years indicates that proof of "habitable worlds" in outer space is becoming more of a reality.

Evidence for the current or previous existence of large bodies of water, an essential element for life, has already been found on Mars and on Jupiter's moons.

Astronomers are also discovering planets outside of our solar system, including around 90 stars with at least one planet orbiting them.

The document says: "Perhaps the notion that 'there's something out there' is closer to reality than we have imagined."

http://ufoarea.com/et_search_and_contact_bush_backs_alien.html

The Alien's Endorsement

The 1996 Presidential primaries are approaching, and while the candidates worry about CNN and influential newspapers, a lot of "real" Americans are getting their news in the checkout line, where the "Space Alien" wields the real influence. In 1991, Weekly World News, a Florida-based supermarket tabloid, stuck the image of an alien into an existing photograph of President Bush. Since then, the alien, in one composite photograph after another, has been seen with many American statesmen.

Selected headlines include: "Space Alien Meets With President Bush!" (1991), "Space Alien Meets With Ross Perot!" (1992), "Alien Backs Clinton!" (1992), "Alien Dumps Clinton and Goes Back to Perot!" (1993) and "Space Alien Meets With Newt Gingrich!" (1995).

So far he has not made his '96 endorsement. Hillary Rodham Clinton's reported adoption of an alien baby may play in Bill's favor. Rush Limbaugh has already been endorsed by rival aliens. But Phil Gramm may have an inside track. According to World News, Gramm is 1 of 12 Senators who are themselves space aliens.

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=990CE5D81730F930A2575BC0A963958260>

Straw Man

per Wikipedia

A straw man argument is an informal fallacy based on misrepresentation of an opponent's position. To "set up a straw man" or "set up a straw-man argument" is to create a position that is easy to refute, then attribute that position to the opponent. A straw-man argument can be a successful rhetorical technique (that is, it may succeed in persuading people) but it is in fact a misleading fallacy, because the opponent's actual argument has not been refuted.

Its name is derived from the practice of using straw men in combat training. In such training, a scarecrow is made in the image of the enemy with the single intent of attacking it....

Setup of a straw man

One can set up a straw man in the following ways:

1. Present a misrepresentation of the opponent's position, refute it, and pretend that the opponent's actual position has been refuted.
2. Quote an opponent's words out of context -- i.e., choose quotations that are not representative of the opponent's actual intentions (see contextomy).
3. Present someone who defends a position poorly as the defender, refute that person's arguments, and pretend that every upholder of that position, and thus the position itself, has been defeated.
4. Invent a fictitious persona with actions or beliefs that are criticized, and pretend that the person represents a group of whom the speaker is critical.
5. Oversimplify a person's argument into a simple analogy, which can then be attacked.

Some logic textbooks define the straw man fallacy only as a misrepresented argument. It is now common, however, to use the term to refer to all of these tactics. The straw-man technique is also used as a form of media manipulation.

However, carefully presenting and refuting a weakened form of an opponent's argument is not always itself a fallacy. Instead, it restricts the scope of the opponent's argument, either to where the argument is no longer relevant or as a step of a proof by exhaustion.

Examples

An example of a straw man fallacy:

Person A: I don't think children should run into the busy streets.

Person B: I think that it would be foolish to lock children up all day.

By insinuating that Person A's argument is far more draconian than it is, Person B has side-stepped the issue. Here the "straw man" that person B has set up is the premise that "The only way to stop children running into the busy streets is to keep them inside all day".

A common example of a real world use of this fallacy might concern capital punishment:

Person A: The death sentence would also remove some financial stresses on the prison system.

Person B: It's terrible that you think we should kill people just to clear out prisons.

The fallacy here is how Person B takes an inconsequential benefit of capital punishment and portrays it as Person A's main argument.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Straw_man

Liberal Lies and Straw Men

By Gary Larson

Editorials in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune demean Bush and libel Rumsfeld, stirring hate, inciting enmity, making a mockery of rational discourse.

The Left flies under permanently false colors.
– David Horowitz, "The Politics of Bad Faith" (1998)

Set up a straw man. Kick it. Rip it. Set it ablaze. Nasty trick in demagogues' bags? Sure it is. And one of the oldest Machiavellian tricks in the book, easy.

It's a tactic used by politicians both left and right, also by unhinged news media nowadays doing their best imitations of Party organs. The latter include a Midwest mainstream daily where I live, whose editorials defame President George W. Bush, and libel Donald Rumsfeld, clearly to incite enmity, thus to stir an angry party base. Works, too, gauging from uninformed, sometimes hateful letters to editors from party faithful, reciting spin as fact and partisan invective as reason.

That newspaper is the Minneapolis Star Tribune, a mouthpiece of and for the ardent liberal class. The Wall Street Journal's John Fund dubs it "one of the most left-wing newspapers in the nation," a tag it richly deserves, if recent con jobs on its readers are any measure of that. Think of a newspaper equivalent to The Nation magazine and you'll get the picture.

Straw man tactics invite clueless, often livid letters to editors, but these fail to do true justice to a democracy in which informed citizens are expected to weigh in on issues. When "advertisements contain the only truths to be relied upon in a newspaper," as Thomas Jefferson facetiously wrote, we're in perilous straits.

Alas, his facetiousness becomes reality!

<http://www.intellectualconservative.com/2004/02/13/liberal-lies-and-straw-men/>

Straw Man Politics and The Great Rhetorical Divide

Karl Rove's recent comments regarding the "liberal" response to 9/11 have deeply offended most liberal Americans (myself included). The reason Rove's remarks are so infuriating is that they baldly mischaracterize the position of nearly all serious minded liberals. Yet this should surprise no one. Rove's remarks are just another example of the rhetorical device that has become the primary method of persuasion among conservative pundits and politicians over the last decade: the straw man argument. In this age old method of argumentation, an advocate manufactures a position (a straw man) and claims that it's the position held by his

opponent. He then contrasts this looney position with his own, setting up a false dichotomy. The straw man argument has been a staple of American political discourse since the founding of our country. In the past, however, the use of this particular rhetorical device was limited in large part by the nature of the news media. For most of our country's history, the mainstream press corps served as a check on excessive straw man politics (and deception in general). A politician or pundit who went too far in mischaracterizing his opponents' positions (or basic facts) would lose credibility in the eyes of the media gatekeepers. He would be marginalized and his views would be debunked or simply ignored. If politicians wanted coverage, they had to confine their rhetoric to a zone of reasonableness, and this meant refraining from grossly mischaracterizing the views of the opposition.

But the major media outlets no longer have this gatekeeping power. The arrival of alternative media outlets like FoxNews, talk radio, and the internet have allowed politicians and pundits to bypass the old media filter. They are now free to say whatever they want, whenever they want, and they can be assured that the message will find an audience. As a result, our political discourse today essentially operates on the honor system. In such [a] system, those who do not wish to fight fair can use straw man tactics to great effect.

<http://www.anonymousliberal.com/2005/06/straw-man-politics-and-great.html>

Straw-Man Anti-Evolution Tactics in Louisiana

Not to be outdone by Arkansas, Louisiana is now resorting to straw-man tactics to discredit Darwin's theory of evolution.

State Representative Sharon Broome introduced a resolution saying the legislature rejects "the core concepts of Darwinist ideology that certain races and classes of humans are inherently superior to others and does hereby condemn the extent to which these philosophies have been used to justify and approve racist practices." It urges the state education system to address "the commonalities of people groups and the weaknesses of Darwinian racism."

This tactic is a common logic fallacy known as the "straw man" argument. The moron using the tactic misrepresents the opposing position, and then attacks the opposing position on that basis. This qualifies because no core concept of Darwin's theory of evolution states that any race is superior to any other. According to Joseph Graves, an Arizona State University professor of evolutionary biology, Darwin actually spoke out against racism, saying the differences in races of a species were so minor as to be inconsequential as far as evolution was concerned.

<http://beta.morons.org/tally-ho/article/read/230>

Bush Throws the Straw Man at Powell

September 27, 2006

The dispute between Colin Powell and President Bush gave us a perfect example of how Bush uses the strawman tactic to attempt to fool the public.

Powell said, "The world is beginning to doubt the moral basis of our fight against terrorism."

Bush has no way of countering that true statement of fact. So he comes back with, "If there's any comparison between the compassion and the decency of the American people and the terrorist's tactics of extremists, it's flawed logic."

Of course, neither Powell nor any of the other prominent critics of Bush ever made such a statement.

That he uses these tactics on a war hero like Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., shows just how evil he has become.

— Alex Magdaleno, Camarillo

http://blogs.venturacountystar.com/vcs/letters/archives/2006/09/strawman_tactic.html

Elvis Abducted by Aliens

Elvis Gone Wild

There are those of us who believe that Elvis did not die;

He was abducted by aliens, who used his DNA to impregnate women all over the world.

We are the results of these alien experiments; young urban professionals with a hunk of burning love.

To celebrate our heritage, we suit up like daddy, hit the bar scene in the Tampa Bay, Florida area, and reclaim our birthrights as the illegitimate alien-engineered children of Elvis.

Hail to the King!

<http://www.elvisgonewild.com/>

Alien Abduction Humor ?

Tired of aliens abducting you? Do you want so stop all telepathic communications from the aliens?

All you need is a hat, some tape and the ability to use scissors!!!

They really work!! Read real stories of abduction and the success of thought screen helmets Here.

posted by LokiSpeak at 08:11PM UTC [trackback] (15 comments total)

Accept no substitute. Only Nostrildamus' officially sanctioned Monkeyfilter Tinfoil Hats will stop alien abductions, AND keep you safe from ghosts & other non-physical entities, too! Also will protect you from internets trolls such as Quidnunc, Quonsar & other beings starting with Q.

also I think this is a double post

posted by Nostrildamus at 08:25PM UTC on November 29, 2004

Stupid Sexy Aliens!!!!

Seriously... I wanna get my psych degree in time for that girl to be old enough to move out on her own.

imagines the houses and fancy cars funded by her therapy

posted by Debaser626 at 08:36PM UTC on November 29, 2004

I got abducted at least 18 times on my way to work today. I am *so* getting one of those hats.

posted by petebest at 08:39PM UTC on November 29, 2004

Please fill out this helpful alien abduction survey to determine if you have been abducted by aliens!

posted by Koko at 08:47PM UTC on November 29, 2004

That's a nice hat and all Nostrildamus but "Only thought screen helmets using Velostat are effective."

I mean everyone knows that velostat is da' bomb

posted by LokiSpeak at 08:51PM UTC on November 29, 2004

This MeFi thread on sleep paralysis has lots of info on this relatively common phenomenon, which may help explain some of those 'abduction/mind control/strange presences" night events.

Or not. Anyways, I've been going to bed with my tinfoil cap and tinfoil pajamas since, oh, always...

posted by Flagpole at 08:56PM UTC on November 29, 2004

Thanks Koko. Now I can rest easy knowing I probably haven't been abducted by aliens.

posted by icarium at 08:58PM UTC on November 29, 2004

I just looked at a Velostat bag with a jeweler's triplet and in tiny print it says "Made In The Pleiades."

posted by rolypolyman at 09:06PM UTC on November 29, 2004

Protect your thoughts with Zapatopi Intradimensionals Aluminum Foil Deflector Beanie

posted by varj at 09:24PM UTC on November 29, 2004

Damn, varj, you beat me to it. Unless the hat isn't working. In which case, you stole the link from my brain!

posted by PatB at 09:33PM UTC on November 29, 2004

You should've protected your brain. ALWAYS wear your deflector beanie or I will steal your thoughts.

posted by varj at 09:44PM UTC on November 29, 2004

Fools. There's only one hat that really works.

Plus, we don't abduct gap-toothed attentions-seeking kids with credulous parents. How would they know why Elvis killed JFK?

please tell us. please please please. we'll go away for good if you do....(elvis still won't talk....)

posted by Chaz at 10:58PM UTC on November 29, 2004

Actually, this works too. Sort of.

posted by Chaz at 11:14PM UTC on November 29, 2004

Only thought screen helmets using Velostat are effective.

I am sick and tired of the viral marketing. When will people finally wake up and realize that this is all being perpetuated by the static control industrial complex? Wake up people! You aren't being abducted by "aliens," your wallets and your minds are being robbed blind by 3M. There is no "Michael Menkin," he's just a fabrication of the 3M marketing department. And "his" sole purpose is to get you to buy more Velostat.

And the scary thing is that this is just the test run. When they unroll the real operation in China, in 2008, the stampede of orders for Velostat are going to come crashing in. Imagine, billions of Chinese heads covered in Velostat. People will need multiple hats for differing fashion tastes, moreso for the ladies. That's millions of miles of Velostat, at \$117 a unit! And of course, no ordinary tinfoil will do, only 3M Velostat will "work".

Want to know just how brainwashed "Michael Menkin" has you? Velostat isn't even tinfoil!

Wake up people!

This message brought to your by your friends at Alcoa. Better Living Through Aluminum

posted by LarimdaME at 11:16PM UTC on November 29, 2004

I wear a tin-foil lined cup so that the aliens can't steal my mojo.

posted by dirigibleman at 12:59AM UTC on November 30, 2004

<http://monkeyfilter.com/link.php/6157>

The Mars Chronicles

Behold the previous guest writers brilliant entries. Did they really work alone or were UFOs involved? We'll never know...

Prick O. Saurus - 07/31/99 17:54:33
My Email: prickosaurus@hotmail.com

Your favourite headline from the National Enquirer:

Satan speaks to woman in produce aisle, says Elvis is being held hostage in the Bermuda Triangle by martians, the Loch Ness Monster and the ghost of Al Capone!

What would you do if your hair was on fire?:

Cut the soles off my shoes, climb a tree and learn to play the flute.

Are you suppressing memories of being abducted by aliens?:

Why would I want to? The anal probe was fabulous!

What would you do if frozen lavatory waste from a passing jet crashed through the roof and flattened your computer?:

Start washing my phone.

Do you see time as a sequence of events or a line of infinite possibilities?:

What kind of a fucked up question is that? Do you know who you're talking to, here? I'll come down there and cut the SMILE off your FACE! You got that, TOUGH GUY?!

Lately I've been wondering: why I get so upset over esoteric postulations.

Comments:

I knew it all along. I'm surprised they didn't find a commie flag up there somewhere. Or maybe they did...

Kathy Davidson - 06/24/99 02:15:58
My Email:KathMD2000

Your favourite headline from the National Enquirer:

Alien baby says one word, "Elvis!"

...

Dorian - 02/06/99 20:45:53

My URL:<http://www.geocities.com/area51/dunes/9844>

My Email:citybaby_dorian@yahoo.com

Your favourite headline from the National Enquirer:

George Bush meets with extraterrestrial government leaders.

What would you do if your hair was on fire?:

Switch to a new shampoo and/or use fire-proof conditioner.

Are you suppressing memories of being abducted by aliens?:

No, I remember them quite openly; BTW no one ever probed me, or my cat, but they did examine my dreams and thought of them as "entertainment".

What would you do if frozen lavatory waste from a passing jet crashed through the roof and flattened your computer?:

Sue Hotmail and Bill Gates and blame Y2K.

Do you see time as a sequence of events or a line of infinite possibilities?:

Time is like a web page....or a box of chocolate covered cherries.....you know if you follow the code.

Lately I've been wondering: What does it cost for a honeymoon on Mars?

Comments:

Ok, you are not insane, but I will have to keep my eyes open when I sleep. Would you mind your first child being named "Blixtra"? What ever happened to X2? Did she actually move to Mars?

The Editor - 02/06/99 18:21:40

My URL:<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Dunes/2035/>

Your favourite headline from the National Enquirer:

Alien Pregnant by Elvis

What would you do if your hair was on fire?:

I would travel with a circus.

Are you suppressing memories of being abducted by aliens?:

No, I didn't mind being abducted; the probe thing was optional.

...

<http://hem.bredband.net/marschronicles/chapter02.html>

[Back](#)

1.4 The Protocols of the Elders of Zion

An Overview with Multiple Links

<http://ddickerson.igc.org/protocols.html>

Russian Court Rules Protocols an Anti-Semitic Forgery (November 1993)

<http://www.nizkor.org/ftp.cgi?documents/protocols/protocols.001>

The Protocols First Exposed as a Hoax:

Transcripts of Philip Graves's Articles in the London Times, August 16 to 18, 1921

<http://emperors-clothes.com/antidem/graves-text.htm>

How Hitler Employed the Protocols

<http://ddickerson.igc.org/hitler-protokollen.html>

Anti-Defamation League Summary

http://www.adl.org/special_reports/protocols/protocols_intro.asp

The Conspirators

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuliana_Glinka

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyotr_Rachkovsky

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matvei_Golovinski

<http://www.blavatsky.net/>

The Tsar's Secret Police

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okhranka> <http://emperors-clothes.com/antidem/times-pdf.htm>

The Protocols and the Holocaust

The war that the Nazis waged against the Jews was not just a war of physical annihilation. It was an international war of propaganda to convince the rest of the world of the evils of Judaism. One of the primary weapons that the Third Reich used for this international effort was a forgery known as "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion." It is claimed that the Protocols are the minutes of a meeting of Jewish leaders at the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897, in which

Jews plotted to take over the world. The Protocols are a complete forgery most of which was copied from an obscure satire on Napoleon III by Maurice Joly called "Dialogue aux Enfers entre Montesquieu et Machiavel" ("A Dialogue in Hell Between Montesquieu and Machiavelli").

The story of the Protocols starts with a chapter in a novel called "Biarritz" by a German bureaucrat named Hermann Goedesche writing under the pseudonym "Sir John Retcliffe" (sometimes altered to "Sir John Readcliffe" in later literature). Goedesche was an anti-Semite in the middle of the 19th century who believed in a conspiracy between Jews and Masons to dominate the world. One chapter of the novel, titled "In the Jewish Cemetery in Prague" relates a speech by a Rabbi named Eichhorn or Reichhorn which reveals a Jewish plot against European civilization. Although it was part of a novel, it was printed separately as an anti-Semitic pamphlet in Russia as early as 1872. It was widely circulated as a truthful account for the rest of the 19th century and represents the precursor of the Protocols. It is still occasionally attached to current editions of the Protocols.

The Protocols were actually written in Paris sometime between 1895 and 1899 by an agent of the Russian secret police Pytor Ivanovich Rachovsky, who is known to have forged other documents for the various intrigues in which he took part. While the Protocols are overtly anti-Semitic it is believed that the Russian minister of finance, Sergei Witte, was also a target of the Protocols. At the time Witte was the leader of the movement to modernize Russia and limit the influence of the old Russian aristocracy. The Protocols attempt to discredit Witte's reforms of the Russian economy by linking Witte's program to a Jewish plot to destroy western civilization.

The Protocols, as they are usually published, are divided into twenty-six separate chapters each of which are a lecture on how to subvert western civilization, although some versions, including the first in English, did not have this division. The "program" set forth in the Protocols is vague and generalized. The Protocols advise, for example: "Therefore in governing the world the best results are obtained by violence and intimidation, and not by academic discussions." (Protocol 1). Some are just silly. One Protocol (23) advocates making people unhappy by passing laws prohibiting drunkenness. The Protocols are vigorously anti-democratic as well. Protocol 25 advises: "Several members of the seed of David will prepare Kings and their successors, who will be elected not by right of inheritance but by their own capabilities. These successors will be initiated in our secret political mysteries and plans of governing, taking great care that no one else should acquire them."

The parochial political controversies that sparked the writing of the Protocols was soon forgotten but the anti-Semitism remained. The Protocols were first published in full by Sergei Nilus, another agent of the Russian secret police, in 1905. Nilus, who might have been one of the authors of the Protocols, became their main promoter; he circulated several editions of the Protocols in Russia as part of an campaign of anti-Semitism. While the early publications of the Protocols were in Russia, it was spread to the rest of Europe by Russian expatriates after the fall of the Tsars in 1917, where they claimed that it provided proof that the Jews were behind the Russian Revolution. Another expatriate Russian, Boris Brasol, brought it to the United States around 1920 where it became the core of Henry Ford's anti-Semitic program. By the time Nilus died in 1930, Europe had been saturated by millions of copies of the Protocols. It had also been exposed as a forgery.

The Protocols reached Germany sometime around 1918. One of those who brought them to Germany was Alfred Rosenberg, an Estonian of German heritage who first encountered the Protocols when a student in Moscow. According to Rosenberg a stranger entered his room, placed the book on the table and silently departed. Whether his tale was true or not, Rosenberg soon became an anti-Semite convinced of the authenticity of the Protocols. When he fled Raval (now Tallinn) in the civil war that followed the Russian Revolution, he took the Protocols with him.

In Germany Rosenberg soon became involved with a mystical group that was a precursor to National Socialism known as the Thule Society where he frequently lectured about the Protocols. Rosenberg was there to explain the mysteries of the Protocols when Adolf Hitler appeared on the stage of right-wing politics in 1921. Rosenberg was at Hitler's side during the attempted putsch in Munich in 1923. By then the Protocols had become one of the central themes of Nazi thought. The Protocols were the basis for much of Mein Kampf, and Rosenberg's book *The Myth of the 20th Century* became the most important exposition of Nazi philosophy.

It was already known that the Protocols were a forgery when Hitler received his first copy. The exposure of the forgery began as soon as the Protocols began to appear in western Europe but the coup de grâce occurred in 1921, one year after the Protocols were first published in Great Britain. In August, 1921, the Times of London printed a devastating exposure of the forgery by printing extracts from the Protocols side-by-side with the passages from Joly's book that had been plagiarized. From that point, the Protocols were dismissed by thinking people everywhere. It did not, however, stop the wide circulation of the Protocols by Russian expatriates and later by Hitler. Even the decision by a Swiss court after consultation with three experts (one appointed by the publisher) in May, 1935 did not affect the distribution of the Protocols by the Third Reich.

The anti-Semitic agitation of the Nazis was international in scope. The Protocols was the chief weapons used in the propaganda campaign against the Jews. Under the direction of Joseph Goebbels, the Protocols were translated into many other languages and the world was flooded with cheap editions of the forged document. With Henry Ford's "The International Jew" (also based in large part on the Protocols), it became the staple text for the anti-Semitism exported by the Nazis around the world. In Mein Kampf, Hitler described the importance of the Protocols to his program of anti-Semitism:

... To what extent the whole existence of this people is based on a continuous lie is shown incomparably by the Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion, so infinitely hated by the Jews. They are based on a forgery, the Frankfurter Zeitung moans and screams once every week: the best proof that they are authentic. What many Jews may do unconsciously is here consciously exposed. And that is what matters. It is completely indifferent from what Jewish brain these disclosures originate; the important thing is that with positively terrifying certainty they reveal the nature and activity of the Jewish people and expose their inner contexts as well as their ultimate final aims. The best criticism applied to them, however, is reality. Anyone who examines the historical development of the last hundred years from the standpoint of this book will at once understand the screaming of the Jewish press. For once this book has become the common property of a people, the Jewish menace may be considered as broken.

Hitler, Adolf. Mein Kampf (München: Zentralverlag der N.S.D.A.P. Franz Eher Nachf., G.M.B.H., 1935). Volume 1; Chapter XI: Nation and Race (pp. 307-308; Mannheim translation).

Even today the Protocols of the Elders of Zion is one of the principal propaganda weapons of anti-Semitism. In the United States it continues to be circulated by the Christian Identity movement, the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi groups. It is still distributed by those who deny the Holocaust as well. The Institute for Historical Review -- the intellectual center of the movement denying the Holocaust -- continues to sell the Protocols and it is still used to attack Jews. Ernst Zündel, who states openly that he is an admirer of Hitler and claims the Holocaust never happened, still repeats the lies of the Protocols:

Could it be that word is out that, according to the Protocols of the Wise Elders of Zion, the New World Order is soon going to be locked in place, with Israel the hub of power and the United States its dedicated slave?

<http://www.lebensraum.org/english/zgrams/zg1997/zg9709/970912.html>

Nor is the United States the only country and English the only language where the Protocols are still being distributed as fact. The Protocols are available in virtually every European country. Translated into Arabic, the Protocols have become a standard text for anti-Semitism in the Middle East. Translated into Japanese, millions of the copies of the Protocols are still being distributed around the Pacific Rim.

"The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" has become a lie that will not die, no matter how often it is exposed as a forgery.

Research References

Norman Cohn, "Warrant for Genocide" Serif Press (1967, 1996) is the most complete history of the Protocols.

Albert Lee, "Henry Ford and the Jews" Stein & Day (1980) explains how they were used by Henry Ford and distributed throughout the world.

Michael Barkan, "Religion and the Racist Right" University of North Carolina Press (Revised Edition; 1997) explains how the Protocols influenced the Christian Identity movement.

D. Sklar, "The Nazis and the Occult" Dorset Press (1977, 1989) explains the connection between the Thule Society and Nazi thought.

<http://www.holocaust-history.org/short-essays/protocols.shtml>

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion:

The Most Notorious and Most Successful Work of Modern Antisemitism

by Daniel Keren

The "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", the most notorious and most successful work of modern antisemitism, draws on popular antisemitic notions which have their roots in medieval Europe from the time of the Crusades. The libels that the

Jews used blood of Christian children for the Feast of Passover, poisoned the wells and spread the plague were pretexts for the wholesale destruction of Jewish communities throughout Europe. Tales were circulated among the masses of secret rabbinical conferences whose aim was to subjugate and exterminate the Christians, and motifs like these are found in early antisemitic literature.

The conceptual inspiration for the Protocols can be traced back to the time of the French Revolution at the end of the 18th century. At that time, a French Jesuit named Abbe Barruel, representing reactionary elements opposed to the revolution, published in 1797 a treatise blaming the Revolution on a secret conspiracy operating through the Order of Freemasons. Barruel's idea was nonsense, since the French nobility at the time was heavily Masonic, but he was influenced by a Scottish mathematician named Robison who was opposed to the Masons. In his treatise, Barruel did not himself blame the Jews, who were emancipated as a result of the Revolution. However, in 1806, Barruel circulated a forged letter, probably sent to him by members of the state police opposed to Napoleon Bonaparte's liberal policy toward the Jews, calling attention to the alleged part of the Jews in the conspiracy he had earlier attributed to the Masons. This myth of an international Jewish conspiracy reappeared later on in 19th century Europe in places such as Germany and Poland.

The direct predecessor of the Protocols can be found in the pamphlet "Dialogues in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu," published by the non-Jewish French satirist Maurice Joly in 1864. In his "Dialogues," which make no mention of the Jews, Joly attacked the political ambitions of the emperor Napoleon III using the imagery of a diabolical plot in Hell. The "Dialogues" were caught by the French authorities soon after their publication and Joly was tried and sentenced to prison for his pamphlet.

Joly's "Dialogues," while intended as a political satire, soon fell into the hands of a German antisemite named Hermann Goedsche writing under the name of Sir John Retcliffe. Goedsche was a postal clerk and a spy for the Prussian secret police. He had been forced to leave the postal work due to his part in forging evidence in the prosecution against the Democratic leader Benedict Waldeck in 1849. Goedsche adapted Joly's "Dialogues" into a mythical tale of a Jewish conspiracy as part of a series of novels entitled "Biarritz", which appeared in 1868. In a chapter called "The Jewish Cemetery in Prague and the Council of Representatives of the Twelve Tribes of Israel," he spins the fantasy of a secret centennial rabbinical conference which meets at midnight and whose purpose is to review the past hundred years and to make plans for the next century.

Goedsche's plagiarism of Joly's "Dialogues" soon found its way to Russia. It was translated into Russian in 1872, and a consolidation of the "council of representatives" under the name "Rabbi's Speech" appeared in Russian in 1891. These works no doubt furnished the Russian secret police (Okhrana) with a means with which to strengthen the position of the weak Czar Nicholas II and discredit the reforms of the liberals who sympathized with the Jews. During the Dreyfus case of 1893-1895, agents of the Okhrana in Paris redacted the earlier works of Joly and Goedsche into a new edition which they called the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." The manuscript of the Protocols was brought to Russia in 1895 and was printed privately in 1897.

The Protocols did not become public until 1905, when Russia's defeat in the Russo-Japanese War was followed by the Revolution in the same year, leading to the

promulgation of a constitution and institution of the Duma. In the wake of these events, the reactionary "Union of the Russian Nation" or Black Hundreds organization sought to incite popular feeling against the Jews, who they blamed for the Revolution and the Constitution. To this end they used the Protocols, which was first published in a public edition by the mystic priest Sergius Nilus in 1905. The Protocols were part of propaganda campaign which accompanied the pogroms of 1905 inspired by the Okhrana. A variant text of the Protocols was published by George Butmi in 1906 and again in 1907. The edition of 1906 was found among the Czar's collection, even though he had already recognized the work as a forgery. In his later editions, Nilus claimed that the Protocols had been read secretly at the First Zionist Congress at Basle in 1897, while Butmi in his edition wrote that they had no connection with the new Zionist movement, but rather were part of the Masonic conspiracy.

In the civil war following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, the reactionary White Armies made extensive use of the Protocols to incite widespread slaughters of Jews. At the same time, Russian emigrants brought the Protocols to western Europe, where the Nilus edition served as the basis for many translations, starting in 1920. Just after its appearance in London in 1920, Lucien Wolf exposed the Protocols as a plagiary of the earlier work of Joly and Goedsche, in a pamphlet of the Jewish Board of Deputies. The following year, in 1921, the story of the forgery was published in a series of articles in the London Times by Philip Grave, the paper's correspondent in Constantinople. A whole book documenting the forgery was also published in the same year in America by Herman Bernstein. Nevertheless, the Protocols continued to circulate widely. They were even sponsored by Henry Ford in the United States until 1927, and formed an important part of the Nazis' justification of genocide of the Jews in World War II.

Bibliography

Lucien Wolf. The Jewish Bogey and the Forged Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion. Press Committee of the Jewish Board of Deputies, London (1920).

The Truth About "The Protocols:" A Literary Forgery. From The Times of August 16, 17, and 18, 1921. Printing House Square, London.

Encyclopaedia Judaica. Keter Publishing House, Jerusalem (1971), entries on Antisemitism and Elders of Zion, Protocols of the Learned.

Herman Bernstein. The Truth About "The Protocols of Zion" (reprinted with introduction by Norman Cohn). Ktav Publishing House, New York (1971).

Norman Cohn. Warrant for Genocide: The Myth of the Jewish World Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion (Brown Judaic Studies, No. 23). Scholars Press, Chico, CA (1981).

<http://www.einsatzgruppenarchives.com/denial/protocols.html>

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Chapter 2 References

The Assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy

OVERVIEWS:

Excellent Comprehensive Historical Perspective at:

<http://www.history-matters.com/index.htm>

Another Excellent Site:

http://www.maryferrell.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

Clearing House with Names, Biographies and Faces at:

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKindex.htm>

Also Recommended:

<http://www.jfklancer.com/>

2.1 Emory Roberts

The Strange Actions and Inactions of Agent Emory Roberts

<http://www.jfklink.com/articles/EmoryRoberts.html>

VIDEO: Emory Roberts Stand Down in Context

Taken from Nigel Brown's Last Segments of The Men Who Killed Kennedy, which is, thanks to the the efforts of Lyndon Johnson family, no longer available in the marketplace.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNTEQ9ckmD8>

VIDEO: Emory Roberts Stand Down

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8M9GAUUSss>

PHOTO: One Moment/Two Men (President Kennedy's First Wound):
by James Altgens

The man in the doorway is dressed in the clothes Oswald will be arrested wearing. Note that Vice-President Johnson's Secret Service Agents have already opened the door of his car.

<http://jfk.iefactory.com/galeria/altgens.htm>

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2.2 The Warren Commission Report

<http://www.archives.gov/research/jfk/warren-commission-report/>

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2.3 Nicholas Katzenbach

His Memo Laying Out Warren Commission's Mandate:

To Find That Oswald "Did Not Have Confederates" (in three pages)

http://www.history-matters.com/archive/jfk/fbi/105-82555/124-10010-10135/html/124-10010-10135_0001a.htm

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2.4 Oswald as a "Marksman"

The Marksmanship Ability of President Kennedy's Alleged Assassin by Michael T. Griffin

Mark Lane: Do you feel that the agents of the FBI actually tried to get you to change your statement that Oswald was a poor shot?

Nelson Delgado: Yes, sir, I definitely do.

Sherman Cooley: If I had to pick one man in the whole United States to shoot me, I'd pick Oswald. I saw the man shoot. There's no way he could have ever learned to shoot well enough to do what they accused him of doing in Dallas.

Many of the Marines mentioned that Oswald had a certain lack of coordination that, they felt, was responsible for the fact that he had difficulty learning to shoot. They believed it was the same deficiency in coordination responsible for his reported inability to drive a car.

<http://ourworld.cs.com/mikegriffith1/id87.htm>

Presumed Guilty: How the Warren Commission Misstated Oswald's Rifle Capability "The Commission, in essence, told the public that "rather poor shot" Oswald did what shooters in the NRA Master classification, the highest rating, could not do."

<http://www.american-buddha.com/presumegUILTY9.htm?signup>

BOOK: Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?

by William Cran, Benjamin Loetterman

"...assertion of Oswald's crack rifle skill when, in fact, he was a poor shot."

Review at:

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021->

[8723\(199412\)81%3A3%3C1418%3AWWLHO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0021-8723(199412)81%3A3%3C1418%3AWWLHO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O)

US Marine Corps Master Snipers Fail Repeatedly to Duplicate Oswald's Purported Feat

Former US Marine snipers, Craig Roberts, and Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock, (who was the senior instructor for the US Marine Corps Sniper Instructor School at Quantico, Virginia) both said it could not be done as described by the FBI investigators.

"Let me tell you what we did at Quantico," Hathcock said. "We reconstructed the whole thing: the angle, the range, the moving target, the time limit, the obstacles, everything. I don't know how many times we tried it, but we couldn't duplicate what the Warren Commission said Oswald did. Now if I can't do it, how in the world could a guy who was a non-qual on the rifle range and later only qualified 'marksman' do it?"

<http://www.answers.com/topic/kennedy-assassination-theories>

The 9/11 Hijackers as Highly Unlikely Pilots

The Impossibility of Flying Heavy Aircraft Without Training

<http://www.mindfully.org/Reform/2006/911-Flying-Without-Training13jun06.htm>

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2.5 The Church Committee

<http://www.history-matters.com/archive/church/contents.htm>

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2.6 CIA and "Oswald" in Mexico

Valery Kostinov and CIA Falsifications

www.assassinationweb.com/scottc.htm

Related Documents and Files

www.jfklancer.com/ddi/Documents.html

Mexico City: The Cast of Characters

www.jfklancer.com/backes/newman/cast.htm

The JFK Assassination Chronology

Compiled by Ira David Wood III

EXCERPT:

"Army code breaker Pfc. **Eugene Dinkin** is taken into custody by Army officials and hospitalized in a closed psychiatric ward. He is kept virtually incommunicado for approximately one week. Dinkin had gone AWOL weeks before and alerted various embassies across Europe about a conspiracy to assassinate the president involving the military and perhaps an "ultra right economic group." Dinkin eventually ends up in Walter Reed Army Hospital for four months -- where it appears that a "cover story" may have been induced to obfuscate whatever legitimate advance knowledge he possesses. Dinkin says that he believes that the psychiatric evaluation given him by the Army psychiatrist is, in fact, an attempt on their part to cover up the military plot which he has attempted to expose.

There is evidence that the White House, the CIA and the Attorney General's office were all in possession of Dinkin's explicit and detailed warning prior to JFK's assassination.

NOTE As of November 21, 1963 (the eve of the assassination) *Private Eugene B. Dinkin, Richard Case Nagell, Gilberto Alvarado Ugarte, Joseph Milteer, Rose Cheramie and Abraham Bolden* have all made public statements concerning the imminent assassination of JFK. Of these people, Dinkin, Cheramie, Nagell, and Ugarte are threatened with being declared to be mentally unstable. Secret Service Agent Bolden will be sent to prison on a charge of discussing a bribe with two counterfeiters. He will be subsequently released and will claim that he was framed by the Secret Service and convicted in order to silence him regarding the Kennedy threat.

www.assassinationresearch.com/v2n1/chrono1.pdf

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2.7 J. Edgar Hoover and Lyndon Johnson on the Oswald Impostor

AUDIO: Recording of Their Conversation, The Day After the Deed

http://www.historymatters.com/archive/jfk/lbjlib/phone_calls/Nov_1963/audio/LBJ-Hoover_11-23-63.htm

The Oswald Arrested in Dallas Was Not the Oswald in Mexico

Links to Many Articles Providing Evidence of the Conspiracy to Frame Him

<http://www.jfklancer.com/oswald.html>

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2.8 Lee Harvey Oswald

OVERVIEW:

A Comprehensive Site with Multiple Links

http://www.maryferrell.org/wiki/index.php/Lee_Harvey_Oswald

Oswald as a Russian "Defector"

Review of the John Kennedy Assassination Videos

**See: "JFK ASSASSINATION: THE GANGSTER NATURE OF THE STATE"
(Scroll down approximately one-fifth of the page)**

http://www.acorn.net/jfkplace/09/fp.back_issues/11th_Issue/vid_review.html

Oswald in Russia

<http://www.russianbooks.org/oswald/moscow1.htm>

Overview quoting CIA memo:

Oswald Retained US Citizenship Through Soviet "Defection."

<http://www.assassinationweb.com/Peterson.htm>

Lee Harvey Oswald Intelligence Connections

<http://www.jfklancer.com/oswald.html>

Oswald in the CIA

<http://www.jfklancer.com/Wilcott.html>

Lee Harvey Oswald:

The Patsy

<http://www.famoustexans.com/leeharveyoswald.htm>

Offer of Oswald's FBI File for Warren Commission Scrutiny Personally Rejected by Earl Warren

http://karws.gso.uri.edu/JFK/the_critics/evica/This_dirty_rumor_Evica.html

Additional Gathered Theories

<http://www.answers.com/topic/kennedy-assassination-theories>

Harvey Oswald and Lee Harvey Oswald: Two Men, Each an Asset of the CIA

http://home.wi.rr.com/harveyandlee/Comrade/Comrade_boy.htm

Priscilla Johnson McMillan, CIA

**Comparing Her Original Notes on Oswald in Russia to the Revised Version
She Provided After the Assassination.**

<http://www.jfk-info.com/pjm-tit.htm>

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3.1 General Edwin Walker

EXCERPTS: "Warren Commission Errors"

by Martin Shackelford

#23) The Commission flatly states that Oswald tried to kill General Edwin Walker, despite the fact that the bullet recovered from the scene was not compatible with his rifle. It only "became compatible" after the assassination, when it turned out to be a different kind of bullet than Dallas Police had reported it to be in April.

#24) We learn that Oswald returned to New Orleans, but not that he returned to the milieu of the Marcello crime family. We are also not told of the many employees of right-wing private detective Guy Banister who remember Oswald as another Banister employee -- or the students at Louisiana State University who recall seeing Banister and Oswald visiting the campus together -- or the editor of a CIA-supported newsletter on Central America who reported seeing them on the street, and in Mancuso's Restaurant (in the same building as Banister's office). David Ferrie also worked with Banister.

http://www.acorn.net/jfkplace/09/fp.back_issues/31st_Issue/warrenerror.html

Walker Assassination Attempt Witness: "Two men ... different cars."

Car License Plate Obliterated in Photo Linking Oswald to the Attempt

On 10th April, 1963, Walker was victim of an assassination attempt while he sat at a desk in his Dallas home. It was later claimed that Lee Harvey Oswald had taken the shot at Walker. Marina Oswald reported that she "asked him what happened, and he said that he just tried to shoot General Walker. I asked him who General Walker was. I mean how dare you to go and claim somebody's life, and he said "Well, what would you say if somebody got rid of Hitler at the right time? So if you don't know about General Walker, how can you speak up on his behalf?" Because he told me ... he was something equal to what he called him a fascist."

However, there was a witness to the shooting. Kirk Coleman saw two men making their escape, one stopped to place something in the back of his Ford sedan, then they both drove off in different cars. As Oswald could not drive this has raised serious doubts if he could have been involved in this attempt on Walker's life.

After the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, a photograph of Walker's home was found among Oswald's possessions. When the photograph was turned over to the Warren Commission by the FBI, a hole had been pushed through it right in the spot where the license plate on the car had been, making the car unidentifiable (it did not belong to Walker). Another photograph, taken by the Dallas police, showed Oswald's possessions laid out on the floor of police headquarters. This included the photograph of Walker's home, without the hole obscuring the license plate.

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKwalker.htm>

Edwin Walker Biography

<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/WW/fwaaf.html>

Edwin Walker Assassination Attempt

http://www.edwardjayepstein.com/question_oswald2.htm

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3.2 David Ferrie: An Early Mentor for Oswald

"You had to see Dave Ferrie to believe him," says a New Orleans newsman, "and once you saw him you could never forget him." Ferrie was 48, completely hairless, and habitually wore glued-on eyebrows and had tufts of hair fastened at random on his head with spirit gum. He had a nasal voice, an antipathy to soap and a penchant for authoritative statements. He also had a long record of failure in a wildly disparate series of endeavors. Ferrie had been a teacher, an unsuccessful candidate for the priesthood, a pilot who had been discharged by Eastern Air Lines for homosexual activity, a "psychologist" with a "degree" from a diploma mill, a private investigator, a self-proclaimed cancer-cure researcher and an amateur hypnotist. In New Orleans he had become enmeshed with a group of anti-Castro Cubans and had been training teams of "guerrilla jungle fighters" for some future assault on Cuba.

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKferrie.htm>

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3.3 Carlos Bringuier, Oswald and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee

The Political Theatrics of Sworn "Enemies"

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Bringuier

Biography: Carlos Bringuier

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKbringuier.htm>

Bringuier: Anti-Castro, Anti-Kennedy

http://demopedia.democraticunderground.com/index.php/Carlos_Bringuier

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3.4 Clay Shaw

Director Richard Helms Admission that Clay Shaw Worked for the CIA

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Helms

Clay Shaw and General Charles Cabell

<http://www.jfk-online.com/dbdavy1.html>

Clay Shaw's Trial and the CIA

by Lawrence R. Houston

"Shaw himself was a contact of the Domestic Contact Service's New Orleans office from 1948 to 1956 and introduced General Cabell, then Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, when he addressed the New Orleans Foreign Policy Association in May 1961."

http://www.totse.com/en/conspiracy/dead_kennedys/161824.html

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3.5 Chauncey Holt

After the failed Bay of Pigs invasion Holt worked for Meyer Lansky in California. Meyer took over the Los Angeles Stamp and Stationary Company where Holt continued to produce illegal documents and false police badges. He also worked closely with Phillip A. Twombly, a former Executive Vice President of Coca Cola for their Caribbean operations. Twombly now owned a bank in Fullerton, California, which was used to distribute CIA funds for covert operations.

www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKholt.htm

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3.6 CIA Deceit: The George Joannides Coverup

by Jefferson Morley

<http://www.jfklancer.com/morley.htm>

VIDEO: Jeff Morley (Washington Post) Interview re:

CIA Duplicity Through the Offices of George Joannides

http://www.maryferrell.org/wiki/images/d/d5/Video_morley_joannidesa_hires.mov

DECLASSIFIED: J Edgar Hoover Memo of June 3, 1960

Hoover Memo of June 3, 1960 regarding the possibility of someone other than Oswald using Oswald's Birth Certificate in Russia.

<http://www.assassinationweb.com/Peterson.htm>

"Harvey" and "Lee:" The Comrade and the Good Ole Boy

http://home.wi.rr.com/harveyandlee/Comrade/Comrade_boy.htm

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3.7 Lee Harvey Oswald

<http://www.famoustexans.com/leeharveyoswald.htm>

Letter from Marina Oswald to John Tunheim (19th April, 1996)

(See Item #21)

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKoswald.htm>

Oswald: Presumed Guilty

by Howard Roffman

How and why the Warren Commission framed Lee Harvey Oswald --
A factual account based on the Commission's public and private documents.

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/History/JFKarchive/PG>

Testimony Regarding Oswald by Former CIA Accountant James B. Wilcott

[As per reference 2.8]

<http://www.jfklancer.com/Wilcott.html>

VIDEO: Peter Dale Scott

The Warren Commission's Refusal to Investigate Oswald's Connections to the CIA and the FBI

www.maryferrell.org/wiki/images/b/b9/Video_pds_oswarren_hires.mov

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3.8 Guy Bannister

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKbannister.htm>

CIA Counterfeiter Chauncey Holt Remembers Bannister

"Phillip Twombly asked us if we would be willing to fly to New Orleans and give some support to Oswald, who was a stranger to us. The only thing we knew about Oswald at the time was we had detected the address on there as being 544 Camp Street. Although we were not familiar with Oswald we certainly knew what was at 544 Camp Street because we had gone there before. It was the HQ of Sergio A. Smith's organization, the CRC. There was a restaurant in the first floor and Guy Bannister had an office in the building. Although he used an address around the corner, it was in the same building..."

<http://www.jfkmurdersolved.com/holt1.htm>

Oswald Used Bannister's Address on His Leaflets

EXCERPT: Rearview Mirror, by William Turner

"I walked over to 531 Lafayette Place. There was no inscription on the door denoting it as Banister's business, only a realtor's shingle and a sticker of the then-nascent Republican Party of Louisiana. The door opened to stairs leading to a second-floor space that was unoccupied. Diagonally across the space was a second set of stairs, which led down to a door on Camp Street. The number over the door read "594." 594 Camp Street was the return address Lee Harvey Oswald had stamped on the first batch of pro-Castro literature he handed out on the streets of the Crescent City in August, 1963. Subsequent batches bore a post office box number, suggesting that the use of the street address had been a lapse. What was Oswald's connection to Banister?"

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKferrie.htm>

The Kennedy Assassination Remembered by Dr. J. Coleman

<http://www.skepticfiles.org/socialis/jfkcole.htm>

An Illuminati Outline of History:

1950 C.E to 1973 C.E.

**The Extremely Common Occurrence of Assassination
See "Oswald in New Orleans"**

<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/2917/ill5.html>

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3.9 Jim Garrison's Investigation

Excerpts of Paris Flammonde's book The Kennedy Conspiracy An Uncommissioned Report on the Jim Garrison Investigation

www.maebrussell.com/Articles%20and%20Notes/Kennedy%20Conspiracy.html

The Garrison Investigation as Excerpted from the Book, *Crossfire*, by Jim Marrs

Site also provides a multitude of links, including:

The Col. L. Fletcher Prouty Reference Site
Jim Garrison -- 1967 Lecture (Audio)
Oliver Stone Answers Audience Questions (Audio)
Lasting Questions about the Murder of President Kennedy
Citizens for Truth about the Kennedy Assassination
The Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy
The Truth about Arlen Specter
The Intimidation of Dealey Plaza Witnesses
Hale Boggs -- Warren Commission Member and Critic (who died in a plane crash)
Kennedy Curse or a Right-Wing Vendetta?
J. Edgar Hoover -- Blackmailed by the Mob
Operation Northwoods
Dirty Politics -- Nixon, Watergate, and the JFK Assassination
The Watergate Plane Crash -- Flight 553
General Curtis LeMay -- Demented Cold Warrior
The October Surprise
The CIA School of Assassination at Fort Bragg
The Reagan Years -- The Real Reagan Record
"Body of Secrets" -- Attack on the USS Liberty
The CIA and the Media
CIA Instructions to Media Assets

<http://www.geocities.com/garrisoninvestigation/>

VIDEO: NBC versus America

Jim Garrison's Rebuttal

<http://www.impioustdigest.com/lbj/nbc.htm>

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3.10 Eladio Del Valle

Pre-Castro Cuban Power Broker A Member of the "A Team" in Dallas

Before Fidel Castro's ascendance, Del Valle was a major player in Cuba, serving in military intelligence and running the narcotics wing of the police department. Exiled to Miami, Del Valle, having committed his life to taking Castro down, travelled to Dallas for the events of November 22nd. Robert Morrow, in his book, *First Hand Knowledge*, recalls Del Valle:

"On July 1, [1963], I was contacted by (CIA head of Domestic Operations Officer) Tracy Barnes. He requested that I purchase four Mannlicher 7.35 mm surplus rifles. According to Barnes, the rifles were available in the Baltimore area from Sunny's Supply Stores. Upon my agreement to make

the purchase, Barnes requested that I alter the forepiece of each rifle so that the rifles could be dismantled, hidden and reassembled quickly. I thought this last request odd until I was informed that the rifles were to be used for a clandestine operation.

One day later I received a second phone call. It was Eladio del Valle calling from, I assumed, Miami. He asked me to supply him with four transceivers which were not detectable by any communications equipment then available on the market. Although his request seemed impossible, I told him that I had an idea which might fulfill his requirement. I could provide him with sub-miniaturized units whose operation would be confined to a range of fifty or one hundred kilohertz. To operate any sizable distance, the units would require an antenna at least several feet in length. A wire taped to the user's leg would easily suffice for this purpose. The set-up would not be pretty, but I could assure him that no one would be monitoring these low frequencies..."

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKeladio.htm>

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3.11 George de Mohrenschildt and Oswald

http://www.demopedia democraticunderground.com/index.php/George_De_Mohrenschildt

Biography of George de Mohrenschildt

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKdemohrenschildt.htm>

Chart of de Mohrenschildt's Connections

<http://www.ciajfk.com/de-chart.jpg>

Third World Traveler: Who Killed JFK?

by Carl Oglesby

http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/CIA/Who_Killed_JFK.html

The Oswalds and De Mohrenschildt's History with the Nazis

by Mae Brussell

"As he told it to the Warren Commission, he was fascinated with this strange couple just out of Russia. But at the Petroleum Club in Dallas, De Mohrenschildt sang the praises of Heinrich Himmler..."

<http://www.maebrussell.com/Mae%20Brussell%20Articles/Nazi%20Connection%20to%20JFK%20Assass.html>

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3.12 Charles Nicoletti

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKfiles.htm>

VIDEO: James Files Interviews

Preface: Including Observations on his His Diminishing Mind and Oliver Stone

<http://www.jfkmurdersolved.com/film/Film.wmv>

Part 1: Discussing Charlie Nicoletti and Johnny Roselli

<http://video.google.com.au/videoplay?docid=5948291412077941224&q=james+Files>

Part 2: His Role in the Assassination

<http://video.google.com.au/videoplay?docid=8877971235297576196&q=james+Files>

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3.13 **Sam Giancana**

Biography and Excerpts from Other Source Materials

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKgiancana.htm>

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3.14 **Johnny Roselli**

Biography and Excerpts from Other Source Materials

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKroselli.htm>

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3.15 **Secret Service Agent Roy Kellerman**

President Kennedy's Bodyguard -- Riding Shotgun Through the Murder Includes (Item 7) the HSCA's Statement on Secret Service Deficiency

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKkellerman.htm>

Three Patients:

The Parkland Attending Physicians' Statements Regarding the President. From the State Journal of Medicine.

Written in late November and early December, 1963.

<http://www.jfklancer.com/3Patients.html>

Statement of Parkland Memorial Nurse Patricia Hutton

Who Removed JFK from the Limousine and Assisted in Trauma Room One

<http://www.jfklancer.com/docs.maps/hutton1.gif>

John F. Kennedy Autopsy Photos

<http://www.jfklancer.com/aphotos.html>

Statements of Medical Personnel at Parkland Memorial Hospital

<http://www.jfklancer.com/medical.html>

Statements of Special Agent Clint Hill

<http://www.jfklancer.com/CHill.html>

Kennedy Eyewitness Accounts

600 Witnesses to the Assassination;

Warren Commission Did Not Conduct an Analysis of Their Accounts

<http://www.history-matters.com/analysis/Witness/Index.htm>

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3.16 **The Switched Casket**

In Dallas, at the O'Neil Funeral Home, Kennedy's body was tenderly wrapped in a linen shroud and placed in a bronze ceremonial casket.

By the time the body arrived in Bethesda Kennedy was in a cheap shipping casket, and wrapped in a body bag. Not content with this brutal murder carried out before women and children, Johnson's boys bereft Kennedy of his shroud, and he was found stripped naked when they unzipped the bag.

<http://itwasjohnson.impioustdigest.com/page1cx3.htm>

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3.17 The Replacement of JFK's Original Autopsy Photographs and X-Rays

VIDEO: Poppy Bush, His Daddy Prescott and Pals, and the JFK Assassination

A Through Line: DALLAS on 11/22 to NEW YORK on 9/11

Covert Operations Serving Fascist Intent

All the movies on this page are highly enlightening.

Click on: Bush Link to Kennedy Assassination Alex Jones 911 Conspiracy

for Testimony on the Corruption of the JFK Autopsy

This video is essential viewing for anyone who wishes to contemplate the entire scope of the issue.

<http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=jfk+%2Balex+jones>

The Warren Commission Revisited: Forty Years of Lies
by John Chuckman

The doctors who worked to save the President at Parkland Hospital in Dallas said that the major visible damage to the President was a gaping wound near the rear of the skull, the kind of wound that typically reflects the exit of a bullet with the shock wave generated by its passing through layers of human tissue. We've all seen a plate glass window struck by a B-B where a tiny entrance puncture results in a large funnel-shaped chunk of cracked or missing glass on the opposite side.

The President's head wound, as described in Dallas, is not present in published autopsy photographs. Instead, there is a pencil-thin entrance-type wound in an unknown scalp. Although the Secret Service agent, Clint Hill, who climbed aboard the President's car after the shots, testified to seeing a large chunk of skull in the car and looking into the right rear of the President's head, seeing part of his brain gone, the autopsy photos show no such thing.....

"The case against Oswald is a flimsy tissue. It includes a poor autopsy of the victim offering no reliable evidence; a rifle whose ownership is not established; a rifle never definitively proved to have actually killed the President; a claim that jacketed bullets were used, a type of ammunition that could not possibly cause the kind of wounds to which many testify; the accused's record of mediocre marksmanship in the Marines; a paraffin test which showed no residue on his cheek despite his supposedly firing three shots from a bolt-action rifle; a single palm print claimed to have been obtained from the rifle after earlier failed attempts; gimmicky, suggestive photographs of Oswald with a rifle declared montages by several experts; a completely unacceptable evidence chain for the shell casings from the site of Officer Tippit's shooting, those submitted as evidence being almost certainly not those found at the scene; a bizarre history for the bullets supposed to have killed Tippit; an illogical weighting of witnesses who told different stories about Tippit's shooting; plus many other strange and contradictory details."

<http://www.counterpunch.org/chuckman11122003.html>

JFK Assassination Chronology

www.assassinationresearch.com/v2n1/chrono1.pdf

Biography of Ruth Paine

Marina Oswald's Landlady; Facilitator of Lee's Job in School Book Depository; Most of the "evidence" against Lee sprang forth from her garage; Family Connections to the CIA

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKpaine.htm>

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3.18 Oswald had FBI Agent James Hosty's Phone Number in his Wallet when Arrested

"Hosty's name, phone number and license plate number were in Oswald's wallet when he was arrested. Voice stress analysis as a lie detector method is widely accepted in Canadian courts of law and is allowed as legal lie detector evidence in over a dozen U.S. states...

The Dallas police radio system was jammed by a signal of unknown origin from two minutes before the fatal shots, to five minutes after, blocking all police communications on the main channel.

Before the House Assassinations Committee Hearings in 1976 the FBI and the CIA both admitted to obstructing justice and withholding evidence from the Warren Commission, major felonies that were never prosecuted.

http://www.acorn.net/jfkplace/09/fp.back_issues/11th_Issue/vid_review.html

Hosty Referenced in a November 12th Letter from "Oswald" to the Russian Embassy

... A letter, purportedly from Oswald ... was mailed from Irving, Texas on November 12 to the Soviet Embassy in Washington. In this letter, the writer spoke of "my meetings [sic] with comrade Kostin in the Embassy of the Soviet Union, Mexico City." The letter also alluded suggestively to the lack of time there "to complete our business." Even more alarmingly, the author revealed knowledge that the Consul in the Cuban Embassy had been "replaced." (The CIA confirmed later that Consul Azque "was scheduled to leave in October but did not leave until November 18.") And finally the writer spoke of speaking with Dallas FBI Agent James Hosty on November 1, a claim which would cause considerable post-assassination embarrassment to the FBI at the very highest levels.

http://www.history-matters.com/pds/DP3_Overview.htm#_ftn107

James Hosty Interview

(in which he plays on the lie -- known to the FBI on the day of the assassination -- that Oswald was in Mexico meeting with the Cuban and Russian Embassies. In truth, declassified documents reveal that Oswald was drawing an FBI "retaining fee," was in personal touch with Agent Hosty before JFK's murder and was carrying Hosty's home phone number in his wallet when arrested).

<http://www.venicegondolier.com/NewsArchive3/112203/vn6.htm>

Suppression of Hosty/Oswald Connection

Pulled from "Notes on Assignment Oswald" (James Hosty's book)
by Martin Shackelford

"Early Dec.: Hosty's name is ordered removed from the Oswald section
of the FBI report." (p. 102)

<http://www.acorn.net/jfkplace/03/MS/1book.html>

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3.19 The Last Words of Lee Harvey Oswald Compiled by Mae Brussell

As taken from The People's Almanac #2,
by David Wallechinsky and Irving Wallace, Bantam Books, 1978, pp. 47-52.

<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/LHO.html>

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3.20 The Paraffin Test on Oswald's Cheek

Sixteen Questions on the Assassination
By Bertrand Russell

The first theory announced by the authorities was that the President's car was in Houston Street, approaching the book depository building, when Oswald opened fire. When available photographs and eyewitnesses had shown this to be quite untrue, the theory was abandoned and a new one formulated which placed the vehicle in its correct position. Meanwhile, however, D.A. Wade had announced that three days after Oswald's room in Dallas had been searched, a map had been found there on which the book depository building had been circled and dotted lines drawn from the building to a vehicle on Houston Street, showing the alleged bullet trajectory had been planned in advance. After the first theory was proved false, the Associated Press put out the following story on November 27: "Dallas authorities announced today that there never was a map."

...

In the name of national security, the [Warren] Commission's hearings were held in secret, thereby continuing the policy which has marked the entire course of the case. This prompts my second question:

*If, as we are told, Oswald was the lone assassin,
where is the issue of national security?*

Indeed, precisely the same question must be put here as was posed in France during the Dreyfus case: If the Government is so certain of its case, why has it conducted all its inquiries in the strictest secrecy?

...

The authorities interrogated Oswald for nearly 48 hours without allowing him to contact a lawyer, despite his repeated requests to do so. The director of the FBI in Dallas was a man with considerable experience. American Civil Liberties Union lawyers were in Dallas requesting to see Oswald and were not allowed to do so. By interrogating Oswald for 48 hours without access to lawyers, the FBI created

conditions which made a trial of Oswald more difficult. A confession or evidence obtained from a man held 48 hours in custody is likely to be inadmissible in a U.S. court of law. The FBI director conducted his interrogation in a manner which made the use of material secured in such a fashion worthless to him.

This raises the question of whether he expected the trial to take place.

Another falsehood concerning the shooting was a story circulated by the Associated Press on November 23 from Los Angeles. This reported Oswald's former superior officer in the Marine Corps as saying that Oswald was a crack shot and a hot-head. The story was published widely.

Three hours later AP sent out a correction deleting the entire story from Los Angeles. The officer had checked his records and it had turned out that he was talking about another man. He had never known Oswald. To my knowledge the correction has yet to be published by a single major publication.

The Dallas police took a paraffin test on Oswald's face and hands to try to establish that he had fired a weapon on November 22. The Chief of the Dallas Police, Jesse Curry, announced on November 23 that the result of the test "proves Oswald is the assassin." The Director of the FBI in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in charge of the investigation stated: "I have seen the paraffin test. The paraffin test proves that Oswald had nitrates and gunpowder on his hands and face. It proves he fired a rifle on November 22." Not only does this unreliable test not prove any such thing, it was later discovered that the test on Oswald's face was in fact negative, suggesting that it was unlikely he fired a rifle that day. Why was the result of the paraffin test altered before being announced by the authorities?

http://karws.gso.uri.edu/JFK/the_critics/russell/Sixteen_questions_Russell.html

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The Business of Treason
Illustrated
Chapter 4 References

4.1 Phony Secret Service Agents in Dealey Plaza

The Man Who Wasn't There... Was There
by Michael T. Griffith

"After the shooting, Dallas Police officer Joe M. Smith encountered another suspicious man in the lot behind the picket fence [on the grassy knoll]. Smith told the Warren Commission that when he drew his pistol and approached the man, the man "showed [Smith] that he was a Secret Service agent." ... These reports continue to be the subject of much controversy. Why? Because it has long been established that no genuine Secret Service agents on the ground in Dealey Plaza until later that afternoon.

<http://www.jfklancer.com/ManWho.html>

The Secret Service Agent on the Knoll

by Debra Conway,
with contributions from Michael Parks and Mark Colgan

I suppose the first thing most researchers think when reading about Officer Smith's experience meeting the Secret Service Agent on the knoll is to wonder who it could have been. The second thought has to be, "What nerve!"

<http://www.jfklancer.com/knollagent/knollagent.html>

Dallas: Many Teams of Men--
Isolated on a "Need-to-Know" Basis

Twyman's interview with Hargraves confirmed an initial 1964 report to the FBI of Hargraves as JFK suspect with Hargraves admitting going to Dallas as part of a team used to support the President's assassination. Hargraves admitted to holding false secret service identification and also identified Vidal Santiago as the leader for this team, stating that its orders came from individuals at CIA JM WAVE headquarters in Miami.

<http://www.jfklancer.com/Dallas03.html>

Chauncey Holt: Roused at the Scene

The Third of the "Three Tramps" -- CIA Provider of Forged Documents

When the Kennedy motorcade reached the Dealey Plaza Holt was in the parking lot behind the Grassy Knoll. After the shooting took place Holt went to hide in a railroad car. He was joined by Charles Harrelson and Charles Rogers. However, soon afterwards, Dallas police officers entered the railroad car and arrested all three men. The three men along with Jim Brading were interviewed by Gordon Shanklin of the FBI and then released...

http://demopedia.democraticunderground.com/index.php/Chauncey_Holt

EXCERPT: Interview with Chauncey Holt

“So we started looking into an old line company -- the Los Angeles Stamp and Stationary Company, LASCO, which was owned by Philip Shore. He was the board director, and he was in dire financial straits. So the Company came in and bailed him out. They did all types of badges, banners, that sort of thing. They had police badges actually, from every municipality in the United States. They had drawers of them. So it was the type of operation the CIA was looking for...

Sometime between April and June of 1963 was when we first delivered the first documents and leaflets to Oswald. We were given instructions, Dave Palmer gave us instructions. He gave us the copy for them, and we printed them up...

As far as who Oswald was, we got to see that there was some kind of a disinformation program because Oswald's name was on documentation and it wasn't his picture. And others had his picture and his name, although at the time we had never seen Oswald and we didn't know which one was the real guy... I mean it could have been one of the others...

As it wore on, we began getting inquiries as to whether we could do the Secret Service documents, which is very different than doing other types because its in book form and it includes little recognitions like the lapel pins they wore every day.

In an emergency, in their coming and going, they are recognized by those pins. LASCO was set up nicely to do this kind of thing because they provide badges for police departments. They do all kinds of badges. So action really picked up and we were asked, in November, to produce a whole range, not all the Secret Service documents, just certain ones. We produced about, between November 15th... we received orders on November 15th, on the type of pins that were going to be worn in Dallas that day. The pins themselves, it wasn't the background, that never changed, it was the markings on the pins that determined what was going to be used that day...

We were under a time constraint for when we received the order November 15th, and were told that we had to be in Dallas on the night of the 21st...

<http://www.jfkmurdersolved.com/holt1.htm>

VIDEO: Chauncey Holt on Lee Harvey Oswald

The last statement of the interview with Chauncey Holt (a sample of which appears above) and which is appended to this piece in its entirety.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyEY92tEA8Y&mode=related&search=>

VIDEO: “The Three Tramps” in Dealey Plaza

**A Presentation by Lois Gibson, Ph. D.
Age Progression Identification Contractor for the FBI, ATF, DEA**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjC5Zs6g5sM&mode=related&search=>

AUDIO: The Murder of Lee Harvey Oswald

<http://www.fiftiesweb.com/kennedy/lee-harvey-oswald.htm>

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4.2 Jim Braden (Eugene Hale Brading)

**The Hitman for Carlos Marcello Who Was Questioned and Released...
After Each Kennedy Assassination**

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKbrading.htm>

The Assassination of Robert Kennedy ***

OVERVIEW: The CIA, Assassinations and Terrorism

by John Simkin

Excellent, ongoing historical perspective tracing the rise of the Military/Industrial complex from FDR's original ideas (as first implemented by Tommy Corcoran in 1940) through the present. Includes extremely informative passage on the **Assassination of Robert Kennedy** in Post #8.

<http://educationforum.ipbhost.com/index.php?showtopic=5799>

Deaths in the Aftermath of Dallas: A Page of Links

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKdeaths.htm>

Disappearing Witnesses: What Does Justice Mean?

<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/DW.html>

Techinques and Weapons and a Hundred Dead Conspirators and Witnesses

<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/ToA/ToAchp10.html>

Bare Bones Summary of Victims, Connections to Case, and Cause of Death

(Noting Clusters of Death Around the Openings of the Investigations)

www.darkconspiracy.com/conspiracies/assassinations/jfk/Convdeaths.txt

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4.3 Richard Carr:

The Witness Who Wouldn't Die

<http://www.washburn.edu/faculty/pfcteau/zap.htm>

Testimony of Richard Carr at the Clay Shaw Conspiracy Trial

<http://www.jfk-online.com/carrshaw.html>

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4.4 Grant Stockdale

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKstockdale.htm>

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4.5 Gary Underhill

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKunderhillG.htm>

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4.6 Bill Hunter, Jim Koethe, Tom Howard

<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/ToA/ToAchp10.html>

(See entry dated 1/17/05)

Biography of Jim Koethe, with Links to Hunter and Howard

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKkoethe.htm>

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4.7 Mary Pinchot Meyer: Biography

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKmeyerM.htm>

The Murder of Mary Pinchot Meyer

Meyer asked [Ann] Truitt to take possession of a private diary "if anything ever happened to me"... Ann Truitt was living in Tokyo at the time of the murder. She phoned Ben Bradlee at his home and asked him if he had found the diary. Bradlee, who claimed he was unaware of his sister-in-law's affair with Kennedy, knew nothing about the diary. He later recalled what he did after Truitt's phone-call: "We didn't start looking until the next morning, when Tony and I walked around the corner a few blocks to Mary's house. It was locked, as we had expected, but when we got inside, we found [CIA counterintelligence chief] Jim Angleton, and to our complete surprise he told us he, too, was looking for Mary's diary."

[www.demopedia.democraticunderground.com/index.php/Mary_Pinchot_Meyer](http://www.demopedia democraticunderground.com/index.php/Mary_Pinchot_Meyer)

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4.8 Winston Scott

In 1985 [Winston Scott's son] Michael Scott was making ends meet as a Hollywood producer. Out of curiosity, he asked to see the never-published book. He hoped it would help him better understand his father's mysterious life. An inquiry to the CIA prompted the invitation to Langley... Scott was introduced to a "high-ranking officer who had obviously read the manuscript," who told him that "they had been forced to delete portions of the manuscript for national security."

"What portions?" the surviving Scott inquired.

"Well, there was some mention of Lee Harvey Oswald in some area," the CIA officer said, "and we don't want to make that public."

<http://www.carpenoctem.tv/cons/jfk.html>

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4.9 Dorothy Kilgallen

Sometimes Kilgallen included highly subversive material in her column. For example, on 15th July, 1959, Kilgallen became the first journalist to suggest that the CIA and the Mafia were working together in order to assassinate Fidel Castro.

This disclosure upset high-ranking government officials and J. Edgar Hoover began to keep a dossier on Kilgallen's activities.

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKkilgallen.htm>

The Death of Dorothy Kilgallen

<http://www.jfkresearch.com/morningstar/killgallen.htm>

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4.10 Deputy Roger Craig

On July 17, 1970, I reported for work to find another man doing my job. I was told by this "replacement" that Jim wanted to see me. As I sat in Jim's office I knew what was coming. Jim said, "Roger, you've done a good job but it is time for a change." I asked him for an explanation but all he would say was that it was time for a change and he was sorry!

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKcraigR.htm>

Testimony of Roger Craig at the Conspiracy Trial of Clay Shaw

<http://www.jfk-online.com/craigshaw.html>

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4.11 Judyth Baker and Dr. Mary Sherman

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKshermanM.htm>

VIDEO: The Men Who Killed Kennedy

The Now Unavailable Final Chapter of The History Channel Series, Here Broken Into Segments

The Final Three Episodes of the History Channel's Investigative Series on JFK's Assassination are no longer available for purchase -- having been scrubbed from the marketplace due to the efforts of Lyndon Johnson's family, among others. But they have been posted on You Tube. Access the URL's below, or simply go to YouTube and enter "TMWKK" in the Search Box. Then Click on "See All Videos," which is just above the vertical slide bar.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNTEQ9ckmD8>

Episode One, Segment One:

The Secret Service Breaks Protocol in a Multitude of Ways,
Then Destroys its Own Documents
Emory Roberts Stand Down
The Suppression of the Dallas ER Doctors' Attempts to Tell the Truth

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNTEQ9ckmD8>

Episode One, Segment Two:

Bethesda Autopsy: Dr. Humes Told Not to Discuss the President's
Throat Entry Wound
The Presidential Limo Hidden Immediately Upon Discovery of the Incoming
Bullet Hole in its Front Windshield
The Ford Motor Co. Supervisor who Replaced the Windshield in Detroit
Three Days Later

("... Clean round hole in the front; fragmentation out the back")

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAW-bxxZfcM&mode=related&search=>

Episode One, Segment Three:

The Corruption of the JFK Autopsy Photographs
The HSCA Presents Blatant Lies Regarding the President's Wounds

(Claiming the autopsy witnesses had contradicted all the ER Doctors in Dallas, when in fact they were in agreement about the gaping wound in the back of the President's head.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmMXfBgjsh0&mode=related&search=>

Episode One, Segment Four:

John Liggett, the Brilliant Reconstructive Mortician who was
Called to Duty on November 22nd

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO5PAmCsw0I&mode=related&search=>

Episode One, Segment Five:

Mr. Liggett's is a truly remarkable story.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMJMQbWJLQI&mode=related&search=>

Episode Two, Segment One:

Judyth Baker, the Young Cancer Researcher Who Fell in Love with Lee Oswald,
and Lived to Tell the Tale

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ry3DrsN9PY&mode=related&search=>

Episode Two, Segment Two:

Lee Introduces Judyth to "Sparky" Rubinstein -- AKA Jack Ruby

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ry3DrsN9PY&mode=related&search=>

Episode Two, Segment Three:

It's not just about Castro -- it's about Kennedy.
Oswald Polishes his Pro-Castro Persona
Prisoners are Imported as Guinea Pigs in Preparation for Castro's Cancer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBbe0jexWn4&mode=related&search=>

Episode Two, Segment Four:

The Cancer Injections Work
Judith's Objections and the Fall from Grace
Oswald is Maneuvered into Position

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGNyprupDTU&mode=related&search=>

Episode Two, Segment Five:

Oswald: "It's Lyndon Johnson and David Atlee Phillips."
Oswald is Murdered.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZyJ1APE6Lc&mode=related&search=>

Judyth Baker and Dr. Mary Sherman

**Reviews of Edward Haslam's Hard-to-Find Book on the
Cancer Project that Went Astray**

<http://www.amazon.com/Mary-Ferrie-Monkey-Virus-Underground/dp/0964398125>

Judyth Baker and Jack Ruby

**The Woman Who Cracked the JFK Whitewash
by Jim Phelps**

Jack Ruby died of "a galloping cancer" in 1967. When he visited Ferrie's apartment in the summer of 1963, Judyth showed him the lab and told him about the cancer cell injections --including where on the body the injections should be administered
Note: In jail, Ruby insisted he was injected with cancer cells, but no one took him seriously. His mind was shot and they just assumed it was incoherent babbling.

<http://members.aol.com/doestar/jb.html>

Jack Ruby's Death by Cancer

Keep in mind that the CIA developed methods to "make it look like an accident." This was documented through the testimony of CIA technicians to the Church committee who told of TWEP technology (Termination With Extreme Prejudice) in 1975. These methods are designed to not be detected in postmortem examinations. I have a couple of excerpts of declassified CIA documents to demonstrate the case. One of the techniques involves the injection of cancer cells, heart attack inducement, as well as non- chemical techniques which require no special equipment.

Based on the strange circumstances of Jack Ruby's death in prison (he died from lung cancer but the cancer cells were not the type that originate in the respiratory system), Ruby wrote notes and spoke to several people saying that JFK was killed by a conspiracy and that he had been maneuvered into killing Oswald who was a fall guy. He claimed to have been injected with cancer cells when treated with shots for a cold. He died just before he was to testify in Congress. He had told congressional investigators that he wanted to talk but he needed protection.

www.darkconspiracy.com/conspiracies/assassinations/jfk/Convdeaths.txt

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4.12 Santo Trafficante and Frank Ragano

A Parting Observation.

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKraganoF.htm>

Richard Nixon's Greatest Cover-Up:

His Ties to the Assassination of President Kennedy by Don Fulsom

On the morning after the assassination, Nixon convened a meeting of Republican leaders at his New York apartment. Those assembled were "already assessing how this event would affect or recreate the possibilities of Nixon running for president," according to Hess.

Boasting that he was the mastermind of a Mob/CIA plot to kill President Kennedy, Chicago godfather Sam Giancana told relatives he was in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963 to supervise that plot. Giancana claimed that both "Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson knew about the whole damn thing" -- adding that he had met with both future presidents in Dallas "immediately prior to the assassination."

Giancana's half-brother Chuck and nephew Sam claimed in their 1992 book Double Cross that the Mafia don had a long, warm, and mutually rewarding relationship with Nixon that dated back to the 1940s. In those times, Giancana was helping Chicago Syndicate boss Anthony Accardo consolidate the city's rackets and gambling operations, and Nixon was a freshman congressman from California.

In recounting for his relatives a big favor the congressman did for Giancana back then, the gangster established a direct link between Nixon and a Chicago hoodlum who later moved to Texas and went on to shoot Lee Harvey Oswald: "Nixon's done me some favors, all right, got us some highway contracts, worked with the unions and overseas. And we've helped him and his CIA buddies out, too. Shit, he even helped my guy in Texas, (Jack) Ruby, get out of testifying in front of Congress back in forty-seven By sayin' Ruby worked for him."

A 1947 memo, found in 1975 by a scholar going through a pile of recently released FBI documents, supports Giancana's contention. In the memo, addressed to a congressional committee investigating organized crime, an FBI assistant states: "It is my sworn testimony that one Jack Rubenstein of Chicago is performing information functions for the staff of Congressman Richard Nixon, Republican of California. It is requested Rubenstein not be called for open testimony in the aforementioned hearings."

<http://www.crimemagazine.com/03/richardnixon,1014.htm>

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4.13 U S Marshall Clint Peoples

<http://www.acorn.net/jfkplace/03/JA/DR/.dr14.html>

Text From 'The Radical Right and the Murder of JFK': Part 1 By Harry Livingstone

"The men who create power make an indispensable contribution to the nation's greatness, but the men who question power make a contribution just as indispensable for they determine whether we use power or power uses us."

--John Kennedy

<http://www.theksbwchannel.com/news/3939906/detail.html>

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4.14 Mac Wallace: Lyndon Johnson's "Wet Man"

How Johnson Got His Hooks In.....

Wallace was charged with murder but was released on bail after Edward Clark arranged for two of Johnson's financial supporters, M. E. Ruby and Bill Carroll, to post bonds on behalf of the defendant. Johnson's attorney, John Cofer, also agreed to represent Wallace.

On 1st February, 1952, Wallace resigned from his government job in order to distance himself from Lyndon B. Johnson. His trial began seventeen days later. Wallace did not testify. Cofer admitted his client's guilt but claimed it was an act of revenge as Kinser had been sleeping with Wallace's wife.

The jury found Wallace guilty of "murder with malice aforethought." Eleven of the jurors were for the death penalty. The twelfth argued for life imprisonment. Judge Charles O. Betts overruled the jury and announced a sentence of five years imprisonment. He suspended the sentence and Wallace was immediately freed.

According to Bill Adler of The Texas Observer, several of the jurors telephoned John Kinser's parents to apologize for agreeing to a "suspended sentence, but said they did so only because threats had been made against their families."

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKwallaceM.htm>

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4.15 Bobby Baker:

The Short Strokes of His Underworld Connections

http://www.demopedia.democraticunderground.com/index.php/Bobby_Baker

EXCERPT: from the Gathered Commentary of a Multitude of Observers

"LBJ faced some pretty awful prospects, including not only being dumped from the 1964 ticket but also spending a long, long time in the slammer as a result of his role in the rapidly expanding Bobby Baker case -- something few have speculated about because the full facts were never revealed by the media, which didn't want to know, or report, the truth Bobby Kennedy called five of Washington's top reporters into his office and told them it was now open season on Lyndon Johnson. It's OK, he told them, to go after the story they were ignoring out of deference to the administration. And from that point on until the events in Dallas, Lyndon Baines Johnson's future looked as if it included a sudden end to his political career and a few years in the slammer. The Kennedys had their knives out and sharpened for him and were determined to draw his political blood -- all of it.

In the Senate, the investigation into the Baker case was moving quickly ahead. Even the Democrats were cooperating, thanks to the Kennedys, and an awful lot of really bad stuff was being revealed -- until Nov. 22, 1963. By Nov. 23, all Democrat cooperation suddenly stopped. Lyndon would serve a term and a half in the White House instead of the slammer, the Baker investigation would peter out and Bobby Baker would serve a short sentence and go free.

Dallas accomplished all of that."

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKbakerB.htm>

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4.16 Richard Nixon

Nixon's Cover-Up of His Ties to the Assassination of President Kennedy by Don Fulsom

[This is a Reiteration of Reference 4.12]

On the morning after the assassination, Nixon convened a meeting of Republican leaders at his New York apartment. Those assembled were "already assessing how this event would affect or recreate the possibilities of Nixon running for president," according to Hess.

Boasting that he was the mastermind of a Mob/CIA plot to kill President Kennedy, Chicago godfather Sam Giancana told relatives he was in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963 to supervise that plot. Giancana claimed that both "Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson knew about the whole damn thing" -- adding that he had met with both future presidents in Dallas "immediately prior to the assassination."

Giancana's half-brother Chuck and nephew Sam claimed in their 1992 book Double Cross that the Mafia don had a long, warm, and mutually rewarding relationship with Nixon that dated back to the 1940s. In those times, Giancana was helping Chicago Syndicate boss Anthony Accardo consolidate the city's rackets and gambling operations, and Nixon was a freshman congressman from California.

In recounting for his relatives a big favor the congressman did for Giancana back then, the gangster established a direct link between Nixon and a Chicago hoodlum who later moved to Texas and went on to shoot Lee Harvey Oswald: "Nixon's done me some favors, all right, got us some highway contracts, worked with the unions and overseas. And we've helped him and his CIA buddies out, too. Shit, he even helped my guy in Texas, (Jack) Ruby, get out of testifying in front of Congress back in forty-seven By sayin' Ruby worked for him."

A 1947 memo, found in 1975 by a scholar going through a pile of recently released FBI documents, supports Giancana's contention. In the memo, addressed to a congressional committee investigating organized crime, an FBI assistant states: "It is my sworn testimony that one Jack Rubenstein of Chicago is performing information functions for the staff of Congressman Richard Nixon, Republican of California. It is requested Rubenstein not be called for open testimony in the aforementioned hearings."

<http://www.crimemagazine.com/03/richardnixon,1014.htm>

The Tragic Plane Crash Death of Dorothy Hunt

Wife of Watergate Burglar (and Dallas Operative) E Howard Hunt (She was Carrying the Hush Money Howard Had Blackmailed Nixon to Get)

Excerpt of an interview with independent investigator Sherman Skolnick from The Spotlight, a nightly radio call-in talk forum hosted by Tom Valentine on Radio Free America. February 14, 1994

TV: The Watergate plane crash is the first investigation you and I worked on together.

SS: This subject is one of the great forbidden subjects of this country. You are not supposed to talk publicly about airplanes that have been sabotaged. If sabotage is ever brought up, it's always in some foreign country where a bomb blows up the airplane.

TV: Then the loss of the United Airlines flight 553 was not just fog or pilot error or something like that.

SS: In the history of aviation there have been a number of situations where there was actual sabotage - not necessarily a bomb - and that sabotage put the plane down and killed people for political reasons.

I started writing a book about airplane sabotage right after the plane crash. I called it "The Watergate Plane Crash." The reason why was because on this one plane were 12 people connected with the Watergate affair.

The disaster happened exactly one month after Richard Nixon had been re-elected. The Watergate affair had started, but it was not widely known at the time.

Former CIA man (and Watergate burglar) E. Howard Hunt, part of the so-called White House Plumbers, was under arrest. It later came out that Hunt was threatening to blow the lid off the White House if Nixon didn't take care of him. Hunt wanted \$2 million.

What Hunt reportedly had was information tending to show that Nixon, who was in Dallas at the time John F. Kennedy was murdered, was complicit in the assassination. Hunt's wife Dorothy was carrying around "hush" money to various witnesses in an effort to silence them about the Watergate affair.

She was on flight 553, and this time she was traveling under her own name. She was so concerned about the baggage (which contained \$2 million worth of cashier's checks and money orders, which some astute people could have traced back to the Nixon White House) that she bought an extra first class seat for her baggage (and the valuables therein).

The press later said there was only \$10,000 in her possession, but that was false. We know about this because of records of the National Transportation Safety Board which had the manifest of the airplane.

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKhuntH.htm>

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4.17 **Hard Upon the Precipice of Disgrace:**

Lyndon Johnson Flies to Power

The Men who Hated Kennedy Come Together in Dallas

<http://www.acorn.net/jfkplace/03/JA/DR/.dr14.html>

John Connolly and LBJ

Connolly Never Believed the Warren Commission

<http://www.rense.com/general70/connol.htm>

It Was Johnson

“Perhaps the most compelling and credible motive one ought to note here when considering Hoover and Johnson: self-preservation. Like Johnson, in the weeks before the president was killed, Hoover already knew the Kennedys were trying to fire him. Jimmy Hoffa had hired a private detective to bug Peter Lawford’s home in California. It was here that Hoffa recorded the president having sex with Marilyn Monroe, and in between, he also recorded highly confidential conversations about firing the FBI Director.”

<http://itwasjohnson.impioustdigest.com/page1cx3.htm>

Lyndon Johnson as a Player in the Larger Drama ***

EXCELLENT OVERVIEW:

**Using Terror as a Justification for Warfare
Lyndon Johnson and the Bobby Baker Scandal**

http://demopedia.democraticunderground.com/index.php/User:DrDebug#Lyndon_B._Johnson_and_the_Bobby_Baker_scandal

The Lyndon Johnson Playbook

<http://gatorpress.com/badsam/page6.html>

Billie Sol Estes and Lyndon Johnson

<http://www.holysmoke.org/kh/kh412.htm>

Hoover’s Memo of his November 29, 1963 Conversation with Johnson

“He said I was his friend and brother...”

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/History/JFKarchive/Hoover>

VIDEO: It Was Johnson

Well Contextualized (and Damning) Overview, Including:

The Violent Resistance Against Racial Integration

JFK Speaking of His Plans to Support Racial Equality in America

And The Hatred His Plans Generated

LBJ Working the Phones Upon His Ascendancy

Background on the KKK’s Profile at the Time

The Assassins James Files and Mac Wallace

**[The “Wink” Between Friends on Air Force One at Johnson’s Swearing In
\(with Jacquelyn Kennedy Dazed and Blood-Stained Standing By\)](#)**

<http://itwasjohnson.impioustdigest.com/part1aa.htm>

NOTE: The fifth of these seven videos is specific in its indictment of Johnson.

It can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpVyGLB0Ygo&feature=PlayList&p=9D59FC41F67DD5C4&index=4>

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4.18 Conclusion of the House Select Committee on Assassinations

Regarding President John F. Kennedy

“C. The Committee believes, on the basis of the evidence available to it, that president John F. Kennedy was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy. The committee is unable to identify the other gunman or the extent of the conspiracy..... “

NOTE: The “evidence available to it” was a fraction of what is available today.

<http://www.jfklancer.com/HSCA.html>

Further Information Pertaining to the Assassination of President Kennedy

Covert Ops on a “Need to Know” Basis

Statement of Tosh Plumlee:

(Johnny Roselli’s Pilot In and Out of Dallas, November 20-23, 1963)

(He believed he was transporting a team sent in to STOP JFK’s assassination.)

“I was told that the abort team, for whom I was only the pilot at that time, would probably be looking for a minimum of 19 or 20 people that would be in the Plaza. Most of the team members felt that this was another false alarm. There had been many during the past few weeks.”

<http://www.jfkmurdersolved.com/toshfiles.htm>

BOOK: George (H. W.) Bush: The Unauthorized Biography

by Webster Griffin Tarpley and Anton Chaitkin

<http://www.padrak.com/alt/BUSHBOOK.html#BOOKPARTS>

Poppy Bush Connected to the Events in Dallas

<http://www.angelfire.com/ky/ohwhy/Bush.html>

Index of JFK Family Photo Collection

http://www.jacqueslowe.com/html/portfolio/kennedy_collection/

JFK Assassination Photo Gallery

<http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/photogal.htm>

JFK Lancer Awards 2003

(Annual recognition of JFK Researchers who have made Further Breakthroughs)

<http://www.jfklancer.com/Dallas03.html>

EXCERPTS :

From the Manuscript of Deputy Craig (who Saw Oswald Picked Up Behind the Depository, and Claimed that the Rifle Found on the Sixth Floor of the Depository was a Mauser)

AND MORE:

Based on an apparent lack of other bullets recovered from the President's body or the limousine or elsewhere, the Commission concluded that CE 399 [the "magic bullet"] had inflicted all of the non-fatal wounds upon President Kennedy and Governor John B. Connally. There were seven non-fatal wounds to account for. The Commission said that one bullet struck Kennedy in the upper back or neck area; exited through the front of his neck; struck Connally in the back; transited his torso, shattering several inches of rib; exited his chest; struck Connally's wrist, shattering the radius; exited the other side of his wrist; entered his left thigh; and someone made its way out again, to be found wedged under the mattress on an unidentified stretcher at Parkland Memorial Hospital, in nearly pristine condition (i.e., unmutilated by contact with skin, bone, etc.) **with no blood or tissue on its surface.**

This "single bullet theory" was necessary when the Commission recognized that a) Oswald could not have fired more than three shots in the allotted time span, which happened to coincide with the three spent shells found in the Book Depository; b) one shot missed the limousine altogether, striking the road near James Tague, where the bullet mark was photographed by a newsman in Dealey Plaza, as well as a shot of Tague's bleeding cheek; and c) that one bullet caused President Kennedy's fatal head wound, which was known to have been inflicted some seconds after the other known wounds. That left one bullet, one bullet which had to have caused all the other wounds, or else Oswald couldn't possibly have been the lone assassin -- and the Commission would have to conclude that a conspiracy killed President Kennedy.

A startling, new fact has emerged recently, from where it had been buried deep inside the National Archives for thirty-five years: Newly discovered documents prove that the Dallas Police did not find three spent shells in the Texas School Book Depository; they found TWO, along with one LIVE (unfired) round.

These documents include:

1) A Dallas Police Department report dated November 22, 1963, signed by Lt. Carl Day, the DPD's identifications expert, noting that evidence is being turned over to the jurisdiction of the FBI. It states that the listed items were found in the Texas School Book Depository between 1:30 and 2:15 pm that day. The items are the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, serial number C2766 (allegedly traced later to Oswald), and, an exact quote: "2 Spent Hulls from 6th floor window." Lt. Day's signature is followed by that of Officer R. L. Studebaker, who witnessed the transfer of the evidence from Lt. Day to FBI Agent Vince Drain, who "took possession of all evidence."

2) A copy of the receipt of these items by the FBI: "1 6.5 Rifle #C2766" and "2 Spent hulls found at [illegible] School Book Depository."

- 3) A handwritten receipt for these additional items from the DPD: "2 [photographic] negatives + 4 prints of each of two 6.5 hulls + 1 "live" round of 6.5 ammunition from rifle found on 6th floor of Texas school [sic] Book Depository, Dallas on 11-22-63."
- 4) The original FBI evidence sheet for all items in their possession purportedly belonging to Lee Harvey Oswald, which lists "Live round 6.5" and "6.5 spent rounds (2)." This report was originally introduced into evidence as Commission Exhibit 2003, and published on page 260 of the Warren Commission's twenty-fourth volume of evidence, but -- as J. Gary Shaw and Larry Harris noted in their 1976 book, Cover-Up -- the published version's "6.5 spent rounds (2)" has the two altered to a three that appears to be handwritten. These and the following items are reproduced in full in Noel Twyman's 1997 book Bloody Treason.
- 5) Commission Exhibits 510 and 512, two police photographs of the three spent shells as they were allegedly found near the sixth floor window. Noel Twyman points out that in CE 510, one of the three hulls appears to be a live round; while the same hull in CE 512 (63) has been conspicuously blacked out, with a crude forgery of a shell drawn or scratched onto the negative.
- 6) The original FBI evidence envelope, signed by Special Agent J. Doyle Williams, which once contained the above-mentioned negatives and photographs of the spent shells from the Book Depository: "2 negatives and 4 prints of each," listing, "two 6.5 bullet hulls + 1 "live" round of 6.5 ammunition from rifle found on 6th floor of Texas Book Depository [sic], Dallas on 11-22-63."
- 7) And the frosting on the cake, discovered in the National Archives recently by researcher Anna-Marie Kuhns-Walko, one of the actual DPD photographs depicting (you guessed it) two spent shells and one live round.

Subsequently a third spent shell was added to the evidence. Whoever it was who ordered this third shell planted was also powerful enough to ensure not a single Dallas policeman, Sheriff's deputy or official would reveal to the Warren Commission that their signed, dated records of evidence had been altered and replaced, and that a third spent shell had been introduced as being from the Book Depository.

www.piscesallmedia.com/forum/viewtopic.php?p=8965&sid=be050ab3a4d362b49202b2c0a4d40d5e - 250k - Supplemental Result -

DVD: JFK -- the Case for Conspiracy

Commentary, films, and photographs illuminating the "crime of the century," and the investigation and cover-up that followed.

Written and Directed by Robert Groden

Delta Entertainment Corporation

Licensed from New Frontier Video Productions

Order at: www.deltaentertainment.com

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The Business of Treason
Illustrated
Chapter 5 References

5.1 CIA Support for Radical Islam in Central Asia

Born in the CIA

by Amjad Hussain

“There are hundreds of similar madrassas in Pakistan and Afghanistan. How a religious school located along the turbulent North Western Frontier of Pakistan came to be the training ground for the likes of Taliban of Afghanistan and their supporters in Pakistan is an interesting question. The answer, however, lies not in the devastated Afghan countryside or in Pakistan but in Langley, Virginia, the home of America's Central Intelligence Agency.”

http://www.totse.com/en/politics/central_intelligence_agency/162381.html

In the Name of Allah

by Nadeem Maik

“There are an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 madrassas across Pakistan. These schools, largely frequented by destitute Afghans and poor Pakistanis, are run by individual charities and rely almost exclusively on donations. During the Afghan jihad days in the 1980s, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states generously financed them. Some estimates suggest that the CIA also recruited almost 30,000 jihadis from the Middle East to fight against the Soviets, and channeled billions of dollars to run the operation.”

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/GG27Df02.html

The United States and Pakistan:

A Treacherous Alliance

When the Soviet Union [in response to an American sponsored Coup d'Etat] invaded Afghanistan in the fall of 1979, the U.S. began offering aid to General Zia-al-Haq's brutal military regime in Pakistan. ... Pakistan was enlisted to train Afghan fighters, supply them with modern weapons, and provide logistical and diplomatic support. And in return, the U.S. gave Pakistan an impressive amount of military and economic aid. Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence bureau (ISI) became the CIA's chief conduit for weapons and billions of dollars in funding for the anti-Soviet effort in Afghanistan.

And when the CIA and Pakistan's ISI trained tens of thousands of Muslims from around the world to fight in Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden was one of the key organizers of the effort.

Poverty-stricken refugee camps sprung up along the Pakistani border. And young men in these camps were educated in the madrassas (Islamic schools) and then recruited to be cannon fodder for the CIA/Pakistani-sponsored war in Afghanistan.

<http://rwor.org/a/v23/1120-29/1122/pakistan.htm>

Afghanistan: The History

By 1987, the US is sending more than 65,000 tons of arms annually to the Mujahideen, especially Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the most ruthless and puritanical faction [and King of the Heroin Trade].. CIA and Pentagon operatives help the ISI establish a network of schools in Pakistan and bases in Afghanistan to train the Mujahideen in secure communications, covert financial transactions, guerilla warfare, urban sabotage and heavy weapons.

<http://www.diversitywatch.ryerson.ca/backgrounds/afghanistan.htm>

Adnan Khashoggi, the CIA, and American Support of Middle Eastern Terrorism, Part IV by Alex Constantine

“It is well-known that the ISI was a CIA cut-out in the arming of Afghan guerillas, and that BCCI laundered opium profits for the war against the Soviets. (Dozens of al Qaeda histories and timelines on the Internet weave the Byzantine maze of Bush administration/CIA/bin Laden connections to BCCI, so the banking network won't be discussed in this account unless necessary.)”

<http://www.apfn.net/Messageboard/04-10-05/discussion.cgi.29.html>

1984-1994: US Supports Militant Textbooks for Afghanistan per 911 Timeline

The US, through USAID and the University of Nebraska, spends millions of dollars developing and printing textbooks for Afghan schoolchildren. The textbooks are filled with violent images and militant Islamic teachings, part of covert attempts to spur resistance to the Soviet occupation.

For instance, children are taught to count with illustrations showing tanks, missiles, and land mines. Lacking any alternative, millions of these textbooks are used long after 1994; the Taliban are still using them in 2001.

In 2002, the US will start producing less violent versions of the same books, which President Bush says will have “respect for human dignity, instead of indoctrinating students with fanaticism and bigotry.” (He will fail to mention who created those earlier books.)

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?before_9/11=sovietAfghanWar&timeline=complete_911_timeline

Islam in Central Asia: Afghanistan and Pakistan by Ahmed Rashid

“Third, [CIA Chief William] Casey committed CIA support to a long-standing ISI initiative to recruit radical Muslims from around the world to fight with the Afghan *mujahadin*..... Because of the CIA-ISI arms pipeline, the engines of the *Jihad* were the radical Islamic parties.”

<http://www.eisenhowerinstitute.org/programs/globalpartnerships/securityandterrorism/coalition/islamicworld/islam/IslamandCentralAsia-RashidChapter.pdf>

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5.2 **Ali Mohamed: Overview**

Toronto Globe and Mail, 11/22/2001
San Francisco Chronicle, 11/4/2001
Wall Street Journal, 11/26/2001
Raleigh News and Observer, 10/21/2001

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&other_al-qaeda_operatives=aliMohamed

Ali Mohamed: A Remarkable Story with an Unknown Ending ***

<http://www.rotten.com/library/bio/crime/terrorists/ali-mohammed>

Ali Mohamed in the San Francisco Chronicle, September 21, 2001

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2001/09/21/MN224103.DTL>

Ali Mohamed per BBC: Ex-US Soldier Admits Embassy Bombings

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/982069.stm>

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5.3 **John O'Neill and the Capture of Ramzi Yousef** **An FBI Agent Who Stood Tall** **by Martin Dillon**

He was regarded with awe by his contemporaries in other intelligence services across the world and many of them travelled to New York just to seek his advice and tap his knowledge..... After the 1993 WTC bombing, he had led the hunt for its mastermind, Ramzi Yousef, eventually finding him and returning him from Pakistan to justice in a New York court.

<http://www.rense.com/general25/tall.htm>

John O'Neill **per Richard Clarke**

Richard A. Clarke writes on page 14 in *Against All Enemies. Inside America's War on Terror* (March 2004) that John O'Neill was his "closest friend in the Bureau and a man determined to destroy al Qaeda until the Bureau had driven him out because he was too obsessed with al Qaeda and didn't mind breaking crockery in his drive to get Usama bin Laden. O'Neill did not fit the narrow little mold that Director Louis Freeh wanted for his agents. He was too aggressive, thought outside the box.

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=John_P._O'Neill

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5.4 **John O'Neill ***** **The Propaganda Preparation for 9/11** **by Chaim Kupferberg**

[THIS IS A CRITICAL DOCUMENT]

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP206A.html>

The Counter-Terrorist

John O'Neill was an F.B.I. Agent with an Obsession by Lawrence Wright

Authorities had found several phone numbers on Ressay when he was arrested. There was also a name, Ghani, which belonged to Abdel Ghani Meskini, an Algerian, who lived in Brooklyn and who had travelled to Seattle to meet with Ressay. O'Neill oversaw the stakeout of Meskini's residence and spent much of his time in the Brooklyn command post. "I doubt he slept the whole month," David N. Kelley, an assistant United States Attorney and chief of organized crime and terrorism for the Southern District, recalled.

www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/020114fa_FACT1?020114fa_FACT1

John P. O'Neill per Reference.com

On his first day, he received a call from Richard A. Clarke, who had just learned that Ramzi Yousef had been located in Pakistan. O'Neill worked continuously over the next few days to gather information and coordinate the successful capture and extradition of Yousef. Intrigued by the case, O'Neill continued to study the 1993 bombing Yousef had masterminded and other information about Islamic militants. He was directly involved in the investigation into the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. Frustrated by the level of cooperation from the Saudis, O'Neill purportedly vented to FBI director Louis Freeh, saying that they were "blowing smoke up your ass."

http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/John_P._O'Neill

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5.5 John O'Neill Not Sent to Africa to Head Up the Embassy Bombings Investigation Interview with Former US Deputy Attorney General Fran Townsend

"..... The FBI's ... going to deploy people initially to Kenya and Tanzania, and who's going to be the on-scene commander? Who's going to have responsibility for the investigation on the ground in those countries? ...

..... As Jimmy Kallstrom has said to you, he was a great leader, and he really wanted to roll up his sleeves and get into it; he wanted to be there and wanted responsibility. He believed -- and I think rightly -- the New York field office had the greatest depth of expertise of anybody in the country on this issue.

If it's Al Qaeda, how could you send anybody else but the people who know the most?

[Deputy Director Tom] Pickard decides, at least in the initial stage, to assign the office of origin responsibility to the Washington field office. ... O'Neill views this as a tremendous slap in the face. ... This is the World Series, and he's gotten benched. That's exactly how he feels about it. He is very hurt, very upset about it, and bitter. ... "

www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/knew/interviews/townsend.html

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5.6 **Barbara Bodine Undercuts the FBI Investigation into the Bombing of the USS Cole**
by Mark Ames

“... As O'Neill and his team probed deeper into the Cole bombing, his investigation was abruptly thwarted by, of all people, the United States ambassador to Yemen, Barbara Bodine. In the official version reported in the American press almost a year later, O'Neill's team was booted out of Yemen in November, 2000, because Bodine objected to O'Neill's "heavy-handed style." Another State Department source at the time confirmed that Bodine refused to allow O'Neill and his team to return to continue their investigation because his team was "too large" and many of the agents carried "heavy weapons" -- automatics -- that she found objectionable.

This account of how a local ambassador was able to thwart the single most important investigation to America's national security just because she didn't like the lead investigator's manners is impossible to swallow. What's more incredible is that the FBI allegedly wasn't allowed to return to Yemen to continue their investigation until Bodine left her ambassadorship in August 2001. Keep that date in mind, **August 2001. A lot of people seemed to retire right around then.....** “

http://www.exile.ru/2002-September-19/feature_story.html

New Light on the Life and Death of John O'Neill
By Tom Griffin

“... There were some obstacles that O'Neill's charismatic persona couldn't overcome, however. That first became clear after the Khobar Towers bombings in Saudi Arabia in 1996, which killed 19 American soldiers. According to his friend Chris Isham, O'Neill "felt the Saudis were definitely playing games and that the senior officials in the US government just didn't get it".

Similar problems dogged O'Neill's investigation of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen, when he clashed so severely with US ambassador Barbara Bodine that he was refused clearance to enter the country.“

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Front_Page/FC27Aa01.html

Barbara Bodine Turns Up in in Baghdad -- As the Mayor?

“Barbara Bodine, who helped thwart FBI veteran John O'Neill back when he was hot on the trail of Osama Bin Laden before 9/11, has been named Governor of Baghdad. Surprised to hear it? Little wonder—this story was swept as far under the rug as the Bush administration could sweep it. I saw one story—in FOX news online, but that was quickly scrubbed.....“

<http://www.spitfirelist.com/f409.html>

John O'Neill and the Al-Qaeda Pipeline Memo
per btinternet

Under the influence of U.S. oil companies, the government of George W. Bush initially blocked U.S. secret service investigations on terrorism..... Former FBI counter-terrorism chief John O'Neil resigned from the FBI in disgust, stating that he was ordered not to investigate Saudi-Al Qaida connections because of the

Enron pipeline deal. [Former Federal prosecutor James] Loftus has confirmed that it was O'Neill who originally discovered the AL Qaida pipeline memo after the Embassy bombings in Africa.

<http://www.btinternet.com/~nlpwessex/Documents/ONeill.htm>

What Congress Does Not Know About Enron and 9/11
by Former Federal Prosecutor John J. Loftus

An inadvertent result of the Taliban pipeline cover-up was that the Taliban's friends in Al Qaida were able to complete their last eight months of preparations for 9/11 while the Enron secrecy block was still in force..... Although the latest order to block investigations allegedly resulted from Enron's January 2002 appeal to Vice President Dick Cheney, it appears that there were at least three previous block orders, each building upon the other, stretching back for decades and involving both Republican and Democratic administrations

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0206/S00029.htm>

Tawfiq bin Attash: Summary

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tawfiq_bin_Attash

Tawfiq bin Attash: per Complete 911 Timeline

http://complete911timeline.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&warning_signs:_specific_cases=USSColeBombing

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5.7 **BOOK: "Ben Laden: La Vie Interdite"**
(The Hidden Truth)

<http://www.amazon.fr/Ben-Laden-interdite-Jean-Charles-Brisard/dp/2207253201>

To READ a Translated Excerpt of Bin Laden: The Hidden Truth

(Chapter One: Period of November 2000 through November 2001)

Please go to:

http://www.freemasonrywatch.org/binladen_hiddentruth.html

Who Killed 9/11 Hero John O'Neill?

If you believe the media, John P. O'Neill was simply another innocent victim killed in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. But you don't need much imagination to suspect something deeper was at work.... "The main obstacles to investigate Islamic terrorism were US oil corporate interests, and the role played by Saudi Arabia in it," O'Neill reportedly told the authors of an explosive new book, Hidden Truth (Forbidden Truth in the US), by intelligence analysts Charles Brisard and Guillaume Dasquie. Brisard met O'Neill several times last summer and reports that O'Neill complained bitterly that the US State Department -- and behind it the oil lobby who make up President Bush's entourage -- blocked attempts to prove bin Laden's guilt.

<http://www.hereinreality.com/johnoneill.html>

US Policy Toward the Taliban Dictated by Oil

Article on the book "Ben Laden, La Verite Interdite"
("Bin Laden, the forbidden truth")

by Jean-Charles Brisard and Guillaume Dasquie,
(John O'Neill Cited)

..... "The U.S. government's main objective in Afghanistan was to consolidate the position of the Taliban regime to obtain access to the oil and gas reserves in Central Asia.....

Until August, [2001] the U.S. government saw the Taliban regime "as a source of stability in Central Asia that would enable the construction of an oil pipeline across Central Asia", from the rich oilfields in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, through Afghanistan and Pakistan, to the Indian Ocean.

http://www.truthout.org/docs_01/11.17A.Oil.Taliban.htm

Saudi Arabian Support for Terrorist Groups

<http://66.102.7.104/search?q=cache:pBME9qgrwJUU:www.zoa.org/publications/SaudiSupport.pdf+Khobar+towers+%2B+witnesses+beheaded&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=1>

Senate Probes Administration about Saudi Financial Links to Terrorism

<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2004/Jan/07-255811.html>

US Government Obstruction of Terrorism Investigations

FBI agents allegedly had advance knowledge of dates, targets, financial transactions, and the names of the perpetrators of the impending terrorist attacks. But they claim that they were ignored or legally obstructed.

Experienced FBI agent John O'Neill claims that his investigation of Osama bin Laden was opposed and obstructed by the White House. And FBI agent Ken Williams, who investigated terrorist suspects at flight schools in Phoenix, was reallocated halfway through his investigation.

The Minneapolis FBI sought permission from FBI central headquarters to examine the laptop computer belonging to flight student Moussaoui, as they suspected he had plans to "fly something into the World Trade Center." They were refused four times.

The FBI, CIA, and Federal Aviation Administration had been aware as far back as 1995 that al-Qaeda had developed a plan to use passenger aircraft as bombs -- although today the existence of such information is denied.

Now it is being alleged that both the FBI and the CIA intentionally blocked investigations that could have averted the catastrophe.

<http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2006-08-28-bredesen-en.html>

John O'Neill: Casualty of the Bush Administration?

<http://elandslide.org/view.cfm?id=7479>

Attack on the USS Cole

<http://www.al-bab.com/yemen/cole8.htm>

John O'Neill: An Unbelievable Life by Mark Ames

http://www.exile.ru/2002-September-19/feature_story.html

INTERVIEW: The Man Who Knew

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/knew/john/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/knew/view/interview.html>

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5.8 **President Bush on the "Search" for Usama bin Laden**

http://www.buzzflash.com/contributors/2002/11/13_Laden.html

Quiz: Who Said Bin Laden is 'Not Our Priority?'

by Ari Berman

<http://www.thenation.com/blogs/notion?pid=124945>

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5.9 **The "Hunt" for Usama Bin Laden *******

Repeated, Specific Examples of How the US Government has AVOIDED CAPTURING our "Great Enemy"

per Cooperative research: The Complete 911 Timeline
Managed by Paul Thompson

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&before_9/11=huntForBinLaden

DVD: 911 Press for Truth *****

Featuring the 911 Families who Forced the 911 Commission to Convene over the Efforts of the Bush Administration to Avoid It

Also Featuring the Extensive Research and On-Camera Observations of Extraordinary Citizen Paul Thompson

To order:

http://cooperativeresearch.org/911_press_for_truth.html

WAMY Investigation Suppression & the Hijackers Down the Street

<http://www.bushnews.com/binladens.htm>

The Effort to Avoid Catching Bin Laden

by Michael Meacher
Member of Parliament,
the United Kingdom

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1036571,00.html>

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5.10 Bin Laden Walks Out of Tora Bora

“..... A videotape, obtained exclusively by the CIA and not previously reported..... shows bin Laden walking on a trail toward Pakistan at the end of the battle of Tora Bora in December 2001, when U.S. forces came close but failed to capture him.

<http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2006/9/10/10951/5080/>

Mid-December 2001:

The White House Leaves Usama's Capture to the Pakistanis

Classified CIA reports passed to Bush in his morning briefings of early December..... warned that 'the back door is open' and that a bare few Pakistani army units were visible gathering near the Pakistani border.

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/context.jsp?item=a1201videoacrossborder>

The Politics of Crime

Brigadier General James Mattis Ignored

“..... By now, the Taliban's stronghold in Kandahar had fallen or, more correctly, had been abandoned by the soldiers of the regime. The Taliban retreat from Kandahar was emblematic of the war.

None of Afghanistan's cities had been won by force alone. Taliban fighters, after intense bombing, had simply made strategic withdrawals. A number of American officers were now convinced that this was about to happen at Tora Bora, too.

One of them was Brig. Gen. James N. Mattis, the commander of some 4,000 marines who had arrived in the Afghan theater by now.

Mattis, along with another officer with whom I spoke, was convinced that with these numbers he could have surrounded and sealed off bin Laden's lair, as well as deployed troops to the most sensitive portions of the largely unpatrolled border with Pakistan. He argued strongly that he should be permitted to proceed to the Tora Bora caves.

The general was turned down.”

<http://www.talkleft.com/story/2006/09/11/019/81711>

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5.11 John O'Neill *****

**The Propaganda Preparation for 9/11
by Chaim Kupferberg**

[Reiteration of Reference 5.4]

[THIS IS A CRITICAL DOCUMENT]

EXCERPT:

“So, to elaborate further on this (so far) fruitful hypothesis, it is my contention that al-Qaida and bin Laden are elaborate "legends" set up to promote a plausibly sophisticated and ferocious enemy to stand against American interests.

I am not, however, implying that bin Laden himself is a total fabrication. Rather, it is my contention that confederates, believing themselves to act on behalf of bin Laden, are being set up in a "false flag operation" to perform operations as their controllers see fit.

And who are these controllers? If they're anything resembling the folks who brought you Hizbullah and Hamas, you wouldn't be sweating the suitcase nukes (made in America), the Ames strain anthrax (made in America), the MI5-like "sleeper agents" and coded "go" messages. Instead, you would be dodging primitive nail bombs and road mines -- and not needing Abdel Bari Atwan to feed you the lowdown on the blame.....

A relatively few well-connected correspondents provide the "scoops" that get the coverage in the relatively few mainstream news sources -- the four TV networks, TIME, Newsweek, CNN -- where the parameters of debate are set and the "official reality" is consecrated for the bottom feeders in the news chain.

In other countries, this is what is known as propaganda -- or, put less politely, psychological warfare.”

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP206A.html>

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The Business of Treason
Illustrated
Chapter 6 References

6.1 Daniel Pearl Foundation

The Daniel Pearl Foundation was formed in memory of journalist Daniel Pearl to further the ideals that inspired Daniel's life and work. The foundation's mission is to promote cross-cultural understanding through journalism, music, and innovative communications.

<http://www.danielpearloundation.org/>

Daniel Pearl Remembered

<http://daily.stanford.edu/article/2002/2/22/alumnusPearlConfirmedDead>

Omar Saeed: Public Schoolboy who Turned to Terror

A Bare Bones Account, Typically Omitting the ISI from the story.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2002/07/16/wper1116.xml>

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6.2 Omar Saeed: The British Jackal

**by Nick Fielding
The Times of London**

..... When the ISI discovered Pearl was trying to find out who was financing the HUA, it was the final straw, according to a source in Karachi. "He was beginning to get too close to understanding the links between the ISI and the jihadis," alleged the source.

"Sheikh was their (the ISI's) man and he was brought in to deal with Pearl. The ISI knew everything." The Karachi police, who deeply distrust the ISI, leaked details of their interrogation of Sheikh in which he talked about his ISI connections. As a result, ISI operatives broke into the newsroom of The News, Pakistan's largest English language newspaper, in February in an apparent attempt to prevent publication of a leak in which Sheikh was reported to have said that the ISI helped him to finance, plan and execute last December's attack on the Indian parliament.

<http://meaindia.nic.in/bestoftheweb/2002/04/21bow02.htm>

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**6.3 Saeed and Mullah Omar Kick Back
per 911 Timeline (See Item #4)**

(January 1, 2000-September 11, 2001: Following Release from Prison, Saeed Sheikh Lives Openly; Supports Future 9/11 Hijackers)

After being released from prison at the end of 1999, Saeed Sheikh stays in Kandahar, Afghanistan, for several days and meets with Taliban leader Mullah Omar. He also meets with bin Laden, who is said to call Saeed "my special son."

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/entity.jsp?entity=mullah_omar

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6.4 Omar Saeed Sheikh, 9/11 and Pakistan's ISI

By Abid Ullah Jan

Published: July 14, 2006

Vanity Fair reported in its September 2002 edition that, after being released from prison at the end of 1999, Saeed Sheikh was given a house by the ISI. Newsweek (April 13, 2002) reports that he lived openly and opulently in Pakistan, even attending "swanky parties attended by senior Pakistani government officials." The U.S. authorities confirmed that he was an asset of the ISI.

An asset of the ISI means an asset of the U.S. and British authorities as well -- which is why it is not amazing that he was allowed to travel freely to Britain and visit his family there. Saeed Sheikh traveled to Britain at least twice before that time, despite having kidnapped Britons and Americans in 1993 and 1994.

http://www.icssa.org/article_detail_parse.php?m_link=&mlink=&a_id=1006&rel=1005,1004,1003,1002,1001&pg=&m_id=1010

General Mahmood Promoted to Head the ISI After Musharraf's 1999 Coup

When Musharraf seized power on October 12, 1999, the army had two identified [fundamentalists] in the rank of lieutenant general -- Mohammad Aziz Khan, who was then the chief of the general staff and Muzaffar Usmani, the then corps commander, Karachi.

Subsequently, Musharraf appointed Mohammad Aziz Khan as commander of one of the two corps in Lahore and Usmani as deputy chief of the army staff. It was the triumvirate of Usmani as corps commander, Karachi, Mohammad Aziz Khan as the CGS and Mahmood Ahmed, as the then corps commander of Rawalpindi, which staged the coup against Nawaz Sharif, the then prime minister, in Musharraf's absence from the country and paved the way for his installation as the military dictator with the designation of chief executive. They refused to accept Nawaz Sharif's order dismissing Musharraf as chief of the army staff and appointing Lieutenant General Ziauddin, the then director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence, in his place. They had both Nawaz Sharif and Ziauddin arrested.

After taking over, Musharraf appointed Lieutenant General Mahmood Ahmed as the DG of the ISI.

<http://www.rediff.com/news/2004/oct/05raman.htm>

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6.5 "Pressuring" Pakistan

Pakistani "Experts" Debate Pakistan's Fate -- Six Days After 9/11 -- and Express Their Faith in General Mahmood

MARGARET WARNER: Ambassador Oakley, the Taliban has given at least part of this response before, as I understand it, saying, well, we're going to let these Islamic clerics decide it [whether to extradite Usama bin Laden for trial in the 911 attacks]. Does it sound... Do you think there's a glimmer of hope that Pakistan actually might be able... might be successful in this mission that it went on today?

ROBERT OAKLEY: The only the way that you can have success is through the Pakistanis. I have a great deal of confidence in General Musharraf and Mahmood, who was here for almost a week. He can convey....

MARGARET WARNER: He's the intelligence chief.

ROBERT OAKLEY: He's the intelligence chief that Mansoor was talking about. He was in the country [the United States] at the time of these events. He spent a lot of time talking to senior U.S. officials.

MARGARET WARNER: He was here at the time of the bombings last week?

ROBERT OAKLEY: Yes. And they trust him. He's been their chief supporter -- interlocutor. And so if there's anybody who can bring home to them the magnitude of what's happened and the response, the very power of the response is General Mahmood with the backing of General Musharraf. General Musharraf and General Mahmood and the other members of the ruling Junta have decided to put their fate on the line, the fate of Pakistan on the line....

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/terrorism/july-dec01/pakistan_9-17.html

Richard Armitage

Richard Armitage and the ISI **by Dennis L Cuddy, Ph. D,**

Why would an American government official become so involved with Pakistan? For one thing, most CIA covert operations in that part of the world have been run through the ISI. Also, Pakistan is geopolitically important in obtaining oil from the Caspian region where Kazakhstan is located. Armitage (whose business clients have included Halliburton's Brown & Root division, Boeing, Goldman Sachs and Chase Manhattan) and Dick Cheney in the 1990s had business or consulting interests in the Caspian region (Cheney has been CEO of Halliburton and on the Kazakhstan Oil Advisory Board), and in 1997 Armitage was contacted by the oil and gas giant UNOCAL to work for its Central Asia pipeline interests. Armitage also co-authored the July 2000 report of The Commission on America's National Interests, which described the need for obtaining oil from the Caspian region. The recalcitrant Taliban rulers of Afghanistan, however, were standing in the way of moving the oil and gas from that region to Pakistan, the U.S., and elsewhere.

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Cuddy/dennis19.htm>

Armitage, The ISI and 911 Hijacker Mohammed Atta

EXCERPT of:

"Musharraf: From CIA with Love?" **by B. Raman**

"Some circles in the US see a linkage between the recent high-profile visit of Mr. Richard Armitage, US Deputy Secretary of State, to New Delhi, the unpublicised visit of Mr. George Tenet, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), to Islamabad where he had an unusually long meeting with Gen. Pervez Musharraf,

the self-styled Chief Executive of Pakistan, and the surprise decision of the Government of India to invite the General to New Delhi for talks without any longer insisting on the stoppage of Pakistani support to cross-border terrorism as a pre-condition for a resumption of the bilateral dialogue at the political level.

Mr. Armitage, who had spent some years of his career in the CIA/DIA and holds the highest Pakistani civil decoration that could be awarded to a foreigner for his role during the Afghan war of the 1980s, has a large circle of friends in the Pakistani military and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Directorate."
<http://www.btinternet.com/~nlpwessex/Documents/armitageISIatta.htm>

The Criminality of Richard Armitage *****

**From a Central Role in the Iran-Contra Crimes through
His Tenure as a Board Member of DBT/Choice Point**

**[the company employed by Jeb Bush to Kick 90,000 Black and Latino
Voters Off the Florida Voting Registries Prior to the 2000 Election]**

**Through His Role as Lead Negotiator of Pakistan's "Crucial Assistance" in the
"War on Terror"**

Armitage, considered to be a conservative "neo con" (neo-conservative), is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is one of the signers of the January 26, 1998, Project for the New American Century PNAC letter to President William Jefferson Clinton.

He is also a former board member for CACI International, the private military contractor, which "is being investigated by no less than 5 US agencies for possible contract violations" and "employed four interrogators at Abu Ghraib prison" in Iraq, one of whom was singled out by General Taguba in his report on abuses of Iraqi detainees at the prison.

"Armitage, who was denied a 1989 appointment as Assistant Secretary of State because of links to Iran-Contra and other scandals, served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs in the Reagan years.

U.S. Government stipulations in the Oliver North trial specifically named Armitage as one of the DoD officials responsible for illegal transfers of weapons to Iran and the Contras."

[Armitage] was a board member of Database Technologies (DBT)/Choice Point Inc. before taking office under George Bush Jr. ...

Choice Point, a corporation based near Atlanta, Georgia, USA, which claims to be the "nation's leading supplier of identification and credential verification services," is the company whose DBT subsidiary spoiled the electoral roll in Florida enabling George W. Bush to "win" the 2000 presidential election.

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Richard_Armitage

Richard Armitage Quietly Confirmed as Deputy Secretary of State

by Michael Ruppert

On March 23, after being recommended in a unanimous 18-0 vote by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, former Vietnam-era covert operative and Contra-era figure Richard Armitage was confirmed as Deputy Secretary of State in a voice vote on the Senate Floor. The unchallenged confirmation of a figure who had previously been investigated by President Reagan's Commission on Organized Crime (1984) for alleged links to gambling and prostitution was totally ignored by the major American media.

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/politics/armitage_SS.html [Back](#)

6.6 The Cited ARTICLE:

ISI Chief's Parleys continue in Washington
by Amir Mateen

This article published in the Pakistani daily The News on September 10, begs the question: What was the Chief of Pakistan's Military Intelligence (ISI) Lt. General Mahmoud Ahmad doing in the United States in the days prior to the attacks?

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/MAT111A.html> [Back](#)

6.7 Porter Goss:

New CIA Head Broke Bread on 9/11 with the Head of the Pakistani ISI

In late August 2001, barely a couple of weeks before September 11, Senator Bob Graham, Representative Porter Goss and Senator Jon Kyl were on a top level mission in Islamabad, which was barely mentioned by the US media.

Meetings were held with President Pervez Musharraf and with Pakistan's military and intelligence brass including the head of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) General Mahmoud Ahmad. Amply documented, the ISI is known to support a number of Islamic terrorist organizations.....

On the morning of September 11, the three lawmakers.... were having breakfast on Capitol Hill with General Mahmood.....

<http://melbourne.indymedia.org/news/2004/08/76366.php>

Questions About Porter Goss and His 'Terrorist Breakfast' Go Unanswered

Village Voice:
August 11, 2004

Here's the news that made many people in the Eastern Time Zone heave up their breakfasts at 8:31 this morning: President Bush introduced Porter Goss as the new CIA director.

Bush called Goss a "reformer." The two of them ought to be toast.

How fitting that this is the same House Intelligence chairman Porter Goss who was having breakfast in D.C. on 9-11 with Pakistan's security chief, Lieutenant General Mahmoud Ahmad.....

Digest this: The two Floridians wound up running the joint congressional inquiry into 9-11 in their roles as chairmen of the House and Senate Intelligence committees. Not a word of the breakfast appears in Goss-Graham 858-page report.....

And chew on another factoid: This is the same Porter Goss who stood up on the floor of the U.S. House on October 9, 2002, during the crucial debate about whether to authorize Bush to go to war against Iraq, and said, according to the Congressional Record, that the 9-11 attack "was delivered by depraved men."

Two quick questions: Was the Pakistani general too depraved to have another cinnamon roll that morning? Or was he just full?

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/august2004/110804terroristbreakfast.htm>

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6.8 ISI Director General Mahmood Ahmed

ISI Director Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed is replaced in the face of US pressure after links are discovered between him, Saeed Sheikh, and the funding of the 9/11 attacks. Mahmood instructed Saeed to transfer \$100,000 into hijacker Mohamed Atta's bank account prior to 9/11....

Michael Meacher, a British member of Parliament, and a cabinet minister in Tony Blair's government until 2003, writes in the Guardian, "Significantly, [Saeed] Sheikh is ... the man who, on the instructions of General Mahmood Ahmed, the then head of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), wired \$100,000 before the 9/11 attacks to Mohamed Atta, the lead hijacker. It is extraordinary that neither Ahmed nor Sheikh have been charged and brought to trial on this count. Why not?"

Daniel Ellsberg, the "Pentagon Papers" whistleblower during the Nixon presidency, states in the same article, "It seems to me quite plausible that Pakistan was quite involved in [9/11] ... To say Pakistan is, to me, to say CIA because ... it's hard to say that the ISI knew something that the CIA had no knowledge of." [Guardian, 7/22/2004]

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline_pf.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&the_isi:_a_more_detailed_look=mahmoodAhmed

9/11 and the Head of Pakistan Intelligence

Goss, Graham and Mahmood per Axis of Logic

If the 9-11 Commission is really looking for a smoking gun, it should look no further than at Lieutenant-General Mahmoud Ahmad, the director of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) at the time.

In early October 2001, Indian intelligence learned that Mahmoud had ordered flamboyant Saeed Sheikh - the convicted mastermind of the kidnapping and killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl - to wire US\$100,000 from Dubai to one of hijacker Mohamed Atta's two bank accounts in Florida.

A juicy direct connection was also established between Mahmoud and Republican Congressman Porter Gross and Democratic Senator Bob Graham. They were all in Washington together discussing Osama bin Laden over breakfast when the attacks of September 11, 2001, happened.....

In December 2002, Graham said he was "surprised at the evidence that there were foreign governments involved in facilitating the activities of at least some of the [September 11] terrorists in the United States ... It will become public at some point when it's turned over to the archives, but that's 20 or 30 years from now."

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Front_Page/FD08Aa01.html

Beyond the September 11 Breakfast Meeting on Capitol Hill

by Michel Chossudovsky

The chairmen of the Joint Inquiry on 9/11 Sen. Bob Graham and Rep Porter Goss are in "conflict of interest". Or are we dealing with something far more serious?

The chairmen of the Joint Inquiry have dubious links to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) which is known to have actively supported Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Moreover, according to intelligence sources, including the FBI, Pakistan's ISI played a role in financing the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The two Joint Inquiry chairmen Sen. Bob Graham and Rep Porter Goss were fully cognizant of the "Pakistani ISI connection" and the role played by its former head, General Mahmoud Ahmad.

Why then did they choose to exclude an examination of the role of the ISI from the Joint Inquiry's 858 page Report?

While hinting to "Saudi support and involvement" in 9/11, the Report fails to mention that the Pakistani government, its military and intelligence apparatus (ISI), have actively supported and financed a number of terrorist organizations, with the support of Washington.

Was it "an intelligence failure" to seek the cooperation of the Pakistani government in the "war on terrorism" in an agreement brokered by the head of the ISI, a spy agency, which is known to support the Islamic brigades?

..... While the Joint inquiry has collected mountains of intelligence material, through careful omission, the numerous press and intelligence reports in the public domain (mainstream media, alternative media, etc), which confirm that key members of the Bush Administration were involved in acts of political camouflage, have been carefully removed from the Joint inquiry's hearings.

<http://911review.org/Wget/www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO308C.html>

The Wall Street Journal's Affirmation of its Mahmood Article

An Op-Ed piece citing their previous article.

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/best/?id=95001298>

The Criminality of Porter Goss per Big Brass Balls

"The shameful resignation of CIA director Porter Goss is just the latest outrage for the monstrous spook who has cheapened and dirtied the United States for a half-century.

There is so much blood on Goss' hands and so many skeletons in his closets that it's impossible to guess what particular crime finally ended his odious career. But the growing "Hookergate" scandal connected to convicted criminal Duke Cunningham and CIA executive director Dusty Foggo may have finally wrapped its whorish tentacles around Goss' neck.

"Something happened," neo-conservative magazine editor William Kristol said on Fox News this afternoon. "It's going to be a bad few days. We're going to discover something ... It will be something not good for the Bush Administration."

[NOTE: Did anyone even ask what that might have been?]

<http://bigbrassballs.wordpress.com/2006/05/07/porter-goss-criminal/> [Back](#)

6.9 Pakistan and Radicalism

Both Washington and London have in the past urged President Musharraf to curtail the Islamic brainwashing taking place in the madrassas, but Pakistan's response has been at best half-hearted, mainly because the country's military and intelligence community fully support the Islamic agenda that the madrassas represent.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2005/07/17/do1701.xml&sSheet=/portal/2005/07/17/ixportal.html>

Madrasas in Pakistan

by Suba Chandran
Assistant Director, IPCS

There are an approximate 28,000 madrassas in Pakistan with only 8000 of them registered. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) 2002 report, by March 2002, there were around 600,000 students in 6000 registered madrassas with more than 250,000 students in Punjab alone. The proliferation of madrassas began in the 1980s and continued in the 1990s..... They are now seen and portrayed as fundamentalist institutions and breeding grounds for militants to wage a jihad all over the world. From being established centers of learning in the middle-ages, they have traveled a long way. How did this change come about and what can Pakistan do about it?

<http://www.ipcs.org/newIpcsPublications.jsp?status=publications&status1=issue&mod=d&check=15&try=true>

The Madrassa and the State of Pakistan

by Tariq Rahman

Religion, Poverty and the Potential for Violence in Pakistan.

The madrassas of Pakistan are said to be the breeding ground for much of South and Central Asian militancy, but for the accusations made there is precious little known about these Islamic seminaries and their students. While conceding the radical bent among the madrassas of Pakistan, and the sharp increase in their numbers, an Islamabad scholar dissects the cause behind these phenomena and locates it -- poverty.

<http://www.himalmag.com/2004/february/essay.htm>

Pakistan Exports Nuclear Technology to North Korea **per Center for Defense Information**

This program apparently received new life in 1997 when Pakistan, strapped for cash by U.S. sanctions, began paying for its North Korean missile imports with uranium enrichment technology.

<http://www.cdi.org/nuclear/nk-fact-sheet.cfm>

Annals of National Security: The Cold Test

What the Administration Knew About Pakistan and the North Korean Nuclear Program. by Seymour M. Hersh

The document's most politically sensitive information, however, was about Pakistan. Since 1997, the CIA said, Pakistan had been sharing sophisticated technology, warhead-design information, and weapons-testing data with the Pyongyang regime. Pakistan, one of the Bush Administration's important allies in the war against terrorism, was helping North Korea build the bomb.

http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/030127fa_fact?030127fa_fact

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6.10 Daniel Pearl Investigating Dawood Ibrahim **And Other Sensitive Topics in Pakistan**

The Prelude to Mr. Pearl's Abduction and Murder

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/entity.jsp?entity=dawood_ibrahim

Robert Baer and Daniel Pearl: Stacking the Patsies of 9/11

by Chaim Kupferberg

Who, exactly, is Robert Baer? In the months after 9/11, Baer first emerged on the public radar scope as a "former" CIA official involved in counter-terrorism. After publishing his widely acclaimed book, See No Evil, Baer established himself as the mainstream media's "go-to" guy when making the case for pre-9/11 complacency and opportunistic blindness. But his contributions to our understanding of 9/11 didn't end there. In addition to focusing attention on Saudi Arabia and the

dominating influence of the neo-conservatives on foreign policy, Baer has personally insinuated himself into the Daniel Pearl story. On September 30, 2002, Richard Sale of UPI reported:

"Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was investigating the man who allegedly planned the Sept. 11 airplane hijackings and attacks on New York and Washington when he was kidnapped and murdered in Pakistan, according to two Central Intelligence Agency officials.....

'I was working with Pearl,' said [Bob] Baer, who had written a book about his time as a CIA official and has acted as a consultant and source for numerous media outlets. 'We had a joint project. [Khalid Shaikh] Mohammed was the story he was working on, not Richard Reid [a.k.a. the shoe bomber].' "

Was Baer being truthful, or rather was he disseminating a blatant slice of disinformation? You be the judge. In Baer's latest widely acclaimed book, *Sleeping With The Devil* - published after the September 30, 2002 UPI article -- Baer blatantly contradicts himself, as evidenced on p.199:

"I have no way of knowing whether Pearl went to Karachi and asked about Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The Wall Street Journal says no, that he was working on the shoe-bomber case."

So who, exactly, is Robert Baer - and, more to the point, why should this question matter? Baer - along with the likes of Vincent Cannistraro and Milt Bearden - is among the select few who have managed to "dirty" their hands with past CIA involvement with the Afghani mujahedin. Terror, drugs, arms-smuggling, and the Byzantine workings of Mideast geopolitics - Baer has personally seen it all. In Baer's chronicle of the past CIA/Bin Laden/Muslim Brotherhood nexus, there is really nothing particularly sinister in the fact that the CIA had originally fostered and funded a network that would later go on to unveil itself as America's foremost enemy. Baer characterizes it all as blowback.

But perhaps Baer manages to provide us a crucial - though probably unintended - insight as to how we may characterize all that purported blowback. In Baer's oft-repeated account of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed's escape from Qatar, he reveals that Khalid had managed to slip away with another member of his al-Qaida cell - a man by the name of Shawqui Islambuli, whose brother happens to be the man who had assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat on behalf of the Muslim Brotherhood.

It is indeed an artful pairing - for these two men serve, on a symbolic level, as the operative bookends of the Official 9/11 Legend. At the tail end, of course, stands Khalid as the 9/11 mastermind. At the front end stands the Egyptian fundamentalist clique whose 1981 move against Sadat would coincide with its recruitment by Baer's CIA colleagues into the Afghan effort. One member of that Egyptian clique, Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, would go on to become a CIA asset, and, after his acquittal in relation to the Sadat killing, would then be cleared to enter the United States in 1990 by way of a CIA-approved visa. Setting up shop in a Brooklyn mosque, the men in Abdel-Rahman's circle - Sayyid Nosair, Ramzi Yousef, etc. - would go on to be implicated in the assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane, the plot to destroy New York City landmarks, and, most importantly, the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

If the early shoots of what would eventually evolve into "al-Qaida" look suspiciously like an Egyptian-CIA hybrid, that is probably due to the fact that - from the vantage point of 1993 - a suspicious number of Egyptian CIA assets (and/or FBI informants) were popping up all over the map. For one, a former Egyptian military officer (and FBI informant) named Emad Salem had managed to "infiltrate" former CIA asset Abdel-Rahman's New York circle, giving his FBI handlers the "heads-up" on the plot to take down the Twin Towers in '93. Meanwhile, another former Egyptian military officer (and subsequent FBI informant) by the name of Ali Mohamed would train Abdel-Rahman's men in the arts of bomb-making, formation of operative cells, and all the sophisticated military tactics Ali had gleaned from his three-year stint as a U.S. sergeant with the Special Forces at Fort Bragg. Ali had first entered the United States on a CIA-sponsored visa in 1981, in order to serve his first four-month stint with the Green Berets at Fort Bragg - incidentally, the same year in which Ali had reportedly joined the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood implicated in the Sadat assassination.

After being honorably discharged from service at Fort Bragg in 1989, Ali's resume would include the training of Abdel-Rahman's men, an ongoing stint as an FBI informant (carrying on even after the 1993 WTC bombing), the authorship of al-Qaida's training manuals, along with the training of bin Laden's personal security detail and the refinement of al-Qaida's military tactics. Publicly outed for the first time in 1995 as the trainer of the 1993 New York landmarks suspects, Ali would remain free to carry on his busy globe-trotting itinerary for three more years before being lured out of his cozy Sacramento digs in the aftermath of the 1998 Embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya. Duly subpoenaed and then "secretly" indicted, Ali would go on to plead guilty, implicate his fellow conspirators, and then forever fade from public view (and scrutiny).

With just the foregoing facts in mind, it doesn't take a forensic expert to connect the dots and draw certain conclusions as to the likely paternity of what would later become known as "al-Qaida." From the vantage point of 1993, where were those suspicious dots connecting this close-knit terrorist network to Saddam Hussein? Or the Pakistani ISI? Or the Saudis? Or the Israelis? After 1995, however, there would be new dots to connect up, with new links subsequently forming in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, along with new al-Qaida cells springing up in London, Hamburg, and across the globe - and, in lockstep with the times, new investigative cliques forming across the US, UK, and the EU. Yet from that crucial, embryonic time period of 1981-1993, we can venture a reasonable guess as to which entity was most involved in coddling, handling, clearing, and funding this insular grouping of Egyptian-born radicals, from out of which would grow the full blossom of al-Qaida. And so we must ask what the likes of Bob Baer, Vincent Cannistraro, and Milt Bearden were truly up to in those years.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP312B.html>

BOOK REVIEW: Who Killed Daniel Pearl?

(Qui a tue Daniel Pearl?)

by Bernard-Henri Levy

"The lawyer paints a striking picture of Islamism as pure business: after all "we draft the papers. We establish the contracts. And I can tell you that most of them don't give a damn about Allah. They enter Islamism because, especially in Pakistan, it's nothing other than a source of power and wealth." The Saudi lawyer confirms that "very few people in Pakistan become Islamists by conviction or

fanaticism. They are just looking for a family, a mafia, capable of protecting them from hard times.....

Neo-conservatives may eventually be tortured by self-doubt, but Indian and Israeli intelligence will certainly love the fact that the information they shared led BHL to an explosive conclusion: "The possible Pakistani responsibility in the September 11 attack remains the great unsaid in George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld's America ... to admit that Ahmad is Omar and he wired the money ... wouldn't it be to question the whole foreign policy which, already at the time, made Iraq as the enemy and Pakistan as an ally?"

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/EF28Df02.html

How Daniel Pearl Functioned as a Legend-Destroying Truth Teller

EXCERPT: Despite Tales:

The War in Kosovo Was Savage, but Wasn't Genocide

By Daniel Pearl and Robert Block

"In Kosovo last spring, Yugoslav forces did heinous things. They expelled hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians, burning houses and committing summary executions. It may well be enough to justify the North Atlantic Treaty Organization bombing campaign and the war crimes indictment of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

But other allegations -- indiscriminate mass murder, rape camps, crematoriums, mutilation of the dead -- haven't been borne out in the six months since NATO troops entered Kosovo. Ethnic-Albanian militants, humanitarian organizations, NATO and the news media fed off each other to give genocide rumors credibility. Now, a different picture is emerging."

<http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/pearl123199.htm> [Back](#)

6.11 911's Smoking Gun: The Many Faces of Saeed Sheikh *****

by Paul Thompson

<http://www.fromthewilderness.com/timeline/AAsaeed.html>

Mirrored at:

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/911timeline/main/essaysaeed.html>

There's Something About Omar:

Truth, Lies, and The Legend of 9/11 *****

by Chaim Kupferberg

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP310A.html><http://www.angelfire.com/zine2/todo/>

Political Deception: The Missing Link Behind 9-11 *****

by Michel Chossudovsky

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO206A.html>

<http://www.edition.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/south/02/22/kidnapped.reporter/index.html>

THE ABOVE PIECES ARE CRITICAL READING

Daniel Pearl and the Paymaster of 9/11

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP209A.html>

Did Pearl Die Because Pakistan Deceived the CIA?

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/s_20141.html

9/11 and The Money Trail of Global Terrorism

An Enlightening Compendium of Articles

"... The American 'praise' for General Mahmood was tempered by the news in Dawn (9 October 2001) that the FBI had actually found out that he had contacts with Al-Qaeda activist Sheikh Umar Saeed who had remitted from Pakistan 100,000 dollars to Muhammad Atta who was one of the attackers of New York's World Trade Center. The news item alleged that the money was sent to Muhammad Atta on his instructions.

On 3 October Azim Mian of The News filed from Washington that the evidence presented by the American ambassador to General Musharraf 'also unveils some details about individuals and institutional sympathisers and patrons of Osama bin Laden and the Taliban inside the government set-up of Islamabad as well as non-governmental players'.

http://www.geocities.com/charcha_2000/essays/money_trail.html

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The Business of Treason
Illustrated
Chapter 7 References

7.1 Scott Forbes

Interview with Scott Forbes

April 19, 2004 - Killtown's 9/11 Coincidences & Oddities

<http://killtown.blogspot.com/2005/12/scott-forbes-interview.html>

Letter from Scott Forbes to John Kaminsky

<http://www.serendipity.li/wot/forbes01.htm>

DVD: 911 Mysteries *****

Written and Directed by SMALLSTORM

This excellent DVD contains an interview with Scott Forbes which expands on his recollections of the unprecedented "upgrade activities" going on behind the scenes during the last six weeks of the existence of the World Trade Center.

EXCERPTS from the soundtrack:

Scott Forbes, an IT Specialist in a firm that had leased space in the South tower since its erection, reported an unprecedented "power down" in his building for almost the whole weekend prior to 9/11.

"We were notified three weeks in advance of a 'power down' by the Port Authority. That was relatively short notice to plan to shut down all of our banking systems. It was a big deal. It was unprecedented. We had a data center of the 97th floor. So our originating servers were all there. During that week the 'power down' meant that there was no security -- the doors were all open basically. And the cameras were all off. But there were guys in overalls carrying huge tool boxes and reels of cable walking around the building that weekend."

For weeks Scott Forbes had heard ... noises on the 98th floor above.

"It must have been at least four to six weeks before 9/11. It was like rebuilding work going on upstairs. The tenants -- the people from Aon who had been moved somewhere else. The offices were just vacant -- and there was a lot of heavy machinery building work going on. It was almost like pneumatic drills and lots of hammering. So much so that the floor was shaking -- that's how noticeable it was. It was almost as if something heavy was being moved and then it was being taken off wheels and it was like -- boom!

Our floor underneath literally shook -- you could feel the weight above you. That was how large it was. On one occasion I opened a door to see what was going on, being nosey... when I opened the door, the whole office space was empty. There was nothing there at all. It was bizarre because it was just empty. Completely empty. Barren. Nothing. Zero. Not even cables hanging from the ceilings... But there'd been these heavy noises and vibrations up above. It was really strange."

And a noticeable dust in the week before.

“It was probably the week leading to 9/11. Every morning I’d come in around 7 am and the dust was incredible. It was filthy. It was like the cleaners weren’t cleaning. Right where the windows were there was a sill which enclosed radiators. I was sick to death of the dust which was appearing on the window sills. It was dirty gray and very, very noticeable -- that week leading up to 9/11. Where was that dust coming from?”

Gray dust Scott himself had to clean. Was it powdered cement?

[\[The DVD 911 Mysteries contains remarkable interviews with the world’s leading Demolition Experts, which are highly useful to understanding what happened on 9/11. For instance, we are shown exactly how cords of thermite are strapped against a steel beam to achieve the “Angle of Cut” necessary to get a massively heavy building to “walk” off its foundation. Then we are shown pictures from the rubble. It will not cost you a penny to come to this understanding. You can download the film for free, and/or purchase it to share with others.\]](#)

Purchasing Info and Free Download at:

<http://www.question911.com/linksall.htm>

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7.2 911 Hero William Rodriguez

VIDEO: William Rodriguez in His Own Words

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=4380137365762802294>

The Man Behind the 9/11 RICO Suit

http://www.americanfreepress.net/html/9-11_conspiracy.html

**William Rodriguez, a 9/11 Survivor
by Deanna Spingola**

<http://www.renewamerica.us/columns/spingola/050826>

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7.3 Repeated EXPLOSIONS on 9/11

Please watch the DVDs

911 Mysteries

September 11 Revisited

911 Eyewitness

Loose Change Second Edition

AUDIO: The Basement Explosion

in the North Tower which **Preceded the Impact of American Airlines 11**

This recording, from a morning business meeting at One Liberty Plaza, which captures both events, as well as the participants' immediate reactions, is included in the

DVD: Loose Change Second Edition

VIDEO and AUDIO: The Series of Massive Explosions

and the Basement Smoke that Followed

The entire 9/11 catastrophe was videotaped from the New Jersey docks by Rick Siegel. It is amazing to witness the event live as it unfolded, even at this distance, as Siegel's camera and the accidental soundtrack of the emergency broadcast of a New York radio news show document the horror before it could be filtered through the lies of the Official Legend. The radio reports from the Pentagon are chilling, and describe a tale very different from the one we would later be told.

In Siegel's video, you hear the repeated explosions described by the first responders, and watch as smoke rises from the basements of the towers following many of them. The video captures the flash of brilliant light which emanated from a mostly obscured helicopter immediately before the Coup de Grace of total disintegration. If this light was merely a coincidentally timed reflection, it's interesting to note that the sun was beyond it -- to the east -- in the early morning of 9/11.

The video also provides an unsurpassed overview of the size and flow of the massive clouds of hot gas which dispersed the contents of the pulverized towers over many miles of lower Manhattan.

Please access the

DVD: 911 Eyewitness

VIDEO INTERVIEWS: First Responders Recount Multiple Explosions

DVD: September 11 Revisited ***

DVD: Loose Change Second Edition

VIDEO: Audio of the Explosion which **Preceded the Impact of United 175.**

The South Tower in the 22 Seconds Before the Arrival of the Second Plane, During which the Pre-Explosions Reported by Many Eyewitnesses can be Heard in the Last Few Seconds Before Impact. (Note the bird freaking out in the foreground. Recall that the massive fireball bloomed immediately upon the airplane's arrival. Recall that light travels faster than sound.)

<http://www.mediumrecords.com/wtc/southtower-plane.varick.mov>

(PLAY IT LOUD to hear beyond the sirens and helicopters.)

Explosive Testimony *****

by David Ray Griffin

First Rate Reporting by America's Leading Theological Scholar

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20060118104223192>

Mirrored at:

<http://www.mindfully.org/Reform/2006/911-WTC-Twin-Towers26jan06.htm>

Testimony of Firefighters, Police Officers, Paramedics, Reporters, and Survivors

<http://911proof.com/11.html>

VIDEO of Firefighter: "Bombs in the Building."

<http://www.terrorize.dk/911/witnesses/witnesses3.php#911.wtc.fireman.bomb.in.the.building>

First-hand Accounts of Underground Explosions In The North Tower

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/november2004/281104undergroundexplosions.htm>

Reports of Sights and Sounds of Explosions in the Oral Histories

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/oralhistories/explosions.html>

Witnesses Say They Heard Bombs Explode in WTC Buildings

<http://www.bcrevolution.ca/bombs.htm>

AUDIO: Recordings and Analysis

of Explosion Sounds and the World Trade Center

<http://www.mediumrecords.com/wtc/audio00.html>

Testimony of Eyewitnesses and

Visual Images of the Smoke from Underground Explosions

<http://www.explosive911analysis.com/>

Eyewitness Reports of Explosions Before WTC Disintegrations

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/eyewitness.html>

AUDIO & VIDEO ANALYSIS: The 9/11 WTC Disintegrations

http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/9-11_wtc_videos.html

911 Research Evidence Page

An Extremely Comprehensive Compilation of Critical Information

<http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence.html>

Massive Seismic Spikes Prior to Each Tower's Disintegration

<http://100777.com/node/245>

Visual Evidence of Controlled Demolition

<http://thewebfairy.com/911/demolition/controlled.htm>

Fire at the Base of WTC Two

<http://www.terrorize.dk/911/wtcfire4/>

Home video from 500 yards away from North Tower

(Smoke from the basement creeping up thirty-some floors from street level on the northwest corner of the building)

<http://wakeupfromyourslumber.blogspot.com/2006/09/amazing-new-911-video-released.html>

President Bush Refers to "Explosives"

A Mild Slip of the Tongue?

http://dc.indymedia.org/usermedia/audio/1/u2r2h--bush_explosives-15sep06.mp3

VIDEO: The South Tower Disintegrates,

As Shot from the Front of the Trinity Church

(An Up Close and Personal Experience with the Concept of Pyroclastic Flow)

<http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=south+tower+trinity>

COLLECTION of VIDEOS: The Destruction of the WTC Towers on 9/11

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/index.html>

FRAME by FRAME: The Destruction of the South Tower in Individual Video Frames

http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/stc_frames.html

FRAME by FRAME: The Destruction of the North Tower in Individual Video Frames

http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/wtc1_close_frames.html

EXCELLENT VIDEO of Explosions and Disintegrations:

This is a very useful place to start investigating the whole "myth" of 911.

High Resolution

DVD: 911 Mysteries

The AWAKENING of BRAD *****

A Demolition Hobbyist -- and Conservative Republican -- is Angered by Doubters, Purchases 911 Videos and Begins to Do His Own Research.

Watch the "911 Mysteries" DVD material by Clicking on Links at the Left Also Contains Purchasing Info at Bottom of Page

<http://www.911weknow.com/911mysteries.htm>

VIDEO: The South Tower from West Street

Firemen (and the camera person) run for their lives.

NOTE: Stray Demolition squibs can be seen below the demolition wave. These ejections cannot have been caused by air pressure -- as the Tower was hermetically sealed into three separate sections, each marked by the darker gray banding of its lobby.

<http://www.mediumrecords.com/wtc/southtower.weststreet.mpg>

VIDEOS and IMAGES: The Evidence for Controlled Demolition

The Images of **Photojournalist BILL BIGGART..... who died** taking his last pictures -- have been rescinded from this page. Please follow the link on the page to Biggart's haunting photos of the toxic pyroclastic flows that bloomed ferociously from the South Tower. He was photographing the Stubs of the South Tower's Lobby when the explosions that blew the North Tower's outer steel columns 600 feet in every direction engulfed him.

http://www.plaguepuppy.net/public_html/collapse%20update/--=Close-up%20of%20south%20tower%20collapse.mpg

VIDEO: Onset of the North Tower Disintegration

(During Which the Camera Shakes, Followed by the Rooftop Antenna Beginning to Give Way Just Prior to the Explosive Disintegration of the Tower)

NOTE: This video provides evidence of the explosive, pre-failure ground-level events described in both towers (characterized by eyewitnesses as "earthquake"-like, and as "the ground shook") in that the video camera, trained perfectly steady on the North Tower, registers a pronounced shock wave just prior to the onset of its explosive failure.

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/north_tower_collapse.mpeg

VIDEO: The South Tower Disintegration in **Higher Definition.**

NOTE: This video is sufficiently Hi-Def to reveal the flashes of the Cutter Charges that so many eyewitnesses referred to as "sparkling" and "popping all around the building." These flashing charges, identical to those in many videos of Professional Controlled Demolitions, are also visible during the destruction of the North Tower, particularly well-captured in the DVD: 911 Eyewitness.

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/south_tower_collapse.mpeg

Also available at:

http://www.plaguepuppy.net/public_html/Flashes/flashes.htm

[NOTE: If you have a capable version of Quicktime (such as Quicktime Pro -- available at apple.com), you can access the above video, Save as Quicktime Movie, Maximize the Viewing window, and Step Frame through the Cutter Flashes. Note that they often occur in areas blocked from the sun, and therefore cannot be reflections off broken glass. And note that they do not yield dust or projectiles as they die away. They are merely brilliantly bright and short lived bursts of light.

This Video is also a perfect example of the official use of the verb "collapse" to describe the Fate of the Towers on 9/11 -- the obvious verb of choice -- which

became a part of the Official 9/11 Lexicon from the very beginning. And while "collapse" is certainly a reasonable word to come up with to describe these images and the dynamics they capture, the word "explode" can easily be understood to be equally deserving of employment.

Many of these images DEFINE the word explode. But the word "explode," and particularly the word "demolition," were considered vary bad form if uttered aloud in the Main Stream Media -- the latter word documented to cause its foolish user to receive anthrax in the mail -- quickly -- from the profoundly language-sensitive "terrorists" it very obviously offended.]

VIDEO: Demolition Squibs Preceded the Demolition Wave in the North Tower

[NOTE: These are Interesting to Compare with Professional Demolition Videos, several links to which are provided below.]

http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/wtc1_jets_frames.html

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/towers/slides.html>

VIDEO: History Channel Videos of Controlled Demolitions

<http://thewebfairy.com/911/demolition/demolitions.htm>

VIDEO: 9/11 Controlled Demolitions Video Collection

<http://forums.bluelemur.com/viewtopic.php?t=4572&sid=4590582cbb80335758260dca0da8bbad>

VIDEO: Dakota Demolition

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/dakota_demolition.mov

VIDEO: Firemen who Survived Talking to Their Fellow Firemen

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/discussion_in_firehouse.mpg

VIDEO: Fireman Joe Casaliggi of Engine Seven:

All Tower Contents Turned to Dust

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/collapsed_to_dust.mpg

VIDEO: Pyroclastic Flows - 9/11's 'Smoking Gun'

http://wakeupfromyourslumber.blogspot.com/2006/09/pyroclastic-flows-911s-smoking-gun_13.html

VIDEO: First Demolition, SLO-MO and Close

<http://thewebfairy.com/911/demolition/close.htm>

VIDEO: Re-Open 9/11

The Video is Mightier Than the Pen.

Pics and Videos

http://www.reopen911.org/pictures_and_videos.htm

THERMITE: Statement Regarding Thermite Devices

by Robert Moore

<http://www.journalof911studies.com/ThermiteDevicesMoore1.pdf>

The Physics of the Twin Towers' Disintegrations on 9/11

<http://www.physics.byu.edu/research/energy/htm7.html>

[NOTE: Can no longer be found at this website -- the portal of a major American University -- thanks to the direct intervention of President Bush]

The Site has been Mirrored at:

<http://www.janedoe0911.tripod.com/BilliardBalls.html>

MUSLIMS SUSPEND THE LAWS OF PHYSICS

Magic Muslims Force the Writer to Forget Everything He Thought He Knew

http://www.public-action.com/911/jmcm/physics_1.html

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7.4 **Muslims Detained as Accomplices But Not Charged with Terrorism Related Acts**

DVD: 911 Press for Truth

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7.5 **Saddam Hussein's Enmity for bin Laden**

**Report: Saddam and Al Qaeda Enemies,
Not Collaborators**

Postwar findings indicate that Saddam Hussein was distrustful of al-Qa'ida and viewed Islamic extremists as a threat to his regime, refusing all requests from al-Qa'ida to provide material or operational support. Debriefings of key leaders of the former Iraqi regime indicate that Saddam distrusted Islamic radicals in general, and al-Qa'ida in particular... Debriefings also indicate that Saddam issued a general order that Iraq should not deal with al-Qa'ida. No postwar information suggests that the Iraqi regime attempted to facilitate a relationship with bin Ladin.

<http://thinkprogress.org/2006/09/10/phase-ii-report-conclusion/>

Doubts Cast on Efforts to Link Saddam, al-Qaida

by Warren P. Strobel, Jonathan S. Landay and John Walcott

The Bush administration's claim that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had ties to al-Qaida - one of the administration's central arguments for a preemptive war - appears to have been based on even less solid intelligence than the administration's claims that Iraq had hidden stocks of chemical and biological weapons.

Nearly a year after U.S. and British troops invaded Iraq, no evidence has turned up to verify allegations of Saddam's links with al-Qaida, and several key parts of the administration's case have either proved false or seem increasingly doubtful.

Senior U.S. officials now say there never was any evidence that Saddam's secular police state and Osama bin Laden's Islamic terrorism network were in league.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines04/0303-01.htm>

CIA Learned in 2002 That Bin Laden Had No Iraq Ties

By Walter Pincus
Washington Post Staff Writer

The CIA learned in late September 2002 from a high-level member of Saddam Hussein's inner circle that Iraq had no past or present contact with Osama bin Laden and that the Iraqi leader considered bin Laden an enemy of the Baghdad regime, according to a recent Senate Intelligence Committee report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/14/AR2006091401545.html>

Dick Cheney and the "Cooked Intelligence" that Justified the War on Iraq

Cheney Cited Iraq Intelligence That Was Known To Be False

One of the given rationales for attacking Iraq was that Saddam was linked to the 9-11 hijackers through a claim that Mohammad Atta met with an Iraqi intelligence official in Prague in April 2001 before the attacks. The supposed Prague meeting was advanced by former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, using evidence obtained from the Czech government. But according to the FBI, Atta was in Virginia Beach at the time. The Czech government later backed off its claims, but Vice President Cheney stuck to it.

<http://thinkprogress.org/index.php?p=1081>

Lies About Iraq

Ronald Reagan's Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Paul Roberts

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1036571,00.html>

LIE BY LIE

How Our Leaders Used Fear and Falsehoods to Dupe Us Into a Mideast Quagmire

From 1992 to the Present

A Survey of All Entries from "Lie By Lie"

Which are Tagged.... 'Cheney'

August 14, 1992

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, speaking to the Discovery Institute in Seattle, says the first President Bush was right not to invade Baghdad: "The question in my mind is how many additional American casualties is Saddam worth? And the answer..."

http://www.motherjones.com/mb/mt-search.cgi?tag=Cheney&blog_id=2

The Lie Factory

The inside story of how the Bush administration pushed disinformation and bogus intelligence and led the nation to war.

http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2004/01/12_405.html

DIA Proof Of **Cheney's Lies** Released

New evidence shows Dick Cheney knowingly continued to assert false intelligence about supposed Al Qaeda-Iraq links even after the CIA and DIA issued warnings, in February 2002, that the information obtained from the interrogation of captured Al Qaeda figure, Ibn al Shaykh Al-Libi (no relation to Scooter Libby aka Libby), was false.

<http://www.rense.com/general69/dia.htm>

Cheney Under Pressure to Quit Over **False War Evidence** by Andrew Buncombe in Washington and Marie Woolf

The allegations against Mr Cheney have come most vocally from a group of senior former intelligence officials who believe that information from the intelligence community was selectively used to support a war fought for political reasons. In an open letter to President George Bush, the group have asked that he demand Mr Cheney's resignation.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines03/0716-01.htm>

Impeach Dick Cheney for **Pre-War 'Hoax'**

On the NPR "NOW" program of Dec. 22, David Brancaccio interviewed Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff at the Department of State.

A decorated veteran of Korea and Vietnam, Wilkerson served under Secretary Colin Powell in the run-up to the Iraqi war.

In the interview, Wilkerson said, "I participated in a hoax on the American people, the international community and the United Nations Security Council." Wilkerson said that Powell was not complicit in the hoax, but was instead its victim.

Dick Cheney, however, used his office to pressure George Tenet and the CIA.

According to Wilkerson the vice president, "went over to the headquarters of the CIA about 10 times in late 2002 and early 2003."

As a consequence, the national intelligence estimates that Powell read to the United Nations involved Iraq having stockpiles of chemicals and biological weapons, and an active nuclear program. And now, as we all know, all of this was false. Powell has since rescinded his U.N. statements.

<http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2007/01/15/opinion/letters/122589.txt>

How Cheney's People **Created False Intelligence** to Justify Invading IRAQ

PNAC Redux: The "Office of Special Plans"

In the days after September 11 terrorist attacks, Paul Wolfowitz and Douglas Feith started cooking intelligence to meet the needs of the radically new foreign and military policy that included regime change in Iraq as its top priority.

To bolster the Iraq war party, they needed intelligence that would persuade the U.S. public and policymakers that Saddam Hussein's regime should be one of the first targets of the war on terrorism. Convinced that the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the State Department would not provide them with type of alarmist threat assessments necessary to justify a preventive war, they created their own tightly controlled intelligence operation at the top levels of the Pentagon bureaucracy

<http://journals.democraticunderground.com/JohnWxy/3>

Iraq Findings Leaked by Cheney's Aide Were Disputed

By David E. Sanger and David Barstow

Mr. Fitzgerald, in his filing, said that Mr. Libby had been authorized to tell Judith Miller, then a reporter for The New York Times, on July 8, 2003, that a key finding of the 2002 intelligence estimate on Iraq was that Baghdad had been vigorously seeking to acquire uranium from Africa.

But a week earlier, in an interview in his State Department office, Mr. Powell told three other reporters for The Times that intelligence agencies had essentially rejected that contention, and were "no longer carrying it as a credible item" by early 2003, when he was preparing to make the case against Iraq at the United Nations.

Mr. Powell's queasiness with some of the intelligence has been well known, but the new revelations suggest that long after he had concluded the intelligence was faulty, Mr. Bush, Mr. Cheney and Mr. Libby were still promoting it.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/09/washington/09leak.html?ex=1170046800&en=94f2db4fc91a16b2&ei=5070>

State Department Memo: "16 Words" Were False

The "Yellowcake" from Niger was Never Real

By Jason Leopold

Sixteen days before President Bush's January 28, 2003, State of the Union address in which he said that the US learned from British intelligence that Iraq had attempted to acquire uranium from Africa - an explosive claim that helped pave the way to war - the State Department told the CIA that the intelligence the uranium claims were based upon were forgeries, according to a newly declassified State Department memo.

<http://www.truthout.org/cgi-bin/artman/exec/view.cgi/59/19157>

As the Senate panel investigating the administration's use of intelligence begins work, their mandate must be to probe into the heart of the cabal.

..... The panel must examine how this network mainstreamed false intelligence, politicized the intelligence community product and coordinated and sustained a major propaganda effort that melded its bogus claims with those cherry-picked bits of intelligence that best supported them.....

We know from the Senate's phase one report that, in May 2002, the CIA had completed a paper on the absence of Iraqi connections to Al Qaeda. These CIA conclusions then became a target for Rumsfeld's OSP [Office of Special Projects], their criticisms unleashed full-bore at a meeting in front of then-CIA director George J. Tenet on August 20.....

We also know from the Downing Street memos that, in late July 2002, British spy chieftain Sir Richard Dearlove, just returned from Washington, told colleagues that the Bush people were "fixing" their intelligence to the policy outcome they desired. Whether this British impression was based on observation of the full spectrum of CIA work or the specific terrorism issue must be established. Equally important is how much false intelligence was inserted by means of this process. That is, how much of the administration-driven phony information ended up in official reports bearing the CIA's imprimatur?

http://www.tompaine.com/articles/2005/11/10/phase_ii_loaded_for_bear.php

Lies and Leaks: Dick Cheney's Problems

by Jack Calvin

Dick Cheney, more affectionately known here as "Dickhead" or just plain, "Asshole", is a guy who's probably got a really bad case of red-ass right about now. Right after 9/11, Dick Cheney felt he had enough dealing with "sissy liberal" things like getting the country back on the right track, and decided that taking Saddam Hussein out of power and putting him into a polyester suit with a bad shave was the nation's top priority.

He wound and spun pre-war intelligence, armed with knowledge that a vast majority of Americans, like their President, would have a difficult time passing a high-school equivalency exam. But amongst all that is evil, there is always a balancing power; the ying to the yang. Somebody came out and said that the Bush Administration was wrong. They had proof. Dick was angry. How dare somebody practice their Constitutional rights and defy the Administration? This person had to be punished, and you have the Valerie Plame story as a result.

As you know, special prosecutor Pat Fitzgerald is investigating the leak. Things are blazing and there's rumors of somebody resigning. The Washington Post has a great article on this whole issue.

"In the course of the investigation, Fitzgerald has been exposed to the intense, behind-the-scenes fight between Cheney's office and the CIA over prewar intelligence and the vice president's central role in compiling and then defending the intelligence used to justify the war. Miller, in a first-person account Sunday in the Times, recalled that Libby complained in a June 23, 2003, meeting in his office that the CIA was engaged in "selective leaking" and a "hedging strategy" that would make the agency look equally prescient whether or not weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq."

What is very interesting is that this goes beyond simply the vigilante tactics of the Vice President. This is something that further helps address the issue that the Iraqi war was based on false intelligence, but not just false intelligence: false fabricated intelligence.

<http://www.mystolennation.com/node/844?PHPSESSID=631b1bb9b8d9fb9a23509abf35ce0bf0>

The Stovepipe

by Seymour M. Hersh

The C.I.A. assessment reflected both deep divisions within the agency and the position of its director, George Tenet, which was far from secure. (The agency had been sharply criticized, after all, for failing to provide any effective warning of the September 11th attacks.) In the view of many C.I.A. analysts and operatives, the director was too eager to endear himself to the Administration hawks and improve his standing with the President and the Vice-President. Senior C.I.A. analysts dealing with Iraq were constantly being urged by the Vice-President's office to provide worst-case assessments on Iraqi weapons issues. "They got pounded on, day after day," one senior Bush Administration official told me, and received no consistent backup from Tenet and his senior staff. "Pretty soon you say 'Fuck it.' " And they began to provide the intelligence that was wanted.

http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/031027fa_fact

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7.6 CIA Agents Come Forward in Defense of Democracy

DVD: Uncovered: The War on Iraq
by Robert Greenwald

This indelible film provides on-camera testimony as to how the distortion worked, as well as specific, actual examples of how the meaning of intelligence assessments were altered by simply removing certain phrases in their entirety, and presenting what was left as if it were the sum of the assessment. Damning. In a democracy that was still being well-tended by its citizens -- these outrageous crimes against America and the world would generate an instant call for indictment.

CIA Official Reveals Bush, Cheney, Rice Were Personally Told Iraq Had No WMD in Fall 2002

Tonight on 60 Minutes, Tyler Drumheller, the former chief of the CIA's Europe division, revealed that in the fall of 2002, President Bush, Vice President Cheney, then-National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and others were told by CIA Director George Tenet that Iraq's foreign minister — who agreed to act as a spy for the United States — had reported that Iraq had no active weapons of mass destruction program.

<http://thinkprogress.org/2006/04/23/60-minutes-cia-official-reveals-bush-cheney-rice-were-personally-told-iraq-had-no-wmd-in-fall-2002>

Cheney's Repeated CIA Visits Pressured Analysts

Multiple visits to the CIA by the United States Vice-President, Dick Cheney, created an environment in which some analysts felt they were being pressured to make their assessments on Iraq fit with Bush Administration policy objectives, intelligence officials said.

They said Mr Cheney and his chief of staff, "Scooter" Libby, questioned analysts studying Iraq's weapons programs and alleged links to al-Qaeda.

Mr Cheney took the lead in the Administration last August in advocating military action against Iraq by claiming it had weapons of mass destruction.

The visits "sent signals, intended or otherwise, that a certain output was desired from here", one agency official said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/06/05/1054700335400.html>

The [Amateur Neo-Con] Spies Who Pushed for War

**by Julian Borger
The Guardian**

Mr. Borger reports on the shadow right-wing intelligence network set up in Washington to second-guess the CIA and deliver a justification for toppling Saddam Hussein by force.

"As the CIA director, George Tenet, arrived at the Senate yesterday to give secret testimony on the Niger uranium affair, it was becoming increasingly clear in Washington that the scandal was only a small, well-documented symptom of a complete breakdown in US intelligence that helped steer America into war.....

According to former Bush officials, all defence and intelligence sources, senior administration figures created a shadow agency of Pentagon analysts staffed mainly by ideological amateurs to compete with the CIA and its military counterpart, the Defence Intelligence Agency.

The agency, called the Office of Special Plans (OSP), was set up by the defence secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, to second-guess CIA information and operated under the patronage of hardline conservatives in the top rungs of the administration, the Pentagon and at the White House, including Vice-President Dick Cheney.

The ideologically driven network functioned like a shadow government, much of it off the official payroll and beyond congressional oversight. But it proved powerful enough to prevail in a struggle with the State Department and the CIA by establishing a justification for war..... "

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,999737,00.html>

The CIA, Iraq, and the Cooking of Intelligence *****

An Intelligence Debacle... and Worse

By Ray McGovern

Former CIA analyst

In our various oral and written presentations on Iraq my veteran intelligence officer colleagues and I took no delight in sharply criticizing what we perceived to be the corruption of intelligence analysis at CIA. Nothing would have pleased us more than to have been proven wrong. It turns out we did not know the half of it.

Several of us have just spent a painful weekend digesting the report of the Senate Intelligence Committee on prewar intelligence assessments on Iraq. The corruption is far deeper than we suspected. The only silver lining is that the corrupter-in-chief, George Tenet, is now gone.

When the former CIA Director departed Sunday, he left behind an agency on life support -- an institution staffed by sycophant managers and thoroughly demoralized analysts.

The analysts are embarrassed at their own naiveté in believing that the passage carved into the marble at the entrance to CIA Headquarters-"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"-held real meaning for their work.

The Senate Committee report is meticulous. Its findings are a sharp blow to those of us who took pride in working in an agency where we could speak truth to power-with career protection from retribution from the powerful, and with leaders who would face down those policymakers who tried to exert undue influence over our analysis.

Enter "Joe Centrifuge"

Although it was clear to us that much of the intelligence on Iraq had been cooked to the recipe of policy, not until the Senate report did we know that the skewing included outright lies.

We had heard of "Joe," the nuclear weapons analyst in CIA's Center for Weapons Intelligence and Arms Control, and it was abundantly clear that his agenda was to "prove" that the infamous aluminum tubes sought by Iraq were to be used for developing a nuclear weapon. We did not know that he and his CIA associates falsified the data-including rotor testing ironically called "spin tests."

The Senate committee determined that "Joe" deliberately skewed data to fit preconceptions regarding an Iraqi nuclear threat. "Who could have believed that about our intelligence community, that the system could be so dishonest?" wondered the normally soft-spoken David Albright, a widely respected veteran expert on Iraq's work toward developing a nuclear weapon.

I share his wonderment. I too am appalled-and angry.

You give 27 years of your professional life to an institution whose main mission -- to get at the truth -- is essential for orderly policy making, and then you find it has been prostituted.

You realize that your former colleagues have lacked the moral courage needed to stave off the effort to enlist them as accomplices in deceiving our elected representatives into giving their blessing to an ill-conceived, unnecessary war.

Even Republican stalwart Sen. Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has conceded that, had Congress known before the vote for war what his committee has now discovered, "I doubt if the votes would have been there."

<http://www.counterpunch.org/mcgovern07132004.html>

Ten Appalling Lies We Were Told About Iraq

By Christopher Scheer, AlterNet. Posted June 27, 2003.

It was a systematic campaign to frighten the hell out of us about the threat of Hussein, and almost none of it was true.

"The Iraqi dictator must not be permitted to threaten America and the world with horrible poisons and diseases and gases and atomic weapons."

-- George Bush, Oct. 7, 2002, in a speech in Cincinnati.

There is a small somber box that appears in the New York Times every day. Titled simply "Killed in Iraq," it lists the names and military affiliations of those who most recently died on tour of duty. Wednesday's edition listed just one name: Orenthal J. Smith, age 21, of Allendale, South Carolina.

The young, late O.J. Smith was almost certainly named after the legendary running back, Orenthal J. Simpson, before that dashing American hero was charged for a double-murder. Now his namesake has died in far-off Mesopotamia in a noble mission to, as our president put it on March 19, "disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger."

Today, more than three months after Bush's stirring declaration of war and nearly two months since he declared victory, no chemical, biological or nuclear weapons have been found, nor any documentation of their existence, nor any sign they were deployed in the field.

The mainstream press, after an astonishing two years of cowardice, is belatedly drawing attention to the unconscionable level of administrative deception. They seem surprised to find that when it comes to Iraq, the Bush administration isn't prone to the occasional lie of expediency but, in fact, almost never told the truth.

What follows are just the most outrageous and significant of the dozens of outright lies uttered by Bush and his top officials over the past year in what amounts to a systematic campaign to scare the bejeezus out of everybody:

LIE #1: "The evidence indicates that Iraq is reconstituting its nuclear weapons program ... Iraq has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes and other equipment needed for gas centrifuges, which are used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons." -- President Bush, Oct. 7, 2002, in Cincinnati.

FACT: This story, leaked to and breathlessly reported by Judith Miller in the New York Times, has turned out to be complete baloney. Department of Energy officials, who monitor nuclear plants, say the tubes could not be used for enriching uranium. One intelligence analyst, who was part of the tubes investigation, angrily told The New Republic: "You had senior American officials like Condoleezza Rice saying the only use of this aluminum really is uranium centrifuges. She said that on television. And that's just a lie."

LIE #2: "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." -- President Bush, Jan. 28, 2003, in the State of the Union address.

FACT: This whopper was based on a document that the White House already knew to be a forgery thanks to the CIA. Sold to Italian intelligence by some hustler, the document carried the signature of an official who had been out of office for 10 years and referenced a constitution that was no longer in effect. The ex-ambassador who the CIA sent to check out the story is pissed: "They knew the Niger story was a flat-out lie," he told the New Republic, anonymously. "They [the White House] were unpersuasive about aluminum tubes and added this to make their case more strongly."

LIE #3: "We believe [Saddam] has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons." -- Vice President Cheney on March 16, 2003 on "Meet the Press."

FACT: There was and is absolutely zero basis for this statement. CIA reports up through 2002 showed no evidence of an Iraqi nuclear weapons program.

LIE #4: "[The CIA possesses] solid reporting of senior-level contacts between Iraq and al-Qaeda going back a decade." -- CIA Director George Tenet in a written statement released Oct. 7, 2002 and echoed in that evening's speech by President Bush.

FACT: Intelligence agencies knew of tentative contacts between Saddam and al-Qaeda in the early '90s, but found no proof of a continuing relationship. In other words, by tweaking language, Tenet and Bush spun the intelligence 180 degrees to say exactly the opposite of what it suggested.

LIE #5: "We've learned that Iraq has trained al-Qaeda members in bomb-making and poisons and deadly gases ... Alliance with terrorists could allow the Iraqi regime to attack America without leaving any fingerprints." -- President Bush, Oct. 7.

FACT: No evidence of this has ever been leaked or produced. Colin Powell told the U.N. this alleged training took place in a camp in northern Iraq. To his great embarrassment, the area he indicated was later revealed to be outside Iraq's control and patrolled by Allied war planes.

LIE #6: "We have also discovered through intelligence that Iraq has a growing fleet of manned and unmanned aerial vehicles that could be used to disperse chemical or biological weapons across broad areas. We are concerned that Iraq is exploring ways of using these UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles] for missions targeting the United States." -- President Bush, Oct. 7.

FACT: Said drones can't fly more than 300 miles, and Iraq is 6,000 miles from the U.S. coastline. Furthermore, Iraq's drone-building program wasn't much more advanced than your average model plane enthusiast. And isn't a "manned aerial vehicle" just a scary way to say "plane"?

LIE #7: "We have seen intelligence over many months that they have chemical and biological weapons, and that they have dispersed them and that they're weaponized and that, in one case at least, the command and control arrangements have been established." -- President Bush, Feb. 8, 2003, in a national radio address.

FACT: Despite a massive nationwide search by U.S. and British forces, there are no signs, traces or examples of chemical weapons being deployed in the field, or anywhere else during the war.

LIE #8: "Our conservative estimate is that Iraq today has a stockpile of between 100 and 500 tons of chemical weapons agent. That is enough to fill 16,000 battlefield rockets." -- Secretary of State Colin Powell, Feb. 5 2003, in remarks to the UN Security Council.

FACT: Putting aside the glaring fact that not one drop of this massive stockpile has been found, as previously reported on AlterNet the United States' own intelligence reports show that these stocks -- if they existed -- were well past their use-by date and therefore useless as weapon fodder.

LIE #9: "We know where [Iraq's WMD] are. They're in the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south, and north somewhat." -- Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, March 30, 2003, in statements to the press.

FACT: Needless to say, no such weapons were found, not to the east, west, south or north, somewhat or otherwise.

LIE #10: "Yes, we found a biological laboratory in Iraq which the UN prohibited." -- President Bush in remarks in Poland, published internationally June 1, 2003.

FACT: This was reference to the discovery of two modified truck trailers that the CIA claimed were potential mobile biological weapons lab. But British and American experts -- including the State Department's intelligence wing in a report released this week -- have since declared this to be untrue. According to the British, and much to Prime Minister Tony Blair's embarrassment, the trailers are actually exactly what Iraq said they were; facilities to fill weather balloons, sold to them by the British themselves.

So, months after the war [this piece was written in June of 2003], we are once again where we started -- with plenty of rhetoric and absolutely no proof of this "grave danger" for which O.J. Smith died. The Bush administration is now scrambling to place the blame for its lies on faulty intelligence, when in fact the intelligence was fine; it was their abuse of it that was "faulty."

Rather than apologize for leading us to a preemptive war based on impossibly faulty or shamelessly distorted "intelligence" or offering his resignation, our sly madman in the White House is starting to sound more like that other O.J. Like the man who cheerfully played golf while promising to pursue "the real killers," Bush is now vowing to search for "the true extent of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs, no matter how long it takes."

On the terrible day of the 9/11 attacks, five hours after a hijacked plane slammed into the Pentagon, retired Gen. Wesley Clark received a strange call from someone (he didn't name names) representing the White House position: "I was on CNN, and I got a call at my home saying, 'You got to say this is connected. This is state-sponsored terrorism. This has to be connected to Saddam Hussein,'" Clark told Meet the Press anchor Tim Russert. "I said, 'But -- I'm willing to say it, but what's your evidence?' And I never got any evidence."

And neither did we.

<http://www.alternet.org/story/16274/>

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7.7 Iraq Oil Field Maps at Dick Cheney's Secret Energy Task Force Meetings Pre-9/11

Project Censored: The News that Didn't Make the News Secrets of Cheney's Energy Task Force Come to Light

<http://www.projectcensored.org/publications/2005/8.html>

Document Says Oil Chiefs Met with Cheney Task Force

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/15/AR2005111501842_pf.html

The Cheney Energy Task Force

A review and analysis of the proceedings leading to the Bush administration's formulation of its May 2001 energy policy.

<http://www.nrdc.org/air/energy/taskforce/tfinx.asp>

High court hears arguments on Cheney task force.

Bush administration contends case about separation of powers.

<http://www.cnn.com/2004/LAW/04/27/scotus.cheney/index.html>

Cheney's Day Before Supreme Court

Sierra Club, Judicial Watch Eye Energy Task Force

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4830129/>

The Supreme Court's Ruling on Cheney's Energy Task Force: Still Secret, But More Litigation Will Follow

by John Dean

<http://writ.news.findlaw.com/dean/20040702.html>

Vice-President Cheney Hiding Energy Task Force Secrets

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2004/04/b50816.html>

Secrecy Pervasive Around Cheney's Energy Task Force per Halliburton Watch

On his 10th day as vice president, Dick Cheney established a secret "Energy Task Force," formally known as the National Energy Policy Development Group (NEPDG), for the purpose of making recommendations to President Bush on energy policy. In formulating a new energy strategy for America, the task force met secretly with lobbyists and representatives of the petroleum, coal, nuclear, natural gas, and electricity industries. Many of these individuals work for energy companies which gave large campaign contributions to Bush/Cheney 2000. Environmental groups were mostly excluded from the task force.

Members of Congress demanded Cheney release the names of individuals and corporations who gave information and advice to the task force. But the vice president refused.....

Public interest groups speculate the stonewalling by Cheney might be proof that the task force records show unprecedented corporate cronyism in the Bush administration, possibly showing an excessive or disproportionate influence over energy policy by Halliburton and other energy companies. The records may also reveal the true reasons for why the Bush administration demanded war with Iraq.....

In January 2003, The Wall Street Journal reported that representatives from Halliburton, Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron-Texaco Corp. and Conoco-Phillips, among others, had met with Vice President Cheney's staff to plan the post-war revival of Iraq's oil industry. However, both Cheney and the companies deny the meeting took place.

http://www.halliburtonwatch.org/about_hal/energytf.html

Cheney Energy Task Force

Documents Feature Iraq Oil Fields

Two Years and Three Months After Being Sued for Access to These Documents Regarding This Most Crucial of Public Policies, and One Year and Four Months After US District Court Judge Paul J. Friedman Ordered the Government to Release Them, and Four Months After the Invasion of Iraq, the Bush Administration Finally Complies with the Law and Releases Them.

Washington,DC -- Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption and abuse, said today that documents turned over by the Commerce Department, under court order as a result of Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit concerning the activities of the Cheney Energy Task Force, contain a map of Iraqi oilfields, pipelines, refineries and terminals, as well as 2 charts detailing Iraqi oil and gas projects, and 'Foreign Suitors for Iraqi Oilfield Contracts.' The documents, which are dated March 2001, are available on the Internet at: www.JudicialWatch.org.

..... Judicial Watch has been seeking these documents under FOIA since April 19, 2001. Judicial Watch was forced to file a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (Judicial Watch Inc. v. Department of Energy, et al., Civil Action No. 01-0981) when the government failed to comply with the provisions of the FOIA law. U.S. District Court Judge Paul J. Friedman ordered the government to produce the documents on March 5, 2002.

www.rense.com/general39/foei.htm

Secrets of Cheney's Energy Task Force Come to Light

..... Documents turned over in the summer of 2003 by the Commerce Department as a result of the Sierra Club's and Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, concerning the activities of the Cheney Energy Task Force, contain a map of Iraqi oilfields, pipelines, refineries and terminals, as well as two charts detailing Iraqi oil and gas projects, and "Foreign Suitors for Iraqi Oilfield Contracts."

..... With the advice of his close friend and largest campaign contributor, Enron CEO, Ken Lay, Bush picked Vice President Dick Cheney, former Halliburton CEO, to head this group. In 2001 the Task Force formulated the National Energy Policy (NEP), or Cheney Report, bypassing possibilities for energy independence and reduced oil consumption with a declaration of ambitions to establish new sources of oil.

The Bush Administration's struggle to keep secret the workings of Cheney's Energy Task Force has been ongoing since early in the President's tenure. The General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, requested information in spring of 2001 about which industry executives and lobbyists the

Task Force was meeting with in developing the Bush Administration's energy plan. When Cheney refused disclosure, Congress was pressed to sue for the right to examine Task Force records, but lost. Later, amid political pressure building over improprieties regarding Enron's colossal collapse, Cheney's office released limited information revealing six Task Force meetings with Enron executives.

<http://www.projectcensored.org/publications/2005/8.html>

Cheney's Oil Maps

Can the Real Reason for War be This Crass?

By Mano Singham

Now that the official case for attacking Iraq made by the US and British governments has started to unravel, the question of the real reason for unleashing this death and destruction has become a hot topic of conversation again.

..... The thought that the war was actually about making money for individuals and corporations in the short term did not seem to me to be credible. That was too petty and crass. That was why I was stunned to read the press release put out by the public interest group Judicial Watch on July 17, 2003.

..... The Vice President had vigorously opposed this opening up of its activities and so a lawsuit was filed. On March 5, 2002 the US District Judge ordered the government to produce the documents, which was finally done by the Commerce Department just recently.

..... The Judicial Watch press release states that these released documents "contain a map of Iraqi oilfields, pipelines, refineries and terminals, as well as 2 charts detailing Iraqi oil and gas projects, and "Foreign Suitors for Iraqi Oilfield Contracts."

<http://www.counterpunch.org/singham07192003.html>

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7.8 PNAC: THE PROJECT FOR A NEW AMERICAN CENTURY

The Need for a "New Pearl Harbor"

Two years ago a project set up by the men who now surround George W Bush said what America needed was "a new Pearl Harbor." Its published aims have, alarmingly, come true.

By John Pilger
New Statesman
December 16, 2002

The threat posed by US terrorism to the security of nations and individuals was outlined in prophetic detail in a document written more than two years ago and disclosed only recently. What was needed for America to dominate much of humanity and the world's resources, it said, was "some catastrophic and catalysing event – like a new Pearl Harbor". The attacks of 11 September 2001 provided the "new Pearl Harbor", described as "the opportunity of ages...."

..... One of George W Bush's "thinkers" is Richard Perle. I interviewed Perle when he was advising Reagan; and when he spoke about "total war," I mistakenly dismissed him as mad. He recently used the term again in describing America's "war on terror." "No stages," he said.

"This is total war. We are fighting a variety of enemies. There are lots of them out there. All this talk about first we are going to do Afghanistan, then we will do Iraq... this is entirely the wrong way to go about it. If we just let our vision of the world go forth, and we embrace it entirely and we don't try to piece together clever diplomacy, but just wage a total war... our children will sing great songs about us years from now."

http://www.ifamericansknew.org/us_ints/nc-pilger.html

Dark Passage: PNAC's Blueprint for Empire

by Chris Floyd
March 27, 2005

**Not since Mein Kampf
has a geopolitical punch been so blatantly telegraphed,
years ahead of the blow.**

Adolf Hitler clearly spelled out his plans to destroy the Jews and launch wars of conquest to secure German domination of world affairs in his 1925 book, long before he ever assumed power. Despite the zig-zags of rhetoric he later employed, the various PR spins and temporary justifications offered for this or that particular policy, any attentive reader of his vile regurgitation could have divined his intentions as he drove his country — and the world — to murderous upheaval.

Similarly — in method, if not entirely in substance — the Bush Regime's foreign policy is also being carried out according to a strict blueprint first written ten years ago, then renewed a few months before the Regime was installed in power by the judicial coup of December 2000.

What does the plan call for? An attack on Iraq. Vast increases in military spending. Planting new American bases all over the world, from the jungles of South America to the steppes of Central Asia. Embracing the concept of "pre-emptive war" and unilateral action as cornerstones of national strategy.

These policies may seem like reactions to the "changed world" confronting America after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. But in fact, each one of them — and many other policies now being advanced by the Bush Administration — was planned long before the first plane ever struck the doomed Twin Towers.

They are the handiwork of an obscure but influential conservative group called Project for the New American Century (PNAC), whose members — including Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld — now sit in the highest reaches of power. The papers they produced during the 1990s are like a roadmap of the course that America is following — a course which PNAC hopes will lead to a "benign" but utterly dominant "American Empire."

The Unipolar Moment

Not surprisingly, the roots of PNAC go back to the first Bush Administration. In 1992, then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney asked two of his top aides, Paul Wolfowitz (now assistant secretary of Defense) and Lewis Libby (now Cheney's chief of staff), to draw up a "Defense Guidance Plan" to shape American strategy in the post-Cold War world. They produced an aggressive, ambitious document calling for the unilateral use of American military might to "discourage advanced industrial nations from challenging our leadership or even aspiring to a larger regional or global role." Military intervention would be "a constant fixture" of what Wolfowitz and Libby called a "new order" which the United States — not the United Nations — would "establish and protect."

The goal was to seize the opportunity offered by the collapse of the Soviet Union — which left the United States without a serious international rival — and extend this "unipolar moment" of American dominance for decades to come; indeed, into a "New American Century."

The report was leaked in the midst of the 1992 presidential campaign, sparking controversy over its "imperial ambitions," and was publicly disowned by President George H.W. Bush. After the Bush team was defeated by Bill Clinton, a lame-duck Cheney finally issued a watered-down version of the paper as official policy. The Clinton Administration then scrapped it upon taking office.

But the unipolar vision of American dominance was not forgotten. During the 1990s, it was refined and expanded in a number of conservative think tanks — the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the Hudson Institute, the Center for Security Policy and others — whose memberships often overlapped. And now that they were out of office, the advocates of dominance could speak more freely.

One former member of Cheney's Defense Department team, Zalmay Khalilzad (now Bush's special emissary to Afghanistan), wrote openly that the U.S. must "be willing to use force" to express its "global leadership" and preclude the rise of potential rivals. Others, such as former Reagan official and AEI stalwart Richard Perle (now head of the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board) and Douglas Feith (now assistant secretary of Defense), worked with Israel's Likud Party, drawing up plans calling for American-led "regime change" efforts in Iraq, Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Finally, in 1997, **Project for the New American Century** was formed as a focal point for disseminating the dominance ideal. It was a "big tent" of Great Power adherents: Beltway players like Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, former Vice President Dan Quayle, and former Reagan education secretary turned public scold, William Bennett; Christian "social conservatives" like Gary Bauer; and the so-called "neoconservatives" (often former Democrats whose staunch anti-communism had led them to the Reagan Right), including Elliot Abrams, who'd been convicted of lying to Congress in the Iran-Contra scandal but was pardoned by George Bush Sr. (and now serves on the White House director of Middle East policy).

Other notable figures joining PNAC included the Afghan-born Khalilzad, publisher and presidential candidate Steve Forbes, and Jeb Bush, younger brother of the president-to-be.

"A New Pearl Harbor"

PNAC fired its first shot across the bow in 1998, with letters to President Clinton and Congressional leaders calling for "regime change" in Iraq, by force if necessary, and the establishment of a "strong U.S. military presence in the region."

Then in September 2000, just months before the disputed election that brought George W. Bush to power, the group published a highly detailed, 90-page "blueprint" for transforming America's military — and the nation's role on the world stage.

The document, "Rebuilding America's Defenses," acknowledged its adherence to the "basic tenets" of the controversial 1992 Wolfowitz-Libby report, and advocated a series of "transformations" in national defense and foreign affairs. These included:

- Ø Projecting American dominance with a "worldwide network of forward operating bases" — some permanent, others "temporary access arrangements" as needed for various military interventions — in the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. These additions to America's already-extensive overseas deployments would act as "the cavalry on the new American frontier" — a frontier that PNAC declared now extended throughout the world.
- Ø Withdrawing from arms control treaties to allow for the development of a global missile shield, the deployment of space-based weapons and the production of a new generation of "battlefield nuclear weapons," especially "bunker-busters" for penetrating underground fortifications.
- Ø Raising the U.S. military budget to at least 3.8 percent of gross domestic product, with annual increases of tens of billions of dollars each year.
- Ø Developing sophisticated new technologies to "control the global commons of cyberspace" by closely monitoring communications and transactions on the Internet.
- Ø Pursuing the development of "new methods of attack — electronic, "non-lethal, biological ... in new dimensions, in space, cyberspace and perhaps the world of microbes." Just this month, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld was complaining to Congress about long-standing international chemical weapons treaties which have "tangled us up so badly" and prevented the use of non-lethal chemical arms in subduing enemy armies — and enemy populations.
- Ø Developing the ability to "fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theater wars." This means moving beyond the "two-war standard" of preparedness which has guided U.S. strategy since World War II in order to account for "new realities and potential new conflicts."

It lists countries such as Iraq, Iran, Syria, North Korea and Libya as targets for those potential new conflicts, and urges Pentagon warplanners to consider not merely containing them or defeating them in battle, but "changing their regimes."

Oddly enough, although "regime change" in Iraq was still clearly a priority for PNAC, it had little to do with Saddam Hussein and his brutal policies or his aggressive tendencies. Instead, removing Saddam was tied to the larger goal of establishing a permanent U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf in order to "secure energy supplies" and preclude any other power from dominating the vital oil regions of the Middle East and Central Asia. The PNAC report puts it quite plainly:

"The United States has for decades sought to play a more permanent role in Gulf regional security. While the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification, the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein."

This is why the Bush Regime has offered a constantly shifting menu of rationales for the impending attack on Iraq: because the decision to remove Saddam was taken long ago, as part of a larger strategic plan, and has little to do with any imminent threat from the broken-backed Iraqi regime, which is constantly bombed, partially occupied (with U.S. forces already working in the autonomous Kurdish territories) and now swarming with UN inspectors. If the strategic need for the attack "transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein," then almost any rationale will do.

Perhaps due to the presence of Washington heavyweights like Cheney and Rumsfeld, the PNAC report recognized that thorny political difficulties could stand in the way of implementing the group's radical designs.

Indeed, in one of the most striking and prescient passages in the entire 90-page document, PNAC acknowledged that the "revolutionary" changes it envisaged could take decades to bring about -- unless, that is, the United States was struck by "some catastrophic and catalyzing event -- like a new Pearl Harbor."

The Path of Action

That "new Pearl Harbor" did come, of course, in the thunderclap of September 11, 2001. And the PNAC alumni now in government were quick to capitalize on this "catalyzing event." All of the PNAC recommendations listed above were put into place, with almost no debate from a shellshocked Congress and a populace reeling from the unprecedented assault on American security.

In the very first days following the attack, Rumsfeld urged the Bush cabinet to make "Iraq a principal target of the first round in the war against terrorism," despite the lack of any proof connecting Baghdad to the terrorist atrocity, according to Bob Woodward's insider account, *Bush at War*.

But Rumsfeld was overruled by Colin Powell, who counseled that "public opinion has to be prepared before a move against Iraq is possible." So the "war on terrorism" was launched initially against Afghanistan, where the Taliban regime was harboring Saudi terrorist Osama bin Laden and his band of international extremists.

The attack on Afghanistan was accompanied by the construction of new American bases and "temporary access arrangements" throughout Central Asia, giving America a military "footprint" in the strategically vital region for the first time. At the same time, new U.S. forces were dispatched to East Asia, to the Philippines, Indonesia and elsewhere, and to South America, to help Colombia combat "narco-terrorists" and to protect that nation's vital oil pipelines.

Meanwhile, at home, military budgets skyrocketed to deal with the "new realities and potential new conflicts." The Bush Administration withdrew from the landmark ABM arms control treaty and began construction of missile defense facilities. There were new funds and more research for the militarization of outer space (dubbed "Full Spectrum Dominance"), and the development of "non-lethal" biochemical weapons. Pentagon technicians, led by another convicted Iran-Contra figure, John Poindexter, began the development of Internet "data-mining" and monitoring technology (which, despite some recent Congressional restrictions, continues today). And the U.S. announced a new "nuclear posture," including the willingness to use tactical nuclear weapons – a move supported by the Republican-led House of Representatives, which approved Pentagon plans to develop the "bunker-buster" nukes specifically recommended by PNAC.

"The Savage Wars of Peace"

The existence of PNAC and its influence on the Bush Administration is not some "conspiracy theory." It follows a pattern frequently seen in American history: a group of like-minded people band together in think tanks, foundations, universities and other institutions, where they lay out their vision for America's future. And when they at last have access to the levers of power, they try to make that vision a reality.

What is different now is that the September 11 attacks have given this particular group an unprecedented amount of political capital — not to mention cold, hard federal cash — to put their long-held dreams into practice, virtually without opposition. (In contrast, consider the bitterly partisan political struggles between Congress and Lincoln during the Civil War.) What is also different is the essential content of that vision: the establishment — by force — of an American Empire.

This Empire is to be different from the old Roman or British models, of course. It will not entail settlement or direct control of foreign lands, but will instead offer paternal "protection" and "guidance" — backed up with strategically placed military bases and "temporary access arrangements" for the inevitable "constabulatory duties" required to enforce PNAC's longed-for "Pax Americana." However, the intent is not outright conquest, but the chance to bring "the single sustainable model of national success" to all the world, to set people, and their markets, free — as long as no "regional or global challenges to America's leadership" arise, of course.

But there will be costs to taking up what Thomas Donnelly, the principal author of the PNAC blueprint, calls "the free man's burden." Donnelly, a former journalist and legislative aide, wrote in the journal *Foreign Affairs* last year that America should look to its "imperial past" as a guide to its future. Reviewing *The Savage Wars of Peace*, a pro-Empire book by journalist Max Boot, Donnelly cites approvingly the "pacification" of the Philippines by American forces in 1898-1900, in which at least 100,000 Filipinos were killed in a bid for independence.

He also points to the U.S. Army's success in subduing the Native American tribes in a series of small wars, and, closer to our time, the efficient "constabulatory operation" in Panama, which was invaded by the first President Bush in 1989. Similar "savage wars of peace" — pacifications, counterinsurgencies, police actions, invasions — will be required to maintain the new American Empire, says Donnelly.

And here too, George W. Bush has clearly echoed the thinking of the PNAC members who now surround him in the White House. Speaking at a Republican fundraiser last August, the President seemed keenly aware of the heavy price in blood and treasure the nation will have to pay to maintain its imperium in the New American Century: "There's no telling how many wars it will take to secure freedom in the homeland."

The Beautiful Song of War

These texts spring from the Dominators' quasi-religious cult of "American exceptionalism," the belief in the unique and utter goodness of the American soul — embodied chiefly by the nation's moneyed elite, of course — and the irredeemable, metaphysical evil of all those who would oppose or criticize the elite's righteous (and conveniently self-serving) policies.

Anyone still "puzzled" over the Bush Regime's behavior need only look to these documents for enlightenment. They have long been available to the media — which accepted Bush's transparent campaign lies about a "more humble foreign policy" at face value — but have only now started attracting wider notice, in the New Yorker this spring, and this week in the Glasgow Sunday Herald.

The documents explain America's relentless march across Afghanistan, Central Asia and soon into the Middle East. They explain the Bush Regime's otherwise unfathomable rejection of international law, its fanatical devotion to so-called "missile defense," its gargantuan increases in military spending — even its antediluvian energy policy, which mandates the continued primacy of oil and gas in the world economy. (They can't conquer the sun or monopolize the wind, so there's no profit, no leverage for personal gain and geopolitical power in pursuing viable alternatives to oil.) The September 11 attacks gave the Regime a pretext for greatly accelerating this published program of global dominance, but they would have pursued it in any case.

So there will be war: either soon, after immediately the November mid-term elections, or — in the event that Iraq's new offer for inspections is accepted — then later, after some "provocation" or "obstruction," no doubt in good time before the 2004 presidential vote. The purse-lipped rhetoric about "evil" and "moral clarity" is just so much desert sand being thrown in our eyes. Backstage, the Bush Regime is playing Mafia-style hardball, warning reluctant allies to get on board now, or else miss out on their cut of the loot when America — not a "democratic Iraq" — divvies up Saddam's oilfields: a shakedown detailed last week by the Economist, among many others.

The Dominators dream of empire. Not only will it extend their temporal power, they believe it will also give them immortality. Indeed, one of their chief gurus, Reaganite firebreather Michael Ledeen, says that if the Dominators have the courage to reject "clever diplomacy" and "just wage total war" to subjugate the Middle East [...]

This madness, this bin Laden-like megalomania is now driving the hijacked American republic — and the world — to murderous upheaval.

It's all there in the text, set down in black and white.

Read it and weep.

<http://empireburlesquenow.blogspot.com/2005/03/dark-passage-pnacs-blueprint-for.html>

PNAC: "This war on terrorism is bogus."

by Michael Meacham, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

"The 9/11 attacks gave the US an ideal pretext to use force to secure its global domination."

Massive attention has now been given -- and rightly so -- to the reasons why Britain went to war against Iraq. But far too little attention has focused on why the US went to war, and that throws light on British motives too. The conventional explanation is that after the Twin Towers were hit, retaliation against al-Qaida bases in Afghanistan was a natural first step in launching a global war against terrorism. Then, because Saddam Hussein was alleged by the US and UK governments to retain weapons of mass destruction, the war could be extended to Iraq as well. However this theory does not fit all the facts. The truth may be a great deal murkier.

We now know that a blueprint for the creation of a global Pax Americana was drawn up for Dick Cheney (now vice-president), Donald Rumsfeld (defence secretary), Paul Wolfowitz (Rumsfeld's deputy), Jeb Bush (George Bush's younger brother) and Lewis Libby (Cheney's chief of staff). The document, entitled *Rebuilding America's Defences*, was written in September 2000 by the neoconservative think tank, Project for the New American Century (PNAC).

The plan shows Bush's cabinet intended to take military control of the Gulf region whether or not Saddam Hussein was in power. It says "while the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification, the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein."

The PNAC blueprint supports an earlier document attributed to Wolfowitz and Libby which said the US must "discourage advanced industrial nations from challenging our leadership or even aspiring to a larger regional or global role." It refers to key allies such as the UK as "the most effective and efficient means of exercising American global leadership." It describes peacekeeping missions as "demanding American political leadership rather than that of the UN."

It says "even should Saddam pass from the scene," US bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will remain permanently... as "Iran may well prove as large a threat to US interests as Iraq has." It spotlights China for "regime change," saying "it is time to increase the presence of American forces in SE Asia."

The document also calls for the creation of "US space forces" to dominate space, and the total control of cyberspace to prevent "enemies" using the internet against the US. It also hints that the US may consider developing biological weapons "that can target specific genotypes [and] may transform biological warfare from the realm of terror to a politically useful tool."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1036571,00.html>

A Brief History of PNAC: A Refresher

by T J Templeton, founder: Project for the Old American Century

Once upon a time in an office rented to them by the American Heritage Foundation, a group of powerful men directly connected to the halls of the capital and the defense and energy industry formed a fringe rightwing organization based loosely on the teachings of Leo Strauss. They called themselves the Project for the New American Century.

The Project is an initiative of the New Citizenship Project (both chaired by William Kristol) and as such is largely funded through it. Direct funding for PNAC comes from, but isn't limited to, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation (\$700,000), the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation (\$50,000), and the John M. Olin Foundation (\$70,000).

Unsurprisingly these three exceedingly conservative foundations have strong ties to weapons manufacturing and several members of the Project are former CEOs and board members of defense contractors and energy companies. (Halliburton, Trireme, Bechtel, etc.)

These guys drew up a plan for using our role as last remaining super power to expand their respective global markets through force. Specifically, their published documents call for the violent overthrow of regimes around the world that weren't friendly to their business interests. The plan, as it was drawn out, called for the toppling of Saddam Hussein and seizing control of the Iraqi oil fields.

Also, the regime of Afghanistan had to be deposed in order to construct a pipeline to secure access to the natural gas reserves of Central Asia. Once the energy resources were secured, the next step in the plan was to create an archipelago of military bases through the Middle East and Central Asia as a staging point for further operations including the toppling of Iran and Syria.

On page 52 of a document published by them called Rebuilding America's Defenses, they stated that there was such resistance to transforming America's military machine for the job of acting as the world policeman that there would have to be "a catalyzing catastrophic event, similar to a new Pearl Harbor."

Of course, they also had to be returned to the halls of power in the U.S. government first...

Enter George W. Bush. Upon his selection to the Presidency, George promptly appointed the hierarchy of this organization to the top levels of the White House, the Pentagon, and the State Department. Once these men were placed into their respective positions, two very interesting things happened.

First, the cabinet level position created by former President Bill Clinton of "terrorism Czar" was disbanded and its members were reassigned to different duties. This position had previously been meeting at least weekly, specifically on the threat and whereabouts of Osama Bin Laden and the Al Qaeda network. The incoming National Security Advisor refused to meet with the former "terrorism Czar," Richard Clarke, causing him to send several urgent messages to National Security Advisor Rice demanding "an immediate meeting regarding the threat of Al Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden." These requests for meetings went unanswered. Dick Cheney himself has been quoted as saying "Richard Clarke was kept "out of the loop." Shortly after 9-11, Rice penned an editorial in the Washington Post where she calimed the outgoing Clinton administration made no effort to express the threat posed by Al Qaeda. This claim has since been disproved by the public release of several memos penned by Clarke calling for an immediate meeting on that very subject.

Second, the Bush administration invited the Taliban to the United States to discuss a Unocal natural gas pipeline deal that had been stalled. The Taliban wasn't invited to Washington, but rather to Sugarland Texas, home of Tom Delay's district and Unocal headquarters. No deal was reached and the Taliban went home.

The New Pearl Harbor

With the security apparatus that had been monitoring Al Qaeda effectively disbanded, the network was able to orchestrate and carry out the worst terrorist attack in American history. Testifying under oath before the 9-11 commission (which the White House tried to prevent) the National Security advisor, Condi Rice (who the White House also tried to prevent from testifying and then later tried to prevent from having to testify under oath) testified under oath that the Bush administration had no idea that domestic flights could be hijacked and flown into domestic tagets in a coordinated terrorist attack.

Not only did the the famous August 6th PDB seem to refute this in general terms, but also it has come to light that the FAA and the FTA had sent 52 memos to the White House specifically mentioning the impending threat of domestic flights being hijacked and flown into domestic tagets in a coordinated terrorist attack.

Shortly after 9-11, the Taliban regime is toppled, and Hamid Karzai is placed as the President. Karzai is a former Unocal Advisor and CIA asset. Zalmay Khalizad, another Unocal advisor [and PNAC member], is placed as the United States envoy to Afghanistan. Shortly after, the natural gas pipeline is finished and Osama Bin Laden is allowed to escape.

For the next two years, President Bush fails to mention the name Osama Bin Laden in public and instead embarks upon a national media campaign to connect the regime of Saddam Hussein with the threat of terrorism and the terrorist attacks of 9-11. Its effective enough to persuade a compliant Congress to allow the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Mission Accomplished

The regime of Saddam Hussein is deposed and a puppet regime is installed. Paul Bremer, working as head of the Coalition Provision Authority (CPA) issues a series of orders regarding the rewriting of the Iraqi Constitution in violation of the

Geneva Conventions. Orders 39 and 81 give a good deal of insight into the capitalist utopia that was installed for the benefit of the corporations that fund and support the leadership of the occupying countries.

Some examples: Iraqi farmers are no longer allowed to save their own seeds from one harvest to the next. Doing so is now a jailable offense. Some of these strains of seeds have been cultivated by the Iraqis for thousands of years. Now they must be purchased from Monsanto with every planting season.

Another example is the monopolization of entire sectors of industry by the occupying countries. Telecommunications, insurance, banking, all have written into the Iraqi constitution the 100% foreign ownership by foreign entities and must allow for the 100% expatriation of profits. Call it the Walmartization of Mesopotamia. [...]

Furthermore, labor unions were outlawed and reconstruction jobs that would normally help to rebuild the economy and employ Iraqis are handed without bidding to well connected American and British corporations. Thus after a year of relative calm, the insurgency erupts and the United States and it's allies are caught in a quagmire that serves as a catalyst for terrorist recruitment world-wide, a rise in support of violent extremeism and puts us at risk of more terrorist attacks. Thus justifying the toppling of more regimes and setting the scene for perpetual war.

<http://poac.wordpress.com/2006/12/19/a-brief-history-of-the-pnac-a-refresher/>

PNAC: "Special Interests" in the Persian Gulf

by Sarah Meyer

"When Saddam started selling Iraqi oil in euros, he jeopardized the U.S. dollar's hegemony as the world's supreme foreign exchange transaction currency."

The United States officially staked its claim to global "pre-eminence" in the PNAC document, *Rebuilding America's Defenses*, which was published in 2000, i.e., before 9/11.

This Cheney-inspired Wolfowitz / Libby document states its reason for such an imperialist thrust: "special interests." Phrases such as 'US interests', 'global interests', 'long-standing American interests' are also used throughout. What are these "special interests?" The Persian Gulf is often directly referred to within the same sentence. The Gulf Region, a "region of vital importance, is so important to the United States that an 'enduring U.S. security interest' is also imperative. The security interest is, in this document, connected directly to 'commercial interests.'

..... The "special interests" in the Persian Gulf are never, in this document, defined as oil or gas. However, little intelligence is needed to make this connection. Oil and gas are the 'special' and 'commercial interests' in the Persian Gulf, to be

controlled and owned by American corporate tsars, at whatever cost. Mainstream Media, also controlled and owned by interconnected tsars, myopically focused on the non-existent weapons of mass destruction in Iraq as a distraction from these 'special interests.'

<http://indexresearch.blogspot.com/2006/03/pnac-rebuilding-americas-defenses.html>

Bush's Brother Marvin: A Player in 9/11 Security

Marvin P Bush, the President's brother, leaves the board of directors of Sterling, Virginia, based Stratesec after 7 years. Stratesec had provided electronic security for the World Trade Center, Dulles International Airport and United Airlines. The company had a "completion contract" to handle some of the security at the World Trade Center "up to the day the buildings fell down."

Marvin Bush's last year on the board at Stratesec coincides with his first year on the board of HCC Insurance, formerly Houston Casualty Co., one of the insurance carriers for the WTC. He leaves the HCC board in November 2002.

http://www.oldamericancentury.org/pnac_timeline.htm

PNAC: From a Christian Perspective

In recent months we have engaged in many conversations with Christians and non Christians alike, on matters concerning the American Government, and its activities in the world today.

On a universal level, those of the faith AND those who do not share our faith agree on one thing, and that is that none of what we have been saying here at 11th Hour for the last 14 months is actual fact, and that it is all "OUR opinion and OUR misinterpretation of George W's policies and intentions," purely speculation and our conjecture: no supportable facts" The following article will summarily place that statement in the wastebasket... where it belongs.

The document outlined in this article was inspired by the foreign policy outline drawn up by Dick Cheney and his colleagues in 1992, when he was secretary of defense for the Senior Bush's administration. It is a documented fact that these men had sent letters to Bill Clinton and raved about these mandates that they felt were essential to America's future.

The Project for a New American Century, (so called), is an initiative of "The New Citizenship Project," which is made up of a startling group of names, which will be mentioned here.

It is absolutely sobering and even chilling when you read the process of world domination laid out in this document, when you consider the fact that the Men who wrote and endorse this document, are the very men who are in control of the White House, the Pentagon, and the Defense Department!

Let's take a look at their motives and their intentions, how they have played out recently, and what we can expect from our government going forward....."

www.11th-hour.info/Articles/Project_for_a_New_American_Century.html

PNAC: A Second Christian Perspective

One of the PNAC group documents clearly shows that Bush and his most senior cabinet members had already planned an attack on Iraq before he took power in January 2001.

In their plan entitled "Rebuilding American's Defenses: Strategies, Forces and Resources for a New Century," reveals that the current members of Bush's cabinet had already planned, before the 2000 presidential election, to take military control of the Gulf region whether Saddam Hussein is in power or not.

"Even should Saddam pass from the scene," the plan says U.S. military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will remain, despite domestic opposition in the Gulf states to the permanent stationing of U.S. troops.

Iran, it says, "may well prove as large a threat to U.S. interests as Iraq has."

<http://www.ecapc.org/pnac.asp>

PNAC: Just who ARE these guys?

A Roster of the Players

The Project for a New American Century, aka PNAC, is a think tank founded in 1997 by arch-conservative commentator William Kristol, whose illustrious career peak was a stint as Dan Quayle's chief of staff.

Despite this, Kristol somehow rose to become one of the Republican Party's leading intellectuals and editor of The Weekly Standard, the chief propaganda weapon of the neoconservative movement.

<http://www.rotten.com/library/conspiracy/pnac/>

Project for the New American Century

The Official Website.

PNAC's mission statements and open letters are available here.

<http://www.newamericancentury.org>

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7.9 The Neo-Con Agenda is Launched

**How Neoconservatives Conquered Washington --
And Launched a War**

by Michael Lind

Both the economic-determinist theory and the clash-of-cultures theory are reassuring: They assume that the recent revolution in U.S. foreign policy is the result of obscure but understandable forces in an orderly world. The truth is more alarming. As a result of several bizarre and unforeseeable contingencies – such as

the selection rather than election of George W. Bush, and Sept. 11 – the foreign policy of the world's only global power is being made by a small clique that is unrepresentative of either the U.S. population or the mainstream foreign policy establishment.

The core group now in charge consists of neoconservative defense intellectuals. (They are called "neoconservatives" because many of them started off as anti-Stalinist leftists or liberals before moving to the far right.) Inside the government, the chief defense intellectuals include Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy secretary of defense. He is the defense mastermind of the Bush administration; Donald Rumsfeld is an elderly figurehead who holds the position of defense secretary only because Wolfowitz himself is too controversial. Others include Douglas Feith, No. 3 at the Pentagon; Lewis "Scooter" Libby, a Wolfowitz protégé who is Cheney's chief of staff; John R. Bolton, a right-winger assigned to the State Department to keep Colin Powell in check; and Elliott Abrams, recently appointed to head Middle East policy at the National Security Council. On the outside are James Woolsey, the former CIA director, who has tried repeatedly to link both 9/11 and the anthrax letters in the U.S. to Saddam Hussein, and Richard Perle, who has just resigned his unpaid chairmanship of a defense department advisory body after a lobbying scandal. Most of these "experts" never served in the military. But their headquarters is now the civilian defense secretary's office, where these Republican political appointees are despised and distrusted by the largely Republican career soldiers.

<http://www.antiwar.com/orig/lind1.html>

The NeoCon Agenda:

Can it be Undermined? Or is Democracy Dead?

All the world has witnessed the lies and the supreme arrogance of both the US and UK governments these past few years. We have all witnessed, in cerebral numbers provided in print if not in person or graphic detail, the tragic deaths of tens of thousands of individual human beings killed by way of our governments' illegal war of aggression in Iraq. We have all seen the plunge into the immoral, inhumane and, thus, criminal abyss of officially sanctioned torture, state-sponsored kidnappings and disappearances (officially known as "extraordinary renditions") and indefinite detentions of individuals imprisoned for years without charge or due process of law.

"We now know beyond any doubt—as the majority of the world's politically aware knew before the start of the war, despite the onslaught of rhetoric spewed by politicians to quell dissent and the continual drumbeat of the corporate media-delivered propaganda craftily packaged as if to deliver us from the evil that is, apparently, commonsense—that this war could only have been sold to the American and British people were we to be bombarded by our own governments' criminal lies. And, sold it was, rolled out and marketed as would a psychologically researched, high-end advertising campaign of an immoral corporation which seeks to maximize shareholder value through the plying of harmful products, practices or byproducts. Yet, when democratic representation exists in name only, corrupt politicians, like their corrupt corporate executive counterparts, will continue to rule, as we the people rue, the day.

<http://inoodle.com/2005/11/neocon-agenda-will-we-undermine-it-or.html>

The Office of Special Plans:

Despite condemning itself, Pentagon report sees intelligence problem resolved; Makes no recommendations

by Larisa Alexandrovna
February 9, 2007

The following is the declassified two page summary of the Office of Special Plans report, as acquired Friday morning by RAW STORY.

The Pentagon's Inspector General said he found it unnecessary to make any recommendations, saying changed relationships between the Defense Department and the Intelligence Community "significantly reduce the opportunity for the inappropriate conduct of intelligence activities outside of intelligence channels" in the future.

In a statement Thursday, Armed Services Committee chairman Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) called the report a "devastating condemnation of the activities of the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy." In a separate statement, Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, says whether intelligence activities "were authorized or not, it appears that they were not in compliance with the law."

Raw Story's earlier report, published Wednesday, follows. It includes a quote from Feith and other details about the long-stalled pre-war intelligence inquiry.

Pentagon Inspector General to release investigation into secretive pre-war Iraq intelligence group

Update: A source close to Senate Intelligence Committee says the Committee will now be receiving the classified version of the Pentagon's report on the Office of Special Plans Thursday evening, adding that the summary to be made public will be released Friday.

A long awaited Pentagon Inspector General's report into the Office of Special Plans and its activities surrounding pre-war intelligence in the lead up to the Iraq war has been completed, RAW STORY has learned.

According to sources close to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the classified version of the Pentagon IG's report will be released to committee members Friday. Two to three declassified pages may also be concurrently released to the public.

A Senate aide on the committee, while not commenting on particular questions regarding the IG's report, confirmed that a major focal point involves former Deputy Undersecretary for Defense Policy Douglas Feith – a keystone of the Administration's intelligence on Iraq and director of the notoriously secretive Pentagon Office of Special Plans from September 2002 to June 2003.

Feith announced his resignation in January 2005, a week after the New Yorker's Seymour Hersh accused him of working with Israeli officials to select potential targets for a preemptive Iran strike.

It remains unclear how objective the Inspector General's report will be, given that the Pentagon was tasked with investigating itself. It's also uncertain just how much light two to three declassified pages will shed on questions surrounding what many consider a rogue Pentagon intelligence unit created to feed the White House information favoring a case for war.

For his part, Feith says he has not been privy to the IG's findings.

I "haven't seen a copy of the IG report," Feith wrote in an email to RAW STORY in the early hours on Wednesday. "I requested a copy but the IG's office chose not to provide one."

Asked in a three point email about his thoughts on the Office of Special Plans, Feith – who now teaches at the Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service – responded, "I'll save my thoughts on question three for another time."

Repeated attempts to reach the IG's office in time for publication proved fruitless. In the past, the IG's office responded to questions by saying the IG was conducting a "review," not an "investigation."

Either way, the Pentagon has told the Senate Intelligence Committee to expect the report Friday.

Phase II of the Intelligence Committee's own investigation will likely be completed sometime this spring or summer.

Investigating pre-war Iraq intelligence

The Senate Intelligence Committee's investigation into Iraq intelligence failures was to be done in two phases. Phase I, which focused exclusively on the failures of the Central Intelligence Agency, was released in July 2004. However, Phase II, which looked into the Office of Special Plans, its members, and Bush Administration officials, remains largely incomplete.

The Phase II investigation was delayed in large part because the Pentagon specifically refused to address Feith's role and the Office's activities, stonewalling the Senate's efforts.

Even with a then-Republican Chairman, Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS), Defense Department attorneys were unwilling to cooperate. Instead of issuing subpoenas, however, Roberts asked the Pentagon Inspector General to conduct his own investigation.

The Pentagon's IG agreed to review the prewar intelligence activities relating to the Office of Special Plans, as well as Feith's particular role, in November 2005. One of two senators who requested the inquiry, Democratic Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI), said the probe sought to ascertain whether Feith "provided a separate channel of intelligence, unbeknownst to the CIA, to the White House."

The Office of Special Plans

The report on the secretive Office of Special Plans and its coterie of controversial players is perhaps the most awaited section of the Phase II report.

Led by Feith, the group's members also included Larry Franklin, who pleaded

guilty to leaking classified documents regarding Iran to a Washington-based Israeli lobby in 2005; prominent neoconservative and Iran-Contra intermediary Michael Ledeen; and Middle East expert Harold Rhode, who purportedly sought to purge the Pentagon of anyone opposing the group's hawkish Iraq agenda.

Another prominent member was Ahmed Chalabi, who headed up the Iraqi National Congress – an Iraq opposition group created by the Rendon Group, a defense contractor for the U.S. military, after the first Gulf War.

Although he was wanted for embezzlement in Jordan and a suspected Iranian spy, the Administration presented Chalabi as a credible anti-Saddam leader. Chalabi was later found to be a primary source of bogus intelligence provided to the Pentagon and U.S. reporters, including Judith Miller, then writing for The New York Times.

The Office of Special Plans was created by then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz. On an organizational level, [Doug] Feith ran the operation, which then purportedly "cooked" and filtered intelligence that favored an Iraq invasion. More specifically, the OSP was tasked with finding intelligence that fit the administration's anti-Iraq policy and was treated as a favored and separate intelligence channel by the Office of ... Vice President [Cheney].

While the US intelligence community struggled to check a hawkish Executive Branch set on going to war, the OSP funneled questionable information directly to the White House, bypassing standard channels and operational procedures and deploying its own "off book teams" into the region without notifying special forces already on the ground.

A history of espionage allegations

Compounding concerns over a self-investigating Defense Department are a history of confessed and alleged espionage by members of the OSP.

A previous investigation by RAW STORY revealed an apparent "revolving door policy" at the Pentagon which allowed officials whose clearances had been revoked to return to powerful positions in US government.

Feith's access to classified information and any possible wrongdoing can likely be laid at the feet of more senior officials in the Bush Administration – namely former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld – who would have been forced to overrule Pentagon background checks to reissue Feith's clearances after he was booted from the National Security Council for espionage allegations in the mid-1980s.

According to the Washington Post, Feith faced questioning in 2004 on allegations that he or other officials may have passed classified information to an Iraqi politician or a pro-Israeli lobby group.

Asked if he was still under investigation by the FBI or if he was cleared, Feith responded, "Still? There never was such an investigation."

Iran specialist Larry Franklin – who worked directly under Feith – pleaded guilty in 2005 to conspiracy to pass classified information to the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a pro-Israeli lobby group, and illegal possession of

national defense information. Feith has not been charged or accused of wrongdoing in the case.

In 1978, former Rumsfeld Deputy Paul Wolfowitz was investigated for allegedly passing a classified document on proposed US weapons sales to Israel through the same pro-Israeli lobby. The inquiry was later dropped. **Wolfowitz** now serves as **president of the World Bank**. [Until he was forced to resign after it was discovered he had put his girlfriend on the payroll, at which point he was **succeeded by Robert Zoellick -- yet another affiliate of PNAC**.]

Wolfowitz, who at the time was working for the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, was brought into that position by conservative political adviser **Richard Perle [of PNAC]**, who was also questioned in connection with the Franklin case.

A Bush appointee, Perle most recently served as chairman of the Pentagon Defense Policy Board but resigned his chairmanship after the Franklin case broke. According to an FBI wiretap, Perle discussed classified information with the Israeli embassy when he was a foreign policy aide for Senator Henry M. Jackson in 1970; in 1978, the New York Times reported that he inappropriately accepted classified data from a CIA official, again as Jackson's aide.

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The New Pentagon Papers

A High-Ranking Military Officer Reveals how Defense Department Extremists Suppressed Information and Twisted the Truth to Drive the Country to War

by Karen Kwiatkowski
March 10, 2004

In July of last year, after just over 20 years of service, I retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

I had served as a communications officer in the field and in acquisition programs, as a speechwriter for the National Security Agency director, and on the Headquarters Air Force and the office of the secretary of defense staffs covering African affairs. I had completed Air Command and Staff College and Navy War College seminar programs, two master's degrees, and everything but my Ph.D. dissertation in world politics at Catholic University. I regarded my military vocation as interesting, rewarding and apolitical. My career started in 1978 with the smooth seduction of a full four-year ROTC scholarship.

It ended with 10 months of duty in a strange new country, observing up close and personal a process of decision making for war not sanctioned by the Constitution we had all sworn to uphold. **Ben Franklin's comment that the Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia had delivered "a republic, madam, if you can keep it" would come to have special meaning.**

In the spring of 2002, I was a cynical but willing staff officer, almost two years into my three-year tour at the office of the secretary of defense, undersecretary for policy, sub-Saharan Africa. In April, a call for volunteers went out for the Near East South Asia directorate (NESA). None materialized. By May, the call transmogrified into a posthaste demand for any staff officer, and I was "volunteered" to enter what would be a well-appointed den of iniquity.

The education I would receive there was like an M. Night Shyamalan movie -- intense, fascinating and frightening. While the people were very much alive, I saw a dead philosophy -- Cold War anti-communism and neo-imperialism -- walking the corridors of the Pentagon. It wore the clothing of counterterrorism and spoke the language of a holy war between good and evil. The evil was recognized by the leadership to be resident mainly in the Middle East and articulated by Islamic clerics and radicals.

But there were other enemies within, anyone who dared voice any skepticism about their grand plans, including Secretary of State Colin Powell and Gen. Anthony Zinni.

From May 2002 until February 2003, I observed firsthand the formation of the Pentagon's Office of Special Plans and watched the latter stages of the neoconservative capture of the policy-intelligence nexus in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq. This seizure of the reins of U.S. Middle East policy was directly visible to many of us working in the Near East South Asia policy office, and yet there seemed to be little any of us could do about it.

I saw a narrow and deeply flawed policy favored by some executive appointees in the Pentagon used to manipulate and pressurize the traditional relationship between policymakers in the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies.

I witnessed neoconservative agenda bearers within OSP usurp measured and carefully considered assessments, and through suppression and distortion of intelligence analysis promulgate what were in fact falsehoods to both Congress and the executive office of the president.

While this commandeering of a narrow segment of both intelligence production and American foreign policy matched closely with the well-published desires of the neoconservative wing of the Republican Party, many of us in the Pentagon, conservatives and liberals alike, felt that this agenda, whatever its flaws or merits, had never been openly presented to the American people.

Instead, the public story line was a fear-peddling and confusing set of messages, designed to take Congress and the country into a war of executive choice, a war based on false pretenses, and a war one year later Americans do not really understand. That is why I have gone public with my account.

To begin with, I was introduced to Bill Luti, assistant secretary of defense for NESA. A tall, thin, nervously intelligent man, he welcomed me into the fold. I knew little about him. Because he was a recently retired naval captain and now high-level Bush appointee, the common assumption was that he had connections, if not capability.

I would later find out that when Dick Cheney was secretary of defense over a decade earlier, Luti was his aide. He had also been a military aide to Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich during the Clinton years and had completed his Ph.D. at the Fletcher School at Tufts University. While his Navy career had not granted him flag rank, he had it now and was not shy about comparing his place in the pecking order with various three- and four-star generals and admirals in and out of the Pentagon. Name dropping included references to getting this or that document over to Scooter, or responding to one of Scooter's requests right away. Scooter, I would find out later, was I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the vice president's chief of staff.

Co-workers who had watched the transition from Clintonista to Bushite shared conversations and stories indicating that something deliberate and manipulative was happening to NESAs. Key professional personnel, longtime civilian professionals holding the important billets in NESAs, were replaced early on during the transition. Longtime officer director Joe McMillan was reassigned to the National Defense University. The director's job in the time of transition was to help bring the newly appointed deputy assistant secretary up to speed, ensure office continuity, act as a resource relating to regional histories and policies, and help identify the best ways to maintain course or to implement change.

Removing such a critical continuity factor was not only unusual but also seemed like willful handicapping. It was the first signal of radical change.

At the time, I didn't realize that the expertise on Middle East policy was not only being removed, but was also being exchanged for that from various agenda-bearing think tanks, including the Middle East Media Research Institute, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. Interestingly, the office director billet stayed vacant the whole time I was there. That vacancy and the long-term absence of real regional understanding to inform defense policymakers in the Pentagon explains a great deal about the neoconservative approach on the Middle East and the disastrous mistakes made in Washington and in Iraq in the past two years.

I soon saw the modus operandi of "instant policy" unhampered by debate or experience with the early Bush administration replacement of the civilian head of the Israel, Lebanon and Syria desk office with a young political appointee from the Washington Institute, David Schenker. Word was that the former experienced civilian desk officer tended to be evenhanded toward the policies of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel, but there were complaints and he was gone. I met David and chatted with him frequently. He was a smart, serious, hardworking guy, and the proud author of a book on the chances for Palestinian democracy. Country desk officers were rarely political appointees. In my years at the Pentagon, this was the only "political" I knew doing that type of high-stress and low-recognition duty. So eager was the office to have Schenker at the Israel desk, he served for many months as a defense contractor of sorts and only received his "Schedule C" political appointee status months after I arrived.

I learned that there was indeed a preferred ideology for NESAs. My first day in the office, a GS-15 career civil servant rather unhappily advised me that if I wanted to be successful here, I'd better remember not to say anything positive about the Palestinians. This belied official U.S. policy of serving as an honest broker for resolution of Israeli and Palestinian security concerns. At that time, there was a great deal of talk about Bush's possible support for a Palestinian state.

That the Pentagon could have implemented and, worse, was implementing its own foreign policy had not yet occurred to me.

Throughout the summer, the NESAs spaces in one long office on the fourth floor, between the 7th and 8th corridors of D Ring, became more and more crowded. With war talk and planning about Iraq, all kinds of new people were brought in. A politically savvy civilian-clothes-wearing lieutenant colonel named Bill Bruner served as the Iraq desk officer, and he had apparently joined NESAs about the time Bill Luti did. I discovered that Bruner, like Luti, had served as a military aide to Speaker Gingrich. Gingrich himself was now conveniently an active member of Bush's Defense Policy Board, which had space immediately below ours on the third floor.

I asked why Bruner wore civilian attire, and was told by others, "He's Chalabi's handler." Chalabi, of course, was Ahmad Chalabi, the president of the Iraqi National Congress, who was the favored exile of the neoconservatives and the source of much of their "intelligence." Bruner himself said he had to attend a lot of meetings downtown in hotels and that explained his suits. Soon, in July, he was joined by another Air Force pilot, a colonel with no discernible political connections, Kevin Jones. I thought of it as a military-civilian partnership, although both were commissioned officers.

Among the other people arriving over the summer of 2002 was Michael Makovsky, a recent MIT graduate who had written his dissertation on Winston Churchill and was going to work on "Iraqi oil issues." He was David Makovsky's younger brother. David was at the time a senior fellow at the Washington Institute and had formerly been an editor of the Jerusalem Post, a pro-Likud newspaper. Mike was quiet and seemed a bit uncomfortable sharing space with us. He soon disappeared into some other part of the operation and I rarely saw him after that.

In late summer, new space was found upstairs on the fifth floor, and the "expanded Iraq desk," now dubbed the "Office of Special Plans," began moving there. And OSP kept expanding.

Another person I observed to appear suddenly was Michael Rubin, another Washington Institute fellow working on Iraq policy. He and Chris Straub, a retired Army officer who had been a Republican staffer for the Senate Intelligence Committee, were eventually assigned to OSP.

John Trigilio, a Defense Intelligence Agency analyst, was assigned to handle Iraq intelligence for Luti. Trigilio had been on a one-year career-enhancement tour with the office of the secretary of defense that was to end in August 2002. DIA had offered him routine intelligence positions upon his return from his OSD sabbatical, but none was as interesting as working in August 2002 for Luti. John asked Luti for help in gaining an extension for another year, effectively removing him from the DIA bureaucracy and its professional constraints.

Trigilio and I had hallway debates, as friends. The one I remember most clearly was shortly after President Bush gave his famous "mushroom cloud" speech in Cincinnati in October 2002, asserting that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction as well as ties to "international terrorists," and was working feverishly to develop nuclear weapons with "nuclear holy warriors."

I asked John who was feeding the president all the bull about Saddam and the threat he posed us in terms of WMD delivery and his links to terrorists, as none of this was in secret intelligence I had seen in the past years. John insisted that it wasn't an exaggeration, but when pressed to say which actual intelligence reports made these claims, he would only say, "Karen, we have sources that you don't have access to."

It was widely felt by those of us in the office not in the neoconservatives' inner circle that these "sources" related to the chummy relationship that Ahmad Chalabi had with both the Office of Special Plans and the office of the vice president.

The newly named director of the OSP, Abram Shulsky, was one of the most senior people sharing our space that summer. Abe, a kindly and gentle man, who would say hello to me in the hallways, seemed to be someone I, as a political science grad student, would have loved to sit with over coffee and discuss the world's problems. I had a clear sense that Abe ranked high in the organization, although ostensibly he was under Luti. Luti was known at times to treat his staff, even senior staff, with disrespect, contempt and derision. He also didn't take kindly to staff officers who had an opinion or viewpoint that was off the neoconservative reservation. But with Shulsky, who didn't speak much at the staff meetings, he was always respectful and deferential. It seemed like Shulsky's real boss was somebody like Douglas Feith or higher.

Doug Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy, was a case study in how not to run a large organization. In late 2001, he held the first all-hands policy meeting at which he discussed for over 15 minutes how many bullets and sub-bullets should be in papers for Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. A year later, in August of 2002, he held another all-hands meeting in the auditorium where he embarrassed everyone with an emotional performance about what it was like to serve Rumsfeld. He blithely informed us that for months he didn't realize Rumsfeld had a daily stand-up meeting with his four undersecretaries. He shared with us the fact that, after he started to attend these meetings, he knew better what Rumsfeld wanted of him.

Most military staffers and professional civilians hearing this were incredulous, as was I, to hear of such organizational ignorance lasting so long and shared so openly. Feith's inattention to most policy detail, except that relating to Israel and Iraq, earned him a reputation most foul throughout Policy, with rampant stories of routine signatures that took months to achieve and lost documents. His poor reputation as a manager was not helped by his arrogance. One thing I kept hearing from those defending Feith was that he was "just brilliant." It was curiously like the brainwashed refrain in "The Manchurian Candidate" about the programmed sleeper agent Raymond Shaw, as the "kindest, warmest, bravest, most wonderful human being I've ever known."

I spent time that summer exploring the neoconservative worldview and trying to grasp what was happening inside the Pentagon. I wondered what could explain this rush to war and disregard for real intelligence. Neoconservatives are fairly easy to study, mainly because they are few in number, and they show up at all the same parties. Examining them as individuals, it became clear that almost all have worked together, in and out of government, on national security issues for several decades. The Project for the New American Century and its now famous 1998 manifesto to President Clinton on Iraq is a recent example. But this statement was preceded by one written for Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party campaign in Israel in 1996 by neoconservatives Richard Perle, David Wurmser and Douglas Feith titled "A Clean Break: Strategy for Securing the Realm."

David Wurmser is the least known of that trio and an interesting example of the tangled neoconservative web. In 2001, the research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute was assigned to the Pentagon, then moved to the Department of State to work as deputy for the hard-line conservative undersecretary John Bolton, then to the National Security Council, and now is lodged in the office of the vice president. His wife, the prolific Meyrav Wurmser, executive director of the Middle East Media Research Institute, is also a neoconservative team player.

Before the Iraq invasion, many of these same players labored together for literally decades to push a defense strategy that favored military intervention and confrontation with enemies, secret and unconstitutional if need be. Some former officials, such as Richard Perle (an assistant secretary of defense under Reagan) and James Woolsey (CIA director under Clinton), were granted a new lease on life, a renewed gravitas, with positions on President Bush's Defense Policy Board. Others, like Elliott Abrams and Paul Wolfowitz, had apparently overcome previous negative associations from an Iran-Contra conviction for lying to the Congress and for utterly miscalculating the strength of the Soviet Union in a politically driven report to the CIA.

Neoconservatives march as one phalanx in parallel opposition to those they hate. In the early winter of 2002, a co-worker U.S. Navy captain and I were discussing the service being rendered by Colin Powell at the time, and we were told by the neoconservative political appointee David Schenker that "the best service Powell could offer would be to quit right now."

I was present at a staff meeting when Bill Luti called Marine Gen. and former Chief of Central Command Anthony Zinni a "traitor," because Zinni had publicly expressed reservations about the rush to war.

After August 2002, the Office of Special Plans established its own rhythm and cadence separate from the non-politically minded professionals covering the rest of the region. While often accused of creating intelligence, I saw only two apparent products of this office: war planning guidance for Rumsfeld, presumably impacting Central Command, and talking points on Iraq, WMD and terrorism.

These internal talking points seemed to be a *mélange* crafted from obvious past observation and intelligence bits and pieces of dubious origin. They were propagandistic in style, and all desk officers were ordered to use them verbatim in the preparation of any material prepared for higher-ups and people outside the Pentagon.

The talking points included statements about Saddam Hussein's proclivity for using chemical weapons against his own citizens and neighbors, his existing relations with terrorists based on a member of al-Qaida reportedly receiving medical care in Baghdad, his widely publicized aid to the Palestinians, and general indications of an aggressive viability in Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapons program and his ongoing efforts to use them against his neighbors or give them to al-Qaida style groups. The talking points said he was threatening his neighbors and was a serious threat to the U.S., too.

I suspected, from reading Charles Krauthammer, a neoconservative columnist for the Washington Post, and the Weekly Standard, and hearing a Cheney speech or two, that these talking points left the building on occasion.

Both OSP functions duplicated other parts of the Pentagon.

The facts we should have used to base our papers on were already being produced by the intelligence agencies, and the war planning was already done by the combatant command staff with some help from the Joint Staff.

Instead of developing defense policy alternatives and advice, OSP was used to manufacture propaganda for internal and external use, and pseudo war planning.

As a result of my duties as the North Africa desk officer, I became acquainted with the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) support staff for NESAs. Every policy regional director was served by a senior executive intelligence professional from DIA, along with a professional intelligence staff. This staff channeled DIA products, accepted tasks for DIA, and in the past had been seen as a valued member of the regional teams. However, as the war approached, this type of relationship with the Defense Intelligence Agency crumbled.

Even the most casual observer could note the tension and even animosity between "Wild Bill" Luti (as we came to refer to our boss) and Bruce Hardcastle, our defense intelligence officer (DIO). Certainly, there were stylistic and personality differences. Hardcastle, like most senior intelligence officers I knew, was serious, reserved, deliberate, and went to great lengths to achieve precision and accuracy in his speech and writing. Luti was the kind of guy who, in staff meetings and in conversations, would jump from grand theory to administrative minutiae with nary a blink or a fleeting shadow of self-awareness.

I discovered that Luti and possibly others within OSP were dissatisfied with Hardcastle's briefings, in particular with the aspects relating to WMD and terrorism. I was not clear exactly what those concerns were, but I came to understand that the DIA briefing did not match what OSP was claiming about Iraq's WMD capabilities and terrorist activities. I learned that shortly before I arrived there had been an incident in NESAs where Hardcastle's presence and briefing at a bilateral meeting had been nixed abruptly by Luti. The story circulating among the desk officers was "a last-minute cancellation" of the DIO presentation. Hardcastle's intelligence briefing was replaced with one prepared by another Policy office that worked nonproliferation issues. While this alternative briefing relied on intelligence produced by DIO and elsewhere, it was not a

product of the DIA or CIA community, but instead was an OSD Policy "branded" product -- and so were its conclusions.

The message sent by Policy appointees and well understood by staff officers and the defense intelligence community was that senior appointed civilians were willing to exclude or marginalize intelligence products that did not fit the agenda.

Staff officers would always request OSP's most current Iraq, WMD and terrorism talking points. On occasion, these weren't available in an approved form and awaited Shulsky's approval. The talking points were a series of bulleted statements, written persuasively and in a convincing way, and superficially they seemed reasonable and rational. Saddam Hussein had gassed his neighbors, abused his people, and was continuing in that mode, becoming an imminently dangerous threat to his neighbors and to us -- except that none of his neighbors or Israel felt this was the case. Saddam Hussein had harbored al-Qaida operatives and offered and probably provided them with training facilities -- without mentioning that the suspected facilities were in the U.S./Kurdish-controlled part of Iraq. Saddam Hussein was pursuing and had WMD of the type that could be used by him, in conjunction with al-Qaida and other terrorists, to attack and damage American interests, Americans and America -- except the intelligence didn't really say that. Saddam Hussein had not been seriously weakened by war and sanctions and weekly bombings over the past 12 years, and in fact was plotting to hurt America and support anti-American activities, in part through his carrying on with terrorists -- although here the intelligence said the opposite. His support for the Palestinians and Arafat proved his terrorist connections, and basically, the time to act was now. This was the gist of the talking points, and it remained on message throughout the time I watched the points evolve.

But evolve they did, and the subtle changes I saw from September to late January revealed what the Office of Special Plans was contributing to national security. Two key types of modifications were directed or approved by Shulsky and his team of politicians. First was the deletion of entire references or bullets.

The one I remember most specifically is when they dropped the bullet that said one of Saddam's intelligence operatives had met with Mohammad Atta in Prague, supposedly salient proof that Saddam was in part responsible for the 9/11 attack. That claim had lasted through a number of revisions, but after the media reported the claim as unsubstantiated by U.S. intelligence, denied by the Czech government, and that Atta's location had been confirmed by the FBI to be elsewhere, that particular bullet was dropped entirely from our "advice on things to say" to senior Pentagon officials when they met with guests or outsiders.

The other change made to the talking points was along the line of fine-tuning and generalizing. Much of what was there was already so general as to be less than accurate.

Some bullets were softened, particularly statements of Saddam's readiness and

capability in the chemical, biological or nuclear arena. Others were altered over time to match more exactly something Bush and Cheney said in recent speeches.

One item I never saw in our talking points was a reference to Saddam's purported attempt to buy yellowcake uranium in Niger. The OSP list of crime and evil had included Saddam's attempts to seek fissionable materials or uranium in Africa. This point was written mostly in the present tense and conveniently left off the dates of the last known attempt, sometime in the late 1980s. I was surprised to hear the president's mention of the yellowcake in Niger in his 2002 State of the Union address because that indeed was new and in theory might have represented new intelligence, something that seemed remarkably absent in any of the products provided us by the OSP (although not for lack of trying). After hearing of it, I checked with my old office of Sub-Saharan African Affairs -- and it was news to them, too.

It also turned out to be false.

It is interesting today that the "defense" for those who lied or prevaricated about Iraq is to point the finger at the intelligence. But the National Intelligence Estimate, published in September 2002, as remarked upon recently by former CIA Middle East chief Ray McGovern, was an afterthought. It was provoked only after Sens. Bob Graham and Dick Durban noted in August 2002, as Congress was being asked to support a resolution for preemptive war, that no NIE elaborating real threats to the United States had been provided. In fact, it had not been written, but a suitable NIE was dutifully prepared and submitted the very next month. Naturally, this document largely supported most of the outrageous statements already made publicly by Bush, Cheney, Rice and Rumsfeld about the threat Iraq posed to the United States. All the caveats, reservations and dissents made by intelligence were relegated to footnotes and kept from the public. Funny how that worked.

Starting in the fall of 2002 I found a way to vent my frustrations with the neoconservative hijacking of our defense policy. The safe outlet was provided by retired Col. David Hackworth, who agreed to publish my short stories anonymously on his Web site Soldiers for the Truth, under the moniker of "Deep Throat: Insider Notes From the Pentagon."

The "deep throat" part was his idea, but I was happy to have a sense that there were folks out there, mostly military, who would be interested in the secretary of defense-sponsored insanity I was witnessing on almost a daily basis. When I was particularly upset, like when I heard Zinni called a "traitor," I wrote about it in articles like this one.

In November, my Insider articles discussed the artificial worlds created by the Pentagon and the stupid naiveté of neocon assumptions about what would happen when we invaded Iraq.

I discussed the price of public service, distinguishing between public servants who told the truth and then saw their careers flame out and those "public servants" who did not tell the truth and saw their careers ignite.

My December articles became more depressing, discussing the history of the 100 Years' War and "combat lobotomies." There was a painful one titled "Minority Reports" about the necessity but unlikelihood of a Philip Dick sci-fi style "minority report" on Feith-Wolfowitz-Rumsfeld-Cheney's insanely grandiose vision of some future Middle East, with peace, love and democracy brought on through preemptive war and military occupation.

I shared some of my concerns with a civilian who had been remotely acquainted with the Luti-Feith-Perle political clan in his previous work for one of the senior Pentagon witnesses during the Iran-Contra hearings. He told me these guys were engaged in something worse than Iran-Contra. I was curious but he wouldn't tell me anything more. I figured he knew what he was talking about. I thought of him when I read much later about the 2002 and 2003 meetings between Michael Ledeen, Reuel Marc Gerecht and Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar -- all Iran-Contra figures.

In December 2002, I requested an acceleration of my retirement to the following July. By now, the military was anxiously waiting under the bed for the other shoe to drop amid concerns over troop availability, readiness for an ill-defined mission, and lack of day-after clarity. The neocons were anxiously struggling to get that damn shoe off.

That other shoe fell with a thump, as did the regard many of us had held for Colin Powell, on Feb. 5 as the secretary of state capitulated to the neoconservative line in his speech at the United Nations -- a speech not only filled with falsehoods pushed by the neoconservatives but also containing many statements already debunked by intelligence.

War is generally crafted and pursued for political reasons, but the reasons given to the Congress and to the American people for this one were inaccurate and so misleading as to be false. Moreover, they were false by design.

Certainly, the neoconservatives never bothered to sell the rest of the country on the real reasons for occupation of Iraq -- more bases from which to flex U.S. muscle with Syria and Iran, and better positioning for the inevitable fall of the regional ruling sheikdoms. Maintaining OPEC on a dollar track and not a euro and fulfilling a half-baked imperial vision also played a role. These more accurate reasons for invading and occupying could have been argued on their merits -- an angry and aggressive U.S. population might indeed have supported the war and occupation for those reasons.

But Americans didn't get the chance for an honest debate.

President Bush has now appointed a commission to look at American intelligence capabilities and will report after the election. It will "examine intelligence on weapons of mass destruction and related 21st century threats ... [and] compare what the Iraq Survey Group learns with the information we had prior..."

The commission, aside from being modeled on failed rubber stamp commissions of the past and consisting entirely of those selected by the executive branch, specifically excludes an examination of the role of the Office of Special Plans and other executive advisory bodies.

If the president or vice president were seriously interested in "getting the truth," they might consider asking for evidence on how intelligence was politicized, misused and manipulated, and whether information from the intelligence community was distorted in order to sway Congress and public opinion in a narrowly conceived neoconservative push for war.

Bush says he wants the truth, but it is clear he is no more interested in it today than he was two years ago.

Proving that the truth is indeed the first casualty in war, neoconservative member of the Defense Policy Board Richard Perle called this February for "heads to roll." Perle, agenda setter par excellence, named George Tenet and Defense Intelligence Agency head Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby as guilty of failing to properly inform the president on Iraq and WMD. No doubt, the intelligence community, susceptible to politicization and outdated paradigms, needs reform. The swiftness of the neoconservative casting of blame on the intelligence community and away from themselves should have been fully expected.

Perhaps Perle and others sense the grave and growing danger of political storms unleashed by the exposure of neoconservative lies. Meanwhile, Ahmad Chalabi, extravagantly funded by the neocons in the Pentagon to the tune of millions to provide the disinformation, has boasted with remarkable frankness, "We are heroes in error," and, "What was said before is not important."

Now we are told by our president and neoconservative mouthpieces that our sons and daughters, husbands and wives are in Iraq fighting for freedom, for liberty, for justice and American values. This cost is not borne by the children of Wolfowitz, Perle, Rumsfeld and Cheney. Bush's daughters do not pay this price.

We are told that intelligence has failed America, and that President Bush is determined to get to the bottom of it. Yet not a single neoconservative appointee has lost his job, and no high official of principle in the administration has formally resigned because of this ill-planned and ill-conceived war and poorly implemented occupation of Iraq.

Will Americans hold U.S. policymakers accountable? Will we return to our roots as a republic, constrained and deliberate, respectful of others? My experience in the Pentagon leading up to the invasion and occupation of Iraq tells me, as Ben Franklin warned, we may have already failed.

But if Americans at home are willing to fight -- tenaciously and courageously -- to preserve our republic, we might be able to keep it.

Karen Kwiatkowski now lives in western Virginia on a small farm with her family, teaches an American foreign policy class at James Madison University, and writes regularly for militaryweek.com on security and defense issues.

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[The foreign strategy of the US must be]: "... unapologetic, idealistic, assertive and well funded. America must not only be the world's policeman or its sheriff, it must be its beacon and guide. Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival. This is a dominant consideration underlying the new regional defense strategy and requires that we endeavor to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power. These regions include Western Europe, East Asia, the territory of the former Soviet Union, and Southwest Asia."

Paul Wolfowitz,

PNAC Founder,

Bush Administration Insider,

Disgraced Former President of the World Bank

"Fascism should more properly be called corporatism, since it is the merger of state and corporate power."

Benito Mussolini

Fascist Dictator of Italy;

Ally of Adolf Hitler

"What kind of victory is it when someone is left defeated? What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans, and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty and democracy? What is a war criminal? Was not war itself a crime against God and humanity, and, therefore, were not all those who sanctioned, engineered and conducted wars, war criminals? The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

Non-cooperation with evil is a sacred duty."

Mahatma Gandhi

Revered (Old School) Holy Man

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PNAC: ALWAYS THINKING AHEAD:

Is GENOCIDE Really All That Bad.....
if it Promotes the SUPERIOR VALUES
of the NeoCon Agenda?

The Genetically Modified Bomb

by Thom Hartmann

Imagine a bomb that only kills Caucasians with red hair. Or short people. Or Arabs. Or Chinese.

Now imagine that this new bomb could be set off anywhere in the world, and that within a matter of days, weeks, or months it would kill every person on the planet who fits the bomb's profile, although the rest of us would be left standing. And the bomb could go off silently, without anybody realizing it had been released - or even where it was released - until its victims started dying in mass numbers.

Who would imagine such a thing?

Paul Wolfowitz, for one. William Kristol for another.

And, history shows, when the men who define U.S. military policy from the shadows set their sights on something, it's worthy of our attention.

I have brown hair and eyes, both determined by specific genes, and there are probably other markers deep within my DNA that would show a geneticist that most of my ancestors are Norwegian, Welsh, and English. While there's no one gene for race, there are numerous genes for the various components of what we call race - hair color and texture, skin and eye color, eye and nose shape, predispositions or immunities to disease like Sickle Cell Anemia or Tay-Sachs, and the like.

When creating a genetic bomb to target specific groups, such genetic profiles are actually far subtler and more accurate than the coarse pseudo-category we call race. Among men named Cohen all over the world, for example, researchers have found a specific genetic profile tying them all back to a common ancestor. Another group with a common genetic profile are people with ADHD ("The Edison Gene"), who uniquely share common inherited variations in their dopamine-regulating genes regardless of their ostensible race, geography, or ethnicity.

Thus, anybody who's part of a group with a shared genetic profile may be at risk in the future, suggest the authors of The Project for a New American Century's (PNAC) report titled "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources For a New Century."

The report notes that, "Much has been written in recent years about the need to transform the conventional armed forces of the United States to take advantage of the 'revolution in military affairs....'" They point out that our military requires a dramatic transformation, lest we lose our ability to fight future, unconventional wars. Some may be fought in cyberspace, others underwater or in outer space. And some even within our own bodies.

Consider what would happen if there was a virus or bacteria that only infected a particular type of person, killing, disabling, or sterilizing only those of a particular genetic profile. Consider the political leverage a nation would have if they could credibly threaten the extinction of all people worldwide with almond-shaped eyes, or the sterilization of everybody with a gene that tracks them back to a common ancestor or region.

Three years ago, Wolfowitz, Kristol, and their colleagues suggested this is something the Pentagon should be thinking about. Not just germ warfare, but gene warfare.

And it's not limited just to warfare: Imagine how genetic terraforming could replace diplomacy, could even render the United Nations irrelevant if entire ethnic groups were wiped out or could be controlled by the threat of extinction. Or how it could change the face of politics if an organism got loose that killed off all the people of a particular minority who tend to vote for a particular political party.

Genetically targeted weapons could change world politics forever, according to PNAC.

"And," their report notes, "advanced forms of biological warfare that can 'target' specific genotypes may transform biological warfare from the realm of terror to a politically useful tool."

Given that Kristol, Wolfowitz, and their conservative PNAC associates like Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Richard Perle, Eliot Abrams, Jeb Bush, and John Bolton have already brought us two of their early 1998 recommendations - the seizure of Iraq and a huge increase in defense spending - it's tempting to wonder if this is another of their other politically useful ideas being explored by the Pentagon.

Or maybe we'd rather not know. At least not those of us with politically problematic relatives.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views03/0910-15.htm>

The New American Century

by Arundhati Roy

In the great cities of Europe and America, where a few years ago these things would only have been whispered, now people are openly talking about the good side of imperialism and the need for a strong empire to police an unruly world. The new missionaries want order at the cost of justice. Discipline at the cost of dignity. And ascendancy at any price. Occasionally some of us are invited to "debate" the issue on "neutral" platforms provided by the corporate media. Debating imperialism is a bit like debating the pros and cons of rape. What can we say? That we really miss it?

In any case, New Imperialism is already upon us. It's a remodeled, streamlined version of what we once knew. For the first time in history, a single empire with an arsenal of weapons that could obliterate the world in an afternoon has complete, unipolar, economic and military hegemony. It uses different weapons to break open different markets. There isn't a country on God's earth that is not caught in the cross-hairs of the American cruise missile and the IMF checkbook.

Argentina's the model if you want to be the poster boy of neoliberal capitalism, Iraq if you're the black sheep. Poor countries that are geopolitically of strategic value to Empire, or have a "market" of any size, or infrastructure that can be privatized, or, God forbid, natural resources of value -- oil, gold, diamonds, cobalt, coal -- must do as they're told or become military targets. Those with the greatest reserves of natural wealth are most at risk. Unless they surrender their resources willingly to the corporate machine, civil unrest will be fomented or war will be waged.

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20040209/roy>

[Back](#)

7.10 The **"WAR GAMES"** That Ensured the Success of the 9/11 Attacks.

VIDEO: Barry Zwicker: NORAD on 9/11: ****

What was the U.S. Military Doing that Day?

Interview with Michael Ruppert Regarding 9/11 War Games

Quickly Accessible at [Google Video](#)

If you WATCH THIS VIDEO, you will learn about the War Games and gain an introduction to a genuine American Hero: ex-LAPD Detective Mike Ruppert

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-895995587805019501>

BOOK: Crossing the Rubicon:

The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil

by Michael C. Ruppert

EXCERPT: "Simplifying the Case Against Dick Cheney"

As Summarized by Michael Kane

On May 8, 2001 -- four months prior to 9/11 -- the president placed Dick Cheney in charge of "[All federal programs dealing with weapons of mass destruction consequence management within the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Justice, and Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies..." This included all "training and planning" which needed to be "seamlessly integrated, harmonious and comprehensive" in order to "maximize effectiveness." This mandate created the Office of National Preparedness in FEMA, overseen by Dick Cheney.

Dick Cheney was placed directly in charge of managing the seamless integration of all training exercises throughout the entire federal government and all military agencies. On 9/11 Cheney oversaw multiple war games and terror drills, including several exercises of NORAD, the Air Force agency whose mandate is to "watch the sky."

The evening before September 11th, 2001, the National Security Agency intercepted a communication between Khalid Shaikh Muhammad and the alleged ringleader of the 9/11 attacks, Mohammed Atta. The communication stated, "The match is about to begin."

Were they "matching" their activities to the war games? Was the attack a rigged "match" between the defenders on one side, and the attackers with their accomplices on the other?

The White House was so infuriated when this communication leaked from the Senate Intelligence Committee that they threatened Senators with polygraphs and office searches for disclosing classified information. This leak struck a nerve within the White House.

We know multiple Air Force war games were running on the morning of 9/11, as documented extensively in the mainstream press. What Crossing the Rubicon has documented conclusively is that there was a live-fly drill taking place on 9/11 titled Vigilant Warrior. Richard Clarke disclosed the name of this drill on page 4 of his book, but it was Major Don Arias of NORAD who confirmed the definition of the title "Warrior" to Mike Ruppert via email.

Warrior = JCS/HQ NORAD sponsored FTX, or field training exercise (live-fly).

That means that the Vigilant Warrior drill conducted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff involved at least one real commercial aircraft in the skies, intended to simulate exactly the kind of airliner hijack emergency presented on 9/11. Coincidence?

This was further supported by an April 18 2004 USA Today article titled, "NORAD had drills of jets as weapons." The report cited NORAD officials who confirmed live-fly drills were conducted using hijacked airliners originating from the continental United States used as weapons crashing into targets including the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The specific drill USA Today referred to was "planned in July [2001] and conducted later" - likely on 9/11 itself.

Remember, on 9/11 the Bush administration claimed it had "no idea" aircraft would be used as weapons. Then why were they drilling such scenarios before and during 9/11? The White House dodged this by saying it wasn't aware of these drills but that is a transparent lie. The drills took place in the White House!

Secret Service runs simulated attack field exercises - exactly what Vigilant Warrior was. This Joint Chiefs of Staff drill was likely being run through Secret Service lines of communication by a central command under Cheney's control.

Additional war games on 9/11 included Northern Vigilance, an exercise that pulled Air Force fighters from the east coast of the United States up into Canada and Alaska simulating an attack out of Russia. All of those fighters were rendered useless as the 9/11 plot unfolded - too far away to respond.

One of the components of this drill included "false blips" (radar injects simulating aircraft in flight) placed on FAA radar screens. At one point FAA head Jane Garvey said they suspected up to 11 hijackings on 9/11. Was she saying they couldn't determine which were real, which were simulated, and which were live-fly military exercises?

Regardless, all of this rendered Air Force response on 9/11 useless.

In Air War Over America it is documented that General Arnold of NORAD didn't pull out of the war game titled Vigilant Guardian until reports of flight 93 being hijacked were coming in. That was at 9:16, a total of 54 minutes after it was

known that flight 11 was a hijacking. What took so long? Were there still "false blips" on FAA radar screens at this time?

There were likely false blips on screen even after 9:16. The Kean Commission's report introduced "phantom flight-11" as being reported by the FAA at 9:25 on 9/11. The FAA reported flight 11 was heading to Washington D.C. at that time when in fact it had already struck the World Trade Center. The Kean Commission's report stated they were "unable to locate the source of the mistaken FAA information."

"Phantom flight-11" was a false blip, but since the war games are classified, specific information on "false blips" and other details can't be reported.

Now imagine being an air traffic controller with both real planes and "false blips" simulating hijackings on your screens when suddenly there are real, multiple, hijackings. Where do you send the few Air Force fighters that you have? You can't guess wrong, you don't have enough assets for that. The FAA doesn't even make that decision, the military does. The Kean Commission managed to scapegoat the FAA in their report, but the Air Force itself confirmed the FAA did its job properly on 9/11 in Air War Over America.

There were more 9/11 war games including Northern Guardian, Northern Denial (recently confirmed by an Assistant Editor at Harper's magazine) and an unnamed National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) drill for a plane crashing into NRO headquarters at precisely the time of an actual crash in New York.

Another coincidence?

War games, terror drills and exercises are run by the military quite frequently. In this case, they mirrored the real attacks of 9/11 with such shocking congruence as to be beyond the realm of coincidence.

This is made clear when we consider the warnings that had flooded U.S. Intelligence prior to 9/11, indicating that terrorists were planning to hijack aircraft and crash them into American targets on the ground during the week of September 9th, 2001. With that type of information, who in their right mind would then schedule war games that would leave New York and Washington D.C. completely undefended?

We've already shown that the man in charge of managing all such programs was Dick Cheney. Among the central decision-makers for the scheduling of so many simultaneous exercises would be Dick Cheney and Ralph Eberhart, head of NORAD.

It certainly was a perfect "match."

The Maestro

The most important revelation made about the 9/11 war games comes again from Major Don Arias of NORAD. With multiple war games running, there had to be someone coordinating them.

"Yes, there is an exercise maestro," said Don Arias in a phone interview.

So who was the maestro?

Mike Ruppert called every relevant military and government office looking for an answer to this question and received no response. At the final 9/11 Commission hearing on June 17, 2004, I asked General Ralph Eberhart - the man in charge of NORAD on 9/11 - who was in charge of coordinating the war games that day. His only response was, "No comment." None of the commissioners, including Chairman Kean, could answer this question.

FTW's research has concluded the maestro was either Dick Cheney, Ralph "Ed" Eberhart, or both. Whoever the maestro was, he was certainly under Cheney's management as per the May 2001 presidential mandate.

Additionally, Tripod II was a bio-terror exercise being set-up on the west side of lower Manhattan, reportedly scheduled to begin the next day. This exercise was being coordinated with FEMA and the Department of Justice -- two of the agencies placed directly under Cheney's control in May of 2001 by presidential mandate.

Another coincidence?

There is no question that Cheney would be responsible for managing this exercise. The Tripod II drill became the command & control emergency response center on 9/11. The command center in WTC 7 was reportedly evacuated by 9:30 on 9/11, but Tripod II provided a new command center organized just as the original was. How convenient.

The Air Force war games ensured the air attack would be successful, and Tripod II assured Cheney would have control of the response to the crisis of his making. Matching the war games with hijackings - or hijacking the war games - was the opportunity for Cheney to help ensure the 9/11 attacks would be successful, justifying what he calls, "The war that will not end in our lifetimes." The "war on terror" is actually a war for the world's last remaining hydrocarbon reserves. This energy war is a response to a coming energy crisis that Cheney was well aware of at least as early as 1999.

Conclusion

Crossing the Rubicon demonstrates much more than is presented here. The book goes into the failures of the 9/11 Commission, 9/11 insider trading, the curtailing of civil liberties, the coming economic crisis, biological warfare, the real history of Osama bin Laden, and many other issues critical to an understanding of today's historical reality.

Crossing the Rubicon also looks into the evolution of PROMIS software, a well-documented artificial intelligence and data mining program whose current descendants played an integral role in the crimes of 9/11.

As Dick Cheney was running a separate chain of command via the Secret Service, he also had the capability to intervene in the functions of the FAA through an evolution of PROMIS software developed and sold by Ptech, Inc. -- a company funded by Saudi terrorist financier Yassin Al Qadi. Al Qadi claims he met Dick Cheney in Jeddah before he was Vice President, a claim Cheney hasn't publicly refuted. FTW will soon be releasing an in-depth report on Ptech and its role in the crimes of 9/11.

What we have placed in front of you here is the legal case against Dick Cheney and other persons of interest within the U.S. government. Such evidence should constitute the foundation for articles of impeachment and criminal prosecution against George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, and their accomplices.

Review the documentation for yourself. Purchase

Crossing the Rubicon:
The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil

by Michael C. Ruppert at:

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_gw/103-6038043-2847042?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=crossing+the+rubicon&Go.x=12&Go.y=10&Go=Go

The piece above and more is at:

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/011805_simplify_case.shtml

Yet Another Perfectly Synchronized "Bizarre Coincidence:" _

On the Morning of 9/11, the CIA Was Running a Simulation of a Plane Crashing into the National Reconnaissance Office -- America's "Eyes on the Sky" -- Which Caused That Agency to be Evacuated as the Real Crisis Unfolded

One week after The Memory Hole first reported this story (14 August 2002), it was picked up by the Associated Press in the following article:

Agency planned drill for plane crash last Sept. 11
Associated Press
August 22, 2002

WASHINGTON -- In what the government describes as a bizarre coincidence, one U.S. intelligence agency was planning an exercise last Sept. 11 in which an errant aircraft crashed into one of its buildings. But the cause wasn't terrorism -- it was to be a simulated accident.

Officials at the Chantilly, Va.-based National Reconnaissance Office had scheduled an exercise that morning in which a small corporate jet crashed into one of the four towers at the agency's headquarters building after experiencing a mechanical failure.

The agency is about four miles from the runways of Washington Dulles International Airport.

Agency chiefs came up with the scenario to test employees' ability to respond to a disaster, said spokesman Art Haubold. To simulate the damage from the plane, some stairwells and exits were to be closed off, forcing employees to find other ways to evacuate the building.

"It was just an incredible coincidence that this happened to involve an aircraft crashing into our facility," Haubold said. "As soon as the real world events began, we canceled the exercise."

Terrorism was to play no role in the exercise, which had been planned for several months, he said.

Adding to the coincidence, American Airlines Flight 77 -- the Boeing 767 that was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon -- took off from Dulles at 8:10 a.m. on Sept. 11, 50 minutes before the exercise was to begin. It struck the Pentagon around 9:40 a.m., killing 64 aboard the plane and 125 on the ground.

The National Reconnaissance Office operates many of the nation's spy satellites. It draws its personnel from the military and the CIA.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, most of the 3,000 people who work at agency headquarters were sent home, save for some essential personnel, Haubold said.

An announcement for an upcoming homeland security conference in Chicago first noted the exercise.

In a promotion for speaker John Fulton, a CIA officer assigned as chief of NRO's strategic gaming division, the announcement says, "On the morning of September 11th 2001, Mr. Fulton and his team ... were running a pre-planned simulation to explore the emergency response issues that would be created if a plane were to strike a building. Little did they know that the scenario would come true in a dramatic way that day."

The conference is being run by the National Law Enforcement and Security Institute.

<http://www.thememoryhole.org/911/cia-simulation.htm>

Why were 3000 NRO employees sent home on 9/11?

today's question...

<http://www.questionsquestions.net/topics/question.html>

Brian Salter, qq editor

5 June 2003:

There have been a number of disinfo limited hangouts floating around, all of them designed to offer apparently revealing inside details of 9/11 but actually serving the purpose of whitewashing evidence of US govt. complicity. One which has been hanging around for a while centers on the terrorist training exercise that the NRO (National Reconnaissance Office) had scheduled the same morning of the attacks. The super-secret NRO happens to be the agency which operates US spy satellites.

A mainstream article about it is here:

http://www.boston.com/news/packages/sept11/anniversary/wire_stories/0903_plane_exercise.htm

The limited hangout build around this is that the 9/11 "terrorists" somehow learned about the secret exercise in advance, and "piggybacked" their own attack on the same date in order to confuse US defences. This is used as a supposed explanation for lack of action on prior warnings, failure of air defences to operate, etc, on the assumption that military and intel personnel thought that everything going on was part of the the "exercise." I don't know of any serious 9/11

researcher who finds this a credible overall theory, given the fact that there is an abundance of evidence pointing beyond such a scenario, to official complicity and specific prior knowledge. This has been discussed very thoroughly among researchers.

That aside, there is an interesting detail in the above article:

"The National Reconnaissance Office operates many of the nation's spy satellites. It draws its personnel from the military and the CIA. After the Sept. 11 attacks, most of the 3,000 people who work at agency headquarters were sent home, save for some essential personnel, Haubold said."

Sent home... why??

Recently, I heard one alternative speculation about this which deserves some inquiry. Namely, that certain high-ranking NRO staff may have needed this time to eliminate or alter satellite surveillance of the Washington, DC area during the attacks. Note that it has been alleged for years that the US has 24 hour high resolution satellite monitoring of the capitol and surrounding regions, where critical government institutions are located. If so, there would then be a record of Flight 77's flight path and impact. Would there be something there to hide? With the recent 9/11 Commission hearings on 9/11 air defences having stirred up debate, this is perhaps something to consider.

<http://www.oilempire.us/nro.html>

Wargames Were Cover For the Operational Execution of 9/11

by Alex Jones & Paul Joseph Watson

Updated September 20 2004

For almost three years since 9/11 independent researchers have stockpiled individual smoking guns which prove that the official version of events was not only a lie but operationally impossible.

However, no single smoking gun has yet been forwarded to explain why air defenses categorically reversed Standard Operating Procedure and failed to respond to hijacked jetliners.

Until now. More and more individuals are looking at the facts and highlighting exercise drills that took place on the morning of 9/11.

It is clear that at least five if not six training exercises were in operation in the days leading up to and on the morning of 9/11. This meant that NORAD radar screens showed as many as 22 hijacked airliners at the same time. NORAD had been briefed that this was part of the exercise drill and therefore normal reactive procedure was forestalled and delayed.

The large numbers of 'blips' on NORAD screens that displayed both real and 'drill' hijacked planes explain why confused press reports emerged hours after the attack stating that up to eight planes had been hijacked.

[Article at:]

<http://www.rense.com/general13/up.htm>

The drill scenario also explains a comment made by air traffic control personnel which was featured in a July 2004 BBC television report. The controller is told that a hijacked airliner is heading for New York and responds by saying, "is this real world or an exercise?"

..... What were the drills called and what was their nature?

1) OPERATION NORTHERN VIGILANCE: This was planned months in advance of 9/11 and ensured that on the morning of 9/11, jet fighters were removed from patrolling the US east coast and sent to Alaska and Canada, therefore reducing the amount of fighter planes available to protect the east coast.

2) BIOWARFARE EXERCISE TRIPOD II: Alex Jones first reported on this back in May when Rudolph Giuliani let the details of it slip in his testimony to the 9/11 Commission. FEMA arrived in New York on September 10th to set up a command post located at Pier 29 under the auspices of a 'biowarfare exercise' scheduled for September 12. This explains why Tom Kenney of FEMA's National Urban Search and Rescue Team, told Dan Rather of CBS News that FEMA had arrived in New York on the night of September 10th. This was originally dismissed as a slip of the tongue. Giuliani was to use this post as a command post on 9/11 after he evacuated WTC Building 7. As we reported back in January, Giuliani knew when to leave WTC 7 because he got advanced warning that the Trade Towers were about to collapse. "We were operating out of there when we were told that the World Trade Center was gonna collapse," Rudolph Giuliani told Peter Jennings of ABC News. How did Giuliani know the towers were about to collapse when no steel building in history had previously collapsed from fire damage?

3) OPERATION VIGILANT GUARDIAN: This exercise simulated hijacked planes in the north eastern sector and started to coincide with 9/11. Lt. Col. Dawne Deskins, NORAD unit's airborne control and warning officer, was overseeing the exercise. At 8:40 am she took a call from Boston Center which said it had a hijacked airliner. Her first words, as quoted by Newhouse News Service were, "It must be part of the exercise." This is another example of how the numerous drills on the morning of 9/11 deliberately distracted NORAD so that the real hijacked planes couldn't be intercepted in time.

4) OPERATION NORTHERN GUARDIAN: The details of this exercise are still scant but it is considered to be part of Vigilant Guardian, relating to simulating hijacked planes in the north eastern sector.

5) OPERATION VIGILANT WARRIOR: This was referenced in Richard Clarke's book 'Against All Enemies.' It is thought to have been the 'attack' component of the Vigilant Guardian exercise.

Another example of how air defenses were purposefully kept preoccupied so they couldn't protect New York was reported by this website in December of 2003. The Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing, based at Atlantic City International Airport in Pomona, were just eight minutes away from New York and could have intercepted both Flight 11 and Flight 175.

Under NORAD procedures that date to the Cold War, two F-16 fighters from the 177th were parked around the clock on the Atlantic City runway. Pilots waited in a nearby building, ready to scramble.

But on the morning of 9/11, the F-16's were performing bombing runs over an empty stretch of the Pine Barrens near Atlantic City after being decommissioned from their usual role of protecting the skies of the east coast.

It was only after both trade towers were hit that the two F-16s landed and were refitted with air-to-air missiles, then sent aloft.

Now that we have established how NORAD were confused, delayed and distracted by the numerous wargames, the next question to ask is who if anyone was aware of which planes were 'real world' and which planes were 'exercise'? The answer to this question will provide us with the name of the individual who ran the operational execution of the 9/11 attack.

Dick Cheney.

Cheney was initially taken by the secret service to an underground bunker in the White House called the Presidential Emergency Operations Center.

From there, according to CNN, Cheney directed the US government's response to the unfolding attack.

Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta was in the Presidential Emergency Operating Center with Cheney as Flight 77 approached Washington, D.C. On May 23, 2003 in front of the 9/11 Commission, Secretary Mineta testified:

"During the time that the airplane was coming in to the Pentagon, there was a young man who would come in and say to the Vice President, "The plane is 50 miles out." "The plane is 30 miles out." And when it got down to "the plane is 10 miles out," the young man also said to the Vice President, "Do the orders still stand?" And the Vice President turned and whipped his neck around and said, "Of course the orders still stand. Have you heard anything to the contrary?"

As the plane in question hit the Pentagon, what else can we conclude but that the 'order' was not to shoot down the aircraft and to let it find its target.

Mineta stated that he did not know what the 'order' was because he wasn't there when it was made.

After the Pentagon was hit, Cheney was transferred to another bunker in what the Philadelphia Daily News describes as 'the underground Pentagon'.

Site R, a highly secure complex of buildings inside Raven Rock Mountain near Blue Ridge Summit, Pa., close to the Maryland-Pennsylvania state line and about seven miles north of Camp David, is a 53-year-old facility conceived at the start of the Cold War as an alternate command center in the event of nuclear war or an attack on Washington.

The bunker is built into a mountain hillside and is virtually camouflaged to the naked eye. The location betrays itself by the vast gaggle of satellites, microwave towers and antennae that festoon the perimeter. Inside the facility there are computer filled caverns and communication and tracking technology that would put a James Bond movie to shame.

The entire facility is guarded by heavily armed military police.

Within hours of 9/11 unfolding, five choppers had landed on the facility's helipad and top officials such as Paul Wolfowitz were ushered in to join Cheney in the command bunker.

Site R -- also known as Raven Rock or the Alternate Joint Communications Center is from where vice-President Dick Cheney ran the aftermath of the 9/11 attack. Cheney's command superceded the orders of the Pentagon, the FAA or the White House. He is the number one suspect in the murder of nearly 3,000 innocent people.

In May of 2001, by presidential order, Cheney was handed direct control of all wargame and drill operations. This meant he was solely in charge of the overlapping NORAD drills and wargames on the morning of 9/11, that prevented Standard Operating Procedure from being implemented, and any of the hijacked planes being intercepted.

The smoking guns of 9/11 are no longer disparate jigsaw pieces that serve to just raise more questions than they answer. We now have a coherent and plausible explanation of how the events unfolded, why there was no air defense response, and a prime suspect as to who executed these actions. The facts fit this version of events.

The 9/11 truth movement has just taken a giant leap towards dismantling the lies of September 11 and finally offering justice for those who lost their lives on that terrible day.

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/september2004/080904wargamescover.htm>

FEMA in NYC Prior to 9-11 for Project TRIPOD Terror Drill, Scheduled for 9-12

By Gregor Holland

As of this writing, June 2, 2004, the transcript of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani's testimony to the 9-11 Commission during the May 18-19, 2004 hearings in New York is the only transcript of that hearing omitted from the Commission website (<http://www.9-11commission.gov>).

Did Rudy say something wrong?

In case you missed it live, you can listen to his testimony in full at the WNYC radio website at: <http://www.wnyc.org/news/articles/28147>. As Giuliani recounts his experience of the day of 9/11, and the evolving location of the Emergency Command Center that morning, you might want to pay special attention to what he says at the end of his prepared statement:

"... the reason Pier 92 was selected as a command center was because on the next day, on September 12, Pier 92 was going to have a drill, it had hundreds of people here, from FEMA, from the Federal Government, from the State, from the State Emergency Management Office, and they were getting ready for a drill for

biochemical attack. So that was gonna be the place they were going to have the drill. The equipment was already there, so we were able to establish a command center there, within three days, that was two and a half to three times bigger than the command center that we had lost at 7 World Trade Center. And it was from there that the rest of the search and rescue effort was completed."

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0406/S00031.htm>

9/11 War Games Questioned and War Game Nicknames Defined

9/11 Wargames & Terror Drills:

"Mr. Secretary, after the last Hearing, I thought that my office was promised a written response to my question regarding the four wargames on September 11th. I have not yet received that response, but would like for you to respond to the questions that I've put to you today. And then I do expect the written response to my previous question."

-- Representative Cynthia McKinney asking Donald Rumsfeld about the coincidental wargames that were running on 9/11.

VIDEO: Cynthia McKinney Calls Out Rumsfeld

Representative McKinney questioning Donald Rumsfeld

(From March, 2005, 2 min):

<http://fromthewilderness.com/mp3/McKinney.rm>

VIDEO: Cynthia McKinney Calls Out Rumsfeld

McKinney asking Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers, and Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Tina Jonas questions about Dyncorp slave rings, the 3 trillion missing from the pentagon, and 9/11 wargames. From House Hearing FY06 (Dept. of Defense Budget) March 11th, 2005:

<http://www.spiegeltech.com/media/McKinney2.rm> (8 minutes long)

The transcript can be read here:

<http://www.911citizenswatch.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=500>

Agency planned exercise on Sept. 11 built around a plane crashing into a building --

Associated Press:

<http://newsmine.org/archive/9-11/questions/coincidental-911-exercise.txt>

The Lost "Terror Drill"? Pt.11 (A)

By Nico Haupt

<http://inn.globalfreepress.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=1073>

Exercise Naming Conventions:

The terms used for NORAD exercises have specific meanings. Per NORAD Instruction 33-7:

“Nicknames: A combination of two separate unclassified words which is assigned an unclassified meaning and is employed for unclassified administration, morale or public information. The first word must begin with the combination of letters of the alphabet allocated to the using agency.” A nickname is used exclusively to designate a drill, or exercise. Exercise terms are used to prevent confusion between exercise directives with actual operations.”

Ç9; Vigilant or Amalgam means it is a HQ NORAD sponsored exercise. Ç9; Guardian means it is a multi-command CPX, or command post exercise (no live-fly).

Which means that on 9/11 NORAD should have been conducting a NORADwide, multicommand, command post exercise with no live-fly.

Other exercise terms include: Ç9; Warrior = JCS/HQ NORAD sponsored FTX, or field training exercise (live-fly) (Source: Arias Donald C Maj 1AF/PA [Donald.Arias@tyndall.af.mil] Crossing the Rubicon)

Vigilant Guardian: Reflected a cold war mind-set: NORAD Participants practiced for an attack across the North Pole by Russian forces. September 11 was Day II of ‘Vigilant Guardian,’ an exercise that would pose an imaginary crisis, including the hijacking of commercial airliners, to North American Air defense outposts nationwide. (Source: multiple press sources including Aviation News, Newhouse News, Crossing the Rubicon)

Vigilant Warrior: According to Arias Donald C Maj 1AF/PA, Vigilant Warrior was a Joint Chiefs live-fly hijack drill. (Source: Richard Clarke, p. 5 of his book Against All Enemies and in Crossing the Rubicon)

Northern Guardian: Exercise on 911. (Source: Toronto Star, Dec. 9, 2001)

Northern Vigilance: Live-fly and Simulated exercise in Alaska and Canada. NORAD states Northern Vigilance was a redeployment of fighter resources to northern Canada and Alaska for an old DEW [Distant Early Warning] line, over the pole, Russian Bear bomber attack, which was also going on, on 9/11. (Source: Toronto Star, Dec. 9, 2001, NORAD website)

Tripod II: Exercise on 911 involving the Justice Department and New York City and State authorities. It had nothing to do with hijackings but was instead an exercise focused on a biowarfare attack that had been set up on New York’s Pier 29, about two miles from the World Trade Center. (Source: Rudy Giuliani, 911 Commission testimony)

Unnamed: The National Reconnaissance Office, a joint creation of the CIA and the air force that operates US spy satellites, was also running an exercise on September 11th. This one happened to involve a plane crashing into the headquarters of the ultra-secret agency in the Washington, DC suburb of Chantilly, Virginia, just outside Dulles International airport, the origin of Flight 77. (Source: Associated Press Aug. 21, 2002; Mr. John Fulton of the CIA)

[NOTE: The NRO is charged with management and monitoring of America's unmatched network of spy satellites -- its all-observant "Eyes in the Sky." The exercise described above -- on the morning of 9/11 -- involved the evacuation of all NRO personnel from the premises, after which they were sent home for the remainder of the day. This act ensured that only management would have access to that morning's satellite images of the wandering hijacked airliners. The data was immediately classified.]

Source: Culhavoc from Deadline Live's Message Board

<http://www.phpbbserver.com/phpbb/viewtopic.php?p=7202&highlight=&forum=jackblood#7202>

<http://freedom4um.com/cgi-bin/readart.cgi?ArtNum=34437>

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The Business of Treason
Illustrated
Chapter 8 References

8.1 No Arab Names on the Manifests of the Hijacked Flights

Autopsy: No Arabs on Flight 77

By Thomas R. Olmsted, M.D.

I am an ex Naval line officer and a psychiatrist in private practice in New Orleans, a Christian and homeschool dad. It troubled me a great deal that we rushed off to war on the flimsiest of evidence. I considered various ways to provide a smoking gun of who and why Sept 11th happened. Astute observers noticed right away that there were no Arabic sounding names on any of the flight manifests of the planes that "crashed" on that day.

A list of names on a piece of paper is not evidence, but an autopsy by a pathologist, is. I undertook by FOIA request, to obtain that autopsy list and you are invited to view it below. Guess what? Still no Arabs on the list. It is my opinion that the monsters who planned this crime made a mistake by not including Arabic names on the original list to make the ruse seem more believable.

When airline disasters occur, airlines will routinely provide a manifest list for anxious families. You may have noticed that even before Sept 11th, that airlines are pretty meticulous about getting an accurate head count before takeoff. It seems very unlikely to me, that five Arabs sneaked onto a flight with weapons.

http://www.sierratimes.com/03/07/02/article_tro.htm

Flight Manifests from Hijacked 9/11 Airliners per CNN

cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/victims/AA11.victims.html

cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/victims/AA77.victims.html

cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/victims/ua175.victims.html

cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/victims/ua93.victims.html

Manifests mirrored at:

lebensaspekte.de/groundzero/aa11.htm

lebensaspekte.de/groundzero/aa77.htm

lebensaspekte.de/groundzero/ua175.htm

lebensaspekte.de/groundzero/ua93.htm

The Perplexing Puzzle of the Published Passenger Lists

by Gary North

..... To get onto the flight legally, each passenger had to have a ticket with his or her name on it. Each passenger had to present a photo ID to the check-in agent. The check-in agent was supposed to look at the picture and the person, and then make a judgment. Was it the same person? If the mandated procedure was followed, the check-in agent decided that the ticket's name, the photo ID's name, the photo, and the ID-holder's face all matched. If there was any doubt, the check-in agent was supposed to ask for some other form of identification. If there was none, the person was not allowed to board the plane.

We are told by the United States government that five Arabs somehow got through this initial screening procedure. How did they do this? This is puzzle number one regarding Flight 11. Puzzle number two has to do with the incomplete passenger list.

Airlines keep a list of passengers on board. This is for insurance purposes, should there be a crash. It is also for the purpose of notifying relatives after a crash. It is also for the purpose of in-cabin screening. "Has everyone paid who is on the plane?" And, finally, is there a hijacker on board?

On American Airlines Flight 11, there were no Arab names on the passenger list. So, how does the government know who the hijackers were?

Why does CNN's Web page list 92 dead, when there are only 86 names listed? Who was the non-Arab?

I have seen nothing about government accusations against American Airlines for substandard check-in security procedures. In fact, I have seen nothing about the discrepancy between the published names and the published numbers regarding how many people were on board.

Let's go to American Airlines Flight 77. This plane crashed into the Pentagon.

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/victims/AA77.victims.html>

We are told that 64 people were on board. I count 56, including 6 crew members. There is no explanation offered for the absence of 8 names. There is no Arab name on this list.

Something is definitely wrong here.

What about United Airlines? Did the company's employees follow the same check-in procedure? Presumably, they did. I checked Flight 175, which crashed into the south tower.

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/victims/ua175.victims.html>

There were 56 people on board, according to CNN's summation. I printed out the list. I counted the names. Once again, they don't add up. The summation says there were 2 pilots, 7 flight attendants, and 56 passengers. I counted the names. The total is 56 -- the number attributed to the passengers. Nine names are missing. None of the listed names is Arab.

This leaves United Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania. It had 45 people on board, according to the summation.

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/trade.center/victims/ua93.victims.html>

Again, there is a discrepancy. Only 33 names appear on the list. A dozen names are missing. Among the missing names are the four Arabs who allegedly hijacked the plane.

So, the published names in no instance match the total listed for the number of people on board. CNN really should offer an explanation for this discrepancy.

In no case does an Arab name appear on a list, let alone one of the alleged hijackers.

<http://www.rense.com/general15/perplexingpuzzle.htm>

**EXCERPT: Presentation given by Thierry Meyssan
on 8 April 2002 at the Zayed Center in Abu Dhabi**

The Justice Department has never explained how it established the list of the kamikazes. The airline companies have furnished the exact number of passengers in each plane, and the passenger lists, incomplete, do not mention the persons who boarded at the last minute. In checking these lists, one notices that names of the kamikazes are not on them and that only three passengers are not identified for Flight 11 and only two for Flight 93. It is thus impossible that 19 kamikazes boarded. Further, several of those listed as kamikazes have turned up, alive. The FBI nonetheless maintains that the hijackers have all been definitively identified and that complementary information such as birth dates makes it improbable that they could be confused with persons of the same name. For those who might doubt this, the FBI has a ridiculous proof: whereas the planes burned and the Twin Towers collapsed, the passport of Mohammed Atta was miraculously found intact on the smoking ruins of the World Trade Center.

<http://www.serendipity.li/wot/meyssan1.htm>

Falsified Records Aid 9/11 Coverup
Toby Alot | 19.12.2006 12:20

..... On May 16 2004, I published an article entitled "Media published fake passenger lists for American Airlines flight 11." The article was revised on Sept 20, 2006. The article revealed that the mainstream media had fabricated passenger lists for the alleged flight American Airlines 11.

I say "alleged flight," because official flight data from the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics indicates that no such flight existed on the day.

Of course, if no such flight existed, then the passenger lists can't possibly be real. But let's put that aside and hypothetically concede that the flight existed. If so, then many media outlets published lists purporting to be official passenger lists when in fact they were not. The reason we know this, is because there can only be one official passenger list for a flight, and the media collectively gave us many different and conflicting lists, with differences too great to be transcription errors. Someone was just making the lists up.

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/scotland/2006/12/358569.html>

**The Cell Phone Calls that Could Not Have Been Made from the "Hijacked" Airplanes
Taken from Joel Garduce's Interview of Michel Chussodovsky, June 24, 2005**

EXCERPT:

Chussodovsky: It's the issue of what happened on the planes. And I have a chapter in my book which focuses on what happened on the planes as outlined in the 9/11 Commission Report, because it struck me that there was a very

important relationship which had not been well-analyzed. The 9/11 Commission's narrative is based on cell phone conversations. The telecom industry is unequivocal. Those cellphone conversations could not have taken place from cellphones at altitudes above 8,000 feet.

And so I wanted to review the narrative in the 9/11 Commission Report, and demonstrate concretely that it is simply fabricated. It is impossible to make a telephone call from high altitude onboard a plane. And most of their descriptions rest on that. Not all of it, but most of it rests on telephone conversations between alleged passengers on the one hand and family members on the other. And the telecom industry is absolutely unequivocal. They say that you could not (in 2001) make a telephone conversation at 31,000 feet. You might be able to do it at 8,000 feet but the planes were flying at high altitude during a good part of the time when they were in the air.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=20060720&articleId=2769>

See his article on this "problem" in the official narrative at:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO408B.html>

The Strange Case of the 9/11 Cell Phone Calls

Last month, [July, 2004] Qualcomm Corporation issued a press release stating that they had developed a new technology that would finally make it possible to make cellular phone calls from commercial airliners. Using a technology called "Pico Cells," the system will work as a link between the airliner and ground towers. According to the press release, it is currently impossible to connect by cell phone in a plane that is above 4,000 feet.

During the Republican National Convention in New York City last month, Deena Burnett, widow of Flight 93 victim Tom Burnett, spoke of the four telephone calls she received from her husband aboard the doomed airliner on September 11th, all of which were received from his cell phone, one of which lasted 13 minutes.

With the FAA statement that Flight 93 never went below 29,000 feet until its' sudden fatal plunge, these two stories seem to be mutually exclusive. Either it is possible to make cell phone calls from a commercial jetliner in flight at cruising altitude - or it isn't.

...

First I looked into whether the calls could have been made using the "air phone" service aboard the planes. Burnett's wife reported the calls came from her husband's cell phone. Two calls by other passengers were made from locked lavatories, which would have been impossible to make by airphone. Jeremy Glick spoke with his wife for 20 minutes from his cell phone, according to the 911 Commission. These calls occurred while the plane was cruising at over 30,000 feet according to news reports and the 911 Commission.

...

Although there were calls made from airphones by Todd Beamer and other passengers, there were also undoubtedly some calls that are claimed to have originated from cell phones. In some cases witnesses said they recognized the family member's number on their caller ID.

...

NSA-trained Electronic Warfare specialist Steve Moser goes further, expressing that he has "severe doubt that ordinary cell phone calls were ever made from the aircraft (Flight 93)." Moser explains: "When you make a cell phone call, the first thing that happens is your cell phone needs to contact a transponder and complete a digital handshake. If an aircraft is going five hundred miles an hour, your cell phone will not be able to contact a tower, tell the tower who you are and who your provider is, tell the tower what mode it wants to communicate with, and establish that it is in a roaming area, before it passes out of range. It takes 30-45 seconds to do that. Though it is sometimes possible to connect during takeoff and landing, under the situation that was claimed the calls were impossible."

<http://gatorpress.com/badsam/page5.html>

Project Achilles Report Parts One, Two and Three

by A. K. Dewdney, January 23rd 2003

Preliminary low-altitude cellphone experiment

The Low-Down on Professor Dewdney's Widely-Noted Experiment
as posted on the website of Physics911

(Physics911 is the internet component of Scientific Panel for the Investigation of Nine Eleven (S.P.I.N.E. (<http://physics911.ca/SPINE>)). It features an archive of all photographic (<http://physics911.ca/gallery/>) and video evidence (<http://physics911.ca/gallery/videos/>) found to date, and a collection of archived articles. It is a sister site to physics911.net, which features original research articles by S.P.I.N.E. (<http://physics911.ca/SPINE>) members and associates. A wiki, it is designed for public participation in uploading. Please help!)

<http://physics911.net/projectachilles>

Voice Cloning in Real Time

When Seeing and Hearing Isn't Believing

February 1, 1999

"Gentlemen! We have called you together to inform you that we are going to overthrow the United States government."

So begins a statement being delivered by Gen. Carl W. Steiner, former Commander-in-chief, U.S. Special Operations Command. At least the voice sounds amazingly like him.

But it is not Steiner. It is the result of voice "morphing" technology developed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. By taking just a 10-minute digital recording of Steiner's voice, scientist George Papcun is able, in near real time, to clone speech patterns and develop an accurate facsimile. Steiner was so impressed, he asked for a copy of the tape.

For Hollywood, it is special effects. For covert operators in the U.S. military and intelligence agencies, it is a weapon of the future.

Digital morphing — voice, video, and photo — has come of age, available for use in psychological operations. PSYOPS, as the military calls it, seek to exploit human

vulnerabilities in enemy governments, militaries and populations to pursue national and battlefield objectives.

Voice-morphing? Fake video? Holographic projection? They sound more like Mission Impossible and Star Trek gimmicks than weapons. Yet for each, there are corresponding and growing research efforts as the technologies improve and offensive information warfare expands.

Whereas early voice morphing required cutting and pasting speech to put letters or words together to make a composite, Papcun's software developed at Los Alamos can far more accurately replicate the way one actually speaks. Eliminated are the robotic intonations.

Video and photo manipulation has already raised profound questions of authenticity for the journalistic world. With audio joining the mix, it is not only journalists but also privacy advocates and the conspiracy-minded who will no doubt ponder the worrisome mischief that lurks in the not too distant future."

-- Washington Post (02/01/99)

<http://thewebfairy.com/killtown/oddties.html>

[Scroll Down to February 1, 1999 for this article. The Killtown 911 Coincidences and Oddities Pages (organized by year) are an amazing clearing house of information that leaves the reader with a newfound sense of historical context.]

An Unresolved Mystery: The Mass Murder of 9/11
The Unprecedented Failure to Follow Criminal Investigative Protocol
by Elias Davidsson

The first questions facing any crime investigator are: Who committed the crime and how was it committed. These questions would normally precede any efforts to discover the motives of the perpetrators, examining the preparation of the crime, identifying accomplices and developing means to prevent similar crimes in the future. Yet, the US authorities did not proceed in this time-proven manner. It did not initiate a proper criminal investigation at all and resisted even the call for a congressional inquiry into these events. No official investigation was conducted as to the causes of the plane crashes, as undertaken routinely in the United States regarding all types of crashes, including where criminal conduct is suspected. No official investigation was conducted on the causes of the collapses of the World Trade towers, as is the routine in cases of fire damage. **The failure to conduct a proper criminal investigation of a mass murder is unprecedented in US history.**

Until this day no proper evidence has been presented by the U.S. authorities regarding the identities of the perpetrators and on the means of perpetrating the mass murder. Whatever has been presented in public are allegations based on undisclosed and unverifiable evidence.

For an investigator of a criminal airplane crash, the first source of inquiry would be to study the list of passengers (or flight manifest). On the basis of such a list, further investigation becomes possible, such as tracing the passengers' addresses, contacting their families, tracing their credit card payments, etc. Shortly after 9/11, mass media began publishing lists of the passengers who crashed with the four planes. **At least four variations of one such list (the passengers of AA 11)**

have been identified by Gerard Holmgren [reference link below], each with differing numbers of passengers and partly different names. No official explanation was provided for these variations. None of these published lists include Arab names. Yet the FBI and the airlines have until this day refused to publish the original passenger lists, which presumably were the source for these multiple lists published by the media as well as the source for their own claims on the hijackers' identities. An FBI press officer who declined to identify herself, told the author in a telephone conversation on July 23, 2004 that the FBI is not required to publish the passenger lists and did not explain why the FBI would not do so. In spite of the evidential importance of the original passenger lists, the Commission of Inquiry has neither published these lists nor indicated why these lists have not been published. The primary source for attributing the 9/11 atrocities to persons with Arab-looking names has thus remained secret.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/DAV407A.html>

Media Published Fake Passenger Lists for American Airlines Flight 11

Author: Gerard Holmgren

As everyone knows, on Sept 11 2001, 5 Arabs allegedly hijacked American Airlines flight 11 and crashed it into the North Tower of the World Trade Centre at 8.46 A.M. It was part of a crime which killed approximately 3000 people.

Any crime of this magnitude, is - or should be - subject to rigorous examination by investigative and law enforcement authorities, such as the FBI. In any crime involving the illegal use of a plane, it is obvious that one of the first investigative steps taken by such authorities is to find out who was on the plane.

This is not a difficult thing to do. Airlines keep well organized records of everybody on any particular flight. The apparent ID of anyone on that flight - regardless of whether they used a true or false ID - should be immediately available to authorities.

Unless authorities decide that disclosure of such information may jeopardize the investigation, it should also be easily available to the media. It should be as simple as an exchange of faxes or emails between the media and either the airline involved or one of the relevant authorities to which the airline has released the information. Or possibly printed copies handed out at a press conference.

In relation to the alleged AA11, there has never been any indication that such information has been withheld for security reasons. We have been given the clear impression that the information relating to exactly who was on that plane has been made available to us via the media - which presumably sourced it in the manner suggested above. If the information had been withheld, one would expect that to be known.

..... Anybody can put up a website, do an interview or send an email, claiming to be family or friend of a plane victim. But the only credible, official source for such information is the airline passenger list, and the only credible source for obtaining this information is the airline itself, or authorities and media to which the airline makes it available. One can't demand an explanation of what happened to particular people alleged to be on the flight unless one can prove that they were on the flight. Implicit in the official story is the assumption that such information has been established in the public domain by the media.

It is therefore incumbent upon any serious investigator to properly examine such passenger lists and ensure that they match with other alleged facts we have been given, and with the processes by which one would expect the information to have been sourced.....

Someone is fibbing.

Here is a summary of the anomalies between the lists.

Collectively, these sources list the names of 95 alleged innocents.

CNN lists 87 names, which should be a complete list, but indicates that the list is incomplete. The 8 left out are Vamsikrishna, Roux, Iskander, Jalbert, Tu, Weems, Ward and Booms.

USA Today lists 86 names, citing this as a "partial list." Those missing are Caplin, Jalbert, Jude Larson, Natalie Larson, Roux, Tu, Weems, Ward and Iskander.

NBC lists 87 names. Its the same as USAT with the addition of Iskander, but changes Peter Hashem to Peter el-Hachem.

PBS is identical to NBC.

The Boston daily lists 89 innocents and describes it as a partial list. Those missing are Iskander, Vamsikrishna, Tu, Weems, Ward and Booms. It is the only list to name Jalbert.

A year later it lists 87 names, changing Heath Smith to Heather Smith, Hashem to el-Hachem, and losing Caplin, the two Larsons, Jalbert and Roux for Iskander, Vamsikrishna, and Booms.

The Washington Post published a "partial list" containing 89 names. Those missing are Iskander, Vamsikrishna, Jalbert, Tu, Weems and Ward.

The "We Will Never Forget" website lists 88 names. Those missing are Vamsikrishna, Jalbert, Booms, Tu, Weems, Ward and Roux.

The AA11 memorial website lists 90 names and claims 95 aboard. The missing names are Vamsikrishna, Tu, Weems, Ward and Jalbert.

Wikipedia claims a summation of 93 aboard, but lists only 92 names (including hijackers). It is the only site to list Lana Tu. Those missing are Iskander, Caplin, the two Larsons, Jalbert, Weems, Ward and Roux. This makes it the same as the USA Today list with the addition of Tu or put another way -- the same as the NBC and PBS lists except that Tu is in for Iskander.

The American Memorials/Obituary site lists 90 names and is the only list to name Weems and Ward. It leaves out Tu, Jalbert, Vamsikrishna, Roux and Booms.

Several sources claim that AA released 77 (or 75) names on Sept 12, but the Washington Post published 89 names the same day, and the Boston Daily published 89 -- but not the same 89 -- the day after, while Fox News was still claiming that only 81 names were confirmed a week later.

..... Since the media which sells us the official story universally agrees that there were 92 aboard -- 87 innocents and 5 hijackers, then 8 of these names (although we can't yet specify which 8) must be fictitious. If 8 are confirmed as fictitious, then we are perfectly entitled to speculate with some validity that any number of the 95 could be fictitious.

What's even more curious is that four of these names [from AA 11] also appear on the lists for UA 175, alleged to have hit the South Tower of the WTC at 9.03: Jalbert, Roux, Ward and Weems.

**In other words,
the official reporting of these four "victims"
not only has them switching planes --
but switching Airlines as well:
from American to United.**

**From which is becomes obvious --
it wasn't the Airlines who were generating these very flexible lists,
even though these lists are supposed to originate with them.**

What a mess! This crime - the murder of approximately 3000 people, and the excuse for two wars and alarming attacks on civil liberties -- and presumably more to come -- is supposed to have been properly investigated and documented? Why should we be expected to believe who the hijackers were, when the spin doctors can't even do a credible fabrication job of a list of innocent victims?

<http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2004/05/288505.shtml>

The 9-11 Passenger List Oddity **by Vincent Sammartino**

Which brings me to Ellen Mariani: she's the woman who lost her husband Louis on Flight 175 that crashed into the South Tower on 9-11. With the help of a lawyer named Phil Berg, she filed a lawsuit against President Bush and company under the RICO act. Also, she refused to take the hush money that was offered to her under the 9-11 Victims Compensation fund.

In addition, I had just discovered Black Op Radio earlier in the year and found an interesting show in their archives (# 156) on which Ellen and Mr. Berg appeared as guests. This may be the single biggest point concerning 9-11, and hopefully the last nail in the coffin of our government's lies.

During this broadcast, Mrs. Mariani said that she was the only relative of all the passengers that died on Flight 175 that crashed into the South Tower. Her lawyer, Phil Berg, repeated this statement.

I listened to this show over and over again and couldn't believe what she had just said. Everything came together at this point. That's when it dawned on me that not only had our government lied about the physics of 9-11; they may very well

have taken it one step farther by faking the number of people that died that day.

[NOTE: Please see Operation Northwoods at Reference 8.4]

I believed what she and Mr. Berg had just said. Nothing about 9-11 made any sense. Why should it start now?

Not knowing then what I know now, Ellen and Phil believed that for some reason the government was holding back the names of the people that had died on Flight 175. She had tried to get in touch with the relatives of other family members, but to no avail. You see, she and her lawyer believed, just like most other people believe, that four jets had been hijacked by Arab terrorists and crashed into buildings and into the ground at Shanksville. I, on the other hand, had already swept those lies aside.

Their statement also gave credence to the Fox News reporter who said that the jet which crashed into the South Tower had no windows. Hey, this jet appeared to have a "pod" under it anyway. The pieces of the puzzle were starting to fit.

Now, we come to most interesting stuff -- the Social Security Death Index, and thanks to Victor Thorn's idea, the September 11th Victim's Compensation Fund. After all, it's one thing to say that the flight lists are not on the up and up, but it's another thing to prove it.

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is a privately-owned website that is not affiliated with Social Security. It boasts an accuracy rate of about 83% (e-mail them any questions you may have).

Anyway, to check its reliability, I inputted the names of people I knew that had died in my family, along with friends and neighbors. Being a true skeptic, I had no way of knowing whether they were telling the truth or not. With the exception of a cousin, I found everyone I was looking for. (Be sure you have the person's true first name -- they may not be listed by the state they last lived in, but can be found in the state where their social security number was issued.) By all means try it yourself.

Which brings us to the 9-11 Victims Compensation Fund (also known as the Shut Up and Take the Money Fund), which most of you have heard about.

9-11 Victims Compensation Fund

This is where our government opened up the Treasury and gave family members of those who lost their lives that day lots of money. In return, these families were basically told to shut up about anything else concerning 9-11. (Considering all the lies surrounding this horrific event, you can see why.)

At this point there is one thing we should never forget, and that is how powerful the notion of human greed is. Remember this concept as you read the number of victims whose family members sought compensation.

The names of the victims can be found on the CNN website.

Here are the results:

Flight 11: of the 92 people who are listed as dying on this flight, only 20 are listed in the SSDI. (22%)

Of these 20 people, only three are on the 9-11 Compensation Fund list:

Judy Larocque
Laurie Neira
Candace Lee Williams

Flight 77: of the 64 people who are listed as dying on this flight, only 14 are listed in the SSDI. (22%)

Of these 64 people, only five are on the 9-11 Compensation Fund list:

William Caswell
Eddie Dillard
Ian Gray
John Sammartino
Leonard Taylor

Flight 175: of the 65 people who are listed as dying on this flight, only 18 are listed in the SSDI. (28%)

Of these 65 people, only three are on the 9-11 Compensation Fund list:

Michael C. Tarrou
Gloria Debarrera
Timothy Ward

Flight 93: of the 45 people who are listed as dying on this flight, only 6 are listed in the SSDI. (13%)

Of these 45 people, none are on the 9-11 Compensation Fund list:

No one.

Have you noticed anything strange yet? Of the passengers and crew of Flight 11, 77, 175 & 93, only 22%, 22%, 28%, 13% respectively are in the SSDI.

Remember human greed? Of the 266 people that we were told died on these jets, only 11 relatives applied for compensation. Can you believe that not a single relative from Flight 93 applied for compensation? I can't. Were all the relatives of the victims so rich that they weren't eligible to receive compensation? No, that's not it. (The minimum federal award was \$250,000, and the average pay-out was about \$1.8 million. The recipients only had to make agreement: they couldn't sue the airlines.)

You should also know that most lawyers told their clients to take the money and run (which is what most lawyers would do -- take the sure money). Ellen Mariani clearly elaborated on this point during her appearance on the radio show mentioned above.

Finally, during the past week, thanks to Lisa Guliani's insatiable quest for the truth, the 9-11 Victims Compensation Final Report has come to light.

9-11 Victims Compensation Final Report

Oddly, but consistent with everything concerning 9-11, the actual complete list of the people who benefited has been omitted from this report. Even without this, it does contain an interesting fact. According to the report, 98% of all the people who suffered a loss on 9-11 took the fund money. The average payment was \$1.8 million.

But here's where it gets strange. According to the government, here are the number of people who accepted the compensation fund:

Out of a total of 92 people on Flight 11, only 65 accepted the 9-11 fund (71%)
Out of a total of 65 people on Flight 175, only 46 accepted the 9-11 fund (71%)
Out of a total of 64 people on Flight 77, only 33 accepted the 9-11 fund (52%)
Out of a total of 45 people on Flight 93, only 25 accepted the 9-11 fund (56%)

Does any of this seem a little odd to you? Or is it possible that not only were the jets on 9-11 magical, but their passengers as well?

So there you have it; yet another glaring 9-11 inconsistency -- just maybe the biggest of them all?

Skeptically yours,
Vincent Sammartino

<http://911review.org/Sept11Wiki/PassengerList.shtml>

36 or 37 Missing and 70 Percent Empty

**The Official Death Lists For All Four 911 Airliners
Are Missing 36 Or 37 People Including All "19 Terrorists"**

These Four Airliners Were Also Somehow Averaging 70% Empty

There are supposed to be 92 victims on board American Airlines Flight 11, yet when you add up the official death manifest list that was published on CNN.com, there are only 86 victims.

The same goes for the other three flights of September 11th. Add up the passenger and crew lists from all 4 flights of 911 and you have officially 266 people on board. Yet when one adds up the 4 official death manifest lists published on CNN.com, there are only 229 names. Somehow 37 people are missing from the 4 CNN.com official death manifest lists, including all 19 of the hijackers. There is not even one Arabic name there. Why?

One other thing; CNN.com says there are 45 fatalities on United Airlines Flight 93, others say there are 44. This would make 36 missing, and 265 deaths for all 4 airliners.

<http://aviation-safety.net/database/2001/010911-2.htm>

The 4 airliners of September 11th, 2 Boeing 767's and 2 Boeing 757's had a total passenger seating capacity of 762 people. There are only 229 passengers and crew members on the four death lists, so, how could these flights possibly be 70% empty?

Boeing 767 Seating Charts:
http://www.boeing.com/commercial/767family/pf/pf_seating_charts.html

Boeing 757 Seating Charts:
http://www.boeing.com/commercial/757family/pf/pf_seating_charts.html

<http://911timeline.net/36or37missingand70percentempty.htm> [Back](#)

8.2 No Arab Among the Remains Identified in the Official Autopsy Reports

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Puts the Pedal to the Metal

Almost All Victims of Hijackings Identified by Official Military Pathologists
as of November 16, 2002

http://www.dcmilitary.com/army/stripes/6_48/national_news/12279-1.html

Official Pathology Report for American Airlines Flight 77

The links below are for the cover letter from the the AFIP in response to Dr. Olmsted's Freedom of Information Request, and the ensuing two pages listing the roster of victims whose remains underwent the pathology process.

<http://www.sierratimes.com/03/images/foia/foia-10001.jpg>

<http://www.sierratimes.com/03/images/foia/foia-10002.jpg>

<http://www.sierratimes.com/03/images/foia/foia-10003.jpg> [Back](#)

8.3 Hijackers Not as Dead as Originally (and Instantly) Reported

By Timothy W. Maier

48 hours (!) after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the names of the hijackers flashed across TV screens for the world to see.

Based on intelligence information gained from interviews, witnesses, flight-manifest logs and passports found at some of the crash debris sites, the FBI claimed it correctly had identified all 18 hijackers.

A short time later the number was amended to 19. A few days later the names were followed with photos of the men blamed for the terrorism that claimed nearly 3,000 lives in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Incredibly fast intelligence work - some of the information coming from the National Ground Intelligence Center in Charlottesville, Va. - enabled investigators to tie the attack to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

,,,,, But confusion remains, particularly for those who claim their names and backgrounds have been attached to a photo of a dead terrorist. The photo might be correct, they say, but the identification is not.

The Saudi Arabian Embassy insists that some innocents have been maligned by a rush to identify the Sept. 11 perpetrators.

The Saudis in question are:

Waleed M. al-Shehri
Wail al-Shehri
Ahmed al-Nami
Saeed al-Ghamdi
Salem al-Hamzi
Abdul Aziz al-Omari

And -- the FBI accidentally may have fused two names to create one identity, because another man, Abdul Rahman al-Omari, who has a different birth date, is the person pictured by the FBI, but he still is a pilot for Saudi Arabian Airlines. After his photograph was released, he walked into the U.S. Embassy in Jedda and demanded to know why he was being reported as a dead hijacker.

http://www.prisonplanet.com/fbi_denies_mix_up_of_911_terrorists.htm

At Least 7 of the 9/11 Hijackers are Still Alive

According to the 911 Commission, the muscle hijackers 'picked by bin Ladin' were:

Satam al Suqami, Wail and Waleed al Shehri (two brothers) **Both Alive**, Abdul Aziz al Omari **Alive**, Fayez Banihammad (from the UAE), Ahmed al Ghamdi, Hamza al Ghamdi, Mohand al Shehri **Alive**, Saeed al Ghamdi **Alive**, Ahmad al Haznawi, Ahmed al Nami **Alive**, Majed Moqed, and Salem al Hazmi **Alive** (the brother of Nawaf al Hazmi).

How can the 9/11 Commission be taken seriously when they refer to suicidal "hijackers" who remain alive?

NOTE:

**PLEASE FILE THE FOLLOWING UNDER
"THE OFFICIAL LEGEND MUST BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS"
DEPARTMENT:**

All nineteen of these men are still described as the murderous hijackers and the photographs of several among them now known to be innocent and alive remain posted -- to this day -- on the FBI Website, in spite of their protests.

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/hijackers.html>

9-11 "Hijackers" Identified by FBI: Seven Are Alive and Well

The list of the 9/11 hijackers names was released on 9/13 and revised on 9/14/01.

Seven of these men, identified by the FBI, have subsequently been confirmed as being alive. None of the names listed are shown on the passenger manifests of the hijacked flights.

Observations posted at the site of a member (whiteeaglesoaring.....?) of the Anishinabeg clan, an Atlantic Ocean centered people.

“A society of sheep must in time beget a government of wolves.”

-- Bertrand de Juvenal

“A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear.”

-- Marcus Tullius Cicero 42 B.C.

http://www.the7thfire.com/Politics%20and%20History/9-11/9-11_hijackers_still_alive.htm

[Back](#)

8.4 OPERATION NORTHWOODS:

Recently declassified documents show that in the 1960's, the AMERICAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF signed off on a plan to blow up AMERICAN jetliners (using an elaborate plan involving the switching of airplanes), and also to commit terrorist acts on American soil, and then to blame it on the Cubans in order to justify an invasion of Cuba.

**U.S. Military Drafted Plans to Terrorize U.S. Cities
to Provoke War With Cuba
By David Ruppe**

NEW YORK, May 1, 2001 In the early 1960s, America's top military leaders reportedly drafted plans to kill innocent people and commit acts of terrorism in U.S. cities to create public support for a war against Cuba.

Code named Operation Northwoods, the plans reportedly included the possible assassination of Cuban émigrés, sinking boats of Cuban refugees on the high seas, hijacking planes, blowing up a U.S. ship, and even orchestrating violent terrorism in U.S. cities.

The plans were developed as ways to trick the American public and the international community into supporting a war to oust Cuba's then new leader, communist Fidel Castro.

America's top military brass even contemplated causing U.S. military casualties, writing: "We could blow up a U.S. ship in Guantanamo Bay and blame Cuba," and, "casualty lists in U.S. newspapers would cause a helpful wave of national indignation."

Details of the plans are described in *Body of Secrets* (Doubleday), a new book by investigative reporter James Bamford about the history of America's largest spy agency, the National Security Agency. However, the plans were not connected to the agency, he notes.

The plans had the written approval of all of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and were presented to President Kennedy's defense secretary, Robert McNamara, in March 1962. But they apparently were rejected by the civilian leadership and have gone undisclosed for nearly 40 years.

"These were Joint Chiefs of Staff documents. The reason these were held secret for so long is the Joint Chiefs never wanted to give these up because they were so embarrassing," Bamford told ABCNEWS.com.

"The whole point of a democracy is to have leaders responding to the public will, and here this is the complete reverse, the military trying to trick the American people into a war that they want but that nobody else wants."

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/northwoods.html>

OPERATION NORTHWOODS

US PLANNED FAKE TERROR ATTACKS ON CITIZENS TO CREATE SUPPORT FOR CUBAN WAR

EXCERPT from the BOOK: BODY OF SECRETS,
by James Bamford, Doubleday, 2001
p.82 and following.

... In [Joint Chief's chair] Lemnitzer's view, the country would be far better off if the generals could take over. [JFK assassination legend has it some general presided over the fudgy JFK autopsy. --Mk]

For those military officers who were sitting on the fence, the Kennedy administration's botched Bay of Pigs invasion was the last straw. "The Bay of Pigs fiasco broke the dike," said one report at the time. "President Kennedy was pilloried by the super patriots as a 'no-win' chief . . . The Far Right became a fount of proposals born of frustration and put forward in the name of anti-Communism. . . Active-duty commanders played host to anti-Communist seminars on their bases and attended or addressed Right-wing meetings elsewhere."

Although no one in Congress could have known it at the time, Lemnitzer and the Joint Chiefs had quietly slipped over the edge.

According to secret and long-hidden documents obtained for *Body of Secrets*, the Joint Chiefs of Staff drew up and approved plans for what may be the most corrupt plan ever created by the U.S. government. In the name of anti-Communism, they proposed launching a secret and bloody war of terrorism against their own country in order to trick the American public into supporting an ill-conceived war they intended to launch against Cuba.

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/northwoods.html>

Operation Northwoods

per George Washington University National Security Archive

April 30, 2001

In his new exposé of the National Security Agency entitled *Body of Secrets*, author James Bamford highlights a set of proposals on Cuba by the Joint Chiefs of Staff codenamed OPERATION NORTHWOODS. This document, titled "Justification for U.S. Military Intervention in Cuba" was provided by the JCS to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara on March 13, 1962, as the key component of Northwoods. Written in response to a request from the Chief of the Cuba Project, Col. Edward Lansdale, the Top Secret memorandum describes U.S. plans to covertly engineer various pretexts that would justify a U.S. invasion of Cuba. These proposals - part of a secret anti-Castro program known as Operation Mongoose - included staging the assassinations of Cubans living in the United States, developing a fake "Communist Cuban terror campaign in the Miami area, in other Florida cities and even in Washington," including "sink[ing] a boatload of Cuban refugees (real or simulated)," faking a Cuban airforce attack on a civilian jetliner, and concocting a "Remember the Maine" incident by blowing up a U.S. ship in Cuban waters and then blaming the incident on Cuban sabotage. Bamford himself writes that Operation Northwoods "may be the most corrupt plan ever created by the U.S. government." (*)

(*) NOTE: This piece was written four and a half months before 9/11.

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/20010430/>

VIDEO: Interview with James Bamford

Regarding "Operation Northwoods"

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4964815055222418390>

DOWNLOAD: the Actual Operation Northwoods Proposal

**From the Files of Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara --
as Maintained by George Washington University's National Security Archive**

**"Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Justification for US Military
Intervention in Cuba [includes cover memoranda], March 13, 1962,
TOP SECRET, 15 pp."**

May be Downloaded from:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/20010430/northwoods.pdf>

EXCERPTS: Key Quotes from the Operation Northwoods Documents

The Operation Northwoods documents were approved in writing by the Joint Chiefs of Staff—the top generals of each branch of the US armed forces—and submitted to the Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. The only reason they weren't implemented is that the Kennedy administration rejected the plans. Below are key passages quoted directly from the Operation Northwoods documents. Page numbers are listed to assist in finding the quotes on the original documents. As you read, ask yourself if similar tactics to those listed below could have been used in regards to 9/11.

13 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Justification for US Military Intervention in Cuba

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have considered the attached Memorandum for the Chief of Operations, Cuba Project, which responds to a request of that office for brief but precise description of pretexts which could provide justification for US military intervention in Cuba.

It is assumed that a single agency will be given the primary responsibility for developing military and para-military aspects of the basic plan. It is recommended that this responsibility for both overt and covert military operations be assigned the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Page 5 of 15-page GWU file on Operation Northwoods (page 2 of Pentagon report)

The suggested courses of action....are based on the premise that US military intervention will result from a period of heightened US-Cuban tensions which place the United States in the position of suffering justifiable grievances. World opinion, and the United Nations forum should be favorably affected by developing the international image of the Cuban government as rash and irresponsible, and as an alarming and unpredictable threat to the peace of the Western Hemisphere.

Page 8 of 15-page GWU file on Operation Northwoods (page 5 of Pentagon report)

This plan....should be developed to focus all efforts on a specific ultimate objective which would provide adequate justification for US military intervention. Such a plan would enable a logical build-up of incidents to be combined with other seemingly unrelated events to camouflage the ultimate objective.

Pages 10-11 of 15-page GWU file on Northwoods (page 7-8 of Joint Chiefs report)

A series of well coordinated incidents will be planned to take place in and around Guantanamo to give genuine appearance of being done by hostile Cuban forces.

A. Incidents to establish a credible attack:

- (1) Start rumors (many). Use clandestine radio
- (2) Land friendly Cubans in uniform "over-the-fence" to stage attack on base.
- (3) Capture Cuban (friendly) saboteurs inside the base.
- (4) Start riots near the base main gate (friendly Cubans).
- (5) Blow up ammunition inside the base: start fires.
- (6) Burn aircraft on air base (sabotage).
- (7) Lob mortar shells from outside of base into base.
- (8) Capture assault teams approaching from the sea or vicinity of Guantanamo City.

- (9) Capture militia group which storms base.
- (10) Sabotage ship in harbor; large fires – naphthalene.
- (11) Sink ship near harbor entrance. Conduct funerals for mock-victims.

A “Remember the Maine” incident could be arranged: We could blow up a US ship in Guantanamo Bay and blame Cuba. Casualty lists in US newspapers would cause a helpful wave of national indignation.

We could develop a Communist Cuban terror campaign in the Miami area, in other Florida cities and even in Washington.

Page 12 of 15-page GWU file on Operation Northwoods (page 9 of Pentagon report)

Use of MIG type aircraft by US pilots could provide additional provocation. Harassment of civil air, attacks on surface shipping and destruction of US military drone aircraft by MIG type planes would be useful as complementary actions. Reasonable copies of the MIG could be produced from US resources in about three months.

Page 13 of 15-page GWU file on Operation Northwoods (page 10 of Pentagon report)

Hijacking attempts against civil air and surface craft should appear to continue as harassing measures condoned by the government of Cuba.

It is possible to create an incident which will demonstrate convincingly that a Cuban aircraft has attacked and shot down a chartered civil airliner enroute from the United States. The destination would be chosen only to cause the flight plan to cross Cuba. The passengers could be a group of college students off on a holiday.

An aircraft at Eglin AFB would be painted and numbered as an exact duplicate for a civil registered aircraft belonging to a CIA proprietary organization in the Miami area.

At the designated time the duplicate would be substituted for the actual civil aircraft and would be loaded with selected passengers, all boarded under carefully prepared aliases. The actual aircraft would be converted to a drone.

The drone aircraft and the actual aircraft will be scheduled to allow a rendezvous south of Florida. From the rendezvous point the passenger-carrying aircraft will descend to minimum altitude and go directly into an auxiliary field at Eglin AFB where arrangements will have been made to evacuate the passengers and return the aircraft to its original status. The drone aircraft meanwhile will continue to fly the filed flight plan.

When over Cuba the drone will be transmitting on the international distress frequency a “MAY DAY” message stating he is under attack by Cuban MIG aircraft.

The transmission will be interrupted by destruction of the aircraft which will be triggered by radio signal.

How Northwoods Bears on 911:

The Fervent Denial of Trusting Americans that Elements of the American Military Establishment Could Not Possibly Resort to Such Atrocity

Remember that government and military leaders think of this like a chess game. Sometimes you have to sacrifice your own pieces in order to win the game. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.S. National Security Advisor and co-founder of the Trilateral Commission, titled his 1997 book *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*. In this seminal book on American foreign policy,

Brzezinski states that because of popular resistance to U.S. military expansionism, his ambitious strategy for "American global primacy" can't be implemented "except in the circumstance of a truly massive and widely perceived direct external threat." (*The Grand Chessboard* page 211).

Consider also that in September 2000, a think-tank named Project for the New American Century (PNAC) published a blueprint for maintaining global U.S. preeminence and shaping the international security order in line with American interests. Written before the 2000 Presidential election, this revealing report was commissioned by future Vice President Cheney, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, Deputy Defense Secretary Wolfowitz, and Florida Governor Jeb Bush. The report shows that the Bush administration intended to take military control of Persian Gulf oil whether or not Saddam Hussein was in power.....

Considering the above information, is it beyond comprehension that tactics similar to Operation Northwoods might have been used in relation to the 9/11 attacks in order to create "a truly massive and widely perceived direct external threat?" Could 9/11 have been the pretext upon which to build a War on Terror in order to "maintain global US preeminence?" Might the 9/11 attacks have been allowed to happen, or even facilitated and manipulated by elements of the U.S. government and military?

<http://www.wanttoknow.info/010501operationnorthwoods>

Operation Northwoods in Context

Lyman Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

**(who signed and presented the Northwoods Cover Letter,
and was shortly thereafter demoted and reassigned to Europe by JFK)**

General Edwin Walker,

and the Warnings of President Dwight Eisenhower

The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee opens an inquiry into the military far right. Hearings are held by Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), father of the future American VP. The senators suspect the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Lemnitzer, of taking part in the "Walker plot." [Since the end of the Korean War, Maj. Gen. Walker was convinced that the US government was engaging in a policy of giving up in the face of Communist progress.

After having been relieved of his duties by Secretary of Defense McNamara, and having received a reprimand, he fomented a riot at the University of Mississippi to protest the hiring of a black professor. He was then pursued by Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and arrested for seditious conspiracy, insurrection, and rebellion.

Benefitting from the support of the conservative press, who designated him "The Kennedys' Political Prisoner," he was freed after he paid a \$5000 fine. He was later to be found financing an OAS plot to assassinate Charles de Gaulle, then driving "Committee 8F" which is suspected in the JFK assassination.]

Gore knows that Lemnitzer is a specialist in covert ops: in 1943, he personally ran the negotiations for bringing Italy back into the Allied fold against the Reich, then, in 1944, he and Allen Dulles conducted the secret negotiations with the Nazis at Ascona, Switzerland, preparing the surrender (Operation Sunrise) [The Secret Surrender, Allen Dulles, 1967].

He participated in the creation of the NATO stay-behind network, turning Nazi agents into spies against the USSR, and in the exfiltration of human-rights criminals in Latin America. But Gore did not manage to prove his responsibility in current events.

codshit.com/deception-book/effroyab-chap11.html

Lyman L. Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

1960-1962

per Source Watch

General Lemnitzer was an Eisenhower appointee and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Kennedy administration. A leading proponent of pre-emptive action against Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Lemnitzer believed that the United States had to destroy Cuba and the Soviet Union before it lost its strategic advantage in the missile gap that secretly was tilted heavily in favor of America, though the media was being fed the opposite message.

From released KGB documents and meetings between Robert McNamara and Castro during the 1990s, it is now known that Lemnitzer was wrong and warheads were actually in place during the crisis. A preemptive strike would have resulted in mass US casualties. Kennedy's gut instinct was correct. However, Lemnitzer secretly harbored a deep resentment of Kennedy after the crisis ended, believing the president had missed a golden opportunity to permanently rid the world of the communist-atheists.

When the CIA's Operation Mongoose was canceled due to repeated failures, The Cuba Project was created within the Pentagon to continue these types of activities. Lemnitzer relished the opportunity to show up the "company" who he believed was treading on the military's solemn black ops ground, and ineffectively at that. This led him to approve Operation Northwoods, the plans to attack US targets and blame it on Castro to create a pretext for a complete US invasion of Cuba, and potentially a definitive (at least in Lemnitzer's eyes) WWII scenario with the Russians. Revealingly, his chairmanship was not renewed and he was sent off to command U.S. forces in Europe.

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Lyman_L._Lemnitzer

Eisenhower's Historical Parting Speech:

"Beware the Military Industrial Complex"

The Speech in its Entirety Taken from the Public Papers of the Presidents,
Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1960, p. 1035- 104

January 17, 1961

EXCERPT:

Our military organization today bears little relation to that known by any of my predecessors in peacetime, or indeed by the fighting men of World War II or Korea.

Until the latest of our world conflicts, the United States had no armaments industry. American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords as well. But now we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense; we have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions. Added to this, three and a half million men and women are directly engaged in the defense establishment. We annually spend on military security more than the net income of all United States corporations.

This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence -- economic, political, even spiritual -- is felt in every city, every State house, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.

In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.

<http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst306/documents/indust.html>

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8.5 Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

The Official Legend of 9/11 is a Fabricated Setup

Saturday, March 17 2007

Global Research Editor's note:

The Pentagon has released a 26 page transcript of the "confession" of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed who is now being presented to World public opinion as the mastermind and architect of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

See it at:

http://i.a.cnn.net/cnn/2007/images/03/14/transcript_ISN10024.pdf

This "confession" was read (in his presence) from a prepared text by his "personal [legal?] representative" at "military hearings" held behind closed doors at the US Guantanamo concentration camp.

According to the transcript, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed claims responsibility for the attacks on the WTC twin towers and the Pentagon: "I was responsible for the 9/11 operation, from A to Z."

According to his prepared statement, he also "confessed" to an impressive list of terrorist attacks as well as the planning of a "second wave" of post 9/11 attacks, which were to include the bombings of skyscrapers in New York, Chicago and Washington, attacks on London's Heathrow airport, Canary Warf and the Tower of Big Ben.

He also claimed responsibility for the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center, Richard Reid's attempt to ignite a shoe bomb on an Transatlantic flight in December 2001, and the October 2002 Bali bombings in Indonesia.

In a statement read by his personal representative, he allegedly confessed to planning the assassination of several former presidents, including Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, as well as Pope John Paul II.

With regard to The Wall Street Journal's reporter Daniel Pearl, KSM's statement reads: "I decapitated with my blessed right hand the head of the American Jew Daniel Pearl... For those who would like to confirm, there are pictures of me on the Internet holding his head."

KSM was [purportedly] arrested in March 2003 and was then imprisoned for more than three years in secret CIA detention facilities. He claims to have made this confession without any form of pressure being exerted on him. Several press reports suggest that he was tortured.

Khalid Sheikh Mohamed personifies the "outside enemy" of America. His "confession" upholds the illusion that Al Qaeda outwitted the 40 billion dollar US intelligence apparatus, in waging a terrorist attack on America.

The arrest and confessed statements of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed serve to uphold the official 9/11 narrative, namely that the 9/11 attacks were masterminded by Islamic terrorists.

The following text by Chaim Kupferberg, first published by Global Research in October 2003, shortly after the arrest of KSM, reveals with foresight and accuracy the nature of the propaganda ploy. According to Kupferberg, a "marketing plan" was established in June 2002 to introduce Khalid Sheikh Mohammed to the public as the 9/11 mastermind.

Kupferberg exposes with accuracy and foresight, how the official legend was fabricated around Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

His analysis reveals the historical background behind the creation of the 9/11

Legend. The latter serves to drown the lies and inconsistencies contained in the official 9/11 narrative; it also sustains the "global war on terrorism."

Serious doubts have been expressed on the authenticity of the KSM confession. The latter is ultimately intended, in a clumsy and inept fashion, to uphold the shaky legitimacy of the Bush administration.

[Note: the following text originally published by Global Research on October 26, 2003 was excerpted by the author from a much longer text.]

— Ed.

The Official Legend of 9/11 as a Prefabricated Set-up

by Chaim Kupferberg

EXCERPT:

As we will see, the Moussaoui indictment had laid the groundwork for the eventual Khalid Shaikh Mohammed/ Ramzi Binalshibh/ Mustafa Ahmed nexus that really gets rolling in June 2002, when Khalid is first introduced as the 9/11 "mastermind", then proceeds through Binalshibh's choreographed arrest in September 2002, and culminates with the simultaneous arrest of Khalid and Mustafa Ahmed in March 2003. Further, we will see how FBI Director Mueller uses the details in the Moussaoui indictment to explicitly pair up Khalid and Mustafa Ahmed -- a full nine months before these characters end up sharing news space for their own simultaneously choreographed apprehensions.

The unsealed December 2001 Moussaoui indictment also set out two "unindicted co-conspirators" who had yet to play their final roles in the unfolding 9/11 Legend -- Ramzi Binalshibh and Mustafa Ahmed al-hawsawi (the "official" paymaster)...

Of the various pivot points in the unfolding 9/11 Legend, the time period of June 4-5 2002 was among the most significant.

...Around the same time that the joint Senate-House Inquiry was proceeding under the co-chairmanship of Bob Graham and Porter Goss (the September 11 breakfast partners of Omar Saeed's reported ISI "handler"), Khalid Shaikh Mohammed was formally introduced as the operative mastermind behind 9/11. John J. Lumpkin of the Associated Press wrote the definitive article here, courtesy of the revelations of an anonymous "top U.S. counterterrorism official."

...Lumpkin's key June article served as a guidepost as to how the unfolding 9/11 Legend would finally crystallize. As reported by Lumpkin, in the same article where Khalid was introduced as the new 9/11 mastermind, he was also "accused of working with Ramzi Yousef in the first bombing of the World Trade Center [in '93]" in addition to working with Yousef on a 1995 plot (code-named Bojinka) to bomb a dozen airliners headed to the United States

...It was not by accident that the 9/11 paymaster - now officially dubbed as Mustafa Ahmed al-Hisawi - was mentioned in an article introducing Khalid as the mastermind. As it turned out, about the same time that Lumpkin's article was making the rounds, Robert Mueller was making a statement before the Senate-House Committee, narrating the full details of the money trail story (as set out in

the Moussaoui indictment), but this time adding the role of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who, according to Mueller's statement, shared a credit card with Mustafa Ahmed "Alhawsawi."

Thus, Mueller inserted Khalid into the Money Trail Story by way of a direct connection with the "Mustafa Ahmad" alias. And now, thanks to Lumpkin, "Mustafa Ahmad" was not to be thought of as simply a convenient pseudonym, but rather as a real person, bin Laden's bona fide "financial chief"...

...Once Lumpkin's June 2002 article on Khalid was out, further incriminating details were coming out fast and furious. According to CBS News, U.S. officials now had "evidence" that Khalid had met with "some of the 9/11 hijackers at their Hamburg, Germany apartment in 1999." Presumably, Ramzi Binalshibh - Mohammed Atta's Hamburg roommate who was also thought to be a potential "twentieth hijacker" - was among them. Lumpkin's key June article also mentioned Binalshibh as part of Atta's Hamburg "cell." And as Binalshibh was paired with Mustafa Ahmed as an "unindicted co-conspirator" in the Moussaoui indictment, we have perhaps an indication that Khalid, Binalshibh, and Mustafa Ahmed were part of a concerted strategy touched off in early June 2002 to bring this phase of the 9/11 Legend to a close. Conveniently timed for release on the very next day - June 6, 2002 - further news followed that, according to National Security Agency intercepts, Khalid was heard talking on the telephone with hijacker Mohammed Atta. Moreover, for the very first time, authorities were now reporting that Khalid was actually the uncle of Ramzi Yousef. In other words, when the nephew failed to bring down the Towers in '93, the uncle took up the slack in '01.

Perhaps it was this sort of conceptually artistic symmetry that made Khalid so attractive as the designated mastermind. Through Khalid, one had a direct connection to the first World Trade Center attack, providing a smoking gun continuity leading directly to al-Qaida. Prior to Khalid's June 2002 public promotion, he was lurking on the official terror lists merely as an indicted conspirator in the 1995 Bojinka plot masterminded by Ramzi Yousef. Thus, while Khalid had not previously been directly connected to the 9/11 plot, he did make the "most wanted" cut based on his alleged 1995 collaboration with Yousef. With that in mind, one can almost picture sitting in with the members of the National Security Council on a balmy Spring morning in late May 2002, leafing through their photo albums as they argued over the most appropriate candidate to close off the official 9/11 Legend. As it turned out, they chose the guy with the unibrow and the hair shirt.

What was the official reason for revealing the role of Khalid at this point in time? According to CBS News, it was senior al-Qaida figure Abu Zubaydah (captured a few months previously) who had "fingered [Khalid] as the mastermind behind the Sept. 11 attacks." Abu Zubaydah, the first "big fish" captured in the War On Terror, had previously - and conveniently - been fingered as a major al-Qaida player by Ahmed Ressam...

... As we will see, once Ramzi Binalshibh's number comes up for apprehension (in September 2002), followed by the capture of Khalid and Mustafa Ahmed in March 2003, another version will be offered for the timing of Khalid's introduction as 9/11 mastermind. But first, we should take note of James Risen's June 5, 2002 article for the New York Times, in which Risen reported that the authorities "had begun to suspect soon after the [Sept. 11] attacks that [Khalid] had some role in the hijackings. But in the next months, a detailed financial investigation of the

money trail from the plot led officials to believe that he had a more prominent role than previously suspected." In other words, as Risen had framed it, Khalid had first garnered notice for 9/11 by way of his connection to the money trail. Was this a retrospective addition into the record? -- for Khalid most certainly did not make it into the Money Trail Story as of December 2001, when pretty much all the details of the money trail were crystallized within the Moussaoui indictment. On the other hand, there is a possibility that Khalid was intended from the very beginning to be featured as the 9/11 mastermind, yet perhaps he could not be safely inserted back into the Legend by way of the money trail until that nasty confusion over the "Mustafa Ahmad" alias was resolved...

...By June of 2002, the contents of the Moussaoui indictment could indeed be viewed as the clear signpost pointing the way to the manner in which the final loose ends of the Official 9/11 Legend would be tied up for posterity. With Ramzi Binalshibh and Mustafa Ahmed al-Hisawi already tied together as unindicted co-conspirators in the Moussaoui case, FBI Director Robert Mueller would, by this time, explicitly weave in Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, pairing him up with Mustafa Ahmed and thereby inserting this newly-christened 9/11 mastermind into the Money Trail Story. The Associated Press' John Lumpkin would reference all three in his key June 2002 article. It is as if the powers-that-be were putting this trio of nefarious characters on notice - from here on, their fates were to be indelibly entwined.

If habitual coincidence is the mother of all conspiracy theories, then one must surely raise a discerning eyebrow at the revelation that, around this time - after more than a decade of staying hidden in the shadows - Khalid Shaikh Mohammed suddenly was stricken with an urge to conduct his very first interview, with none other than Ramzi Binalshibh at his side. The journalist chosen for this honor was the London bureau chief of Al-Jazeera, Yosri Fouda...

...On September 9, 2002, the die was cast. Al-Jazeera was broadcasting Part I of Fouda's historic interview with Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Ramzi Binalshibh. For the first time, millions would hear - from the planners themselves - exactly how the September 11 plot was put in motion. It was al-Jazeera's version of VH1's Behind The Music, featuring guest commentaries from Vincent Cannistraro and Lyndon LaRouche. Unfortunately, viewers would only get the audio feed of Khalid and Binalshibh, as Binalshibh and Khalid purportedly had confiscated from Fouda his videotape of the proceedings before he had taken leave of them back in June.

In more ways than one, September 9 was an ideal launch date for the interview broadcast. By then, the mainstream media had the whole summer to feed the public - and themselves - with various leaks, revelations, and "official" comments concerning Khalid and Binalshibh's newfound place in the 9/11 pantheon. Set-up and payoff. Moreover, the interview was now being broadcast in the immediate lead-up to the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, thereby further raising the profile of this historic broadcast...

...It was practically a seamless propaganda extravaganza, except for one small detail - Fouda had gone on record as dating the interview to June of 2002, thereby raising the prospect of two plausible scenarios. Scenario One: Khalid and Binalshibh's respective roles in the plot were first discovered solely due to Fouda's contact with them; or Scenario Two: The decision to send Fouda on his interview errand was made at the same time that a decision was made to market Khalid as

the new 9/11 mastermind. Of the two scenarios, the first one was far more palatable - from a propaganda perspective - as at least it could be kept within the borders of plausible deniability, and only Fouda would get burned by it. The second scenario, however, would raise the prospect of one of those uncomfortable coincidences that could conceivably expose the 9/11 Legend as a pre-fabricated set-up.

Only two days after the initial broadcast of Fouda's interview with Khalid and Binalshibh - on the first anniversary commemorating the 9/11 attacks - Pakistani forces, accompanied by FBI agents, raided an apartment complex in Karachi. After a "four hour" gun battle involving "hundreds" of Pakistani soldiers and policemen, the authorities captured, among a few others, Ramzi Binalshibh himself. Their original target, however, had been Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, whom they had been tracking for months throughout Karachi. While Khalid had just barely slipped away only a few hours before Pakistani forces had arrived at his door, the authorities were reportedly "surprised" to discover that they had netted Binalshibh in the process. At least that is now the official version of the day's events...

...With the well-timed arrest of Ramzi Binalshibh in September 2002, journalist Yosri Fouda was in a bind. Only days before, he had gone on record - repeatedly - as dating his interview with Khalid and Binalshibh to June 2002. Up to the time of Binalshibh's arrest, the official legend had it that Khalid's pivotal role as 9/11 mastermind was revealed to U.S. authorities through their interrogation of Abu Zubaydah, who was captured in March 2002. Now, in the aftermath of Binalshibh's capture, word was circulating that perhaps authorities had learned of Khalid's true role by way of Fouda. That contention, of course, would remain most plausible if Fouda's interview could definitively be back-dated to a time before early June 2002 - that is, to a time before Khalid was first publicly announced as 9/11 mastermind. The alternative scenario quite simply pointed to a conclusion that would have to be denied at all costs - that the decision to out Khalid publicly as the 9/11 mastermind was coordinated with the decision to send Fouda on his interview errand with Khalid. Had Fouda erred, then, by initially claiming that his historic interview had taken place in June 2002? Had he possibly exposed a seam pointing the way to a coordinated set-up?

Soon after the Binalshibh arrest, Fouda took the opportunity to revise the date of his interview for the record, revealing to Abdallah Schleifer of the Kamal Adham Center For Journalism:

Fouda: "Actually, this question of dates is very important for another reason. All of these Islamist websites that were denouncing me alluded to my interview as taking place in June. That's what I mentioned both in my article in The Sunday Times Magazine and in my documentary -- that I met them in June."

Schleifer: "So?"

Fouda: "I lied."

Schleifer: "Really?"

Fouda: "Yeah."

Schleifer: "But you're going to come clean with [us], right?"

Fouda: (laughter) "Yes, of course. I lied because I needed to lie. I'll tell you why. Because I thought, maybe even expected, that if something went wrong and I needed to get in touch with them through a website or a statement or a fax ... they would be the only ones who would know that I had met them one month earlier than I let on, and so I'd know I was talking to the right people.

So after the first wave of denunciations a pro-Qa'ida website "jihad.net" put up a statement online in the name of Al-Qa'ida clearing me of any blame or connection with Ramzi's arrest and I knew this was an authentic communique because it alluded to the interview taking place in May."

Apparently, Fouda had lied again, for on March 4, 2003 (i.e. a few days after Khalid's eventual arrest), Fouda offered up this newest version of his 48-hour encounter to The Guardian:

"It was late afternoon, Sunday 21 April 2002, when I packed my bags before joining Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ramzi bin al-shibh for a last prayer before saying goodbye."

That, as they say in legal parlance, is a very definite recollection. In short, Fouda had impeached his own testimony through these two explicitly detailed, contradictory dates. Fouda, through this compounded lie, was now calling into question the very credibility of his entire interview with Khalid and Binalshibh...

...Recall that, back in June 2002, the "official" legend at the time had it that it was Abu Zubaydah, back in March 2002, who had spilled the goods on Khalid. Yet with Khalid's March 2003 apprehension, this one aspect of the legend was duly revised. As revealed by Keith Olbermann in a March 3, 2003 MSNBC.com item:

"Ironically, it would be [Fouda's] interview that would point out, to U.S. intelligence, that [Khalid Shaikh] Mohammed and Binalshibh were the brains behind the 9/11 attacks"...

...Within weeks of Binalshibh's Sept. 11, 2002 arrest, the disinformation apparatus was revisiting the Daniel Pearl thread of the 9/11 Legend, this time with a bombshell UPI exclusive from Richard Sale and Anwar Iqbal, dated September 30, 2002:

..."Bob Baer, a former case officer in the agency's Directorate of Operations, said he provided Pearl with unpublished information about Khalid Shaikh Mohammed..."

...'I was working with Pearl,' said Baer, who had written a book about his time as a CIA official and has acted as a consultant and source for numerous media outlets. 'We had a joint project. Mohammed was the story he was working on, not Richard Reid' "...

...In Baer's book, See No Evil, Khalid is mentioned briefly as an expert in hijacking planes, but precious little detail is offered. One must be extremely cautious in assimilating any "official" details about Khalid offered after June 2002, as one cannot be sure as to which biographical details were fabricated solely to buttress

Khalid's early June 2002 legend as the 9/11 mastermind. Interestingly, while Baer's brief reference to Khalid in his book is one of the very few public characterizations of him offered between September 2001 and June 2002, one must wonder why Baer chose to wait a good eight months after the Pearl kidnapping before revealing this new chapter about Khalid. Even more so, one must wonder why, back in June 2002, when Khalid was making the headlines as the newly marketed 9/11 mastermind - and at a time when the red-hot Baer was doing the post-9/11 media circuit - he apparently did not find it newsworthy to reveal the Khalid angle to the Pearl story. Or perhaps he had forgotten it altogether, and it had taken as long as three weeks after the Binalshibh arrest to jog his memory.

But with his memory now firmly jogged, apparently he would set out to discover what happened to his "joint project" partner, Daniel Pearl. Perhaps to his horror, he discovered that Pearl might have been disposed of by their joint research subject. "I have heard from (intelligence) people who follow this closely that it was people close to [Khalid Shaikh] Mohammed that killed him [Pearl], if it wasn't Mohammed himself," Baer revealed to UPI...

...On September 26, 2002, only days before Baer's bombshell admission, John Lumpkin of the Associated Press presented his update on the 9/11 paymaster role. Recall that it was Lumpkin who had written, back in early June 2002, the definitive article introducing Khalid as the 9/11 mastermind, including references to the now-official paymaster Mustafa Ahmed al-Hisawi (a.k.a. Shaikh Saïid al-Sharif) and Ramzi Binalshibh. Now, Lumpkin was reporting the contents of Robert Mueller's formerly secret testimony before the Joint Senate-House Committee, made back in early June 2002, around the time of Lumpkin's key article on Khalid...

...And, as if to lay the groundwork for Khalid and al-Hisawi's eventual simultaneous capture, Lumpkin wrote, "Both al-Hisawi and Mohammed are at large and are among the most wanted al-Qaida figures remaining." He might also have mentioned Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri, but then that wasn't the point of the article.

As I have argued, the time was fast approaching for al-Hisawi, Binalshibh, and Khalid (in conjunction with the Moussaoui indictment) to wrap up this segment of the 9/11 Legend and to take their indelible places in the official history books...

...Approaching the end of 2002, with Binalshibh secretly stashed away in U.S. custody - and with most people focused on the emerging War In Iraq - the time was now ripe to bring this part of the Official 9/11 Legend to its neat and tidy conclusion.

For the record, the aforementioned John J. Lumpkin of the Associated Press (who had written the definitive June 2002 article introducing Khalid as the new 9/11 mastermind) took the opportunity -- on December 27, 2002 -- to clarify the true identity of the official 9/11 paymaster, this time providing the very first explicit acknowledgment of those troublesome contradictions previously conveyed through the pages of the Associated Press...

...Not that many people noticed - or cared. Still, all that prior nasty confusion concerning the 9/11 paymaster alias had to be qualified and clarified in time for [Mustafa Ahmed] al-Hisawi's approaching "official" arrest...

...In any case, the main story points of the Official 9/11 Legend were fully elaborated and resolved with the simultaneous capture of Khalid and the official paymaster, Mustafa Ahmed al-Hisawi, in March 2003. Only weeks later, however, with the War In Iraq in full sway, these presumably senior operatives in the 9/11 plot drew negligible scrutiny from the media and the public at large. Both men were reportedly stashed away in secret locations, presumably sharing the fruits of their interrogations with anonymous officials, who would duly pass off the requisite "scoops" to writers with a curious penchant for special intelligence access (Gerald Posner, for example).

Meanwhile, the -- perhaps choreographed? -- farce of the Moussaoui trial would drag on, with Moussaoui reportedly insistent on calling Khalid and Binalshibh as witnesses for the defense. At this point, one would be cautioned as to drawing any firm conclusions about the ongoing events of the Moussaoui trial. The important fact to keep in mind is that Moussaoui all along was likely set up as the convenient vessel through which the Justice Department and Mueller's FBI -- cunningly obscured by Mueller's hedges -- would gradually elaborate the main contours of the Official 9/11 Legend in that crucial first year following 9/11.

In other words, by way of the lone Moussaoui indictment, the authorities were able to provide the illusion of a massive legal investigation covering literally thousands of pages, spanning continents in order to ferret out the full depth of Moussaoui's nefarious associations. In this respect, one might surmise that once Moussaoui has fully served his purpose as an investigative/propaganda vessel (as he likely already has), the authorities will then proceed to demonstrate that the Moussaoui case was never particularly relevant after all -- thereby successfully concealing the all-important function that his case did serve in the finely calibrated public dissemination of the Official 9/11 Legend.

Given the foregoing, it remains to be seen how the authorities will conclusively deal with the festering anomalies surrounding their three prize catches -- the elusive Binalshibh, the perhaps dead Khalid, and the perhaps fictitious Mustafa Ahmed al-Hisawi. Nevertheless, it is a safe bet that in the meantime, the authorities will continue to weave ever more complex and murky tapestries around the personalities of these operatives, employing the mercenary talents of writers like Gerald Posner to add to the crumbling sediment of "facts."

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20070317133619214>

Who or What is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed?

by Larry Chin

EXCERPTED

Like Osama Bin Laden.....

See "Osamagate" at:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO110A.html>

KSM remains a propaganda legend, and one of a multitude of 9/11 red herrings that the US government not addressed.

See "Mystery Surrounding Khalid Sheikh Mohammed" at:
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/RAM303A.html>

In addition to the one excerpted above, a] series of investigative articles by Chaim Kupferberg in 2002 exposed critical evidence and damning questions about KSM, "Al-Qaeda," the ISI, 9/11, and the Bush Administration's guiding hand behind all of it:

See "9/11 and the Smoking Gun that Turned on its Tracker" at:
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP209B.html>

See "The Recruiters of 9/11" at:
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP311B.html>

See "Stacking the Patsies of 9/11" at:
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/KUP312B.html>

It remains unclear if KSM was captured in 2002, as purported, or if he was ever delivered into custody to be interrogated. In fact, many credible mainstream reports suggest that KSM is dead, and that he never made it into custody.

There is not a shred of verifiable proof to confirm any aspect of KSM -- or the veracity of this new tribunal. We have only the word of a criminal Bush administration, and the CIA.

KSM: Per Mike Ruppert in Crossing the Rubicon:

"The US government has failed to produce -- publicly, or for the one failed 9/11 criminal prosecution in Germany of Mounir el Motassadeq -- either bin al-Shibh or KSM as material witnesses. No mere mortal has seen either one of them since their reported captures. Credible reports have told us that KSM was killed.

Any information alleged to have come from these 'captured' suspects has come in the form of 'press-release prosecution' by the government. None of it has ever been independently authenticated."

David Ray Griffin on KSM

David Ray Griffin's book, "9/11 & American Empire -- Intellectuals Speak Out" made reference to KSM in Daniele Ganser's chapter -- Pages 80-81:

"...As of now, three conflicting theories dominate the [9/11] discourse.

"The first 9/11 theory is the so-called surprise theory. Offered by the Bush Administration and the Kean-Zelikow report, it claims that Osama bin Laden conspired with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Mohammad Atta, and other men to attack the US on 9/11. The surprise theory argues that 9/11 was a Muslim conspiracy. It concedes that there were rumors about a looming attack, but insists that the US intelligence community, including the NSA, CIA, FBI, DIA, and other intelligence services, along with the Pentagon, were unable to prevent the conspiracy from being implemented.

"The second 9/11 theory ...is the so-called LIHOP (let it happen on purpose) theory. Like the surprise theory, it assumes that Osama bin Laden conspired with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Mohammed Atta, and other men to attack the US on 9/11. In stark contrast to the surprise theory, however, the LIHOP theory claims that persons within the US government deliberately allowed the attacks to be carried out in order to be able to start a number of wars that had been planned in advance. The LIHOP theory thus argues that 9/11 was a combined Muslim and Jewish-Christian conspiracy, in which the later group outwitted the former.

"The third 9/11 theory on offer is the so-called MIHOP (make it happen on purpose) theory. It argues that criminal persons within the US government, in the Pentagon and the intelligence community, carried out the attacks themselves in order to be able to start a number of wars that had been planned in advance. The MIHOP theory argues that 9/11 was primarily a Christian or Jewish Christian conspiracy, in which Muslims, if involved at all, were only involved in minor ways.

"Theologians have correctly pointed out that no true Christian, Jewish, or Muslim values -- including love and respect for other human beings -- can be found in the crimes of 9/11, and that it is therefore fundamentally wrong to link any of the three largest monotheistic religions of the world to the crime. If religion played a role in the fanatic crime at all, then it was misguided religion."

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's claim that he was the Wizard of Oz for all of the 9/11 attacks and other attacks prior to and after 9/11 is no different than my bragging that I beat my dad at a few games of chess when I was only twelve years old. I believed I beat him fair and square. It felt good to say so.

But the truth was, my dad LIHOP-ed me. He only revealed the truth to me after I started bragging about it.

If KSM has been tortured into such a broad and fantastic confession, and if he knows his life will be spent behind bars or abruptly halted with a lethal injection, would he really wish to go out knowing he was a patsy? Like a twelve year old tricked into thinking he attained chess dominance over his father?

Or would he rather go out like a martyr and a hero to all Muslim freedom fighters?

This confession is going to end up just like McVeigh's with the OKC bombing. They'll execute him and bury him. And with that, they will bury the truth of who assisted him w/ 9/11.

The KSM confession seems all so convenient in light of the Plame case, the firing of the DA's, and of course their implicit acknowledgement that 9/11 Truth is metastasizing into their plans for global hegemony.

The tipping point is upon us.

Peace.

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6984>

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8.6 Bin-Laden Denies Involvement in the 9/11 Attacks

EXCERPT: An Interview with Usama Bin-Laden per Unmat 28 September 2001

I have already said that I am not involved in the 11 September attacks in the United States. As a Muslim, I try my best to avoid telling a lie. I had no knowledge of these attacks, nor do I consider the killing of innocent women, children and other humans as an appreciable act. Islam strictly forbids causing harm to innocent women, children and other people. Such a practice is forbidden even in the course of a battle. It is the United States, which is perpetrating every maltreatment on women, children and common people of other faiths, particularly the followers of Islam. All that is going on in Palestine for the last 11 months is sufficient to call the wrath of God upon the United States and Israel. There is also a warning for those Muslim countries, which witnessed all these as a silent spectator. What had earlier been done to the innocent people of Iraq, Chechnya and Bosnia? Only one conclusion could be derived from the indifference of the United States and the West to these acts of terror and the patronage of the tyrants by these powers that America is an anti-Islamic power and it is patronizing the anti-Islamic forces. Its friendship with the Muslim countries is just a show, rather deceit. By enticing or intimidating these countries, the United States is forcing them to play a role of its choice. Put a glance all around and you will see that the slaves of the United States are either rulers or enemies of Muslims.

The U.S. has no friends, nor does it want to keep any because the prerequisite of friendship is to come to the level of the friend or consider him at par with you. America does not want to see anyone equal to it. It expects slavery from others. Therefore, other countries are either its slaves or subordinates. However, our case is different. We have pledged slavery to God Almighty alone and after this pledge there is no possibility to become the slave of someone else. If we do that it will be disregardful to both our Sustainer and his fellow beings. Most of the world nations upholding their freedom are the religious ones, which are the enemies of the United States, or the U.S. itself considers them as its enemies.

The countries which do not agree to become the U.S. slaves are China, Iran, Libya, Cuba, Syria [Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Sudan, Indonesia, Malaysia] and Russia. Whoever committed the act of 11 September are not the friends of the American people. I have already said that we are against the American system, not against its people, whereas in these attacks, the common American people have been killed. According to my information, the death toll is much higher than what the U.S. Government has stated. But the Bush Administration does not want the panic to spread. The United States should try to trace the perpetrators of these attacks within itself; the people who are a part of the U.S. system, but are dissenting against it. Or those who are working for some other system; persons who want to make the present century as a century of conflict between Islam and Christianity so that their own civilization, nation, country, or ideology could survive. They can be anyone, from Russia to Israel and from India to Serbia. In the U.S. itself, there are dozens of well-organized and well-equipped groups, which are capable of causing a large-scale destruction. Then you cannot forget the American-Jews, who are annoyed with President Bush ever since the elections in Florida and want to avenge him.

Then there are intelligence agencies in the U.S., which require billions of dollars worth of funds from the Congress and the government every year. This [funding issue] was not a big problem till [sic] the existence of the former Soviet Union but after that the budget of these agencies has been in danger. They needed an enemy. So, they first started propaganda against Usama and Taleban and then this incident happened. You see, the Bush Administration approved a budget of 40 billion dollars. Where will this huge amount go? It will be provided to the same agencies, which need huge funds and want to exert their importance. Now they will spend the money for their expansion and for increasing their importance. I will give you an example. Drug smugglers from all over the world are in contact with the U.S. secret agencies. These agencies do not want to eradicate narcotics cultivation and trafficking because their importance will be diminished. The people in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Department are encouraging drug trade so that they could show performance and get millions of dollars worth of budget. General Noriega was made a drug baron by the CIA and, in need, he was made a scapegoat. In the same way, whether it is President Bush or any other U.S. President, they cannot bring Israel to justice for its human rights abuses or to hold it accountable for such crimes. What is this? Is it not that there exists a government within the government in the United States? That secret government must be asked as to who carried out the attacks.

<http://911review.com/articles/usamah/khilafah.html>

The Framing of Usama Bin Laden?

Operation 9/11 and ISI: Putting the Pieces Together

Extremely Cogent Analysis

By Abid Ullah Jan

The Independent Center for Strategic Studies and Analysis

Published: July 14, 2006

The set-up to implicate bin Laden seems to span a long period of time. Even in the bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, bin Laden vehemently denied his involvement and refused to take responsibility. According to General Hamid Gul, Osama swore to him on the Qur'an that he had nothing to do with the bombings in Africa. In General Hamid Gul's words:

Mossad is strong in both countries. Remember the Israeli operation to free hostages in Entebbe (Uganda)? Both Kenya and Tanzania were part of the logistical tail. A so-called associate of Osama was framed at Karachi airport. The incidents took place on Aug. 8, 1999, and on the 10th a short, clean-shaven man disembarks at Karachi airport and presents the passport of a bearded man. Not your passport, he was told. He then tries to bribe the clerk with 200 rupees. A ludicrously small sum given the circumstances. The clerk says no and turns him in and he starts singing right away. Not plausible. Osama has sworn to me on the Koran it was not him and he is truthful to a fault. Pious Muslims do not kill innocent civilians who included many Muslim victims. The passport must have been switched while the man was asleep on the plane in what has all the earmarks of a Mossad operation. For 10 years, the Mujahideen fought the Soviets in Afghanistan and not a single Soviet embassy was touched anywhere in the world. So this could not have been Osama's followers.

Evidence for the set-up of Operation 9/11 is further supported by the fact that in 1999, a U.S. National Intelligence Council (NIC) report noted that "al-Qaeda suicide bombers could crash-land an aircraft packed with high explosives into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the CIA, or the White House." Furthermore, at least 11 countries provided advance warning to the United States of the 9/11 attacks.

Two senior Mossad experts were sent to Washington in August 2001 to alert the CIA and FBI to a cell of 200 terrorists said to be preparing a big operation. None of these individuals were arrested. This is not a sign of incompetence.

It only proves that the initial propagation of information was created in order to set the trap -- a trap designed to convincingly hold Arabs responsible for the attacks planned by the insiders. Actually, those agents within the U.S. intelligence community who were responsible for receiving and "acting" on the many foreign warnings received prior to 9/11 were most probably the ones who planted the information about the possible attacks in the first place. Additionally, the United States government hid behind a façade of incompetence and inaction both before the attacks and during the period when Operation 9/11 was unfolding.

http://www.icssa.org/article_detail_parse.php?a_id=1010&rel=1008,1007,1006,1005,1004,1003,1002,1001

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8.7 Bin Laden's "Confessional" Video

Can We Get a Close-up?

The "Taliban home video" convicted Osama bin Laden in the eyes of the American public: no trial, judge or jury -- simply a death warrant, supposedly to be delivered by the US military. But much rests on the integrity of the translation and transcript. Is it pure chance that two opening phrases in this key passage are said to be "(inaudible)"?

"The tape was of such poor quality and bin Laden's words so difficult to discern that viewers took away from it what they wanted," writes Michael Slackman for the LA Times. He continues with a quote from one Rashwan from the Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo.

"It's a real scandal," he said, laughing. Bin Laden is a multimillionaire, a man said to possess extraordinary technological capabilities, a man who released previous videos that were slick and well produced, he said, so how could this be his work?"

Anyone could have dubbed on the voices because there are no close-ups of the lips of the people while speaking. What we could hear was a lot of mumbling and during the mumbling, the supposed translation [WWW] comes up with some incriminating phrases.

<http://911review.org/Wiki/BinLadenConfession.shtml>

Osama Gump?

"When a visitor from Saudi Arabia arrives, his voice is clear and there are frequent close-ups. But Bin Laden's voice is always muffled and the camera never zooms in on him."

Truly, the sound is atrocious. In many parts, the transcript reads: "OBL: (...Inaudible...)," and to add to the poor quality of audio, a persistent cough permeates the background. Hafiz al-Mazari of Al-Jazeera TV, appearing on ABC's Nightline, talked about problems of voice and video synchronization.....

To add further confusion to the already murky audio, video and poor translation, the sequence of the events is reversed on the tape. It begins with the end of the visit, a helicopter site visit occupies the middle, and the ending sequence of the tape brings up the beginning of the visit!

<http://www.counterpunch.org/yusuf1.html>

Public Commentary Regarding the UBL "Confessional Tape" as Posted on Jeff Rense's Website

Who is Usama's Mama?
Comment by Yana
12-19-1

I have yet to see anyone question who the heck the Shaykh was referring to when he talked about how "the mother" received many phone calls of congratulations!! Now, since the whole tape is admitting (supposedly) that Osama is guilty of 9/11, who is "the mother?" I heard an Arab say that part of the tape is a celebratory party of the birth of a child to one of Osama's wives. I heard that BEFORE I read the transcript. I didn't think much of it at the time, but then when I read the transcript - I thought, "Oh my God! It was a tape about a mother giving birth!" At least some of it. It had to be.

Why else is no one even asking who "the mother" is? That isn't some Islamic expression... so if they admit their own guilt on the tape (supposedly), why code name someone else as "the mother?" And if that is a code name, shouldn't all the news be wondering who is even higher up than Osama that that person's identity is kept secret even on their home video? But not one word of wonder about the mysterious person "the mother." Not one!

It seems so obvious that the Shaykh isn't talking about any attacks to me when he tells how he and the brothers found out the good news and about the phone calls to "the mother." Is it just me? Why could I find no one else on the whole web wondering about this section?

<http://www.rense.com/general18/comm.htm>

The Bug in the Contextual Ointment?

Comment By Dick Eastman
eastman@wolfenet.com
12-13-01

"What the translators have done is taken a conversation of bin Laden on the subject of what he was thinking and guessing as he watched the news on September 11 as events were unfolding -- and making it seem that he was [recalling] doing this thinking and guessing at some earlier time before the events."

What the Tape Proves

Comment by John Marshall
London, UK
12-13-1

What the Bin Ladin Tape proves:

The Bin Ladin video tape finally released by the Pentagon turned out to only prove four things:

- 1) That the audio quality of Bin Ladin's voice was the worst of those talking on the video (?)
- 2) The sound was so bad that the Arabic grammar could be heard either way i.e. "we did" or "we said" could also be heard as "they did" or "they said" etc. Which means the difference between a person being a spectator or a mastermind.
- 3) Bin Ladin must be exceedingly stupid to admit in an open dinner party (this while the US Air Force and Special Forces are carpet bombing the entire country) and with kids and guests all over the place that he planned and carried out the WTC attacks while previously declaring to the World he had nothing to do with it.
- 4) If he is that stupid then there is no way a person of that level of intelligence could have pulled off the sophisticated operation Washington claims he did from the caves of Afghanistan.

Where is the "concrete" evidence they claimed to have before that is still being hidden from us?

The Jumping Turban

Comment from Pat Taylor
12-13-01

..... The man that was purportedly Osama bin Laden was not. His profile did not match that of Osama. His nose was flatter than that of Osama. Take a look at past photographs and see for your self. This was a look-alike.

There were filming splices present at the beginning of the second Osama segment. Watch the man on the right as he takes off his turban by unwrapping it from his head and placing the wrapping in his lap. Then, without a supposed break in the film, in the following close up, he was wearing it nicely wrapped around his head.

No Future for BushLaden on MTV

Comment by TOP_VIEW
top_view@planetmail.com
12-13-01

New BushLaden video: Poor production, bad lighting, LOUSY soundtrack mar amateur effort ** NOT ready for MTV

In the most-anticipated video release since the one of Madonna's live sex-change performance, BushLaden today released THEIR latest pop video to an eager world. And the world yawned.

WHAT a bomb: this rancid, laughably-amateurish number is arguably the WORST pop video EVER produced in the history of Western civilization (such as there IS any, anymore...).

Terrible production values, MISERABLY dim lighting, pathetic acting, an ABOMINABLY WRETCHED soundtrack and -- worst of all -- a HORRID lead vocal render this video an unmitigated disaster and UTTERLY un-watchable by all but the MOST brain-dead, tone-deaf heavy metal fans still surviving in various isolated pockets worldwide.

It's true: singer Osama bin YoYo has a HORRID, croaky, intolerable and un-listenable voice that makes nails on a blackboard seem like a choir of heavenly angels; it makes Jerry Garcia seem like Luciano Pavarotti.

This clown CANNOT SING. And NEITHER, apparently, can his backup boys, Mullah Moolah and the Tally Bones. In fact, the rest of the band is TOTALLY inaudible on this tape. Although that's almost certainly a LUCKY BREAK for the listening/watching public, it IS a peculiar, and generally INEFFECTIVE, approach to music video production which should NEVER be reprised.

A massive, world-wide public relations effort by band leader dubya bush to hype the video was a TOTAL waste of money, time and effort: no matter WHAT kind of hype this item gets, NOTHING can change the fact that it's an extraordinarily lousy product to have been released by the supposedly professional BushLaden Group, and will be relegated to the ash heap of history at or beyond the speed of LIGHT itself.

Our verdict: NO beat, LOUSY vocal, HORRIBLE production values -- we give it a big fat ZERO.

This clownishly un-professional piece of DRECK from BushLaden will NOT make the Top 20: it won't even make the top 10,000, and that's giving it all the benefit we can, of every doubt there is -- and there are LOTS.

BushLaden: hire some PROFESSIONAL producers next time, and oh -- TAKE SOME SINGING LESSONS!

This will NEVER, EVER show on MTV -- THANK GOD!

<http://www.rense.com/general18/comm.htm>

VIDEO: The UBL Confession Tape

<http://911research.wtc7.net/disinfo/deceptions/binladinvideo.html>
<http://yellowcard.forumsunlimited.com/index.php?showtopic=14004&st=20>

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8.8 **Halliburton: Multi-Billion Dollar No-Bid "Cost-Plus" Contracts**

DVD: Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers
by Robert Greenwald

DVD: Uncovered: The War on Iraq
by Robert Greenwald

No-Bid Contracts Coordinated through the Vice President's Office

There has never been an investigation into Cheney's involvement in awarding Halliburton no-bid contracts making the company the number one war profiteer in Iraq. Apparently people have forgotten about the March 5, 2003 e-mail between the Army Corps of Engineers and a Pentagon employee that stated the contract "has been coordinated w VP's office."

<http://community.freespeech.org/node/3673>

Halliburton: Windfalls of War

Kellogg Brown & Root (Halliburton Subsidiary)

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/wow/bio.aspx?act=pro&ddlC=31>

WANTED: For Bribery, Fraud, and Trading with the Enemy

Halliburton boasts 143 total subsidiaries, more than a hundred of which are incorporated outside the United States, which allows them to circumvent US Government prohibitions on trading with countries supposedly "hostile" to the interests of the United States.

http://www.halliburtonwatch.org/about_hal/offshore.html

Halliburton Subsidiaries in Offshore Tax-Havens

<http://www.citizenworks.org/admin/press/halliburtonlist.php>

Halliburton and Fraud

"A lot of times trucks were left on the side of the road because of something as simple as a flat tire or a bad filter."

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/09/24/eveningnews/main645545.shtml>

More Evidence of More Halliburton Fraud

<http://www.capitolhillblue.com/cgi-bin/artman/exec/view.cgi?archive=38&num=5854>

Civilians Testify to Halliburton Fraud, Coercion

http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Civilians_testify_to_Halliburton_fraud,_coercion

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8.9 Dick Cheney and the Skyrocketing Value of his Halliburton Options

Cheney's Halliburton stock options rose 3,281% last year, senator finds

http://rawstory.com/news/2005/Cheneys_stock_options_rose_3281_last_1011.html

Dick Cheney, War Profiteering, and Halliburton

Bush Administration Designed to Do the Bidding of the Oil Industry

[The Bush Administration's] Defense Policy Board has 30 members, nine of whom have ties to companies that have won more than \$76 billion in defense contracts in 2001 and 2002.

Four members are registered lobbyists and one represents two of the three largest defense contractors. You have kind of issues of conflicts of interest. You have larger questions concerning whether or not some of the ostensible basis of our foreign policy is contradicted by the private activities of some of the people involved. For instance, take Vice President Dick Cheney.

Dick Cheney was CEO of Halliburton. One of the stories that has not come out except for the good graces, the persistence of Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), is the fact that Halliburton has done business in Iran and during Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq through off-shore subsidiaries.

Cheney was confronted about this and at first denied that early on in his vice-presidency or while he was a candidate for office. It was later proven to be true and he sort of avoided responsibility for it, I guess, by claiming that this was an activity of a subsidiary and that the company didn't really know much about it. The hypocrisy there is that here's a company that's doing business with regimes that this administration has deemed to be supporters of terrorism.

...
Cheney's relationship with Halliburton's goes back 11 years to when he was secretary of defense under President Bush [I].

And he at that time established a relationship with Halliburton by hiring Kellog, Brown and Root, their subsidiary, to look at how the Defense Department could more efficiently manage some of its operations by inviting private contractors into perform those services.

Then he went to work at Halliburton and became the CEO and Halliburton grew to become from something like the 78th largest to the 17th largest defense contractor under Dick Cheney's leadership. And then he of course, came back into government office but it apparently seems like he hasn't lost his connection to Halliburton. He continues to receive almost \$200,000 in annual compensation as a retirement package from Halliburton.

Also, a little known story is that the vice president's office met with Halliburton in October along with other representatives of the oil industry to discuss oil production in Iraq after Saddam was gone. This is back in October [2002] before any decision of going to war was even officially made. That's a meeting that we don't know a lot about. It was reported on by the Wall Street Journal by

Thaddeus Herrick on the 16th of January, and the administration denied it even occurred. Much like they won't cough up the documents from the national energy strategy [meetings of April, 2001].

There's a lot of secrecy involved in the relationships between this administration and the corporations that they have deep ties with, particularly the oil and gas industry. **The administration has about 41 members, top level administration representatives that came out of the oil and gas industry, including people like Condoleezza Rice who once had an oil tanker owned by Chevron named after her.**

www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/iraq/after/2003/0520warprofit.htm

How Dick Cheney Got Away with \$35 Million Right Before

Government Launched a Probe into Halliburton

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0819-03.htm>

Cheney's Halliburton Ties Remain

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/09/26/politics/main575356.shtml>

Halliburton Iraq Ties Deeper than Cheney Claimed

<http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2001/6/24/80648.shtml>

Vice-President Deceived Public on Halliburton Contracts

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2004/06/b90121.html>

Halliburton Overview:

Secret Business with "Terrorist" States

Bribery, Food Filth and Fraudulent Accounting:

A Closer Look at Twelve Criminal Investigations

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/kfiles/b29636.html>

Under Cheney, Halliburton Helped Saddam Siphon Billions from UN's Oil-for-Food Program

<http://www.counterpunch.org/leopold10122004.html>

A Handy Guide to Halliburton for the VP Debate **The Roster of Criminality**

- 1) Conflict of interest: Cheney continues to receive income from Halliburton
- 2) Cheney's involvement in awarding no-bid contract to Halliburton
- 3) Iraq contracts: Criminal investigations and rampant waste, fraud and abuse
- 4) Doing business with "Axis of Evil" countries like Iran
- 5) Halliburton's sales to Saddam Hussein under Cheney
- 6) Halliburton paid bribes during Cheney's reign, say investigators
- 7) Halliburton and 'frivolous' lawsuits
- 8) Leaving workers and retirees behind
- 9) Accounting fraud
- 10) Corporate welfare
- 11) Asbestos liability: Cheney's legacy
- 12) Donald Rumsfeld
- 13) Offshore tax havens

<http://www.halliburtonwatch.org/news/guide.htm>

Halliburton: Claim Versus Fact

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2004/01/b23898.html>

Dick's Special Interest in \$87 Billion

<http://www.thenation.com/blogs/thebeat?pid=1010>

Cheney/Halliburton Chronology

http://www.halliburtonwatch.org/about_hal/chronology.html

Government By and For Halliburton

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2004/01/b22211.html>

The Curse of Dick Cheney

by T. D. Allman

This pattern of misplaced confidence in Cheney, followed by disastrous results, runs throughout his life -- from his days as a dropout at Yale to the geopolitical chaos he has helped create in Baghdad. Once you get to know his history, the cycle becomes clear: First, Cheney impresses someone rich or powerful, who causes unearned wealth and power to be conferred on him. Then, when things go wrong, he blames others and moves on to a new situation even more advantageous to himself.

"Cheney's manner and authority of voice far outstrip his true abilities," says Chas Freeman, who served under Bush's father as ambassador to Saudi Arabia. "It was clear from the start that Bush required adult supervision -- but it turns out Cheney has even worse instincts. He does not understand that when you act recklessly, your mistakes will come back and bite you on the ass."

www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/6450422/the_curse_of_dick_cheney/

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8.10 Halliburton Exec: The \$252,000 SUV**DVD: Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers**

by Robert Greenwald

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8.11 Halliburton: \$1.8 billion Dollars in Fraudulent Charges**New Fuel to Halliburton Fraud Fire**

CBS News. Wednesday 17 August 2004

Halliburton could not properly document more than \$1.8 billion of work.

www.truthout.org/docs_04/081904F.shtml

More On Iraq And Halliburton from Former Company Workers on Theft

Company Can't Account For \$1.8 Billion In Charges.

www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/09/24/eveningnews/main645545.shtml

Pentagon on Halliburton Watch?

Pentagon accountants said they are uncertain as to why Halliburton's KBR unit billed the government for \$1.8 billion in work that was apparently never.....

www.halliburtonwatch.org/shareholder2004.html

Pentagon Questions Halliburton On \$1.8 Billion of Work in Iraq ...

Complaints [in] a civil lawsuit accusing Halliburton of widespread accounting fraud.

www.mindfully.org/Industry/2004/Halliburton-Pentagon-Questions11aug04.htm

Bringing Halliburton To Heel

by Charlie Cray
September 27, 2004

The Army's recent decision to break up Halliburton's logistics contract doesn't make a dent in the war profiteer's monopoly. And despite evidence that the giant corporation was vastly overcharging taxpayers for services it provides, it still has almost exclusive access to many contracts in Iraq.....

Leading Pentagon watchdogs have been calling for Halliburton's debarment or suspension from Pentagon contracts since August. At that time the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) issued a memo complaining that Halliburton could not account for more than \$1.8 billion of \$4.3 billion of work in Iraq and Kuwait. For the third time, the DCAA recommended that the Pentagon not pay Halliburton until it coughed up all the receipts.

The long list of waste, fraud, bribery and other abuses associated with Halliburton's Iraq contracts now fill volumes. Vigilant oversight by Rep. Henry Waxman's office and Pentagon investigators—with the help of company whistleblowers—have uncovered attempts to charge taxpayers \$45 per case of soda, \$100 per bag of laundry, \$10,000 a day to use five-star hotels in Kuwait. (Meanwhile, the troops are sweating it out in tents in the desert). There's been \$167 million worth of price gouging for imported gasoline, and \$186 million charged for meals that were never served to the troops, and a \$6 million kickback to two employees (fired by the company) from a subcontractor.

Halliburton's Rap Sheet

In fact, there have been so many Halliburton scandals that it's been hard to keep up (go to www.HalliburtonWatch.org for an up-to-date rap sheet). A few of the bigger ones:

-- U.S., Nigerian and French government officials continue to investigate bribery allegations involving a natural gas consortium directed by Halliburton in Nigeria. Jack Stanley—the former head of KBR (the Halliburton subsidiary that also does most of the company's contracting with the military)—was let go after it was discovered that \$5 million was siphoned off into a personal bank account. The Financial Times recently reported that while Dick Cheney was CEO the company forced its consortium partners to reappoint a business agent believed to have masterminded the scheme, which involved the use of offshore subsidiaries and Swiss bank accounts.

-- For years, Halliburton has been questioned about circumventing a ban on conducting business with the government of Iran, a member of Bush and Cheney's so-called "axis of evil." After the Treasury Department referred the case to the Department of Justice, a grand jury in Houston opened up an investigation. During Cheney's time as CEO, the company also did business with Saddam. Cheney also led an effort to lobby against the sanctions. "The problem is that the good Lord didn't see fit to put oil and gas reserves where there are democratically elected regimes friendly to the interests of the United States," Cheney once explained.

-- The company recently agreed to pay the SEC more than \$7.5 million in penalties for securities violations for certain accounting irregularities. After the SEC settled the case, a new civil suit was filed against the company (Cheney is not a defendant in the case, though it covers a period when he was CEO). It's no surprise that Cheney has been railing against "frivolous lawsuits" on the campaign trail—obviously intended as a jab at John Edwards and a sop to his friends at Halliburton and other companies who have been pushing for relief from asbestos liability and other lawsuits. (As one comedian put it during the RNC, "they hate trial lawyers because they hate trials.")

No one has asked how many of the 151-plus claims the company filed while Cheney was Halliburton's CEO are "frivolous," but in August the Houston Chronicle slammed the company for deciding to sue retirees who complained about the company's termination of health insurance benefits. "It was a blunder on a par with the cattle industry's decision to sue Oprah Winfrey, or Fox News' lawsuit against author and liberal talk radio host Al Franken for using 'fair and balanced' in the title of his latest book."

Suspension and debarment are not unusual remedies for serious contractor abuse and corporate crime. After cooking the books, for example, Enron, WorldCom and Arthur Andersen were all suspended from federal contracts for a period of time.

But when it comes to the contractor abuses witnessed in Iraq, it seems like all has been forgiven. Even the most egregious cases have failed to result in a suspension. For example, CACI International received an extension of its contract even after its role in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal was revealed. There are at least 25 ongoing criminal investigations related to the Iraq reconstruction contracts. Wanna bet how many result in suspension?

http://www.tompaine.com/articles/bringing_halliburton_to_heel.php [Back](#)

8.12 Corporate Fraud and the War on Iraq

For an Excellent Overview of Every Example in This Section, please access:

DVD: Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers

Directed by Robert Greenwald

A Comprehensive Tour of Corporate Criminality and Greed

To order:

<http://www.iraqforsale.org/>

\$100 Bags of Laundry

Former Army Chaplain says KBR places profits before soldiers

22 July 2004

According to deYoung, KBR often sends invoices to the government even if no service is actually delivered. "I was verbally chastised," she said, when KBR

executives found out she was giving "too much information" to Army personnel seeking justification for expenses. "The first example [of being chastised] was the laundry incident," she said, referring to the \$100 laundry bags KBR's subcontractor had charged the military. In addition, when she informed Halliburton officials that the company charged the government \$45 per case of soda, "They made it look like they didn't know how to do these things," she said.

<http://www.halliburtonwatch.org/news/deyoung.html>

Abandoned \$85,000 Vehicles

"As every other trucker working on those convoys will tell you, KBR had virtually no facilities in place to do maintenance on these trucks. There were absolutely no oil filters or fuel filters for months on end. I begged for filters but never got any. I was told that oil changes were out of the question. KBR removed all the spare tires in Kuwait. So when one of our trucks got a flat tire on the highway, we just had to leave it there for the Iraqis to loot, which is just crazy. I remember saying to myself when it happened, 'You just lost yourself an \$85,000 truck because of a spare tire. We lost a truck because we didn't have \$25 hydraulic line to assist the clutch.'"

<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=11373>

The Halliburton Equipment Bonfires

Greenwald's film features footage of bonfires built to destroy improperly ordered vehicles, computers and other equipment that the contractors purchased at taxpayer expense -- since these contractors are compensated on a "cost-plus" basis, they get paid more for wasting money than saving it.

http://www.boingboing.net/2006/09/24/iraq_for_sale_docume.html

"Lost" Trucks, Office Furniture, and Computers

And that still ain't all. In another case of fraud, government auditors found Halliburton claimed to have lost over \$60 million worth of government property in Iraq, including trucks, office furniture and computers.

<http://community.freespeech.org/node/3673>

Running (and Charging) for Empty Trucks

"The paperwork I carried had no details about the contents of our cargo - basically all they were looking for was the number of trucks with freight on them (but) a related problem was that KBR would run trucks empty quite often," Wilson said. "Sometimes they would have five empty trucks, sometimes they would have a dozen. One time we ran 28 trucks and only one had anything on it. There were several times when we had empty trucks both on the way to Anaconda and then on the way back to Cedar II. I don't understand why KBR would have placed our lives in danger that way for no reason."

<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=11373>

Titan and the Less Than Literate Linguists

We learn that many of the Abu Ghraib interrogators were civilian employees of CACI, a private consulting firm, and were not accountable to the military chain of command. Titan, a company contracted to deliver linguists to the military, supposedly hired anybody off the street who could speak either Arabic or Farsi along with a little English.

(Some of these "linguists" reportedly could not read or write; hardly any had formal training.)

<http://www.salon.com/ent/movies/review/2006/09/28/btm/index1.html>

Titan Linguists: \$657 Million Tab But Not Quite Up To Snuff

The Army command that hired San Diego's Titan Corp. to provide Arabic linguists to units in Iraq is evaluating whether the lucrative contract should be awarded to another company.

The evaluation under way at INSCOM, the Army's Intelligence & Security Command at Fort Belvoir, Va., is part of a five-year renewal process for the Army's worldwide linguist support services contract. INSCOM awarded the five-year contract in 1999.

The contract has come under increased scrutiny after revelations that civilian translators working for Titan were involved in the abuse and torture of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Titan has sought to renew the contract, which has become the company's single biggest revenue source. But competing bids for the linguist contract, valued at \$657 million, have been submitted by Northrop Grumman, L3 Communications and Computer Sciences Corp.....

Some U.S. soldiers who worked with the translators in Iraq also have said that some of the Titan employees lacked sufficient experience and skill to serve as useful interpreters.

<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=11339>

Halliburton Used Truckers as 'Decoys' in Iraq, Resulting in Unnecessary Deaths

..... The trucks lacked armor plating, the drivers were unarmed, and Army reservist accompanied only some of the trucks. An August 2004 Army report found the convoy's guide had used his boot to draw a rough diagram of the route in the sand before the truckers left.

"The KBR drivers had no type of maps," the redacted report states. "Many of the drivers both military and KBR did not understand the route and knew only to follow the vehicle in front of them."

The lawsuit argues that KBR officials should have known that the convoy was headed into an "explosive war zone." Insurgents had attacked another convoy on the road just hours earlier, according to the lawsuit.

On the road, Johnson's convoy came under fire "from hundreds of enemy forces using women and children as shields," the lawsuit states. The attack left seven truckers and two soldiers dead or missing, and 11 other men wounded.

The lawsuit also accuses Halliburton of luring employees such as Johnson via deceptive advertising, which suggested that workers could earn as much as \$ 200,000 but concealed the hazardous conditions in Iraq. One recruiting Web site assured civilian applicants that "with new heightened security, you'll be 100 percent safe."

<http://www.halliburtonwatch.org/news/decoy.html>

Halliburton Drivers Sent into Danger Zones With No Maps

"I was reassured by KBR/Halliburton that I was not going to be a soldier but that I was a civilian - a 'non-combatant,'" New Mexico resident Edward Sanchez wrote in testimony to the Democratic Policy Committee. "I was told that we would not be sent into battles or areas of known attack. Unfortunately, KBR/Halliburton broke that promise."

Sanchez alleged that the company "never" provided the drivers with maps and asked people with no experience driving in a fuel truck convoy to do just that. In April 2004, Sanchez was with three of those inexperienced drivers when his convoy was attacked on the way to Baghdad International Airport.

"I heard one of the drivers crying on the radio, 'I'm hit, I'm hit!'" Sanchez recounted. "I heard another driver screaming, 'I'm burning!' Then the radio went silent."

"I was told that we would not be sent into battles or areas of known attack. Unfortunately, KBR/Halliburton broke that promise. "Sanchez himself was also shot. Six other employees were reportedly killed that day; another went missing and is presumed dead.

Calling Halliburton's actions "criminal," former KBR Civilian Convoy Commander Sean Larvenz testified that before Sanchez's convoy departed, he had warned company officials of the insurgent attacks on the road to the airport.

<http://www.truthout.org/cgi-bin/artman/exec/view.cgi/64/22732>

Halliburton Overcharged On Troops' Food

The Wall Street Journal reported that Halliburton "allegedly overcharged more than \$16 million for meals at a single U.S. military base in Kuwait during the first seven months of last year, according to Pentagon investigators auditing the company's work... Because of the new meal-billing discrepancies, the Pentagon has extended its audit of KBR food services to include more than 50 other dining facilities in Kuwait and Iraq, according to an e-mail 'alert' sent [January 30, 2004] to more than a dozen U.S. Army contracting officials ... This dispute focuses on meals served at Camp Arifjan, the huge U.S. military base south of Kuwait City. The e-mail memo...said that in July [2003] alone, a Saudi subcontractor hired by KBR billed for 42,042 meals a day on average but served only 14,053 meals a day.

<http://www.martymeehan.com/indexa916.html?id=44>

**Making Peace with Halliburton's Best Efforts:
Compared to the Sewage Failures -- What's a Little Mold?**

From a Soldier:

"My life here is very different than I ever [e]xpected to be living that is for sure. I don't even know where to start. I also don't want you to feel bad for me when I tell you some of this stuff. First of all we hardly ever have hot water. That is when we still have water because they have to truck all of our water in from the local villages. Next the septic system here is set up for about half of the people that use it. That leads to the weak link which happens to be in the bathroom that is in my section of the berthing. You know what that means. That means that when she is full the overflow comes up our sinks and spreads poo all over the floor. Also with the water they test it and every time it comes up with ecoli. They had three kinds of bottled water here for us and two of the three kinds have bacteria in them. The last thing that bugs me about this place is there is all kinds of mold on the walls where we sleep. There is mold right next to my head through the whole night.

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2006/2/27/12297/2684>

Private Employees Taking Over Jobs For Which US Soldiers Have Been Trained

EXCERPTS: Frontline Interview with Peter Singer

Author of:

Private Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry

The reality of this, and the irony of it, is that we often talk about it in terms of economic cost savings, but there are no proven economic cost savings. There is simply no comprehensive study that we can look at and say that it has proven to save us money.

...

It's really been about political cost savings. It's been about avoiding the hard choices that come with deploying military forces. And the way to look at this is the counterfactuals: What would we have done otherwise? We would have either had to expand the regular force -- it would have had to either be with regular forces, or it would have had to be with Reserves. That's also politically unpopular, because that's more families that are upset, brunt of the war, etc. Also takes place within a presidential campaign season. Or we would have had to have brought in allies. Well, that's difficult, because you would have had to make political compromises with those allies that we weren't willing to make.

Or you bring in contractors. And by the way, contractors come with the extra positive externality from the perspective of the client here that if contractors are killed, wounded or go missing, they don't go on the public rolls. And so when we talk about the cost, they don't count in the public discussion of it.

...

We developed the classic Kafkaesque solution, which is we have a problem of outsourcing and coordinating outsourcing, and that we've done too much outsourcing, and we don't have a control over it, so what would be the solution to it? Let's outsource the solution. And so we hire another company to come in and coordinate it.

...

So we hire another company. Then you get to the question of well, who do you turn it over to? Would you go out and find the most talented company that has years and years of experience of this, a company that knows the ground in Iraq well, knows all the players? Would you do that?

Or would you hire a shell company that [is] not even on the list of recommended companies for Iraq that your own government is putting out and has never done this kind of work before? Well, we took the latter option and hired a company called Aegis, which was effectively a British shell company that was run by a fellow named Tim Spicer.

Now, what's interesting is Tim Spicer is a relative no-name in the U.S., but he's a huge name in the U.K. because he was involved in two major international scandals -- the arms-to-Africa scandal, which was this episode with his former company, Sandline, that was involved in some things going on in Sierra Leone, where they were hired there and in potential violation of arms embargos.

And it was this whole mess, and nearly brought down Tony Blair's foreign secretary, [who] nearly had to resign over it. Careers were ended, all this sort of thing. So [Spicer is a] big name from that.

And then [there was] another episode in Papua New Guinea, where his company was hired there to help fight in the civil war there, and local army mutinied and put Tim Spicer in jail. So this guy's a big name in Britain; we don't even know who the heck he is.

...

I think if you or I looked at these numbers -- and that's the reason why we're not allowed to look at them -- we would find so much fluff within them, because remember, you've got at the employee level someone who's making anywhere from two to 10 times more than a U.S. soldier is making. And that guy is certainly not getting what the company is being paid.

And remember, that company is often three, four, five levels of subcontractors down. And each of those layers isn't taking it at a loss or isn't taking it at no cost. They're adding their own operating margin in there.

And remember, all these companies are staffing up not only those operations, but the entire organization around them, the lobbying efforts around it, the marketing, the real estate, you name it. And so there's so much fluff built into this process that there's no way to argue that it's about cost savings.

...

And what you have to worry about is when you look at the history of warfare as a whole, when large wars end, you often see soldiers search out work in other areas, which helps feed conflicts in other areas.

...

And so that's what we have to worry [about], is that a lot of these new guys that have entered the market in Iraq may end up searching out work in other areas.

[T]hey've found that it's super-profitable.]

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/warriors/interviews/singer.html>

Families Sue Blackwater Over Deaths in Fallujah

Survivors of four Blackwater Security Consulting contractors who were killed and mutilated last year in Iraq sued the Moyock-based company Wednesday, saying it cut corners that led to the men's deaths.

The families contend in the state civil lawsuit that the workers were sent into Fallujah, Iraq, without proper equipment and personnel to defend the supply convoy they were guarding.

"The fact that these four Americans found themselves located in the high-risk, war-torn city of Fallujah without armored vehicles, automatic weapons and fewer than the minimum number of team members was no accident," the lawsuit said. "Instead, this team was sent out without the required equipment and personnel by those in charge at Blackwater."

The lawsuit alleges that one week before the deaths, Blackwater fired a project manager who had insisted that the contractors use armored vehicles. Eliminating the armored vehicles saved Blackwater \$1.5 million, the lawsuit says.

<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=11772>

Blackwater Hires Kenneth Starr to Fight the Fallujah Lawsuit

"The new 'counsel of record' for the North Carolina-based company is none other than former Whitewater investigator Kenneth Starr—the independent counsel in the 1999 impeachment of President Bill Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal," Jeremy Scahill and Garrett Ordower reported online October 26, 2006, in *The Nation*. "Starr was brought in last week by Blackwater to file motions in front of the US Supreme Court in a case stemming from the killing of four Blackwater contractors in the Iraqi city of Fallujah on March 31, 2004."

"There are undeniable benefits to having Starr, the US Solicitor General under President George H.W. Bush, represent Blackwater—a highly partisan GOP company—in front of a Supreme Court stacked with Bush appointees. Starr also has a personal connection to Blackwater. Starr and Joseph Schmitz, the general counsel and chief operating officer of Blackwater's parent company, the Prince Group, have both worked closely with the arch-conservative Washington Legal Foundation. Since 1993 Starr has served on the legal policy advisory board of the organization for which Schmitz has frequently acted as a spokesperson and attorney," Scahill and Ordower wrote.

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Blackwater_USA

Halliburton and Cryptosporidium Contamination

According to some reports, raw water is taken from the Euphrates River at a point less than two miles **downstream** of a human sewage discharge point. There are likely to be other human and animal fecal discharges into this major river. If this is correct, like many rivers in the United States and around the world that receive runoff and sewage discharges, the raw water from the Euphrates is likely to be contaminated by a variety of disease-causing organisms, ranging from total coliform, *E. Coli* and other bacteria, to viruses and hardy protozoa like *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*.

These disease-causing organisms can cause a wide variety of symptoms, including diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headaches, fever, lightheadedness, and in the event of serious infections can sometimes cause kidney failure and death.

www.halliburtonwatch.org/reports/olson.pdf

Workers Allege Halliburton Knew Their Water Was Foul

**By Larry Margasak
Associated Press**

Halliburton, the company formerly headed by Vice President Cheney, disputes the allegations about water problems at Camp Junction City, in Ramadi, even though they were made by its own employees and documented in company e-mails.

"We exposed a base camp population (military and civilian) to a water source that was not treated," said a July 15, 2005, memo written by William Granger, the official for Halliburton's KBR subsidiary who was in charge of water quality in Iraq and Kuwait.

...

Ben Carter, Halliburton's former water-treatment expert at Camp Junction City, said he discovered the problem last March, a statement confirmed by his e-mail the day after he tested the water.

...

The first memo on the problem -- written by Carter to Halliburton officials on March 24, 2005 -- was an "incident report" from tests Carter performed the previous day.

"It is my opinion that the water source is without question contaminated with numerous micro-organisms, including Coliform bacteria," Carter wrote. "There is little doubt that raw sewage is routinely dumped upstream of intake much less than the required 2 mile distance.

"Therefore, it is my conclusion that chlorination of our water tanks while certainly beneficial is not sufficient protection from parasitic exposure."

Carter said he resigned in early April after Halliburton officials did not take any action to inform the camp population.

The water expert said he told company officials at the base that they would have to notify the military. "They told me it was none of my concern and to keep my mouth shut," he said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/22/AR2006012200853.html>

Halliburton Gave Troops Foul Water, Workers Say

By Vicki Allen | January 23, 2006

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A Halliburton Co. subsidiary provided water to U.S. troops at a camp in Iraq that was twice as contaminated as water from the Euphrates River, former employees of the company said on Monday.

The subsidiary, Kellogg Brown and Root, also blocked employees' attempts to inform the U.S. military at Camp Junction City in Ramadi that the water was foul or tell them that water tanks should immediately be chlorinated, the workers said.

www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2006/01/23/halliburton_gave_troops_foul_water_workers_say/?rss_id=Boston.com+/+News

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8.13 Torture at Abu Ghraib

American Soldiers Brutalized Iraqis

How far up does the responsibility go?
by Seymour M. Hersh

In the era of Saddam Hussein, Abu Ghraib, twenty miles west of Baghdad, was one of the world's most notorious prisons, with torture, weekly executions, and vile living conditions. As many as fifty thousand men and women—no accurate count is possible—were jammed into Abu Ghraib at one time, in twelve-by-twelve-foot cells that were little more than human holding pits.

In the looting that followed the regime's collapse, last April, the huge prison complex, by then deserted, was stripped of everything that could be removed, including doors, windows, and bricks. The coalition authorities had the floors tiled, cells cleaned and repaired, and toilets, showers, and a new medical center added. Abu Ghraib was now a U.S. military prison. Most of the prisoners, however—by the fall there were several thousand, including women and teenagers—were civilians, many of whom had been picked up in random military sweeps and at highway checkpoints. They fell into three loosely defined categories: common criminals; security detainees suspected of "crimes against the coalition;" and a small number of suspected "high-value" leaders of the insurgency against the coalition forces.

Last June [2003], Janis Karpinski, an Army reserve brigadier general, was named commander of the 800th Military Police Brigade and put in charge of military prisons in Iraq.

...

General Karpinski, who had wanted to be a soldier since she was five, is a business consultant in civilian life, and was enthusiastic about her new job. In an interview last December with the St. Petersburg Times, she said that, for many of the Iraqi inmates at Abu Ghraib, "living conditions now are better in prison than at home. At one point we were concerned that they wouldn't want to leave."

A month later, General Karpinski was formally admonished and quietly suspended, and a major investigation into the Army's prison system, authorized by Lieutenant General Ricardo S. Sanchez, the senior commander in Iraq, was under way. A fifty-three-page report, obtained by The New Yorker, written by Major General Antonio M. Taguba and not meant for public release, was completed in late February. Its conclusions about the institutional failures of the Army prison system were devastating.

...

The photographs tell it all. In one, Private England, a cigarette dangling from her mouth, is giving a jaunty thumbs-up sign and pointing at the genitals of a young Iraqi, who is naked except for a sandbag over his head, as he masturbates. Three other hooded and naked Iraqi prisoners are shown, hands reflexively crossed over their genitals. A fifth prisoner has his hands at his sides. In another, England

stands arm in arm with Specialist Graner; both are grinning and giving the thumbs-up behind a cluster of perhaps seven naked Iraqis, knees bent, piled clumsily on top of each other in a pyramid. There is another photograph of a cluster of naked prisoners, again piled in a pyramid. Near them stands Graner, smiling, his arms crossed; a woman soldier stands in front of him, bending over, and she, too, is smiling. Then, there is another cluster of hooded bodies, with a female soldier standing in front, taking photographs. Yet another photograph shows a kneeling, naked, unhooded male prisoner, head momentarily turned away from the camera, posed to make it appear that he is performing oral sex on another male prisoner, who is naked and hooded.

http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/040510fa_fact?040510fa_fact

Children Raped at Abu Ghraib, Pentagon has Videos

From Daily Kos' partial transcript of a video.....

http://stream.realimpact.net/?file=clints/aclu/conf2004_aclu_AmericaAtACrossroads_300.rm

.....of Seymour Hersh speaking at an ACLU event. He says the US government has videotapes of children being raped at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

"Some of the worst things that happened you don't know about, okay? Videos, um, there are women there. Some of you may have read that they were passing letters out, communications out to their men. This is at Abu Ghraib ... The women were passing messages out saying 'Please come and kill me, because of what's happened' and basically what happened is that those women who were arrested with young boys, children in cases that have been recorded. The boys were sodomized with the cameras rolling. And the worst above all of that is the soundtrack of the boys shrieking that your government has. They are in total terror. It's going to come out."

http://www.boingboing.net/2004/07/15/hersh_children_raped.html

The Abu Ghraib Files

279 photographs and 19 videos from the Army's internal investigation record a harrowing three months of detainee abuse inside the notorious prison -- and make clear that many of those responsible have yet to be held accountable.

Editor's note: The 10 galleries of photo and video evidence appear chronologically.....

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Oct. 17-22, 2003 | "Standard operating procedure" |
| 2. Oct. 24-25, 2003 | "Dehumanization" |
| 3. Oct. 28-29, 2003 | "Sexual exploitation" |
| 4. Nov. 1-4, 2003 | "Electrical wires" |
| 5. Nov. 4-5, 2003 | "Other government agencies" |
| 6. Nov. 7-9, 2003 | "Dog pile" |
| 7. Nov. 14-Dec. 9, 2003 | "Lacerations" |
| 8. Dec. 12-30, 2003 | "Working dogs" |
| 9. Nov. 4-Dec. 2, 2003 | "Mentally deranged" |
| 10. Video | |

..... followed by an additional Salon report on prosecutions for abuse and an overview of Pentagon investigations and other resources. The nine essays accompanying the photo galleries were reported and written by Michael Scherer and Mark Benjamin. Photo and video captions were compiled by Page Rockwell. Additional research, reporting and writing for "The Abu Ghraib Files" were contributed by Jeanne Carstensen, Mark Follman, Page Rockwell and Tracy Clark-Flory.

By Joan Walsh

"..... Although the photos are a disturbing visual account of particular incidents inside Abu Ghraib prison, they should not be viewed as representing the sum total of what occurred. As the Schlesinger report states in its convoluted prose: "We do know that some of the egregious abuses at Abu Ghraib which were not photographed did occur during interrogation sessions and that abuses during interrogation sessions occurred elsewhere." Also, the documentation doesn't include many details about the detainees who were abused and tortured at Abu Ghraib. While the International Committee of the Red Cross report from February 2004 cited military intelligence officers as estimating that "between 70 to 90 percent of persons deprived of their liberty in Iraq had been arrested by mistake," much remains unknown about the detainees abused in the "hard site" where the Army housed violent and dangerous detainees and where much of the abuse took place.

Finally, it's critical to recognize that this set of images from Abu Ghraib is only one snapshot of systematic tactics the United States has used in four-plus years of the global war on terror. There have been many allegations of abuse, torture and other practices that violate international law, from holding prisoners without charging them at Guantánamo Bay and other secretive U.S. military bases and prison facilities around the world to the practice of "rendition," or the transporting of detainees to foreign countries whose regimes use torture, to ongoing human rights violations inside detention facilities in Iraq. Abu Ghraib in fall 2003 may have been its own particular hell, but the variations of individual abuse perpetrated appear to be exceptional in only one way: They were photographed and filmed."

http://www.salon.com/news/abu_ghraib/2006/03/14/introduction/

Abu Ghraib Abuse Firms Are Rewarded

**As Prison Ringleader Awaits Sentence,
Defence Contractors Win Multi-Million Pentagon Contracts**

**by Peter Beaumont, Foreign Affairs Editor
Sunday January 16, 2005
The Observer**

Two US defence contractors being sued over allegations of abuse at Abu Ghraib prison have been awarded valuable new contracts by the Pentagon, despite demands that they should be barred from any new government work.

Three employees of CACI International and Titan - working at Abu Ghraib as civilian contractors - were separately accused of abusive behaviour.

The report on the Abu Ghraib scandal implicated three civilian contractors in the abuses: Steven Stefanowicz from CACI International and John Israel and Adel Nakhla from Titan.

Stefanowicz was charged with giving orders that 'equated to physical abuse,' Israel of lying under oath and Nakhla of raping an Iraqi boy.

It was also alleged that CACI interrogators used dogs to scare prisoners, placed detainees in unauthorised 'stress positions' and encouraged soldiers to abuse prisoners. Titan employees, it has been alleged, hit detainees and stood by while soldiers physically abused prisoners.

Investigators also discovered systemic problems of management and training -- including the fact that a third of CACI International's staff at Abu Ghraib had never received formal military interrogation training.

Despite demands by human rights groups in the US that the two companies be barred from further contracts in Iraq - where CACI alone employed almost half of all interrogators and analysts at Abu Ghraib - CACI International has been awarded a \$16 million renewal of its contract. Titan, meanwhile, has been awarded a new contract worth \$164 million.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,2763,1391443,00.html>

PHOTOGRAPHS from ABU GHRAIB

**Achtung: Update: Neue Fotos Hie
Neueste Folterbilder aus Abu Ghraib**

<http://www.revolution-austria.at/images/ghraib/thumbs.html>

Titan and CACI

**and Torture at Abu Ghraib
Internal Army Report by Major General Antonio Taguba**

<http://www.corpwatch.org/downloads/taguba.pdf>

CIA Veterans Condemn Torture

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/about/njweekly/stories/2005/1119nj1.htm>

Torture Doesn't Work

http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/article_details.php?id=7440

The Torture Myth

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2302-2005Jan11.html>

My Experience With Abusive Interrogation Tactics

<http://thinkprogress.org/2005/12/01/torture-doesnt-work/>

In Case Anyone's Forgotten: Torture Doesn't Work

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2001/nov/14/afghanistan.terrorism2>

Torture's Dark Allure

http://dir.salon.com/story/opinion/feature/2004/06/18/torture_1/index.html

Torture's Long Shadow

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/17/AR2005121700018_pf.html

Military, Intelligence and Law Enforcement Officers Opposing Torture

Rear Admiral (ret.) John Hutson, former Judge Advocate General for the Navy

"The United States has been a strong, unwavering advocate for human rights and the rule of law for as long as you and I have been alive. I'm not ready to throw in the towel on that just because we are in a battle with some terrible people. In fact, in a war like this, when we are tempted to respond in kind, we must hold ever more dearly to the values that make us Americans. Torture, or "cruel, inhuman or degrading" conduct, are not part of our national character. Another objection is that torture doesn't work. All the literature and experts say that if we really want usable information, we should go exactly the opposite way and try to gain the trust and confidence of the prisoners. Torture will get you information, but it's not reliable. Eventually, if you don't accidentally kill them first, torture victims will tell you something just to make you stop. It may or may not be true. If you torture 100 people, you'll get 100 different stories. If you gain the confidence of 100 people, you may get one valuable story." (Legal Affairs "Debate Club" January 27, 2005)

Bob Baer, former CIA official

"And torture -- I just don't think it really works. I think it works for the Egyptians, the Syrians, the Saudis, who want to scare the hell out of people. But you don't get the truth. What happens when you torture people is, they figure out what you want to hear and they tell you." (Interview with Slate, May 12, 2004)

Lawrence Korb, former Naval Intelligence officer and Assistant Secretary of Defense during the Reagan Administration

"The highest levels of the U.S. military, the Defense Department, and the White House must be held accountable for putting our troops at greater risk and diminishing America's moral authority across the globe." (Article co-written by John Halpin, Center for American Progress)

Michael Scheuer, formerly a senior CIA official in the Counter-Terrorism Center

"I personally think that any information gotten through extreme methods of torture would probably be pretty useless because it would be someone telling you what you wanted to hear." (60 minutes "CIA flying suspects to Torture?" March 6, 2005)

Dan Coleman, retired FBI agent

"It's human nature. People don't cooperate with you unless they have some reason to." He added, "Brutalization doesn't work. We know that. Besides, you lose your soul." (The New Yorker "Outsourcing Torture" by Jane Mayer)

Army Field Manual 34-52 Chapter 1

"The use of force, mental torture, threats, insults, or exposure to unpleasant and inhumane treatment of any kind is prohibited by law and is neither authorized nor condoned by the US Government. Experience indicates that the use of force is

not necessary to gain the cooperation of sources for interrogation. Therefore, the use of force is a poor technique, as it yields unreliable results, may damage subsequent collection efforts, and can induce the source to say whatever he thinks the interrogator wants to hear."

Declassified FBI e-mail dated May 10, 2004, responding to the question of whether FBI in agents Guantanamo agents were instructed to "stand clear" due to interrogation techniques utilized by Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security

"Our formal guidance has always been that all personnel conduct themselves in interviews in the manner that they would in the field. <redacted> along with the FBI advised that the LEA [Law Enforcement Agencies] at GTMO were not in the practice of the using <redacted> and were of the opinion results obtained from these interrogations were suspect at best. BAU explained to DoD, FBI has been successful for many years obtaining confessions via non-confrontational interviewing techniques."

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/reports-statements-and-issue-briefs/military-intelligence-and-law-enforcement-officers-opposing-torture/page.do?id=1031036&n1=3&n2=38&n3=1052>

Why Torture Doesn't Work

By Brig. Gen. David R. Irvine,
AlterNet. Posted November 22, 2005.

When the Wall Street Journal came out in favor of abusive interrogation, it turned a blind eye on reason in favor of supporting the White House line.

Remarkably, of the nation's major newspapers, only the Wall Street Journal has editorialized in support of torture as a useful tool of American intelligence policy. Regrettably, that position does a huge disservice to the nation and its soldiers. There are really only three issues in this debate, and the Journal carefully turned a blind eye to all three: (1) is torture reliable, (2) is it consistent with America's values and Constitution, and (3) does it best serve our national interests?

No one has yet offered any validated evidence that torture produces reliable intelligence. While torture apologists frequently make the claim that torture saves lives, that assertion is directly contradicted by many Army, FBI, and CIA professionals who have actually interrogated al Qaeda captives. Exhibit A is the torture-extracted confession of Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, an al Qaeda captive who told the CIA in 2001, having been "rendered" to the tender mercies of Egypt, that Saddam Hussein had trained al Qaeda to use WMD. It appears that this confession was the only information upon which, in late 2002, the president, the vice president, and the secretary of state repeatedly claimed that "credible evidence" supported that claim, even though a now-declassified Defense Intelligence Agency report from February 2002 questioned the reliability of the confession because it was likely obtained under torture. In January 2004, al-Libi recanted his "confession," and a month later, the CIA recalled all intelligence reports based on his statements.

Exhibit B is the case of Manadel al-Jamadi, an Iraqi deemed a "high-value" target by the CIA. After being beaten to an extent that he had several broken ribs, he

was subjected to a form of crucifixion known as "Palestinian hanging." Forty-five minutes later, he was dead, never having revealed whatever vital, ticking-bomb information his American interrogator was seeking.

If there is reliable evidence that torture has, in fact, interrupted ticking time bombs and saved lives, the gravity of the crisis created by the administration's free-wheeling torture policy demands straight answers which can be weighed and evaluated by a bipartisan, blue-ribbon commission whose membership might include interrogators, jurists, theologians, national security specialists, military leaders, and political leaders. The damage to our national interests and the dismal record of war candor by this administration has made "trust us" an insufficient justification for such a profound change in American law and moral values.

The Journal claims that Abu Ghraib was an anomaly -- that it has become a "torture narrative" that erroneously blames the CIA for the abuses depicted in the infamous photographs. The Schlesinger report was cited for the conclusion that the perpetrators were merely a group of sadistic, poorly trained Reservists. This argument, however begs the question; the rationale for the McCain amendment rests not upon Abu Ghraib, but upon the cascading stream of documented reports from other places in Afghanistan and Iraq in which brutal torture has been either authorized or winked at by several different military and civilian chains of command.

The Journal further distorts the facts by arguing that techniques such as waterboarding (which induces the sensation of drowning), leaving prisoners outdoors in freezing weather, and stress positions which can cause suffocation and collapse, are not really "torture," but are just "psychological techniques designed to break a detainee." There is, certainly, a psychological component to torture, but the real issue is whether what's done causes severe physical or mental pain or suffering. Of the crucifixion form of "psychological" pressure which the CIA worked upon Jamadi, one of the soldiers who cut him down said he had never seen anyone's arms positioned like that; "[I] was surprised they didn't just pop out of their sockets."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has endorsed the McCain amendments, and declared, "In the face of this perilous climate, our nation must not embrace a morality based on an attitude that 'desperate times call for desperate measures.' There can be no compromise on the moral imperative to protect the basic human rights of any individual incarcerated for any reason." Our embrace of torture is completely inconsistent with our commitment to equal justice and the rule of law.

The Journal assumes that only the worst of the worst will be subjected to torture when it comes to ticking time bombs. Not only is that assumption unfounded, based upon the widespread abuses in Iraq, it was tried and abandoned by the Israelis. Because it is impossible to confirm with advance certainty what any suspect actually knows, ticking bomb torture can be justified in virtually every interrogation. When Israel experimented with "torture lite," supposedly reserved for ticking-bomb circumstances, it was not long before 85 percent of all Palestinian detainees were being given the harshest treatment allowed. The capability to finely calibrate torture has eluded every democratic government which has tried it.

The inescapable fact is that America's standing in the world, and especially in the Middle East, has never been lower. The price we have paid for our misdirected

torture policies has been incalculable. The Arab street may not always grasp the finer points of separation of powers or proportional representation; but everyone, everywhere, comprehends hypocrisy, and judges us for ours. If the torture advocates truly believe that the value of violently coerced information has been worth the plummeting drop in America's world stature, or that such information is worth the clear and present endangerment of captured Americans, it's time to justify the claimed value of torture to the nation in whose name it's being done. Not assumptions, not generalizations, not, "I can't explain because it's classified."

The president and vice president wish to chart a course of heretofore unacceptable savagery toward anyone even suspected of terrorism. If we are to become a nation where a president may torture anyone he wishes, it deserves a broad, sober, fact-based national debate.

Brigadier General David R. Irvine is a retired Army Reserve strategic intelligence officer who taught prisoner interrogation and military law for 18 years with the Sixth Army Intelligence School. He currently practices law in Salt Lake City, Utah.

<http://www.alternet.org/rights/28585/>

Torture Doesn't Work

It Erodes National Security and Democracy

By Alison Brysk

November 14, 2007

San Diego - A morally bankrupt foreign policy. A degeneration of democratic checks and balances.

Those are just a few of the disturbing facets of the state of the US government revealed by the debates over the confirmation of Attorney General Michael Mukasey and his views on whether waterboarding constitutes torture.

But the deepest irony of the Bush administration's ambivalent stance on such medieval tactics – practiced in the name of defending national security – is that torture is not only wrong, it's also a stupid strategy that undermines the defense of democratic societies against terror.

US leaders must correct their profoundly mistaken analysis and ignorance of the lessons of history about torture.

Torture is an ineffective counterinsurgency strategy. One defense of torture is the "ticking bomb" scenario – the idea that an imminent, massive threat to civilians might be stopped by a single detainee who possesses crucial information and will yield actionable intelligence under physical coercion. But this is mostly a law-school legend, not a frequent occurrence in a complex conflict with multiple levels of planning and diffuse local support.

Despite fearful anecdotal claims, the effectiveness of torture in generating intelligence is questionable at best. But we do know that torture produces many false confessions and new enemies, and distracts from more effective, legitimate techniques of interrogation and intelligence-gathering. We also know that democracies that have turned to torture in counterinsurgency – for example, the French in Algeria – have lost, while the British found a solution in Northern Ireland after they gave up abusive tactics.

Torture escalates conflict. The use of torture by targeted societies is strongly associated with an increase in the severity of terror used against them. In interviews with imprisoned terror leaders from the Palestinian territories to India, they state that they adopted and were supported in bloodier tactics when democratic enemies resorted to torture and attacks on civilians.

The "torture-terror nexus" can be seen in Israel. The first intifada was militant but largely peaceful, while the second intifada was characterized by suicide bombings. The tough Israeli response to the first, which an Israeli inquiry showed involved the mistreatment of about 85 percent of Palestinian prisoners, appears to have temporarily suppressed one uprising while planting the seeds of greater violence in the next.

Torture blocks international cooperation against terror among valuable democratic allies. America's adoption of illicit tactics has undermined the legal cooperation that is our best weapon against transnational terror. In Germany, an important prosecution of a terror suspect was handicapped because US evidence gathered in Guantánamo was legally inadmissible.

A Spanish prosecutor has stated that he is unable to order extraditions to the US, as a country that violates Spanish legal guarantees.

In Afghanistan, Canadian and Dutch forces holding critical contested areas are not permitted to release Afghan captives to US facilities where they might be mistreated, deported to Guantánamo, or "rendered" to abusive countries. This policy came into effect after pressure from the Dutch parliament and Canadian courts, on behalf of outraged democratic publics.

Torture drives out legitimate policing. Preventing terrorism is a question of good police work, built on strong ties with the communities that host insurgents, sophisticated knowledge of criminal networks, and swift cooperation among agencies and allies. But current US tactics alienate global publics and local communities, while the secrecy torture requires fosters bureaucratic bungling. Frustrated FBI and military intelligence professionals have resigned, citing sloppy and illegal coercive interrogations by an unaccountable collection of reservists, military police, CIA agents, and private contractors.

Torture undermines the rule of law and corrupts democratic institutions. Democracy is the system the US is fighting to defend. It is also the best defense of US national security – like the rule-of-law strategy that has enabled the United Kingdom to forestall some attacks.

Similarly, America's credibility in promoting democratic reform among unstable front-line allies such as Pakistan depends on honoring its international commitments such as the Convention Against Torture. US commanders believe that adherence to the Geneva Conventions helps ensure the safety of the troops. Democracies that use torture become less democratic, as illicit interrogations are hidden from public view, outsourced to unaccountable special services, diverted to parallel legal systems such as special tribunals, and removed from congressional checks on executive power.

The authorization of, or acquiescence to torture, by US senators is a betrayal of the Constitution they have sworn to defend. It defies the wishes of the majority of

Americans of conscience, and it compromises US national security. We must demand that our elected leaders not pander to the politics of fear, but rather meet their responsibility to provide an intelligent, sustainable, and humane national defense.

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<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/1114/p09s01-coop.html>

The Malignancy of Torture

Amy Goodman of Democracy Now interviewed author Alfred McCoy regarding the Bush Administration's sanction of torture.

Excerpt:

Alfred McCoy: [...] There's an absolute ban on torture for a very good reason. Torture taps into the deepest recesses, unexplored recesses of human consciousness, where creation and destruction coexist, where the infinite human capacity for kindness and infinite human capacity for cruelty coexist, and it has a powerful perverse appeal. And once it starts, both the perpetrators and the powerful who order them, let it spread, and it spreads out of control.

When the Bush administration gave those orders for techniques tantamount to torture at the start of the war on terror, I think it was probably their intention that these be limited to top al-Qaida suspects. But within months, we were torturing hundreds of Afghans at Bagram near Kabul. A few months later in 2003, through these techniques, we were torturing literally thousands of Iraqis. You can see in those photos, beyond the details of the techniques that we've described, you can see how that once it starts, it becomes this Dantesque hell, this kind of play palace of the darkest recesses of human consciousness. That's why it's necessary to maintain an absolute prohibition on torture. There is no such thing as a little bit of torture.

Amy Goodman: Professor McCoy, when you started seeing these images, the first photos that came out at Abu Ghraib, the pictures we showed of the hooded man, electrodes coming out of his fingers, standing on the box, your response?

AM: The reason I wrote this book is when that photo came out in April 2004 on CBS news, at the Times, William Safire, for example, writing in the New York Times said this was the work of creeps. Later on, Defense Secretary Schlesinger said that this was just abuse by a few people on the night shift. There was another phrase: "Recycled hillbillies from Cumberland, Maryland." In other words, this was the bad apple thesis. We could blame these bad apples. I looked at those photos, I didn't see individual abuse. What I saw was two textbook, trademark C.I.A. psychological interrogation techniques: self-inflicted pain and sensory disorientation.

AG: And that bombardment of sound is often joked about. "Oh, we played Britney Spears really loud," or whatever it is.

AM: That's one of the problems of talking about this topic in the United States. We regard all of this panoply of psychological techniques as "torture lite," as somehow not really torture. We're the only country in the world that does that. The U.N. convention defines torture as the infliction of severe psychological or physical pain. The U.N. convention which bans torture in 1984 gives equal weight to psychological and physical techniques. We alone as a society somehow exempt all of these psychological techniques.

Back in the early 1990s, the United States was emerging from the Cold War, and we began this process of disarming ourselves and trying to sort of bring ourselves in line with the rest of the international community. President Clinton sent the U.N. Anti-Torture Convention to the U.S. Congress for ratification in 1994; he included four detailed paragraphs of reservation that had been drafted by the Reagan administration. He adopted them without so much as changing a semicolon. When you read those detailed paragraphs of reservation, what you realize is that the United States Congress ratified the treaty, but basically we outlawed only physical torture. Those paragraphs of reservation are carefully written to avoid one word in the 26 printed pages of the U.N. convention. That word is "mental." Basically, we exempted psychological torture.

AG: You wrote a piece, "Why the McCain Torture Ban Won't Work: The Bush Legacy of Legalized Torture."

AM: Most Americans think that it's over, that in December 2005, the U.S. Congress passed the Detainee Treatment Act 2005, which bars all inhumane or cruel treatment. Actually, what has happened is the Bush administration fought that amendment tooth and nail; they fought it with loopholes. Vice President Cheney went to Sen. McCain and asked for a specific exemption for the C.I.A. McCain refused. The National Security Advisor went to McCain and asked for certain kinds of exemptions for the C.I.A. He refused.

So then they started amending it. Basically what happened is, through the process, they introduced loopholes. President Bush said right on Sept. 11, 2001, when he addressed the nation, "I don't care what the international lawyers say. We're going to kick some ass." Those were his words, and then it was up to his legal advisors in the White House and the Justice Department to translate his otherwise unlawful orders into legal directives, and they did it by crafting three very controversial legal principles.

One, that the president, as commander-in-chief, could override laws and treaties. Two, that there was a possible defense for C.I.A. interrogators who engage in torture, and the defenses were of two kinds. First of all, they played around with the word "severe," that torture is the infliction of severe pain. That's when Jay Bybee, who was assistant attorney general, wrote that memo in which he said, "'severe' means equivalent to organ failure," in other words, right up to the point of death. The other thing was that they came up with the idea of intentionality. If a C.I.A. interrogator tortured, but the aim was information, not pain, then he could say that he was not guilty.

The third principle, which was crafted by John Yoo, was Guantánamo is not part of the United States; it is exempt from the writ of U.S. courts. Now, in the process of passing the McCain's ban on inhumane treatment, the White House has cleverly twisted the legislation to reestablish these three key principles. In his signing statement on December 30, President Bush said ...

AG: This was the statement that he signed as he signed the McCain so-called ban on torture?

AM: Right, he emailed it at 8 o'clock at night from his ranch in Crawford on December 30th, that he was signing this legislation into law. He said, "I reserve the right, as commander-in-chief and as head of the unitary executive, to do what I need to do to defend America." The next thing that happened is that McCain, as a compromise, inserted into the legislation a provision that if a C.I.A. operative engages in inhumane treatment or torture but believes that he or she was following a lawful order, then that's a defense.

So they got the second principle, defense for C.I.A. torturers. The third principle is that the White House had Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina amend McCain's amendment by inserting language into it, saying that for the purposes of this act, the U.S. Navy base at Guantánamo Bay is not on U.S. territory.

In the last month, the Bush administration has gone to federal courts and said, "Drop all of your habeas corpus suits from Guantánamo." There are 160 of them. They've gone to the Supreme Court and said, "Drop your Guantánamo case." They have, in fact, used that law to quash legal oversight of their actions.

<http://www.alternet.org/story/32638/>

Torture and the White House: The Green Light

As the first anniversary of 9/11 approached, and a prized Guantánamo detainee wouldn't talk, the Bush administration's highest-ranking lawyers argued for extreme interrogation techniques, circumventing international law, the Geneva Conventions, and the army's own Field Manual. The attorneys would even fly to Guantánamo to ratchet up the pressure — then blame abuses on the military. Philippe Sands follows the torture trail, and holds out the possibility of war crimes charges.

by Philippe Sands
Vanity Fair May 2008

[NOTE: Emphasis added throughout]

The abuse, rising to the level of torture, of those captured and detained in the war on terror is a defining feature of the presidency of George W. Bush. Its military beginnings, however, lie not in Abu Ghraib, as is commonly thought, or in the "rendition" of prisoners to other countries for questioning, but in the treatment of the very first prisoners at Guantánamo. Starting in late 2002 a detainee bearing the number 063 was tortured over a period of more than seven weeks. In his story lies the answer to a crucial question: How was the decision made to let the U.S. military start using coercive interrogations at Guantánamo?

The Bush administration has always taken refuge behind a "trickle up" explanation: that is, the decision was generated by military commanders and interrogators on the ground. **This explanation is false.** The origins lie in actions taken at the very highest levels of the administration—by some of the most senior personal advisers to the president, the vice president, and the secretary of defense.

At the heart of the matter stand several political appointees—lawyers—who, it can be argued, broke their ethical codes of conduct and took themselves into a zone of international criminality, where formal investigation is now a very real option. This is the story of how the torture at Guantánamo began, and how it spread.

“Crying. Angry. Yelled for Allah.”

One day last summer I sat in a garden in London with Dr. Abigail Seltzer, a psychiatrist who specializes in trauma victims. She divides her time between Great Britain’s National Health Service, where she works extensively with asylum seekers and other refugees, and the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. It was uncharacteristically warm, and we took refuge in the shade of some birches. On a table before us were three documents. The first was a November 2002 “action memo” written by **William J. (Jim) Haynes II**, the general counsel of the U.S. Department of Defense, to his boss, **Donald Rumsfeld**; the document is sometimes referred to as the Haynes Memo. Haynes recommended that Rumsfeld give “blanket approval” to 15 out of 18 proposed techniques of aggressive interrogation. Rumsfeld duly did so, on December 2, 2002, signing his name firmly next to the word “Approved.” Under his signature he also scrawled a few words that refer to the length of time a detainee can be forced to stand during interrogation: “I stand for 8–10 hours a day. Why is standing limited to 4 hours?”

The second document on the table listed the 18 proposed techniques of interrogation, all of which went against long-standing U.S. military practice as presented in the Army Field Manual. The 15 approved techniques included certain forms of physical contact and also techniques intended to humiliate and to impose sensory deprivation. They permitted the use of stress positions, isolation, hooding, 20-hour interrogations, and nudity. Haynes and Rumsfeld explicitly did not rule out the future use of three other techniques, one of which was waterboarding, the application of a wet towel and water to induce the perception of drowning.

The third document was an internal log that detailed the interrogation at Guantánamo of a man identified only as **Detainee 063**, whom we now know to be **Mohammed al-Qahtani**, allegedly a member of the 9/11 conspiracy and the so-called 20th hijacker. According to this log, the interrogation commenced on November 23, 2002, and continued until well into January. The techniques described by the log as having been used in the interrogation of Detainee 063 include all 15 approved by Rumsfeld.

“Was the detainee abused? Was he tortured?” I asked Seltzer. Cruelty, humiliation, and the use of torture on detainees have long been prohibited by international law, including the Geneva Conventions and their Common Article 3. This total ban was reinforced in 1984 with the adoption of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which criminalizes torture and complicity in torture.

A careful and fastidious practitioner, Seltzer declined to give a straight yes or no answer. In her view the definition of torture is essentially a legal matter, which will turn on a particular set of facts. She explained that there is no such thing as a medical definition of torture, and that a doctor must look for pathology, the abnormal functioning of the body or the mind. We reviewed the definition of torture, as set out in the 1984 Convention, which is binding on 145 countries,

including the United States. Torture includes “any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person.”

Seltzer had gone through the interrogation log, making notations. She used four different colors to highlight moments that struck her as noteworthy, and the grim document now looked bizarrely festive. Yellow indicated episodes of abusive treatment. Pink showed where the detainee’s rights were respected—where he was fed or given a break, or allowed to sleep. Green indicated the many instances of medical involvement, where al-Qahtani was given an enema or was hospitalized suffering from hypothermia. Finally, blue identified what Seltzer termed “expressions of distress.”

We talked about the methods of interrogation. “In terms of their effects,” she said, “I suspect that the individual techniques are less important than the fact that they were used over an extended period of time, and that several appear to be used together: in other words, the cumulative effect.” Detainee 063 was subjected to systematic sleep deprivation. He was shackled and cuffed; at times, head restraints were used. He was compelled to listen to threats to his family. The interrogation leveraged his sensitivities as a Muslim: he was shown pictures of scantily clad models, was touched by a female interrogator, was made to stand naked, and was forcibly shaved. He was denied the right to pray. A psychiatrist who witnessed the interrogation of Detainee 063 reported the use of dogs, intended to intimidate “by getting the dogs close to him and then having the dogs bark or act aggressively on command.” The temperature was changed, and 063 was subjected to extreme cold. Intravenous tubes were forced into his body, to provide nourishment when he would not eat or drink.

We went through the marked-up document slowly, pausing at each blue mark. Detainee 063’s reactions were recorded with regularity. I’ll string some of them together to convey the impression:

Detainee began to cry. Visibly shaken. Very emotional. Detainee cried. Disturbed. Detainee began to cry. Detainee bit the IV tube completely in two. Started moaning. Uncomfortable. Moaning. Began crying hard spontaneously. Crying and praying. Very agitated. Yelled. Agitated and violent. Detainee spat. Detainee proclaimed his innocence. Whining. Dizzy. Forgetting things. Angry. Upset. Yelled for Allah.

The blue highlights went on and on.

Urinated on himself. Began to cry. Asked God for forgiveness. Cried. Cried. Became violent. Began to cry. Broke down and cried. Began to pray and openly cried. Cried out to Allah several times. Trembled uncontrollably.

Was Detainee 063 subjected to severe mental pain or suffering? Torture is not a medical concept, Seltzer reminded me. “That said,” she went on, “over the period of 54 days there is enough evidence of distress to indicate that it would be very surprising indeed if it had not reached the threshold of severe mental pain.” She thought about the matter a little more and then presented it a different way: “If you put 12 clinicians in a room and asked them about this interrogation log, you

might get different views about the effect and long-term consequences of these interrogation techniques. But I doubt that any one of them would claim that this individual had not suffered severe mental distress at the time of his interrogation, and possibly also severe physical distress.”

The Authorized Version

The story of the Bush administration’s descent down this path began to emerge on June 22, 2004. The administration was struggling to respond to the Abu Ghraib scandal, which had broken a couple of months earlier with the broadcast of photographs that revealed sickening abuse at the prison outside Baghdad. The big legal guns were wheeled out. **Alberto Gonzales** and **Jim Haynes** stepped into a conference room at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, next to the White House. Gonzales was President Bush’s White House counsel and would eventually become attorney general. Haynes, as Rumsfeld’s general counsel, was the most senior lawyer in the Pentagon, a position he would retain until a month ago, when he resigned—“returning to private life,” as a press release stated. Gonzales and Haynes were joined by a third lawyer, **Daniel Dell’Orto**, a career official at the Pentagon. Their task was to steady the beat and make it clear that the events at Abu Ghraib were the actions of a few bad eggs and had nothing to do with the broader policies of the administration.

Gonzales and Haynes spoke from a carefully prepared script. They released a thick folder of documents, segmented by lawyerly tabs. These documents were being made public for the first time, a clear indication of the gravity of the political crisis. Among the documents were the Haynes Memo and the list of 18 techniques that Seltzer and I would later review. The log detailing the interrogation of Detainee 063 was not released; it would be leaked to the press two years later.

For two hours Gonzales and Haynes laid out the administration’s narrative. Al-Qaeda was a different kind of enemy, deadly and shadowy. It targeted civilians and didn’t follow the Geneva Conventions or any other international rules. Nevertheless, the officials explained, the administration had acted judiciously, even as it moved away from a purely law-enforcement strategy to one that marshaled “all elements of national power.” The authorized version had four basic parts.

First, the administration had moved reasonably—with care and deliberation, and always within the limits of the law. In February 2002 the president had determined, in accordance with established legal principles, that none of the detainees at Guantánamo could rely on any of the protections granted by Geneva, even Common Article 3. This presidential order was the lead document, at Tab A. The administration’s point was this: agree with it or not, the decision on Geneva concealed no hidden agenda; rather, it simply reflected a clear-eyed reading of the actual provisions. The administration, in other words, was doing nothing more than trying to proceed by the book. The law was the law.

Relating to this was a second document, one that had been the subject of media speculation for some weeks. The authors of this document, a legal opinion dated August 1, 2002, were two lawyers in the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel: **Jay Bybee**, who is now a federal judge, and **John Yoo**, who now teaches law at Berkeley. Later it would become known that they were assisted in the drafting by **David Addington**, then the vice president’s lawyer and now his chief of staff. The Yoo-Bybee Memo declared that physical torture occurred only when the pain was “equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical

injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death,” and that mental torture required “suffering not just at the moment of infliction but ... lasting psychological harm.” Interrogations that did not reach these thresholds—far less stringent than those set by international law—were allowed. Although findings that issue from the Office of Legal Counsel at Justice typically carry great weight, at the press conference Gonzales went out of his way to decouple the Yoo-Bybee Memo from anything that might have taken place at Guantánamo. The two lawyers had been asked, in effect, to stargaze, he said. Their memo simply explored “the limits of the legal landscape.” It included “irrelevant and unnecessary” discussion and never made it into the hands of the president or of soldiers in the field. The memo did not, said Gonzales, “reflect the policies that the administration ultimately adopted.”

The second element of the administration’s narrative dealt with the specific source of the new interrogation techniques. Where had the initiative come from? The administration pointed to the military commander at Guantánamo, **Major General Michael E. Dunlavey**. Haynes would later describe him to the Senate Judiciary Committee, during his failed confirmation hearings for a judgeship in 2006, as “an aggressive major general.” The techniques were not imposed or encouraged by Washington, which had merely reacted to a request from below. They came as a result of the identification locally of “key people” at Guantánamo, including “a guy named al-Qahtani.” This man, Detainee 063, had proved able to resist the traditional non-coercive techniques of interrogation spelled out in the Army Field Manual, and as the first anniversary of 9/11 approached, an intelligence spike pointed to the possibility of new attacks. “And so it is concluded at Guantánamo,” Dell’Orto emphasized, reconstructing the event, “that it may be time to inquire as to whether there may be more flexibility in the type of techniques we use on him.” A request was sent from Guantánamo on October 11, 2002, to the head of the U.S. Southern Command (SouthCom), **General James T. Hill**. Hill in turn forwarded Dunlavey’s request to **General Richard Myers**, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Ultimately, Rumsfeld approved “all but three of the requested techniques.” The official version was clear: Haynes and Rumsfeld were just processing a request coming up the chain from Guantánamo.

The third element of the administration’s account concerned the legal justification for the new interrogation techniques. This, too, the administration said, had originated in Guantánamo. It was not the result of legal positions taken by politically appointed lawyers in the upper echelons of the administration, and certainly not the Justice Department. The relevant document, also dated October 11, was in the bundle released by Gonzales, a legal memo prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Diane Beaver, the staff judge advocate at Guantánamo. That document—described pointedly by Dell’Orto as a “multi-page, single-spaced legal review”—sought to provide legal authority for all the interrogation techniques. No other legal memo was cited as bearing on aggressive interrogations. The finger of responsibility was intended to point at Diane Beaver.

The fourth and final element of the administration’s official narrative was to make clear that decisions relating to Guantánamo had no bearing on events at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere. Gonzales wanted to “set the record straight” about this. The administration’s actions were inconsistent with torture. The abuses at Abu Ghraib were unauthorized and unconnected to the administration’s policies.

Gonzales and Haynes laid out their case with considerable care. The only flaw was that every element of the argument contained untruths.

The real story, pieced together from many hours of interviews with most of the people involved in the decisions about interrogation, goes something like this: The Geneva decision was not a case of following the logic of the law but rather was designed to give effect to a prior decision to take the gloves off and allow coercive interrogation; it deliberately created a legal black hole into which the detainees were meant to fall. The new interrogation techniques did not arise spontaneously from the field but came about as a direct result of intense pressure and input from Rumsfeld's office. The Yoo-Bybee Memo was not simply some theoretical document, an academic exercise in blue-sky hypothesizing, but rather played a crucial role in giving those at the top the confidence to put pressure on those at the bottom. And the practices employed at Guantánamo led to abuses at Abu Ghraib.

The fingerprints of the most senior lawyers in the administration were all over the design and implementation of the abusive interrogation policies. **Addington, Bybee, Gonzales, Haynes, and Yoo became, in effect, a torture team of lawyers, freeing the administration from the constraints of all international rules prohibiting abuse.**

Killing Geneva

In the early days of 2002, as the number of al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters captured in Afghanistan began to swell, **the No. 3 official at the Pentagon was Douglas J. Feith. As undersecretary of defense for policy, he stood directly below Paul Wolfowitz and Donald Rumsfeld. [NOTE: Mr. Feith advocated intervention in Iraq in the 2000 paper, "A Clean Break;" the other two as members of PNAC.]**

Feith's job was to provide advice across a wide range of issues, and the issues came to include advice on the Geneva Conventions and the conduct of military interrogations.

I sat down with Feith not long after he left the government. He was teaching at the school of foreign service at Georgetown University, occupying a small, eighth-floor office lined with books on international law. He greeted me with a smile, his impish face supporting a mop of graying hair that seemed somehow at odds with his 54 years. Over the course of his career Feith has elicited a range of reactions. General Tommy Franks, who led the invasion of Iraq, once called Feith "the fucking stupidest guy on the face of the earth." Rumsfeld, in contrast, saw him as an "intellectual engine." In manner he is the Energizer Bunny, making it hard to get a word in edgewise. After many false starts Feith provided an account of the president's decision on Geneva, including his own contribution as one of its principal architects.

"This was something I played a major role in," he began, in a tone of evident pride. With the war in Afghanistan under way, lawyers in Washington understood that they needed a uniform view on the constraints, if any, imposed by Geneva. Addington, Haynes, and Gonzales all objected to Geneva. Indeed, Haynes in December 2001 told the CentCom admiral in charge of detainees in Afghanistan "to 'take the gloves off' and ask whatever he wanted" in the questioning of John Walker Lindh. (Lindh, a young American who had become a Muslim and had recently been captured in northern Afghanistan, bore the designation Detainee 001.)

A month later, the administration was struggling to adopt a position. On January 9, **John Yoo** and **Robert Delahunty**, at the Justice Department, prepared an opinion for Haynes. They concluded that the president wasn't bound by traditional international-law prohibitions. **This encountered strong opposition from Colin Powell and his counsel, William H. Taft IV, at the State Department, as well as from the Tjags—the military lawyers in the office of the judge advocate general—who wanted to maintain a strong U.S. commitment to Geneva and the rules that were part of customary law.**

On January 25, Alberto Gonzales put his name to a memo to the president supporting Haynes and Rumsfeld over Powell and Taft. **This memo, which is believed to have been written by Addington, presented a “new paradigm” and described Geneva’s “strict limitations on questioning of enemy prisoners” as “obsolete.”** Addington was particularly distrustful of the military lawyers. “Don’t bring the Tjags into the process—they aren’t reliable,” he was once overheard to say.

Feith took up the story. He had gone to see Rumsfeld about the issue, accompanied by Myers. As they reached Rumsfeld’s office, Myers turned to Feith and said, “We have to support the Geneva Conventions. If Rumsfeld doesn’t go along with this, I’m going to contradict them in front of the president.” Feith was surprised by this uncharacteristically robust statement, and by the way Myers referred to the secretary bluntly as “Rumsfeld.”

Douglas Feith had a long-standing intellectual interest in Geneva, and for many years had opposed legal protections for terrorists under international law. He referred me to an article he had written in 1985, in *The National Interest*, setting out his basic view. Geneva provided incentives to play by the rules; those who chose not to follow the rules, he argued, shouldn’t be allowed to rely on them, or else the whole Geneva structure would collapse. The only way to protect Geneva, in other words, was sometimes to limit its scope. To uphold Geneva’s protections, you might have to cast them aside.

But that way of thinking didn’t square with the Geneva system itself, which was based on two principles: combatants who behaved according to its standards received P.O.W. status and special protections, and everyone else received the more limited but still significant protections of Common Article 3. Feith described how, as he and Myers spoke with Rumsfeld, he jumped protectively in front of the general. He reprised his “little speech” for me. “There is no country in the world that has a larger interest in promoting respect for the Geneva Conventions as law than the United States,” he told Rumsfeld, according to his own account, “and there is no institution in the U.S. government that has a stronger interest than the Pentagon.” So Geneva had to be followed? “Obeying the Geneva Conventions is not optional,” Feith replied. “The Geneva Convention is a treaty in force. It is as much part of the supreme law of the United States as a statute.” Myers jumped in. “I agree completely with what Doug said and furthermore it is our military culture. It’s not even a matter of whether it is reciprocated—it’s a matter of who we are.”

Feith was animated as he relived this moment. I remained puzzled. How had the administration gone from a commitment to Geneva, as suggested by the meeting with Rumsfeld, to the president’s declaration that none of the detainees had any

rights under Geneva? It all turns on what you mean by “promoting respect” for Geneva, Feith explained. Geneva didn’t apply at all to al-Qaeda fighters, because they weren’t part of a state and therefore couldn’t claim rights under a treaty that was binding only on states. Geneva did apply to the Taliban, but by Geneva’s own terms Taliban fighters weren’t entitled to P.O.W. status, because they hadn’t worn uniforms or insignia. That would still leave the safety net provided by the rules reflected in Common Article 3— but detainees could not rely on this either, on the theory that its provisions applied only to “armed conflict not of an international character,” which the administration interpreted to mean civil war. **This was new. In reaching this conclusion, the Bush administration simply abandoned all legal and customary precedent that regards Common Article 3 as a minimal bill of rights for everyone.**

In the administration’s account there was no connection between the decision on Geneva and the new interrogation rules later approved by Rumsfeld for Detainee 063; its position on Geneva was dictated purely by the law itself. I asked Feith, just to be clear: Didn’t the administration’s approach mean that Geneva’s constraints on interrogation couldn’t be invoked by anyone at Guantánamo? “Oh yes, sure,” he shot back. Was that the intended result?, I asked. “Absolutely,” he replied. I asked again: Under the Geneva Conventions, no one at Guantánamo was entitled to any protection? “That’s the point,” Feith reiterated. As he saw it, either you were a detainee to whom Geneva didn’t apply or you were a detainee to whom Geneva applied but whose rights you couldn’t invoke. What was the difference for the purpose of interrogation?, I asked. Feith answered with a certain satisfaction, “It turns out, none. But that’s the point.”

That indeed was the point. The principled legal arguments were a fig leaf. The real reason for the Geneva decision, as Feith now made explicit, was the desire to interrogate these detainees with as few constraints as possible. Feith thought he’d found a clever way to do this, which on the one hand upheld Geneva as a matter of law—the speech he made to Myers and Rumsfeld—and on the other pulled the rug out from under it as a matter of reality. Feith’s argument was so clever that Myers continued to believe Geneva’s protections remained in force—he was “well and truly hoodwinked,” one seasoned observer of military affairs later told me.

Feith’s argument prevailed. On February 7, 2002, President Bush signed a memorandum that turned Guantánamo into a Geneva-free zone. As a matter of policy, the detainees would be handled humanely, but only to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity. “The president said ‘humane treatment,’” Feith told me, inflecting the term sourly, “and I thought that was O.K. Perfectly fine phrase that needs to be fleshed out, but it’s a fine phrase—‘humane treatment.’ ” The Common Article 3 restrictions on torture or “outrages upon personal dignity” were gone.

“This year I was really a player,” Feith said, thinking back on 2002 and relishing the memory. I asked him whether, in the end, he was at all concerned that the Geneva decision might have diminished America’s moral authority. He was not. “The problem with moral authority,” he said, was “people who should know better, like yourself, siding with the assholes, to put it crudely.”

“I Was on a Timeline”

As the traditional constraints on aggressive interrogation were removed, Rumsfeld wanted the right man to take charge of Joint Task Force 170, which oversaw military interrogations at Guantánamo. Two weeks after the decision on Geneva he found that man in **Michael Dunlavey**. Dunlavey was a judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Erie, Pennsylvania, a Vietnam veteran, and a major general in the reserves with a strong background in intelligence.

Dunlavey met one-on-one with Rumsfeld at the end of February. They both liked what they saw. When I met Dunlavey, now back at his office in Erie, he described that initial meeting: “He evaluated me. He wanted to know who I was. He was very focused on the need to get intelligence. He wanted to make sure that the moment was not lost.” Dunlavey was a strong and abrasive personality (“a tyrant,” one former jag told me), but he was also a cautious man, alert to the nuances of instruction from above. Succinctly, Dunlavey described the mission Rumsfeld had given him. “He wanted me to ‘maximize the intelligence production.’ **No one ever said to me, ‘The gloves are off.’ But I didn’t need to talk about the Geneva Conventions. It was clear that they didn’t apply.**” Rumsfeld told Dunlavey to report directly to him. To the suggestion that Dunlavey report to SouthCom, Dunlavey heard Rumsfeld say, “I don’t care who he is under. He works for me.”

He arrived at Guantánamo at the beginning of March. Planeloads of detainees were being delivered on a daily basis, though Dunlavey soon concluded that half of them had no intelligence value. He reported this to Rumsfeld, who referred the matter to Feith. Feith, Dunlavey said, resisted the idea of repatriating any detainees whatsoever. (Feith says he made a series of interagency proposals to repatriate detainees.)

Dunlavey described Feith to me as one of his main points of contact. Feith, for his part, had told me that he knew nothing about any specific interrogation issues until the Haynes Memo suddenly landed on his desk. But that couldn’t be right—in the memo itself Haynes had written, “I have discussed this with the Deputy, Doug Feith and General Myers.” I read the sentence aloud. Feith looked at me. His only response was to tell me that I had mispronounced his name. “It’s Fythe,” he said. “Not Faith.”

In June, the focus settled on Detainee 063, Mohammed al-Qahtani, a Saudi national who had been refused entry to the United States just before 9/11 and was captured a few months later in Afghanistan. Dunlavey described to me the enormous pressure he came under—from Washington, from the top—to find out what al-Qahtani knew. The message, he said, was: “Are you doing everything humanly possible to get this information?” He received a famous Rumsfeld “snowflake,” a memo designed to prod the recipient into action. “I’ve got a short fuse on this to get it up the chain,” Dunlavey told me, “I was on a timeline.” Dunlavey held eye contact for more than a comfortable moment. He said, “This guy may have been the key to the survival of the U.S.”

The interrogation of al-Qahtani relied at first on long-established F.B.I. and military techniques, procedures sanctioned by the Field Manual and based largely on building rapport. This yielded nothing. On August 8, al-Qahtani was placed in an isolation facility to separate him from the general detainee population. Pressure from Washington continued to mount. How high up did it go?, I asked

Dunlavey. “It must have been all the way to the White House,” he replied.

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Dunlavey and the others at Guantánamo, interrogation issues had arisen in other quarters. In March 2002 a man named **Abu Zubaydah**, a high-ranking al-Qaeda official, was captured in Pakistan. **C.I.A. director George Tenet wanted to interrogate him aggressively but worried about the risk of criminal prosecution.** He had to await the completion of legal opinions by the Justice Department, a task that had been entrusted by Alberto Gonzales to Jay Bybee and John Yoo. “It took until August to get clear guidance on what Agency officers could legally do,” Tenet later wrote. The “clear guidance” came on August 1, 2002, in memos written by Bybee and Yoo, with input from Addington. The first memo was addressed to Gonzales, redefining torture and abandoning the definition set by the 1984 torture convention. This was the Yoo-Bybee Memo made public by Gonzales nearly two years later, in the wake of Abu Ghraib. Nothing in the memo suggested that its use was limited to the C.I.A.; it referred broadly to “the conduct of interrogations outside of the United States.” Gonzales would later contend that this policy memo did “not reflect the policies the administration ultimately adopted,” but in fact it gave carte blanche to all the interrogation techniques later recommended by Haynes and approved by Rumsfeld. **The second memo, requested by John Rizzo, a senior lawyer at the C.I.A., has never been made public. It spells out the specific techniques in detail.** Dunlavey and his subordinates at Guantánamo never saw these memos and were not aware of their contents.

The lawyers in Washington were playing a double game. They wanted maximum pressure applied during interrogations, but didn’t want to be seen as the ones applying it—they wanted distance and deniability. They also wanted legal cover for themselves. A key question is whether Haynes and Rumsfeld had knowledge of the content of these memos before they approved the new interrogation techniques for al-Qahtani. If they did, then the administration’s official narrative—that the pressure for new techniques, and the legal support for them, originated on the ground at Guantánamo, from the “aggressive major general” and his staff lawyer—becomes difficult to sustain. More crucially, that knowledge is a link in the causal chain that connects the keyboards of Feith and Yoo to the interrogations of Guantánamo.

When did Haynes learn that the Justice Department had signed off on aggressive interrogation? All indications are that well before Haynes wrote his memo he knew what the Justice Department had advised the C.I.A. on interrogations and believed that he had legal cover to do what he wanted. Everyone in the upper echelons of the chain of decision-making that I spoke with, including Feith, General Myers, and General Tom Hill (the commander of SouthCom), confirmed to me that they believed at the time that Haynes had consulted Justice Department lawyers. Moreover, Haynes was a close friend of Bybee’s. “Jim was tied at the hip with Jay Bybee,” Thomas Romig, the army’s former judge advocate general, told me. “He would quote him the whole time.” **Later, when asked during Senate hearings about his knowledge of the Yoo-Bybee Memo, Haynes would variously testify that he had not sought the memo, had not shaped its content, and did not possess a copy of it—but he carefully refrained from saying that he was unaware of its contents. Haynes, with whom I met on two occasions, will**

not speak on the record about this subject.

The Glassy-Eyed Men

As the first anniversary of 9/11 approached, Joint Task Force 170 was on notice to deliver results. But the task force was not the only actor at Guantánamo. The C.I.A. had people there looking for recruits among the detainees. The Defense Intelligence Agency (D.I.A.) was interrogating detainees through its humint (human intelligence) Augmentation Teams. The F.B.I. was carrying out its own traditional non-aggressive interrogations.

The source of the various new techniques has been the stuff of speculation. In the administration's official account, as noted, everything trickled up from the ground at Guantánamo. When I suggested to Mike Dunlavey that the administration's trickle-up line was counter-intuitive, he didn't disabuse me. "It's possible," he said, in a tone at once mischievous and unforthcoming, "that someone was sent to my task force and came up with these great ideas."

One F.B.I. special agent remembers an occasion, before any new techniques had been officially sanctioned, when military interrogators set out to question al-Qaeda for 24 hours straight—employing a variation on a method that would later appear in the Haynes Memo. When the agent objected, he said he was told that the plan had been approved by "the secretary," meaning Rumsfeld.

Diane Beaver, Dunlavey's staff judge advocate, was the lawyer who would later be asked to sign off on the new interrogation techniques. When the administration made public the list, it was Beaver's legal advice the administration invoked. Diane Beaver gave me the fullest account of the process by which the new interrogation techniques emerged. **In our lengthy conversations, which began in the autumn of 2006, she seemed coiled up—mistreated, hung out to dry. Before becoming a military lawyer Beaver had been a military police officer; once, while stationed in Germany, she had visited the courtroom where the Nuremberg trials took place.** She was working as a lawyer for the Pentagon when the hijacked airplane hit on 9/11, and decided to remain in the army to help as she could. That decision landed her in Guantánamo.

It was clear to me that Beaver believed Washington was directly involved in the interrogations. Her account confirmed what Dunlavey had intimated, and what others have told me—that Washington's views were being fed into the process by people physically present at Guantánamo. D.I.A. personnel were among them. Later allegations would suggest a role for three C.I.A. psychologists.

During September a series of brainstorming meetings were held at Guantánamo to discuss new techniques. Some of the meetings were led by Beaver. "I kept minutes. I got everyone together. I invited. I facilitated," she told me. The sessions included representatives of the D.I.A. and the C.I.A. Ideas came from all over. Some derived from personal training experiences, including a military program known as **sere** (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape), designed to help soldiers persevere in the event of capture. Had sere been, in effect, reverse-engineered to provide some of the 18 techniques? Both Dunlavey and Beaver told me that sere provided inspiration, contradicting the administration's denials that it had. Indeed, several Guantánamo personnel, including a psychologist and a psychiatrist, traveled to Fort Bragg, sere's home, for a briefing.

Ideas arose from other sources. The first year of Fox TV's dramatic series 24 came to a conclusion in spring 2002, and the second year of the series began that fall. An inescapable message of the program is that torture works. "We saw it on cable," Beaver recalled. "People had already seen the first series. It was hugely popular." Jack Bauer had many friends at Guantánamo, Beaver added. "He gave people lots of ideas."

The brainstorming meetings inspired animated discussion. "Who has the glassy eyes?," Beaver asked herself as she surveyed the men around the room, 30 or more of them. She was invariably the only woman present—as she saw it, keeping control of the boys. The younger men would get particularly agitated, excited even. **"You could almost see their dicks getting hard as they got new ideas," Beaver recalled, a wan smile flickering on her face.** "And I said to myself, You know what? I don't have a dick to get hard—I can stay detached."

Not everyone at Guantánamo was enthusiastic. The F.B.I. and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service refused to be associated with aggressive interrogation. They opposed the techniques.

One of the N.C.I.S. psychologists, Mike Gelles, knew about the brainstorming sessions but stayed away. He was dismissive of the administration's contention that the techniques trickled up on their own from Guantánamo. "That's not accurate," he said flatly. "This was not done by a bunch of people down in Gitmo—no way."

That view is buttressed by a key event that has received virtually no attention. On September 25, as the process of elaborating new interrogation techniques reached a critical point, **a delegation of the administration's most senior lawyers arrived at Guantánamo.** The group included the president's lawyer, **Alberto Gonzales**, who had by then received the Yoo-Bybee Memo; **Vice President Cheney's lawyer, David Addington**, who had contributed to the writing of that memo; the C.I.A.'s **John Rizzo**, who had asked for a Justice Department sign-off on individual techniques, including waterboarding, and received the second (and still secret) Yoo-Bybee Memo; and **Jim Haynes**, Rumsfeld's counsel. They were all well aware of al-Qahtani. "They wanted to know what we were doing to get to this guy," Dunlavey told me, "and Addington was interested in how we were managing it." I asked what they had to say. "They brought ideas with them which had been given from sources in D.C.," Dunlavey said. "They came down to observe and talk." Throughout this whole period, Dunlavey went on, **Rumsfeld was "directly and regularly involved."**

Beaver confirmed the account of the visit. Addington talked a great deal, and it was obvious to her that he was a "very powerful man" and "definitely the guy in charge," with a booming voice and confident style. Gonzales was quiet. Haynes, a friend and protégé of Addington's, seemed especially interested in the military commissions, which were to decide the fate of individual detainees. They met with the intelligence people and talked about new interrogation methods. They also witnessed some interrogations. Beaver spent time with the group. Talking about the episode even long afterward made her visibly anxious. Her hand

tapped and she moved restlessly in her chair. She recalled the message they had received from the visitors: Do “whatever needed to be done.”

That was a green light from the very top—the lawyers for Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and the C.I.A. The administration’s version of events—that it became involved in the Guantánamo interrogations only in November, after receiving a list of techniques out of the blue from the “aggressive major general”—was demonstrably false.

“A Dunk in the Water”

Two weeks after this unpublicized visit the process of compiling the list of new techniques was completed. The list was set out in a three-page memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Jerald Phifer, dated October 11 and addressed to Dunlavey.

The Phifer Memo identified the problem: “current guidelines” prohibited the use of “physical or mental torture, threats, insults, or exposure to inhumane treatment as a means of or aid to interrogation.” The prohibition dated back to 1863 and a general order issued by Abraham Lincoln.

The list of new interrogation techniques turned its back on this tradition. The 18 techniques were divided into three categories and came with only rudimentary guidance. No limits were placed on how many methods could be used at once, or for how many days in succession. The detainee was to be provided with a chair. The environment should be generally comfortable. If the detainee was uncooperative, you went to Category I. This comprised two techniques, yelling and deception.

If Category I produced no results, then the military interrogator could move to Category II. Category II included 12 techniques aimed at humiliation and sensory deprivation: for instance, the use of stress positions, such as standing; isolation for up to 30 days; deprivation of light and sound; 20-hour interrogations; removal of religious items; removal of clothing; forcible grooming, such as the shaving of facial hair; and the use of individual phobias, such as the fear of dogs, to induce stress.

Finally came Category III, for the most exceptionally resistant. Category III included four techniques: the use of “mild, non-injurious physical contact,” such as grabbing, poking, and light pushing; the use of scenarios designed to convince the detainee that death or severely painful consequences were imminent for him or his family; exposure to cold weather or water; and waterboarding. This last technique, which powerfully mimics the experience of drowning, was later described by Vice President Cheney as a “dunk in the water.”

By the time the memo was completed al-Qahtani had already been separated from all other detainees for 64 days, in a cell that was “always flooded with light.” An F.B.I. agent described his condition the following month, just as the new interrogation techniques were first being directed against him: the detainee, a 2004 memo stated, “was talking to non-existent people, reporting hearing voices, [and] crouching in a corner of the cell covered with a sheet for hours on end.”

Ends and Means

Diane Beaver was insistent that the decision to implement new interrogation techniques had to be properly written up and that it needed a paper trail leading to authorization from the top, not from “the dirt on the ground,” as she self-deprecatingly described herself. “I just wasn’t comfortable giving oral advice,” she explained, as she had been requested to do. “I wanted to get something in writing. That was my game plan. I had four days. Dunlavey gave me just four days.” She says she believed that senior lawyers in Washington would review her written advice and override it if necessary. It never occurred to her that on so important an issue she would be the one to provide the legal assessment on which the entire matter would appear to rest—that her word would be the last word. As far as she was concerned, getting the proposal “up the command” was victory enough. She didn’t know that people much higher up had already made their decisions, had the security of secret legal cover from the Justice Department, and, although confident of their own legal protection, had no intention of soiling their hands by weighing in on the unpleasant details of interrogation.

Marooned in Guantánamo, Beaver had limited access to books and other documents, although there was Internet access to certain legal materials. She tried getting help from more experienced lawyers—at SouthCom, the Joint Chiefs, the D.I.A., the Jag School—but to no avail.

In the end she worked on her own, completing the task just before the Columbus Day weekend. Her memo was entitled “Legal Review of Aggressive Interrogation Techniques.” The key fact was that none of the detainees were protected by Geneva, owing to Douglas Feith’s handiwork and the president’s decision in February. She also concluded that the torture convention and other international laws did not apply, conclusions that a person more fully schooled in the relevant law might well have questioned: “It was not my job to second-guess the president,” she told me. Beaver ignored customary international law altogether. All that was left was American law, which is what she turned to.

Given the circumstances in which she found herself, the memo has a certain desperate, heroic quality. She proceeded methodically through the 18 techniques, testing each against the standards set by U.S. law, including the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution (which prohibits “cruel and unusual punishment”), the federal torture statute, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The common theme was that the techniques were fine “so long as the force used could plausibly have been thought necessary in a particular situation to achieve a legitimate government objective, and it was applied in a good faith effort and not maliciously or sadistically for the very purpose of causing harm.” That is to say, the techniques are legal if the motivation is pure. National security justifies anything.

Beaver did enter some important caveats. The interrogators had to be properly trained. Since the law required “examination of all facts under a totality of circumstances test,” all proposed interrogations involving Category II and III methods had to “undergo a legal, medical, behavioral science, and intelligence review prior to their commencement.” This suggested concerns about these new techniques, including whether they would be effective. But in the end she concluded, I “agree that the proposed strategies do not violate applicable federal law.” The word “agree” stands out—she seems to be confirming a policy decision that she knows has already been made.

Time and distance do not improve the quality of the advice. I thought it was awful when I first read it, and awful when I reread it. Nevertheless, I was now aware of the circumstances in which Beaver had been asked to provide her advice. Refusal would have caused difficulty. It was also reasonable to expect a more senior review of her draft. Beaver struck me as honest, loyal, and decent. Personally, she was prepared to take a hard line on many detainees. She once described them to me as “psychopaths. Skinny, runty, dangerous, lying psychopaths.” But there was a basic integrity to her approach. She could not have anticipated that there would be no other piece of written legal advice bearing on the Guantánamo interrogations.

She could not have anticipated that she would be made the scapegoat.

Once, after returning to a job at the Pentagon, Beaver passed David Addington in a hallway—the first time she had seen him since his visit to Guantánamo. He recognized her immediately, smiled, and said, “Great minds think alike.”

The “voco”

On October 11, Dunlavey sent his request for approval of new techniques, together with Diane Beaver’s legal memo, to **General Tom Hill**, the commander of SouthCom. Two weeks later, on October 25, Hill forwarded everything to General Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, in Washington.

Hill’s cover letter contains a sentence—“Our respective staffs, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Joint Task Force 170 have been trying to identify counter-resistant techniques that we can lawfully employ”—which again makes it clear that the list of techniques was no surprise to Rumsfeld’s office, whatever its later claims. **Hill also expressed serious reservations.** He wanted Pentagon lawyers to weigh in, and he explicitly requested that “Department of Justice lawyers review the third category of techniques.”

At the level of the Joint Chiefs the memo should have been subject to a detailed review, including close legal scrutiny by Myers’s own counsel, Jane Dalton, but that never happened. It seems that Jim Haynes short-circuited the approval process.

Alberto Mora, the general counsel of the navy, says he remembers Dalton telling him, “Jim pulled this away. We never had a chance to complete the assessment.”

When we spoke, **Myers confessed to being troubled** that normal procedures had been circumvented. He held the **Haynes Memo** in his hands, looking carefully at the sheet of paper as if seeing it clearly for the first time. He pointed: **“You don’t see my initials on this.”** Normally he would have initialed a memo to indicate approval, but there was no confirmation that Myers had seen the memo or formally signed off on it before it went to Rumsfeld. “You just see I’ve ‘discussed’ it,” he said, noting a sentence to that effect in the memo itself. “This was not the way this should have come about.”

Thinking back, he recalled the “intrigue” that was going on, intrigue “that I wasn’t aware of, and Jane wasn’t aware of, that was probably occurring between Jim Haynes, White House general counsel, and Justice.”

Further confirmation that the Haynes Memo got special handling comes from a former Pentagon official, who told me that Lieutenant General Bantz Craddock, Rumsfeld's senior military assistant, noticed that it was missing a buck slip, an essential component that shows a document's circulation path, and which everyone was supposed to initial. The Haynes Memo had no "legal chop," or signature, from the general counsel's office. It went back to Haynes, who later signed off with a note that said simply, "Good to go."

Events moved fast as the process was cut short. On November 4, Dunlavey was replaced as commander at Guantánamo by Major General Geoffrey Miller. On November 12 a detailed interrogation plan was approved for al-Qahtani, based on the new interrogation techniques. **The plan was sent to Rumsfeld for his personal approval, General Hill told me.**

Ten days later an alternative plan, prepared by Mike Gelles and others at the N.C.I.S. and elsewhere, using traditional non-aggressive techniques, was rejected. By then the F.B.I. had communicated its concerns to Haynes's office about developments at Guantánamo. On November 23, well before Rumsfeld gave formal written approval to the Haynes Memo, General Miller received a "voco"—a vocal command—authorizing an immediate start to the aggressive interrogation of al-Qahtani. No one I spoke with, including Beaver, Hill, and Myers, could recall who had initiated the voco, but an army investigation would state that it was likely Rumsfeld, and he would not have acted without Haynes's endorsement.

Al-Qahtani's interrogation log for Saturday, November 23, registers the immediate consequence of the decision to move ahead.

"The detainee arrives at the interrogation booth. His hood is removed and he is bolted to the floor."

Reversal

Four days after the voco, Haynes formally signed off on his memo. He recommended, as a matter of policy, approval of 15 of the 18 techniques. Of the four techniques listed in Category III, however, Haynes proposed blanket approval of just one: mild non-injurious physical contact.

He would later tell the Senate that he had "recommended against the proposed use of a wet towel"—that is, against waterboarding—but to the contrary, in his memo he stated that "all Category III techniques may be legally available." Rumsfeld placed his name next to the word "Approved" and wrote the jocular comment that may well expose him to difficulties in the witness stand at some future time.

As the memo was being approved, the F.B.I. communicated serious concerns directly to Haynes's office. Then, on December 17, Dave Brant, of the N.C.I.S.,

paid a surprise visit to Alberto Mora, the general counsel of the navy. Brant told him that N.C.I.S. agents had information that abusive actions at Guantánamo had been authorized at a “high level” in Washington. The following day Mora met again with Brant. Mike Gelles joined them and told Mora that the interrogators were under extraordinary pressure to achieve results. Gelles described the phenomenon of “force drift,” where interrogators using coercion come to believe that if some force is good, then more must be better.

As recounted in his official “Memorandum for Inspector General, Department of the Navy,” Mora visited Steve Morello, the army’s general counsel, and Tom Taylor, his deputy, who showed him a copy of the Haynes Memo with its attachments. The memorandum describes them as demonstrating “great concern.” In the course of a long interview Mora recalled Morello “with a furtive air” saying, “Look at this. Don’t tell anyone where you got it.” **Mora was horrified by what he read. “I was astounded that the secretary of defense would get within 100 miles of this issue,” he said.** (Notwithstanding the report to the inspector general, Morello denies showing Mora a copy of the Haynes Memo.)

On December 20, Mora met with Haynes, who listened attentively and said he would consider Mora’s concerns. Mora went away on vacation, expecting everything to be sorted out. It wasn’t: Brant soon called to say the detainee mistreatment hadn’t stopped. On January 9, 2003, Mora met Haynes for a second time, expressing surprise that the techniques hadn’t been stopped. Haynes said little in response, and Mora felt he had made no headway. The following day, however, Haynes called to say that he had briefed Rumsfeld and that changes were in the offing. But over the next several days no news came.

On the morning of Wednesday, January 15, Mora awoke determined to act. He would put his concerns in writing in a draft memorandum for Haynes and Dalton. He made three simple points. One: the majority of the Category II and III techniques violated domestic and international law and constituted, at a minimum, cruel and unusual treatment and, at worst, torture. Two: the legal analysis by Diane Beaver had to be rejected. Three: he “strongly non-concurred” with these interrogation techniques. He delivered the draft memo to Haynes’s office. Two hours later, at about five p.m. on January 15, Haynes called Mora. “I’m pleased to tell you the secretary has rescinded the authorization,” he said.

The abusive interrogation of al-Qahtani lasted a total of 54 days. It ended not on January 12, as the press was told in June 2004, but three days later, on January 15. In those final three days, knowing that the anything-goes legal regime might disappear at any moment, the interrogators made one last desperate push to get something useful out of al-Qahtani. They never did.

By the end of the interrogation al-Qahtani, according to an army investigator, had “black coals for eyes.”

The Great Migration

Mike Gelles, of the N.C.I.S., had shared with me his fear that the al-Qahtani techniques would not simply fade into history—that they would turn out to have been horribly contagious. This “migration” theory was controversial, because it potentially extended the responsibility of those who authorized the Guantánamo techniques to abusive practices elsewhere. John Yoo has described the migration theory as “an exercise in hyperbole and partisan smear.”

But is it? In August 2003, Major General Miller traveled from Guantánamo to Baghdad, accompanied by Diane Beaver. **They visited Abu Ghraib and found shocking conditions of near lawlessness.** Miller made recommendations to Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, the commander of coalition forces in Iraq. On September 14, General Sanchez authorized an array of new interrogation techniques. These were vetted by his staff judge advocate, who later told the Senate Armed Services Committee that operating procedures and policies “in use in Guantánamo Bay” had been taken into account. Despite the fact that Geneva applied in Iraq, General Sanchez authorized several techniques that were not sanctioned by the Field Manual—but were listed in the Haynes Memo. **The abuses for which Abu Ghraib became infamous began one month later.**

Three different official investigations in the space of three years have confirmed the migration theory. The August 2006 report of the Pentagon’s inspector general concluded unequivocally that techniques from Guantánamo had indeed found their way to Iraq. An investigation overseen by former secretary of defense James R. Schlesinger determined that “augmented techniques for Guantanamo migrated to Afghanistan and Iraq where they were neither limited nor safeguarded.”

Jim Haynes and Donald Rumsfeld may have reversed themselves about al-Qahtani in January 2003, but the death blow to the administration’s outlook did not occur for three more years. It came on June 29, 2006, with the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, holding that Guantánamo detainees were entitled to the protections provided under Geneva’s Common Article 3. The Court invoked the legal precedents that had been sidestepped by Douglas Feith and John Yoo, and laid bare the blatant illegality of al-Qahtani’s interrogation.

A colleague having lunch with Haynes that day described him as looking “shocked” when the news arrived, adding, “He just went pale.” Justice Anthony Kennedy, joining the majority, pointedly observed that “violations of Common Article 3 are considered ‘war crimes.’”

Jim Haynes appears to remain a die-hard supporter of aggressive interrogation. Shortly after the Supreme Court decision, when he appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Patrick Leahy reminded him that in 2003 Haynes had said there was “no way” that Geneva could apply to the Afghan conflict and the war on terror. “Do you now accept that you were mistaken in your legal and policy determinations?” Leahy asked. Haynes would say only that he was bound by the Supreme Court’s decision.

As the consequences of Hamdan sank in, the instinct for self-preservation asserted itself. The lawyers got busy. Within four months President Bush signed into law the Military Commissions Act. This created a new legal defense against lawsuits for misconduct arising from the “detention and interrogation of aliens” between September 11, 2001, and December 30, 2005. That covered the interrogation of al-Qahtani, and no doubt much else. Signing the bill on October 17, 2006, President Bush explained that it provided “legal protections that ensure our military and intelligence personnel will not have to fear lawsuits filed by terrorists simply for doing their jobs.”

In a word, the interrogators and their superiors were granted immunity from prosecution. Some of the lawyers who contributed to this legislation were immunizing themselves. The hitch, and it is a big one, is that the immunity is good only within the borders of the United States.

A Tap on the Shoulder

The table in the conference room held five stacks of files and papers, neatly arranged and yellow and crisp with age. Behind them sat an elderly gentleman named Ludwig Altstötter, rosy-cheeked and cherubic. Ludwig is the son of Josef Altstötter, the lead defendant in the 1947 case *United States of America v. Josef Altstötter et al.*, which was tried in Germany before a U.S. military tribunal. The case is famous because it appears to be the only one in which lawyers have ever been charged and convicted for committing international crimes through the performance of their legal functions. It served as the inspiration for the Oscar-winning 1961 movie *Judgment at Nuremberg*, whose themes are alluded to in Marcel Ophüls’s classic 1976 film on wartime atrocities, *The Memory of Justice*, which should be required viewing but has been lost to a broader audience. Nuremberg was, in fact, where Ludwig and I were meeting.

The Altstötter case had been prosecuted by the Allies to establish the principle that lawyers and judges in the Nazi regime bore a particular responsibility for the regime’s crimes. Sixteen lawyers appeared as defendants. The scale of the Nazi atrocities makes any factual comparison with Guantánamo absurd, a point made to me by Douglas Feith, and with which I agree. But I wasn’t interested in drawing a facile comparison between historical episodes. I wanted to know more about the underlying principle.

Josef Altstötter had the misfortune, because of his name, to be the first defendant listed among the 16. He was not the most important or the worst, although he was one of the 10 who were in fact convicted (4 were acquitted, one committed suicide, and there was one mistrial). He was a well-regarded member of society and a high-ranking lawyer. In 1943 he joined the Reich Ministry of Justice in Berlin, where he served as a Ministerialdirektor, the chief of the civil-law-and-procedure division. He became a member of the SS in 1937. The U.S. Military Tribunal found him guilty of membership in that criminal organization—with knowledge of its criminal acts—and sentenced him to five years in prison, which he served in full. He returned to legal practice in Nuremberg and died in 1979. Ludwig Altstötter had all the relevant documents, and he generously invited me to go over them with him in Nuremberg.

I took Ludwig to the most striking passage in the tribunal’s judgment. “He gave his name as a soldier and a jurist of note and so helped to cloak the shameful

deeds of that organisation from the eyes of the German people.” The tribunal convicted Altstötter largely on the basis of two letters. Ludwig went to the piles on the table and pulled out fading copies of the originals. The first, dated May 3, 1944, was from the chief of the SS intelligence service to Ludwig’s father, asking him to intervene with the regional court of Vienna and stop it from ordering the transfer of Jews from the concentration camp at Theresienstadt back to Vienna to appear as witnesses in court hearings. The second letter was Altstötter’s response, a month later, to the president of the court in Vienna. “For security reasons,” he wrote, “these requests cannot be granted.” The U.S. Military Tribunal proceeded on the basis that Altstötter would have known what the concentration camps were for.

The words “security reasons” reminded me of remarks by Jim Haynes at the press conference with Gonzales: “Military necessity can sometimes allow ... warfare to be conducted in ways that might infringe on the otherwise applicable articles of the Convention.” Haynes provided no legal authority for that proposition, and none exists. The minimum rights of detainees guaranteed by Geneva and the torture convention can never be overridden by claims of security or other military necessity. That is their whole purpose.

Mohammed al-Qahtani is among the first six detainees scheduled to go on trial for complicity in the 9/11 attacks; the Bush administration has announced that it will seek the death penalty. Last month, President Bush vetoed a bill that would have outlawed the use by the C.I.A. of the techniques set out in the Haynes Memo and used on al-Qahtani. Whatever he may have done, Mohammed al-Qahtani was entitled to the protections afforded by international law, including Geneva and the torture convention. His interrogation violated those conventions. There can be no doubt that he was treated cruelly and degraded, that the standards of Common Article 3 were violated, and that his treatment amounts to a war crime. If he suffered the degree of severe mental distress prohibited by the torture convention, then his treatment crosses the line into outright torture. These acts resulted from a policy decision made right at the top, not simply from ground-level requests in Guantánamo, and they were supported by legal advice from the president’s own circle.

Those responsible for the interrogation of Detainee 063 face a real risk of investigation if they set foot outside the United States. Article 4 of the torture convention criminalizes “complicity” or “participation” in torture, and the same principle governs violations of Common Article 3.

It would be wrong to consider the prospect of legal jeopardy unlikely. I remember sitting in the House of Lords during the landmark Pinochet case, back in 1999—in which a prosecutor was seeking the extradition to Spain of the former Chilean head of state for torture and other international crimes—and being told by one of his key advisers that they had never expected the torture convention to lead to the former president of Chile’s loss of legal immunity. In my efforts to get to the heart of this story, and its possible consequences, I visited a judge and a prosecutor in a major European city, and guided them through all the materials pertaining to the Guantánamo case. The judge and prosecutor were particularly struck by the immunity from prosecution provided by the Military Commissions Act.

“That is very stupid,” said the prosecutor, explaining that it would make it much easier for investigators outside the United States to argue that possible war crimes would never be addressed by the justice system in the home country—one of the trip wires enabling foreign courts to intervene. For some of those involved in the Guantánamo decisions, prudence may well dictate a more cautious approach to international travel. And for some the future may hold a tap on the shoulder.

“It’s a matter of time,” the judge observed. “These things take time.” As I gathered my papers, he looked up and said, “And then something unexpected happens, when one of these lawyers travels to the wrong place.”

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<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2008/05/guantanamo200805?currentPage=1>

The Murder of Manadel al-Jamadi

Manadel Al-Jamadi was one of the CIA's “ghost” detainees at Abu Ghraib -- prisoners being held secretly [albeit briefly] by the agency.

His death in November 2003 became public with the release of photos of Abu Ghraib guards giving a thumbs-up over his bruised and puffy-faced corpse, which had been packed in ice. One of those guards was Pvt. Charles Graner, who last month received 10 years in a military prison for abusing detainees.

Al-Jamadi died in a prison shower room during about a half-hour of questioning, before interrogators could extract any information, according to the documents, which consist of statements from Army prison guards to investigators with the military and the CIA's Inspector General's office.

One Army guard, Sgt. Jeffery Frost, said the prisoner's arms were stretched behind him in a way he had never before seen. Frost told investigators he was surprised al-Jamadi's arms “didn't pop out of their sockets,” according to a summary of his interview.

Frost and other guards had been summoned to reposition al-Jamadi, who an interrogator said was not cooperating. As the guards released the shackles and lowered al-Jamadi, blood gushed from his mouth “as if a faucet had been turned on,” according to the interview summary.

The military pathologist who ruled the case a homicide found several broken ribs and concluded al-Jamadi died from pressure to the chest and difficulty breathing.

Dr. Michael Baden, a distinguished civilian pathologist who reviewed the autopsy for a defense attorney in the case, agreed in an interview that the position in which al-Jamadi was suspended could have contributed to his death.

http://ancapistan.typepad.com/unfairwitness/2005/02/how_manadel_alj.html

Al-Jamadi's Death per Joan Baez' Blog

Photographs of grinning GIs crouched over the iced-down, battered corpse of Manadel al-Jamadi were among the most horrific images of the 2003 Abu Ghraib prison scandal. The photos became one of the most powerful symbols for those who opposed to the American invasion of Iraq.

The Iraqi insurgent died within hours of his capture, while being interrogated by the CIA. A military autopsy ruled Jamadi's death a homicide, but no one has been held accountable for his death.

An NPR special report recounts the final hours of Jamadi's life, compiled from a review of thousands of CIA and military documents. Interviews with those present the night he died reveal the techniques used to extract information from Jamadi, and also show a discrepancy between military police and CIA agents about what happened just before his death.

Jamadi's Capture

The assignment was clear: kill or capture Jamadi. The CIA had identified the Iraqi as a former officer in Saddam Hussein's army and a key leader of a terrorist cell. He was also considered a suspect in an attack on the al-Rashid Hotel during a visit by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz in October 2003.

At 2 a.m. on Nov. 4, 2003, a convoy of humvees and blacked-out CIA Chevy Suburbans entered a deserted street in a hostile Baghdad suburb. The humvees stopped in front of a three-story apartment building, and a platoon of Navy SEALs tumbled out of the humvees and raced up the stairs.

SEAL Dan Cerrillo described the capture to CIA investigators six months later. As Cerrillo placed a charge on the apartment, the door opened. Cerrillo rushed the door, striking Jamadi with it.

Then, according to the report, Cerrillo hit Jamadi "in the face with two fists and attempted to wrestle the subject to the ground, but Jamadi resisted and they engaged in hand-to-hand combat." After a considerable struggle, Jamadi was eventually subdued and cuffed by Cerrillo, a hood was placed over his head, and he was taken first to an Army base, then to the SEALs field base, known as Camp Jenny Pozzi.

Jamadi was interrogated there for nearly an hour and a half. Eyewitnesses interviewed by CIA investigators say Jamadi was seated and stripped, and cold water was poured over him. A Navy SEAL said at one point, the interrogator leaned into a pressure point on Jamadi's chest with his foreman.

Jamadi was then moved to Abu Ghraib for further interrogation. At the prison, MPs stretched Jamadi's arms directly behind him and shackled his wrists to window bars. If the arms bear the full weight of the body, the position can be extremely painful. But MPs later told CIA investigators that Jamadi had been given enough slack to kneel or stand.

During this new round of questioning by CIA agents, Jamadi slumped forward, with his weight on his shackled wrists. MPs, while trying to reposition Jamadi, discovered he was dead. His death occurred within five-and-a-half hours of his capture.

Death Ruled a 'Homicide'

Nearly two years later, the CIA is still investigating Jamadi's death. A military autopsy labeled his death a homicide, due to "blunt force trauma to the torso complicated by compromised respiration."

Autopsy photos show lacerations and multiple bruises on Jamadi's feet, thighs and arms. His most significant injuries -- five broken ribs -- are not visible in the photos. There were no bruises in that area, leading military medical examiners to say that the fractures were probably caused by a slow, deliberate application of force, such as someone kneeling on his chest.

NPR consulted Dr. Edmund Donoghue, chief medical examiner of Cook County, Ill., and president of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists, on the military's autopsy report. Donoghue agreed with its findings.

How Jamadi was shackled "makes it very difficult to breathe because you are suspended in a very awkward position," Donoghue told NPR. "When you combine it with having the hood over your head and having broken ribs, it's fairly clear that this death was caused by asphyxia because he couldn't breathe properly," said Donoghue.

It remains unclear at what point Jamadi's ribs were broken.

Military officials who investigated the Abu Ghraib scandal made it clear that at the time of Jamadi's interrogation, the CIA was playing outside the rules.

A 2004 report by Major General George Fay concluded: "CIA detention and interrogation practices led to a loss of accountability, abuse, reduced interagency cooperation, and an unhealthy mystique that further poisoned the atmosphere at Abu Ghraib."

The SEALs denied hitting Jamadi with enough force during his capture and transport to cause any lethal injury. The leader of the SEAL platoon, Lt. Andrew Ledford, was acquitted on charges of dereliction of duty for allowing his men to beat Jamadi. Careers were wrecked but no one was convicted of a crime. No action has been taken by the CIA.

Human rights groups and some members of Congress have expressed frustration with the slow pace of the CIA's response in this and other cases of alleged detainee abuse by the agency. In an Army trial scheduled for December, the CIA will again be under scrutiny for its role in the death of an Iraqi general, who was stuffed into a sleeping bag and died, according to an autopsy, of asphyxia due to smothering and chest compression.

<http://math.ucr.edu/home/baez/torture/>

Testimony Details Last Hours of Iraqi Prisoner's Life

By Richard A. Serrano
Times Staff Writer

5:37 PM PDT, May 17, 2004

WASHINGTON — When CIA officers brought the Iraqi detainee to Abu Ghraib prison, his head was covered with an empty sandbag and Army guards were ordered to take him directly to a shower room that served as a makeshift interrogation center at the overcrowded, shell-damaged facility outside Baghdad.

An hour later, in the midst of intensive questioning by military intelligence officials, the prisoner collapsed and died. Only then did interrogators remove the hood to reveal severe head wounds that had never been treated.

The dead prisoner, whose identity has not been made public, would become famous around the world in the photograph of the body wrapped in plastic sheeting and packed in ice - among the grisliest images yet made public in the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal.

An account of his final hours - and of the failure to provide medical attention to a severely wounded prisoner - is contained in sworn testimony statements provided to Army investigators by military police guards at Abu Ghraib.

Even after the prisoner died, the documents say, officials continued to pursue their own agendas: They haggled over who was responsible for the body. Eventually, the body deteriorated to where it had to be disposed.

The official documents describing the grim episode were based on testimony at a secret military court hearing held last month on the charges against Sgt. Javal Davis, one of seven members of the 372nd Military Police Company accused of beating and humiliating Iraqi detainees.

"He wasn't dead at first," said Spc. Jason A. Kenner, explaining that guards were told not to remove the prisoner's hood when they took him to the shower room.

"We didn't know how much he was injured. He went into the showers for interrogation, and about an hour later he died on them. I was sent to find out what was going on. Later that day, they decided to put him on ice."

"After he passed [away], the sandbag was removed and I saw that he was severely beaten on his face," Kenner testified. "At the time, they would interrogate people in the shower rooms. He was shackled to the wall. The shower room was just used because there was no other space available."

Another guard in the 372nd Company, Spc. Bruce Brown, said: "I heard of a dead detainee being stored in the hard site. We would spray air freshener to cover the scent. They finally took the body away."

In their testimony, Kenner and Brown agreed that the CIA brought the prisoner to Abu Ghraib and ordered guards to take him to the interrogation facility without removing the hood. They disagreed on who was involved in the subsequent questioning: Kenner said it was the CIA alone, while Brown said the CIA and military intelligence officers worked together.

Both Kenner and Brown referred to the CIA by its commonly used pseudonym, the OGA, or Other Government Agency. A CIA spokesman said he could not comment because the incident is under investigation by the agency's inspector general's office in conjunction with military investigations.

In other testimony at the Davis hearing, other guards said military intelligence officers routinely deprived prisoners of food, sleep, clothes and cigarettes, and sometimes sunshine, and expected guards to treat prisoners just as harshly or worse.

Separately, a key defendant in the scandal said in a sworn statement to Army investigators that mistreatment of prisoners was known and condoned throughout Abu Ghraib and no one ordered a halt to the abuses -- or to photographing humiliated inmates.

"Everyone in the company from the commander down" knew what was going on, said Pfc. Lynndie England, the Army soldier seen laughing, smoking and flashing the thumbs-up in front of naked male Iraqis. "The pictures were shown to anyone who wanted to see them. Cpl. (Charles) Graner told me he showed them to his platoon sergeant and platoon leader."

England said guards forced detainees to crawl on their hands and knees on broken glass, threw a nerf football at handcuffed prisoners and forced male detainees to wear women's sanitary "maxi pads."

She also said Graner, her lover with whom she is now pregnant, applied needle and thread to prisoners after beating them.

"Cpl. Graner would personally stitch up detainees if the wound weren't too bad," she said. "He would take pictures of his work. One particular incident Cpl. Graner ran a former Iraqi general into a wall and split his lip. Cpl. Graner stitched up his lip."

England, interviewed at Ft. Bragg, N.C., on May 5, said she did not believe the guards went too far in punishing detainees, and said that much of what happened at the prison's notorious Tier 1A was done in sport.

"We thought it looked funny so pictures were taken," she said. It was "basically us fooling around."

England described abuse by all seven defendants, including herself, except one -- Spc. Megan Ambuhl, who is not seen in any of the prison photographs. "She rarely participated," England said. "She really wasn't part of all this."

As have other defendants, England described Graner and Staff Sgt. Ivan L. (Chip) Frederick II as the leaders of the rogue guard unit, and said Davis was close behind.

"He was the intimidator," she said. "Very big. He would push them around or into walls. He also stepped on their toes. He would help with rowdy detainees."

"Personnel from MI (military intelligence) and OGA would tell us to keep it up, that we were doing a good job," she said. "I was just told we were doing a good job."

She said there were many other abuses, but "I can't remember all of them." And yet she felt no guards should be punished because "we did what we were told."

That excuse is at the heart of the defense of the seven accused guards. At the court hearing for Davis on April 7, Sgt. Hydrue S. Johnson described how he said intelligence officers held sway over guards.

A member of the 372nd Military Police Company that also was home to the seven guards now being prosecuted, Johnson testified that military intelligence officers never explicitly ordered guards to "rough up" detainees. But he said guards throughout the prison looked to the MIs for guidance on how to treat them.

"I did not question anything of MI personnel," Johnson testified. "They were there longer than me. I did not question them."

With the first court-martial scheduled for Wednesday, when Spc. Jeremy Sivits is expected to plead guilty and begin helping prosecutors in trying to convict the others, the statements by England, Johnson and others reflect the effort by some guards to show that prison interrogators must share the blame for abuses.

The interrogators helped establish a climate of abuse and Army supervisors did not intervene to stop the misconduct, they said.

Brown said he had "little to no contact with MI" officers. "I would only see them in passing, and said hi or bye," he said.

But, he added, "there were situations where they gave us ideas on how to treat detainees. They had sleep management plans and eating plans."

Kenner said intelligence officers "would take away their clothes and the detainees would sleep in their cells naked."

Sgt. William A. Cathcart, also of the 372nd, said he routinely asked MI and OGA officers how to properly handle detainees but he "got no response." Intelligence officers told him the interrogators were putting together a formal SOP, or standing operating procedure, "but I never saw it."

Still other guards testified that they would never have followed any direct encouragements to abuse or humiliate detainees, such as making them masturbate in front of others.

"If an MI (officer) told me to make detainees masturbate together, I would cut off his air supply," said Joyner. "This is not acceptable instruction to me. There is no special training to know this behavior is wrong, except 'life.' "

<http://fairuse.1accesshost.com/news1/lat-testimony.html>

The End of America: Torture as an Empowering Lever of Fascism

Randi Rhodes Interviews Naomi Wolf on her crucial book:

"The End of America: Letters of Warning to a Young Patriot"

"... the conclusion is to rise up, and to understand that we have very little time."

Randi Rhodes: This book cuts across political parties and ideologies, it speaks directly to those among us who are concerned about the ever-tightening noose

(yes, noose) being placed around our necks, by taking away our liberties piece by piece ... It is a checklist, the ten things to do if you want to be a dictator in America, and I went through the list one day, with the audience, and it was so surprisingly easy to check off every one of the ten things. Now you did a great deal of research to show how the events of the last seven years in this country are parallel to steps taken in the worst dictatorships of the 20th Century. Would you like to go through them with us?

Naomi Wolf: I would be thrilled, especially since your audience are exactly the people who need to rise up and lead the charge to save the country before it's too late. What I did was look at various times and places when a would-be dictator or despot wanted to close down an open society or crush a pro-democracy movement. And so I looked at Italy in the 1920s, which was a parliamentary democracy, and Germany in the 1930s [also] a parliamentary democracy, I looked at Russia in the 1930s, East Germany in the 1950s, Czechoslovakia in the 1960s, China's crackdown on democracy at the end of the 1980s, and Pinochet's coup in Chile in 1973. What I saw made my hair stand on end. ... All would-be dictators do the same ten things, whether they are on the right or the left, and those ten things are happening in America. I will do the first four, because it is too scary to do all ten at once. The first thing a would-be dictator always does is to #1: Invoke A Terrifying Internal and External Threat, and often that threat is real, and they will manipulate the fear of it. For example, Stalin talked about "sleeper cells," now readers of *End of America* will see a lot of recycling of phrases and images and actual sound-bites from the Greatest Hits of Mid-20th Century Dictatorship. Stalin talked about "sleeper cells," he invented this. These were capitalist agents who were going to hide among the Soviet citizens and cause terror. Pinochet talked about "armed insurgents," and there were armed insurgents, but then he used hyped documents to scare people, and we have seen hyped documents with the yellow cake. So the second thing they always do is #2: Create A Gulag, i.e., develop a secret prison system outside the rule of law, where torture takes place. And often, they will have military tribunals that strip prisoners of due process. And of course, despite the White House sound-bites, "We don't torture, we don't torture," they are torturing people right now -- in our name, at this very moment. The reason it is so worrying to us here in Middle America, innocent American citizens that we are ... We should worry about these brown people that are being tortured on this island, not only for the moral reasons, but because would-be despots always start with people on the margins and move to the center. So in Germany, they started torturing, when torture was still illegal, anarchists, communists, homosexuals, Jews, whatever, and the Germans were fine with that, but always there is this blurring of the line, where within a very few months, or after a year and half, as in the case of Germany, they will go after people at the heart of civil society, meaning you and me, Randi, and a lot of people listening, activists, labor leaders, opposition leaders, outspoken clergy; and the evidence of this not being an exaggerated fear is that the President has claimed the right to call anyone an enemy combatant. If he says I am an enemy combatant, then I am an enemy combatant, and I can be taken to a cell and kept there in solitary confinement.

Randi Rhodes: And we know that it has happened to journalists. Recently. There is a story out there about an Associated Press journalist, a Pulitzer Prize winning photo-journalist, there was this drumbeat of "that person is a terrorist," and he has been detained by the United States, we don't know where he is, we don't know what the charges are, he doesn't know what the charges are, and simply talking about that person will get you angry letters from Gen. Petraeus' right hand guy. ...

and it has been a year and a half. And because he had the audacity to question the detainment of this person, Glenn Greenwald got these crazy e-mails from ... Gen. Petraeus' public affairs officer.

Naomi Wolf: I think this is the same AP photographer whom I mention in my chapter about going after the press, Bilal Hussein, and yes, he was taking pictures of women and children who are casualties of the war, very moving and emotional pictures. He is a Pulitzer Prize winner, and they disappeared him. He is gone. I see what they are doing to reporters in Iraq as practice, because they are going after reporters here at home as well. For example, Greg Palast, who wrote *Armed Madhouse*, was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security. There is a record number of journalists in prison. Josh Wolf, a blogger, is in jail in San Francisco. There are these drumbeats, like to call Bill Keller a "traitor," and prosecute him for treason for publishing the SWIFT banking stories.

Now what is so chilling about that is that if you read Stalin, it is one of those recycling moments, Stalin actually charged the publisher of *Ivestia*, the equivalent of the NY Times, with treason in 1936. Right-wing pundits were calling for Bill Keller to be executed. And Nikolai Bukarin was actually executed. So it is not a happy trajectory. ...

Randi Rhodes: ... This book is so well-researched, and it shows clearly that the secret to all dictatorships, to all repressive leaders, the way that they seize power is incremental and it always takes a similar route to the one we are seeing in the United States. ... Now, we are up to #3, and #3 is one of the most troubling for people to digest, although the recent news is going to make it easier ...

Naomi Wolf: ... #3: Develop A Thug Caste, i.e., a military force that is not answerable to the people. We know Blackwater has closed ties to George Bush. We know Blackwater just got a billion dollar contract to closer to home. We know that they just murdered 17 civilians in cold blood in Iraq. We know that the State Department is covering up for them. And that's a bad sign, because we know that what happens in a fascist shift, the state starts to protect its torturers and murderers. Most people don't know that the guys who work for Blackwater are hand-selected from countries like Chile, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Salvador, Nigeria -- places where the paramilitary and the military are trained to torture their own civilians. And not only that, most people do not know that Blackwater is already working with Homeland Security, patrolling the streets of New Orleans after Katrina, and Jeremy Scahill reported that contractors were firing at civilians in New Orleans, and most of us need to know that Blackwater's business plans call for expanded operations in the United States in the event of a natural disaster, or a "public emergency." And to close the circle, the 2007 Defense Authorization Act gives the President, on his say-so alone, the power to define a "public emergency," deploy either Blackwater or federalized National Guard, and tell Congress after the fact. Why is this so frightening? Why does this keep me up at night? I was in Chicago last week, and people told me, "Oh yeah, Blackwater just opened a training facility in Fremont, Illinois, right near the Mississippi River, a major waterway for the United States. ... Blackwater has been positioned along the Mexican border. ... What is on their web site? News about unruly demonstrators in New York. NOTHING stops the President from, tomorrow, sending Blackwater to taser, or worse, protesters who are "out of control" ... on the streets of your home town or mine ... And you mentioned, Randi, that all would-be dictators #4: Setup An Internal Surveillance System and aim it at ordinary citizens. Mussolini pioneered this, Hitler took over from that, Stalin perfected it, the East

German Stasi made it into an art form, and you do not have to surveil most citizens, only 10% of East Germans were under surveillance, but everyone thought they had a file, so I believe that all of this information about FISA coming from the White House is messaging to us that nothing is private anymore. The reason this is so disturbing personally to me is that when you go on to an airplane now, they know what you are reading, who your seat mate is, who you are going to visit when you get off the plane, and what their phone number is. This really scares me to death personally, because for a year and a half, every time I got on a plane, I would be taken aside and given extra searching ... There is a watch list, and a no-fly list combined. The White House now says that there are almost 800,000 Americans on it, and I am on it. I was off it for a year and a half, but on my last flight from LA back to here, I was terrified because I had just been interviewing someone who had been detained in LA for five hours, and had her green card removed, and was threatened with being put in a cell and locked up, the Chairman of the Board of Greenpeace International, and I am back on the watch list, and there are critics of the administration, environmentalists, peace activists on the watch list, and are getting harassed when they fly, people like Richard Murphy, a top Constitutional scholar, who had just given a speech that was critical of Bush ... [Sen.] Ted Kennedy is on the watch list, staff at the ACLU are on the watch list ... a colonel in the military who has been critical of the Iraq war, he is on the watch list, his sixteen year old son is on the watch list, and his 83-year-old mother is on the watch list.

So why is this so terrifying? It is just a hassle when they take you aside for extra checking, but in a closing society, based on the historical blueprint, and these blueprints are predictive, readers of *The End of America* can tell from the historical blueprint what is going to happen six months from now. Based on the historical blueprint, you could predict what happens in February, which horrifies me, which are that the borders are going to close, the way they did it in Germany and Russia, meaning in February a little noticed proviso says you are going to need apply to the government for permission to fly out of the country. And I am sorry to tell you that this is a hallmark, a turning point, a no going back point of a closing society.

Randi Rhodes: Which brings us to #5, which is harass citizens groups how small or trivial, it could be a small church in Pasadena where the minister was preaching that Jesus was in favor of peace, or it could be the ACLU ... We know that the Quakers in Florida, who simply wanted to debate whether or not the recruiters should have access to schools [were targeted]. Of course, we found out the hard way that inside of No Child Left Behind, there is a mandate that you must open your schools to recruiters. So the setup of the internal surveillance system leads right into #5: Harass Citizens' Groups, the harassment of citizens groups, and #6: Engage in Arbitrary Detention and Release -- I am so proud of you for noticing this -- I have always been sort of confused and confounded by the catch and release program that we have at Guantanamo Bay and that we had at Abu Ghraib ... We found out that the people in Abu Ghraib that had been rounded up and put in a prison that was under mortar attack, which is a big no-no in the military, but they did it, were literally released because they had done nothing; after we found out about the torture, we found out about the circumstances under which these people were rounded up, they had stolen a loaf of bread or a gallon of gas ... Same with Guantanamo ... There were rumors that there were six to eight hundred, but we are down to approximately two hundred, and they were just arbitrarily capturing and releasing people. Now what is the point of that?

Naomi Wolf: It is a really relevant question, especially now that Mukasey's nomination hinges on whether or not he is going to say it's torture, which it is, waterboarding is torture. If he does that, it is a fascinating and important moment -- because if he does say it, which he can't, but if they force him to the line of criminality goes right up to George Bush and Cheney, and they know this ... The legislation of the Military Commissions Act was designed to protect them, and their torturers, from being prosecuted. So what is the catch and release thing? You're absolutely right, most of the people in Guantanamo are innocent people who were handed over by bounty hunters for five thousand dollars ... It baffled me too, until I did the research on the purpose of torture.

There are huge profits to be made from a global war on terror, a hyped global war on terror ... Basically, at the end of the Cold War, that third of the economy that made Cold War weapons was looking at declining market share unless we found a new enemy, and so these same arms manufacturers have now shifted into security technologies and surveillance technologies, and they have lobbyists, and their lobbyists are working closely with Homeland Security, and writing these laws. So, in a hyped war, where billions are at stake, you need an enemy. Torture doesn't get better intelligence. Everyone who has interrogated people knows that. Torture gets you false confessions. And I looked at the Gulag, and how the same kinds of behavior that they are using ... at Guantanamo, they took right from Stalin's Gulag: the heat and cold, the standing positions ... And there are memoirs from the Gulag that say after three days of the standing positions, we would have signed anything. So, this is designed to get false confessions. In this horrific economy, I asked myself why, given the international community hates it, and it doesn't get good intelligence, Americans don't like it that much, why is torture so monomaniacally pursued by this administration?

And the answer, horrifically, is that a false confession of guilt by a brown person with a Moslem name has a very high economic value, and a very high political value, right now.

Randi Rhodes: The idea that there are independent contractors, or whatever you want to call them, that are actually getting paid to do this, and the uniformed military are the ones that take the fall, they go to Leavenworth. But there are paid people in there, instructing, and the orders come from on high. That Mukasey won't say whether waterboarding is torture, and the excuse that the White House gave is that he hasn't been read into the program ...

Meanwhile, we are reading articles publicly, about how beautifully it worked on Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the waterboarding ... You had supposedly CIA guys saying, "He lasted two minutes, two minutes is a long time for a waterboard guy to last." How could he take an oath to uphold the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee and say, "Oh well I do not know that we do waterboard," and yet have a media reporting so widely that waterboarding worked so well with this guy.

Naomi Wolf: He can't say it. People do not understand what huge jeopardy he is putting the President in. He is really in an interesting corner. I do not think Congress really understands its power. If he acknowledges that waterboarding is torture, truly we can begin hearings -- and we should begin them now -- on criminal behavior on the part of the President, and Cheney, and right on down the chain of command. Because this came from the top.

Randi Rhodes: ...#7: Target Key Individuals ... Let's look at the parliament of Italy or the parliament of Germany, the Enabling Act and all of that. What makes Congress roll over and play dead like this? Is it that they are afraid? Is it that they have been wiretapped? Is it that they are being blackmailed? Are they being promised enormous amounts of profits? What made the Enabling Act possibly?

Naomi Wolf: Well, it seems clear from the historical record that someone in the White House has read history deeply, and reproducing tactics, because you are exactly right. What happened in 1931 to 1933 is that there was an alleged terrorist act, Communists allegedly set fire to the Reichstag, i.e., Congress. They said "Oh, my God, they have plans to blow up infrastructure, they have plans to blow up the water supply." They claimed there were all of these terrorist acts that they never had to produce the evidence for. Germans were petrified. And so, the parliament passed the Enabling Act because they didn't want to be seen as unpatriotic. And the Enabling Act is the model for the PATRIOT Act. It said, "Yes, you can open Germans mail, you can listen to their phones." It stripped Germans of civil liberties. It guts parliament of its own powers. The parliament right before Hitler became Chancellor weren't Nazis, but they were so intimidated by all of this that they gutted their own constitutional powers, which opened the door for the nightmare to come.

People do not realize that Hitler did not seize power in a coup. He seized power absolutely legally. He used the law to subvert the law, exactly as we are seeing now. So what happened to Congress? It is a good question. I do argue that surveillance intimidates people, because we all have secrets. And all of them know that their bisexuality, their affairs, their addictions, their conversations with their shrinks or their accountants are all transparent now. People are very intimidated when that happens. But I would have to say with the penumbra of violence that is emanating from this administration ... They are going after people's loved ones. Valerie Plame said that the bolts were taken off her deck, which is fifty feet above ground, and she has two small children. I do not know if they have received actual threats, but their complete passivity makes one speculate, because that is something that happens in a fascist shift. The brown shirts were lining the halls of parliament, even before Hitler was Chancellor, and the same in Italy, they were intimidating legislators. But there is enough sense of recrimination, violent intimidation, people being prosecuted, people going to jail in Alabama, that even without a direct threat to one's children, people would hesitate to engage in robust democracy if one was in Congress.

Randi Rhodes: And then, of course, my favorite, #8: Control the Press. Now the press, of course, is completely corporate these days, and yet there are still some voices out there, yours and mine included. And they can never really shutdown all of the truth-telling. So one of the tactics that has been used before you institute a complete state run media system is to inundate the air waves with an inordinate amount of lies, so that people do not know the difference anymore.

Naomi Wolf: That was such an insight to me, in reading about fascism and totalitarianism, there were all these good books coming out, like Frank Rich's and Amy Goodman's, pointing out the lies of the Bush administration, but when I was reading about Stalin, and the Chinese politburo, I realized that lying has a different function in a fascist shift. A would-be fascist, and I use that term quite technically, it's when the state starts to use violence against the individual to oppose democracy, which is what we are seeing now ... In a fascist shift, the leader lies in

order to confuse people, in order to flood the plain of discourse with lies, so that citizens can no longer trust their agency. That's what we are seeing now.

Randi Rhodes: And then, of course, #9: Dissent Equals Treason. I think that is self-evident to each and every person listening, that US citizens have been broadly painted as "unpatriotic," broadly painted as "traitorous" for even suggesting that we question whether or not the shifting reasons for our occupation of an unarmed nation was legitimate, we are branded as less than American, less than patriotic, less than someone who would wear the uniform and die for our country, even though many of us did wear the uniform, and would have died for our country, if we had been asked. And then there is #10: Suspend the Rule of Law, i.e., a complete suspension of the rule of law. That's pretty much "case closed," isn't it?

Naomi Wolf: Unfortunately. We are in a very dire emergency. The conclusion isn't to despair, the conclusion is to rise up. And to understand that we have very little time. But the good news is that when millions of people do rise up, even in a closing democracy, they have great power to push back and restore the rule of law. You are right to be worried, especially about #10. At the end of the book, I have got these various scenarios, based on the historical record, about things that we are likely to see in the months running up to the election. The months leading up to the election, according to the blueprint, are very unstable, Randi. And we are likely to see hyped threats, agents provocateurs (i.e., agents of the state, dressed like protesters, but intent on creating disruptions, some kind of violence, to give the police an excuse to crack down violently on protesters) ... We are likely to see increased harassment of voting rights groups. I was reading Goebbels, and that's why I wasn't surprised that the White House tried to purge the whole civil service, with the US Attorneys scandal, because that is what Goebbels did in 1933, and that is what despots imitate ever since. He purged the civil service. He focused on lawyers and judges. Then you can still have elections, but it is over, essentially, because your guys are the ones deciding. So we are in very great peril. Congress and the people are wrong in thinking we can just vote them out, because based on the historical record, it is very unlikely that we are going to have a transparent election.

<http://words-of-power.blogspot.com/2007/11/randi-rhodes-interviews-naomi-wolf.html>

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8.14 **"Production Sharing Agreements:"**

The "Trojan Horse" in the New Iraq Constitution: Courtesy of BIG OIL

Crude Designs:

The Rip-Off of Iraq's Oil Wealth

**by Greg Muttit
(Global Policy Forum)**

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/oil/2005/crudedesigns.htm#a>

New Iraq Constitution Lays the Ground for Oil Field Sell-Off

"As Iraq goes to the polls in this month's referendum on the draft Constitution, the fate of the country's oil reserves has once again escaped public scrutiny – despite their central importance to Iraq's future economy."

Keeping Iraq's Oil in the Ground

By Greg Palast

AlterNet

Wednesday 14 June 2006

World oil production today stands at more than twice the 15-billion a-year maximum projected by Shell Oil in 1956 -- and reserves are climbing at a faster clip yet. That leaves the question, Why this war?

Did Dick Cheney send us in to seize the last dwindling supplies? Unlikely. Our world's petroleum reserves have doubled in just twenty-five years -- and it is in Shell's and the rest of the industry's interest that this doubling doesn't happen again. The neo-cons were hell-bent on raising Iraq's oil production. Big Oil's interest was in suppressing production, that is, keeping Iraq to its OPEC quota or less. This raises the question, did the petroleum industry, which had a direct, if hidden, hand, in promoting invasion, cheerlead for a takeover of Iraq to prevent overproduction?

It wouldn't be the first time. If oil is what we're looking for, there are, indeed, extra helpings in Iraq. On paper, Iraq, at 112 billion proven barrels, has the second largest reserves in OPEC after Saudi Arabia. That does not make Saudi Arabia happy. Even more important is that Iraq has fewer than three thousand operating wells... compared to one million in Texas.

That makes the Saudis even unhappier. It would take a decade or more, but start drilling in Iraq and its reserves will about double, bringing it within gallons of Saudi Arabia's own gargantuan pool. Should Iraq drill on that scale, the total, when combined with the Saudis', will drown the oil market. That wouldn't make the Texans too happy either.

So Fadhil Chalabi's plan for Iraq to pump 12 million barrels a day, a million more than Saudi Arabia, is not, to use Bob Ebel's (Center for Strategic and International Studies) terminology, "ridiculous" from a raw resource view, it is ridiculous politically. It would never be permitted. An international industry policy of suppressing Iraqi oil production has been in place since 1927.

We need again to visit that imp called "history."

It began with a character known as "Mr. 5%"-- Calouste Gulbenkian -- who, in 1925, slicked King Faisal, neophyte ruler of the country recently created by Churchill, into giving Gulbenkian's "Iraq Petroleum Company" (IPC) exclusive rights to all of Iraq's oil.

Gulbenkian flipped 95% of his concession to a combine of western oil giants: Anglo-Persian, Royal Dutch Shell, CFP of France, and the Standard Oil trust companies (now ExxonMobil and its "sisters.") The remaining slice Calouste kept for himself -- hence, "Mr. 5%."

The oil majors had a better use for Iraq's oil than drilling it -- not drilling it.

The oil bigs had bought Iraq's concession to seal it up and keep it off the market. To please his buyers' wishes, Mr. 5% spread out a big map of the Middle East on the floor of a hotel room in Belgium and drew a thick red line around the gulf oil fields, centered on Iraq.

All the oil company executives, gathered in the hotel room, signed their name on the red line -- vowing not to drill, except as a group, within the red-lined zone. No one, therefore, had an incentive to cheat and take red-lined oil.

All of Iraq's oil, sequestered by all, was locked in, and all signers would enjoy a lift in worldwide prices.

Anglo-Persian Company, now British Petroleum (BP), would pump almost all its oil, reasonably, from Persia (Iran). Later, the Standard Oil combine, renamed the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco), would limit almost all its drilling to Saudi Arabia. Anglo-Persian (BP) had begun pulling oil from Kirkuk, Iraq, in 1927 and, in accordance with the Red-Line Agreement, shared its Kirkuk and Basra fields with its IPC group -- and drilled no more.

The following was written three decades ago:

Although its original concession of March 14, 1925, covered all of Iraq, the Iraq Petroleum Co., under the ownership of BP (23.75%), Shell (23.75%), CFP [of France] (23.75%), Exxon (11.85%), Mobil (11.85%), and [Calouste] Gulbenkian (5.0%), limited its production to fields constituting only one-half of 1 percent of the country's total area.

During the Great Depression, the world was awash with oil and greater output from Iraq would simply have driven the price down to even lower levels.

Plus ça change...

When the British Foreign Office fretted that locking up oil would stoke local nationalist anger, BP-IPC agreed privately to pretend to drill lots of wells, but make them absurdly shallow and place them where, wrote a company manager, "there was no danger of striking oil."

This systematic suppression of Iraq's production, begun in 1927, has never ceased. In the early 1960s, Iraq's frustration with the British-led oil consortium's failure to pump pushed the nation to cancel the BP-Shell-Exxon concession and seize the oil fields.

Britain was ready to strangle Baghdad, but a cooler, wiser man in the White House, John F. Kennedy, told the Brits to back off.

President Kennedy refused to call Iraq's seizure an "expropriation" akin to Castro's seizure of U.S.-owned banana plantations. Kennedy's view was that Anglo-American companies had it coming to them because they had refused to honor their legal commitment to drill.

But the freedom Kennedy offered the Iraqis to drill their own oil to the maximum was swiftly taken away from them by their Arab brethren.

The OPEC cartel, controlled by Saudi Arabia, capped Iraq's production at a sum equal to Iran's, though the Iranian reserves are far smaller than Iraq's. The excuse for this quota equality between Iraq and Iran was to prevent war between them. It didn't.

To keep Iraq's Ba'athists from complaining about the limits, Saudi Arabia simply bought off the leaders by funding Saddam's war against Iran and giving the dictator \$7 billion for his "Islamic bomb" program.

In 1974, a U.S. politician broke the omerta over the suppression of Iraq's oil production. It was during the Arab oil embargo that Senator Edmund Muskie revealed a secret intelligence report of "fantastic" reserves of oil in Iraq undeveloped because U.S. oil companies refused to add pipeline capacity.

Muskie, who'd just lost a bid for the Presidency, was dubbed a "loser" and ignored. The Iranian bombing of the Basra fields (1980-88) put a new kink in Iraq's oil production. Iraq's frustration under production limits explodes periodically.

In August 1990, Kuwait's craven siphoning of borderland oil fields jointly owned with Iraq gave Saddam the excuse to take Kuwait's share. Here was Saddam's opportunity to increase Iraq's OPEC quota by taking Kuwait's (most assuredly not approved by the U.S.). Saddam's plan backfired.

The Basra oil fields not crippled by Iran were demolished in 1991 by American B-52s.

Saddam's petro-military overreach into Kuwait gave the West the authority for a more direct oil suppression method called the "Sanctions" program, later changed to "Oil for Food." Now we get to the real reason for the U.N. embargo on Iraqi oil exports.

According to the official U.S. position:

Sanctions were critical to preventing Iraq from acquiring equipment that could be used to reconstitute banned weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs.

How odd.

If cutting Saddam's allowance was the purpose, then sanctions, limiting oil exports, was a very suspect method indeed. The nature of the oil market (a cartel) is such that the elimination of two million barrels a day increased Saddam's revenue.

One might conclude that sanctions were less about WMD and more about EPS (earnings per share) of oil sellers.

In other words, there is nothing new under the desert sun. Today's fight over how much of Iraq's oil to produce (or suppress) simply extends into this century the last century's pump-or-control battles. In sum, Big Oil, whether in European or Arab-OPEC dress, has done its damned best to keep Iraq's oil buried deep in the ground to keep prices high in the air. Iraq has 74 known fields and only 15 in production; 526 known "structures" (oil-speak for "pools of oil"), only 125 drilled.

And they won't be drilled, not unless Iraq says, "Mother, may I?" to Saudi Arabia, or, as the James Baker/Council on Foreign Relations paper says, "Saudi Arabia may punish Iraq." And believe me, Iraq wouldn't want that.

The decision to expand production has, for now, been kept out of Iraqi's hands by the latest method of suppressing Iraq's oil flow -- the 2003 invasion and resistance to invasion. And it has been darn effective.

Iraq's output in 2003, 2004 and 2005 was less than produced under the restrictive Oil-for-Food Program.

Whether by design or happenstance, this decline in output has resulted in tripling the profits of the five U.S. oil majors to \$89 billion for a single year, 2005, compared to pre-invasion 2002.

That suggests an interesting arithmetic equation. Big Oil's profits are up \$89 billion a year in the same period the oil industry boosted contributions to Mr. Bush's reelection campaign to roughly \$40 million.

That would make our president "Mr. 0.05%."

A History of Oil in Iraq

Suppressing It,

Not Pumping It

- Ø 1925-28. "Mr. 5%" sells his monopoly on Iraq's oil to British Petroleum and Exxon, who sign a "Red-Line Agreement" vowing not to compete by drilling independently in Iraq.
- Ø 1948. Red-Line Agreement ended, replaced by oil combines' "dog in the manger" strategy -- taking control of fields, then capping production--drilling shallow holes where "there was no danger of striking oil."
- Ø 1961. OPEC, founded the year before, places quotas on Iraq's exports equal to Iran's, locking in suppression policy.
- Ø 1980-88. Iran-Iraq War. Iran destroys Basra fields. Iraq cannot meet OPEC quota.
- Ø 1991. Desert Storm. Anglo-American bombings cut production.
- Ø 1991-2003. United Nations Oil embargo (zero legal exports) followed by Oil-for-Food Program limiting Iraqi sales to 2 million barrels a day.
- Ø 2003-? "Insurgents" sabotage Iraq's pipelines and infrastructure.
- Ø 2004. Options for Iraqi Oil. The secret plan adopted by U.S. State Department overturns Pentagon proposal to massively increase oil production. State Department plan, adopted by government of occupied Iraq, limits state oil company to OPEC quotas.

The preceding article is excerpted from Greg Palast's new book, *Armed Madhouse* (Dutton Adult, 2006).

The Corporate-U.S. Takeover of the Iraq Economy

How the Iraq occupation embedded US corporations into the Iraq economy, satisfying a multi-decade design on Iraq's oil wealth.

The roots of the economic takeover of Iraq are long and deep. They became more aggressive after the strongest U.S. ally in the region, the Shah of Iran, was deposed in the 1979. The roots of the quest of dominance of the oil-rich region are found in both the Democratic and Republican Party, but the most aggressive pursuit has been by George W. Bush.

Former President Jimmy Carter wrote in his memoirs that many Americans "deeply resented that the greatest nation on the earth was being jerked around by a few desert states." And, when he was president he put forward "the Carter Doctrine" in a State of the Union Address in 1980 that acknowledged "the overwhelming dependence of the Western democracies on oil supplies from the Middle East" and promised military force would be used to ensure access to Middle East oil: "Any attempt by an outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America and . . . will be repelled by any means necessary including the use of force."

But, according to a book by Antonia Juhasz, "The Bush Agenda," it was the Reagan, Bush I and Bush II administrations that most aggressively pursued the Iraq oil economy. Her excellent book tells a story that explains the reasons for the invasion and occupation of Iraq. It shows how the Reagan and Bush I administrations began by building a friendly trade relationship that provided money, arms, intelligence, and political protection to Saddam Hussein -- despite his brutal record as a despotic dictator. And, how the Clinton years led to 'regime change' in Iraq becoming the policy of the United States and naturally following that was the Bush II's military invasion of the country.

She highlights the web of corporate interests from the oil, oil engineering and military sectors of the U.S. economy that have combined with government to the build-up to the invasion of Iraq. Many of the corporate players -- Chevron, Bechtel, Lockheed Martin and Halliburton -- have corporate leaders who went into and out of government over the years, influencing the direction of U.S. policy and then ensuring that their corporations profited mightily from the policies they put in place. Juhasz points to Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, L. Paul Bremer, Scooter Libby, Robert Zoellick, Paul Wolfowitz, Zalmay Khalizad and George Shultz, as key players in the long term quest to take over Iraq's economy.

The Root of the Problem: Corporate Globalization of Trade

The story of the invasion of Iraq and theft of the Iraqi economy is part of a larger story of multi-national corporations and corporate globalization affecting much of the world. Under the guise of "free trade" economic policies that make multinational corporations more powerful than governments.

Laws favoring corporations are put in place: less regulation, less commitment to

specific locations, and restrictions on government preventing the shift of economic benefit away from small, local business, workers, consumers and the environment.

Globalization of trade claims to benefit by trickling down the profit, but in reality it continues to funnel wealth to the top -- making the rich richer, the poor poorer and the middle class smaller.

<http://democracyrising.us/content/view/483/151/>

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8.15 **The Obliteration of the Iraqi Economy**

BOOK: Armed Madhouse

From Baghdad to New Orleans --

Sordid Secrets & Strange Tales of a White House Gone Wild

by Greg Palast

BOOK: Neo-Conned!: Just War Principles: A Condemnation of War in Iraq

by Bishop Hilarion Capucci, D. Liam O'Huallachain, J. Forrest Sharpe and others

BOOK: Neo-Conned! Again: Hypocrisy, Lawlessness, and the Rape of Iraq

by Joseph Cirincione, D. Liam O'Huallachain, J. Forrest Sharpe, Scott Ritte, Robert Fisk, Noam Chomsky, Milton Viorst, Claes Ryn, Cockburn & St. Clair, E. Michael Jones, Kirkpatrick Sale, Naomi Klein, Justin Raimondo and others

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8.16 **Brzezinski, Uzbekistan, and "The Grand Chessboard"**

A War in the Planning for Four Years

HOW STUPID DO THEY THINK WE ARE?

Zbigniew Brzezinski and the CFR Put War Plans In a 1997 Book --

It Is "A Blueprint for World Dictatorship," Says a Former German Defense and NATO Official Who Warned of Global Domination in 1984, in an Exclusive Interview With FTW

by Michael C. Ruppert

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Summary

"THE GRAND CHESSBOARD - American Primacy And It's Geostrategic Imperatives," Zbigniew Brzezinski, Basic Books, 1997.

These are the very first words in the book: "Ever since the continents started interacting politically, some five hundred years ago, Eurasia has been the center of world power." - p. xiii. Eurasia is all of the territory east of Germany and Poland, stretching all the way through Russia and China to the Pacific Ocean. It includes the Middle East and most of the Indian subcontinent. The key to controlling

Eurasia, says Brzezinski, is controlling the Central Asian Republics. And the key to controlling the Central Asian republics is Uzbekistan. Thus, it comes as no surprise that Uzbekistan was forcefully mentioned by President George W. Bush in his address to a joint session of Congress, just days after the attacks of September 11, as the very first place that the U.S. military would be deployed.

As FTW has documented in previous stories, major deployments of U.S. and British forces had taken place before the attacks. And the U.S. Army and the CIA had been active in Uzbekistan for several years. There is now evidence that what the world is witnessing is a cold and calculated war plan -- at least four years in the making -- and that, from reading Brzezinski's own words about Pearl Harbor, the World Trade Center attacks were just the trigger needed to set the final conquest in motion.

<http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/zbig.html>

EXCERPTS: BRZEZINSKI on EURASIA

MR. B's BIO as it appears on the TRILATERAL COMMISSION website.....

"**Zbigniew Brzezinski** played an important role in the formation of the Commission. He was its first Director (1973-76) and its major intellectual dynamo in those years. Dr. Brzezinski rejoined the Commission in 1981 and now serves on the Executive Committee. President Carter was a member from mid-1973 until his election, when he left in accordance with Commission rules barring individuals holding administration posts. President Bush was invited to join in early 1977 after he left the government. He resigned in late 1978, two years before he became Vice President. Richard B. Cheney was a Commission member from 1997 until he became a candidate for the Vice Presidency and resigned in 2000." -- Trilateral Commission

- 1997 - In his book, **The Grand Chessboard**, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski (former national security advisor for President Carter, former director of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a member of the Trilateral Commission along with Bush Sr. and Dick Cheney) writes of an imperialistic endeavor of controlling the world's vast natural resources (oil, natural gas, minerals, gold, etc.) and also human labor in Eurasia (specifically central Asia/Uzbekistan) that the U.S. must undertake to maintain global domination despite the American public's indecisiveness towards the external projection of American power (in which he reminds the reader that the American public supported U.S.'s engagement in World War II largely because of the shock effect of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor) and cautions that it will become more difficult to establish consensus on foreign policy issues with an ever increasingly multi-cultural society in America unless the public widely perceives a massive direct external threat.

"... The defeat and collapse of the Soviet Union was the final step in the rapid ascendance of a Western Hemisphere power, the United States, as the sole and, indeed, the first truly global power... (p. xiii)

"... But in the meantime, it is imperative that no Eurasian challenger emerges, capable of dominating Eurasia and thus of also challenging America. The formulation of a comprehensive and integrated Eurasian geostrategy is therefore the purpose of this book. (p. xiv)

"The attitude of the American public toward the external projection of American power has been much more ambivalent. The public supported America's engagement in World War II largely because of the shock effect of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. (p. 24-25)

"For America, the chief geopolitical prize is Eurasia... Now a non-Eurasian power is preeminent in Eurasia - and America's global primacy is directly dependent on how long and how effectively its preponderance on the Eurasian continent is sustained." (p.30)

"In that context, how America 'manages' Eurasia is critical... A power that dominates Eurasia would control two of the world's three most advanced and economically productive regions. A mere glance at the map also suggests that control over Eurasia would almost automatically entail Africa's subordination, rendering the Western Hemisphere and Oceania geopolitically peripheral to the world's central continent. About 75 per cent of the world's people live in Eurasia, and most of the world's physical wealth is there as well, both in its enterprises and underneath its soil. Eurasia accounts for 60 per cent of the world's GNP and about three-fourths of the world's known energy resources." (p.31)

"It is also a fact that America is too democratic at home to be autocratic abroad. This limits the use of America's power, especially its capacity for military intimidation. Never before has a populist democracy attained international supremacy. But the pursuit of power is not a goal that commands popular passion, except in conditions of a sudden threat or challenge to the public's sense of domestic well-being. The economic self-denial (that is, defense spending) and the human sacrifice (casualties, even among professional soldiers) required in the effort are uncongenial to democratic instincts. Democracy is inimical to imperial mobilization." (p.35)

"Two basic steps are thus required: first, to identify the geostrategically dynamic Eurasian states that have the power to cause a potentially important shift in the international distribution of power and to decipher the central external goals of their respective political elites and the likely consequences of their seeking to attain them... second, to formulate specific U.S. policies to offset, co-opt, and/or control the above..." (p. 40)

"...To put it in a terminology that harkens back to the more brutal age of ancient empires, the three grand imperatives of imperial geostrategy are to prevent collusion and maintain security dependence among the vassals, to keep tributaries pliant and protected, and to keep the barbarians from coming together." (p.40)

"Henceforth, the United States may have to determine how to cope with regional coalitions that seek to push America out of Eurasia, thereby threatening America's status as a global power." (p.55)

"Uzbekistan, nationally the most vital and the most populous of the central Asian states, represents the major obstacle to any renewed Russian control over the region. Its independence is critical to the survival of the other Central Asian states, and it is the least vulnerable to Russian pressures." (p. 121)

"Moreover, they [the Central Asian Republics] are of importance from the standpoint of security and historical ambitions to at least three of their most immediate and more powerful neighbors, namely Russia, Turkey and Iran, with China also signaling an increasing political interest in the region. **But the Eurasian Balkans are infinitely more important as a potential economic prize: an enormous concentration of natural gas and oil reserves is located in the region, in addition to important minerals, including gold.**" (p.124)

"The world's energy consumption is bound to vastly increase over the next two or three decades. Estimates by the U.S. Department of energy anticipate that world demand will rise by more than 50 percent between 1993 and 2015, with the most significant increase in consumption occurring in the Far East. The momentum of Asia's economic development is already generating massive pressures for the exploration and exploitation of new sources of energy and the Central Asian region and the Caspian Sea basin are known to contain reserves of natural gas and oil that dwarf those of Kuwait, the Gulf of Mexico, or the North Sea." (p.125)

"Uzbekistan is, in fact, the prime candidate for regional leadership in Central Asia." (p.130)

"Once pipelines to the area have been developed, Turkmenistan's truly vast natural gas reserves augur a prosperous future for the country's people." (p.132)

"In fact, an Islamic revival -- already abetted from the outside not only by Iran but also by Saudi Arabia -- is likely to become the mobilizing impulse for the increasingly pervasive new nationalisms, determined to oppose any reintegration under Russian -- and hence infidel -- control." (p. 133).

"For Pakistan, the primary interest is to gain Geostrategic depth through political influence in Afghanistan -- and to deny to Iran the exercise of such influence in Afghanistan and Tajikistan -- and to benefit eventually from any pipeline construction linking Central Asia with the Arabian Sea." (p.139)

"Turkmenistan... has been actively exploring the construction of a new pipeline through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea..." (p.145)

"It follows that America's primary interest is to help ensure that no single power comes to control this geopolitical space and that the global community has unhindered financial and economic access to it." (p148)

"China's growing economic presence in the region and its political stake in the area's independence are also congruent with America's interests." (p.149)

"America is now the only global superpower, and Eurasia is the globe's central arena. Hence, what happens to the distribution of power on the Eurasian continent will be of decisive importance to America's global primacy and to America's historical legacy." (p.194)

"Without sustained and directed American involvement, before long the forces of global disorder could come to dominate the world scene. And the possibility of such a fragmentation is inherent in the geopolitical tensions not only of today's Eurasia but of the world more generally." (p.194)

"With warning signs on the horizon across Europe and Asia, any successful American policy must focus on Eurasia as a whole and be guided by a Geostrategic design." (p.197)

"That puts a premium on maneuver and manipulation in order to prevent the emergence of a hostile coalition that could eventually seek to challenge America's primacy..." (p. 198)

"The most immediate task is to make certain that no state or combination of states gains the capacity to expel the United States from Eurasia or even to diminish significantly its decisive arbitration role." (p. 198)

"In the long run, global politics are bound to become increasingly uncongenial to the concentration of hegemonic power in the hands of a single state. Hence, America is not only the first, as well as the only, truly global superpower, but it is also likely to be the very last." (p.209)

"Moreover, as America becomes an increasingly multi-cultural society, it may find it more difficult to fashion a consensus on foreign policy issues, except in the circumstance of a truly massive and widely perceived direct external threat."
(p. 211)

[Emphasis added throughout]

<http://thewebfairy.com/killtown/oddties.html>

BOOK: The Grand Chessboard:

American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives
by Zbgniew Brzezinski

"Hegemony is as Old as Mankind"

Available for purchase at:
<http://www.amazon.com/Grand-Chessboard-American-Geostrategic-Imperatives/dp/0465027261>

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8.17 Western Intelligence Support for the Development of Islamic Radicalism

[This article also referenced under 5.1]

Born in the CIA

by Amjad Hussain

There are hundreds of similar madrassas in Pakistan and Afghanistan. How a religious school located along the turbulent North Western Frontier of Pakistan

came to be the training ground for the likes of Taliban of Afghanistan and their supporters in Pakistan is an interesting question. The answer, however, lies not in the devastated Afghan countryside or in Pakistan but in Langley, Virginia, the home of America's Central Intelligence Agency. After the Soviet withdrew from Afghanistan, the country was engulfed in a bloody civil war. The Taliban were the answer to the nasty conflict between the warring factions of Afghan freedom fighters or mujahideen. To understand the Taliban phenomenon, we need to rewind to the early days of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The US was "caught off guard....."

[NOTE: See Brzezinski's contention to the contrary on the following page.]

..... when the Soviet forces entered Afghanistan in 1979. Though an indigenous Islamic resistance movement had arisen against the Soviets, it had no chance of succeeding on its own. America, for its own strategic reasons, was eager to help but needed a common link that the mujahideen could identify with. That common link between America and its allies and the hapless mujahideen turned out to be religion.

From that point on, the struggle was between the camps of believers and non-believers or as was stated at the time, between Dar-ul-Islam, the abode of the faithful, and Dar-ul-Harb, the abode of the infidels. This medieval concept envisioned the world into two distinct camps. Once inside the abode of the faithful, the West became a full partner in jihad against the Soviet infidels.

For ten years (1979-1989), the CIA and the Pakistan army trained and equipped mujahideen and Muslim mercenaries from around the world to fight the Soviet infidels. Armed with the latest American weapons and burning with religious zeal, the mujahideen took on a super power and defeated it. But at an enormous cost. Five million Afghans were forced to flee the country, the land was devastated and a pervasive gun and drug culture permeated Afghanistan and next door Pakistan.

http://www.totse.com/en/politics/central_intelligence_agency/162381.html

1986-1992: CIA and British Recruit and Train Militants Worldwide To Help Fight Afghan War

According to Australian journalist John Pilger, in this year, "CIA Director William Casey [gives] his backing to a plan put forward by Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI, to recruit people from around the world to join the Afghan jihad. More than 100,000 Islamic militants [are] trained in Pakistan between 1986 and 1992, in camps overseen by the CIA and [the British intelligence agency] MI6, with the [British special forces unit] SAS training future al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters in bomb-making and other black arts. Their leaders [are] trained at a CIA camp in Virginia."

This operation is named Operation Cyclone. While the operation is originally designed to defeat the Soviets in Afghanistan, it continues for several years after the Soviets leave Afghanistan in 1989. [Guardian, 9/20/2003]

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/context.jsp?item=a86operationcyclone#a86operationcyclone>

EXCERPT: American Support of Jihadis
Through the CIA's Intervention in Afghanistan

**Interview with Zbigniew Brzezinski,
Founding Member of the Trilateral Commission
President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser**

According to this 1998 interview with Zbigniew Brzezinski, the CIA's intervention in Afghanistan preceded the 1979 Soviet invasion. This decision of the Carter Administration in 1979 to intervene and destabilise Afghanistan is the root cause of Afghanistan's destruction as a nation.

M.C.

Le Nouvel Observateur, Paris, 15-21 January 1998

Posted at globalresearch.ca 15 October 2001

Q: And neither do you regret having supported the Islamic fundamentalism, having given arms and advice to future terrorists?

B: What is most important to the history of the world? The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some stirred-up Moslems or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the cold war?

Q: Some stirred-up Moslems? But it has been said and repeated Islamic fundamentalism represents a world menace today.

B: Nonsense! It is said that the West had a global policy in regard to Islam. That is stupid. There isn't a global Islam. Look at Islam in a rational manner and without demagoguery or emotion. It is the leading religion of the world with 1.5 billion followers. But what is there in common among Saudi Arabian fundamentalism, moderate Morocco, Pakistan militarism, Egyptian pro-Western or Central Asian secularism? Nothing more than what unites the Christian countries.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/BRZ110A.html>

The CIA's "Operation Cyclone:"

Stirring the Hornet's Nest of Islamic Unrest

[Zbigniew] Brzezinski not long ago revealed that on July 3, 1979, unknown to the American public and Congress, President Jimmy Carter secretly authorised \$500 million to create an international terrorist movement that would spread Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia and "destabilise" the Soviet Union.....

The CIA called this Operation Cyclone and in the following years poured \$4 billion into setting up Islamic training schools in Pakistan (Taliban means "student").

Young zealots were sent to the CIA's spy training camp in Virginia, where future members of al-Qaeda were taught "sabotage skills" -- terrorism.

Others were recruited at an Islamic school in Brooklyn, New York, within sight of the fated Twin Towers.

In Pakistan, they were directed by British MI6 officers and trained by the SAS.

The result, quipped Brzezinski, was "a few stirred up Muslims" -- meaning the Taliban.

The Wall Street Journal declared: "The Taliban are the players most capable of achieving peace. Moreover, they were crucial to secure the country as a prime trans-shipment route for the export of Central Asia's vast oil, gas and other natural resources."

No American newspaper dares suggest that the prisoners in Camp X-Ray are the product of this policy, nor that it was one of the factors that led to the attacks of September 11.

Nor do they ask: who were the real winners of September 11?

The day the Wall Street stock market opened after the destruction of the Twin Towers, the few companies showing increased value were the giant military contractors Alliant Tech Systems, Northrop Gruman, Raytheon (a contributor to New Labour) and Lockheed Martin.

As the US military's biggest supplier, Lockheed Martin's share value rose by a staggering 30 per cent.

Within six weeks of September 11, the company (with its main plant in Texas, George Bush's home state) had secured the biggest military order in history: a \$200 billion contract to develop a new fighter aircraft. The greatest taboo of all, which Orwell would surely recognise, is the record of the United States as a terrorist state and haven for terrorists.

This truth is virtually unknown by the American public and makes a mockery of Bush's (and Blair's) statements about "tracking down terrorists wherever they are."

They don't have to look far.

Florida, currently governed by the President's brother, Jeb Bush, has given refuge to terrorists who, like the September 11 gang, have hijacked aircraft and boats with guns and knives.

Most have never had criminal charges brought against them.

Why? All of them are anti-Castro Cubans. Former Guatemalan Defence Minister Gramajo Morales, who was accused of "devising and directing an indiscriminate campaign of terror against civilians," including the torture of an American nun and the massacre of eight people from one family, studied at Harvard University on a US government scholarship.

During the 1980s, thousands of people were murdered by death squads connected to the army of El Salvador, whose former chief now lives comfortably in Florida.

The former Haitian dictator, General Prosper Avril, liked to display the bloodied victims of his torture on television.

When he was overthrown, he was flown to Florida by the US government, and granted political asylum.

A leading member of the Chilean military during the reign of General Pinochet, whose special responsibility was executions and torture, lives in Miami.

The Iranian general who ran Iran's notorious prisons, is a wealthy exile in the US.

One of Pol Pot's senior henchmen, who enticed Cambodian exiles back to their certain death, lives in Mount Vernon, New York.

What all these people have in common, apart from their history of terrorism, is that they either worked directly for the US government or carried out the dirty work of US policies.

The al-Qaeda training camps are kindergartens compared with the world's leading university of terrorism at Fort Benning in Georgia.

Known until recently as the School of the Americas, its graduates include almost half the cabinet ministers of the genocidal regimes in Guatemala, two thirds of the El Salvadorean army officers who committed, according to the United Nations, the worst atrocities of that country's civil war, and the head of Pinochet's secret police, who ran Chile's concentration camps.

There is terrible irony at work here. The humane response of people all over the world to the terrorism of September 11 has long been hijacked by those running a rapacious great power with a history of terrorism second to none.

Global supremacy, not the defeat of terrorism, is the goal; only the politically blind believe otherwise.

www.sianews.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=271

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8.18 The Massive Evidence that "Al-Qaeda Blowback" is a LIE

"Al-Qaeda" Has Continued to Perform as a U.S. Asset in Military Actions Undertaken by the United States and Great Britain

U.S. Supported al-Qaeda Cells During Balkan Wars, as al-Qaeda Fought Serbian Troops

http://www.prisonplanet.com/us_supported_al_qaeda_cells_during_balkan_wars.html

U.S. Protects Al-Qaeda Terrorists in Kosovo

http://www.larouchepub.com/other/2001/2842us_alqaeda_kla.html

Al-Qaeda in Kosovo

<http://www.serbianna.com/columns/mb/035.shtml>

America Used Islamists to Arm the Bosnian Muslims

http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,688310,00.html#article_continue

The KLA, Al-Qaeda and Bill Clinton

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1363436/posts>

German Intelligence and the CIA Supported Al Qaeda Terrorists in Yugoslavia

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/BEH502A.html>

Macedonian Dailies See Links Between Albanian Rebels and bin Laden

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/MNA110A.html>

The "Bosnian" Pattern Replicated in Kosovo, Macedonia, and Chechnya

by Kurt Nimmo

EXCERPTS:

Don't expect our corporate media "op-ed" stenographers to deviate from their Pentagon and neocon generated scripts and connect the dots now that another in-your-face link between "al-Qaeda" terrorism and state-sponsored terrorism (one in the same) has surfaced.

"Omar Khyam, an accused leader among seven men charged in 2004 with stockpiling half a ton of explosives in an Al Qaeda-linked bombing plot, took the stand Tuesday long enough to refuse to continue his testimony. The judge temporarily adjourned the trial, which began in March," reports the Los Angeles Times. "On Monday, Khyam stunned his own lawyer when he declared that his relatives in Pakistan had been intimidated in recent days by agents of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence agency, which has a shadowy history of contacts with Islamic extremist networks."

No mention here of the "shadowy" fact the ISI is a branch office of the CIA. "A number of officers from the ISI's Covert Action Division received training in the US and many covert action experts of the CIA were attached to the ISI to guide it in its operations against the Soviet troops by using the Afghan Mujahideen, Islamic fundamentalists of Pakistan and Arab volunteers," writes B. Raman for the South Asia Analysis Group. These "Arab volunteers" and "Islamic fundamentalists," of the most virulent strain (Saudi Wahhabism), are now known as "al-Qaeda," a wily and phantasmal enemy specifically designed to serve as a forever enemy, an elusive Goldsteinesque enemy explicitly engineered to pose a threat in perpetuum.

...

For instance, as Michel Chossudovsky notes, the "Bosnian pattern," as described in a Republican Party Committee congressional report published in 1997, "was replicated in Kosovo" with "the complicity of NATO and the US State Department. Mujahideen mercenaries [recruited, trained, and financed by the CIA and ISI] from the Middle East and Central Asia were recruited to fight in the ranks of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in 1998-99, largely supporting NATO's war effort. Confirmed by British military sources, the task of arming and training of the KLA had been entrusted in 1998 to the US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and Britain's Secret Intelligence Services MI6, together with 'former and serving members' of 22 SAS [Britain's 22nd Special Air Services Regiment], as well as three British and American private security companies." This pattern was also put to work in Macedonia and Chechnya.

Omar Khyam has revealed but another glimmer of the precise nature of the "al-Qaeda" terror network, information useful for connecting dots but that will of course be studiously ignored by our corporate media stenographers. "Khyam has revealed more information than was expected," remarked Sajjan Gohel of the Asia-Pacific Foundation, billed as a counter-terrorism think tank. "He has given a lot of insight into how very many British Muslims have been recruited. I think everyone was shocked. The question now is whether the whole truth will come out."

Of course, it does not matter if "the whole truth will come out," as it is irrelevant, especially for a society unable to connect the dots and, really, not wanting to connect the dots and learn the truth, as this particular truth interrupts sit-coms and football games.

For every person who looks beyond the official story and gleans the indisputable truth about "al-Qaeda" and various other intelligence contrivances engineered by the Pentagon, CIA, MI-6, Mossad, et al, there are literally millions of people who buy into the official explanation, or rather Brothers Grimm machination -- [that] the Muslims, represented by the dead Osama and al-Zarqawi, are out to get us and an incessant "clash of civilizations" is required, with attendant police state and tyranny at home.

Indeed, the "whole truth," according to our neocon rulers, is nothing less than base "appeasement" of "bad guys," those who wish us harm. Soon enough, especially after the imminent shock and awe of Iran, espousing the truth will result in Gestapo door knocks-with battering rams manned by ninja-clad thugs tossing stun grenades-at three in the morning, thus shuffling "fifth columnists," as Sen. Lindsey Graham would likely describe the readers of this blog, off to Rex 84 camps where waterboarding and secret military tribunals are the order of the day.

<http://kurnimmo.com/?p=569>

Why "Jihad" Came to Yugoslavia

**"The CIA Recruited and Trained the Jihadists"
Jürgen Elsässer interviewed by Silvia Cattori**

The Yugoslav Caldron

In his latest book, "How the Jihad Came to Europe," German journalist Jürgen Elsässer unravels the Jihadist thread. Muslim fighters recruited by the CIA to fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan were used successively in Yugoslavia and Chechnya, still supported by the CIA, but perhaps sometimes out of its control. Basing himself on diverse sources, mainly Yugoslavian, Dutch, and German, he reconstructed the development of Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants at the side of NATO in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Silvia Cattori: Your investigation into the actions of the secret services makes a frightening report. We discover that since the 80's the United States has invested billions of dollars to finance criminal activities and that by means of the CIA they are directly implicated in the attacks attributed to the Moslems. What is the contribution of your book?

Jurgen Elsässer: It is the only work that establishes the tie between wars in the Balkan of the 90's and the attack of September 11, 2001. All the large attacks, in New York, in London, in Madrid, would never have taken place without the recruitment by the American and British secret services of these jihadists who have been blamed for the attacks. I bring a new light on the manipulations of the intelligence agencies. Other books than mine have noted the presence of Osama Ben Laden in the Balkans. But their authors presented the Moslem fighters in the Balkan as enemies of the west. The information that I collected from multiple sources, demonstrate that these jihadists are puppets in the hands of the west and are not, as one pretends, enemies.

SC: In the case of the war in the Balkan, the manipulations of various States are clearly designated in your book. The United States supported Ben Laden whose work was to form the Mujahidines. How can anyone continue to ignore that these attempts that horrify public opinion would never have existed if these "terrorists" had not been driven and financed by the western intelligence services?

JE: Yes, indeed, it is the result of facts that one can observe. But one cannot say that the western intervention in ex - Yugoslavia had for [its] objective to prepare [the] attack of September 11. To be precise: these attacks are a consequence of western politics of the 90's because NATO put these jihadists in place in the Balkans and collaborated with them. The Moslem militants who have been designated the persons responsible for the attacks of September 11 were part of this network.

SC: According to you, what was the interest of the United States and Germany to set the people of the Balkans one against the other?

JE: The west had a common interest to destroy Yugoslavia, to dismember it, because, after the end of the soviet bloc, it would have been a model of the intelligent combination of capitalist and socialist elements. But the west wanted to impose the neoliberal model on all countries.

...
The neoconservatives, grouped around [Richard] Pearl, had written a document one year before September 11, according to which America had need of a catalyzing event similar to the attack on Pearl Harbor. September 11 was this catalyzing event. I believe that people around Pearl wished for the attacks of September 11.

SC: What was the objective pursued by the United States in attacking Serbia? Was it merely about, as is indicated in your book, the US getting itself installed in a strategic region situated on a transit line for the oil and the gas of central Asia? Or did the alliance of the United States with the Moslem fighters directed by Izetbegovic have a second objective: to create a Moslem extremism at the doors of Europe in order to make use of it in the setting of terrorist manipulations? And, if yes, towards what goal?

JE: The United States wanted, as did Austria at the end of the 19th century in Bosnia, to create a "European" Islam to weaken the Islamic states in the Middle East, meaning, at that time, the Ottoman empire, and today, Iran and the Arab states. The neoconservatives had other plans again: to construct a clandestine network of "fundamentalist" puppets to do the dirty work against "old" Europe.

SC: The result, a terrifying civil war. How could Europe have participated in the destruction of Yugoslavia, which appeared as an example of the perfectly successful cohabitation between ethnic groups? By making the Serbians the guilty party, didn't Europe destroy a country that was one of the major constructions of the postwar era? On what legitimacy did Europe base its intervention?

JE: First, in the beginning of the 90's, Germany led the attack based upon the principles of the self-determination of ethnic groups: in other words, Hitler's old ruse against Czechoslovakia and Poland in 1938/39. Then, the United States took the relay and praised "human rights," an obvious swindle.

...
Once the war was finished in Afghanistan, Osama Ben Laden recruited these

jihadist militants. It was his work. It was he that trained them, partially with the support of the CIA, and put them in place in Bosnia. The Americans tolerated the connection between the President Izetbegovic and Ben Laden. Two years later, in 1994, the Americans began to send weapons, in a common clandestine operation with Iran. After the treaty of Dayton, in November 1995, the CIA and the Pentagon recruited [the] best of the jihadists that had fought in Bosnia.

SC: How does it happen that these Moslems got into the hands of services that served ideological interests opposed to theirs?

JE: I analyzed testimonies given by some jihadists interrogated by the German judges. They said that after the treaty of Dayton, which stipulated that all foreign ex-fighters had to leave the country, they didn't have any more money and had nowhere to go. As for those that could remain in Bosnia, because they had been provided with Bosnian passports, they were without work and without money. The day when the recruiters came and rang at their doors and proposed to pay them 3000 dollars a month to serve in the Bosnian army, they didn't know that they were recruited and paid by emissaries of the CIA to serve the United States.

SC: After, when they were sent to prepare the attacks in London in July 2005, for example, did they not become aware that they were in the hands of western intelligence agents who manipulated them?

JE: It is not clear that it was really the young Moslems from the suburbs of London that committed the attacks, as the police claim. There are other indications according to which the bombs were fixed under the trains. It is possible the bombs were attached under the trains without these young men knowing about it. In that case it is not sure that the young Moslems, incriminated by the investigation, committed these attempts.

SC: It is hard to understand the goal that the western States pursue when they engage their services in criminal manipulations?

JE: This is not easy to say. Remember Kennedy's murder. Who did it? It is certain that it was people from the CIA that supported the second killer, it is certain that Oswald was murdered by a man who had been mandated by the CIA. What is not clear is if these men recruited by the CIA acted on order of Johnson or Dulles, or if they were link to the milieu of extremist Cuban exiles, which means affiliated to the mafia. I don't believe that Bush or Blair are chiefs. I don't believe in the theory of the big conspiracy. I believe that the secret services hire men who are ordered to carry out the dirty business; these agents act as they want. Perhaps you know that on September 11, 2001, someone tried to kill Bush. What does it mean? It is difficult to explain.

SC: Do you mean that Bush is, for example, himself hostage of the people who, inside the Pentagon, form a State within the state, one that also escapes the command of the American army? Are you thinking about people that are under the direct influence of characters such as Pearl, Wolfowitz, Feith? Do you think that it is they who, after the war of the Balkans, would have been the real backers of these attacks and that these attacks are not separate from each other, that there is a link between Madrid and London? Does it mean that the Americans are ready to ally with the devil to sow chaos everywhere under the pretext of this anti-Muslim, anti-Arabic war waged under the banner of terrorism? A fabricated terrorism?

JE: Yes, there is a duplicate government that escapes Bush's control. It is the neoconservatives, such as Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Pearl, the people tied into the oil and the military industries. The global chaos is in the interest of the military industry. When there is chaos all over the world, one can sell weapons and oil for a bigger price.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=20060821&articleId=3023>

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8.19 [Al-Qaeda as a CIA Asset](#)

by Peter Dale Scott,
author of *Drugs, Oil, and War*

**9/11 in Historical Perspective: Flawed Assumptions
Deep Politics: Drugs, Oil, Covert Operations and Terrorism:
A briefing for Congressional Staff, July 22, 2005**

The American people have been seriously misled about the origins of the al Qaeda movement blamed for the 9/11 attacks, just as they have been seriously misled about the reasons for America's invasion of Iraq.

The truth is that for at least two decades the United States has engaged in energetic covert programs to secure U.S. control over the Persian Gulf, and also to open up Central Asia for development by U.S. oil companies. Americans were eager to gain access to the petroleum reserves of the Caspian Basin, which at that time were still estimated to be "the largest known reserves of unexploited fuel in the planet."

To this end, time after time, U.S. covert operations in the region have used so-called "Arab Afghan" warriors as assets, the jihadis whom we loosely link with the name and leadership of al Qaeda. In country after country these "Arab Afghans" have been involved in trafficking Afghan heroin.

America's sponsorship of drug-trafficking Muslim warriors, including those now in Al Qaeda, dates back to the Afghan War of 1979-89, sponsored in part by the CIA's links to the drug-laundering Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). It was part of CIA Director Casey's strategy for launching covert operations over and above those approved and financed by a Democratic-controlled Congress.

The most conspicuous example of this alliance with drug-traffickers in the 1980s was the Contra support operation. Here again foreign money and drug profits filled the gap after Congress denied funds through the so-called Boland amendments; in this case government funds were used to lie about the Contras to the American people. This was followed by a massive cover-up, in which a dubious role was played by then-Congressman Lee Hamilton, later of the 9/11 Commission.

The lying continues. The 9/11 Commission Report assures Americans that "Bin Ladin and his comrades had their own sources of support and training, and they received little or no assistance from the United States." This misleading statement fails to consider that:

1) Al Qaeda elements received considerable indirect U.S. Government assistance, first in Afghanistan until 1992, and thereafter in other countries such as Azerbaijan (1992-95). Before 1992, for example, the Afghan leader Jallaladin Haqqani organized and hosted the Arab Afghan volunteers known later as al Qaeda; and Haqqani "received bags of money each month from the [CIA] station in Islamabad." The Arab Afghans were also trained in urban terrorism, including car bombings, by Pakistani ISI operatives who were in turn trained by the CIA.

2) Key members of the network which became al Qaeda, such as Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, Ali Mohamed, Mohamed Jamal Khalifa, and lead hijacker Mohammed Atta, were granted visas to enter the United States, despite being suspected of terrorism. Al Qaeda foot soldiers were also admitted to the United States for training under a special visa program.

3) At Fort Belvoir, Virginia, an al Qaeda operative was given a list of Muslim candidates for al Qaeda's jihad.

4) When al Qaeda personnel were trained in the United States by a key al Qaeda operative, Sergeant Ali Mohamed of the U.S. Army Special Forces, Mohamed was still on the U.S. Army payroll.

5) Repeatedly al Qaeda terrorists were protected by FBI officials from investigation and prosecution.

In part America's limited covert assistance to al Qaeda after 1989 was in order not to offend al Qaeda's two primary supporters which America needed as allies: the intelligence networks of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. But unquestionably the entry of United States oil companies into oil-rich Azerbaijan was achieved with the assistance of a U.S.-organized covert program using "Arab Afghan" operatives associated with bin Laden. Oil was the driving force of U.S. involvement in Central and South Asia, and oil led to U.S. coexistence with both al Qaeda and the world-dominating Afghan heroin trade.

This brings us to another extraordinary distortion in the 9/11 Report:

While the drug trade was a source of income for the Taliban, it did not serve the same purpose for al Qaeda, and there is no reliable evidence that Bin Ladin was involved in or made his money through drug trafficking.

That drug-trafficking does support al Qaeda-connected operations has been energetically asserted by the governments of Great Britain and many other European countries, as well as the head of the U.S. Congressional Task Force on Terrorism. Heroin-trafficking has been a source of income in particular for al Qaeda-related warriors in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Chechnya, and Kosovo. Most recently it has supported terrorist attacks in the Netherlands and Spain.

U.S. support for al Qaeda elements, particularly in Azerbaijan and Kosovo, has increased dramatically the flow of heroin to Western Europe and the United States.

The Example of Azerbaijan

In the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, Arab Afghans clearly assisted this effort of U.S. oil companies to penetrate the region. In 1991-92, Richard Secord, Heinie Aderholt, and Ed Dearborn, three veterans of U.S. operations in Laos and Iran-Contra, turned up in Baku under the cover of an oil company, MEGA Oil. MEGA never did find oil, but did contribute materially to the removal of Azerbaijan from the sphere of post-Soviet Russian influence.

As MEGA operatives in Azerbaijan, Secord, Aderholt, Dearborn, and their men engaged in military training, passed "brown bags filled with cash" to members of the government, and above all set up an airline on the model of Air America which soon was picking up hundreds of Mujahideen mercenaries in Afghanistan. (Secord and Aderholt claim to have left Baku before the Mujahideen arrived.) Meanwhile, Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in Afghanistan, who at the time was still allied with bin Laden, was "observed recruiting Afghan mercenaries [i.e. Arab Afghans] to fight in Azerbaijan against Armenia and its Russian allies." At this time, heroin flooded from Afghanistan through Baku into Chechnya, Russia, and even North America. It is difficult to believe that MEGA's airline (so much like Air America) did not become involved. [NOTE: Air America is the infamous CIA proprietary airline operation that transported opium and heroin out of the "Golden Triangle" and all over Southeast Asia prior to and during the United States' adventures in Vietnam. See: Air America, by Christopher Robbins, Avon Books, 1985, Chapter 9.]

The triple pattern of drugs, oil, and al Qaeda was seen again in Kosovo in 1998, where the Al-Qaeda-backed Islamist jihadis of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) received overt American assistance from the U.S. Government. Though unmentioned in mainstream books on the war, both the al Qaeda and drug backgrounds of the KLA are recognized by experts and to my knowledge never contested by them.

Though the origins of the Kosovo tragedy were rooted in local enmities, oil and drugs were prominent in the outcome. At the time critics charged that US oil interests were interested in building a trans-Balkan pipeline with US Army protection; although initially ridiculed, these critics were eventually proven correct. BBC News announced in December 2004 that a \$1.2 billion pipeline, south of a huge new U.S. Army base in Kosovo, has been given a go-ahead by the governments of Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia.

Meanwhile by 2000, according to DEA statistics, Afghan heroin accounted for almost 20 percent of the heroin seized in the United States -- nearly double the percentage taken four years earlier. Much of it is now distributed by Kosovar Albanians.

Sergeant Ali Mohamed and U.S. Intelligence Links to the Al Qaeda Leadership

The Report describes Ali Mohamed as "a former Egyptian army officer who had moved to the United States in the mid-1980s, enlisted in the U.S. Army, and become an instructor at Fort Bragg," as well as helping to plan the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya.

In fact Ali Mohamed was an important al Qaeda agent who, as the 9/11 Commission was told, "trained most of al Qaeda's top leadership," including "persons who would later carry out the 1993 World Trade Center bombing." But the person telling the 9/11 Commission this, U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald,

misrepresented Ali Mohamed's FBI relationship. He told the Commission that, "From 1994 until his arrest in 1998, [Mohamed] lived as an American citizen in California, applying for jobs as an FBI translator and working as a security guard for a defense contractor."

Ali Mohamed was not just an FBI job applicant. Unquestionably he was an FBI informant, from at least 1993 and maybe 1989. And almost certainly he was something more. A veteran of the CIA-trained bodyguards of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, he was able, despite being on a State Department Watch List, to come to America around 1984, on what an FBI consultant has called "a visa program controlled by the CIA," and obtain a job, first as a security officer, then with U.S. Special Forces.

In 1988 he took a lengthy leave of absence from the U.S. Army and went to fight in Afghanistan, where he met with Ayman al-Zawahiri (later bin Laden's chief deputy in al Qaeda) and the "Arab Afghan" leadership. Despite this, he was able to receive an Honorable Discharge one year later, at which point he established close contact with bin Laden in Afghanistan.

Ali Mohamed clearly enjoyed U.S. protection: in 1993, when detained by the RCMP in Canada, a single phone call to the U.S. secured his release. This enabled him to play a role, in the same year, in planning the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya in 1998.[30]

Congress should determine the true relationship of the U.S. Government to Ali Mohamed, who was close to bin Laden and above all Zawahiri, who has been called the "main player" in 9/11. (Al-Zawahiri is often described as the more sophisticated mentor of the younger bin Laden.) In particular Congress should determine why Patrick Fitzgerald chose to mislead the American people about Mohamed's FBI status.

In short, the al Qaeda terror network accused of the 9/11 attacks was supported and expanded by U.S. intelligence programs and covert operations, both during and after the Soviet Afghan War. Congress should rethink their decision to grant still greater powers and budget to the agencies responsible for fostering this enemy in the first place.

Sane voices clamor from the Muslim world that the best answer to terrorism is not war but justice. We should listen to them. By using its energies to reduce the injustices tormenting Islam, the United States will do more to diminish terrorism than by creating any number of new directorates in Washington.

NOTE: Within this piece, a briefing for Congressional Staff, Mr. Scott has embedded 27 reference sources. If you would like to see them, please access the site below.

<http://ist-socrates.berkeley.edu/~pdscott/911Background.htm>

[If you would care to explore his positions more closely -- a highly recommended idea, given his exemplary scholarship and widely admired integrity -- please access the sight below for his profoundly useful work on the current crisis.](#)

<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~pdscott/q.html>

'Al-Qaeda:' How the Pentagon/CIA Made an 'Enemy'

<http://100777.com/node/1343>

'Al-Qaeda' is a Manufactured Intelligence Front

<http://prisonplanet.tv/articles/june2004/062504manufacturedfront.htm>

New Al Qaeda Video More CIA Black Op Propaganda

<http://infowars.net/articles/September2006/040906AlQaeda.htm>

How the CIA Created Osama bin Laden

<http://100777.com/node/231>

When Usama bin Laden was Tim Osman

http://www.orlingrabbe.com/binladin_timosman.htm

MEANWHILE.....

What We DO NOT PONDER

as our FREE PRESS

labors to KEEP US FOCUSED

on the MIGHTY SPELL

of the WAR ON TERROR

"Globalization" is Decimating the American Middle Class

EXCERPTS:

As Jobs Leave America's Shores.....

The New Face of Class War

By Paul Craig Roberts

The attacks on middle-class jobs are lending new meaning to the phrase "class war." The ladders of upward mobility are being dismantled. America, the land of opportunity, is giving way to ever deepening polarization between rich and poor.

The assault on jobs predates the Bush regime. However, the loss of middle-class jobs has become particularly intense in the 21st century, and, like other pressing problems, has been ignored by President Bush, who is focused on waging war in the Middle East and building a police state at home. The lives and careers that are being lost to the carnage of a gratuitous war in Iraq are paralleled by the economic destruction of careers, families, and communities in the U.S. Since the days of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s, the U.S. government has sought to protect employment of its citizens. Bush has turned his back on this responsibility. He has given his support to the offshoring of American jobs that is eroding the living standards of Americans. It is another example of his betrayal of the public trust.

"Free trade" and "globalization" are the guises behind which class war is being conducted against the middle class by both political parties. Patrick J. Buchanan, a three-time contender for the presidential nomination, put it well when he wrote that NAFTA and the various so-called trade agreements were never trade deals. The agreements were enabling acts that enabled U.S. corporations to dump their American workers, avoid Social Security taxes, health care and pensions, and move their factories offshore to locations where labor is cheap.

...
Although a new development, offshoring is destroying entire industries, occupations and communities in the United States. The devastation of U.S. manufacturing employment was waved away with promises that a "new economy" based on high-tech knowledge jobs would take its place. Education and retraining were touted as the answer.

In testimony before the U.S.-China Commission, I explained that offshoring is the replacement of U.S. labor with foreign labor in U.S. production functions over a wide range of tradable goods and services. (Tradable goods and services are those that can be exported or that are competitive with imports. Nontradable goods and services are those that only have domestic markets and no import competition. For example, barbers and dentists offer nontradable services. Examples of nontradable goods are perishable, locally produced fruits and vegetables and specially fabricated parts of local machine shops.) As the production of most tradable goods and services can be moved offshore, there are no replacement occupations for which to train except in domestic "hands on" services such as barbers, manicurists, and hospital orderlies. No country benefits from trading its professional jobs, such as engineering, for domestic service jobs.

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At a Brookings Institution conference in Washington, D.C., in January 2004, I predicted that if the pace of jobs outsourcing and occupational destruction continued, the U.S. would be a third world country in 20 years. Despite my regular updates on the poor performance of U.S. job growth in the 21st century, economists have insisted that offshoring is a manifestation of free trade and can only have positive benefits overall for Americans.

Reality has contradicted the glib economists. The new high-tech knowledge jobs are being outsourced abroad even faster than the old manufacturing jobs. Establishment economists are beginning to see the light. Writing in Foreign Affairs (March/ April 2006), Princeton economist and former Federal Reserve vice chairman Alan Blinder concludes that economists who insist that offshore outsourcing is merely a routine extension of international trade are overlooking a major transformation with significant consequences.

Blinder estimates that 42-56 million American service sector jobs are susceptible to offshore outsourcing. Whether all these jobs leave, U.S. salaries will be forced down by the willingness of foreigners to do the work for less.

...
American economists, some from incompetence and some from being bought and paid for, described globalization as a "win-win" development. It was supposed to work like this: The U.S. would lose market share in tradable manufactured goods and make up the job and economic loss with highly educated knowledge workers. The win for America would be lower-priced manufactured goods and a white-collar work force. The win for China would be manufacturing jobs that would bring economic development to that country.

It did not work out this way, as Morgan Stanley's Stephen Roach, formerly a cheerleader for globalization, recently admitted. It has become apparent that job creation and real wages in the developed economies are seriously lagging behind their historical norms as offshore outsourcing displaces the "new economy" jobs in "software programming, engineering, design, and the medical profession, as well as a broad array of professionals in the legal, accounting, actuarial, consulting, and financial services industries."

The real state of the U.S. job market is revealed by a Chicago Sun-Times report on January 26, 2006, that 25,000 people applied for 325 jobs at a new Chicago Wal-Mart.

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According to the BLS payroll jobs data, over the past half-decade (January 2001 - January 2006, the data series available at time of writing) the U.S. economy created 1,050,000 net new private sector jobs and 1,009,000 net new government jobs for a total five-year figure of 2,059,000. That is seven million jobs short of keeping up with population growth, definitely a serious job shortfall.

The BLS payroll jobs data contradict the hype from business organizations, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, that offshore outsourcing is good for America. Large corporations, which have individually dismissed thousands of their U.S. employees and replaced them with foreigners, claim that jobs outsourcing allows them to save money that can be used to hire more Americans.

The corporations and the business organizations are very successful in placing this disinformation in the media. The lie is repeated everywhere and has become a mantra among no-think economists and politicians. However, no sign of these jobs can be found in the payroll jobs data. But there is abundant evidence of the lost American jobs.

During the past five years (January 01 - January 06), the information sector of the U.S. economy lost 644,000 jobs, or 17.4 per cent of its work force. Computer systems design and related work lost 105,000 jobs, or 8.5 per cent of its work force. Clearly, jobs officering is not creating jobs in computers and information technology. Indeed, jobs officering is not even creating jobs in related fields.

U.S. manufacturing lost 2.9 million jobs, almost 17 per cent of the manufacturing work force. The wipeout is across the board. Not a single manufacturing payroll classification created a single new job.

The declines in some manufacturing sectors have more in common with a country undergoing saturation bombing during war than with a "supereconomy" that is "the envy of the world." In five years, communications equipment lost 42 per cent of its work force. Semiconductors and electronic components lost 37 per cent of its work force. The work force in computers and electronic products declined 30 per cent. Electrical equipment and appliances lost 25 per cent of its employees. The work force in motor vehicles and parts declined 12 per cent. Furniture and related products lost 17 per cent of its jobs. Apparel manufacturers lost almost half of the work force. Employment in textile mills declined 43 per cent. Paper and paper products lost one-fifth of its jobs. The work force in plastics and rubber products declined by 15 per cent.

...

Other forms of deception are widely practiced. For example, Matthew Spiegleman, a Conference Board economist, claims that manufacturing jobs are only slightly higher paid than domestic service jobs, so there is no meaningful loss in income to Americans from offshoring. He reaches this conclusion by comparing only hourly pay and leaving out the longer manufacturing workweek and the associated benefits, such as health care and pensions.

Occasionally, however, real information escapes the spin machine. In February 2006 the National Association of Manufacturers, one of offshoring's greatest boosters, released a report, "U.S. Manufacturing Innovation at Risk," by economists Joel Popkin and Kathryn Kobe. The economists find that U.S. industry's investment in research and development is not languishing after all. It just appears to be languishing, because it is rapidly being shifted overseas: "Funds provided for foreign-performed R&D have grown by almost 73 per cent between 1999 and 2003, with a 36 per cent increase in the number of firms funding foreign R&D."

U.S. industry is still investing in R&D after all; it is just not hiring Americans to do the research and development. U.S. manufacturers still make things, only less and less in America with American labor. U.S. manufacturers still hire engineers, only they are foreign ones, not American ones.

In other words, everything is fine for U.S. manufacturers. It is just their former American work force that is in the doldrums. As these Americans happen to be customers for U.S. manufacturers, U.S. brand names will gradually lose their U.S. market. U.S. household median income has fallen for the past five years. Consumer demand has been kept alive by consumers' spending their savings and home equity and going deeper into debt. It is not possible for debt to forever rise faster than income.

The United States is the first country in history to destroy the prospects and living standards of its labor force. It is amazing to watch freedom-loving libertarians and free-market economists serve as apologists for the dismantling of the ladders of upward mobility that made the America of old an opportunity society.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/roberts09302006.html>

See also, the excellent

BOOK: War on the Middle Class:

**How the Government, Big Business, and Special Interest Groups Are Waging War on the American Dream and How to Fight Back
by Lou Dobbs**

Though a self-confessed "lifelong Republican and a strong believer in free enterprise," Dobbs's opinions have evolved away from mainline GOP and corporate dogma. Charging that the Clinton and Bush administrations have waged "class warfare" on the American middle class, he criticizes their free trade policies, which have eliminated manufacturing jobs in the U.S., either outright or by outsourcing them. He's scornful of a GOP that panders to its fundamentalist

religious base with bills that focus on abortion, gay marriage and the Pledge of Allegiance while the huge federal deficits ("an estate tax on the middle class and their children") spiral out of control. He rails against the K Street lobbyists, like Jack Abramoff, and their friends in Congress; chastises the credit card and banking industries for engineering the new bankruptcy law to their own profits; and criticizes the press for its sloppy "he says, she says" journalism. But Dobbs risks slipping from populist to demagogue in his jeremiad against the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in this country and his support for the vigilante Minuteman Project. Agree with him or not, Dobbs remains a refreshingly bold thinker who refuses to be intellectually pigeonholed.

TO ORDER:

<http://www.amazon.com/War-Middle-Class-Government-Business/dp/0670037923>

BOOK: The Global Class War:

**How America's Bipartisan Elite Lost Our Future
And What it Will Take to Win it Back**
by Jeff Faux

Why, in 1993, did the newly elected Bill Clinton pass the North American Free Trade Agreement, a pro-business measure invented by his political adversaries and opposed by his allies in labor and the environment? The answer, according to Faux, is that Clinton was less devoted to his base than to his fellow elites, rewarding their donations to the Democratic Party with access to Mexico's cheap labor and lax environmental standards.....

"Globalization is a cover for American imperialism, but the beneficiaries are not the American people at the expense of foreigners but corporate executives at the expense of working-class and poor people wherever they may be. Jeff Faux offers a comprehensive and devastating analysis."

-Chalmers Johnson, author of The Sorrows of Empire

TO ORDER;

<http://www.amazon.com/Global-Class-War-Americas-Bipartisan/dp/0471697613>

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**8.20 High Level Obstruction of FBI Agents Seeking to Intervene
Against Pre-911 Al-Qaeda Operations in America**

Agent Blasts FBI Over 11 September 'Cover-Up'

Edward Helmore
Sunday May 26, 2002
The Observer

The FBI was under intense pressure yesterday to explain why its top officials had apparently stymied efforts by their own agents to investigate a long and clear pattern of evidence that Islamic extremists were plotting terror attacks on US soil.

http://prisonplanet.com/Agent_blasts_FBI_over_11_September_cover-up.htm

Another FBI Agent Blows the Whistle on 9-11

Wednesday, May 29, 2002

FBI Special Agent Robert G. Wright Jr. will hold a news conference Thursday in Washington to reveal FBI negligence and obstruction of counterterrorism investigations targeting Hamas and al-Qaeda.

Judicial Watch, the public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, said its co-counsel David Schippers would join Wright at the press conference.

"Special Agent Wright, of the FBI's Chicago Division, is the only agent in the history of the FBI to have used the civil forfeiture laws to seize over \$1.4 million dollars in Hamas terrorist money in connection with a criminal investigation of terrorist money laundering operations here in the United States," Judicial Watch said.

Minneapolis FBI agent Coleen Rowley has corroborated Wright's experiences dealing with FBI headquarters and senior management, "who consistently delayed, down-played and soft-peddled the investigative efforts of counterterrorism agents in the field," the organization said.

http://www.prisonplanet.com/another_fbi_agent_blows_the_whistle_on_911.htm

Bush Thwarted FBI Probe Against bin Ladens

AFP
(London, November 7)

FBI agents in the United States probing relatives of Saudi-born terror suspect Osama Bin Laden before September 11 were told to back off soon after George W Bush became president, the BBC has reported.

http://prisonplanet.com/bush_thwarted_fbi_probe.html

The Refusal of the 9/11 Commission to Explore Quashed FBI Investigations Prior to 9/11 Tarnishes Hearings

By Bryan Sacks

[T]he nadir of the morning session came when commissioner James Thompson asked all of the panelists how best to combat the new type of stateless enemy Al-Qaeda represents. FBI special agent Mary Deborah Doran answered last. She had already warned the Commission in her introductory remarks that, as a "street agent," she was removed from the "policy and administrative decision-making processes" that determined the scope of the FBI's investigation of Al Qaeda, and thus could not speak to them (no one did that day, including Executive Assistant FBI Director John Pistole, seated to her right). Her answer to Thompson's question was: "I think what we need to do. . . at the FBI street-agent level, is to continue what we've always done, and that is to pursue all the information that we do get. . . to its logical end. . ."

Here, in classic doublespeak fashion, Doran gives an answer that is a non-answer. She had to be aware that several FBI "street-level" investigations into the activities of the 9/11 terrorists were stymied by higher-ups in the weeks prior to 9/11, each under strange circumstances, and well before the street-level agents felt like they had reached their "logical end." Consider the following cases, all drawn from mainstream news sources, summarized in David Ray Griffin's well-researched expose, "The New Pearl Harbor:"

1) Ken Williams of the Phoenix FBI office sent a now-famous July 10, 2001 memo to the counterterrorism division of the FBI suggesting that the organization institute a national program to keep tabs on suspicious flight-school students. This came just a few weeks after the CIA learned that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 plot and a well-known terrorist at that time who the CIA was monitoring, was recruiting jihadists to come to the US to take part in attacks here. Williams, who had previously been transferred to an unrelated arson case despite tracking the hijackers for more than a year, had been back on the case for about a month when he wrote the memo, which also warned of a possible "effort by Osama bin Laden to send students to the US to attend civil aviation universities and colleges" (Fortune, May 22, 2002). His suggestion for a national program was ignored before 9/11;

2) FBI agent Robert Wright of the Chicago field office, who had been investigating a suspected terrorist cell for three years, was informed in January 2001 that the case was being closed. This despite Wright's contention that his case was growing stronger. His investigation included individuals from the notorious Ptech, a software company which provided product for the White House, Congress, FBI, CIA, IRS, Army, Navy, and FAA and which was raided by federal agents in December 2002.

Three months before September 11, Wright wrote a stinging internal memo charging that the FBI was not interested in thwarting a terrorist attack, but rather "was merely gathering intelligence so they would know who to arrest when a terrorist attack occurred." (UPI, May 30, 2002, cited in Griffin, p. 83);

3) Legal officer Colleen Rowley worked in the FBI's Minneapolis field office when agents arrested Zacarias Moussaoui in August of 2001. The commission made repeated mention of the fact that Moussaoui, by that time, was considered a very dangerous person capable of crashing a plane into the World Trade Center. The Minneapolis felt so strongly about the need to detain him that a request was sent to FBI headquarters to search Moussaoui's laptop computer under the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Approximately 10,000 requests under FISA over the past 20 years had been made without a single request being turned down, but the Minneapolis agency's request never got out of the FBI. The request had been excised of the critical intelligence that made the case for Moussaoui's connection to Al Qaeda in Chechnya on its path to FBI headquarters. Excised of that justification, the request was never forwarded for FISA consideration, spurring Rowley to charge that the FBI was "sabotaging" the case, and another agent to charge that headquarters was "setting this up for failure." (Senate Intelligence Committee, October 17, 2002; Time, July 21 and July 27, 2002 and Sydney Morning Herald July 28, 2002, each cited in Griffin, p. 81);

4) On Aug 28, 2001 the New York FBI office requested opening a criminal investigation in soon-to-be hijacker Khalid Almihdhar based on evidence he had been involved in the USS Cole bombing. The request was turned down, on the basis that, as Griffin puts it, "Almihdhar could not be tied to the Cole investigation without the inclusion of sensitive intelligence information." This led one frustrated FBI agent to write in an email that "someday someone will die--and. . . the public will not understand why we were not more effective." (Congressional Intelligence Committee, cited in Griffin, p. 83). Perhaps Doran, a New York FBI agent herself, knew something about this? She was not asked directly.

What these examples make clear is that FBI "street agents" and translators don't have the power to follow their investigations to their logical ends when they are obstructed by their superiors. In light of these facts, Doran's breezy recommendation that the FBI street agents "keep doing what we've always done" is entirely inadequate, and inspires no confidence. Neither Thompson nor any other commissioner pressed for a better answer. And while the FBI's "unprecedented transformation" after 9/11 testified to by FBI Executive Assistant Director For Counterterrorism John Pistole on April 14 may sound impressive to some, it does not explain nor address the past obstruction of promising investigations. Factor in the erosion of civil liberties required for its execution, and the "unprecedented transformation" appears to be of dubious value.

There are several other aspects about the FBI's behavior pre- and post-9/11 that scream out for further investigation. One of the most bizarre cases still unfolding involves the targeting of former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds, who was fired by the agency shortly after reporting a number of complaints to her superiors. According to a June 7, 2004 story in *The New Republic*, those complaints included the charge that a fellow FBI translator, Can Dickerson, tried to recruit Edmonds into a foreign organization whose documents Dickerson had been translating and which had been under investigation by the FBI. Edmonds then filed a wrongful termination suit and took her grievance to Senators Charles Grassley and Patrick Leahy, as well as the television program "60 Minutes," which aired an interview with her in 2002.

But the FBI has since gone to extraordinary lengths to silence Edmonds. In May, the Bureau re-classified all of the information it presented to Sens. Grassley and Leahy, nearly two years after it had become public. It even violated its own rules for reclassification in doing so. The reclassification has had the effect of silencing Grassley and Leahy on the matter, too, who had been pressing the Bureau for a fuller account of the matter. Now they were limited to writing classified letters to the FBI.

Edmonds, meanwhile, has seen her wrongful termination suit delayed for two years and most recently was informed by Judge Reggie Walton on June 14 that her hearing was delayed once again (for the fourth time), with no date set for a rescheduling. The delays result from an effort from Attorney General John Ashcroft to invoke the State Secrets Privilege, which can quash lawsuits on the basis that their continuation would damage national security. Judge Walton is still waiting for the government to make its case for the invoking of the States Secrets Privilege. In the meantime, as the *New Republic* notes, while Edmonds herself is not gagged, she is not permitted to reference any of the now-classified information that could substantiate her claims.

At her June 14 press conference outside the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse in Washington, DC, Edmonds summarized her charges clearly, stating that for more than two years, "John Ashcroft has been relentlessly engaged in actions geared toward covering up my report and investigations into my allegations. His actions. . . include gagging the United States Congress, blocking court proceedings on my (wrongful termination suit) by invoking the State Secrets Privilege, quashing the subpoena for my deposition on information regarding 9/11, withholding documents requested under the Freedom Of Information Act and preventing the release of the Inspector General's report of its investigations into my report and allegations."

She threw down a gauntlet to all citizens, members of Congress and federal officials that so far have not spoken out, saying, "To become an American citizen, I took the citizenship oath. In taking this oath, I pledged I would support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Therefore, not only do I have the right to challenge John Ashcroft's anti-constitution(al) and un-American actions, but as an American citizen I am required to do so. So are you."

Edmonds did testify with the 9/11 commission behind closed doors, but a host of disturbing questions still remain before the commission:

- Why weren't any of the agents mentioned above called to testify in the commission's public hearings? What legitimate claim to a thorough investigation can be made without their public testimony?
- Were the FBI agents who saw their investigations stymied at least deposed in private sessions?
- Why was Robert Wright's investigation derailed, and why did the government move to block significant portions of his book in 2002, such that it remains unpublished to this day?
- Why was the information connecting Moussaoui's connection with rebels in Chechnya excised before it reached the FBI Deputy General?
- **And why have lower-level agents been demoted and/or punished for doing their jobs while their superiors, who spiked, obstructed or otherwise compromised their promising investigations been rewarded?**

In sum, the day's hearings played as a commercial for supporting the efforts of the country's intelligence agencies without additional public scrutiny of them. We've seen that show before, and we know how it ends. If the commission's report fails to adequately address Sibel Edmonds' charges, and fails to address the obstructed FBI investigations prior to 9/11, the unanswered questions which haunt the 9/11 Inquiry will grow louder and more insistent, and neither the 9/11 families nor the concerned citizens of this country will have the closure they deserve.

The Business of Treason
Illustrated
Chapter 9 References

9.1 **"The New World Order"**

David Rockefeller

Multi-trillionaire

Chairman of J.P. Morgan Chase Bank

Chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations, 1970-85

Founder of the Trilateral Commission, 1973

Founder of the World Trade Center

"This present window of opportunity, during which a truly peaceful and interdependent world order might be built, will not be open for too long.... We are on the verge of a global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order."

David Rockefeller speaking at the Sept. 23, 1994 United Nations
Ambassadors' dinner

We are grateful to the Washington Post, the New York Times, Time Magazine and other great publications whose directors have attended our meetings and respected the promises of discretion for almost forty years.

It would have been impossible for us to develop our plan for the world if we had been subject to the bright lights of publicity during those years. But, the world is now more sophisticated and prepared to march towards a world-government.

The supranational sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers is surely preferable to the national auto-determination practiced in past centuries."

David Rockefeller in an address to a Trilateral Commission meeting
in June of 1991

The Trilateral Commission was founded in 1973 by David Rockefeller with Zbigniew Brzezinski as executive director, after Brzezinski published "Between Two Ages," which became the blueprint for the TC. Rockefeller read and appreciated Brzezinski's ideas, which included,

"Though Stalinism may have been a needless tragedy for both the Russian people and communism as an ideal, there is the intellectually tantalizing possibility that for the world at large it was, as we shall see, a blessing in disguise."

"Marxism represents a further vital and creative stage in the maturing of man's universal vision. Marxism is simultaneously a victory of the external man over the inner, passive man and a victory of reason over belief."

"Such a society would be dominated by an elite whose claim to political power would rest on allegedly superior scientific know-how. Unhindered by the restraints of traditional liberal values, this elite would not hesitate to

achieve its political ends by the latest modern techniques for influencing public behavior and keeping society under close surveillance and control."

"The Soviet Union could have emerged as the standard-bearer of this century's most influential system of thought and as the social model for resolving the key dilemmas facing modern man."

And..... **"[the] nation state as a fundamental unit of man's organized life has ceased to be the principal creative force: International banks and multinational corporations are acting and planning in terms that are far in advance of the political concepts of the nation-state."**

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), which was incorporated on July 29, 1921, is the American counterpart to Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA). Both of these organizations came into being during the division of the spoils following World War I, through the efforts of the world's most powerful bankers, and have worked tirelessly in the years since to deconstruct national sovereignty throughout the world in favor of a single governing authority of their own design.

In 1954 their efforts were bolstered by the creation of the Bilderberger Group, an international consortium organized by His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands -- an important figure in Royal Dutch Petroleum (Shell Oil) and the Societe General de Belgique, a huge conglomerate cartel with world-wide holdings. (The very first meeting took place in Oostbeek, Holland at the Hotel de Bilderberg -- hence the name.) The group's gatherings, which rarely occur more than once a year, are attended by leading political and financial figures from Europe and the United States.

[NOTE: In the June, 2006 meeting at the Brookestreet Hotel in Ottawa, David Rockefeller and Queen Beatrix walked in the front door, whereas Hillary Clinton was reported to have debarked from her limousine in an underground parking garage.]

The agendas of these meetings are always held secret, but the publicly stated goal of Prince Bernhard is the establishment of a world government.

The Trilateral Commission was formed in 1973.

<http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/nonedare.htm>

(The above page features Chapter 5 of Gary Allen's book "None Dare Call it Treason," published in 1971)

Hillary in Ottawa Sighting:

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/january2007/220107hillaryheralds.htm>

http://www.nysun.com/article/34231?page_no=2

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/june2006/150606clintonattend.htm>

Since the formation of the CFR, people affiliated with it have dominated the administrations (especially the State Departments) of U.S. Presidents of both political parties (Nixon's administration boasted 110 such individuals). Their goals are expressed quite openly in books and publications they issue -- perhaps because

they understand that the mainstream press (which they oversee) will not discuss such issues, and that the vast majority of the American people are well conditioned to remain utterly disinterested in such publications. This despite the fact that the ugly details of how our painful future will play out -- details such as who among us will live and who will die as oil supplies are exhausted -- is being designed without our input.

The Council of Foreign Relations publishes the magazine, "Foreign Affairs."

<http://www.themoneymasters.com/article.htm>
<http://www.freedomdomain.com/nwoquote.htm>

The Council on Foreign Relations: A Self Description

Excerpts taken from its website

IT ALL STARTED as an inquiry, indeed, "The Inquiry." To the select few who knew, this was the name of a working fellowship of distinguished scholars, tasked to brief Woodrow Wilson about options for the postwar world once the kaiser and imperial Germany fell to defeat. Through the winter of 1917-18, this academic band gathered discreetly in a hideaway at 155th Street and Broadway in New York City, to assemble the data they thought necessary to make the world safe for democracy.

...

But ... a more discreet club of New York financiers and international lawyers organized in June 1918... It began with 108 members, ... "high-ranking officers of banking, manufacturing, trading and finance companies, together with many lawyers." Its purpose was to convene dinner meetings, to make contact with distinguished foreign visitors under conditions congenial to future commerce.

...

The scholars of the Inquiry ... saw an opportunity. The[y] ... could provide diplomatic experience, expertise, and high-level contacts but no funds. The men of law and banking, by contrast, could tap untold resources of finance but sorely needed an injection of intellectual substance, dynamism, and contacts—whether to promote business expansion, world peace, or, indeed, both. This was the synergy that produced the modern Council and promoted its unique utility for decades to come: academic and government expertise meeting practical business interests....

<http://www.cfr.org/about/history/cfr/inquiry.html>

The CFR, Trilateral Commission and the Power of the International Banks

As described by other prominent "Insiders"

"The Trilateral Commission is intended to be the vehicle for multinational consolidation of the commercial and banking interests by seizing control of the political government of the United States. The Trilateral Commission represents a skillful, coordinated effort to seize control and consolidate the four centers of power political, monetary, intellectual and ecclesiastical. What the Trilateral Commission intends is to create a worldwide economic power superior to the political governments of the nationstates involved. As managers and creators of the system, they will rule the future."

U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater in his book: "With No Apologies,"
1964

"The powers of financial capitalism had another far reaching aim, nothing less than to create a world system of financial control in private hands able to dominate the political system of each country and the economy of the world as a whole. This system was to be controlled in a feudalist fashion by the central banks of the world acting in concert, by secret agreements, arrived at in frequent private meetings and conferences. The apex of the system was the Bank for International Settlements in Basle, Switzerland, a private bank owned and controlled by the worlds' central banks which were themselves private corporations. The growth of financial capitalism made possible a centralization of world economic control and use of this power for the direct benefit of financiers and the indirect injury of all other economic groups."

Professor Carroll Quigley of Georgetown University, author of "Tragedy and Hope: A History of The World in Our Time." Highly esteemed by his former student, William Jefferson Blythe Clinton.

"The Council on Foreign Relations is "the establishment." Not only does it have influence and power in key decision-making positions at the highest levels of government to apply pressure from above, but it also announces and uses individuals and groups to bring pressure from below, to justify the high level decisions for converting the U.S. from a sovereign Constitutional Republic into a servile member state of a one-world dictatorship."

Former Congressman John Rarick 1971

www.btinternet.com/~meirionhughes/Pub/newworldorder.htm

"The new world order that will answer economic, military, and political problems urgently requires, I believe, that the United States take the leadership among all free peoples to make the underlying concepts and aspirations of national sovereignty truly meaningful through the federal approach."

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, in an article entitled "Rockefeller Bids Free Lands Unite: Calls at Harvard for Drive to Build New World Order" -- New York Times (February 1962)

"[T]he 'house of world order' will have to be built from the bottom up rather than from the top down. It will look like a great 'booming, buzzing confusion,' to use William James' famous description of reality, but an end run around national sovereignty, eroding it piece by piece, will accomplish much more than the old-fashioned frontal assault."

Richard N. Gardner of the CFR, in Foreign Affairs (April 1974)

"Further global progress is now possible only through a quest for universal consensus in the movement towards a new world order."

Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev at the U. N. (December 1998)

"We believe we are creating the beginning of a new world order coming out of the collapse of the U.S.-Soviet antagonisms."

CFR Trustee and two-time US National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, quoted in the Washington Post (May 1991)

"We can see beyond the present shadows of war in the Middle East to a new world order where the strong work together to deter and stop aggression. "

Richard Gephardt, in the Wall Street Journal (September 1990)

"Today, America would be outraged if U.N. troops entered Los Angeles to restore order [referring to the 1991 LA Riot]. **Tomorrow they will be grateful!**

This is especially true if they were told that there were an outside threat from beyond, whether real or promulgated, that threatened our very existence. It is then that all peoples of the world will plead to deliver them from this evil. The one thing every man fears is the unknown.

When presented with this "scenario," individual rights will be willingly relinquished for the guarantee of their well-being granted to them by the World Government."

Dr. Henry Kissinger, Bilderberger Conference, Evians, France, 1991.

"For a long time I felt that FDR had developed many thoughts and ideas that were his own to benefit this country, the United States. But, he didn't.

Most of his thoughts, his political ammunition, as it were, were carefully manufactured for him in advance by the Council on Foreign Relations-One World Money group.

Brilliantly, with great gusto, like a fine piece of artillery, he exploded that prepared "ammunition" in the middle of an unsuspecting target, the American people, and thus paid off and returned his internationalist political support.

The UN is but a long-range, international banking apparatus clearly set up for financial and economic profit by a small group of powerful One-World revolutionaries, hungry for profit and power.

The depression was the calculated 'shearing' of the public by the World Money powers, triggered by the planned sudden shortage of supply of call money in the New York money market....

The One World Government leaders and their ever close bankers have now acquired full control of the money and credit machinery of the U.S. via the creation of the privately owned Federal Reserve Bank."

Curtis Dall, FDR's son-in-law as quoted in his book, "My Exploited Father-in-Law"

"We shall have world government whether or not you like it, by conquest or consent."

Council on Foreign Relations member James Warburg
to The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on February 17th, 1950

**Pronouncements Through the Years
By Members and Observers of the Ruling Class
Regarding Their Plans to Outlaw the Sovereignty of Nations
Under the Permanent Authority of a Single International Federation:**

The New World Order

1951 -- July 31: The Chicago Tribune publishes an article, "OWI (office of war information) Propaganda Machine Linked to Rhodes (Rhodes Scholars) Men," stating: "Those who absorbed the Elmer Davis (Rhodes scholar and head of OWI), Office of War Information training have pushed the British concept of policing the world with American soldiers and economic aid and have fought for a world federation under which **the United States would surrender its sovereignty.**"

1953 -- The Impact of Science on Society by Fabian Socialist Bertrand Russell is published in which he declares: "**I think the subject which will be of most importance politically is mass psychology....** Various results will soon be arrived at: that the influence of home is obstructive.... although this science will be diligently studied, it will be rigidly confined to the governing class.

The populace will not be allowed to know how its convictions were generated.

When the technique has been perfected, every government that has been in charge of education for a generation will be able to control its subjects securely without the need of armies or policemen.... Educational propaganda, with government help, could achieve this result in a generation. There are, however, two powerful forces opposed to such a policy: one is religion; the other is nationalism.... A scientific world society cannot be stable unless there is a world government."

1962 -- A lecture [is] given by CFR member Nelson Rockefeller at Harvard University in which he says that there is "...a new and free order struggling to be born.... (There is a) fever of nationalism.... (but) **the nation-state is becoming less and less competent to perform its international political tasks....** These are some of the reasons pressing us to lead vigorously toward the true building of a new world order.... (with) voluntary service.... Sooner perhaps than we may realize.... there will evolve the basis for a federal structure of the free world."

1968 -- "The Subtle and Leisurely Penetration," a reference report from the George Mason School of Correspondence, is published by Education Information, Inc., of Sacramento, CA. It mentions that the thirty-two Americans to be Rhodes Scholars this year have been selected, and then states: "The stated objectives of Cecil John Rhodes and his friend, Sir Andrew Carnegie, included **the reduction of the United States to a colony of the New World Order.**"

1970 -- "Between Two Ages: America's Role in the Technetronic Era" by Zbigniew Brzezinski [referenced above] is published. He is a CFR member who will become the first director of the Trilateral Commission and President Carter's national security advisor. In this book he states:

"Marxism represents a further vital and creative stage in the maturing of man's universal vision..... Human beings become increasingly manipulable and malleable.... Today we are again witnessing the emergence of transnational elites.... whose ties cut across national boundaries.... The nation-state is

gradually yielding its sovereignty.... Further progress will require greater American sacrifices. More intensive efforts to shape a new world monetary structure will have to be undertaken."

1973 -- August 10: The New York Times publishes "From a China Traveler" by David Rockefeller, who writes about Communist China: "One is impressed immediately by the sense of national harmony.... There is a very real and pervasive dedication to chairman Mao and Maoist principles. **Whatever the price of the Chinese Revolution, it has obviously succeeded not only in producing more efficient and dedicated administration, but also in fostering high morale and community purpose. General social and economic progress is no less impressive....** The enormous social advances of China have benefited greatly from the singleness of ideology and purpose.... The social experiment in China under Chairman Mao's leadership is one of the most important and successful in history."

1974 -- Richard N. Gardner, writes in the April 1974 issue of Foreign Affairs, [an] Article entitled "The Hard Road to World Order:" [As referenced above] "In short, the "house of world order:" will have to be built from the bottom up rather than from the top down. It will look like a great "booming, buzzing confusion" **but an end run around national sovereignty, eroding it piece by piece, will accomplish much more than the old-fashioned frontal assault."**

1986 -- "The Wise Men" was co-authored by Rhodes Scholar, CFR member, and Time Magazine Editor, Walter Isaacson, who described how the six leaders who "shaped a new world order" were internationalists, and had a "common outlook." One of them, Chip Bohlen, was quoted as saying about **socialism:: "Maybe that is the road we ought to go down."** Also in the book one reads that Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. in 1965 wrote: "The New York financial and legal community was the heart of the American establishment.... its front organizations, the Rockefeller, Ford and Carnegie foundations and the Council on Foreign Relations."

1988 -- George Bush would run for the presidency of the United States in 1988, and on Feb 10, The Washington Post quoted David Rockefeller as remarking that: **"He's (Bush) one of us....** If he were president, he would be in a better position than anyone else to pull together the people in the country who believe that we are in fact living in one world and have to act that way."

1990 -- Mikhail Gorbachev [is] quoted in [the] Washington Post [on] Feb 25 1990: **".... A new world order is taking shape** so fast that governments as well as private citizens find it difficult just to absorb the gallop of events....."

1990 -- Mikhail Gorbachev speaking at Stanford University [is] quoted by Sentinel wire services [on] June 5 1990: "Saying the world should not debate who won the Cold War, **Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev called Monday for the United States and Soviet Union to be partners in building "a new world order"....**

President Bush (I) quotes on [the] New World Order and [the] United Nations:

"Time and again in this century, the political map of the world was transformed. **And in each instance, a new world order came about through the advent of a new tyrant or the outbreak of a bloody global war, or its end.**" Feb 28, 1990

[This statement is made six months before the first Gulf War, an action enabled by a direct lie from the Bush administration -- see below.]

"Out of these troubled times, our fifth objective--**a new world order**--can emerge..... We are now in sight of a United Nations that performs as envisioned by its founders." -- Sept 11, 1990

Bush delivers an address to Congress titled "**Toward a New World Order**," regarding the crisis in the Persian Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August. **[Immediately before this action, Saddam Hussein was told by US Diplomat April Gillespie that the US would take no position on such issues as had arisen between the two countries.]** Bush will follow with an October 1 address to the U.N., in which he will speak of the "collective strength of the world community expressed by the U.N.... **a historic movement towards a new world order.**"

"I think what's at stake here is the **new world order**.... a reinvigorated United Nations." -- Jan 7, 1991

"(The Gulf crisis) has to do with a **new world order**. And that world order is only going to be enhanced if this newly activated peacekeeping function of the United nations proves to be effective." -- Jan 9, 1991

"When we are successful, and we will be, we have a real chance at this **new world order**, an order in which a credible United Nations can use its peacekeeping role to fulfill the promise and vision of the UN's founders." -- Jan 16 1991

1992 -- July 20: Time magazine publishes "The Birth of the Global Nation," by **Strobe Talbott (Rhodes scholar roommate of Bill Clinton at Oxford University, CFR director, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace board of directors member, and Trilateralist from a wealthy Ohio investment banking family), in which he writes:**

"All countries are basically social arrangements.... No matter how permanent or even sacred they may seem at any one time, in fact they are all artificial and temporary.... **Perhaps national sovereignty wasn't such a great idea after all..... But it has taken the events in our own wondrous and terrible century to clinch the case for world government.**"

1992 -- August 26: The New York Times publishes "The World Needs an Army on Call" by U.S. Senator David Boren (Rhodes Scholar 1963, CFR member, and member of "Skull and Bones") in which he states: "**In the aftermath of World War II, President Truman wanted to empower the United Nations to create a New World Order....**"

Richard Gardner (CFR)proposes that forty to fifty member nations contribute to a rapid-deployment force of one hundred thousand volunteers that could train under common leadership.... **It is time for us to create such a force.... The existence of such a force would go a long way toward making the "new world order" more than just a slogan.**"

1993 -- June 22. In case there is any doubt about whether President Clinton (CFR) supports world government, on this date he signs a letter to the World Federalist

Association congratulating Strobe Talbott (CFR) on receiving (June 24) the WFA's first "Norman Cousins Global Governance Award." The WFA is a leading force for world federal government.

Clinton's letter states: "Norman Cousins worked for world peace and world government.... Strobe Talbott's lifetime achievements as a voice for global harmony have earned him this recognition.... He will be a worthy recipient of the Norman Cousins Global Governance Award. Best wishes.... for future success."

1993 -- July 18: CFR member and Trilateralist Henry Kissinger writes in The Los Angeles Times concerning NAFTA: "What Congress will have before it is not a conventional trade agreement but the architecture of a new international system.... **a first step toward a new world order.**"

1993 -- September 9: Concerning whether U.S. troops should remain in Somalia as part of a U.N. operation, General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says that **a pullout would be "devastating to our hopes for the new world order and our ability to participate in multinational organizations to deal with problems like this."**

1993 -- W. Scott Thompson (Rhodes Scholar 1963-66) writes "Conflict and Conflict Resolution: On to the Twenty-First Century" for the federal United States Institute of Peace, of which he is a board member appointed by President Reagan in 1986. In this article, Thompson writes about "a positive factor: the greater reliance on (and opportunity for) the United Nations to resolve perennial conflicts.... **In addition to a strengthened U.N., a New World Order requires understandings and divisions of labor among like-minded friends across the globe.**"

1994 -- The World Federalist Association will publish "The Genius of Federation: Why World Federation Is the Answer to Global Problems," which will state: "Let the U.N. establish new agencies such as an International Criminal Court... **National sovereignty would be gradually eroded until it is no longer an issue. Eventually a world federation can be formally adopted with little resistance.**"

1994 -- May 3: President Clinton signs Presidential Decision Directive 25, **which strengthens the U.N. and describes how American soldiers will serve under foreign commanders.** PDD25 will only be released to top administration officials and a few member of Congress. **The general public is refused access.**

1994 -- The McAlvany Intelligence Advisor, March 1995, quotes Vladimir Zhirinovsky (Vice -Chairman of the Russian Duma and Member of the Council of Europe) on November 9 at a press conference at the U.N.: "**There has long been a hidden agenda to merge America and Russia under the New World Order.**"

1995 -- Jan 27: Billionaire financier George Soros at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, **says the world needs a "new world order,"** and he further warns: "**I am here to alert you that we are entering a period of world disorder.**"

1995 -- July/ August: In the CFR's Foreign Affairs, prominent CFR member Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. exclaims: "**We are not going to achieve a new world order without paying for it in blood as well as in words and money.**"

1995 -- The report, "Our Global Neighborhood," by The Commission on Global Governance (partly funded by the U.N. Development Program and endorsed by the U.N. Secretary-General) is released, and states: "**A new world order must be organized.... Global governance is the way we manage global affairs.... nations have to accept that in certain fields, sovereignty has to be exercised collectively.... We strongly endorse community initiatives to.... encourage the disarming of civilians....**"

1996 -- "A Reporter's Life" by Walter Cronkite is published, in which he proclaims: "**The proud nations someday will.... yield up their precious sovereignty.**"

1996 -- May 11: Journalist Joan Veon interviews David C. Korten, author of "When Corporations Rule the World" (1995) and former Ford Foundation project specialist in Manila. In this interview, Korten claims that:

"The World Trade Organization is creating a world government in which one organization which is totally unelected, wholly secretive.... with the power to virtually override and local or national laws if those in any way inconvenience global corporations.... It was a terrible shock (to those of us who supported Bill Clinton) when Clinton came in and GATT and NAFTA became the centerpieces of his policy.... And in a sense, there was almost a seamless transition from President Bush to President Clinton in that regard.... Our democracy has been rendered meaningless by big money. The truth is there are politicians (who) are owned lock, stock and barrel by the big money interests.... Our elections create, to some extent, a facade of choice."

1996 -- October 23: On "The Charlie Rose Show" on the Public Broadcasting System, Mikhail Gorbachev states: "We are part of the Cosmos. Cosmos is my God. Nature is my God.... The future society will be a **totally new civilization which will synthesize the experience of Socialism and Capitalism....**"

1998 -- May 5: The New York Times publishes "The New World Order" by A. M. Rosenthal, in which he writes:

"April 30 -- U.S. approves another \$1 billion in aid to Indonesia as part of the international \$40 billion economic bailout. President Suharto refuses to break up the multibillion-dollar monopolies controlled by himself, family and friends. He says no political reforms until 2003, at earliest. Police break up student protests.

May 1 -- Washington Times and A.P. say C.I.A. reports China has nuclear missiles targeted at U.S.

May 3 -- President Clinton's June visit to China will include welcome ceremonies at Tiananmen Square. Washington preparing to allow U.S. companies to sell nuclear reactors to China.

May 4 -- Human rights workers report continued oppression in China and Indonesia; more executions in China than in all the rest of the world.

The U.S., its democratic allies and major dictatorships are rapidly building a new world order -- not quite finished yet but already a central part of international life and values.

Its ideology, powers, rewards and punishments are supplanting those that prevailed internationally until 1994, when President Clinton joined the new order. If it continues, it will be the most important new international concept since the end of World War II.

The order was created without formal parliamentary approval by its sponsors, or any treaty. But every week, sometimes every day, the underlying tenets are revealed, in action. See above.

The following description of objectives and goals of the new order is so different from principles recently assumed in the West, though not always followed, that it may read as satire. It is not.

The fundamental change, demanded by the dictatorships and agreed to in practice by the democracies, is that the internal policies of persecution by the rulers, and the rights of the governed, are not a primary moral or economic consideration of the world.

The democracies, under these values, can protest some internal acts of the dictatorships -- torture and such. But they must do so quietly, not allowing these acts, or often even security interests, to damage the new overriding value of the democratic leaders.

That value is the trade and investment with the dictatorships that the democracies believe important to their national economies -- which are sometimes called jobs, but usually interpreted as corporate profit.

In exchange, dictatorships allow democracies to invest and trade in enterprises the capitalists consider profitable to their corporate strength, although not necessarily to their own employees or the national economic health of their countries.

If the dictatorships, or authoritarian governments as some are known more pleasantly, find their economies collapsing through the corruption generic to such societies, the International Monetary Fund and individual democracies rush to arrive with bailout.

The explanation given is that otherwise the dictatorships' economies would disintegrate, bringing revolution. Now, the people of the dictatorships may long for revolution. Obviously that cannot be allowed to overcome saving the dictatorship and thus rescuing the money invested by nationals of democracies.

Accepting these values, the events dated above become understandable, and even neatly logical.

The Indonesian dictator, for instance, was installed by the army 33 years ago and has been in power ever since. Now he needs scores of billions with which to overcome his own ineptitude and family corruption, and do the right thing by his foreign investors. Who can deny him?

The U.S. gets to sell strategic material to China, offering as an extra a visit by the U.S. President to honor the Communist leaders and expand their power and political life span.

Religious and political mavericks in the totalitarian partners of the new world order get prison, or death, often both.

The press of the democracies gets to write stories about the growth of order in the new order. Other citizens of the democracies get to say costs of imported goods are down, how nice.

Americans and Europeans may come to object for political or moral reasons, or because the new world order may after all cost them their jobs. But they will never be able to say they never knew; see above."

2001 - Gary Hart, at a televised meeting organized by the Council on Foreign Relations three days after 9/11, states: "There is a chance for the President of the United States to use this disaster to carry out ... a new world order."

http://www.greaterthings.com/Conspiracy/NewWorldOrder/NWO_quotes.htm

The Patriot Act

**The USA PATRIOT Act Was Planned Before 9/11
by Jennifer Van Bergen**

Whether the Administration could have anticipated 9/11 or not, the proponents of the USAPA were waiting to go long before that day. Similar antiterrorism legislation was enacted in the 1996 Antiterrorism Act, which however did little to prevent the events of 9/11, and many provisions had either been declared unconstitutional or were about to be repealed when 9/11 occurred.

James X. Dempsey and David Cole state in their book, "Terrorism & the Constitution: Sacrificing Civil Liberties in the Name of National Security," that the most troubling provisions of the pre-USAPA anti-terrorism laws, enacted in 1996 and expanded now by the USAPA, "were developed long before the bombings that triggered their final enactment."

http://www.truthout.org/docs_02/05.21B.jvb.usapa.911.htm

The US Media's Dirty Little Secret by Bill Douglas

As [Michael] Ruppert quickly noted, in one known [9/11] case, a large number of "put" options were placed through the Alex Brown or (AB Brown) Unit of Deutschebank. Ruppert recalled that AB Brown had been chaired until he became the Executive Director (No. 3) at the CIA in 1998, by A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard.

AB Brown and Deutschebank have a history of being connected with covert operations and money laundering. In fact had, they had just been investigated by Senator Levin's committee on Correspondent Banking and mentioned in

Department of Justice investigations. So, it begs the question, if you were an Arab terrorist who wanted to cash in on your foreknowledge of the next days' attacks using United and American Airlines stock, would you go to a known CIA connected bank to do it? Especially, if you knew, as Ruppert had previously documented, that the CIA tracks all stock trades in real time? Probably not.

One \$2.5 million trade, made through AB Brown by a late-comer went unclaimed after 9-11 when the markets were closed for four days. By that time alarms over the insider trades were sounding all over, even on CBS News. Most of the smarter crooks had absconded with their money by exercising their put options while the attacks were taking place through offshore accounts.

The head of AB Brown, Mayo Shattuck III, who is a close friend and associate of Krongard, resigned the day after 9-11-2001 without anyone except Ruppert connecting the dots. To this day the Bush Administration has not told us who made those insider trades or why the head of AB Brown resigned on 9-12-2001.

<http://www.bigeye.com/911.htm>

The FISA Court

A Comprehensive Overview per the Department of Justice

<http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/doj/fisa/>

FISA Analysis and Links per Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_Intelligence_Surveillance_Act [Back](#)

9.2 How FISA Protocols Differ from the Mainstream Justice System

FISA FAQ per the Electronic Frontier Foundation

"..... Disclosure and an adversary hearing are the exception, occurring only when necessary."

http://www.eff.org/Censorship/Terrorism_militias/fisa_faq.html

Calculated Machinations and Lies

How does one sit down to write about the deliberate circumvention of law in a nation of laws by the Chief Executive? Especially, when the actions taken by that executive ignore the lessons that were hard learned and codified into law for the express purpose of preventing the very actions taken?

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (or FISA) provides the framework for how surveillance by covert agencies may or may not be done. The Bush Administration has put forth the argument that FISA had to be circumvented due to immediate need for surveillance of subjects in the aftermath of 9/11 due to urgent national security concerns. **But this is a lie.**

FISA provisions already provide for emergency surveillance measures. Under 36 USC 1805, the Attorney General may authorize emergency surveillance (including wiretapping and other regulated surveillance methods) for up to 72 hours, so long as application for approval by the FISA supervisory court is made before that time expires. The Administration already had all the emergency measures it needed to do surveillance without illegal encroachment on American civil liberties.

<http://firedoglake.blogspot.com/2005/12/calculated-machinations-and-lies.html>

DEMOCRACIES DIE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

So THAT'S Why Secrets Were Kept from Congress, Statutory Law Was Circumvented, and Journalists May Be Prosecuted

The administration thus is left with the argument that Article II empowers the President secretly to circumvent FISA's restrictions. But this begs the question: why not go through the statutory process outlined, indeed mandated, in Article I of the Constitution? The only real answer proffered by the administration (after they suggested that such a move would have been politically unviable and then backed away from that suggestion): the transparency of the legislative process, and of any resulting legislation, would have endangered national security.

http://www.concurringopinions.com/archives/2006/11/so_thats_why_se.html

Bush's Lie about the (Time-Is-Critical) Burdens of FISA by Eleanor Clift

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 established a special FISA secret court designed to act expeditiously. The executive branch can tap anybody's phone and not even get a warrant until 72 hours after the fact. The FISA court isn't picky; it's only turned down five requests out of 19,000 in its quarter-century existence. Bush publicly and proudly says he will continue to break the law. The Washington Post reported that one FISA court judge has resigned in apparent protest, and the others are asking why we have a secret court when it is ignored.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10578257/site/newsweek/page/2/>

It Goes Beyond "Balancing" Liberty and Security 12-26-05 Post of Joseph Nye and Reaction

"..... I can even understand why President Bush would want to authorize NSA to intercept phone calls between the United States and Afghanistan. But what is inexplicable is why he decided to ignore the 1978 FISA law which set up a special court to authorize such acts in time of emergency. As Colin Powell recently stated, the president could easily have achieved his objective within the law. The FISA court has rarely turned down requests, and when an action is urgent, the executive can act and then turn to the court. And as former Senator Daschle has written, neither he nor others in Congress approved of by-passing the FISA court when the Administration raised the subject in 2001."

#

Dear Mr. Nye:

An issue and an observation with your post:

1. The issue is not just that George Bush broke an existing law, but that he stood in front of the American people and said that the laws do not apply to him. (Actually he said, as Commander in Chief, he could make up the laws he would follow.) This is not a responsible approach to a security threat. This is Tyranny.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-nye/balancing-liberty-and-sec_b_12896.html

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Wiretapping of Americans:**No One is Targeted If Everyone is Monitored**

“This is especially imperative in light of the ongoing revelations of additional surveillance programs in violation of federal law. These revelations fly in the face of previous assurances that the NSA’s surveillance of Americans’ “communications” was “narrow” and did not include “domestic” calls between Americans. As a matter of law, FISA requires a court order before the conversations or communication records of people in the United States are targeted, regardless of whether the phone call is domestic or international. See 50 U.S.C. § 1801(f)(2) (providing statutory protections for targeted communications “to or from a person in the U.S.”). The Committee should reject any assertion that these protections are inapplicable if every American is monitored and thus no one is “targeted” or, in other words, no one has any legal protection. Such claims turn FISA and its obvious intent inside out.”

<http://www.aclu.org/safefree/nsaspying/26164leg20060717.html>

Illegal Wiretapping: Spooks React

A few current and former signals intelligence guys have been checking in since this NSA domestic spying story broke. Their reactions range between mildly creeped out and completely pissed off.

All of the sigint specialists emphasized repeatedly that keeping tabs on Americans is way beyond the bounds of what they ordinarily do -- no matter what the conspiracy crowd may think.

"It's drilled into you from minute one that you should not ever, ever, ever, under any fucking circumstances turn this massive apparatus on an American citizen," one source says. "You do a lot of weird shit. But at least you don't fuck with your own people."

...
TIA, of course, would be "Total Information Awareness," [the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's] effort to find potential enemies of the state in the data trails of ordinary folks. The program was [partially] canceled a few years back. But a whole bunch of similar efforts continue throughout the government.

[NOTE: See "AT&T Sells Out the Constitutional Rights of its Customers" entry under Reference 9.4 below.]

<http://www.defensetech.org/archives/002032.html>

NSA and Bush's Illegal Eavesdropping**EXCERPT: from the Blog: Schneir on Security**

When President Bush directed the National Security Agency to secretly eavesdrop on American citizens, he transferred an authority previously under the purview of the Justice Department to the Defense Department and bypassed the very laws put in place to protect Americans against widespread government eavesdropping. The reason may have been to tap the NSA's capability for data-mining and widespread surveillance.

Illegal wiretapping of Americans is nothing new. In the 1950s and '60s, in a program called "Project Shamrock," the NSA intercepted every single telegram coming into or going out of the United States. It conducted eavesdropping without a warrant on behalf of the CIA and other agencies. Much of this became public during the 1975 Church Committee hearings and resulted in the now famous Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) of 1978.

The purpose of this law was to protect the American people by regulating government eavesdropping. Like many laws limiting the power of government, it relies on checks and balances: one branch of the government watching the other.

...
The fundamental issue here is security, but it's not the security most people think of. James Madison famously said: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary...."

Over 200 years ago, the framers of the U.S. Constitution established an ingenious security device against tyrannical government: they divided government power among three different bodies.

A carefully thought out system of checks and balances in the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch, ensured that no single branch became too powerful.

After watching tyrannies rise and fall throughout Europe, this seemed like a prudent way to form a government. Courts monitor the actions of police. Congress passes laws that even the president must follow.

Since 9/11, the United States has seen an enormous power grab by the executive branch. It's time we brought back the security system that's protected us from government for over 200 years.

http://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2005/12/nsa_and_bushs_i.html

Constitution in Crisis: Domestic Surveillance and Executive Power

"Now, I want to be absolutely clear. What the President ordered in this case was a crime.

...
And we have to deal with that as citizens and, unfortunately, You have to deal with that as Members of Congress.

...
Now, Members that stay silent are making a choice. Very few Members have faced this type of test of Faith. But You are facing it now, and as Citizens and as Members, it's now up to us. We are called to account to the many benefits that we have gotten from this system.

We are called to account to do something, and not to remain silent."

Jonathan Turley
Professor of Constitutional Law,
George Washington University

Quakers and Other Domestic Terrorists

"... agents of the 902nd Military Intelligence Group from Fort Meade, MD ... infiltrated the Quaker Meeting House, and then filed a report designating us a CREDIBLE THREAT.

The president's agents DID NOT come to worship alongside us, to help us plan our educational program, or to protect us.

And it wasn't just us. Shortly after NBC aired its report, churches and other groups began sharing their experiences of infiltration and intimidation with us.

Saint Maurice's Catholic Church in Dania, the Unitarian Universalists, the Fort Lauderdale Friends, members of Pax Christi in West Palm Beach, environmental groups, and many others.

Agents rummaged through trash, attacked and snooped into email, hacked web sites, and listened in on phone conversations ... address books and activist meeting lists have disappeared."

http://thewall.civiblog.org/rsf/house_nsabrief_docs_012006.html

Bush Grants Self Permission To Grant More Power To Self

WASHINGTON, DC—In a decisive 1–0 decision Monday, President Bush voted to grant the president the constitutional power to grant himself additional powers.

"As president, I strongly believe that my first duty as president is to support and serve the president," Bush said during a televised address from the East Room of the White House shortly after signing his executive order. "I promise the American people that I will not abuse this new power, unless it becomes necessary to grant myself the power to do so at a later time."

The Presidential Empowerment Act, which the president hand-drafted on his own Oval Office stationery and promptly signed into law, provides Bush with full authority to permit himself to authorize increased jurisdiction over the three branches of the federal government, provided that the president considers it in his best interest to do so.

"In a time of war, the president must have the power he needs to make the tough decisions, including, if need be, the decision to grant himself even more power," Bush said. "To do otherwise would be playing into the hands of our enemies."

<http://www.theonion.com/content/node/51140>

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9.4 His Honor: Judge James Robertson

A Federal Jurist Follows His Conscience

When you serve on a secret court that oversees spying, there's not much you can do when you think that the law has been broken or the Constitution has been violated. That's because you cannot discuss the confidentiality of the court that you participate in.

But you still can maintain your integrity by taking an action that all too few people have done when confronted with the illegal activities of the Busheviks: you can resign.

That is exactly what Judge James Robertson did, who -- until a few days ago -- served on the FISA, or Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Court. According to the Washington Post, "Two associates familiar with his decision said yesterday that Robertson privately expressed deep concern that the warrantless surveillance program authorized by the president in 2001 was legally questionable and may have tainted the FISA court's work."

It was the late Chief Justice and ardent right winger, William Rehnquist, who appointed Robertson to the FISA Court. One anonymous source told the Washington Post, "What I've heard some of the [FISA] judges say is they feel they've participated in a Potemkin court."

We don't know much about Judge Robertson, who still serves on the federal bench in a regular capacity, but we do know he did the honorable thing in a silent act of protest.

<http://www.wingsofjustice.com/05/12/woj05029.html>

Judge Quits FISA Court Over Bush's Spying on Americans

A federal judge has resigned from a special court to protest President Bush's secret authorization of a warrantless domestic spying program.

The action by U.S. District Judge James Robertson stemmed from deep concern that the surveillance program that Bush authorized was legally questionable and may have tainted the work of the court that Robertson resigned from, say two associates of the judge.

<http://www.mindfully.org/Reform/2005/Judge-James-Robertson21dec05.htm>

Judges on Surveillance Court To Be Briefed on Spy Program

By Carol D. Leonnig and Dafna Linzer
Washington Post Staff Writers
Thursday, December 22, 2005; A01

The presiding judge of a secret court that oversees government surveillance in espionage and terrorism cases is arranging a classified briefing for her fellow judges to address their concerns about the legality of President Bush's domestic spying program, according to several intelligence and government sources.

...

Such comments underscored the continuing questions among judges about the program, which most of them learned about when it was disclosed last week by the New York Times. On Monday, one of 10 FISA judges, federal Judge James Robertson, submitted his resignation -- in protest of the president's action, according to two sources familiar with his decision. He will maintain his position on the U.S. District Court here.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/21/AR2005122102326_pf.html

AT&T Sells Out the Constitutional Rights of its Customers

Former AT&T technician Mark Klein is the key witness in the Electronic Frontier Foundation's class-action lawsuit against the company, which alleges that AT&T illegally cooperated in an illegal National Security Agency domestic-surveillance program.

...

Excerpted from his Statement:

In 2003 AT&T built "secret rooms" hidden deep in the bowels of its central offices in various cities, housing computer gear for a government spy operation which taps into the company's popular WorldNet service and the entire internet. These installations enable the government to look at every individual message on the internet and analyze exactly what people are doing. Documents showing the hardwire installation in San Francisco suggest that there are similar locations being installed in numerous other cities.

The physical arrangement, the timing of its construction, the government-imposed secrecy surrounding it, and other factors all strongly suggest that its origins are rooted in the Defense Department's Total Information Awareness (TIA) program which brought forth vigorous protests from defenders of constitutionally protected civil liberties last year:

"As the director of the effort, Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter, has described the system in Pentagon documents and in speeches, it will provide intelligence analysts and law enforcement officials with instant access to information from internet mail and calling records to credit card and banking transactions and travel documents, without a search warrant."

The New York Times, 9 November 2002

To mollify critics, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa) spokesmen have repeatedly asserted that they are only conducting "research" using "artificial synthetic data" or information from "normal DOD intelligence channels" and hence there are "no U.S. citizen privacy implications" (Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General report on TIA, December 12, 2003). They also changed the name of the program to "Terrorism Information Awareness" to make it more politically palatable.

But feeling the heat, Congress made a big show of allegedly cutting off funding for TIA in late 2003, and the political fallout resulted in Adm. Poindexter's abrupt resignation last August. However, the fine print reveals that Congress eliminated funding only for "the majority of the TIA components," allowing several "components" to continue (DOD, *ibid*). The essential hardware elements of a TIA-type spy program are being surreptitiously slipped into "real world" telecommunications offices.

In San Francisco the "secret room" is Room 641A at 611 Folsom Street, the site of a large SBC phone building, three floors of which are occupied by AT&T. High-speed fiber-optic circuits come in on the 8th floor and run down to the 7th floor where they connect to routers for AT&T's WorldNet service, part of the latter's vital "Common Backbone."

In order to snoop on these circuits, a special cabinet was installed and cabled to the "secret room" on the 6th floor to monitor the information going through the

circuits. (The location code of the cabinet is 070177.04, which denotes the 7th floor, aisle 177 and bay 04.) The "secret room" itself is roughly 24-by-48 feet, containing perhaps a dozen cabinets including such equipment as Sun servers and two Juniper routers, plus an industrial-size air conditioner.

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/1,70908-0.html>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

About the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Lawsuit

Get the Low Down on the Class Action Lawsuit Filed Against AT&T on Behalf of its Customers -- and the sanctity of the US Constitution.

"What is EFF's Lawsuit Against AT&T About?"

EFF filed a class-action lawsuit against AT&T, accusing the telecom giant of violating the law and the privacy of its customers by collaborating with the National Security Agency (NSA) in its massive and illegal domestic spying program to wiretap and data-mine Americans' communications.

<http://www.eff.org/legal/cases/att/faq.php#1>

AUDIO: Threatcast

An Interview with a [second?] AT&T Engineer (AKA "Deep Packet") regarding his direct knowledge of the government's illegal data-mining operation. Deep Packet gives a sense of an insider who at first did not believe the press reports but quickly learned that not only were they true but went deeper.....

AT&T got help with government contracts in exchange for cooperating with the data-mining operations, enhancing AT&T's special role as a preferred government vendor, and maintaining the lucrative flow of federal funds that attend this status. The company has a large division dedicated to government services which has contributed to its reputation as the most "cooperative" of all the telecommunications companies.

http://i.i.com.com/cnwk.1d/i/z/e/200604/04-20-06_threatcast.mp3

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9.5 Cheney-Specter Bill S. 2453

Senators of Both Parties Urge Further Hearings on Bill

We are concerned by provisions in the newest version of your bill that suggest that the executive branch could conduct wiretaps and physical searches without the court orders currently required by FISA and that would amend FISA to authorize "program warrants."

In addition, we believe that Congress needs far more information about the newest section of your bill, which contains numerous complex amendments to FISA that appear to rewrite the law significantly.

http://www.rawstory.com/news/2006/Republican_Democratic_Senators_criticize_Specter_FISA_0906.html

Letter to Senator Specter from a Roster of Prominent Civil Liberties Groups

EXCERPT: The most recent substitute (numbered 6588) to S. 2453 and the amendment circulated late last week, would further erode checks and balances on electronic surveillance in the United States and seriously weaken the civil liberties of Americans. Rather than restoring the Constitutional requirements by ensuring individualized judicial warrants for and congressional oversight of government surveillance in the United States, the most recent version of your bill --

- ∅ makes compliance with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, including mandatory judicial approval of each request for a wiretap or pen register relating to people in this country, optional;
- ∅ makes it even more difficult for Americans to obtain judicial review of extrajudicial surveillance activities by establishing a set of rules that make it very difficult to get a full and fair hearing on the merits:
- ∅ allows courts to dismiss challenges to electronic surveillance programs for any reason;
- ∅ requires courts, upon an affidavit from the Attorney General, to transfer cases challenging the legality of electronic surveillance or any “classified communications intelligence activity” to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, where proceedings are secret and only the government is permitted to participate; and
- ∅ prohibits the FISC from disclosing any classified information to any parties unless disclosure is required by the Constitution, rather than when necessary to do so under appropriate protective orders to reach a fair decision; and
- ∅ authorizes electronic surveillance in violation of the Fourth Amendment’s requirements of probable cause and particularity and its prohibition against general warrants.

Your bill amends the exclusivity provision of FISA to allow the President to conduct electronic surveillance under Title 18, under FISA or “*under the constitutional authority of the executive.*” It thus makes compliance with FISA optional.

The bill allows, but does not require, the President to seek judicial review of a “surveillance program” lacking in particularity (not the one described by the President and the Attorney General since last December).

The exclusivity of procedures that require individualized judicial warrants is the heart of the protections FISA provides to secure Americans’ fundamental Fourth Amendment rights.

Endorsing the President’s claim of inherent authority to wiretap without any independent check will destroy FISA and undermine the effort to preserve Americans’ constitutional right to privacy in their communications.

<http://www.bordc.org/threats/legislation/specterletter.pdf>

Fate of S. 2453 Upon the Closure of the 109th Congress

Bill Overview

Introduced: Mar 16, 2006

Sponsor:

Sen. Arlen Specter [R-PA]

Cosponsors:

Sen. Charles Hagel [R-NE]

Last Action: Sept 13, 2006: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 609.

Sessions of Congress last two years, and at the end of each session all proposed bills and resolutions that haven't passed are cleared from the books. This bill never became law.

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s109-2453>

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9.6 Senator Frank Church:

The Abyss of Warrantless Wiretapping by John Nichols

Thirty years ago, on April 26, 1976, the United States Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, delivered its final report detailing the lawlessness of U.S. intelligence agencies and the need for Congress to reassert the Constitutional system of checks and balances to order to rein in the cloak-and-dagger excesses of the executive branch of the federal government.

The committee, mercifully referred to by the last name of its chair, U.S. Senator Frank Church, D-Idaho, produced fourteen reports on the formation of U.S. intelligence agencies, the manner in which they had and were continuing to operate, and the abuses of law and of power -- up to and including murder -- committed by these agencies in Chile, the Congo, Cuba, Vietnam and other nations that experienced the attention of U.S. authorities in the Cold War era.

The committee also made 96 recommendations for how to do that. Some of those recommendations, such as the committee's call for creation of a permanent Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and for a ban on assassinations of foreign leaders, were implemented.

But, as the current controversy over President Bush's warrantless wiretapping program illustrates, the potential abuses about which the Church Committee warned were not entirely -- nor even adequately -- thwarted.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views06/0426-30.htm>

Senator Frank Church: The NSA Could Enable a Dictator to Impose Total Tyranny

Senator Frank Church chaired the Senate Hearings on the FBI's COINTELPRO operation, which spied upon & attempted to infiltrate, disrupt and discredit the peace movement, as well the Civil Rights agenda of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“That capability at any time could be turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left, such is the capability to monitor everything: telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn’t matter. There would be no place to hide.”

He added that if a dictator ever took over, the NSA “could enable [him] to impose total tyranny, and there would be no way to fight back.”

http://benfrank.net/blog/2006/01/08/frank_church/

Tapped Out: Why Congress Won't Get Through to the NSA

By Patrick Radden Keefe

The Church Committee investigation originated much as the current inquiry has. But it was not so easily rebuffed. The committee got underway after Seymour Hersh's front-page New York Times story in December 1974 outlined a widespread CIA program to spy on civilian anti-war protesters during the Nixon years.

The House and Senate each established investigative committees. The Senate's was led by Frank Church, D-Idaho, who intended to run for president the following year and embraced the national exposure and prestige of leading the charge. Before weighing in on the legality of the operations, the committee wisely sought to determine what precisely Nixon's intelligence agencies had done.

Young congressional aides began knocking on doors around Washington, and in May 1975 the committee got a major break. It obtained a document known within the CIA as "the family jewels" -- a ledger compiled by then CIA Director William Colby of all the legally questionable activities conducted by U.S. intelligence in recent years.

It was quite a list: wiretapping journalists, administering LSD to a CIA scientist who later killed himself, attempting to assassinate Castro and other foreign leaders. It ran to 700 pages.

<http://www.slate.com/id/2135325/>

Church Report: US Covert Action in Chile 1963-197=

<http://foia.state.gov/Reports/ChurchReport.asp#A.%20Overview:%20Cover%20Action%20in%20Chile>

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9.7 President Bush and the Abuse of Signing Statements

By Jonathan Weisman
Wednesday, June 28, 2006

A bipartisan group of senators and scholars denounced President Bush yesterday for using scores of "signing statements" to reserve the right to ignore or reinterpret provisions of measures that he has signed into law.

Bush's statements have challenged, for instance, a congressional ban on torture, a request for data on the administration of the USA Patriot Act and even a legislative demand for suggestions on the digital mapping of coastal resources.

The Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing marked the latest effort by Chairman Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and panel Democrats to reclaim authority that they say the president has usurped as he has expanded the power of the executive branch. It came on the same day Bush gave a speech pushing for a line-item veto that would allow him to strike spending and tax provisions from legislation without vetoing the bill.

Other presidents have used signing statements to clarify their interpretation of laws, but no president has used such statements instead of ever using the veto authority spelled out in the Constitution, said Harvard University law professor Charles J. Ogletree Jr., who is serving on a new American Bar Association task force examining Bush's signing statements. Bush has never used his veto power in his presidency.

"There is a sense that the president has taken the signing statements far beyond the customary purviews," Specter told the administration's representative, Michelle E. Boardman, deputy assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. "There's a real issue here as to whether the president may, in effect, cherry-pick the provisions he likes and exclude the ones he doesn't like."

Democrats were more blunt, blasting such statements, which are estimated to number more than 750 on 110 laws -- more than all the statements issued by other presidents.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (Vt.), the committee's ranking Democrat, calling the practice "a grave threat to our constitutional system of checks and balances."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/06/27/AR2006062700145.html>

Bush's Signing Statements:

Lackluster reporting about this big story has left many critically important questions unanswered.

**By Dan Froomkin
June 27, 2006**

President Bush's unprecedented use of "signing statements" to quietly assert his right to ignore legislation passed by Congress -- including its ban on torture -- first came to light in January due to some aggressive reporting by Boston Globe reporter Charlie Savage.

In April, Savage reported his astonishing discovery that Bush has claimed the authority to disobey more than 750 [as of June 2006] laws in all since he took office:

Bush is the first president in modern history who has never vetoed a bill, giving Congress no chance to override his judgments. Instead, he has signed every bill that reached his desk, often inviting the legislation's sponsors to signing ceremonies at which he lavishes praise upon their work.

Then, after the media and the lawmakers have left the White House, Bush quietly files "signing statements" -- official documents in which a president lays out his legal interpretation of a bill for the federal bureaucracy to follow when implementing the new law. The statements are recorded in the federal register. . .

In his signing statements, Bush has repeatedly asserted that the Constitution gives him the right to ignore numerous sections of the bills -- sometimes including provisions that were the subject of negotiations with Congress in order to get lawmakers to pass the bill. He has appended such statements to more than one of every 10 bills he has signed.

http://www.niemanwatchdog.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=ask_this.view&askthisid=00211

Sign Here: Presidential signing statements are more than just executive branch lunacy

By Dahlia Lithwick

Posted Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, at 5:32 AM ET

There are two ways President Bush likes to wage war on your civil liberties: He either asks you to surrender your rights directly—as he does when he strengthens and broadens provisions of the Patriot Act. Or he simply hoovers up new powers and hopes you won't find out—as he did when he granted himself authority to order warrant-less wiretapping of American citizens.

The former category seems more benign, and it's tempting to lump Bush's affinity for "presidential signing statements" in that camp. It's tempting to believe that with these statements he is merely asking that the courts take his legal views into account. But President Bush never asks anything of the courts; he doesn't think he has to. His signing statements are not aimed at persuading the courts, but at reinforcing his claim that both courts and Congress are irrelevant.

<http://www.slate.com/id/2134919/#>

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9.8 The 109th Congress: The Worst Ever

How our national legislature has become a stable of thieves and perverts -- in five easy steps (See our picks for the 10 Worst Congressmen)

by Matt Taibbi

There is very little that sums up the record of the U.S. Congress in the Bush years better than a half-mad boy-addict put in charge of a federal commission on child exploitation. After all, if a hairy-necked, raincoat-clad freak like Rep. Mark Foley can get himself named co-chairman of the House Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, one can only wonder: What the hell else is going on in the corridors of Capitol Hill these days?

...

"The 109th Congress is so bad that it makes you wonder if democracy is a failed experiment," says Jonathan Turley, a noted constitutional scholar and the Shapiro Professor of Public Interest Law at George Washington Law School. "I think that if the Framers went to Capitol Hill today, it would shake their confidence in the system they created. Congress has become an exercise of raw power with no principles -- and in that environment corruption has flourished.

The Republicans in Congress decided from the outset that their future would be inextricably tied to George Bush and his policies. It has become this sad session of members sitting down and drinking Kool-Aid delivered by Karl Rove. Congress became a mere extension of the White House."

The end result is a Congress that has hijacked the national treasury, frantically ceded power to the executive, and sold off the federal government in a private auction. It all happened before our very eyes. In case you missed it, here's how they did it -- in five easy steps:

http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/12055360/cover_story_time_to_go_inside_the_worst_congress_ever

109th Congress: Goodbye, Farewell and Don't Let the Door Hit You...

By Michael Winship, December 26, 2006.

With 19 members under federal investigation and a record-low number of days in session, let's hope our new Congress can do more than the old one did.

The 109th Congress is dead. Adjourned for good.

Hooray. Don't let the door bump your behinds on the way out.

These guys set new milestones for financial and moral hanky-panky, including 19 members under federal investigation and last Friday's release of the House ethics report on the Mark Foley page scandal.

The Washington Post quoted Republican Rep. Zach Wamp of Tennessee, a member who entered Congress as part of the "Contract with America" Class of 1994: "Our leadership and some of our members grew arrogant in their power, and with arrogance comes corruption." Senator John McCain added, "We came to change Washington, and Washington changed us."

The 109th broke by a week the record of the notorious 1948 "Do-Nothing" Congress, managing to convene for a mere 103 days from January 2005 to 5 a.m., last Saturday morning. That's a little more than four days a month.

<http://www.alternet.org/story/45551/>

Six Corporations Now Own the Media

The Big Six
October 19, 2006
By Lauren Horwitch

What if six male billionaires decided what 300 million people watched on TV, saw in movie theatres, heard on the radio, and read in every major newspaper?

...

Some would call it an Orwellian nightmare, but... U.S. citizens call it reality. More precisely, it's called media consolidation: the popular practice of international corporations monopolizing media outlets such as TV stations, movie studios, and newspapers.

The men at the helm of those corporations are, respectively:

**Sumner Redstone (Viacom),
Robert Iger (Disney),
Richard Parsons (Time Warner),
Jeffrey R. Immelt (General Electric),
Carl Bertelsmann (Bertelsmann),
and Rupert Murdoch (News Corp)**

http://www.backstage.com/bs0/news_reviews/multimedia/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003285440

What's Good for Big Media Is Bad News for Public

**From Indianapolis Star, December 28, 2006
By Kevin Howley**

With barely a whisper from the national press corps, the Federal Communication Commission is considering measures that would allow further consolidation of the U.S. media system. If the FCC approves the changes, you can expect more of the same from Big Media: formulaic entertainment programming, public relations that passes for journalism, and all the advertisements you can eat.

Established in 1934 to regulate the nation's airwaves and ensure that broadcasters serve "the public interest," the FCC has historically promoted localism, encouraged viewpoint diversity and limited monopoly ownership of broadcasting. These are the cornerstones of a democratic media system.

In recent years, however, the FCC has become a captive agency. Rather than working on behalf of the American people, the FCC now does the bidding of a handful of powerful media industries. The result: a corrupt policymaking process that has led to unprecedented concentration of media ownership — and enormous profits for corporate shareholders. But what's good for Big Media is bad news for the American people.

Consider what happened to radio 10 years ago. In the wake of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, a reform measure that reduced ownership limits of radio stations in local and national markets, the industry went into a merger-and-acquisition frenzy. Virtually overnight, radio was transformed from a vibrant, local medium for news, public affairs and cultural programming into a wasteland dominated by industry giants.

But radio is just the tip of the iceberg. Today, six companies — Viacom, Disney, Time Warner, General Electric, Bertelsmann, and News Corporation — own 90 percent of all U.S. media holdings. This means that a handful of corporations determine what most Americans read in daily newspapers, see in movie theaters, watch on broadcast and cable television, and hear over the airwaves.

Now, at the urging of Big Media, the FCC is considering additional rule changes that would further reduce or completely eliminate the remaining laws regulating how many media outlets a single company can own in a single market.

<http://www.freepress.net/news/20009>

Facts on Media in America: Did You Know?

A healthy democracy is dependent on the diversity of ideas and freedom of communication that supports an informed populace. The FCC's mandate is to protect the public interest in this process. After years of doing a decent job, the massive financial power of the biggest media companies have broken the system down.

Now.....

Disney owns ABC. It also owns 10 television stations, 50 radio stations, ESPN, A&E, the History Channel, Discover Magazine, Hyperion Publishing, Touchstone Pictures, and Miramax Film Corp.

Viacom owns CBS. It also owns 39 television stations, 184 radio stations, The Movie Channel, Black Entertainment Television, Nickelodeon, TV Land, MTV, VH1, Simon & Schuster Publishing, Scribner, and Paramount Pictures.

General Electric owns the NBC Television Network and Universal Studios. It also owns 13 television stations, CNBC, MSNBC, Telemundo and Bravo.

Time Warner owns Warner Bros. Studios and Warner Bros. Music. It also owns HBO, half of the CW (co-owned with Viacom), CNN, and AOL.

Bertelsmann owns Sony BMG Music Entertainment (50%), Columbia Records, Arista Records, Epic Records, J Records, Jive Records, Legacy Recordings, RCA Records, RCA Victor, Sony BMG Masterworks, Sony BMG Nashville and BMG Music Publishing.

It also owns Random House Publishing, Alfred A. Knopf Publishing, Anchor Books, Ballantine Books, Ballantine Reader's Circle, Del Rey, Del Rey /Lucas Books, Fawcett Publications, Ivy Books, One World Publishing, Wellspring, Broadway Publishing,, Doubleday Publishing (USA), Black Ink/Harlem Moon Publishing, Currency Business Books, Doubleday Graphic Novels, Doubleday Religion, Nan A. Talese Books, Everyman's Library, Pantheon Books (USA), 50% of Bookspan USA: Architects & Designers Book Service, Behavioral Science Book Club, Black Expressions, Book-of-the-Month Club, Children's Book-of-the-Month Club, Computer Books Direct, Country Homes & Gardens, Crafter's Choice, Discovery Channel Book Club, Doubleday Book Club, Doubleday Large Print, Early Childhood Teachers Club, Equestrian, The Good Cook, History Book Club, Intermediate & Middle Grades Book Club, The Library of Speech-Language Pathology, The Literary Guild, The Military Book Club, Mystery Guild, One Spirit, Outdoorsman's Edge, Nurse's Book Society, Primary Teachers' Book Club, Reader's Subscription, Rhapsody Book Club, Scientific American Book Club, and the Science Fiction Book Club.

News Corp. owns Fox Broadcasting Company. It also owns 26 television stations, FX, Fox News Channel, TV Guide, the Weekly Standard, New York Post, DirecTV, the publisher HarperCollins, film production company Twentieth Century Fox and the social networking website MySpace.

Currently, the FCC could decide to relax media ownership rules even more, which would allow further consolidation and put decisions about what kinds of programming and news Americans receive in even fewer hands.

Since 1995, the number of companies owning commercial TV stations declined by 40 percent.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was, in part, meant to increase competition in the cable industry. The Act was heavily influenced by industry lobbyists and has had the opposite effect. Three media giants own all of the cable news networks. Comcast and AOL Time Warner serve 40 percent of cable households. Cable TV rates have jumped 40 percent since the Telecom Act of 1996.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 lifted ownership limits for radio stations, leading to incredible consolidation of radio station ownership. One company alone, Clear Channel Inc., now owns nearly 1,200 radio stations across the country. Before the change, a company could not own more than 40 stations nationwide.

According to the US Supreme Court, the Constitutional basis for the FCC's mandate to protect the American people's right of access to diverse ideas -- utterly flaunted now -- reads as follows: "It is the purpose of the First Amendment to preserve an uninhibited marketplace of ideas in which truth will ultimately prevail, rather than to countenance monopolization of that market, whether it be by the Government itself or a private licensee. It is the right of the public to receive suitable access to social, political, esthetic, moral, and other ideas and experiences which is crucial here. That right may not constitutionally be abridged either by Congress or by the FCC."

--U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark 1969 case of Red Lion v. FCC

<http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=2127045>

Screwing the Public Welfare; Screwing the Reporters for Doing their Jobs -- But Keeping Monsanto Happy

It is important to elaborate upon the issue of media consolidation and its effect upon the diversity of information reaching a particular market.... If, for example, only one or two media conglomerates dominate in a single market, the question is not only that of whether they will present a diversity of opinions, but also of whether they are willing to present information that may be damaging to either their advertisers or to themselves. If it is in the best interests of the media conglomerates not to run a story or allow a particular opinion, but in the best interests of the public interest to run it, it arguably makes better business sense to opt for the former over the latter.

On the local end, reporters have often seen their stories refused or edited beyond recognition, in instances where they have unearthed potentially damaging information concerning either the media outlet's advertisers or its parent company. For example, in 1997, the Fox affiliate in Tampa, Florida fired two reporters and suppressed a story they had produced about one of the Fox network's major advertisers, Monsanto, concerning the health effects of Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH). Fox took action after Monsanto threatened to sue over the story.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_concentration

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9.9 The Loss of Habeas Corpus

EXCERPT: Amy Goodman of Democracy Now Interviews Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights:

MICHAEL RATNER:For some reason, for some peculiar reason, nobody is really covering this in the media. Yes, they're covering the McCain debate over waterboarding and torture and somewhat on the military commissions, but not really the denial of the abolishment of the fundamental writ.....

AMY GOODMAN: Now, again, maybe part of the reason we don't hear much about this is a lack of understanding of writ of habeas corpus. I mean, it's not even in English. Explain, Michael.

MICHAEL RATNER: Well, it actually comes initially out of the Magna Carta in 1215. And it had to do with when the king just believed he could pick up people anywhere in the world, throw them into a dungeon, never give them a court hearing, and you'd never hear from them again, essentially disappear them. Out of a long struggle for peoples' rights, the writ of habeas corpus emerged. Then, when we wrote our Constitution in the United States, it was considered the fundamental right essentially against a police state and can only be suspended in cases of rebellion or things like that.

And what it really says is that if a king or the president picks me up anywhere in the world, that I have a right to go into court and say, "What are your reasons for detaining me?" It doesn't say you have to be freed. But it says you have to come up -- government -- come up with a legal reason for detaining me. In other words, it takes detentions, disappearances and puts them into the light of a courtroom, where the government has to justify the detention.

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/09/19/1348212>

The Torture King and Loss of Habeas Corpus

September 27, 2006
by Zen Garcia

Bush has stated over and over, "We do not torture detainees" and yet when Senator McCain, a once held prisoner of war, dissented against the White House position on the treatment of detainees and together with the Senate passed a law outlawing the torture of detainees; Bush issued a 'signing statement' -- an official document in which a president lays out interpretation of a new law -- in which he reserved the right to ignore Congressional demands outlawing the torture of prisoners.

...

Another report based on information from Pentagon and other official US sources, released by Human Rights First in October 2005 cites similar conclusions in that over 100 prisoners have died while in US custody in Iraq and Afghanistan since August 2002. Out of 98 deaths, at least 34 were suspected or confirmed homicides "caused by intentional or reckless behavior." Human Rights First representative Deborah Pearlstein told Newsnight she was "extremely comfortable" that the information was reliable while UK MP Bob Marshall-Andrews told the Press Association that "If it is indeed systemic, then the responsibility for it must go right to the top, and that would apply to both British and American governments."

A spokesman for Amnesty International UK called for an investigation into how the deaths occurred while in US custody and said, "Deaths in custody during the war on terror are a real matter of concern to us and we want to see the US and its allies allowing a full independent and impartial investigation into these deaths, as well as mounting incidents of alleged torture and other mistreatment."

Some methods used by the CIA and military interrogators include using a scalpel to make numerous cuts on the penis of Benyam Mohammed, who was arrested at Karachi airport on April 10 2002, and flown by a US government plane to a prison in Morocco. Other techniques include forceful beatings and even stomping which resulted in the paralysis of Sami Al-Laithi, a result of his detention at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay. Al-Laithi is now confined to a wheelchair with two broken vertebrae. Images released from the Abu Ghraib scandal show the forceful rape, sodomy of Iraqi men, women, and children and include depictions of electrical wires attached to the genitalia of detainees. There were also images of dogs being used to attack detainees. Would it shock the American people to know that John C. Yoo, a Justice Department attorney who helped devise the Bush regime's doctrine of torture, condones even the torture of terrorists children to extract information from their terrorist parents.

...
We know through Seymour Hersh's work that the policy of torturing and sodomizing terrorist children had in fact been implemented because the Pentagon has videotapes of boys being sodomized at Abu Ghraib to extract information from their parents. "[There's] a massive amount of criminal wrongdoing that was covered up at the highest command out there, and higher. Basically what happened is that those women who were arrested with young boys/ children in cases that have been recorded. The boys were sodomized with the cameras rolling. The worst about all of them is the soundtrack of the boys shrieking.... They are in total terror it's going to come out."

Manuals used by the U.S. Army's School of the Americas between 1982 and 1991 condoned executions, beatings and many other human rights abuses. John Yoo admits that he regards the sexual torture of children to be a legal and justifiable tactic, if authorized by the president. Louise Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on December 7, 2005 declared: "The absolute ban on torture, a cornerstone of the international human rights edifice, is under attack. The principle we once believed to be unassailable-the inherent right to physical integrity and dignity of the person-is becoming a casualty of the so-called war on terror."

...
The writ of habeas corpus guarantees a prisoners right to know the charges against them in a court of law without being held in indefinite confinement just because someone wants them detained. Without it Presidents and Kings have historically been able to lock people up, essentially throwing away the key, and disappearing them by allowing them to rot in jail. The writ of habeas corpus stems from the Magna Carta of 1215 and was so important for protecting peoples rights that when our forefathers wrote our Constitution in the United States, it became a foundation point for our own Bill of Rights. Having the writ of habeas corpus suspended for terror suspects, can also endanger American citizens as the Patriot Act defines 'domestic terrorists' as anyone that challenges the policies of government administration especially anti-war demonstrators.

http://www.populistamerica.com/the_torture_king_and_loss_of_habeas_corpus

Keith Olbermann: 'The president has now succeeded where no one has before'

COMMENTARY

Updated: 10:35 a.m. PT Oct 11, 2006

On "Countdown" Keith Olbermann examined the Military Commission's Act of 2006 and what it does to something called habeas corpus.

EXCERPT: The president has now succeeded where no one has before. He's managed to kill the writ of habeas corpus. Tonight, a special investigation, how that, in turn, kills nothing less than your Bill of Rights. Because the Mark Foley story began to break on the night of September 28, exploding the following day, many people may not have noticed the bill passed by the Senate that night.

Congress passed the Military Commission's Act to give Mr. Bush the power to deal effectively with America's enemies—those who seek to harm the country. He has been very clear on who he thinks that is.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: For people to leak that program and for a newspaper to publish it does great harm to the United States of America.

That fact that we're discussing this program is helping the enemy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15220450/page/1/>

VIDEO: Keith Olbermann on the Death of Habeas Corpus ***

This "Special Comment" was recorded in the week following the piece above.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ao0RrXHZEk>

Liberty and Habeas Corpus (II)

Justice Scalia, Unusually Joined by Justice Stevens

The long reach of habeas corpus was reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, in 2004, when it ruled that U.S. citizens detained in Guantanamo Bay, a U.S. military base on long-term lease from Cuba, were on U.S. territory and therefore have a right to plea to a U.S. federal court for habeas corpus and thereby enforce certain minimal liberty rights under the Due Process Clause. The companion case, *Rasul v. Bush*, declared that aliens (non-citizens) held at an overseas U.S. military base also have this right.

However, recently passed legislation, the Military Commissions Act, has suspended habeas corpus protection for all aliens, even the tens of millions of aliens visiting or residing inside the United States proper. It also jeopardizes many of the legal protections U.S. citizens have against arbitrary detainment once we have invoked habeas corpus.

In Hamdi Justice Scalia, unusually joined by Justice Stevens, quoted William Blackstone's 18th century legal treatise, parts of which had also been quoted by Alexander Hamilton in Federalist #84:

"Of great importance to the public is the preservation of this personal liberty: for if once it were left in the power of any, the highest, magistrate to imprison arbitrarily whomever he or his officers thought proper ... there would soon be an end of all other rights and immunities. ... To bereave a man of life, or by violence to confiscate his estate, without accusation or trial, would be so gross and notorious an act of despotism, as must at once convey the alarm of tyranny throughout the whole kingdom. But confinement of the person, by secretly hurrying him to gaol, where his sufferings are unknown or forgotten; is a less public, a less striking, and therefore a more dangerous engine of arbitrary government. ...

Without habeas corpus severe political oppression and deprivation of liberty through the practice of "**disappearing**" becomes all too easy.

<http://unenumerated.blogspot.com/2006/10/liberty-and-habeas-corpus-ii.html>

Digging Up the "Disappeared" in Guatemala

By N.C. Aizenman
Washington Post Foreign Service
Thursday, September 28, 2006

EXCERPT: NEBAJ, Guatemala -- A decade after the conclusion of the long civil war that ravaged this Central American nation, Guatemalans are literally trying to dig up their past.

Spurred by a surge of requests from victims' families this year, dozens of forensic anthropologists have been fanning out across the countryside to search for remains of the 200,000 people -- most of them Mayan Indian civilians -- who were killed or abducted during the 36-year conflict.

Many were massacred by military forces and dumped into mass graves. Others were buried hurriedly in unmarked, secret locations by relatives anxious to avoid rampaging troops.

About 40,000 victims simply disappeared after being seized by government operatives.

Nearly every day brings another grisly discovery: skulls of toddlers executed with gunshots to the head; corpses of young men whose necks are still looped with the garrotes used to strangle them.

Nearly every week brings another funeral packed with weeping relatives: once-youthful widows now wrinkled and gray, children long since grown to adulthood.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/27/AR2006092702133.html?nav=rss_print/asection

The CIA & Guatemala's "Disappeared"

by Allan Nairn

The Nation, April 17, 1995

(c) 1995 The Nation Co., L.P.

EXCERPT: The U.S. government has systematic links to Guatemalan Army death squad operations that go far beyond the disclosures that have recently shaken official Washington....

North American C.I.A. operatives work inside a Guatemalan Army unit that maintains a network of torture centers and has killed thousands of Guatemalan civilians. The G-2, headquartered on the fourth floor of the Guatemalan National Palace, has, since at least the 1960s, been advised, trained, armed and equipped by U.S. undercover agents. Working out of the U.S. Embassy and living in safehouses and hotels, these agents work through an elite group of Guatemalan officers who are secretly paid by the C.I.A. and who have been implicated personally in numerous political crimes and assassinations.

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/news/arc/lasnet/1995/0312.html>

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9.10 Zbigniew Brzezinski on Democracy

"Democracy is inimical to imperial mobilization."

In his 1997 book *The Grand Chessboard*, Brzezinski lays out the scheme in unvarnished terms.

"To put it in a terminology that harkens back to the more brutal age of ancient empires, the three grand imperatives of imperial geostrategy are to prevent collusion and maintain security dependence among the vassals, to keep tributaries pliant and protected, and to keep the barbarians from coming together."

.....

In a correlative article on oil imperialism, we saw that a major part of the Military Industrial Complex's overall world dominance strategy is:

- * First, they sell armaments to a regime (for example, Panama, Iraq, Yugoslavia/Kosovo, Afghan/Pakistan/Taliban Mujaheddin, Saudi Arabia).
- * Then, they demonize the regime to which they sold the armaments and declare war on it (e.g. Panama invasion, Gulf War, UN Kosovo war, Afghanistan war, war with Iraq).
- * After the war, they station permanent military bases in the country and use the military bases to control the energy resources in the surrounding countries (think Iran and Saudi Arabia).
- * They impose the current U.S. foreign policy doctrine called "full-spectrum dominance:" the U.S. must control military, economic and political developments everywhere.

<http://www.hermes-press.com/domplot.htm>

[NOTE: Please see [Brzezinski Sources in Reference 9.1](#) and especially [Reference 8.14](#) -- for a closer look at "The Grand Chessboard"].

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9.11 Josef Goebbels: Hitler's propaganda Minister

The Control of a Population Through the Repetition of a Fear-Inducing Lie

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

Josef Goebbels, German
Propaganda Minister, 1933-1945

"What good fortune for those in power that the people do not think."
Adolf Hitler

"Through clever and constant application of propaganda people can be made to see paradise as hell, and also the other way around, to consider the most wretched sort of life as paradise."

Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf, 1923

"Behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people. To destroy this invisible government, to befoul the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics is the first task of the statesmanship of the day."

Theodore Roosevelt, April 19, 1906

"Once a government resorts to terror against its own population to get what it wants, it must keep using terror against its own population to get what it wants. A government that terrorizes its own people can never stop. If such a government ever lets the fear subside and rational thought return to the populace, that government is finished."

Michael Rivero

The CIA is not now nor has it ever been a central intelligence agency. It is the covert action arm of the President's foreign policy advisers. In that capacity it overthrows or supports foreign governments while reporting "intelligence" justifying those activities. It shapes its intelligence, even in such critical areas as Soviet nuclear weapons capability, to support presidential policy. Disinformation is a large part of its covert action responsibility, and the American people are the primary target of its lies.

Ralph McGehee, Deadly Deceits

<http://www.letstalksense.com/quotes.html>

When Lying Pays Off: The Fabrications of the Neo-Cons

by **Wayne Madsen**
CounterPunch
May 09, 2003

America's manipulative neo-conservatives, who support unending aggression against any country that does not succumb to United States political, economic, and military control and who, themselves, seized power in Washington through

electoral malfeasance, are taking a page from Nazi Germany's leaders in their quest for world domination. It is no coincidence that the neo-cons are worried about comparisons between their policies and those of Hitler. Ed Gernon, the Canadian executive producer of the upcoming CBS miniseries, "Hitler: The Rise of Evil," was fired when he suggested similarities between the methods used by both Hitler and Bush to wipe away civil liberties by playing on popular fear. The Nazi-like campaign against Gernon was launched by the New York Post and TV Guide, both owned by proto-fascist Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation.

After being caught lying about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to prove their flimsy case that Iraq was a world class threat, the neo-cons now are planting fabricated documents in the rubble of Iraqi intelligence and secret police facilities. Through a media laundering process, "discovered" documents are handed over to right-wing outlets owned by such slash and burn media moguls as Murdoch, Conrad Black, and Sun Myung Moon.

We are now being fed information that captured Iraqi intelligence documents "prove" that France assisted escaping members of Saddam Hussein's government by handing them French passports in Syria. This follows repeated allegations that other "documents" proved French (and Russian and German) intelligence cooperation with Iraq's intelligence service before the war. Syria has been accused of accepting Iraq's phony weapons of mass destruction. Iran is accused of helping Al Qaeda (its most bitter enemy).

Hitler used false evidence and phony rhetoric to justify his invasions of Danzig, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. American ambassadors in New Zealand, Norway, Turkey, Greece, Canada, Mexico, Barbados, Jamaica, Brazil, Belgium, Chile, and Luxembourg have acted like Nazi German Foreign Minister Joachim Von Ribbentrop's bellicose ambassadors in bullying nations that failed to support the U.S. war on Iraq. France is being faced with being kicked out of NATO military planning meetings, Germany with a loss of U.S. military bases, Belgium with the loss of NATO's headquarters, and Canada, Chile, and Mexico with trade sanctions.

There are lies, damned lies. Ahmad Chalabi, the leader of the Iraqi National Congress, stooge of the neo-cons, and a convicted bank embezzler is now aiming his wrath at Jordan. Chalabi, who bilked the American taxpayer out of millions of dollars from State Department and CIA budgets in order to fight his self-styled struggle against Saddam from the restaurants of London's Mayfair District and the clothiers of Savile Row, now claims that recently "found" documents implicate Jordan's Royal Family in Saddam's spider's web.

Of course, it was a Jordanian court that found Chalabi guilty of stealing \$300 million from the country's Petra Bank and which sentenced him to over 20 years at hard labor. It is surprising that it took this Gollum-like sycophantic creature so long to accuse the Jordanians of being in bed with Saddam. Of course, Chalabi will not admit that while he was a math professor at the American University of Beirut during the 1970s, he served as an agent for the Shah of Iran's feared SAVAK secret police. So much for Chalabi's "democratic" credentials and his support for using Iraq as a base for the United States to attack Iran and install the son of the Shah upon a resurrected Peacock Throne.

<http://www.opctj.org/articles/wayne-madsen-05-12-2003-002055.html>

Oops! One Lie Backfires:

The Bush Administration Eats its Claims about the Class, Moral Rectitude and “Iraqi Presidential Qualifications” of its Tool-in-Waiting -- Ahmad Chalabi!

In the End -- Cheney and Rumsfeld Got Neo-Conned

Report: United States, Fearing Blackmail, Raids Chalabi’s Offices

The Pentagon has begun forcing some of its employees to undergo lie detector tests in an attempt to find out who leaked highly classified information to Iraqi exile leader Ahmed Chalabi. Chalabi has been accused of sharing secret information with Iran about U.S. war plans in Iraq and tipping Iran off to the fact that the U.S. had broken Iran's top-secret intelligence code which allowed the U.S. to easily spy on Iran's intelligence services. Chalabi has denied the charges. Newsweek is reporting Chalabi may have also attempted to blackmail U.S. officials by collecting and maintaining files of potentially damaging information on U.S. officials. Some officials said that when Chalabi's offices were raided last month, American officials had hoped to find Chalabi's cache of information he had gathered on Americans.

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=04/06/03/142239>

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9.12 Massive Evidence of Election Fraud in the United States

BOOK: Armed Madhouse:

**From Baghdad to New Orleans --
Sordid Secrets & Strange Tales of a
White House GONE WILD**

by Greg Palast

See

Chapter Four: The Con

DVD: American Blackout

Directed By Ian Inaba

Five months before the 2000 election, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and his Secretary of State Katherine Harris (who was also the Florida Chairwoman of the Bush/Cheney Campaign) contracted with a Republican dominated corporation by the name of ChoicePoint/DBT to generate a “Felon List” designed to quietly purge thousands of citizens from the state’s voter rolls.

By specifying an “80%” accuracy rate, Bush and Harris ensured that the list would include tens of thousands of names belonging to non-felons whose names resembled those of actual past felons, thereby disenfranchising massive numbers of innocent citizens, most of whom just happened to be black. When ChoicePoint, warned the state that such a result was sure to follow its unexact criteria, they were told to proceed as instructed.

Choicepoint was paid \$4 million for its work. The deal marked the first time in American history that the legitimacy of a state’s voter rolls were placed in the hands of a private corporation. In the aftermath, Choicepoint would admit to improperly identifying over 90,000 “suspected felons.”

Ian Inaba's scathing documentary on this criminal corruption and the related attack on black voters in Ohio in 2004 is framed against the courage and heroism of the remarkable Cynthia McKinney. To watch this Congresswoman call out Donald Rumsfeld to his face while all around her, her fellow legislators shrink in their high-backed chairs is the stuff of great American drama.

To Order:

<http://www.americanblackout.com/>

Florida Disenfranchised Tens of Thousands of African American Voters in 2000

What made the 'Florida Central Voter File' remarkable is that Florida is the only state that pays a private company to purge the voter file of ineligible voters, in effect allowing a private company to make the administrative decision of who is not eligible to vote.

...

There was an open bid for the job, which was assigned to DBT Online, despite the fact that its bid was the highest-priced. The state gave the job to DBT for a first year fee of \$2,317,800. (Greg Palast, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*, 2nd edition. p. 50)

In 1998 the state signed an agreement with DBT for \$4 million..... DBT Online later merged into ChoicePoint, of Atlanta.

...

At first, Florida specified only exact matches on names, birthdates and genders to identify voters as felons. However, state records reveal a memo dated March 1999 from Emmett "Bucky" Mitchell, a lawyer for the state elections office who was supervising the felon purge, asking DBT to loosen its criteria for acceptable matches. When DBT representatives warned Mitchell that this would yield a large proportion of false positives (mismatches), Mitchell's reply was that it would be up to each county elections supervisor to deal with the problem.....

In February 2000, in a phone conversation with the BBC's London studios, ChoicePoint vice-president James Lee said that the state "wanted there to be more names than were actually verified as being a convicted felon".....

On 17 April 2001, James Lee testified, before the McKinney panel, that the state had given DBT the directive to add to the purge list people who matched at least 90% of a last name. DBT objected, knowing that this would produce a huge number of false positives (non-felons).....

Lee went on saying that the state then ordered DBT to shift to an even lower threshold of 80% match, allowing also names to be reversed (thus a person named Thomas Clarence could be taken to be the same as Clarence Thomas). Besides this, middle initials were skipped, Jr. and Sr. suffixes dropped, and some nicknames and aliases were added to puff up the list.

"DBT told state officials," testified Lee, "that the rules for creating the [purge] list would mean a significant number of people who were not deceased, not registered in more than one county, or not a felon, would be included on the list. DBT made suggestions to reduce the numbers of eligible voters included on the list." According to Lee, to this suggestion the state told the company, "Forget about it".

...

Florida has re-edited its felon list five times since 1998 to correct errors.

The first list DBT Online provided to the Division of Elections in April 2000 contained the names of 181,157 persons. Approximately 65,776 of those included on the first list were identified as felons.

In May 2000, DBT discovered that approximately 8,000 names were erroneously placed on the exclusion list, mostly those of former Texas prisoners who were included on a DBT list that turned out never to have been convicted of more than a misdemeanor.

Later in the month, DBT provided a revised list to the Division of Elections (DOE) containing a total of 173,127 persons. Of those included on the "corrected list", 57,746 were identified as felons.

Examples:

Thomas Cooper, Date of Birth September 5, 1973; crime: unknown; conviction date, Jan. 30, 2007

Johnny Jackson Jr., Date of Birth 1970; crime: none ("mistaken" for John Fitzgerald Jackson who was still in his jail cell in Texas)

Wallace McDonald, Date of Birth, 1928; crime: fell asleep on a bus-stop bench in 1959

Reverend Willie Dixon, convicted in the 1970s at the latest; note: received full executive clemency.

Randall J. Higginbotham, Date of Birth August 28, 1960; crimes: none ("mistaken" for Sean David Higginbotham, born June 16, 1971)

Reverend Willy D. Whiting Jr., crimes: a speeding ticket from 1990 ("confused" with Willy J. Whiting-- they have birthdays 2 days apart)

The list even allowed "matches" between Edward and Edwin, and even Edwina, ignoring middle names and initials and skipping Jr. and Sr. suffixes.

According to the Palm Beach Post, among other problems with the list, although blacks accounted for 88% of those removed from the rolls, they made up only about 11% of Florida's voters.

Voter demographics authority David Bositis, a senior research associate at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC, reviewed The Nation's findings and concluded that the purge-and-block program was "a patently obvious technique to discriminate against black voters."

[George Bush carried Florida by 537 votes.]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida_Central_Voter_File

The Unreported Story of How They Fixed the Vote in Florida

**From the book: *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* (Penguin 2003)
by Greg Palast**

EXCERPT:

There's Thomas Cooper, who's crime is still in the future.

And then Johnny Jackson Jr., on the purge list because his name partially matched that of a man convicted in Texas, John Fitzgerald Jackson (no "Jr."). Johnny Jr.'s never been to Texas, and his mama swears to me he never had the middle name Fitzgerald. Neither is there any evidence that John Fitzgerald Jackson, the felon, ever left Texas -- or ever left his jail cell. There are 638 John and Johnny Jacksons (and permutations thereof) in the Florida phone book. How did the state know they had the right Johnny? They didn't; and it looks like they didn't want to know. Using the address history database, as the state was promised, would have saved Jackson, a Black man, his right to vote.

Then there's Wallace McDonald, age sixty-four. Wallace tells me how in 1959 he fell asleep on a bus-stop bench and was busted. Even for a Black man in then-segregated Florida, that was a misdemeanor, not a felony. He never lost his right to vote; and the state agrees he was wrongly "scrubbed." Had DBT checked the databases, as promised, they would not have named Wallace.

Willie Dixon is on the list, too. The Reverend Dixon was convicted decades ago, and has received full executive clemency. That would have been an easy one to catch if the state had checked and verified the clemency records as per the contract.

Read down the list and mismatches jump out at you. Note they have taken voting rights away from Randall Higginbotham, age forty-one, because of the crimes of Sean Higginbotham, age thirty. The list is lousy with suspicious matches: pairing voter David Russell Butler Jr. of Florida to convict David Butler of Ohio. No question why David R. registered with his full name and appended the Junior. There are sixty-six other David Butlers listed in the Florida phone book and they must get one another's mail all the time. It is disturbingly improbable that they purged the right Butler. That should have been a no-brainer to correct.

The wrong Butlers, Smiths and Jacksons remained on the list because of DBT's "matching logic" and "matching criteria." Credit card companies can require thirty-five matches for verification before they will issue you plastic. The State of Florida was content with a partial match of four: names (the first four letters were good enough), date of birth, gender and race. Not even the address or state mattered in the mad dash to maximize the number of citizens stripped of their civil rights.

Rather than add matching criteria to verify the list, the state told DBT to remove criteria. For example, Messrs. Butler and Jackson so carefully added "Jr." to their official names to avoid such confusion. Tough luck. I found an internal mail in Roberts's office, dated June 14, 2000, in which clerks fretted about what they called "tweaked" data, allowing "matches" between Edward and Edwin (and Edwina!); deliberately ignoring middle names and initials; and skipping the "Jr." and "Sr." suffixes.

I met with a Willie D. Whiting of Tallahassee. The Reverend Whiting confessed he had a speeding ticket a decade ago, but doubted that should cost him his right to vote. But there he was: on the purge list, matched with Willie J. Whiting -- no "Jr." -- whose birthday was two days different from Willie D.'s.

Our experts looked at the paltry number of match criteria and were horrified. One, Mark Hull, told me the state and ChoicePoint could have chosen criteria that would have brought down the number of "false positives" to less than a fragment of 1 percent. He said it made him ill to learn what the company had agreed to do. These revelations were especially upsetting to him; he had been the senior programmer for CDB Infotek, a ChoicePoint company.

...
I turned back to the question of Florida hiring DBT for \$2.3 million, booting [another] company charging \$5,700. When questioned, George Bruder, ChoicePoint DBT's senior vice president, said, "a little birdie" told him to enter that astonishing bid. What else did the little birdie tell him?

What happened to the 1,200 databases, the millions and millions of records that DBT used in its Carl Saganesque sales pitch to the state? In fact, the state paid for this vital cross-check -- or at least DBT's bid said that for their two-million-dollar fee, they would use artificial intelligence for "cross-referencing linked databases.... simultaneously searching hundred of data sources, conducting millions of data comparisons, compiling related data for matching and integration."

In all, they had four billion records to check against. Under "Offer and Bid" it read:

"DBT will process total combined records from:

"8,250,000 Criminal Conviction Records
69,000,000 Florida Property Records
62,000,000 National Change of Address Records
12,590,470 Florida Driver License Records. . . ."

And so on. The phone calls, the massive data crunching, it all justified the big payoff to DBT and scared away competitors who could not match DBT's database firepower. DBT's offer promised "273,318,667 total records to be processed." But they didn't do it.

Once the contract was nailed, it seems a little birdie in the state told DBT not to bother with all that expensive computing work. In the state files, on the DBT bid, I found a handwritten notation, "**don't need**," next to the listing of verification databases (the 62 million address histories, etc.), though this work was included in the price.

Each pass would have cut the list by thousands, thereby letting thousands more Democrats vote. So when the state said, "Don't need," the underlying motive was, "Don't want."

"Wanted More Names Than We Can Verify....."

DBT's "expertise" in obtaining data justified their hiring. But it was a con. Janet Mudrow, the state's liaison with DBT, confessed to me that DBT merely downloaded lists from eleven states that make the data available publicly, such as

Texas. Any high school kid with a Mac and a credit card could have grabbed the names off the Internet. And that was okay with Florida, even though eight of those states do not take away an ex-felon's voting rights, and therefore should not have been used at all.

...
Yet Mudrow, in Harris's office, says the state neither demanded reimbursement nor sought any penalty as permitted under the contract. In fact, the state awarded DBT another contract renewal, bringing total fees to over \$4 million.

Why didn't the state complain, sue, or withhold payment? Following my first reports, when the stats hit the fan, ChoicePoint DBT agreed to a one-year extension of their contract without charge. But why didn't the watchdog bark?

One can only conclude that Harris's office paid an awful lot of money for either (a) failed, incomplete, incompetent, costly, disastrous work that stripped innocent citizens of their rights, or (b) services performed exactly as planned.

...
How could ChoicePoint, such an expert outfit, do such a horrendous job, without complaint from their client? You'd think their client, the state, ordered them to get it wrong. They did. Just before we went on air in February 2000, ChoicePoint vice president James Lee called us at the BBC's London studios with the first hint that the state of Florida instructed the company to give them the names of innocents. The state, he said, "wanted there to be more names than were actually verified as being a convicted felon."

...
"DBT told state officials," testified Lee, "that the rules for creating the [purge] list would mean a significant number of people who were not deceased, not registered in more than one county or not a felon would be included on the list. Likewise, DBT made suggestions to reduce the numbers of eligible voters included on the list."

Correct the list? Remove those "not a felon"? The state, says DBT, told the company, Forget about it.

Hunting the Black Voter -- the June 9 Letter

...
In November, ChoicePoint's PR men jumped up and down insisting in calls to me that "race was not part of the search criteria." The company repeated this denial in press releases after they were sued by the NAACP for participating in a racist conspiracy against citizens' civil rights. DBT complained to my producers and to federal investigators: Race was not a search criterion, period!

Then, I obtained a letter dated June 9, 2000, signed by ChoicePoint DBT's Vice President Bruder written to all county elections supervisors explaining their method: "The information used for the matching process included first, middle, and last name; date of birth; race; and gender; but not Social Security Number."

They had not lied to me. Read closely. They used race as a match criterion, not a search criterion. The company used this confusion between "match" and "search" criteria to try to pull the BBC off the track. They tried to slide the race question by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. However, on the morning of February 16, the day after our broadcast, I faxed to the commission the June 9 letter. Later that day, the commission questioned Bruder.

COMMISSION: Was race or party affiliation matching criterion in compiling that list?

BRUDER: [under oath] No. . . .

COMMISSION: [June 9 letter read into record.] Did you write this letter? It has your signature on it.

BRUDER: Can I see it, please?

COMMISSION: So, you misinformed the Florida supervisors of elections that race would be used as a matching criterion?

BRUDER: Yes.

Wise answer, Mr. Bruder. Misleading elections officials is not a crime; perjury would be. He pleaded confusion. So if race was not a match criterion, how did Black people get matched to felons? I was perplexed by this until I looked again at the decoded scrub sheets: There were columns for felon race and voter race. How could DBT deny that? ...

However, DBT had simply identified race for every real felon, and the secretary of state provided the race of the voters. It was left to the county supervisors to finish the Jim Crow operation: They would accept racial matches as "proof" that the right person was named. Therefore, a Black felon named Willie Whiting wiped out the registration of an innocent Willie Whiting (Black) but not the rights of an innocent Will Whiting (white).

http://www.topplebush.com/article9_election.shtml

Florida Quietly Admits 2000 Election Fraud

By The Associated Press

April 26, 2002 | Filed at 10:17 p.m. ET

MIAMI (AP) -- A federal judge has approved a settlement between Leon County and civil rights groups that sued over widespread voting problems in the 2000 presidential election in Florida.

The state and six other counties remain in the case brought by the NAACP and four other groups who sued in a dispute that grew out of the long-uncertain results of Florida's vote for president.

...

State lawmakers changed election laws in response to complaints after the 2000 election, but critics said the changes didn't go far enough.

...

Many voters said their votes didn't count or they were turned away from polls due to mistakes on voter lists, busy telephone lines at election headquarters, punch-card voting machine foul-ups and other problems.

Statewide, the largest numbers of voting problems were found in precincts with high proportions of black and elderly voters.

Under the settlement, both sides will work to restore voters who were wrongly removed from voters lists in the 2000 election. Many law-abiding voters across the state said their names were dropped because they were mistakenly pegged as ex-cons, who generally aren't allowed to vote in Florida.

The county also agreed to improve communication and training for staffers who work on election day.

Leon County includes the state capital of Tallahassee.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-Election-Lawsuit.html>

"The first principle of republicanism is that the "lex majoris partis" is the fundamental law of every society of individuals of equal rights; to consider the will of the society enounced by the majority of a single vote as sacred as if unanimous is the first of all lessons in importance, yet the last which is thoroughly learnt."

Thomas Jefferson

"Those who cast the votes decide nothing.

Those who count the votes decide everything."

Joseph Stalin

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9.13 [The Death of Democracy?](#)

VIDEO: Votergate

An excellent video exposing major problems with the U.S. elections process is the information-packed documentary Votergate. This fast-moving film shows serious improprieties of concern to both political parties in the United States which threaten the very base of our democracy.

The video may be viewed free at:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3555094491715905699>

If the above link does not work, do a search on Google video or YouTube for "Votergate."

<http://www.wanttoknow.info/votingvideodocumentary>

35 Minute Votergate Movie Video Also Streaming at:

<http://blatanttruth.org/vote.php>

http://www.gnn.tv/blogs/737/Votergate_Video?r=4

NOTE:

After the 2000 Florida Presidential Election Debacle, the state quietly "settled" class action lawsuits filed on behalf of the tens of thousands of outraged African American voters who had been disenfranchised, and Congressional hearings were convened in Washington to ensure that such a travesty could not be repeated. The *Help America Vote Act* (HAVA) was the outcome. Among the authors of the bill was Representative Bob Ney, a Republican out of Ohio. Ney steered appropriations for the new "remedies" into the hands of four companies that manufactured Electronic Voting Systems.

What was generally unreported at the time was that each of these companies, which were paid three billion dollars amongst them to “fix” the problem, had been founded and were owned by active, long-standing, and particularly “far right” supporters of the Republican Party. Two of the owners were brothers. One went so far as to publicly “guarantee” a George Bush victory in Ohio, where the man in charge of counting the vote, Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell, was not only the Chairman of Bush’s Campaign, but a stockowner in Diebold Electronic Systems, the company that won the contract to “do” the state’s vote, as well.

The Electronic Voting Machines, it turns out, have destroyed the credibility of the process they were supposedly installed to save. The companies that created them have designed them to be almost majestically easy to hack, in an equally breathtaking number of ways. Back doors, generic passcodes posted on the internet, Wi-Fi drive by -- we can barely count the ways. The machines repeatedly malfunction, are suddenly in short supply or cease to function (curiously often in more urban precincts) and therefore require a steady flow of “swapping,” “tinkering” and “tweakage” by representatives of the companies that supplied them. And the beauty of it is -- the proprietary software that runs the machines leaves no trace of any changes that have been made to the count, and there is not a single shred of paper, anywhere in the voting process, which might be used to instigate a recount -- or an investigation.

Think no mischief has ensued? Mischief that has led to tragedy all across the globe?

If you remain a patriot, regardless of whether you consider yourself a Republican or a Democrat -- or neither -- you would do well to read the following articles, and use them as a springboard to getting seriously involved.

If, on the other hand, you’ve always found elections to be more a tiresome duty than a privilege, these articles will help to ease your conscience if you decide to sit the next few out, and let the people in the “know” decide things for you. For the truth is -- given these new modern improvements, and their total control by highly partisan, privatized interests, many of the agents of which have shown no compunction whatsoever to be bound by the concept of “honor” -- your vote does not matter.

Diebold, Electronic Voting and the Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy by Bob Fittrakis

A joint study by the California and Massachusetts Institutes of Technology following the 2000 election determined that between 1.5 and 2 million votes were not counted due to confusing paper ballots or faulty equipment. The federal government’s solution to the problem was to pass the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002.

One of the law’s stated goals was “Replacement of punch card and lever voting machines.” The new voting machines would be high-tech touch screen computers, but if there’s no paper trail, how do you know if there’s been a computer glitch? How can the results be trusted? And how do you recount to see if the actual votes match the computer’s tally?

Bev Harris, author of *Black Box Voting: Ballot Tampering in the 21st Century*, argues that without a paper trail, these machines are open to massive voter fraud. Diebold has already placed some 50,000 machines in 37 states and their track record is causing Harris, Johns Hopkins University professors and others great concern.

Johns Hopkins researchers at the Information Security Institute issued a report declaring that Diebold's electronic voting software contained "stunning flaws." The researchers concluded that vote totals could be altered at the voting machines and by remote access. Diebold vigorously refuted the Johns Hopkins report, claiming the researchers came to "a multitude of false conclusions."

Perhaps to settle the issue, someone illegally hacked into the Diebold Election Systems website in March 2003 and stole internal documents from the company and posted them online. Diebold went to court to stop, according to court records, the "wholesale reproduction" of some 13,000 pages of company material.

The Associated Press reported in November 2003 that: "Computer programmers, ISPs and students at [at] least 20 universities, including the University of California, Berkeley, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology received cease and desist letters" from Diebold. A group of Swarthmore College students launched an "electronic civil disobedience" campaign to keep the hacked documents permanently posted on the Internet.

Harris writes that the hacked documents expose how the mainstream media reversed their call projecting Al Gore as winner of Florida after someone "subtracted 16,022 votes from Al Gore, and in still some undefined way, added 4000 erroneous votes to George W. Bush." Hours later, the votes were returned. One memo from Lana Hires of Global Election Systems, now Diebold, reads: "I need some answers! Our department is being audited by the County. I have been waiting for someone to give me an explanation as to why Precinct 216 gave Al Gore a minus 16,022 [votes] when it was uploaded." Another hacked internal memo, written by Talbot Iredale, Senior VP of Research and Development for Diebold Election Systems, documents "unauthorized" replacement votes in Volusia County.

Harris also uncovered a revealing 87-page CBS news report and noted, "According to CBS documents, the erroneous 20,000 votes in Volusia was directly responsible to calling the election for Bush." The first person to call the election for Bush was Fox election analyst John Ellis, who had the advantage of conferring with his prominent cousins George W. Bush and Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

Incestuous relationships

Increasingly, investigative writers seeking an explanation have looked to Diebold's history for clues. The electronic voting industry is dominated by only a few corporations – Diebold, Election Systems & Software (ES&S) and Sequoia. Diebold and ES&S combined count an estimated 80% of U.S. black box electronic votes.

In the early 1980s, brothers Bob and Todd Urosevich founded ES&S's originator, Data Mark. The brothers Urosevich obtained financing from the far-Right Ahmanson family in 1984, which purchased a 68% ownership stake, according to the Omaha World Herald. After brothers William and Robert Ahmanson infused

Data Mark with new capital, the name was changed to American Information Systems (AIS). California newspapers have long documented the Ahmanson family's ties to right-wing evangelical Christian and Republican circles.

In 2001, the Los Angeles Times reported, ". . . primarily funded by evangelical Christians – particularly the wealthy Ahmanson family of Irvine – the [Discovery] institute's \$1-million annual program has produced 25 books, a stream of conferences and more than 100 fellowships for doctoral and postdoctoral research." The chief philanthropists of the Discovery Institute, that pushes creationist science and education in California, are Howard and Roberta Ahmanson.

According to Group Watch, in the 1980s Howard F. Ahmanson, Jr. was a member of the highly secretive far-Right Council for National Policy, an organization that included Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, Major General John K. Singlaub and other Iran-Contra scandal notables, as well as former Klan members like Richard Shoff. Ahmanson, heir to a savings and loan fortune, is little reported on in the mainstream U.S. press. But, English papers like The Independent are a bit more forthcoming on Ahmanson's politics.

"On the right, figures such as Richard Mellon Scaife and Howard Ahmanson have given hundreds of millions of dollars over several decades to political projects both high (setting up the Heritage Foundation think-tank, the driving engine of the Reagan presidency) and low (bankrolling investigations into President Clinton's sexual indiscretions and the suicide of the White House insider Vincent Foster)," wrote The Independent last November.

The Sunday Mail described an individual as, ". . . a fundamentalist Christian more in the mould of U.S. multi-millionaire Howard Ahmanson, Jr., who uses his fortune to promote so-called traditional family values . . . by waving fortunes under their noses, Ahmanson has the ability to cajole candidates into backing his right-wing Christian agenda.

Ahmanson is also a chief contributor to the Chalcedon Institute that supports the Christian reconstruction movement. The movement's philosophy advocates, among other things, "mandating the death penalty for homosexuals and drunkards."

The Ahmanson family sold their shares in American Information Systems to the McCarthy Group and the World Herald Company, Inc. Republican Senator Chuck Hagel disclosed in public documents that he was the Chairman of American Information Systems and claimed between a \$1 to 5 million investment in the McCarthy Group.

In 1997, American Information Systems purchased Business Records Corp. (BRC), formerly Texas-based election company Cronus Industries, to become ES&S. One of the BRC owners was Carolyn Hunt of the right-wing Hunt oil family, which supplied much of the original money for the Council on National Policy.

In 1996, Hagel became the first elected Republican Nebraska senator in 24 years when he did surprisingly well in an election where the votes were verified by the company he served as chairman and maintained a financial investment. In both the 1996 and 2002 elections, Hagel's ES&S counted an estimated 80% of his winning votes. Due to the contracting out of services, confidentiality agreements

between the State of Nebraska and the company kept this matter out of the public eye. Hagel's first election victory was described as a "stunning upset" by one Nebraska newspaper.

Hagel's official biography states, "Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Hagel worked in the private sector as the President of McCarthy and Company, an investment banking firm based in Omaha, Nebraska and served as Chairman of the Board of American Information Systems." During the first Bush presidency, Hagel served as Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations (G-7 Summit).

Bob Urosevich was the Programmer and CEO at AIS, before being replaced by Hagel. Bob now heads Diebold Election Systems and his brother Todd is a top executive at ES&S. Bob created Diebold's original electronic voting machine software. Thus, the brothers Urosevich, originally funded by the far Right, figure in the counting of approximately 80% of electronic voting in the United States.

Like Ohio, the State of Maryland was disturbed by the potential for massive electronic voter fraud. The voters of that state were reassured when the state hired SAIC to monitor Diebold's system. SAIC's former CEO is Admiral Bill Owens. Owens served as a military aide to both Vice President Dick Cheney and former Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, who now works with George H.W. Bush at the controversial Carlyle Group. Robert Gates, former CIA Director and close friend of the Bush family, also served on the SAIC Board.

Diebold's track record

Wherever Diebold and ES&S go, irregularities and historic Republican upsets follow. Alastair Thompson, writing for scoop.co of New Zealand, explored whether or not the 2002 U.S. mid-term elections were "fixed by electronic voting machines supplied by Republican-affiliated companies." The scoop investigation concluded that: "The state where the biggest upset occurred, Georgia, is also the state that ran its election with the most electronic voting machines." Those machines were supplied by Diebold.

Wired News reported that "... a former worker in Diebold's Georgia warehouse says the company installed patches on its machine before the state's 2002 gubernatorial election that were never certified by independent testing authorities or cleared with Georgia election officials." Questions were raised in Texas when three Republican candidates in Comal County each received exactly the same number of votes - 18,181.

Following the 2003 California election, an audit of the company revealed that Diebold Election Systems voting machines installed uncertified software in all 17 counties using its equipment.

Former CIA Station Chief John Stockwell writes that one of the favorite tactics of the CIA during the Reagan-Bush administration in the 1980s was to control countries by manipulating the election process. "CIA apologists leap up and say, 'Well, most of these things are not so bloody.' And that's true. You're giving politicians some money so he'll throw his party in this direction or that one, or make false speeches on your behalf, or something like that. It may be non-violent, but it's still illegal intervention in other country's affairs, raising the question of whether or not we're going to have a world in which laws, rules of

behavior are respected," Stockwell wrote. Documents illustrate that the Reagan and Bush administration supported computer manipulation in both Noriega's rise to power in Panama and in Marcos' attempt to retain power in the Philippines. Many of the Reagan administration's staunchest supporters were members of the Council on National Policy.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0225-05.htm>

See also:

How George Bush Won the 2004 Presidential Election

www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0307/S00147.htm

Can Democracy in America Survive Electronic Voting?

www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=03/10/30/1624227

Bald-Faced Lies About Black Box Voting Machines

By Bev Harris

If they can't tell us the truth about simple things like "does it connect to modems," can we really be confident that they are protecting our vote?

CNBC asked Diebold CEO Wally O'Dell this question on election day, Nov. 5, 2002: "How tamper proof are these voting machines? That seems to be a concern of some who feel that it only takes one person, one hacker who can screw up an entire election. How valid is that criticism Mr. O'Dell?"

"Well, there's always risks," replied O'Dell, "but, you know, these things are not connected to the Internet. They're individual precinct by precinct, location by location. They're double checked before they're sent out. We think the technology is fabulous and very bulletproof. (Come back here after reading "rob-georgia," ask him to repeat this.)

"The GEMS computers are not connected to any communication system, including the Internet, and contain no software other than the Windows operating system and the Global Election Management System object code," wrote Dr. Brit Williams on Apr. 23, 2003. He is the official voting machine certifier for the state of Georgia, and a key member of the panel that chooses national Independent Testing Labs for voting machines.

Lies.

...

Not connected to any communication system are they, Dr. Williams? I spoke with James Rellinger, the technician who installed all 159 GEMS host computers in Georgia.

Harris: "I understand that you worked for Diebold Election Systems in Georgia. Can you tell me what you did?"

Rellinger: "They contracted us here in Georgia to basically follow a recipe book and we ran down and built these things."

Harris: "By 'build these things' -- I think of build, like a hammer and a screwdriver -- What do you mean by build, what were you building?"

Rellinger: "Oh, that's a good point. There were 159 of these servers that went out. All we did was run through a series of tests to make sure they could log on and communicate and make sure everything jived with the touch screen.

"When you say build they were actually just a Dell server and we added some hardware to it for instance CD burners, a tape came in them already, but we'd add things to make them modem capable.

"When you say build a server it's not physically assembling a hardware. We added a component or two to make it do what we needed to do, modems, we load the Windows 2000, put the software in then we test it against their touch-screen machines."

Let's look at just how big a whopper Dr. Williams told when he said they aren't connected to anything: Sandy Baxter, Elections Supervisor for San Juan County, Washington, also says she had modems and Internet capability:

"I think it was about 1999 we bought a new server. They gave us recommendations for servers, like Dell. They had Dell ship them to McKinney, Texas and they loaded the systems on and various modems, digiboards and stuff... The server can handle multiple PCs, but I only have one at this time, so my PC is also my server... I have two modems. I have a modem that is for going out and it is not connected to the GEMS system. So I can go to the web. I have what's called a digiboard on my server that allows multiple modem connections. I have a second modem on the GEMS system but its only for the AccuVote systems. My precincts modem me the results on that. The second modem is the only one that goes to my GEMS system. It doesn't have the capability to go in and out. I just plug it in when I use it."

The User Manuals are filled with references to modems, ports, uploading, downloading, TCP/IP protocols, transmissions, and ways to use "JResults" to upload to the web continuously on election night.

Technical specifications, including manufacturer's components lists, show that not only are there modems, but **wireless communications**.

All right, so they lied to us about modem hook-ups. Shall we let this cloud our trust in everything else they are telling us?

Consider this:

Diebold's official spokesman, Joseph Richardson assures us that the open ftp site was inactive. In interviews with Salon.com and the Baltimore City Paper, he said the site was old and the files were out of date. Was this the truth?

Not at all. The site was taken down on Jan. 29, 2003. The most recent file on the ftp site is dated Jan. 23, 2003. How much information was in the files? See for yourself by visiting the download site at the top of this article.

Michael Barnes, of the elections division with the Georgia Secretary of State's office, said "That ftp site did not affect us in any way shape or form because we did not do any file transferring from it."

Let's have Dr. Brit Williams weigh in. In Feb. 2003, he said "I'm not familiar with that site." On April 23, he wrote a letter that was a bit more precise:

"Apparently, there was an FTP site that Diebold employees used to store and transfer versions of the system that were under development. The contents, or even existence, of the 'rob georgia' folder has not been established. However, for the sake of this discussion, we will assume that the FTP site existed...

This would have had absolutely no effect on the election system as implemented in Georgia. The State does not obtain its election system code from an FTP site or even from Diebold."

Dr. Williams went on to outline an elaborate scheme whereby he claimed that the program files are obtained solely from ITAs (Independent Testing Labs).

What about the Secretary of State? A memo by Chris Riggall, spokesperson for Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox, stated that last minute "patches" were installed on all 22,000 voting machines in Georgia. Dr. Williams admitted to me that they were never examined -- not by a testing lab, not by him, not by anyone outside of Diebold. Suddenly, no one could get their stories straight on the patches either.

The patch was from Microsoft and it was for Windows, said the Secretary of State's office. But wait -- Dr. Williams says it came directly from the ITA. What does Diebold say? Diebold says they have no indication there ever was a patch.

We're going to meet one of the guys who actually installed that patch in a minute, but first let us observe the art of evasion from Diebold's Joe Richardson:

Harris: "Did you say, when interviewed by Salon.com, in reference to whether patches were put on the machines in Georgia, "We have analyzed that situation and have no indication of that happening at all."

Richardson: "Well, that is what I said at the time, however, we have continued to investigate the matter and ... (very, very long pause) Yes that is what I said to Salon.com."

Harris: "Do you stand by that now?"

Richardson: "We have continued to look into the matter."

Harris: "As you have continued to investigate this, do you have any new information as to whether patches were put on in Georgia?"

Richardson: "No."

Harris: "Has anyone thought to just call them up and ask? The Secretary of State's office?"

Richardson: "I can't say."

Harris: "**What was the rob-georgia file?** Who is responsible for it?"

[NOTE: Please see following item, on Viet Nam War Hero Max Cleland's stunning 2002 defeat in Georgia.]

Richardson: "I'm not privy to that information."

Harris: "Who would be able to answer that question?"

Richardson: "I can't tell you. I can look into it."

Harris: "Yes, could you do that please? In two publications, you are quoted as saying that the information on the open FTP site was old and out of date. Yet, I can tell you the most recent file on it was dated January 16, 2003. Did you do any checking to see whether the site had been used recently when you made that statement?" (A more recent file, dated Jan. 23, was later discovered.)

Richardson: "The site had already been taken down."

Harris: "Surely Diebold has access to its own site?"

Richardson: "I'm saying I didn't have access."

Harris: "Did you ask anybody?"

Richardson: (sound of shuffling papers) "Our ongoing investigation has found no merit to the insinuations of security breaches in our election solutions."

Harris: "So if there were up to 20,000 files including hardware, software specs, testing protocols, source code, you do not feel that is a security breach?" (more files have since been discovered inside a mammoth zipped directory, bringing the estimated total up to nearly 40,000 files)

Richardson: "Our ongoing investigation has found no merit to the insinuations of security breaches in our election solutions."

And now, Dr. Brit Williams on the **Georgia patch**:

Harris: "What was the security around the creation of the cards used to implement the patch?"

Williams: "That's a real good question. Like I say, we were in the heat of the election. Some of the things we did, we probably compromised security a little bit -- Let me emphasize we've gone back since the election and done extensive testing on all this." Dr. Williams latest 180 degree reversal (This link leads you to a forum discussing files from the ftp site, which contains several absurd statements from Dr. Williams).

And now, Michael Barnes on the **Georgia patch**:

Barnes: "Wyle said it did not affect the certification elements. So it did not need to be certified." (At the above-referenced link, you can also find information from a Freedom of Information Act request, in which officials admitted they did not have any certifying documents on the patch).

Harris: "Where's the written report from Wyle on that? Can I have a copy?"

Barnes: "I'd have to look for it I don't know if there was ever a written report by Wyle. It might have been by phone."

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0307/S00078.htm>

MAX CLELAND and "rob-georgia:"

Many observers have identified the 2002 election in Georgia as the RNC's TEST RUN for the 2004 Presidential Hijacking.

It was the first time Diebold Machines were used to count the vote.

Last minute software patches were illegally installed by Diebold in thousands of them -- without the authorization of the state -- and for the first time in history a national candidate (a War Hero, no less) suffered an

OVERNIGHT SWING of THIRTEEN PERCENTAGE POINTS

to lose the election by roughly the margin of his lead in the voter polls.

"In Georgia, Democratic incumbent and war-hero Max Cleland was defeated by Saxby Chambliss, who'd avoided service in Vietnam with a "medical deferment" but ran his campaign on the theme that he was more patriotic than Cleland. While many in Georgia expected a big win by Cleland, the computerized voting machines said that Chambliss had won.

The BBC summed up Georgia voters' reaction in a 6 November 2002 headline: "GEORGIA UPSET STUNS DEMOCRATS." The BBC echoed the confusion of many Georgia voters when they wrote, "Mr. Cleland -- an army veteran who lost three limbs in a grenade explosion during the Vietnam War -- had long been considered 'untouchable' on questions of defense and national security."

<http://www.commondreams.org/views03/0131-01.htm>

"It looks like the new Rolling Stone due out tomorrow will have a doozy of an article by RFK, Jr. which will look into whether the 2006 election can be hacked. Based on a few blurbs that were "sneak previewed" by Raw Story it looks like there is an even bigger story in that article -- an **admission by a Diebold consultant that machine software was altered.... on the day of the election.**

If anyone remembers the 2002 election in Georgia, that is the one where Max Cleland's five to six point lead was erased overnight to a seven point loss, leading to a miraculous win by Saxby Chambliss, which even describes his come from behind win as "stunning and historical" in his Senate website.

And while many indicated that this was due at least in part to an infamous advertisement that compared Cleland (a war hero) to Osama Bin Laden, there was always a cloud hanging over this election as this was the first year of the Diebold machines in Georgia, and it just not passing the "smell test."

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2006/9/21/151929/956>

HAVA (Help America Vote Act) and How it Backfired

Republican Congressman Bob Ney's Starring (and Lucrative) Role

There's been a great deal of speculation over the last several days, particularly in the light of Jack Abramoff's recent guilty pleas, concerning the connection of Congressman Bob Ney (R-OH) to Election Fraud in Ohio, vis a vis his stewardship and authoring of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) back in 2001 and 2002. The heavy-handed tactics he has taken since, in order to keep the flawed act from being changed in any way over the years, along with going to great lengths to keep the nation's eyes off of massive electile dysfunction in Ohio and elsewhere since 2004, may finally get the attention it all properly deserves.

[NOTE: It got hardly any attention at all.]

...
His direct connection to the HAVA Election Reform bill passed in the wake of the 2000 Florida Election Debacle, and his various extraordinary efforts to specifically block amendments to the bill and to smokescreen attempted investigations into his home state's conduct during the 2004 Election Debacle, has been less widely reported. Until now.

While Common Cause quietly reported in December of 2004 that Diebold — the much-beleagured-of-late American Voting Machine company — paid as much as \$275,000 to Abramoff's firm, Greenberg Traurig for lobbying work, The BRAD BLOG has now found additional details that begin to shed new light on Ney's personal connections to Diebold lobbyists.

Such personal connections include those with Ney's former chief of staff turned lobbyist, David DiStefano, who has been working on behalf of Diebold, Inc. and at least one other Voting Machine Company as a registered lobbyist in the House going back to at least 2001. One of DiStefano's online bios crows about his having "an insider's edge to hard-to-reach political officials." That "insider's edge" has proven to have been a very worthwhile investment for the Voting Machine Companies who'd purchased access into Ney's political office.

Congressional lobbying records reveal that Diebold, Inc. has paid at least \$180,000 to DiStefano and eventually his partner, Roy C. Coffee, to lobby for the "Help America Vote Act" and other "Election Reform Issues" in Congress since 2003. Another Electronic Voting Machine Company, AccuPoll, Inc., also paid DiStefano some \$70,000 to lobby for HAVA on their behalf in 2002, although that relationship was apparently terminated once the legislation was passed by Congress.

...
Ney was one of the original authors and lead co-sponsors of HAVA, and a fierce defender of both the act and the effort to keep further legislation from moving forward in Congress that would mandate Voter Verified Paper Ballots for electronic voting machines made by Diebold and other e-voting vendors.

In 2004, prior to the Presidential Election, Ney went so far as to send a "Dear Colleague" letter signed along with the other HAVA co-sponsors, to members of congress urging them not to amend the original legislation. He argued at the time that paper records on such machines would somehow disenfranchise disabled voters, who had been cleverly afforded a special provision in the bill which mandated at least one disabled-accessable device in every voting precinct in the

country. That device, of course, would be a paperless touch-screen electronic voting machine, like the ones made by Diebold, which, legislators, vendors and lobbyists would later proffer, were required to meet provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Ney had also personally gone out of his way to keep Rep. Rush Holt's (D-NJ) "Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act" (HR 550), which would mandate paper records for all votes cast, from ever seeing the light of day in the House Administration Committee. That, despite Holt's bill having now nearly 160 bi-partisan co-sponsors. Ney has succeeded brilliantly at squashing Holt's bill, first proposed as HR 2239 back in 2003, as it continues to both gain co-sponsors and gather dust as the powerful Republican committee chair still refuses to allow it even to be brought up for hearings.

...
In addition to the "Dear Colleague" letter that Ney wrote (signed by him and his co-sponsors of the HAVA legislation) in 2004, asking members of congress not to amend the act to require paper trails, Ney has made every effort to ensure that the myriad reports of massive voter disenfranchisement and electoral irregularities that occurred in Ohio remain little more than "conspiracy theory," as far as both the Mainstream Media and the majority of the American electorate perceive the matters.

He, and others who have lobbied hard on behalf of Diebold have continued to misleadingly forward the idea that what occurred in 2004, and subsequently in 2005 — where some 44 out of 88 counties in Ohio went electronic for the first time — is no cause for alarm. It's all little more than the imaginary ruminations of Democratic-party John Kerry supporters, according to such folks.

That, despite the fact that it has been the Green and Libertarian parties who have, by and large, waged the most aggressive attempt to have votes counted in Ohio, along with the extraordinarily well-documented reports of chicanery exposed nationally throughout various local media. More information in that regard will likely surface via the still-pending lawsuit on all of this brought by the League of Women Voters in Ohio.

Add that to the "staggeringly impossible" results of the 2005 Election ... there which were stunning, to say the least, and the shamefully under-reported story of the non-partisan Governmental Accountability Office's (GAO) damning report on HAVA and its gross failures released last September.

All told, it would seem that Ney and the Voting Machine Companies like Diebold have had every reason to squash whatever reporting they could on these matters, and so far, they've gotten the job largely done. At least in the mainstream outlets...

<http://www.bradblog.com/?p=2262>

The Leading Architect of HAVA Goes to Prison

Ex-Ohio Representative Ney Sentenced to Thirty Months

WASHINGTON - Former Rep. Bob Ney was sentenced Friday to 2 1/2 years in federal prison for trading political favors for gifts and campaign donations from lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

Ney, the first congressman ensnared in the lobbying scandal, pleaded guilty in October to conspiracy and making false statements. He admitted being corrupted by golf trips, tickets, meals and campaign donations from Abramoff.

"You violated a host of laws that you as a congressman are sworn to enforce and uphold," said U.S. District Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle, who recommended that Ney serve his time at a federal prison in Morgantown, W.Va.

<http://www.bbvforums.org/forums/messages/8/46466.html>

The Corruption of the 2004 Presidential Election

by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Republicans prevented more than 350,000 voters in Ohio from casting ballots or having their votes counted -- enough to have put John Kerry in the White House.

Like many Americans, I spent the evening of the 2004 election watching the returns on television and wondering how the exit polls, which predicted an overwhelming victory for John Kerry, had gotten it so wrong. By midnight, the official tallies showed a decisive lead for George Bush -- and the next day, lacking enough legal evidence to contest the results, Kerry conceded. Republicans derided anyone who expressed doubts about Bush's victory as nut cases in "tin foil hats," while the national media, with few exceptions, did little to question the validity of the election. The Washington Post immediately dismissed allegations of fraud as "conspiracy theories," and The New York Times declared that "there is no evidence of vote theft or errors on a large scale."

But despite the media blackout, indications continued to emerge that something deeply troubling had taken place in 2004. Nearly half of the 6 million American voters living abroad never received their ballots -- or received them too late to vote -- after the Pentagon unaccountably shut down a state-of-the-art Web site used to file overseas registrations.

A consulting firm called Sproul & Associates, which was hired by the Republican National Committee to register voters in six battleground states, was discovered shredding Democratic registrations.

In New Mexico, which was decided by 5,988 votes, malfunctioning machines mysteriously failed to properly register a presidential vote on more than 20,000 ballots. Nationwide, according to the federal commission charged with implementing election reforms, as many as 1 million ballots were spoiled by faulty voting equipment -- roughly one for every 100 cast.

But what is most anomalous about the irregularities in 2004 was their decidedly partisan bent: Almost without exception they hurt John Kerry and benefited George Bush. After carefully examining the evidence, I've become convinced that the president's party mounted a massive, coordinated campaign to subvert the will of the people in 2004. Across the country, Republican election officials and party stalwarts employed a wide range of illegal and unethical tactics to fix the

election. A review of the available data reveals that in Ohio alone, at least 357,000 voters, the overwhelming majority of them Democratic, were prevented from casting ballots or did not have their votes counted in 2004 -- more than enough to shift the results of an election decided by 118,601 votes. [See Ohio's Missing Votes: <http://www.rollingstone.com/photos/gallery/10467024/>].

In what may be the single most astounding fact from the election, one in every four Ohio citizens who registered to vote in 2004 showed up at the polls only to discover that they were not listed on the rolls, thanks to GOP efforts to stem the unprecedented flood of Democrats eager to cast ballots. And that doesn't even take into account the troubling evidence of outright fraud, which indicates that upwards of 80,000 votes for Kerry were counted instead for Bush. That alone is a swing of more than 160,000 votes -- enough to have put John Kerry in the White House.

http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/was_the_2004_election_stolen

Electronic Voting Machines Pose a Grave Threat to Democracy

EXCERPT: Repeated studies have shown that touch-screen machines, which provide voters with no paper record of their ballots, are highly susceptible to tampering. According to a report by the Government Accountability Office, the leading federal watchdog agency, the machines are "eminently hackable." It takes only a few minutes to open the machines and insert a PC card containing malicious code that will switch votes from one candidate to another.

In a demonstration conducted last year before the Board of Elections in Leon County, Florida, computer security expert Herbert Thompson cracked into an electronic machine in under sixty seconds, altering the internal code and changing the vote count.

"Every board of election has staff members with the technological ability to fix the election," says Ion Sancho, supervisor of the election board in Leon County. "Even one corrupt staffer can throw an election. Without paper records, it could happen under my nose and there is no way I'd find out about it."

Avi Rubin, a computer-science professor at Johns Hopkins University who has received \$7.5 million from the National Science Foundation to study security for electronic voting, says it doesn't take a corrupt official to rig a federal election. "With electronic machines, you can commit wholesale fraud with a single alteration of software," he says. "There are a million little tricks you can build into the software that allow you to do whatever you want. I could do it for you right now on software I have."

Undue Influence After the Florida fiasco in 2000, Diebold saw an opportunity. To persuade Rep. Bob Ney to promote its machines in a package of election reforms he was drafting called the Help America Vote Act, the company hired two lobbyists with close ties to the Ohio congressman. Diebold paid at least \$180,000 to David DiStefano, Ney's former chief of staff. And it shelled out as much as \$275,000 to the lobbying firm of the best-connected man on Capitol Hill: Jack Abramoff.

Abramoff has now been convicted of bribing Ney -- but Americans will be paying for the results of Diebold's influence for years. As part of the Help America Vote Act, every precinct in America is now required to install at least one machine accessible to disabled voters -- a mandate that has already fueled the spread of touch-screen technology and cost taxpayers almost \$3 billion. "These vendors have a Halliburton-like hold on the Republican leadership," says Rep. John Conyers.

Diebold's influence extends to Ohio, where top Republicans have pushed hard to install the company's machines. Matt Damschroder, the chair of the Franklin County Board of Elections, was fined a month's pay last year for accepting a \$10,000 check from Diebold made out to the county GOP in 2004, on the same day the board accepted bids for new voter-registration software. Once he was caught, Damschroder ratted out his friend, Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell, telling authorities that a Diebold consultant boasted of funneling \$50,000 to Blackwell's "political interests."

Blackwell and Diebold deny the transactions ever took place. But in April of last year, after engaging in secret negotiations with the company, Blackwell emerged with the triumphant announcement that he'd reached a deal to equip Ohio with Diebold machines at a cut-rate price. He didn't bother to mention that he had just bought nearly \$10,000 in Diebold stock -- a "mistake" he now blames on his financial manager. He also neglected to reveal that as part of the deal -- as revealed in a company e-mail to Blackwell -- Diebold insisted he use his influence as secretary of state in a way that would guarantee the company a state monopoly. Blackwell complied by setting such an early cutoff date for counties to select their new machines that other manufacturers would be unable to get their equipment certified in time.

<http://www.yuricareport.com/Campaign2004/RollingStoneACallForInvestigation.html>

2004: The Mother of All Vote Frauds

November 1, 2004 -- When would-be-voters were asked whether the nation was headed in the right direction, about 52-55% people have replied negatively. Under this scenario, the leadership change is all but assured. Mr. Bush and his campaign team may project an optimistic outlook as they spoke before the media tonight, but I feel that while Bush's number is hovering around 47-48%, which is the same number for Kerry, it does not bode well for the Republican candidate.

Incumbents never make surges from their last horse race number.

Examples:

1956: Eisenhower's final horse race projection 59.5%, his actual vote total 57.8%

1964: Johnson's final projection 64%, his actual share of the vote 61.3%

1972: Nixon's final projection 62%, his actual vote total 61.8%

1976: Ford's final horse race projection 49%, his % share of the vote 48.1%.

In 1980, Carter's final projection 44%, his real % of the vote 41%.

In 1984, Reagan final projection tally 59%, his real share of the popular vote 59.2%.

In 1996, Clinton's final horse race number 52%, his actual share of the vote 49.2%.

The alleged miracle comeback of incumbent Harry Truman can not be included in this study because Gallup issued it's "final" result 2 weeks before the election.

On November 2, 2004 President Bush defied both public opinion and history to win the election: 51 - 48.

How was this done? Simple...

Vote suppression/voter intimidation and deception. Shortages of voting locations and ballot forms. Foreign monitors barred from polls. Unmatched exit polls/actual results -- actual results always skewed to Republicans. Masses of e-Voting "glitches." Computers lost votes. Presidential votes miscast on e-Voting machines throughout the US. More recorded votes than voters.

Republicans gained 128.45% in Florida counties using optical scan voting machines while Democrats lost 21% -- some districts showed gains of over 400% while one, Liberty County, gained over 700% for Republicans. Warren County officials locked down the county administration building on election night and blocked anyone from observing the vote count as the nation awaited Ohio's returns. Bush had 'incredible' vote tallies. 7% turnout reported in Cleveland precinct. In Cuyahoga County different towns had the exact same number of "extra" votes. And on, and on....

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/2004votefraud.html>

You wouldn't steal George, would ya?

http://whatreallyhappened.com/steal_election.html

Voter Fraud in Florida and Ohio:

Kerry Won the Election by at Least 1.7 Million Votes

by Brad Menfil

<http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2004/11/303775.shtml> 27 Nov 2004

www.globalresearch.ca 3 December 2004

The URL of this article is: <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/MEN412A.html>

[Editor's Note:]

A word of caution.

While the following text presents evidence which is not directly verifiable, Global Research, nonetheless, took the decision to bring this controversial text to the attention of our readers. Moreover, the author's identify is not known.

The relevance of this text, should be assessed in relation to the large body of documentation and research already conducted on electoral fraud in America.

In this regard, we refer the reader to Michael Keefer's extensive bibliography at:

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/KEE412A.html>

and

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/KEE411A.html>

Brad Menfil is not my real name. I work for the RNC. I fear reprisals if I'm found out.

The truth about this election is this: Florida and Ohio had to go for Bush in order for him to "win" the election. In reality he lost both states. In fact, he did not even win the popular vote. He lost the national popular vote by at least 1,750,000. This shows you the scale of the fraud.

The exit polls were not wrong. Kerry was the clear winner, but victory was snatched from him.

Florida first. The 200,000+ margin of victory for Bush made this state uncontestable. Everybody assumes that even with some fraud, Kerry could never have made up the difference in a recount. But Kerry actually won by about 750,000 votes. The numbers were changed by a computer program (in both electronic and scan-tron voting systems) called "KerryLite." "KerryLite" of course is not actual name of the program. The actual name is 11-5-18-18 etc. For additional encryption, the numbers were jumbled but I'm not sure in which order. The numbers replace the letters of the alphabet. For example, K is the eleventh letter of the alphabet.

So the if-then statement goes something like this: "if total true Kerry > total true Bush, Bush x 1.04 x (.04 is a random number) (total true Kerry), total true Bush".
The second part of the equation takes the total number of votes cast and subtracts the new Bush total, subtracts the third party totals and leaves the rest for Kerry.

Sometimes the program would also reduce third party votes and award them to Bush. And even where Bush legitimately won, he was still awarded additional votes. The big Democratic counties (Broward for example) went to Kerry because it had to appear that everything was on the up and up. It's interesting to see this unfold.

Does anybody wonder why the Republican counties were mostly counted after the Democratic counties? You should wonder, and also know that this was no accident. The Bush team had to make up the votes as the night went on.

In Ohio, computer voting fraud, vote tossing and voter suppression were the main methods. Vote tossing was simply the removal of Kerry votes and some third party votes. In some areas, the Bush vs. Kerry votes were absurd. Nine to one, eight to two.

Voter suppression took the form of making voters stand in four hour long lines. This of course took place in Democratic areas. The simplest thing to do was to have too few voting machines. Sometimes that's all it takes. People eventually lose patience and leave without casting a vote.

In other states such as New Mexico, Nevada, Iowa and New Hampshire, Kerry's leads evaporated very quickly once the polls were shut down. Kerry only won New Hampshire, but barely. As it turned out, the lead was 6% for Kerry in that state and not enough fraudulent activity took place to flip the state to Bush.

So this will all come out and be known to everyone. Nothing this massive can be kept a secret. You're already beginning to see these "irregularities" and the whisper will become a roar.

<http://www.yuricareport.com/2004%20Election%20Fraud/VoterFraudInFloridaOhioKerryWon.html>

Sometimes the Evidence of Fraud Actually "Stinks"

There was something odd about the poll tapes.

A "poll tape" is the phrase used to describe a printout from an optical scan voting machine made the evening of an election, after the machine has read all the ballots and crunched the numbers on its internal computer. It shows the total results of the election in that location. The printout is signed by the polling officials present in that precinct/location, and then submitted to the county elections office as the official record of how the people in that particular precinct had voted. (Usually each location has only one single optical scanner/reader, and thus produces only one poll tape.)

Bev Harris of www.blackboxvoting.org, the erstwhile investigator of electronic voting machines, along with people from Florida Fair Elections, showed up at Florida's Volusia County Elections Office on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 16, 2004, and asked to see, under a public records request, each of the poll tapes for the 100+ optical scanners in the precincts in that county.

The elections workers -- having been notified in advance of her request -- handed her a set of printouts, oddly dated November 15 and lacking signatures.

Bev pointed out that the printouts given her were not the original poll tapes and had no signatures, and thus were not what she'd requested. Obliging, they told her that the originals were held in another location, the Elections Office's Warehouse, and that since it was the end of the day they should meet Bev the following morning to show them to her.

Bev showed up bright and early the morning of Wednesday the 17th -- well before the scheduled meeting -- and discovered three of the elections officials in the Elections Warehouse standing over a table covered with what looked like poll tapes. When they saw Bev and her friends, Bev told me in a telephone interview less than an hour later, "They immediately shoved us out and slammed the door."

In a way, that was a blessing, because it led to the stinking evidence.

"On the porch was a garbage bag," Bev said, "and so I looked in it and, and lo and behold, there were public record tapes."

Thrown away. Discarded. Waiting to be hauled off.

"It was technically stinking, in fact," Bev added, "because what they had done was to have thrown some of their polling tapes, which are the official records of the election, into the garbage. These were the ones signed by the poll workers. These are something we had done an official public records request for."

When they compared the discarded, signed, original tapes with the recent printouts submitted to the state and used to tabulate the Florida election winners, Harris says a disturbing pattern emerged.

"The difference was hundreds of votes in each of the different places we examined," said Bev, "and most of those were in minority areas."

When I asked Bev if the errors they were finding in precinct after precinct were random, as one would expect from technical, clerical, or computer errors, she became uncomfortable.

"You have to understand that we are non-partisan," she said. "We're not trying to change the outcome of an election, just to find out if there was any voting fraud."

That said, Bev added: "The pattern was very clear. The anomalies favored George W. Bush. Every single time."

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1118-22.htm>

Stolen Election 2004

Diebold's Determinator: The rise of the (voting) machines

The Provisional Votes That Went... Where?

John Kerry's Instant Capitulation After Promising the Voters Standing in Line for Four Hours in the Cleveland Rain that He Would See "Every Vote Counted"

<http://www.oilempire.us/stolenelection2004.html>

Proof of Ohio Election Fraud Exposed

The Rigged "Recount"

EXCERPT: On December 13, my staff met with Ms. Eaton who explained to them that last Friday, December 10, Michael Barbian, Jr., a representative of Triad GSI unilaterally sought and obtained access to the voting machinery and records in Hocking County, Ohio, modified the computer tabulator, learned which precinct was planned to be the subject of the initial test recount and made further alterations based on that information, and advised the election officials how to manipulate the machinery so that the preliminary hand recount matched the machine count. Ms. Eaton first relayed this information to Green Party representatives, and then completed, signed and notarized an affidavit describing this course of events, a copy of which is attached.

The Triad official sought access to the voting machinery based on the apparent pretext that he wanted to review some "legal questions" the officials might receive as part of the recount process. At several times during this visit, Mr. Barbian telephoned into Triad's offices to obtain programming information relating to the

machinery and the precinct in question. I have subsequently learned that Triad officials have been, or are in the process of intervening in several other counties in Ohio - Greene and Monroe, and perhaps others (see attached).

http://www.truthout.org/docs_04/121604Z.shtml

Convicted Ohio Elections Workers Ask for New Trial

by Kathleen Wynne
2-5-07

BREAKING -- CLEVELAND, OHIO: I've just been informed by the prosecuting attorney's office that defense counsel for convicted Cuyahoga County election workers Jacqui Maiden and Kathleen Dreamer filed a joint motion for a new trial. Maiden and Dreamer were convicted of rigging the Cuyahoga County presidential recount in 2004.

Defense counsel also reportedly filed a motion for a continuance of the sentencing to be moved from February 26th to March 13th (an interesting defense strategy).

In addition: Attorneys for Maiden and Dreamer have also asked that they not be immediately terminated from their positions, as required by Ohio law when they were found guilty of a felony, but to remain on the payroll until sentencing. Judge Peter Corrigan has not ruled yet on either motion.

<http://www.blackboxvoting.org/>

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9.14 **HAVA and the 3.4 Million Votes That Were Made to Disappear**

BOOK: Armed Madhouse:

**From Baghdad to New Orleans --
Sordid Secrets & Strange Tales of a
White House GONE WILD**

by Greg Palast

See

Chapter Four: The Con

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9.15 **Exit Polls Reveal Massive Electoral Fraud**

On the evening of the vote, reporters at each of the major networks were briefed by pollsters at 7:54 p.m. Kerry, they were informed, had an insurmountable lead and would win by a rout: at least 309 electoral votes to Bush's 174, with fifty-five too close to call. In London, Prime Minister Tony Blair went to bed contemplating his relationship with President-elect Kerry.

As the last polling stations closed on the West Coast, exit polls showed **Kerry ahead in ten of eleven battleground states -- including commanding leads in Ohio and Florida -- and winning by a million and a half votes nationally.** The exit polls even showed Kerry breathing down Bush's neck in supposed GOP strongholds Virginia and North Carolina. Against these numbers, the statistical likelihood of Bush winning was less than one in 450,000. "Either the exit polls, by and large, are completely wrong," a Fox News analyst declared, "or George Bush loses."

But as the evening progressed, official tallies began to show implausible disparities -- as much as 9.5 percent -- with the exit polls. In ten of the eleven battleground states, the tallied margins departed from what the polls had predicted.

In every case, the shift favored Bush.

Based on exit polls, CNN had predicted Kerry defeating Bush in Ohio by a margin of 4.2 percentage points. Instead, election results showed Bush winning the state by 2.5 percent. Bush also tallied 6.5 percent more than the polls had predicted in Pennsylvania, and 4.9 percent more in Florida.

According to Steven F. Freeman, a visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania who specializes in research methodology, the odds against all three of those shifts occurring in concert are one in 660,000. "As much as we can say in sound science that something is impossible," he says, "it is impossible that the discrepancies between predicted and actual vote count in the three critical battleground states of the 2004 election could have been due to chance or random error." (See *The Tale of the Exit Polls*)

Puzzled by the discrepancies, Freeman laboriously examined the raw polling data released by Edison/Mitofsky in January 2005. "I'm not even political -- I despise the Democrats," he says. "I'm a survey expert. I got into this because I was mystified about how the exit polls could have been so wrong." In his forthcoming book, *Was the 2004 Presidential Election Stolen? Exit Polls, Election Fraud, and the Official Count*, Freeman lays out a statistical analysis of the polls that is deeply troubling.

In its official postmortem report issued two months after the election, Edison/Mitofsky was unable to identify any flaw in its methodology -- so the pollsters, in essence, invented one for the electorate. According to Mitofsky, Bush partisans were simply disinclined to talk to exit pollsters on November 2nd -- displaying a heretofore unknown and undocumented aversion that skewed the polls in Kerry's favor by a margin of 6.5 percent nationwide.

Industry peers didn't buy it. John Zogby, one of the nation's leading pollsters, told me that Mitofsky's "reluctant responder" hypothesis is "preposterous." Even Mitofsky, in his official report, underscored the hollowness of his theory: "It is difficult to pinpoint precisely the reasons that, in general, Kerry voters were more likely to participate in the exit polls than Bush voters."

Now, thanks to careful examination of Mitofsky's own data by Freeman and a team of eight researchers, we can say conclusively that the theory is dead wrong.

In fact it was Democrats, not Republicans, who were more disinclined to answer pollsters' questions on Election Day.

In Bush strongholds, Freeman and the other researchers found that fifty-six percent of voters completed the exit survey -- compared to only fifty-three percent in Kerry strongholds. "The data presented to support the claim not only fails to substantiate it," observes Freeman, "but actually contradicts it."

http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/was_the_2004_election_stolen

A Look at the graphs:

In States using Paper Ballots, the Final Vote Tallies very closely matched the Exit Poll Totals.

In States using Electronic Ballots, there was a large divergence between the Final Vote Tallies and the Exit Poll Totals -- all of which, amazingly -- favored George Bush.

<http://www.oilempire.us/exitpolls.html>

Complete US Exit Poll Data Confirms Net Suspicions

But Bush "won" Florida by 5% (52% to 47%), a "red flag" discrepancy from the exit poll, however the poll is weighted by gender.

Here's a fun fact: to get the exit poll results to equal the tabulated outcome, you'd have to sample all men, that's right: 100% men and 0% women, just like the good ol' days before they passed that blasted 19th Amendment.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0411/S00227.htm>

A Corrupted Election

Despite what you may have heard, the election night exit polls were right
By Steve Freeman and Josh Mitteldorf

Recall the Election Day exit polls that suggested John Kerry had won a convincing victory? The media readily dismissed those polls and little has been heard about them since.

Many Americans, however, were suspicious.

Although President Bush prevailed by 3 million votes in the official, tallied vote count, exit polls had projected a margin of victory of 5 million votes for Kerry. This unexplained 8 million vote discrepancy between the election night exit polls and the official count should raise a Chinese May Day of red flags.

Exit polls are highly accurate. They remove most of the sources of potential polling error by identifying actual voters and asking them immediately afterward who they had voted for.

The reliability of exit polls is so generally accepted that the Bush administration helped pay for them during recent elections in Georgia, Belarus and Ukraine.

Testifying before the House Committee on International Relations Dec. 7, John Tefft, deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, explained that the Bush administration funded exit polls because they were one of the "ways that would help to expose large-scale fraud."

Tefft pointed to the discrepancy between exit polls and the official vote count to argue that the Nov. 22 Ukraine election was stolen.

... [In] light of the charges that the 2000 election was not legitimate, the Bush/Cheney campaign would have wanted to prevail in the popular vote. If fraud was afoot, it would make sense that the president's men would steal votes in their strongholds, where the likelihood of detection is small. Lo and behold, the report provides data that strongly bolster this theory.

In those precincts that went at least 80 percent for Bush, the average within-precinct-error (WPE) was a whopping 10.0 -- the numerical difference between the exit poll predictions and the official count. That means that in Bush strongholds, Kerry, on average, received only about two-thirds of the votes that exit polls predicted. In contrast, in Kerry strongholds, exit polls matched the official count almost exactly (an average WPE of 0.3).

<http://www.inthesetimes.com/site/main/article/1970/>

Sign Up to Fight Fraud at Verified Voting

<http://www.verifiedvoting.org>

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9.16 Voter News Service Goes Out of Business

Suspicion Surrounds Voter News Service

by Lynn Landes 1/20/03

It doesn't add up. Why is Voter News Service (VNS) really going out of business? That's only one of many questions that dog VNS, a private consortium of the major news organizations that allegedly projected election night winners using exit polls. VNS is owned by ABC News, The Associated Press, CBS News, CNN, Fox News, and NBC News. But VNS has always conducted its operations in a highly secretive manner.

I want to know why VNS sent surveys to counties asking them for information about the kinds of voting machines the counties used? Why should VNS care? What do voting machines have to do with exit poll projections? The voting machine industry is completely dominated by Republicans. Many people believe that the major news networks are also dominated by Republican ownership.

Is there a connection between VNS closing its doors, the increased use of computerized voting machines, and the growing disparity between pre-election polling predictions and election results -- a disparity that appears to heavily favor Republican candidates? Are we witnessing election fraud on a massive scale and is VNS involved?

One reason VNS is shutting down could NOT be, as VNS spokespeople continue to claim, that they screwed up the 2000 election exit polling in Florida. Any comprehensive review of the Florida vote count proves that VNS's projection was correct... Gore would have won Florida handily had it not been for uncounted "over-votes," the notorious butterfly ballot, and the illegal removal of 91,000 names of mostly black and Democratic registered voters from the rolls by a Texas firm hired by Jeb Bush's Secretary of State.

<http://www.thelandesreport.com/VNSclosingdoors.htm>

2004 Election An Historical First:

Statistically Impossible Last Second "Tweaks" to the Exit Polls

by Michael Keefer

A 'president' who takes office through fraud and usurpation can make no legitimate claim to exercise the stolen power of his office.

Find out what really happened.

EXCERPTS: George W. Bush was hailed the winner on November 2, with 51 percent of the vote to John Kerry's 48 percent. But there are good reasons to be skeptical of the official vote tallies. The last wave of national exit polls published on the evening of November 2 -- polls which appear to have been duly weighted to correct for sampling imbalances -- showed Kerry, not Bush, leading by 51 to 48 percent (see 'Mystery Pollster').

A divergence of 6 percent between weighted exit polls and the official numbers is a strong indicator of electoral fraud.

At the decisive point, moreover, the divergence between the exit poll results and the vote tally was wider still (see S. Freeman [21 Nov. 2004]). Prior to the election, political analysts identified Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania as the three key swing states: the candidate who carried these states, or a majority of them, would win the election.

Bush won Florida, with 52.1 percent of the vote to Kerry's 47.1 percent. (This tally, by the way, diverges by 4.9 percent in Bush's favour from the state exit poll, which gave Bush a paper-thin 0.1 percent lead.) Kerry won Pennsylvania, with 50.8 percent of the vote to Bush's 48.6 percent. (Here again the vote tally differs in Bush's favour from the exit poll results—this time by 6.5 percent.)

That left Ohio as the deciding state, the one on which the national election results depended. George W. Bush won Ohio, according to the official vote tally, with 51 percent of the vote to John Kerry's 48.5 percent. The divergence in this case between the vote tally and the exit poll, which showed Kerry as winning by 52.1 percent to Bush's 47.9 percent, is fully 6.7 percent.

Is it possible that these three divergences in Bush's favour between exit polls and vote tallies could have occurred by chance? I wouldn't bet on it. Dr. Steven Freeman of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Organizational Dynamics has calculated that the odds against these statistical anomalies occurring by chance are 662,000 to 1 (S. Freeman [21 Nov. 2004]).

...

Mainstream media assessments of the integrity of the 2004 U.S. presidential election have tended to focus on particular and local problems—computer errors or 'glitches' for the most part—that came to light on the day of the election or shortly afterwards. Naturally enough, the fact that these problems were noticed, and in some cases corrected, works if anything to enhance public confidence in the integrity of the electoral system.

The stance of the mainstream media is inadequate in at least two respects. First, some of the 'problems' were not mere accidents, but open and flagrant violations

of democratic principles. Prominent among these was the election-night 'lockdown' of the Warren County, Ohio administrative building, on wholly spurious grounds of a 'terrorist threat': as a result, the public, the press, and the local legal counsel for the Kerry-Edwards campaign were prevented from witnessing the vote count (see Solvig & Horn, and Olbermann [8 Nov. 2004]).

This maneuver generated widespread outrage: Warren County's Republicans may perhaps have 'misoverestimated' the degree to which previous conveniently timed 'terror alerts' and Osama bin Laden's late-October Jack-in-the-Box act had tamed the electorate.

But more importantly, while 'problems' and 'glitches' have commonly been covered by the corporate media as local issues, they can be recognized as belonging to a larger pattern.

As James Paterson's compelling analysis of The Theft of the 2004 US Election makes clear, Republican intentions were evident well before the election. And as Joseph Cannon has remarked, "An individual problem can be dismissed as a glitch. But when error after error after error favors Bush and not a single 'accident' favors Kerry, we've left glitch-land."

There is widespread evidence, which goes well beyond any mere accumulation of local problems, that "glitch-land" is indeed far behind us. The landscape to which the 2004 U.S. presidential election belongs includes the murky swamps of Tammany Hall-style election-fixing -- and the still more sinister morasses of 'Jim Crow' as well.

It has been reported that Republican-controlled counties in Ohio and elsewhere sought to reduce the African-American vote by deliberately curtailing the numbers of polling stations and voting machines in working-class precincts: large numbers of would-be voters were effectively disenfranchised by line-ups that were many hours long (see Fitakis [7, 16, 22 Nov. 2004]).

The Republican Party's purging of African Americans from voters' lists gained the 2000 election for George W. Bush (see Conyers [21 Aug. 2001]); as informed observers had anticipated (Palast [1 Nov. 2004], King & Palast), this shameful illegality was repeated in 2004 on a wider scale.

Large-scale polling-station challenges were used to further slow the voting, and to turn the new provisional ballots into a mechanism for effectively disenfranchising minority voters. In the swing state of Ohio this year, it appears that fully 155,000 voters -- most of them African-Americans -- were obliged as a result of polling-station challenges to cast provisional ballots (see Palast [12 Nov. 2004], Solnit).

Although it is becoming clear that the great majority of these citizens were legally entitled to vote (see Williams), the likelihood that their votes will be fairly counted, or that Ohio's Republican Secretary of State Ken Blackwell will permit them to be included in the official tally, remains slender. The effect of this Jim Crow mechanism appears to be compounded by racially-biased judgments of ballot spoilage. As Greg Palast reports, 54 percent of all ballots judged 'spoiled' in the 2000 election in Florida were cast by African-American voters, and similarly scandalous percentages are expected in key states this time round.

Nor have African Americans been the sole victims of these tactics: it appears that in New Mexico, where Hispanics' ballots are five times more likely to be laid aside as 'spoiled' than those of white voters, 13,000 Hispanics were effectively disenfranchised by means of provisional ballots (Palast [12 Nov. 2004]). Bush won New Mexico by less than half that number of votes.

But it is the co-presence of other forms of corruption, in addition to all these, that establishes the difference between an election dirtied by illegalities, and one that was not merely soiled and distorted by fraud but actually stolen. The evidence presented within the texts listed here suggests with gathering strength that the Karl Rovian maneuvers alluded to above were supplemented on November 2, 2004 by less conspicuous -- and yet decisive -- manipulations of the machines that recorded and tabulated the votes.

How precisely this apparent manipulation may have been carried out in different jurisdictions—by rigging machines in advance to mis-record or delete votes, by configuring proprietary software so as to allow 'back-door' access for unrestrained vote-tampering, or by hacking into the notoriously insecure vote-tabulation systems -- remains as yet undetermined. However, the evidence has been coming to light with surprising rapidity.

As observers and analysts noted at once, troubling discrepancies were apparent between the exit poll results published by CNN on the evening of November 2 and the official vote tallies (see DeHart, Dodge, S. Freeman, Otter, and Simon). No less disturbing, as I observed in my article on the subject, is the fact that the exit poll data was systematically tampered with early on November 3 to make the figures conform to the vote tallies.

At 1:41 a.m. EST on November 3, for example, the Ohio exit poll was altered: Kerry, who had previously been shown as leading Bush by 4 percent in that state, was now represented in the revised exit poll as trailing him by 2.5 percent. And yet the number of respondents in the poll had increased from 1,963 to only 2,020. An additional 57 respondents—a 2.8 percent increase—had somehow produced a 6.5 percent swing from Kerry to Bush. At 1:01 a.m. EST on November 3, the Florida exit poll was likewise altered: Kerry, who had previously been shown in a near dead heat with Bush, now trailed him by 4 percent. In this case, the number of respondents rose only from 2,846 to 2,862. A mere 16 respondents—0.55 percent of the total—produced a 4 percent swing to Bush.

<http://www.yuricareport.com/2004%20Election%20Fraud/ElectionFraudInAmerica.html>

Directory of Election Fraud Articles

<http://yuricareport.com/Directories/ElectionArticles.html>

Vote Fraud Archives

http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/archives/cat_vote_fraud.html

Election Fraud in 2004: (Ad Censored by Google) Huge Compendium of Links

<http://www.betterworldlinks.org/book109h.htm>

The Key Organization in Defense of the Vote: Black Box Voting:

<http://www.blackboxvoting.org/>

VIDEO: VoterGate

An excellent video exposing major problems with the U.S. elections process is the information-packed documentary VoterGate. This fast-moving film shows serious improprieties of concern to both political parties in the United States which threaten the very base of our democracy.

The video may be viewed free at:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3555094491715905699>

If the above link does not work, do a search on Google video or YouTube for "VoterGate."

<http://www.wanttoknow.info/votingvideodocumentary>

35 Minute VoterGate Movie Video Also Streaming at:

<http://blatanttruth.org/vote.php>

http://www.gnn.tv/blogs/737/VoterGate_Video?r=4

BOOK: BLACK BOX VOTING: Ballot-Tampering in the 21st Century

by Bev Harris

DOWNLOAD AND READ THE BOOK

If you haven't read this, you aren't yet up to speed on how votes can be tampered with using modern voting systems. Chapters download quickly. These will help you hold your own in an informed debate with anyone!

<http://www.blackboxvoting.org/book.html>

Video Document Archive

Voting Related Videos of Private Citizens

<http://www.bbforums.org/forums/messages/2197/2197.html>

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9.17 US Allies Agree: Election 'Did Not Meet Democratic Standards'

An international election observer mission - from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe - released a preliminary report on Monday declaring that the election did not meet democratic standards.

The observers' findings were seconded by Republican Senator Richard G. Lugar of Indiana, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Citing the disturbing fact that official results diverged sharply from a range of surveys of voters at polling places, Lugar said, "A concerted and forceful program of election-day fraud and abuse was enacted with either the leadership or cooperation of governmental authorities."

Other prominent Western observers were unsparing in their criticism of the state's conduct of the election.

"Fundamental flaws in Ukraine's presidential election process subverted its legitimacy," the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, sponsored by the Democratic Party in the United States, declared in its preliminary report. The institute, cited "systematic intimidation, overt manipulation and blatant fraud" that were "designed to achieve a specific outcome irrespective of the will of the people."

-- New York Times

This reporter was unable to reach Senator Lugar regarding the inconsistency of official election results and exit polls in the USA; the intimidation of minority voters in Florida and Ohio; nor the failure to count two million ballots cast, half by African-American voters, in America's first post-democratic election held earlier this month.

Eastern bloc observers noted that balloting in Ohio, New Mexico and Florida did not meet Ukrainian standards, but applauded America's attempt to restore democratic institutions after the overthrow of elected government in 2000.

<http://nanovirus.blogspot.com/2004/11/our-allies-say-election-did-not-meet.html>

Truth and Consequences in Ukraine

by Katrina vanden Heuvel

On the hypocrisy meter: Consider how the Ukrainian protesters' charges of election fraud have been treated so seriously by Bush and his team, while they dismiss such charges when they are raised here at home. And how exactly does the Bush Administration--which has said that it cannot accept the results of the Ukrainian presidential election as legitimate "because it does not meet international standards"--explain why those international standards don't apply to the US? What right does this Administration have to lecture Ukraine when Bush came to office in a non-violent coup d'etat in 2000, and when numerous reports document that the 2004 election was marred by GOP voter suppression and intimidation tactics, flawed voting equipment and unexplained discrepancies between exit polls and official results in key swing states?

...

It was even US funding that organized and paid for key exit polls; those gave the opposition candidate Viktor Yushenko an 11-point lead and set the stage for charges of vote fraud.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1130-24.htm>

No Paper Trail Left Behind: the Theft of the 2004 Presidential Election***

By Dennis Loo, Ph.D.
Cal Poly Pomona
ddloo@csupomona.edu

"Alice laughed: "There's no use trying," she said; "one can't believe impossible things." "I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was younger, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." (Through the Looking Glass)

In order to believe that George Bush won the November 2, 2004 presidential election, you must also believe all of the following extremely improbable or outright impossible things.

- 1) A big turnout and a highly energized and motivated electorate favored the GOP instead of the Democrats for the first time in history.
- 2) Even though first-time voters, lapsed voters (those who didn't vote in 2000), and undecideds went for John Kerry by big margins, and Bush lost people who voted for him in the cliffhanger 2000 election, Bush still received a 3.4 million vote surplus nationally.
- 3) The fact that Bush far exceeded the 85% of registered Florida Republicans' votes that he got in 2000, receiving in 2004 more than 100% of the registered Republican votes in 24 out of 67 Florida counties, more than 200% of registered Republicans in 10 counties, over 300% of registered Republicans in 4 counties, more than 400% of Registered Republicans in 4 counties, and over 700% in one county. This could only be explained by a massive crossover vote in these specific counties by registered Democrats and/or Independents. Bush's share of crossover votes by registered Democrats in Florida, however, did not actually increase over 2000 and he lost ground among registered Independents, dropping 15 points. Floridians were just so enthused about Bush and Cheney that they somehow managed to overrule basic math.
- 4) The fact that Bush got more votes than registered voters, and the fact that by stark contrast participation rates in many Democratic strongholds in Ohio and Florida fell to as low as less than 8%, do not indicate a rigged election.
- 5) Bush won re-election despite approval ratings below 50% -- the first time in history this has happened. Harry Truman has been cited as having also done this, but Truman's polling numbers were trailing so much behind his challenger, Thomas Dewey, pollsters stopped surveying two weeks before the 1948 elections, thus missing the late surge of support for Truman. Unlike Truman, Bush's support was clearly eroding on the eve of the election.
- 6) Harris' and Zogby's last-minute polling indicating a Kerry victory was wrong (even though Harris and Zogby were exactly on the mark in their 2000 election final polls).
- 7) The "challenger rule" -- an incumbent's final results won't be better than his final polling -- was wrong.

8) On election day the early-day voters picked up by early exit polls (showing Kerry with a wide lead) were heavily Democratic instead of the traditional pattern of early voters being mainly Republican.

9) The fact that Bush "won" Ohio by 51-48%, but this was not matched by the court-supervised hand count of the 147,400 absentee and provisional ballots in which Kerry received 54.46% of the vote doesn't cast any suspicion upon the official tally.

10) Florida computer programmer Clinton Curtis (a life-long registered Republican) must be lying when he said in a sworn affidavit that his employers at Yang Enterprises, Inc. (YEI) and Tom Feeney (general counsel and lobbyist for YEI, GOP state legislator and Jeb Bush's 1994 running mate for Florida Lt. Governor) asked him in 2000 to create a computer program to undetectably alter vote totals. Curtis, under the initial impression that he was creating this software in order to forestall possible fraud, handed over the program to his employer Mrs. Li Woan Yang, and was told: "You don't understand, in order to get the contract we have to hide the manipulation in the source code. This program is needed to control the vote in south Florida." (Boldface in original).

11) Diebold CEO Walden O'Dell's declaration in a August 14, 2003 letter to GOP fundraisers that he was "committed to helping Ohio to deliver its electoral votes to the president next year" and the fact that Diebold is one of the three major suppliers of the electronic voting machines in Ohio and nationally, didn't result in any fraud by Diebold.

12) There was no fraud in Warren County, Ohio where they admitted counting the votes in secret before bringing them out in public to count, citing an unidentified FBI agent's warning of a terrorist incident as the rationale, a report that the FBI denies ever making.

13) CNN reported at 9 p.m. EST on election evening that Kerry was leading by 3 points in the national exit polls based on well over 13,000 respondents. Several hours later at 1:36 a.m. CNN reported that the exit polls, now based on a few hundred more - 13,531 respondents - were showing Bush leading by 2 points, a 5-point swing. In other words, a swing of 5 percentage points from a tiny increase in the number of respondents somehow occurred despite it being mathematically impossible.

DID YOU CATCH THAT?

AT 9 PM,

Kerry had a 3 point lead among 15,000 voters =

A lead of 390 votes.

Four and half hours later,

Bush had a 2 point lead among 15,531 voters =

A lead of 270 votes.

In other words;

The last 531 voters sampled obviously preferred Bush --

They voted for him 660 times.

[CNN, as any FOX commentator will tell you -- is hopelessly "liberal" in its bias. The network is obviously not too "fair and balanced" math-wise either. This is grade school stuff. But not to get all worked up over it. These numbers don't refer to anything important. That unpleasant sound at the edge of Wolf Blitzer's piercing commentary is only the death rattle of American democracy.]

14) Exit polls in the November 2004 Ukrainian presidential elections, paid for in part by the Bush administration, were right, but exit polls in the U.S., where exit polling was invented, were very wrong.

15) The National Election Pool's exit polls were so far off that since their inception twenty years ago, they have never been this wrong, more wrong than statistical probability indicates is possible.

16) In every single instance where exit polls were wrong the discrepancy favored Bush, even though statistical probability tells us that any survey errors should show up in both directions. Half a century of polling and centuries of mathematics must be wrong.

http://www.projectcensored.org/newsflash/voter_fraud.html

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9.18 The Plans to Steal the 2008 Election

Introduction to this Reference Section:

The 2008 election is yet to be decided as this is written. That unknown outcome aside, there can be no doubt that our electoral process -- which seeks to accurately measure the collective will of the people -- is now broken. If we do not stand up for it, and demand that the process be repaired, the middle and working classes in the United States will no doubt see their current difficulties deepen with a vengeance. And quickly.

It is perhaps a hopeful sign that the corruption of this most sacred practice of democratic government is finally being discussed more openly. Such discussion is profoundly overdue, for the epidemic of suppression and criminality which has thus far characterized Electoral Politics in 21st Century America is a quickly evolving phenomenon -- and it is threatening to become the norm.

It is a Class Targeted Exercise, which very effectively attacks and diminishes the political power of people at the lower end of the socio-economic ladder. The core values of what America is supposed to be about are grossly violated -- and the quality of life for millions of people diminished forever -- as a result.

The techniques employed are breathtakingly diverse.

They include wrongful obstacles to registration; the purposeful under-allocation of voting machines in targeted precincts; various modes of intimidation just prior to elections; the distribution of disinformation regarding polling places and dates; a high rate of "spoiled" ballots due to older, poorly functioning equipment in poorer neighborhoods; the untraceable "flipping," "adding," or "disappearing" of votes in areas enjoying the latest electronic voting technology; absentee ballots simply thrown away; and impossible-to-predict blitzes of "challenges" in certain locations which may lead -- at best -- to the issuance of a slew of "provisional

ballots," which are highly likely to go uncounted, and which will cause delays and ever-lengthening lines in the precincts involved -- a sure-fire way to lower the number of votes.

"Caging lists" which target specific groups of voters -- a felony crime -- has been widespread since 2000. Mail marked "Do Not Forward" has been sent in massive quantities to voters living in downscale counties. Any letter that is returned results in its recipient being dropped from the voting rolls. Many times the victim's first knowledge of this stripping of rights occurs on Election Day. No such letters are sent to affluent neighborhoods -- hence their return rate among the "well to do" is.....

Links to documents circulated between the Republican National Committee and its state level affiliates pertaining to the generation of these targeted voter lists are included in this section. The RNC's past crimes in this area have left it operating under a series of "Cease and Desist" orders since 1981, in response to the "caging" fueled theft of the New Jersey governorship that first delivered 9/11 Commission Chairman Thomas Keane to prominence.

Nevertheless -- despite every agreement made in the years since -- the documents included here reveal Republican operatives describing these recent caging lists as a "goldmine." Distribution of the criminal technique from its secret Ohio test-runs outward to other "swing states" is recommended. Elsewhere, a cautionary note is sounded, lest such activity leave "fingerprints" traceable to the GOP.

For 2008, the voter suppression process tilted toward the widespread imposition of new Voter ID requirements which are vastly more difficult to fulfill among voters of lesser means. This particular brand of disenfranchisement -- a modern poll tax for people who have never before had reason to purchase a passport, for instance -- was enabled by a nationwide campaign of accusations of rampant "Voter Fraud" which was vigorously mounted by members of the Bush Administration and the Republican establishment.

Such "Voter Fraud" -- as it has been described by these operatives and dutifully reported in the national media -- is a preposterous myth. But the suppression of votes among the poor which this myth has now accomplished is very real.

To realize this unconscionable goal, the Bush administration saw fit to attack the impeccably constructed and long revered Foundation of Impartiality upon which the United States Department of Justice once stood.

The "performance" related firings of eight United States Attorneys in December of 2006 was the tip-off that brought this historical obscenity to light, and eventually cost Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez his job. In this section I have included interviews with three of these dismissed US Attorneys -- **David Becker, David Iglesias, and Bud Cummins.**

All of these men are life-long Republicans -- as are several of the other voices in this section. They were loyal servants of the US Constitution and defenders of the Rule of Law who were dismissed -- their reputations smeared -- because they refused to violate their Oaths of Office by uncovering and prosecuting legitimate vote fraud cases that did not exist. These men provide, in these pages, first-hand accounts of their betrayal.

Near the end of the section, you will find **Justin Levitt's** comprehensive study of this mythical specter: "**The Truth About Voter Fraud**," which he conducted under the auspices of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. This exhaustive report mirrors the testimony of the legions of officials and academics in America who have looked at the legitimacy of the new Voter ID Laws -- as a solution to this "problem" -- with an honest, non-partisan eye. Mr. Levitt and his team actually investigated the specific accusations that have been lodged or implied -- claim by claim -- and came to a very clear and persuasive conclusion regarding the ominous wave of voter fraud crime: It doesn't exist.

Though much has been made of the abuses of such progressive, grass-root Voter Registration organizations as the ACORN group -- several of whose "paid by the name" employees have been convicted of filing registrations which were not legitimate -- it remains largely unreported that virtually none of these false registrations actually resulted in anyone voting.

A couple of the Mr. Levitt's more telling conclusions are worth noting here:

It is statistically "more likely that an individual will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls."

This simple fact is understood effortlessly when one contemplates the observation that "fraud by individual voters is a singularly foolish and ineffective way to attempt to win an election.

Each act of voter fraud in connection with a federal election risks five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, in addition to any state penalties.

In return, it yields at most one incremental vote.

That single extra vote is simply not worth the price."

On the other hand, it's estimated that the number of voters knocked off the voting rolls by the tough new ID Requirements born of this "Voter Fraud Crime Wave" -- will number in the millions.

#

Contents of this Reference Section

Included in the next five pages are snapshots of the research sources referenced in the section, laid out in order. An expanded examination of each of these sources follows, including information for locating the original material.

AUDIO INTERVIEW: **Greg Palast, speaking with Thom Hartmann**

Mr. Palast is the former prosecutor -- now legendary investigative reporter and best-selling author -- who first uncovered the mechanisms by which the US Presidency was stolen in Florida in 2000. He herein catalogues the Massive Dumping of Voters in the Swing States in preparation of the 2008 election.

Nationwide Voter Purges

Brad Friedman reports: CBS Has Noticed. Why Hasn't Obama or the DNC?

Voter Purging Allegations Arise as November Election Nears

Michigan, a closely watched swing state in the presidential election, has been a hotbed of voter purging issues in recent weeks. Florida, another swing state, also finds itself in the midst of voter purging issues. Nonprofit organizations, individual citizens, and political parties have recently filed lawsuits alleging that voters are being unlawfully removed from the eligible voter pools.

Army Reservist Included in Montana GOP Voter Purge Effort

Former Montana State Representative Kevin Furey, a First Lieutenant in the Army Reserves, is presently in New Jersey preparing to return to Iraq. The reward for his service? Disenfranchisement.

On GOP Plans and Denials to Challenge Foreclosed Voters

“Lose your house, lose your vote.”

Vote Caging Preparations in Ohio

The National Voter Registration Act prohibits any state from purging names from the voting rolls within 90 days of an election. The law doesn't, however, preclude mass partisan challenges on or shortly before Election Day -- known as voter caging -- based on the same returned envelopes from state-sponsored mailers like the ones in Ohio and others going out across the country.

A challenged voter will likely cast a provisional ballot, which often requires voters to return to election divisions to prove their identity and address. Nearly a third of all 1.6 million provisional ballots cast in 2004 were thrown out.

Fraudulent Absentee Ballots Mailed from the GOP

From state after state come reports of massive mailings by the McCain campaign of absentee ballot requests that contain confusing, misleading or simply wrong information.

Fraud Alert

An overview: The relationship between Voter Suppression and Racism.

INTERVIEW: Robert Kennedy, Jr, by Mike Papantonio

Mr. Kennedy has researched, written, and spoken brilliantly about the corruption of the 2004 Presidential election in Ohio. In this interview, he cites multiple specifics of the plan to steal the Presidency in 2008.

Voter Purging

A short take on the relationship between claims of “Voter Fraud” and the Disenfranchisement of Legitimate Voters.

The Republican War on Voting

by Art Levine

US News and World Report

Using the Department of Justice, friendly governors, and its usual propaganda outlets, the GOP has propagated the myth of voter fraud to purge the rolls of non-Republicans.

How U.S. Attorneys Were Used to Spread Voter-Fraud Fears

Long before it fired eight U.S. attorneys for political reasons, the Bush administration had politicized their jobs by making them push a favorite GOP talking point.

Vote Suppression and the "Gonzales Eight Scandal"

by J. Gerald Hebert

Mr. Hebert served in the Department of Justice from 1973-1994 in many supervisory capacities, including Acting Chief, Deputy Chief, and Special Litigation Counsel in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division.

"The reason **Tim Griffin** had to be slipped into the US Attorney's Office in Arkansas as an "Interim" appointment -- using powers granted the President by **The Patriot Act** -- was that Griffin had played a role "in massive Republican projects in Florida and elsewhere by which Republicans challenged tens of thousands of absentee votes." According to the 8/24/06 email, "[c]oincidentally, many of those challenged votes were in black precincts."

The Link: GOP Purging Prosecutors -- and Voters

"... [T]oday's stories in the New York Times, the Washington Post and the LA Times reveal more than a White House determined to enforce loyalty to President Bush and entrench partisan Republican hatchet men throughout the DOJ's ranks. Simply put, the Bush White House planned to systematically drive down the turnout of Democrats and independents at the ballot box through an unaccountable campaign against "voter fraud."

Firings Had Genesis in White House

per the Washington Post

The aide in charge of the dismissals --[Attorney General Gonzalez'] chief of staff, D. Kyle Sampson -- resigned yesterday, officials said, after acknowledging that he did not tell key Justice officials about the extent of his communications with the White House, leading them to provide incomplete information to Congress.

White House Said to Prompt Firing of Prosecutors

per the New York Times

"We would like to execute this on Thursday, Dec. 7," Mr. Sampson wrote. Because some United States attorneys were still in Washington attending a conference, he planned to postpone telling them they were being fired. He wrote, "We want to wait until they are back home and dispersed to reduce chatter."

INTERVIEW: [David Becker](#), Former Senior Attorney, US Department of Justice

Though Race-Based Voter Caging is a Felony Crime, the lists of voters targeted for wrongful removal from the voting rolls and/or publicly confronted without warning when they arrive to vote continues to be generated. Letters are sent, marked "Do Not Forward." If the letters are returned, their recipients are "caged." This outcome is especially likely when the mail is sent -- in August -- to college students at the schools they attend from September to June. Or to homeless shelters. Or to Black and Hispanic soldiers at the military bases where they were trained -- even though they are now stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their absentee ballots are simply thrown away when received -- and the soldiers are never told.

Internal emails to and from the Republican National Committee reveal the details and scope of the operation.

In one, an official calls the returned letters, "a goldmine." In another, officials discuss doing the same thing in other battleground states, including, Nevada, Florida, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico.

VOTER CAGING DOCUMENTS:

[Emails Between National Republican Party Headquarters and Ohio State Republican Party Offices about Plans to Challenge Voters in Ohio](#)

[List of People in Cleveland, Ohio, who Republicans Planned to Stop on Election Day 2004](#)

VIDEO: [PBS Reports on the Above Caging Documents](#)

David Brancaccio hosts for NOW in a segment entitled "Voter Caging and Housing Works"

VIDEO: [David Iglesias](#), Former United States Attorney, Speaks with Greg Palast

Tom Cruise played Mr. Iglesias in the movie, "A Few Good Men." In December 2006, the Bush White House fired him for honoring his Oath of Office.

INTERVIEW: [David Iglesias](#), Former United States Attorney, Speaks with NOW

IGLESIAS: I was aware that the Justice Department was interested in having U.S. attorneys investigate and prosecute voter fraud going back to 2002. In New Mexico, I wasn't really aware of that being a potential large scale issue until the summer of 2004. So I set up a taskforce in September 2004 to investigate. I made it state, local and federal law enforcement, and I had made sure that the FBI was involved, and that the Justice Department, public integrity section in Washington was involved. I made sure that there were both Democrat and Republican officials as part of this voter fraud effort because I wanted to allay the fears of New Mexicans that this was some kind of partisan witch hunt.

NOW: And did you find prosecutable cases?

IGLESIAS: No. We looked at well over 100 cases ... Upon reviewing the evidence and looking at the FBI reports, and actually talking to the FBI agent in charge of this, I concluded, as did the public integrity section at main Justice [Department] and at the local FBI office, that we didn't have any prosecutable cases.

INTERVIEW: Bud Cummins, Former United States Attorney Speaks with Maria Hinojosa

CUMMINS: “[Y]ou're dealing with a group of people with my seven colleagues, that—everybody that knew them, that watched them, that worked with them—knew that they were particularly good United States Attorneys. And they were serving the President loyally, if for no other reason because they were making him look good for putting them there. And they don't deserve to be slandered in this way. ... Now he can defend those decisions to Congress however he wants, but he can't make things up. And that's what's happened here.”

League of Women Voters Stymied in Registration Campaign

It hasn't been getting much attention, but some states are putting new restrictions on your right to vote, all in the name of preventing voter fraud. Critics say these new state laws on voter registration and voter identification threaten to -- here's the word of the day -- threaten to disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters, among them the elderly, poor and minorities. And what's the Justice Department doing about it?

Vote Caging and the Attorney General: A Short History

by J. Gerald Hebert and Brian Dupre

“Conspiracies to stop African-Americans from exercising their constitutional right to vote aren't new – and neither is vote caging. The Republican National Committee has been under a federal consent decree not to engage in the practice since getting caught in the 1981 gubernatorial election in New Jersey. Despite the injunction, which remains in effect, vote caging schemes continue to be used as an integral part of an ongoing campaign to suppress minority voting rights.

To bring these schemes to an end will require vigorous prosecution by the United States Department of Justice. But the Department's priorities have shifted over the years, with the Bush-Ashcroft-Gonzales Justice Department not only ignoring vote caging schemes, but actively working to give them a boost in the courts.”

VIDEO: Interview with Stephen Spoonamore

The celebrated international cyber-security expert, another life-long Republican, speaks candidly, and very much to the point:

**Electronic Voting Machines are
Absurdly Vulnerable to Remote Hacking;
Will Eventually be Breached by Foreign Powers; and
Therefore Pose the Greatest Threat to American Democracy**

VIDEO CHANNEL: Greg Palast Office

“How to Steal Back Your Vote”

**BOOK: Armed Madhouse:
From Baghdad to New Orleans --
Sordid Secrets & Strange Tales of a White House Gone Wild**
by Greg Palast

(For Overview and Details of the Plan to Steal 2008, See Pages 343 to 380)

BOOK: Stealing Democracy
by Spencer Overton

Mr. Overton is a professor of law at George Washington University specializing in voting rights and campaign finance law.

“In the end the Party would announce that two and two made five, and you would have to believe it.

-- George Orwell, in “1984”

Americans are not inevitably destined to a fate in which a narrow class of political elites controls the matrix. Change is possible. This book is a road map for bringing the power of the vote back into our hands.”

**INTERVIEW: Greg Palast, Author of Armed Madhouse,
for BUZZFLASH:**

“People ask me: Are they going to steal the 2008 election? No, they’ve already stolen the 2008 election. We still have a chance of swiping it back....”

THE TRUTH ABOUT VOTER FRAUD

by Justin Levitt

Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law

By inflating the perceived prevalence of fraud by voters, policy-makers find it easier to justify restrictions on those voters that are not warranted by the real facts.

Among its other work on the subject, the Brennan Center for Justice has developed a methodology for reviewing allegations of voter fraud, and continues to collect analyses of noted allegations at www.truthaboutfraud.org.

This paper distills the results of that work, compiling for the first time the recurring methodological flaws that continue to spawn allegations of widespread voter fraud where it does not exist.

2004 Election Fraud Reading List

Extensive Evidence of Electoral Fraud in the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election,
as compiled by Michael Keefer

EXPANDED EXAMINATIONS OF THE ABOVE SOURCES BEGIN HERE

AUDIO INTERVIEW: [Greg Palast](#), speaking with [Thom Hartmann](#)

Mr. Palast catalogues the Massive Dumping of Voters in the Swing States in preparation of the 2008 election

In swing-state Colorado, the Republican Secretary of State conducted the biggest purge of voters in history, dumping a fifth of all registrations. Guess their color.

In swing-state Florida, the state is refusing to accept about 85,000 new registrations from voter drives – overwhelming Black voters.

In swing state New Mexico, HALF of the Democrats of Mora, a dirt poor and overwhelmingly Hispanic county, found their registrations disappeared this year, courtesy of a Republican voting contractor.

In swing states Ohio and Nevada, new federal law is knocking out tens of thousands of voters who lost their homes to foreclosure.

<http://www.gregpalast.com/MultiMediaGallery/PalastandHartmann7-29-08>.

Nationwide Voter Purges

CBS Has Noticed, Why Hasn't Obama or the DNC?

9-30-2008

Tonight's CBS Evening News finally covered what may well be the November Surprise that we've been trying to warn about for months here at The BRAD BLOG: Massive voter roll purges being done in secret, with little or no oversight, and often under federal Justice Department cover, in states and counties around the country.

And the Democrats, who likely have the most to lose via such secret purges, are doing little or nothing about it.

The CBS story.....

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/09/30/eveningnews/main4490682.shtml>

..... starts with an elderly New Jersey voter who was suddenly removed from the voting rolls after thirty years, for apparently no reason whatsoever, before launching into findings from a new non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice study on "Voter Purges."

We've yet to read this Brennan report [See summary reprinted below] but the brief coverage from tonight's Evening News notes 10,000 voters purged in Mississippi, 21,000 in Louisiana and "to top it off, another new study discovered 19 states are ignoring federal law (the National Voter Registration Act), banning systematic purges within 90 days of a federal election."

Among those 19, are a number of battleground states. The report lists: Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas and Washington, as places where massive purges have recently taken place.

CBS ends by noting that their New Jersey voter has now been restored to the rolls, but they warn, "come Election Day, don't count on thousands of others being as fortunate"...

CBS' coverage doesn't even note that many states have now contracted the same private companies who did such a crappy job on their voting machines (companies like Diebold, ES&S and Sequoia) to manage, with the same lack of oversight, entire newly computerized state voting rolls. Names will be dropping from rolls this year by error or by evil...

This likely November Surprise may be just one of many. There is so much front-end voter suppression going on, at this point, it has all but obscured the massive problems that will occur with voting machines around the country when they break down, denying voters the ability to even cast a vote, much less have it counted accurately or verifiably. In Pennsylvania, for example, where almost the entire state votes on unverifiable touch-screen voting machines, the Democrats in charge of the state have recently declared that paper ballots needn't be given to voters until all voting machines in a particular precinct break down. Why isn't Obama and the DNC raising holy hell about that?

So CBS News has noticed. Where the hell are the Democrats, and why aren't they raising holy hell about all of this stuff everywhere. Instead, all we get when we inquire is the same old John Kerry / DNC line, "We'll have thousands of lawyers on call on Election Day, should anything go wrong, blah, blah, blah."

In the meantime, the Republicans are out with phony "reports" and lawsuits damned near every day --- and not just on Fox "News" --- declaring "evidence" of completely non-existent "voter fraud" by "Democrats". Yet, in the meantime, the Dems continue to bring a knife to a gunfight, and, as we've noted many times of late (most recently here and here) seem to have no clue that they are in a War on Democracy being waged by their GOP opponents.

Once again we urge you --- even if you've voted in a recent primary election --- to check to make sure you are still registered! Here is a very handy link to do exactly that!

<http://www.votersunite.org/info/RegInfo.asp>

<http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6453>

Voter Purging Allegations Arise as November Election Nears

As the November elections near, more allegations of voter purging are cropping up. Michigan, a closely watched swing state in the presidential election, has been a hotbed of voter purging issues in recent weeks. Florida, another swing state, also finds itself in the midst of voter purging issues. Nonprofit organizations, individual citizens, and political parties have recently filed lawsuits alleging that voters are being unlawfully removed from the eligible voter pools.

The United States Student Association Foundation, the American Civil Liberties Union Fund of Michigan, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan filed suit on Sept. 17 against the Michigan Secretary of State, the Michigan Director of Elections, and the City Clerk for the City of Ypsilanti to prevent the state from implementing two voter removal programs.

According to an ACLU press release, one of the voter removal programs "immediately cancels the voter registrations of Michigan voters who obtain driver's licenses in other states instead of issuing the appropriate confirmation of registration notices," and it fails to follow voter removal procedures mandated by the National Voter Registration Act.

The other voter removal program "requires local clerks to nullify the registrations of newly-registered voters whenever their original voter identification cards are returned by the post office as undeliverable."

There are also allegations in Michigan that Republican leaders may try to take advantage of a recent spate of foreclosures to challenge voters at polling places. According to the Michigan Messenger, James Carabelli, chairman of the Republican Party in Macomb County, MI, is "planning to use a list of foreclosed homes to block people from voting in the upcoming election as part of the state GOP's effort to challenge some voters on Election Day."

The Michigan Messenger alleges that Carabelli told them, "We will have a list of foreclosed homes and will make sure people aren't voting from those addresses." Carabelli and Michigan Republican officials have denied the claims.

In Florida, the "No-Match, No-Vote" law is causing voting rights advocates to fear that thousands of voters will be disenfranchised. Under Florida's "No-Match, No-Vote" law, individuals who have registered to vote and who display valid ID at the polls may still have their votes invalidated. On Sept. 8, Florida's Secretary of State decided to enforce the controversial law.

The "No-Match, No-Vote" law requires that a person's driver's license number or Social Security number be verified before they are registered to vote. According to an article on AlterNet, **"State officials admitted in a recent challenge to the law, Florida NAACP v. Browning, that typographical errors by election workers are responsible for most of the failures."**

The same article states that the law "previously blocked more than 16,000 eligible Florida citizens from registering to vote, through no fault of their own, and could disenfranchise tens of thousands more voters in November."

According to voting rights advocates, many voters will not realize that there is a problem with their voter registration until they show up to vote and are forced to cast provisional ballots.

Florida voters must show photo ID at the polls to cast the provisional ballot. After casting the ballot, they must send a photocopy of their driver's license or Social Security card to election officials within 48 hours of the election or their votes will not count.

<http://www.ombwatch.org/article/articleview/4367/1/547>

Army Reservist Included in Montana GOP Voter Purge Effort

by James Sample
October 3, 2008

Former Montana State Representative Kevin Furey, a First Lieutenant in the Army Reserves, is presently in New Jersey preparing to return to Iraq. The reward for his service? Try disenfranchisement. At least that's what it could be if an error-laden effort by the Montana Republican Party to purge the voter rolls were to go forward.

As is too often the case with targeted, partisan efforts to challenge voters and get them purged from the rolls, an effort by the Montana Republican Party this week ostensibly aimed at voter fraud appears to be, in the words of Matt Singer of the non-partisan Forward Montana, actually little more than an effort to "suppress the vote, targeting counties with large Indian, student, and low-income populations."

Today, Lieutenant Furey released the following statement:

It is ironic that at the same time I am about to return to Iraq to help build a democracy that my own right to vote is being challenged at home for partisan purposes. These challenges are a blatant and offensive attempt to suppress the rights of voters.

Earlier this week, the state GOP sent letters to seven counties in the Big Sky state, challenging the eligibility of some 6,000 voters, including 3,400 voters in Missoula County, which includes one of the state's two universities.

Ian Marquand, of Montana's News Station reports that state Democratic Party officials are "reviewing legal options and might try to halt the challenges of some 6,000 voters in seven counties" but that "time is running out since county election officials have [only] until Monday to mail notification letters to affected voters."

Meanwhile, this independent audit of Montana's 2006 elections (previously released by Montana Secretary of State Brad Johnson) showed, in Singer's words "absolutely no evidence of voter fraud."

The Brennan Center's report debunking the voter fraud myth -- and so-called "cures" that often lead to substantial, and sometimes intentional, disenfranchisement of eligible voters -- is available at Truth About Fraud.

And this week, the Brennan Center released a groundbreaking new report, "Voter Purges" which was featured in this report on Tuesday's CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, and which is one of the first examinations of the practices of purging voters from the rolls. In addition to detailing severe problems of transparency and accuracy, the report includes recommendations to reduce the occurrence of erroneous purges and protect eligible voters from erroneous purges.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/james-sample/army-reservist-included-i_b_131766.html

On GOP Plans and Denials to Challenge Foreclosed Voters

by J. Gerald Hebert

September 29, 2008

The "lose your house, lose your vote" stories out of two battleground states, Michigan and Ohio continue to occupy space in the media and various blogs. The story just won't go away. A federal lawsuit over the plan is pending in Michigan and the U.S. Department of Justice is reviewing the matter. As I reviewed the stories about this issue and have started to gather additional information about some questionable mailings to voters in other states, I was reminded of my days at the Justice Department when we would investigate claims of voter intimidation and voter suppression. Investigations of vote caging and vote suppression schemes usually started out with an admission of some specific practice, followed by a denial of any such plan, followed by a decision to retain legal counsel. [...]

http://www.clcblog.org/blog_item-258.html

Vote Caging Preparations in Ohio

Friday 05 September 2008

How many voter-registration mass mailers are "returned to sender" in the run-up to Election Day may determine how many Ohio residents are eligible to vote.

Ohio election officials are sending out a mass mailer stamped "do not forward" to all registered voters today (Sept. 5) with an absentee ballot application and other important notices for Nov. 4.

What's important here is not so much what's going out as what's being returned to sender.

Unbeknownst to the would-be recipients, the same mailer -- just 60 days before the election -- has the potential to determine their eligibility to vote, challenged not by election officials but by partisan opposition.

A similar mailer in March netted nondeliverable mail from almost 600,000 registered voters in just five Ohio counties who could now have their ballots thrown out for voting under the wrong address.

The National Voter Registration Act prohibits any state from purging names from the voting rolls within 90 days of an election.

The law doesn't, however, preclude mass partisan challenges on or shortly before Election Day -- known as voter caging -- based on the same returned envelopes from state-sponsored mailers like the ones in Ohio and others going out across the country.

In 2004, the year the national election hinged on results from Ohio, the Ohio Republican Party challenged 35,000 voters based on returned mail from the GOP's own friendly reminder notices. From 2004 to 2006, Republicans challenged 77,000 voters this way nationwide. A consent decree issued in 1982 and amended in 1987 enjoins the GOP from instituting "ballot security programs" that focus on minority voters.

No evidence so far suggests Republicans -- vote caging is essentially a GOP sport -- have mounted a caging campaign this year. Yet, in July, Franklin County Election Director and County GOP Chairman Doug Preisse told reporters he didn't rule out challenges before November, particularly because of increased home foreclosures, which would make failures to change address on voter registration records more common.

A challenged voter will likely cast a provisional ballot, which often requires voters to return to election divisions to prove their identity and address. Nearly a third of all 1.6 million provisional ballots cast in 2004 were thrown out.

Voting-rights groups don't oppose voter-roll housekeeping, but they cite the federal law as evidence that executing it so close to the actual election isn't fair.

The fraud that voter caging purportedly roots out is relatively rare, although vote solicitors working for the liberal group ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, in 2004 and again this year were accused of submitting false registration forms. Ohio is one of five states where ACORN employees have been investigated and, in some instances, jailed over submitting false voter registration forms.

Unrelated to ACORN, the Web site GOP.com cites two voting-fraud court cases in Ohio, both focused on individuals casting a second ballot intentionally.

On Nov. 1, 2004, voter-rights groups reacted and challenged the partisan caging in Ohio all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in just two days but lost in a final-hour appeal. This year, they want to be as proactive as possible, said Donita Judge, Ohio staff attorney for the nonprofit Advancement Project.

"A single returned piece of mail is not a reliable basis for challenging the right to vote," Judge said. "Mail may be returned for many reasons, including errors in the database from which the mailing is derived, errors in the mailing labels, failure to include an apartment number or poor matching criteria."

Since 2005, Ohio state law has required a non-forwarded mailer 60 days before each federal election. The suspicious part about the law, Judge said, is that it's set to expire after the November election.

But it's not all about throwing votes out. Another aspect of Ohio's reformed election law is that it opens a window between Sept. 30 and Oct. 6 when voters can register one minute and cast a ballot the next.

That's generally seen as a benefit for Democrats this year since the new registrations refer mainly to 400,000 or so resident college students in Ohio. Obama holds a 2-to-1 lead over McCain among 18- to 34-year-olds, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll released last month.

Following a statewide mailer similar to the one going out today, before the Ohio primary in March, the Advancement Project obtained the lists of returned notices through simple public records requests. The organization requested records from five urban Ohio counties -- Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas and Summit.

The total came to 600,000 names out of 3 million voters, amounting to 19.7 percent of all registered voters.

Sally Krisel, director of the Hamilton County Board of Elections, said the high percentage was misleading because the mailer in her county included those on the inactive voter roll. Considering only active registered voters, the county received about 5 percent returned in March, she said.

Inactive voters, tagged for possible removal, are given two years to cast a ballot before they can be removed from the rolls. None of the returned, 60-day notices are used for that purpose, Krisel said.

"We have not purged anybody this year," she said. "In big counties, we're often carrying a lot of inactive voters."

In Franklin County, the March mailer went to all registered voters as well. Out of 780,000, more than 150,000 notices were returned. Those voters are now excluded from receiving another notice this week, said Ben Piscitelli, spokesman for the Franklin County Board of Elections. The only public records request for the list so far came from the Obama campaign, Piscitelli said.

Meanwhile, the sweeping Ohio election law loosens the rules around challenging voters. It also strips much of the ability of voters to know they are being challenged and defend their right to vote before an election judge.

<http://www.truthout.org/article/nearly-600000-voters-subject-possible-caging-ohio>

Fraudulent Absentee Ballots Mailed from the GOP:

Another Scam in the Creation of Voter Caging Lists

per Voting Matters
9-14-08

From state after state come reports of massive mailings by the McCain campaign of absentee ballot requests that contain confusing, misleading or simply wrong information. Is the McCain campaign merely incompetent? Or is it engaged in a massive effort to create a database of voters to challenge at the polls? Is the McCain campaign orchestrating a voter caging campaign on a grand scale?

Given the track record of the GOP in Florida in 2000 there is no reason to give McCain and the Republicans the benefit of the doubt this time around.

Greg Palast has provided extensive documentation of their success in denying the right to vote to thousands of legitimate voters. Go to www.gregpalast.com and read all about it if you have any doubts. So let's assume that the mailings of absentee ballot requests to voters in swing states who did not request them is simply a new weapon in the Republican voter suppression arsenal.

How widespread is this? So far reports have come in from VA, OH, CO, NC, PA, FL, NM, WI, OR, CA and MN. Here's a sampling of the info available so far.

Virginia: The McCAIN Campaign has mailed hundreds of thousands of fraudulent ABSENTEE BALLOT request form to voters.

The intent was obviously to prevent those voters from being registered on election day....

We are getting phone calls and emails showing the same occurrences in all "toss-up" states ... PA, FL, OH, CO, NM, MN ...

If anyone finds these forms, please mail them to your STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS and include complaints of FRAUD against McCain. [...]

<http://boards.msn.com/MSNBCboards/thread.aspx?threadid=780387>

<http://votingmatters.wordpress.com/2008/09/14/massive-voter-caging-by-mccain-campaign/>

Fraud Alert

by Jeffrey Toobin

January 14, 2008

Explicit racism has disappeared from mainstream political discourse in the United States. Jesse Helms made his long career in Washington by muttering about "bloc votes," but he's been gone from the Senate since 2003, and he has no similarly outspoken successors. Lest anyone think that racial discrimination itself has been banished from politics, however, *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*, a case that will be heard this week by the Supreme Court, provides a disturbing reminder.

One of the lesser outrages of the Supreme Court's decision in *Bush v. Gore* was the banal assertion that "after the current counting, it is likely legislative bodies nationwide will examine ways to improve the mechanisms and machinery for voting." In fact, the chief "improvement" that has come from the legislatures since 2000 is voter-I.D. laws, like the one that gives rise to this week's case.

In 2005, Indiana began requiring voters to present government-issued photo identification before casting a ballot. (Georgia passed a nearly identical law at about the same time, and several other states have tightened voter-I.D. requirements.) These laws, their sponsors assured the electorate (and now the courts), were passed to correct the problem of voter fraud. As the state of Indiana says in its brief to the Justices, the new rule "establishes reasonable, long-overdue election-security reform in a State highly vulnerable to in-person election fraud."

Actually, it is this purported justification that is the real fraud.

The latest and most extensive examination of electoral irregularities, released in November by the nonpartisan research institute Demos, determined that voter fraud was "very rare," and every other respectable study has reached the same conclusion. This is certainly true in Indiana, where legislators said they were aiming to stop "voter impersonation," which was already a crime in the state; in the entire history of Indiana, the number of prosecutions for this offense has been zero.

Nationwide, despite an attempt by the Bush Justice Department to crack down on voter fraud, there were only a hundred and twenty federal prosecutions and eighty-six convictions between 2002 and 2006—a period in which close to four hundred million votes were cast.

“Let’s not beat around the bush,” Terence T. Evans, the dissenting Court of Appeals judge in the Indiana case, slyly wrote. “The Indiana voter photo ID law is a not-too-thinly-veiled attempt to discourage election-day turnout by certain folks believed to skew Democratic.”

He’s not the only one to notice: the three federal judges who approved the Indiana law were appointed by a Republican President; the lone dissenter was appointed by a Democrat. It was also Republican-dominated legislatures that produced the Indiana and Georgia laws, both of which were signed by Republican governors.

Who are the “certain folks,” in Judge Evans’s delicate phrase, that the Indiana law is trying to discourage? The best answer can be found in a friend-of-the-court brief in the case filed by twenty-nine leading historians and scholars of voting rights. They concluded that the Indiana law belongs to a malign tradition in “this nation’s history of disfranchising people of color and poor whites under the banner of ‘reform.’” Such measures as the poll tax and literacy tests, they write, were “billed as anti-fraud or anti-corruption devices; yet through detailed provisions within them, they produced a discriminatory effect (often intended) within the particular historical context.”

So it will be in Indiana, where the law creates a series of onerous barriers to voting. Consider one: you can get a government photo I.D. by showing your birth certificate, but you can’t get a copy of your birth certificate unless you can produce certain official photo I.D.s. And, with up to twenty million Americans of voting age lacking government-issued identification, the matter of requiring photo I.D.s has broad implications.

The Supreme Court case comes at a time when the nation does face a major problem with its elections, but it is the opposite of the one the Indiana law prescribes: it’s not that too many people are voting but too few.

Voter turnout rose in the 2004 Presidential election, but it still barely reached sixty per cent. There are any number of ways to begin to address this predicament: holding elections on weekends; allowing same-day registration and voting by mail, telephone, or the Internet; permitting registered voters to cast their ballots over several days or weeks; and putting polling places in shopping malls, to name just a few.

As the Demos report observes, “Overall, the disfranchisement of voters through antiquated voting systems, errors, mismanagement of registration bases, and intimidation or harassment is a far bigger problem today than traditional forms of election fraud.” (These issues, it need hardly be added, were the real problem in Florida in 2000.)

Unfortunately, the only serious attempt to address the legacy of 2000, the federal Help America Vote Act, which passed in 2002, today ranks somewhere between a disappointment and a fiasco. In essence, that law issued an unfunded mandate to the states to improve their voting procedures by 2006. Some states, like New York, largely ignored it; others, like Florida and Ohio, the states that, respectively, decided the past two Presidential elections, invested in systems that were, in many cases, less reliable than the old ones.

This week, a majority of the Justices will likely find a way to make a bad situation worse, and uphold the Indiana law. [NOTE: They did.] As a general matter, in recent years the Court has been reluctant to find what is charged in this case: a violation of the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the laws. (The notable exception, to belabor the issue, was for a plaintiff named George W. Bush.) In the end, though, it will not be the judiciary that rescues democracy; whatever the obstacles, the problems with the ballot box must be solved at the ballot box. -----

http://www.newyorker.com/talk/2008/01/14/080114ta_talk_toobin

INTERVIEW: Robert Kennedy, Jr. by Mike Papantonio

September 23, 2008

Excerpts of transcript from "Ring of Fire" on Air America Radio

Bobby: "There are about 30 scams the Republicans are deliberately using, particularly in the swing states to get Democratic voters off the rolls. These scams originate in the so-called Help America Vote Act which was passed after the Florida debacle in the year 2000. It was originally suggested by Democrats and Republicans but it was passed by a Republican congress with a Republican senate and a Republican president. And instead of reforming what happened in Florida it basically institutionalized all the problems that happened in Florida. And institutionalized a series of impediments that make it very difficult for Democrats to register, for Democrats to vote and then for Democrats to have their vote counted.

"One of these requirements under HAVA is called "**the perfect match**" and what that does is little known but it is devastating. **A quarter of the voters in Colorado have just been removed from the rolls because of this -- just this one scam.** And what it does is they use a computer system to compare your registration application to all other government records of you in the state. So they'll look at your social security records, your motor vehicle records and any time you've had any interaction with the government and if there is any information on your voter registration that is different than the information on another government record that they find they remove you from the voting rolls.

"For example, if I registered as Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and yet my motor vehicle license said Robert Frances Kennedy Jr. I'd be removed from the rolls. If your initial is different, if you leave an initial out, if you leave a "Jr." out, if you leave a hyphen out in your name.

And what they've done is a study in New York that said 80% of the errors are errors that were done by state clerks who are taking down this information. And particularly immigrant communities that people tend to vote Democratic, people have names ... spell Muhammad with an "o" instead of a "u"

Pap: "Are the Democrats Suing to Stop This?"

Bobby: "No, the Democrats are doing nothing to stop it. In New Jersey, which is a swing state, 300,000 voters in New Jersey were just sent letters saying that they are now ineligible to vote. New Jersey is nice enough to actually notify them -- most states will not even notify them.

And New Jersey intends to send out 870,000 letters so that is three quarters of a million people off the voting rolls in a state that could decide this vote by 50,000 votes. And these are Democrats that are being pushed off the rolls.

Bobby: "Let me tell you about one other of these scams people should know about. If you're a newly registered voter -- and of course the Democrats have done these gigantic registration drives -- 12 million people on registration -- if you're a new voter you MUST include your license or some other state I.D. when you come to vote. What that means is that if you're a college kid (and college kids now -- they're sending in absentee ballots -- they're not going to the voting place, they do everything online or they do everything remotely- - they don't dream of going to the precinct house voting on election day and waiting in a long line) so if they send in the absentee ballot and they don't include a color copy of their license their vote is going to be thrown into a trash can.

And none of these people know this because you have had to read the law in order to know it.

So there is no notification for when you fill out your registration form, so all of those 12 million people that the Democrats have registered: those ballots are going to be just thrown out.

Pap: "And if Democrats won't talk about this how the hell's anybody gonna know about it? I'm involved with this kind of thing every day -- I didn't know that until you just told me. The media is not talking about it. How in the hell is somebody gonna find this out? It's just incredible.

Bobby: "Hopefully -- Obama is getting 66 million dollars a month -- hopefully somebody in the Democratic organization is going to pay some attention to this before election day.

<http://www.truthout.org/article/rfk-jr-and-mike-papantonio-is-your-vote-safe>

Voter Purging

By Steven Rosenfeld, AlterNet
September 11, 2007

Now the Department of Justice, like the Republican Party, wants fewer registered voters in 2008.

[...]

The voter roll purges are part of an unprecedented effort at the Justice Department to eliminate "voter fraud," which, as defined by Republican activists, is an assumption that Democratic political operatives or sympathetic political organizations have filed fake voter registrations or encouraged supporters to vote more than once to win elections.

These claims have been investigated by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and academics and found to be without merit.

However, the Bush administration's Justice Department, starting under former Attorney General John Ashcroft, has devoted considerable resources to prosecuting "voter fraud." The effort to pressure states to additionally purge voter rolls is a trickle-down effect of these policies.

Voter roll purges, if incorrectly done, can be a factor in determining election outcomes -- particularly in tight races. Unlike most of the "voter fraud" cases cited by GOP activists, where a handful of registrations -- usually in the single digits -- from big voter registration drives are found to be erroneous, purges can affect thousands of voters.

In Florida and Missouri in 2000, a total of 100,000 legal voters were incorrectly removed, according to academics and local election officials. In Cleveland in 2004, voter purges were a factor behind long lines and people leaving without voting as poll workers dealt with people who did not know they had been removed from voter lists, various media reported.

<http://www.alternet.org/rights/62133/>

The Republican War on Voting

by Art Levine

April 1, 2008

Using the Department of Justice, friendly governors, and its usual propaganda outlets, the GOP has propagated the myth of voter fraud to purge the rolls of non-Republicans.

One week before the close of voter registration in Kentucky last fall, in an election that culminated with the victory of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Steve Beshear, Johanna Sharrard, a fresh-faced 26-year-old national organizer for the low-income advocacy group ACORN, gathered her canvassers in a run-down Louisville office and told them some good news: "We got 396 people yesterday -- that's really great!" Then she added what could have seemed a jarringly discordant note: "We know it's getting harder to reach people with the cards in this area. It's really important that you guys are not slipping up and turning to filling out your own applications or other fraudulent activity. Just yesterday we had to let another person go because she did not follow protocols." Sharrard continued sternly, "What's important is that we get 15,000 new voters. We're not out there to get 10,000 new voters and 5,000 false applications."

Indeed, the voter registration waged by ACORN (the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) in Kentucky was also an effort to test the group's new system for rooting out any fraud. The organization is readying itself for the challenges to voter participation that the poor and minorities -- and Democrats -- are sure to face in 2008.

Sharrard's cautionary tone was a response to the Republican Party's ongoing nationwide campaign to suppress the low-income minority vote by propagating the myth of voter fraud.

Using various tactics -- including media smears, bogus lawsuits, restrictive new voting laws and policies, and flimsy prosecutions -- Republican operatives, election officials, and the GOP-controlled Justice Department have limited voting access and gone after voter-registration groups such as ACORN. Which should come as no surprise: In building support for initiatives raising the minimum wage and kindred ballot measures, ACORN has registered, in partnership with Project

Vote, 1.6 million largely Democratic-leaning voters since 2004. All told, non-profit groups registered over three million new voters in 2004, about the same time that Republican and Justice Department efforts to publicize "voter fraud" and limit voting access became more widespread. And attacking ACORN has been a central element of a systematic GOP disenfranchisement agenda to undermine Democratic prospects before each Election Day.

Revelations that U.S. attorneys were fired for their failure to successfully prosecute voter fraud have revealed how fictitious the allegations of widespread fraud actually were -- but the allegations haven't gone away. They live on in all the vote-suppressing laws and regulations that will likely affect this year's election, in GOP rhetoric and, most recently, in the arguments presented by champions of Indiana's restrictive voter-identification law in a case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Unfortunately, progressives have tended to pay more attention to Election Day dirty tricks and to electronic voting machines than to a more systemic threat: the Republican campaign to suppress the votes of low-income, young, and minority voters through restrictive legislation and rulings, all based on the mythic specter of voter fraud. Those relatively transient voters, drawn to the polls this year by the Obama and Clinton campaigns, could find themselves thwarted in November and thereafter by the GOP-driven regime of voting restrictions -- particularly if, as many observers believe, the Court upholds Indiana's restrictive law before it adjourns this June.

Voter fraud is actually less likely to occur than lightning striking a person, according to data compiled by New York University's Brennan Center for Justice. [NOTE: That report is reprinted at the conclusion of this reference section.] As Lorraine Minnite, a Columbia University professor, observed in the Project Vote report, *The Politics of Voter Fraud*, "**The claim that voter fraud threatens the integrity of American elections is itself a fraud.**" In October 2002, then-Attorney General John Ashcroft launched an intensive "Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative" that required all U.S. attorney offices to coordinate with local officials in combating voter fraud. Yet even after the Justice Department declared the war against voter fraud a "high priority," only 24 people were convicted of illegal voting in federal elections between 2002 and 2005 -- and nobody was even charged by Justice with impersonating another voter. (The Justice Department declined to answer questions about more recent fraud prosecutions.) And despite the anti-immigrant frenzy fueling photo-ID laws, only 14 noncitizens were convicted of illegally voting in federal elections from 2002 through 2005 -- mostly because of their ignorance of election law.

Unfortunately, the public hasn't heard just how nonexistent the voter fraud epidemic actually is. While progressives have successfully challenged some of the most restrictive laws in court, they're still playing catch-up when it comes to combating the glib sound bites of voter-fraud alarmists.

Republicans and the Bush Justice Department have cloaked their schemes under such noble-sounding concepts as "ballot integrity." The GOP's vote-suppression playbook features everything from phony lawsuits to questionable investigations to authoritative-seeming reports, all with the aim of promoting restrictive laws. These tactics were first perfected in the hotly contested swing state of Missouri.

The roots of John Ashcroft's passion on this issue go back to the chaos of Election Day 2000 in St. Louis, when hundreds, if not thousands, of mostly inner-city voters were turned away from polling places because their names were not on voting rolls. The resulting last-minute court battle kept some polling places open for 45 minutes after their scheduled closing time of 7 P.M. Ashcroft, then the Republican U.S. Senate nominee, lost his race to the dead Democratic governor, Mel Carnahan, whose name stayed on the ballot weeks after he died in a plane crash. At an election-night party, an infuriated Republican Sen. Kit Bond pounded the podium and screamed, "This is an outrage!" -- and subsequently charged that Republican losses were due in part to dogs and dead people voting. As one local government official observed, "In St. Louis, 'dogs and dead people' is code for black people [voting fraudulently]."

That election night gave birth to the new right-wing voter-fraud movement, while Missouri became a proving ground for the vote-suppression campaigns that later spread to other key states. Missouri's then-Secretary of State Matt Blunt, now governor, launched a trumped-up investigation that concluded that more than 1,000 fraudulent ballots had been cast in an organized scheme. A Justice Department Civil Rights Division investigation, started before Ashcroft shifted the department's priorities, found no fraudulent ballots, however. Instead, it discovered that the St. Louis election board had improperly purged 50,000 voters from the rolls.

Nonetheless, the template for smear campaigns, groundless lawsuits, and politicized prosecutions used across the country had been set in Missouri. Key roles were played by many of the same GOP zealots who later made their mark on the national drive to fight voter fraud, among them St. Louis attorney Thor Hearne, the 2004 Bush-Cheney campaign election counsel who later launched the GOP front group, the American Center for Voting Rights (ACVR).

And as early as 2002, the executive director of the Missouri Republican Party pioneered a new dirty trick: publicly "filing" with the Federal Election Commission a 26-page complaint against the state's leading registration group, known as Pro Vote, that charged it with secretly conspiring with Democrats in the Senate race -- but then failing to sign the document so the agency never considered it.

The goal of such complaints and allegations was to create a barrage of negative publicity about voter-registration groups and the voter-fraud menace that could pave the way for restrictive laws. In Missouri, the Republicans' cries for a new state photo-ID law began in 2002, before the GOP blitz in most other states. The legislature passed such a bill in early 2006, before it was struck down that September by a Missouri state court as unconstitutional.

The GOP in Missouri also turned to prosecutions and lawsuits, most either overblown or groundless. In November 2005, Bradley Schlozman, then the Justice Department's acting civil-rights chief, insisted on filing a lawsuit that accused Missouri's secretary of state, Robin Carnahan, a Democrat, of failing to purge supposedly ineligible voters under federal law. (U.S. Attorney Todd Graves was forced out in March 2006 for having balked at filing the suit.)

A federal judge, who found that the Justice Department did not produce any evidence showing fraud justifying the purges, dismissed the lawsuit in April 2007. The department continues to appeal the ruling.

The fraud-obsessed Schlozman was then moved into Graves' old post without Senate confirmation, through a loophole in the Patriot Act. In an apparent effort to discredit both Democrats and ACORN, just five days before the tight Senate election in 2006 between incumbent Republican Jim Talent and Democrat Claire McCaskill, Schlozman announced, in violation of the department's own standards, the indictment of four former ACORN workers who had been fired by ACORN for filling out false voter-registration forms. The indictments were part of a broader effort to tilt the campaign against Democrats by bashing ACORN and limiting voter access. St. Louis' Republican election director, Scott Leiendecker, sent out a chilling letter shortly before the election to 5,000 mostly African Americans registered by ACORN, asking them to verify to the election board that they were eligible to vote. Leiendecker backed off after he faced the threat of a voting-rights lawsuit and received a warning letter from Secretary of State Carnahan.

What began in Missouri soon went nationwide. Starting in 2003, the Justice Department's civil-rights division issued a flurry of advisory letters, rulings, and lawsuits under the guise of fighting fraud that appear designed to disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters. Federal and state courts have struck down some of the laws shaped by policies promoted by the Justice Department, such as strict database-matching laws limiting new voters in Washington state and Florida. Even so, Justice Department-backed secretive purging policies have targeted voter-registration applicants and current voters in several key states:

In Ohio in 2006, 303,000 voters were purged in three major urban counties, while the Brennan Center reported that Pennsylvania's rigid database rules, later loosened, had excluded up to 30 percent of eligible registrants. Karl Rove aide [Tim Griffin](#) played a major role in state GOP voter "caging" operations (that is, challenging the eligibility of registered voters) in such states as Ohio and Florida. These schemes, Project Vote reports, challenged the right of 77,000 mostly minority voters to cast ballots between 2004 and 2006, under the pretext that non-forwardable letters sent by GOP activists to their addresses were returned as undelivered.

Thor Hearne's now-vanished ACVR lobbied for strict voter-ID laws in nine states, according to McClatchy and other news organizations. Voter-ID laws in states such as Georgia, Arizona, and Indiana have, for now, been allowed to stand.

All these campaigns have created a kind of GOP vote-suppression playbook that aims to limit voting rights in the states and attack registration groups such as ACORN. **In most states where ACORN wages ballot-initiative and voter-registration campaigns, Republican lawyers, officials, and some prosecutors routinely file dubious lawsuits and complaints to generate bad press for the voter-registration drives. The lawsuits seldom if ever succeed, but the bad press they engender creates a climate to pass restrictive voting laws.**

In New Mexico by the summer of 2004, ACORN's effort to register voters in advance of the closely fought presidential election was a stunning success: The organization registered 35,000 voters, mostly in the Albuquerque area. "Republicans were freaking out," recalls John Boyd, an attorney for the state Democratic Party. Republicans accused ACORN of "manufacturing voters," conflating error-plagued cards with fraud while trumpeting one registration card

filled out in the name of a 13-year-old boy. The boy's card became the centerpiece of the lawsuit Rep. Joe Thompson, an Albuquerque Republican, filed in August 2004 demanding that the state government require photo ID for voters registered by ACORN and other nonprofits. The lawsuit claimed that the Republican plaintiffs' votes were "diluted" by supposedly false registrations.

Their case fell apart in court, and by September, a judge dismissed the lawsuit. But Republicans were not deterred by their loss in civil court and pressed for a criminal investigation, a probe which U.S. Attorney for New Mexico David Iglesias started on the same day that the court ruled against the GOP. Iglesias was a true believer in the menace of voter fraud. As one of just two U.S. attorneys in the nation to form such task forces, he was invited to lecture other U.S. attorneys in 2005 as part of the annual Justice Department ballot-integrity conference.

Iglesias' efforts weren't enough for Patrick Rogers, the Republican National Lawyers Association point person in the state, who mounted a campaign to pressure Iglesias to bring criminal charges before the election, rather than form a task force. Indeed, even before Iglesias concluded in 2006 that there wasn't enough evidence to indict on voter fraud, major Republicans in the state had started asking the Bush administration for his removal.

In early December 2006,
Iglesias was one of seven U.S. attorneys
whom the Justice Department fired.

**Today, Iglesias says of voter fraud:
"It's like the boogeymen parents use to scare their children.
It's very frightening, and it doesn't exist.
U.S. attorneys have better things to do with their time
than chasing voter-fraud phantoms."**

But the damage of chasing phantoms proved more substantial. In 2005, the state legislature, with the blessing of its Democratic governor, Bill Richardson, passed legislation that essentially crippled the ability of groups like ACORN to do mass voter registration. In 2006, ACORN had only 10 certified canvassers in the whole state, and registration plunged to 2,000 new applicants from 35,000 two years before, according to ACORN's top New Mexico organizer, Matt Henderson.

In Florida in 2004, ACORN's initiative to raise the state's minimum wage looked to be cruising to victory (it won with 71 percent of the vote), and brought in over 200,000 newly registered voters. That led business lobbies and the GOP to find a poster boy for fraud in a fired ACORN employee and ex-con named Mac Stuart, who spun elaborate tales of ACORN squirreling away hundreds of GOP voter applications it gathered but did not turn over to election officials. Republican attorneys filed two lawsuits featuring Stuart's claims.

After the election, Stuart ultimately conceded that he made false statements about ACORN. In December 2005, federal judges dismissed both lawsuits.

But in the same month, the legislature passed one of the most restrictive voting-registration laws in the country. The new law fined every registration worker \$5,000 for any lost application, potentially wiping out the entire budget of the state League of Women Voters if just 14 forms were lost and forcing the group to stop registering voters for the first time in over 70 years. It was not until August 2006 that a federal judge blocked enforcement of the law. However, a slightly revised version passed last year.

Responding to the GOP-generated hysteria over voter fraud, criminal investigations were launched in 2004 and 2005 in Wisconsin, Colorado, Florida, and Ohio, with ACORN often a target. But by the end of 2005, the investigations ended after finding either no evidence of wrongdoing by ACORN or any pervasive voter fraud. Nationally, only six former ACORN employees were charged with registration fraud or other election-related crimes in the 2004 election, offenses involving fewer than 20 forms. That's out of 1 million new voters registered by ACORN during that cycle.

Yet Thor Hearne, among others, took advantage of these assorted investigations and news accounts about fraud to create the fictional appearance of an epidemic, then added some fabrications of his own.

Perhaps the wildest ACVR whopper -- seized on by The Wall Street Journal as late as November 2006 -- was the charge that ACORN and an affiliated group were under criminal investigation for "paying crack cocaine for fraudulent registration forms." Actually, the tale originated with the arrest of a Toledo-area man who may have received drugs while working for another volunteer for a now-defunct organization, not ACORN.

Without substantiation, ACVR identified Democratic-leaning cities as hotspots for fraud. They were generally the same locations where U.S. attorneys later faced pressure over prosecutions, including Seattle, St. Louis, and Milwaukee. (The one exception to overblown investigations targeting ACORN was the indictment last year by a local Seattle prosecutor, welcomed by ACORN, of seven rogue ex-employees who had fabricated nearly 2,000 registration forms.)

The hyped reports, indictments, and hearings had their intended effect after the 2004 elections. Nearly 30 states considered bills to require photo ID or proof of citizenship to register or vote. While most of these measures haven't yet passed, those that have can be severe: An Arizona law requiring proof of citizenship to register has disenfranchised up to 60 percent of applicants in some counties.

Over the past few years, what began as local phony lawsuits and investigations escalated into a concerted drive by the Civil Rights Division to restrict voting. Since 2004, the goal of the state GOP vote-caging initiatives has become official Justice Department policy. The department has also promoted the equivalent of caging by pressuring 16 states and cities to speed up their purging of hundreds of thousands of voters through letters and lawsuits, as first reported by Alternet.

Alarmingly, the insubstantiality of the claims of pervasive voter fraud may not deter the U.S. Supreme Court from upholding Indiana's restrictive voter-ID law -- which, according to a new University of Washington study, could disenfranchise the more than 20 percent of the state's African American voters who lack the ID required by Indiana's law.

Amazingly, Indiana has admitted that there hasn't been a single alleged case of in-person voter fraud in the state's history. Instead, Indiana's attorneys and legal allies, including the federal government, have submitted virtually nothing but unverified newspaper clippings and right-wing claims about fraud allegations in other states.

Indeed, the Supreme Court, in a little-noticed comment in an earlier ruling on Arizona's ID law, has already granted government the leeway to enact laws denying the vote based merely on fears of fraud, regardless of evidence. But outside of the world of voting experts, little attention has been paid to the lack of evidence in the federal court rulings leading up to the Indiana case. As Wendy Weiser of the Brennan Center observes, "The way this case has been decided so far [in lower courts] is that a state doesn't have to justify measures to suppress the vote."

The Supreme Court is expected to issue its Indiana ruling in the next few months, and it's considered unlikely that the Court will strike down the law. [NOTE: Indeed, in April of 2008, the Court upheld the law.]

These days, weakened by the publicity over the U.S. attorneys scandal, the savvy voter-fraud propagandists are shifting their now-discredited arguments about massive voting by illegal immigrants to yet another "menace": "double voting." Republicans and some newspapers point to lists of the same names in different states to claim there has been large-scale double voting. Yet such sweeping double-voting claims are almost always due to administrative errors and the statistical probability that people with the same name and birth date will show up in large pools of voters.

Regardless of the facts, the drive for new voter-ID restrictions will likely be strengthened in the wake of the upcoming Supreme Court decision. There's little sign that progressives or Democrats are going to launch what the Brennan Center's Deborah Goldberg has called the "huge public education effort" needed to raise awareness about the problems with voter-ID laws. Democrats seemingly haven't yet grasped the political importance of fighting these restrictive policies, though they could prove a major impediment to minority voting (and if minorities voted at the same rate as whites, there would be 7.5 million more voters on Election Day).

But Johanna Sharrard and other ACORN leaders aren't going to be deterred by Republican obstacles and smears as they gear up for new registration drives this year that could be their most successful yet. Sharrard's campaign in Kentucky last year brought in over 14,000 new voters, a state record. And after seeing all the attacks against ACORN in Missouri and elsewhere, she realizes, "It's a good motivator; it showed us that that things we were doing are important." It's an open question, though, whether progressives will realize that it's worth fighting to make sure that the voters ACORN is trying to reach will actually have their votes count.

Art Levine is a contributing editor of U.S. News and World Report and of The Washington Monthly and has written for The New Republic, The Atlantic Monthly, and many other publications.

http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=the_republican_war_on_voting

How U.S. Attorneys Were Used to Spread Voter-Fraud Fears

Long before it fired eight U.S. attorneys for political reasons, the Bush administration had politicized their jobs by making them push a favorite GOP talking point.

By Mark Follman, Alex Koppelman and Jonathan Vanian

March 21, 2007 | Under intense criticism for firing eight United States attorneys, the Bush administration has spent the past few weeks casting about for an explanation for the dismissals that involves performance rather than politics. On March 13, White House spokesman Dan Bartlett tried to come up with one. "Over the course of several years, we have received complaints about U.S. attorneys," he insisted, "particularly when it comes to election fraud cases." On Tuesday, President Bush pressed home this claim with a similar statement during his defense of embattled Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. "We did hear complaints and concerns about U.S. attorneys," said Bush. "Some complained about the lack of vigorous prosecution of election fraud cases."

Bush and Bartlett were arguing that some of the fired attorneys had underperformed by failing to prosecute the raft of offenses that make up voter fraud -- things like vote buying, double voting, and voting by felons, illegal aliens and the deceased. And it is true that at least two of the prosecutors who were let go might not have pursued voter fraud cases to the satisfaction of their bosses at the Department of Justice. But under the Bush administration, pursuing voter fraud is not always about performance. It's often about politics.

A belief in rampant voter fraud in Democratic strongholds -- big cities, minority neighborhoods -- is widespread among Republicans, and claims of vote buying and the like have long been a mainstay of GOP rhetoric. The party has used these claims of voter fraud to help build public support for what it considers electoral reforms, like requiring voters to show photo ID -- reforms that also tend to suppress Democratic turnout on Election Day.

During the Bush administration, a rhetorical tool became public policy. The Republicans could not get a photo ID law through the Senate, but they were able to enlist the 93 United States attorneys in their crusade against voter fraud. In 2002, then-Attorney General John Ashcroft announced an initiative that required "all components of the [Justice] Department" to "place a high priority on the investigation and prosecution of election fraud."

Five years later, Ashcroft's initiative hasn't produced all that much in the way of convictions, at least relative to the overall Department of Justice caseload. Prosecutions for electoral fraud remain a minuscule part of the federal criminal docket. In 2002 alone, there were 80,424 criminal cases concluded nationwide in the 94 U.S. District Courts. By comparison, according to a DOJ document, between the fall of 2002 and the fall of 2005, there were only 95 defendants charged with federal election-fraud-related crimes in the whole country. [...]

More generally, there seems to be little statistical basis for the Republican fixation on voter fraud. **The few studies that have been done show fraud to be insignificant to the outcome of elections; it has been measured at levels as low as .0004 percent (PDF) of all ballots cast.**

Loraine Minnite, an assistant professor of political science at Barnard College, conducted a study of elections from 1992 to 2002 for Demos, a London- and New York-based public-policy think tank. Her analysis of the numbers showed that "the incidence of election fraud in the United States is low and that fraud has had a minimal impact on electoral outcomes." A 2006 report from the United States Election Assistance Commission, an independent agency created by Congress to "[conduct] research on election administration issues," calls Minnite's study the "most systematic look at fraud" (PDF).

See the Minnite report at:

[http://www.eac.gov/docs/Voter Fraud & Intimidation Report -POSTED.pdf](http://www.eac.gov/docs/Voter_Fraud_&_Intimidation_Report_-POSTED.pdf)

http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/03/21/us_attorneys/index1.html

Vote Suppression and the "Gonzales Eight Scandal"

by J. Gerald Hebert

March 16, 2007

The ongoing and widening scandal over the firing of eight U.S. Attorneys is racking up column inches and filling the blogosphere these days, and rightfully so. But there are a couple of aspects to the story that have not been written about yet, and I thought it was time to take on a few of them.

In a flurry of emails released earlier this week and now available on the website of the Washington Post, one in particular caught my eye. It was an email from Monica Goodling at the Department of Justice to Scott Jenkins at the White House and to DOJ's Kyle Sampson (Gonzales' chief of staff until he resigned earlier this week).

The subject of the email exchange involved [Tim Griffin](#), a person working at the White House for Karl Rove, and how to move him into a position as U.S. Attorney in Arkansas. There are two parts to the email exchange that jumped out at me.

The email says Griffin would likely face political opposition to the nomination because he played a role "in massive Republican projects in Florida and elsewhere by which Republicans challenged tens of thousands of absentee votes." According to the 8/24/06 email, "[c]oincidentally, many of those challenged votes were in black precincts."

It has been a contention of many Democrats that the Republican obsession with voter fraud is really just a beard for pushing a program of vote suppression, particularly the vote suppression of racial and ethnic minorities. I leave for another day a discussion of the irony in that those targeted in such a vote suppression program are those who historically have been denied the electoral franchise and have only been able to exercise it freely since the Voting Rights Act of 1965 guaranteed that right. [...]

About the Author:

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For the past ten years, Gerry Hebert has had an active federal court litigation practice specializing in redistricting and voting rights issues and has worked on cases in more than two dozen states. Over the last three decades, he has served as legal counsel for parties and amici curiae in numerous redistricting lawsuits, including several cases decided in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Prior to his time in solo private practice, Mr. Hebert served in the Department of Justice from 1973-1994 in many supervisory capacities, including Acting Chief, Deputy Chief, and Special Litigation Counsel in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division.

http://clcblog.org/blog_item-118.html

The Link: GOP Purging Prosecutors -- and Voters

The exploding U.S. attorneys scandal threatens to engulf the White House with the revelations that the Bush administration as early as February 2005 contemplated sacking all 93 prosecutors.

But today's stories in the New York Times, the Washington Post and the LA Times reveal more than a White House determined to enforce loyalty to President Bush and entrench partisan Republican hatchet men throughout the DOJ's ranks. Simply put, the Bush White House planned to systematically drive down the turnout of Democrats and independents at the ballot box through an unaccountable campaign against "voter fraud." And as I wrote last November, suppressing potential Democratic voter turnout (along with mobilizing its own right-wing base) is one of the two essential prongs of the Republicans' electoral strategy of "Divide, Suppress and Conquer."

While former White House counsel Harriet Miers first raised the specter of replacing all of the prosecutors in early 2005, it was President Bush himself who emphasized the importance of supposed voter fraud to Attorney General Gonzales:

Last October, President Bush spoke with Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to pass along concerns by Republicans that some prosecutors were not aggressively addressing voter fraud, the White House said Monday. Senator Pete V. Domenici, Republican of New Mexico, was among the politicians who complained directly to the president, according to an administration official.

The case of Seattle prosecutor John McKay illustrates the Republicans' preoccupation with voter fraud. Washington State Republicans, including Congressman Doc Hastings, were furious at McKay over what they claimed was his inaction on vote fraud in the wake of Democrat Christine Gregoire's 129 vote margin of victory (out of almost 3,000,000 votes cast) in the twice recounted 2004 gubernatorial campaign.

On July 5, 2005, Tom McCabe of the Building Industry Association of Washington wrote to Hastings, bluntly demanding, "please ask the White House to replace Mr. McKay. If you decide not to do this, let me know why."

But President Bush, Karl Rove, Alberto Gonzales and Harriet Miers weren't merely focused on meting out punishment to one prosecutor they felt let down the GOP in a single race. As I wrote last fall, an essential Republican strategy to regain and retain a ruling majority is to systematically suppress Democratic and independent voter turnout. The GOP's tactics include erecting barriers to new voter registration, draconian voter ID laws, aggressive redistricting and when all else fails, election-day cheating.

Those Republican efforts to dampen turnout are concealed from the American people under a banner of combating vote fraud. As I wrote last November:

Not content to prevent the enfranchisement of new voters, the GOP is committed to blocking their exercise of the right to vote. At the both the state and federal level, the GOP in the name of battling fraud has put up a raft of new roadblocks and barriers to voting with burdensome voter identification requirements.

The fact that voter fraud in the United States is virtually non-existent doesn't derail Republicans in their quest to block access to the ballot box. Just this year, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission issued a report refuting the myth of fraud at polling places. "There is widespread but not unanimous agreement," the report concluded, "that there is little polling place fraud, or at least much less than is claimed, including voter impersonation, "dead" voters, noncitizen voting and felon voters."

The result is a host of new state laws advanced by Republicans with the transparent aim of suppressing the potential Democratic -- and especially black -- vote. As Perspectives reported previously, Georgia's onerous new voter ID card program requiring voters to visit one of the state's limited number of offices, [and] would have trimmed up to 150,000 people (primarily African-Americans and the elderly) from the rolls. (The bill's sponsor, Augusta Republican Sue Burmeister explained that when black voters in her black precincts "are not paid to vote, they don't go to the polls.") Versions of the Georgia law have been ruled unconstitutional twice by federal judge Harold Murphy. And while Indiana's new voter ID law and the milder version in Arizona have to date withstood judicial scrutiny, another measure in Missouri similar to that in Georgia has been blocked during the 2006 elections. In his rebuke to the state of Missouri, Judge Richard Callahan deemed the right to vote "a right and not a license."

(For much more detail on the Republicans' four-pronged jihad of redistricting, registration, voter ID and ballot-box fraud against potential Democratic voters, see "Divide, Suppress and Conquer.")

Ultimately, the Bush team's Prosecutor Purge may now finally be producing a backlash against the White House. Harriet Miers and Karl Rove may be called to testify before Congressional committees. Attorney General Gonzales may have lied under oath during his January 18, 2007 testimony that the Bush administration was committed to having a "presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed United States attorney." Gonzales' chief of staff Kyle Sampson, an architect of the prosecutor purge who warned his bosses to "prepare to withstand political

upheaval," resigned on Wednesday. (Senator Charles Schumer believes Sampson may well have obstructed justice by withholding his role from DOJ witnesses who testified before Congress last week.)

All of the mounting evidence gives lie to a statement Tuesday by White House spokeswoman Dana Perino. "We continue to believe," she said, "that the decision to remove and replace U.S. attorneys who serve at the pleasure of the president was perfectly appropriate and within our discretion."

Despite White House claims to the contrary, this controversy isn't about voter fraud. It's just about fraud, pure and simple.

<http://www.perspectives.com/blog/archives/000565.htm>

Firings Had Genesis in White House

Ex-Counsel Miers First Suggested Dismissing Prosecutors 2 Years Ago, Documents Show

By Dan Eggen and John Solomon
Washington Post Staff Writers
Tuesday, March 13, 2007

The White House suggested two years ago that the Justice Department fire all 93 U.S. attorneys, a proposal that eventually resulted in the dismissals of eight prosecutors last year, according to e-mails and internal documents that the administration will provide to Congress today.

The dismissals took place after President Bush told Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales in October that he had received complaints that some prosecutors had not energetically pursued voter-fraud investigations, according to a White House spokeswoman.

Gonzales approved the idea of firing a smaller group of U.S. attorneys shortly after taking office in February 2005. The aide in charge of the dismissals -- his chief of staff, D. Kyle Sampson -- resigned yesterday, officials said, after acknowledging that he did not tell key Justice officials about the extent of his communications with the White House, leading them to provide incomplete information to Congress.

Lawmakers requested the documents as part of an investigation into whether the firings were politically motivated. While it is unclear whether the documents, which were reviewed yesterday by The Washington Post, will answer Congress's questions, they show that the White House and other administration officials were more closely involved in the dismissals, and at a much earlier date, than they have previously acknowledged.

Seven U.S. attorneys were fired on Dec. 7 and another was fired months earlier, with little explanation from the Justice Department. Several former prosecutors have since alleged intimidation, including improper telephone calls from GOP lawmakers or their aides, and have alleged threats of retaliation by a Justice Department official.

Administration officials have portrayed the firings as a routine personnel matter, designed primarily to rid the department of a handful of poor performers.

But the documents and interviews indicate that the idea for the firings originated at least two years ago, when then-White House counsel Harriet E. Miers suggested to Sampson in February 2005 that all prosecutors be dismissed and replaced.

Gonzales rejected that idea as impractical and disruptive, Justice officials said, but over the next 22 months Sampson orchestrated more limited dismissals.

"I recommend that the Department of Justice and the Office of the Counsel to the President work together to seek the replacement of a limited number of U.S. Attorneys," Sampson wrote to Miers in January 2006. A "limited number of U.S. attorneys could be targeted for removal and replacement, mitigating the shock to the system that would result from an across the board firing."

Administration officials say they are braced for a new round of criticism today from lawmakers who may feel misled by recent testimony from Gonzales, Deputy Attorney General Paul J. McNulty and William E. Moschella, principal associate deputy attorney general. Several Democrats have called in recent days for Gonzales to resign.

White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said that "it doesn't appear the president was told about a list nor shown a list" of U.S. attorneys at any point in the discussions. She said White House political adviser Karl Rove had an early conversation with Miers about the idea of firing all chief prosecutors and did not think it was wise.

Bush mentioned complaints about voter-fraud investigations to Gonzales in a conversation in October 2006, Perino said. Gonzales does not recall the conversation, Justice Department officials said.

Bush "believes informally he may have mentioned it to the AG during the meeting discussing other matters," Perino said. "White House officials including the president did not direct DOJ to take any specific action with regards to any specific U.S. attorney."

Rove and other White House officials also forwarded complaints that U.S. attorneys were not doing enough to prosecute voter fraud.

Since the 2000 presidential election ended in dispute in Florida, Republicans have repeatedly raised concerns about possible voter fraud, alleging that convicted felons and other ineligible voters have been permitted to cast ballots to the benefit of Democrats.

Congressional committees yesterday requested that Rove testify before them about the firings; the House Judiciary Committee also requested that Miers appear.

The e-mails show that Rove was interested in the appointment of a former aide, [Tim Griffin](#), as an Arkansas prosecutor. Sampson wrote in one that "getting him appointed was important to Harriet, Karl, etc."

Sampson sent an e-mail to Miers in March 2005 that ranked all 93 U.S. attorneys. Strong performers "exhibited loyalty" to the administration; low performers were

"weak U.S. attorneys who have been ineffectual managers and prosecutors, chafed against Administration initiatives, etc." A third group merited no opinion.

At least a dozen prosecutors were on a "target list" to be fired at one time or another, the e-mails show.

Only three of those eventually fired were given low rankings: Margaret Chiara in Grand Rapids, Mich.; Bud Cummins in Little Rock; and Carol S. Lam in San Diego. Two were given strong evaluations: David C. Iglesias in Albuquerque, who has alleged political interference from GOP lawmakers, and Kevin V. Ryan in San Francisco, whose firing has generated few complaints because of widespread management and morale problems in his office.

Justice Department spokeswoman Tasia Scolinos said last night that Gonzales will announce new ways of evaluating U.S. attorneys, but said the department still believes the firings were "based on performance-related considerations."

In January 2006, Sampson sent to the White House the first list of seven candidates for dismissal, including four who were fired at year's end: Chiara, Cummins, Lam and Ryan. The list also recommended Griffin and other replacements, most of whom were edited from documents viewed by The Post.

In September, Sampson produced another list of firing candidates, telling the White House that Cummins was "in the process of being pushed out" and providing the names of eight others whom "we should consider pushing out." Five on that list were fired in December; the others were spared.

Iglesias, the New Mexico prosecutor, was not on that list.

Justice officials said Sampson added him in October, based in part on complaints from Sen. Pete V. Domenici and other New Mexico Republicans that he was not prosecuting enough voter-fraud cases.

Sampson also strongly urged bypassing Congress in naming replacements, using a little-known power slipped into the renewal of the USA Patriot Act in March 2006 that allows the attorney general to name interim replacements without Senate confirmation.

"I am only in favor of executing on a plan to push some USAs out if we really are ready and willing to put in the time necessary to select candidates and get them appointed," Sampson wrote in a Sept. 17 memo to Miers. "It will be counterproductive to DOJ operations if we push USAs out and then don't have replacements ready to roll immediately.

"I strongly recommend that as a matter of administration, we utilize the new statutory provisions that authorize the AG to make USA appointments," he wrote.

By avoiding Senate confirmation, Sampson added, "we can give far less deference to home state senators and thereby get 1.) our preferred person appointed and 2.) do it far faster and more efficiently at less political costs to the White House."

"Kyle thanks for this," Miers wrote back. "I have not forgotten I need to follow up on the info. But things have been crazy."

On the day of the Dec. 7 firings, Miers's deputy, William Kelley, wrote that Domenici's chief of staff "is happy as a clam" about Iglesias.

A week later, Sampson wrote: "Domenici is going to send over names tomorrow (not even waiting for Iglesias's body to cool)."

Miers resigned as White House counsel this January.

The documents also provide new details about the case of Griffin, a former Republican National Committee researcher who was named interim U.S. attorney in Little Rock in December.

E-mails show that Justice officials discussed bypassing the two Democratic senators in Arkansas, who normally would have had input into the appointment, as early as last August. By mid-December, Sampson was suggesting that Gonzales exercise his newfound appointment authority to put Griffin in place until the end of Bush's term.

"[I]f we don't ever exercise it then what's the point of having it?" Sampson wrote to a White House aide.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/12/AR2007031201818.html>

White House Said to Prompt Firing of Prosecutors

By DAVID JOHNSTON and ERIC LIPTON
The New York Times
March 13, 2007

WASHINGTON, March 12 — The White House was deeply involved in the decision late last year to dismiss federal prosecutors, including some who had been criticized by Republican lawmakers, administration officials said Monday.

Last October, President Bush spoke with Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to pass along concerns by Republicans that some prosecutors were not aggressively addressing voter fraud, the White House said Monday. Senator Pete V. Domenici, Republican of New Mexico, was among the politicians who complained directly to the president, according to an administration official.

The president did not call for the removal of any specific United States attorneys, said Dana Perino, a White House spokeswoman. She said she had "no indication" that the president had been personally aware that a process was already under way to identify prosecutors who would be fired.

But Ms Perino disclosed that White House officials had consulted with the Justice Department in preparing the list of United States attorneys who would be removed.

Within a few weeks of the president's comments to the attorney general, the Justice Department forced out seven prosecutors.

Previously, the White House had said that Mr. Bush's aides approved the list of prosecutors only after it was compiled.

The role of the president and his advisers in the prosecutor shakeup is likely to intensify calls by Congress for an investigation. It is the worst crisis of Mr. Gonzalez's tenure and provoked charges that the dismissals were a political purge threatening the historical independence of the Justice Department.

The idea of dismissing federal prosecutors originated in the White House more than a year earlier, White House and Justice officials said Monday.

In early 2005, Harriet E. Miers, then the White House legal counsel, asked a Justice Department official whether it would be feasible to replace all United States attorneys when their four-year terms expired, according to the Justice Department. The proposal came as the administration was considering which political appointees to replace in the second term, Ms. Perino said.

Ms. Miers sent her query to D. Kyle Sampson, a top aide to Mr. Gonzales, the Justice officials said. Mr. Sampson, who resigned Monday, replied that filling so many jobs at once would overtax the department. He suggested replacing a smaller group, according to e-mail messages and other memorandums compiled by the Justice Department.

Karl Rove, the senior White House adviser, also had rejected the idea of replacing all the prosecutors, Ms. Perino said. But as Ms. Miers worked with Mr. Sampson on devising a list of attorneys to oust, Mr. Rove relayed to her complaints he had received that the Justice Department was not moving aggressively on voter fraud cases.

The White House continued to defend its handling of the dismissals.

"We continue to believe that the decision to remove and replace U.S. attorneys who serve at the pleasure of the president was perfectly appropriate and within our discretion," Ms. Perino said.

"We stand by the Department of Justice assertion that they identified the seven U.S. attorneys who were removed, as they have said, based on performance and managerial reasons."

On Monday Congressional Democrats demanded more information from the White House about the ousters, calling on Mr. Rove to testify about any discussions he had had about federal prosecutors. Senator Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of New York, said he would seek a subpoena for Mr. Rove's testimony if he did not appear voluntarily.

Justice Department officials have said they removed the United States attorney in Arkansas earlier last year to make room for a Republican Party lawyer and onetime adviser to Mr. Rove.

In the other cases, though, the department at first denied that the dismissals were performance related, and then said they were, citing managerial problems, lack of aggressiveness and conflicts over seeking the death penalty or enforcing immigration laws.

Justice Department officials said Monday that they had only learned recently about Mr. Sampson's extensive e-mail and memos with Ms. Miers about the

prosecutors. The communications were discovered Thursday when Mr. Sampson turned over the material to officials who were assembling documents in response to Congressional requests.

The documents did not provide a clear motive for the firings. Some suggested that department officials were dissatisfied with specific prosecutors, but none cited aggressive public corruption inquiries or failure to pursue voter fraud cases as an explicit reason to remove them.

On Dec. 4, 2006, three days before the dismissals, Mr. Sampson sent an e-mail message to the White House with a copy to Ms. Miers outlining plans to carry out the firings

“We would like to execute this on Thursday, Dec. 7,” Mr. Sampson wrote. Because some United States attorneys were still in Washington attending a conference, he planned to postpone telling them they were being fired. He wrote, “We want to wait until they are back home and dispersed to reduce chatter.”

Mr. Sampson predicted that dismissals might stir debate. “Prepare to Withstand Political Upheaval,” he wrote in describing what to expect as a result of the firings. “U.S. Attorneys desiring to save their jobs aided by their allies in the political arena as well as the Justice Department community, likely will make efforts to preserve themselves in office. You should expect these efforts to be strenuous.”

Mr. Rove’s role in expressing concerns about prosecutors had emerged in recent days. The White House acknowledged Sunday that Mr. Rove had passed on complaints to Mr. Gonzales and Ms. Miers about David C. Iglesias, who was dismissed as the United States attorney in New Mexico. Mr. Rove’s role surfaced after the McClatchy Newspapers reported that a Republican Party official in New Mexico had complained to Mr. Rove in 2005 and again a year later about Mr. Iglesias’s failure to indict Democrats in a voter fraud investigation.

Concern about voter registration fraud turned political in several states in 2004 where there were close elections, including some lost narrowly by Republican candidates. In New Mexico, for example, complaints from Republicans poured in, including some from Representative Heather Wilson and Mr. Domenici, after President Bush narrowly lost to Senator John Kerry that year, and some voters claimed that they had been unable to participate because someone had illegally voted on their behalf. The narrow loss by a Republican in the Washington State governor’s race in 2004 produced similarly politically pointed charges.

An associate of Mr. Rove said Monday that although he had learned in November that the prosecutors were being replaced, his conversation with Allen Weh, the Republican Party chairman in New Mexico, and subsequently with Mr. Gonzales, were brief exchanges at holiday parties and that they occurred after Dec. 7, when Mr. Iglesias and six other prosecutors were dismissed.

John McKay, the ousted United States attorney in Seattle, said last week while in Washington to testify before Congress that White House lawyers interviewing him for a possible federal judgeship had asked him why he had “mishandled” an investigation into voter fraud allegations in his state following the 2004 elections.

House and Senate investigators have already made clear that they want to examine exactly what role the White House, Mr. Sampson, Ms. Miers (who left the

administration in January), Mr. Rove and other senior officials played in the matter. Last week, six of the fired prosecutors testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Officials said Mr. Sampson, who once worked at the Bush White House interviewing candidates for United States attorney, was largely behind the effort at the Justice Department.

This week, the United States attorney dispute will be aired on the Senate floor during debate over legislation to roll back a provision of the antiterrorism law that allows President Bush to appoint interim United States attorneys indefinitely.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/13/washington/13attorneys.html?hp>

INTERVIEW: David Becker, Former Senior Attorney, US Department of Justice Speaks to David Brancaccio

BRANCACCIO: Welcome to NOW. The election year is just around the corner and it's time ask the question, how safe is your right to vote? Over the past few years we've been reporting on the various ways your vote can be suppressed: Everything from problems with voting machines to voter identification laws. Stay with me to meet former Justice Department official David Becker. He saw from the inside just what the government was doing or not doing to protect every citizen's right to vote. Now a voting rights activist, Becker is concerned about 2008 and says the government is part of the problem.

BRANCACCIO: Well, David Becker, thanks for joining us.

BECKER: It's my pleasure, Dave.

BRANCACCIO: How are we doing, America as a beacon of democracy?

BECKER: Well, the short answer is not so great, unfortunately. There have been problems with voters being intentionally disenfranchised. Vote suppression is still going on. And it is having a substantial impact on not just actual elections, but also, the confidence of our citizens in those elections and the results of those elections.

BRANCACCIO: You have to explain to me how some of this works. And let's go through some of it. For instance, one part of it is requiring voter photo identification. Increasingly, states are asking for this. A lot of it is in court. The idea here is to stop people who are not supposed to vote. For instance, in many states, parolees aren't supposed to vote—from voting. There's nothing wrong with that part of it, right?

BECKER: No. Of course, only eligible voters should vote. But one of the things that we have discovered and countless studies have confirmed is that we actually have a fairly honest citizenry when it comes to voting. And they—people take voting pretty seriously. The Bush Justice Department even initiated a special ballot integrity initiative to try to find out whether people were committing voter fraud, pretending to be someone else when they voted, voting when they were ineligible. And over the course of about four years, they discovered only two dozen instances of that kind of voter impersonation fraud.

BRANCACCIO: But are you kidding me? I mean, I turn on AM radio. And I'm constantly hearing—people venting about the perceived problem of all this fraud at the polls nationwide.

BECKER: And sadly, it's an invented problem, because if the extreme right wingers who have tried to promote this kind of idea didn't have this potential threat, they couldn't come up with this unnecessary solution of things like voter I.D. which restrict access to the toll—to the polls and, ultimately, do disenfranchise eligible voters who otherwise would be able to cast a ballot and have it counted.

BRANCACCIO: Well, it's interesting to explore this. Because on its face, you say, "So what?" Ask people to have a photo I.D. so they can vote. In fact, in 2006, we were in Georgia, a state that had passed a voter I.D. law—though it was bound up in court. We met a wonderful woman by the name of Rosa Laster. She was in her late eighties at the time we spoke with her. And it was not a trivial undertaking for her to try to get to a place to get an official I.D. so she could vote.

[NOW on PBS - September 1, 2006]

HINOJOSA: Laster, a retired nurse, has lived in Plains all her life and for years, she's been able to vote close to home without a photo I.D. But now, in order to get an ID, she'd have to go 11 miles away to Americus, the county seat.

And that, she says, could be really tough. The closest relative who could drive her lives four hours away.

LASTER: I would have to get somebody to take me over there, bring me back. And then I'd have to pay them. And sometimes, you don't have the money.

BRANCACCIO: You meet a person like that. But still, you will hear the rejoinder that society isn't asking too much to ask even someone like Rosa Laster to figure out a way to get the photo I.D.

BECKER: We're not used to—to seeing people who don't have photo I.D. I mean, you and I carry it in our daily lives. We both live in big cities. However, about one out of every eight people in this country, citizens, do not have photo I.D. And one of the reasons for that is it's not just the trouble of getting the photo I.D. But, in order to get a photo I.D. in most of these states, you need back up documentation to prove you are who you say you are. You need a birth certificate. You need a passport. These things cost a lot of money.

It's essentially a poll tax. To take people who are living on very tight budgets and say, "You have to spend \$50 on a birth certificate, \$95 on a passport, to go and be able to get the kind of I.D. to—take advantage of the most fundamental right in our democracy, the most fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution, right to vote."

BRANCACCIO: Who's affected most when the requirements go up for I.D. to cast your ballot?

BECKER: These laws disproportionately impact minority communities, student communities, elderly communities and the poor. These are the people who are least likely to have I.D. Between 140,000 and 170,000 Missouri citizens, eligible

voters, did not have the photo I.D. necessary in order to cast a ballot in Missouri. Similarly, in Georgia, some independent academics reviewed the data and determined that 300,000 Georgia citizens did not have the photo I.D. necessary in order to cast a ballot under the new laws in Georgia. I don't think there could be much disagreement that disenfranchising 150,000, 300,000 of your fellow citizens just in one state is—is a way to go about building a democracy.

BRANCACCIO: There are legal fights about voter I.D. across the country. The big case could be resolved next year when the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on Indiana's photo identification requirement. Indiana is one of two states with especially strict I.D. rules. If it's upheld by the high court [NOTE: It was], other states could pass similar laws in time for the presidential election.

BECKER: I urge everyone to keep a close eye on that. It could have a very big impact on this election. And I hope the Supreme Court recognizes—especially after—the—the fiasco of Bush v. Gore and some of the credibility issues the court had shortly thereafter that these—these decisions they make aren't being made in a vacuum. They affect real people's ability to go out and dictate who is going to govern them. And that matters.

BRANCACCIO: Voter I.D. And then, there's this I.D. that has a weird name. It's called voter caging. My team and I looked into this this summer. The idea is—in this case, the Republican Party—sends out nice little letters to registered voters. And if those letters come back as Not Delivered, the idea is to use that returned letter as evidence of why someone should get their name struck off the voter rolls. Let's take a look.

[NOW on PBS - July 27, 2007]

BRANCACCIO: Documents have surfaced showing that in 2004, the republicans put in motion a plan to hold down the democratic vote in key battleground states. As more detail becomes known, many are convinced that republican officials broke the law by aiming to disqualify voters based on race.

GREG PALAST: This is a big problem in America. We're still asking today, nearly half a century after Martin Luther King was killed, do black people have the right to vote?

Here's how it worked. The Republican Party sent these newly registered voters a friendly welcome letter. It began, "Congratulations!" But what the Republicans really wanted to see was whether that letter could be delivered. If a letter could not be delivered, the name was added to a list of people the Republicans planned to stop as they tried to vote. What seemed like an innocuous piece of junk mail was really a test.

BRANCACCIO: Behind the scenes, Republican officials were delighted. NOW was able to obtain some of their e-mail.

[NOTE: Please See "Voter Caging Documents" Links Below]

In one, an official calls the returned letters, "a goldmine." In another, officials discuss doing the same thing in other battleground states, including, Nevada, Florida, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico.

In Ohio, the Republicans eventually put together a list of 35,000 people to stop on Election Day.

BRANCACCIO: That's voter caging. But, related to that is—something that many people haven't thought about before. It's called voter purging. How does that work?

BECKER: Basically, what the D.O.J. has been doing in recent years—is to go into jurisdiction states and tell them—for instance, "You have more voters on your registration list than the census estimates are eligible to vote currently right now." They then force the jurisdiction to go through their list and to start engaging in a program where they're going to literally take off ten, sometimes hundreds of thousands of voters off of those lists. And inevitably include some voters who are eligible who still need to vote and who often don't know that they're being removed from these lists.

BRANCACCIO: What happens to them when they show up at the polls to vote? They thought they were registered.

BECKER: The poll workers tell them they're not on the rolls—not through any fault of their own. And—they're given a provisional ballot. It's kept separate, in a separate envelope. But ultimately, if these people aren't on the rolls, that provisional ballot's not gonna be counted.

BRANCACCIO: So, you had the U.S. Justice Department saying to states—in some cases, threatening to sue states—in some cases, suing states?

BECKER: Yeah.

BRANCACCIO: "Clean up those voter registration lists." And you're saying that's probably gonna catch a whole bunch of legitimate voters and cancel their right on election day?

BECKER: That's exactly right. And ironically, it's coming out of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, the Voting Section there where I used to work—which has traditionally been the place where the traditionally disenfranchised knew they had lawyers fighting for them to make sure they would be able to cast a ballot.

BRANCACCIO: Ever since President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act - considered the legislative crown jewel of the Civil Rights Movement - the U.S. Justice Department has had expanded powers to protect minorities from discriminatory voting laws.

Becker thought he had landed his dream job when he joined Justice in 1998. But he says things changed radically when the Bush Administration came in and changed the way voting laws were enforced.

BRANCACCIO: You saw some of this while you were still at the Justice Department, the beginning of the shift?

BECKER: Sure, yeah. I—I—

BRANCACCIO: Really? How does it play out?

BECKER: Well, every administration has a right to set its priorities. There—and—and—and a realignment on priorities is often legitimate. I think in this administration, we saw something quite different. We saw a complete subversion of the—of the traditional mission of the Justice Department. For instance, during about a five-year span, not one single case was brought on behalf of African-Americans in—in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division. There has never been a span like that in the history of the voting section.

This isn't just a partisan issue. This isn't Republican, Democrat. There have been Republican administrations where even though priorities might have been reassessed, enforcement of the law was always done on a non-partisan basis. Now, they might have philosophical differences from other administrations. Progressives and Democrats are usually viewed as being a little more activist in their enforcement of the laws. And conservatives and Republicans are usually viewed as being a little more states rights and not being quite as activist.

But, you wouldn't see policies being established which, on the one hand, favored Republicans. And yet, when the same thing happened, they would—they would choose the path that disfavored Democrats. And that's what started happening in this—in this administration.

You'd see a redistricting plan that was drawn by Democrats. And you'd see this administration very much go after the redistricting plan and try to prove that it violated the Voting Rights Act. Whereas a redistricting plan that was drawn by Republicans would come before the voting section. And you'd see a very hands off approach.

That should be very troubling to people. 'Cause I would hope that people of both parties would want to make sure that if the other party was in power, they weren't gaming the system to make sure that their party was going to remain in power.

BRANCACCIO: Becker wasn't the only attorney who was unhappy at Justice. Since 2005, over half of the career lawyers in the Department's voting section have left.

BECKER: A lot of this, fortunately, has come out now thanks to the U.S. attorney scandal and Con—

BRANCACCIO: Yeah, big scandal of the year. There are these—many of the Republican U.S. attorneys who are on the record now as saying they were pressured into finding evidence and prosecuting cases of voter fraud. And in many jurisdictions, they couldn't really find many.

BRANCACCIO: One of those prosecutors was David Iglesias, the former U.S. attorney from New Mexico... whom we spoke to this past summer.

[NOW on PBS - July 27, 2007]

BRANCACCIO: Iglesias says his task force could not find a single case of voter fraud worth prosecuting. State Republican officials were so angry,

they complained to senior White House aide Karl Rove. A short time later, Iglesias got the boot.

IGLESIAS: What really scarred the party was the election of 2000, in which the President lost the popular vote, but won the Presidency through litigation and I believe there was an attempt to not ever let this happen again. And win by any means, legal or otherwise. It's reprehensible, it's unethical, it's unlawful. It very well may be criminal.

BECKER: This was someone who—his career could have skyrocketed if he had just done what his higher ups had wanted. But, un—but, fortunately, for all of us, he felt his higher duty. And his duty was to enforcing the law. And he knew there were no prosecutions to be had here. And there were no—there was no violations of the law.

BECKER: I think this has been largely the conclusion of Congress as well—Republicans and Democrats—that the D.O.J. especially under Alberto—Alberto Gonzalez—was being used as an arm of the right wing of the Republican party to effectuate partisan gains in elections.

BRANCACCIO: Let's drill down a bit on this issue of partisanship. You work for People for the American Way, a liberal organization. And there are some people who watch this and see your words and your work as really a strategy to get Democrats elected. The idea being, Republicans are always screaming voter fraud. Democrats are always screaming voter disenfranchisement. But really, it's just a tactic.

BECKER: This is not about getting Democrats elected. It's not about getting Republicans elected. If the vast majority of people in this country wanna vote for one political party over another, they should be able to. And they should be able to express their opinions at the polls without fear of intimidation or suppression. And unfortunately, we don't have that right now. Because there is—there are elements of the Republican party at least who are actively engaged in a—overall scheme to minimize the number of votes of people that they don't think they can convince to vote for them.

There is a cynical element out there who's promoting these restrictive laws that find it easy to dismiss people and just say, "Oh, they're just liberals. You can dismiss them." And simply, it's just not true. The fact of the matter is during my career at the Justice Department, I sued Democrats far more than I sued Republicans. I—my—

BRANCACCIO: What? In cases involving how they drew district lines?

BECKER: Redistricting, other potentially discriminatory practices on—regarding voter registration and things of the sort. My former chief of the Voting Section—who worked for 36 years in the Civil Rights Division, wor—worked for Richard Nixon, worked for—President Ford, President Reagan, President—Bush's father—as well as Clinton and Carter. He worked for all those years. It was this administration that drove him out of the Civil Rights Division. Because no longer could he enforce the laws in a way that was even handed with regard to both parties. And similarly for me, that—that was—that was a real concern of mine. And I would no sooner have enforced the law to the benefit of the Democratic Party—than I would for the Republican Party.

BRANCACCIO: Now, let's talk about voting machines. A lotta people very worried about, for instance, electronic voting and even non-electronic voting. and there have been moves by the federal government to promote more modern technology at America's polling places. Yet, even by the midterm elections in 2006, they were still problems. We happened to be in Michigan with the NOW camera crew watching as they were trying out some machines. Let's take a look.

[NOW on PBS - September 8, 2006]

BRANCACCIO: Just a few minutes after our arrival it became clear that things were off to an interesting start.

RANCELLI: I'm not sure why this is happening

BRANCACCIO: A couple of election officials have run into a snag with one of the new voting machines. It's called the Automark and was designed specifically to help disabled people vote.

The two workers try to run a few test ballots, but can't get the machine to work.

LARRY: "Print validation failed."

RANCELLI: That's because your ballot jammed again coming out.

BRANCACCIO: In the end, no luck. Going into the primaries, election officials had been apprehensive about this machine.

BRANCACCIO: How big a problem is this issue of voting machines?

BECKER: They still pose a significant problem, I'd say. I think that—we are still seeing problems in the election technology that we're using, being able to properly count and then—justify the counts through audits and other means.

BRANCACCIO: Are you for a paper trail, for instance, when you vote?

BECKER: Absolutely. I think that there has to be some kind of permanent record of a ballot. I mean, we saw real problems with that in 2006, probably most notably, in Sarasota County, Florida where in the 13th Congressional District there, a seat that Katherine Harris was vacating -

BRANCACCIO: The Katherine Harris from the 2000 vote count in the Presidential election?

BECKER: A—absolutely. These things keep coming back, it appears. And—

BRANCACCIO: And that was a very close election.

BECKER: Very close. An open seat election, very tightly contested, undoubtedly the most tightly contested election in that area. And yet, the electronic voting machines there, the touch screen machines, did not record 18,000 votes in that race. And keep in mind, this was a race that was ultimately decided by 369 votes.

It was that close. Congress is currently investigating it. There are law suits going on investigating it. Had they had a paper record, we might have a better way of determining who the real winner in that race was. As it stands—the people of Sarasota County and the 13th Congressional District have to be very—curious as to whether or not the person that they truly elected is representing them in Congress right now.

BRANCACCIO: So, in the end, are you worried that the problems are so widespread that next year's Presidential election could really get stolen?

BECKER: Stolen might be a strong word. But, when you see circumstances like we saw in Ohio, where there were an insufficient number of voting machines in precincts with large numbers of black voters compared to white voters in places like Franklin County, Ohio and voters, disproportionately African-Americans voters, waiting in long lines to get to the polls, and having to leave without casting a ballot.

When you see people being stationed in areas where they think there are gonna be large numbers of Hispanics voters and racially profiling voters without regard to whether they actually know whether they are a citizen or not to try to intimidate them before they get into the polls. Yes, it can effect the—the outcome of an election. And it's anti-democratic behavior. And we should be outraged by it. And we should be fighting it.

BRANCACCIO: Well, you say people should be outraged. Can they do anything else?

BECKER: It's incumbent upon all of us, unfortunately, in this environment, to do whatever we can, be in contact with our registrars and county election officials to make sure we're on the rolls, make sure we verify where our polling place is. I encourage everyone—every voter, do not take your status as a voter for granted. People are out there trying to target you based upon who they think you're going to vote for.

BRANCACCIO: Well David Becker, Democracy Campaign, People for the American Way. Thank you very much.

BECKER: Thank you, David.

<http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/348.html>

VOTER CAGING DOCUMENTS:

Emails Between National Republican Party Headquarters and Ohio State Republican Party Offices about Plans to Challenge Voters in Ohio

<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/330/DNC-Memo-RNC-emails.pdf>

List of People in Cleveland, Ohio, who Republicans Planned to Stop on Election Day 2004

<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/330/DNC-Memo-list.pdf>

VIDEO: PBS Reports on the Above Caging Documents

David Brancaccio hosts for NOW in a segment entitled "Voter Caging and Housing Works"

While Attorney General Alberto Gonzales refused to answer many questions about the controversy as he testified before the Senate this week, [targeted US Attorney David] Iglesias told NOW he believes the White House is keeping documents from Congress to protect the Bush Administration. "That's why there has been such a circling of the wagons around Karl Rove and Harriet Miers and Sarah Taylor. I believe there to be incriminating, possibly criminally incriminating evidence contained in those e-mails and other memoranda," he said.

<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/330/index.html>

VIDEO: **David Iglesias, Former United States Attorney, Speaks with Greg Palast**

Mr. Iglesias, the Republican son of Baptist Missionaries, and a Judge Advocate (JAG) in the US Navy -- **Tom Cruise played him opposite Jack Nicholson in "A Few Good Men"** -- went on to become one of the United States Attorneys taken out by Karl Rove and Alberto Gonzalez in their efforts to intimidate voters. After this scam was revealed, both Gonzalez and Rove were forced to resign.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbf0MsK4lr0#>

INTERVIEW: **David Iglesias, Former United States Attorney, Speaks with NOW**

NOW: As the U.S. Attorney of New Mexico you were asked to investigate and prosecute instances of voter fraud. What was the nature of this alleged voter fraud?

DAVID IGLESIAS (DI): I was aware that the Justice Department was interested in having U.S. attorneys investigate and prosecute voter fraud going back to 2002. In New Mexico, I wasn't really aware of that being a potential large scale issue until the summer of 2004. So I set up a taskforce in September 2004 to investigate. I made it state, local and federal law enforcement, and I had made sure that the FBI was involved, and that the Justice Department, public integrity section in Washington was involved. I made sure that there were both Democrat and Republican officials as part of this voter fraud effort because I wanted to allay the fears of New Mexicans that this was some kind of partisan witch hunt.

NOW: And did you find prosecutable cases?

DI: No. We looked at well over 100 cases ... Upon reviewing the evidence and looking at the FBI reports, and actually talking to the FBI agent in charge of this, I concluded, as did the public integrity section at main Justice [Department] and at the local FBI office, that we didn't have any prosecutable cases.

NOW: Clearly, voter fraud is a crime. When do efforts to ferret out those few offenders cross the line into something more inappropriate where you are engaging in an effort to strike legitimate voters from the rolls?

DI: Are you putting pressure on the U.S. Attorneys to try to file indictments immediately before an election? If so, that is inappropriate. In fact, there's a longstanding policy in the Justice Department to not do that. And it appears, in some districts, there was pressure put on us to engage in unlawful activities. And that is not what the Justice Department stands for.

NOW: One press account described it as, "A misuse of power of the Department of Justice in the service of the Republican Party." Do you agree?

DI: I think that handsomely covers the issue, yet.

NOW: You said the Justice Department made it clear that if the U.S. Attorneys believed there was voter fraud than you needed to investigate and prosecute it. How did they make that clear?

"... there was pressure put on us to engage in unlawful activities."

DI: This refers to emails that we received with memoranda attached to them in the fall of 2002, 2004 and then again in 2006. [They] admonished U.S. Attorneys to work closely with election officials to offer assistance and investigate and prosecute what appeared to be voter fraud cases.

NOW: Was there any explanation ever given as to why there was this interest?

DI: No, there was no explanation. I had assumed that was the historic practice of the Justice Department. But I subsequently learned that this administration has made it a priority.

NOW: So you're saying prosecuting cases of voter fraud is not something that traditionally has been high on the list of priorities for U.S. attorneys in New Mexico or elsewhere in the country?

DI: That's correct. You have to understand there are approximately 4,000 federal criminal laws and we're tasked to enforce them all ... it's impossible to enforce every possible law. So every administration has to come up with a list of priorities and this was a priority every two years during the election cycle for the Bush Administration.

NOW: It wasn't only officials at the Department of Justice who were expressing an interest in pursuing such cases. You were getting requests from other individuals, correct?

DI: That's correct. In fact, there was a Republican attorney, Pat Rogers, who was a prominent local attorney who tried to pressure me to come up with cases. He would send emails to my assistant, who I had tasked with running this election fraud taskforce ... And I had lunch with Mr. Rogers last fall and he expressed his concern about what he believed to be this systemic, ongoing election fraud. I did not know at the time that he belonged to an organization called the American Center for Voting Rights. He did not disclose to me that he was representing any other interest. And I've also found out that the Republican Party was very interested in stamping out what it believed to be instances of voter fraud.

NOW: The State Republican Party or the National Republican Party?

DI: Both. But who contacted me or some of my assistants was the State Republican Party.

NOW: What interest would they have in seeing you pursue cases of voter fraud?

DI: If they believe there to be prosecutable cases, it obviously sends a strong message. You don't violate federal criminal laws. But I do understand there are some allegations that, in battleground states such as New Mexico, prosecuting even a few cases sends a very strong message and could actually result in suppressing minority voting.

It was never made that blunt. It was never that clearly presented to me. And a lot of this I'm reconstructing since leaving office on March 1 [2007].

NOW: What was the nature of the allegations that Rogers and other state GOP officials that you heard from or had contact with?

DI: They singled out ACORN [Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now] as an entity that they thought was engaging in this systemic election fraud. Specifically, they believed there to be a plan to register individuals who were not legally entitled to vote. Under-aged people, people who perhaps were felons, people who perhaps were not American citizens.

But it was generally that there were people voting who did not have the legal right to vote. And that may skew the result. And I believe this to be as a direct result of Al Gore's razor thin victory over George Bush in 2000.

NOW: Remind us of what happened in the 2000 election in your state?

DI: Al Gore won New Mexico by a very small margin. If memory serves me, it was approximately 344 votes. It was the smallest margin of victory of any of the 50 states. I distinctly recall hearing among Republican Party activists, there was a belief that George Bush actually won the 2000 election [in New Mexico]. And that somehow Gore stole the election. So I think there was this belief that let's not let this happen again. That's what I believe to be the genesis of them attempting to put pressure on me to find prosecutable cases.

NOW: In one press account you're quoted as characterizing Mr. Rogers' interest in this issue as "obsessive."

DI: Yes. I was aware of grumbling within the State Republican Party. I had friends of mine who were attorneys. One was a former federal prosecutor himself and he would tell me during the course of early 2005 through mid-2006 ... "The Republicans are still upset with you. They still expect you to prosecute cases."

So I knew there was this belief that was I intentionally not prosecuting prosecutable cases. And I knew Rogers, as a prominent Republican, who had actually represented the State Republican Party in some civil litigation related to the voter ID issue ... I knew he was interested in the issue. And then I was also aware of the emails and phone calls he had been leaving with my assistant, who I had tasked with prosecuting this. So I knew there was a tremendous amount of dissatisfaction of me not prosecuting any cases.

What I believed, however, was consistent with historic practice—that the Justice Department would insulate me from any partisan political pressure. As it turns out, they didn't do that. And that was one of the bases for forcing my resignation.

"There appears to be a growing body of evidence that suggests that there's voter suppression going on throughout the country."

NOW: it was face-to-face conversations with people like Mr. Rogers or the buzz out there about you from your critics, did any of these conversations or any of these criticisms ever make you feel uncomfortable or pressured?

DI: That's a hard question to answer. It made me angry because I knew what we were doing. And I kept asking myself, "How can they possibly criticize me when they don't know the evidence. They've not looked at the evidence. They've not looked at the FBI reports. I have." Why would they think that a Bush appointee—who had run for public office—I had ran for state attorney general—would intentionally not prosecute a righteous case? That the one thing that I never understood. But I think in their zeal and their obsession for getting anything indicted, they let their theories get in the way of the facts and get in the way of the evidence, which they only knew a very small portion of.

NOW: In retrospect, do you believe they were rightly motivated or do you believe they were motivated by partisan politics?

DI: They were clearly partisan. I can't reach into their minds and tell you what they were thinking but I am very disturbed to read accounts of what appears to be "voter caging" in Arkansas and other parts of the country. There appears to be a growing body of evidence that suggests that there's voter suppression going on throughout the country. I'm not sure if that happened in New Mexico. All I know is there was an attempted pressure put on me by local Republicans to indict voter fraud cases. I resisted that. I thought I was going to be protected by the Bush Justice Department and I was wrong in that assumption.

NOW: Did any state Republicans complain to the White House about you?

DI: They did ... I believe they spoke to Karl Rove. I know that Senator Pete Domenici called and complained to President Bush about my alleged lack of zealousness in voter fraud issues. But I didn't know any of this until after I left office. The hearings have resulted in thousands of pages of documents and emails and what not. And I've been able to find out what was going on behind my back.

NOW: Why do you think you were fired from your position?

DI: I've maintained from day one for illicit, partisan political reasons. Specifically not coming up with voter fraud cases, number one. And number two not rushing forward indictments involving prominent Democrats during the election cycle. And thirdly, and this is a possible, since the evidence, it hasn't rolled out yet. But my reserve military duty being gone from the office a lot, I was called an absentee landlord. I believe it's a combination of those three reasons.

NOW: How would you characterize the act of enlisting a U.S. attorney in activities that will benefit a political party at the polls?

DI: It's reprehensible. It's unethical. It's unlawful. It very well may be criminal ... I know it's a marked departure from prior administrations, both Republican and Democrat, who understood that U.S. attorneys, as chief federal law enforcement officials, have to stay out of politics. And that's consistent with what Former Attorney General John Ashcroft told me in the summer of 2001. When he said, "Politics cannot enter into your decision making as a US attorney."

NOW: Where do you believe it went off the rails?

"That's why there has been such a circling of the wagons around Karl Rove and Harriet Miers and Sarah Taylor. I believe there to be incriminating, possibly criminally incriminating evidence contained in those e-mails and other memoranda."

DI: Once Alberto Gonzales took over from Ashcroft, I don't think he ever fully understood that his role as the Attorney General was for the United States of America, that his client was the American public. It wasn't serving the needs of the President. I think that's where the train left the rails.

NOW: Do you think the problems surrounding the U.S. attorneys' firings, as well as what we're learning about some of these voter suppression efforts has tainted the party?

DI: It's tainted the party and it's tainted the Justice Department, which is a real shame. It's a tragedy because, for many years, the only agency that really had a standing as the untouchable agency from partisan politics was the Justice Department. And unfortunately, what's happened over the passed couple of years has tarred it with a very, very ugly brush ... It's a serious problem. The American people have the right to believe that "prosecutive" decisions are made on the basis of evidence alone. And right now, that's called into question.

Every president has the right to set their priorities. But they have to stay within the rules. I mean, this entire scandal in one sense is about the rule of law. And this sordid affair was an attempt to use the power of the Justice Department in an unethical and unlawful way.

NOW: Trying to use the office of a U.S. Attorney for partisan political purposes is unethical. But you're saying it is actually illegal?

DI: Right. That's why there has been such a circling of the wagons around Karl Rove and Harriet Miers and Sarah Taylor. I believe there to be incriminating, possibly criminally incriminating evidence contained in those e-mails and other memoranda. That's why the White House doesn't want to produce it to Congress.

<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/330/david-iglesias.html>

INTERVIEW: Bud Cummins, Former United States Attorney
Speaks with Maria Hinojosa

This week, Maria Hinojosa speaks with Bud Cummins, a former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, who was one of eight federal prosecutors fired by the Justice Department. Cummins, a Republican, shares his beliefs on the involvement of senior administration officials, the credibility and morale problems of the Justice Department, and the tenuous future of the Patriot Act.

Interview Excerpts:

"They [the fired federal prosecutors] don't deserve to be slandered in this way. They should be commended for their service and if the President wants to go in a different direction for whatever reason that's his legal right. Now he can defend those decisions to Congress however he wants but he can't make things up. And that's what's happened here."

"The Chief of Staff of the Deputy Attorney General, Mike Elston, called me... and he said if this controversy continues to be stirred up, the [Justice] Department is going to be put in a position where they're likely going to have to roll out more embarrassing information to justify these decisions."

"It's painful for me to have to take my own party and my own former colleagues to task, but they're just simply wrong on this. There's an issue of right and wrong, and it's not political."

"Will Moschella [Associate Deputy Attorney General] described a deliberative committee performance review process that had taken place of all the U.S. Attorneys. If anything even resembling the process that he described to Congress had taken place, there would be a stack of memos a mile high ... The memo hasn't been produced because it doesn't exist because such an exercise never took place."

"My mom is 80 years old, and she's just afraid that her boy —someone's going to paint a target on his back. And if I become too much of an annoyance that one of these guys may try to take me out. And frankly, they have already, you know, in subtle and not so subtle ways, tried to discredit me to the media and say things."

About Bud Cummins:

Bud Cummins served as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas from 2001 to December 2006. Before taking the federal prosecutor's job, Cummins served as Gov. Mike Huckabee's chief legal counsel in 1997.

In 1996, he ran for the 2nd District congressional seat representing central Arkansas, but was beaten by Democrat Vic Snyder, who still holds the post. Cummins obtained his J.D. from the University of Arkansas law school.

Cummins is currently working as a consultant for a bio-fuel company.

HINOJOSA: The news this week is all about the eight fired U.S. Attorneys. And we're joined by one of those former federal prosecutors, a newsmaker himself, even though he didn't choose to be one. We're speaking with Bud Cummins of Arkansas. Welcome to our program, Bud.

CUMMINS: Thank you, Maria.

HINOJOSA: Bud, your reaction to news that the discussion about the removal of—the federal prosecutors actually was taking place with Karl Rove and Alberto Gonzales before the White House had actually admitted that this was taking place. What's your reaction?

CUMMINS: From my perspective, it—it's most important because it is just another piece of evidence that the assertions that my seven colleagues were terminated for performance reasons is an absolute lie. And it is embarrassing to me that for whatever reason, the Attorney General of the United States, the Deputy Attorney General, who was a U.S. Attorney with all eight of us, who—and who should know better—and who absolutely does know better—would for whatever reason still be clinging onto this notion and this suggestion that there were somehow performance issues on the table when these decisions were made. Karl Rove is not a person who is in a position to make a call about performance of a United States Attorney. And so if he—the more he was involved in these decisions, is just stronger evidence that the decisions were made for other reasons. But performance isn't one of 'em. They've slandered these people's professional reputations.

An admission now that performance probably was not a significant factor in these decisions, really would not worsen their position in any measurable way. And it is beyond me why people on my team—these are Republicans, these are people in the Department of Justice who I served with proudly for five years—it is beyond me that they seem to be unable to at least right the wrong that they've committed against these seven people.

HINOJOSA: Bud Cummins, I need you to help us understand what it means when yourself, a Republican, former federal prosecutor, and you are prepared to say flat out that the U.S. Attorney General is a liar.

CUMMINS: What I don't know is exactly how much truth he knows about the lies that he has continued to—perpetuate. He's apparently surrounded himself with a—a lot of little political mischief-makers who probably had no business in these important positions at the Department to begin with. And I think the problem now is—it's hard for me to hold the President of the United States responsible, for instance, for this because it looks to me like all the people that he's getting direct advice from and he's relying on to tell him about what happened here, are the very people who are trying to keep themselves outta trouble for their role in it.

And so I think if he could see beyond their briefings to know that the seven people that I'm talking about—and—and I separate myself because they've admitted the truth in my case, that I asked was to leave so that another person could serve in my place. And they were within their legal discretion to ask me to leave. They asked me to leave. I left. And they're pretty squared away in my case.

But they never admitted whatever the other reasons were in the other seven cases, and tried to just lump them all together as performance-related decisions. And as recently as yesterday, I saw where Karl Rove gave a speech and tried to—ratify that suggestion once more. And—and that's just simply not true. And he knows it. And I'm—Paul McNulty, the Deputy Attorney General, knows it, because he has enough direct experience in this business to look at the list of reasons that—that they have recited to the Congress, and know that on their face they don't hold water.

HINOJOSA: So when Karl Rove in fact says, "Look, the previous Administration fired all the U.S. Attorneys," and he's basically saying, "This is something that's part of the MO of—of—of Presidential Administrations." And he says, "No one made a big political discussion about the firings." So clarify for our audience, what makes this different?

CUMMINS: Well, I want your audience to understand, like you said, I am a— very Rep—Republican person. I agreed to put that aside when I became a U.S. Attorney. And I did very successfully. But I—I have a very deep political background. And I'm very familiar with what a talking point is. And I think you are, too. And probably most of your li—listeners are.

He's reading from the talking points. And—and somebody has decided that if they try to continually talk about Bill Clinton firing 93 U.S. Attorneys, that will somehow you know, muddy this water up to where people can't see anything. The truth is, what they have done here is unprecedented. Presidents are entitled to—to appoint their own U.S. Attorneys. In modern history, Presidents have come into (UNINTEL) office, wiped the slate of 93 U.S. Attorneys clean, appointed their own people.

I can make a good argument why that's—that's the right thing to do. I think it's important to have their own people that are on the same page with their priorities and initiatives.

But no President that I'm aware of has ever then reached out later in his term and tried to remove one of his United States Attorneys that he appointed, absent malfeasance. There have been a handful of cases where people have made serious mistakes of some—one kind or another. And they've been asked to leave.

But—and that was my biggest concern. People have asked me you know, "What was your reaction when you got the call?" Well number one, I was surprised, 'cause I didn't think that was really one of the possibilities. Technically, obviously, when you serve at the pleasure of the President, they can call you at any time and ask you to leave.

But I—I was unaware of them ever doing that unless you made a mistake.

So my second concern—reaction was concern. Have I made a mistake? And they assured me that I had not. And then my third reaction was, a little bit of personal disappointment because I felt like I had served the President very well, and I was a little disappointed that they would start with me to—you know, an unprecedented move like that. But all those things aside, I knew all—we all knew we served at the pleasure of the President.

I accepted the decision. And I moved on without any complaint, as did all my seven colleagues. And no one spoke out. And you would not have me on the phone here today if they had not gone to Congress later and tried to avoid discussing very embarrassing—apparently very embarrassing things that went into these decisions, by trying to justify them by saying they were performance issues.

Because you're dealing with a group of people with my seven colleagues, that—everybody that knew them, that watched them, that worked with them—knew that they were particularly good United States Attorneys.

And they were serving the President loyally, if for no other reason because they were making him look good for putting them there. And they don't deserve to be slandered in this way.

They should be commended for their service. And if the President wants to go in a different direction for any reason, that's his legal right.

Now he can defend those decisions to Congress however he wants, but he can't make things up. And that's what's happened here.

HINOJOSA: When you were upset about the fact that you felt you and your colleagues were being slandered, you did start to speak out. And then you got a phone call from a Justice Department official. Who called you? What did they say?

CUMMINS: I had made some comments to—a reporter at the Washington Post who had contacted me. And one point I made to him is that they can replace us for no reason or any reason. But I actually threw in, "or even an idiotic reason." And that was probably a little bit of a slap at 'em. But—my point was that they can do this any time they want. It's not for me to complain about it. That's their discretion.

I also said, though, that if—I said at that time, if, because I wasn't really completely convinced of what was going on at that point, but if they were using this performance issue explanation to cover up some other agenda, that that was wrong and they oughta retract those statements. And that touched a nerve at the Department—in the Department of Management. And—the Chief of Staff of the Deputy Attorney General, Paul McNulty, whose name is Mike Elliston, called me.

It was obviously triggered because of that article. And he said, "If this controversy continues to be stirred up, some of these people are gonna find that—that the Department's gonna be put in a zi—position where they're likely gonna have to roll out more embarrassing information to justify these decisions." And I—I had already heard a briefing of that more damaging information that they had privately briefed the Senate Judiciary Committee on, and so had my colleagues.

And none of us were particular impressed by it. So I didn't really see it as a significant threat. But I did pass that—the fact of the call on to my colleagues. And some of 'em you know, were predictably quite offended.

HINOJOSA: How did you pass the information on to your colleagues? What—what did you do after you got this phone call from Mike Elliston, basically saying, "You know, if you keep talking about this, there may come a point where we're gonna have to—we're gonna have to move this forward a little bit ourselves, too, and start revealing information." I mean, some people might say that that was something of a threat.

What did you do when—after that phone call? How did you communicate this to your colleagues?

CUMMINS: When I got the call from Elliston, and I felt like I needed to share it with some of my colleagues, and so I sent an e-mail to all of them. And I tried to describe the call in the e-mail. I really didn't think about it again until the night before our Congressional testimony.

One of my colleagues—was concerned about it and—and had mentioned it to a Senate staffer. And I learned from a reporter the night before, very late the night before the hearings, that I was gonna be asked about that call. And that reporter also shared with me that the Department was completely disavowing that those calls ever took place.

And one person at the Department had said specifically, "If it's Bud Cummins saying it, he's a liar." And I'm probably a lotta things, but I'm not a liar. So that—that ticked me off a little bit. So I got up, put my clothes back on, and went to the basement of the hotel and paid \$5 a minute or something to get on their internet. And I found that e-mail. And I printed it out, put it in my pocket. And I was asked about it. And they asked if I had the e-mail, and I did. So that's how all that kinda got into the public record.

HINOJOSA: And has the Justice Department released any kind of information that shows that the ot—the seven other fired U.S. Attorneys did have performance problems, that there was a history of a discussion around these seven—U.S. Attorneys?

CUMMINS: No, Maria. And that's—and that's really, I think, the key point in why I'm so embarrassed that they continue to continue to wanna say that. They—they had Will Moschella go to the House Judiciary Committee the same day we testified there under subpoena. We were under subpoena. He wasn't.

And he recited the supposed reasons in each of those seven cases. And the—the reasons are in some cases laughable. There—there is no substance to really any of it. Additionally, if you look at the e-mails—from Kyle Samson that were released early in the week, there's no discussion of any of those issues there.

And the thing that's most persuasive to me, and maybe you'd had to work in the Department to really understand it, but the people that worked in Main Justice, what we call Main Justice in D.C. don't make a decision about changing a light bulb without writing a 30 page memo. They write memos to their bosses about anything. They always cover themselves.

Will Moschella described a deliberative committee performance review process that had taken place of all the United States Attorneys. If anything resembling the process that he described to Congress had taken place, there would be a stack of memos a mile high.

And they have not rolled out so much as a half a page.

Don't you think if they were gonna disclose all those embarrassing e-mails, that by now they would've shared the memo where they analyzed 93 U.S. Attorneys on their performance? The—the—the memo hasn't been produced because it doesn't exist, because such an exercise never took place. But there's no excuse, they could cure this problem today by just conceding that performance was never on the table when they made the decisions about my seven colleagues. And it's outrageous to me that they haven't done that.

HINOJOSA: Do you think that you and your colleagues were targeted because you were not quote unquote "loyal Bushies," that you were too independent, that you were not prepared to follow—a kind of political line on prosecutions that the White House wanted you to follow?

CUMMINS: Well the short answer is, we don't know really. And Kyle Samson's credibility is so low, that trying to draw a conclusion about that from his e-mails is not you know, a real useful exercise. But I'll just tell you this. I've been a Republican all my adult life. I was a Congressional candidate in 1996. I've raised money and campaigned for other Republicans for 30 years.

I was the Bush Cheney Arkansas counsel in 2000. I went to Florida and counted chads during the recount. I was a electoral college elector for Bush Cheney in 2000. And all that happened before I became United States Attorney. I think the fact that my name turned up and other names turned up on the disloyal list had a lot more to do with some political minion at Justice wanting to be a U.S. Attorney and wanting to create a vacancy than it had to do with anybody's loyalty to the President.

HINOJOSA: So when you hear that Democrats and—and even Republican Arlen Specter, are trying to investigate whether or not the—the firings were motivated by a desire to squelch corruptions in—corruption investigations that may have involved Republicans, you say what?

CUMMINS: There was a time when I would say that that was a little bit too conspiratorial or a little too paranoid, and—and that it probably doesn't reach so far to retaliate against somebody that conducted a corruption investigation, or to stop someone from conducting another one, or to punish somebody for not investigating a voter fraud case or a Democrat public corruption case. But at this point, the—the credibility of some of these people involved in this is so low that I wouldn't—you know, I really wouldn't wanna put my credibility on the line and tell you that it—that didn't happen.

It—it—it seems more obvious to me that this had mostly to do some mid level, like I said, political mischief-makers wanting to create some vacancies for themselves and their friends. I think there was some personal animus probably factored into it. Maybe the Deputy Attorney General and other people just kinda didn't like certain people, and would like to see 'em gone.

And I think that at the end of the process, that it's very likely that somebody threw a few names in because some Republican members of Congress or party leaders in their home states were aggravated at 'em for one reason or another. The first two reasons are kinda dumb and petty. But you know, I don't think the history of the world changes because they change out a U.S. Attorney 'cause somebody wanted his job.

The last reason is a lot more serious. Because you know, when I became a U.S. Attorney, I had—I explained to my wife you know, "I have to go where these cases lead me. And they may lead me to take out Republican leaders, you know Republican businessmen in the community. And at the end of the time I'm United States Attorney, if I do this job right, we may not be real popular in the circles we have previously—moved in. And that's just the way it's gonna be."

But it never occurred to me that the Department would fail to insulate me from that pressure so I could do my job. And—and this suggestion or this notion that—that prosecutors were out there doing their job by the book, exercising their very important prosecutorial discretion in the right way, and that it somehow aggravated their party leaders at home and they filed a complaint with the White House, and that immediately resulted in their dismissal, is very frightening.

HINOJOSA: So when you hear that Democrats and—and even Republican Arlen Specter, are trying to investigate whether or not the—the firings were motivated by a desire to squelch corruptions in—corruption investigations that may have involved Republicans, you say what?

CUMMINS: Well you know—somebody at the H—in the House Committee asked me, "Are—you know, are you giving up the Republican Party?" And my answer to that—I should have answered it more strongly, I just said no—but you know my answer's really, "Hell, no."

And—and this is about weeding about—you know, cleaning your own house. In this instance, this isn't a Republican problem. This is a problem about individuals that have been put into—positions of responsibility that didn't understand the responsibility they were given.

HINOJOSA: Some of the seven other attorneys that were let go have said that they received pressure in certain cases. David Iglesias from New Mexico said he felt, quote unquote, "leaned on" after Senator Dominici called him and asked whether a corruption probe of local Democrats would result in charges by Election Day. We're gonna listen to a little bit of what David Iglesias said in testimony in the Senate earlier this month.

DAVID IGLESIAS: He wanted to—ask me about the corruption matters or the corruption cases that had been widely reported in the local media. And I said, "All right." And he said, "Are these gonna be filed before November?" And I said I didn't think so. And to which he replied, "I'm very sorry to hear that," and then the line went dead.

SEN. SCHUMER: So in other words, he hung up on you?

DAVID IGLESIAS: That's how I took that. Yes, sir.

SEN. SCHUMER: And he didn't say good-bye or anything like that?

DAVID IGLESIAS: No, sir.

SEN. SCHUMER: Now did you take that of a—as a sign of his unhappiness with your decision?

DAVID IGLESIAS: I felt sick afterward. So I felt he was—upset that—at hearing the answer he received.

SEN. SCHUMER: Right. And so is it fair to say that you felt pressured to hurry—subsequent cases and prosecutions as a result of the call?

DAVID IGLESIAS: Yes, sir, I did. I felt—leaned on. I felt pressured to—get these matters moving.

SEN. SCHUMER: And as you say, it was unusual for you to receive a call from a senator at home while you were the U.S. Attorney.

DAVID IGLESIAS: Unprecedented. It had never happened.

SEN. SCHUMER: Okay, how long after that contact with Senator Dominici were you fired?

DAVID IGLESIAS: Approximately six weeks later (SIC)—five—five—five week (SIC) later.

HINOJOSA: So what's your reaction to that testimony?

CUMMINS: It's a concern that Senator Dominici would use the bad judgment to make the call. I'm gonna leave it to other people to decide what the call constituted—whether it was just bad judgment or a bad day or something more serious and—you know, a—some kind of a violation of Senate rules. David did the right thing. He sealed it off from the United States Attorney's Office.

He—he—was not persuaded to talk to the Senator about things he shouldn't talk about. He put up a stop sign, even though Senator Dominici was a very influential Republican—I think David said—considered him a mentor. And John McKay did the same thing in Seattle when he got a similar call from a Congressional staff person.

That's what the Attorney General of the United States should have done when political pressure was comin' to the front door of the Department of Justice. But that apparently did not happen. And it didn't happen because the people all around the Attorney General apparently, were too enamored by the activities at the White House.

HINOJOSA: But one of the things—one of the issues that this Administration has apparently wanted to pursue is—pressing cases of voter fraud. Is there really a case for U.S. Attorneys to pursue cases of voter fraud when we have a new report—released by the Project Vote—, which says that there is essentially extremely rare—extremely rare cases of voter fraud in the United States, and that actually this is a myth that promulgated to quote unquote "suppress voter participation." So do we have a case in the United States where voter fraud is something that we should be pursuing? Or is this something that this Administration wants to pursue for political reasons?

CUMMINS: I will tell you that in my experience here in the eastern district of Arkansas, that there is a—a perception in the Republican Party that there is you know, widespread rampant voter fraud going on on election day, that people are voting dead people. Or there's a widespread feeling among the Democrats that reposition are somehow conspiring to violate people's civil rights by keeping them away from the polls.

Occasionally actual complaints came to me or to the FBI along both of those lines. They were always investigated. Always investigated. Very seldom was there any evidence to back them up. People will call you and say, "Everybody over here in Smith, Arkansas," if there is a Smith, Arkansas—forgive me, I—I'm not—I'm not aware of one. I'm—trying to make up a generic name. But, "Everybody over here in Smith, Arkansas, knows that they stole our election over here."

And so you say, "Okay, give me the first witness and we'll interview 'em." "Well, I—I don't know who that would be. But—everybody knows it was stolen." And that's kinda what you run up against. And so I can just tell you that I—I would be shocked if any U.S. Attorney didn't proactively investigate any complaints along

either of those lines. It's a high priority for the depart—I mean for the Bureau, too. So the idea that out in the field we are somehow lax on voter fraud investigations is silly. Moreover, we never had any—there was never any communication to us that there was a desire by the Administration to emphasize that more than we were already doing it.

HINOJOSA: I'm wondering about—again in this process of you suddenly being a newsmaker, when you were really behind the scenes just trying to do the job as—as a U.S. Attorney, but in your history as—as a member of the Republican Party—an active member—you supported—the Patriot Act. You were a big supporter of the Patriot Act. You were a member of the Department of Justice's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council . But in essence, they were able to replace you because of a provision in the Patriot Act. So what are your thoughts on the Patriot Act now?

CUMMINS: To the extent I'm familiar with the Patriot Act, and I don't claim to—I obviously didn't know about this page, 'cause I'd never heard about the change in the interim appointment process in the Patriot Act, and I don't think any of us had—I don't think any of the senators had that voted on it. You know, the events in the last several weeks—not only the you know, frivolous use of the Patriot Act to try and circumvent the Senate in the case of the United States Attorneys, but also the audit about the National Security letters—of the FBI's use of the National Security letters—has probably jeopardized the future of the Patriot Act.

This discredits the whole project. And—and it would be impossible for me if I wasn't one of the eight U.S. Attorneys and I was still in office, if they asked me tomorrow to go back and put my credibility on the line for the Patriot Act in the same way that I had before, it would be impossible for me to do that. So I think it was really reckless of the people that thought this was a cute way to solve a political problem.

HINOJOSA: I—I've heard that perhaps that are some members of your family—your mother—who's a little bit concerned about the fact that you are speaking out. What do you do when your mom says to you, "Son, I'm worried about the fact that you are out there talking and being so public about this"?

CUMMINS: Well my mom's 80 years old. And she's just afraid that her boy's gonna—somebody's gonna paint a target on his back, and—and if I become too much of an annoyance at some—one of these guys—may try to take me out. And frankly, they have already—you know, in—in subtle and not so subtle ways tried to kinda discredit me to the media and say things. That's—that's kinda backed off now.

But you know, they can't hurt me. I mean to—to be honest with you, my—my family and—and the—the peop—my—our neighbors here in Little Rock and the people in Arkansas that know me—their—their opinion's not gonna change no matter what Karl Rove tells his—his reporter friends in Washington, you know? It's—it's painful for me to have to take my own party and the peo—my own former colleagues to task. But they're just simply wrong on this.

There's an issue of right and wrong here that's not political. It's just about people. And—and they really oughta get right on this one issue. It won't solve all their problems. But—it'll solve their problem with me, 'cause they won't ever hear from me again.

HINOJOSA: So what do you think needs to happen right now? Is—I mean are you saying there should be an apology? Are you saying there should be official testimony? Are you saying there should be resignations? What does Bud Cummins want right now?

CUMMINS: They need to admit that the idea of performance is silly and—and embarrassing, and they shoulda never said it to begin with. And they need to apologize to those seven. On the one hand, if you were advising them you might say, "Well, if you do that then the Congress is gonna accuse you of lying to 'em." But I—you know, I got news for 'em.

I've spent a lot of time unfortunately with the—the staffs in the judiciary committees in Congress. Nobody believes 'em anyway. They've got severe credibility problems now with the Congress and with the public. And frankly, they—you know within the United States Attorney community, I mean there's a—there's 93 U.S. Attorneys, but they represent you know, tens of thousands of career prosecutors and paralegals and legal—assistants. And you know, I talk to enough of those people to know that they've got some severe morale and confidence problems among those ranks right now, based on what those people have seen in these e-mails.

HINOJOSA: So you're saying that we have U.S. Attorneys right now that are having morale problems, that there are morale problems in the Justice Department. Just finally Bud, what does this mean to all of us as citizens?

CUMMINS: Well I just think that it's important that every citizen can believe that federal prosecutors are operating in a neutral and non-partisan way. Well many of us were political before we got those jobs. We come to 'em through a fairly political process. But it's very important that we leave the politics out and give up that part of our lives while we serve as federal prosecutors.

Because when you go and indict somebody and threaten to take their liberty away and their property—you know, that's a pretty serious thing. And—and the public has to believe that you're doing it for right reasons and no wrong reasons. Once something like this happens, and you let somehow politics get injected into substantive decisions of the Department, people have a perception that maybe there is a political component to other decisions you're making.

And they really question every decision you make. And it's—and it's already being demonstrated. I—I—you know, I'm—right now talkin' to probably a dozen or two dozen reporters a day. They're asking me questions about things that are so far distant from this, and whether they're related to Karl Rove, or—you know and I don't really have any information on that for 'em. And I really doubt that there are connections to most of these things.

But that's the natural result. Once you lose your credibility, people question every decision you make. So they're asking me whether this incident is related to decisions that have been made in the civil rights division, or the environment division. And that's what people naturally do when they lo—they've lost confidence in your credibility.

And—and—and the Department of Justice frankly lives on its credibility. So it's important that that not happen. It has happened. And it needs to be fixed.

HINOJOSA: Bud Cummin, a former U.S. Attorney from Arkansas who was fired. Thanks so much for joining us on "NOW on the News." And good luck.

CUMMINS: Thank you.

<http://www.pbs.org/now/news/311-transcript.html>

League of Women Voters Stymied in Registration Campaign

Transcript:

BRANCACCIO: Welcome to NOW...

Are you voting this fall? Sure about that?

It hasn't been getting much attention, but some states are putting new restrictions on your right to vote, all in the name of preventing voter fraud. Critics say these new state laws on voter registration and voter identification threaten to -- here's the word of the day -- threaten to disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters, among them the elderly, poor and minorities. And what's the Justice Department doing about it? Well, not much, insiders say.

Senior correspondent Maria Hinojosa and producer Peter Meryash have our report.

HINOJOSA: In St. Petersburg, Florida, volunteers with the League of Women Voters are gearing up for another election. Usually, the league here would do what they do all over the country ... register new voters. But so far, not this year. The reason? A new Florida law.

WHEATLEY-GILIOTTI: The law has done harm because the League of Women Voters, as well as other— other organizations— were not able to register voters before the primary.

HINOJOSA: That's right ... for the first time in sixty-seven years ... this mainstay of American civic life decided it had to stop registering new voters in Florida because of that new law.

And Florida is only one of several politically important states where battles have been erupting recently ... over who's going to be able to vote ... or not ... in this year's elections.

The battles shape up this way: on the one side, mostly Republican state legislatures ... passing laws, they say, intended to prevent voter fraud and the chaos of recent elections.

STATON: "We want to make sure that the voting process has integrity at every point ..."

HINOJOSA: On the other side, many Democrats and civil rights groups ... who believe these laws could disenfranchise hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of often elderly, poor or minority voters across the country.

FORT: "... it's passing the most restrictive requirements for voting since the Jim Crow era."

HINOJOSA: And what's more, civil rights advocates say ... the Bush administration is part of the problem. The U.S. department of justice, which is responsible for enforcing the voting rights act, has signed off on some of these restrictive laws.

David Becker knows about some of the inner working of the Justice Department. He was a senior attorney in the department for seven years under Presidents Clinton and Bush.

BECKER: Everyone in America, regardless of their political ideologies should be very concerned about these restrictive, disenfranchising, suppressive laws that are being enacted in many states all over the country.

HINOJOSA: For example, three states have recently passed strict laws that require voters to show government-issued photo identification at the polls. Two states require proof of citizenship to register or in some cases even vote.

In six states, laws set tight restrictions on voter registration drives. And in a majority of states, similar kinds of restrictions are being considered.

Which brings us back to Florida. Voter registration there, like in other swing states, surged in recent years.

Republican state representative Ron Reagan, no relation to the former president, says that caused problems, forms were turned in last minute, or not at all. He admits those cases weren't widespread, but even so, he thought something needed to be done.

REAGAN: I don't think it's asking too much to simply say if you go out to register somebody to vote, turn their registration card in promptly so that we can get them on the rolls so when the time comes they can vote. And that's it. Pure and simple, that's all I strove for with this law, and I think that's all we're really after.

HINOJOSA: The law threatens volunteers and their organizations with substantial fines. Two hundred and fifty dollars for each individual voter registration form turned in more than 10 days after it's signed ... or \$5,000 if the form is lost, or never turned in.

These fines pose an enormous risk for volunteer groups like the league of women voters.

WHEATLEY-GILIOTTI: My budget for this year is \$70,000. Okay? So 14 forms, times \$5,000? My whole budget is wiped out for the year.

HINOJOSA: Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti is the league's state president.

WHEATLEY-GILIOTTI: They're volunteers. What happens if there's an automobile accident? What happens if there's a hurricane? What happens if there's a fire? What happens if there's a family emergency? These well-intentioned persons might just inadvertently forget to turn in these forms. In which case, that individual would be individually subject to this fine, and the League of Women Voters.

REAGAN: I understand the fines may be a little— excessive in some people's minds. However, it's to encourage people turn 'em in on time. And if a particular group feels that they don't have control over their own members and can't expect their own members to follow the rules— I'm sorry for that.

HINOJOSA: But the League of Women Voters and other groups say the law unfairly punishes them because political parties and their voter registration efforts are exempt from these same fines.

The voter groups have challenged the law in court, and just this week a judge issued an order temporarily blocking it. But damage has already been done.

Normally by this time, the League and other groups would have already registered thousands of new Florida voters, particularly the elderly, the poor and people of color. Now, says the League, several thousand might not be able to vote in the upcoming primary.

And that could have a significant impact. Remember, the 2000 election came down to just 537 votes in Florida.

Of course, getting people registered is only half of the equation ... they still need access to the ballot box. Now, even that has become a political and legal battle in several states.

Indiana, Missouri, and Georgia have all passed strict laws requiring people to show photo identification in order to vote.

FRENCHER: I know that I'm not going to be able to get an updated Missouri State ID due to the fact that I don't have a birth certificate

HINOJOSA: Maria Frencher is politically active in her Kansas City, Missouri community. She can often be found these days registering new voters. Ironically, a new Missouri voter ID law which took effect on Monday will actually keep her from the polls this, she says, because she doesn't have the right documents to prove who she is.

FRENCHER: I have a social security card, I have a Kansas state ID. It says who I am...not enough.

HINOJOSA: Missouri state election officials say more than two hundred thousand registered voters don't currently have a correct picture ID.

But perhaps nowhere has the battle over photo ID been more acrimonious than in Georgia.

SENTATOR: You can laugh about this if you want, but I'm telling you, you are stabbing race relations in the heart with this piece of legislation.

HINOJOSA: Democrats there howled when Republicans, who now control the legislature for the first time since reconstruction, passed the law requiring voters to show a photo-ID at the polls.

STATON: The yays are 31 and the nays are 22, this bill having received the Constitution majority is therefore passed...

HINOJOSA: State senator Cecil Staton, a Republican, says he wrote the law to prevent voter impersonation.

STATON: It just seemed common sense to me that when you come to vote, you ought to be able to show that you are who you say you are.

HINOJOSA: Senator Staton says only a few thousand voters in Georgia don't have a government-issued photo-ID. But Democrats in the state say the real number is closer to seven hundred thousand.

MORGAN: And I realize that when people hear that you have to show a photo ID, most people who live in a metro area would say: What's the big deal with that?

State Representative Alicia Thomas Morgan is a Democrat ... And the first African American to represent her county.

HINOJOSA: But what's the problem with saying: Well, you know, it's gonna—you're gonna have to get this ID. And it may take you a little bit of time, but if voting is so important to you then it shouldn't be that big of a deal.

MORGAN: Well, I think that sounds good— except that when you put barriers in the place of people voting then you are asking people to jump through several hoops to exercise their Constitutional right to vote.

HINOJOSA: People like 87-year old Rosa Laster who lives by herself in Plains, Georgia.

LASTER: No, I don't have a photo ID.

HINOJOSA: Laster, a retired nurse, has lived in Plains all her life and for years, she's been able to vote close to home without a photo-ID. But now, in order to get an ID, she'd have to go 11 miles away to Americus, the county seat.

And that, she says, could be really tough . The closest relative who could drive her lives four hours away.

LASTER: I would have to get somebody to take me over there, bring me back. And then I'd have to pay them. And sometimes, you don't have the money.

HINOJOSA: Voting, she says, is very important to her. She remembers what it was like for African Americans where she lives. They were turned away at the polls or beaten up trying to get there.

Senator Staton denies his law has anything to do with race.

STATON: I think there is a bigotry of low expectations among those who would say that African-Americans don't do the very same things that all other Americans do. Use a ID to go cash a check at a bank or to rent that video or to get on an airplane.

I would argue that the slight inconvenience it may be for some people to have to get that ID, it's worth it in order to guarantee the integrity of the process.

HINOJOSA: But, in fact, what are the numbers in terms of people impersonating voters in Georgia?

STATON: Well, that's a very good question.

HINOJOSA: In fact, there's no hard evidence to indicate how big a problem voter fraud at the polls might be.

Senator Staton cites a story from 2000 in the Atlanta Journal Constitution that reported more than five thousand dead people voted in the twenty years between 1980 and 2000. But it's uncertain how many of those were fraudulent and how many were simple clerical errors.

Georgia's Secretary of State, a Democrat, says there hasn't been one documented case of voter impersonation fraud at the polls in the past 10 years. And if this new law is really aimed at curbing voter fraud, then why has Georgia now made it easier to vote absentee?

According to state election officials, absentee voting is the most common form of election fraud in the state of Georgia. It also happens to be a way of voting used disproportionately by white Americans.

HINOJOSA: So, what do you think is the real reason why this legislation has passed then?

MORGAN: I believe that there is an effort in this country to disenfranchise several groups of people. That includes people of color. That includes the elderly. That includes young people, and students in particular. That includes people who would generally vote for progressives or Democrats, however you'd like to call it. And I believe that there is a concerted effort to keep those people at home.

And when I know that people have died for me to have the right to vote, it hurts and it bothers me.

HINOJOSA: Civil rights groups challenge Georgia voter ID requirement in court. A Federal and a State judge have repeatedly found the law likely to be unconstitutional. And so they've temporarily blocked it. But in Indiana a federal judge upheld a very similar photo-ID requirement. And meanwhile, many challenges to other election reforms are pending in states across the country.

So where in all of this is the U.S. Department of Justice?

Ever since President Johnson signed the voting rights act in 1965, the Justice Department's civil rights division has historically taken the lead in protecting voters from just these kinds of restrictive state election laws.

But some former Justice Department officials charge ... under the Bush administration ... all that's changed. David Becker says that's why he left the Justice Department a year and a half ago ... Part of an exodus of attorneys from the civil rights division.

He's now with People for the American Way Foundation.

BECKER: It's not just that it's turning a blind eye to discrimination. It's actively validating discrimination in some places. It's actively validating policies that are harmful to racial minorities in terms of their access to the polls, in terms of the poor and the elderly, being able to achieve full access to the polls.

HINOJOSA: Becker and other former insiders say a series of decisions by the Justice Department have resulted in Americans being restricted from voting ... even denied the right to vote.

They point to approval of the Georgia voter identification requirement and the Florida voter registration fines. Remember, the Justice Department has the final word, because under the voting rights act, it has to sign off on changes in election law in states with a history of discrimination.

Just look what happened, these critics say, in the Justice Department's review of the Georgia voter ID law.

It all came out in this revealing internal memo that was leaked. A team of the department lawyers and analysts found the Georgia voter ID law was likely to discriminate against African Americans, and so, recommended four to one to reject it.

But the department's leadership over-ruled that recommendation ... and just a day after receiving the 51-page, detailed analysis ... gave the Georgia law the "OK."

GONZALES: There have been stories which have troubled me about the politicization of the Civil Rights Division. This is something that troubles me as a Hispanic in particular.

HINOJOSA: The Justice Department turned down a request for an interview ... but Attorney General Alberto Gonzales told Congress in April that the department is committed to protecting voting rights.

GONZALES: ... the guidelines that we follow is the law. Those are the guidelines that we follow.

HINOJOSA: The Justice Department says it's filed a record number of cases on behalf of Latino and other minority language voters.

But something's changed ... over the past 5 years, the Justice Department has brought only one voter discrimination case based on race on behalf of African Americans, none on behalf of Native Americans ... and the first case ever on behalf of white voters.

DRISCOLL: And those kinds of things, I think, reflect that the country is changing, and priorities have to change to go along with that.

HINOJOSA: Bob Driscoll was a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Bush administration ... and he says people have to understand that elections have consequences.

DRISCOLL: Everyone that works for the Department knows that the policy decisions are made by political appointees. And that is the reality. And the day-to-

day work of the division is carried out by the career staff. But the policy priorities and— and the chain of command is that those folks make the decision.

HINOJOSA: And as decisions about election reforms are being made all across the country, civil rights advocates say ... they will have a real impact on American voters.

BECKER: There are individuals who are eligible voters who have voted for years— in some cases, voted for decades, who are gonna find themselves without a way to express themselves in this democracy.

And that's— that's not just sad, that's a tragedy.....

<http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/235.html>

Vote Caging and the Attorney General: A Short History

by J. Gerald Hebert and Brian Dupre

July 23, 2007

When Attorney General Alberto Gonzales testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee tomorrow morning, vote caging by the Republican Party and the related actions and inactions by the Department of Justice (DOJ) deserve careful examination. When former Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty testified before Congress last month, he offered to have DOJ look into the issue of vote caging (“If you’re raising with me as Deputy Attorney General the question of caging votes, I’m very happy to work with you on that concern.”).[1] It would be interesting to ask the Attorney General for a progress report on how the DOJ review/inquiry into vote caging is going.

Conspiracies to stop African-Americans from exercising their constitutional right to vote aren’t new – and neither is vote caging. The Republican National Committee has been under a federal consent decree not to engage in the practice since getting caught in the 1981 gubernatorial election in New Jersey. Despite the injunction, which remains in effect, vote caging schemes continue to be used as an integral part of an ongoing campaign to suppress minority voting rights.

To bring these schemes to an end will require vigorous prosecution by the United States Department of Justice. But the Department’s priorities have shifted over the years, with the Bush-Ashcroft-Gonzales Justice Department not only ignoring vote caging schemes, but actively working to give them a boost in the courts.

Contrast, for example, the Department of Justice’s efforts in 1990 in North Carolina under President Bush’s father to the Department’s actions in the 2004 election cycle in Ohio. In 1990, the North Carolina Republican Party and the Jesse Helms for Senate campaign engaged in vote caging by sending 44,000 postcards to black voters, giving them incorrect information about voting and threatening them with criminal prosecution. The plan was to use the mailing to compile a caging list. In response, the Bush I Justice Department, where I served at the time as a federal prosecutor of voting discrimination cases, filed a federal lawsuit against the GOP and Helms’ campaign and obtained declaratory and injunctive relief. In 2004, when the Ohio Republican Party was sued by voters prior to the election to stop what appeared to be a similar vote caging scheme in progress, the

Bush II Justice Department did not file its own lawsuit to stop the vote caging but instead intervened in a highly unusual manner on the opposite side: by writing a letter to the federal judge overseeing the case and coming to the defense of the Ohio's GOP efforts! The judge appears to have ignored the letter, which was totally unsolicited and contrary to the Department's tradition of avoiding intervention in pre-election litigation.

It's one more example of how, under this Administration, a politicized Justice Department has perverted its mission of defending the right to vote, and instead harnessed the resources of the federal government to attack that very right for partisan political purposes.

The Legal Center has gathered information on vote caging activities in multiple states over the last few decades. The vote caging issue continues to be a topic of discussion here in DC, often emerging in testimony on Capitol Hill as the scandal over the firings of U.S. Attorneys continues to unfold. The issue has yet to be fully probed, and tomorrow's appearance by Attorney General Gonzales before the Senate Judiciary Committee offers another opportunity to press him on his knowledge of vote caging schemes.

As the following state-by-state list of some high profile instances of vote caging shows, a Department of Justice review of this issue as promised by Paul McNulty could take quite some time, because there is a lot out there.

The 1980's: The Early Days of Vote Suppression Through Caging

New Jersey 1981

The notorious 1981 New Jersey gubernatorial election between Republican Tom Kean and Democrat Jim Florio provided a window into voter intimidation and suppression techniques, vote caging in particular. The Republican National Committee used vote caging to compile a list of more than 45,000 voters, mostly Black and Latino, to challenge at the polls.[2] Republican "ballot security" teams hired armed guards with armbands to police polling places.

Kean won by less than 2,000 voters, but only after an almost month-long recount. Both state and county prosecutors launched investigations into voter intimidation. A federal court eventually entered a consent decree that prohibited the RNC from engaging in vote caging.[3]

Louisiana 1986

In the 1986 election, the RNC used vote caging to compile a list of 31,000 voters, mostly black, that it attempted to have thrown off the voter rolls.[4] At the time, Kris Wolfe, the Republican National Committee Midwest political director, wrote Lanny Griffith, the committee's Southern political director, "I know this is really important to you. I would guess this program would eliminate at least 60,000 to 80,000 folks from the rolls. If this is a close race, which I assume it is, this could keep the black vote down considerably." [5]

Following this caging scandal, both parties agreed to amend the original 1982 consent decree to require that the RNC would submit to the court any ballot security plan for approval.

The 1990's: Vote Suppression Through Caging Continues

North Carolina 1990

In October of 1990, when the black Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, Harvey Gantt, was leading incumbent Jesse Helms in the polls, the Helms for Senate Committee and the North Carolina Republican Party developed a vote caging scheme.

As described above, according to a lawsuit brought by the Bush I Justice Department, on October 29, 2004, at least 44,000 postcards were sent, without a disclaimer that they were paid for by a political party, exclusively to black voters in North Carolina.[6] The postcards served two purposes; first, they were intended to directly intimidate and threaten black voters and to give them false information about voting; second, and more insidiously, the undelivered postcards would be used to create a caging list of black voters with the intent of challenging them at the polls. According to the suit, "This effort was terminated shortly before the election and subsequent to the initiation of an investigation ... by the United States Department of Justice." [7] Later a consent decree was entered against defendants that allowed the court oversight until 1996.

The 2004 Elections: Vote Caging Suppression At Full Bore

Florida 2004

The 2000 election in Florida raised the stakes and also showed the effectiveness of disenfranchising black voters in a close election. Both parties trained their sights on the state again in 2004 and vote caging became an integral part of the Republican Party plan in the Sunshine State.

In the late summer and fall of 2004, the Republican National Committee developed a caging list of voters in predominantly black areas of Jacksonville, Florida. The scheme came to light when Tim Griffin, then the Research Director and Deputy Communications Director for the RNC, mistakenly sent an e-mail with the subject line "caging" to an e-mail address at georgewbush.org, a political parody website whose operators sent it to the press. Griffin had meant to send the list to a Republican operative with an e-mail address at georgewbush.com, the official Bush campaign e-mail suffix.

Griffin's e-mail contained an Excel spreadsheet "Caging-1.xls" containing the names of 1,886 Florida voters, mostly black, including the names of black soldiers deployed abroad.[8]

As the BBC reported, "An elections supervisor in Tallahassee, when shown the list, told Newsnight: 'The only possible reason why they would keep such a thing is to challenge voters on Election Day.'" [9] A recent analysis of the names on the caging list showed that the Jacksonville caging preferentially selected blacks and excluded whites.[10]

Griffin was later appointed an interim U.S. Attorney in Arkansas. The White House refused to submit him to the Senate for confirmation out of concerns over his involvement in vote caging, as Monica Goodling verified in her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.[11]

Nevada 2004

In Clark County Nevada, the former state Republican Party executive director, Dan Burdish, attempted to cage 17,000 voters weeks prior to the 2004 election. The voters had been put on an “inactive” list when mail sent to their addresses was returned.

The Las Vegas Review Journal reported, “Burdish said he only targeted Democratic voters because ‘I’m a partisan Republican, I admit it.’”[12]

Local election administrators objected to the challenge, including Registrar of Voters Larry Lomax. As reported by the Review Journal, “Lomax said he can see no legitimate reason why Burdish would challenge the voters. ‘The law already tells us what to do with inactive voters,’ Lomax said. ‘The law provides a remedy for these people, and I’d guess that the only point in a challenge would be an attempt to intimidate voters.’”[13]

Ohio 2004

More so than Florida, Ohio was ground zero for the hotly contested 2004 election – and also a hotbed of voter intimidation.

The Ohio Republican Party developed a caging scheme and identified 35,000 newly registered voters in urban areas, mostly black, who either refused to sign for letters from the Republican party or whose letters came back undeliverable.[14] An attorney for the Ohio Republican Party even admitted that the plan was to use the returned letters from minority neighborhoods to challenge voters.[15]

Prior to Election Day, when the caging list would be used to challenge voters at the polls, the caging scheme was challenged in court on two fronts. In New Jersey, voters filed suit against the RNC for violating the 1982 consent decree. The RNC argued that the consent decree only applied to it, not the Ohio Republican Party, which planned to supply the challengers, and therefore was inapplicable to the Ohio election.[16] The federal court rejected that argument, and, on Nov. 1, 2004, ordered Republicans in Ohio not to proceed with the caging scheme on Election Day.[17]

Meanwhile, in Ohio, voters filed suit to challenge the Ohio law permitting political parties to post challengers in polling places on Election Day – challengers armed with caging lists.[18]

While the court battles were playing out in New Jersey and Ohio in the days and hours leading up to the 2004 election, with the rights of minority voters hanging in the balance, did the Department of Justice step in to enforce the Voting Rights Act?

Unsurprisingly for anyone who’s followed the ongoing scandal over the politicization of the Civil Rights Division, the answer is “of course not.” Perversely, the Justice Department sent a letter to the Ohio federal judge overseeing the lawsuit to tell her that the challenge statute that was to be used as part of the vote caging scheme was perfectly fine.[19]

Assistant Attorney General Alex Acosta’s Oct. 29, 2004 letter to District Judge Susan Dlott was unusual not just in that it attempted to offer legal cover for the

same practices that 12 years earlier DOJ had sued to stop, but also because it was nearly unprecedented for DOJ to intervene in an election eve case in which it had not previously participated, its involvement was unsolicited, and it was not a party. (Acosta's letter was sent just a few days after then-U.S. Attorney Bradley Scholzman filed the now-infamous indictments against the four ACORN workers in Missouri.)

Judge Dlott refused to heed the advice of the Assistant Attorney General, found that permitting the challenges would have a racially discriminatory impact, and issued an order enjoining the Republican Party from placing challengers at the polls.[20] In the end, the caging scheme was stymied. (For a thorough discussion of other voter intimidation techniques that succeeded, see *Preserving Democracy: What Went Wrong in Ohio*, Status Report of the House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff, January 5, 2005 [a.k.a. "the Conyers Report"].)

Pennsylvania 2004

The Pennsylvania GOP targeted for caging only voters in Philadelphia, which is approximately 45% black, according to Census data.[21] Voters in other parts of the state, which is 85% White,[22] were not caged.

The party compiled a caging list of 10,000 returns from a Republican mailing purporting to welcome new registrants in Philadelphia to the political process, and then announced plans to challenge those 10,000 voters on Election Day.[23] The Republican speaker of the state House admitted the campaign tactics were intended to "keep down" the vote in Philadelphia.[24]

As *The Inquirer* reported, "State Republicans released additional details yesterday from their list of 10,000 letters to Philadelphia voters that they said were returned as undeliverable. They said they would use this list to challenge voters at the polls today - a type of challenge similar to one that federal judges have barred Republicans from using today in Ohio." [25]

According to the Bucks County Courier Times:

"Election officials and other observers, however, say the 7.6 percent rate of returned letters isn't surprising in a large city with many transient, low-income neighborhoods. 'This is a mobile population,' said Randall Miller, who teaches a course on elections at St. Joseph's University. 'Some people are living in places where they don't really have addresses, [such as] shelters. They have every right to vote.'" [26]

When the media asked the GOP for the list, the party initially refused but later provided just six names and addresses.[27]

Wisconsin 2004

The Wisconsin Republican Party announced the Saturday before the 2004 election plans to challenge 37,180 voters on a caging list developed by the party.[28] The Wisconsin GOP targeted for caging only voters in Milwaukee, which is approximately 40% black and 55% minority (black and Hispanic), according to Census data.[29] Voters in all other parts of the state, which is 91% white, were not caged.

In this caging scheme, the party used a commercial software program to compare addresses on voter registration cards to a postal service database of known addresses, and then announced plans to challenge 37,180 voters at the polls whose addresses, the party claimed, didn't match.

The non-partisan City Attorney called the plan "outrageous." It was. Of the caged list, 13,300 of the addresses simply listed incorrect apartment numbers. Some 18,200 more cases stemmed from the lack of an apartment number for a resident of an existing building.[30]

Of the remaining 5,000 or so addresses, the City Attorney's office found hundreds actually did exist, and many of the other non-matches were likely due to clerical errors. Had the plan been allowed to go forward, thousands of legally-registered, apartment-dwelling black voters would have been challenged because of a clerical error involving apartment numbers. The attempt was stopped by the City Attorney and Election Commission.

"A Nationwide Vote Caging Scheme"

In Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Nevada – all battleground states with significant minority populations living in urban communities – vote caging was the voter suppression method of choice for Republicans in 2004. It's no coincidence.

Despite the sworn declaration of Deputy RNC Chair Maria Cino that the RNC has not "been involved in any efforts to suppress voter turnout,"[31] e-mails circulated among top RNC and Bush-Cheney campaign officials suggest otherwise. A document for use by state GOP officials in developing campaign plans worked on by Bush-Cheney campaign lawyer Christopher Guith provides a template of plans for vote caging.[32]

An e-mail from Guith declares "we can do this in NV, FL, PA, and NM[33] because we have a list to run," referring to a plan to challenge absentee ballots using a caging list.[34] Terry Nelson, Political Director of the 2004 Bush/Cheney Campaign, was included on the e-mail.

Those who perpetrate these caging schemes know full well the invidiously racially discriminatory nature of their efforts, and make every effort to cover their tracks and distance themselves from the vote suppression schemes they unleash. Thus, in another e-mail chain involving the vote caging in Ohio later enjoined by a federal judge, Guith, Tim Griffin and others discuss "the risk of having GOP fingerprints" on the caging lists.[35]

Your State 2008 ?

As we enter what is sure to be another hotly contested, high stakes election cycle, there is reason to believe vote caging will once again be used illegally to suppress the black vote for partisan gain. The recommendations of the Conyers report on how to stop vote caging have yet to be heeded. The RNC has shown that federal consent decrees are inadequate to stop vote caging from again and again rearing its ugly head.

Unfortunately, those at the DOJ who failed to stop – and in some cases actually supported – the voter suppression of 2004 have not been held accountable.

Instead, they've been rewarded with promotions for their partisan misdeeds. Alex Acosta, the Assistant Attorney General who sent the letter to the Ohio federal judge in defense of the vote caging scheme there, was appointed in May 2005 to the post of U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida – a past and possibly future site for voting rights controversies.

And the DOJ political appointee who likely drafted the letter to the Ohio federal court in support of the 2004 vote caging scheme, Hans von Spakovsky, has been nominated for the Federal Election Commission,[36] the agency charged with overseeing the fair administration of our election laws.

With the stakes in the upcoming 2008 elections being so high, it is likely that both major political parties will once again direct their efforts at combating alleged voter fraud (the GOP) and fighting alleged vote suppression schemes (the Democrats).

Given the politicization of the DOJ, it is highly unlikely that Americans will see efforts to bring an end to vote caging among the enforcement priorities of the Civil Rights Division. That's unfortunate because it means that once again the burden to put an end to these tactics will be on private litigants.

Congress can and should do something: hold hearings devoted exclusively to vote caging, bring in Party officials, and ask them under oath about these past efforts. Such hearings might have a chilling effect on those who were otherwise planning a new round of vote caging activities. Caging voters will continue to be a tool unless and until Congress exposes the tactic for what it is: an effort to influence the outcome of elections by suppressing the voting rights of minorities.

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VIDEO: Interview with Stephen Spoonamore

Electronic Voting Machines are Absurdly Vulnerable to Remote Hacking; Will Eventually be Breached by Foreign Powers; and Therefore Pose the Greatest Threat to American Democracy

Mr. Spoonamore -- a lifelong Republican -- is currently a Partner at Global Strategic Partners LLC GSP in the Washington D.C. Metro Area

He is formerly CEO, founder at Cybrinth LLC, CTO at Duos Technologies, and Director of Institutional and Government Relationships at SendWordNow inc.

He is considered a leading theorist and innovator of systems involved with compression, digital image management and remote electronic monitoring. He has developed solutions for government agencies and elements of the US Armed Forces who have been aware of the threat risks in cyber security since the early 1990s.

Mr. Spoonamore also serves as a member of the NEEEC/ANSI task force to determine standards and needs for E-Authentication of Identity, and the ComCARE Alliance task force to examine the security and development needs of the EPAD All-Hazards National Alert System.

In 1995 he was awarded a Civilian Citation for outstanding contributions to the Defense Department by Secretary of Defense, William Cohen. In 2003 he was recognized by Mayor Michael Bloomberg for his work helping expand the NYCTV system. In 2004 he was thanked by Sec. of Homeland Security Tom Ridge for his work developing process for the www.ready.gov web site.

Stream the entire interview with Mr. Spoonamore here:

http://www.velvetrevolution.us/prosecute_rove/images/SpoonIntvw3.wmv

Or view the interview in 10 shorter Youtube segments:

It's a network, people.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyByZx5GEaw>

Electronic voting machines are a national security threat.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YadsHqxd8I>

The genie is out of the bottle.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbxuXC4QlMk>

Fifty ways to steal an election.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOHkY7sJ4ZI>

Mike Connell: The Bush IT Guru.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-KHOo8tkM>

The Rapp Family: Ohio election cover-up.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJHmuG8d2bQ>

Evangelicals and voting machines.

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Paper ballots please.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WTe8ppElic>

McCain/Palin will win by theft.

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People should doubt the vote. It's being stolen.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s07oi2G_K4c

VIDEO CHANNEL: Greg Palast Office

"How to Steal Back Your Vote"

A collection of video reports from the intrepid Mr. Palast, best-selling author of "Armed Madhouse," and the first American journalist to break the story of the theft of the US Presidency in Florida in 2000.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/GregPalastOffice>

BOOK: Armed Madhouse:

From Baghdad to New Orleans --

Sordid Secrets & Strange Tales of a White House Gone Wild

by Greg Palast

(For Overview and Details of the Plan to Steal 2008, See Pages 343 to 380)

The brilliant -- and funny -- follow-up to his remarkable, "Best Democracy Money Can Buy," this book is a treasure of investigative journalism. It confirms Mr. Palast's widely acknowledged status as the most well versed student of Election Fraud currently teaching.

In addition, "Armed Madhouse" covers such subjects as the absurdly corrupt dispersal of the pork-barrel billions attending the War on Terror; and the Dueling Plans for Invading Iraq which competed for primacy before the attack date. One of these plans would have left the Iraqi Economy intact, having removed Saddam in a typical CIA-Sponsored Coup much like the one which installed him in the first place. That plan lost. Victorious in its place -- the plan of economic theft and infrastructure destruction which guaranteed the rise of the "insurgency" and has empowered the Corporate Feeding Frenzy favored by Halliburton et al -- a plan which essentially carved up the whole country and dished it out for consumption by non-Iraqis.

Palast is a Great American Hero. He has made All the Right Enemies.

To order from Amazon.com, go to:

<http://www.amazon.com/Armed-Madhouse-Baghdad-Orleans-Sordid-Secrets/dp/0452288312>

BOOK: Stealing Democracy

by Spencer Overton

Spencer Overton is a professor of law at George Washington University specializing in voting rights and campaign finance law.

This is the introduction to his book *Stealing Democracy*.

EXCERPT:

**In the end the Party would announce that two and two made five,
and you would have to believe it.**

-George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

"I was amazed. . . . I wasn't prepared for it to be a good movie," Rick Clerici, a Massachusetts therapist, told the Boston Herald newspaper. "The Matrix reminded me of Huxley and Orwell in that vision of control over the larger reality. . . . We have some measure of control in our tiny personal lives but the larger reality is manipulated by far greater forces."

Clerici was not alone. In 1999, the movie took in more than \$450 million worldwide, making it a huge hit for Warner Bros. Studios.

In *The Matrix*, thirty-something Thomas Anderson (Keanu Reeves) plods through life as a software programmer at the megacorporation Metacortex. Anderson often arrives late to his cubicle, weary from a late night of moonlighting as a computer hacker who operates under the alias "Neo." Neo intuitively suspects that something is amiss in the world. He can't put a finger on what's wrong, but the search for answers consumes him. Neo starts receiving cryptic messages via computer and telephone about "the Matrix" from a mysterious voice who calls himself Morpheus—played by Laurence Fishburne. As the story unfolds, Neo is guided to Morpheus.

In response to Neo's longing to learn the meaning of the Matrix, Morpheus explains:

It's that feeling you have had all your life. That feeling that something was wrong with the world. You don't know what it is but it's there, like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad, driving you to me. But what is it? . . . The Matrix is everywhere, it's all around us, here even in this room. You can see it out your window, or on your television. You feel it when you go to work, or go to church or pay your taxes. It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth.

Morpheus reveals that the date is approximately 2199, and that the 1999 life that Neo thought was reality is actually a computer-generated virtual experience. Most human beings, Morpheus reveals, are physically warehoused in stacks of gelatin cocoons filled with fluid and tended to by man-made artificial intelligence. The machines hard-wire the humans with a program to create what the humans perceive as their lives. This dreamscape is much more comfortable than reality. People in the Matrix casually dine on virtual steak, for example, while Morpheus and his band of rebels survive on bowls of slop that resembles cottage cheese.

Morpheus explains that the villain is not a single physical machine or entity, but instead "a neural-interactive simulation that we call the Matrix." The simulation placates most human minds into unquestioning acceptance of their captivity, while the parasitic machines drain energy from the encapsulated human bodies.

Morpheus leads a band of underground rebels and nurtures Neo's gifts to remake the Matrix and liberate humankind from its own creation. "[C]ontrol the Matrix," Morpheus explains to Neo, "and you control the future."

The Matrix's script drew from biblical texts, higher-level math, classic literature such as *Alice in Wonderland*, and Greek mythology. While the popularity of the movie arose in part from its action scenes, the theme of questioning invisible systems that control our lives also spoke to contemporary audiences.

"Many people these days are questioning the reality they have been socially conditioned to perceive," John Bates, a forty-three-year-old computer consultant who saw the film six times, told the *Herald*. The theme of questioning the systems that organize our "reality" also spoke to the actor who played Neo. "It starts with my character asking, 'What is the Matrix?' and from there you're asking, 'What is reality? What is around me?'" said Keanu Reeves. "The film also introduces themes of choice and what happens when you make choices. You can either learn about reality . . . or you can go on living in ignorance."

"The idea of *The Matrix* is that it's very easy to live an unexamined life," *Matrix* co-director Larry Wachowski explained. "It's not just computers; it's about anything you allow to think for you, systems of thought."

Most people have a relatively simple understanding of American democracy. Each person has a right called a "vote." A person casts the vote for a candidate. The candidates who receive the most votes win and make laws. Candidates win by supporting popular policies. "Free" citizens thus govern themselves.

But contrary to conventional perception, American democracy is not an organic, grassroots phenomenon that mirrors society's preferences. In reality, the will of the people is channeled by a predetermined matrix of thousands of election regulations and practices that most people accept as natural: the location of election-district boundaries, voter-registration deadlines, and the number of voting machines at a busy polling place. This structure of election rules, practices, and decisions filters out certain citizens from voting and organizes the electorate. There is no "right" to vote outside of the terms, conditions, hurdles, and boundaries set by the matrix.

Although most people are oblivious to the matrix, it has very real consequences. In our closely divided political environment, even an obscure election rule in a single state can determine who sits in the White House or which party controls Congress.

Collectively, the various rules and practices result in a class of politicians that control various aspects of Americans' lives, such as the number of students in a second-grade classroom in Detroit, the level of mercury in the air we breathe, and the matter of whether a student in the Army Reserve will sleep in his University of Iowa dormitory or in a barracks in Baghdad, Iraq. And because the United States is a military and financial superpower, the matrix affects not just Americans but also hundreds of millions of humans around the globe.

The matrix is not a grand conspiracy orchestrated by a single mastermind. Instead, it is a collection of ever-changing rules and practices employed by various partisans and bureaucrats that converge to shape who goes to the polls and which votes are counted. Although no single individual is in control, some enjoy more influence, such as legislators who draft election law, secretaries of state, election commissioners, county election boards, poll challengers, and poll workers. These individuals justify their actions using seemingly innocuous terms like "budgetary constraints," "states' rights," "administrative convenience," or "prevention of fraud."

But whatever the stated reason, their decisions often exclude particular voters, enhance the power of certain politicians, and advance specific policy preferences. This is a critical moment for American democracy. Evolved technology -- which can process each voter's address, race, gender, political affiliation, and likelihood of voting -- enhances politicians' ability to tailor election-district boundaries to include voters who favor them, purge selected voters from registration rolls, and manipulate the matrix in other ways.

Cash-strapped municipalities and states hesitate to spend limited tax dollars on better voting machines or more staffing at polls, while better-heeled counties have the resources to ensure that every one of their votes gets counted. An influx of immigrant populations from Latin America and Asia threatens the political status quo in certain communities across the nation, but bilingual ballots and translators are often not provided. Efforts by the United States to promote democracy abroad are compromised by the fact that our political process falls short at home. At this pivotal juncture we should not accept the matrix passively, but question it.

There is no way to eliminate the matrix completely. Voting requires ground rules. But we can remake the matrix so that it more fairly empowers all voters rather than simply privileging the insiders who know how to manipulate it.

America's founders divided government power among executive, legislative, and judicial branches in order to prevent abuses. By manipulating election rules and tolerating election flaws, however, politicians weaken the most effective check on government abuse -- the people.

Rather than obscure the matrix with the soundbites of self-interested political insiders or the dry jargon of academic elites, this book uses real-life stories to show how the matrix affects all Americans.

Chapter 1 shows how the fox too often guards the henhouse in American politics. Incumbent politicians draw the boundaries of their own election districts to ensure that they cannot lose an election, and partisan secretaries of state feign neutrality in administering elections but issue decisions that too often follow the party line. Chapter 2 explains how local control allows for unequal and underfunded elections, as well as partisan manipulation that excludes voters.

Chapter 3 grapples with the provocative question of whether race still matters in twenty-first-century American politics. Chapter 4 explains the continued need for provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act that ensure that changes to voting rules made by state and local politicians are not discriminatory. In response to English-only advocates' attacks on bilingual ballots, chapter 5 explains the need to make voting accessible to all citizens.

Chapter 6 describes an emerging antifraud movement that proposes measures such as photo-ID requirements, which threaten to exclude many more legitimate voters than fraudulent ones. The book concludes by focusing on a few average Americans who -- despite the demands of business and family -- make time to work on democratic reforms in their community.

Americans are not inevitably destined to a fate in which a narrow class of political elites controls the matrix. Change is possible. This book is a road map for bringing the power of the vote back into our hands.

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<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/235/stealing-democracy.html>

Listen to Overton talk about voter suppression on NPR at:
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5534551>

INTERVIEW: Greg Palast, Author of Armed Madhouse,

**Interviewed by Mark Karlin,
for BUZZFLASH:**

BuzzFlash: You're having incredible success with the new expanded paperback edition of Armed Madhouse: From Baghdad to New Orleans -- Sordid Secrets and Strange Tales of a White House Gone Wild. Of course, the electronic voting machines and how they function is a very significant issue, but your specialty has really been how the Bush/Rove GOP political machine keeps persons who are likely to vote Democratic or Independent from voting.

Greg Palast: Yes. People ask me: Are they going to steal the 2008 election? No, they've already stolen the 2008 election. We still have a chance of swiping it back, but the reason I've expanded and put out the new edition of Armed Madhouse is to tell you how they will steal in 2008, and what to do about it. That's one of the main new things. Plus a special chapter on New Orleans and my bust down there.

Of course, I was very flattered that the first review of the new edition of Armed Madhouse was written by Karl Rove and the Rove-bots -- it was subpoenaed by the House Judiciary Committee -- I can't make this up. On February 7th, the Rove team, which had been writing several e-mails screaming about Armed Madhouse and "that British reporter," Greg Palast, were gloating that no U.S. media had picked up my stories. And they had a .pdf file attached.

Of course, the reason my book was subpoenaed is that it has to do with the US prosecutor firings. The prosecutor firings were 100% about influencing elections -- not about loyalty to Bush, which is what The New York Times wrote. The administration team couldn't tolerate appointees who wouldn't go along with crime.

In the book I present the evidence that Karl Rove directed a guy named **Tim Griffin** to target suppressing the votes of African American students, homeless men, and soldiers. Nice guy. They actually challenged the votes and successfully removed tens of thousands of legal voters from the voter rolls, same as they did in 2000. But instead of calling them felons, they said that they had suspect addresses.

BuzzFlash: In which election cycle?

Greg Palast: 2004. And in 2006 and 2004, they challenged tens of thousands of black soldiers. They stopped their votes from being counted when they were mailed in from Baghdad. Go to Baghdad and lose your vote -- mission accomplished.

BuzzFlash: How did they do that?

Greg Palast: By sending letters to the homes of soldiers, marked "do not forward." When they came back undelivered, they said: Aha! Illegal voter registered from a false address. And when their ballot came in from Fallujah, it was challenged. The soldier didn't know it. Their vote was lost. Over half a million votes were challenged and lost by the Republicans -- absentee ballots. Three million voters who went to the polls found themselves challenged by the Republicans. This was not a small operation. It was a multi-million dollar, wholesale theft operation.

They're right that I'm a British reporter, because I put this story on British TV, not on American TV, which won't touch it. [BuzzFlash note: Palast writes for British papers and reports on the BBC, but he is a product of the San Fernando Valley and the University of Chicago, 100% American.] But our election was a complete, total fraud. This is grand theft -- no question. It's not a dirty trick; it's a felony crime.

I'm working with Bobby Kennedy, who is a voting rights attorney. He said, "This is not just an icky, horrible thing that people do wearing white sheets. This is a felony crime." [paraphrase] And the guy they put in charge of this criminal ring to knock out voters is a guy named Tim Griffin. Today, Tim Griffin is -- badda-bing -- U.S. Attorney for Arkansas. When they fired the honest guys, they put in the Rove-bots to fix the 2008 election. That's what I'm saying -- it's already being stolen, as we speak. Tim Griffin is the perpetrator who's become the prosecutor, and that's what's going down right now.

BuzzFlash: You have been questioned about prosecutor-gate and about the theft of the election of 2008. But these replacement prosecutors are still in place, not to mention the ones who have cooperated with Bush. Gonzales has basically told the House Judiciary Committee, make my day. I'm staying on. It's over with. You asked me questions. I didn't give you answers, but you don't have the courage to impeach me, so I'm staying.

Greg Palast: That's the game, too. Congress is shooting at the glove puppet. I shoot at the puppeteers. It's not Gonzales. He's meaningless. He's a nothing. He should go because he allowed it to happen, and that's a crime. When I was a racketeering investigator, we used to call it "willful failure to know." He can't just say to his staff, I know what Rove is doing, but don't tell me about it. He would still be liable for criminal conspiracy of obstruction of justice. That's why Monica Goodling took the Fifth. Not knowing doesn't mean you're not guilty, especially when you went out of your way not to know.

Gonzales should be read his rights and carted away. But it's the puppeteers behind him -- Rove and Harriet Miers -- who were deeply involved in the prosecutor hits. No one's talking about her. This is the woman who went from head of the Texas State Lottery to nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court by George Bush, and no one asked how that happened. They said: Harriet who? But they didn't ask how that happened. They said, oh, she's loyal to Bush. She's the one who did the payoffs to cover up the fact that George Senior got George Junior out of the war

in Vietnam. Do you think that that was done just by daddy making a call? Money had to be paid -- lots and lots of money to keep people quiet -- \$23 million. That is something I reported on BBC Television and in the Guardian newspaper. We've given them plenty of time to challenge that story about the payoffs. We've never gotten a peep from these guys. And unlike CBS, the BBC has not withdrawn the story that the fix was put in to get Chicken George out of Vietnam. No one has challenged our story, nor have we withdrawn a comment on our story that the payoffs were made to keep it quiet.

BuzzFlash: Let's focus for the moment on voter suppression, and we'll return later to other elements of the voter manipulation story.

Greg Palast: I have it all in Armed Madhouse, including in the three new chapters. First and foremost, is that it's not one thing. It ain't just electronic voting, guys. You go, oh, we have paper ballots, we're saved, we're saved. Bulls***! Wake up! Hello! Let's remember that in Florida and Ohio, they didn't have computer voting. So all the stuff about Diebold -- Ohio was not stolen by computers, because they didn't have computers there. In fact, they were thrilled when people complained about computers because they could keep the junky punch cards in. That doesn't mean that computers are safe. As I point out in the new chapter, the Republicans held on to Katherine Harris' seat -- and we don't want to think too carefully about that image -- they held onto Katherine Harris' seat with 300 votes, while 18,000 votes disappeared in the computers. So they do use computers. That was a pure, straight-up, shoplift of the Congressional seat.

BuzzFlash: A House committee just voted not to pursue an investigation of that election, despite the disappearance of 18,000 votes.

Greg Palast: That's sick -- deeply, deviously sick. First of all, in New York and other states, when votes are in question, they simply redo them. People talk about recount -- forget it. Redo the vote. When the machines collapse, then there's no question that there was monkey business.

BuzzFlash: Then why do you think --

Greg Palast: -- why don't Democrats stand up?

BuzzFlash: The U.S. House of Representatives is controlled by Democrats. It's like saying, well, \$320 million is missing from a bank but we're not going to investigate that.

Greg Palast: You're forgetting it's not about the two parties. Vote theft is mainly a racial issue in America, and it's a class issue. The white caucus is a lot bigger than the black caucus. They don't call the Congress a millionaire's club for nothing. There aren't many guys in there -- or women -- who are not millionaires. So it's the millionaires versus us. It's the white caucus versus the black caucus, which is of great concern. So the vote is along racial class and economic lines, not along party lines. Party lines are pretty much meaningless. There's pretty much one party -- the party of the cash. But I'm not one of these people that says there's no difference between the Democratic and Republican Party. The question is: is the difference meaningful? That's all. When it comes down to voter issues, remember that the Democrats in power there were elected under the racist, broken, classist system. If you fix the voting system, a third of those Democrats could never win a primary. The last thing that they want is poor people to vote.

BuzzFlash: Let's go back to your tremendous work in the 2000 election.

Greg Palast: In that case, Katherine Harris and Jeb Bush targeted 97,000 registered voters, as it turned out, to remove from the voter rolls on the grounds that they were criminals. They were "guilty of voting black." By the way, of out of the 97,000 people, do you know how many they charged with actually voting illegally? Of the 97,000 names that they had? Zero. They looked at six cases and brought no charges. There were only six suspected cases, out of 97,000. That's how sick that was. And the U.S. press -- Fox TV -- said not one voter was wrongly disenfranchised. In *Armed Madhouse*, I have the little weasel on Fox who said that, next to the picture of one of the disenfranchised voters, a Gulf War veteran. They love to take out veterans, because who do you think is in the armed forces? A whole lot of war veterans lost their vote because they happened to have -- as part of the legacy of slavery -- names that are the same as someone who, maybe fifty years before, got convicted of something.

BuzzFlash: We just want to praise you again to the readers. We've seen you present a number of times, and several years ago, in Chicago, you did a presentation that shows the list that was used to disenfranchise voters.

Greg Palast: Those are the purge lists. For 2004, we have the caging lists. And in 2008, we're going to have what's called the verification list.

BuzzFlash: Meaning the return of the Jim Crow laws, I assume?

Greg Palast: When I say the 2008 race has already been stolen, about a million and a half voter registrations have been turned down. Even though there have been massive voter registration drives among Hispanics and African Americans, as the churches fill up the bucket, there's a hole in the bucket where the registrations are being dumped.

It used to be that you signed your name -- bang, you got through, you're registered. Not anymore. About 40% of the registrations are being rejected on the grounds that they don't match citizenship files. Well, you know what? It ain't the Soviet Union. We don't have citizenship files in the United States. They don't exist. They can't exist under the law, which is the U.S. Constitution.

So how do you verify voters? Well, you don't. About the only thing that could happen is if you require a passport -- and who has passports?

BuzzFlash: This is not conjecture on your part. You're very methodical.

Greg Palast: We've got the documents. We ain't guessing. When I say they had caging lists targeting innocent black soldiers, I have the lists. I have the soldiers' names. We spoke to their families. In fact, interestingly, "60 Minutes" came into our office and said, "My God, to prove what these caging lists are, you're going to have to make hundreds of calls and spend hundreds of hours going through this stuff." And we said, "Yeah, it's reporting. Try it. It won't hurt you."

BuzzFlash: You go back again to Florida and Choice Point, and you have excellent video documentation of the confrontations with Choice Point.

Greg Palast: Yes.

BuzzFlash: The Secretary of State's office, meaning Katherine Harris' office, no doubt at the request of Jeb Bush and the Bush campaign, chose to expand, rather than limit, the list.

Greg Palast: After they were done bleaching the voter rolls of Florida white -- yes, they wrote some memos to cover their ass. They knew exactly what was happening. These guys were guilty as sin. They should be in prison. But it's all right. Their CEO may be in trouble now. He may still yet be cuffed because of allegations of insider trading. The Choice Point people are back in Armed Madhouse for a very good reason. It's that after they bleached the voter rolls white for the Bush family, they were paid off by no-bid contracts for the war on terror. They're the guys who are keeping these KGB lists for the government, because the government is not allowed to keep information files on citizens. It's against the Constitution.

But somehow Bush has decided that if he contracts it out to his cronies, that there's kind of a contracting out exception to the Constitution. So he gives it out to Choice Point. Well, do we want this private KGB earning billions? And what else do they do with the information? Well, first of all, they're in the info biz. They are using it -- they sell this stuff. And in fact, they got caught selling at least 145,000 records to identity thieves.

Another problem with using private contractors, of course, is that these private guys don't have any of the requirements that the government does to be accurate, to produce the information under the Freedom of Information Act. These guys can ream you. And they do. Some people say, well, it's worth it if they keep us safe. Well, I was charged by the Department of Homeland Security with violating the anti-terror laws -- me. Probably I was caught doing investigative reporting in the United States.

BuzzFlash: In New Orleans, right?

Greg Palast: Yes, that was in New Orleans. While I was charged, I was afraid I wouldn't get home, because I'd be on a watch list. And then, I'd be more afraid when I got home. So, I mean, I'm still wearing my fedora. And these are the guys who are supposed to be saving us from Osama. And as I point out in the book, I have lists of several six-month-old children who are on the terrorism watch list. You can never start too young, I suppose. Maybe they'll open up a kind of kindergarten at Guantanamo.

BuzzFlash: People have to read Armed Madhouse and your other articles. They need to go to your site, gregpalast.com. Because you are the expert on what is basically a RICO case to undermine the American electoral and voting system in a comprehensive way from several different angles, as masterminded by Karl Rove and other people in the Republican Party. What you have exposed is, in essence --

Greg Palast: A criminal conspiracy, according to Bobby Kennedy. The BBC requires me to work with lawyers so that I don't just shoot my mouth off on legal stuff. And Bobby Kennedy, Jr., is a law professor and an expert on voting rights law. And his father gave his life for voting rights, too, don't forget.

Bobby Kennedy says that what we have here is a criminal conspiracy to commit felony manipulation of the voter system. It violates endless numbers of laws.

These people really need to be not in office, but in prison. He's not a guy given to much excitement, but when he looked at the evidence in Armed Madhouse, he just flipped. And what's driving him crazy as well is that Karl Rove is right. The U.S. media is not picking up the investigation.

BuzzFlash: That's why I want to say that people should read your book and follow your website and your articles.

Greg Palast: They should stay on with BuzzFlash because, yes, a lot of my stuff will eventually get picked up by the U.S. media. They may say "there are accusations within the blogosphere," because it's on BuzzFlash. But, of course, this started out with a massive, high-level investigation for the BBC Television network. I'm proud to give it to BuzzFlash because we sure as hell ain't getting it into the Washington Pravda Post. We aren't getting into the New York Judith Miller Times. And I'm glad to say that you're growing and they're dying, and that's the way it ought to be.

BuzzFlash: It is such a massive assault on the voting system and felony suppression of rights in many ways, as we've pointed out. They're coming at it from all angles. For instance, in prosecutor-gate, they're using prosecutors to kind of gin up accusations of voter fraud that don't exist just to win elections. And then when the elections are over, they get Republicans and state legislatures to cry, oh, that was terrible, even though nothing was ever prosecuted. We need new Jim Crow voter laws to keep people who shouldn't vote from voting, to prevent fraud that never existed.

Greg Palast: Right now, I'm following up with another story that involves prosecutor-gate. I'm speaking to one of the fired prosecutors' offices -- David Iglesias. Rove had this whole scheme. While he's stealing votes with both hands -- I mean, literally -- he is, at the same time, coming up with this scheme to accuse Democrats of registering illegal aliens and encouraging massive voter ID theft. It's a complete goofy scheme. And what they did is try to involve the U.S. attorneys in bringing prosecution. For example, in New Mexico, they wanted David Iglesias. Rove's people told me that. Rove's people claimed that there were 150 cases of voter ID theft in New Mexico. And I said, "Well, then send them to me." And they said, "Well."

It's in the book. And they said, "Well, David Iglesias, the U.S. attorney, will back us up." So I called his office. And they refused to back it up. They said, "Well, we don't really have an open investigation on this."

I said, "In other words, you can't back up this story." They said, "Well, I guess you could say that." I said, "I guess I will." In other words, they fabricated the evidence and they wanted him to bring a phony prosecution -- like a Stalin trial. Pick out a couple Mexicans and say that they were voting illegally, and then we'll disappear.

But you know what? Iglesias wouldn't do it. He and eight prosecutors drew a line in the sand.

Iglesias, you have to understand, is a right-wing Ashcroft protégé Republican, and he turned away from evidence of the Republicans stealing the election in New Mexico, which they did in 2004. He wouldn't bust the Rove-arians there. But he wouldn't go so far as to actually bring false prosecutions. He wouldn't do it.

He has now said the evidence they gave him is bogus. Not that he didn't try. He had the FBI on these cases. They had the state attorney general on these cases, hoping to give them one prosecution in the entire state. They couldn't find one. And he said he wasn't going to just cuff some poor Mexican-American and charge him with voter fraud because Karl Rove ordered him to.

And by the way, Karl Rove flew to New Mexico. The Capo himself flew to New Mexico to give a kiss on each cheek to the doomed prosecutor. And speak to the local guys ordering his execution. Rove went to New Mexico himself to do the hit. It was bring prosecutions against Mexican Americans, or look for a job -- and let's not forget Iglesias' last name, okay?

BuzzFlash: Now let's focus on one individual who stands above all the prosecutors in terms of suppressing the right to vote through fraudulent strategies.

Greg Palast: A lot of competition there, but I think we have a winner.

BuzzFlash: You've written about "The Talented Mr. Griffin," Arkansas' new U.S. attorney, who has a history of suppressing minority voters. So how does Tim Griffin, a Rove protégé, Rove hit man, Rove op and research man, Rove suppression and voter man, end up in one of the disputed districts?

Greg Palast: Because the Democrats have no cojones. I'm going to tell you something very unhappy, okay? Again, it's the white caucus versus the black caucus. It's not Democrats versus Republicans. I talked to the black caucus. John Conyers, head of Judiciary on the House side, is very upset that you have a criminal who knocked black soldiers off the voter rolls as the U.S. attorney in Arkansas. The white caucus leader on the Senate side, is Patrick Leahy. His people said, well, Griffin is just there as an interim appointment, so big deal. Well, he's interim through the 2008 election. In fact, I have another e-mail from inside the Rovian office which said if the Democrats complain, just say that Griffin is interim.

BuzzFlash: The press fell for this, and Democrats fell for this, too. They won't seek Senate appointment, and everyone went, oh, you see? They're conceding that they wouldn't get it. But it didn't matter because that was the whole scheme. They are in place for 2008. Rove won.

Greg Palast: Oh, it's okay because he's only in there for two years. It's through the election. Like I say, this is not about Democrats versus Republicans. What you just saw was the millionaires white boys' club -- versus the black caucus. And that's what it's all about. America has an apartheid electoral system and an apartheid Congress. And it's about time we call it what it is.

BuzzFlash: How does the amazing Tim Griffin represent what really is the goal? As you just pointed out, it's very important. The Democrats in Congress seem to have forgotten this in not calling for the impeachment of Gonzales.

Greg Palast: If the prosecutors are wrongfully fired, what you do in any wrongful dismissal is you hire them back. Why don't we have one Democrat saying put them back? Crazy.

BuzzFlash: Basically if you're Karl Rove and you're sitting there, you feel you've survived everything. And you say I'll survive this one. The people I've put in place to steal the 2008 election are gonna still be there.

Greg Palast: My boys count the votes.

BuzzFlash: Let's look at Mr. Griffin, who's one of those who's in place and will be there until 2008. They went around the senior Democratic senator from Arkansas, Mark Pryor. There's all sorts of e-mails indicating how they played Pryor.

Greg Palast: The Republicans proved their point. They can break the law. They can put a criminal in as U.S. prosecutor. They can break every rule of the Senate by going around -- remember, it's not just senatorial privilege, it's called voter privilege. The people of Arkansas elected Senator Pryor. One of the things that they elected him to do is approve the U.S. attorney for his area. We call that democracy.

BuzzFlash: Why is Griffin particularly emblematic of the reason that most of these eight were being replaced? Either to muddy up Democrats --

Greg Palast: I think that muddying the Democrats is secondary. It's that he is the guy in charge of the caging list operation. He's the guy who knocked off tens of thousands -- and it may go up to hundreds of thousands -- of Democratic voters, mostly minorities. That was his operation. And that is why he is particularly evil, manipulative; and plus, if he can get away with it and then get this appointment without any Democrat raising their voice, then what do you think he's going to do in office? In other words, if he could get away with what he did, and the Democrats don't complain, and they basically piss all over the Democrats and Senator Pryor says that's all right with me, and Patrick Leahy says that's all right with me, then obviously, what's he going to do once he's in office? Take my word for it, he's going to wipe out the black voters of Arkansas.

And I smell a deal, by the way -- and now I'm speculating. Everyone keeps saying he's been put in Arkansas so he can do investigation of Hillary Clinton. He's not going to do that. The deal's been cut. Why do you think that he's allowed to be there? Because the deal has been cut. We'll put in Timmy, but he's not going to touch Hillary. I've seen this before. There was a deal cut between the Democrats and Republicans back in the late nineties. The Republican, Newt Gingrich, was going to be in big legal trouble. So was Hillary Clinton. They traded. I smell a trade right here. Why would you allow a complete dirt bag, felon, criminal, racist scum spider in as U.S. prosecutor in Arkansas, in Hillary Clinton's state, unless the deal was cut that Hillary is off limits to any investigation or grand jury charges?

BuzzFlash: Now we've got Griffin, specialist in violating the Voting Rights Act. In Arkansas, we have other people who were appointed who are willing to go on with the scheme to suppress the vote and then have states pass Jim Crow-type laws and Republican legislators. There probably are other prosecutors who weren't replaced who are willing to go along with this scheme in key states. Otherwise, they would have been replaced. There also have been bogus claims of violation of registration of voters on Native American reservations.

Greg Palast: There is a litany of fake charges. In the new Armed Madhouse, I have Russell Pearce, a Republican legislator from Arizona, who said five million illegal aliens crossed the border to vote for Democrats -- five million. I asked this fruitcake to give me five names. I said, "If they voted, that means that you have their names. You have their registrations. So why aren't you arresting them?" And that's when I began to smell the Rove plan. He said, "Oh, the U.S. attorneys

are going to arrest them." But there was not one case brought in New Mexico by the honest attorney. Not one case where there's an honest U.S. attorney. And by the way, they did find about a half dozen illegal aliens who had registered to vote in Arizona. They were registered by the Republican Party.

BuzzFlash: You've shown an arc from 2000 up through 2008. Again, we want to emphasize for the umpteenth time in this interview, that despite all this "investigation" of Gonzales, the status quo remains. These U.S. attorneys were replaced, and "interim" attorneys are still functioning on behalf of Gonzales and Rove. Nothing has been done to inhibit or curtail their activity, which can result in the theft of the election in 2008. And what's more, no one is even speaking about investigating the patterns of behavior in suppressing votes by those who weren't replaced.

Greg Palast: But there were cases brought against voters in Missouri. One of the new prosecutors, who came in after they fired the honest guy who said that there were no cases here -- the Rove-bot came in and actually brought charges in Missouri. Illegal voters, illegal voters, illegal voters -- nothing in the papers about the fact that every single case -- every single one -- was dismissed by judges. The judge says, you're kidding, right? You know, you're talking about things like someone being arrested for voting twice as Juan Gonzalez. How many guys named Juan Gonzalez there are in a state? They knew. These were fraudulent cases. And when you bring a fraudulent case, you go to jail. This is what the RICO laws were about, and the Civil Rights Act of '64, and the Voting Rights Act of '65. It used to be the Democratic officials in the South that teamed up with the Ku Klux Klan to bring false cases. Well, they're back, but the white sheets have switched parties.

BuzzFlash: You've laid it right out on the table in Congress, this abuse of power, the suppression of voting rights. Why then is the mainstream media ignoring what is clearly a multi-year strategy to commit felonies?

Greg Palast: Two reasons. The victims are the poor, and the victims are the defenseless. The victims are black soldiers. There's a whole section of New Orleans -- these are people that are off the radar. Do you think Obama gives a flying toot about someone living in a mobile home for a year and a half in New Orleans? Nah. They're not voters. They're not going to let them vote, so he doesn't care.

And it's a class issue. It's a class war issue, and it's tainted by race, too. Let's not forget that. When I talk about voter suppression in 2000, it was a race issue. It was a story about black people. If they had removed people from country clubs off the voter rolls -- baby, you'd hear it. In fact, let's remember that the only vote manipulation story that got any play at all in 2000 was in Palm Beach. Because imagine -- rich people didn't have their votes counted correctly. All the reporters are down there, taking pictures of voters in string bikinis. And we're down the road in Gadsden County, the blackest, poorest county in Florida where the big vote theft was done -- not one single camera.

Okay, except for Ted Koppel who went down there and said these poor black people -- they're just too stupid to figure out the ballot, you know? And Koppel didn't even check on the fact that they had busted machines. But it was very easy to say black people are too stupid to figure out how to vote. You have to understand, the racism within U.S. papers is absolutely unbelievable. There is an assumption that black people are stupid, incompetent and lazy.

BuzzFlash: Where do we stand today? Gonzales appeared before Conyers' committee, I believe, and Conyers was, of course in a huff, as he should be, because he's a righteous man. He sees the plot.

Greg Palast: Again, he knows what's happening. I'm in contact with his office. He's worked on a lot of investigations with me. It's like the man is the entire conscience of the U.S. Congress.

BuzzFlash: Along with Henry Waxman. Let's give him at least some credit here.

Greg Palast: Waxman is fantastic. Of course, you can't separate New Orleans and voting, Iraq and voting, the war on terror and voting -- it's all the same crew playing the same games. And there's not only votes being lost, but blood being spilled. Of course, the book has a lot of funny stuff in it, because it's so grim it's humorous. It's like a comic horror show. My friend calls it the clown-ocracy, because these are armed and dangerous jesters.

BuzzFlash: So where do we stand? Right now, we have these replacement prosecutors, and the prosecutors who weren't replaced -- some of whom went along with this voter suppression plan and rewriting state laws into Jim Crow laws. We have electronic voting machines. We have a vast scheme here. But the mainstream media is playing the story that Gonzales is going to survive this because they don't have any more goods on him.

Greg Palast: It's a Punch and Judy show. It's all about Gonzales. He's the glove puppet. How come they aren't bringing Rove up? And remember that Conyers cannot just call Rove by himself. He needs the power of the other Democrats who have to find their soul and find their balls. They haven't grown back yet, despite the election of 2006.

BuzzFlash: Is there anyone else on the national scene in the media, in politics, beyond Conyers and Waxman, who understands that the Bush Administration is still trying to extend unitary, executive authority, as it did a couple of weeks ago, trying to extend wireless taps, spying power, and domestic surveillance? They are not doing this with the intention that a Democrat may then end up in the presidency with expanded powers. Their intention is that the Republicans are going to hold on to the White House. To have that expectation, they must have inside knowledge about how they're going to manipulate the election.

Greg Palast: The new chapter, called "The Theft of 2008," calculates with, I think, some reasoned accuracy, that four and a half million votes are going to be shoplifted. Get ready for it. That doesn't mean that they will own the White House. It just means that they start with a big old thumb on the electoral scale.

We should scream bloody murder. But the whining is not a help, you know. It only takes five million more votes. I say work with Jessie Jackson on this. If they're going to knock out 40% of the registrations, then overwhelm them with more. If they're going to throw away half the soldiers' votes, then you better make sure that more of them vote, and that you're watching it. Yes, try to change the laws. And when you can't, you better protect yourself.

Don't mail in your ballot. Don't go posting, fools. You know, everyone's concerned about the electronic voting. So, do you think that they're going to go

through all this hassle to manipulate the software, but then politely take your vote that you sent through the mail, open it up, and count it correctly? Really? If you believe that, then you deserve not to have your vote counted.

BuzzFlash: One of your contentions, and it's an important one, concerns the proprietary software issue, and the likelihood that votes have been lost through it. Certainly the Sarasota incident of 18,000 lost votes gives one pause.

Greg Palast: They want you to think that there's one problem, which is electronic voting and paper ballots. By the way, that's also racial. You talk to white voter activists, they talk about computers. You talk to black voter activists, and they talk about suppressing the vote.

I want to repeat: There were virtually no computer voting machines in Ohio, and that's where they stole it. There were virtually no computer voting machines in New Mexico. That's where they stole it. There were virtually no computer voting machines in Florida in 2000. That's where they stole it.

It's not the computer voting machines. Yes, they're evil. They are wrong, they are manipulative, they are hack-prone, and they stole the election through computers in Sarasota and elsewhere in the last election. By the way, Jeb Bush got reelected as governor through manipulation of the new electronic voting machines. So, yes, they are a problem. But if you think that's it, baby, they've got you.

So let me explain. Start thinking like a Hispanic or black voter who's trying to get to the polls, and they ask you for your ID.

BuzzFlash: I believe in Arizona now it's a birth certificate.

Greg Palast: You can't use a driver's license, because an alien can get a driver's license. So, you can use a birth certificate -- certified original -- or a passport. And what people have passports?

Now, again, it's a class issue. After all, Andy Young and Vernon Jordan and Bill Richardson are all for voter ID, okay? Because at their country club, they have plenty of IDs and they can always vote because their chauffeur can vouch for them.

Every time you have a new question or a way to challenge a voter, they will use it. They will abuse it. Three million voters were given provisional ballots. If you're reading this and you're white, you don't know what a provisional ballot is. If you're reading this and you're black, you were the ones that got one. It's that simple. We have one ballot for black folk, one ballot for white folk. And the black ballot is a provisional ballot and it does not get counted. And that's how it was coming down in the United States of America.

So it's time that the apartheid within the voter protection movement in America -- white voters better start thinking about the need to protect the black vote, because your vote ain't safe if it gets canceled out by Karl Rove when they take away a Hispanic voter's right to vote. You can have a nice, neat paper ballot they will count, but they're laughing at you because they just purged fifteen Hispanics.

BuzzFlash: In your presentations, you often bring up the figure of millions of votes that are stolen before the election was even open.

Greg Palast: That's right. Because people are being thrown off the voter rolls. In addition, the one thing that we're constantly forgetting is that, while there's this endless discussion of how they can hack the votes that turn you to vote from Democratic to Republican, there's very, very little evidence of it. It's there -- I don't doubt it. But we're not going to find it.

But one thing we know for damn sure is that they have to do something simple. The machines simply don't work and don't record the vote. And then there's no fingerprints. There's no manipulation. It just didn't work. We had a million and a half votes in the 2006 election which just disappeared because machines didn't work. And now you try to prove that it was deliberate.

All you have to do is look at where they didn't work. In places like New Mexico, 88% in minority areas -- 88% in minority areas. You want to know how Diebold might have fixed the election in Cynthia McKinney's district? Their machines don't work in humidity. What do you have in July in Atlanta but humidity? In the poor areas. In the rich areas, they're in air conditioned gymnasiums. That's the games that they play. And the way that you figure it out is, you stop thinking white, and you start thinking slave.

BuzzFlash: Greg. Thank you so much.

Greg Palast: You guys are the best.

<http://www.buzzflash.com/articles/interviews/061>

THE TRUTH ABOUT VOTER FRAUD

by Justin Levitt

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The Truth About Voter Fraud

I. Introduction

Allegations of election-related fraud make for enticing press. Many Americans remember vivid stories of voting improprieties in Chicagoland, or the suspiciously sudden appearance of LBJ's alphabetized ballot box in Texas, or Governor Earl Long's quip: "When I die, I want to be buried in Louisiana, so I can stay active in politics." Voter fraud, in particular, has the feel of a bank heist caper: roundly

condemned but technically fascinating, and sufficiently lurid to grab and hold headlines.

Perhaps because these stories are dramatic, voter fraud makes a popular scapegoat. In the aftermath of a close election, losing candidates are often quick to blame voter fraud for the results. Legislators cite voter fraud as justification for various new restrictions on the exercise of the franchise. And pundits trot out the same few anecdotes time and again as proof that a wave of fraud is imminent.

Allegations of widespread voter fraud, however, often prove greatly exaggerated. It is easy to grab headlines with a lurid claim (“Tens of thousands may be voting illegally!”); the follow-up — when any exists — is not usually deemed newsworthy. Yet on closer examination, many of the claims of voter fraud amount to a great deal of smoke without much fire. The allegations simply do not pan out.

These inflated claims are not harmless. Crying “wolf” when the allegations are unsubstantiated distracts attention from real problems that need real solutions. If we can move beyond the fixation on voter fraud, we will be able to focus on the real changes our elections need, from universal registration all the way down to sufficient parking at the poll site.

Moreover, these claims of voter fraud are frequently used to justify policies that do not solve the alleged wrongs, but that could well disenfranchise legitimate voters. Overly restrictive identification requirements for voters at the polls — which address a sort of voter fraud more rare than death by lightning — is only the most prominent example.

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law carefully examines allegations of fraud to get at the truth behind the claims. The Brennan Center has analyzed purported fraud cited by state and federal courts; multipartisan and bipartisan federal commissions; political party entities; state and local election officials; and authors, journalists, and bloggers. Usually, only a tiny portion of the claimed illegality is substantiated — and most of the remainder is either nothing more than speculation or has been conclusively debunked. This paper seeks to distill our findings: the truth about voter fraud. It first offers a straightforward definition to avoid the common trap of discussing election irregularities that involve neither voters nor fraud as if they showed voter fraud. It then discusses different alternative reasons more credible than voter fraud to explain many of the recurring allegations. The paper then analyzes, scenario by scenario, some of the more common types of alleged voter fraud and their more likely causes and policy solutions. Finally, the paper presents individual case studies of notorious instances of alleged voter fraud, and finds those allegations to be grossly inflated. For more information, analysis, and opinion about voter fraud, by the Brennan Center and others, please see www.truthaboutfraud.org.

II. What Is Voter Fraud?

“Voter fraud” is fraud by voters.

More precisely, “voter fraud” occurs when individuals cast ballots despite knowing that they are ineligible to vote, in an attempt to defraud the election system.¹

This sounds straightforward. And yet, voter fraud is often conflated, intentionally or unintentionally, with other forms of election misconduct or irregularities.

There are many such problems that are improperly lumped under the umbrella of “voter fraud.” Some result from technological glitches, whether sinister or benign: for example, voting machines may record inaccurate tallies due to fraud, user error, or technical malfunction.² Some result from honest mistakes by election officials or voters: for example, a person with a conviction may honestly believe herself eligible to vote when the conviction renders her temporarily ineligible,³ or an election official may believe that certain identification documents are required to vote when no such requirement exists.⁴ And some irregularities involve fraud or intentional misconduct perpetrated by actors other than individual voters: for example, flyers may spread misinformation about the proper locations or procedures for voting; thugs may be dispatched to intimidate voters at the polls; missing ballot boxes may mysteriously reappear. These are all problems with the election administration system ... but they are not “voter fraud.”

Conflating these concerns is not merely a semantic issue. First, the rhetorical sloppiness fosters the misperception that fraud by voters is prevalent. That is, when every problem with an election is attributed to “voter fraud,” it appears that fraud by voters is much more common than is actually the case.

This, in turn, promotes inappropriate policy. By inflating the perceived prevalence of fraud by voters, policy-makers find it easier to justify restrictions on those voters that are not warranted by the real facts.

Moreover, mislabeling problems as “voter fraud” distracts attention from the real election issues that need to be resolved. It draws attention away from problems best addressed, for example, by resource allocation or poll worker education or implementation of longstanding statutory mandates, and instead improperly focuses on the voter as the source of the problem.

It is more likely that an individual will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls.

III. The Research Landscape

It is easy to find opinion pieces and legislative statements claiming that voter fraud is a substantial concern. But aside from a trickle of news stories of low-grade fraud in a few isolated elections, there are surprisingly few sources recounting specific incidents of alleged voter fraud.

The most notorious such sources are documents prepared by the American Center for Voting Rights (“ACVR”), a controversial organization established in early 2005 and apparently defunct just over two years later.⁵ The ACVR produced two reports — one compiling allegations of fraud in Ohio in 2004, and another compiling allegations of fraud in 2004 nationwide.⁶ The ACVR has also repeated these and other allegations in amicus briefs filed in litigation related to voter identification provisions.⁷

Former Wall Street Journal editorial board member and weekly columnist John Fund has also recounted several specific allegations of voter fraud in his 2004 book *Stealing Elections*;8 two other books by academics, *Dirty Little Secrets* and *Deliver the Vote*, address allegations of fraud from a historical perspective.9 Hans von Spakovsky, a commissioner on the Federal Election Commission and a former Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice, has similarly recounted allegations of voter fraud in several policy papers and presentations.10

Finally, there are a few newspaper articles that seem repeatedly cited in discussions of voter fraud — for example, a 2000 article in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and a 2004 article in the *New York Daily News*.11 These articles review attempts to match voter rolls to other large lists in an effort to find allegedly ineligible voters; the limitations of such studies are discussed later in this paper.

Similarly, there are surprisingly few sources of information specifically analyzing the allegations of alleged voter fraud to determine the extent to which they show reliable evidence of fraud. In two studies, both focusing more heavily on the political and legal context of voter fraud allegations, Professor Lorraine Minnite has reviewed several incidents.12 Professor Spencer Overton, a former commissioner on the 2005 Commission on Federal Election Reform, has also reviewed several incidents of alleged fraud in his book *Stealing Democracy*.13 After careful analysis, both authors find the claims largely overblown.

Among its other work on the subject,14 the Brennan Center for Justice has developed a methodology for reviewing allegations of voter fraud,15 and continues to collect analyses of noted allegations at www.truthaboutfraud.org.

This paper distills the results of that work, compiling for the first time the recurring methodological flaws that continue to spawn allegations of widespread voter fraud where it does not exist.

IV. Voter Fraud And The Press For Photo ID

The most common example of the harm wrought by imprecise and inflated claims of “voter fraud” is the call for in-person photo identification requirements. Such photo ID laws are effective only in preventing individuals from impersonating other voters at the polls — an occurrence more rare than getting struck by lightning.16

By throwing all sorts of election anomalies under the “voter fraud” umbrella, however, advocates for such laws artificially inflate the apparent need for these restrictions and undermine the urgency of other reforms.

Moreover, as with all restrictions on voters, photo identification requirements have a predictable detrimental impact on eligible citizens. Such laws are only potentially worthwhile if they clearly prevent more problems than they create. If policymakers distinguished real voter fraud from the more common election irregularities erroneously labeled as voter fraud, it would become apparent that the limited benefits of laws like photo ID requirements are simply not worth the cost.

Royal Masset, the former political director for the Republican Party of Texas, concisely tied all of these strands together in a 2007 Houston Chronicle article concerning a highly controversial battle over photo identification legislation in Texas. Masset connected the inflated furor over voter fraud to photo identification laws and their expected impact on legitimate voters:

Among Republicans it is an “article of religious faith that voter fraud is causing us to lose elections,” Masset said.

He doesn’t agree with that, but does believe that requiring photo IDs could cause enough of a dropoff in legitimate Democratic voting to add 3 percent to the Republican vote.¹⁷

This remarkably candid observation underscores why it is so critical to get the facts straight on voter fraud. Virtuous public policy should stand on more reliable supports.

The voter fraud phantom drives policy that disenfranchises actual legitimate voters, without a corresponding actual benefit.

V. The Truth About Voter Fraud

There have been a handful of substantiated cases of individual ineligible voters attempting to defraud the election system.

But by any measure, voter fraud is extraordinarily rare.

In part, this is because fraud by individual voters is a singularly foolish and ineffective way to attempt to win an election.

Each act of voter fraud in connection with a federal election risks five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, in addition to any state penalties.¹⁸

In return, it yields at most one incremental vote.

That single extra vote is simply not worth the price.

instead, much evidence that purports to reveal voter fraud can be traced to causes far more logical than fraud by voters. Below, this paper reviews the more common ways in which more benign errors or inconsistencies may be mistaken for voter fraud.

Clerical or Typographical Errors.

In the course of millions of recorded votes and voters, it is virtually certain that there will be clerical errors. Often, what appears to be voter fraud—a person attempting to vote under a false name, for example — can be traced back to a typo.

Errors in the poll books.

In a jurisdiction of any significant size, it is unfortunately easy to make an entry in the poll book next to the wrong voter's name. For example, despite having died in 1997, Alan J. Mandel was alleged to have voted in 1998; upon further investigation, Alan J. Mandell (two "l"s), who was very much alive and voting at the time, explained that local election workers simply checked the wrong name off of the list.¹⁹ The same problem may occur when information from a poll book is entered incorrectly into a county's computer system, as in Milwaukee in 2004.²⁰ Or voters — legitimate voters — may make a mistake: a 1994 investigation of fraud allegations in California, for example, revealed that voters accidentally signed the poll books on the wrong lines, next to the names of deceased voters.²¹

Errors in registration records. Simple typos may also infect voter records, changing a name or an identifying number or an address in a way that interferes with attempts to validate the voter's information against some other source. For example, in Washington State in 2006, Marina Petrienko tried to register to vote for the first time, but a county official mis-typed the year of her birth, entering "1976" into the database, instead of the year on her form: "1975."²² First-time Illinois voters Mike and Sung Kim "had been mistakenly registered with Kim as their first names" in 2004.²³ And in Milwaukee, Victor Moy was listed on the rolls as living at 8183 W. Thurston Avenue, but actually resides at number 8153.²⁴ Because such typos may prevent registrations from being externally validated by information in other sources, officials and observers may believe that registrations are fraudulent when they are, in reality, entirely legitimate.

Bad "Matching."

The most common source of superficial claims of voter fraud, and the most common source of error, probably involves matching voter rolls against each other or against some other source to find alleged double voters, dead voters, or otherwise ineligible voters.

Errors in the underlying data.

Some such matches fail to account for errors or default entries in the underlying data. In New Jersey in 2005, for example, examiners alleged fraud by individuals on the voter rolls in two different places whose first and last names and birthdates matched, including a woman named Mary Johnson.²⁵

Closer examination, however, showed that some of the matching birthdates in question were January 1, 1880, which was simply a system default for missing information.²⁶ In reality, the examiners had found only two different women named "Mary Johnson," with no relevant birthdate information at all.

Partial matches.

Other matches neglect middle names or suffixes: in the same New Jersey procedure described above, for example, James A. Smith and James G. Smith were presumed to be the same person, as were J. T. Kearns and J. T. Kearns, Jr.²⁷

Similarly, in New Hampshire, 22 pairs of people who shared the same first and last names were flagged for possible double-voting; in fact, all of the flagged voters had different middle names.²⁸ And in one of the more infamous examples of

inappropriate matching, a vendor preparing a set of voters to be purged in Florida in 2000 found “matches” in the first name if the first four letters were the same on two different lists, and “matches” in the last name if 80% of the letters were the same.²⁹

The final set of voters to be purged, of course, contained the names of many individuals whose records had been falsely matched.³⁰

The “birthdate” problem.

Even given an exact match, however, two entries with the same name and birthdate may not represent the same individual. Statistics students are often surprised to discover that in a group of 23 people, it is more likely than not that two will share the same month and day of birth; in a group of 180, two will probably share the same birthdate. In any group of significant size, statistics teaches that there will be many with the same first and last names — and it is likely that at least two such voters will be born on the same day.³¹

It should not therefore be surprising, for example, that “Kathleen Sullivan” was most likely listed twice on the rolls of 2004 New Jersey voters not because one woman drove the length of the state to cast a second ballot, but because two women named Kathleen Sullivan happen to share the same birthdate.³²

Jumping to Conclusions.

Those searching for fraud — politicians, pundits, and even occasionally prosecutors — sometimes jump to unwarranted conclusions with a limited amount of information. The “birthdate problem” above — mistaking two different people with the same name and birthdate — is one example. But there are many other circumstances in which observers draw illicit conclusions from data that in fact have a benign explanation.

Dual registration.

Registering twice — or mistakenly leaving an old registration on the rolls — is not meaningful evidence of an intent to commit fraud by voting twice. There is no requirement that citizens inform their local election officials before they move, and with approximately 14% of Americans moving each year,³³ it is not surprising to find that many voters are registered under multiple addresses — but vote only once. In New Hampshire in 2004, for example, local officials found 67 individuals on the rolls in both Dover and Durham; each of the 67 had moved from one town to the other, and each voted only once.³⁴

It may seem significantly more suspicious to register twice on the same day — but even then, two registrations do not necessarily yield two votes.

In 2004, for example, federal prosecutors charged Wisconsinite Cynthia Alicea with double-voting. Wisconsin allows residents to register on Election Day, which Alicea did. Poll workers found an error on the form, and asked Alicea to fill out another, which she also did — but the first form was never discarded.

Although Alicea completed two registration forms, following poll worker instructions, she voted only once. Her innocence was eventually proven, but not before prosecutors forced the 23-year-old through an unwarranted trial.³⁵

*Alicea voted only once,
but based on two registration forms,
prosecutors took her to trial.*

*She eventually won her case but, because of the ordeal,
"she's inclined not to vote ever again."*

Death records.

Voting from the grave offers salacious headlines, and investigators often attempt to match death records to voter rolls in an attempt to produce purported evidence of fraud. Yet in addition to the problems with inaccurate matching identified above, a simple match of death records to voter rolls may conceal citizens who voted before dying, in quite ordinary fashion.

In Maryland in 1995, for example, an exhaustive investigation revealed that of 89 alleged deceased voters, none were actually dead at the time the ballot was cast. The federal agent in charge of the investigation said that the nearest they came was when they "found one person who had voted then died a week after the election."³⁶ Similarly, in New Hampshire, postcards were sent to the addresses of citizens who voted in the 2004 general election; one card was returned as undeliverable because the voter died after Election Day, but before the postcard arrived at her home.³⁷

Criminal records.

Reports of votes by persons with convictions have often fed claims of voter fraud. Yet without more information, such reports may be deceptive. Many, if not most, convictions are misdemeanors, which in most states do not affect the defendant's voting rights.

Wallace McDonald, for example, was purged from the Florida voter rolls in 2000 because of a conviction. Yet Mr. McDonald's crime was not a felony, for which many Floridians forfeit voting rights forever — but merely a misdemeanor, which should not affect voting rights at all. Indeed, Mr. McDonald had been convicted only of falling asleep on a bench.³⁸ Similarly, in Washington's 2004 gubernatorial election, hundreds of citizens were alleged to have voted illegally because of convictions that were actually juvenile dispositions — which do not disqualify voters.³⁹

Other claims of fraud rely solely on the fact that someone was convicted but never look to see whether the accused person had his voting rights restored. Even in Florida, where, until 2007, most persons with felony convictions lost their voting rights permanently, not every person convicted of a felony was ineligible to vote.

Reverend Willie Dixon, 70, was purged from the Florida voter rolls in 2000 because of a felony conviction — but Reverend Dixon had already been pardoned for his crime and his voting rights had been restored.⁴⁰ In most other states, persons with convictions regain the franchise after release from either incarceration, probation, or parole. Allegations of fraud that rely on a past criminal conviction but fail to investigate whether voting rights were restored will likely prove unfounded.

Returned mail.

Voter “caging” is a tactic involving a mass mailing to registered voters to sniff out mailings that are returned undelivered; these undelivered mailings are then used to compile a list of voters allegedly enrolled under invalid addresses. But for many reasons, undelivered mail need not be an indication that a person registered at the given address is not entitled to vote there.⁴¹ A voter may be away from home for work, like a Louisiana Congresswoman challenged because she received her mail in Washington;⁴² or for military service, like an Ohio servicewoman challenged because she received her mail where she was stationed, in North Carolina;⁴³ or for an extended vacation, like an Oregon woman rendered inactive because she was out of the country for a few months.⁴⁴ A voter may live with others but be unlisted on the mailbox.

Or, like Ohio resident Raven Shaffer, he may receive mail at a post office box or other mail service, and not at his registered residence.⁴⁵ Moreover, some mail is simply not delivered, through no fault of the voter: in the 1990 census, for example, The New York Times reported that “[a]lthough at least 4.8 million [census] forms were found to be undeliverable by the Postal Service, 1.8 million of those were later delivered by hand.”⁴⁶ And recent reports found that government records used by Chicago postal workers to deliver mail contained more than 84,000 errors.⁴⁷

Mail sent to a listed registration address may also be returned as undeliverable because the voter has moved— even though the citizen remains wholly eligible to vote without re-registration. Each state has different rules determining when a voter who has moved must inform election officials of her new address. At a minimum, however, federal law provides that if a voter has moved within the same area covered by a given polling place — if, for example, a voter moves from one apartment to another within the same apartment complex, as a 2000 Oregon voter did⁴⁸ — she may legitimately vote at that polling place even if she has not yet notified a registrar of her move.⁴⁹ Similarly, a voter who has moved within the same registrar’s jurisdiction and Congressional district may return to vote at her former polling place without re-registering.⁵⁰ Especially in urban areas where there is high mobility within a particular neighborhood, undeliverable mail may simply reflect the recent move of a voter who remains fully eligible to vote.

Unusual addresses.

In most states, voters must register at a residential address; those looking for fraud may therefore flag addresses zoned for business use as an indication of fraudulent activity. Broad zoning restrictions, however, do not account for many less traditional — but legitimate — residences. Barbara Taylor was among hundreds of Washington voters challenged in 2005 for this reason. While it is true that the address on her registration was the address of a public storage facility, Taylor explained that she is “a manager for the company and has lived in an apartment on the site for 12 years.”⁵¹ In other cases, transient or homeless individuals have registered — as they are legally entitled to do — at shelters or government buildings.⁵²

Records compiled for a different purpose. In St. Louis in 2000, officials compared the voter rolls to city property records and alleged that some voters fraudulently registered from vacant lots.⁵³ The property records, however, were originally

compiled for a purpose other than individual identification; an address with multiple plots of land was apparently deemed entirely “vacant” if only one of the plots had no building. Further investigation by local reporters revealed that the supposedly vacant lots where voters were registered in fact contained valid residences.⁵⁴

Voter Mistakes.

Even after accounting for the false conclusions above, investigations reveal that ineligible voters do sometimes cast votes. It is important, however, to distinguish those cases in which voters know they are ineligible but vote anyway — real voter fraud — from cases in which ineligible voters mistakenly believe themselves to be eligible. Both scenarios are unquestionably of concern. But it is likely to be more productive to address mistakes with remedies different from those often proposed for fraud.

Of the relatively small number of ineligible voters who mistakenly cast ballots, most are citizens rendered ineligible by criminal conviction. The laws concerning eligibility vary from state to state and can be confusing: different voters are disenfranchised for different convictions for different lengths of time.⁵⁵

Moreover, the process of restoring a citizen’s right to vote varies as well, from automatic restoration upon release from prison in states like Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan,⁵⁶ to the excruciatingly burdensome application process in Kentucky — which requires all would-be voters to submit a written application accompanied by three character references, an essay explaining why they should be eligible to vote, and a filing fee.⁵⁷

These rules are not merely difficult for voters to navigate: election officials with special training in the rules and regulations governing eligibility routinely get the law wrong. A 2004 survey, for example, found that 43% of New Jersey’s county election offices did not follow state law in restoring citizens’ right to vote.⁵⁸ In New York, a much-publicized 2003 survey found that more than half of the local election officials did not follow state law; when the survey was repeated just two years later, 38% of the local boards of elections still got the law wrong.⁵⁹

It is difficult to expect disenfranchised voters to navigate the election laws successfully when so many election officials with expertise do not. Indeed, in Milwaukee, one voter asked to present identification at the polls showed his Department of Corrections ID card, with “OFFENDER” printed in bold letters across the face — but he was not informed by any poll worker that he might be ineligible to cast a ballot.⁶⁰

Such cases show confusion ... but not voter fraud.

VI. Types of “Voter Fraud”

Allegations of “voter fraud” seem to fall into one of several recurring categories. Some would represent actual fraud if the allegations proved true, though the allegations are often unsupported. Some would not actually represent fraud even if they were true. This paper reviews some of the more common assertions of “fraud” below, to substitute more careful analysis for overeager and salacious headlines.

Allegations of Double Voting

Allegations of double voting are among the most common assertions of voter fraud. Consider one set of agitated headlines: “More Double Voting Tied to ‘04 Election,”⁶¹ “Double Voting Being Investigated,”⁶² “Double Voting Fear Rises,”⁶³ “Hundreds Might Have Double-Voted,”⁶⁴ “Exposed: Scandal of Double Voters.”⁶⁵ Most of these reports are hypothetical — hundreds “might” have double voted — and further research shows reason to question the conclusion that widespread double voting occurred. Other reports appear more certain but are actually more incorrect.

There are a handful of known cases in which admissions, poll book entries, absentee ballots, provisional ballot stubs, or other documentation indicate that one individual has actually voted twice.⁶⁶ These cases are extremely rare — not because such documentation is hard to come by (many states require that such documents be retained), but because actual double voting is itself extremely rare. Moreover, the scarcity is expected, given the severity of the penalty (criminal prosecution), and the meager nature of the payoff (one incremental vote).

Instead, it is far more common to see allegations of epidemic double voting that are unfounded. Such claims are usually premised on matching lists of voters from one place to another; upon closer inspection, the match process shows error.

Sometimes the interpretation is flawed: two list entries under the same name — even the same name and birthdate — indicate different individuals, as with two Kathleen Sullivans confused for each other in New Jersey in 2004.⁶⁷

The opportunity for error increases with the size of the attempted match: when allegations of fraud in 2000 were based on a nationwide attempt to match names and birthdates, it is not surprising that 3,273 alleged double voters were found — and not surprising that many, like those attributed to Martha Alexander, the chair of the North Carolina legislature’s panel on election laws, were based on flawed assumptions that two people with the same name and birthdate were the same individual.⁶⁸

Moreover, sometimes the lists themselves are flawed: because of the occasional clerical error by overworked and undertrained election workers, an individual is marked as voting when she did not in fact cast a ballot, as Missouri investigators discovered in 2004.⁶⁹

Sometimes, merely following a poll worker’s accurate instructions can land legitimate voters in unwarranted hot water. In 2004, for example, federal prosecutors were especially attuned to claims of voter fraud, and fixed the weight of the federal government on 23-year-old Cynthia Alicea. Alicea, an eligible resident of Wisconsin, registered on Election Day, as permitted under Wisconsin law. Poll workers found an error on the form, and asked Alicea to fill out another, which she also did. The poll workers, however, never discarded the first form. Alicea voted only once, but based on the two registration forms, prosecutors took the young woman to trial. Though she eventually won her case, because of the ordeal, “she’s inclined not to vote ever again.”⁷⁰

Exaggerated or unfounded allegations of fraud through double voting include the following:

- In Missouri in 2000 and 2002, hundreds of voters were alleged to have voted twice, either within the state or once in Kansas and once in Missouri. The same analysis acknowledged that the “computer files contain many errors that show people voting who did not actually vote.”⁷¹ Of 18 Kansas City cases that reporters followed up, 13 were affirmatively shown to result from clerical errors.⁷² We are aware of public sources substantiating only four cases (amounting to six votes within the state), yielding an overall documented fraud rate of 0.0003%.⁷³
- In New Hampshire in 2004, citizens were alleged to have voted twice. In fact, on further investigation, many of the voters who were allegedly listed multiple times on the rolls actually represented different people with identical names; others were listed with multiple registrations, but voted only once. We are not aware of any public materials substantiating the claims of double voting.⁷⁴
- In New Jersey in 2004, 4,397 voters were alleged to have voted twice within the state, and 6,572 voters were alleged to have voted once in New Jersey and once elsewhere.⁷⁵ Many of these alleged double votes were actually flawed matches of names and/or birthdates on voter rolls.⁷⁶ Only eight cases were actually documented through signatures on poll books; at least five signatures appear to match.⁷⁷ Even if all eight proved to reveal fraud, however, that would amount to an overall double voting rate of 0.0002%.⁷⁸
- In New York in 2002 and 2004, between 400 and 1,000 voters were alleged to have voted once in New York and once in Florida. These allegations were also prompted by a flawed attempt to match names and birthdates.⁷⁹ We are aware of public sources substantiating only two cases, yielding an overall documented fraud rate of 0.000009%.⁸⁰
- In Wisconsin in 2004, dozens of voters were alleged to have voted twice. After further investigation, the vast majority were affirmatively cleared, with some attributed to clerical errors and confusion caused by flawed attempts to match names and birthdates. There were 14 alleged reports of voters casting ballots both absentee and in person; at least 12 were caught, and the absentee ballot was not counted. There were no substantiated reports of any intentional double voting of which we are aware.⁸¹

Allegations of Dead Voters.

Allegations of “dead voters” are also popular, not least for the entertaining pop culture references to be found in the headlines: “Among Voters in New Jersey, G.O.P. Sees Dead People,”⁸² for example, or “Dead Man Voting.”⁸³ After further investigation, however, these allegedly dead voters often turn up perfectly healthy.

There are a handful of known cases in which documentation shows that votes have been cast in the names of voters who have died before the vote was submitted.⁸⁴

It is far more common, however, to see unfounded allegations of epidemic voting from beyond the grave, with a chuckle and a reference to Gov. Earl Long’s quip (“When I die — if I die — I want to be buried in Louisiana, so I can stay active in politics.”) or Rep. Charlie Rangel’s update (same idea, but takes place in Chicago).⁸⁵

Here, too, flawed matches of lists from one place (death records) to another (voter rolls) are often responsible for misinformation. Sometimes the interpretation is flawed: two list entries under the same name indicate different individuals.⁸⁶ Sometimes the lists themselves are flawed: as Hilde Stafford discovered in 2006, individuals who are in fact quite spry are occasionally listed as deceased on the Social Security Administration's master files.⁸⁷ And sometimes, because of clerical error by election workers or voters or both, an individual is marked as voting when she did not in fact cast a ballot, or is marked as voting under the wrong person's name.

For example, despite having died in 1997, Alan J. Mandel was alleged to have voted in 1998. On further investigation, Alan J. Mandell (two "l"s), who was very much alive and voting at the time, explained that local election workers simply checked the wrong name off of the list.⁸⁸ Indeed, a 2007 investigation of about 100 "dead voters" in Missouri revealed that every single purported case was properly attributed either to a matching error, a problem in the underlying data, or a clerical error by elections officials or voters.⁸⁹

In other circumstances, the match is accurate but reveals nothing illegal about the vote: the voter has died, yes, but after casting her ballot. In Maryland in 1995, for example, an exhaustive investigation revealed that of 89 alleged deceased voters, none were actually dead at the time the ballot was cast. The federal agent in charge of the investigation said that the nearest they came was when they "found one person who had voted then died a week after the election."⁹⁰

Exaggerated or unfounded allegations of fraud by dead voters include the following:

- In Georgia in 2000, 5,412 votes were alleged to have been cast by deceased voters over the past 20 years.⁹¹ The allegations were premised on a flawed match of voter rolls to death lists. A follow-up report clarified that only one instance had been substantiated, and this single instance was later found to have been an error: the example above, in which Alan J. Mandel was confused with Alan J. Mandell.⁹² No other evidence of fraudulent votes was reported.
- In Michigan in 2005, 132 votes were alleged to have been cast by deceased voters.⁹³ The allegations were premised on a flawed match of voter rolls to death lists. A follow-up investigation by the Secretary of State revealed that these alleged dead voters were actually absentee ballots mailed to voters who died before Election Day; 97 of these ballots were never voted, and 27 were voted before the voter passed away.⁹⁴ Even if the remaining eight cases all revealed substantiated fraud, that would amount to a rate of at most 0.0027%.⁹⁵
- In New Jersey in 2004, 4,755 deceased voters were alleged to have cast a ballot. The allegations were premised on a flawed match of voter rolls to death lists. No follow-up investigation publicly documented any substantiated cases of fraud of which we are aware, and there were no reports that any of these allegedly deceased voters voted in 2005.⁹⁶
- In New York in 2002 and 2004, 2,600 deceased voters were alleged to have cast a ballot, again based on a match of voter rolls to death lists. Journalists following up on seven cases found clerical errors and mistakes but no fraud, and no other evidence of fraud was reported.⁹⁷

Allegations of Fraudulent Addresses.

Those claiming voter fraud also point to allegations that voters have been registered at fraudulent addresses such as vacant lots, storage units, or government buildings. As with the allegations above, there are a few cases in which charges that votes have been improperly cast from illegitimate addresses have been substantiated.⁹⁸

More often, however, the allegations are either unsupported or further investigation reveals that the allegedly flawed addresses turn out to be legitimate.

These sorts of claims are often based on postcards that are returned undelivered or undeliverable — but the postcards are an unreliable indicator. Typos during the registration process, like the one listing Victor Moy at 8183 W. Thurston Avenue in Milwaukee instead of 8153,99 may cause mail to be misdirected. Or, like the post office box used by Raven Shaffer in Ohio, individuals may receive mail at an address different from the legal residence they list as their registration address.¹⁰⁰

Other unsupported claims are based on attempts to screen registration addresses against lists of vacant lots, or against zoning regulations to find locations dedicated to non-residential use. Here, too, typos may cause legitimate addresses to be flagged as suspicious.¹⁰¹ Or the underlying lists may be flawed: in Missouri in 2000, lots that were supposedly vacant actually held houses.¹⁰² Sometimes the lists are simply overly broad, and capture voters who list less traditional — but entirely legitimate — residences.

Barbara Taylor, for example, was among hundreds of Washington voters challenged in 2005 for this reason. While it is true that the address on her registration was the address of a public storage facility, Taylor — a manager for the storage company — “has lived in an apartment on the site for 12 years.”¹⁰³ Though her address appeared superficially questionable, her address was in fact entirely legitimate.

Finally, a variant of the above claims concern allegations that large numbers of votes are all tied to one address. There is, however, nothing inherently suspect about multiple votes from one address if multiple eligible voters live there, whether the address is a college dormitory or nursing home or any other group housing arrangement. In New Hampshire, for example, a citizen apparently became concerned because 88 individuals had registered with residences on property owned by Daniel Webster College; on further investigation, the 88 registrations were revealed to be from students at the college — and unsurprisingly, entirely legitimate.¹⁰⁴

Exaggerated or unfounded allegations of fraud by voters with invalid addresses include the following:

- In Missouri in 2000, 79 voters were registered from addresses alleged to be vacant lots, but further investigation found that properties classified as vacant in fact contained legitimate residences, and that at least one of the voters was apparently the victim of a typographical error.¹⁰⁵ We are aware of no public reports substantiating claims that any votes were cast by individuals fraudulently registered at invalid addresses.

- In New Hampshire in 2004, based on undelivered postcards sent after the election, citizens were alleged to have voted from invalid addresses. Many actually lived at the addresses claimed, but received their mail elsewhere. Others moved after the election but before the postcards arrived. We are aware of only two substantiated cases (including one domestic violence victim, who voted from an old address in order to avoid disclosing her current domicile), with two more under investigation. Even if all four revealed fraud, that would amount to an overall rate of 0.0006%.¹⁰⁶

- In Wisconsin in 2004, after an attempt to match voters' addresses to a postal service list, 1,242 votes in Milwaukee were alleged to be fraudulent; many of these allegations were later traced to data entry errors or to legitimate residences that were presumed to be business addresses.¹⁰⁷

5,800 additional Election Day registrants were sent undeliverable postcards, but many of these postcards were returned because the voters legitimately moved after the election.¹⁰⁸ We are aware of no substantiated reports of any votes cast by individuals fraudulently registered at invalid addresses.

Allegations of Voter Fraud by Persons with Felony Convictions.

Many close elections have also featured allegations that waves of ineligible people with felony convictions have deliberately overtaken the voting system. There are, however, only a handful of known cases in which people rendered ineligible by convictions cast ballots despite knowing that they were not permitted to do so.¹⁰⁹

More frequently — though still quite rare — individuals who are ineligible because of convictions have reportedly registered or voted without realizing that they were ineligible. In Washington in 2004, for example, there were reports of voting by ineligible persons with convictions, in substantial part because of significant confusion about the circumstances under which civil rights were taken away or restored.¹¹⁰ At the time, citizens convicted of a felony were disenfranchised both while in prison and after they had returned to the community on parole or probation. In order to regain the right to vote, these citizens had to complete their sentence — including repayment of all restitution, fees, and fines.¹¹¹

Confusion abounded. Many citizens with convictions thought they could vote again once they were released from probation.¹¹² Some individuals rendered ineligible by conviction were allegedly told by corrections officers that they could vote; other probationers were apparently mailed ballots they thought they could (indeed, should) cast.¹¹³ At least one county elections office provided mistaken information on its website.¹¹⁴

Similar confusion was not confined to Washington. A 2004 survey in New Jersey, for example, found that 43% of election offices got the law wrong; the error rate by election officials in New York was 38%.¹¹⁵ When more than a third of trained election officials do not know the rules, it is not hard to imagine that persons with convictions are also poorly informed. Moreover, given the ease with which poll book entries can be double-checked against lists of convictions to find ineligible voters, it seems unlikely that ineligible citizens would take the substantial risk of a return to prison for just one incremental vote. On the rare occasions when citizens rendered ineligible by conviction do vote, it is far more sensible to believe that they do so by mistake than that they do so with intent to deceive.

The few examples above concern actual votes — intentional or unintentional — cast by people who are ineligible because of a conviction. More common are allegations of such activity that prove unfounded. Such reports are often based on comparisons of voter rolls with lists of people who have been convicted. Yet these “matches” are subject to the same errors mentioned repeatedly above: typos, clerical errors, individuals who superficially appear to be the same person but are actually different. The notorious 2000 purge of purported felons in Florida is a good example: a system that found roughly similar names and birthdates on voter rolls and conviction records ended up disqualifying thousands of voters who were perfectly eligible to vote, but who were deemed ineligible by the “match.”¹¹⁶ For example, because of the inaccurate matching protocol, eligible citizen Matt Frost was prevented from voting because state officials incorrectly linked him with a similar alias of ineligible voter Shawn Chadwick.¹¹⁷

Even when the matching system is not to blame, allegations of ineligible voting may be inflated. As with at least some names on the 2000 Florida purge list, convictions may be mislabeled as disenfranchising felonies when in fact a voter has been convicted only of a misdemeanor.¹¹⁸ As in Washington in 2004, citizens may be accused of ineligible voting due to juvenile dispositions — which do not affect their voting rights.¹¹⁹ Or as with at least seven cases in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in 2004, accusations may fail to account for voters who are convicted after casting a legitimate vote.¹²⁰

Moreover, even when the individual in question has actually been convicted of an offense that renders him ineligible, few such voters are ineligible to vote indefinitely. Some, like Reverend Willie Dixon of Florida, have been pardoned, and their voting rights restored.¹²¹ Other convictions may be overturned on appeal. Still others, depending on the state, regain the franchise automatically or upon petition, after release from incarceration, probation, or parole. Allegations of fraud that look to convictions without accounting for the restoration of voting rights often miss the mark.¹²²

Exaggerated or unfounded allegations of fraud by persons rendered ineligible by conviction include the following:

- In Florida in 2000, a large-scale purge became justifiably notorious for its inaccurate, even haphazard, discarding of the rights of eligible citizens. Despite recognizing the flawed nature of the purge lists, however, reporters used similar lists to claim that 5,643 ineligible persons with convictions actually voted in 2000. These reports used slightly more rigorous match criteria than were used to create the purge lists, but still acknowledged that the underlying data included eligible citizens with misdemeanors, citizens with convictions after their valid vote, and convicted persons with names and birthdates that matched eligible citizen voters. It is true that some votes were cast by ineligible citizens, some of whom were told by election officials that they were eligible. We are not aware of any reports of citizens voting despite knowing that they were ineligible.¹²³
- In Wisconsin in 2004, after an attempt to match voters to Department of Corrections records, 376 people with allegedly disenfranchising convictions were said to have voted. A follow-up investigation revealed that several were found to be convicted only after they voted;¹²⁴ one was convicted of a misdemeanor,¹²⁵ and in another case, a woman’s vote was improperly recorded in her ineligible husband’s place.¹²⁶ Still another presented an identification card boldly labeled “OFFENDER,” but was not told that he might be ineligible.¹²⁷ We are aware of

sources documenting seven cases in which the voter knowingly voted while ineligible, yielding a fraud rate of 0.0002%.¹²⁸

- In Washington in 2004, evidence submitted in vigorously prosecuted election contest proceedings showed 1,401 votes by individuals rendered ineligible due to convictions. Some of these voters were apparently misinformed by official county election information or corrections officers; most were apparently sent ballots in the mail by the state. We are not aware of any reports that any of these individuals voted knowing that they were ineligible.¹²⁹

Allegations of Voter Fraud by Noncitizens.

We are not aware of any documented cases in which individual noncitizens have either intentionally registered to vote or voted while knowing that they were ineligible. Given that the penalty (not only criminal prosecution, but deportation)¹³⁰ is so severe, and the payoff (one incremental vote) is so minimal for any individual voter, it makes sense that extremely few noncitizens would attempt to vote, knowing that doing so is illegal.

Although there are a few recorded examples in which noncitizens have apparently registered or voted, investigators have concluded that they were likely not aware that doing so was improper. In one highly publicized case, for example, noncitizens were given voter registration forms by a group helping them through the naturalization process, immediately after successfully completing citizenship interviews with federal officials and receiving letters beginning “Congratulations, your application for citizenship has been approved.”¹³¹ Though the actual swearing-in ceremonies were still up to 90 days away, these individuals most likely mistakenly thought it their obligation and privilege to complete the paperwork, and did not intentionally fabricate their citizenship status in front of federal officials who knew that they were noncitizens.¹³²

Far more common than these incidents of noncitizen voting are allegations of noncitizen voting that prove wholly unfounded. These claims are often premised on matching lists of voters from one place to another, but as with each of the examples above, upon closer inspection, the match process shows error. The interpretation may be flawed, as when two list entries under the same name indicate different individuals. Or the lists themselves may be flawed, with an individual marked due to a clerical error as voting when she did not in fact cast a ballot.

Government citizenship records — as the government itself acknowledges — are also replete with errors or incomplete information. Naturalization documentation may find its way into the government files slowly, or not at all, leaving outdated or inaccurate information for investigators looking for fraud. And this, in turn, leads to flawed accusations that noncitizens have been voting, when the voters in question have in fact become fully naturalized American citizens.

Exaggerated or unfounded allegations of fraud by noncitizens include the following:

- In Washington in 2005, an individual asked county offices to investigate the citizenship status of 1,668 registered voters based on their “foreign-sounding names.” There are no reports of which we are aware that any individual on the submitted list was actually a noncitizen.¹³³

- In Washington in 2004, documentation appears to show that two votes were cast in King County by noncitizens. There are no reports of which we are aware that either of these noncitizens knowingly voted illegally, although one did ask to rescind his vote shortly after the election. Given these votes, the rate of documented noncitizen votes — without proof of fraud — in King County was 0.0002%.¹³⁴
- In Milwaukee in 2001, journalists analyzed 370,000 voting records from 1992 to 2000, and found four instances in which voters' names matched a list of naturalized city residents, but appeared to have voted before their naturalization dates; there is no indication of which we are aware that any of these four knowingly voted illegally. Even if all four of the matched records accurately represented noncitizen votes, the rate of noncitizen voting among the city records examined would have been 0.001%.¹³⁵
- In Hawaii in 2000, 553 apparent noncitizens were alleged to have registered to vote. On further investigation, 144 documented that they had become citizens. At least 61 individuals affirmatively asked to cancel their registration; the others were stopped at the polls and specifically asked about their citizenship before voting. There are no reports of which we are aware that any noncitizen actually voted. To the extent that noncitizens were actually represented on the rolls, officials attributed the registrations to mistake rather than fraud.¹³⁶
- In Hawaii in 1998, four years after an INS investigation into more than 10,000 names identified fewer than twelve noncitizens whose names matched those on the voter rolls, the INS again investigated claims of extensive noncitizen voting. The agency examined 1,200 noncitizens suspected of voting, but found no evidence that any had voted. A separate proceeding uncovered three noncitizens who had indeed voted in 1998, and three others who were reported to be under further investigation. There are no reports of which we are aware that any noncitizens voted knowing that they were ineligible. But even if all six had voted, the overall noncitizen voting rate would have been 0.001%.¹³⁷
- In California in 1996, 924 noncitizens allegedly voted in Orange and Los Angeles Counties, including 624 allegedly ineligible voters identified by the Task Force of the U.S. House of Representatives investigating the Dornan/Sanchez election. The allegations were based largely on attempts to match immigration lists to voter rolls, but only 71 voters matched name, date of birth, and signature; other matches were less reliable. Most of the identified voters were processed by one nonprofit group registering individuals proceeding through the naturalization process; many were registered immediately after passing an INS citizenship interview, and after receiving a letter indicating that they had become naturalized. At least 372 of the voters were apparently officially sworn in before Election Day. There are no reports of which we are aware that any noncitizens registered or voted knowing that they were ineligible. Even assuming there were no matching errors, and leaving aside the critical question of intent, if all 552 remaining individuals were in fact noncitizens when they cast their votes, the overall noncitizen voting rate would have been 0.017%.¹³⁸

Allegations of Registration Fraud.

There have been several documented and widely publicized instances in which registration forms have been fraudulently completed and submitted. But it is

extraordinarily difficult to find reported cases in which individuals have submitted registration forms in someone else's name in order to impersonate them at the polls. Furthermore, most reports of registration fraud do not actually claim that the fraud happens so that ineligible people can vote at the polls. Indeed, we are aware of no recent substantiated case in which registration fraud has resulted in fraudulent votes being cast.

Instead, when registration fraud is alleged, the allegations generally fall into one of four categories:

The first type of allegation concerns individuals intentionally submitting forms in the name of someone (or something) ineligible in order to have some fun or — more often — to make a point.¹³⁹ Most of the infamous stories of dogs on the rolls fall into this category, including a recent incident in Washington State.¹⁴⁰ Most of the time, these forms are discovered and investigated by local officials before they make it onto the rolls. There are no reports that we have discovered of votes actually cast in the names of such registrants.

The second type of allegation concerns “fraud” that is not actually fraud at all. This includes registration forms submitted by eligible voters, but with errors or omissions.¹⁴¹ Such mistakes are relatively common, but do not represent fraud. Similarly, there are many jurisdictions in which the registration rolls are inflated with the names of eligible voters who have moved or died or otherwise become ineligible.¹⁴² These lingering entries also do not represent fraud; furthermore, as states build and improve the statewide voter registration databases now required by federal law, it will become easier to remove ineligible voters from the rolls while maintaining safeguards for eligible registrants.

The third type of allegation concerns registration drive workers, who may be paid for their time or on the basis of how many forms they submit,¹⁴³ and who intentionally submit fraudulent forms. The allegations may involve forms submitted in the names of fictional voters, as in the case of “Jive Turkey,”¹⁴⁴ or with the names of actual voters but a false address or a forged signature.¹⁴⁵ Most of the cases of registration fraud that are prosecuted fall into this category.¹⁴⁶ If voter registration drives have enough time and are allowed by law to review the forms submitted by their workers, they can often catch these forms and draw them to the attention of local elections officials.¹⁴⁷

These forms actually defraud the voter registration drives, which compensate workers on the expectation that their time will be spent registering new and eligible citizens; the worker herself is interested not in defrauding the government, but in getting credit for work she didn't do.¹⁴⁸ When drives are able to flag these forms for elections officials, the forms are investigated, not processed, and the worker can be investigated and prosecuted. There are no reports that we have discovered of votes actually cast in the names of such registrants.

Finally, the fourth type of allegation involves individuals who change or manipulate the registration of an eligible voter to frustrate her ability to vote.¹⁴⁹ Like the deliberate destruction of forms,¹⁵⁰ these incidents are rare and most often committed by partisan actors. Most states criminalize the intentional destruction of registration forms or fraudulent submission of forms. Like the allegations of fraud by election officials, these incidents do not concern allegations of fraud by individual voters, and we do not address them in detail here.

Exaggerated or unfounded allegations of voter fraud due to fraudulent registration forms include the following:

- In Florida in 2005, a registration drive was alleged to be submitting thousands of fraudulent registration forms and withholding valid ones, with a box of 179 complete but unsubmitted forms produced as evidence. The charges later proved groundless, and the disgruntled former worker who produced the box was found to have defamed the drive. There are no reports of which we are aware that any votes were cast using any fraudulent registration connected to the drive.¹⁵¹
- In Georgia in 2004, 3,000 allegedly fraudulent registration forms — with the same handwriting and with numerous errors — were submitted by a registration drive. Procedures apparently meant to protect the forms from interference seemed to interfere with the group's ability to perform quality control on the forms that were submitted. There are no reports of which we are aware that any votes were improperly cast using the name of any fraudulent registration form.¹⁵²
- In Missouri, in a departure from clear Department of Justice policy, four individuals were federally indicted on the eve of the 2006 election for alleged registration fraud in Kansas City. At least 1,492 other allegedly questionable voter registration forms were submitted to St. Louis, prompting the Board of Elections for the City of St. Louis to send misleading notices to a wide swath of voters who had registered through the same group.¹⁵³

Yet the wrongdoers were an isolated few registration workers, and despite the skepticism of some that registration fraud occurs only to let ineligible people vote fraudulently, there are no reports of which we are aware that any votes were cast using any fraudulent registration connected to the drive.¹⁵⁴

Allegations of Voter Fraud by Dogs.

Popular media seem especially drawn to allegations that dogs are voting. These stories have a compelling “news of the bizarre” feel, and offer particular pleasure to punsters: “Prank Lands Voter in the Doghouse,”¹⁵⁵ “Woman Registers Her Dog to Vote; Prosecutors Growl.”¹⁵⁶ The fact, however, is that the voter rolls have not been overrun by canines. We are aware of only nine specific reports of dogs found on the voter rolls, including the registration card of “Ritzy Mekler” made infamous by Senator Kit Bond of Missouri.¹⁵⁷

At least six of the nine canine registrants were placed on the rolls by individuals trying to make a point about the fact that it is possible, if one risks prosecution, to place a dog on the voter rolls.¹⁵⁸ Which is to say, if people no longer registered dogs to show that dogs are on the rolls, dogs would no longer be on the rolls.

We are aware of only two cases — ever — involving ballots actually submitted in the name of a dog: the ballots cast by “Duncan MacDonald” in 2006 and 2007 (but labeled “VOID” and signed with a paw print),¹⁵⁹ and the ballot cast by “Raku Bowman” in 2003 in the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council elections in Venice, California.¹⁶⁰ Only Bowman's vote — in a local election run by volunteers, rather than state or federal election officials — was counted. Moreover, in order to cast these votes, both owners had to go to significant lengths: swear falsely on a voter registration form, forge a signature there, forge

proof of identity, swear falsely again on the absentee ballot request form, forge a signature there, swear falsely again on the absentee ballot envelope itself, and forge a signature there. In an election for federal candidates, that could subject a defendant to up to thirty years in prison on federal charges alone.

Allegations of Vote-Buying.

We also briefly mention allegations of vote-buying, which are often lumped together with “voter fraud,” though they do not usually involve allegations that the voters in question are ineligible. Instead, these incidents involve illegal agreements by eligible citizens to buy or sell their votes.

Vote-buying schemes may involve agreements to buy or sell votes for particular candidates, or they may simply involve payments for voting — candidate unspecified — in get-out-the-vote efforts targeted at communities thought more likely to support a particular candidate.¹⁶¹ Usually, the monetary value of the reward is fairly small: a small amount of cash, for example, or cigarettes, or food. And in virtually every case, a candidate or campaign staff are directly and centrally involved in brokering the illegal deal.

We mention such schemes specifically because they do still occur,¹⁶² and are often used to buttress claims that widespread fraud infects the election system.¹⁶³ However, for most purposes, it is necessary to distinguish vote-buying from the voter fraud that more typically captures the attention of the public.

Because the individuals involved in vote-buying schemes are almost always citizens who are eligible to vote, vote-buying cannot possibly be addressed by most of the remedies proposed to confront voter fraud: photo identification rules, restrictions on registration, and the like. In supporting the need for policies that address alleged fraud by ineligible voters, then, it is misleading to include vote-buying in the list of wrongdoing.

Allegations of Fraud by Election Officials.

Similarly, reporters and analysts should be wary of attempts to bootstrap fraud by election officials or other insiders into compendiums of alleged “voter fraud.” Election fraud by insiders has been an issue since Senators wore togas.

Sadly, there are still occasional reports of wrongdoing by those who are employed to safeguard the process. For example, in 2004, election judge Leander Brooks was convicted of casting at least twenty ballots in others’ names in 2002 in East St. Louis, Illinois; his cousin Michael Collins, a former city councilman, had been convicted of registering acquaintances from outside his precinct to vote fraudulently from a neighbor’s address in 1995.¹⁶⁴

Like the allegations of vote-buying above, fraud by election officials should be condemned, and documented acts of such fraud should be prosecuted. But also like the allegations above, such incidents should be clearly distinguished from voter fraud.

Most remedies aimed at preventing alleged fraud by ineligible voters depend on honest enforcement of the law by election officials. Conversely, if as above, election officials are willing to pervert the law, policies aimed at policing voters will not be able to stop insiders from corrupting the system.

VII. Appendix

Selected Case Studies.

Allegations of widespread fraud by malevolent voters are easy to make, but often prove to be inaccurate. The Brennan Center has analyzed public materials in some of the areas branded as notorious election fraud “hot spots,” finding that various election irregularities led to inflated claims of widespread fraud.

In many of these cases, proposals to require restrictive identification documents of voters at the polls were under debate at the time of the election — or were proposed as a result. The cries of “voter fraud” were often used to support the call for restrictive ID.

We examined each of the allegations of fraud by voters to uncover the truth behind the assertions. Further case studies are available at our website devoted to the topic, www.truthaboutfraud.org.

Missouri

In some ways, the recent hunt for voter fraud began in Missouri in the 2000 election, the crucible that proved formative for Attorney General John Ashcroft and Senator Kit Bond, among others. Yet despite all the frenzy, the allegations yielded only six substantiated cases of Missouri votes cast by ineligible voters, knowingly or unknowingly, except for those votes permitted by court order. The six cases were double votes by four voters—two across state lines and two within Missouri—amounting to an overall rate of 0.0003%. None of these problems could have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.

New Jersey

Just before the 2005 election, partisan actors attempted to probe the accuracy of New Jersey’s voter rolls by comparing election records for 2004 with death records and with the rolls of other states. The allegations yielded only eight substantiated cases of individuals knowingly casting invalid votes that counted—eight voters who voted twice. Given the number of votes cast in these elections, this amounts to a rate of 0.0004%. None of these problems could have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.

Wisconsin

The 2004 election was hotly contested in Wisconsin, and various irregularities led to inflated claims of widespread fraud. The allegations yielded only seven substantiated cases of individuals knowingly casting invalid votes that counted—all persons with felony convictions. This amounts to a rate of 0.0025% within Milwaukee and 0.0002% within the state as a whole. None of these problems could have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.

Missouri

The 2000 election was hotly contested in Missouri, and various irregularities led to inflated claims of widespread fraud. Many of these fraud claims were later used to support the call for restrictive ID requirements. We examined each of the

allegations of fraud by individual voters — the only sort that ID could possibly address — to uncover the truth behind the assertions.

The Allegations:

- Invalid addresses: 79 individuals listed as voting in St. Louis City were registered from addresses alleged to be vacant lots. Further investigation found that properties that were wrongly classified by the city assessor's office as vacant in fact contained legitimate residences. Only 14 voters were found to be listed as registered from vacant lots, at least one of whom was apparently victim of a typographical error, and three more of whom moved within St. Louis City and may not have been required to re-register with a new address before voting.¹⁶⁵

14 addresses in St. Louis City were allegedly “drop sites” where fraudulent registrations might have been processed.¹⁶⁶ The 14 alleged “drop sites” in St. Louis City were addresses that were determined to be locations other than apartment buildings, nursing homes, or recognizable group homes where more than eight people were registered at each location. Seven of these addresses were actually visited by reporters, and all seven visits revealed that more than eight people properly lived at the address noted.¹⁶⁷

- Ineligible by conviction: 62 individuals listed as voting in St. Louis City and County matched the name, date of birth, and Social Security number of individuals listed on federal court records of felony conviction, and 52 individuals listed as voting in St. Louis County matched the name and date of birth of individuals listed on county records of felony conviction. It is not clear whether there was any overlap between the list of 62 and the list of 52, nor is it clear whether any of the individuals had had their rights restored before the election. We are not aware of any public reported analysis of poll records to determine whether individuals listed as voting actually voted and were not listed as voting due to a clerical error or mistakenly listed instead of an eligible voter with the same name and birthdate.¹⁶⁸

- Double voters: 23 individuals listed as voting on the voter rolls maintained by St. Louis City and County matched the name, date of birth, and Social Security number of another individual listed as voting; 45 individuals matched the name and date of birth of another voter. We are not aware of any public reported analysis of these poll records to determine whether individuals listed as voting actually voted twice and were not listed as voting due to a clerical error or mistakenly confused with another eligible voter with the same name and birthdate.¹⁶⁹

Based on a computer match of names and dates of birth on voter rolls, 150 individuals from St. Louis — presumably including the individuals above — were listed as voting twice in 2000 or 2002, and 150 other individuals from across the rest of the state were alleged to have either voted twice within the state or once in Kansas and once in Missouri. The same analysis acknowledged that the “computer files contain many errors that show people voting who did not actually vote.”¹⁷⁰ Of 18 Kansas City cases that reporters followed up, 13 were shown to result from clerical errors, 2 were uncertain, and 3 appeared to show double voting in Missouri and Kansas — 2 in 2000 and 1 in 2002. (At least two of these were convicted in federal court.) One other case of double voting within Missouri in 2000, and one in 2002, were substantiated using poll records.¹⁷¹

- Dead voters: 14 votes in St. Louis City and County were cast in the names of allegedly dead people, based on a computer match of names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers on the voting rolls against information in Department of Health records.¹⁷² It is not clear whether any of these individuals died after the election. We are not aware of any public reported analysis of poll records to determine whether individuals listed as voting actually voted and were not listed as voting due to a clerical error.¹⁷³

Additional Allegations of Irregularities Unconnected to Individual Voter Fraud:

- “Inactive” purge: In St. Louis, approximately 49,589 eligible voters were removed from the active voter rolls and placed on an “inactive list” after postcards allegedly sent to them were returned as undeliverable. At many polling places, the “inactive lists” were not made available, and these voters were allegedly unlawfully instructed that they could not vote at their regular precinct, but instead had to travel to the central city office to wait on lengthy lines to affirm their registered status, and then return to their original polling places to vote. Some voters were still on line at the central office when the polls closed, and were not able to return to their polling places to vote.¹⁷⁴
- Polling place time: In St. Louis, the polls were kept open by court order until 7:45pm, 45 minutes past the original closing time. The lead plaintiff requesting this order was allegedly deceased, although later review showed that the plaintiff’s name had been typed with an incorrect middle initial; the legal filings also stated that this plaintiff had been unable to vote when he had in fact voted. The effort to keep the polls open was alleged to have been conceived before Election Day. The delayed closing time allowed at least 100 voters to vote who otherwise would have arrived at the polls too late to cast a vote.¹⁷⁵
- Court order: At least 342 voters in St. Louis City and 891 voters in St. Louis County were allegedly improperly granted a court order allowing them to vote. The effort to seek court orders was also alleged to have been conceived before Election Day. Most of these voters allegedly gave insufficient reasons for obtaining a court order, although the report arriving at this conclusion stated an inaccurately high threshold for obtaining a court order.¹⁷⁶ 143 of these voters allegedly had not been registered by the voter registration deadline; it is not clear if any of the other voters were ineligible to vote.¹⁷⁷
- Improper election judges: 45 election judges in St. Louis City allegedly not registered to vote were later found to be validly registered; all were thought invalid because of typographical errors.¹⁷⁸
- Inflated voter rolls: St. Louis City had more names registered on the voting rolls than the voting-age population of the city, and 24,000 names were also listed as registered elsewhere in Missouri.¹⁷⁹
- Chain of custody: Ballot boxes were allegedly left unattended at 29 precincts.¹⁸⁰

The Rate of Substantiated Voter Fraud:

- The allegations of fraud related to the 2000 general election, in which 124,752 votes were cast in St. Louis City, 497,577 votes were cast in St. Louis County, and 2,361,586 votes were cast in all of Missouri.¹⁸¹

- There were 6 substantiated cases of Missouri votes cast by ineligible voters, knowingly or unknowingly, except for those votes permitted by court order. These six cases were double votes by four voters – two across state lines and two within Missouri. This amounts to a rate of 0.0003%. None of these problems could have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.
- Even given allegations that were unsubstantiated, the rate of possible fraud remains low. The analysis above lays out the allegations, reasons to question each, and the facts that we now know. But assuming that all 278 of the remaining questionable allegations—including 14 voters with allegedly invalid addresses, 114 allegedly ineligible persons with felony convictions, 68 allegedly double voters (at two votes apiece), and 14 votes in the names of allegedly deceased individuals—in fact represent ineligible votes, that would amount to a rate of 0.045% within St. Louis City and County and 0.012% within the state as a whole. If all 14 votes in the names of allegedly deceased individuals in fact proved fraudulent and were cast in person, these votes—0.002% within St. Louis City and County and 0.0006% within the state as a whole—might possibly have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.

Note: this analysis does not include 228 unsubstantiated cases of alleged double voting across the state reported by the Kansas City Star, because they did not distinguish between votes cast in 2000 and 2002. In the 2002 general election, 1,877,620 votes were cast in Missouri.¹⁸²

Coverage by Existing Law:

- Proper implementation of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which was passed after (and to some extent, because of) the 2000 election, would have addressed most of these allegations. HAVA requires states to create statewide electronic voter registration lists with each eligible voter listed uniquely to remove duplicate registrations, and to coordinate those computerized lists with agency records on death and conviction in order to remove ineligible voters. Although the obligation to maintain these cleaned lists predated HAVA, the computerized registration rolls — if implemented with suitable controls for accuracy — offer a new and efficient means to do so statewide. Like most states, Missouri did not have a statewide computerized database up and running in 2000, but now that it does, the database should allow the state to sharply reduce even the small number of alleged invalid votes due to allegedly improper registrations.

New Jersey

Just before the 2005 elections, partisan actors attempted to probe the accuracy of New Jersey's voter rolls by comparing them with death records and with the rolls of other states. The reports led to inflated claims of widespread fraud in the 2004 election, of the sort commonly used to support restrictive identification requirements for voters at the polls. We examined each of the allegations of fraud by individual voters—the only sort that ID could possibly address—to uncover the truth behind the assertions.

The Allegations:

- Dead voters: 4,755 votes were alleged to have been cast in the names of dead voters in 2004, based on an attempt to match the first and last name and date of

birth from voting records to death records.¹⁸³ No follow-up investigation appears to have been published on the number of votes actually cast in the names of dead voters in 2004, if any. None of the allegedly dead voters actually voted in 2005.¹⁸⁴

- Double voters: 4,397 individuals allegedly voted twice in New Jersey, and 6,572 individuals allegedly voted both in New Jersey and in either New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, North Carolina, or South Carolina, based on an attempt to match the first and last name and date of birth from one set of voting records to another.¹⁸⁵ Analysis of the list of alleged double voters within New Jersey showed that 2,305 of the entries had different middle names or suffixes, or an error in the date of birth.¹⁸⁶ Data errors in Middlesex county, and the statistical likelihood of finding two different individuals with the same name and birthdate, call into question much of the remainder of the list.¹⁸⁷ Ultimately, the existence of eight double voters was substantiated through original signatures on poll book materials.¹⁸⁸

The Rate of Substantiated Voter Fraud:

- The allegations of fraud related to the 2004 general election, in which 3,611,691 votes were cast in New Jersey.¹⁸⁹
- There were eight substantiated cases of individuals knowingly casting invalid votes—eight voters voting twice. This amounts to a rate of 0.0004%. None of these problems could have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.
- Even given allegations that were unsubstantiated, the rate of possible fraud remains low. The analysis above lays out the allegations, reasons to question each, and the facts that we know. But assuming that all 13,419 of the remaining cases in fact involved voter fraud—which is highly unlikely, given the methodological errors revealed in the study of double-voting—that would amount to a rate of 0.61%.

Coverage by Existing Law:

- The federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires states to create statewide electronic voter registration lists, and to coordinate those computerized lists with agency records on death in order to remove ineligible voters. Although the obligation to remove deceased voters from the rolls predated HAVA, the computerized registration rolls — if implemented with suitable controls for accuracy—offer a new and efficient means to do so statewide. Like most states, New Jersey did not have a HAVA-ready statewide database up and running in 2004, but once it does, the database should allow the state both to eliminate duplicate registrations within the state and to cut down on the number of deceased citizens who are still on the rolls.

Wisconsin

The 2004 election was hotly contested in Wisconsin, and various irregularities led to inflated claims of widespread fraud. At the same time, Wisconsin citizens were debating a proposal to require restrictive identification of each voter at the polls, and the fraud claims were used to support the call for ID. We examined each of the allegations of fraud by individual voters—the only sort that ID could possibly address—to uncover the truth behind the assertions.

The Allegations:

- Invalid addresses: Based on an attempt to match voter roll entries to the U.S. Postal Service's database of street addresses, 37,180 people in Milwaukee were alleged to have registered from invalid addresses. Of these, 31,500 listed accurate street addresses, but had problems with an apartment number. Further review of the remaining allegedly invalid addresses revealed cases in which the list was corrupted; digits were dropped on some entries, making otherwise valid addresses appear fictitious. This review also showed typos turning valid addresses into invalid ones. Though reporters following up on the story could not locate 68 listed addresses, at least 400 addresses were affirmatively proven to be valid. The bipartisan Milwaukee Election Commission ultimately threw out a challenge lodged to 5,619 of the entries, citing insufficient evidence that the registrations were invalid. Still, poll workers were specifically instructed to ask challenged voters for proof of residency, so every voter on the list of 5,619 should have been asked for proof of proper residency.¹⁹⁰

1,242 Milwaukee votes were cast from allegedly invalid addresses, based on another computerized match; this match paired voter rolls with U.S. Postal Service and City of Milwaukee property lists, with spot checks of 40 specific addresses.¹⁹¹

A sample of 300 of the entries showed that about 20% of the invalid addresses were attributed to data entry errors (e.g., "3130 S. 15th Place" became "3130 S. 15th St.," and "S. 68th St." became "S. 63rd St."). At least two other addresses ostensibly deemed business locations were found to be valid residences after an individual spot-check. Furthermore, 75% of these votes were from Election Day registrants, who were required to show proof of residence at the polls.¹⁹²

- Faulty registration cards: In Milwaukee, 10,921 voter registration cards from Election Day voters were allegedly unable to be processed. This allegation turned out to be an error; in fact, 1,305 Election Day registration cards from Milwaukee could not be processed. 548 of these listed no address, and 48 cards listed no name, but voters had to show both proof of name and proof of residence to register on Election Day. 236 cards had missing or incomplete dates of birth, 28 had no signature, 141 listed addresses outside of the city limits, and 23 were deemed illegible. 155 cards were not processed because they had not been given a voter number by the city. It is unclear why the remaining 126 cards could not be processed.¹⁹³

3,600 address verification cards mailed using information entered from these Election Day registrations were returned as allegedly undeliverable. ¹⁹⁴ We are not aware of any further public investigation of these cards. ¹⁹⁵

2,200 address verification cards from outside of Milwaukee, mailed using information entered from Election Day registrations, were also returned as allegedly undeliverable.¹⁹⁶

313 of these were from Racine: 207 were returned because the voter moved after the election, and at least 24 addresses were entered incorrectly by election workers.¹⁹⁷

Of the 1,887 returned address verifications of Election Day registrations from elsewhere around the state, 1,198 were returned because the voter moved after

the election or was temporarily absent when the card arrived; 610 showed a valid address but the individual could not be found there; 36 had an incorrect street number; 2 had an incorrect street name; 9 had a missing apartment number; 9 were sent to an address with no mailbox; 2 were sent to vacant addresses; and 21 were returned for some other reason.¹⁹⁸

- Ineligible by conviction: The organizers of one pre-election jailhouse absentee ballot drive conducted a records check on 400 inmates who had signed up, found 18 ineligible, and alerted election officials; no votes were cast by these ineligible persons.¹⁹⁹

376 individuals allegedly rendered ineligible by felony conviction cast ballots, based on an attempt to match voter rolls and information from the Department of Corrections.²⁰⁰

96 individuals listed as voting in Milwaukee matched name, address, and birthdate against Department of Correction records, and 182 individuals listed as voting matched only name and address. At least one appears to have been erroneously listed as voting; he is listed as voting but claims that he did not, while his wife is not listed as voting, but did cast a ballot. Another 98 people listed as voting elsewhere around the state matched name, address, and birthdate against Department of Correction records, but at least 7 were convicted after the election, and were eligible at the time they cast their ballot.²⁰¹

13 voters have been formally charged with fraudulently voting while ineligible; of these, 7 have been convicted, 1 voter was acquitted, 1 case was dismissed upon evidence that the voter was eligible when voting, 2 cases were dismissed for other reasons, and 2 cases were dismissed despite evidence that the voter was ineligible. In one of the latter cases, the voter provided his Department of Corrections identification card at the polls, which had "OFFENDER" printed in bold letters across the face, but was not told that he was ineligible to vote.²⁰²

3 others were documented as voting while ineligible but have not been charged. An additional voter documented as ineligible was found in 2006.²⁰³

- Double voters: A computer glitch in Milwaukee caused at least 314 voters who re-registered before or on Election Day to be listed twice on the rolls, with a notation of voting next to each listing. Each was given only a single ballot.²⁰⁴

83 people allegedly voted twice; 14 allegedly voted both absentee and in person, 9 allegedly voted in Milwaukee and other cities, 59 allegedly voted twice in Milwaukee, and 1 allegedly voted twice in Madison.²⁰⁵

Of the 59 voters alleged to have voted twice in Milwaukee, most registered twice but voted only once. 51 were cleared by investigators, 1 was acquitted at trial, 1 received no verdict at trial, and 1 was found incompetent to stand trial. Finally, another voter named Gloria Bell believes that she was confused with a woman named Gloria Bell-Piphus.²⁰⁶

Of the 9 voters alleged to have voted both in Milwaukee and in another city, all 9 were cleared of wrongdoing: clerical and scanning errors by poll workers accounted for 6 of the voters, 2 were fathers and sons alleged to be the same person, and 1 had a different middle name and birthdate from his alleged double.

Of the 14 voters alleged to have voted both absentee and in person, in at least 12 cases, after comparing absentee records to poll records, the absentee ballot was not counted.²⁰⁷

- Dead voters: 4 votes were cast in the names of allegedly dead people.²⁰⁸ These were all absentee ballots, cast by individuals who died within two weeks of the election; it is not clear whether the ballots were cast before the individuals died.²⁰⁹
- Impersonation: 1 vote was allegedly cast in the name of an individual who did not vote.²¹⁰ Further investigation of the alleged vote cast in the name of another was determined to be a clerical error by a poll worker.²¹¹
- Fictitious voters: 2 votes were allegedly cast in the name of an individual who could not be verified as an actual individual.²¹² These votes were cast in the name of Marquis F. Murff, who could not be verified by a reporter as an actual individual. We are not aware of any further public investigation.²¹³
- Underage voter: One ballot was cast by a 17-year-old voter, using his real birthdate.²¹⁴
- Noncitizen: One columnist reported that a ballot was allegedly cast by a Canadian legal permanent resident. We are not aware of any further public investigation.²¹⁵
- Faulty registration: Four individuals allegedly submitted false voter registration applications.²¹⁶ 2 Milwaukee residents were convicted for submitting false voter registration applications; 1 person alleged to have supervised two others who turned in false forms was also convicted, but that conviction was overturned.

The trial of one other individual accused of submitting false registration applications is still pending. No votes were alleged to have been cast under these registrations.²¹⁷

Additional Allegations of Irregularities Unconnected to Individual Voter Fraud:

- “Extra” ballots: In Milwaukee, there were allegedly 8,300 more ballots cast than individuals processed as voting; the gap was later narrowed to 4,609. The discrepancy was later attributed to administrative error in reconciling poll book logs with ballots, and at least one typographical error in reporting results.²¹⁸
- Election Day interference: In Milwaukee, tires on 20 get-out-the-vote vans were allegedly slashed.²¹⁹
- Uncounted ballots: 238 valid absentee ballots from Milwaukee were counted late.²²⁰
- Uncounted votes: 600 valid votes were allegedly not counted in Medford due to a computer error.²²¹
- Unprocessed registration cards: Eight boxes of valid registration cards were allegedly not processed in order to put voters on the rolls by the time individuals arrived at the polls.²²²

The Rate of Substantiated Voter Fraud:

- The allegations of voter fraud related to the 2004 general elections, in which 277,565 votes were cast in Milwaukee, and 2,997,007 votes were cast in all of Wisconsin.²²³
- There were 7 substantiated cases of individuals knowingly casting invalid votes—all persons with felony convictions. This amounts to a rate of 0.0025% within Milwaukee and 0.0002% within the state as a whole. None of these problems could have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.
- There were 11 substantiated cases of votes cast by ineligible Milwaukee voters—all persons with felony convictions. There are 8 substantiated cases of votes cast by ineligible voters from other parts of the state — 2 persons with felony convictions, 1 foreign national, 1 17-year-old voter, and 4 absentee ballots cast by deceased voters. That amounts to a rate of 0.004% within Milwaukee and 0.0006% in the state as a whole. None of these problems could have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.
- Even given allegations that were unsubstantiated, the rate of possible fraud remains low. The analysis above lays out the allegations, reasons to question each, and the facts that we now know. But assuming that all 6,877 of the remaining questionable allegations — including 1,150 voter registration cards not processed, 5,356 allegedly flawed addresses, 353 other allegedly ineligible persons with convictions, 8 allegedly double voters (for a total of 16 votes), and 2 votes from the allegedly fictitious individual — in fact represent ineligible votes, that would amount to a rate of 2.2% within Milwaukee and 0.2% within the state as a whole. None of these votes could have been resolved by requiring photo ID at the polls.

Coverage by Existing Law:

- The vast majority of these allegations would have been addressed by adequate implementation of existing law. Elections officials should have been able to correct incomplete or illegible registration cards on site; the requirement of proof of residence for Election Day registrants should have caught invalid addresses on Election Day. Addresses of voters registering before Election Day could have been carefully investigated before Election Day — by an investigation more thorough than a computer match, and attuned to the possibility of data entry errors. If the investigation revealed questions, as occurred here, the questioned voters could have been validly challenged by election officials, and asked to verify their residence; if an investigation revealed fraud rather than error or a valid change of residence, the case could be referred for prosecutorial follow-through. Similarly, as occurred here, absentee ballots should have been matched against poll records to determine if a duplicate had been cast.
- Proper implementation of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) would have addressed most of the remaining allegations. HAVA requires states to create statewide electronic voter registration lists with each eligible voter listed uniquely to remove duplicate registrations, and to coordinate those computerized lists with agency records on death and conviction in order to remove ineligible voters. Although the obligation to maintain these cleaned lists predated HAVA, the computerized registration rolls — if implemented with suitable controls for

accuracy — offer a new and efficient means to do so statewide. Like most states, Wisconsin did not have a HAVA-ready statewide database up and running in 2004, but once it does, the database should allow the state to sharply reduce even the small number of alleged invalid votes due to allegedly improper registrations.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to thank his Brennan Center colleagues for their contributions to this paper—particularly Deborah Goldberg and Wendy Weiser of the Brennan Center for their helpful comments and Margaret Chen for her extraordinary research assistance. The Center thanks the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Educational Foundation of America, Ford Foundation, JEHT Foundation, Open Society Institute, Rockefeller Family Fund, and an anonymous donor for the generous support that made this paper possible. The statements made and views expressed in this paper are solely the responsibility of the Brennan Center.

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by Michael Keefer
15 November 2004

This reading list has been prepared with the aim of making a wide range of readings on the subject of the integrity—or the lack of integrity—of the recent U.S. presidential election readily available.

I have sought to facilitate analytical use of the texts listed here by dividing them into five groups under the following headings:

1. The Openness of New Voting Technologies to Fraud;
2. Allegations and Evidence of Fraud in Recent U.S. Elections;
3. Advance Warnings of Fraud in the 2004 Presidential Election;
4. Allegations and Evidence of Fraud in the 2004 Presidential Election;
5. Allegations and Evidence of a Cover-up of Electoral Fraud.

Some important writings which deal with more than one of these issues -- among them Bev Harris's ground-breaking book *Black Box Voting*, Andrew Gumbel's assessment of the threat to democracy posed by the new voting technologies, and Steven Freeman's analysis of exit poll discrepancies -- appear under more than one of the five headings.

Even at this early stage, less than two weeks after the presidential election, a growing accumulation of evidence points to the conclusion that the official vote tallies -- listed by *The New York Times* at

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9.19 The Distortion of Science for Political Gain

Union of Concerned Scientists: White House Distorts Research Data for Political Ends

More than 60 of the nation's top researchers, including 20 Nobel laureates, signed a report in late February charging that the Bush administration has misrepresented scientific findings -- including those by academic researchers -- to support its policies. The report, published by the Union of Concerned Scientists, also recounted unusual steps by the administration to block appointments of qualified scientists to advisory panels because the candidates opposed the president's policies.

...

In examining the charges made in the report of the Union of Concerned Scientists, an advocacy group best known for its work promoting nuclear disarmament, The Chronicle interviewed several academic researchers and looked at Bush-administration decisions on obesity and on workplace injury that were not covered in the report.

On those issues and others, including global climate change, both the UCS and other scientists interviewed by The Chronicle assert that the Bush administration has repeatedly stated that the existing research is uncertain or inadequate in order to justify not taking action to correct problems. They see the president's insistence on more research before making some decisions related to science as motivated primarily by his desire to protect business and industry from the costs and changes suggested by scientific findings.

Scientists are particularly worried by proposed federal guidelines under which peer-review panels would evaluate the scientific findings that support regulatory actions by federal agencies. The guidelines would encourage agencies to think twice before appointing scientists who had received research grants from those agencies. Critics say the plan could exclude top scientists who have supported regulations opposed by industry.

The Bush administration "has the right to make whatever policy they want, and we're not criticizing that," says David Michaels, a research professor of environmental occupational health at George Washington University, who signed the report. "But time and time again, the administration pretends the science supports their position."

<http://chronicle.com/free/v50/i26/26a01801.htm>

Bush Administration Distorts Science

The Bush administration has distorted scientific fact leading to policy decisions on the environment, health, biomedical research and nuclear weaponry, a group of about 60 scientists, including 20 Nobel laureates, said in a statement on Wednesday.

...

The scientists listed various policy issues as being unfairly influenced by the administration, including those concerning climate change, mercury emissions, reproductive health, lead poisoning in children, workplace safety and nuclear weapons. New regulations and laws are necessary to fix the situation, the statement says.

"We found a serious pattern of undermining science by the Bush administration, and it crosses disciplines, whether it's global climate change or reproductive health or mercury in the food chain or forestry -- the list goes on and on," said Kevin Knobloch, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

<http://www.wired.com/news/medtech/0,1286,62339,00.html>

Obscuring the Truth About Global Climate Change

Since taking office, the Bush administration has consistently sought to undermine the public's understanding of the view held by the vast majority of climate scientists that human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases are making a discernible contribution to global warming.

After coming to office, the administration asked the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to review the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and provide further assessment of what climate science could say about this issue. The NAS panel rendered a strong opinion, which, in essence, confirmed that of the IPCC. The American Geophysical Union, the world's largest organization of earth scientists, has also released a strong statement describing human-caused disruptions of Earth's climate. Yet Bush administration spokespersons continue to contend that the uncertainties in climate projections and fossil fuel emissions are too great to warrant mandatory action to slow emissions.

In May 2002, President Bush expressed disdain for a State Department report to the United Nations that pointed to a clear human role in the accumulation of heat-trapping gases and detailed the likely negative consequences of climate change; the president called it "a report put out by the bureaucracy." In September 2002, the administration removed a section on climate change from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) annual air pollution report,⁷ even though the climate issue had been discussed in the report for the preceding five years.

Then, in one well-documented case, the Bush administration blatantly tampered with the integrity of scientific analysis at a federal agency when, in June 2003, the White House tried to make a series of changes to the EPA's draft Report on the Environment.

<http://webexhibits.org/bush/5.html>

Destruction of Public Lands

Cattle Star Redactica

In developing new proposed regulations for cattle grazing on public lands, the Bush administration intentionally obscured the damage grazing causes, according to two government scientists. Erick Campbell and Bill Brookes, both recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management, determined in an environmental impact statement that the new rules, which would increase grazing on 160 million acres of public land, would harm water resources and wildlife, including endangered species. But in the statement accompanying the newly released regulations, lo, the science has been transformed. The rules, which once would have had a "significant adverse impact," are now "beneficial to animals." (Well,

cows are animals, we suppose.) They would restrain BLM staffers from acting quickly to limit grazing that's damaging land; lengthy studies would now be required instead. And public input on grazing decisions would no longer be mandated, merely allowed. While a BLM official calls the changes part of the agency's standard review process, Campbell and Brookes are dismayed. "They rewrote everything," says Campbell. "It's a crime."

<http://www.organicconsumers.org/Politics/grazing062105.cfm>

Areas Once Immune to Manipulation

In August 2003, at the request of Rep. Henry A. Waxman, the Democratic staff of the Government Reform Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives assessed the treatment of science and scientists by the Bush Administration. The resulting report -- Politics and Science in the Bush Administration -- found numerous instances where the Administration has manipulated the scientific process and distorted or suppressed scientific findings. These actions go far beyond the typical shifts in policy that occur with a change in the political party occupying the White House. Thirteen years ago, former President George H.W. Bush stated that "[n]ow more than ever, on issues ranging from climate change to AIDS research . . . government relies on the impartial perspective of science for guidance." Today, President George W. Bush's Administration has skewed this impartial perspective, generating unprecedented criticism from the scientific community and even from prominent Republicans who once led federal agencies.

The Administration's political interference with science has led to misleading statements by the President, inaccurate responses to Congress, altered web sites, suppressed agency reports, erroneous international communications, and the gagging of scientists. The subjects involved span a broad range, but they share a common attribute: the beneficiaries of the scientific distortions are important supporters of the President, including social conservatives and powerful industry groups.

Visit the Committee on Government Reform Minority Office for the latest news on the ongoing interference with science by the Bush Administration.

http://democrats.reform.house.gov/features/politics_and_science/index.htm

Deck Stacked Against Scientists Who Disagree with Policy

By Kristen Philipkoski

Feb, 03, 2004

Under the guise of promoting sound science, the Bush administration is advancing a policy that could make it more difficult for federal agencies to protect health and the environment, U.S. scientists say.

A White House Office of Management and Budget, or OMB, bulletin (PDF) drafted in August 2003 would allow the government to hand-pick scientists to second-guess scientific research, opponents say. The text of the bulletin says its purpose would be to ensure that all research affecting federal regulations, such as environmental or health advisories, would be thoroughly peer reviewed by unbiased researchers.

But scientists feel the government is commandeering a term that is near and dear to their hearts.

Peer review is the backbone of all serious science. It's a process by which top experts in a given field examine research for flaws, and often send it back to researchers for more work before it's disseminated to the public. But scientists say the White House version of peer review would allow the government to stack review committees in favor of the government and industry.

"It wouldn't be peer review as we're used to," said William Schlesinger, president of the Ecological Society of America, which represents 8,000 scientists in academia, government and industry.

The OMB bulletin would require that peer reviewers be "independent of the agency" involved when it comes to "significant regulatory information." Experts receiving funding from the agency involved, who have performed multiple peer reviews for that agency in recent years or just one review on the same topic, would be eliminated as potential reviewers.

That would eliminate the top experts in a given field, scientists said in letters responding to the bulletin.

<http://www.wired.com/news/medtech/0,1286,62119,00.html>

Bush's Lysenkoism and the Distortion of Intelligence

by Winston Smith

'Lysenkoism' is a vague term for a complex and fuzzy phenomenon. Roughly and for my purposes here, to engage in Lysekoism is to distort science in order to bring it into line with political orthodoxy.

(A) It is well-known (though not well enough known) that the Bush administration is Lysenkoist, though it isn't often put in those terms. This administration has suppressed or distorted scientific conclusions about - among many other topics - global warming, the effectiveness of abstinence-only sex education, drilling in the ANWR, and air quality in Manhattan after 9/11 in order to force science to conform (or appear to conform) to the administration's antecedently-accepted political beliefs. Henry Waxman's Politics and Science website is an invaluable resource for information on the political distortion of science in the Bush administration.

(B) It is also reasonably clear that the Bush administration distorted evidence about Iraq's WMDs and its links to al Qaeda in the run up to the Iraq war. This case is made persuasively in several places, most recently in a report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "WMD in Iraq: Evidence and Implications."

What is usually overlooked, however, is that A and B are merely two instances of the same general phenomenon. Intelligence gathering and analysis is a kind of science. It is in particular a kind of social science, aiming, like so many other kinds of social science, to discern the beliefs, intentions and actions of certain groups of people. Of course intelligence agencies often study groups that prefer to conceal their beliefs and intentions from us and that want to hurt us; but, although this adds a certain practical element of urgency to the equation, it doesn't change anything fundamental: intelligence gathering and analysis, when done correctly, is

in large part a kind of science, even if a more practical and less theoretical kind of science, more like the science of nutrition than astrophysics. And, of course, Lysenkoism itself is simply a particular instance of an even more general phenomenon we could call logical preposterism--starting with your conclusion and evaluating evidence as good or bad depending on whether it supports this antecedently-accepted conclusion. Reasoning this way is preposterous in the literal sense of putting what is supposed to come last (the conclusion) first; in fact, it isn't really reasoning at all, but, rather, rationalization.

In seeking to manipulate and distort the findings of our intelligence agencies about Iraq, the Bush Administration was merely doing what it has done since it took office - dogmatically distorting and suppressing evidence in the service of advancing conclusions arrived at for political reasons, and putting political pressure on experts to go along with the deception.

What happened in the build-up to the Iraq war should have come as no surprise to those who had been observing the Administration's general attitude to science and rational inquiry. In this, the postmodern presidency, belief need no longer conform to fact; on the contrary, facts are flexible things which must be made to conform to inflexible opinion. T. D. Lysenko has risen from the grave.

<http://blogcritics.org/archives/2004/01/14/182645.php>

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9.20 **Tommy Thompson: Corruption Trumps Truth**

Bush Administration's Health and Human Services Secretary Blocks The New CDC Recommendations on Acceptable Exposure to Lead in Young Children by Kicking Respected Scientists Off His Committee

The Committee's charge is to assess scientific data on lead and recommend changes to CDC policy to prevent childhood lead poisoning. The Committee also advises CDC on its blood lead level limit standard for children. In the summer of 2002, just weeks before the Committee was due to begin its latest review of scientific data to determine if a revision of the federal lead-poisoning standard was necessary, the Bush Administration stepped in, drastically changing the composition of the Committee.

Anticipating that the current committee would likely rule in favor of lowering the level of concern for elevated blood lead, Tommy Thompson, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), removed respected pediatric lead experts from the panel, and rejected the nominations of scientists with established expertise in the health effects associated with childhood lead poisoning.

Newly vacant seats were then filled by individuals with direct ties to the lead industry, clear financial conflicts of interest, and limited expertise on the issue of childhood lead poisoning. The resulting shift in the composition of the panel contributed to the CDC's recommendation not to lower the level of concern for elevations of blood lead below 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, even as the Center acknowledged research that has confirmed serious, permanent cognitive and academic defects at blood lead levels below 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ (CDC CLPPP 2004).

http://www.ewg.org/reports/ohiolead/reducedprotection.php?print_version=1

Toxic: The Lead Industry Gets Its Turn

by Jonathan Cohn
The New Republic

You didn't have to be a fortune-teller to see that the October meeting of the Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention was going to be more controversial than usual. The panel, which advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), had been gearing up for a few months to consider whether the federal standard for lead poisoning, set in 1991, should be even tougher. The answer was likely to be yes, given new research linking even modest lead exposure to developmental problems in children.

But, just a few weeks before the meeting, the Bush administration shook up the advisory committee's membership. When it came time to fill a group of vacancies on the panel this year, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tommy Thompson rejected several nominees recommended by the staff scientists at the CDC in favor of five people who seemed likely to look upon further tightening of lead regulations skeptically, if not to oppose it outright.

One of the nominees had repeatedly stated that the current standard -- endorsed by everybody from the National Academy of Sciences to the American Academy of Pediatrics--was too strict. Another had stated that children could tolerate lead levels seven times the current standard without suffering cognitive harm. Even more disturbing, at least two of the new appointees had direct financial ties to the lead industry: One was a consultant whose clients included a prominent lead-smelting company fighting a lawsuit over pollution in Washington state. Another, a pediatric toxicologist from Oklahoma, had been a paid defense witness in several liability suits against lead-paint companies.

<http://www.tnr.com/doc.mhtml?i=20021223&s=cohn122302>

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9.21 **Proposed National ID Cards Would Introduce Two Classes of American Citizen**

ChoicePoint at the Forefront Again?

In the growing library of books dissecting how and why the Sept. 11 attacks happened, perhaps none offers a more exhaustive account of the government's problems verifying people's identities than the 723-page *After* (Simon & Schuster, 2003), penned by attorney and former journalist Steven Brill, the founder of media commentary magazine Brill's Content.

In the epilogue to *After*, in which he proposes ways to prevent another Sept. 11, Brill writes that government and the private sector should implement "some kind of credible but voluntary nationally accepted identification card," which would give its holders access to fast lanes at airline security checkpoints, public buildings and sporting and performance arenas. No more waiting in line for lengthy body searches. Pre-screened card holders would be deemed nonthreatening.

Following the release of the book, Brill founded Verified Identity Card Inc. The first people he called, Brill says now, were Derek Smith and Jim Zimbardi of **ChoicePoint** [the company which produced the Florida "felon purge list" it knew to be inaccurate in 2000, and thereby propelled George Bush illegitimately into the US Presidency]. They agreed to join forces.

ChoicePoint wants to be able to check card applicants' names against the government's terrorist watch lists, to which ChoicePoint currently has access when working with federal agencies. TransCore, which manufactures the E-Z Pass device that motorists use when zipping through electronic tollbooths, also joined the consortium, as did the Washington-based Civitas Group, a homeland security venture capital firm whose members include Sandy Berger, President Clinton's national security adviser.

Brill sees his card -- which may not be a new card but simply a chip embedded in the holder's credit card -- as an invention of necessity. Checking everyone who boards a plane or enters a large office building, like Rockefeller Center in New York, where Brill keeps his offices, wastes time and money, he says.

The government shouldn't try implementing its own card system, he argues, because most places people frequent are privately owned. Businesses are better-suited to this task, and can do it more effectively, he argues.

Checking everyone also creates needless redundancy. Brill recalls the day that Berger -- whom he calls "a close friend of mine" -- came to Brill's offices to discuss the card project, but got stuck in a security line in the lobby. By the nature of his former job, Berger received the highest security clearance, Brill says. Yet, he waited in line behind a deli employee bearing the sandwiches Berger and Brill were about to eat.

The Brill-ChoicePoint card would ensure Berger didn't have to wait like that again. But it apparently would also create two new classes of people: Trusted and untrusted. Asked if that's the case, Brill says, "I wouldn't say trusted versus untrusted. I'd say, trusted versus not-yet-trusted."

ChoicePoint will distinguish between the two. This is familiar territory. As Smith wrote, information lets its owners grant people privileges and rights within society. There's no precedent for companies -- or government -- assuming this authority on the massive scale that a national identity card or many of ChoicePoint's security strategies envision.

Brill writes in *After* that the government should "push the debate" about these programs. But the debate isn't occurring on a large scale. There's barely a vocabulary for it.

Privacy and civil liberties advocates have battled the government for years over alleged violations of privacy laws and the Fourth Amendment. But those statutes never foresaw that privately run corporations would have more power to know the details of people's lives than government.

Bush administration officials stress that privacy sits at the center of all of their homeland security initiatives. But they repeatedly warn of the imminent threat of terrorism, and depict likely attackers as shadowy and difficult to understand.

ChoicePoint has found its niche discerning what is hard to grasp. And for that reason, the company and its data will grow more and more valuable to the government.

<http://www.unknownnews.net/040322choicepoint.html>

Department of Homeland Security to OUTSOURCE REAL ID

National ID Card Scheme To Be Run By Big Data

Thereby Bypassing Constitutional Constraints

WASHINGTON, DC (11 January 2007). The Department of Homeland Security plans to outsource REAL ID implementation to third-party data aggregators, according to official DHS documents.

The Department of Homeland Security has finished their proposed regulations for implementing the Real ID Act and has sent them to the Office of Management and Budget for approval. The publication of DHS's REAL ID regulations will follow shortly. The compliance guidelines are almost one year overdue.

According to a still-secret several hundred-page dossier sent last week by DHS to the Office of Management and Budget, DHS considered three ways to implement the REAL ID Act:

Plan A: Order the individual states to find a way of communicating data to one another. This idea was given short shrift by DHS, who dismissed it out of hand.

Plan B: Have DHS build a centralized database for the states to query before issuing REAL ID-compliant drivers licenses. This idea was also rejected.

Plan C: Have a private data aggregator act as the central database. This is the plan advocated by DHS. The plan calls for the outsourcing of all drivers license and ID card checks to a private corporation, who would then charge the states for each check performed.

DHS head Michael Chertoff personally ordered this option to be chosen, according to a senior administration source.

What does this all mean? Quite simply, this is the outsourcing of our Constitutional rights. It means that all privacy protections on our drivers license data will be removed once the DMV sends your data to the private corporation.

If it's possible to create a scheme worse than a national ID card, this is it: a privatized National ID card. The citizens of every state will not only be at the mercy of a company like ChoicePoint or Acxiom to 'approve' their identity, but will have no privacy protections whatsoever on that data.

Your sensitive drivers license data can be bought and sold along with everything else these companies sell, such as your credit information. The federal government can then gain access to this information without having to comply with any laws, such as the Privacy Act.

<http://www.unrealid.com/>

VIDEO: RFID Chips On the Way: Observations on The End of Privacy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7pHb7bPfMc>

Americans Under Constant Surveillance/All Associations Trackable and Compilable

People who are easily and constantly tracked by a central authority are not free people.

Moreover, when everyone is tracked, their associations are tracked as well. In 1965, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) refused to give the State of Georgia a list of Georgia members for fear that the people listed would be harassed or harmed. The U.S. Supreme Court backed the NAACP, arguing that we are free to associate without being tracked and watched.

The U.S. Courts and Congress have repeatedly recognized that people under constant surveillance are not free.

<http://www.cpsr.org/issues/privacy/natidfaq>

The Cards Are Coming

In a vote that largely divided along party lines, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a Republican-backed measure that would compel states to design their driver's licenses by 2008 to comply with federal antiterrorist standards. Federal employees would reject licenses or identity cards that don't comply, which could curb Americans' access to everything from airplanes to national parks and some courthouses.

The congressional maneuvering takes place as governments are growing more interested in implanting technology in ID cards to make them smarter and more secure. The U.S. State Department soon will begin issuing passports with radio frequency identification, or RFID, chips embedded in them, and Virginia may become the first state to glue RFID tags into all its driver's licenses.

"Supporters claim it is not a national ID because it is voluntary," Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, one of the eight Republicans to object to the measure, said during the floor debate this week. "However, any state that opts out will automatically make nonpersons out of its citizens. They will not be able to fly or to take a train."

http://news.com.com/2100-1028_3-5573414.html

Frequently Asked Questions: About Identity Cards

This report provides an analysis of the key aspects of identity (ID) cards and related technologies. It has been prepared by Privacy International in the wake of widespread concern across the world about the implications of modern ID systems. Our intention here is to discuss the evidence at an international level and to promote debate about the claims made about such card systems.

http://www.privacy.org/pi/activities/idcard/idcard_faq.html

Bush Administration's Original Denial of Post 9/11 Intent

BOOK: "Identity Crisis: How Identification Is Overused and Misunderstood"

By Jim Harper

To order:

<http://www.catostore.org/index.asp?fa=ProductDetails&method=cats&scid=37&pid=1441305>

RFID Chips:

Hackers Clone E-Passports

by Kim Zetter

A German computer security consultant has shown that he can clone the electronic passports that the United States and other countries are beginning to distribute this year.

The controversial e-passports contain radio frequency ID, or RFID, chips that the U.S. State Department and others say will help thwart document forgery. But Lukas Grunwald, a security consultant with DN-Systems in Germany and an RFID expert, says the data in the chips is easy to copy.

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,71521-0.html>

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9.22 Mandatory GPS Tracking in American Motor Vehicles

**"Another Step on the Way to a State
Not Even George Orwell Would Have Envisioned"**

Where You're Driving! Right this Very Minute!
December 24, 2005

Merry Christmas! Santa knows if you've been bad or good. The U.S. Department of Transportation wants to know where you're driving. Where you're driving, right this very minute, tracking you in real-time using GPS. If the GPS signal is obstructed, your car's engine will turn off, Citizen!

The Department of Transportation claims: this will allow taxes to be calibrated to road usage. Of course, a gasoline tax already does that.

But there's much more than just taxes at stake. DOT won't restrict government access to the data. Of course, cops never misuse government databases for personal stalking. And the government never singles out non-criminals for tracking. And government employees never use government data to blackmail or harass enemies. And besides, you have nothing to hide: you're as innocent as a fifteen year old girl! You never park near a strip club, a gay bar, a gun show, a mosque, or a political demonstration, right? Right? Well, you won't now, Citizen!

Don't worry citizen! You'll like being tracked by GPS; DOT plans to spend your tax dollars buying editorials to tell you you do! And real-time GPS tracking is much shinier than old-school Russian internal passports or Apartheid-era passbooks or other paper documents!

<http://www.metafilter.com/mefi/47844>

E-Tracking: Coming to a DMV Close to You

By Declan McCullagh
December 5, 2005,

Trust federal bureaucrats to take a good idea and transform it into a frightening proposal to track Americans wherever they drive.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has been handing millions of dollars to state governments for GPS-tracking pilot projects designed to track vehicles wherever they go. So far, Washington state and Oregon have received fat federal checks to figure out how to levy these "mileage-based road user fees."

Now electronic tracking and taxing may be coming to a DMV near you. The Office of Transportation Policy Studies, part of the Federal Highway Administration, is about to announce another round of grants totaling some \$11 million. A spokeswoman on Friday said the office is "shooting for the end of the year" for the announcement, and more money is expected for GPS (Global Positioning System) tracking efforts.

In principle, the idea of what bureaucrats like to call "value pricing" for cars makes sound economic sense. No policy bans police from automatically sending out speeding tickets based on what the GPS data say.

Airlines and hotels have long charged less for off-peak use. Toll roads would be more efficient--in particular, less congested--if they could follow the same model and charge virtually nothing in the middle of the night but high prices during rush hour.

That price structure would encourage drivers to take public transportation, use alternate routes, or leave earlier or later in the day.

The problem, though, is that these "road user fee" systems are being designed and built in a way that strips drivers of their privacy and invites constant surveillance by police, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security.

Zero privacy protections

Details of the tracking systems vary. But the general idea is that a small GPS device, which knows its location by receiving satellite signals, is placed inside the vehicle.

Some GPS trackers constantly communicate their location back to the state DMV, while others record the location information for later retrieval. (In the Oregon pilot project, it's beamed out wirelessly when the driver pulls into a gas station.)

The problem, though, is that no privacy protections exist. No restrictions prevent police from continually monitoring, without a court order, the whereabouts of every vehicle on the road.

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One study prepared for the Transportation Department predicts a PR success. "Less than 7 percent of the respondents expressed concerns about recording their vehicle's movements," it says.

That whiff of victory, coupled with a windfall of new GPS-enabled tax dollars, has emboldened DMV bureaucrats. A proposal from the Oregon DMV, also funded by the Transportation Department, says that such a tracking system should be mandatory for all "newly purchased vehicles and newly registered vehicles."

http://news.com.com/E-tracking%2C%2Bcoming%2Bto%2Ba%2BDMV%2Bnear%2Byou/2010-1071_3-5980979.html

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9.23 Tracking Implants in the Bodies of Americans

RFID Central: Clearing House for Privacy Issues and News

<http://www.spychips.com/>

Subdermal RFID Chip Provokes Furor

Well, it's already been widely reported, but we reckon it's Vulture Central's turn to chip in its two cents' worth to the subdermal RFID chip debate.

To summarise, US cybercorporation Applied Digital Solutions has developed the so-called "VeriChip", a "miniaturised, implantable radio frequency identification device (RFID) that has the potential to be used in a variety of personal identification, security, financial, and potential healthcare applications."

Sounds good. Here's the full gen from the company: "About the size of a grain of rice, each VeriChip product contains a unique verification number that is captured by briefly passing a proprietary scanner over the VeriChip. The standard location of the microchip is in the triceps area between the elbow and the shoulder of the right arm. The brief outpatient 'chipping' procedure lasts just a few minutes and involves only local anesthetic followed by quick, painless insertion of the VeriChip. Once inserted just under the skin, the VeriChip is inconspicuous to the naked eye. A small amount of radio frequency energy passes from the scanner energizing the dormant VeriChip, which then emits a radio frequency signal transmitting the verification number."

The aforementioned financial benefits to humanity come in the form of "VeriPay," which uses the chip for cash and credit transactions. This is not the first time RFID transaction solutions have been mooted, but there is, of course, a security issue. At the recent ID World 2003 (good title -- well done) in Paris, Applied Digital Solutions CEO Scott R Silverman addressed the possibility of someone mislaying their RNID "credit card:"

"VeriPay's unique, under-the-skin format offers a much more secure, tamper-proof, and loss-proof solution. VeriPay brings to consumers the benefits of fast and reliable RFID technology along with the security of a subdermal format."

There's that word 'benefit' again. In fact, there is no apparent benefit to the consumer from this RFID application. Someone's business will benefit, but you'll be walking around with a chip in your arm carrying personal and/or financial information which can be scanned without your knowledge.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2003/12/04/subdermal_rfid_chip_provokes_furor
e/

Proposal to Implant Tracking Chips in Immigrants

Scott Silverman, Chairman of the Board of VeriChip Corporation, has proposed implanting the company's RFID tracking tags in immigrant and guest workers. He made the statement on national television on May 16.

Silverman was being interviewed on "Fox & Friends." Responding to the Bush administration's call to know "who is in our country and why they are here," he proposed using VeriChip RFID implants to register workers at the border, and then verify their identities in the workplace. He added, "We have talked to many people in Washington about using it...."

The VeriChip is a very small Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag about the size of a large grain of rice. It can be injected directly into the body; a special coating on the casing helps the VeriChip bond with living tissue and stay in place. A special RFID reader broadcasts a signal, and the antenna in the VeriChip draws power from the signal and sends its data. The VeriChip is a passive RFID tag; since it does not require a battery, it has a virtually unlimited life span.

RFID tags have long been used to identify animals in a variety of settings; livestock, laboratory animals and pets have been "chipped" for decades.

http://www.livescience.com/scienceoffiction/060531_rfid_chips.html

"The Conservative Voice"

Privacy Under Attack -- The Spychips Story by Rob Hood

Corporations now share buyer information like never before to gain knowledge of what consumers are most interested in. The method by which all of this takes place, including how we do our banking and grocery shopping is about to change. Earlier this year I came across a book on Amazon called Spychips by Katherine Albrecht and Liz McIntyre. The book features need to know information about the way technology is changing not only our personal lives, but how it changes the way corporations do business and about how we purchase things. I personally recommend the book to everyone regardless of religious or political status.

As many of you may read my columns, you know me a strict conservative Christian who most often than not opposes anything to do with the ACLU, the UN, EU, or the American liberals. However, my personal disagreements end here with the spychips story. With this article I am putting aside my personal religious and political stances to ask everyone, Christian or not, conservative and liberal, Democrat and Republican to realize what is at stake with Radio Frequency Identification or simply RFID.

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Recently I have contacted Liz McIntyre, the co-author of Spychips and have asked her some basic questions about this RFID Technology and what it means to the average American. Here is the interview (Excerpt):

ROB HOOD: What first made you made you get involved in research of RFID technology and the Verichip?

LIZ McINTYRE: I found out about the technology while researching patent documents. I had stumbled upon a scheme to target grocery store shoppers with coupons based on their historical purchases whether or not they presented a supermarket loyalty card. I figured the best way to learn the mechanics of the coupon system was to look at the associated patents. While doing that research, I found a cache of scandalous documents outlining ways that RFID could be used to track people and create an inescapable surveillance grid. Many of these blueprints relied on using RFID in ways that would be invisible to the public. I felt a responsibility to share my findings with the world in hopes of heading off this planned future.

ROB HOOD: What inspired you and Katherine Albrecht to write Spychips?

LIZ McINTYRE: We had to write "Spychips" after we realized how major corporations and government agencies were planning to broadly deploy RFID technology despite consumer concerns. The industry's own studies showed that 78 percent of people surveyed around the world objected to the technology on privacy grounds once they knew what it was and how it could be used against them.

One very influential document for me was an IBM patent application titled "Identification and Tracking of Persons Using RFID-tagged Items."(U.S. Patent Application #20020165758)

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/article/13283.html>

BOOK: Spychips:

**How Major Corporations and Government
Plan to Track Your Every Move with RFID
by Katherine Albrecht & Liz McIntyre**

To Order:

<http://www.spychips.com/book/booksplash.html>

Renew Now: The Chip You Don't Want in Your Passport

The implications of being scanned anywhere by anyone without your knowledge.

by Bruce Schneier

If you have a passport, now is the time to renew it -- even if it's not set to expire anytime soon.

If you don't have a passport and think you might need one, now is the time to get it.

In many countries, including the United States, passports will soon be equipped with RFID chips. And you don't want one of these chips in your passport.

RFID stands for "radio-frequency identification." Passports with RFID chips store an electronic copy of the passport information: your name, a digitized picture, etc. And in the future, the chip might store fingerprints or digital visas from various countries.

By itself, this is no problem. But RFID chips don't have to be plugged in to a reader to operate. Like the chips used for automatic toll collection on roads or automatic fare collection on subways, these chips operate via proximity.

The risk to you is the possibility of surreptitious access: Your passport information might be read without your knowledge or consent by a government trying to track your movements, a criminal trying to steal your identity or someone just curious about your citizenship.

<http://www.conspiracyplanet.com/channel.cfm?channelid=74&contentid=3907>

RFID Tech Failure: Verichip Hacked and Cloned

Demo: Cloning a Verichip

In brief: Verichip markets their product for access control. This means that you could have a chip implanted, and then your front door would unlock when your shoulder got close to the reader. Let us imagine that you did this; then, I could sit next to you on the subway, and read your chip's ID. This takes less than a second. At this point I can let myself in to your house, by replaying that ID. So now you have to change your ID; but as far as I know, you cannot do this without surgery.

All of this relates to an article that Annalee Newitz wrote for Wired. I would not have looked at these parts otherwise; the Verichip is built with no attempt at security, and is therefore not very special to clone. The designers of this product must be aware that an attack like I outline below is possible. But, Reuters quoted 'VeriChip spokesman' John Procter, who said that:

'We can't verify what they [Annalee and I] may or may not have done.... We haven't seen any first-hand evidence other than what's been reported in the media.' (Sat Jul 22, 2006)

This is just silly. The Verichip is a repurposed dog tag; there is no reason (counterfeit house pets?) why it would have been designed with any security features, and in fact it was not. Their own technical staff—or failing that, the technical staff of the company that sells them the tags—can tell them this, with or without me.

(And while I used my proxmarkii, there's an easier way, if you want to do it yourself.)

I will briefly describe the steps that I went through to duplicate an ID-only RFID tag using my proxmarkii device. We will be cloning a Verichip, which should not rationally make any of this more interesting but does. [Demonstration follows.]

<http://cq.cx/verichip.pl>

RFID Chips: Hacking Demo Shows Threat to Databases

Melanie Rieback, a Ph.D. student at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, gave a live demonstration of how a hacker could deploy a single rogue RFID tag and infect associated databases at the Fourth Annual IEEE Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications held in Pisa, Italy, March 15.

"Let's hope this puts the breaks on the irrational exuberance of Wal-Mart, Procter & Gamble, the Department of Homeland Security, and everyone else hell bent on tracking everything and everyone with this technology," say privacy advocates Katherine Albrecht and Liz McIntyre, co authors of

"Spychips: How Major Corporations and Government Plan to Track Your Every Move with RFID."

Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) is a controversial technology that uses tiny microchips to track items from a distance. These RFID microchips have earned the nickname "spychips" because each contains a unique identification number, like a Social Security number for things, that can be read silently and invisibly by radio waves. Security experts have theorized that RFID would be targeted by hackers, but until now, most considered the limited memory on the tags insufficient to deliver such attacks.

Rieback backs up her demonstration with details about exactly how a virus could propagate in RFID systems in a paper aptly titled "Is Your Cat Infected with a Computer Virus?"

The paper opens with a scenario in which a vet's database seems to be erasing data from pet tags and finally freezes, displaying the message "All your pet are belong to us." (This is a nod to the Internet joke "All your base are belong to us.")

This damage could start with one attacker writing malicious code onto his cat's microchip and exposing it to the vet's system, she claims. But that's just the start. Her university's press release about the discovery points out how such malicious code could infect retail databases and even RFID-based airport baggage systems, leading to more serious consequences, like a terrorist debilitating a baggage database in order to slip in a lethal suitcase:

"A malicious individual could put an infected RFID tag on his suitcase (or someone else's suitcase). The bag will be scanned when approaching a Y-junction, to determine which direction it should go. However the mere act of scanning could infect the airport's baggage database, and as a result, all bags checked in after could receive infected baggage labels.

As these bags move to other airports, they would be rescanned -- and within 24 hours, hundreds of airports could be infected worldwide. A smuggler or terrorist using this technique could hide baggage from airline and government officials."

The university researchers recommend that developers incorporate countermeasures to "help reduce the threat of RFID viruses." They point out that these measures "take time, people, and money to implement" and urge RFID developers to take action before their software is widely deployed.

"We've long contended that RFID will put all of us at risk," says McIntyre. "This is a wake-up call to RFID proponents who are recklessly rushing the technology into the marketplace before the serious societal consequences of tracking everyday objects and people with this technology can be fully explored."

<http://www.conspiracyplanet.com/channel.cfm?channelid=74&contentid=3335>

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9.24 The Right Wing's Academic Hit List

Targeted by Conservatives for Teaching Philosophy House bill aimed to restrain academic scholars with legal threats

by Jacqueline Marcus

In the Florida legislature, House Republicans, on the Choice and Innovation Committee, recently voted to pass a bill that threatens to restrain academic scholars. The law would allow students to sue teachers for beliefs that do not concur with conservative perspectives. If, for example, professors argue that evolution is a scientific fact instead of a theory, and if they don't devote equal time to creationism, under this bill, initiated by conservative David Horowitz's campaign, students can sue the professor for being biased.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0328-30.htm>

David Horowitz and the Attack on Independent Thought by Robert W. McChesney

David Horowitz's new book, "The Professors: The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America," was published in early February to considerable fanfare encouraged by a tidal wave of promotion from the right-wing echo chamber. This is the same echo chamber that made "swift boat" a household word in September 2004. The book itself is sloppy and unimpressive, an apparent rush job.

The criticism of me, for example, consisted of two out-of-context quotes from articles where I criticize the news media and the Bush Administration. This is presented as prima facie evidence that I am a dreadful teacher who uses the classroom to harass students to adopt my political views, my campus-wide, student-elected teaching award notwithstanding. By the same "logic," quotations could be taken from many professors in America, and nearly all conservatives, to establish that they propagandize in the classroom. By Horowitz's evidentiary standards, Harvard's Stephan Thernstrom, who endorses The Professors on its cover, should be ridden out of academia as a narrow-minded bigot who abuses students who disagree with his pointed views.

In short, the book is clueless about how classroom teaching actually works; it would astound him to learn that many professors with strong political views – of whatever stripe – go to great lengths to provide an open classroom. The people Horowitz vilifies in his book know exactly what it is like to hold unpopular positions -- to be attacked as "dangerous" for going against the dominant interests of society -- and we tend to have considerable empathy for those who disagree with our political views in our own classrooms.

In fact, that explains why Horowitz's lengthy and much-publicized campaign to locate conservative students who have been harassed in the classroom by left-wing professors has produced few, if any, credible witnesses. But, as I will argue, this is a ruse, so that lack of evidence means no more to Horowitz than the lack of WMD did to Bush and Cheney as they planned the invasion of Iraq.

The entire premise of the book is flawed. If Horowitz believes, for example, that publicly supported universities have an obligation to have faculties that represent the range of U.S. political opinion, and that it currently tilts too far to the left, he

should follow the logic to its obvious resting place. Generals and military officers are far more important to the functioning of a government -- and, as history shows in depressingly frequent detail, a much greater threat to democratic governance -- than anthropology professors. In the United States the military is enormous, it is entirely funded by taxpayers, and the officer corps is significantly right-wing Republican. There is hardly a liberal Democrat in the bunch, and I dare say probably not a single soul to the left of the Clinton-Kerry center of the Democracy party.

That means tens of millions of Americans have no political allies directing the most powerful military in human history, while the hard right feels like it has died and gone to heaven when it visits the officers' quarters on Election Day. If Horowitz is going on some sort of rampage about getting political balance in important publicly funded professions, he can only be taken seriously if he starts at the Pentagon. When he has established how to do it there we can proceed to the campuses.

But the point of Horowitz's book is not to make a coherent principled critique of academia and suggest reforms to solve the problem. Were that the case, Horowitz would be obsessed with the rabidly pro-market bias in most economics and business schools -- and more than a few political science departments. In these classes and departments, students who are pro-labor union, critical of so-called "free trade" deals like NAFTA, and in favor of progressive taxation, living wage ordinances, strict environmental regulations and aggressive social spending are made to feel like their positions have little intellectual merit. They are ostracized. Yet Horowitz has no concern for these students, or for their rights. Screw them.

Horowitz's mission is clear: to attack critical work in the academy, especially critical work that does not restrict itself to the classroom, but sees intellectuals as having a necessary public role. Visible public outreach is A-OK for Milton Friedman, Stephan Thernstrom, the neo-conservative crowd, and denizens of the right, but strictly off-limits for liberals and the left.

For these reasons I would imagine that principled conservatives will run from this book faster than they would run away from a line-up for a voluntary IRS audit. But the book is important and requires a response that goes beyond pointing out its sloppiness and incoherence; we need to put what Horowitz is doing in a broader context. In my view, the best way to make sense of the book and what it represents is to see it as part of the broad attack on the autonomy and integrity of institutions and individuals who conduct independent and critical thought. It is this type of independent and uncorrupted inquiry -- work that is not under the thumb of powerful political or commercial interests -- that is mandatory if viable self-government is to succeed. The space for this type of inquiry has to be fought for and preserved, and it is always considered with a certain amount of suspicion by those in power, who prefer minimal public interference with their exercise of power.

Indeed, it is revealing that Horowitz uses the term "dangerous" as a pejorative in his book's subtitle. Dangerous professors are those with ideas with which Horowitz disagrees. This is a ludicrously opportunistic and undemocratic framing. The entire premise of a viable democratic public sphere is that what some perceive as "dangerous" ideas be protected, even encouraged, and permitted to be thrown into debate. Especially, above all else, in universities.

In our society the two institutions commissioned to provide the substance of a democratic public sphere, as a place for critical inquiry, are the news media and academia.

Hence, to get a better sense of what is happening today with the attack on universities, consider what has happened with U.S. journalism. Back in the early 1970s professional journalism was at its peak. Journalists had relative autonomy from the demands of owners and advertisers and relatively lavish budgets. I do not wish to exaggerate the quality of professional journalism even at its peak; local news media tended to ignore the foibles of powerful local bigshots and all news media relied far too much on official sources, especially in coverage of foreign policy. Indeed much of my career has been spent documenting the limitations of professional journalism, even at its best. But on balance what it provided in the 1960s and 1970s looks awfully good through 2006 eyes.

Since the 1970s the autonomy, resources and critical wiggle room of professional journalism has come under attack on two fronts. First, as media ownership consolidated corporate owners began to think the idea of professional journalism made a lot less sense. After all, corporations aren't charities, and why should their shareholders bankroll a public service? So newsrooms have faced serious cutbacks in resources for investigative, political and international coverage. In its stead far less expensive and politically trivial celebrity coverage has risen in prominence. Commercial values play an increasingly visible role in what passes for journalism today.

The second front in the war on journalism came from the political right. To the political right, it was mandatory to make journalism more sympathetic to right-wing politics if the right was going to win political power. A very high percentage of right-wing funding went to various means of pushing the news media to the right. The overarching theme was that the media had a strident liberal bias that required journalist to be softer on Republicans and tougher on Democrats if they wished to be fair. The campaign has been a rousing success. One need only look at the weak-kneed press coverage of Bush's scandals and foibles, and imagine how a President Clinton or Gore or Kerry would have fared if he had done similar deeds, to see the effect.

While these two attacks on journalism were independent of each other for the most part, they had the same effect: reduce the power and autonomy of journalists and make journalism more fearful of antagonizing the political right.

Universities and news media share a certain ideological importance as I have already noted. But as institutions they have quite different traditions. News media have been the province of profit-driven firms for the most part, whereas universities are non-profit, often public, institutions. Yet the attack on universities has followed the same pattern as the attack on journalism. The dominant issue on campuses for the past two decades has been the incessant commercialization of universities, from marketing of classes to corporate funding for research and activities. Increasingly our major universities are linked to commercial institutions and commercial values, which work to undermine, even eliminate, much of the public service ethos of these institutions. Now the distance is further to travel with universities than with media, because they begin as non-profit institutions, but the direction is unmistakable. And the destination is nowhere anyone should want universities to be. It is the great crisis facing universities today, and about this crisis people like David Horowitz have nothing to say.

This brings us to Horowitz's attack on "dangerous" professors, those faculty like myself who dare to hold political opinions Horowitz disagrees with and which he would like to see banished. This is taken directly from the playbook for the right-wing attack on "liberal" journalists. The point is to intimidate dissident voices, to make them temper their words in their classrooms, and be very careful about what they do when they venture off-campus.

Right-wing faculty are free to shout their views from the mountaintop -- after all, they are the oppressed minority merely trying to balance the dominant left, much like the blowhards at Fox News -- while left-wing faculty are supposed to shut up and go with the flow if they wish to be regarded as legitimate professionals and keep their jobs. As I discussed at the outset, it is a thoroughly unprincipled exercise with a crude political agenda. Combined with the commercial restructuring of universities the goal is to make intellectual life as ineffectual as our journalism has become.

It is a prospect that is unacceptable and must be opposed, in both media and higher education. It is a battle for the soul of our nation, and the future of our polity.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views06/0228-21.htm>

A Conservative "Hit List" Targets AIDS Researchers

In the fall of 2003 Margaret R. Weeks, Ph.D., got a call from her project officer at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Weeks, an anthropologist and the associate director of the Institute for Community Research in Hartford could hear the stress in her project officer's voice. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) needed an immediate report on her study that recruits drug users to spread a message about how to prevent HIV / AIDS.

"We were two and a half years into a four-year study. We didn't have findings," Weeks told the audience at AIDS Science Day in April, describing her response. She said, 'Give me anything you can.' "

Weeks and her project, which is affiliated with the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS based at the School of Public Health, were on what came to be known as the "hit list" of about 200 federally funded studies deemed by the conservative Traditional Values Coalition to be "prurient," "smarmy" and having "little or no bearing on public health." The list found its way to Congress, which demanded explanations. Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., director of the NIH, looked into the studies and went back to Congress with a vigorous defense.

The project Weeks is leading recruits active drug users and trains them to become peer health advocates who can introduce harm reduction measures into drug use sites. Weeks was one of four panelists at AIDS Science Day to discuss the implications of this list.

Michael H. Merson, M.D., dean of public health and moderator of the panel, said the list made him think back to the 1950s and another politician with a list. "As someone who has his name on this list, I immediately recalled the words of Senator Joseph McCarthy," he said. Merson appeared on the list as principal investigator of studies on drug use in high-risk settings and AIDS in China.

Panelist Judith Auerbach, vice president for public policy at the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), placed the "hit list" in the context of other assaults on science. She noted that the Union of Concerned Scientists issued a report in February that cited examples of what it called the administration's distortion of science, and scores of scientists, including 20 Nobel laureates, issued a statement accusing the administration of misrepresenting scientific findings.

http://yalemedicine.yale.edu/ym_fw04/chronicle.html

Silence in Class

University professors denounced for anti-Americanism; schoolteachers suspended for their politics; students encouraged to report on their tutors. Are US campuses in the grip of a witch-hunt of progressives, or is academic life just too liberal?

By Gary Younge

Tuesday April 4, 2006
The Guardian

After the screenwriter Walter Bernstein was placed on the blacklist during the McCarthyite era he said his life "seemed to move in ever-decreasing circles." "Few of my friends dropped away but the list of acquaintances diminished," he wrote in *Inside Out*, a memoir of the blacklist. "I appeared contaminated and they did not want to risk infection. They avoided me, not calling as they had in the past, not responding to my calls, being nervously distant if we met in public places."

As chair of African American studies in Yale, Paul Gilroy had a similar experience recently after he spoke at a university-sponsored teach-in on the Iraq war. "I think the morality of cluster bombs, of uranium-tipped bombs, [of] daisy cutters are shaped by an imperial double standard that values American lives more," he said. "[The war seems motivated by] a desire to enact revenge for the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon ... [It's important] to speculate about the relation between this war and the geopolitical interests of Israel."

"I thought I was being extremely mealy-mouthed, but I was accused of advocating conspiracy theories," says Gilroy, who is now the Anthony Giddens professor of Social Theory at the London School of Economics.

Scot Silverstein, who was once on the faculty at Yale, saw a piece in the student paper about Gilroy's contribution. He wrote to the *Wall Street Journal* comparing Gilroy to Hitler and claiming his words illustrated the "moral psychosis and perhaps psychological sadism that appears to have infected leftist academia." The *Journal* published the letter. Gilroy found himself posted on Discoverthenetworks.org, a website dedicated to exposing radical professors. The principle accusation was that he "believes the US fabricated the threat posed by Saddam Hussein".

Then the emails started coming to him and his colleagues, denouncing him. "Only one person said anything," says Gilroy. "Otherwise, nobody looked me in the eye. There was something about the way it never came up that made me realise how nervous and apprehensive they were."

Few would argue there are direct parallels between the current assaults on liberals in academe and McCarthyism. Unlike the McCarthy era, most threats to academic freedom -- real or perceived -- do not, yet, involve the state. Nor are they buttressed by widespread popular support, as anticommunism was during the 50s. But in other ways, argues Ellen Schrecker, author of *Many Are the Crimes -- McCarthyism in America*, comparisons are apt.

"In some respects it's more dangerous," she says. "McCarthyism dealt mainly with off-campus political activities. Now they focus on what is going on in the classroom. It's very dangerous because it's reaching into the core academic functions of the university, particularly in Middle-Eastern studies."

Either way, a growing number of apparently isolated incidents suggests a mood which is, if nothing else, determined, relentless and aimed openly at progressives in academe.

Earlier this year, Fox news commentator Sean Hannity urged students to record "leftwing propaganda" by professors so he could broadcast it on his show. On the web there is Campus Watch, "monitoring Middle East studies on campus"; Edwatch, "Education for a free nation"; and Parents Against Bad Books in School.

In mid January, the Bruin Alumni association offered students \$100 to tape leftwing professors at the University of California Los Angeles. The association effectively had one dedicated member, 24-year-old Republican Andrew Jones. It also had one dedicated aim: "Exposing UCLA's most radical professors" who "[proselytise] their extreme views in the classroom".

Shortly after the \$100 offer was made, Jones mounted a website, uclaprofs.com, which compiled the Dirty 30 - a hit list of those he considered the most egregious, leftwing offenders. Top of the list was Peter McLaren, a professor at the UCLA's graduate school of education. Jones branded McLaren a "monster." "Everything that flows from Peter McLaren's mouth and pen is deeply, inextricably radical," wrote Jones. "In keeping with the left's identity politics he has been a friend to the gay community."

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Six weeks after Jones released his list, two Los Angeles county sheriffs arrived unannounced at Professor Miguel Tinker-Salas's office at Pomona College and started asking questions. Tinker-Salas, a Latin American history professor, was born in Venezuela and is a vocal critic of US policy in the region. The sheriffs, part of a federal anti-terrorism task force, told him that he was not the subject of an investigation.

Then, for the next 25 minutes they quizzed him on whether he had been influenced in any way by or had contact with the Venezuelan government, on the leadership within the local Venezuelan community, the consulate and the embassy. Then they questioned his students about the content of his classes, examined the cartoons on his door. "They cast the Venezuelan community as a threat," says Tinker-Salas. "I think they were fishing to see if I had any information they could use."

Pomona's president, David Oxtoby, says he was "extremely concerned about the chilling effect this kind of intrusive government interest could have on free scholarly and political discourse."

Last year, some students at the Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University ran a campaign against alleged anti-Israeli bias among professors, criticising the university as a place where pro-Israeli students were intimidated and faculty members were prejudiced. A faculty committee appointed by Columbia concluded that there had been no serious misconduct.

These issues are not confined to university campuses: it is also happening in schools. Since February, the normally sleepy, wealthy district of Upper St Clair in Pennsylvania has been riven with arguments over its curriculum after the local school board banned the International Baccalaureate (IB), the global educational programme, for being an "un-American" marxist and anti-Christian. During their election campaign, the Republicans of Upper St Clair referred to the IB, which is offered in 122 countries and whose student intake has risen by 73% worldwide in the past five years, as though it was part of an international communist conspiracy, suspicious of a curriculum that had been "developed in a foreign country" (Switzerland). "Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian values and we have to be careful about what values our children are taught," said one Republican board member. Similar campaigns have also sprung up recently at school boards in Minnesota and Virginia.

...

But it has primarily been universities that have been on the frontline. And on the other side of the trenches has been the rightwing firebrand David Horowitz. Horowitz, who had Jones on his payroll but fired him after the taping controversy, was raised by communist parents and was himself a marxist as a teenager. He is involved with Campus Watch, Jihad Watch, Professors Watch and Media Watch; he was also connected to discoverthenetworks.org, which targeted Gilroy. A few years ago he founded a group, Students for Academic Freedom, which boasts chapters promoting his agenda on more than 150 campuses. The movement monitors slights or insults that students say they have suffered and provides an online complaint form. Students are advised to write down "the date, class and name of the professor," get witnesses, "accumulate a list of incidents or quotes", and lodge a complaint.

Over the past three years Horowitz has led the call for an academic bill of rights in several states. The bills would allow students to opt out of any part of a course they felt was "personally offensive" and force American universities to adopt quotas for conservative professors as well as monitor the political inclinations of their staff.

The bill has been debated in 23 states, including six this year. In July, Pennsylvania approved legislation calling on 14 state-affiliated colleges to free their campuses from the "imposition of ideological orthodoxy." Meanwhile, House Republicans have included a provision in the Higher Education Act which calls on publicly funded colleges to ensure a diversity of ideas in class -- code for countering the alleged liberal bias in classrooms.

"The aim of the movement isn't really to achieve legislation," says Horowitz. "It's supposed to act as a cattle prod, to make legislators and universities aware. The ratio of leftwing professors in Berkeley and Stanford is seven to one and nine to one. You can't get hired if you're a conservative in American universities."

Reliable empirical, as opposed to anecdotal, evidence to back up Horowitz's claim

of political imbalance is patchy but rarely contested. The most detailed study, conducted by California economist Daniel Klein and Swedish scientist Charlotta Stern, did reveal a significant Democratic bias which varied depending on the course they taught. It showed that 30 times as many anthropologists and sociologists voted Democrat as Republican, while for those teaching economics the ratio plummeted to three to one.

But these results gave only a partial account of campus life. Limiting their research to the social sciences and the humanities excluded a substantial portion of the university experience.

According to the Princeton Review, four of the top 10 most popular subjects -- business administration and management, biology, nursing and computer science -- are not in the social sciences or humanities. Republicans are probably more inclined to find a home in some of these disciplines.

In any case, most academics do not deny that there is a progressive, liberal bias in academe. "Of course," says Todd Gitlin, a professor of journalism and sociology at the Columbia School of Journalism. "There's a lot of conservatives in oil. But there aren't a lot of conservatives planning on studying sociology."

And while liberals may be more numerous, argues Schrecker, a professor of history at Yeshiva University in New York, that does not necessarily mean they are more powerful. "Progressive academe is like the ninth ward of New Orleans before the levees break -- neither secure nor particularly safe. It's one of the few areas left with some kind of progressive culture."

That, rather than protection of free expression on campus, is precisely why it remains a target for the right, they say.

...

Many believe that this current cycle has intensified as a result of the official response to 9/11. Two months after the terrorist attacks, the conservative American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), founded by Lynne Cheney in 1995, branded colleges and universities the "weak link in America's response" to the terrorist attacks and called on lecturers and professors to defend western civilisation.

In a report entitled *Defending Civilization: how our universities are failing America and what can be done about it*, ACTA president Jerry Martin and vice-president Anne D Neal, wrote: "While faculty should be passionately defended in their right to academic freedom, that does not exempt them from criticism. The fact is: academe is the only section of American society that is distinctly divided in its response to the attacks on America."

[A bizarre statement in light of the fact that a New York Times/CBS News poll conducted in October of 2006 found that the size of the group of Americans who still believe the "Official Government Story" of the "Attack on America" is down to 16% of the population. And this despite steady suppression of issues pertaining to the evidence of government complicity and cover-up (like this poll, for instance) and the constant efforts in the mainstream media to enforce the dismissive definition of "Conspiracy Buff/Nut/Theorist" on anyone bold enough to express skepticism in a public forum.]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,1746227,00.html>

Take a Class from One of the Counterpunch 16

Horowitz's Academic Hit List

By Robert Jensen

In his self-promotional mass emailings from which no inbox is safe, David Horowitz, right-wing pensioner of Richard Scaife Mellon [Among the financiers of PNAC], hyped his latest book about threats to America's youth from leftist professors.

The ad for 'The Professors -- The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America' describes me as: 'Texas Journalism Professor Robert Jensen, who rabidly hates the United States, and recently told his students, "The United States has lost the war in Iraq and that's a good thing."

I'm glad Horowitz got my name right (people often misspell it 'Jenson'). But everything else is distortion, and that one sentence teaches much about the reactionary right's disingenuous rhetorical strategy.

First, I'm not rabid, in personal or political style. I'm a sedate, non-descript middle-aged academic who tries to approach political and moral questions rationally. I articulate principles, provide evidence about how those principles are often undermined by powerful institutions, and offer logical conclusions about how citizens should respond. I encourage people to disagree with my principles, contest my evidence, and question my logic -- all appropriate activities in a university where students are being trained to think for themselves, and in a nominally democratic society where citizens should to do the same.

Second, I offer such critiques without hate. Sometimes my assessments are harsh, such as in evaluating George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq and concluding the attack was unlawful and, therefore, our president is guilty of crimes against peace and should be prosecuted. Similarly harsh was the judgment that Bill Clinton's insistence on maintaining the harsh economic embargo on Iraq in the 1990s resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocents and, therefore, Clinton was a moral monster who was unfit to govern. None of this has to do with hating either man, but instead with assessments and judgments we should be making.

Third, these critiques are not of the United States, but of specific policies and policymakers. No nation is a monolith with a single set of interests or political positions, and it's nonsensical to claim that harsh critique constitutes rejection of an entire nation.

Why would anyone suggest that I rabidly hate the United States? It's easier to defame opponents using emotionally charged language than engage on real issues. Accuse them of being irrational and hateful. Ignore the substance of the claims and just sling mud. By even minimal standards of intellectual or political discourse it's not terribly honorable, but it often works.

Beyond these junkyard dog tactics, Horowitz's email also makes one crucial factual error. I did write that the U.S. losing the Iraq war was a good thing -- not in celebration of death and destruction, of course, but because the defeat

temporarily restrains policymakers in their dangerous attempts to extend the U.S. empire. But that was the first sentence of an opinion piece I published in various newspapers in 2004, not a statement to students. The distinction is important.

Horowitz and similar critics argue that professors like me inappropriately politicize the classroom, forcing captive student audiences to listen to radical rants. No doubt there are professors who rant -- from the left, right and center; there's a lot of bad teaching in universities.

But I'm constantly attacked by people who have no knowledge of -- and as far as I can tell, no interest in learning about -- how I teach. Because they hear me express strong opinions at political rallies or read my newspaper opinion pieces, they assume I treat my classroom like a pulpit and students as targets for conversion.

I teach journalism, and in the course of that teaching I regularly discuss how journalists cover controversial topics; it's hard to imagine teaching responsibly without doing that. When appropriate, I have talked in class about how journalists cover war -- explaining that many people around the world believe the U.S. invasion of Iraq violated international law, observing that U.S. journalists in the corporate commercial media rarely write about that, and suggesting reasons for the omission.

There's always a politics to teaching; the choices professors make about what readings to assign and how to approach a subject are influenced by their politics -- left, right, or center. But that does not mean teaching is nothing but politics.

No one knows that better than professors who hold views challenging the conventional wisdom, those of us who don't rabidly hate the United States but do passionately love learning and the promise of an open, independent university.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/jensen02082006.html>

Teachers as Eunuchs and Odalisques:

The Not So Stealth Attack on Public Education by John F. Borowski

Georgia, along with states such as Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Ohio and Texas is looking to challenge the scientific study of evolution. The late President Reagan (as a presidential nominee) endorsed the teaching of creationism anywhere evolution was being taught. The Supreme Court in 1987 dealt a lethal blow to those who suggested creationism is taught along side evolution. The case challenged Louisiana's "Creationism Act" with the high court ruling the law was "designed either to promote the theory of creation science that embodies a particular religious tenet or to prohibit the teaching of a scientific theory disfavored by certain religious sects." Foiled on that front, critics of evolution are seeking to simply remove it from science textbooks. What will be next: the teaching of environmental principles because it brings into question another deity close to these charlatan's hearts: profit at all cost?

...

I, like most science teachers, provide scientific data, letting the "chips fall where they may." When a student asks for my opinion, I suggest that they construct their own formulas based on sound science. Sadly, because of ecological illiteracy, angry parents steeped in misconception and woefully afraid for open dialogue in a

classroom besiege teachers. Enflaming the situation are the likes of President Bush and his cronies who slam public education on a regular basis. Recently, a parent asked me if I taught the "other side" of deforestation? I replied there is no scientific "other side" to deforestation: just like there is no other side to child abuse, rape or spousal crime: or cheating students of the truth.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0616-10.htm>

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9.25 BYU Professor Steven Jones' Internationally Renowned White Paper

"Why Indeed Did the World Trade Center Buildings Collapse?"

is

beautifully laid out here:

http://911readingroom.org/bib/jones/why_indeed_v3.html

Accompanied here by Jones being interviewed by Tucker Carlson (who refuses to play the video of Building 7's implosion which Jones had provided him):

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article11017.htm>

Also available at:

http://wtc7.net/articles/stevenjones_b7.html

And at Professor Jones' current home on the web

www.journalof911studies.com

as a pdf file:

www.journalof911studies.com/volume/200609/WhyIndeedDidtheWorldTradeCenterBuildingsCompletelyCollapse.pdf

Journal for 911 Studies.com

is unsurpassed for thorough,
disciplined, peer-reviewed scientific analysis.

**It is also one of the the only places on the web where you can see the
Third Jetliner in NYC**

that was mentioned on air by Diane Sawyer
and several other news correspondents on the day of the attacks,
but has since become one of the most ferociously suppressed aspects of
9/11.

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9.26 Bush Personally Intervenes with the Head of the Mormon Church and

BYU Professor Steven Jones is Removed from His Classes for His 9/11 Research

"BYU Places '9/11 Truth' Professor on Paid Leave

Deseret Morning News | Tad Walch | September 8 2006

Brigham Young University placed physics professor Steven Jones on paid leave Thursday while it reviews his involvement in the so-called "9/11 truth movement" that accuses unnamed government agencies of orchestrating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center.

Steven Jones BYU will conduct an official review of Jones' actions before determining a course of action, university spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said.

Such a review is rare for a professor with "continuing status" at BYU, where Jones has taught since 1985.

...

Jones became a celebrity among 9/11 conspiracy-theory groups after he wrote a paper titled... **"Why Indeed Did the World Trade Center Buildings Collapse?"**

The paper was published two weeks ago in the book "9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out" and lays out Jones' hypothesis that the three towers fell because of pre-positioned demolition charges — not because of the planes that hit two of the towers.

http://www.infowars.com/articles/sept11/byu_places_jones_on_paid_leave.htm

George Bush Flies to Utah and Gets Together with Head Mormon Gordon Hinckley

Oddly enough, just 9 days prior to Dr. Jones being placed on "paid leave," on August 31st, George W. Bush was in Salt Lake City visiting The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' and meeting with the President Gordon B. Hinckley.

http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_4311393

'Bush and Hinckley meet for a fourth time'

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_4271005

If you would like to sign a petition supporting Dr. Steven Jones and his 9/11 research, please go here:

<http://tinyurl.com/l5346>

<http://edschultz.invisionzone.com/index.php?showtopic=19193&mode=threaded&pid=298104>

Professor Jones Elects to Retire from BYU

10/20/2006

Prof. Steven Jones elects to retire from BYU

Category: 9/11 News :

Author: Brian (9:40 pm)

Friends and Colleagues!

BYU issued a press release today -- I have elected to take early retirement from BYU. I don't have the actual release -- it will be in local papers tomorrow and may be on the BYU web site now.

I feel that this is a good move for me. I have been contacted by another school about joining their faculty, and may do so -- but no decision on that yet. I think it will work out for the best. I assure you all that I will continue in my research on 9/11 issues, and speaking out -- should have more time for these activities in fact.

I feel good about this -- not angry with BYU, moving on and happy with it overall.

Thanks for all your support, especially to those who signed the petition at st911.org in my behalf.

My sincere thanks to all my friends in the 9/11 truth community world-wide; we have a great, growing community of intelligent, caring people. We can do this!

Sincerely,

Steven E. Jones
Physicist

Professor Jones: A Position Statement

Letter to the Editor:

I stand firmly against the war in Iraq and any war of aggression.

I support scientific scrutiny of the events of 9/11/2001, a day which will live in infamy. I speak as a private citizen of the United States.

"In a democracy we can renounce war and proclaim peace. There is opportunity for dissent. Many have been speaking out and doing so emphatically. That is their privilege. That is their right, so long as they do so legally... We can give our opinions on the merits of the situation as we see it..." (Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, LDS General Conference, 6 April 2003.)

Wholeheartedly agreeing, I am exercising that right and that privilege. "A team of American and Iraqi public health researchers has estimated that 600,000 civilians have died in violence across Iraq since the 2003 American invasion," (New York Times, 11 Oct. 2006). I renounce these killings in the Middle Eastern wars.

We must insist on complete answers to questions about what really happened on September 11th, why there were no air defenses that day, and why we have gone to war in the Middle East. These issues transcend party politics. These yearnings for understanding of 9/11 and the wars that followed take us to the core of our heritage as Americans -- I support the Constitution of the United States. I am very concerned about those elected officials who would engage in pre-emptive war rather than "common defense" to "repel invasions" (Article I), compromise our rights against torture and cruel punishments (8th Amendment), take away the right of habeas corpus (Article I), and diminish the freedom to speak out without fear of reprisals (1st Amendment).

Two structural engineering professors in Switzerland have recently spoken out as I have also done, declaring that explosives were with "utmost probability" responsible for the collapse of World Trade Center 7 on September 11th. "WTC7 was with the utmost probability brought down by explosives", said one. [Tages-Anzeiger, 9/9/2006]

After seeing the collapse of World Trade Center 7 (see wt7.net), many instinctively want to know why this 47-story skyscraper, which was never hit by a plane, collapsed completely seven hours after the WTC Towers had collapsed. How could this happen? The 9/11 Commission report fails to mention the collapse of WTC7. Federal laboratories have not officially answered yet. FEMA explains how fire might initiate a collapse, then admits, "Our best hypothesis has only a low probability of occurrence." Is it a crime, then, to consider an alternative hypothesis, that explosives were used?

I invite you to study this matter for yourself. Please read the peer-reviewed articles published here: www.Journalof911Studies.com. This Journal is supported by the Scholars for 9/11 Truth, which I co-chair, and considers the "official theory" of what happened on 9/11 as well as alternative explanations. One of my scientific papers on 9/11 issues is published in this Journal (as well as in a book edited by Professors David Ray Griffin and Peter Scott.)

The paper therein by Joseph Firmage explores evidences that US intelligence knew in advance that the hijackers were coming and that the attacks were "allowed to happen," to justify wars in the Middle East. At least ten nations are on record as having warned the current administration that terrorist attacks were imminent, shortly before 9/11.

If another "9/11-like event" is "allowed to happen" in the near future, do you not suppose that it will be blamed this time on Iran or Syria, followed by a swift and deadly attack on the country blamed? Can you not imagine that a military draft will follow next, with college students constrained to enter the military, and handed rifles to go and kill people in the Middle East, by the tens of thousands?

Because of my concern for college-age students I have taught and loved for decades, I am motivated to speak out emphatically against what I judge – after thorough study and reflection – to be terrible wars, wars of aggression, founded on deceptions.

Steven E. Jones
Ph.D. Physicist
Co-Chair, Scholars for 9/11 Truth

[Since departed -- now Co-Editor of
Journal of 911 Studies.]

<http://www.911truthseekers.org/modules/weblog/>

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9.27 [Yahoo, MSN, AOL Gave Search Data To Bush Administration Lawyers](#)

The Justice Department is hoping to use the information to revive an anti-porn law that was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.

By Antone Gonsalves
TechWeb News
Jan 19, 2006 03:03 PM

Three of four major search engines subpoenaed by the Bush administration have acknowledged that they handed over search data in the government's efforts to revive an anti-porn law that was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Microsoft Corp., which owns MSN, Yahoo Inc. and America Online Inc. said they sent data to the government, but insisted no personal information on users was given to government attorneys. The exception among major search engines was Google Inc., which said it would "vigorously" fight the government's requests.

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=177102061>

DoJ Search Requests: Google Said No; Yahoo, AOL, MSN Yes

Update: Earlier today, I asked a Justice Department spokesperson which search engines other than Google received requests to provide search records. The answer: Yahoo, AOL, and MSN were also asked to supply search records information, and all complied. Google did not, and that is why the DoJ asked a federal judge on Wednesday to order the company to do so.

Another fact to consider as you sift through news coverage: Justice is not requesting this data in the course of a criminal investigation, but in order to defend its argument that the Child Online Protection Act is constitutionally sound.

It seems apparent that Google objected to the request not for privacy reasons, but on grounds that the request was too broad and burdensome. Privacy advocates I spoke to today, including attorney Sherwin Siy at EPIC, say while the DoJ's request would not identify individual users, the scope and nature of this request sets a troubling precedent. Today, they argue, only search strings and urls; tomorrow, perhaps, the IP addresses of all users who typed in "Osama Bin Laden."

http://www.boingboing.net/2006/01/19/_doj_search_requests.html

Google Records Subpoena Raises Privacy Fears by Maria Godoy

The Justice Department has requested records for millions of searches made on Google, AOL and other popular search engines in an effort to bolster its case for an online pornography law. The subpoena is for broad data on search habits, not personal information. But the request has raised alarms among industry observers and civil libertarians who wonder what kind of data search engines have about their users -- and what other, more sensitive data the government may seek next.

Google, Microsoft's MSN, Yahoo and AOL received subpoenas for a random sampling of millions of Internet addresses cataloged in their databases, as well as for records for potentially billions of searches made over a one-week period. Only Google refused to comply. The Justice Department wants to use the data to support its argument that Web-filtering software doesn't work.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5165530>

Sensenbrenner Proposal: Cough Up Internet Users' Online Data -- Or Go to Jail

A prominent Republican on Capitol Hill has prepared legislation that would rewrite Internet privacy rules by requiring that logs of Americans' online activities be stored, CNET News.com has learned.

The proposal comes just weeks after Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said Internet service providers should retain records of user activities for a "reasonable amount of time," a move that represented a dramatic shift in the Bush administration's views on privacy.

What's new: Legislation is being prepared that would rewrite Internet privacy rules by requiring that logs of Americans' online activities be stored.

Bottom line: The legislation would create a federal felony targeted at bloggers, search engines, e-mail service providers and many other Web sites that might "facilitate" access to unlawful pornography.

Wisconsin Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, is proposing that ISPs be required to record information about Americans' online activities so that police can more easily "conduct criminal investigations." Executives at companies that fail to comply would be fined and imprisoned for up to one year.

http://news.com.com/Congress%20may%20make%20ISPs%20snoop%20on%20you/2100-1028_3-6072601.html

Mueller: "Terrorists" and Sexual Predators Use the Same M. O.

FBI Director Robert Mueller on Tuesday called on Internet service providers to record their customers' online activities, a move that anticipates a fierce debate over privacy and law enforcement in Washington next year. "Terrorists coordinate their plans cloaked in the anonymity of the Internet, as do violent sexual predators prowling chat rooms," Mueller said in a speech at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Boston.

ISP snooping time line

In events that were first reported by CNET News.com, Bush administration officials have said Internet providers must keep track of what Americans are doing online.

June 2005: Justice Department officials quietly propose data retention rules.

December 2005: European Parliament votes for data retention of up to two years.

April 14, 2006: Data retention proposals surface in Colorado and the U.S. Congress.

April 20, 2006: Attorney General Alberto Gonzales says data retention "must be addressed."

April 28, 2006: Rep. Diana DeGette proposes data retention amendment.

May 16, 2006: Rep. James Sensenbrenner drafts data retention legislation--but backs away from it two days later.

May 26, 2006: Gonzales and FBI Director Robert Mueller meet with Internet and telecommunications companies.

June 27, 2006: Rep. Joe Barton, chair of a House committee, calls new child protection legislation "highest priority."

"All too often, we find that before we can catch these offenders, Internet service providers have unwittingly deleted the very records that would help us identify these offenders and protect future victims," Mueller said. "We must find a balance between the legitimate need for privacy and law enforcement's clear need for access."

The speech to the law enforcement group, which approved a resolution on the topic earlier in the day, echoes other calls from Bush administration officials to force private firms to record information about customers. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, for instance, told Congress last month that "this is a national problem that requires federal legislation."

Justice Department officials admit privately that data retention legislation is controversial enough that there wasn't time to ease it through the U.S. Congress before politicians left to campaign for re-election. Instead, the idea is expected to surface in early 2007, and one Democratic politician has already promised legislation.

Law enforcement groups claim that by the time they contact Internet service providers, customers' records may have been deleted in the routine course of business. Industry representatives, however, say that if police respond to tips promptly instead of dawdling, it would be difficult to imagine any investigation that would be imperiled.

It's not clear exactly what a data retention law would require. One proposal would go beyond Internet providers and require registrars, the companies that sell domain names, to maintain records too. And during private meetings with industry officials, FBI and Justice Department representatives have cited the desirability of also forcing search engines to keep logs--a proposal that could gain additional law enforcement support after AOL showed how useful such records could be in investigations.

http://news.zdnet.com/2100-1009_22-6126877.html?tag=nl

Pornography Invoked as a Cover for "The War on Terror?"

U.S. Wants Companies to Keep Web Usage Records

The director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Robert S. Mueller III, and Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales held a meeting in Washington last Friday where they offered a general proposal on record-keeping to a group of senior executives from Internet companies, said Brian Roehrkasse, a spokesman for the department. The meeting included representatives from America Online, Microsoft, Google, Verizon and Comcast.

The attorney general has appointed a task force of department officials to explore the issue, and that group is holding another meeting with a broader group of Internet executives today, Mr. Roehrkasse said. The department also met yesterday with a group of privacy experts.

The Justice Department is not asking the Internet companies to give it data about users, but rather to retain information that could be subpoenaed through existing laws and procedures, Mr. Roehrkasse said.

While initial proposals were vague, executives from companies that attended the meeting said they gathered that the department was interested in records that would allow them to identify which individuals visited certain Web sites and possibly conducted searches using certain terms.

...

An executive of one Internet provider that was represented at the first meeting said Mr. Gonzales began the discussion by showing slides of child pornography

from the Internet. But later, one participant asked Mr. Mueller why he was interested in the Internet records. The executive said Mr. Mueller's reply was, "We want this for terrorism."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/02/washington/02records.html?ex=1306900800&en=c33171e9bd16725b&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

'Terrorism' Invoked in Internet Snooping Proposal

by Declan McCullagh

Global Research, June 1, 2006

CNET News.com

In a radical departure from earlier statements, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has said that requiring Internet service providers to save records of their customers' online activities is necessary in the fight against 'terrorism,' CNET News.com has learned.

Gonzales and FBI Director Robert Mueller privately met with representatives of AOL, Comcast, Google, Microsoft and Verizon last week and said that Internet providers--and perhaps search engines--must retain data for two years to aid in anti-terrorism prosecutions, according to multiple sources familiar with the discussion who spoke on condition of anonymity on Tuesday.

"We want this for terrorism," Gonzales said, according to one person familiar with the discussion.

Gonzales' earlier position had only emphasized how mandatory data retention would help thwart child exploitation.

In a speech last month at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Gonzales said that Internet providers must retain records to aid investigations of criminals "abusing kids and sending images of the abuse around the world through the Internet."

If data retention becomes viewed primarily as an anti-terrorism measure, recent legal and political spats could complicate the Justice Department's efforts to make it standard practice.

Especially after recent reports that AT&T has opened its databases to the National Security Agency, Internet and telecommunications executives have become skittish about appearing to be cooperating too closely with the federal government's surveillance efforts.

In addition, the positive publicity that Google received during its legal dispute with the Justice Department over search terms has demonstrated to Internet companies the benefits of objecting to government requests on privacy grounds.

"A monumental data trove is a crazy thing from a privacy perspective," said one person familiar with Friday's discussions. "It's crazy that the U.S. government is going to retain more data than the Chinese government does."

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=MCC20060601&articleId=2544>

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Cheney-Rumsfeld Surveillance Plans Date Back to 1980s

**Commentary/Analysis, Peter Dale Scott,
New America Media, Jan 03, 2006**

Editor's Note: Illegal eavesdropping and illegal detentions of U.S. citizens marks a revival of presidential powers curtailed since Watergate, and likely grew out of a secret Reagan-era program that planned to suspend the U.S. Constitution in the event of a national emergency.

Revelations that the National Security Agency (NSA) has engaged in warrantless eavesdropping in violation of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act prompted President Bush to admit last month that in 2002 he directly authorized the activity in the wake of 9/11.

But there are reasons to suspect that the illegal eavesdropping, and the related program of illegal detentions of U.S. citizens as well as foreign nationals, began earlier. Both may be part of what Vice President Dick Cheney has called the Bush administration's restoration of "the legitimate authority of the presidency" -- practices exercised by Nixon that were outlawed after Watergate.

In the 1980s Richard Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld discussed just such emergency surveillance and detention powers in a super-secret program that planned for what was euphemistically called "Continuity of Government" (COG) in the event of a nuclear disaster.

At the time, Cheney was a Wyoming congressman, while Rumsfeld, who had been defense secretary under President Ford, was a businessman and CEO of the drug company G.D. Searle. Overall responsibility for the program had been assigned to Vice President George H.W. Bush, "with Lt. Col. Oliver North... as the National Security Council action officer," according to James Bamford in his book, "A Pretext for War."

These men planned for suspension of the Constitution, not just after nuclear attack, but for any "national security emergency," which they defined in Executive Order 12656 of 1988 as: "Any occurrence, including natural disaster, military attack, technological or other emergency, that seriously degrades or seriously threatens the national security of the United States." Clearly 9/11 would meet this definition.

As developed in the mid-1980s by Oliver North in the White House, the plans called for not just the surveillance but the potential detention of large numbers of American citizens. During the Iran-Contra hearings, North was asked about his work on "a contingency plan in the event of emergency, that would suspend the American constitution." The chairman, Democratic Senator Inouye, ruled that this was a "highly sensitive and classified" matter, not to be dealt with in an open hearing.

The supporting agency for the planning and implementation was the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA was headed for much of the 1980s by Louis Giuffrida, whose COG plans for massive detention became so extreme that even President Reagan's then Attorney General, William French Smith, raised objections.

Smith eventually left Washington, while COG continued to evolve. And in May 2001 Cheney and FEMA were reunited: President George W. Bush appointed Cheney to head a terrorism task force and created a new office within FEMA to assist him. In effect, Bush was authorizing a resumption of the kind of planning that Cheney and FEMA had conducted under the heading of COG.

Press accounts at the time claimed that the Cheney terrorism task force accomplished little and that Cheney himself spent the entire month of August in a remote location in Wyoming. But this may have just been the appearance of withdrawal; as author James Mann points out in "The Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet," Cheney had regularly gone off to undisclosed locations in the 1980s as part of his secret COG planning.

As to the actual role of Bush, Cheney and FEMA on 9/11 itself, much remains unclear. But all sources agree that a central order at 10 a.m. from Bush to Cheney contained three provisions, of which the most important was, according to the 9/11 Commission Report, "the implementation of continuity of government measures."

The measures called for the immediate evacuation of key personnel from Washington. Both Cheney and Rumsfeld refused to leave, but Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was helicoptered to a bunker headquarters inside a mountain. Cheney also ordered key congressional personnel, including House Speaker Dennis Hastert, to be flown out of Washington, along with several cabinet members.

During Cheney's later disappearance from public view for a long period after the attack, he too was working from a COG base -- "Site R," the so-called "Underground Pentagon" on the Maryland-Pennsylvania border, according to Bamford.

Many actions of the Bush presidency resemble not only what Nixon did in the 1970s, but what Cheney and Rumsfeld had planned to restore under COG in the 1980s in the case of an attack. Prominent among these have been the detention of so-called "enemy combatants," including U.S. citizens, and placing them in special camps. Now as before, a policy of detentions outside the Constitution has been accompanied by a program of extra-constitutional surveillance to determine who will be detained.

As Cheney told reporters on his return last month from Pakistan, "Watergate and a lot of things around Watergate and Vietnam, both during the '70s served, I think, to erode the authority" of the president. But he defended as necessary for national security the aggressive program he helped shape under President Bush, which includes warrantless surveillance and extrajudicial imprisonment -- in effect, a new Imperial Presidency.

At least two Democrats in Congress have suggested that Bush could be impeached for his illegal surveillance activities. The chances of impeachment may depend on whether Congress can prove that planning for this, like planning for the Iraq War, began well before 9/11.

[PNS contributor Peter Dale Scott is author of "Drugs, Oil, and War: The United States in Afghanistan, Colombia, and Indochina" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003) and is completing a book on "Deep Politics and the Road to 9/11."]

http://news.pacificnews.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=979bc356fbfc082be8930f269e2bde50

Halliburton/KBR awarded Homeland Security Contract Worth up to \$385M

By Katherine Hunt

Last Update: 12:19 PM ET Jan 24, 2006

Detention Centers:

**“..... in the event of an emergency influx of immigrants --
or to support the rapid development of new programs”**

SAN FRANCISCO (MarketWatch) -- KBR, the engineering and construction subsidiary of Halliburton Co, said Tuesday it has been awarded a contingency contract from the Department of Homeland Security to supports [sic] its Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities in the event of an emergency. The maximum total value of the contract is \$385 million and consists of a 1-year base period with four 1-year options. KBR held the previous ICE contract from 2000 through 2005. The contract, which is effective immediately, provides for establishing temporary detention and processing capabilities to expand existing ICE Detention and Removal Operations Program facilities in the event of an emergency influx of immigrants into the U.S., or to support the rapid development of new programs, KBR said. The contract may also provide migrant detention support to other government organizations in the event of an immigration emergency, as well as the development of a plan to react to a national emergency, such as a natural disaster, the company said.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B62C8724D%2DAE8A%2D4B5C%2D94C7%2D70171315C0A0%7D&dist=SignInArchive¶m=archive&siteid=mktw&dateid=38741%2E5136277662%2D858254656&print=true&dist=printTop>

Dissent, Freedoms, Privacy Under Sustained Assault by Bush

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Thursday, February 16, 2006

A new provision in the USA Patriot Act bill would allow authorities to arrest demonstrators on felony charges at any "special event of national significance" if they are caught breaching a security perimeter. The measure would extend the power of the Secret Service, allowing agents to arrest people who enter an arbitrarily defined restricted area at an event, even when the President or any other official protected by the Secret Service isn't present. No hearings are planned on the provision.

"The new provision will empower the Secret Service to declare any area at any given time the site of an event of 'national significance' in order to arrest people expressing unwelcome political ideas and charge them with a felony," said Jody Grae Haug, co-chair of the Green Party of the United States and founder of the Nonviolent Peacekeeper Pool in Seattle. "It'll crush the kind of civil protest that was necessary to advance the civil rights movement. The purpose of the new

Patriot Act provision is not security, but intimidation and suppression of political speech."

...

On January 24, Halliburton subsidiary KBR announced that the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement component has awarded KBR a five-year \$385 million contract to build and maintain detention centers to deal with "an emergency influx of immigrants, or to support the rapid development of new programs" -- possibly in response to political unrest.

"In recent years, peaceful protesters against global trade authorities and against the war on Iraq have increasingly found themselves detained for over 24 hours without charge. We know that FEMA has sought bids from major real estate and engineering firms to construct giant internment facilities, ostensibly to deal with disasters and attacks on the U.S. But evidence that FEMA also claims the power to detain political protesters goes back to the Iran-Contra hearings in the 1980s. The American people should recognize these developments as ominous in the era of endless 'war on terror', military occupation of Iraq, and a likely U.S. military attack on Iran," said Sundiata Tellem, co-chair of the Green Party Black Caucus.

Greens noted that some leaders in Congress, including Democrats, are already backing down from holding President Bush accountable for his illegal order for domestic spying without warrant or congressional oversight.

"These threats to our freedoms and to the rule of law are more dire than at any time in U.S. history, because of surveillance technology, training of civilian police forces in military tactics as ordered by President Clinton in the mid 1990s, and the control of media by conglomerates that benefit from such policies. The Green Party has already called for impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney for various crimes and abuses of power. But it will take a very loud 'No!' from the American people and a concerted effort to remove the Bush regime from power if we're going to regain our rights and freedoms," said Marc Sanson, co-chair of the Green Party and former director of the Heartland Peace Center in Springfield, Illinois.

http://www.gp.org/press/pr_2006_02_16.shtml

Detention Camp Jitters

by Maureen Farrell

"Recent pronouncements from the Bush Administration and national security initiatives put in place in the Reagan era could see internment camps and martial law in the United States."
-- The Sydney Morning Herald, July 27, 2002

In 1984, the Rex-84 readiness exercise program was conducted by 34 federal departments and agencies, reportedly as an exercise to handle an influx of illegal aliens crossing the Mexican/U.S. border. Brought to Americans' attention during the Iran-contra hearings, the exercise, which was conducted alongside another drill, "Night Train 84," also tested military readiness to round up and detain citizens in case of massive civil unrest.

None of that ever happened, of course, and in many respects, it seems silly to even mention it. After all, other Reagan-era initiatives, like the Armageddon

exercises Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld participated in, are far more interesting. Then, too, despite a brief moment of sunlight in the 1970s (when Congress, according to former President and CIA director George H.W. Bush, "unleashed a bunch of untutored little jerks out there"), emergency detention plans had been in place since the 1950s, without incident. Americans have not been herded into camps since World War II, so why worry about it now?

For some, the answer comes in the form of yet another government contract awarded to Halliburton subsidiary, Kellogg, Brown & Root to build "temporary detention facilities" in case of an "immigration emergency." Reminiscent of Rex 84, which was conducted on the premise of preparing for "an influx of immigrants," there is reason to believe that hoards of poor, tired immigrants are not the true concern. As Tom Hennessy of the Press-Telegram recently pointed out, "there already are thousands of beds in place at various U.S. locations for the purpose of housing illegal immigrants." So what else might these centers be used for?

Given predictions that another terror attack is all but certain, it seems far more likely that the centers would be used for post-911-type detentions of immigrants rather than a sudden deluge. "Almost certainly this is preparation for a roundup after the next 9/11 for Mid-Easterners, Muslims and possibly dissenters," Daniel Ellsberg remarked. "They've already done this on a smaller scale, with the 'special registration' detentions of immigrant men from Muslim countries, and with Guantanamo." As it turns out, immigrants aren't the only concern. As a news brief in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution explains:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a contract worth up to \$385 million for building temporary immigration detention centers to Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root. KBR would build the centers for the Homeland Security Department in case of an unexpected influx of immigrants or to house people after a natural disaster or for new programs that require additional detention space, the company said.

...
Which brings us to the KBR spokesman's final statement regarding "new programs that require additional detention space." What might these new programs be? Do they have anything to do with the post-9/11 suggestions for forced quarantines or internment camps? Will America's new "secret laws" come into play? Might these "new programs" have anything to do with the contingencies Oliver North prepared for? Inquiring minds want to know.

In 1987, the Miami Herald gave us a glimpse of what the lead counsel for the Senate Iran-contra committee called a "secret government-within-a-government" and alerted readers to standby legislation, which, as columnist Jack Anderson had previously warned, was meant to "suspend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights." Even so, when a memo from the Director of Resource Management for the Department of the Army emerged, discussing "civilian inmate labor camps" to be built on Army installations, only conspiracy buffs on the far fringes of the Internet paid it any mind.

In 1998, World Net Daily's Geoff Metcalf addressed such "classic right wing paranoia," trying not to sound paranoid himself. "For several years now I have been getting all sorts of wild reports about 'Government Internment Camps,' he wrote, before disclosing two reasons he began sensing substance behind the rumors: 1) The labor camp memo was authentic, he said and 2) A U.S. congressman substantiated such claims. "The truth is yes -- you do have these

standby provisions, and the plans are here ... whereby you could, in the name of stopping terrorism ... evoke the military and arrest Americans and put them in detention camps," Rep. Henry Gonzalez said in an interview.

...
What we do know, however, thanks to the Sydney Morning Herald's investigation into Reagan-era initiatives, alongside documents leaked to the Miami Herald in 1987, is that when Col. Oliver North helped draft contingency plans in the early 80s, one of the reasons cited for possible martial law and internment was "national opposition to a U.S. military invasion abroad" -- a scenario which would become more likely with additional wars and in the event of the return of the draft.

...
With the military stretched to the breaking point, questions of conscription and subsequent draft-dodging are hardly far-fetched, but the very act of protesting, in and of itself, could become a federal offense. Though conservative columnist William Safire was one of the first to warn of Mr. Bush's "dictatorial powers," and editorials across the country have since voiced similar concerns, few are picking up on attempts to criminalize dissent -- an observation made by former White House counsel John Dean as early as Oct. 2001, who wrote that, thanks to the hastily passed Patriot Act, the "right to dissent" is in jeopardy, with protesters possibly considered "terrorists."

Dean considered this an "unintended consequence" of the new anti-terror legislation, but the Oakland Tribune later reported that California's anti-terrorism intelligence center was already "blurring the line between terrorism and political dissent" and National Lawyers Guild president Michael Avery said that the Bush administration was "trying to criminalize dissent, characterize protesters as terrorists and trying to intimidate and marginalize those opposed to its policies." After a New York state jury refused to convict four Catholic antiwar activists for protesting at a U.S. military recruiting office in 2005, the federal government stepped in, filing charges including "conspiracy to impede an officer of the United States," which could send each protester to prison for up to six years.

<http://www.buzzflash.com/farrell/06/02/far06003.html>

ENDGAME: 10-Year U.S. Strategic Plan For Detention Camps
Revives Proposals From Oliver North

News Analysis/Commentary, Peter Dale Scott,
New America Media, Feb 21, 2006

Editor's Note: A recently announced contract for a Halliburton subsidiary to build immigrant detention facilities is part of a longer-term Homeland Security plan titled ENDGAME, which sets as its goal the removal of "all removable aliens" and "potential terrorists." Scott is author of "Drugs, Oil, and War: The United States in Afghanistan, Colombia, and Indochina" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003). He is completing a book on "The Road to 9/11." Visit his Web site at <http://www.peterdalescott.net>.

The Halliburton subsidiary KBR (formerly Brown and Root) announced on Jan. 24 that it had been awarded a \$385 million contingency contract by the Department of Homeland Security to build detention camps. Two weeks later, on Feb. 6, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced that the Fiscal Year 2007 federal budget would allocate over \$400 million to add 6,700 additional

detention beds (an increase of 32 percent over 2006). This \$400 million allocation is more than a four-fold increase over the FY 2006 budget, which provided only \$90 million for the same purpose.

Both the contract and the budget allocation are in partial fulfillment of an ambitious 10-year Homeland Security strategic plan, code-named ENDGAME, authorized in 2003. According to a 49-page Homeland Security document on the plan, ENDGAME expands "a mission first articulated in the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798." Its goal is the capability to "remove all removable aliens," including "illegal economic migrants, aliens who have committed criminal acts, asylum-seekers (required to be retained by law) or potential terrorists."

There is no question that the Bush administration is under considerable political pressure to increase the detentions of illegal immigrants, especially from across the Mexican border. Confrontations along the border are increasingly violent, often involving the drug traffic.

But the problem of illegal immigration cannot be separated from other Bush administration policies: principally the retreat from traditional American programs designed to combat poverty in Latin America. In Florida last week, Democratic Party leader Howard Dean attacked the new federal budget for its almost 30 percent cut in development aid to Latin America and the Caribbean.

In truth, both parties have virtually abandoned the John F. Kennedy vision of an Alliance for Progress in Latin America. Kennedy's hope was that, by raising the standard of living of Latin America's poor, there would be less pressure on them to emigrate to the United States.

That vision foundered when successive administrations, both Democratic and Republican, contributed to the overthrow of democratically elected governments in Brazil, Chile and elsewhere, replacing them with oppressive dictatorships.

Since about 1970, the policies of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund have also aggravated the problem of poverty in the rest of the world, especially Latin America. U.S. programs abroad, like programs at home, are now designed principally around the concept of security -- above all for oil installations and pipelines.

In consequence, the United States is being redefined as a vast gated community, hoping to isolate itself by force from its poverty-stricken neighbors. Inside the U.S. fortress sit 2.1 million prisoners, a greater percentage of the population than in any other nation. ENDGAME's crash program is designed to house additional detainees who have not been convicted of crimes.

Significantly, both the KBR contract and the ENDGAME plan are open-ended. The contract calls for a response to "an emergency influx of immigrants, or to support the rapid development of new programs" in the event of other emergencies, such as "a natural disaster." "New programs" is of course a term with no precise limitation. So, in the current administration, is ENDGAME's goal of removing "potential terrorists."

It is relevant that in 2002, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced his desire to see camps for U.S. citizens deemed to be "enemy combatants." On Feb. 17 of this year, in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, Defense Secretary Donald

Rumsfeld spoke of the harm being done to the country's security, not just by the enemy, but also by what he called "news informers" who needed to be combated in "a contest of wills." Two days earlier, citing speeches critical of Bush by Al Gore, John Kerry, and Howard Dean, conservative columnist Ben Shapiro called for "legislation to prosecute such sedition."

Since 9/11 the Bush administration has implemented a number of inter-related programs, which had been planned for secretly in the 1980s under President Reagan. These so-called "Continuity of Government" or COG proposals included vastly expanded detention capabilities, warrantless eavesdropping and detention, and preparations for greater use of martial law.

Prominent among the secret planners of this program in the 1980s were then-Congressman Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, who at the time was in private business as CEO of the drug company G.D. Searle.

The principal desk officer for the program was Oliver North, until he was forced to resign in 1986 over Iran-Contra.

When planes crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, Vice President Cheney's response, after consulting President Bush, was to implement a classified "Continuity of Government" plan for the first time, according to the 9/11 Commission report. As the Washington Post later explained, the order "dispatched a shadow government of about 100 senior civilian managers to live and work secretly outside Washington, activating for the first time long-standing plans."

What these managers in this shadow government worked on has never been reported. But it is significant that the group that prepared ENDGAME was, as the Homeland Security document puts it, "chartered in September 2001." For ENDGAME's goal of a capacious detention capability is remarkably similar to Oliver North's controversial Rex-84 "readiness exercise" for COG in 1984. This called for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to round up and detain 400,000 imaginary "refugees," in the context of "uncontrolled population movements" over the Mexican border into the United States.

North's exercise, which reportedly contemplated possible suspension of the United States Constitution, led to questions being asked during the Iran-Contra Hearings. One concern then was that North's plans for expanded internment and detention facilities would not be confined to "refugees" alone.

Oliver North represented a minority element in the Reagan administration, which soon distanced itself from both the man and his proposals. But that minority associated with COG planning, which included Dick Cheney, appear to be in control of the U.S. government today.

http://news.pacificnews.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=9c2d6a5e75201d7e3936ddc65cdd56a9

Bush's Mysterious "New Programs"

By Nat Parry, Consortium News. Posted February 23, 2006.

Not that George W. Bush needs much encouragement, but Sen. Lindsey Graham suggested to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales a new target for the

administration's domestic operations -- Fifth Columnists, supposedly disloyal Americans who sympathize and collaborate with the enemy.

"The administration has not only the right, but the duty, in my opinion, to pursue Fifth Column movements," Graham, R-S.C., told Gonzales during Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on Feb. 6.

"I stand by this president's ability, inherent to being commander in chief, to find out about Fifth Column movements, and I don't think you need a warrant to do that," Graham added, volunteering to work with the administration to draft guidelines for how best to neutralize this alleged threat.

"Senator," a smiling Gonzales responded, "the president already said we'd be happy to listen to your ideas."

In less paranoid times, Graham's comments might be viewed by many Americans as a Republican trying to have it both ways -- ingratiating himself to an administration of his own party while seeking some credit from Washington centrists for suggesting Congress should have at least a tiny say in how Bush runs the War on Terror.

But recent developments suggest that the Bush administration may already be contemplating what to do with Americans who are deemed insufficiently loyal or who disseminate information that may be considered helpful to the enemy. Top U.S. officials have cited the need to challenge news that undercuts Bush's actions as a key front in defeating the terrorists, who are aided by "news informers," in the words of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Detention centers

Plus, there was that curious development in January when the Army Corps of Engineers awarded Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root a \$385 million contract to construct detention centers somewhere in the United States, to deal with "an emergency influx of immigrants into the U.S., or to support the rapid development of new programs," KBR said.

Later, the New York Times reported that "KBR would build the centers for the Homeland Security Department for an unexpected influx of immigrants, to house people in the event of a natural disaster or for new programs that require additional detention space."

Like most news stories on the KBR contract, the Times focused on concerns about Halliburton's reputation for bilking U.S. taxpayers by overcharging for sub-par services. "It's hard to believe that the administration has decided to entrust Halliburton with even more taxpayer dollars," remarked Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif.

Less attention centered on the phrase "rapid development of new programs" and what kind of programs would require a major expansion of detention centers, each capable of holding 5,000 people. Jamie Zuieback, a spokeswoman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, declined to elaborate on what these "new programs" might be.

...

Civilian Inmate Labor Program

There also was another little-noticed item posted at the U.S. Army website, about the Pentagon's Civilian Inmate Labor Program. This program "provides Army policy and guidance for establishing civilian inmate labor programs and civilian prison camps on Army installations."

<http://www.alternet.org/rights/32647/>

The Pentagon's Civilian Inmate Labor Program

(The Army document, first drafted in 1997, underwent a "rapid action revision" on Jan. 14, 2005. The revision provides a "template for developing agreements" between the Army and corrections facilities for the use of civilian inmate labor on Army installations.)

http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r210_35.pdf

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9.29 Posse Comitatus: Remembering Why

by Alan Bock
October 1, 2005

[NOTE: This piece by Alan Bock was written a full year before the law was attacked.]

President Bush, showing in full bloom the instincts that make it clear that whatever he is politically he is not a conservative of the traditional limited-government or Constitutionalist variety, has lofted a trial balloon to promote the idea of having the military play a more extensive, earlier and perhaps even primary role in handling future disasters. The fact that he has mentioned it more than once, and that press secretary Scott McClellan has discussed both that idea and the idea of bypassing governors when disaster strikes, suggests that the notion is not just something that popped into his head on the spur of the moment.

The president (like most presidents but to an exaggerated degree) almost always seeks to expand and enhance the power of the national government when an opportunity presents itself in which such power grabs can seem like a relatively logical response. We see a pattern explained most thoroughly by Robert Higgs in his now-classic (at least in certain circles) book, *Crisis and Leviathan*.

At least during the 20th century Higgs discusses, federal power has expanded during times of crisis — mostly wars but also economic emergencies like the Great Depression — when such expansion seemed at least tolerable, even plausible, to most Americans. When a war or crisis ended, gestures were made toward returning to a constitutional republican form of governance by offloading some of the "emergency" powers. But some of the extraordinary powers remained in place and became not only permanent, but part of the status quo that seemed "normal" to most Americans once they got used to it -- or simply the way things are for younger people or those without much sense of history.

Thus over the course of the century not only has the power of the central government expanded exponentially, but a central government whose power and prerogatives the founders would not recognize, and which would frighten most of

them, has come to seem just the way things are -- indeed, the very definition of "freedom and democracy" that most Americans assume we have and which is the best and freest form of government possible. So more power for the feds has become the "natural" first-reach instinct of almost every national politician of either major party in the face of a perceived crisis (even a crisis arguably caused or at least contributed to by bloated government, as I have argued both 9/11 and Katrina were).

MILITARIZING SOCIETY

The ongoing recognition of denizens of the state apparatus that, as Randolph Bourne recognized so memorably during World War I, that "war is the health of the state" has ensured that we have had a plenitude of military conflicts during the century just past. The habit of declaring "war" on such long-term and perhaps insoluble problems as poverty and government-disapproved drug use has not only compounded the trend, it has contributed to an ongoing militarization of society.

Whenever you see a police response to a major (or minor) criminal incident these days, the gendarmes assembled don't look like the friendly cop on the beat some of us remember from (possibly) more innocent days. They look like armored warriors, even the imperial "storm troopers" of the Star Wars movies, with their body armor, automatic weapons, shields, and tight formations. No wonder some neighborhoods in America feel more like occupied territory than like places where the people rule themselves.

In a crisis like the aftermath of Katrina in New Orleans, the presence of troops can seem comforting. Even though it is now widely acknowledged that many of the early stories about murders, rapes and gang violence in the Superdome and convention center were outright false, it was a stressful time. Violence, hunger, fear and uncertainty, compounded by lack of food and water and the knowledge that everything you owned was probably destroyed, were commonplace. So any number of Americans, including many of those stranded or trapped, welcomed the people in military uniforms.

And so Americans became a little more accustomed to seeing people on the streets with military uniforms and automatic weapons or imposing vehicles, and beginning to process that presence as not only normal but perhaps even comforting.

This doesn't mean we'll be pushed into a military dictatorship the day after tomorrow. But it makes the prospect just a bit more thinkable.

It would behoove Americans, then, to remember or learn why we have a Posse Comitatus law and how it has served to protect American freedoms and our constitutional order.

POWER OF THE COUNTY

Posse Comitatus is a Latin term meaning "power of the county." Black's Law Dictionary defines it this: "Posse Comitatus: the power or force of the county. The entire population of a county above the age of fifteen, which a sheriff may summon to his assistance in certain cases as to aid him in keeping the peace, in pursuing and arresting felons, etc. Besides the old English common law of which

Black was probably the prime exponent, Americans catch a whiff of the Old West in the concept. Sheriffs in real history probably didn't gather a posse to go after bad guys as often as happened in Hollywood movies. But it happened.

The idea that every able-bodied person is ultimately responsible for keeping peace, that it is not solely the task of designated professionals, especially when something approaching a crisis is imminent, is not only part of our heritage as Americans. It is a bedrock of republican liberty, not just in America but wherever it has been reasonably successful.

The Posse Comitatus law was passed in 1878, not only in response to some of the abuses committed by federal troops during the Reconstruction period in the South after the Civil War, but more specifically after many suspected that federal troops influenced the election of 1876, in which Rutherford B. Hayes was chosen by the Electoral College and federal troops ran some polling places in the South. Specifically, Hayes won the disputed electoral votes of South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida, states where President U.S. Grant had sent troops as a posse comitatus by federal marshals at the polls if deemed necessary.

I've read some about that election but don't have a settled view as to whether it was really stolen or not. But the use of federal troops in an election, the most central event in any democracy, bothered even many in Congress who didn't think it was stolen (or perhaps welcomed the theft). The Posse Comitatus Act was enacted in 1878. It reads as follows (as revised in 1956):

"Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or Air Force as a posse comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than two years, or both."

A regulation by the Department of Defense includes the Navy and the Marine Corps as bound by the act. The Coast Guard, which until the creation of the Department of Homeland Security was under the Department of Transportation, has always had some domestic law enforcement responsibilities, even though it has some quasi-military functions as well.

NO MILITARY LAW ENFORCEMENT

What the act does is to ensure that the military is not used for domestic law enforcement. This is an important safeguard for individual liberty and citizens' rights. When military forces are used to enforce domestic laws on citizens, the danger of a military or military-dominated dictatorship is not necessarily inevitable. But it is a constant danger.

The fact that the law was passed in 1878 does not necessarily mean that it was only then that U.S. citizens abruptly discovered the potential dangers of military domination. The attitudes of the colonists who eventually broke away from Great Britain was profoundly influenced by the fact that the British quartered troops forcefully in the homes of civilians and that the military often operated independently of civilian authorities. The Declaration of Independence also attacked the very idea of keeping of a standing army in time of peace.

The Articles of Confederation restricted the raising of armies and navies and reserved the appointment of officers below the rank of general to the states, thus

limiting the power of the central government. The constitution mandated civilian control of the military, in part by making a civilian, the president, the commander-in-chief, and in part through governmental structures. It restricts military appropriations to two years and empowered Congress to regulate the armed forces. Some aspects of the Bill of Rights, including the Fourth Amendment protection against unwarranted search and seizure, were also inspired by abuses by the British military during the colonial period.

Prior to the Civil War, many Americans opposed having a standing army at all, as Arthur Ekirch's too-little-known book, *Civilian and Military: A History of the Anti-Militarist Tradition in the United States* documents in detail. However, as this paper shows, authorities gradually began to use the military domestically. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 permitted federal marshals to call on the military to help return slaves to their "owners." In Kansas, federal troops were used to quell disorder between pro-slavery and anti-slavery mobs. The heavy military presence in the South after the war increased distaste for military rule over civilians. The use of the military to guard polling stations in the election of 1876 was something of a final straw.

DIFFERENT MISSIONS

All this makes sense in a government of laws. Military people, as any of them will be pleased to inform you, are trained to kill people and break things. Within the confines of strategy and tactics, that's how you win wars. Civilian law enforcement officers are expected not only to go after bad guys, but to remember that they are considered innocent until proven guilty and to respect their rights -- including rights like Miranda warnings that have been added since the Posse Comitatus Act was passed. They are different kinds of jobs -- both difficult and with their own subtleties, but decidedly different.

Nobody has been convicted under the PCA and few have been prosecuted, but it has protected our liberties nonetheless. The downside of this, however, is that there is very little case law to help courts interpret the law. The little existing case law, however, suggests that the law is flexible enough to permit the use of the military in times of riot or natural disaster. At first the test was active-versus-passive, that is the military could furnish equipment and supplies but couldn't actively police Americans. In 1975 a somewhat looser test emerged, whether "military personnel subjected ... citizens to the exercise of military power which was regulatory, proscriptive, or compulsory in nature."

Prohibiting the military from engaging in civilian law enforcement not only protects us from the admittedly probably remote danger of a military dictatorship, it also protects the effectiveness and integrity of the military. If the military were asked on a regular basis to engage in civilian law enforcement (or even disaster relief) it would soften the warrior mentality and take resources and training time from the primary mission of being ready to fight an actual war. Weakening the Posse Comitatus Act, as has been suggested before by politicians of both parties, would almost certainly reduce the respect citizens have for the military, which has gradually increased since the act was passed, not coincidentally in my view.

Posse Comitatus is a Latin phrase that sounds obscure to most people, so it might not seem like a big thing to amend the act to make it easier to deploy the military in essentially civilian duties. But it is a big thing. The president's call to consider

changes so far seems to have had little resonance, as have earlier calls. But the president is a stubborn man who sometimes confuses stubbornness with integrity or commitment to principle. It behooves those of us who prefer that this country not be governed too much like a banana republic to appreciate the Posse Comitatus Act, communicate its importance to others, and be on the alert for more concrete efforts to change it.

<http://www.antiwar.com/bock/?articleid=7468>

Bush Guts Posse Comitatus, Grabs National Guard!

by Major Danby

Wed Oct 18, 2006 at 06:10:33 PM PDT

I'm not really all that much of a states' rights guy. I fall more on the "strong federal government" side of the spectrum. So when someone like me starts screaming about a massive sneak attack on federalism, you might want to pay attention.

If I told you that Congress was considering passing a law that gives the President - this President -- the power, in the event of any "disaster, accident, or catastrophe" that he deems to require it, to:

- Ø Involuntarily take National Guard troops from State A and
- Ø Require them to work in State B for up to a year,
- Ø In law enforcement rather than just traditional areas like disaster relief,
- Ø Over the objection of both state's governors

Would you believe it? Probably not. And you'd be right. Congress is not considering such a bill.

IT ALREADY PASSED SUCH A BILL THREE WEEKS AGO!

Follow me over the jump. Read it, weep, and prepare to pass on the word -- and to act.

It's important that we understand what the Bush Administration has done here, because they've done it in a sneaky, underhanded, and almost invisible way. We need to start with some basic concepts. I am indebted to two diaries by Cedwyn (here and here) and a previous diary by Rusty1776, as well as sources such as Sen. Patrick Leahy, whom I quote in my previous diary on this subject, and to a great blog post by Sarah R. Carter on her father's Senate campaign website.

The National Guard:

First, and most basically, because it confuses some people: each state (and territory, and D.C., but we'll ignore those for this discussion) has its own "National Guard." As with the concept of "federalism," which refers to the power that the states retain despite the existence of a federal government, this name can be misleading. The National Guard belongs to the states, not to the Federal Government, except with the governor's agreement or under certain specified conditions. The National Guard is the Governor's muscle.

The Posse Comitatus Act:

"Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or Air Force as a posse comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

What that means is that the federal government can't use federal troops -- or federalized state troops (which is what this outrage is about) -- as a national law enforcement posse to enforce the law, except under certain exceptions. You probably already know the term for putting an area under military law enforcement control: it's called "martial law." Now, a Governor can declare martial law in an emergency under terms that vary by state. You saw an example of that when Gov. Blanco declared martial law in parts of Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina. But a President can only federalize troops for such use under exceptions specified by law. Where do you find those?

The Insurrection Act:

You find them in the Insurrection Act. This was invoked, for example, in Arkansas in the 1950s when President Eisenhower controversially nationalized the Arkansas National Guard over the objections of that state's Governor and directed them to enforce the law ending mandatory school segregation. He argued that the state's refusal to follow the federal law constituted an insurrection against the federal government.

Well, OK, you might say, I can see giving the power to nationalize a state's National Guard in that situation, even if the governor objects. They were defying federal law. That's not such a bad exception.

Right. But guess what just got amended? This small exception is now a gaping hole.

Here's what happened.

You can see my previous diary for Sen. Patrick Leahy's September 19 statement on what the legislation then before Congress would do. The Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Authorization Bill was envisioned as a bill that would strengthen the National Guard. With a sick sense of irony, the Bush Administration gutted this provision and replaced it with a "body snatcher" provision that represented "a sizable step toward weakening states' authority over their Guard units." The provision "mak[es] it easier for the President to declare martial law, stripping state governors of part of their authority over state National Guard units in domestic emergencies."

Here's an explanation for what this law does; the citation for which I'm omitting:

When the President invokes section 333 of chapter 15, he may involuntarily call to active duty members of the reserve components (not more than 200,000 Select Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve, of whom not more than 30,000 may be Individual Ready Reserve) for up to 365 days to conduct law enforcement activities in a disaster, accident, or catastrophe area and, if such incident involves a terrorist or WMD threat or attack, other response activities. In addition, the President may involuntarily call to active duty

members of the reserve components to provide supplies, services, and equipment to persons affected by the disaster, accident, or catastrophe. As soon as practicable after invoking section 333 of chapter 15, the President must notify Congress of his determination to exercise this authority. However, within 24 hours of involuntarily calling to active duty members of the reserve components, the President must submit to Congress a report, in writing, setting forth the circumstances necessitating this action and describing the anticipated use of these members.

Alberto Gonzales could drive a tank through the vague language you see up there.

They did this in a very subtle way. It's hard to notice unless you're looking for it.

Section 522 (House section 511):

- Ø Extends from 270 days to 365 days the period for which the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve may be involuntarily called to active duty.

Section 1076 (Senate section 1042):

- Ø Amends the "Insurrection Act" (i.e., Chapter 15 of title 10, U.S. Code) by:
 - § Changing the title of chapter 15 of title 10, U.S. Code) from "Insurrection" to "Enforcement of the Laws to Restore Public Order;"
 - § Changing the title of section 333 of chapter 15 from "Interference with State and Federal Law" to "Major Public Emergencies; Interference with State and Federal Law;"
 - § Clarifying the President's authority, under section 33 of chapter 15, to use the armed forces, including the National Guard in Federal service, without a request from a State governor, to restore order and enforce Federal laws in cases where, as a result of a terrorist attack, epidemic, or natural disaster, public order has broken down; and
 - § Including those who are obstructing the laws to the existing requirement for the President to issue a proclamation ordering insurgents to disperse and retire peaceably to their abodes within a limited time.
- Ø Amends Chapter 152 of title 10, U.S. Code, to authorize, with certain limitations, the President, in any situation he determines to exercise the authority provided in section 333 of chapter 15, to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide supplies, services, and equipment (e.g., food, water, utilities, transportation, search and rescue, medical care, and other assistance necessary to save lives and property) to persons affected by the incident.
- Ø Amends section 12304 of title 10, U.S. Code, eliminating the limitation imposed on the President's authority to involuntarily call to active duty members of the reserve components to perform law enforcement and other duties in response to serious natural or man-made disasters, accidents, or catastrophes to only those incidents involving terrorist or weapons of mass destruction threats or attacks.

So now the President can send troops from Tennessee to quash what he deems a threat to civil order in Oregon, even if the governors of Tennessee and Oregon both object.

This, by the way, is how the Chinese -- whose approach to government and party building Bush seems so much to admire -- broke up the protests in Tienanmen Square. They brought in troops from the provinces who knew nothing about what the protest was about, but knew that if they were ordered to shoot, they had to shoot.

Such small changes to the law. Such a huge result. Imposition of federal martial law, using state troops, over the objection of the states.

What can you do?

You can make noise.

No - you can make a LOT OF NOISE.

Write letters to the editor. Call your representatives in Congress and make them pledge to rescind these changes. Call the offices of Senator Harry Reid's and Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

This is an issue on which the most rock-ribbed conservatives, the most ardent populists, the staunchest libertarians, and the most committed liberals ought to be able to agree.

Even non-Democrats are looking for any excuse now to reject Bush and his fawning supporters. This is as big and fat an excuse as one could want. Bush and his flying monkeys are politically weakened now. We can beat them.

We can't give this measure of power to the President. Power corrupts.

And we can't give this measure of power to THIS President, who is already corrupted.

Our Founding Fathers anticipated and dreaded this moment. Their last line of defense is you. It's your Constitution. Make some noise.

A LOT OF NOISE.

- (1) Call Members of Congress AND Governors . Most of them still don't know that they were bamboozled like this because they don't know that the "Reserve" legally includes the National Guard.
- (2) Call any members of the National Guard you know, and their families.
- (3) Let's put this on Redstate, etc. On these sorts of Federalism questions, the decent ones among them can be our allies. This may be enough to shake them away from Bush and his enablers, just this once.

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2006/10/18/211033/23>

2006: On the Eve of the Midterm Elections, PCA Nullified

Recently, Congress passed a controversial bill which grants the President the right to commandeer Federal or even state National Guard Troops and use them inside the United States. This bill, entitled the John Warner Defense Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (H.R. 5122.ENR), contains a provision, (Section 1076) which allows the President to:

“...employ the armed forces, including the National Guard in Federal service, to...

1. restore public order and enforce the laws of the United States when, as a result of a natural disaster, epidemic, or other serious public health emergency, terrorist attack or incident, or other condition in any State or possession of the United States..., where the President determines that,...domestic violence has occurred to such an extent that the constituted authorities of the State or possession are incapable of maintaining public order;
2. suppress, in a State, any insurrection, domestic violence, unlawful combination, or conspiracy...” [3]

Senator Patrick Leahy and others have condemned Section 1076 because it effectively nullifies the Posse Comitatus Act and the Insurrection Act (10 U.S.C. 331-335) and gives the President the legal ability to define under what conditions martial law may be declared. [4]

H.R.5122 was signed into law by President Bush on October 17, 2006, and will take effect October 1, 2007 (unless an earlier effective date is established by regulation). "On the same day, Bush signed the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which abolishes the legal protection of habeas corpus, authorizes the president to detain and jail anyone (even US citizens) without charge and subject them to harsh interrogation that may or may not involve torture." [5]

Note: H.R.5122 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 6, 2006, as H.R.5122 by Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA). On May 5, 2006, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) introduced another version of the bill, H.Res.806, followed by H.Res.811 on May 11, 2006, and H.Res.1062 on September 29, 2006. In the U.S. Senate, Sen. John Warner introduced S.2507 on April 4, 2006, followed by S.2766 on May 9, 2006, and S.2766 on May 9, 2006. Section 1076 appears only in the final signed version of the bill (Public Law No: 109-364, October 17, 2006): Title X--General Provisions, Sec. 1076, Use of Armed Forces in major public emergencies. The Congressional Record (Page H8151 and Page H8152) shows Section 1076 as amended September 29, 2006, in the U.S. House of Representatives as a change to Section 333 of title 10, United States Code.

Historical Orwellian Use Argues Against Weakening PCA

“A standing army is one of the greatest mischiefs that can possibly happen.”
~ James Madison

David Kopel, Militarized Law Enforcement:
The Drug War's Deadly Fruit
davidkopel.com

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Posse_Comitatus_Act

Bush Moves Toward Martial Law

Written by Frank Morales
Thursday, 26 October 2006

President Bush has signed into law a provision which, according to Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont), will actually encourage the President to declare federal martial law (1). It does so by revising the Insurrection Act, a set of laws that limits the President's ability to deploy troops within the United States. The Insurrection Act (10 U.S.C.331 -335) has historically, along with the Posse Comitatus Act (18 U.S.C.1385), helped to enforce strict prohibitions on military involvement in domestic law enforcement. With one cloaked swipe of his pen, Bush is seeking to undo those prohibitions.

Public Law 109-364, or the "John Warner Defense Authorization Act of 2007" (H.R.5122) (2), which was signed by the commander in chief on October 17th, 2006, in a private Oval Office ceremony, allows the President to declare a "public emergency" and station troops anywhere in America and take control of state-based National Guard units without the consent of the governor or local authorities, in order to "suppress public disorder."

President Bush seized this unprecedented power on the very same day that he signed the equally odious Military Commissions Act of 2006. In a sense, the two laws complement one another. One allows for torture and detention abroad, while the other seeks to enforce acquiescence at home, preparing to order the military onto the streets of America. Remember, the term for putting an area under military law enforcement control is precise; the term is "martial law."

Section 1076 of the massive Authorization Act, which grants the Pentagon another \$500-plus-billion for its ill-advised adventures, is entitled, "Use of the Armed Forces in Major Public Emergencies." Section 333, "Major public emergencies; interference with State and Federal law" states that "the President may employ the armed forces, including the National Guard in Federal service, to restore public order and enforce the laws of the United States when, as a result of a natural disaster, epidemic, or other serious public health emergency, terrorist attack or incident, or other condition in any State or possession of the United States, the President determines that domestic violence has occurred to such an extent that the constituted authorities of the State or possession are incapable of ("refuse" or "fail" in) maintaining public order, "in order to suppress, in any State, any insurrection, domestic violence, unlawful combination, or conspiracy."

For the current President, "enforcement of the laws to restore public order" means to commandeer guardsmen from any state, over the objections of local governmental, military and local police entities; ship them off to another state; conscript them in a law enforcement mode; and set them loose against "disorderly" citizenry -- protesters, possibly, or those who object to forced vaccinations and quarantines in the event of a bio-terror event.

The law also facilitates militarized police round-ups and detention of protesters, so called "illegal aliens," "potential terrorists" and other "undesirables" for detention in facilities already contracted for and under construction by Halliburton. That's right. Under the cover of a trumped-up "immigration emergency" and the frenzied militarization of the southern border, detention camps are being

constructed right under our noses, camps designed for anyone who resists the foreign and domestic agenda of the Bush administration.

An article on "recent contract awards" in a recent issue of the slick, insider "Journal of Counterterrorism & Homeland Security International" reported that "global engineering and technical services powerhouse KBR [Kellogg, Brown & Root] announced in January 2006 that its Government and Infrastructure division was awarded an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract to support U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities in the event of an emergency." "With a maximum total value of \$385 million over a five year term," the report notes, "the contract is to be executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," "for establishing temporary detention and processing capabilities to augment existing ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) -- in the event of an emergency influx of immigrants into the U.S., or to support the rapid development of new programs."

The report points out that "KBR is the engineering and construction subsidiary of Halliburton." (3) So, in addition to authorizing another \$532.8 billion for the Pentagon, including a \$70-billion "supplemental provision" which covers the cost of the ongoing, mad military maneuvers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places, the new law, signed by the president in a private White House ceremony, further collapses the historic divide between the police and the military: a tell-tale sign of a rapidly consolidating police state in America, all accomplished amidst ongoing U.S. imperial pretensions of global domination, sold to an "emergency managed" and seemingly willfully gullible public as a "global war on terrorism."

Make no mistake about it: the de-facto repeal of the Posse Comitatus Act (PCA) is an ominous assault on American democratic tradition and jurisprudence. The 1878 Act, which reads, "Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or Air Force as a posse comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both," is the only U.S. criminal statute that outlaws military operations directed against the American people under the cover of 'law enforcement.'

As such, it has been the best protection we've had against the power-hungry intentions of an unscrupulous and reckless executive, an executive intent on using force to enforce its will.

Unfortunately, this past week, the president dealt posse comitatus, along with American democracy, a near fatal blow. Consequently, it will take an aroused citizenry to undo the damage wrought by this horrendous act, part and parcel, as we have seen, of a long train of abuses and outrages perpetrated by this authoritarian administration.

Despite the unprecedented and shocking nature of this act, there has been no outcry in the American media, and little reaction from our elected officials in Congress. On September 19th, a lone Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) noted that 2007's Defense Authorization Act contained a "widely opposed provision to allow the President more control over the National Guard [adopting] changes to the Insurrection Act, which will make it easier for this or any future President to use the military to restore domestic order WITHOUT the consent of the nation's governors."

Senator Leahy went on to stress that, "we certainly do not need to make it easier for Presidents to declare martial law. Invoking the Insurrection Act and using the military for law enforcement activities goes against some of the central tenets of our democracy. One can easily envision governors and mayors in charge of an emergency having to constantly look over their shoulders while someone who has never visited their communities gives the orders."

A few weeks later, on the 29th of September, Leahy entered into the Congressional Record that he had "grave reservations about certain provisions of the fiscal Year 2007 Defense Authorization Bill Conference Report," the language of which, he said, "subverts solid, longstanding posse comitatus statutes that limit the military's involvement in law enforcement, thereby making it easier for the President to declare martial law." This had been "slipped in," Leahy said, "as a rider with little study," while "other congressional committees with jurisdiction over these matters had no chance to comment, let alone hold hearings on, these proposals."

In a telling bit of understatement, the Senator from Vermont noted that "the implications of changing the (Posse Comitatus) Act are enormous." "There is good reason," he said, "for the constructive friction in existing law when it comes to martial law declarations. Using the military for law enforcement goes against one of the founding tenets of our democracy. We fail our Constitution, neglecting the rights of the States, when we make it easier for the President to declare martial law and trample on local and state sovereignty."

Senator Leahy's final ruminations: "Since hearing word a couple of weeks ago that this outcome was likely, I have wondered how Congress could have gotten to this point. It seems the changes to the Insurrection Act have survived the Conference because the Pentagon and the White House want it."

The historic and ominous re-writing of the Insurrection Act, accomplished in the dead of night, which gives Bush the legal authority to declare martial law, is now an accomplished fact.

The Pentagon, as one might expect, plays an even more direct role in martial law operations. Title XIV of the new law, entitled, "Homeland Defense Technology Transfer Legislative Provisions," authorizes "the Secretary of Defense to create a Homeland Defense Technology Transfer Consortium to improve the effectiveness of the Department of Defense (DOD) processes for identifying and deploying relevant DOD technology to federal, State, and local first responders."

In other words, the law facilitates the "transfer" of the newest in so-called "crowd control" technology and other weaponry designed to suppress dissent from the Pentagon to local militarized police units. The new law builds on and further codifies earlier "technology transfer" agreements, specifically the 1995 DOD-Justice Department memorandum of agreement achieved back during the Clinton-Reno regime.(4)

It has become clear in recent months that a critical mass of the American people have seen through the lies of the Bush administration; with the president's polls at an historic low, growing resistance to the war Iraq, and the Democrats likely to take back the Congress in mid-term elections, the Bush administration is on the ropes. And so it is particularly worrying that President Bush has seen fit, at this juncture to, in effect, declare himself dictator.

Source:

(1) <http://leahy.senate.gov/press/200609/091906a.html> and <http://leahy.senate.gov/press/200609/092906b.html> See also, Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, "The Use of Federal Troops for Disaster Assistance: Legal Issues," by Jennifer K. Elsea, Legislative Attorney, August 14, 2006

(2) <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill+h109-5122>

(3) Journal of Counterterrorism & Homeland Security International, "Recent Contract Awards", Summer 2006, Vol.12, No.2, pg.8; See also, Peter Dale Scott, "Homeland Security Contracts for Vast New Detention Camps," New American Media, January 31, 2006.

(4) "Technology Transfer from defense: Concealed Weapons Detection", National Institute of Justice Journal, No 229, August, 1995, pp.42-43.

<http://www.towardfreedom.com/home/content/view/911/>

General Tommy Franks on the Repeal of US Constitution

"Franks' scenario goes much further. He is the first high-ranking official to openly speculate that the Constitution could be scrapped in favor of a military form of government."

The URL of this article is: <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/EDW311A.html>

The Criminalization of the State

by Michel Chossudovsky
23 November 2003

In the wake of the Iraq war, 18 Iraqis and 2 Jordanians introduced a class action law suit in a Brussels Court against General Franks, Commander of the US Armed Forces in Iraq.

Based on the law of "universal jurisdiction," characteristic of Belgian law concerning genocide and war crimes, General Franks was identified:

"for ordering war crimes and for not preventing others from committing them or for providing protection to the perpetrators."

The law suit does not solely implicate General Franks, who was obeying orders from higher up: Under the war agenda, high ranking officials of the Bush administration, members of the military, the US Congress and the Judiciary have been granted the authority not only to commit criminal acts, but also to designate those opposed to these criminal acts as "enemies of the State."

In other words, the "Criminalization of the State", is when war criminals legitimately occupy positions of authority, which enable them to decide "who are the criminals", when in fact they are criminals.

Franks' statement no doubt reflects a consensus within the Military as to how events ought to unfold. It is clear in his mind that the "war on terrorism" provides

a justification for repealing the Rule of Law, ultimately with a view to preserving civil liberties.

Franks' interview suggests that an Al Qaeda sponsored terrorist attack will be used as a "trigger mechanism" for a military coup d'état in America. Franks is alluding to a so-called "Pearl Harbor type event" which would be used as a justification for declaring a State of emergency, leading to the establishment of a military government.

In many regards, the militarisation of civilian State institutions is already functional under the facade of a bogus democracy.

General Franks has nonetheless identified with cynical accuracy the precise scenario whereby military rule will be established:

"a terrorist, massive, casualty-producing event [will occur] somewhere in the Western world – it may be in the United States of America – that causes our population to question our own Constitution and to begin to militarize our country in order to avoid a repeat of another mass, casualty-producing event."

This statement from an individual who was actively involved in military and intelligence planning at the highest levels, suggests that the "militarisation of our country" is an ongoing operational assumption. It is part of the broader "Washington consensus". It identifies the Bush administration's "roadmap" of war and Homeland Defense. Needless to say, it is also an integral part of the neoliberal agenda.

The "terrorist massive casualty-producing event" is presented by General Franks as a crucial political turning point. The resulting crisis and social turmoil are intended to facilitate a major shift in US political, social and institutional structures.

In the words of David Rockefeller:

"We are on the verge of global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order."

A similar statement was made by Zbigniew Brzezinski in the Grand Chessboard:

"As America becomes an increasingly multicultural society, it may find it more difficult to fashion a consensus on foreign policy issues, except in the circumstances of a truly massive and widely perceived direct external threat."

The NeoCons' Project for the New American Century (PNAC), published in September 2000, barely two months before the presidential elections, called for:

"some catastrophic and catalyzing event, like a new Pearl Harbor."

See:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/NAC304A.html>

What is terrifying in General Franks' statement is that it accurately reflects official US foreign policy. It comes from a man who obeys orders emanating from the military command structure.

In other words, his statement accurately reveals the Pentagon's frame of mind. Moreover, it comes from a military man who speaks with a profound sense of conviction, who firmly believes in the righteousness of war as a means to safeguarding democratic values.

In other words, the military actors and politicians are totally blinded by the "war on terrorism" dogma. Truth is falsehood and falsehood is truth. Realities are turned upside down. Acts of war are heralded as "humanitarian interventions" geared towards upholding democracy. Military occupation and the killing of civilians are presented as "peace-keeping operations." The repeal of democracy is portrayed by General Franks as a means to providing "domestic security" and upholding civil liberties.

Needless to say: any attempt by antiwar critics to reveal these "inconsistencies" or "unanswered questions" would -- under General Frank's scenario -- be defined as a "criminal act." In other words, those who are investigating "the war on terrorism" and the military, political and economic actors behind the New World Order, with a view to establishing the truth, are categorized as "Enemies of the State," and consequently as criminals:

"The 'war on terrorism' is the cover for the war on dissent."

See:

"Homeland Defense" and the Militarisation of America by Frank Morales,
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/MOR309A.html>, September 2003

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/EDW311A.html>

Gen. Franks Doubts Constitution Will Survive WMD Attack

John O. Edwards, NewsMax.com
Friday, Nov. 21, 2003

Gen. Tommy Franks says that if the United States is hit with a weapon of mass destruction that inflicts large casualties, the Constitution will likely be discarded in favor of a military form of government.

Franks, who successfully led the U.S. military operation to liberate Iraq, expressed his worries in an extensive interview he gave to the men's lifestyle magazine Cigar Aficionado.

In the magazine's December edition, the former commander of the military's Central Command warned that if terrorists succeeded in using a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) against the U.S. or one of our allies, it would likely have catastrophic consequences for our cherished republican form of government.

Discussing the hypothetical dangers posed to the U.S. in the wake of Sept. 11, Franks said that "the worst thing that could happen" is if terrorists acquire and then use a biological, chemical or nuclear weapon that inflicts heavy casualties.

If that happens, Franks said, "... the Western world, the free world, loses what it cherishes most, and that is freedom and liberty we've seen for a couple of hundred years in this grand experiment that we call democracy."

Franks then offered “in a practical sense” what he thinks would happen in the aftermath of such an attack.

“It means the potential of a weapon of mass destruction and a terrorist, massive, casualty-producing event somewhere in the Western world – it may be in the United States of America – that causes our population to question our own Constitution and to begin to militarize our country in order to avoid a repeat of another mass, casualty-producing event. Which in fact, then begins to unravel the fabric of our Constitution. Two steps, very, very important.”

Franks didn’t speculate about how soon such an event might take place.

Already, critics of the U.S. Patriot Act, rushed through Congress in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, have argued that the law aims to curtail civil liberties and sets a dangerous precedent.

But Franks’ scenario goes much further. He is the first high-ranking official to openly speculate that the Constitution could be scrapped in favor of a military form of government.

The usually camera-shy Franks retired from U.S. Central Command, known in Pentagon lingo as CentCom, in August 2003, after serving nearly four decades in the Army.

Franks earned three Purple Hearts for combat wounds and three Bronze Stars for valor. Known as a “soldier’s general,” Franks made his mark as a top commander during the U.S.’s successful Operation Desert Storm, which liberated Kuwait in 1991. He was in charge of CentCom when Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda attacked the United States on Sept. 11.

Franks said that within hours of the attacks, he was given orders to prepare to root out the Taliban in Afghanistan and to capture bin Laden.

<http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2003/11/20/185048.shtml>

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The Business of Treason

Illustrated

Chapter 10 References

10.1 False Flag Operations

BOOK: Operation Gladio and Terrorism in Western Europe

by Daniele Ganser, 2005

The CIA and the British secret service MI6, in collaboration with the military alliance NATO and European military secret services set up a network of clandestine anticommunist armies in Western Europe after World War II. The secret soldiers were trained on remote islands in the Mediterranean and in unorthodox warfare centers in England and in the United States by the Green Berets and SAS Special Forces. The network was armed with explosives, machine guns and high-tech communication equipment hidden in underground bunkers and secret arms caches in forests and mountain meadows. In some countries, the secret army linked up with right-wing terrorists who in a secret war engaged in political manipulation, harassment of left wing parties, massacres, coup d'etats and torture.

Codenamed "Gladio" ('the sword'), the Italian secret army was exposed in 1990 by Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti to the Italian Senate, whereupon the press spoke of the "the best kept, and most damaging, political-military secret since World War II" (Observer, 18. November 1990) and observed that "The story seems straight from the pages of a political thriller." (The Times, November 19, 1990). Ever since, so-called 'stay-behind' armies of NATO have also been discovered in France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Austria, Greece and Turkey. They were internationally coordinated by the Pentagon and NATO and had their last known meeting in the NATO-linked Allied Clandestine Committee (ACC) in Brussels in October 1990.

<http://www.amazon.com/NATOs-Secret-Army-Operation-Contemporary/dp/0714685003>

BOOK: The War on Truth

by Nafeez Ahmed, 2005

In The War on Truth -- Nafeez Ahmed provides the most comprehensive and controversial critique of the government's official version of what happened on 9/11. In this extensive new analysis, Ahmed doubles the data and investigates the worldwide web of terrorist networks across space and time. Deconstructing the findings of the 9/11 Commission Report and the Joint Congressional Inquiry, he exposes disturbing liaisons between American, British and European intelligence services and al-Qaeda operatives in the Balkans, Caucasus, North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Asia-Pacific -- liaisons linked not only to 9/11, but also to prior terrorist attacks including the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 1998 US embassy bombings.

Against this background, Ahmed accomplishes the most detailed and wide-ranging study to date of the powerful vested interests and intrigues responsible for the collapse of US national security in the years and months leading to 9/11.

Government documents, whistleblower testimony, and the findings of official inquiries are scrutinized to trace the innermost workings of the intelligence community, revealing precisely which government policies and operations facilitated the 9/11 intelligence failure, and pinpointing the specific agencies, individuals and decisions that emasculated the US air defense system. Finally, Ahmed unlocks the underlying geostrategy of the War on Terror -- the culmination of a decades-long plan to secure and expand an increasingly unstable system. For anyone who remains uneasy about government policies on, and after, 9/11, *The War on Truth* is an invaluable resource that will radically alter perceptions of international terrorism, national security, and the clandestine machinery of Western power.

"Nafeez Ahmed's understanding of the post 9/11 power game, its lies, illusions and dangers, is no less than brilliant. Everyone should read this wise and powerfully illuminating book." -- John Pilger

"The new book by Nafeez Ahmed, based on very extensive and deep research, is by far the best on the 9/11 syndrome. Articulating and documenting what many feel, and empowering them into action, the book will have an impact on entrenched US empire elites unwilling and unable to take it on. Votes of thanks to Ahmed, and to Interlink!" -- Johan Galtung

<http://www.amazon.com/War-Truth-Disinformation-Anatomy-Terrorism/dp/1566565960>

BOOK: *Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower*

by William Blum

Updated Edition November 2005

See chapter 17:

A Concise History of US Global Interventions, 1945--present

BOOK: *Freeing the World to Death:*

Essays on the American Empire

by William Blum

September 2004

See chapter 15:

Overthrowing Other People's Governments, the Master List

A Sampling of Famous False Flag Examples from History

- Nero burned Rome to blame the Christians A.D. 64
- US provoked Mexican-American war 1846
- USS Maine sinking 1898
- Lusitania sinking 1915
- Reichstag fire 1933
- Hitler's staged attack on the Gleiwitz radio station 1939
- The "surprise attack" at Pearl Harbor 1941
- Bay of Pigs conspiracy 1961
- The Proposal for Operation Northwoods 1962
- LBJ's Gulf of Tonkin conspiracy 1964
- Kuwaiti baby incubator hoax 1991
- Bush Jr.'s 9/11, yellow cake and WMD scams: 2002

<http://9eleven.info/FalseFalgTerror.html>

False Flag Operations: Origins of the Term

A false flag operation is simply an action in which the perpetrator intends for the blame (or credit) to be placed on a different party. The term originally comes from the naval concept of flying another country's flag to deceive and confuse other ships.

Here we are concerned mostly with false flag terrorism -- terror by states, organizations, and agencies which is meant to be pinned on others in order to influence policy, public opinion, or military aggression.

False flag operations are a classic tool of deception and espionage. Intelligence agencies are usually linked to most false flag terrorism.

False flag terror by a state upon its own population can be a powerful tool of control. False flag operations can range from intentional provocation or "letting things happen," all the way up to outright orchestration.

Probably the most basic motive for a false flag incident would be to frame the enemy for an act of aggression or barbarism in order to justify a supposed "defensive" response. It is essentially a way of making it appear that the other side "threw the first punch."

Many of the most prominent conflicts of the twentieth century were initiated, and gained the necessary public support, based on false incidents, intelligence, and journalism. The public does not generally support war unless provided a relatively just cause. At present diverse populations worldwide recognize that few wars if any have been justified.

With weapons being a primary world industry and one of the most profitable, we can be certain that conflict will be promoted or not averted by corporations with cooperative governments and individuals seeking profit and market dominance.

While we don't claim that all the events in this section are 100% confirmed false flag operations, there is compelling evidence in each case that the official story is incomplete and the identity of the true perpetrators/facilitators is in doubt.

- Ø 1605 -- The infamous Guy Fawkes plot to blow up the English Parliament. Actually an institutional false flag plot used as a pretext for war with Spain. Official history still repeats this deception.
- Ø 1898 -- The sinking of the USS Maine in Havana harbor was immediately pinned on the Spanish and the rallying call became, "Remember the Maine! To hell with Spain." William Randolph-Hearst [Forebear of company which now publishes Popular Mechanics] enflamed anti-Spanish sentiment in his papers by claiming definitively that it was a Spanish plot. No reliable evidence was ever produced linking Spain to the event. It is now widely believed that the event was a mechanical failure or false flag operation.
- Ø 1933 -- The Reichstag Fire allows the Nazis to crack down on their opposition and take power. A naked cowering Dutch communist, Martin Van der Lubbe, is found on the scene and the Nazis immediately claim that the fire is a communist plot.

“The exact sequence of events will never be known, but Nazi storm troopers under the direction of Hermann Göring were also involved in torching the place. They had befriended the arsonist and may have known or even encouraged him to burn the Reichstag that night. The storm troopers, led by SA leader Karl Ernst, used the underground tunnel that connected Göring’s residence with the cellar in the Reichstag. They entered the building, scattered gasoline and incendiaries, then hurried back through the tunnel.”

- Ø After World War II, Operation Gladio was a “stay behind” operation by NATO, CIA, and MI6 to counter communist/leftist influence in Europe. These state-sponsored “secret armies” used false flag terrorism against their populations in order to frame left wing groups, influence elections, and justify increased “security.”

Gladio has been confirmed by various governments and condemned by the European Parliament.

- Ø 1954 -- The Lavon Affair, a “scandal over a failed Israeli covert operation in Egypt known as Operation Suzannah, in which U.S. and U.K. targets in Egypt were bombed and evidence left implicating the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood; a textbook example of a false flag operation.”

<http://www.truthmove.org/content/false-flag-operations/>

http://www.propagandamatrix.com/multimedia_priorknowledge_falseflagoperation.html

False Flags: A Brief History of US Government Directed and Fomented Terror

World Trade Center Bombing 1993:

"One of the largest acts of domestic terrorism in U.S. history was the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York. As it turned out, the FBI was fully aware of the bomb plot before the attack took place. The Muslim group involved had been infiltrated by Emad Salem, a former Egyptian intelligence agent who was hired by the FBI and ultimately paid \$1 million. The FBI even provided the Egyptian with a timer for the bomb, prompting the Chicago Tribune to publish a report headlined, "FBI Tipster Said He Built NY Bomb" (Tribune, Dec. 15, 1993).

Source: Michael A. Hoffman II, Secret Societies and Psychological Warfare 2001.

The Maine Bombing, 1898:

February 15, 1898, an explosion destroyed the American battleship Maine in Havana Harbor and helped propel the United States into a war with Spain. The USS Maine that sultry Tuesday night contained 350 crew and officers. At 9:40 p.m. the ship's forward end abruptly lifted itself from the water. Along the pier, passersby could hear a rumbling explosion. Within seconds, another eruption--this one deafening and massive--splintered the bow, sending anything that wasn't battened down, and most that was, flying more than 200 feet into the air.... In all, 266 of the 350 men aboard the Maine were killed.

The American press was quick to point to an external explosion -- a mine or torpedo -- as the cause of the tragedy. An official U.S. investigation agreed. On April 25, 1898, Congress formally declared war on Spain.

By summer's end, Spain had ceded Cuba, along with the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam, to the United States.

In 1976, Adm. Hyman Rickover of the U.S. Navy mounted yet another investigation into the cause of the Maine disaster. His team of experts found that the ship's demise was self-inflicted.

The Lusitania, 1915:

The Lusitania was a British cargo and passenger ship that was torpedoed and sank due to German submarine activity in May of 1915, just shy of ten years after she began her trans-Atlantic journeying. She was used to ferry goods and people between England and the United States. The Lusitania was very popular because of her speed and luxurious accommodations. She was considered "the acme of comfort," and deemed a "floating palace" by her passengers (Simpson 7).

As World War I escalated and German submarines took a prevalent role in the seas; Lusitania set out from New York on May 1, 1915, with the intent of delivering material to England in spite of threats of sinking by German authorities.

Six days later, on May 7, 1915, the Lusitania took a solid hit whose sound was described by passengers as a "peal of thunder," a "dull thud-like sound," or "like a million-ton hammer hitting a steel boiler a hundred feet high and a hundred feet long" (Hickey and Smith 184-185). Though they did not explode, water rushed into the first and second boiler rooms and caused the boat to shake from side to side. She then rose a little before a second massive explosion took her down into the sea.

The exact cause of the second explosion is a point of contention. The Lusitania shows evidence that she may have been torpedoed a second or even a third time-- but the second, most destructive, explosion may not have been caused by a German torpedo, but rather may have come from inside the ship. The reason behind this speculation is that the Lusitania's cargo can be called into question.

She had originally said she would take, along with her passengers, platinum, bullion, diamonds and various other precious stones, but these things were never found and port records do not list them either. She is believed to have instead carried, under the guise of bales of fur and cheese boxes, 3-inch shells and millions of rounds of rifle ammunition. If true, these materials comprised "a contraband and explosive cargo which was forbidden by American law and... should never have been placed on a passenger liner" (Simpson 157-158).

The torpedoes completed the destruction of the ship by their own power or they were aided by internal ammunition explosions. The ship sank within twenty minutes of when she was hit and took with her 1,201 people - and left only 764 to be saved by those who responded to her SOS (Simpson 9). Many American lives were lost as a result of the sinking, and because the Lusitania was never officially in government service, the United States believed the attack on her "was contrary to international law and the conventions of all civilized nations" (Simpson 8-9).

The sinking of the Lusitania caused serious tension between the United States and Germany and led to America's declaration of war against Germany.

Pearl Harbor, 1941:

In the summer of 1940 Roosevelt ordered the Pacific Fleet to relocate from the West Coast to Hawaii. When its commander, Admiral Richardson, protested that Pearl Harbor offered inadequate protection from air and torpedo attack he was replaced.

On October 7 1940 Navy IQ analyst McCollum wrote an eight-point memo for Roosevelt on how to force Japan into war with U.S., including an American oil embargo against Japan. All of them were eventually accomplished.

On 23 June 1941 – one day after Hitler's attack on Russia – Secretary of the Interior and FDR's Advisor Harold Ickes wrote a memo for the President in which he pointed out that "there might develop from the embargoing of oil to Japan such a situation as would make it not only possible but easy to get into this war in an effective way. And if we should thus indirectly be brought in, we would avoid the criticism that we had gone in as an ally of communistic Russia."

On 18 October Ickes noted in his diary: "For a long time I have believed that our best entrance into the war would be by way of Japan."

The U.S. had cracked key Japanese codes before the attack. FDR received "raw" translations of all key messages. On 24 September 1941 Washington deciphered a message from the Naval Intelligence HQ in Tokyo to Japan's consul-general in Honolulu, requesting grid of exact locations of U.S. Navy ships in the harbor. Commanders in Hawaii were not warned.

Sixty years later the U.S. Government still refuses to identify or declassify many pre-attack decrypts on the grounds of "national security."

On November 25 Secretary of War Stimson wrote in his diary that FDR said an attack was likely within days, and asked "how we should maneuver them into the position of firing the first shot without too much danger to ourselves. In spite of the risk involved, however, in letting the Japanese fire the first shot, we realized that in order to have the full support of the American people it was desirable to make sure that the Japanese be the ones to do this so that there should remain no doubt in anyone's mind as to who were the aggressors."

On November 25 FDR received a "positive war warning" from Churchill that the Japanese would strike against America at the end of the first week in December. This warning caused the President to do an abrupt about-face on plans for a time-buying modus vivendi with Japan and it resulted in Secretary of State Hull's deliberately provocative ultimatum of 26 November 1941 that guaranteed war.

On November 26 Washington ordered both US aircraft carriers, the Enterprise and the Lexington, out of Pearl Harbor "as soon as possible." This order included stripping Pearl of 50 planes or 40 percent of its already inadequate fighter protection. On the same day Cordell Hull issued his ultimatum demanding full Japanese withdrawal from Indochina and all of China. The U.S. Ambassador to Japan called this "the document that touched the button that started the war."

On November 29 Hull told United Press reporter Joe Leib that Pearl Harbor would be attacked on December 7. The New York Times reported on December 8 ("Attack Was Expected," p. 13) that the U.S. knew of the attack a week earlier.

On December 1 the Office of Naval Intelligence, ONI, 12th Naval District in San Francisco found the missing Japanese fleet by correlating reports from the four wireless news services and several shipping companies that they were getting signals west of Hawaii.

On 5 December, 1941 FDR wrote to the Australian Prime Minister, "There is always the Japanese to consider. Perhaps the next four or five days will decide the matters."

Oklahoma City, 1995:

Both the Federal government and the ADL were "tracking" Timothy McVeigh long before the Oklahoma City Bombing of 1995. McVeigh and at least a half-dozen other men planned the bombing while encamped at "Elohim City," a heavily-infiltrated "Christian Patriot" community in rural Oklahoma. ATF informant Carol Howe infiltrated Elohim City before the Oklahoma bombing. ATF internal documents prove Howe was an informant who overheard McVeigh and his accomplices plotting to blow up the Alfred E. Murrah building. Howe sent over 70 reports to her superior, ATF Special Agent Angela Finley, warning that a number of people at Elohim City were planning to bomb a federal office building in Oklahoma City.

Howe was not the only government agent privy to the Oklahoma bombing however. The shadowy Aryan Republican Army (ARA) gang of bank robbers were also complicit. Aryan Nations "East Coast Ambassador" and FBI informant Mark Thomas assisted ARA leader Peter Langan, an asset of the US Secret Service. Langan, the son of a US Marine Intelligence officer, was arrested for a robbery in 1992. The U.S. Secret Service intervened, however, arranging for Langan to be released on merely a signature bond.

Langan subsequently formed the ARA, which was, from its inception, a government black op. For example, the ARA never encountered any bank guards or other police during any of their twenty successful bank robberies. Langan and his lieutenant were only arrested in connection with the robberies after independent investigators began to publicize Elohim City's ties to McVeigh. It was at Elohim where the ARA leaders, among whom was "John Doe No. 2" (Michael Brescia), held three meetings to plan bank robberies and other activities. (Langan's lieutenant conveniently "committed suicide" while in custody).

Many government black ops use Halloween Satanists as a cover for their crimes. In Oklahoma City it was "white supremacists" and "neo-Nazi" patsies. The orchestration was finite and detailed, right down to the appointment of District Attorney Robert Macy -- the prosecutor who allegedly stymied all efforts to get to the bottom of the Oklahoma City conspiracy --to head the special Grand Jury proceedings to investigate a conspiracy. This is the same Robert Macy who, when asked by Oklahoma state Rep. Charles Key why Macy didn't proceed with an investigation, allegedly replied, "They won't let me."

Macy's Grand Jury delivered no indictments of ATF agents or of shadowy right wing, neo-Nazi "useful idiots" like Chevie Kehoe. No, the only one indicted was

the investigative journalist David Hoffman (no relation to this writer), author of the seminal book, *The Oklahoma City Bombing and the Politics of Terror* (Feral House, 1998). Rare book collectors take note: the entire remaining stock of David Hoffman's book was pulped and destroyed under legal threat from lawyers for agents of the FBI.

Chevie Kehoe murdered gun dealer William Mueller and his entire family in Arkansas in 1996 because Mueller had inside information on Timothy McVeigh and the OK City bombing conspiracy.

As part of the "Revelation of the Method," recall that Aryan Nations member and L.A. daycare center shooter Buford Furrow "miraculously" eluded the largest police dragnet in the history of the LAPD, to report directly to his FBI handlers in Las Vegas in full view of the television cameras.

By the same process, Chevie Kehoe of Yaak, Montana and his partner, Danny Lee of Yukon, Oklahoma, killed the Mueller family while "dressed in FBI raid outfits" (*Spokesman-Review*, [Spokane, Wash.] April 8, 1999, p. B-3).

In both these cases a symbolic hint was being intentionally sent to the public concerning who Kehoe and Furrow's real handlers are. At the time of the Mueller murders Kehoe was a resident of the Shadows Motel in Spokane, Washington, where he had been staying on and off since 1994. Kehoe was often visited at the motel by a child rapist and Aryan Nations activist who was also a master gunsmith and machinist.

"Witnesses also believe McCrea and Kehoe met Timothy McVeigh at the Shadows Motel shortly before the April, 1995 Oklahoma City bombing... A former manager of the motel has reported seeing McVeigh visiting Kehoe there a few weeks before the Oklahoma City bombing.

"...But the possible link between the Shadows Motel, Kehoe and McVeigh has been given little, if any, attention by the FBI... With McVeigh and his friend Terry Nichols convicted of the Oklahoma City bombing, there is reluctance to reopen the investigation, federal officials say." (*Spokesman-Review*, April 11, 1999, pp. B-1 and B-6).

Here is a frank admission of the government's refusal to apprehend other guilty parties in connection with the Oklahoma City bombing. The conviction of the scapegoats satisfies the Federal police. Why? Because any further indictments would tend to risk losing control over perpetrators who might reveal embarrassing details and unaccounted for facts that point to orchestration of the bombing by the Federal government itself.

Elohim City was presided over by Robert Millar, himself an informant who reported to FBI Senior Agent Peter Rickel, according to June, 1997 court testimony. Millar's son-in-law, Jim Ellison, was also a Federal informant. The "chief of security" at Elohim City was Andreas Strassmeier, a German intelligence officer who was in direct contact with McVeigh in the weeks preceding the bombing and who Carol Howe implicated as a co-conspirator.

Federal Judge Richard Matsch prohibited Howe from testifying at McVeigh's trial, saying her testimony might "confuse" the jurors. After Howe went to the media with her evidence, the government indicted her on a trumped up charge of

explosives possession. She was put on trial in August, 1997. Her attorney showed that Howe possessed the explosives at the direction of the ATF and Howe was acquitted of all charges by a jury.

End quote from: Michael A. Hoffman II, *Secret Societies and Psychological Warfare* 2001.

http://www.propagandamatrix.com/multimedia_priorknowledge_falseflagoperation.html

BOOK: The CIA's Greatest Hits
by Mark Zepezauer

In order to survive, nations need strong intelligence services. But the idea that the CIA is primarily an intelligence-gathering operation is itself one of the agency's greatest propaganda triumphs.

Despite its name, the Central Intelligence Agency's main purpose is, and has always been, carrying out covert operations involving economic warfare, rigged elections, assassinations and even genocide.

The CIA is also expert at distorting intelligence to justify its own goals, and this "disinformation" leads to dangerous illusions among our policymakers. But covert operations are its life's blood.

Suggested Search Terms

Operation Gladio
Gehlen Org
MK-ULTRA
Operation CHAOS
Crooked Banks + CIA
Drug Trafficking + CIA
The Mighty Wurlitzer -- the CIA's propaganda machine

Iran + CIA
Guatemala + CIA
Zaire + CIA
Bay of Pigs + CIA
Vietnam 1945 - 1963
Dominican Republic + CIA

Indonesia + CIA
Greece + CIA
Chile + CIA
Vietnam 1964-1975
Laos + CIA
Cambodia + CIA

Angola + CIA
Orlando Letelier
Grenada + CIA
El Salvador + CIA
Nicaragua + CIA

Afghanistan + CIA
South Pacific + CIA
Panama + CIA
Iraq + CIA
Haiti + CIA
Yugoslavia + CIA

Excerpts from Former CIA Director Philip Agee's Book: "CIA Diary"

"... what the Agency [CIA] does is ordered by the President and the NSC [National Security Council]. The Agency neither makes decisions on policy nor acts on its own account. It is an instrument of the President."

"Secret CIA operations constitute the usually unseen efforts to shore up unjust, unpopular, minority governments, always with the hope that overt military intervention ... will not be necessary. The more successful CIA operations are, the more remote overt intervention becomes, and the more remote become reforms. Latin America in the 1960s is all the proof one needs."

"But what counter-insurgency really comes down to is the protection of the capitalists back in America, their property and their privileges. US national security, as preached by US leaders, is the security of the capitalist class in the US, not the security of the rest of the people."

"A considerable proportion of the developed world's prosperity rests on paying the lowest possible prices for the poor countries' primary products and on exporting high-cost capital and finished goods to those countries. Continuation of this kind of prosperity requires continuation of the relative gap between developed and underdeveloped countries -- it means keeping poor people poor. Increasingly, the impoverished masses are understanding that the prosperity of the developed countries and of the privileged minorities in their own countries is founded on their poverty."

"American capitalism, based as it is on exploitation of the poor, with its fundamental motivation in personal greed, simply cannot survive without force -- without a secret police force.

Now, more than ever, each of us is forced to make a conscious choice whether to support the system of minority comfort and privilege with all its security apparatus and repression, or whether to struggle for real equality of opportunity and fair distribution of benefits for all of society, in the domestic as well as the international order. It's harder now not to realize that there are two sides, harder not to understand each, and harder not to recognize that like it or not we contribute day in and day out either to the one side or to the other."

http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/CIA%20Hits/CIA_GreatestHits.html

A Sampling of Recent Precedents for False Terror Attacks

Operation Himmler

On the night of August 31, 1939 a small group of German operatives led by Naujocks seized the Gleiwitz station and broadcast a message in Polish that urged the Poles living in Silesia to strike against Germans. The Germans' goal was to make the attack and the broadcast look like the work of anti-German Polish saboteurs.

In order to make the attack scene more convincing, the Germans brought in Franciszek Honiok, a German Silesian known for sympathizing with the Poles, who had been arrested the previous day by the Gestapo. Honiok was dressed to look like a saboteur; then killed by lethal injection, given gunshot wounds, and left dead at the scene, so that he appeared to have been killed while attacking the station. His corpse was subsequently presented as proof of the attack to the police and press.

In addition to Honiok, several other convicts were kept available for this purpose. The Germans referred to them by the code phrase "Konserve" ("canned goods"). For this reason some sources incorrectly refer to the incident as "Operation Canned Goods".

At the same time as the Gleiwitz attack there were other incidents orchestrated by Germany along the Polish-German border, such as house torching in the Polish Corridor and spurious propaganda output. The entire project, dubbed Operation Himmler and comprising 21 incidents in all, was intended to give the appearance of Polish aggression against Germany.

On the day following the Gleiwitz attack, 1 September 1939, Germany launched the Fall Weiss operation — the invasion of Poland — initiating World War II in Europe. In a speech in the Reichstag, Adolf Hitler cited the 21 border incidents, with three of them called very serious, as justification for Germany's "defensive" action against Poland.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gleiwitz_incident

The Reichstag Fire Empowers Hitler to Seize Dictatorial Power

Just days before the crucial election of March 5th, a fire destroys the main chamber of the Reichstag in Berlin; the Nazis immediately declare that this is the work of the Communists. Minister without Portfolio Hermann Göring shouts to the new Gestapo chief: "This is the beginning of the Communist revolution! We must not wait a minute. We will show no mercy. Every Communist official must be shot, where he is found. Every Communist deputy must this very night be strung up." [The following day Hitler persuaded President von Hindenburg to sign an emergency decree that suspended seven crucial articles of the Constitution: freedom of the person, freedom of expression, freedom to assemble, secrecy of mail and other forms of communication, sanctity of property and of the home as a place of refuge. Trucks of brown-shirted SA (Sturm Abteilung) thugs swarmed over Berlin and the provinces, breaking into homes, and carting victims off to be beaten and tortured. Over four thousand Communist leaders and Social Democrats were arrested, including many members of the Reichstag. The opposition press was closed down, and ten-year prison sentences were given to

any person providing news to foreign governments that was "not in the best interests of Germany." Opposition rallies were banned or broken up by bullies; only the Nazis and their Nationalist Party allies were able to campaign unmolested. It was widely believed, in Germany and abroad, that the fire had been set by the Nazis themselves.]

The fire was ostensibly set by Marinus van der Lubbe, a dim-witted Dutch communist who liked to play with matches. He was picked up by the SA after he had been heard boasting in a bar that he would set fire to the Reichstag. They encouraged him with his plans, but first a group of SA men (later eliminated by Hitler in the Night of the Long Knives, 6-30-34) carried quantities of gasoline and self-igniting chemicals through an underground passage from Göring's headquarters to the Reichstag which they scattered in strategic places. At van der Lubbe's trial in Leipzig it was clear that he could not have set such fierce fires and in so many places simultaneously with the meager materials he had brought. He was, nevertheless, convicted and decapitated. Shirer, *Rise and Fall*, pp. 192-195; Sherwin and Markmann, *One Week in March*, (1961) pp. 81-83.

www.janrainwater.com/htdocs/Reichstag.htm

VIDEO: Reichstag Fire per the History Channel

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/IMAGES/reichstagfire.rm>

Operation Susannah: The Lavon Affair

Israeli Agents Blew up Buildings in Egypt, Planted Evidence Framing Arabs

In July 1954, Israeli Military Intelligence ordered an espionage network of Egyptian Jews it had formed three years earlier to launch "Operation Susannah" -- a campaign to fire bomb the main Alexandria post office, the United States Information Agency offices in Cairo and Alexandria, the Cairo train station, and several movie theaters in Cairo and Alexandria. The saboteurs (today we would call them terrorists, especially if they were Arabs or Muslims acting against Israel or the United States) were quickly apprehended and brought to trial in December 1954. The verdicts and sentences delivered in January 1955 spanned the range of options. Sami (Shmu`el) Azar and Musa (Moshe) Marzuq were sentenced to death along with the Israeli handlers of the network -- John Darling (Avraham Dar) and Paul Frank (Avraham Seidenweg) -- who were not apprehended and tried in absentia. Me'ir Meyuhas and Me'ir Za`fran received seven years in prison. Victor Levy and Philip Natanson were sentenced to fifteen years in prison. Marcelle Ninio and Robert Dassa were condemned to life in prison. Caesar Cohen and Eli Na`im were acquitted. Max Binnet, an Israeli spy apprehended with the network but not directly involved in its operations, committed suicide in jail.

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/SHR/5-1/text/beinin.html>

KGB Used a Wave of Bombings to Put (KGB Agent) Putin in Power

The bombing campaign came out of the blue in 1999, just as Boris Yeltsin's tenure was coming to an end. It caused panic and led to calls for vengeance from ordinary Russians.

Mr Putin responded by invading Chechnya later that year and rode a resulting

wave of popularity to electoral victory the following spring.

According to critics, who include the exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky, then a Kremlin insider, the FSB organised the explosions as part of a campaign to create support for their boss.

Senior military and intelligence officers have claimed that a parallel invasion of Dagestan, a southern Russian republic, by Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, was also tacitly encouraged by the FSB.

"I myself heard tapes of officials from Moscow speaking with Basayev to discuss arrangements for the attack," an FSB officer told The Telegraph. At the time Russians hawks were itching for an excuse to rekindle the war in Chechnya.

When the explosions began, the Kremlin pointed the finger at Chechen rebels who had used terrorist tactics before in their fight to gain independence. But on September 22, 1999, locals in the regional town of Ryazan saw three men emerging from the cellars of a block of flats who later turned out to be FSB officers. When local police checked the cellars they found sacks of high explosive wired up to a detonator.

The FSB later attempted to explain away the incident by claiming that the entire operation had merely been a drill and the explosive was in fact sugar, despite a test that proved the contrary.

In true Soviet style they rewarded the three locals who notified the authorities with colour television sets.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/01/13/wrus13.xml>

Turkish Government Caught Bombing Their Own, Then Blaming it On a Political Group They Wished to Suppress

The Van Third Criminal Court's decision in the case of the bookstore explosion in Semdinli on November 9, 2005 said that the two noncommissioned officers found guilty of the crime could not have carried out the act without the tacit approval, protection and involvement of more senior officers.

On June 19. the two noncommissioned officers, Ali Kaya and Ozcan Ildeniz, were found guilty and sentenced to serve 39 years and 10 days in prison. The court said the criminal gang responsible could not have been funded or led by the noncommissioned officers. "Those who founded this gang weren't the noncommissioned officers. Without the protection and involvement of senior officers, they could not have carried out these acts."

[...]

On November 9, 2005, a bomb exploded in a bookstore in Semdinli, located on the mountainous border with Iraq and Iran in the southeastern province of Hakkari. Authorities initially suspected the terrorist PKK in the attack, but allegations soon surfaced that paramilitary forces may have been involved.

The explosion occurred in a store owned by a former PKK member who had served 15 years in jail for terrorist activities, only a week after a car bomb, blamed on the PKK, injured 23 people in the same town. It was revealed that a series of

bombs had exploded in the region for six months leading up to the incident.

The explosion on Nov. 9 killed one and injured five. Locals captured the suspected bomber and two gendarmerie officers who were standing next to a car that apparently belonged to gendarmerie, according to documents seized in the car. An explosive device was found in the car, similar to the one used in the explosion.

The three were turned in to the local police, but the two officers were later released. Hours later, another paramilitary officer fired shots at a protesting crowd, killing one person, as an opposition lawmaker and the local prosecutor examined the crime scene. That officer was immediately arrested.

The Semdinli attack set off days of rioting that left four people dead as well as a flurry of speculation that the security forces could be reverting to summary executions of supporters of the PKK, which were not uncommon in the 1990s when the fight against the terrorist group was at its most intense.

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=49228>

Former Indonesian President Says Government Had Role in the Bombings in Bali

Indonesian police or military officers may have played a role in the 2002 Bali bombing, the country's former president, Abdurrahman Wahid says.

In an interview with SBS's Dateline program, on the third anniversary of the bombing that killed 202 people, Mr Wahid says he has grave concerns about links between Indonesian authorities and terrorist groups.

While he believed terrorists were involved in planting one of the Kuta night club bombs, the second, which destroyed Bali's Sari Club, had been organised by authorities.

Asked who he thought planted the second bomb, Mr Wahid said: "Maybe the police ... or the armed forces."

"The orders to do this or that came from within our armed forces not from the fundamentalist people," he says.

The program also claims a key figure behind the formation of terror group Jemaah Islamiah was an Indonesian spy.

Former terrorist Umar Abduh, who is now a researcher and writer, told Dateline Indonesian authorities had a hand in many terror groups.

"There is not a single Islamic group either in the movement or the political groups that is not controlled by (Indonesian) intelligence," he said.

Abduh has written a book on Teungku Fauzi Hasbi, a key figure in Jemaah Islamiah (JI) who had close contact with JI operations chief Hambali and lived next door to Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir.

He says Hasbi was a secret agent for Indonesia's military intelligence while at the same time a key player in creating JI.

Documents cited by SBS showed the Indonesian chief of military intelligence in 1990 authorised Hasbi to undertake a "special job".

A 1995 internal memo from the military intelligence headquarters in Jakarta included a request to use "Brother Fauzi Hasbi" to spy on Acehese separatists in Indonesia, Malaysia and Sweden.

And a 2002 document assigned Hasbi the job of special agent for BIN, the Indonesian national intelligence agency.

Security analyst John Mempi told SBS that Hasbi, who was also known as Abu Jihad, had played a key role in JI in its early years.

"The first Jemaah Islamiah congress in Bogor was facilitated by Abu Jihad, after Abu Bakar Bashir returned from Malaysia," Mr Mempi said.

"We can see that Abu Jihad played an important role. He was later found to be an intelligence agent. So an intelligence agent has been facilitating the radical Islamic movement."

Hasbi was disembowelled in a mysterious murder in 2003 after he was exposed as a military agent and his son Lamkaruna Putra died in a plane crash last month.

Another convicted terrorist, Timsar Zubil, who set off three bombs in Sumatra in 1978, told the program intelligence agents had given his group a provocative name - Komando Jihad - and encouraged members to commit illegal acts.

"We may have deliberately been allowed to grow," he said.

Abduh also told the program his terrorist organisation, the Imron Movement, was incited to a range of violent action in the 1980s when the Indonesian military told the group that the assassination of several Muslim clerics was imminent.

Another terrorism expert, George Aditjondro, said a bombing in May this year that killed 23 people in the Christian village of Tentena, in central Sulawesi, had been organised by senior military and police officers.

"This is a strategy of depopulating an area and when an area has been depopulated - both becoming refugees or becoming paramilitary fighters - then that is the time when they can invest their money in major resource exploitation there," he said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/National/Possible-police-role-in-2002-Bali-attack/2005/10/12/1128796591857.html>

Iranians Working for the C.I.A. in the 1950's Posed as Communists and Staged Bombings in Iran in Order to Turn the Country Against its Democratically-Elected President

by James Risen

The Central Intelligence Agency's secret history of its covert operation to overthrow Iran's government in 1953 offers an inside look at how the agency stumbled into success, despite a series of mishaps that derailed its original plans.

Written in 1954 by one of the coup's chief planners, the history details how United States and British officials plotted the military coup that returned the shah of Iran to power and toppled Iran's elected prime minister, an ardent nationalist.

The document shows that:

Ø Britain, fearful of Iran's plans to nationalize its oil industry, came up with the idea for the coup in 1952 and pressed the United States to mount a joint operation to remove the prime minister.

Ø The C.I.A. and S.I.S., the British intelligence service, handpicked Gen. Fazlollah Zahedi to succeed Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh and covertly funneled \$5 million to General Zahedi's regime two days after the coup prevailed.

Ø Iranians working for the C.I.A. and posing as Communists harassed religious leaders and staged the bombing of one cleric's home in a campaign to turn the country's Islamic religious community against Mossadegh's government.

Ø The shah's cowardice nearly killed the C.I.A. operation. Fearful of risking his throne, the Shah repeatedly refused to sign C.I.A.-written royal decrees to change the government. The agency arranged for the shah's twin sister, Princess Ashraf Pahlevi, and Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the father of the Desert Storm commander, to act as intermediaries to try to keep him from wilting under pressure. He still fled the country just before the coup succeeded.

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/world/mideast/041600iran-cia-index.html>

CIA Assisted NATO in "Terrorist" Bombings and Blamed Communists **Operation Gladio and the Secret Stay Behind Armies**

The former head of Italian counterintelligence, NATO, with the help of the Pentagon and CIA, carried out terror bombings in Italy and blamed the communists, in order to rally people's support for their governments in Europe in their fight against communism. As one participant in this formerly-secret program stated: "You had to attack civilians, people, women, children, innocent people, unknown people far removed from any political game. The reason was quite simple. They were supposed to force these people, the Italian public, to turn to the state to ask for greater security."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategy_of_tension

OPERATION NORTHWOODS:

The US Joint Chiefs of Staff Plan for Fake Terror Attacks to be Blamed on Cuba

Recently declassified documents show that in the 1960's, the American Joint Chiefs of Staff signed off on a plan to blow up AMERICAN airplanes (using an elaborate plan involving the switching of airplanes), and also to commit terrorist acts on American soil, and then to blame it on the Cubans in order to justify an invasion of Cuba.

(Click link entitled "Joint Chiefs Guilty-Northwoods" at site below).

http://secure.reopen911.org/video/cte_11_lo.mov

U.S. Military Wanted to Provoke War With Cuba

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=92662&page=1>

VIDEO: NURSE NAYIRAH Lying to Justify the First US War on Iraq ***

http://secure.reopen911.org/video/cte_11_lo.mov

THE GULF OF TONKIN ATTACK

Tonkin Gulf Lie Launched Vietnam War

Media Beat (7/27/94)

By Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon

Thirty years ago, it all seemed very clear.

"American Planes Hit North Vietnam After Second Attack on Our Destroyers; Move Taken to Halt New Aggression," announced a Washington Post headline on Aug. 5, 1964.

That same day, the front page of the New York Times reported: "President Johnson has ordered retaliatory action against gunboats and 'certain supporting facilities in North Vietnam' after renewed attacks against American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin."

But there was no "second attack" by North Vietnam — no "renewed attacks against American destroyers." By reporting official claims as absolute truths, American journalism opened the floodgates for the bloody Vietnam War.

A pattern took hold: continuous government lies passed on by pliant mass media... leading to over 50,000 American deaths and millions of Vietnamese casualties.

The official story was that North Vietnamese torpedo boats launched an "unprovoked attack" against a U.S. destroyer on "routine patrol" in the Tonkin Gulf on Aug. 2 — and that North Vietnamese PT boats followed up with a "deliberate attack" on a pair of U.S. ships two days later.

The truth was very different.

Rather than being on a routine patrol Aug. 2, the U.S. destroyer Maddox was actually engaged in aggressive intelligence-gathering maneuvers — in sync with coordinated attacks on North Vietnam by the South Vietnamese navy and the Laotian air force.

"The day before, two attacks on North Vietnam...had taken place," writes scholar Daniel C. Hallin. Those assaults were "part of a campaign of increasing military pressure on the North that the United States had been pursuing since early 1964."

On the night of Aug. 4, the Pentagon proclaimed that a second attack by North

Vietnamese PT boats had occurred earlier that day in the Tonkin Gulf — a report cited by President Johnson as he went on national TV that evening to announce a momentous escalation in the war: air strikes against North Vietnam.

But Johnson ordered U.S. bombers to "retaliate" for a North Vietnamese torpedo attack that never happened.

Prior to the U.S. air strikes, top officials in Washington had reason to doubt that any Aug. 4 attack by North Vietnam had occurred. Cables from the U.S. Task Force Commander in the Tonkin Gulf, Captain John J. Herrick, referred to "freak weather effects," "almost total darkness" and an "overeager sonarman" who "was hearing ship's own propeller beat."

One of the Navy pilots flying overhead that night was squadron commander James Stockdale, who gained fame later as a POW and then Ross Perot's vice presidential candidate. "I had the best seat in the house to watch that event," recalled Stockdale a few years ago, "and our destroyers were just shooting at phantom targets — there were no PT boats there.... There was nothing there but black water and American fire power."

In 1965, Lyndon Johnson commented: "For all I know, our Navy was shooting at whales out there."

But Johnson's deceitful speech of Aug. 4, 1964, won accolades from editorial writers. The president, proclaimed the New York Times, "went to the American people last night with the somber facts." The Los Angeles Times urged Americans to "face the fact that the Communists, by their attack on American vessels in international waters, have themselves escalated the hostilities."

An exhaustive new book, *The War Within: America's Battle Over Vietnam*, begins with a dramatic account of the Tonkin Gulf incidents. In an interview, author Tom Wells told us that American media "described the air strikes that Johnson launched in response as merely 'tit for tat' — when in reality they reflected plans the administration had already drawn up for gradually increasing its overt military pressure against the North."

Why such inaccurate news coverage? Wells points to the media's "almost exclusive reliance on U.S. government officials as sources of information" — as well as "reluctance to question official pronouncements on 'national security issues.'"

Daniel Hallin's classic book *The "Uncensored War"* observes that journalists had "a great deal of information available which contradicted the official account [of Tonkin Gulf events]; it simply wasn't used. The day before the first incident, Hanoi had protested the attacks on its territory by Laotian aircraft and South Vietnamese gunboats."

What's more, "It was generally known... that 'covert' operations against North Vietnam, carried out by South Vietnamese forces with U.S. support and direction, had been going on for some time."

In the absence of independent journalism, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution — the closest thing there ever was to a declaration of war against North Vietnam — sailed through Congress on Aug. 7. (Two courageous senators, Wayne Morse of

Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska, provided the only "no" votes.) The resolution authorized the president "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

The rest is tragic history.

Nearly three decades later, during the Gulf War, columnist Sydney Schanberg warned journalists not to forget "our unquestioning chorus of agreeability when Lyndon Johnson bamboozled us with his fabrication of the Gulf of Tonkin incident."

Schanberg blamed not only the press but also "the apparent amnesia of the wider American public."

And he added: "We Americans are the ultimate innocents. We are forever desperate to believe that this time the government is telling us the truth."

<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=2261>

Lyndon Johnson and Brown & Root

Joking on the Square

When Catholic John Kennedy and Johnson were running together in 1960 a joke hop-scotched around the parties in Texas and Washington that Kennedy had told Johnson, "Lyndon, when we get elected I'm going to dig a tunnel to the Vatican," and Lyndon had replied, "That's OK with me as long as Brown & Root gets the contract." (Dugger, 1982: 286).

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/r5646j3q5t3nwn37/>

Early Efforts, Mutually Beneficial

Brown and Root was the principal source of campaign funds for Johnson's initial run for Congress in 1937 in return for persuading the Bureau of Reclamation to change its rules against paying for a dam on land the federal government did not own, a decision that had to go all the way to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, according to Robert A. Caro's book, *The Path to Power*. After other very profitable construction projects for the federal government, such as building the Corpus Christi Naval Station, Brown and Root gave massive sums of cash for Johnson's first run for the U.S. Senate in 1941. Brown and Root violated IRS rules over campaign contributions, largely in charging off its donations as deductible company expenses, again according to Robert Caro. A subsequent IRS investigation threatened to bring criminal charges of illegal campaign donations against Brown and Root as well as Johnson and others. It was not quashed until Roosevelt himself told the IRS to back off and allowed Brown and Root to settle for pennies on the dollar.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kellogg,_Brown_and_Root

Halliburton Deals Recall Vietnam-Era Controversy

Cheney's Ties to Company Reminiscent of LBJ's Relationships

by John Burnett

[Audio Available at this Site:
Cheney's Role in Halliburton Contracts Debated
Examining Halliburton's 'Sweetheart' Deal in Iraq]

All Things Considered, December 24, 2003 · Current criticism over Halliburton's lucrative Iraq contracts has some historians drawing parallels to a similar controversy involving the company during Lyndon B. Johnson's administration.

Nearly 40 years ago, Halliburton faced almost identical charges over its work for the U.S. government in Vietnam -- allegations of overcharging, sweetheart contracts from the White House and war profiteering. Back then, the company's close ties to President Johnson became a liability. Today -- as NPR's John Burnett reports in the last of a three-part series -- Halliburton seems to be distancing itself from its former chief executive officer, Vice President Dick Cheney.

The story of Halliburton's ties to the White House dates back to the 1940s, when a Texas firm called Brown & Root constructed a massive dam project near Austin. The company's founders, Herman and George Brown, won the contract to build Mansfield Dam thanks to the efforts of Johnson, who was then a Texas congressman.

After Johnson took over the Oval Office, Brown & Root won contracts for huge construction projects for the federal government. By the mid-1960s, newspaper columnists and the Republican minority in Congress began to suggest that the company's good luck was tied to its sizable contributions to Johnson's political campaign.

More questions were raised when a consortium of which Brown & Root was a part won a \$380 million contract to build airports, bases, hospitals and other facilities for the U.S. Navy in South Vietnam. By 1967, the General Accounting Office had faulted the "Vietnam builders" -- as they were known -- for massive accounting lapses and allowing thefts of materials.

Brown & Root also became a target for anti-war protesters: they called the firm the embodiment of the "military-industrial complex" and denounced it for building detention cells to hold Viet Cong prisoners in South Vietnam.

Today, Brown & Root is called Kellogg, Brown & Root -- a Halliburton subsidiary better known as KBR.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1569483>

The Merchants of Blood: War Profiteering from Vietnam to Iraq

By James M. Carter
Counterpunch.org
December 11, 2003

While campaigning for President in 2000, George W. Bush made clear his position on nation building saying, "I don't think our troops ought to be used for what's called nation building" adding that, if elected, he would "absolutely not" engage in

such open-ended commitments. He was sharply critical of his predecessor's use of American troops in Haiti, Somalia and Kosovo to "restore order," to bring about "stable governments," all objectives of nation building. Nevertheless, Bush and company find themselves scrambling to otherwise define and control a conflict that looks increasingly open-ended, costly and bent on building a very different Iraq. What the Bush foreign policy team seems loath to consider are the remarkable parallels between the circumstances they now face in trying to remake a war-torn Iraq and the efforts of confident, well-heeled American officials of the 1960s who believed they too had history on their side in trying to remake the southern half of Vietnam.

The United States began waging a war in the Southeast Asian nation of Vietnam in the early-1960s and continued well into the 1970s, unleashing an unprecedented barrage of firepower on the southern half of that country, below the seventeenth parallel. What is perhaps less well known is that the war in fact followed an equally enormous and failed nation building project. Beginning in 1954, the United States attempted to invent a nation below the 17th parallel, the dividing line decided at the Geneva Conference that same year.

Immediately, the United States began pouring money and expertise into Vietnam to bring off this transformation. A staggering array of specialists and technicians, from civil police, public administration, public finance, military, counterespionage, propaganda, industry, agriculture, education and more immediately descended upon Saigon, the southern city made the capital of the whole project. These experts, along with the U.S. government and military installed Ngo Dinh Diem, removed all viable opponents, began a crackdown on dissidents killing tens of thousands and jailing as many or more, and began to physically transform southern Vietnam. United States government contractors, such as Michigan State University and the construction firm Johnson, Drake and Piper, went to work on the creation of a national communications, transportation and police network. This "mission" built or rebuilt hundreds of miles of roadways and dozens of bridges, dredged hundreds of miles of canals, built airfields and deep draft ports to receive a continuing and growing volume of economic and military aid. They built roads connecting all parts of Vietnam to Saigon, which they promised would result in greater access for both government officials and peasants to sell their crops to a larger market. They trained and equipped a rapidly expanding military force to keep Diem in power and they began to piece together a para-military security force and a Vietnam Bureau of Investigation (VBI) modeled on the American FBI. They even inaugurated an identity card program to catalog the identity and keep track of every Vietnamese in the interest of maintaining security. Nothing would be left to chance; no rogue force would tip the expensive American apple cart. By 1960, the United States had poured into this project over \$1.4 billion.

The project failed. Ordinary Vietnamese in concert with northern Viet Minh cadre began to openly resist the whole campaign. By the early 1960s, the United States came to rely almost exclusively on military solutions to put down the growing opposition, soon a broad-based and popular insurgency opposed to continued occupation and Diem's rule, now referred to as My-Diem or American Diem. John Kennedy increased direct American involvement from around 680 to over 16,000 troops as "advisors" who, despite their title, participated in combat. The administration, at the same time, vastly expanded the military forces built earlier to defend Diem and insure he remained in power. Opposition to the occupation grew at a steady pace. The whole project continued to unravel. By late 1963, a coup de tat finally removed Diem and his influential family from power.

From 1964 into 1965, the experiment was vastly militarized. From around 23,000 troops in Vietnam by the end of 1964, the next year there were 185,000, and the next there were over 385,000. American force levels peaked at around 542,000. By all accounts a traditional society, southern Vietnam needed an infrastructure to receive this influx of military aid. **Responsibility for building that necessary infrastructure was given over to the largest construction entity ever, the RMK-BRJ (Raymond International, Morrison-Knudsen, Brown & Root, and J.A. Jones Construction).** Calling itself "The Vietnam Builders" and receiving highly lucrative "no bid" contracts, this consortium of private corporations was to turn southern Vietnam into a modern, integrated military installation that would enable the United States to properly defend its client. The Vietnam Builders entered into a contract with the federal government, via the U.S. Navy, as the exclusive contractor for the huge military buildup that was to come; there would be no open bidding or otherwise competitive process.

Brushing aside the messy reality that the nation of "South" Vietnam had yet to be created, U.S. officials ordered a staggering volume of military projects be begun immediately. The congress granted to the administration of Lyndon Baines Johnson for **1965 \$700 million** for the expected ramping up of a direct American military role. Of that sum, \$100 million was earmarked for the Defense Department's construction projects already begun. Soon, the figures ballooned far beyond anyone's expectation. Initially contracted for around \$15 million prior to 1965, the lead corporation, MK, was shocked by the magnitude of orders for rapid construction. As one MK executive said early in 1965, "all we knew was that they wanted a lotta roads, a lotta airfields, a lotta bridges, and a lotta ports, and that they probably would want it all finished by yesterday." (Fortune, Sept., 1966)

These demands outstripped the capacity of any one of the corporations. Equipment requirements alone for the Vietnam project far exceeded all equipment owned by MK for all of its worldwide operations and all subsidiary companies. The value of the project leapt from its 1964 starting point of \$15 million of work in place per month to over **\$67 million of work in place per month within two years.** The Builders could hardly keep pace with the demand for more projects, which numbered over one hundred concurrently at the peak of construction. Suppliers in the US could hardly keep up either and backlogs of three to six months became commonplace. Caterpillar Tractor Company's annual report to shareholders intoned, "1965 was another recording-breaking year and only the physical limitations of production capacity kept sales and profits from being higher." (ENR, Feb., 17, 1966; ENR, May, 19, 1966) Three of the four firms making up the Vietnam Builders ranked in the top ten of four hundred U.S. corporation doing business abroad for 1966. **Collectively, and individually, they gobbled up hundreds of millions in profits for their efforts.** In the process, Vietnam Builders employed 8,600 Americans and over 51,000 Vietnamese. They built six ports with 29 deep-draft berths, six naval bases, eight jet airstrips 10,000 feet in length, twelve airfields, just under twenty hospitals, fourteen million square feet of covered storage, and twenty base camps including housing for 450,000 servicemen and family. In short, they put on the ground in southern Vietnam nearly \$2 billion in construction of various kinds of facilities and infrastructure. Military commanders called it the "construction miracle of the decade." (Jones Construction Centennial)

In deciding to go to war rather than withdraw from Vietnam, the Johnson administration had stepped onto a slippery slope where foreign policy crises meet domestic politics. At home just as in Vietnam, Johnson fought to control

inflationary pressures. Now, those pressures mounted as the war in Southeast increased in scope and intensity. The soaring demands on the construction industry certainly meant rising profits, but it also threatened rising prices. Republicans in congress began to criticize Johnson's handling of the Vietnam situation, warning his policies threatened to over-heat the domestic economy and drive prices up. Some also specifically criticized the way in which aid, both construction/military and economic, was being sent to Vietnam.

In 1966, Illinois Representative Donald H. Rumsfeld went perhaps further than most when he charged the administration with letting contracts which "are illegal by statute." He urged investigation into the relationship between the private consortium working in Vietnam and the Johnson administration, in particular the infamous "President's Club," to which Brown & Root, one of the principle Vietnam contractors, had given tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions. Rumsfeld argued on behalf of serious inquiry into the whole affair saying, "under one contract, between the U.S. Government and this combine, [RMK-BRJ] it is officially estimated that obligations will reach at least \$900 million by November 1967...why this huge contract has not been and is not now being adequately audited is beyond me. The potential for waste and profiteering under such a contract is substantial." (Cong. Rec., August 30, 1966) Rumsfeld's alarm was echoed by others in the congress and in the press as well, although will little affect. All the while, the war in southern Vietnam continued to spiral out of control despite the dramatic increases in firepower and troops and military construction. The government's contract with the Vietnam Builders ended only in 1972 shortly before the Nixon administration itself quit the commitment to the long failed project.

In Vietnam, this process took years to unfold. In Iraq, the time table seems dramatically sped up. Following the rapid invasion and removal of Saddam Hussein, U.S. forces quickly occupied key areas of Iraq. Officials and "embedded" reporters gleefully trumpeted American successes after meeting what was described as only token opposition. Postwar planners and experts had been quickly flown into neighboring countries to await a modicum of safety before entering Baghdad to begin their work in stabilizing and rebuilding a ravaged country.

Twelve years of ruinous sanctions had reduced Iraq to a traditional state in terms of its agricultural, communications, transportation, public health and educational infrastructure. Years of neglect as a desperate regime clung to power and funneled its limited resources toward maintaining itself and away from maintenance of the nation also contributed to the erosion and decay of a modern state. (Iraq Under Siege, ch. 2) This otherwise nightmare situation for the people of Iraq actually aided the American military by reducing all kinds of unseemly obstacles to invasion, conquest and occupation that was to follow.

Within weeks, the federal government began its bread line for business by handing out sweet deals to American corporations to "rebuild" Iraq's infrastructure. And, just as in Vietnam, those with the best relationship to government officials quickly found themselves on an inside track with greater access to the enormous sums of money pouring into Iraq. Vice President Dick Cheney's own Halliburton began riding this "gravy train" even before the invasion was over, building tent cities just outside of Iraq. Once the President declared an end to combat, the big money quickly began to flow.

As of September, Halliburton had received almost one quarter billion dollars in payment for work done so far, with much more to follow. Kellogg, Brown & Root, a Halliburton subsidiary, is also in the pipeline, having signed lucrative federal contracts, reportedly worth \$2.3 billion, to help in the rebuilding of Iraq's oil producing infrastructure. Bechtel Group, another corporation with solid government connections, has lapped up another \$1.03 billion. Even Morrison-Knudsen, now calling itself Washington Group International following a merger, has signed on for around \$500,000,000 of the lucre. The contracts through which these deals are codified are those old familiar, certainly to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, "cost-plus-award-fee" types that were used to give away huge sums of money to the Vietnam Builders. The Center for Public Integrity's recently published investigation into private contractors and the war on "terror" reveals that over 70 American companies have secured close to \$8 billion in government contracts to rebuild Afghanistan and Iraq. They also shared ongoing and close relations with the federal government and provided more in campaign contributions to George Bush than any other official over a twelve year period. Those companies are currently building and rebuilding all of the infrastructure destroyed over the past dozen years, and then some. They are working on a police network, a military force, a communications grid, transportation system, an integrated media system, the oil production and transportation system, water and sewage treatment systems, and so on. (<Aljazeera.net>, <CorpWatch.org>, The Center for Public Integrity)

Meanwhile, the situation on the ground inside Iraq has steadily deteriorated since the President's proclamation of the "end of combat." A recent CIA analysis finds that ordinary Iraqis are fast losing hope that the Americans have come to help them. The Iraqi Governing Council is no closer to legitimacy and yet remains hamstrung by occupation officials. The war and its aftermath have now taken the lives of some 8,000 innocent civilians. Looking eerily like the situation in Vietnam, albeit after several years of failure there, an insurgency now flourishes in Iraq and the chaos and episodes of heavy-handed American military actions have created fertile ground for greater anti-American violence. President Bush has now called L. Paul Bremer III, the top American official overseeing post-war Iraq, hurriedly back to Washington to hasten the turning over of power to the Iraqis themselves in response to the growing resentment of and attacks on occupation forces. That may now happen as early June, 2004. The situation is bad and getting worse, the congress is now criticizing and investigating the money deals, and the Bush administration wants desperately to distance itself from the whole mess in the run up to the presidential election. (The Philadelphia Inquirer, The New York Times) Ordinary Iraqis are fast learning what ordinary Vietnamese peasants learned all those years ago; namely, the United States, as George Bush says, does not do nation building.

Rather than avoiding the lessons of such disasters as the "nation building" war in Vietnam, Americans, if not America's elected leaders, should look to that tragic episode to explain the "quagmire" unfolding in Iraq. This is not a humanitarian mission any more than was the American mission to Southeast Asia forty years ago. It is a fraudulent war that is now perpetuated by political ideologues and war profiteers with much to lose. Without legitimacy among the people, the whole project, including whatever "government" is put in place, is doomed to failure. Iraqi resistance will only grow. The cycle of answering that resistance with greater levels of force is perpetual. It should come as no surprise that the Iraqi people are no less impressed with this version of "nation building" than were the Vietnamese people with the earlier version.

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http://www.ccmep.org/2003_articles/Iraq/121103_merchants_of_blood.htm

VIDEO: Johnson's Mistress Madeleine Brown on LBJ and the JFK Assassination

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1929769365635576415>

MADRID TRAIN BOMBINGS

Train Bomber Tied to Head of Spain's Civil Guard Bomb Squad

Per The London Times

"THE man accused of supplying the dynamite used in the al-Qaeda train bombings in Madrid was in possession of the private telephone number of the head of Spain's Civil Guard bomb squad, it emerged yesterday.

Emilio Suárez Trashorras, who is alleged to have supplied 200kg of dynamite used in the bombs, had obtained the number of Juan Jesús Sánchez Manzano, the head of Tedax.

The revelation has raised fresh concerns in Madrid about links between those held responsible for the March bombings, which killed 190 people, and Spain's security services, and shortcomings in the police investigation. Señor Suárez Trashorras and two other men implicated in the bombings have already been identified as police informers. Other members of the group had evaded police surveillance, despite concerns within the security services about their activities and evidence of their association with al-Qaeda.

The telephone number of Señor Sánchez Manzano was contained in a Civil Guard dossier handed to Juan del Olmo, the investigating judge, at the National Court in Madrid. The number was written on a piece of paper found in the possession of Carmen Toro, the wife of Señor Suárez Trashorras. Both are in custody accused of supplying dynamite used in the Madrid bombs."

<http://avantgo.thetimes.co.uk/services/avantgo/article/0,,1150429,00.html>

Bombers in Contract with Spanish Police Before the Attacks

BBC

4/29/04

"The Spanish interior ministry says it is investigating reports that two suspects in the 11 March Madrid train bombings were police informants.

The move came after Spain's El Mundo newspaper said Moroccan Rafa Zuher and Spaniard Jose Emilio Suarez had been in contact with police before the attacks.

The men are suspected of providing dynamite for the attacks, which killed 191 people and injured more than 2,000."

These suspects "blew themselves up" during a raid. The bomb used in the April 2, 2004 bombing of a rail track was said to be the same kind as that used in the Madrid attacks.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3670627.stm>

Bombers "Blew Themselves Up"

CBS News

"MADRID - At least three people accused of involvement in last month's deadly Madrid railway bombings blew themselves up Saturday as police tried to arrest them, Spanish authorities said."

"Meanwhile, the Spanish government confirmed Saturday that a bomb found on a high-speed rail line near the city of Toledo on Friday was the same type as that used in the Madrid attacks.

Rail workers discovered the 12-kilogram bomb in a sports bag on Friday. The Goma 2 Eco dynamite, commonly used in mining in Spain, was on the tracks between Madrid and Seville."

Officially, Spain blames Al Qaeda for the Madrid train bombings.

http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2004/04/03/world/spain_blast040403

New "Loose Network" of Terrorists Described

per Christian Science Monitor

"New evidence of the way Islamic terrorists evade detection by operating in loosely connected networks is emerging from the investigation of the Madrid bomb attacks.

Eleven days after the atrocity in the Spanish capital, the ties that are emerging between a key suspect in the bombing and Islamic militants elsewhere in Europe and North Africa point to a widening web of organizations that may have few direct links to Al Qaeda but are bent on the same goals.

The investigation has also revealed how terrorist plotters from different structures appear to have survived police crackdowns in several countries to regroup and join forces in order to carry out the operation in Madrid, which killed 202 people."

"The scale of the challenge they face has become clearer from patterns that investigators have discerned in the wake of the Madrid bombings, leading them in several directions across Europe and North Africa as they follow links that the central suspect, the Moroccan Jamal Zougam, may have forged with Islamic militants.

Spanish police tapped a phone call that Mr. Zougam made in August 2001 to Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, currently jailed in Spain following his indictment last year by judge Balthazar Garzon, who suspects him of having been the head of Al Qaeda's cell in Spain.

Zougam was heard to say he had met and offered financial aid to Mohamed Fizazi. Mr. Fizazi is believed to be the spiritual leader of Salafiyah Jihadiyah, a Moroccan extremist group. He was found guilty by a Moroccan court last year of involvement in May's suicide bombings that killed 44 people in Casablanca, and was jailed for 30 years."

"Among alleged terrorist leaders believed to have worked with Ansar al-Islam is Abu Musab Zarqawi, founder of the Jordanian radical Islamist Al Tawhid group, which German police have said is now active among Middle Eastern exiles in Germany and Italy, seeking recruits to fight US forces in Iraq and planning attacks in western Europe."

Some suspects under investigation were linked to the Spanish Security Service and were also said to have suspected ties to Al Qaeda.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0322/p01s02-woeu.html>

BALI BOMBINGS

Editor's note from
globalresearch.ca

We bring to the attention of our readers the transcript of an SBS Australia program. The controversial report which includes extracts from an interview with the former President of Indonesia Abdurrahman Wahid, points to the involvement of the Indonesian Military Intelligence and Police in the 2002 Bali bombing.

We also refer our readers to a report first published in early 2003, which focusses on the ties between Indonesian Military Intelligence (BIN) and Jemaah Islamiah (JI), which is alleged to have masterminded both the October 2002 and October 2005 Bali bombings.

The Transcript of this program has been removed from the archives of the SBS, Australia's Special Broadcasting Services.

TRANSCRIPT BEGINS

Inside Indonesia's War on Terror Today - as you would almost certainly know - is the third anniversary of the first Bali bombing and our major report tonight provides an alarming twist to the ongoing terror campaign being waged in Indonesia. David O'Shea, a long-time "Indonesia-watcher", reports that where terrorism is concerned in that country - with its culture of corruption within the military, the police, the intelligence services and politics itself - all is never quite what it seems. REPORTER: David O'Shea

When the second Bali bomb exploded, Australia once again found itself on the front line in the war on terror. But for Indonesians, this was simply the latest in a

long line of atrocities. They have born the brunt of hundreds of attacks over the years, most of them unreported in the West. Once again Australia and Indonesia joined forces in the hunt for the Bali killers.

SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, INDONESIAN PRESIDENT: We are determined to continuously fight terrorism in Indonesia with an effective global, regional and international cooperation.

JOHN HOWARD, AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER: Tragic incidents such as this so far from driving apart the people of Australia and Indonesia would only bring us closer together.

This show of unity is impressive and it plays well to Australian audiences but many Indonesians don't see it that way.

JOHN MEMPI, SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYST (Translation): Why this endless violence? Why are there acts of terrorism year in, year out? Regimes change, governments change, but violence continues. Why? Because there is a sort of shadow state in this country. A state within a state ruling this country.

For seven years I've reported from every corner of this vast nation and seen first hand the havoc that terrorists wreak. Tonight I want to tell you a very different story about Indonesia's war on terror. It contains many disturbing allegations even from a former president.

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID, FORMER INDONESIAN PRESIDENT: The Australians if they get the truth, I think it's a grave mistake.

REPORTER: What do you mean?

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Yeah, who knows that the owners to do this, to do that -- orders to do this, to do that came from within our own forces, not from the culprits, from the fundamentalist people.

(1) TERRORISM - THE CASH COW:

Indonesia's police are doing very nicely, thank you very much, out of the war on terror. They now have all the latest equipment, courtesy of the millions of dollars pouring in from the West. The money ensures the world's most populous Muslim nation remains on side in the fight against terrorism. Mastering all of this new technology represents a steep learning curve for the Indonesian police. Unfortunately today they forget to set up the X-ray machine properly.

POLICE (Translation): Is the film in?

POLICE 2 (Translation): I haven't put it in yet.

Luckily there's an old print lying around from a previous exercise. Because of the war on terror, American and Australian support for the Indonesian police has never been stronger. During Dai Bachtiar's 5-year reign as police chief, Indonesia endured countless act of terror including three major ones - in Bali, then the Marriott Hotel and the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. These massive blasts might have forced the resignation of any other senior official but Dai Bachtiar managed to survive with the backing of powerful friends at home and abroad.

POLICE CHIEF (Translation): I met Paul Wolfowitz.

In Indonesia's parliament earlier this year, I found the police chief boasting about how he gets the star treatment when he visits Washington.

POLICE CHIEF (Translation): I went to Washington, to the White House, to the West Wing. I spoke to Colin Powell in his office. I went to the Pentagon, I met the director of the CIA, the director of the FBI, I met them all.

Indonesia's police are in charge of the war on terror. Years of human rights abuse by the Indonesian military, or TNI, mean it's now out of favour in Washington, but it seems the police can do no wrong.

POLICE CHIEF (Translation): I asked Powell. "You say the TNI has to reform, don't the police have to as well?" Building trust takes time.

Many Indonesians would find the idea of trusting the police laughable. It has long been regarded as one of the most corrupt and incompetent institutions in the country. Former president, Abdurrahman Wahid sums up what many people here believe.

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: All of them are liars.

REPORTER: Just to be clear, you have your doubts about the police ability to investigate properly all of this?

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Oh, yes.

But none of this seems to worry Indonesia's allies in the war on terror.

POLICE (Translation): Have you just got back?

DAI-BACHTIAR, POLICE CHIEF (Translation): I see this man a lot.

POLICE (Translation): Were you in America? Did you get any more money?

DAI-BACHTIAR (Translation): 10 million. We get big bucks. We got 50 million all up. Sure. They keep asking about 88.

That's Detachment 88, the police counter-terror unit which receives a great deal of the international aid, including substantial assistance from Australia. Like the military, Detachment 88 is controversial. Its members stand accused of repeatedly using torture in interrogation of suspects. But these allegations don't seem to even raise an eyebrow.

DAI-BACHTIAR (Translation): The Secretary-General of Interpol came to visit Aceh. I met him. He said our police were dealing with terrorism in a professional manner. 500 million euros. For the police. Long term. So far I've received directly 500 from Denmark. They gave 5, but 500 all up. The Dutch gave 2.

The money is flowing like water but outside the chamber, unrelated to the anti-terror funding, is a scene that should make donors think twice. A man from the Religious Affairs Commission sitting next door counts cash to be distributed

amongst voting politicians. Call it corruption or even the trickle down effect, but it's this kind of informal funds distribution which keeps the wheels turning in the Indonesian economy.

DAI-BACHTIAR (Translation): Well now, for example, the other day I got 2 million from Holland... From America... it was 50. Is it 50 already? You know how much the army got? 600. Then they had to get involved.

With all the cash flowing about, some politicians want to stay as close as possible to Dai Bachtiar.

POLITICIAN (Translation): Isn't our police chief great? That's obvious.

With the cash cow growing fatter by the day, some analysts even suggest the police now have too much to gain from the war on terror.

JOHN MEMPI (Translation): But why is there always this worry about bombings? This subservience to foreigners, this paranoia about bombs. You must help us with money, with equipment and training, so that we can do something. We need funds to combat these terrorists. And to convince the foreigners bombings do happen. Indeed there are acts of terrorism in Indonesia but done by "terrorists" in inverted commas.

(2) A TERRORIST ON THE PAYROLL:

To most Australians terrorism in Indonesia means Jemaah Islamiah. Abu Bakar Bashir, Dr Azahari and Noordin Mohammed Top have become household names and we're led to believe they're the masterminds behind every atrocity. But there's another side to the JI story that Australia hasn't heard and it's part of the extraordinary family history of this man.

LAMKARUNA PUTRA (Translation): This is Tengku Fauzi Hasbi after he was released. He returned to working and supporting his family.

Lamkaruna Putra's father was an Acehnese separatist leader descended from a long line of Acehnese fighters. He went on to become a key figure in Jemaah Islamiah. Fauzi Hasbi who used the alias Abu Jihad was in contact with Osama bin Laden's deputy.

He lived for many years in the house next door to Abu Bakar Bashir in Malaysia and was very close to JI operations chief Hambali. Umar Abduh is an Islamist convicted of terrorism and jailed for 10 years under the Suharto regime. He belonged to a group that attacked police stations and hijacked a Garuda flight to Bangkok. He remembers Fauzi Hasbi as a hardliner who traded arms was willing to commit acts of violence.

UMAR ABDUH (Translation): Fauzi Hasbi is known in the Islamic movement as someone who, from the beginning, has supported the Jihad as the struggle of the Muslim people, aside from his background in the Free Aceh Movement.

Fauzi Hasbi was so relaxed amongst the militants, and they with him, that he even took his son to a critical meeting in Kuala Lumpur in January 2000 as JI was preparing for its violent campaign. The attendance list was a who's who of accused terrorists.

LAMKARUNA PUTRA (Translation): There was someone from MILF in Mindanao, his name was Ustad Abu Rela, commander of the Abu Sayyaf. Ustad Abdul Fatah from Patani was there. People from Sulawesi and West Java came to the meeting. The organisation was managed by Hambali. Rabitah means organisation. It linked Islamic organisations.

REPORTER (Translation): So Hambali was chairman?

LAMKARUNA PUTRA (Translation): Yes, Hambali chaired it.

Hambali and co would have known their colleague Fauzi Hasbi had been captured in 1978 by this Indonesian military special forces unit but they wouldn't have known that he became a secret agent for Indonesian military intelligence. The commanding officer that caught him was Syafrie Syamsuddin, now a general and one of Indonesia's key military intelligence figures. These documents obtained by Dateline prove beyond doubt that Fauzi Hasbi had a long association with the military. This 1990 document, signed by the chief of military intelligence in North Sumatra, authorised Fauzi Hasbi to undertake a special job. And this 1995 internal memo from military intelligence HQ in Jakarta was a request to use brother Fauzi Hasbi to spy on Acehese separatist, not only in Indonesia but in Malaysia and Sweden. And then this document, from only three years ago, assigned him the job of special agent for BIN, the national intelligence agency. Security analyst John Mempri says Fauzi Hasbi alias Abu Jihad played a crucial role within JI in its early years.

JOHN MEMPRI (Translation): The first Jemaah Islamiyah congress in Bogor was facilitated by Abu Jihad, after Abu Bakar Bashir returned from Malaysia. We can see that Abu Jihad played an important role, he was later found to be an intelligence agent. So an intelligence agent has been facilitating the radical Islamic movement.

The extraordinary story of Fauzi Hasbi raises many important questions about JI and the Indonesian authorities. Why didn't they smash the terror group in its infancy? Do they still have agents in the organisation? And what information, if any, have they had in advance about the recent deadly spate of terror attacks?

The Indonesian intelligence chief refused Dateline's request for an interview and dead men tell no tales. The man who held all the secrets, Abu Jihad was disemboweled in a mysterious murder in early 2003, just after he was exposed as a military agent. His son, Lamkaruna Putra died in this plane crash last month.

(3) PROMOTING TERRORISM:

Fauzi Hasbi's death led to a flurry of speculation about shadowy intelligence links to Indonesia's terror networks.

UMAR ABDUH (Translation): So there is not a single Islamic group, either in the movement or the political groups that is not controlled by Intel. Everyone does what they say.

Umar Abduh says his terrorist group was incited to violence after infiltrators showed a letter saying Muslim clerics would be assassinated.

UMAR ABDUH (Translation): There is a document stating that the Muslim leaders would be executed, we as a younger generation were immediately angered. Damn it, this is not right, we have to kill all those Cabinet members and military leaders, that was our plan.

And he's not the only one who says he was used by intelligence agents. Another convicted terrorist is Timsar Zubil who exploded three bombs in Sumatra in 1978. Although no-one was killed, he paid a heavy price.

TIMSAR ZUBIL (Translation): At first I was sentenced to death, it was changed to a life sentence, I served 22 years.

Zubil now believes he was set up by former president Suharto's intelligence agency.

TIMSAR ZUBIL (Translation): We may have deliberately been allowed to grow in such a way, that we young people who were very emotional, were provoked into committing illegal acts.

REPORTER (Translation): Who let this happen?

TIMSAR ZUBIL (Translation): The ones who had the authority to ban us, in this case the ones in power, the Suharto regime. I have only started thinking of this recently, but at the time I was active, I didn't think it through.

After Zubil was captured, beaten and tortured, something remarkable occurred. The authorities made up a provocative name for his group - Komando Jihad.

TIMSAR ZUBIL (Translation): It hadn't occurred to us to use that name, but they told us that was to be the name of our organisation. We had no plans to use the name Komando Jihad. They told us to just accept it for the time being and if we wanted to deny it later in court, that was up to us. But it made no difference to the court, they insisted that the name was indeed ours.

(4) STATE SPONSORED TERROR:

Indonesia's recent history of terrorist attacks began with a deadly campaign that unfolded on Christmas Eve 2000. Bombs exploded almost simultaneously at 18 sites, mostly churches, across six provinces, 19 people died and 120 were injured. Jemaah Islamiah took the blame. It was the first real mention of the group in Australia. But Indonesians had another theory - they suspected the military, the only organisation with the capacity to pull off an operation of this scale, a full two years before the first Bali bomb. The respected news magazine Tempo even splashed the allegation on its front cover as part of a special investigation. The most revealing information in the report related to the bomber's network operating in Medan, North Sumatra. The man convicted of making the bombs in Medan is somewhere behind these prison walls. Our repeated requests to interview Edi Sugiarto over many months have been ignored by the Indonesian authorities. Guilty or not, reputable sources claim he was so severely tortured before his trial he would have admitted to anything. But it's clear he wasn't acting alone. The Tempo investigation included telephone records revealing sensational information of direct links between the bombers and military intelligence. The records also show that Fauzi Hasbi, the military intelligence agent in Jemaah Islamiah who we mentioned earlier, was at the centre of the plot. He had spoken

to Edi Sugiarto, the bomb maker, seven times and had also called a businessman well connected with the military 35 times. That businessman in turn rang a Kopassus special forces intelligence officer 15 times and the officer had called the businessman 56 times. With Edi Sugiarto in jail, all further investigation ceased and five years on, sources in Medan are too afraid to talk. The trail has gone stone cold.

(5) TERROR IN TENTENA:

George Aditjondro is an early riser. As Indonesia's leading researcher into corruption in high places there never seem to be enough hours in the day. For two years he's been investigating a terror campaign in Poso, Central Sulawesi. His research reveals that terror in Indonesia is much more complex than we are led to believe.

GEORGE ADITJONDRO: There is a mafia, a corruption mafia in Poso who were defending the interests of themselves because if the corruption leaked, the corruption mafia could be exposed, that means the end of their career and also the end of their additional income.

Aditjondro says this corrupt network of local government officials, police and others is using terror to protect a local racket in Central Sulawesi.

GEORGE ADITJONDRO: Between corruption and terror, there is a very close link because those who were carrying out the terror were paid with corruption money.

Central Sulawesi had just emerged from years of conflict before the latest outrage on May 28 this year. In the predominantly Christian town of Tentena, 60km to the south of Poso, two bombs left 23 people dead. A blast that claimed more victims than the second Bali attack, but received scant coverage outside Indonesia. The first foreign journalist to arrive on the scene, without any evidence at all reported Jemaah Islamiah was to blame for the attack and then promptly flew back to Jakarta. Like the latest Bali bombs, the two bombs that exploded here were full of shrapnel, designed to kill and maim. The first one went off at 8.05 in the morning when the market is busiest.

WOMAN (Translation): This is a thoroughfare, people are always passing, people who want to go there pass here.

This woman is one of thousands of Christian refugees who found sanctuary in Tentena during sectarian violence that cost hundreds of lives in recent years.

WOMAN (Translation): I'm still traumatised. We were chased out of our villages and came here, but it is not safe here either.

A second bomb blew 10 minutes later around 200m away on the other side of the market. Reverend Rinaldy Damanik says it was placed and timed to cause maximum casualties.

REVEREND RINALDY DAMANIK (Translation): The bits of metal in the bomb flew as far as that church. What's really going on? They showed they can do it under the police's noses. That's the police station, imagine this happening in front of the police station.

Reverend Damanik is a powerful figure in this Christian stronghold. For years he

defended his community as Islamic fighters swarmed in to wage jihad. I first met him at Christmas in 2001 after villages all around Tentena were razed. He was convinced the army was behind the violence and had even left a calling card.

REVEREND RINALDY DAMANIK (Translation): This is an ammunition box that we found at the time of the attacks in Sepe. It is clearly labeled, Department of Defence, Republic of Indonesia. 1400 pieces of 5.56mm calibre munitions. This means it was meant for M-16s.

George Aditjondro says that in every Indonesian hotspot, the army foments trouble by funding and arming both sides. In the case of Central Sulawesi, both Muslim and Christian militia.

GEORGE ADITJONDRO: So the money do not have to come from rich people like Osama bin Laden and the weapons doesn't have to come from southern Philippines or from other exotic places but is actually coming from the official sources and that is why I am saying that the kind of terrorism which we see in Indonesia is home grown terrorism. It's a kind of dual function or triple function of the armed forces.

The late reverend Agustina Lumentut told me in 2001 that the Indonesian military was using proxy armies to do their dirty work.

THE LATE REVEREND AGUSTINA LUMENTUT: It is for sure, for sure that the army is behind the jihad, or in front of jihad, yeah. No other interpretation.

It was proved beyond all doubt that one of the extremist groups, the Laskar Jihad, was supplied, transported and incited by the central government to go on its murderous spree.

THE LATE REVEREND AGUSTINA LUMENTUT: Who dare among them to say "Stop going that." Because they have reason for doing that, they are registered officially by the government, the central government.

Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is applauded in Australia as a moderate Muslim leading the fight against terror in Indonesia. But as the influential coordinating minister for politics and security, he chose not to stop the Laskar Jihad and was even supporting them.

SUSILO BAMBANG YUDOYONO: They also play a role in defending truth and justice that is expected by Muslims in Indonesia. For me, as far as what they are doing is legal and not violating law, then this is OK. This was a ridiculous statement.

Yudhoyono was well aware of the carnage that was under way. Since 2001 things had improved somewhat, as Reverend Damanik tells these politicians from Jakarta visiting after the May 28 bombs. But local leaders are afraid terrorism is being used to derail reconciliation between Muslims and Christians.

REVEREND RINALDY DAMANIK (Translation): The wounds are very deep but they can be endured. But the question is, what is happening to this country? People can't work because they're always on their guard, what can we achieve when we're like that? What's happening to our country? We need to think about this, but it's hard to answer right now.

With weapons handed in and a peace deal holding up well, Reverend Damanik's former sworn enemy is also very suspicious about the times of the bomb in May. Muslim leader Adnan Arsan wonders whether the attack was designed to prevent the army from leaving.

ADNAN ARSAN (Translation): Just when a security unit's work is over and someone says "We're going home and I hope there's no more trouble..." Just as they are being recalled there's another explosion and more killing.

In the days following the blast, all the big names in Indonesian security and intelligence descend on the area. Central Sulawesi police commander Arianto Sutardi tells me the investigation is going well.

REPORTER (Translation): Sir, have you any idea who the perpetrators are?

ARIANTO SUTARDI, POLICE COMMANDER (Translation): We've arrested some already and we're pursuing others.

Then national police chief Dai Bachtiar, the man receiving all the foreign cash arrives to assert his authority. After less than one hour on the ground, he's made his assessment.

DAI-BACHTIAR (Translation): We all hope... incidents like this are criminal acts, we need to expose the perpetrators and put them on trial. People entrust this task to the security forces.

Considering the evidence of corruption here and the police chief's record of enforcing justice, that's unlikely. George Aditjondro's research has uncovered a scam involving local police who have looted up to \$2 million for the resettlement of refugees.

GEORGE ADITJONDRO: You can see a cabal involving both the district head, the acting district head at the time, certain police agents, certain people within the department of social affairs and their friends. They were carrying out both the corruption as well as using the corruption money to pay the terrorists. So you can see we are talking about home grown terrorism paid by home grown corruption.

He says the May 28 Tentena blasts were an attempt to stop honest police uncovering more about their scam.

GEORGE ADITJONDRO: You can say that the bombing can be seen as the apex, the ultimate development of the kind of terror which they were committing. It had gone as far as paying police to decapitate a village head man, the village head man of Pinadapa.

The corrupt and murderous cabal identified by Aditjondro is now suing him and the police seem to be in no hurry at all to follow up the leads as he identified. Instead on his departure the police chief Dai Bachtiar offers another bland statement about the certain groups responsible for the violence.

DAI-BACHTIAR (Translation): The situation seemed so promising but certain groups have taken advantage of it to carry out actions such as bombings, which of course will again cause fear and anxiety.

As Dai Bachtiar's plane heads back to Jakarta, more bigwigs arrive. Syamsir Siregar is the recently appointed head of the national intelligence agency BIN. His appearance is supposed to inspire confidence in this investigation. But BIN has a long-standing dismal reputation in Indonesia for dirty tricks. The agency is currently fending off damning evidence that it was behind the poisoning of Indonesia's best known human rights campaigner, Munir Said Thalib. As I reported earlier this year, Munir was given a lethal dose of arsenic in his orange juice on a Garuda flight to Europe. On the Tentena bomb investigation, Siregar has nothing to say.

REPORTER (Translation): If you don't want to talk about this, what about the Munir case? How's the internal investigation into the involvement of...

SYAMSIR SIREGAR (Translation): You speak good Indonesian!

REPORTER (Translation): If any rogue elements are involved, what will you do? ...

SYAMSIR SIREGAR (Translation): We'll take action. I've given orders to act against rogue elements.

Rogue elements indeed. Travelling with him is Timbul Silaen, he was police chief during the carnage in East Timor. He was acquitted of crimes against humanity, one of several commanders who escaped justice for orchestrating the bloodshed. Now he's officially retired from the police force. So what on earth is Timbul Silaen doing here with the new chief of intelligence? Is he just along for the ride or is he now on the intelligence payroll? Whatever the answer, the continuing role of these same old state terrorists is truly disturbing. It's no wonder the locals are now deeply suspicious of anyone sent in to protect them. While the police can claim some success arresting terrorists in Java, in this region results are few and far between. After years of state sponsored terror, no-one wants to help the authorities. This woman jokes that fear of talking to the police has become a popular movement.

WOMAN (Translation): The tight lipped movement. People don't want to be witnesses. They are scared so they shut up, if they see something they deny it, they're scared.

The first real break in the investigation comes a week after the attack and leads police to, of all places, Poso prison. Incredible as it may sound, a police forensics team finds evidence the bomb was manufactured in the workshop, used for prisoner rehabilitation.

POLICE (Translation): It's a workshop for teaching them welding skills.

The fact that the bomb may have been assembled in a state-run facility further bolsters the central thrust of Aditjondro's remarkable research. That there is high level involvement in terror in Sulawesi.

GEORGE ADITJONDRO: What we have found out is just the tip of the iceberg. It shows a permanent pattern which has been going on for the last five years.

For the record, the authorities reject his allegations.

(6) QUESTIONS ABOUT BALI:

Two weeks after the second Bali attack and despite plenty of help from the Australian Federal Police, Indonesian authorities are still pursuing the culprits. But a familiar pattern has emerged. Asia's most wanted men, the so-called masters of disguise, Dr Azahari and Noordin Top have been named as the masterminds. And once again everyone is insinuating Jemaah Islamiah is behind the bombs. That may eventually be proved correct, but so far no evidence has been produced, at least publicly, to back that claim. As we've shown tonight, after enduring years of state-sponsored terror, it's no wonder many Indonesians question what they're being told about this latest atrocity.

GEORGE ADITJONDRO: You hear again the sources - the statements that it was carried out by Azahari and Noordin Mohammed Top and a radical Muslim groups behind it. Although what I heard is this actually shows a rivalry, internal rivalry within the armed forces.

George Aditjondro didn't provide any evidence to back his allegation, but theories like this are hard to write off just yet. Former president Abdurrahman Wahid tried in vain to rein the military and it cost him the presidency. In 2003 just after the Marriott Hotel blast, he was clearly frustrated by foreign intelligence claims that JI were to blame.

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: They can say whatever they want but we are here, we live here, we know them. But I won't say who.

REPORTER: But you know who it is, you think?

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: No, no, I don't know. When I said that I meant we cannot know - we cannot know the truth about that. That is the problem always.

REPORTER: But that bomb has been blamed also on Jemaah Islamiah.

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Yeah, I know but you don't have any kind of proof. The proof is that the bomb is similar to that belong to the police. It's a problem for us then. Every bomb there until now it belongs to the government.

Today is the third anniversary of the first Bali attack that saw 202 people killed, including 88 Australians. Abdurrahman Wahid now has questions about that attack as well. While some regard him as an Eccentric, he is the former president and is often described as the conscience of the nation, revered by tens of millions of moderate Muslims. As such, he's one of only a few people publicly prepared to canvass the unthinkable - that Indonesian authorities may have had a hand in the Bali atrocity. He believes that the plan for the second, massive at the Sari Club, which caused the majority of casualties, was hatched way above the head of uneducated villagers like Amrozi.

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Amrozi was involved in the lighter bomb. That's a problem always. Even though I agree that he should be given a stiff punishment, but it doesn't mean that he is involved. No, no, no.

REPORTER: So you believe that the Bali bombers had no idea that there was a second bomb?

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Yeah, precisely.

REPORTER: And who would you suggest planted the second bomb?

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Well, it looks like the police.

REPORTER: The police?

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Or the armed forces, I don't know.

Wahid's speculation is chilling and again there's no evidence to support it. But there's no doubt that he's a barometer of how many Indonesians view the whole terror campaign.

(7) BACK TO THE FUTURE:

This ceremony in July marked a significant moment in the evolution of Indonesia's fight against terrorism. The nation's most senior police watched as their chief, Dai Bachtiar, was replaced by General Sutanto, touted as a cleanskin. Following his swearing in, he made an impressive start - launching a high profile anti-drug campaign and promising to crack down on rampant corruption within the police force. But for now, he's getting familiar with the rhetoric required for the job.

GENERAL SUTANTO (Translation): We are sharing experience with other countries in order to eradicate the terrorism.

But it's not the experience sharing with other countries that matters, like every police chief before him, he will only ever play second fiddle to the army and will struggle to control the cabal of rogue elements who still wield massive power here. Abdurrahman Wahid says that no policeman would dare to properly investigate repeated allegations that their big brothers in the military are involved in the terror campaign.

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: They know it's against see, what they do - was against you see, several, you know, senior officers, even of the police itself. So they don't want to be involved.

REPORTER: Because?

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Of the fear.

REPORTER: The fear of what? Of the senior officers that are involved in this?

ABDURRAHMAN WAHID: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

At the moment it's the police who are receiving all the equipment, support and training to take on the terrorists. At the opening of this multimillion dollar training facility, which is part funded by Australia, the Indonesians were keen to show off their skills. The war on terror has brought the two nations closer together, but any Australian concerns about corruption and human rights in this new partnership appear to have been put aside for now. But the Indonesian police's leading role in the fight against terror may be about to change anyway. In the wake of the latest attack in Bali, President Yudhoyono has taken steps to rehabilitate the military's tarnished name and bring them back into the counter terror drive. For those who

risked their lives opposing Suharto's brutal military, it's a disturbing thought. That the retired general, President Yudhoyono, known in Indonesia by his initials SBY, may be ushering in a return to those bad old days.

GEORGE ADITJONDRO: Now, General SBY, himself, he doesn't like to be called general SBY, he likes to be called Dr SBY has made the statement that the military is ready to help, to assist the police in chasing the terrorists. In other words, the military is looking for an alibi for a reason to reconsolidate their power as during the Suharto period.

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<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0510/S00223.htm>

LONDON BOMBINGS

The 7/7 Terror Rehearsal

Visor Consultants' 'simultaneous bombs' rehearsal on 7 July 2005

On the afternoon and evening of 7th July 2005, information came to light about a private company running a terror rehearsal operation in London at the time that real explosions were reported to have occurred on the transport network.

These revelations came not from an anonymous source but instead from the Managing Director of the private firm running the terror rehearsal operation. **The private firm is Visor Consultants and the Managing Director in question is Peter Power.** The client for whom the terror rehearsal was being organised is, thus far, unknown.

Peter Power's 7/7 Terror Interviews

On and after 7/7, Peter Power gave a number of interviews in which he referred to the terror exercise he was running on the morning of 7th July.

Power has since regularly appeared on TV and radio interviews as an independent security expert with no special connection to the events of 7 July 2005, even a year later when called on to discuss the incidents that occurred.

J7 is reproducing these interviews here so you can judge for yourself quite what should be made of such a bizarre and unlikely coincidence of events.

Peter Power on Radio 5 Live's Drivetime

The first of Mr Power's interviews was given on the afternoon of 7th July 2005, presumably after Mr Power had finished orchestrating his private terror rehearsal, when he appeared on BBC Radio 5 Live's Drivetime programme. Below is a transcript from the Radio 5 Live programme, complete with a link to a recording of the interview:

POWER: ...at half-past nine this morning we were actually running an exercise for, er, over, a company of over a thousand people in London based on simultaneous bombs going off precisely at the railway stations where it happened this morning, so I still have the hairs on the back of my neck standing upright!

PETER ALLEN: To get this quite straight, you were running an exercise to see how you would cope with this and it happened while you were running the exercise?

POWER: Precisely, and it was, er, about half-past nine this morning, we planned this for a company and for obvious reasons I don't want to reveal their name but they're listening and they'll know it. And we had a room full of crisis managers for the first time they'd met and so within five minutes we made a pretty rapid decision, 'this is the real one' and so we went through the correct drills of activating crisis management procedures to jump from 'slow time' to 'quick time' thinking and so on.

Note how Power refers to '**simultaneous bombs going off**'. Note also that it wasn't until 9th July 2005, two days after the incidents, that it was revealed the explosions on the underground were 'almost simultaneous'. Power's fictional scenario, as explained by the man himself on the day, bears a closer resemblance to the eventual story of 7/7 than it does to the actual story that had been presented to the public by the police and authorities at the time of his interview.

Only ex-Mossad Chief, Efraim Halevi who wrote in the Jerusalem Post on 7th July 2005 of "**the multiple, simultaneous explosions that took place today on the London transportation system**" with "**near perfect execution**" was able to demonstrate the same level of 'insight' as Mr Power.

[Note: The original article is no longer available on the Jerusalem Post web site although copies can be found on the web.]

Peter Power on ITV News: 7/7 Vision at 20:20

A short while after his appearance on BBC Radio, at 20:20 on 7/7, Peter Power gave a television interview to ITV news which revealed a little more about the nature of the operation as well as hinting at the sort of organisations for whom the operation might have been organised:

POWER: Today we were running an exercise for a company - bearing in mind I'm now in the private sector - and we sat everybody down, in the city - 1,000 people involved in the whole organisation - but the crisis team. And the most peculiar thing was, we based our scenario on the simultaneous attacks on an underground and mainline station. So we had to suddenly switch an exercise from 'fictional' to 'real'. And one of the first things is, get that bureau number, when you have a list of people missing, tell them. And it took a long time -

INTERVIEWER: Just to get this right, you were actually working today on an exercise that envisioned virtually this scenario?

POWER: Er, almost precisely. I was up to 2 o'clock this morning, because it's our job, my own company. Visor Consultants, we specialise in helping people to get their crisis management response. How do you jump from 'slow time'

thinking to 'quick time' doing? And we chose a scenario - with their assistance - which is based on a terrorist attack because they're very close to, er, a property occupied by Jewish businessmen, they're in the city, and there are more American banks in the city than there are in the whole of New York - a logical thing to do. And it, I've still got the hair...

Peter Power on the Canadian Broadcasting Service

In the days after 7th July, rather than face questioning about his role, in conjunction with a 'company of over a thousand people' on the day that 56 were killed on London transport, Power flew to Toronto for the 15th World Conference on Disaster Management.

Power appeared on a discussion panel for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's news discussion programme CBS: Sunday Night, in which the host remarked upon the 'extraordinary' coincidence of Power's rehearsal scenario:

Evan Solomon: We've heard something quite extraordinary - could be a coincidence or not - that your firm, on the very day that the bombs went off in London, were running an exercise simulating three bombs going off, in the very same tube stations that they went off. How did this happen? Coincidence, or were you acting on information that you knew?

Peter Power: I don't think you could say that we had some special insight into the terrorist network, otherwise I would be under arrest myself. The truth of it is -

Solomon: But it is a coincidence.

Power: It's a coincidence, and it's a spooky coincidence. Our scenario was very similar - it wasn't totally identical, but **it was based on bombs going off, to the time, the locations**, all this sort of stuff. But it wasn't an accident, in the sense that London has a history of bombs, and the reason why our emergency services did so well, and prepared probably better than any other city in the world, sadly they have to be. So it wasn't exactly rocket science or totally out of the pale to come up with that scenario unusual though it be to stop the exercise and go into real time, and it worked very well, **although there was a few seconds when the audience didn't realise whether it was real or not.**

Mr Power went on to tell delegates at the disaster management conference that Canadians needed to open their eyes. He said, "You can't just lay back and say, 'Well it's cozy, we've been lucky. We're just nice guys. It won't happen to us. Sorry. The alarm bell is ringing now. When it happens, you don't want to say, 'well that was a wake-up call'."

'Mock Broadcasts' and the 7/7 terror rehearsal

On 8th July 2005, the day after the death and destruction in London, an interview with Peter Power appeared on page 5 of the Manchester Evening News in which Mr Power revealed that, not only had he coincidentally been running a terror rehearsal 'based on simultaneous bombs going off precisely at the railway stations where it happened' on 7th July, he had also organised a series of '**mock broadcasts**' for the rehearsal operation that were apparently so realistic those participating in the exercise became confused about what was real and what was not:

Mr Power said: "I was an inspector at the time of the King's Cross fire and was involved in co-ordinating the operation.

"After leaving the Met, I set up my own crisis management consultancy. Yesterday **we were actually in the City working on an exercise involving mock broadcasts when it happened for real.**

"When news bulletins started coming on, people began to say how realistic our exercise was - not realising there was an attack.

We then became involved in a real crisis which we had to manage for the company."

Mr Power added: "During the exercise we were working on yesterday, we were looking at a situation where there had been bombs at key London transport locations - although we weren't specifically looking at a scenario where there had been a bomb on a bus.

"It's a standard exercise and briefing that we carry out."

Source: Manchester Evening News, Page 5 - 8th July 2005

Indeed, rehearsing attacks on public transport networks -- now seemingly known by their Americanised name of 'transit systems' -- are fairly commonplace in the world of State and Corporate terror exercises. On 8th January 2006, the government of Singapore conducted their own "standard exercise and briefing" called Operation Northstar V, a multi-agency civil emergency exercise:

Exercise Northstar V is the largest scale exercise we have conducted so far. We simulated a scenario with multiple bomb explosions and a chemical agent release in 4 MRT stations and 1 bus interchange, to stretch ourselves and test our capabilities.

The focus of the exercise today (8 Jan 2006) is to test our men in uniform and 20 other agencies. We will learn from this exercise, and refine our plans and operations.

....

Singaporeans should think about what to do to protect themselves and their families. Taking ownership to learn the drills, and knowing what to do in an emergency is one of the best forms of protection.

For example, they can take part in exercises such as the Emergency Preparedness Days organized by the constituencies. The residents of Pasir Ris, for instance, have exercised the scenario of a bomb incident and chemical attack in a shopping mall in Pasir Ris last year.

Source: Singapore Logon

A list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Operation Northstar V was produced from which the following quotes are taken, all of which have direct parallels with the events of 7/7:

FAQ to Exercise NorthStar V

....

Q3. What is the exercise scenario?

A: The scenario for the exercise is similar to that of the London Bombings on 7 July 05 that is near-simultaneous bomb blasts in the trains at the station platform and in the trains traveling into the tunnel. In addition, a new scenario has been introduced that is the release of chemical agents at the platform at one of the stations.

....

Q5. Will bus and train services be disrupted during the exercise and what is the duration of such disruption?

A: While the exercise is confined to only 4 train stations operated by both SBS Transit and SMRT Corporation however due to the interconnected nature of the train network, temporary disruption of train services will affect a total of 13 train stations. The 13 stations will be closed throughout the duration of the exercise that is from 6.25am to 9.30am.

Q6. Why is there a need to disrupt train services during the exercise?

A: Simulations in the form of thunderflashes, smoke and fire simulators will be used to create simultaneous bomb attacks by terrorists so as to inject a realistic exercise scenario. Apart from dummy mannequins, 'live' casualties will also be deployed at stations' platform and in the trains to portray injured commuters and fatalities. Trains will also be stalled within the tunnel and commuters will be evacuated through the tunnel to the nearest train station. To facilitate such elaborate scenario and the conduct of the large-scale exercise, there is a need to temporarily disrupt train services and close 13 train stations.

Q7. Will commuters who are caught in the exercise be trapped for a long period of time in the stalled train or in the train tunnel?

A: Upon the commencement of the exercise, no commuters will be trapped in the stations, trains or tunnels. All commuters who are in the 'exercised' trains and at the stations' platform will immediately be guided and evacuated out of the stations. For commuters who are in the 'exercised' train/s that are stalled in the tunnel, they will also be immediately guided to evacuate from the tunnel to the nearest train station.

As the safety of the commuters is critical to the conduct of the exercise, personnel from the SCDF and staff from SBS Transit and SMRT Corporation will be at hand to guide the commuters in the evacuation process and **direct them to the alternative mode of transportation i.e the shuttle bus services.** Special attention will also be given to pregnant ladies, the elderly, young children and those who are in need of assistance during the evacuation process.

Q8. Are the exercise sites accessible to members of the public?

A: While the commuters in transit are participating in the exercise as evacuees, the Police will be exercising strict cordon enforcement at the 4 x train stations/exercise sites (Dhobby Ghaut, Toa Payoh, Raffles Place and Marina Bay stations). Hence, members of the public who are outside these exercised train stations will not be allowed access into the stations.

Source: Singapore Logon

Taking another look at Peter Power's original Radio 5 Live announcement on 7/7:

POWER: ...at half-past nine this morning we were actually running an exercise for, er, over, a company of over a thousand people in London based on **simultaneous bombs going off precisely at the railway stations where it happened this morning**, so I still have the hairs on the back of my neck standing upright!

Operation Northstar V was twice the size of Peter Power's London efforts on 7/7. Note the lengths gone to ensure that the exercise is as realistic as possible for its unwitting participants:

3. During the exercise which involved over 2,000 personnel; **thunderflashes, smoke and fire simulators were used. About 500 simulated casualties with injuries were also deployed to test emergency rescuers at the scene. To further invoke a sense of realism, the date, time and exact details of the exercise were not released until 15 minutes before the exercise, after which announcements on the exercise were carried by local broadcast media. This was a deliberate move to better gauge and test the exercise participants, including the train commuters who were either in the trains or MRT stations when the exercise started.**

Source: Singapore Web

Advice on conducting 'live' exercises in the UK suggests the inclusion of walking wounded and casualties to 'add to the realism', and is recommended to companies testing their emergency plans by the London Resilience website:

Live exercises. Live exercises range from a small scale test of one component of the response, like evacuation, through to a full scale test of the whole organisation to an incident. Live exercises provide the best means of confirming the satisfactory operation of emergency communications, and **the use of 'casualties' can add to the realism. Live exercises provide the only means for fully testing the crucial arrangements for handling the media.**

The BBC web site even cites Roland Murphy of London Underground claiming of a similar rehearsal exercise at Bank station, "**All participants are unaware of the 'disaster' until the exercise starts, so they treat it as real as possible.**"

Emergency exercise on Underground

Last Updated: Sunday, 12 June, 2005, 11:31 GMT 12:31 UK

London's emergency services are being called into action for a training exercise on the underground.

The live emergency exercise will take place at Tower Hill Tube station on the District Line on Sunday.

The station is already closed due to major track replacement work between Whitechapel and Earl's Court.

Roland Murphy, from London Underground, said good safety procedures are in place "but we can always build and improve upon them."

He added: "All participants are unaware of the 'disaster' until the exercise starts, so they treat it as real as possible."

London Underground is legally required to hold an emergency exercise on the network every year.

A police cordon will be erected around the station and Trinity Square, Savage Gardens, Wakefield Gardens and Coopers Row will be closed for most of the day

Source: BBC News

In a BBC News report following the Bank station exercise Linda Smith of the Fire Brigades Union told BBC London of the controlled conditions under which the exercise was carried out:

"The cadets used as victims had been fully briefed and of course ordinary members of the public wouldn't have known what was going on," she said.

"It was done on a Sunday, the area was cordoned off, there were no members of the public allowed even on the footpaths around the area.

Source: BBC News

It is possible that Visor's consultants took the experiences and 'lessons learned' from 7/7 to assist in the live rehearsals in Singapore, involving bombs on trains and a bus, according to Visor Consultants' own web site:

In addition to the directors, we have specialist consultants who are regularly engaged on projects, ranging from running workshops in Singapore to helping an energy supplier in the UK to run a successful crisis management test. Seven of our key consultants are Chris Needham-Bennett, Dr. Anne Eyre, Ian Ross, Tom Pine, Kathryn Holloway, Brian Hiscutt and David Tredrea.

Source: Visor Consultants

Peter Power's Response to Initial Inquiries

Perhaps unsurprisingly, news of a terror rehearsal based on simultaneous bombs going off at precisely the stations they did caused more than a little consternation among those members of the public and alternative media who knew of its existence. So great was the deluge of queries and questions about the nature of the exercise that Peter Power issued the following, single, generic response:

Thank you for your message. Given the volume of emails about events on 7 July and a commonly expressed misguided belief that our exercise revealed prescient behaviour, or was somehow a conspiracy (noting that several websites interpreted our work that day in an inaccurate / naive / ignorant / hostile manner) it has been decided to issue a single email response as follows:

It is confirmed that a short number of 'walk through' scenarios planned [sic] well in advance had commenced that morning for a private company in London (as part of a wider project that remains confidential) and that two scenarios related directly to terrorist bombs at the same time as the ones that actually detonated with such tragic results. One scenario in particular, was very similar to real time events.

However, anyone with knowledge about such ongoing threats to our capital city will be aware that (a) the emergency services have already practiced several of their own exercises based on bombs in the underground system (also reported by the main news channels) and (b) a few months ago the BBC broadcast a similar documentary on the same theme, although with much worse consequences. It is hardly surprising therefore, that we chose a feasible scenario - but the timing and script was nonetheless, a little disconcerting.

In short, our exercise (which involved just a few people as crisis managers actually responding to a simulated series of activities involving, on paper, 1000 staff) quickly became the real thing and the players that morning responded very well indeed to the sudden reality of events.

Beyond this no further comment will be made and based on the extraordinary number of messages from ill informed people, no replies will henceforth be given to anyone unable to demonstrate a bona fide reason for asking (e.g. accredited journalist / academic).

Peter Power

Despite running a terror rehearsal on 7th July 2005, Peter Power has repeatedly been used as an independent expert on terrorism, sitting in judgment on such things as the execution of Jean Charles de Menezes at Stockwell tube station as well the official reports which have been released about the events of 7th July 2005. In each instance, Power is presented as a someone who has no special connection with the events of 7/7, nor has he been questioned further about the exact nature and scope of the rehearsal operation he was running, not even about the **"One scenario in particular"** which **"was very similar to real time events."**

Can it possibly be that no accredited journalist or academic has dared approach Peter Power about his operation that day, or the 'wider project' of which it was a part? If the complete lack of information about the nature of the exercise is anything to go by, it would appear not, save for one timid article on the Channel 4 News web site which attempted to distract from the potential significance of the coincidence.

Peter Power Terror Rehearsal 'de-bunked' by Channel 4 News

While the curious coincidence the Visor Consultant's terror drill on the day of 7th July 2005 received very little in the way of follow-up media coverage, aside from the occasional passing mention in the days that followed, Channel 4 News

published an article on 17th July 2005 in which, rather than set about finding out more about the nature of the operation in which Power was involved, journalist JJ King went to great lengths to explain how, some time after the event, presumably after the hairs on the back of Mr Power's neck were no longer standing upright, Power changed his line of, "**running an exercise for a company of over a thousand people**" that had so alarmed everyone to, "**involving, on paper, 1000 staff**".

According to the article's author, JJ King, this minor revision by Power of his original statement is sufficient reason to ignore Power's original statement. King further contends that because such rehearsal operations are common-place, there is nothing unusual about such a rehearsal running at the same time as a real attack. In instances where the rehearsal and real-time events didn't match so closely, this might be true. Significantly, perhaps, one other notable occasion where coordinated attack rehearsals were running at the same time as a real attack happens to be the day of 11th September 2001 when a number of wargame exercises involving simulated attacks on the World Trade Center featured.

Interestingly, King also notes the observations of the one of the CBS show's associate producers:

Colman Jones, an Associate Producer on CBS: Sunday Night, claimed in his blog that, while escorting participants from the building, he enquired of Power 'why there had not been more media coverage of this.' **'They were trying to keep it quiet,'** Power purportedly responded, with what Jones called 'a knowing smile.'

JJ King concludes his article with:

"When you hear hooves, think horses, not zebras,' goes the often-quoted popularisation of Occam's Razor.

In the absence of journalistic nous, bloggers would do well to stick by it.

In the face of investigative journalists that have repeatedly failed to report, or even investigate, the huge number of errors and inconsistencies in the official Home Office report, and the many stories willfully spun by the media about the events of July 7th, J7 contends that bloggers and the general public would do well to stick by something other than the 'journalistic nous' which has consistently and repeatedly failed them to date.

Peter Power's mainstream media terror operations

16th May, 2004: Panorama London Under Attack

"The Home Secretary has said **the attacks bear the hallmark of Al-Qaeda...**"

Source: Panorama, London Under Attack

7th July, 2005: Real world

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the coordinated blasts in trains and a bus bore "**the hallmarks of an al Qaeda-related attack**"

Source: Yahoo News

Peter Power claimed of his 7th July terror rehearsal, in the Manchester Evening News, **"It's a standard exercise and briefing that we carry out."** Indeed, Peter Power had previous experience of rehearsing bombs on the Underground for he was one of **a small but select panel of advisors that helped create the BBC's Panorama programme London Under Attack** in May 2004, over a year before the events of July 2005. A partial copy of the Panorama London Under Attack programme can be downloaded here.

The panel also included the former British Army and British Intelligence operative, Crispin Black, one of the first people to publish a book about the London bombings, in which he wrote:

We need an official inquiry - now. Not a whitewash inquiry like Lord Hutton's. Or a punch-pulling inquiry like Lord Butler's. But an inquiry run by plain Mr or Mrs somebody."

Crispin Black's statement - in part - provided some of the impetus behind the growing group of plain Mr or Mrs Somebodies that have worked together to establish the July 7th Truth Campaign, the J7 web site, the J7 People's Independent Inquiry Forum and the J7 Petition calling on the government to **RELEASE THE EVIDENCE** that conclusively proves or disproves the official Home Office narrative.

The May 2004 edition of Panorama focused on London falling victim to a terrorist attack and, coincidentally, featured three explosions on underground trains and one explosion on a land-based transportation device, a rehearsal scenario not entirely dissimilar to Mr Power's rehearsal operation on 7th July 2005 and the apparent reality of events that day.

The BBC described Panorama's London Under Attack on their web site:

This film is a mock exercise of what might happen in London if there was a terror attack now.

In a unique fusion of drama, detailed research and expert discussion Panorama puts Britain's emergency plans to the test.

Set in the future - but only just - the city of London is thrown into chaos by a series of terrorist attacks.

The fictional day of terror unfolds through the immediacy of rolling news bringing the catastrophic attack into our living rooms.

For those that missed the documentary, the BBC has kindly provided a copy of **"How the fictional attack unfolded"**, a page dedicated to revealing how news of the fictional attack was presented to the world via a series of 'mock broadcasts'. The key events unfolded like this:

8.20am Tuesday 25 May: We're receiving news of an explosion in the London underground near Hyde Park. This has not yet been confirmed by the police

8.27am: There has been a 2nd explosion on the underground, this time close to Oxford Circus. Both explosions appear to have occurred on the trains as they were moving.

8.40am: Reports are coming in that a third explosion has now occurred on an underground train approaching Vauxhall station.

9am: News 24 headlines: In the past hour there have been three major explosions on the London Underground. The first at 8.10am on the Piccadilly Line between Knightsbridge and Hyde Park Corner. The second at 8.16 on the Central Line between Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Circus and the third at 8.27 as a train was arriving at Vauxhall station in Stockwell on the Victoria line. Emergency services have been called to all three scenes. There are no reports on number of casualties and the police say its too early to identify a possible cause. London underground is now closed and police are now urging people not to travel.

10.10: We're just getting reports that there has been a further explosion in central London in the region around Liverpool street station, we will of course bring you more news on that as soon as we can. Meanwhile traffic problems continue in central London as the full effects of the emergency police cordons are being felt.

10.41: We can now confirm that a tanker carrying chlorine has exploded at the junction of Shoreditch high Street and commercial street. Chlorine is extremely toxic in this form and police are issuing express warnings for people to stay indoors, close windows and remain there until the all clear is given.

10.44: Police are still urging people to stay indoors until the extent of the chlorine release is known. They are repeating again, chlorine is extremely toxic.

Peter Power and Panorama's 'mock broadcasts' detailed the unfolding of the fictional terror attack, along with graphics showing the fictional blast locations and simulating how news of the attack might be presented, had such an attack actually occurred.

The unfolding of the Panorama sequence of events bears an uncanny resemblance to how the initial stories of 7 July 2005 were rolled out; three explosions underground, with timings staggered over the space of half an hour, before a fourth explosion occurred some time later on an above ground transportation device. For Panorama, the land-based transportation device was a chlorine tanker. On 7 July 2005, it was a number 30 bus.

A copy of the Panorama programme does not appear to be available from the BBC web site, however you can read a transcript of BBC Panorama's London Under Attack programme [here](#) . A mirror copy of the transcript can be found [here](#), and a partial but eminently watchable version of the actual London Under Attack programme can be downloaded [here](#).

What is important to note are the findings of the Panorama documentary of May 2004, as summarised below:

The programme reveals that police, ambulance and fire services communications systems are incompatible with each other in London and across the UK and that in the deep underground, Metropolitan Police radios do not work.

Radios incompatible

The communications system used by Civil Contingency Reaction Force (CCRF) - a specialist groups of reservists whose role is to help out in the event of disaster scenarios - is also incompatible with any of the emergency services.

This means that in the event of a disaster - none of the emergency services would be able to talk to each other on their own radios

These findings were passed to the Home Office by Panorama. At the time of the programme, the Home Office had refused to cooperate with the exercise, branding it as '**alarmist and irresponsible**'. However, the findings should have come as no surprise to anyone given that the **inquiry into the King's Cross fire of 18th November 1987 -- another event with which Peter Power was involved** -- came to the exactly the same conclusions about communications as Panorama did over a decade later. These happen to be the same findings that the Greater London Authority's 7 July Review Committee arrived at 18 years after the King's Cross Fire - a point which the 7 July Review Committee deemed worthy of note in its own final report, along with the unacceptability that these communication problems still had not been resolved:

2.24 The official inquiry into the King's Cross fire, published in 1988, included a chapter on communications. The report highlighted the lack of communications between the station surface and underground, and the inability of officers from the British Transport Police and London Fire Brigade to communicate underground unless they were within line of sight of each other. The report made recommendations aimed at putting in place effective communications within and between the emergency services underground. These were categorised by Desmond Fennell OBE QC, who conducted the inquiry, as among the most important recommendations made in the report.
....

11.5 It is unacceptable that the emergency services, with the exception of the British Transport Police, are still not able to communicate by radio when they are underground, 18 years after the official inquiry into the King's Cross fire recommended action to address this problem. The Committee has been told that this problem will be resolved by the end of 2007.

Source: GLA Report of the 7 July Review Committee

In fact, Peter Power had something to say about the 7 July Review Committee reports released two years after his involvement in Panorama's London Under Attack, and a year after his terror rehearsal operation on 7th July 2005. In the clip from BBC News below, Mr Power, aside from plugging his Survive organisation, reveals that he was also running a 'command centre' for another organisation on 7th July 2005 and, yet again, refers to the importance of getting a casualty bureau number out when a real disaster occurs, something that did not happen on 7th July 2005 for over six hours after the first incidents were reported.

Note: Throughout the news and media coverage of the day, no casualty bureau number was ever announced to the public until 3:24pm, by DAC Brian Paddick during a Metropolitan Police Press Conference. This is over six hours after the first incident of the day was reported and several hours after various authorities and

emergency services had declared major incidents at multiple locations. Why was a casualty bureau number not set-up and broadcast immediately the first major incident was declared?

Panorama's fake terror, 7/7, Peter Power & Kirsty Lang

In yet another bizarre 'coincidence' of events, the newsreader pictured in the transcript above, reading news of the fake attack played out in Panorama's London Under Attack programme, is one Kirsty Lang, also pictured left. Kirsty is the presenter of The World, an international current affairs programme broadcast globally on BBC World and on BBC4 in the UK. Kirsty is a regular presenter on **Front Row, the Radio 4 arts magazine programme**. She is also a former presenter of Channel 4 News and a **'relief presenter' for BBC World. The TV Room** fills in a little more background detail:

Kirsty started at the BBC as a graduate news trainee in 1985 after completing a degree in international relations at the London School of Economics and a postgrad MA in journalism from City University, London.

She then became a general news reporter in radio. In 1989, she took up a post in Budapest as stringer for the BBC World Service. In late-1991, she became a correspondent in the BBC Paris office.

C. 1994, Kirsty returned to London to take up a post as a reporter for 'Newsnight'. In summer 1995 she moved out of television to join the Sunday Times as their Paris correspondent. She remained there until 1998 when she returned to TV as Europe correspondent and presenter for 'Channel 4 News'.

In 2002, Kirsty moved to the BBC where she presented the news on BBC World and fronted the BBC Four news programme.

As part of Lang's stint in Eastern Europe as Central European reporter for the BBC World Service based in Budapest, she covered the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Balkans conflict, before then going on to be BBC World Service Paris correspondent at the time Diana and Dodi Fayed were killed. In early 2002 she moved from her post as Channel 4 News reader to join BBC Four News as chief correspondent. Her husband is a writer and broadcaster on Eastern Europe, especially Yugoslavia, and his father was in British Army intelligence in West Berlin, and a lecturer in Russian studies.

More recently, Lang chaired a Morgan Stanley sponsored meeting of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce, cunningly known by the simple three-letter acronym, RSA, which ignores entirely the 'Manufactures and Commerce' aspects of the society, on the subject of Britishness. Lang was also on the Advisory Board of Editorial Intelligence, Editorial Intelligence is Julia Hobsbawm's "information and networking club", whose list of clients include the Cabinet Office and the Metropolitan Police, and which has caused a bit of a stir among journalists with its strapline, "Where PR meets journalism". Hobsbawm is also a close associate and friend of Gordon and Sarah Brown, having once run a company, Hobsbawm Macaulay, with Sarah Brown, the wife of British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

The Press Gazette reports that Lang has since resigned from the Editorial Intelligence board, sometime between late March and early April 2006 but,

according to the Sunday Times, this was only as a result of the BBC forcing journalists in their employ (Lang, as well as Barney Jones, editor of Radio 4's Sunday AM) to resign from the EI board after learning that Editorial Intelligence were offering journalists £1,000 a year to sit on the board and £200 a time to attend seminars.

As mentioned, one of Lang's roles is that of 'relief presenter' with BBC World, making her one of at least 25 regular and relief presenters for the channel. She was also hired to present the 'mock broadcasts' used to create a sense of realism in Panorama's London Under Attack alongside Peter Power and, in another amazing coincidence, Lang was selected from the range of BBC World presenters to replace regular newscasters on the biggest UK news day of 2005, namely the day of 7th July 2005. Lang can be seen in the screen captures below, both taken from BBC World coverage broadcast on 7/7.

[Screen Captured Images:
Kirsty Lang presenting BBC World News on 7/7]

Quite aside from the amazing coincidence of Peter Power's terror rehearsal on 7/7, which closely mirrored the reported events of that day, the odds are stacked against the coincidence of Kirsty Lang happening to be hired by the BBC to present fake news reports in the 2004 Panorama programme -- featuring, as per the original story that unfolded on the day of 7th July 2005, three staggered explosions on the London underground, including one at Liverpool Street (shown below), followed later by an explosion above ground on a land-based transportation device -- before then overcoming a one in twenty-five chance of being the BBC World 'relief presenter' selected to present the news on the day of 7th July 2005.

[Screen Captured Image:
Kirsty Lang in Panorama's London Under Attack,
as broadcast on 16th May 2004]

Peter Power on Peter Power

From the Visor Consultants web site:

Who is Peter Power?

**Peter Power, BA FIRM FCMI FEPS FBCI
Managing Director, Visor Consultants**

Peter is the author of the present UK Govt. (DTI) advice booklet 'Preventing Chaos in a Crisis' and the British Bankers Association/KPMG guide on Crisis Management. Peter is the Founding Chairman of the Survive Crisis Management Special Interest Group, and is also engaged as a Special Advisor to a number of key organisations including the Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Management Forum (UK) and the Business Continuity (BC) Institute London Forum. He is in addition, a Special Advisor to the editorial board of Continuity Professional Magazine in the USA and is listed in the UK Register of Expert Witnesses.

Peter is also a Fellow of the Emergency Planning Society, Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, Fellow of the Business Continuity Institute,

Fellow of the Institute of Risk Management and a member of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London.

He is the Founding Chairman of the Survive Crisis Mgt. Special Interest Group, and is also engaged as a Special Advisor to a number of key organisations including the Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Management Forum (UK) and the Business Continuity (BC) Institute London Forum.

Peter has a senior Scotland Yard background which includes setting up the multi agency operational management structure at the Kings Cross fire, secondment to the Anti Terrorist Branch, deputy forward control coordinator at the Libyan People Bureau siege and leading the team behind the existing police street philosophy for dealing with terrorist bombs. **He is also the primary author / promulgator of the present UK Police command methodology Gold, Silver & Bronze** and a founder member of the UK judging panel for BC Awards.

Peter's recent appearances on TV and Radio include interviews on numerous live News broadcasts as well as documentaries, and taking part in the recent BBC TV Panorama current affairs programme examining the impact of terrorism on London. He is specifically quoted on the BBC web site in relation to his role at the scene of several previous major incidents in the UK.

An excerpt from the web site of **Survive**, Power's own Crisis Management Special Interest Group and apparently, "the world's leading forum for expertise and information exchange among Business Continuity (BC) management practitioners", lists a few more of Mr Power's accolades:

Peter Power is Managing Director of Visor Consultants Limited based in Mayfair, London. He is well known as an authoritative and entertaining presenter and writer with considerable front line crisis experience. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Risk Management, Fellow of the Emergency Planning Society, Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, Fellow of the Business Continuity Institute, and a member of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. He is the author of the present HM Government (DTI) booklet 'Preventing Chaos in a Crisis' and the new British Bankers Association guide on Crisis Management. He is the Founding Chairman of the Survive Crisis Management Special Interest Group and is also engaged as a Special Advisor to the Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Management Forum (UK) and the BCI London Forum. He is also a founder member of the UK judging panel for the Business Continuity Awards.

Source: Survive | Cached

The survive.com web site has been offline for some time now, although some archived copies of pages can be found at archive.org.

An objective look at Peter Power's career

Peter Power has a long and interesting history of involvement with terrorist incidents and disasters on the underground. His distinguished career includes being deputy forward controller at **the scene of the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, an incident that occurred during the Libyan People's Bureau siege, as**

well taking a senior role in the Oxford Circus underground fire and the King's Cross station fire operations.

The Killing of WPC Yvonne Fletcher

Woman Police Constable (WPC) Yvonne Fletcher (1959–17 April 1984) was a British policewoman who was shot and killed in London's St James's Square during a protest outside the Libyan embassy. The shooting resulted in a siege at the embassy which lasted for eleven days, as well as the breakdown of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Libya. She was the first policewoman to be murdered while on duty in Britain.

Eleven anti-Gadafy demonstrators were injured in the volley of gun fire. WPC Yvonne Fletcher was also shot and, although rushed to Westminster Hospital, died soon after arrival.

Peter Power was the deputy forward controller at the Libyan People's Bureau siege at which WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot. Fletcher's murder would later become a major factor in the then prime minister Thatcher's decision to allow U.S. President Ronald Reagan to launch the USAF bombing raid on Libya in 1986 from American bases in Britain.

In April 1996, 12 years after the killing, Britain's Channel Four flagship documentary programme Dispatches - in a massively researched broadcast, Murder at St James's, that cited credible and experienced sources - revealed that Fletcher had been murdered by elements of British and American intelligence. Disgracefully, these astonishing revelations went unreported by the media in much the same way as many crucial revelations about the events of 7th July 2005, such as Peter Power's simultaneous terror operation and the many factual inaccuracies, inconsistencies and curious anomalies in the official story of July 7th have also gone virtually, if not totally, unreported and unchallenged.

Issues raised by the Dispatches programme about the killing of WPC Fletcher were later raised in Parliament by Tam Dalyell on 8 May 1996. Mr Dalyell qualified before Parliament that the programme had been exceptionally well researched and that it had featured the statements from people whose calibre and relevant experience was beyond question or compare. Contributors to Dispatches included a senior ballistics officer of the British Army, Lieutenant Colonel George Styles, and Dr Bernard Knight, a senior and distinguished Home Office pathologist.

MP Tam Dalyell raised a total of eight separate issues in relation to the murder of WPC Fletcher, including that Yvonne Fletcher appeared to have been shot from a different direction than that alleged; that huge discrepancies existed between the reports of pathologist Dr Ian West whose post mortem report differed significantly from his analysis presented at the inquest; and that WPC Fletcher's injuries could not have been caused by the alleged combination of gun and firing position.

When the makers of 'Murder at St James's', Fulcrum Productions, attempted to interview the pathologist, Dr Ian West, about the inconsistencies in his reports, he canceled two appointments and then refused completely to meet.

In response to Mr Dalyell's inquiries in Parliament, the Minister of State for the Home Office, David Maclean, dismissed the Dispatches programme simply as

"preposterous trash".

The ongoing controversy surrounding Fletcher's death resulted in the current prime minister, Tony Blair, being questioned by former MP Tam Dalyell in parliament on 24 June 1997. Mr Dalyell received a similarly unenthusiastic response from the State as he had on previous occasions. In 1998, 14 years after the killing, the murder of WPC Fletcher was still being cited as the sole reason for maintaining trade sanctions against Libya by Jack Straw on behalf of the Labour government.

Following the shooting of WPC Fletcher, the then Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, immediately ordered an investigation. The results of that investigation have never been divulged to the British public and have remained one of many State secrets kept from the public.

Perhaps the deputy forward controller at the Libyan People's Bureau siege, Peter Power, might be able to shed some light on exactly what happened in the case of the killing of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, as well as during his terror rehearsal operation in London on 7th July 2005.

The Oxford Circus Underground Fire

During the Oxford Circus fire incident of 1984, a crisis situation that earned Mr Power the title of 'Pied Piper of the Underground', Power commandeered an underground train on which he happened to be travelling, lied to passengers over the train's tannoy system about the severity of the situation that faced them before giving the train's driver "a certain bit of advice to his face" after which the driver, "was knocked out". See the BBC On This Day reports "1984: Oxford Circus fire traps hundreds" and, "1984: 'Pied Piper' of the Underground" for more information on these incidents.

The King's Cross Station Fire

On 18 November 1987, a flash fire engulfed an old wooden escalator at the King's Cross underground station. Thirty one people perished in the disaster including a firefighter - Colin Townsley, station officer from the Soho Fire Station in central London. Two other firefighters were trapped on the station platform but survived.

You can see a short ITN News at Ten report of the King's Cross fire [here](#).

From the BBC 'On this day' report:

Inspector Peter Power was sent to the scene of the King's Cross fire to coordinate the efforts of the emergency services.

He ran the Metropolitan Police's forward command post for much of the evening and most of the night on 18 November 1987.

Three years earlier he himself had been trapped underground in a serious fire at Oxford Circus Tube station in London.

We recommend reading the full BBC account of Peter Power's activities at the Metropolitan Police's forward command post which includes the strange tale of drunken police officers attending the scene who later "would be taken home by chauffeur-driven car **after they had worked out their war stories and had a few**

drinks", and this interesting snippet about Sir Ian Blair, the Metropolitan police commissioner since February 2005:

The present deputy-commissioner of the Met Police, Ian Blair, was already on scene as a detective inspector.

We knew each other very well and he turned to me and said, "**Peter, I think we've had a bomb explosion here.**"

I asked him why and he said, "**At least one of the casualties has metal deep inside him... but we're not going to go public on it.**"

The MI6 Building Rocket Attack

At around 9:45pm on 20th September 2000, an explosion was reported in central London at the headquarters of Britain's secret service, MI6. Initially it was unknown whether the explosion had occurred inside or outside the building and firefighters say they were called to attend the scene at Vauxhall Cross at 9.52pm.

A rocket launcher was later found and no group ever claimed responsibility, although suspicions pointed the finger at the Real IRA. After the MI6 rocket attack, Mr Power was again quoted by the BBC.

He described the MI6 building as one of the most high profile in central London in a statement that seemed to positively encourage such activities. **Power told the BBC:**

"If you wanted to make a name for yourself, get yourself back onto the front pages, why not go for something that's high profile and minimal risk."

To date, despite the device used to launch the attack being found in Spring Gardens, nobody has ever been charged for this attack, although it was intimated at the time that Irish Republican organisations might be responsible. This begs many questions about who might be capable of perpetrating a rocket attack on a building as high-profile as the MI6 building and be allowed to get away with it.

Visor Consultants mentioned in Parliament

Security Exercises (London Underground)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what security exercises were undertaken by Visor consultants in or around London Underground stations in the week preceding 7 July. [16048]

Ms Buck: None.

Short and sweet if nothing else. Never since mentioned in Parliament.

Peter Power's international connections

Peter Power also has connections to former New York Mayor, Rudi Giuliani; he served on the Advisory Board to the Canadian Centre for Emergency preparedness (CCEP), alongside the senior Vice President of Giuliani and Partners, Richard Sheirer, who was also Director of the New York Mayor's office of

Emergency Management, overseeing the rescue and recovery operations following the September 11th attacks.

Giuliani and Partners is itself both a security consultancy and Investment Bank and Mr. Giuliani himself, by another strange coincidence, also happened to be in London for a conference and just yards away from Liverpool Street station when the blast occurred there on the morning of July 7th.

Mr Giuliani was mayor of New York at the time of the 9/11 and his emergency bunker was destroyed at 5:30pm that day when World Trade Centre building 7 mysteriously collapsed, despite not having been hit by a plane.

How much more do we know now?

In short, very little. To date, the client for whom Visor Consultants was running this anti-terror operation has never been revealed, despite the fact that there are potentially 1,000 people who were taking part in this exercise. Neither has Peter Power, nor any other representative of Visor Consultants, been publicly quizzed about the exact nature and extent of their operation that morning, despite the extremely bizarre coincidence of them running a rehearsal "based on simultaneous bombs going off precisely at the railway stations where it happened."

In fact there are only two instances of additional information appearing in the public domain, via comments left by Peter Power, firstly on the Newsnight Editors' blog in September 2006, only the second written statement attributed to him since the events of 7 July 2005. We reproduce Peter Power's comment from the Newsnight blog below:

202. At 09.25 AM
on 17 Sep 2006, Peter Power wrote:

My name repeatedly comes up whenever armchair / conspiratorial thinkers consider the terrorist exercise my company ran in London at exactly the same time as 7/7. **This is only the second time I have formally reacted to these numerous statements.** I've also appeared many times on BBC News / Newsnight to explain **post 9/11 & 7/7 concepts such as 'new normal'** etc. I think anyone familiar with likely terrorist targets will release [sic] our exercise scenario was coincidence rather than conspiracy, but it does start to raise some interesting points on a wider scale.

Several features now exist to create a much more generic and all-hazards approach to numerous risks and threats that are uniquely starting to appear on the global / corporate radar screen irrespective of country, culture, geography or sector. Some of these are already occurring such as **a new form of terrorism that has no 'political' objective, the effect of high volume and unrestricted information on the internet**, spread of disease / mass travel (230m people passed through UK airports last year / all major air hubs are less than 72 hours apart), **ineffective world leaders & UN**, the consequences of accelerating global warming, the **positioning of key essential / physiological supplies (Critical National Infrastructure – CNI - UK) in the private sector** (e.g. electricity, water etc.) and an associated **failure to understand how vital the private sector is** not only in terms of employment, economy and wealth generation, but to maintain almost the entire CNI in most if not all countries.

In several cases these threats and risks combine to create a series of problems that we are presently unable to deal with as a result of silo based attitudes, incompetence, proprietorial behaviour or just complacency.

There is I suggest, a need to start building a new approach based on conceptualising and hopefully influencing others since **we are presently lacking a truly forward thinking and pan global collective body of influential advisors, practitioners and academics that transcends the otherwise valuable but discrete institutions in many countries and their individual agendas.** It might just inform many others as to what terrorism is all about and get them to think twice before alleging my own company was somehow implicated in 7/7. My aim is to help stimulate, collaborate and disseminate effective and non partisan advice **without the handicap of parochial restrictions,** silo constraints or inhibited vision.

The second comment was left on this page of the July 7th Truth Campaign web site on 15th December 2007 after the release of this YouTube video by a group called 'We Are Change UK's. For some unknown reason Peter Power has chosen to leave his comment about the We Are Change video here, rather than contact We Are Change directly. I have verified Peter Power as the source of this comment before publication and you can read his comment here, or click the 'Comments' link below.

Of course, as Mr Power also says:

**"Terror doesn't rely on the bang,
it relies on the fear of the bang."**

So, if you have any information about any aspects of the anti-terror rehearsal operation run by Peter Power and Visor Consultants on the morning of July 7th, please get in touch.

<http://www.julyseventh.co.uk/july-7-terror-rehearsal.html>

7/7 CCTV 'Evidence' Analysis

The CCTV images deconstructed

To date, no CCTV images of the four alleged suicide bombers have ever been released showing all four of the accused in London on July 7th 2005. In fact, only one CCTV image has ever been released which purports to show all four of the accused together outside Luton Station, approximately 30 miles from the scenes of the crimes, in which three faces are completely unidentifiable.

watchful eyes of cctvOf the three images released by the authorities since July 7th 2005, none of them offer any sort of proof that all, or indeed any of the alleged perpetrators, were in London at the time of the attacks.

Furthermore, the images, as released to the general public by the authorities, would be inadmissible as evidence in a court of law and could not be used to secure a successful prosecution against anyone.

These facts are of great concern to the July 7th Truth Campaign as, without a truly

Independent Public Inquiry, outside of the scope of the Inquiries Act 2005, the requisite judicial process to establish the facts about what happened on July 7th, will never occur.

The July 7th Truth Campaign believes that these images will not suffice as the only evidence to corroborate the Home Office report published by the Home Office on May 11th 2006 (download as PDF).

London - Surveillance Capital of the World

London is equipped with more CCTV cameras than any other city on Earth and has been described as "the surveillance capital of the world".

Recent estimates about the proliferation of CCTV cameras around the world suggest that approximately 20% of all CCTV cameras are located in Britain, with London having the most densely packed, privacy-invading CCTV network in the world, yet it has still failed to provide evidence of all four young, British men accused of the July 7th attacks actually in London.

On July 11th, before the identities of the suspects had been revealed, the police spoke of how they hoped to acquire more information by viewing the CCTV, installed throughout the London underground system.

"If they weren't suicide bombers, then they must have got on and off these trains," Andy Trotter, deputy chief constable of the British Transport Police, said. "That means their pictures can be grabbed from CCTV cameras. **The Underground network is a CCTV-rich environment**, and so this is going to be an intense investigation to look at the images."

Source: World Tribune

It is worth noting the first sentence of this quote which seems to imply that there would only be footage of the perpetrators 'if they weren't suicide bombers'. This makes no sense because even if the perpetrators did turn out to be suicide bombers, there would still be footage of them at least getting on the trains, if not off them.

Further, despite this intense investigation and the acknowledgment by DAC Andy Trotter of the "CCTV-rich" environment that would reveal the identity of the alleged perpetrators, which should have yielded thousands of images showing the movements of the four men, only three still-images, purporting to be CCTV stills from July 7th, have ever been released into the public domain.

The official Home Office report has outlined numerous places where the men were captured on CCTV camera. It has also described situations where it is implied that they were captured on CCTV camera, as well as occasions where it claims they should have been captured on CCTV, but that, curiously, no CCTV exists to support such a statement.

OFFICIAL AND MEDIA REPORTS OF CCTV IMAGES

The Home Office report claims the first CCTV footage of the day is taken at 3.58am by a camera in Hyde Park Road, Leeds. It states the car - a light blue Nissan Micra - is "**believed** to have been carrying Tanweer, Mohammad Sidique Khan and

Hasib Hussain". This implies that the occupants of the car were not identified, else a definitive version of this statement should have been made.

The next reported sighting by CCTV occurs at 04.54 at the petrol station at Woodall Services on the M1, where Tanweer pays for petrol. The Home Office report describes what he is wearing, mentions that he buys snacks and drinks and that he "looks directly at the CCTV camera and leaves". The description of Shehzad Tanweer's outfit given at this point in the Home Office report does not match what Tanweer is wearing in the CCTV still image released by the Metropolitan Police on July 16th, apparently showing them entering Luton station. The Home Office report acknowledges this discrepancy but simply says, "There is no explanation for this change at present."

The Home Office report gives very precise timings for the arrival of Lindsay's car at 5.07am and of the Nissan Micra at 6.49am. These times must have been taken from the timestamp of a CCTV camera to have been so precise. The newspaper reports also gave a very exact time for the arrival of the men, but stated that instead that the Micra arrived at 6.51am.

The Home Office report was able to state what Lindsay did in the time he was waiting in the car park alone. Again, this information must have come from the CCTV cameras, unless Germaine Lindsay was under surveillance by State operatives, as the Home Office report states:

05.07: During the 90 minutes or so before the others arrive, Lindsay gets out and walks around, enters the station, looks up at the departure board, comes out, moves the car a couple of times. There are a handful of other cars in the car park. A few more arrive during this period."

Therefore, there should be '90 minutes or so' of CCTV footage showing Lindsay in and around Luton station and car park to corroborate the Home Office report, between the times of 05.07 and 06.49, the time at which the others are reported to have arrived, yet none of this CCTV has ever been released, even in appeals for eye-witnesses where such images could have been used to jog the memory of eye-witnesses.

06.49: The Micra arrives at Luton and parks next to the Brava. The 4 men get out of their respective cars, look in the boots of both, and appear to move items between them. They each put on rucksacks which CCTV shows are large and full. The 4 are described as looking as if they were going on a camping holiday.

Therefore, **there exists CCTV footage of all four men in and around Luton car park between 06.49 and 07.22, another 33 minutes of footage that has never been released** into the public domain.

The Home Office report states that the men entered Luton station at 7.15am, but doesn't refer to this being captured on CCTV.

The Home Office report states that the men "enter Luton station and go through the ticket barriers together". This is actually a scenario that doesn't make a great deal of sense, since the Home Office report continues *"It is not known where they bought their tickets or what sort of tickets they possessed, but they must have had some to get on to the platform."*

There is a set of ticket barriers directly inside the entrance to Luton station. The Home Office report suggests this is the set of barriers the men went through. They would have needed tickets to have used this route since it leads directly to the northbound platform from which they could have then accessed the southbound platform without passing the ticket office. Otherwise, after entering Luton station they would have needed to turn right (as shown in the footage released from 28 June, see below), climb a flight of steps which leads to the ticket hall before then going through the ticket barriers that lead to the bridge for the southbound platform.

Therefore, the Home Office report is suggesting that the men went through this first set of barriers and that they must have already had tickets to do so. As is clear from the above quote from the Home Office report, which describes what Lindsay did whilst waiting for the other three men, there is no mention that he entered the station and bought any tickets. If the men had bought tickets previously to July 7th, there should be either CCTV of them in a station buying tickets, or a tangible record of the tickets having been purchased online, or over the phone, along with credit card transaction that such a purchase would necessitate.

There was some confusion with **delayed and canceled trains on the morning of 7 July**, which may have led to trains leaving from different platforms than usual, but the men would have been unlikely to have known this until they were in the station. The departure board that it is claimed Lindsay looked at would not necessarily have given details of the cancellation and delays.

Even more curiously, the Home Office report states that the men entered the station at 7.15am, yet the timestamp on the image of them entering Luton station, printed on the same page of the Home Office report, shows the time at 07.21:54. The report then, rather bewilderingly, states that the image shows the men *"caught on CCTV together heading to the platform for the King's Cross Thameslink train," at 7.21am*. In fact, this image shows them clearly outside the entrance to Luton station and nowhere near the platform.

There is no mention of CCTV footage taken from the actual station platform, apart from the statement on page 10 of the Home Office report:

It was thought, because of witness statements and CCTV, that there was a "5th man" with the group traveling down from Luton. Inquiries showed the individual was a regular commuter and he was eliminated from the inquiry.

The CCTV footage alluded to here appears to correlate with that mentioned in an earlier report in the Times:

"The CCTV camera on the platform at Luton filmed the four, unobtrusive young men as they prepared to board the 7.40 to King's Cross. The camera also picked up a fifth man, standing alongside them, who then peeled off and vanished into the crowd"

Source: The Times

It is a little perplexing that the Home Office report does not mention this CCTV in the timeline of the day of July 7th when documenting the actions of the men at Luton station, yet touches upon it almost casually when referring to the events in its entry for July 12th.

There must also have been CCTV cameras on the train, yet these, or any footage obtained from them, are not mentioned by the Home Office report. It only speaks of witnesses on the train who gave conflicting accounts. Some spoke of "noisy conversations" without indicating that the men were even seen and another "believes he saw 2 of them standing silently by a set of train doors." Witness accounts should back up the footage that should exist of the accused on the train. It is still unclear also how any witnesses could have been on the 7.40 train to see the men - and how the men themselves could have been on it to be witnessed - **since there was no 7.40 train from Luton to Kings Cross Thameslink station on July 7th.**

Note: On 11 July 2006, the British Home Secretary, Dr John Reid, stood before Parliament and admitted that the Home Office report is wrong and that the accused did not ride the 7.40am train from Luton to King's Cross:

The official account that we provided to the House states that the train on which the bombers travelled left Luton station at 7.40 am. The police have now told us that that is incorrect—the train in fact left Luton station at 7.25 am. It did, however, arrive at Kings Cross at 8.23 am, as recorded in the official account. Although that does not appear to affect anything else in the official account, it is nevertheless an error, which is why I report it to the House. I can understand why this may be of concern to some. I have asked the police, as Members would expect, for a full report on how that discrepancy came about. I will ensure that the official account is amended and will write to the survivors and to the families of the victims on this matter.

Source: Hansard

The next mention in the Home Office report of CCTV showing the men is "*on the concourse close to the Thameslink platform and heading in the direction of the London Underground system.*" This was captured at 8.26am. The Home Office report then goes on to say that the men are seen again at 8.30am, but does not state whether they are seen by a CCTV camera or a witness. If the men used the subway to get from Thameslink to Kings Cross mainline, there are numerous cameras that should have caught them traveling this way. Similarly, if they had gone over-ground, there are **many banks of cameras** that should have illustrated this journey also.

It had been reported by the media that when searching through CCTV footage at Kings Cross station, the police apparently had their breakthrough on the evening of Monday, 11th July:

"On Monday night came the breakthrough police were waiting for - when the CCTV at King's Cross showed the four young men setting off in different directions"

Source: The Guardian

This was a day before the police say they found forensic evidence and property at three of the blast sites that identified the men. The police have never released these reportedly key CCTV images, despite this report stating that the images were likely to be released on July 13th. This was either complete speculation, or the media had somehow been given to understand that it was going to be released. If

the latter is the case and plans existed to release the footage, yet another explanation is required as to why this never occurred.

The next day, at a Metropolitan police press conference, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke said:

"We have identified CCTV footage showing the four men at King's Cross station shortly before 8.30am on that morning of July 7th."

Source: Metropolitan Police

However, news reports of the time of the CCTV film contradicted the statement by Peter Clarke - and each other. Some reports state that the footage was captured at 8.20am on the forecourt of Kings Cross mainline station:

"Yet on Monday, astonished officers made an incredible discovery. Studying the footage from a camera located high above the dark, grubby station forecourt at King's Cross they noticed, at 8:20am, 20 minutes before the three tube bombs exploded, a man matching Hussain's description. And he was not alone. With him were three other men: 22-year-old Shehzad Tanweer, 30-year-old Mohammed Sidique Khan, and Germaine Lindsay, believed to be 19. All had large military-style rucksacks on their backs, as if preparing for a few days' backpacking.

They spoke for several minutes, their heads close together. There are reports that the footage even shows them laughing. Then, with no elaborate farewells, they split up and entered the tube station."

Source: The Scotsman

Such reports are inaccurate and misleading. Giving the time the men were seen at Kings Cross mainline - as opposed to the Thameslink station - as 8.20am, and rather ironically clarifying this with "20 minutes before the tubes exploded" - which is also incorrect - implies that it is more likely the men could all have caught the tube trains they were alleged to have boarded, since this discrepancy of 10 minutes gives them more time to have reached the tube platforms. The Home Office report, of course, states that the men were still at King's Cross Thameslink station at 8.26am.

Other reports describe the men caught on CCTV on the main concourse of Kings Cross, which, of course, doesn't correlate with the men "splitting up" since they would all have had to go through the same entrance to the Underground.

Detectives reportedly viewed tapes from more than 5,000 cameras after seizing about 80,000 recordings for review. On July 17th, it was reported that the police had "no plans" to release the footage they claimed to have of the men together at Kings Cross, prompting speculation that this may be because it showed a fifth man with them; a notion that was dismissed by the Home Office report which states that there was no fifth man.

Patrick Mercer MP questioned Hazel Blears, the Minister of State, about whether this footage existed on April 18th, 2006. The response was that it did exist but was not being released, except for one still image of one of the men, due to the ongoing investigation.

The Home Office report, once again, omits to mention any of the men being captured by CCTV on any of the platforms they would have waited on the board the trains. The Aldgate train left at 8.35am, the Edgware Road train at 8.42am and the Piccadilly line train at 8.48am. If, as the Home Office report states, the men were seen at Kings Cross at 8.30am, there should certainly be considerable footage of Lindsay, who strangely appears to have elected not to have boarded the first available train, but to have waited almost 20 minutes before boarding one.

The Home Office report only mentions CCTV footage of the platform at Liverpool Street station with the eastbound Circle line train alongside it seconds before it is blown up. It simply states "Shehzad Tanweer is not visible, but he must have been in the second carriage from the front." This is quite an assumption, given that the Home Office report offers no other evidence to suggest that Tanweer had boarded that train. Moreover, the Home Office report gives detailed descriptions of the activity on the platform at Liverpool Street before and after the explosion, yet gives no similar details for any of the other stations close to the sites of the incidents, including Kings Cross.

In the instance of Hasib Hussain, there were 81 minutes unaccounted for at the time the police gave their press conference on July 14th. There should potentially be rather more footage of Hasib Hussain than his three suspected accomplices, given that he is claimed to have wandered around the Kings Cross area before allegedly boarding a number 30 bus. The Home Office report states that at 8.55am, Hussain walks out of Kings Cross Underground onto Euston Road.

The time of him leaving the station must have been taken from a CCTV camera which caught him leaving, but no footage or still image has been shown. At 9am he is reported to have re-entered the station through a Boots store. A CCTV still was released alleged showing Hussain exiting the store onto the main concourse of Kings Cross station.

This image is again curious because, if the Home Office report is to be believed, three simultaneous suicide bombs are alleged to have exploded on the Underground 10 minutes previously. Yet the CCTV that allegedly shows Hasib Hussain entering the main concourse at King's Cross on July 7th shows other members of the public shopping in a perfectly normal manner and there is no indication of any panic or mass exit from the station.

There are no references to further sightings of Hussain on CCTV. The CCTV on the number 30 bus was reportedly not working that day, with no explanation as to why. This is quite ironic given the poster campaigns throughout the city of London promoting the existence of CCTV on four out of five buses, advertising the 'security' they offer passengers.

Consider also the information contained in the email received from Stagecoach by an independent J7 researcher which suggests that the CCTV hard drive was indeed recovered by the police.

Dear [name withheld]

Thank you for your e-mail of the 16th July 2005 concerning the CCTV cameras on board London buses.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the Route 30 service, the route involved in the terrorist attacks, and explain the wider efforts made by London Bus Services Ltd (part of TfL) to improve security.

The Route 30 Stagecoach bus did have CCTV equipment fitted and the hard drive was recovered from the vehicle and passed to the Metropolitan Police. As this matter is in the hands of the Police, we cannot comment on the matter for legal reasons and will therefore be unable to provide answers to your questions.

However, speaking generally, CCTV equipment on buses is not designed to withstand a major blast of the type experienced on July 7 this year. It is not known whether the equipment was damaged and, if so, to what extent as a result of the explosion.

It is worth noting that 96 per cent of the 8,000 buses in London are fitted with CCTV. This will rise to 100 per cent by December 2005. The set up of the cameras also means they cannot be accessed or switched off by the vehicle driver.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to contact us and I trust that you have found the information provided useful.

Yours sincerely

[name withheld]
Customer Services Manager

ANALYSIS OF THE CCTV IMAGES RELEASED

Only three Closed Circuit TV images have ever been released to support the story of an attack on London perpetrated by four young, British men who are alleged to have carried out the first suicide bombings in Europe.

Initially, only two images were released, within a couple of days of each other; the first being an extremely closely cropped still of Hasib Hussain, showing no unique point of reference to identify the location at which the photo was taken, nor any time or date stamp. The second image purports to be a group photo of all four of the accused outside Luton station.

CCTV Still #1: Hasib Hussain

[Image may be viewed at site.]

At a press conference on July 14th, DAC Peter Clarke announced , "The picture shows Hussain at Luton train station at approximately 7.20am on the morning of July 7. We know he traveled from West Yorkshire and that he arrived in London with three other men. You can see from the CCTV image that he was carrying a rucksack."

It is hard to understand why DAC Clarke is speaking of the time of the image as being "approximately 7.20am". There should have been a timestamp on this image giving an exact time and this would be a crucial detail in any appeal for eye-witnesses.

There is no explanation for why the photo was cropped in the manner shown, nor any explanation of where the other three men who are alleged to have been with him inside Luton station that morning might be, nor why all unique points of reference have been removed from the image which might indicate from whence it was taken.

This photo offers no proof of Hussain's location. It certainly cannot be offered as proof that he was in either Luton or London on July 7th.

CCTV Still #2: 07:21:54 Outside Luton Station

[Image may be viewed at site.]

On July 16th, at another Metropolitan police press conference, DAC Peter Clarke stated, "We are this evening releasing a CCTV image showing the four men at Luton train station at approximately 7.20am. We know they traveled together from here on a Thameslink train to King's Cross in central London."

Again, DAC Clarke is speaking of the time in approximations; all CCTV images have time stamps and, in an appeal for witnesses and information, it would be reasonable to provide as much information as possible to ensure eye-witnesses came forward.

There are many anomalies regarding the image. Firstly, it is peculiar that there is just this one still image as opposed to the reams of moving footage released showing just three of the men entering Luton station on June 28th 2005.

Other oddities include:

- Ø A railing bar appears to go through one of the men. This could be due to residual image overlap, but this phenomenon does not appear to be present in the June 28th footage.
- Ø Nobody else is present, even though it is rush hour. Luton is a busy station, even at off-peak times.
- Ø No faces can be seen on three of the heads.
- Ø A halo effect around two of the figures that can possibly occur with certain image compression levels, but again, does not appear in the June 28th footage.
- Ø **Hasib Hussain has a prominent beard that is not present in the other images of him released from that day.**
- Ø **The reflection of Hussain's legs in the mirrored window behind shows his legs in the same position as they are in the foreground. It is not a true reflection.**

Another strange feature of the July 7th Luton image is a sharp light/dark, wet/dry boundary line running across the pavement, with the four young men stepping across it. Anyone standing by the ground-floor entrance to Luton station might be

baffled by this picture, because the line just isn't there. It might make sense if there were some cover or awning above the entrance, to protect the nearer part of the pavement from the rain - but there isn't. Quite what the explanation is for the stark contrast between the foreground of the picture where the ground appears dry, and the background nearer the road where the ground appears waterlogged, is unknown.

CCTV Still #3: Outside Boots at King's Cross Station

[Image may be viewed at site.]

On October 2nd, just under three months after the London bombings, another still image was released of Hasib Hussain on his own. He is apparently exiting the Boots store at Kings Cross mainline station. Like the earlier image of him, there is no date or time-stamp on the image. Therefore, this image could have been produced at any time. The media stated that the image was captured at 9am on July 7th, but by this time, Kings Cross station was being evacuated, and there are reports of "pandemonium", of which there is no sign in the picture.

There has been no explanation as to why this image was released so long after the others. According to the reports that accompanied the image, the police were hoping that it would jog the memories of potential witnesses. Andy Hayman, Assistant Commissioner for Specialist Operations at the Met said, "It is possible that he bought items in Boots or other shops, or that he spoke to people. We would urge anyone with any information to come forward."

If the public's memories are to be jogged, especially three months after the event, it would surely make more sense to release as many images as possible, not just of Hussain at Boots, but all the other locations in which he would have been captured on camera. The image of Hussain at Boots only places him within that context and may not prompt the memory of a person who saw him, or any of the other accused men, somewhere else in the area that morning.

Remember, quite apart from the journey from Luton to King's Cross, the Home Office report has Hasib Hussain wandering around Central London for nearly an hour after the incidents underground. There are hundreds of CCTV cameras in and around King's Cross station and on the section of road between King's Cross and Euston and along which Hasib Hussain is alleged to have walked before boarding a diverted number 30 bus.

THE JUNE 28TH IMAGES

On September 21st 2005, CCTV footage was released showing three of the four suspects at both Luton Thameslink station, and Kings Cross, taken from June 28th 2005. This footage has repeatedly been rolled in news coverage of the events of July 7th, minus the time and date stamps, giving the impression that it might be footage of the accused on July 7th.

J7 researchers and campaigners have lodged numerous complaints to any media organisations adopting this fraudulent and deliberately misleading tactic.

The images from June 28th have been widely reported as being a 'dummy run' for the events of July 7th yet, aside from the act of traveling Luton to London as the footage clearly shows, there is little actual resemblance to what they are alleged to

have done on July 7th.

On June 28th, Hasib Hussain was not present. The three men did not arrive at Luton station until after 8:10am, some 30 minutes after the train that the Home Office report states that they caught on July 7th, the canceled 07.40 train, now amended to 7.25am.

Therefore it is hard to imagine exactly what it is they were rehearsing, especially since they did not split up at King's Cross and go their separate ways as they are alleged to have done on July 7th. Furthermore, on 28th June they are reported to have visited Baker Street.

Peter Clarke, head of London's anti-terrorist branch, said surveillance television footage showed three of the four bombers visited London on June 28 and stayed in the city centre for nearly four hours.

"The obvious suggestion is they possibly were conducting a reconnaissance on that day. We know that's part of terrorist methodology," said Clarke. "It was a dry run."

He said they travelled by train from Luton and arrived at Kings Cross station in London just before 9 am. They were then captured by closed circuit television cameras at Baker Street underground station and again at Kings Cross before 1 pm.

Source: New Zealand Herald

This begs a number of questions, not least of which is: What business did three of the men accused of perpetrating the London bombings have in London and/or Baker Street just over a week before July 7th?

When the image from July 7th is overlaid with a still from the June 28th footage, even more oddities emerge.

[Animation may be viewed at site.]

Lindsay is carrying exactly the same carrier bag in the same hand in both. Tanweer's outfit on the 7th appears to be a negative image of what he was wearing on the 28th. Notice also how the kerb stones appear disjointed at the point where the vertical kerb arcs to the right in the image purporting to be from July 7th 2005.

THE KHAN VIDEO

On September 1st 2005, a video of Khan was released. At the time, this was accepted by the media to be proof of al-Qa'ida involvement in the attacks, since the tape also contained footage of Ayman al-Zawahri, the alleged deputy to bin Laden. The Home Office report disregarded this idea, stating that the men had carried out the operation alone, with no explanation for how al-Zawahri appears in the tape or who edited the tape to make it seem as if al-Qa'ida were involved.

In the video, Khan makes a rather rambling statement, referring to himself as a soldier at war. However, despite his allusions to his responsibility to protect and

avenge his Muslim brothers and sisters, giving life to his words with blood and the mention of three al-Qa'ida operatives whose names are well known to Westerners, there is no mention of any specific intentions he has. He does not refer to the crime he is suspected of perpetrating and it is not even clear who exactly he is addressing in the video. He says:

"Until we feel security, you will be our targets and until you stop the bombing, gassing, imprisonment and torture of my people we will not stop this fight."

Source: BBC News

Who, exactly, the 'you' is that he is apparently directing his speech at is not clear. Khan is not looking straight at the camera; his eyes move around as if he is addressing a group of people in front of him. It is fairly obvious that the British public, and more particularly, the commuters and tourists of London, do not engage in the torture that he speaks of, yet we are led to believe it is 'us' he is speaking to. The idea that Khan saw ordinary Western citizens as different to himself - or even his enemies - **is contradicted by friends of Khan**, who told of how 'Western' Khan, known by his Anglicised name of 'Sid' considered himself, and returning home from a trip to the USA besotted with all things American.

This tape would not be admissible in a court of law as evidence that Khan carried out a suicide bomb attack, since he never directly mentions any such crime. It should also not be assumed that the tape provides proof of the involvement of the other three men, since Khan does not mention them, only making a vague reference to "brothers". The video has also been dismissed by the authorities as having been edited or tampered with in some way and therefore has been discounted as being any sort of evidence at all.

There were rumours that a similar video had been made by Tanweer, yet this only materialised on the eve of the first anniversary of the attacks. There are many similarities between the Tanweer and Khan videos and, consequently, many of the same anomalies, including the fact that there is no reference to the attacks of July 7th. Further analysis of the Tanweer video will be added in due course.

With regard to the Khan video, those that knew him have been sceptical about the video:

"It's a fake," said one. "Look at the way his lips were moving; they looked odd, the whole thing is a fake."

"It's crap," said Mohammed Afsal, a father of five and member of the Hardy Street mosque.

"I know people can change in a second, but I can't say he is one of them. He taught my son, he was a very good teacher. He was never hardline - no one could say he was an extremist - he was peaceful and dedicated to the children. They all loved him."

Source: The Guardian

Other friends have stated that Khan had a "changed appearance" and looked "significantly different" in the video to how he did in July and even people who didn't know Khan have suggested that the video might not be all that it seems.

For information on how real-time video can be manipulated, please see these links:

<http://www.nodeception.com/articles/pixel.jsp>

<http://cbcl.mit.edu/cbcl/news/files/assoc-press-article.pdf>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/dotmil/arkin020199.htm>

Summary and Conclusion

To conclude, all the video and photographs which relate to the alleged perpetrators of the July 7th attacks, for all the reasons outlined above, cannot objectively be taken as proof that the accused actually did carry out the attacks. Considering all the inconsistencies which surround the events of 7/7/, that the official story of 7/7 is sparse and contradictory, and that there is no other evidence that attests to the story outlined in the Home Office narrative, this is very unsettling.

The public have only been shown the barest minimum of CCTV images for that day, when the police are apparently still trying to establish the movements of the men in their ongoing investigation.

No credible explanation has ever been given for the lack of disclosure of any of the CCTV evidence that would conclusively prove the account outlined in the Home Office report of the London bombings.

It is perhaps worth comparing the three images released from July 7th with the images released of three of the accused from 28th June (download WMV file of 28 June footage), and with the images released showing the perpetrators of the 'demonstrative act' carried out by the 'no bombs bombers' of July 21st. It is also interesting to note that 43 people were arrested immediately following the non-attack of July 21 when no bombs went off, no one was killed and no one was injured yet, at the time of writing, there have been no arrests in connection the attack on 7/7 which killed 56.

As a brief aside, a J7 researcher highlighted the following:

An interesting exercise is to compare two completely different investigative approaches. Contrast the information released in the quest for July 7th eye-witnesses with the appeals after the shooting of WPC Sharon Beshenivsky. In the latter case, precise details were given of times and locations as well as specifics about the car alleged to have been used, right down to the number plate. Rewards of £50,000 were offered for information about those responsible.

In the case of July 7th, J7 researchers have been advised by a Detective Inspector at the Anti-Terrorist Branch of Scotland Yard that, with regard to July 7th, **'preciseness is not in the public interest'!**

Hard to believe, perhaps, in 'the largest criminal inquiry in English history', but here is the full quote:

You refer to the witness appeal process being aided by precise times.

In fact were we to follow that process, we would potentially lose witnesses who might for example think they had nothing to contribute as they caught the 0841, not the 0843. Similarly we could be said to be 'influencing' witnesses by providing details which could then be incorporated into their accounts. The witness evidence gathering process is intended to be as neutral and uninfluenced as possible. For example, if a police appeal said 'we are looking for a blue car' when later events showed it to be green, 'preciseness' would have been extremely unhelpful and 'not in the public interest'.

Offers of a £50,000 reward for information and full disclosure of information in the hunt for the killers of one policewoman, yet no rewards for information, nor anything that vaguely resembles full disclosure of information - apparently because it is not in the public interest - when it concerns the deaths of 56 people and the injury of over 700. How strange.

This, like many aspects of 7/7, is extremely illogical and the July 7th Truth Campaign continues to call on the government and the authorities to RELEASE THE EVIDENCE which conclusively proves, or disproves, the story outlined in the Home Office report.

<http://www.julyseventh.co.uk/7-7-cctv-evidence.html>

UK-based dissident denies link to website that carried al-Qaida claim

David Pallister
The Guardian,
Saturday July 9 2005

This article appeared in the Guardian on Saturday July 09 2005 . It was last updated at 00:07 on July 09 2005.

The claim of responsibility for the London attacks was first posted on one of the dozens of Islamic websites that are routinely monitored by western intelligence services.

The statement, under the name of the Secret Organisation of the al-Qaida Jihad in Europe, said: "The heroic mujahideen have carried out a blessed raid in London. Britain is now burning with fear, terror and panic in its northern, southern, eastern and western quarters."

It was posted on an Arabic website, al-qal3ah.com, which is registered by Qalaah Qalaah in Abu Dhabi and hosted by a server in Houston, Texas.

But two Israeli groups devoted to exposing the network of jihadist sites claim that it is connected to the London-based Saudi dissident Saad al-Faqih. Mr Faqih, who is based in Willesden, north-west London, and runs the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia (Mira), was designated by the US treasury last December as a supporter of al-Qaida. The UK Treasury followed suit by freezing Mr Faqih's assets.

Speaking in December 2004 before the assets were frozen, Mr Faqih ridiculed any idea that "millions of dollars" would be frozen. "I have no assets in the US and all I

have in the UK is a current account with a few hundred pounds."

The US claimed that Mr Faqih was an associate of Khaled al-Fawwaz, who was arrested in Britain on a US extradition warrant for his alleged involvement in the 1998 east African embassy bombings.

The US said that "extremists utilise a website controlled by al-Faqih and Mira on messageboards to post al-Qaida-related statements and images. While Mira has issued disclaimers warning users to not attribute postings on Mira message boards to al-Qaida, information available to the US and UK governments shows that the messages are intended to provide ideological and financial support to al-Qaida affiliated networks and potential recruits."

Mr Faqih has always vigorously denied being involved with terrorism. Yesterday he was indignant about being linked to the website.

"It does not belong to me at all," he told the Guardian. "It is a Zionist smear."

He had seen the message on Thursday morning and doubted its authenticity. "It was only there for a few minutes, and they misquoted the Qur'an." He also said the website - or more accurately a bulletin board - could be used by anyone.

The server in Houston has intriguing connections. Everyone's Internet was founded by brothers Robert and Roy Marsh in 1998 and by 2002 had an income of more than \$30m (now about £17m).

Renowned for his charitable work, Roy Marsh counts among his friends President George Bush's former sister-in-law, Sharon Bush, and the president's navy secretary.

Everyone's Internet, which also hosts a number of pornographic sites, states: "We support the uncensored flow of information and ideas over the internet and do not actively monitor subscriber activity under normal circumstances."

However, the company has responded to requests to take down objectionable material and insists it cooperates with US law enforcement agencies.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2005/jul/09/july7.uksecurity11/>

Purported London Mastermind's MI6 Connection

TRANSCRIPT:

The July 29 edition of FOX News Channel's Day Side programme:

MIKE JERRICK [FOX NEWS]: John Loftus is a terrorism expert and a former prosecutor for the Justice Department. John, good to see you again. So real quickly here, have you heard anything about this Osman Hussain who was just picked up in Rome? You know that name at all?

JOHN LOFTUS: Yeah, all these guys should be going back to an organization called Al-Muhajiroun, which means The Emigrants. It was the recruiting arm of Al-Qaeda in London; they specialized in recruiting kids whose families had emigrated to Britain but who had British passports. And they would use them for terrorist work.

JERRICK: So a couple of them now have Somali connections?

LOFTUS: Yeah, it was not unusual. Somalia, Eritrea, the first group of course were primarily Pakistani. But what they had in common was they were all emigrant groups in Britain, recruited by this Al-Muhajiroun group. They were headed by the, Captain Hook, the imam in London the Finsbury Mosque, without the arm. He was the head of that organization. Now his assistant was a guy named Aswat, Haroon Rashid Aswat.

JERRICK: Aswat, who they picked up.

LOFTUS: Right, Aswat is believed to be the mastermind of all the bombings in London.

JERRICK: On 7/7 and 7/21, this is the guy we think.

LOFTUS: This is the guy, and what's really embarrassing is that the entire British police are out chasing him, and one wing of the British government, MI6 or the British Secret Service, has been hiding him. And this has been a real source of contention between the CIA, the Justice Department, and Britain.

JERRICK: MI6 has been hiding him. Are you saying that he has been working for them?

LOFTUS: Oh I'm not saying it. This is what the Muslim sheik said in an interview in a British newspaper back in 2001.

JERRICK: So he's a double agent, or was?

LOFTUS: He's a double agent.

JERRICK: So he's working for the Brits to try to give them information about Al-Qaeda, but in reality he's still an Al-Qaeda operative.

LOFTUS: Yeah. The CIA and the Israelis all accused MI6 of letting all these terrorists live in London not because they're getting Al-Qaeda information, but for appeasement. It was one of those you leave us alone, we leave you alone kind of things.

JERRICK: Well we left him alone too long then.

LOFTUS: Absolutely. Now we knew about this guy Aswat. Back in 1999 he came to America. The Justice Department wanted to indict him in Seattle because him and his buddy were trying to set up a terrorist training school in Oregon.

JERRICK: So they indicted his buddy, right? But why didn't they indict him?

LOFTUS: Well it comes out, we've just learned that the headquarters of the US Justice Department ordered the Seattle prosecutors not to touch Aswat.

JERRICK: Hello? Now hold on, why?

LOFTUS: Well, apparently Aswat was working for British intelligence. Now

Aswat's boss, the one-armed Captain Hook, he gets indicted two years later. So the guy above him and below him get indicted, but not Aswat. Now there's a split of opinion within US intelligence. Some people say that the British intelligence fibbed to us. They told us that Aswat was dead, and that's why the New York group dropped the case. That's not what most of the Justice Department thinks. They think that it was just again covering up for this very publicly affiliated guy with Al-Muhajiroun. He was a British intelligence plant. So all of a sudden he disappears. He's in South Africa. We think he's dead; we don't know he's down there. Last month the South African Secret Service come across the guy. He's alive.

JERRICK: Yeah, now the CIA says, oh he's alive. Our CIA says OK let's arrest him. But the Brits say no again?

LOFTUS: The Brits say no. Now at this point, two weeks ago, the Brits know that the CIA wants to get a hold of Haroon. So what happens? He takes off again, goes right to London. He isn't arrested when he lands, he isn't arrested when he leaves.

JERRICK: Even though he's on a watch list.

LOFTUS: He's on the watch list. The only reason he could get away with that was if he was working for British intelligence. He was a wanted man.

JERRICK: And then takes off the day before the bombings, I understand it--

LOFTUS: And goes to Pakistan.

JERRICK: And Pakistan, they jail him.

LOFTUS: The Pakistanis arrest him. They jail him. He's released within 24 hours. Back to Southern Africa, goes to Zimbabwe and is arrested in Zambia. Now the US--

JERRICK: Trying to get across the--

LOFTUS: --we're trying to get our hands on this guy.

JERRICK: John, hang around. I have so many questions now.

LOFTUS: Oh, this is a bad one....

Scotland Yard "Not Interested" in 7/7 Mastermind Aswat

"Incompetence theorists" still deny inside involvement

Steve Watson/Infowars | August 10 2005

On August 2nd we reported the revelation that the "mastermind" of the 7/7 London Bombings, Haroon Rashid Aswat, is a British Intelligence Asset.

Former Justice Dept. Prosecutor and Terror expert John Loftus revealed that British Intelligence and the US dept of Justice had protected Haroon Rashid Aswat: "Back in 1999 he came to America. The Justice Department wanted to indict him in Seattle because him and his buddy were trying to set up a terrorist training school in Oregon... we've just learned that the headquarters of the US Justice Department

ordered the Seattle prosecutors not to touch Aswat... , apparently Aswat was working for British intelligence"

On 29th July the London Times reported that Aswat had been arrested in Zambia in "Britain's biggest manhunt". Aswat had been named as a "key Al Qaeda figure" in FBI documents and According to several newspaper and wire reports, Aswat spoke with some of the four July 7 attackers.

Aswat had apparently been "on the run" since 1999 yet he was allowed to live and work in London and come and go from Britain as he pleased. Days after the bombings he was said to be in Pakistani custody, yet he somehow managed to slip away from the authorities there as well and ended up in Africa.

British anti-terror investigators have since downplayed the theory of Aswat as the mastermind behind 7/7, yet it has now been reported that Aswat has been brought back into Britain yet Scotland Yard are "not interested" in talking to him. Instead Scotland Yard seem to be more concerned with charging the dummy bombers of 21/7 who killed no-one and whose bombs consisted of flour. NO ONE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH OR QUESTIONED ABOUT THE REAL BOMBINGS THAT KILLED OVER 50 PEOPLE. WHY?

The indication seems to be because it was an inside Intelligence operation. We have exhaustively documented the clear evidence that the mainstream media will not cover. It's the same operation everytime. The real terrorists are allowed to go free, because they are working within intelligence service guidelines, whilst a group of patsies or failed copycats are grabbed and publicly blamed.

Aswat has been named as a "Key Al Qaeda figure", even if he was not involved in the bombings you would expect our security services to want to question him extensively in an attempt to extract any knowledge he may have. You would also expect our mainstream media to be up in arms over this issue, yet they do not question a single thing.

The dying phenomenon of the "Incompetence theorists"

Ask yourself two questions, firstly Incompetence or Conspiracy? Is it more likely that British security services, police force and media act with such incompetence at all levels, top to bottom, consistently again and again and again, or is it more likely that at the very top a small corrupt cabal is purposefully letting these "mistakes" happen because it is part of a pre-planned agenda?

Secondly who benefits? Do the Islamic fundamentalists, who become demonized throughout the entire Muslim and Western world, whose outlets to preach their ideologies become severely restricted, and whose very survival becomes under threat. Or do the authorities who get greater funding, increased powers, extended freedom to operate and carte blanche privileges that take precedent over any public civil liberties that may have previously infringed their activities?

If, as we are told over and over, the terrorists hate us because they hate our freedom then why are the authorities, who are supposedly fighting terror, restricting our freedom?

There has been a distinct shift in public perspective in Britain, akin to that in the US in the years after 911, whereby the public no longer dismiss the difficult facts as

"conspiracy theory", they put them down to authoritairial incompetence. These "incompetence theorists" will still not leave their comfort zone mind set because it means they would have to stand up and get involved which they would rather not have to do. Yet this IS an encouraging development because it shows that as we document the inconsistencies and the facts that the mainstream media will not report, we are having an impact and we are altering public perception. Soon enough the "incompetence theorists" will languish in numbers alongside the "coincidence theorists" and our integrity will be further bolstered.

<http://www.infowars.net/Pages/Aug05/100805Aswat.html>

THE ATTACK ON THE USS LIBERTY

Newly Uncovered Evidence Indicates Assault May Have Been Pre-Planned 'Useful Disaster'

By Mark Glenn

This June 8, 2007, marks the 40-year anniversary of Israel's bloody attack on the USS Liberty, a lightly armed U.S. Navy ship sailing off the coast of Egypt at the time.

Over the years, there have been numerous reports indicating that the unprovoked assault caught the White House and the military by surprise.

New information, however, reveals that officials in various agencies in the U.S. government played a key role in setting up the Liberty for the purpose of drawing the Soviet Union into a fight in the Middle East and ultimately igniting World War III.

For those who follow the intrigues and explosive events surrounding the relationship between America and Israel over the last four decades it is easy to "get into a rut" so to speak and blame every single catastrophic event solely on the treachery of Israel. The tragedy though (and certainly the hardest part to swallow by patriotic Americans who would sooner take their own lives than betray their fellow countrymen) is that there have been and are players on the American side of the equation whose hands are just as dirty as those of their Israeli counterparts.

Whether it was the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the assassination of JFK, the bombing of the twin towers in 1993, the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in 1995 or the events taking place on 9-11, the only way these could have taken place is if elements within the U.S. government cooperated with the planning, execution and subsequent dissemination of propaganda in the aftermath of these operations.

Now, a new and terrible tale has surfaced indicating yet again that elements of the U.S. government were involved at the highest level in even more criminal acts against the very same American people whom it is charged with protecting. The case in question involves the June 8, 1967, attack on the USS Liberty by the air and naval forces of the state of Israel during the height of the Arab-Israeli war that led to the deaths of 34 American servicemen.

Long believed that players within the Johnson administration simply assisted in the cover-up of the attack so as "not to embarrass" America's greatest ally, Israel, it

now it appears that American political, intelligence and military persons played a key role in setting up the Liberty for the purpose of igniting WW III in what was code-named "Operation Cyanide."

It was a heady time, to be sure. The United States and the Soviet Union were neck-deep in the Cold War, and by all appearances it seemed that a shooting match between the two superpowers was inevitable.

The incident in question took place only a few short years after the Cuban Missile Crisis and at a time when America seemed unable to stop the spread of communism in Asia and other parts of the world.

In the Middle East, states such as Egypt, with dynamic, fiery and recalcitrant leaders such as President Gamal Abdel Nasser, were forming strong bonds with the Soviets for military and economic aid. Using the same rationale that led to America inserting itself militarily into Korea and Vietnam, it was believed that, if not stopped, the Soviets would entrench themselves in the Middle East to the point that America's access to the oil of that region would be directly jeopardized and that, just as the communists had predicted decades before, the West would be conquered "without a shot being fired."

It has long been assumed that Israel's deliberate attack on the USS Liberty was just another of Israel's made-to-order false flag operations done simply for the purpose of dragging an unwilling America into a Middle East war on the side of the Jewish state. However, new information uncovered by former BBC investigative journalist Peter Hounam reveals that the U.S. government—and more specifically the administration of Lyndon Johnson—was not as much the unsuspecting victim in all of this that Israel has claimed these last 40 years.

Based on relatively new evidence, the attack on the Liberty was actually part of a much larger plan. The Liberty incident was just one domino in a series that had as the ultimate goal a real live shooting war between the United States and the Soviets. Had the Liberty been sunk with no witnesses as planned, the world would be a much different place as a result—and certainly not for the better.

The plan for that awful day in American history was to sink the defenseless, unarmed American ship sailing in international waters off the coast of Egypt. The Soviets and their Arab allies (in particular Egypt) would then be blamed for the event.

As with the sinking of the USS Maine nearly 70 years earlier, the cry would be "Remember the USS Liberty" and America's "justifiable" response to such a horrendous act would be the launching of nuclear weapons against Egypt, an ally of the Soviet Union. Working in tandem with the United States would be allies such as Israel, Great Britain and, interestingly, Australia.

The end result would be a Middle East free of any Soviet presence, leaving America and her ally Israel in possession of Arab oil for the foreseeable future and in a better position to dictate terms to the communists. In the minds of powerful men such as these—men who sit in comfortable offices and expensive chairs and who do not have to answer to anyone for their actions, the rationale for such an act was simple: It is better for 300 U.S. sailors to die in the service of their country than have the "free world" fall into the clutches of Soviet communism.

What prevented all of this from taking place was that—simply by the grace of God—the Liberty did not sink, and the world was spared. Of course, there is no official confirmation of Operation Cyanide. In fact there is no mention of it at all. In various interviews that have been conducted over the years, individuals from Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to Dean Rusk to Richard Helms to Mossad spy chief Rafael Eitan have demonstrated great intellectual and verbal dexterity for men their age when discussing various items. However, they clam up instantaneously when Operation Cyanide is mentioned as if they were witnesses to an organized crime hit and they feared for their lives.

However, the smaller players involved at the time have a different tale to tell. Piecing together all the small parts that they individually bring to the table fleshes out a picture that, although not crystal clear, is clear enough to suggest that America was involved in the murder of 34 young men on that day in a much deeper fashion than previously thought.

For the sake of those men who died then, and for those who survived the attack and who have endured the assault of lies that has been waged against them these last 40 years, the truth concerning what took place must be told.

In the opinion of many, exposure of the Liberty incident may very well hold the key to freeing America from the bondage it suffers under men such as those who have murdered not only American citizens, but our traditional political system as well.

http://www.americanfreepress.net/html/liberty_attack_scheme.html

Remembering The USS Liberty - Four Decades Later

By William Hughes
6-9-7

"Anybody who couldn't identify the [USS] Liberty could not tell the difference between the White House and the Washington Monument!" - The late Admiral Thomas Moorer

ARLINGTON, VA -- On a beautiful, but very humid morning, Friday, June 8, 2007, I joined about two hundred others at the National Cemetery, located here, on the south side of the Potomac River, opposite Washington, D.C. My invitation card read: "No Greater Love: The 40th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony: Honoring the 34 Americans killed on the USS Liberty." (1) The proceedings began at 12 noon sharp, with a prayer given by U.S. Navy chaplain, Rev. Ray Houk. There was a presentation of colors, tributes, a roll call of remembrance, a wreath-laying ceremony, musical selections and the playing of taps. One of the keynote speakers was Stan White, the former Senior Chief Petty Officer on the Liberty (AGTR-5) on the fateful day in question. By the time he got done making his very touching remarks, there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd.

Background: On a clear afternoon, June 8, 1967, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) bombarded the Liberty, in international waters, 13 miles off the coast of the Sinai Peninsula, and tried to sink it and kill all 294 American on board the spy ship. They did so after several hours of close reconnaissance of the vessel. The Israelis have falsely claimed it was all just a "accident," since they thought they were attacking an Egyptian vessel. This is the same phony "accident" line that they used after they ran

over Peace and Justice activist Rachel Corrie, in Rafah, Occupied Gaza, with a 9-ton bulldozer. Few, if anyone buys their utter nonsense.

After the one hour ceremony, I rode with **Lt. James Marquis Ennes, Jr.** over to the luncheon sponsored by the USS Liberty Veterans Association, at the Officers Club, at Fort Myer, VA. It was only a short car ride away. Mrs. Pat-Blue Roushakes, whose husband, Allen M. Blue, was killed on the Liberty, was the driver. Mr. Blue was a civilian technician. He died, along with 24 crew members, when the first, ultra-deadly, Israeli torpedo struck the vessel. Lt. Ennes was also serving on the Liberty the day of the Israelis' malicious strike. He was on the bridge of the vessel. His book, "Assault on the Liberty," is a compelling eyewitness account of what really happened on June 8, 1967. It is in its 12th printing.

I asked him after lunch, how he had felt during the ceremony earlier that morning: He answered: "**The thoughts that always come back to me time and time again is that this 'thing' is still being covered-up after forty years.** We know without doubt from the circumstances that it was a 'deliberate' attack. Anyone who looks carefully at the details knows that it was 'deliberate' and that includes such people as Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State, and all of the heads of all of the Intelligence organizations. But, the word that gets out is that we that we are still told...falsely...that there were 15 investigations...That claim is...absolutely totally false."

Thanks to Peter Hounam's expose, "Operation Cyanide," more light has recently been shed on the Liberty controversy. The author, a veteran investigative reporter, believes the murderous Israeli attack was a set up to blame the Egyptians and to bring the U.S. into the 1967 Six Day War on their side. The Liberty was an easy target for the Israeli jet planes, which were loaded with rockets, napalm and machine guns, too. Couple that with the repeated attacks on the vessel by their death-dealing motor torpedo boats. The bloodbath, a War Crime, by any fair standard, lasted for over 75 lethal minutes, killing 34 brave Americans and seriously wounding 174 others. (2)

Question: Why didn't the U.S. retaliate against the Israelis? According to Hounam, the White House knew within minutes of the Liberty attack, that the perpetrator was really Israel (p. 94). On two separate occasions, the White House recalled aircraft rescue missions for the Liberty. On the last attempt, President Lyndon B. Johnson told Rear-Admiral Lawrence Geis of the Sixth Fleet, "I WILL NOT EMBARRASS OUR ALLY." The Liberty was then left "dead in the water," without any assistance for over 16 hours. (3)

At pp. 267-268, Hounam said: "Sinking the Liberty and blaming Egypt and the Soviets would have freed Johnson's hand to do almost anything--even to drop an atomic bomb on Cairo. Trouble only arose when the Israel operation failed and the...ship stayed afloat." From the beginning, a cover-up of what really happened to the Liberty was put in place at the highest level of government. One of the men who is alleged to have played a role in that cover-up was none other than the father of U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)--the late Admiral John S. McCain, Jr. (4) Sen. McCain, like others in the mostly cowardly U.S. Congress, has refused to champion a full and public Congressional inquiry into the Liberty affair.

Hounam also disclosed some inside stuff on the "303 Committee." It was working on a project called, "Frontlet 615." It was later described as: "**A secret political agreement in 1966, by which Israel and the U.S. had vowed to destroy [Egypt's**

Gamal Abdel] Nasser." The military name for the operation was, "Operation Cyanide." At the time all of this was going down, LBJ's popularity was hitting rock bottom because of the quagmire that was the Vietnam War. One of his closet advisors was a Zionist zealot, Walter W. Rostow, his then-Special Assistant for National Security Affairs. Here is how Hounam described the Neocon-like Rostow: "A sinister, Svengali-like figure, or simply the biggest and best fixer? He was crucial in determining [for LBJ] which way the U.S. might respond to the threatened hostilities in the Middle East...Rostow was a hawk who believed in...the Vietnam War and... his Zionism was strongly felt and expressed...(He) had daily contact with the President." Shades of Paul Wolfowitz and other Neocons, who helped to drive the U.S. into the Iraqi War. (5)

For the sake of speculation, just imagine this scenario: The U.S. President on June 8, 1967 was a patriot in the tradition of "Old Hickory," Andrew Jackson. Instead of recalling our aircraft that were on their way to rescue the Liberty, he (or she) orders them to continue on their mission, not only to defend the vessel and to stop the massacre, but to retaliate against the Zionist thugs by bombing their naval base at the port of Ashdod, their military headquarters at Tel Aviv and Haifa, and for good measure, dropping a few MX missiles on Dimona, their then-secret Nuke-making facility, located in the Negev desert. If, only?

One Liberty veteran, who asked me not to use his name in my story, told me he was below deck on the day of the mass killings by the Israelis. He said: "When it was announced [on the intercom] to 'stand ready to receive a torpedo,' I chalked myself off. My whole life quickly passed before me. I thought for sure I was going to die. When the torpedo did hit, I thought it was going to sink the ship, it listed so badly." He added, after pausing, "I loved that ship!"

Getting back to Lt. Ennes. He was the first member of the crew to spot the Israeli planes. He wrote at p. 60: **"I pointed to a single delta-wing Mirage jet about 45 degrees above the water, paralleling our course in that pattern that had become routine."** Lt. Ennes, at p. 62, then recalled his injuries as a result of being hit by the first Israeli air strike: **"My khaki uniform was bright red now from the two dozen rocket fragments buried in my flesh. My left leg broken above the knee, hung from my hip like a great beanbag. The taste of blood was strong in my mouth as I tested my good leg. Was I badly hurt?"**

Suffice to say, Lt. Ennes did recover from his physical injuries. But, there are other kinds of wounds, that one never recovers from, but can only live with. Knowing that your government abandoned you in your time of desperate need is surely one such severe psyche wound. What LBJ did to the men of the Liberty is a stain on our Republic!

Finally, as to whether the U.S. Congress will ever do anything to bring justice to the cause of the Liberty, Lt. Ennes answered: "I don't really see that happening. But, we can't stop asking for it."

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William Hughes is an author and videographer. His work can be found at:
<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=liamh2> Contact:
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<http://www.rense.com/general76/four.htm>

"Treason on the High Seas"

December 9, 2007

By Phillip F. Tourney

Survivor of the USS Liberty

As I sit in my office beginning to write my first article for American Free Press newspaper, I look out my window. I see snow covered peaks, nature at its best in Colorado. It calms me to see such beauty and thank God I'm alive with my family. As I start to write, my heart is beginning to race, my palms are sweating. I'm not as comfortable as I was just a few moments ago. I know all of you know the story of the attack on our ship, the USS LIBERTY, by the government of Israel, but it needs to be repeated.

June 8, 1967 I was a 20 year old 3rd class petty officer in damage control at the time of this sneak attack from our so-called ally, Israel. **We were identified as American and friendly many hours before the slaughter began at 2:00 P.M.**

The Israeli jet aircraft were ruthless and stubborn in their attempt to sink and murder all hands aboard. They hit every antennae on our ship, no accident for sure. The Israeli reconnaissance aircraft took pictures of our ship in the morning hours, nothing was missed. The attacking aircraft dropped napalm on the bridge of our ship to burn us alive.

Soon after the jets were done with us we see 3 motor torpedo boats approaching our ship at a high rate of speed. We then learned who our attackers were.

We saw 3 flags marked with the Star of David. We were in shock because the Israelis were supposed to be our allies! We had had no idea who was attacking us until then. The attacking jet aircraft were unmarked. The torpedo boats maneuvered themselves into a torpedo launch attitude, now come the 5 to 6 torpedoes. The captain was doing his best to maneuver the ship to avoid sudden death. The torpedoes whizzed by our ship, forward and aft with 1 hitting its mark, almost dead mid-ships, blowing to bits 25 American heroes who stood their ground below the water line and accepted their fate, doing their duty for the United States Government.

The torpedo gunboats were not even close to being done with us. The torpedo gunmen shot at our fire fighters and stretcher bearers, anything that moved. They were shooting at our water line to blow up the boilers inside and finish the job of sinking us.

The captain had given the order to abandon ship, as it appeared we were about to roll over. There were 3 life rafts left that were floatable. We put them over the side so we could put our most severely wounded in them to try to save their lives. The torpedo gunmen would have none of that and blew 2 of them out of the water. They took the 3rd raft aboard their boat, seeing it as an obvious trophy for all their hard work. The torpedo gunmen continued their assault until I guess they ran out of ammunition. They circled the ship and left.

Old Glory was still on her mast, 7' x 13' holiday colors. We thought the attack was over. Two Israeli helicopters approached our ship with armed gunmen at the ready to finish us off. They were there a short time and left in the same direction they came. We had no idea why they didn't shoot at us. We wondered if they were

finally done with their murderous carnage on a virtually unarmed ship which only had 4 50 caliber machine guns that had been taken out by the jets on the first pass when the attack began.

Little did the crew know that Terry Halbardier, an ET, got off an SOS from an antennae that was not hit by the Israeli heat seeking missiles because it was taken off line due to a malfunction before the attack. **The SOS he sent stated we were under attack by unknown jet aircraft.** This message was sent out within 15 minutes of the attack and was picked up by the USS SARATOGA and the USS AMERICA. Captain Tully of the USS SARATOGA sent ready aircraft to our aid only to have them recalled. The USS AMERICA also sent rescue aircraft to come to our aid. These life saving planes were recalled not once but twice. These orders came straight from the White House, first from Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and then from President Johnson himself. Johnson said he was not about to attack our "ally", Israel. How did he know who was attacking our ship when we didn't even know? Help did not arrive until 18 hours later when the American rescue aircraft could have been there in 15 to 20 minutes driving off the torpedo boats and saving precious American lives.

What remained was a ship with a 40 x 40 foot torpedo hole in her side, 821+ canon and rocket holes, thousands of rounds of fifty caliber armor piercing bullets and napalm that had been burning up our ship. Thirty four American souls were murdered, 173 were wounded, which constituted attempted murder, out of a crew of 294. Two thirds of the crew had been murdered or wounded.

Israel and our government, in this 2 hour attack, had come up with a plan to sink our ship, blame it on Egypt and bring the U.S. into the Six Day War. If this so called accident was so cut and dry, why were all records sealed tighter than Fort Knox? Israel got by with cold-blooded murder and other war crimes and it's only a matter of time until they do it again, perhaps on a ship off the coast of Iran. Israel controls America's fate and our elected officials bow to their every whim.

I love my country and will not stand by and let this continue. While there is time, we must do what we can to save our sinking ship of state. In many ways, America today is the USS Liberty after that 2 hour attack taking place 40 years ago. We are badly hit and stand the chance of sinking into the abyss with everyone being lost forever unless something is done immediately. Write your president and congressmen and let them know you know what is going on and you will not fight anymore for Israel. Israel has 300 nukes, so let them take care of themselves. There is nothing, neither in the Middle East nor elsewhere, that is worth one more drop of precious American blood.

The leaders of our country who swore an oath to protect this nation ordered the survivors of the LIBERTY to never repeat this piece of history under penalty of jail or worse. 40 years ago, another nation got away with cold-blooded murder on the high seas, and as an American veteran, let me say this for the record—**NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO GET BY WITH COLD-BLOODED MURDER, AND ESPECIALLY NOT ISRAEL, NOT THEN AND NOT NOW.**

The USS LIBERTY VETERANS ASSOCIATION is offering \$10,000.00 to anyone who can disprove that our story is the truth. as of this moment, no one from the pro-Israeli crowd has accepted the challenge.

2007 By Phil Tourney, survivor of the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty

<http://ussliberty.wordpress.com/2007/12/09/%E2%80%9Ctreason-on-the-high-seas%E2%80%9D/>

Operation Cyanide:

How the Bombing of the USS Liberty Nearly Casued World War III

by Peter Hounam

Book Description

The USS Liberty was attacked by unmarked planes and torpedo boats in international waters during the Six Day War between Israel and the Arab States. The attack on the surveillance ship lasted 75 minutes -- 34 men died and 172 were injured. Initially it was thought that either Egypt or the U.S.S.R. was responsible, but astonishingly Israel, the U.S.'s closest ally, said that the planes and boats belonged to them, and that they mistook the ship for an Egyptian vessel -- despite the prominently displayed Stars and Stripes.

This hard-hitting investigation shows that on that day in 1967, the world came closer to all-out nuclear war than ever before -- this incident made the Cuban Missile Crisis seem tame by comparison. Peter Hounam reveals that the attack was part of a clandestine plan between the US and Israel known as "Operation Cyanide," designed to ensure victory for Israel in the Middle East. By blaming the attack on the Arab world, retaliation on a grand scale would be justified.

A massive cover-up has endured to this day -- the attack on the Liberty remains the only maritime incident that has not been investigated by Congress. But many survivors and senior government officials say that the attack was no accident, including Secretary of State at the time, Dean Rusk. Based on interviews with ex-government officers and the examination of official documents, this book answers the following questions: Why did the White House call back rescue planes from helping the Liberty -- twice? What was the CIA's role in this attack? Did LBJ know in advance about the attack? Why did the U.S. government accept Israel's explanation?

This book will shock any reader interested in Middle-East affairs, as it shows that the U.S. was prepared to -sacrifice its men and risk nuclear war to ensure victory for Israel.

Review: Fantastic Storytelling and Investigatory Work

February 9, 2004

By William Hughes (Baltimore, MD USA)

On June 8, 1967, the Israelis attacked the USS Liberty, in international waters, 13 miles off the coast of the Sinai Peninsula, and tried to sink it, and kill all 294 American on board the spy ship. The Israelis then falsely claimed it was just a case of "mistaken identity."

However, according to Peter Hounam, the author of the expose', "Operation Cyanide," the murderous Israeli attack was a set up to blame the Egyptians and bring the U.S. into the 1967 war on their side. The Liberty was a "sitting duck" for the Israeli jet planes' missiles and rockets and their torpedo boats. The attack lasted

at least 75 minutes, killing 34 brave Americans and wounding 172 others. On first hearing of the Liberty attack by allegedly "unidentified aircraft," the U.S. launched planes from the Sixth Fleet carriers, then located in the Mediterranean, off Crete, armed with nuclear weapons. They were headed for Cairo to retaliate. Only minutes before reaching their target, they were recalled. Why? The Israelis had failed to sink the Liberty! According to Hounam's research, the White House knew within minutes of the Liberty attack, that the perpetrator was really Israel (p. 94). On two separate occasions, the White House recalled aircraft rescue missions for the Liberty. On the last attempt, LBJ told Rear-Admiral Lawrence Geis of the Sixth Fleet, "I WILL NOT EMBARRASS OUR ALLY." The Liberty was then left "dead in the water," without any assistance for over 16 hours.

At pp. 267-268, Hounam said, "Sinking the Liberty and blaming Egypt and the Soviets would have freed Johnson's hand to do almost anything-even to drop an atomic bomb on Cairo. Trouble only arose when the Israel operation failed - and the damned ship stayed afloat." Hounam revealed that within LBJ's hawkish administration, there was shadowy clique that met under the rubric of the "303 Committee." Richard Helms, the late CIA Director, said that entity was, "A device for examining covert operations of any kind and making a judgment on behalf of the President, so he wouldn't be nailed with the thing, if it failed." Out of the "303 Committee," came a project labeled, "Frontlet 615," which was further defined as, "A secret political agreement in 1966 by which Israel and the U.S. had vowed to destroy (Egypt's Gamal Abdel) Nasser." The military name for the operation was, "Operation Cyanide." The secrets of our government can kill.

<http://www.amazon.com/Operation-Cyanide-Bombing-Liberty-Nearly/dp/1904132197>

Chicago Tribune Story on USS Liberty

Most recently, on October 2, 2007, The Chicago Tribune published a lengthy special report into the attack. The newspaper's article pointed out that the USS Liberty survivors' "anger has been stoked by the declassification of government documents and the recollections of former military personnel, including some quoted in this article for the first time, which strengthen doubts about the U.S. National Security Agency's position that it never intercepted the communications of the attacking Israeli pilots -- communications, according to those who remember seeing them, that showed the Israelis knew they were attacking an American naval vessel. The documents also suggest that the U.S. government, anxious to spare Israel's reputation and preserve its alliance with the U.S., closed the case with what even some of its participants now say was a hasty and seriously flawed investigation." [3]

The Tribune's report is based on the declassified NSA documents as well as interviews with people with first-hand experience of the Israeli attack, ranging from Liberty survivors, to NSA analysts to US and Israeli journalists and politicians. The Tribune article's author, John Crewdson, mentions the Liberty survivors' disbelief that "Israeli pilots [could have] confused the U.S. Navy's most distinctive ship with an Egyptian horse-cavalry transport that was half its size and had a dissimilar profile."

Frequently cited by those making the case for mistaken identity is Yiftah Spector, the first Israeli pilot to attack the Liberty. In an interview with the Jerusalem Post in 2003, Spector states that, "I circled it twice and it did not fire on me. My

assumption was that it was likely to open fire at me and nevertheless I slowed down and I looked and there was positively no flag."

Spector's assertion about the absence of a US flag on Liberty is contradicted by every single one of the Liberty's survivors. This fact is confirmed by one of the declassified NSA documents which concludes that, "Every official interview of numerous Liberty crewmen gave consistent evidence that indeed the Liberty was flying an American flag -- and, further, the weather conditions were ideal to ensure its easy observance and identification."

The Tribune investigation also makes mention of a Jerusalem Post article from 2004 which carried a transcription of the Israeli Air Force tapes of the actual attack. The journalist who transcribed the tapes for that article, Arieh O'Sullivan, later confirmed that "the Israeli Air Force tapes he listened to contained blank spaces." The Chicago Tribune article also notes that, "The transcript published by the Jerusalem Post bore scant resemblance to the one that in 1967 rolled off the teletype machine behind the sealed vault door at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, where Steve Forslund worked as an intelligence analyst for the 544th Air Reconnaissance Technical Wing, then the highest-level strategic planning office in the Air Force." The paper goes on to quote Forslund as remembering that: "The [Israeli] ground control station stated that the target was American and for the aircraft to confirm it. The aircraft did confirm the identity of the target as American, by the American flag... The ground control station ordered the aircraft to attack and sink the target and ensure they left no survivors."

Forslund's recollections are confirmed by, amongst others, James Gotcher, then with the Air Force Security Service's 6924th Security Squadron, an adjunct of the NSA, and USAF Captain Richard Block, then commanding an intelligence wing of more than 100 analysts and cryptologists monitoring Middle Eastern communications. Oliver Kirby, the NSA's deputy director for operations at the time of the Liberty attack, confirmed the existence of NSA transcripts of the actual attack -- not just the aftermath -- to The Chicago Tribune. When the newspaper asked whether Kirby had personally read such transcripts, Kirby replied, "I sure did. I certainly did. They said, 'We've got him in the zero,' whatever that meant -- I guess the sights or something. And then one of them said, 'Can you see the flag?' They said 'Yes, it's U.S, it's U.S.' They said it several times, so there wasn't any doubt in anybody's mind that they knew it."

The Tribune also interviewed Michael Prostinak, a Hebrew linguist aboard a U.S. Navy EC-121 that was monitoring communications in the area at the time of the attack. Like Kirby, Prostinak confirms that recordings were made during the attack which had not been released by the NSA, and that those recordings mention an American flag during the attack. The linguist further noted that the numbering sequence of the tapes released by the NSA clearly indicate that at least two tapes that had once existed were not included in the NSA release.

Even in the immediate aftermath of the attack, the widely-held view of US intelligence and military personnel was expressed succinctly by the then deputy director of the NSA, Louis W. Tordella, in response to the IDF Preliminary Inquiry into the attack: Tordella called it "a nice whitewash."

David Lewis, Officer of the Deck, Recalls RADM Geis' Attempts at Rescue

U.S. rescue attempts: At least two rescue attempts were launched from U.S. aircraft carriers nearby but were recalled, according to David Lewis, officer of the deck (OOD) during the attack. Lewis wrote and made an audio recording about a meeting 6th Fleet Rear Admiral Lawrence Geis requested in his cabins: "He told me that since I was the senior Liberty survivor on board he wanted to tell me in confidence what had actually transpired. He told me that upon receipt of our SOS, aircraft were launched to come to our assistance and then Washington was notified. He said that the Secretary of Defense (Robert McNamara) had ordered that the aircraft be returned to the carrier which was done. RADM Geis then said that he speculated that Washington may have suspected that the aircraft carried nuclear weapons so he put together another flight of conventional aircraft that had no capability of carrying nuclear weapons. These he launched to assist us and again notified Washington of his actions. Again McNamara ordered the aircraft recalled. He requested confirmation of the order being unable to believe that Washington would let us sink. This time President Johnson ordered the recall with the comment that he did not care if every man drowned and the ship sank, but that he would not embarrass his allies. This is, to the best of my ability, what I recall transpiring 30 years ago."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USSLiberty_incident

Declaration of Ward Boston, Jr., Captain, JAGC, USN (Ret.)

Counsel to the U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry's investigation into the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty

I, Ward Boston, Jr. do declare that the following statement is true and complete:

For more than 30 years, I have remained silent on the topic of USS Liberty. I am a military man and when orders come in from the Secretary of Defense and President of the United States, I follow them.

However, recent attempts to rewrite history compel me to share the truth.

In June of 1967, while serving as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps, Department of the Navy, I was assigned as senior legal counsel for the Navy's Court of Inquiry into the brutal attack on USS Liberty, which had occurred on June 8th.

The late Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, president of the Court, and I were given only one week to gather evidence for the Navy's official investigation into the attack, despite the fact that we both had estimated that a proper Court of Inquiry into an attack of this magnitude would take at least six months to conduct.

Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., then Commander-in-chief, Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR), at his headquarters in London, had charged Admiral Kidd (in a letter dated June 10, 1967) to "inquire into all the pertinent facts and circumstances leading to and connected with the armed attack; damage resulting therefrom; and deaths of and injuries to Naval personnel."

Despite the short amount of time we were given, we gathered a vast amount of evidence, including hours of heartbreaking testimony from the young survivors.

The evidence was clear. Both Admiral Kidd and I believed with certainty that this attack, which killed 34 American sailors and injured 172 others, was a deliberate effort to sink an American ship and murder its entire crew. Each evening, after hearing testimony all day, we often spoke our private thoughts concerning what we had seen and heard. I recall Admiral Kidd repeatedly referring to the Israeli forces responsible for the attack as "murderous bastards." It was our shared belief, based on the documentary evidence and testimony we received first hand, that the Israeli attack was planned and deliberate, and could not possibly have been an accident.

I am certain that the Israeli pilots that undertook the attack, as well as their superiors, who had ordered the attack, were well aware that the ship was American.

I saw the flag, which had visibly identified the ship as American, riddled with bullet holes, and heard testimony that made it clear that the Israelis intended there be no survivors. Not only did the Israelis attack the ship with napalm, gunfire, and missiles, Israeli torpedo boats machine-gunned three lifeboats that had been launched in an attempt by the crew to save the most seriously wounded -- a war crime.

Admiral Kidd and I both felt it necessary to travel to Israel to interview the Israelis who took part in the attack. Admiral Kidd telephoned Admiral McCain to discuss making arrangements. Admiral Kidd later told me that Admiral McCain was adamant that we were not to travel to Israel or contact the Israelis concerning this matter.

Regrettably, we did not receive into evidence and the Court did not consider any of the more than sixty witness declarations from men who had been hospitalized and were unable to testify in person.

I am outraged at the efforts of the apologists for Israel in this country to claim that this attack was a case of "mistaken identity."

In particular, the recent publication of Jay Cristol's book, *The Liberty Incident*, twists the facts and misrepresents the views of those of us who investigated the attack.

It is Cristol's insidious attempt to whitewash the facts that has pushed me to speak out.

I know from personal conversations I had with Admiral Kidd that President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ordered him to conclude that the attack was a case of "mistaken identity" despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Admiral Kidd told me, after returning from Washington, D.C. that he had been ordered to sit down with two civilians from either the White House or the Defense Department, and rewrite portions of the court's findings.

Admiral Kidd also told me that he had been ordered to "put the lid" on everything having to do with the attack on USS Liberty. We were never to speak of it and we were to caution everyone else involved that they could never speak of it again.

I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of that statement as I know that the Court of Inquiry transcript that has been released to the public is not the same one that I certified and sent off to Washington.

I know this because it was necessary, due to the exigencies of time, to hand correct and initial a substantial number of pages. I have examined the released version of the transcript and I did not see any pages that bore my hand corrections and initials. Also, the original did not have any deliberately blank pages, as the released version does. Finally, the testimony of Lt. Painter concerning the deliberate machine gunning of the life rafts by the Israeli torpedo boat crews, which I distinctly recall being given at the Court of Inquiry and included in the original transcript, is now missing and has been excised.

Following the conclusion of the Court of Inquiry, Admiral Kidd and I remained in contact. Though we never spoke of the attack in public, we did discuss it between ourselves, on occasion. Every time we discussed the attack, Admiral Kidd was adamant that it was a deliberate, planned attack on an American ship.

In 1990, I received a telephone call from Jay Cristol, who wanted to interview me concerning the functioning of the Court of Inquiry. I told him that I would not speak to him on that subject and prepared to hang up the telephone. Cristol then began asking me about my personal background and other, non-Court of Inquiry related matters. I endeavored to answer these questions and politely extricate myself from the conversation. Cristol continued to return to the subject of the Court of Inquiry, which I refused to discuss with him. Finally, I suggested that he contact Admiral Kidd and ask him about the Court of Inquiry.

Shortly after my conversation with Cristol, I received a telephone call from Admiral Kidd, inquiring about Cristol and what he was up to. The Admiral spoke of Cristol in disparaging terms and even opined that "Cristol must be an Israeli agent." I don't know if he meant that literally or it was his way of expressing his disgust for Cristol's highly partisan, pro-Israeli approach to questions involving USS Liberty.

At no time did I ever hear Admiral Kidd speak of Cristol other than in highly disparaging terms. I find Cristol's claims of a "close friendship" with Admiral Kidd to be utterly incredible. I also find it impossible to believe the statements he attributes to Admiral Kidd, concerning the attack on USS Liberty.

Several years later, I received a letter from Cristol that contained what he purported to be his notes of our prior conversation. These "notes" were grossly incorrect and bore no resemblance in reality to that discussion. I find it hard to believe that these "notes" were the product of a mistake, rather than an attempt to deceive. I informed Cristol that I disagreed with his recollection of our conversation and that he was wrong. Cristol made several attempts to arrange for the two of us to meet in person and talk but I always found ways to avoid doing this. I did not wish to meet with Cristol as we had nothing in common and I did not trust him.

Contrary to the misinformation presented by Cristol and others, it is important for the American people to know that it is clear that Israel is responsible for deliberately attacking an American ship and murdering American sailors, whose bereaved shipmates have lived with this egregious conclusion for many years.

Dated: January 9, 2004
at Coronado, California.
Ward Boston, Jr., Captain, JAGC, USN (Ret.)
Senior Counsel to the USS Liberty Court of Inquiry

http://www.ifamericansknew.org/us_ints/ul-boston.html

OPERATION GLADIO

Summary

ISN Security Watch, 15 December 2004
www.globalresearch.ca 17 December 2004

The URL of this article is: <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/GAN412A.html>

At a time when experts are debating whether NATO is suited to deal with the global "war on terror," new research suggests that the alliance's own secret history has links to terrorism.

ISN Editor's Note:

This report written by Daniele Ganser is based on excerpts from his newly released book, "NATO's Secret Armies. Operation Gladio and Terrorism in Western Europe," released this week by Frank Cass in London.

The book describes NATO's clandestine operations during the Cold War. The research was prompted by a story that made world headlines in 1990 but quickly disappeared, ensuring that even today, NATO's secret armies remain just that -- secret.

Until now, a full investigation of NATO's secret armies had not been carried out -- a task that Ganser has taken on single-handedly and quite successfully.

In Italy, on 3 August 1990, then-prime minister Giulio Andreotti confirmed the existence of a secret army code-named "Gladio" -- the Latin word for "sword" -- within the state. His testimony before the Senate subcommittee investigating terrorism in Italy sent shockwaves through the Italian parliament and the public, as speculation arose that the secret army had possibly manipulated Italian politics through acts of terrorism.

Andreotti revealed that the secret Gladio army had been hidden within the Defense Ministry as a subsection of the military secret service, SISMI. General Vito Miceli, a former director of the Italian military secret service, could hardly believe that Andreotti had lifted the secret, and protested:

"I have gone to prison because I did not want to reveal the existence of this super secret organization. And now Andreotti comes along and tells it to parliament!" According to a document compiled by the Italian military secret service in 1959, the secret armies had a two-fold strategic purpose: firstly, to operate as a so-called "stay-behind" group in the case of a Soviet invasion and to carry out a guerrilla war in occupied territories; secondly, to carry out domestic operations in case of "emergency situations."

The military secret services' perceptions of what constituted an "emergency" was well defined in Cold War Italy and focused on the increasing strength of the Italian Communist and the Socialist parties, both of which were tasked with weakening NATO "from within." Felice Casson, an Italian judge who during his investigations into right-wing terrorism had first discovered the secret Gladio army and had forced Andreotti to take a stand, found that the secret army had linked up with right-wing terrorists in order to confront "emergency situations." The terrorists, supplied by the secret army, carried out bomb attacks in public places, blamed them on the Italian left, and were thereafter protected from prosecution by the military secret service.

"You had to attack civilians, the people, women, children, innocent people, unknown people far removed from any political game," right-wing terrorist Vincezo Vinciguerra explained the so-called "strategy of tension" to Casson.

"The reason was quite simple. They were supposed to force these people, the Italian public, to turn to the state to ask for greater security. This is the political logic that lies behind all the massacres and the bombings which remain unpunished, because the state cannot convict itself or declare itself responsible for what happened."

No comment from NATO or the CIA

How strongly NATO and US intelligence backed and supported the use of terror in Italy in order to discredit the political left during the Cold War remains subject of ongoing research. General Gerardo Serravalle, who had commanded the Italian Gladio secret army from 1971 to 1974, confirmed that the secret army "could pass from a defensive, post-invasion logic, to one of attack, of civil war."

The Italian Senate chose to be more explicit and concluded in its investigation in 2000:

"Those massacres, those bombs, those military actions had been organized or promoted or supported by men inside Italian state institutions and, as has been discovered more recently, by men linked to the structures of United States intelligence."

Ever since the discovery of the secret NATO armies in 1990, research into stay-behind armies has progressed only very slowly, due to very limited access to primary documents and the refusal of both NATO and the CIA to comment. On 5 November 1990, a NATO spokesman told an inquisitive press: "NATO has never contemplated guerrilla war or clandestine operations."

The next day, NATO officials admitted that the previous day's denial had been false, adding that the alliance would not comment on matters of military secrecy. On 7 November, NATO's highest military official in Europe, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) US General John Galvin, together with NATO's highest civilian official, Secretary-General Manfred Wörner, briefed NATO ambassadors behind closed doors. "Since this is a secret organization, I wouldn't expect too many questions to be answered," reasoned a senior NATO diplomat, who wished to remain unnamed. "If there were any links to terrorist organizations, that sort of information would be buried very deep indeed."

Former CIA director William Colby confirmed in his memoirs that setting up the secret armies in Western Europe had been “a major program” for the CIA.

The project started after World War II in total secrecy, and access to information was limited “to the smallest possible coterie of the most reliable people, in Washington, in NATO” and in the countries concerned. Yet when in Italy in 1990 former CIA director Admiral Stansfield Turner was questioned on television on Gladio, he strictly refused to answer any questions on the sensitive issue, and as the interviewer insisted with respect for the terror victims, Stansfield angrily ripped off his microphone and shouted: “I said, no questions about Gladio!”, whereafter the interview was over.

Protest from the EU

If there had been a Soviet invasion, the secret anti-communist soldiers would have operated behind enemy lines, strengthening and setting up local resistance movements in enemy-held territory, evacuating shot down pilots, and sabotaging the supply lines and production centers of occupation forces. Upon discovery of the secret armies, the European Parliament responded with harsh criticism, suspecting it to have been involved in manipulation and terror operations. “This Europe will have no future,” Italian representative Falqui opened the debate, “if it is not founded on truth, on the full transparency of its institutions in regard to the dark plots against democracy that have turned upside down the history, even in recent times, of many European states.” Falqui insisted that “there will be no future, ladies and gentlemen, if we do not remove the idea of having lived in a kind of double state -- one open and democratic, the other clandestine and reactionary. That is why we want to know what and how many “Gladio” networks there have been in recent years in the Member States of the European Community.” The majority of EU parliamentarians followed Falqui, and in a special resolution on 22 November 1990 made it clear that the EU “protests vigorously at the assumption by certain US military personnel at SHAPE and in NATO of the right to encourage the establishment in Europe of a clandestine intelligence and operation network,” calling for a “a full investigation into the nature, structure, aims, and all other aspects of these clandestine organizations or any splinter groups, their use for illegal interference in the internal political affairs of the countries concerned, and the problem of terrorism in Europe.”

Secret armies across Western Europe

Only the parliaments in Italy, Switzerland, and Belgium had formed a special commission to investigate the national secret army, and after months or even years of research, presented a public report. Building on this data and secondary sources from numerous European countries, “NATO’s Secret Armies” confirms for the first time that the secret networks spread across Western Europe, with great details on networks in Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Luxemburg, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Greece, and Turkey, as well as the strategic planning of Britain and the US.

The stay-behind armies were coordinated on an international level by the so-called Allied Clandestine Committee (ACC) and the Clandestine Planning Committee (CPC), linked to NATO’s Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). And they used cover names such as “Absalon” in Denmark, “P26” in Switzerland, “ROC” in Norway or “SDRA8” in Belgium. Interestingly, large differences existed from country to country.

In some nations the secret armies became a source of terror, while in others they remained a prudent precaution.

In Turkey, the "Counter-Guerrilla" was involved in domestic terror and torture operations against the Kurds, while in Greece, the "LOK" took part in the 1967 military coup d'état to prevent a Socialist government. In Spain, the secret army was used to prop up the fascist dictatorship of Franco, and in Germany, right-wing terrorists used the explosives of the secret army in the 1980 terror attack in Munich. In other countries, including Denmark, Norway, and Luxemburg, the secret soldiers prepared for the eventual occupation of their home country and never engaged in domestic terror or manipulation.

In the context of the ongoing so-called war on terror, the Gladio data promotes the sobering insight that governments in the West have sacrificed the life of innocent citizens and covered up acts of terrorism in order to manipulate the population.

Allegations that NATO, the Pentagon, MI6, the CIA, and European intelligence services were linked to terror, coups d'état, and torture in Europe are obviously of an extremely sensitive nature, and future research is needed in the field. In the absence of an official investigation by NATO or the EU, ongoing international research into terrorism is about to tackle this difficult task, the first step of which I hope to have promisingly taken with "NATO's Secret Armies."

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<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/GAN412A.html>

OPERATION GLADIO OVERVIEW

Gladio (Italian, from Latin gladius, meaning sword) is a code name denoting the clandestine NATO "stay-behind" operation in Italy after World War II, intended to counter a Warsaw Pact invasion of Western Europe. Although Gladio specifically refers to the Italian branch of the NATO stay-behind organisations, Operation Gladio is the code name for all stay-behind organisations. Operating in all of NATO and even in some neutral countries or in Spain before its 1982 adhesion to NATO, Gladio was first coordinated by the Clandestine Committee of the Western Union (CCWU), founded in 1948. After the creation of NATO in 1949, the CCWU was integrated into the Clandestine Planning Committee (CPC), founded in 1951 and overseen by the SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe), transferred to Belgium after France's official withdrawal from NATO in 1966 -- which was not followed by the dissolution of the French stay-behind paramilitary movements.

According to historian Daniele Ganser, one of the major researcher on the field, "Next to the CPC, a second secret army command center, labeled the Allied Clandestine Committee (ACC), was set up in 1957 on the orders of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (SACEUR). This military structure provided for significant US leverage over the secret stay-behind networks in Western Europe as the SACEUR, throughout NATO's history, has traditionally been a US General who reports to the Pentagon in Washington and is based in

NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium. The ACC's duties included elaborating on the directives of the network, developing its clandestine capability, and organizing bases in Britain and the United States. In wartime, it was to plan stay-behind operations in conjunction with SHAPE. According to former CIA director William Colby, it was 'a major program'.[1]

The role of the CIA in sponsoring Gladio and the extent of its activities during the Cold War era, and its relationship to false flag attacks perpetrated in Italy during the years of lead and other similar clandestine operations is the subject of ongoing debate and investigation. Italy, Switzerland and Belgium have had parliamentary inquiries into the matter.[2] The US state department has denied involvement in terrorism and stated that some of the claims have been influenced by a Soviet forgery.[3]

After World War II, the UK and the US decided to create "stay-behind" paramilitary organizations, with the official aim of countering a possible Soviet invasion through sabotage and guerrilla warfare behind enemy lines. Arms caches were hidden, escape routes prepared, and loyal members recruited: i.e. mainly hardline anticommunists, including many ex-Nazis or former fascists, whether in Italy or in other European countries. In Germany, for example, Gladio had as central focus the Gehlen Org -- also involved in ODESSA "ratlines" -- named after Reinhard Gehlen who would become West Germany's first head of intelligence, while the predominantly Italian P2 masonic lodge was composed of many members of the neofascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), including Licio Gelli. Its clandestine "cells" were to stay behind (hence the name) in enemy controlled territory and to act as resistance movements, conducting sabotage, guerrilla warfare and assassinations.

However, internal subversion was also considered, as the use of "false flag operations" (terror attacks attributed to the opposite side). "A briefing minute of June 1, 1959, reveals Gladio was built around 'internal subversion.' It was to play 'a determining role... not only on the general policy level of warfare, but also in the politics of emergency.' In the 1970s, with communist electoral support growing and other leftists looking menacing, the establishment turned to the 'Strategy of Tension' ... with Gladio eager to be involved." [4] The rising importance of communist parties in some countries, especially in Italy in the 1970s, led to the effective realization of those plans (See below).

CIA founder Allen Dulles was one of the key people in instituting Operation Gladio, and most of Gladio's operations were financed by the CIA.

In an International Herald Tribune article dated November 13, 1990, Joseph Fitchett talked about the "Nato resistance," declaring that those anti-communist networks, which were present in all of Europe, including neutral countries like Sweden and Switzerland, were partly funded by the CIA. Some went as far as claiming that Democrazia Cristiana leader Aldo Moro had been the "founder of (Italian) Gladio".[5] However, whether these allegations are correct or not, his murder in 1978 put an end to the "historic compromise" (sharing of power) attempt between the PCI and the Christian Democracy (DC), thus accomplishing one of the declared objectives of the Gladio's strategy of tension.

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"Next to the CPC, a second secret army command center, labeled Allied Clandestine Committee (ACC), was set up in 1957 on the orders of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (SACEUR). This military structure provided for significant US leverage over the secret stay-behind networks in Western Europe as the SACEUR, throughout NATO's history, has traditionally been a US General who reports to the Pentagon in Washington and is based in NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium. The ACC's duties included elaborating on the directives of the network, developing its clandestine capability, and organizing bases in Britain and the United States. In wartime, it was to plan stay-behind operations in conjunction with SHAPE. According to former CIA director William Colby, it was 'a major program'." [1]

"Coordinated by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), {the secret armies} were run by the European military secret services in close cooperation with the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the British foreign secret service Secret Intelligence Service (SIS, also MI6).

Trained together with US Green Berets and British Special Air Service (SAS), these clandestine NATO soldiers, armed with underground arms-caches, prepared against a potential Soviet invasion and occupation of Western Europe, as well as the coming to power of communist parties. The clandestine international network covered the European NATO membership, including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey, as well as the neutral European countries of Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland.

"The existence of these clandestine NATO armies remained a closely guarded secret throughout the Cold War until 1990, when the first branch of the international network was discovered in Italy. It was code-named Gladio, the Latin word for a short double-edged sword [gladius]. While the press said the NATO secret armies were 'the best-kept, and most damaging, political-military secret since World War II,' the Italian government, amidst sharp public criticism, promised to close down the secret army.

Italy insisted identical clandestine armies had also existed in all other countries of Western Europe. This allegation proved correct and subsequent research found that in Belgium, the secret NATO army was code-named SDRA8, in Denmark Absalon, in Germany TD BJD, in Ireland Taca na hÉireann [citation needed], in Greece LOK, in Luxemburg Stay-Behind, in the Netherlands I&O, in Norway ROC, in Portugal Aginter, in Switzerland P26, in Turkey Counter-Guerrilla, in Sweden AGAG (Aktions Gruppen Arla Gryning, and in Austria OWSGV. However, the code names of the secret armies in France, Finland and Spain remain unknown.

Upon learning of the discovery, the parliament of the European Union (EU) drafted a resolution sharply criticizing the fact (...) Yet only Italy, Belgium and Switzerland carried out parliamentary investigations, while the administration of

President George H. W. Bush refused to comment, being in the midst of preparations for war against Saddam Hussein in the Persian Gulf, and fearing potential damages to the military alliance." [1]

If Gladio was effectively "the best-kept, and most damaging, political-military secret since World War II", it must be underlined, however, that on several occasions, arms caches were discovered and stay-behind paramilitary organizations officially dissolved -- only to be created again. But it was not until the 1990s that the full international scope of the program was disclosed to public knowledge. Giulio Andreotti, the main character of Italy's post-WWII political life, was described by Aldo Moro to his captors as "too close to NATO," Moro thus advising them to be wary. Indeed, before Andreotti's 1990 acknowledgement of Gladio's existence, he had "unequivocally" denied it in 1974, and then in 1978 to judges investigating the 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing. And even in 1990, "Testimonies collected by the two men [judges Felice Casson and Carlo Mastelloni investigating the 1972 Peteano fascist car bomb] and by the Commission on Terrorism on Rome, and inquiries by the Guardian, indicate Gladio was involved in activities which do not square with Andreotti's account. Links between Gladio, Italian secret services bosses and the notorious P2 masonic lodge are manifold (...). In the year that Andreotti denied Gladio's existence, the P2 treasurer, General Siro Rosetti, gave a generous account of 'a secret security structure made up of civilians, parallel to the armed forces.' There are also overlaps between senior Gladio personnel and the committee of military men, Rosa dei Venti (Wind Rose), which tried to stage a coup in 1970." [4]

The European Parliament Resolution Concerning Gladio

Main article: European Parliament November 22, 1990 Resolution on Gladio (Wikisource)

On November 22, 1990, the European Parliament passed a resolution condemning Gladio, requesting full investigations -- which have yet to be done -- and total dismantlement of these paramilitary structures -- which, as of 2005, has not been proven. The resolution condemned "the existence for 40 years of a clandestine parallel intelligence" as well as "armed operations organization in several Member States of the Community," which "escaped all democratic controls and has been run by the secret services of the states concerned in collaboration with NATO."

Denouncing the "danger that such clandestine network may have interfered illegally in the internal political affairs of Member States or may still do so," especially before the fact that "in certain Member States military secret services (or uncontrolled branches thereof) were involved in serious cases of terrorism and crime," the Parliament demanded a "a full investigation into the nature, structure, aims and all other aspects of these clandestine organizations or any splinter groups, their use for illegal interference in the internal political affairs of the countries concerned, the problem of terrorism in Europe and the possible collusion of the secret services of Member States or third countries."

Furthermore, the resolution protested "vigorously at the assumption by certain US military personnel at SHAPE and in NATO of the right to encourage the establishment in Europe of a clandestine intelligence and operation network," asking "the Member States to dismantle all clandestine military and paramilitary networks" and to "draw up a complete list of organizations active in this field, and at the same time to monitor their links with the respective state intelligence

services and their links, if any, with terrorist action groups and/or other illegal practices." Finally, the Parliament called "on its competent committee to consider holding a hearing in order to clarify the role and impact of the 'Gladio' organization and any similar bodies," and instructed "its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Secretary-General of NATO, the governments of the Member States and the United States Government."

- A. having regard to the revelation by several European governments of the existence for 40 years of a clandestine parallel intelligence and armed operations organization in several Member States of the Community,
- B. whereas for over 40 years this organization has escaped all democratic controls and has been run by the secret services of the states concerned in collaboration with NATO,
- C. fearing the danger that such clandestine network may have interfered illegally in the internal political affairs of Member States or may still do so,
- D. whereas in certain Member States military secret services (or uncontrolled branches thereof) were involved in serious cases of terrorism and crime as evidenced by, various judicial inquiries,
- E. whereas these organizations operated and continue to operate completely outside the law since they are not subject to any parliamentary control and frequently those holding the highest government and constitutional posts are kept in the dark as to these matters,
- F. whereas the various 'Gladio' organizations have at their disposal independent arsenals and military resources which give them an unknown strike potential, thereby jeopardizing the democratic structures of the countries in which they are operating or have been operating,
- G. greatly concerned at the existence of decision-making and operational bodies which are not subject to any form of democratic control and are of a completely clandestine nature at a time when greater Community cooperation in the field of security is a constant subject of discussion,
 - 1. Condemns the clandestine creation of manipulative and operational networks and Calls for a full investigation into the nature, structure, aims and all other aspects of these clandestine organizations or any splinter groups, their use for illegal interference in the internal political affairs of the countries concerned, the problem of terrorism in Europe and the possible collusion of the secret services of Member States or third countries;
 - 2. Protests vigorously at the assumption by certain US military personnel at SHAPE and in NATO of the right to encourage the establishment in Europe of a clandestine intelligence and operation network;
 - 3. Calls on the governments of the Member States to dismantle all clandestine military and paramilitary networks;
 - 4. Calls on the judiciaries of the countries in which the presence of such military organizations has been ascertained to elucidate fully their composition and modus operandi and to clarify any action they may have taken to destabilize

the democratic structure of the Member States;

5. Requests all the Member States to take the necessary measures, if necessary by establishing parliamentary committees of inquiry, to draw up a complete list of organizations active in this field, and at the same time to monitor their links with the respective state intelligence services and their links, if any, with terrorist action groups and/or other illegal practices;
6. Calls on the Council of Ministers to provide full information on the activities of these secret intelligence and operational services;
7. Calls on its competent committee to consider holding a hearing in order to clarify the role and impact of the 'Gladio' organization and any similar bodies;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Secretary-General of NATO, the governments of the Member States and the United States Government."[6]

Allegations

Gladio has been accused of trying to influence policies through the means of "false flag" operations: a 2000 Italian Parliamentary Commission report from the Olive Tree left-wing coalition concluded that the strategy of tension used by Gladio had been supported by the United States to "stop the PCI (Italian Communist Party) , and to a certain degree also the PSI (Italian Socialist Party), from reaching executive power in the country".

Propaganda Due (aka P2), a quasi-freemasonic organization, whose existence was discovered in 1981, was closely linked to Gladio. According to a November 18, 1990 article by The Observer, quoted by Statewatch, "Declassified secret service papers reveal that Ted Shackleton, deputy chief of the CIA station in Rome in the 1970s introduced Licio Gelli – head of the neofascist P2 Masonic lodge and for years a fugitive in Argentina – to General Alexander Haig, then Nixon's chief of staff, and later, from 1974 to 1979, NATO Supreme Commander. P2 was a right-wing shadow government, ready to take over Italy, that included four Cabinet Ministers, all three intelligence chiefs, 48 members of parliament, 160 military officers, bankers, industrialists, top diplomats and the Army Chief of Staff. After meetings between Gelli, Italian military officers and CIA men in the embassy, Gladio was given renewed blessing – and more money – by Haig and the head of the National Security Council, Henry Kissinger. Just how those and later funds were spent is a key point in the Casson investigations."[6]

P2 was outlawed and disbanded in 1981, in the wake of the Banco Ambrosiano scandal, which was linked to the Mafia and to the Vatican Bank. Its Grand Master, Licio Gelli, was involved in most of Italy's scandals in the last three decades of the 20th century: Banco Ambrosiano's crash; Tangentopoli, which gave rise to the Mani pulite ("Clean hands") anticorruption operation in the 1990s; the kidnapping and the murder of Prime Minister Aldo Moro in 1978 – the head of the secret services at the time, accused of negligence, was a piduista (P2 member). Licio Gelli has often said he was a friend of Argentine President Juan Perón. In any case, some members of Jorge Videla's junta were discovered to be piduista, such as José López Rega, founder of the infamous anticommunist organization Triple A, Raúl Alberto Lastiri or Emilio Massera. The Vatican Bank was also accused of funneling

covert US funds for the Solidarnosc trade union movement in Poland and the Contras in Nicaragua.[7]

Furthermore, Gladio has been linked to other events, such as Operation Condor[8] and the 1969 killing of anticolonialist leader Eduardo Mondlane by Aginter Press, the Portuguese "stay-behind" secret army, headed by Yves Guérin-Sérac. In 1995, Attorney General Giovanni Salvi accused the Italian secret services of having manipulated proofs of the Chilean secret police's (DINA) involvement in the 1975 terrorist attack on former Chilean Vice-President Bernardo Leighton in Rome. A similar mode of operation can also be recognized in various Cold War events, for example between the June 20, 1973 Ezeiza massacre in Buenos Aires (Argentina), the 1976 Montejurra massacre in Spain and the 1977 Taksim Square massacre in Istanbul (Turkey).

After Giulio Andreotti's revelations and the disestablishment of Gladio, the last meeting of the "Allied Clandestine Committee" (ACC), was held according to the Italian Prime minister on October 23 and 24, 1990. Despite this, various events have raised concerns about "stay-behind" armies still being in place. In 1996, the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir* revealed the existence of a racist plan operated by the military intelligence agencies. In 1999, Switzerland was suspected of again creating a clandestine paramilitary structure, allegedly to replace the former P26 and P27 (the Swiss branches of Gladio). Furthermore, in 2005, the Italian press revealed the existence of the Department of Anti-terrorism Strategic Studies (DSSA), accused of being "another Gladio".

Gladio's strategy of tension and internal subversion operations

Further information: Strategy of tension

NATO's "stay-behind" organizations were never called upon to resist a Soviet invasion, but their structures continued to exist after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Internal subversion and "false flag" operations were explicitly considered by the CIA and stay-behind paramilitaries. According to a November 13, 1990 Reuters cable quoted by Statewatch, "André Moyen – a former member of the Belgian military security service and of the [stay-behind] network – said Gladio was not just anti-Communist but was for fighting subversion in general. He added that his predecessor had given Gladio 142 million francs (\$4.6 millions) to buy new radio equipment." [9] On various occasions, stay-behind movements became linked to right-wing terrorism, crime and attempted coups d'état:

"Prudent Precaution or Source of Terror?" the international press pointedly asked when the secret stay-behind armies of NATO were discovered across Western Europe in late 1990. After more than ten years of research, the answer is now clear: both. The overview above shows that based on the experiences of World War II, all countries of Western Europe, with the support of NATO, the CIA, and MI6, had set up stay-behind armies as precaution against a potential Soviet invasion. While the safety networks and the integrity of the majority of the secret soldiers should not be criticized in hindsight after the collapse of the Soviet Union, very disturbing questions do arise with respect to reported links to terrorism.

"There exist large differences among the European countries, and each case must be analyzed individually in further detail. As of now, the evidence suggests the secret armies in the seven countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Austria, and the Netherlands, focused exclusively on their stay-

behind function and were not linked to terrorism. However, links to terrorism have been either confirmed or claimed in the nine countries, Italy, Ireland, Turkey, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, and Sweden, demanding further investigation."[1]

According to Daniele Ganser, only Italy, Belgium and Switzerland carried on parliamentary investigations, while the prosecution of various "black terrorists" (terrorismo nero, neofascist terrorism) in Italy was difficult. "On the eve of the 1980 Bologna bombing anniversary, Liberato Mancuso, the Bologna judge who had led the investigation and secured the initial convictions [of the Bologna bombers] broke six months of silence: "It is now understood among those engaged in the matter of democratic rights that we are isolated, and the objects of a campaign of aggression. This is what has happened to the commission into the P2, and to the magistrates. The personal risks to us are small in comparison to this offensive of denigration, which attempts to discredit the quest for truth. In Italy there has functioned for some years now a sort of conditioning, a control of our national sovereignty by the P2 – which was literally the master of the secret services, the army and our most delicate organs of state" wrote The Guardian on August 3, 1990[10]

Examples of such terrorist acts include the strategy of tension in Italy, or the Oktoberfest bomb blast of 1980 in Munich. In an November 7, 1990 article from Le Monde, a Gladio official said that "depending on the cases, we would block or encourage far-left or far-right terrorism",[11].

Gladio operations in NATO Countries

First discovered in Italy

Main article: Gladio in Italy

The Italian NATO stay-behind organization, dubbed "Gladio", was set up under Minister of Defense (from 1953 to 1958) Paolo Taviani's (DC) supervision.[12] However, Gladio's existence came to public knowledge when Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti revealed it to the Chamber of Deputies on October 24, 1990, although far-right terrorist Vincenzo Vinciguerra had already revealed its existence during his 1984 trial. According to media analyst Edward S. Herman, "both the President of Italy, Francesco Cossiga, and Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, had been involved in the Gladio organization and coverup..."[13]

Giulio Andreotti's October 24, 1990 revelations

Prime minister Giulio Andreotti (member of the Christian Democracy, DC) publicly recognized the existence of Gladio on October 24, 1990. Andreotti spoke of a "structure of information, response and safeguard," with arms caches and reserve officers. He gave to the Commissione Stragi, the parliamentary commission led by senator Giovanni Pellegrino in charge of investigations on bombings committed during the years of lead in Italy, a list of 622 civilians who according to him were part of Gladio.

Andreotti also assured that 127 weapons' cache had been dismantled, and pretended that Gladio had not been involved in any of the bombings committed from the 1960s to the 1980s (further evidence implicated neofascists linked to Gladio, in particular concerning the 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing, the 1972

Peteano attack by Vincenzo Vinciguerra, the 1980 Bologna massacre in which SISMI officers were condemned for investigation diversion, along with Licio Gelli, head of Propaganda Due masonic lodge, etc.).

Andreotti declared that the Italian military services (predecessors of the current SISMI had joined in 1964 the Allied Clandestine Committee created in 1957 by the US, France, Belgium and Greece, and which was in charge of directing Gladio's operations.[14] However, Gladio was actually set up under Minister of Defense (from 1953 to 1958) Paolo Taviani's supervision.[12] Beside, the list of Gladio members given by Andreotti was incomplete. It didn't include, for example, Antonio Arconte, who described an organization very different from the one brushed by Giulio Andreotti: an organization closely tied to the SID secret service and the Atlantist strategy.[15][16] According to Andreotti, the stay-behind organisations set up in all of Europe did not come "under broad NATO supervision until 1959" (David Pallister, Guardian, 5 December 1990[17]).

2000 Parliamentary report: a "strategy of tension"

In 2000, a Parliament Commission report from the "Gruppo Democratici di Sinistra l'Ulivo" concluded that the strategy of tension had been supported by the United States to "stop the PCI, and to a certain degree also the PSI, from reaching executive power in the country."

A 2000 Senate report, stated that "Those massacres, those bombs, those military actions had been organized or promoted or supported by men inside Italian state institutions and, as has been discovered more recently, by men linked to the structures of United States intelligence."

According to The Guardian, "The report [claimed] that US intelligence agents were informed in advance about several rightwing terrorist bombings, including the December 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing in Milan and the Piazza della Loggia bombing in Brescia five years later, but did nothing to alert the Italian authorities or to prevent the attacks from taking place. It also [alleged] that Pino Rauti [current leader of the MSI Fiamma-Tricolore party], a journalist and founder of the far-right Ordine Nuovo (new order) subversive organisation, received regular funding from a press officer at the US embassy in Rome. 'So even before the 'stabilising' plans that Atlantic circles had prepared for Italy became operational through the bombings, one of the leading members of the subversive right was literally in the pay of the American embassy in Rome,' the report says." [18]

General Maletti's testimony concerning alleged CIA involvement

General Gianadelio Maletti, commander of the counter-intelligence section of the Italian military intelligence service from 1971 to 1975, confirmed in March 2001 during the trials concerning the 1969 Piazza Fontana bombings that the CIA might have promoted terrorism in Italy. According to the Guardian, he said that..

"his men had discovered that a rightwing terrorist cell in the Venice region had been supplied with military explosives from Germany. Those explosives may have been obtained with the help of members of the US intelligence community, an indication that the Americans had gone beyond the infiltration and monitoring of extremist groups to instigating acts of violence." [19]

General Maletti told the Italian court that "the CIA, following the directives of its government, wanted to create an Italian nationalism capable of halting what it saw as a slide to the left and, for this purpose, it may have made use of rightwing terrorism," and continued on by declaring: "I believe this is what happened in other countries as well." Gianadelio Maletti also said to the court: "Don't forget that Nixon was in charge and Nixon was a strange man, a very intelligent politician but a man of rather unorthodox initiatives."

The Italian judges also recall that Maletti himself had withheld important information to the justice, concerning a 1973 attack on the Interior minister, Mariano Rumor (DC - 4 killed and 45 injured). According to the court, General Maletti knew in advance of the plan of the attacker, Gianfranco Bertoli, allegedly an anarchist but in reality a right-wing activist and a "long-standing SID informant" according to The Guardian, but had deliberately failed to inform the interior minister of it.[19][1]

Thirty years after the December 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing, which started the strategia della tensione, General Gianadelio Maletti indicated that the massacre had been carried out by the Italian stay-behind army and right wing terrorists on orders of the CIA in order to discredit the PCI, which was negotiating the historic compromise with the Christian Democracy. Christian Democracy's leader and prime minister Aldo Moro's 1978 murder, by the Second Red Brigades (BR) led by Mario Moretti, effectively put an end to the PCI's possible participation to the government. According to The Guardian, the first reason of Gladio's discovery was "a group of judges examining letters uncovered in Milan during October in which the murdered Christian Democrat leader, Aldo Moro, said he feared a shadow organisation, alongside "other secret services of the West ... might be implicated in the destabilisation of our country".[4]

A quick chronology of Italy's "strategy of tension"

Ø 1964 Operation Solo.

In 1964, Gladio was involved in a silent coup d'état when General Giovanni de Lorenzo in Operation Solo forced the Italian Socialist Ministers to leave the government.[20]

Ø 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing.

According to Avanguardia Nazionale member Vincenzo Vinciguerra: "The December 1969 explosion was supposed to be the detonator which would have convinced the politic and military authorities to declare a state of emergency." [21]

Ø 1970, Golpe Borghese.

In 1970, the failed coup attempt Golpe Borghese gathered, around fascist Junio Valerio Borghese, international terrorist Stefano Delle Chiaie and P2 headmaster Licio Gelli.

Ø 1972 Gladio meeting.

According to The Guardian, "General Geraldo Serravalle, a former head of "Office R", told the terrorism commission that at a crucial Gladio meeting in

1972, at least half of the upper echelons "had the idea of attacking the communists before an invasion. They were preparing for civil war." Later, he put it more bluntly: "They were saying this: "Why wait for the invaders when we can make a preemptive attack now on the communists who would support the invader? The idea is now emerging of a Gladio web made up of semi-autonomous cadres which – although answerable to their secret service masters and ultimately to the NATO-CIA command – could initiate what they regarded as anti-communist operations by themselves, needing only sanction and funds from the existing 'official' Gladio column (...) General Nino Lugaresi, head of SISMI from 1981-84 testified on the existence of a 'Super Gladio' of 800 men responsible for 'internal intervention' against domestic political targets."[4]

Ø May 31, 1972, Peteano massacre.

Magistrate Felice Casson discovered that "the explosives used in the attack came from one of 139 secret weapons depots of a secret army organized under the code name Operation Gladio." [13] Neofascist Vincenzo Vinciguerra confessed in 1984 to judge Felice Casson of having carried out the Peteano terrorist attack, in which three policemen died, and for which the Red Brigades (BR) had been blamed before. Vinciguerra explained during his trial how he had been helped by Italian secret services to escape the police and to fly away to Francoist Spain. However, he was abandoned by NATO as soon as he started talking about Gladio, declaring for example during his 1984 trial:

"with the massacre of Peteano and with all those that have followed, the knowledge should now be clear that there existed a real live structure, occult and hidden, with the capacity of giving a strategic direction to the outrages. [This structure] lies within the states itself. There exists in Italy a secret force parallel to the armed forces, composed of civilians and military men, in an anti-Soviet capacity, that is, to organise a resistance on Italian soil against a Russian army... A super-organization which, lacking a Soviet military invasion which might not happen, took up the task, on NATO's behalf, of preventing a slip to the left in the political balance of the country. This they did, with the assistance of the official secret services and the political and military forces..." He then said to The Guardian, in 1990: "I say that every single outrage that followed from 1969 fitted into a single, organised matrix... Avanguardia Nazionale, like Ordine Nuovo (the main right-wing terrorist group active during the 1970s), were being mobilised into the battle as part of an anti-communist strategy originating not with organisations deviant from the institutions of power, but from within the state itself, and specifically from within the ambit of the state's relations within the Atlantic Alliance." [4][1]

Ø November 23, 1973. Bombing of the plane Argo 16.

According to a December 1, 1990 article by The Independent, quoted by Statewatch, "General Geraldo Serravalle, head of Gladio from 1971 to 1974, told a television programme that he now thought the explosion aboard the plane Argo 16 on 23 November 1973 was probably the work of gladiatori who were refusing to hand over their clandestine arms. Until then it was widely believed the sabotage was carried out by Mossad, the Israeli foreign

service, in retaliation for the pro-Libyan Italian government's decision to expel, rather than try, five Arabs who had tried to blow up an Israeli airliner. The Arabs had been spirited out of the country on board the Argo 16." [6]

- Ø 1974 Piazza della Loggia bombing, Italicus Expressen massacre, and arrest of Vito Miceli, chief of the Army intelligence service and member of P2, on charges of "conspiracy against the state".

In 1974, a massacre committed by Ordine Nuovo, during an anti-fascist demonstration in Brescia, kills eight and injures 102. The same year, a bomb in the Rome to Munich train "Italicus Express" kills 12 and injures 48. Also in 1974, Vito Miceli, P2 member, chief of the SIOS (Servizio Informazioni), Army Intelligence's Service from 1969 and SID's head from 1970 to 1974, got arrested on charges of "conspiracy against the state" concerning investigations about Rosa dei venti, a state-infiltrated group involved in terrorist acts. During his trial, he revealed the existence of the NATO stay-behind secret army.

- Ø 1977. Reorganization of Italian secret services following Vito Micelli's arrest.

In 1977, the secret services were thus reorganized in a democratic attempt. With law #801 of 24/10/1977, SID was divided into SISMI (Servizio per le Informazioni e la Sicurezza Militare), SISDE (Servizio per le Informazioni e la Sicurezza Democratica) and CESIS (Comitato Esecutivo per i Servizi di Informazione e Sicurezza). The CESIS was given a coordination role, led by the President of Council.

- Ø 1978's murder of Aldo Moro.

Prime minister Aldo Moro was murdered in May 1978 by the Second Red Brigades (BR), headed by Mario Moretti, in obscure circumstances. The head of the Italian secret services, accused of negligence, was a P2 member. The so-called "historic compromise" between the Christian-Democracy and the PCI was abandoned:

"As the conspiracy theorists would have it, Mr. Moro was allowed to be killed either with the acquiescence of people high in Italy's political establishment, or at their instigation, because of the historic compromise he had made with the Communist Party." (The Independent, November 16, 1990, quoted by Statewatch[6])

"During his captivity, Aldo Moro wrote several letters to various political figures, including Giulio Andreotti. In October 1990, "a cache of previously unknown letters written by the former Prime Minister, Aldo Moro, just prior to his execution by Red Brigade terrorists in 1978... was discovered in a Milan apartment which had once been used as a Red Brigade hideout. One of those letters made reference to the involvement of both NATO and the CIA in an Italian-based secret service, 'parallel' army," wrote The Irish Times on November 15, 1990 (quoted by Statewatch,[6]). "This safe house had been thoroughly searched at the time by Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the head of counter-terrorism. How is it that the papers had not been revealed before?" asked The Independent on November 16, 1990.[6] Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa was murdered in 1982 (see below).

In May 1978, investigative journalist Mino Pecorelli thought that Aldo Moro's kidnapping had been organised by a "lucid superpower" and was inspired by the "logic of Yalta." He painted the figure of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa as "general Amen," explaining that it was him that, during Aldo Moro's kidnap, had informed Interior Minister Francesco Cossiga of the localization of the cave where Moro was detained. In 1978, Pecorelli wrote that Dalla Chiesa was in danger and would be assassinated (Dalla Chiesa was murdered four years later). After Aldo Moro's assassination, Mino Pecorelli published some confidential documents, mainly Moro's letters to his family. In a cryptic article published in May 1978, wrote The Guardian in May 2003, Pecorelli drew a connection between Gladio, NATO's stay-behind anti-communist organisation (which existence was publicly acknowledged by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti in October 1990) and Moro's death. During his interrogation, Aldo Moro had referred to "NATO's anti-guerrilla activities." [22] Mino Pecorelli, who was on Licio Gelli's list of P2 members discovered in 1980, was assassinated on March 20, 1979. The ammunitions used, a very rare type, were the same as discovered in the Banda della Magliana's weapons stock hidden in the Health Minister's basement. Pecorelli's assassination has been thought to be directly related to Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who was condemned to 20 years of prison for it in 2002 before having the sentence cancelled by the Supreme Court of Cassation in 2003.

Ø 1980 Bologna massacre.

"The makings of the bomb... came from an arsenal used by Gladio... according to a parliamentary commission on terrorism... The suggested link with the Bologna massacre is potentially the most serious of all the accusations levelled against Gladio, and comes just two days after the Italian Prime Minister, Giulio Andreotti, cleared Gladio's name in a speech to parliament, saying that the secret army did not drift from its formal Nato military brief," wrote The Guardian on January 16, 1991 (quoted by Statewatch[6]). In November 1995, Neo-Fascists terrorists Valerio Fioravanti and Francesca Mambro, members of the Nuclei Armati Rivoluzionari (NAR), were convicted to life imprisonment as executors of the 1980 Bologna massacre. The NAR neofascist group worked in cooperation with the Banda della Magliana, a Mafia-linked gang which took over Rome's underground in the 1970s and was involved in various political events of the strategy of tension, including the Aldo Moro case, the 1979 assassination of Mino Pecorelli, a journalist who published articles alleging links between Prime minister Giulio Andreotti and the mafia, as well as the assassination of "God's Banker" Roberto Calvi in 1982. The investigations concerning the Bologna bombing proved Gladio's direct influence: Licio Gelli, P2's headmaster, received a sentence for investigation diversion, as well as Francesco Pazienza and SISMI officers Pietro Musumeci and Giuseppe Belmonte. Avanguardia Nazionale founder Stefano Delle Chiaie, who was involved in the Golpe Borghese in 1970, was also accused of involvement in the Bologna massacre[23][11]

Ø 1982 murder of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, head of counter-terrorism.

General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa's 1982 murder, in Palermo, by Pino Greco, one of the Mafia Godfather Salvatore Riina's (aka Toto Riina) favorite

hitmen, is allegedly part of the strategy of tension. Alberto Dalla Chiesa had arrested Red Brigades founders Renato Curcio and Alberto Franceschini in September, 1974, and was later charged of investigation concerning Aldo Moro. He had also found Aldo Moro's letters concerning Gladio.

- Ø October 24, 1990. Giulio Andreotti's acknowledgement of Operazione Gladio.

After the discovery by judge Felice Casson of documents on Gladio in the archives of the Italian military secret service in Rome, Giulio Andreotti, head of Italian government, revealed to the Chamber of deputies the existence of "Operazione Gladio" on October 24, 1990, insisting that Italy has not been the only country with secret "stay-behind" armies. He made clear that "each chief of government had been informed of the existence of Gladio."

Former Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said that he had not been informed until he was confronted with a document on Gladio signed by himself while he was Prime Minister. Former Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini (Republican Party), at the time President of the Senate, and former Prime Minister Arnaldo Forlani, at the time secretary of the ruling Christian Democratic Party claimed they remembered nothing. Spadolini stressed that there was a difference between what he knew as former Defence Secretary and what he knew as former Prime Minister. Only former Prime Minister Francesco Cossiga (DC) confirmed Andreotti's revelations, explaining that he was even "proud and happy" for his part in setting up Gladio as junior Defence Minister of the Christian Democratic Party. This lit up a political storm, requests were made for Cossiga's (Italian President since 1985) resignation or impeachment for high treason. He refused to testify to the investigating Senate committee. Cossiga narrowly escaped his impeachment by stepping down on April 1992, three months before his term expired.[24]

- Ø 1998. David Carrett, officer of the U.S. Navy, was indicted by magistrate Guido Salvini on charge of political and military espionage and his participation to the 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing, among other events. Judge Guido Salvini also opened up a case against Sergio Minetto, Italian official for the US-NATO intelligence network, and pentito Carlo Digilio. La Repubblica underlined that Carlo Rocchi, CIA's man at Milan, was surprised in 1995 searching for information concerning Operation Gladio, thus demonstrating that all was not over.[21]
- Ø 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing, which started Italy's anni di piombo, and the 1974 "Italicus Expressen" train bombing were also attributed to Gladio operatives. In 1975, Stefano Delle Chiaie met with Pinochet during Franco's funeral in Madrid, and would participate afterward in operation Condor, preparing for example the attempted murder of Bernardo Leighton, a Chilean Christian Democrat, or participating in the 1980 'Cocaine Coup' of Luis García Meza Tejada in Bolivia. In 1989, he was arrested in Caracas, Venezuela and extradited to Italy to stand trial for his role in the Piazza Fontana bombing. Despite his reputation, Delle Chiaie was acquitted by the Assize Court in Catanzaro in 1989, along with fellow accused Massimiliano Fachini (as yet no convictions have been made for the attack). According to Avanguardia Nazionale member Vincenzo Vinciguerra: "The December 1969 explosion was supposed to be the detonator which would have convinced the politic and military authorities to declare a state of emergency"[21]

The DSSA, another Gladio?

In July 2005, the Italian press revealed the existence of the Department of Anti-terrorism Strategic Studies (DSSA), a "parallel police" created by Gaetano Saya and Riccardo Sindoca, two leaders of the National Union of the Police Forces (UNPF), a trade-union present in all the state security forces. Both said they were former members of Gladio. According to the DSSA website -- closed after these revelations -- Fabrizio Quattrocchi, murdered in Iraq after being taken hostage, was there "for the DSSA." According to the Italian investigators, the DSSA was trying to obtain international and national recognition by intelligence agencies, in order to obtain finances for its parallel activities. Furthermore, *Il Messaggero*, quoted by *The Independent*, declared that, according to judicial sources, wiretaps suggested DSSA members had been planning to kidnap Cesare Battisti, a former communist activist. "We were seeing the genesis of something similar to the death squads in Argentina" (the AAA groups) the magistrate is reported to have said.[25]

Belgium

After the 1966 retreat of France from NATO, the SHAPE headquarter was displaced to Mons in Belgium. In 1990, following France's denial of any "stay-behind" French army, Giulio Andreotti publicly said the last Allied Clandestine Committee (ACC) meeting, at which the French branch of Gladio was present, had been on October 23 and 24, 1990, under the presidency of Belgian General Van Calster, director of the Belgian military secret service SGR. In November, Guy Coëme, the Minister of the Defense, acknowledged the existence of a Belgium "stay-behind" army, lifting concerns about a similar implication in terrorist acts as in Italy. The same year, the European Parliament sharply condemned NATO and the United States in a resolution for having manipulated European politics with the stay-behind armies.[20]

New legislation governing intelligence agencies' missions and methods was passed in 1998, following two government inquiries and the creation of a permanent parliamentary committee in 1991, which was to bring them under the authority of Belgium's federal agencies. The Commission was created following events in the 1980s, which included the Brabant massacres and the activities of far right group Westland New Post.[26]

France

In 1947, Interior Minister Edouard Depreux revealed the existence of a secret stay-behind army in France codenamed "Plan Bleu." The next year, the "Western Union Clandestine Committee" (WUCC) was created to coordinate secret unorthodox warfare. In 1949, the WUCC was integrated into NATO, whose headquarters were established in France, under the name "Clandestine Planning Committee" (CPC). In 1958, NATO founded the Allied Clandestine Committee (ACC) to coordinate secret warfare. When NATO established new European headquarters in Brussels, the ACC, under the code name SDRA 11, was hidden within the Belgian military secret service SGR, which has its headquarters next to NATO.

The illegal Organisation armée secrète (OAS) was created with members of the French stay-behind army and officers from the French War in Vietnam. In 1961, the OAS staged a failed coup in Algiers against De Gaulle's government.[20]

La Rose des Vents and Arc-en-ciel ("Rainbow") network were part of Gladio. François de Grossouvre was Gladio's leader for the region around Lyon in France until his alleged suicide on April 7th, 1994. Captain Paul Barril, among others, said that Grossouvre was murdered.[27] In any case, Grossouvre would have asked Constantin Melnik, leader of the French secret services during the Algerian War of Independence (1954-62), to return to activity. He was living in comfortable exile in the US, where he maintained links with the Rand Corporation. Constantin Melnik is alleged to have been involved in the creation in 1952 of the Ordre Souverain du Temple Solaire, an ancestor of the Order of the Solar Temple, in which the SDECE (French former military intelligence agency) was interested.[28]

Denmark

The Danish stay-behind army was code-named Absalon, after a Danish archbishop, and led by E.J. Harder. It was hidden in the military secret service Forsvarets Efterretningstjeneste (FE). In 1978, William Colby, former director of the CIA, released his memoirs in which he described the setting-up of stay-behind armies in Scandinavia:

"The situation in each Scandinavian country was different. Norway and Denmark were NATO allies, Sweden held to the neutrality that had taken her through two world wars, and Finland were required to defer in its foreign policy to the Soviet power directly on its borders. Thus, in one set of these countries the governments themselves would build their own stay-behind nets, counting on activating them from exile to carry on the struggle. These nets had to be co-ordinated with NATO's plans, their radios had to be hooked to a future exile location, and the specialised equipment had to be secured from CIA and secretly cached in snowy hideouts for later use. In other set of countries, CIA would have to do the job alone or with, at best, "unofficial" local help, since the politics of those governments barred them from collaborating with NATO, and any exposure would arouse immediate protest from the local Communist press, Soviet diplomats and loyal Scandinavians who hoped that neutrality or nonalignment would allow them to slip through a World War III unharmed." [29]

On November 25, 1990, Danish daily newspaper Berlingske Tidende, quoted by Daniele Ganser (2005), confirmed William Colby's revelations, by a source named "Q":

"Colby's story is absolutely correct. Absalon was created in the early 1950s. Colby was a member of the world spanning laymen Catholic organisation Opus Dei, which, using a modern term, could be called right-wing. Opus Dei played a central role in the setting up of Gladio in the whole of Europe and also in Denmark... The leader of Gladio was Harder who was probably not a Catholic. But there are not many Catholics in Denmark and the basic elements making up the Danish Gladio were former [WW II] resistance people -- former prisoners of Vestre Fængsel, Frøslevlejren, Neuengamme

Germany

Reinhard Gehlen, Nazi intelligence agent on the East front during the war, turned towards the US after the war, and set up the "Gehlen Organisation," which used many former Nazi party members for intelligence purpose in the frame of the Cold War. But alongside the Gehlen organisation, which became the nucleus of

the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND, Federal Intelligence Service), West Germany's intelligence agency created in 1956, US intelligence also set up a German stay-behind network parallel (and juxtaposed) to the Gehlen Org (which also had a role in the organisation of the ODESSA network, used to exfiltrate Nazi war criminals). CIA documents released in June 2006 under the 1998 Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, more than fifteen years after Prime minister Giulio Andreotti's revelations concerning Gladio, show that the CIA organized "stay-behind" networks of German agents between 1949 and 1955.[30]

In 1952, former SS officer Hans Otto revealed to the criminal police in Frankfurt the existence of the fascist German stay-behind army BDJ-TD. The arrested right-wing extremists were found non guilty under mysterious circumstances.[20]

Documents shown to the Italian parliamentary terrorism committee revealed that in the 1970s British and French officials involved in the network visited a training base in Germany built with US money.[31]

"According to a German television report, wrote The Guardian on November 17, 1990, the [German] section consisted of former SS and Waffen-SS officers as well as members of an extreme rightwing group, the Federation of German Youth, and drew up plans to assassinate leading figures of the opposition Social Democratic Party in the event of a Soviet-led invasion." [31]

CIA's documents released in June 2006

One network included Staff Sergeant Heinrich Hoffman and Lieutenant Colonel Hans Rues, and another one, codenamed Kibitz-15, was run by Lieutenant Colonel Walter Kopp, a former Wehrmacht officer, described by his own North-American handlers as an "unreconstructed Nazi." [32] In an April 1953 CIA memo released in June 2006, the CIA headquarters wrote: "The present furore in Western Germany over the resurgence of the Nazi or neo-Nazi groups is a fair example -- in miniature - of what we would be faced with." Therefore some of these networks were dismantled. These documents stated that the ex-Nazis were a complete failure in intelligence terms. According to Timothy Naftali, a US historian from the University of Virginia who reviewed the CIA documents then released, "The files show time and again that these people were more trouble than they were worth. The unreconstructed Nazis were always out for themselves, and they were using the West's lack of information about the Soviet Union to exploit it." [32] The US NARA Archives themselves stated in a 2002 communique, concerning Reinhard Gehlen's recruiting of former Nazis, that "Besides the troubling moral issues involved, these recruitments opened the West German government, and by extension the United States, to penetration by the Soviet intelligence services." [33]

Hans Globke, who had worked for Adolf Eichmann in the Jewish Affairs department and helped draft the 1935 Nuremberg laws, became Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's national security advisor in the 1960s, and "was the main liaison with the CIA and NATO" according to The Guardian. [32] A March 1958 memo from the German BND agency to the CIA wrote that Adolf Eichmann is "reported to have lived in Argentina under the alias CLEMENS since 1952." However, the CIA did not pass the information on to the Israeli MOSSAD, as it feared revelations concerning its use of former Nazis for intelligence purposes -- Eichmann, who was in charge of the Jewish Affairs department, was abducted by

the MOSSAD two years later. Among these information that might have been revealed by Eichmann were the ones concerning Hans Globke, CIA's liaison in West Germany. At the request of Bonn, the CIA persuaded Life magazine to delete any reference to Globke from Eichmann's memoirs, which it had bought from his family.[30]

BND secretary Heidrun Hofer's 1976 arrest

In 1976, the secret service BND secretary Heidrun Hofer was arrested after having revealed the secrets of the German stay-behind army to her husband, who was a spy of the KGB.[20]

Norbert Juretzko's 2004 revelations

In 2004 the German spymaster Norbert Juretzko published a book about his work at the BND. He went into details about recruiting partisans for the German stay-behind network. He was sacked from BND following a secret trial against him, because the BND could not find out the real name of his Russian source "Rubezahl" whom he had recruited. A man with the name he put on file was arrested by the KGB following treason in the BND, but was obviously innocent, his name having been chosen at random from the public phone book by Juretzko.

According to Juretzko, the BND built up its branch of Gladio, but discovered after the fall of the German Democratic Republic that it was 100% known to the Stasi early on. When the network was dismantled, further odd details emerged. One fellow "spymaster" had kept the radio equipment in his cellar at home with his wife doing the engineering test call every 4 months, on the grounds that the equipment was too "valuable" to remain in civilian hands. Juretzko found out because this spymaster had dismantled his section of the network so quickly, there had been no time for measures such as recovering all caches of supplies. Civilians recruited as stay-behind partisans were equipped with a clandestine shortwave radio with a fixed frequency. It had a keyboard with encryption, making use of Morse code unnecessary. They had a cache of further equipment for signalling helicopters or submarines to drop special agents who were to stay in the partisan's homes while mounting sabotage operations against the communists.

The 1980 Oktoberfest Bomb Blast

Revelations of a witness in the investigation of the Oktoberfest bomb blast of 1980 in Munich lead to the conclusion that the explosives might have come from the German Neo-Nazi Heinz Lembke. Lembke later lead the police to his 33 hidden arm-caches near the village of Uelzen in the Lüneburger Heide, where huge amounts of military equipment were found. After Lembke had committed suicide in his prison cell shortly after announcing to provide names, this aspect was no longer investigated and Neo-Nazi Gundolf Köhler, who had died in the blast, was declared the lone perpetrator. Lembkes arms caches were supposed to be connected to Gladio by a number of researchers and journalists[34].

Official Responses Following Giulio Andreotti's Revelations

The Government was very reluctant if not untruthful on occasion, to concede the existence of Gladio and the inherent breach of constitution in that all armed forces must be controlled by the people. Following Giulio Andreotti's 1990 public exposure of the secret armies, it declared that it disbanded its part of Gladio.

Greece

The aim of British Prime minister Winston Churchill was to prevent the communist-led EAM resistance movement from taking power after the end of World War II. After the suppression of a pro-EAM uprising in April 1944 among the Greek forces in Egypt, a new and firmly reliable unit was formed, the Third Greek Mountain Brigade, which excluded "almost all men with views ranging from moderately conservative to left wing." [35] After liberation in October 1944, EAM controlled most of the country. When it organized a demonstration in Athens on December 3, 1944 against British interference, members of rightist and pro-royalist paramilitary organizations, as well as "British troops and police with machine guns... posited on the rooftops," suddenly shot on the crowd, killing 25 protesters (including a six-year-old boy) and wounding 148. [36] This marked the outbreak of the Dekemvriana, and subsequently led to the Greek Civil War.

When Greece joined NATO in 1952, the country's special forces, the LOK (Lochoi Orein ō n Katadrom ō n, i.e. "Mountain Raiding Companies") were integrated into the European stay-behind network. The CIA and LOK reconfirmed on March 25, 1955 their mutual cooperation in a secret document signed by US General Trascott for the CIA, and Konstantinos Dovas, chief of staff of the Greek military. In addition to preparing for a Soviet invasion, the CIA instructed LOK to prevent a leftist coup. Former CIA agent Philip Agee, who was sharply criticized in the US for having revealed sensitive information, insisted that "paramilitary groups, directed by CIA officers, operated in the sixties throughout Europe [and he stressed that] perhaps no activity of the CIA could be as clearly linked to the possibility of internal subversion." [37]

The LOK was involved in the Greek military coup d'Etat on April 20, 1967, which took place one month before the scheduled national elections for which opinion polls predicted an overwhelming victory of the centrist Center Union of George and Andreas Papandreou. Under the command of paratrooper Lieutenant Colonel Costas Aslanides, the LOK took control of the Greek Defence Ministry while Brigadier General Sylianos Pattakos gained control over communication centers, the parliament, the royal palace, and according to detailed lists, arrested over 10,000 people. Phillips Talbot, the US ambassador in Athens, disapproved of the military coup which established the "Regime of the Colonels" (1969-1974), complaining that it represented "a rape of democracy" -- to which Jack Maury, the CIA chief of station in Athens, answered: "How can you rape a whore?". [20]

Arrested and then exiled in Canada and Sweden, Andreas Papandreou later returned to Greece, where he won the 1981 election for Prime minister, forming the first socialist government of Greece's post-war history. According to his own testimony, he discovered the existence of the secret NATO army, then codenamed "Red Sheepskin," as acting prime minister in 1984 and had given orders to dissolve it.

Following Giulio Andreotti's revelations in 1990, the Greek defence minister confirmed that a branch of the network, known as Operation Sheepskin, operated in his country until 1988. [38] The socialist opposition called for a parliamentary investigation into the secret army and its alleged link to terrorism and the 1967 coup d'état. Public order minister Yannis Vassiliadis declared that there was no need to investigate such "fantasies" as "Sheepskin was one of 50 NATO plans which foresaw that when a country was occupied by an enemy there should be an

organised resistance. It foresaw arms caches and officers who would form the nucleus of a guerilla war. In other words, it was a nationally justifiable act."

In December 2005, journalist Kleanthis Grivas published an article in To Proto Thema, a Greek Sunday newspaper, in which he accused "Sheepskin" for the assassination of CIA station chief Richard Welch in Athens in 1975, as well as the assassination of British military attaché Stephen Saunders in 2000. This was denied by the US State Department, who responded that "the Greek terrorist organization '17 November' was responsible for both assassinations," and that Grivas's central piece of evidence had been a document ("Westmoreland Field Manual") which the State department, as well as an independent Congressional inquiry had revealed to be a Soviet forgery.[3] The document in question, however, makes no specific mention of Greece, November 17th, nor Welch. The State Department also highlighted the fact that, in the case of Richard Welch, "Grivas bizarrely accuses the CIA of playing a role in the assassination of one of its own senior officials" while "Sheepskin" couldn't have assassinated Stephen Saunders for the simple reason, according to the US government, that "the Greek government stated it dismantled the "stay behind" network in 1988." [3]

The Netherlands

A large arms cache was discovered in 1983 near the village Velp. The government was forced to confirm that the arms were related to NATO planning for unorthodox warfare.[20]

Norway

In 1957, the director of the secret service NIS, Vilhelm Evang, protested strongly against the domestic subversion of his country by the United States and NATO and temporarily withdrew the Norwegian stay-behind army from the CPC meetings. In 1978, the police discovered a stay-behind arms cache at a mountain cabin and arrested Hans Otto Meyer, who revealed the Norwegian secret army.[20]

Portugal

Further information: Aginter Press

In 1966, the CIA set up Aginter Press which, under the direction of Captain Yves Guérin-Sérac (who had taken part in the founding of the OAS), ran a secret stay-behind army and trained its members in covert action techniques amounting to terrorism, including bombings, silent assassinations, subversion techniques, clandestine communication and infiltration and colonial warfare.

Aginter Press was suspected of having assassinated General Humberto Delgado (1906-1965), founder of the Portuguese National Liberation Front against Salazar's dictatorship, as well as anti-colonialist leader Amilcar Cabral (1924-1973), founder of the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) and Eduardo Mondlane, leader of the liberation movement FRELIMO (Frente de Libertação de Moçambique), in 1969.[39][20]

Turkey

See also: Multi-Party Period of Republic of Turkey and Deep state

In Turkey, the stay-behind army was known as "Counter-Guerrilla." Related to the Millî İstihbarat Teskilâtı (MIT), the Turkish intelligence agency, it engaged in domestic terror, supporting, as in Italy, a strategy of tension, which led to two military coups d'état in which it was directly involved. In 1971, after a military coup d'état carried on March 12, the stay-behind army Counter-Guerrilla engaged in domestic terror and killed hundreds. The overall death-toll of the terror of the 1970s is estimated at 5,000, with right-wing and terrorism responsible for the most part. According to statistics published by the British Searchlight magazine (n°47, May 1979, p.6), in 1978 there were 3,319 fascist attacks, in which 831 were killed and 3,121 wounded. In 1977, Counter-Guerrilla took part on the May 1, Taksim Square massacre, while left-wing newspaper editor Abdi İpekçi was murdered in 1979 by Mehmet Ali Ağca, a Grey Wolves member who later tried to assassinate the Pope John Paul II in 1980. Counter-Guerrilla's commander, General Kenan Evren staged a military coup and seized power in 1980.

The US-support of this coup was acknowledged by the CIA Ankara station chief Paul Henze. After the government was overthrown, Henze cabled Washington, saying, "our boys have done it." At the time there were some 1,700 Grey Wolves organizations in Turkey, with about 200,000 registered members and a million sympathisers. After being useful for the strategy of tension followed by Kenan Evren, the leader of the Counter-Guerrilla turned president outlawed the right-wing Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and the Grey Wolves, its youth organization. The MHP had been founded in 1965 by Alparslan Türkeş, a member of the Counter-Guerrilla. Colonel Türkeş and other Grey Wolves were arrested. In its indictment of the MHP in May 1981, the Turkish military government charged 220 members of the MHP and its affiliates for 694 murders, according to Edward Herman and Frank Brodhead in *The Rise and Fall of the Bulgarian Connection* (New York, 1986, quoted by Ganser). However, Grey Wolves' imprisoned members were offered release if they accepted to fight the Kurdish minority and the PKK,[40] as well as the ASALA ("Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia").

They then went on to fight, with Counter-Guerrilla, Kurds, killing and torturing thousands in the 1980s, and also carrying false flag attacks in which the Counter-Guerrilla attacked villages, dressed up as PKK fighters, and raped and executed people randomly (Ganser, 2005).[41]

The fact that Counter-Guerrilla had engaged in torture was confirmed by Talat Turhan, a retired Turkish lieutenant colonel. According to a December 5, 1990 article by the Swiss *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, the Counter-Guerrilla had their headquarters in the building of the US DIA military secret service.[20] In addition, they carried out operations to assassinate the leader squad of ASALA, in which they succeeded.

Former Turkish prime minister Bülent Ecevit recalled he had learned of the existence of Turkish "stay-behind" armies for the first time in 1974. At the time, the commander of the Turkish army, General Semih Sancar, had allegedly informed him the US had financed the unit since the immediate post-war years, as well as the MIT, the Turkish intelligence agency. Ecevit declared he suspected Counter-Guerrilla's involvement in the 1977 Taksim Square massacre in Istanbul, during which snipers opened fire on a protest rally of 500 000 citizens, organized by trade unions on May 1, killing 38 and injuring hundred. In 1976, a demonstration gathering 100 000 against the domestic terror, for which Counter-

Guerrilla was largely responsible, had already [taken] place. The next year, the demonstrators were met with bullets. According to Ecevit, the shooting lasted for twenty minutes, yet several thousand policemen on the scene did not intervene.

This mode of operation recalls the June 20, 1973 Ezeiza massacre in Buenos Aires, when the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance (aka Triple A), founded by José Lopez Rega (a P2 member), opened fire on the left-wing peronists... According to Kurtulus Turkish magazine (n°99, September 19, 1998 - quoted by Ganser, 2005), Turkish CIA agent Hiram Abas who "was closer than his own brother" to the CIA chief of station in Istanbul Duane 'Dewey' Clarridge (quotes from Clarridge's 1997 memoirs *An Agent for All Seasons*), was present on the May Day massacre. The Hotel International, from which the shots were fired, belonged to the ITT company, which had already been involved in financing the September 11, 1973 coup against Salvador Allende in Chile and was on good terms with the CIA.

Hiram Abas had been trained in the US in covert action operations and as an MIT agent first gained notoriety in Beirut, where he cooperated with the Mossad from 1968 to 1971 and carried out attacks, "targeting left-wing youths in the Palestinian camps and receiving bounty for the results he achieved in actions" (Kurtulus n°99). With MIT agent Mehmet Eymür, later promoted to direct the MIT's department for counter-espionage, Abas also participated in the Kizildere massacre of March 30, 1972, when they killed seven left-wing militants.

Other massacres include the Bahçelievler Massacre (October 9, 1978 - 7 university students who were members of the Turkish Worker's Party were assassinated by far-right activists including Abdullah Çatlı and Haluk Kırcı), March 16 Massacre (March 16, 1978 - At the exit of the school, the police and fascists bombed and shot the leftist students in Beyazıt Square, killing 7 people), Kahramanmaraş Massacre (December 23-24, 1978 - 111 Alauoites were killed according to the official figures, the actual number was predicted to be much higher) and many more.

According to *Le Monde diplomatique*, Abdullah Çatlı, one of the leader of the Grey Wolves, "is reckoned to have been one of the main perpetrators of underground operations carried out by the Turkish branch of the Gladio organisation and had played a key role in the bloody events of the period 1976-1980 which paved the way for the military coup d'état of September 1980. As the young head of the far-right Grey Wolves militia, he had been accused, among other things, of the murder of seven left-wing students." He was seen in the company of Avanguardia Nazionale founder Stefano Delle Chiaie, while touring Latin America and on a visit to Miami in September 1982.[42]

The United Kingdom

In Great Britain, Prime Minister Winston Churchill created the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in 1940 to assist resistance movements and carry out subversive operations in enemy-held territory across occupied Europe. Guardian reporter David Pallister wrote in December 1990 that a guerrilla network with arms caches had been put in place following the fall of France. It included Brigadier "Mad Mike" Calvert, and was drawn from a special-forces ski battalion of the Scots Guards which was originally intended to fight in Nazi-occupied Finland.[17] Known as Auxiliary Units, they were headed by Major Colin Gubbins, an expert in guerrilla warfare who would later lead the SOE. The Auxiliary Units were attached to GHQ Home Forces, and concealed within the Home Guard. The units were created in preparation of a possible invasion of the British Isles by the Third Reich. These units were allegedly stood down only in 1944. Several of their

members subsequently joined the Special Air Service and saw action in France in late 1944. The units' existence did not generally become known by the public until the 1990s though a book on the subject was published in 1968.[43]

After the end of World War II, the stay-behind armies were created with the experience and involvement of former SOE officers.[20] Following Giulio Andreotti's October 1990 revelations, General Sir John Hackett (1910-1997), former commander-in-chief of the British Army on the Rhine, declared on November 16, 1990 that a contingency plan involving "stay behind and resistance in depth" was drawn up after the war. The same week, Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley (1924-2006), former commander-in-chief of NATO's Forces in Northern Europe from 1979 to 1982, declared to The Guardian that a secret arms network was established in Britain after the war.[31] General John Hackett had written in 1978 a novel, *The Third World War: August 1985*, which was a fictionalized scenario of a Soviet Army invasion of West Germany in 1985. The novel was followed in 1982 by *The Third World War: The Untold Story*, which elaborated on the original. Farrar-Hockley had aroused controversy in 1983 when he became involved in trying to organise a campaign for a new Home Guard against eventual Soviet invasion.[44]

Gladio membership included mostly ex-servicemen but also followers of Oswald Mosley's pre-war fascist movement. They were given a list of prominent suspected communist sympathizers, including politicians, journalists, trade union leaders, clergy and so on. The mission was, at the first sign of insurrection or invasion, to execute as many as these people as possible.

At least one name on the execution list went on to become a Labour Prime Minister. In January 1991, Searchlight magazine alleged that Column 88, a neo-Nazi paramilitary organization formed in the early 1970s was part of Gladio. Among the 200,000+ Polish ex-servicemen in the UK after the end of WW2, unable to return home for fear of communist repression, were conspiratorial groups maintaining combat readiness ready to fight for a free Poland should the Warsaw Pact attack western Europe. The 'Pogon' organisation, linked to the Polish Government-in-Exile held regular paramilitary exercises until the 1970s; many of its members were associated with the Polish scouting movement in the UK which had a strong paramilitary flavour. Links with 'Stay-behind' networks are strongly suspected

General Serravalle's Revelations

General Gerardo Serravalle, who commanded the Italian Gladio from 1971 to 1974, related that "in the 1970s the members of the CPC [Coordination and Planning Committee] were the officers responsible for the secret structures of Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and Italy. These representatives of the secret structures met every year in one of the capitals... At the stay-behind meetings representatives of the CIA were always present. They had no voting rights and were from the CIA headquarters of the capital in which the meeting took place... members of the US Forces Europe Command were present, also without voting rights." [45] Next to the CPC a second secret command post was created in 1957, the Allied Clandestine Committee (ACC). According to the Belgian Parliamentary Committee on Gladio, the ACC was "responsible for coördinating the 'Stay-behind' networks in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Norway, United Kingdom and the United States." During peacetime, the activities of the

ACC "included elaborating the directives for the network, developing its clandestine capability and organising bases in Britain and the United States. In wartime, it was to plan stay-behind operations in conjunction with SHAPE; organisers were to activate clandestine bases and organise operations from there".[46] General Serravalle declared to the Commissione Stragi headed by senator Giovanni Pellegrino that the Italian Gladio members trained at a military base in Britain.[31] Documents shown to the committee also revealed that British and French officials members of Gladio had visited in the 1970s a training base in Germany built with US money.[31]

The Guardian's

November 1990 Revelations Concerning Plans Under Margaret Thatcher

The Guardian reported on November 5, 1990, that there had been a "secret attempt to revive elements of a parallel post-war plan relating to overseas operations" in the "early days of Mrs Thatcher's Conservative leadership." According to the British newspaper, "a group of former intelligence officers, inspired by the wartime Special Operations Executive, attempted to set up a secret unit as a kind of armed MI6 cell. Those behind the scheme included Airey Neave, Mrs Thatcher's close adviser who was killed in a terrorist attack in 1979, and George Kennedy Young, a former deputy chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6." The newspaper stated that Thatcher had been "initially enthusiastic but dropped the idea after the scandal surrounding the attack by the French secret service on the Greenpeace ship, Rainbow Warrior, in New Zealand in 1985." [47] The Swiss branch, P-26, as well as Italian Gladio, had trained in the UK in the early 1970s.[47][48]

Parallel stay-behind operations in non-NATO countries

Austria

In Austria, the first secret stay-behind army was exposed in 1947. It had been set up by far-right Soucek and Rössner, who both insisted during their trial that "they were carrying out the secret operation with the full knowledge and support of the US and British occupying powers." Sentenced to death, they were then pardoned under mysterious circumstances by Chancellor Körner (1951-1957). Franz Olah set up a new secret army codenamed Österreichischer Wander-Sport- und Geselligkeitsverein (OWSGV, literally "Austrian hiking, sports and society club"), with the cooperation of MI6 and CIA. He later explained that "we bought cars under this name. We installed communication centres in several regions of Austria", confirming that "special units were trained in the use of weapons and plastic explosives." He precised that "there must have been a couple of thousand people working for us... Only very, very highly positioned politicians and some members of the union knew about it."

In 1965, the police forces discovered a stay-behind arms cache in an old mine close to Windisch-Bleiberg and forced the British authorities to hand over a list with the location of 33 other caches in Austria.[20]

In 1990, when secret "stay-behind" armies were discovered all around Europe, the Austrian government said that no secret army had existed in the country.

However, six years later, the Boston Globe revealed the existence of a secret CIA

arms caches in Austria. Austrian President Thomas Klestil and Chancellor Franz Vranitzky insisted that they had known nothing of the existence of the secret army and demanded that the US launch a full-scale investigation into the violation of Austria's neutrality, which was denied by President Bill Clinton. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns -- appointed in August 2001 by President George Bush as the US Permanent Representative to the Atlantic treaty organization, where, as ambassador to NATO, he headed the combined State-Defense Department United States Mission to NATO and coordinated the NATO response to the September 11, 2001 attacks -- insisted:

"The aim was noble, the aim was correct, to try to help Austria if it was under occupation. What went wrong is that successive Washington administrations simply decided not to talk to the Austrian government about it."[1]

Finland

In 1945, Interior Minister Yrjö Leino (a communist) exposed a secret stay-behind army which was closed down (so called Weapons Cache Case). This operation was organized by Finnish general staff officers (without foreign help) in 1944 to hide weapons in order to sustain a large-scale guerilla warfare in the event the Soviet Union tried to occupy Finland in the aftermath of the Continuation War.

See also: [Operation Stella Polaris](#)

In 1991, the Swedish media claimed that a secret stay-behind army had existed in neutral Finland with an exile base in Stockholm. Finnish Defence Minister Elisabeth Rehn called the revelations "a fairy tale", adding cautiously "or at least an incredible story, of which I know nothing." [20]

However, in his memoirs, former CIA director William Colby described the setting-up of stay-behind armies in Scandinavian countries, including Finland, with or without the assistance of local governments, to prepare for a Soviet invasion. [49]

Spain

Main article: Montejurra

Note: Spain joined NATO in 1982.

In May 1976, a year after Franco's death, two left-wing Carlist members were shot down by far-right terrorists, among whom Gladio operative Stefano Delle Chiaie and members of the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance (Triple A), demonstrating connections between Gladio and the South American "Dirty War." This incident became known as the Montejurra massacre. [50] According to a report by the Italian CESIS (Executive Committee for Intelligence and Security Services), Carlo Cicutini (who took part in the 1972 Peteano bombing in Italy alongside Vincenzo Vinciguerra), participated in the 1977 Massacre of Atocha in Madrid, killing five people (including several lawyers), members of the Workers' Commissions trade-unions closely linked with the Spanish Communist Party. Cicutini was naturalized Spanish and exiled in Spain since 1972 (date of the Peteano bombing). [51]

Following Andreotti's 1990 revelations, Adolfo Suárez, Spain's first democratically elected Prime minister after Franco's death, denied ever having heard of

Gladio.[52] President of the Spanish government in 1981-82, during the transition to democracy, Calvo Sotelo stated that Spain had not been informed of Gladio when it entered NATO. Asked about Gladio's relations to Franquist Spain, he said that such a network was not necessary under Franco, since "the regime itself was Gladio." [53]

According to General Fausto Fortunato, head of Italian SISMI from 1971 to 1974, France and the US had backed Spain's entrance to Gladio, but Italy would have opposed its veto to it. Following Andreotti's revelations, however, Narcís Serra, Spanish Minister of Defense, opened up an investigation concerning Spain's links to Gladio.[54][55] Furthermore, Canarias 7 newspaper revealed, quoting former Gladio agent Alberto Volo, who had a role in the revelations of the existence of the network in 1990, that a Gladio meeting had been organized in August 1991 in the Gran Canaria island.[56] Alberto Vollo also declared that as a Gladio operative, he had received trainings in Maspalomas, in the Gran Canaria island between the 1960s and the 1970s.[57] El País daily also revealed that the Gladio organization was suspected of having used former NASA installations in Maspalomas, in the Gran Canaria island, in the 1970s.[58]

André Moyon, former Belgian secret agent, also declared that Gladio had operated in Spain.[59] He said that Gladio had bases in Madrid, Barcelona, San Sebastián and the Canarias islands.

Sweden

In 1951, CIA agent William Colby, based at the CIA station in Stockholm supported the training of stay-behind armies in neutral Sweden and Finland and in the NATO members Norway and Denmark. In 1953, the police arrested right winger Otto Hallberg and discovered the Swedish stay-behind army. Hallberg was set free and charges against him were mysteriously dropped.[20]

Switzerland

Main article: Projekt-26

In Switzerland, a secret army named P26 was discovered, by coincidence months before Giulio Andreotti's October 1990 revelations. After the "secret files scandal" (Fichenaffäre), Swiss parliamentaries started investigating the Defense Department in the summer of 1990. According to Felix Würsten of the ETH Zurich, "P26 was not directly involved in the network of NATO's secret armies but it had close contact to MI6.[60]" Daniele Ganser (ETH Zurich) wrote in the Intelligence and National Security review that "following the discovery of the stay-behind armies across Western Europe in late 1990, Swiss and international security researchers found themselves confronted with two clear-cut questions: Did Switzerland also operate a secret stay-behind army? And if yes, was it part of NATO's stay-behind network? The answer to the first question is clearly yes... The answer to the second question remains disputed..."[61]

Swiss Major Hans von Dach published in 1958 *Der totale Widerstand, Kleinkriegsanleitung für jedermann* ("Total Resistance," Bienne, 1958) concerning guerrilla warfare, a book of 180 pages about passive and active resistance to a foreign invasion, including detailed instructions on sabotage, clandestinity, methods to dissimulate weapons, struggle against police moles, etc.[62]

In 1990, Colonel Herbert Alboth, a former commander of the Swiss secret stay-behind army P26 declared in a confidential letter to the Defence Department that he was willing to reveal "the whole truth." He was later found in his house, stabbed with his own military bayonet.

The detailed parliamentary report on the Swiss secret army was presented to the public on November 17, 1990.[20]

According to The Guardian, "P26 was backed by P27, a private foreign intelligence agency funded partly by the government, and by a special unit of Swiss army intelligence which had built up files on nearly 8,000 "suspect persons" including "leftists," "bill stickers," "Jehovah's witnesses," people with "abnormal tendencies" and anti-nuclear demonstrators. On November 14, the Swiss government hurriedly dissolved P26 -- the head of which, it emerged, had been paid £100,000 a year."[63]

In 1991, a report by Swiss magistrate Pierre Cornu was released by the Swiss defence ministry. It said that P26 was without "political or legal legitimacy," and described the group's collaboration with British secret services as "intense."

"Unknown to the Swiss government, British officials signed agreements with the organisation, called P26, to provide training in combat, communications, and sabotage. The latest agreement was signed in 1987... P26 cadres participated regularly in training exercises in Britain... British advisers -- possibly from the SAS -- visited secret training establishments in Switzerland." P26 was led by Efreem Cattelan, known to British intelligence.[64]

In a 2005 conference presenting Daniele Ganser's research on Gladio, Hans Senn, General Chief of Staff of the Swiss Army between 1977 and 1980, explained how he was informed of the existence of a secret organisation in the middle of his term of office. According to him, it already became clear in 1980 in the wake of the Schilling/Bachmann affair that there was also a secret group in Switzerland. But former MP, Helmut Hubacher, President of the Social Democratic Party from 1975 to 1990, declared that although it had been known that "special services" existed within the army, as a politician he never at any time could have known that the secret army, P26 was behind this. Hubacher pointed out that the President of the parliamentary investigation into P26 (PUK-EMD), the right-wing politician from Appenzell and member of the Council of States for that Canton, Carlo Schmid, had suffered "like a dog" during the commission's investigations. Carlo Schmid declared to the press: "I was schocked that something like that is at all possible," and said to the press he was glad to leave the "conspirational atmosphere" which had weighted upon him like a "black shadow" during the investigations.[65]

Hubacher found it especially disturbing that, apart from its official mandate of organizing resistance in case of a Soviet invasion, P26 had also a mandate to become active should the left succeed in achieving a parliamentary majority.[60]

The Order of the Solar Temple Mystery

Psychiatrist Jean-Marie Abgrall has alleged[66] that the "collective suicides" allegedly committed by various Order of the Solar Temple (OST) members, in December 1995 in the Vercors region of France, were somehow related to Gladio. According to Jean-Marie Abgrall's declarations to Le Point magazine and Nice

Matin newspaper in February 2003, which he renewed in official justice documents, the Renewed Order of the Solar Temple cult ("Ordre Rénové du Temple" - ORT[67]), ancestor of the OTS, had relations with Gladio networks. Abgrall also claimed that the AMORC, of which he had been a member, was also related to "Foccart networks" (Jacques Foccart was De Gaulle's spindoctor for African affairs, and retained an important role long after him).

The theory of the mass suicide has been heavily contested by family of the victims Alain Vuarnet, René and Mugnette Rostan, Willy and Giséla Schleimer and their lawyer, Alain Leclerc. According to a Reuters cable dated March 22, 2004 (19:03:46), the lawyer explained that he had two documents upholding the theory of a murder, the first one being Jean-Marie Abgrall's juridical declaration above-mentioned. According to the lawyer, psychiatrist Jean-Marie Abgrall "reveals... that the Order of the Solar Temple, as the AMORC and the ORT, were created and controlled by French and foreign secret services." Those information weren't given at the time of investigations; the lawyer thus asked that Dr. Abgrall be heard by the judge, according to a REUTERS cable.

One document was a copy of an April 21, 1997 letter addressed by a lawyer office to a bank, concerning the distribution of 17 million French Francs (about 2.5 millions Euros) between various personalities and political parties, the OST and the Rosicrucian Order AMORC (Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis), an organization suspected of links with the OST. In his demand for more investigation, Dr. Leclerc wrote: "If the document is true, it shows that the Order of the Solar Temple was in activity after the last March 22, 1997 massacre (the "collective suicide" of five adepts in Canada) and that the responsables of this organization are still alive." However, the court refused further expertise: thus, it hasn't been possible to verify the validity of this document.

A third document was sent by the French secret services (RG) to the judge, discrediting the family of the victims' claims and demands for further investigations. If Jean-Marie Abgrall's claims of relationship between the ORT (OST's ancestor) and Gladio may seem far-fetched, Propaganda Due's juridically proven involvement in Gladio's strategy of tension inclines one to keep open various possibilities during investigations. Furthermore, connections between ORT founder Luc Jouret and far-right Belgian activist Jean Thiriart have been alleged by other sources; together, they had found in the 1970s a far-right party which was controlled by Belgium's branch of Gladio (See above). In any case, the mass suicides haven't been clearly explained, let alone financial links concerning those various cults.[68][69]

FOIA Requests and US State Department's 2006 Communiqué

Three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests have been filed to the CIA, which has rejected them with the standard reply: "The CIA can neither confirm nor deny the existence or non-existence of records responsive to your request." One request was filed by the National Security Archive in 1991; another by the Italian Senate commission headed by Senator Giovanni Pellegrino in 1995 concerning Gladio and Aldo Moro's murder; the last one in 1996, by Olivier Rathkolb, of Vienna university, for the Austrian government, concerning the secret stay-behind armies after a discovery of an arms-cache.[20]

Furthermore, the US State Department published a communiqué in January 2006 which, while admitting the existence of Gladio stay-behind units, dismissed any

role in any false flag attack. It also claimed that several of the researchers have been influenced by the Westmoreland Fieldmanual, a forgery made by the Soviet Union. The US military manual, found in the 1970s, explicitly formulated the need for a strategy of tension involving violent attacks blamed on radical left-wing groups in order to convince allied governments of the need for counter-action. It also rejected a Greek journalist's allegations made in December 2005 (See above).[3]

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See also

- Gehlen Org
- Aldo Moro
- Strategy of tension

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False Flag Overview: "The Rules" and Other Considerations

False flag operations are covert operations conducted by governments, corporations, or other organizations, which are designed to appear as if they are being carried out by other entities. The name is derived from the military concept of flying false colors; that is, flying the flag of a country other than one's own. False flag operations are not limited to war and counter-insurgency operations, and have been used in peace-time; for example, during Italy's strategy of tension.

Laws of war

In naval warfare, this practice was considered acceptable provided one lowered the false flag and raised the national flag before engaging in battle. Auxiliary cruisers operated in such a fashion in both World Wars. British Q-boats were notorious for this behavior, which Germany used as an excuse for its own use of unrestricted submarine warfare. In the most notable example, the German commerce raider Kormoran surprised and sank the Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney in 1941, causing the greatest recorded loss of life in an Australian warship.

In land warfare, the use of a false flag is similar to that of naval warfare. The most widespread assumption is that this practice was first established under international humanitarian law at the trial in 1947 of the planner and commander of Operation Greif, Otto Skorzeny, by the military court at the Dachau Trials. In this trial, the court did not find Skorzeny guilty of a crime by ordering his men into action in American uniforms. He had passed on to his men the warning of German legal experts, that if they fought in American uniforms, they would be breaking the laws of war, but they probably were not doing so just by wearing the uniform. During the trial, a number of arguments were advanced to substantiate this position and the German and US military seem to be in agreement on it. In the transcript of the trial[1] it is mentioned that Paragraph 43 of the Field Manual published by the War Department, United States Army, on 1st October, 1940, under the title "Rules of Land Warfare", says:

"National flags, insignias and uniforms as a ruse - in practice it has been authorised to make use of these as a ruse. The foregoing rule (Article 23 of the Annex of the IVth Hague Convention), does not prohibit such use, but does prohibit their improper use. It is certainly forbidden to make use of them during a combat. Before opening fire upon the enemy, they must be discarded."

The American Soldiers' Handbook, was quoted by Defense Counsel and says:

"The use of the enemy flag, insignia and uniform is permitted under some circumstances. They are not to be used during actual fighting, and if used in order to approach the enemy without drawing fire, should be thrown away or removed as soon as fighting begins."

The outcome of the trial has been codified in the 1977 Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 (Protocol I):

Article 37. Prohibition of perfidy

1. It is prohibited to kill, injure or capture an adversary by resort to perfidy. Acts inviting the confidence of an adversary to lead him to believe that he is entitled to, or is obliged to accord, protection under the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, with intent to betray that confidence, shall constitute perfidy. The following acts are examples of perfidy:
 - (a) The feigning of an intent to negotiate under a flag of truce or of a surrender;
 - ...
 - (d) The feigning of protected status by the use of signs, emblems or uniforms of the United Nations or of neutral or other States not Parties to the conflict.
2. Ruses of war are not prohibited. Such ruses are acts which are intended to mislead an adversary or to induce him to act recklessly but which infringe no rule of international law applicable in armed conflict and which are not perfidious because they do not invite the confidence of an adversary with respect to protection under that law. The following are examples of such ruses: the use of camouflage, decoys, mock operations and misinformation.

Article 38. Recognized emblems

1. It is prohibited to make improper use of the distinctive emblem of the red cross, red crescent or red lion and sun or of other emblems, signs or signals provided for by the Conventions or by this Protocol. It is also prohibited to misuse deliberately in an armed conflict other internationally recognized protective emblems, signs or signals, including the flag of truce, and the protective emblem of cultural property.
2. It is prohibited to make use of the distinctive emblem of the United Nations, except as authorized by that Organization.

Article 39. Emblems of nationality

1. It is prohibited to make use in an armed conflict of the flags or military emblems, insignia or uniforms of neutral or other States not Parties to the conflict.
2. It is prohibited to make use of the flags or military emblems, insignia or uniforms of adverse Parties while engaging in attacks or in order to shield, favour, protect or impede military operations.

3. Nothing in this Article or in Article 37, paragraph 1 (d), shall affect the existing generally recognized rules of international law applicable to espionage or to the use of flags in the conduct of armed conflict at sea.

Examples of False Flag Attacks as Pretexts for War

- Ø In the Gleiwitz incident in 1939, Reinhard Heydrich of Nazi Germany fabricated evidence of a "Polish attack" to mobilize German public opinion, and to fabricate a false justification, for a war with Poland. This would become the start of World War II in Europe.
- Ø In the 1931 Mukden incident, Japanese officers fabricated a pretext for annexing Manchuria by blowing up a section of railway. Later on, they falsely claimed the kidnapping of one of their soldiers in the Marco Polo Bridge Incident as an excuse to invade China proper.
- Ø In 1939, the Soviet Union shelled a village of Mainila on the Finnish border, and forged casualties. This Shelling of Mainila was cited a justification for the Soviet Union to attack Finland.
- Ø The planned, but never executed, 1962 Operation Northwoods plot by the U.S. administration for a war with Cuba involved scenarios such as hijacking a passenger plane and blaming it on Cuba. It was authored by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, nixed by John F. Kennedy, came to light through the Freedom of Information Act and was publicized by James Bamford.
- Ø On June 8, 1967 the USS Liberty (AGTR-5) was surveilled and attacked in international waters by units of the Israeli Air Force and Sea Corps. Evidence exists supporting the allegation that the attack was an attempt to draw the United States into the Six-Day War. Thirty-four American crewmen were killed and 173 were wounded in the attack.
- Ø Opponents of the Kremlin have asserted that the apartment house bombings that precipitated the Second Chechen War were false flag operations perpetrated by the FSB, the successor organization to the KGB.

Pseudo-operations

Pseudo operations are those in which forces of one power disguised themselves as enemy forces and, more specifically, when the power is a state, and the other power an insurgency, then as insurgents, often with the aid of defectors, to operate as teams to infiltrate insurgent areas. [2]. The aim of such pseudo-operations may either be to gather short, or long-term intelligence, or to engage in active operations, in particular assassinations of important enemies. However, they usually involve both, as the risks of exposure highly increase with time, and thus lead to violent confrontation. Pseudo-operations may be directed by police forces, military, or both. Police forces are usually best suited to intelligence tasks; however, military provide the structure needed to back-up such pseudo-ops with military response forces. According to US military Lawrence Cline (2005), "the teams typically have been controlled by police services, but this largely was due to the weaknesses in the respective military intelligence systems."

The State Political Directorate (OGPU) of the Soviet Union set up such an operation from 1921 to 1926. During Operation Trust, they used loose networks of White

Army supporters and extended them, creating the pseudo-"Monarchist Union of Central Russia" (MUCR) in order to help the OGPU identify real monarchists and anti-Bolsheviks.

Examples of combined police and military oversight of pseudo-operations include the Selous Scouts in former country Rhodesia (current Zimbabwe), governed by white minority rule until 1980. The Selous Scouts were formed at the beginning of Operation Hurricane, in November 1973, by Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Ron Reid-Daly. As all Special Forces in Rhodesia, by 1977 they were controlled by COMOPS (Commander, Combined Operations) Commander Lieutenant General Peter Walls. The Selous Scouts were originally composed of 120 members, with all officers being white and the highest rank initially available for Africans being colour sergeant. They succeeded in turning approximately 800 insurgents who were then payed by Special Branch, ultimately reaching the number of 1,500 members. Engaging mainly in long-range reconnaissance and surveillance missions, they increasingly turned to offensive actions, including the attempted assassination of ZIPRA leader Joshua Nkomo in Zambia. This mission was finally aborted by the Selous Scouts, and attempted again, unsuccessfully, by the Rhodesian Special Air Service (SAS) [3].

Some offensive operations attracted international condemnation, in particular the Selous Scouts' raid on a ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army) camp at Nyadzonya Pungwe, Mozambique in August 1976. ZANLA was then led by Josiah Tongogara. Using Rhodesian trucks and armored cars disguised as Mozambique military vehicles, 84 scouts killed 1,000 alleged guerrillas in the camp, registered as a refugee camp by the United Nations (UN). Even according to Reid-Daly, most of those killed were unarmed guerrillas standing in formation for a parade. The camp hospital was also set ablaze by the rounds fired by the Scouts, killing all patients [4]. According to David Martin and Phyllis Johnson, who visited the camp shortly before the raid, it was only a refugee camp which did not host any guerrillas [5].

According to a 1978 study by the Directorate of Military Intelligence, 68% of all insurgent deaths inside Rhodesia could be attributed to the Selous Scouts, who were disbanded in 1980 [6].

In 1960 Frank Kitson, (who was later involved in the Northern Irish conflict and is now a retired British General), published *Gangs and Counter-gangs* about how to counter gangs and measures of deception, including the use of defectors, which brought the issue a wider audience.

If the action is a police action then these tactics would fall within the laws of the state initiating the pseudo, but if such actions are taken in a civil war or during a belligerent military occupation then those who participate in such actions would not be privileged belligerents. The principle of plausible deniability is usually applied for pseudo-teams. (see the above section *Laws of war*).

Some false flag operation are have been described by Lawrence E. Cline, a retired US Army intelligence officer, as pseudo-operations, or "the use of organized teams which are disguised as guerrilla groups for long- or short-term penetration of insurgent-controlled areas."

Pseudo Operations should be distinguished, notes Cline, from the more common police or intelligence infiltration of guerrilla or criminal organizations. In the latter

case, infiltration is normally done by individuals. Pseudo teams, on the other hand, are formed as needed from organized units, usually military or paramilitary. The use of pseudo teams has been a hallmark of a number of foreign counterinsurgency campaigns." [2]

Terrorism and False Flag Operations

Terrorist attacks may sometimes be in fact false flag operations. In Operation Susannah (a.k.a Lavon Affair) in 1954, 13 Egyptian Jews working for Israeli military intelligence firebombed American and British properties in Alexandria and Cairo. The goal was to stifle any rapprochement between Nasser and the Western powers by leading them to believe that Egyptian nationalists were responsible for these terrorist attacks.

During the Italian strategy of tension in which several bombings in the 1970s, attributed to far-left organizations, were in fact carried out by far-right organizations cooperating with the Italian secret services (see Operation Gladio, 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing, 1972 Peteano attack by Vincenzo Vinciguerra, 1973 assassination attempt of former Interior Minister Mariano Rumor, 1980 Bologna massacre, etc. and various investigations, for example by Guido Salvini).

In France, the Mouvement d'Action et Défense Masada, supposedly a Zionist group, was really a neo-fascist terrorist group which hoped to increase tension between Arabs and Jews in France.

False flag tactics were also employed during the Algerian civil war, starting in the mid-1994. Death squads composed of DRM security forces disguised themselves as Islamist terrorists and committed false flag terror attacks. Such groups included the OJAL (Organisation of Young Free Algerians) or the OSSRA (Secret Organisation for the safeguard of the Algerian Republic) [12] According to Roger Faligot and Pascal Kropp (1999), the OJAL reminded of "the Organization of the French Algerian Resistance (ORAF), a group of counter-terrorists created in December 1956 by the DST (Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire / Territorial Surveillance Directorate) whose mission was to carry out terrorist attacks with the aim of quashing any hopes of political compromise."

Dirty War

During a 1981 interview whose contents were revealed by documents declassified by the CIA in 2000, former CIA and DINA agent Michael Townley explained that Ignacio Novo Sampol, member of CORU, an anti-Castro organization, had agreed to commit the Cuban Nationalist Movement in the kidnapping, in Buenos Aires, of a president of a Dutch bank. The abduction, organized by civilian SIDE agents, the Argentine intelligence agency, was to obtain a ransom. Townley said that Novo Sampol had provided \$6,000 from the Cuban Nationalist Movement, forwarded to the civilian SIDE agents to pay for the preparation expenses of the kidnapping. After returning to the US, Novo Sampol sent Townley a stock of paper, used to print pamphlets in the name of "Grupo Rojo" (Red Group), an imaginary Argentine Marxist terrorist organization, which was to claim credit for the kidnapping of the Dutch banker. Townley declared that the pamphlets were distributed in Mendoza and Córdoba in relation with false flag bombings perpetrated by SIDE agents, which had as their aim to accredit the existence of the fake Grupo Rojo. However, the SIDE agents procrastinated too much, and the kidnapping ultimately was not carried out.

Search also:

- * Black propaganda
- * State terrorism
- * Covert operation
- * Conspiracy theory
- * Front organization
- * Bloed-Bodem-Eer en Trouw (Flemish neo-Nazi group preparing false flag attacks)
- * Lavon Affair
- * February 27, 1933 Reichstag Fire, which led to the Reichstag Fire Decree which suspended the Weimar Constitution until the end of the Third Reich
- * Operation Ajax (overthrowing of Mohammed Mossadeq, Prime Minister of Iran, in 1953)
- * Operation Northwoods
- * Special Activities Division
- * The Plaza Miranda Bombings in the Philippines, which led to Ferdinand Marcos' suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.
- * The Spanish believed that the explosion on the USS Maine was a false-flag operation to provoke the Spanish-American War
- * 3/11, 7/7 and 9/11 conspiracy theories
- * Shelling of Manila and Winter War

[Back](#)

10.2 The Downing Street Memo

Today is June 11, 2007

767 days since congressional request for investigation.

The Downing Street "Memo" is actually the minutes of a meeting, transcribed during a gathering many of the British Prime Minister's senior ministers on July 23, 2002. Published by The Sunday Times on May 1, 2005 this document was the first hard evidence from within the UK or US governments that exposed the truth about how the Iraq war began.

Since that time, much more information has come to light through leaks of secret government documents and the accounts of an increasing number of people who have witnessed the administration's wrongdoing firsthand.

There is now in the public record a large body of evidence that vividly illustrates:

- * Bush's long-standing intent to invade Iraq
- * Bush's willingness to provoke Saddam (in a variety of ways) into providing a pretext for war
- * The fact that the war effectively began with an air campaign nearly a year before the March 2003 invasion and months before Congressional approval for the use of force
- * The administration's widespread effort to crush dissent and manipulate information that would counter its justification for war
- * The lack of planning for the war's aftermath and a fundamental lack of understanding of the Iraqi society

From cherry-picked intelligence to a non-existent plan to win the peace; from no-bid contracts for reconstruction to character assassination for anyone who dares to question the premises of the war—the Bush administration has perpetrated what is by any measure one of the most egregious foreign policy missteps in our history.

A majority of the American people now believes that the president intentionally misled our nation into war, and nearly half say he should be impeached if that assertion can be proven. The only question that remains is: will he and his administration be held accountable?

<http://www.downingstreetmemo.com/>

The Memo:

SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL - UK EYES ONLY

DAVID MANNING

From: Matthew Rycroft

Date: 23 July 2002

cc: Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Attorney-General, Sir Richard Wilson, John Scarlett, Francis Richards, CDS, C, Jonathan Powell, Sally Morgan, Alastair Campbell

IRAQ: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING, 23 JULY

Copy addressees and you met the Prime Minister on 23 July to discuss Iraq.

This record is extremely sensitive. No further copies should be made. It should be shown only to those with a genuine need to know its contents.

John Scarlett summarised the intelligence and latest JIC assessment. Saddam's regime was tough and based on extreme fear. The only way to overthrow it was likely to be by massive military action. Saddam was worried and expected an attack, probably by air and land, but he was not convinced that it would be immediate or overwhelming. His regime expected their neighbours to line up with the US. Saddam knew that regular army morale was poor. Real support for Saddam among the public was probably narrowly based.

C reported on his recent talks in Washington. There was a perceptible shift in attitude. Military action was now seen as inevitable. Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. **But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy.** The NSC had no patience with the UN route, and no enthusiasm for publishing material on the Iraqi regime's record. There was little discussion in Washington of the aftermath after military action.

CDS said that military planners would brief CENTCOM on 1-2 August, Rumsfeld on 3 August and Bush on 4 August.

The two broad US options were:

(a) Generated Start. A slow build-up of 250,000 US troops, a short (72 hour) air campaign, then a move up to Baghdad from the south. Lead time of 90 days (30 days preparation plus 60 days deployment to Kuwait).

(b) Running Start. Use forces already in theatre (3 x 6,000), continuous air campaign, initiated by an Iraqi casus belli. Total lead time of 60 days with the air campaign beginning even earlier. A hazardous option.

The US saw the UK (and Kuwait) as essential, with basing in Diego Garcia and Cyprus critical for either option. Turkey and other Gulf states were also important, but less vital. The three main options for UK involvement were:

- (i) Basing in Diego Garcia and Cyprus, plus three SF squadrons.
- (ii) As above, with maritime and air assets in addition.
- (iii) As above, plus a land contribution of up to 40,000, perhaps with a discrete role in Northern Iraq entering from Turkey, tying down two Iraqi divisions.

The Defence Secretary said that the US had already begun "spikes of activity" to put pressure on the regime. No decisions had been taken, but he thought the most likely timing in US minds for military action to begin was January, with the timeline beginning 30 days before the US Congressional elections.

The Foreign Secretary said he would discuss this with Colin Powell this week. It seemed clear that Bush had made up his mind to take military action, even if the timing was not yet decided. But the case was thin. Saddam was not threatening his neighbours, and his WMD capability was less than that of Libya, North Korea or Iran. We should work up a plan for an ultimatum to Saddam to allow back in the UN weapons inspectors. This would also help with the legal justification for the use of force.

The Attorney-General said that the desire for regime change was not a legal base for military action. There were three possible legal bases: self-defence, humanitarian intervention, or UNSC authorisation. The first and second could not be the base in this case. Relying on UNSCR 1205 of three years ago would be difficult. The situation might of course change.

The Prime Minister said that it would make a big difference politically and legally if Saddam refused to allow in the UN inspectors. Regime change and WMD were linked in the sense that it was the regime that was producing the WMD. There were different strategies for dealing with Libya and Iran. If the political context were right, people would support regime change. The two key issues were whether the military plan worked and whether we had the political strategy to give the military plan the space to work.

On the first, CDS said that we did not know yet if the US battleplan was workable. The military were continuing to ask lots of questions.

For instance, what were the consequences, if Saddam used WMD on day one, or if Baghdad did not collapse and urban warfighting began? You said that Saddam could also use his WMD on Kuwait. Or on Israel, added the Defence Secretary.

The Foreign Secretary thought the US would not go ahead with a military plan unless convinced that it was a winning strategy. On this, US and UK interests converged. But on the political strategy, there could be US/UK differences. Despite US resistance, we should explore discreetly the ultimatum. Saddam would continue to play hard-ball with the UN.

John Scarlett assessed that Saddam would allow the inspectors back in only when he thought the threat of military action was real.

The Defence Secretary said that if the Prime Minister wanted UK military involvement, he would need to decide this early. He cautioned that many in the US did not think it worth going down the ultimatum route. It would be important for the Prime Minister to set out the political context to Bush.

Conclusions:

(a) We should work on the assumption that the UK would take part in any military action. But we needed a fuller picture of US planning before we could take any firm decisions. CDS should tell the US military that we were considering a range of options.

(b) The Prime Minister would revert on the question of whether funds could be spent in preparation for this operation.

(c) CDS would send the Prime Minister full details of the proposed military campaign and possible UK contributions by the end of the week.

(d) The Foreign Secretary would send the Prime Minister the background on the UN inspectors, and discreetly work up the ultimatum to Saddam.

He would also send the Prime Minister advice on the positions of countries in the region especially Turkey, and of the key EU member states.

(e) John Scarlett would send the Prime Minister a full intelligence update.

(f) We must not ignore the legal issues: the Attorney-General would consider legal advice with FCO/MOD legal advisers.

(I have written separately to commission this follow-up work.)

MATTHEW RYCROFT

(Rycroft was a Downing Street foreign policy aide)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1593607,00.html>

See Also: Documentary interviews with US Intelligence Agents, regarding the process of distortion, manipulation and outright alteration to which their information was subjected by the Bush Administration (examples provided), in the following films.....

DVD: Uncovered: The War on Iraq

To order: <http://www.truthuncovered.com/>

DVD: Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers

To order: <http://iraqforsale.org/>

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10.3 The Political Timing of Terror Alerts

Terror Alerts Timed for Political Value per Keith Olbermann

The Nexus of Politics and Terror

Secaucus - Last Thursday on Countdown, I referred to the latest terror threat - the reported bomb plot against the New York City subway system - in terms of its timing. President Bush's speech about the war on terror had come earlier the same day, as had the breaking news of the possible indictment of Karl Rove in the CIA leak investigation.

I suggested that in the last three years there had been about 13 similar coincidences -- a political downturn for the administration, followed by a "terror event" -- a change in alert status, an arrest, a warning.

We figured we'd better put that list of coincidences on the public record. We did so this evening on the television program, with ten of these examples. The other three are listed at the end of the main list, out of chronological order. The contraction was made purely for the sake of television timing considerations, and permitted us to get the live reaction of the former Undersecretary of Homeland Security, Asa Hutchinson.

We bring you these coincidences, reminding you, and ourselves here, that perhaps the simplest piece of wisdom in the world is called "the logical fallacy." Just because Event "A" occurs, and then Event "B" occurs, that does not automatically mean that Event "A" caused Event "B."

But one set of comments from an informed observer seems particularly relevant as we examine these coincidences.

On May 10th of this year, after his resignation, former Secretary of Homeland Security Ridge looked back on the terror alert level changes, issued on his watch.

Mr. Ridge said: "More often than not we were the least inclined to raise it. Sometimes we disagreed with the intelligence assessment. Sometimes we thought even if the intelligence was good, you don't necessarily put the country on (alert)... there were times when some people were really aggressive about raising it, and we said 'for that?'"

Please, judge for yourself.

Number One:

May 18th, 2002. The first details of the President's Daily Briefing of August 6th, 2001, are revealed, including its title - "Bin Laden Determined To Strike In U.S." The same day another memo is discovered - revealing the FBI knew of men with links to Al Qaeda training at an Arizona flight school. The memo was never acted upon. Questions about 9/11 Intelligence failures are swirling.

May 20th, 2002. Two days later, FBI Director Mueller declares another terrorist attack "inevitable." The next day, the Department of Homeland Security issues warnings of attacks against railroads nationwide, and against New York City landmarks like the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty.

Number Two:

June 6th, 2002. Colleen Rowley, the FBI agent who tried to alert her superiors to the specialized flight training taken by Zacarias Moussaoui, whose information suggests the government missed a chance to break up the 9/11 plot, testifies before Congress. Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Graham says Rowley's testimony has inspired similar pre-9/11 whistle-blowers.

June 10th, 2002. Four days later, speaking from Russia, Attorney General John Ashcroft reveals that an American named Jose Padilla is under arrest, accused of plotting a radiation bomb attack in this country. Padilla had, by this time, already been detained for more than a month.

Number Three:

February 5th, 2003. Secretary of State Powell tells the United Nations Security Council of Iraq's concealment of weapons, including 18 mobile biological weapons laboratories, justifying a U.N. or U.S. first strike. Many in the UN are doubtful. Months later, much of the information proves untrue.

February 7th, 2003. Two days later, as anti-war demonstrations continue to take place around the globe, Homeland Security Secretary Ridge cites "credible threats" by Al Qaeda, and raises the terror alert level to orange. Three days after that, Fire Administrator David Paulison - who would become the acting head of FEMA after the Hurricane Katrina disaster - advises Americans to stock up on plastic sheeting and duct tape to protect themselves against radiological or biological attack.

Number Four:

July 23rd, 2003: The White House admits the CIA -- months before the President's State of the Union Address -- expressed "strong doubts" about the claim that Iraq had attempted to buy uranium from Niger. On the 24th, the Congressional report on the 9/11 attacks is issued; it criticizes government at all levels; it reveals an FBI informant had been living with two of the future hijackers; and it concludes that Iraq had no link to Al-Qaeda. 28 pages of the report are redacted. On the 26th, American troops are accused of beating Iraqi prisoners.

July 29th, 2003. Three days later, amid all of those negative headlines, Homeland Security issues warnings of further terrorist attempts to use airplanes for suicide attacks.

Number Five:

December 17th, 2003. 9/11 Commission Co-Chair Thomas Kean says the attacks were preventable. The next day, a Federal Appeals Court says the government cannot detain suspected radiation-bomber Jose Padilla indefinitely without charges, and the chief U.S. Weapons inspector in Iraq, Dr. David Kay, who has previously announced he has found no Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq, announces he will resign his post.

December 21st, 2003. Three days later, just before Christmas, Homeland Security again raises the threat level to Orange, claiming "credible intelligence" of further

plots to crash airliners into U.S. cities. Subsequently, six international flights into this country are canceled after some passenger names purportedly produce matches on government no-fly lists. The French later identify those matched names: one belongs to an insurance salesman from Wales, another to an elderly Chinese woman, a third to a five-year old boy.

Number Six:

March 30th, 2004. The new chief weapons inspector in Iraq, Charles Duelfer tells Congress we have still not found any WMD there. And, after weeks of refusing to appear before the 9/11 Commission, Condoleezza Rice finally relents and agrees to testify. On the 31st: Four Blackwater-USA contractors working in Iraq are murdered, their mutilated bodies dragged through the streets and left on public display in Fallujah. The role of civilian contractors in Iraq is widely questioned.

April 2nd, 2004. Homeland Security issues a bulletin warning that terrorists may try to blow up buses and trains, using fertilizer and fuel bombs - like the one detonated in Oklahoma City - stuffed into satchels or duffel bags.

Number Seven:

May 16th, 2004. Secretary of State Powell appears on "Meet The Press." Moderator Tim Russert closes by asking him about the "enormous personal credibility" Powell had placed before the U.N. in laying out a case against Saddam Hussein. An aide to Powell interrupts the question, saying the interview is over. Powell finishes his answer, admitting that much of the information he had been given about Weapons of Mass Destruction was "inaccurate and wrong, and, in some cases, deliberately misleading."

May 21st, 2004. New photos showing mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison are released. On the 24th - Associated Press video from Iraq confirms U.S. forces mistakenly bombed a wedding party - killing more than 40.

Number Eight:

July 6th, 2004. Democratic Presidential candidate John Kerry selects Senator John Edwards as his vice presidential running mate, producing a small bump in the election opinion polls, and a huge swing in media attention towards the Democratic campaign.

July 8th, 2004. Two days later, Homeland Secretary Ridge warns of information about Al-Qaeda attacks during the summer or autumn. Four days after that, the head of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, DeForest B. Soaries, Junior, confirms he has written to Ridge about the prospect of postponing the upcoming Presidential election in the event it is interrupted by terrorist acts.

Number Nine:

July 29th, 2004. At their party convention in Boston, the Democrats formally nominate John Kerry as their candidate for President. As in the wake of any convention, the Democrats dominate the media attention over the ensuing weekend.

Monday, August 1st, 2004. The Department of Homeland Security raises the alert status for financial centers in New York, New Jersey, and Washington to orange. The evidence supporting the warning - reconnaissance data, left in a home in Iraq - later proves to be roughly four years old and largely out-of-date.

Number Ten:

Last Thursday. At 10 AM Eastern Time, the President addresses the National Endowment for Democracy, once again emphasizing the importance of the war on terror and insisting his government has broken up at least 10 terrorist plots since 9/11.

At 3 PM Eastern Time, five hours after the President's speech has begun, the Associated Press reports that Karl Rove will testify again to the CIA Leak Grand Jury, and that Special Prosecutor Fitzgerald has told Rove he cannot guarantee that he will not be indicted.

At 5:17 PM Eastern Time, seven hours after the President's speech has begun, New York officials disclose a bomb threat to the city's subway system - based on information supplied by the Federal Government. A Homeland Security spokesman says the intelligence upon which the disclosure is based is "of doubtful credibility." And it later proves that New York City had known of the threat for at least three days, and had increased police presence in the subways long before making the announcement at that particular time. Local New York television station, WNBC, reports it had the story of the threat days in advance, but was asked by "high ranking federal officials" in New York and Washington to hold off its story.

Less than four days after revealing the threat, Mayor Michael Bloomberg says "Since the period of the threat now seems to be passing, I think over the immediate future, we'll slowly be winding down the enhanced security."

While news organizations ranging from the New York Post to NBC News quote sources who say there was reason to believe that informant who triggered the warning simply 'made it up,' a Senior U.S. Counter-terrorism official tells the New York Times: "There was no there, there."

The list of three additional examples follows.

Number Eleven:

October 22nd, 2004. After weeks of Administration insistence that there are terrorist plans to disrupt the elections, FBI, Law Enforcement, and other U.S. Intelligence agencies report they have found no direct evidence of any plot. More over, they say, a key CIA source who had claimed knowledge of the plot, has been discredited.

October 29, 2004. Seven days later - four days before the Presidential election - the first supposedly new, datable tape of Osama Bin Laden since December 2001 is aired on the Al-Jazeera Network. A Bush-Cheney campaign official anonymously tells the New York Daily News that from his campaign's point of view, the tape is quote "a little gift."

Number Twelve:

May 5th, 2005. 88 members of the United States House of Representatives send a letter to President Bush demanding an investigation of the so-called "Downing Street Memo" - a British document which describes purported American desire dating to 2002 to "fix" the evidence to fit the charges against Iraq. In Iraq over the following weekend, car bombings escalate. On the 11th, more than 75 Iraqis are killed in one.

May 11th, 2005. Later that day, an instructor and student pilot violate restricted airspace in Washington D.C. It is an event that happens hundreds of times a year, but this time the plane gets to within three miles of the White House. The Capitol is evacuated; Vice President Cheney, the First Lady, and Nancy Reagan are all rushed to secure locations. The President, biking through woods, is not immediately notified.

Number Thirteen:

June 26th, 2005. A Gallup poll suggests that 61 percent of the American public believes the President does not have a plan in Iraq. On the 28th, Mr. Bush speaks to the nation from Fort Bragg: "We fight today because terrorists want to attack our country and kill our citizens, and Iraq is where they are making their stand. So we'll fight them there, we'll fight them across the world, and we will stay in the fight until the fight is won."

June 29th 2005. The next day, another private pilot veers into restricted airspace, the Capitol is again evacuated, and this time, so is the President.

To summarize, coincidences are coincidences.

We could probably construct a similar time line of terror events and warnings, and their relationship to -- the opening of new Walmarts around the country.

Are these coincidences signs that the government's approach has worked because none of the announced threats ever materialized? Are they signs that the government has not yet mastered how and when to inform the public?

Is there, in addition to the "fog of war" a simple, benign, "fog of intelligence"?

But, if merely a reasonable case can be made that any of these juxtapositions of events are more than just coincidences, it underscores the need for questions to be asked in this country - questions about what is prudence, and what is fear-mongering; questions about which is the threat of death by terror, and which is the terror of threat.

(Scroll Down This Webpage to October 12, 2005; 8:35 pm ET)
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9665308/>

Terror Alerts Timed for Political Value per TIME Magazine by Joshua Micah Marshall

So it went right through the 2004 election. And then not long after the champagne corks stopped popping at Bush campaign headquarters, terror alerts seemed to go

out of style. The color codes became yesterday's news. With the exception of one warning about mass-transit facilities in response to the London bombing on July 7, 2005, that was pretty much it until this summer. I live in lower Manhattan and my wife works in a building overlooking Ground Zero. So I want to know when something's really up and not worry that I'm getting bamboozled to amp the President's approval rating.

Can I prove any of this was politically motivated? Of course not. But that's the magic of the terror-alert song and dance. There's no way to know. All the key facts are veiled in secrecy, as they must be. So it's impossible to know from the outside whether it's on the level or not. But with another election looming, it seems we're about to get a bunch of new chances to wonder.

On June 23, cable-news channels went gonzo over a raid on a homegrown terror cell in Miami that foiled an alleged plot to blow up Chicago's Sears Tower. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales held a press conference to announce the arrests. Even Vice President Dick Cheney weighed in and called the group a "very real threat." He did so at a political fundraiser.

But as often is the case in these announcements, it turned out to be a lot less than advertised, unless you were a writer for Saturday Night Live. When the FBI raided the abandoned warehouse where the group hung out in Miami's impoverished Liberty City neighborhood, they found no weapons, no money and no evidence of ties to any terrorist group anywhere. Indeed, these would-be jihadis were so early in their planning for jihad that they hadn't yet set aside time to become Muslims. The group, according to a follow-up report from Reuters, "mixes Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, Freemasonry, Gnosticism and Taoism." Their covert methods included taking turns guarding the abandoned warehouse (which served as their clubhouse) wearing black uniforms, ski masks and combat boots in the hot Florida summer. Their leader, Narseal Batiste, roamed the streets in a bathrobe with a crooked wooden staff recruiting men to join his group. The oath of allegiance to al-Qaeda they allegedly made to an FBI informant seems as likely as not to have been prompted by the informants' offer of new pairs of boots for the gang. Shoes were apparently in short supply.

You don't need to be a Muslim or even that bright a bulb to create deadly mayhem. Richard Reid, the would-be shoe bomber, was a klutz, but one who might have downed an airliner en route to the U.S. in the days after 9/11. But the Miami warehouse cult that gave Cheney the willies seemed like they'd have trouble finding a Sears let alone blowing up the Sears Tower.

Two weeks later there was another report of a foiled plot, this one a far more serious-sounding scheme to blow up the Holland Tunnel, which connects New Jersey to Manhattan. Sensing their credibility might be running thin, FBI officials as well as members of media started referring to these plotters as the "real deal" plotters, presumably to distinguish them from whack jobs in Miami. These guys too, it turned out, hadn't done much more than talk in an Internet chat room about blowing something up. And their plan to flood downtown New York City with sea water from a demolished tunnel would have been complicated a bit by the fact that, unlike New Orleans, Manhattan is well above sea level.

The "tell" in this case was the date. The FBI got wind of this plot last summer and arrests were made back in April. So why did we hear about them on July 7, the anniversary of the London bombings? I believe the question answers itself. The

story was leaked to pump up the anniversary of the London subway bombings on July 7, 2005, and remind people that if it could happen in London it could happen here. The dozens if not hundreds of law enforcement folks who worked on thwarting this embryonic plot were not part of some political scheme. But whoever chose July 7 to leak the story clearly was. With the mid-term election less than four months away, for some people, that's a helpful message.

Joshua Micah Marshall is head of TPM Media and the founder of Talkingpointsmemo.com

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1211369,00.html>

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10.4 **National Intelligence Estimate:** **US MidEast Policy is Generating Terrorism**

2006 NIE:

Spy Agencies Say Iraq War Worsens Terrorism Threat

By Mark Mazzetti

Published: September 24, 2006

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 — A stark assessment of terrorism trends by American intelligence agencies has found that the American invasion and occupation of Iraq has helped spawn a new generation of Islamic radicalism and that the overall terrorist threat has grown since the Sept. 11 attacks.

The classified National Intelligence Estimate attributes a more direct role to the Iraq war in fueling radicalism than that presented either in recent White House documents or in a report released Wednesday by the House Intelligence Committee, according to several officials in Washington involved in preparing the assessment or who have read the final document.

The intelligence estimate, completed in April, is the first formal appraisal of global terrorism by United States intelligence agencies since the Iraq war began, and represents a consensus view of the 16 disparate spy services inside government. Titled "Trends in Global Terrorism: Implications for the United States," it asserts that Islamic radicalism, rather than being in retreat, has metastasized and spread across the globe.

An opening section of the report, "Indicators of the Spread of the Global Jihadist Movement," cites the Iraq war as a reason for the diffusion of jihad ideology.

[...]

In early 2005, the National Intelligence Council released a study concluding that Iraq had become the primary training ground for the next generation of terrorists, and that veterans of the Iraq war might ultimately overtake Al Qaeda's current leadership in the constellation of the global jihad leadership.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/24/world/middleeast/24terror.html?ex=1316750400&en=da252be85d1b39fa&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

Spy Agencies Say Iraq War Hurting U.S. Terror Fight

By Karen DeYoung
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, September 24, 2006; Page A01

The war in Iraq has become a primary recruitment vehicle for violent Islamic extremists, motivating a new generation of potential terrorists around the world whose numbers may be increasing faster than the United States and its allies can reduce the threat, U.S. intelligence analysts have concluded.

A 30-page National Intelligence Estimate completed in April cites the "centrality" of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and the insurgency that has followed, as the leading inspiration for new Islamic extremist networks and cells that are united by little more than an anti-Western agenda. It concludes that, rather than contributing to eventual victory in the global counterterrorism struggle, the situation in Iraq has worsened the U.S. position, according to officials familiar with the classified document.

"It's a very candid assessment," one intelligence official said yesterday of the estimate, the first formal examination of global terrorist trends written by the National Intelligence Council since the March 2003 invasion. "It's stating the obvious."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/23/AR2006092301130.html>

US intelligence report: Iraq War Breeding More Terrorists

White House 'strongly disagrees' with spy agencies' assessment.
By Tom Regan | csmonitor.com

A classified National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) contends that the war in Iraq has increased Islamic radicalism, and has made the terror threat around the world worse. Based on information from US government officials who had seen the document and spoke on condition of anonymity, The New York Times reports that the NIE document, titled "Trends in Global Terrorism: Implications for the United States," says the war plays a much more direct role in the spread of Islamic radicalism around the world than has previously been indicated by the White House, or in a recent report by the US House intelligence committee.

The intelligence estimate, completed in April, is the first formal appraisal of global terrorism by US intelligence agencies since the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, and it represents a consensus view of the 16 different spy services inside government. The estimate asserts that Islamic radicalism, rather than being in retreat, has metastasized and spread around the globe.

An opening section of the report, "Indicators of the Spread of the Global Jihadist Movement," cites the Iraq war as a reason for the diffusion of jihad ideology. The report "says that the Iraq war has made the overall terrorism problem worse," one US intelligence official said.

The Los Angeles Times reports that the 30-page report presents "an array of disturbing trends in the war on terrorism." The report focuses primarily on the

forces that are changing the structure of the Islamic terrorist movement, as it evolves from a highly centralized organization to a much more fragmented ideological movement.

"It paints a fairly stark picture of what we all know, and that this is a movement that is spreading and gaining momentum around the world," said the official familiar with the document. "Things like the Iraq war have given the terrorists recruiting tools and places to ply their trade and a training ground." The official said the estimate touches on a number of factors fueling the jihadist movement, but that "the reference to Iraq was the main one."

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0925/dailyUpdate.html>

2007 NIE:

National Intelligence Estimate Says Iraq Worse than Civil War, and Iran Not Key to Violence

By Matthew Rothschild

February 2, 2007

The nation's intelligence agencies are not regurgitating, for the moment anyway, Bush's propaganda points.

Bush can keep denying that Iraq is in a civil war, but he has less and less support for that claim within the U.S. intelligence community. And as much as he hypes the threat from Iran, the intelligence community does not view it as key to the violence in Iraq.

Those are two of the central findings of the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) released on February 2.

On the question of "civil war," the NIE argued that the situation in Iraq was actually worse than that term implies. "The Intelligence Community judges that the term 'civil war' does not adequately capture the complexity of the conflict in Iraq, which includes extensive Shia-on-Shia violence, al-Qa'ida and Sunni insurgent attacks on Coalition forces, and widespread criminally motivated violence," it said.

But it was willing, at a minimum, to accept the validity of the label.

"The term 'civil war' accurately describes key elements of the Iraqi conflict, including the hardening of ethno-sectarian identities, a sea change in the character of the violence, ethno-sectarian mobilization, and population displacements," it said.

As to Tehran, while the NIE said "Iranian lethal support for select groups of Iraqi Shia militants clearly intensifies the conflict," such support is not decisive.

"Iraq's neighbors influence, and are influenced by, events within Iraq, but the involvement of these outside actors is not likely to be a major driver of violence . . . because of the self-sustaining character of Iraq's internal sectarian dynamics," it said.

Saying the challenges in Iraq are “daunting,” the report was not hopeful. “Even if violence is diminished,” it said (and that’s a big “if”), “given the current winner-take-all attitude and sectarian animosities infecting the political scene,” Iraqi leaders will be hard pressed to achieve sustained political reconciliation” in the next 12 to 18 months.

If things go from bad to worse, the report listed three potential outcomes: “chaos leading to partition,” “emergence of a Shia strongman,” or “anarchic fragmentation of power.”

<http://www.progressive.org/node/4497>

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10.5 **Bin Laden’s Prediction: US Will Invade and Occupy an Oil-Rich Muslim Nation**

US Invasion of Iraq Would Play Into Bin Laden's Hands by Matthew Levinger

Published on Friday, October 4, 2002 in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

[NOTE: This piece was written BEFORE the Invasion of Iraq and BEFORE most of the evidence of US Government Complicity in 911 began to surface.]

If Osama bin Laden remains alive, hiding in the mountains of Northwest Pakistan, he is surely delighted by President Bush's plans for a regime change in Iraq.

Despite the horrendous carnage of the Sept. 11 attacks, bin Laden's primary goal has never been to destroy the United States.

Rather, he has attacked American targets as a means of provoking Muslim fundamentalist revolutions throughout the Middle East. In The Encyclopedia of the Afghan Jihad, a terrorist guide published in 1992, bin Laden's followers called for "the establishment of a castle of the Muslims, a (new) Caliphate" -- a pan-Islamic empire purged of Western influences.

The United States has a legitimate and urgent interest in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. But we must exercise the utmost care in defining the scope and objectives of our response to this challenge. An American invasion of Iraq, followed by a protracted military occupation, would suit bin Laden's objectives perfectly.

In calling for military action against Iraq in a speech in Nashville recently, Vice President Dick Cheney predicted that "after liberation the streets in Basra and Baghdad are sure to erupt in joy in the same way throngs in Kabul greeted the Americans."

This scenario is overly optimistic. Although most Iraqis would probably welcome the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, many would also experience humiliation and resentment over the subsequent occupation of Iraq by American soldiers, which would be essential for preserving political stability in the region.

The Gulf War of 1991 provides a cautionary precedent. Despite Iraq's defeat, American troops have remained stationed in Saudi Arabia for the past 12 years. They have been the targets of repeated terrorist attacks and have become a focal

point for the hostility of political extremists. In 1998, bin Laden published his infamous "Fatwah Urging Jihad against Americans."

The terrorist leader raged against the American "crusader armies now spreading in (the Arabian Peninsula) like locusts, consuming its riches and destroying its plantations." He denounced the Americans' "eagerness to destroy Iraq . . . and their endeavor to fragment all the states of the region such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Sudan into paper statelets and through their disunion and weakness to guarantee Israel's survival and the continuation of the brutal crusade occupation of the Peninsula."

Although bin Laden's views may not have been widely shared in Saudi Arabia, they resonated profoundly with an angry minority. It is no coincidence that 15 of the 19 hijackers in the Sept. 11 attacks were Saudi citizens.

The occupation of Iraq by U.S. troops would provide an ideal recruiting platform for al-Qaida and other extremist organizations. Many people of the region would become convinced that America's goal is global domination, not dignity for Muslim people.

If President Bush launches a military campaign without the support of the United Nations, the perceptions will be even worse. Rather than upholding the rule of law, America will appear to be acting arbitrarily in its own interest. Despite our leaders' rhetoric about securing freedom and democracy, many will conclude that the United States cares only about preserving its own power.

If freedom and democracy are so important in Iraq, why does the administration show so little interest in promoting these values in Egypt or Saudi Arabia?

Our leaders need to work closely with the U.N. Security Council in order to devise an effective strategy for locating and destroying any illicit Iraqi weapons programs. This may ultimately require military action. Yet any military campaign should restrict its objective to eliminating weapons of mass destruction, rather than aiming to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

[NOTE: Again, this piece was written BEFORE the evidence arose that the Bush Administration "COOKED THE BOOKS" to come up with the Myth of the WMD.]

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has developed a model of coercive inspections, backed by a multinational military force, which provides one possible means of enforcing the U.N. resolutions.

We cannot promote democracy through the barrel of a gun. A regime change in Iraq that requires an open-ended military occupation of the country is likely to have disastrous consequences for the stability of the Middle East and for America's national security.

To defeat Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, we need to encourage the growth of democratic values and institutions around the world. America can set a powerful example in this struggle by embracing international collaboration and the rule of law.

Matthew Levinger is associate professor of history at Lewis & Clark College in Portland.

[NOTE: Obviously, Professor Levinger -- like the thousands of other mideast political scholars who urgently agreed with him --was ignored.]

<http://www.commondreams.org/views02/1004-02.htm>

Good Old George

Leave it to poor old, brain-dead George W. Bush. Not only has he managed to turn Saddam Hussein into a martyr, he's managed to elevate Osama bin Laden to the stature of folk hero! I mean, you've gotta laugh!

Yes, kiddies, we've played right into al Quida's hands. [sic] The damage that we've done to Iraq and our own once-great nation will be palpable a century and a half from now. That the invasion of Iraq was the stupidest military blunder in history is by now painfully obvious to all but the viewers of FOX and Friends -- but I'm confident even they are liable to catch on soon. Any day now -- any day now -- they shall be released.

What boggles my mind is the fact that the "pundits" are now arguing that we went about the invasion of Iraq the wrong way: it should have been done this way, says one. No! says the other, it should have been done that way! They're all missing the point. It never should have been done at all. Duh!

This generation of Americans inherited from their parents the most productive and prosperous nation in the history of the world. And what will we leave our heirs? A social and ideological cesspool.

Go shopping, America.

Pray for peace.

Tom Degan
Goshen, NY
Posted on
"The Rant" by Tom Degan

<http://www.alternet.org/story/47703/>

UBL Kicking GWB Ass

Bin Laden said to anyone listening he wants to get the U.S. military en masse in the Middle East. Today's Iraq shows why he worked so hard to make that happen. The tragedy here is that Bin Laden was wrong -- he could never have bled us to death in Afghanistan. Had Bush immediately gone into Afghanistan with overwhelming numbers and sealed the border Bin Laden would be dead by now, he could have forced Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to stop supporting terrorists and 9/11 would not have been a turning point in world history.

But Bush, it turns out, wanted Iraq all along, and skimped on Afghanistan so he could have Iraq. When Bush invaded Iraq he made Bin Laden's desperate snow ball's chance in hell strategy pay off. Lucky guy, that Bin Laden. The price of dominating in the Middle East is getting higher by the day -- Israel is less secure, oil prices are way up flooding the coffers of terrorist organizations, Iran is now

the rising power in the region, Iraq, once under sectarian control is now under the control of radical elements, and Al Qaeda has brushed off Bush's feeble Afghanistan invasion and regained control there.

...

Neo Cons believe a zero tolerance confrontational policy will get Radical Islam to re-think their extremist/terrorist tactics and force moderate Muslims to rise up against their radical governments creating a democracy domino effect that will justify all American activities in the Middle East and make the world happy and safe and lovely. Bin Laden knows nothing of the sort will happen. I have no idea why Neo Cons would believe such a thing. There is absolutely no evidence to support this theory. When Muslims, moderates, radicals, whoever, are pushed into a corner they do not shrink and get all shocked and awed and become introspective and go for long morning walks and read Emerson under a tree and mull things over. They swarm like killer bees.

And that's not just crazy ass radical Islam jihad freaks. Anybody would do the same. In 1941 did Americans re-think their policies and overthrow their government after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor? Did the English do anything of the kind during Hitler's blitzkrieg? Did the North Vietnamese reconsider communism as American B-52's streaked across their skies? Did North Vietnamese peasants rise up against their leaders after fifteen years of intense almost daily bombing? They weren't interested in hitching their wagons to American wealth. They were under attack. They didn't say "Thank GOD the Americans are attacking us! Now we can drive Buicks!" They moved into rat holes and hung pictures. In 1939 Polish foot soldiers, some of whom were armed only with wooden swords, rushed Hitler's tanks. Presumably they were not caught up in some kind of agonizing reappraisal of their national identity as they went into battle. Nobody has ever responded to an attack the way Neo Cons predicted radical Islam would behave in the face of Shock and Awe. All you smart asses out there are thinking "what about the French?" Fine. But which Muslims, which terrorists, exactly, did Bush and Cheney think were going to get shocked and awed into buying Derek Jeter jerseys? Neo Cons have a serious reality problem resulting in one strategic and tactical disaster after another. If insanity is any distance from reality, Neo Cons are insane. Remember wealth and insanity are not mutually exclusive.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-cusack/osama-bin-laden-is-kickin_b_28478.html

US Intelligence Officer: We've Played Right Into UBL's Hands

Julian Borger in Washington
Saturday June 19, 2004
The Guardian

A senior US intelligence official is about to publish a bitter condemnation of America's counter-terrorism policy, arguing that the west is losing the war against al-Qaida and that an "avaricious, premeditated, unprovoked" war in Iraq has played into Osama bin Laden's hands.

Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror, due out next month, dismisses two of the most frequent boasts of the Bush administration: that Bin Laden and al-Qaida are "on the run" and that the Iraq invasion has made America safer.

In an interview with the Guardian the official, who writes as "Anonymous," described al-Qaida as a much more proficient and focused organisation than it was in 2001, and predicted that it would "inevitably" acquire weapons of mass destruction and try to use them.

He said Bin Laden was probably "comfortable" commanding his organisation from the mountainous tribal lands along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Pakistani army claimed a big success in the "war against terror" yesterday with the killing of a tribal leader, Nek Mohammed, who was one of al-Qaida's protectors in Waziristan.

But Anonymous, who has been centrally involved in the hunt for Bin Laden, said: "Nek Mohammed is one guy in one small area. We sometimes forget how big the tribal areas are." He believes President Pervez Musharraf cannot advance much further into the tribal areas without endangering his rule by provoking a Pashtun revolt. "He walks a very fine line," he said yesterday.

Imperial Hubris is the latest in a relentless stream of books attacking the administration in [the] election year. Most of the earlier ones, however, were written by embittered former officials. This one is unprecedented in being the work of a serving official with nearly 20 years experience in counter-terrorism who is still part of the intelligence establishment.

The fact that he has been allowed to publish, albeit anonymously and without naming which agency he works for, may reflect the increasing frustration of senior intelligence officials at the course the administration has taken.

Peter Bergen, the author of two books on Bin Laden and al-Qaida, said: "His views represent an amped-up version of what is emerging as a consensus among intelligence counter-terrorist professionals."

Anonymous does not try to veil his contempt for the Bush White House and its policies. His book describes the Iraq invasion as "an avaricious, premeditated, unprovoked war against a foe who posed no immediate threat but whose defeat did offer economic advantage.

"Our choice of timing, moreover, shows an abject, even willful failure to recognise the ideological power, lethality and growth potential of the threat personified by Bin Laden, as well as the impetus that threat has been given by the US-led invasion and occupation of Muslim Iraq."

...

The White House has yet to comment publicly on Imperial Hubris, which is due to be published on July 4, but intelligence experts say it may try to portray him as a professionally embittered maverick.

The tone of Imperial Hubris is certainly angry and urgent, and the stridency of his warnings about al-Qaida led him to be moved from a highly sensitive job in the late 90s.

But Vincent Cannistraro, a former chief of operations at the CIA counter-terrorism centre, said he had been vindicated by events. "He is very well respected, and looked on as a serious student of the subject."

Anonymous believes Mr Bush is taking the US in exactly the direction Bin Laden wants, towards all-out confrontation with Islam under the banner of spreading democracy.

He said: "It's going to take 10,000-15,000 dead Americans before we say to ourselves: 'What is going on?'"

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/alqaida/story/0,12469,1242638,00.html> [Back](#)

10.6 Images of Death in Iraq

What Hundreds of Millions of Muslims See -- and Americans Do Not

Iraq War/Iraqi Deaths/Photos Of Iraq Casualties/Civilian Death Photos Iraq

http://www.willthomas.net/Convergence/Weekly/Iraq_War.htm

Sixteen Year-Old Girl from Alabama Shows Americans What the Networks Won't

Ava Lowery is the 16 year old peace activist from Alabama behind the website, PeaceTakesCourage.com, and has received an amazing amount of attention. Ava's animations show the multidimensional tragedy of the Iraq war- losses of brave young soldiers to American families, and loss of innocent civilians in Iraq. Poignant and raw, Ava's youth and sincerity has attracted support from a broad base of both soldiers and activists. But her unflappable determination has drawn its share of persecution, as well. Ava received death threats from angry Bush supporters after a particularly tragic piece, "WWJD,"

<http://www.peacetakescourage.com/wwjd.html>

..... a heartbreaking montage of photos of wounded and bloodied Iraqi children shown while a child sings "Jesus Loves Me." Many wonderful people came to Ava's defense. Cindy Sheehan wrote an article of support for her "new friend... (who) is disgusted with the war and with the Bush regime." In July of 2006 she was awarded the Buzzflash "Wings of Justice" award. Ava also received strong support from friends in the blog world, and received a warm welcome at the highly successful Yearlykos Convention. These and many more friends have helped Ava's animations receive media acclaim (NYT, CNN, The Rolling Stone, etc...) and reach an unbelievable audience of Americans who are eager to learn the truth about the Iraq War.

Ava's Website:

<http://www.peacetakescourage.com/page-home.htm>

Iraq War Civilian Death Toll

**by David Brown
Washington Post
October 11, 2006**

A team of American and Iraqi epidemiologists estimates that 655,000 more people have died in Iraq since coalition forces arrived in March 2003 than would have died if the invasion had not occurred.

The estimate, produced by interviewing residents during a random sampling of households throughout the country, is far higher than ones produced by other groups, including Iraq's government.

It is more than 20 times the estimate of 30,000 civilian deaths that President Bush gave in a speech in December. It is more than 10 times the estimate of roughly 50,000 civilian deaths made by the British-based Iraq Body Count research group.

The surveyors said they found a steady increase in mortality since the invasion, with a steeper rise in the last year that appears to reflect a worsening of violence as reported by the U.S. military, the news media and civilian groups. In the year ending in June, the team calculated Iraq's mortality rate to be roughly four times what it was the year before the war.

Of the total 655,000 estimated "excess deaths," 601,000 resulted from violence and the rest from disease and other causes, according to the study. This is about 500 unexpected violent deaths per day throughout the country.

The survey was done by Iraqi physicians and overseen by epidemiologists at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. The findings are being published online today by the British medical journal the Lancet.

The same group in 2004 published an estimate of roughly 100,000 deaths in the first 18 months after the invasion. That figure was much higher than expected, and was controversial. The new study estimates that about 500,000 more Iraqis, both civilian and military, have died since then -- a finding likely to be equally controversial.

Both this and the earlier study are the only ones to estimate mortality in Iraq using scientific methods. The technique, called "cluster sampling," is used to estimate mortality in famines and after natural disasters.

While acknowledging that the estimate is large, the researchers believe it is sound for numerous reasons. The recent survey got the same estimate for immediate post-invasion deaths as the early survey, which gives the researchers confidence in the methods. [The great majority of deaths were also substantiated by death certificates.](#)

"We're very confident with the results," said Gilbert Burnham, a Johns Hopkins physician and epidemiologist.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/10/AR2006101001442.html>

Iraq Death Toll: Why the UN Can't Count **by Jon Weiner**

The new UN estimate of 34,000 Iraqis killed in 2006 made headlines around the world, but it's almost certainly far too low. The number, as the New York Times reported, was "the first attempt at hand-counting individual deaths for an entire year," and was based on information from "morgues, hospitals and municipal authorities across Iraq."

...

None of the reports in leading newspapers mentioned the other count of Iraqi

deaths: the Johns Hopkins study reported last October in the prestigious British medical journal The Lancet. They estimated that 650,000 Iraqis had died as a result of the war -- 600,000 from violence and 50,000 from other war-related causes. President Bush rejected that figure -- "I don't consider it a credible report," he told a press conference last October -- and most of the media seem to have agreed.

But The Lancet study used state-of-the art demographic techniques, the same methodology employed to estimate war deaths in Kosovo, Congo, and Rwanda, and in natural disasters around the world. World leaders have cited those figures repeatedly without questioning their validity. It's the same methodology used in political polls in the US: the random sample.

Instead of trying to find documentation for individual deaths, The Lancet demographers, led by Gilbert Burnham of Johns Hopkins University, interviewed 12,000 people in 1,800 randomly selected households across Iraq. At each household, they asked how many people were living there currently, and whether anyone who had lived there had died since Jan. 1, 2002, and if so, whether they died before or after March 2003, when the war began. That made it possible to compare wartime death rates with pre-war rates.

Critics like Fred Kaplan at Slate.com objected. They said 12,000 was far too small a sample for a country of 30 million. But in the US, as country of 300 million, 1,000 people are interviewed in the typical political poll, and nobody objects to that sample size.

Critics also questioned whether The Lancet demographers really were able to interview all the people selected by their randomizing methodology. The demographers respond that they employed Iraqi physicians rather than Americans to do the interviewing, and that the response rate was extremely high, much higher than with political polling in the US.

There's one caveat about The Lancet study -- their estimate of 650,000 wartime deaths covers the period that ended in July 2006. By all accounts the violence has increased significantly since July -- so The Lancet figure now itself is undoubtedly too low.

<http://www.alternet.org/story/46872/>

**Read the Actual 2006 Report from Johns Hopkins University
as Published in the British Medical Journal Lancet:**

As a pdf file:

blog.firetree.net/wp-content/images/654965.pdf

or:

web.mit.edu/CIS/pdf/Human_Cost_of_War.pdf

As html:

<http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:SSLusm25adQJ:blog.firetree.net/wp-content/images/654965.pdf+Iraq+Death+Toll+%2B+Johns+Hopkins+%2B+pdf&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us>

or:

http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:6QjMUWzQaToJ:web.mit.edu/CIS/pdf/Human_Cost_of_War.pdf+Iraq+Death+Toll+%2B+Johns+Hopkins+%2B+pdf&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=4&gl=us

Read the Previous Johns Hopkins Report (from 2004)::

As a pdf file:

www.cs.princeton.edu/~chazelle/politics/bib/lancet.pdf

As html:

<http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:8MQywnXrWC4J:www.cs.princeton.edu/~chazelle/politics/bib/lancet.pdf+Iraq+Death+Toll+%2B+Johns+Hopkins+%2B+pdf&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=6&gl=us>

[Back](#)

10.7 United States Violates the Geneva Conventions

On January 11, 2002, the United States announced that it was refusing to abide by the 1949 Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war. The Third Geneva Convention, which provides specific guidelines for treatment of prisoner combatants, is a part of the "law of nations" and is a mainstay of international humanitarian law. The United States explained that the prisoners taken in Afghanistan and Pakistan were not actually prisoners of war, but were in fact "unlawful combatants."

The first prisoners arrived in the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on January 11, 2002. According to the Washington Post, prisoners were hooded and shackled during the 27-hour flight. The United States defended these practices as appropriate security measures. Media on site in Cuba reported that the prisoners were fitted with goggles that were blacked out, for "security reasons" necessary to prevent them from using their eyes. In a public letter to Donald Rumsfeld, Amnesty International expressed concern that the prisoners' conditions of transport violated international norms.

The prisoners are being housed in outdoor 6 foot-by-8 foot open-air chain link cages, with concrete floors and wooden roofs, and contain a mat and a plastic bucket. The U.S. demanded that media not show photographs of the prisoners in these conditions, explaining, without apparent irony at the inconsistency, that the photos would deprive the prisoners of their rights under the Geneva Convention. According to a Pentagon spokesperson, any photographs of the prisoners in the United States-imposed conditions would be "humiliating" and "debasement." Several outlets have not complied with the Pentagon's demand.

http://baltimorechronicle.com/geneva_feb02.shtml

Rumsfeld Bigger Than International Law

"The Secretary seems unaware of the requirements of international humanitarian law. As a party to the Geneva Conventions, the United States is required to treat every detained combatant humanely, including unlawful combatants. The United States may not pick and choose among them to decide who is entitled to decent treatment."

Jamie Fellner

Director of Human Rights Watch's U.S. Program

<http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/01/us011102.htm>

THE COMMON PLAN TO VIOLATE THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

Professor Jordan Paust
University of Houston Law Center
JURIST Guest Columnist

If one focuses on the January 25, 2002 Memorandum for the President by White House Counsel Alberto R. Gonzales <<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4999148/site/newsweek>> and President George Bush's subsequent decisions and authorizations, there is evidence of the initiation of a Common Plan to violate the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Behind the Plan was a memorandum addressing possible war crime responsibility and designs for attempted avoidance of international criminal responsibility that was written by then DOJ OLC attorneys John Yoo and Robert Delahunty entitled "Application of Treaties and Laws to Al Qaeda and Taliban Detainees" written on January 9, 2002 <<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5025040/site/newsweek>> and "endorsed by top lawyers in the White House, the Pentagon and the vice president's office," according to the New York Times (Neil A. Lewis, "Justice Memos Explained How to Skip Prisoner Rights," NYT, May 21, 2004, at A10).

According to the Gonzales memo, the Common Plan involved at least those responsible for "the Department of Justice... formal legal opinion concluding... [with respect to] the Geneva Convention III on the Treatment of Prisoners of War (GPW)... that there are reasonable grounds for you to conclude that GPW does not apply with respect to the conflict with the Taliban. I understand that you decided that GPW does not apply..." adding: "OLC has further opined that you have the authority to determine that GPW does not apply to the Taliban.... OLC's interpretation of this legal issue is definitive." According to the Yoo - Delahunty memo, when asked by General Counsel William Haynes about "the effect of international treaties... on the treatment of individuals detained by the U.S. Armed Forces during the conflict in Afghanistan... [and, i]n particular, ...whether the laws of armed conflict apply to the conditions of detention and the procedures for trial... [w]e conclude that these treaties do not protect members of the al Qaeda organization... [and] do not apply to the Taliban...."

...

The Plan attempted to rest on a supposed "high premium on other factors, such as the ability to quickly obtain information," supposed "military necessity," and a claim that a "new paradigm renders obsolete Geneva's strict limitations on questioning." However, none of these claims justify a Plan to violate the Geneva law. Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions requires the United States "to respect and to ensure respect for the" Conventions "in all circumstances." **The Plan was to violate this duty.** Common Article 3 requires that, "as a minimum," all persons taking no active part in the hostilities, regardless of their status, "shall in all circumstances be treated humanely" and shall enjoy listed minimum guarantees. **The Plan was to violate these rights and duties.** No exceptions exist to the rights and prohibitions also contained, for example, in GPW Articles 13, 14, 16, 17, 130. No exceptions exist to the rights and prohibitions also contained, for example, in the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (GC) Articles 8, 16, 27 (except for necessary measures of control and security as such), 29, 31, 32, 33, 43, 78, 147. **The Plan was to violate these rights and duties.**

As the Legal Adviser to the U.S. Department of State has written with respect to "the right to humane treatment – a right that belongs to all humankind, in war and in peace," "[i]t is a general principle... that inhumane treatment is cruel and unacceptable under any circumstance.....

...
Under the United States Constitution, the President (and members of the Executive branch) is bound to faithfully execute the law, which includes treaty law and customary international law. See, e.g., U.S. Const., art. II, Sec. 3; Paust, International Law as Law of the United States 169-73 (2ed. 2003), and cases and materials cited. Thus, the Plan to violate the Geneva Conventions is not only illegal but is also unconstitutional.

...
Readers will recall that war crimes can range from "all measures of intimidation" through "inhumane treatment" and "cruel" treatment to "torture" and that the United States has several statutory bases for prosecution of both military and civilian persons who are reasonably accused of dereliction of duty, complicity, perpetration of various crimes, and direct involvement in common plans to violate the Geneva Conventions and other international criminal proscriptions.

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/forum/paust2.php>

The Roots of Torture

**By John Barry, Michael Hirsh and Michael Isikoff
Newsweek International**

It's not easy to get a member of Congress to stop talking. Much less a room full of them. But as a small group of legislators watched the images flash by in a small, darkened hearing room in the Rayburn Building last week, a sickened silence descended. There were 1,800 slides and several videos, and the show went on for three hours. The nightmarish images showed American soldiers at Abu Ghraib Prison forcing Iraqis to masturbate. American soldiers sexually assaulting Iraqis with chemical light sticks. American soldiers laughing over dead Iraqis whose bodies had been abused and mutilated. There was simply nothing to say. "It was a very subdued walk back to the House floor," said Rep. Jane Harman, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. "People were ashen."

The White House put up three soldiers for court-martial, saying the pictures were all the work of a few bad-apple MPs who were poorly supervised. But evidence was mounting that the furor was only going to grow and probably sink some prominent careers in the process. Senate Armed Services Committee chairman John Warner declared the pictures were the worst "military misconduct" he'd seen in 60 years, and he planned more hearings. Republicans on Capitol Hill were notably reluctant to back Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. And NEWSWEEK has learned that U.S. soldiers and CIA operatives could be accused of war crimes. Among the possible charges: homicide involving deaths during interrogations.

"The photos clearly demonstrate to me the level of prisoner abuse and mistreatment went far beyond what I expected, and certainly involved more than six or seven MPs," said GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham, a former military prosecutor.

He added: "It seems to have been planned."

Indeed, the single most iconic image to come out of the abuse scandal—that of a hooded man standing naked on a box, arms outspread, with wires dangling from his fingers, toes and penis—may do a lot to undercut the administration's case that this was the work of a few criminal MPs. That's because the practice shown in that photo is an arcane torture method known only to veterans of the interrogation trade. "Was that something that [an MP] dreamed up by herself? Think again," says Darius Rejali, an expert on the use of torture by democracies. "That's a standard torture. It's called 'the Vietnam.' But it's not common knowledge. Ordinary American soldiers did this, but someone taught them."

Who might have taught them? Almost certainly it was their superiors up the line. Some of the images from Abu Ghraib, like those of naked prisoners terrified by attack dogs or humiliated before grinning female guards, actually portray "stress and duress" techniques officially approved at the highest levels of the government for use against terrorist suspects.....

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4989481/>

Circumventing the Geneva Conventions

..... [A] series of legal memoranda written in late 2001 and early 2002 by the Justice Department helped build the framework for circumventing international law restraints on prisoner interrogation. These memos argued that the Geneva Conventions did not apply to detainees from the Afghanistan war.

Alberto R. Gonzales, the White House counsel, in a January 25, 2002 memorandum to President Bush, endorsed the Justice Department's (and Rumsfeld's) approach and urged the president to declare the Taliban forces in Afghanistan as well as al-Qaeda outside the coverage of the Geneva Conventions. This, he said, would preserve the U.S.'s "flexibility" in the war against terrorism. Mr. Gonzales wrote that the war against terrorism, "in my judgment renders obsolete Geneva's strict limitations on questioning of enemy prisoners."

Gonzales also warned that U.S. officials involved in harsh interrogation techniques could potentially be prosecuted for war crimes under U.S. law if the Conventions applied. Gonzales said that "it was difficult to predict with confidence" how prosecutors might apply the Geneva Conventions' strictures against "outrages against personal dignity" and "inhuman treatment" in the future, and argued that declaring that Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters did not have Geneva Convention protections "substantially reduces the threat of domestic criminal prosecution."

Gonzales did convey to President Bush the worries of military leaders that these policies might "undermine U.S. military culture which emphasizes maintaining the highest standards of conduct in combat and could introduce an element of uncertainty in the status of adversaries."

The Gonzales memorandum drew a strong objection the next day from Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. Powell argued that declaring the conventions inapplicable would “reverse over a century of U.S. policy and practice in supporting the Geneva Conventions and undermine the protections of the law of war for our troops, both in this specific conflict and in general.”

<http://hrw.org/reports/2004/usa0604/2.htm>

The Road to Abu Ghraib

**David Halton,
The National,**

May 13, 2004

The stories were out there. Prisoners were being abused in Iraq. But for many onlookers, the scandal only took shape when the first pictures turned up. When that happened, American officials tried to contain the damage. It was just a few rogue soldiers, they said, just one prison. But was there more to it? Some say yes, much more, that the seeds of this scandal were sown not even in Iraq, but in Afghanistan.

It was just over 21/2 years ago, the bombs were still falling in Afghanistan. And battles still raging. Already U.S. Afghan allies were rounding up prisoners: Taliban fighters, suspected al-Qaeda militants, and a few people they just wanted to get rid of. Hundreds of the captives were turned over to U.S. troops.

Because most of them were captured on the battlefield, they qualified as prisoners of war under the Geneva Conventions, in theory, guaranteeing them protection from mental and physical abuse.

Within weeks, though, a dramatic new order came in from the Pentagon: these are terrorists. The old rules no longer apply.

"They will be handled not as prisoners of war because they're not, but as unlawful combatants. As I understand it technically, unlawful combatants do not have any rights under the Geneva Convention," Donald Rumsfeld said at the time.

Rumsfeld's message was delivered at the Pentagon, and it sent a powerful signal to the U.S. military that, in the age of terror, international law is not always relevant, and that previous regulations on the detention and interrogation of foreign prisoners needn't be observed.

Critics say the road that led to Abu Ghraib began with signals like that. Retired colonel Tom Laney was a U.S. battalion commander in the Gulf War in 1991.

"It starts to create a culture of coercion that begins to permeate not just the military, but the government," Laney says. "So people who think they're doing the right thing begin to do the wrong thing. And, as a result, efforts to extract intelligence become more important than the strategic objectives for which we are fighting, and that creates a problem."

Soon there were fleeting glimpses of what happens to prisoners who have lost their rights. Hooded, manacled figures are seen on their way to a place that would become the symbol of a tough new U.S. policy: Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Some 600 prisoners are sequestered on the U.S. naval base in legal limbo.

David Cole is a law professor at Georgetown University. "You look most conspicuously at the situation at Guantanamo where we claim that we can pick up any person in the world, claim that he's a bad guy, and then lock them up there forever without any kind of a hearing, without any charges, without any trial, without any access to the outside world, and then when we're challenged on that, we say one of the reasons we want to do that is so that we can break these people," Cole says.

Few outsiders know much about what breaking prisoners involved at Gitmo, as the base is called. But U.S. officers have confirmed that so-called "stress and duress" techniques are used to extract information from prisoners. That could mean sleep deprivation, stripping prisoners naked, hooding them, and forcing them into uncomfortable or painful positions for long periods.

According to human rights groups, U.S. soldiers at Gitmo were violating international conventions that banned not only torture but also anything judged to be "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment."

There have been at least 32 suicide attempts at Gitmo, but Donald Rumsfeld dismissed any criticism that abuse was involved.

http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/iraq/abughraib_halton.html

Children Raped at Abu Ghraib, Pentagon has Videos

[This link was first referenced in section 8.12]

From Daily Kos' partial transcript of a video.....

http://stream.realimpact.net/?file=clints/aclu/conf2004_aclu_AmericaAtACrossroads_300.rm

.....of Seymour Hersh speaking at an ACLU event. He says the US government has videotapes of children being raped at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

"Some of the worst things that happened you don't know about, okay? Videos, um, there are women there. Some of you may have read that they were passing letters out, communications out to their men. This is at Abu Ghraib ... The women were passing messages out saying 'Please come and kill me, because of what's happened' and basically what happened is that those women who were arrested with young boys, children in cases that have been recorded.

The boys were sodomized with the cameras rolling. And the worst above all of that is the soundtrack of the boys shrieking that your government has. They are in total terror. It's going to come out."

http://www.boingboing.net/2004/07/15/hersh_children_raped.html

Corroborative Evidence:

Child Sexual Abuse at Abu Ghraib Referenced in Maj. Gen. Taguba's Investigative Report

Following up on [the recent] post about allegations by journalist Seymour Hersh of rape and sexual abuse of minors at Abu Ghraib prison Iraq -- there appears to be evidence for those claims in supporting statements that accompany the Taguba Report.

What most of us have seen of the report are excerpts from the 50-page summary. In fact, there are well over 6,000 pages in the report itself, including statements by and interviews with witnesses. Among them, testimony from an Iraqi prisoner that would appear to substantiate Seymour Hersh's claims that boys were sodomized at Abu Ghraib. Maj. Gen. Taguba evidently found these statements credible -- they supported statements from interviews with soldiers and other witnesses.

At the end of this post are links to digital copies of two documents from the Taguba report, hosted on the Washington Post website. Is it possible that they document the exact incidents to which Hersh referred? Excerpt from statement provided by Kasim Mehaddi Hilas, Detainee #151108, on January 18 2004:

I saw [name deleted] fucking a kid, his age would be about 15 - 18 years. The kid was hurting very bad and they covered all the doors with sheets. Then when I heard the screaming. I climbed the door because on top it wasn't covered and I saw [name deleted] who was wearing the military uniform putting his dick in the little kid's ass. I couldn't see the face of the kid because his face wasn't in front of the door. And the female soldier was taking pictures. [name deleted], I think he is [deleted] because of his accent, and he was not skinny or short, and he acted like a homosexual (gay). And that was in cell #23 as best as I remember.

Another testimony alleging abuse of minors from a statement provided by Thaar Salman Dawod, Detainee #150427, on January 17, 2004:

I saw lots of people getting naked for a few days getting punished in the first days of Ramadan. They came with two boys naked and they were cuffed together face to face and Grainer was beating them and a group of guards were watching and taking pictures from top and bottom and there was three female soldiers laughing at the prisoners. The prisoners, two of them, were young. I don't know their names.

And there's this snip from a CBS interview with "leash girl" Pfc. Lynndie England,

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/05/12/60II/main617121.shtml>

.....the guard seen grinning and pointing at Iraqi prisoners in the infamous photos:

When England was asked if there were other things that happened at Abu Ghraib, things that were not photographed, she said, "Yes." When asked if there were worse things that happened, she said "Yes," but would not elaborate.

Link to first PDF:

<http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/iraq/abughraib/151108.pdf>

Link to second PDF:

<http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/iraq/abughraib/150427.pdf>

Update: A recent Associated Press item on plans for new abuse-related hearings quotes Sen. John Warner as saying that new Iraq prisoner abuse incidents come to light "each day:"

More cases of possible mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners have come to Congress' attention and need investigation by the Pentagon, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Thursday. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., also said that L. Paul Bremer, the former head of the American-led occupation in Iraq, may testify about prison abuse at a congressional hearing next week.

"I'm not trying to, you know, drop a little hint here. I'm just saying ... each day that comes along, new incidents that occurred in the past" are revealed and will need to be investigated, Warner said. ... Warner spoke to reporters after his committee had a private, classified briefing on the status of several Defense Department investigations into abuse stand. He gave no further details on what new allegations came up during the briefing.

http://boingboing.net/2004/07/20/evidence_for_hershs_.html

Pack Rape in Abu Ghraib

Much has been made of the sexual humiliation of the men incarcerated by the Crusaders in Abu Ghraib Prison. However the abuse of the female prisoners at Abu Ghraib, and other prisons in Iraq, have gone nearly unnoticed. Although it took photographs to wake the world's attention to the shenanigans, within the cells, it was actually a letter scribed by a woman prisoner that first exposed what was going on in the infamous prison. The contents of a note that was smuggled out of the prison were so shocking that, at first, Amal Kadham Swadi and the other Iraqi women lawyers who had been trying to gain access to the jail found them hard to believe. It claimed that US guards had been raping women detainees. Several of the women were now pregnant, it added. The women had been forced to strip naked in front of men, it said.

Swadi, one of seven female lawyers now representing women detainees in Abu Ghraib, began to piece together a picture of systemic abuse and torture perpetrated by US guards against Iraqi women held in detention without charge. This was not only true of Abu Ghraib, she discovered, but was, as she put it, "happening all across Iraq."

In November 2003, Swadi visited a woman detainee at a US military base at al-Kharkh, a former police compound in Baghdad. "She was the only woman who would talk about her case. She was crying. She told us she had been raped," Swadi says. "Several American soldiers had raped her. She had tried to fight them off and they had hurt her arm. She showed us the stitches. She told us, 'We have daughters and husbands. For God's sake don't tell anyone about this.'" During Swadi's visit to Abu Ghraib in March, one of the prisoners told her that she had been forced to undress in front of US soldiers. "The Iraqi translator turned his head in embarrassment," she said.

The Taguba inquiry has corroborated the contents of the letter smuggled out of Abu Ghraib by a woman known only as "Noor." The enquiry found the letter to be entirely in line with the activities going on within the prison. While most of the focus since the scandal broke three weeks ago has been on the abuse of men, and on their sexual humiliation in front of US women soldiers, there is now incontrovertible proof that women detainees have also been abused. Among the 1,800 digital photographs taken by US guards inside Abu Ghraib there are, according to Taguba's report, images of a US military policeman "having sex" with an Iraqi woman. Taguba discovered that guards have also videotaped and photographed naked female detainees. Bush refused to release other photographs of Iraqi women forced at gunpoint to bare their breasts (although Congress were shown them) - ostensibly to prevent attacks on US soldiers in Iraq. However in reality this is merely to prevent further domestic embarrassment.

Earlier this month it emerged that an Iraqi woman in her 70s had been harnessed and ridden like a donkey at Abu Ghraib and another coalition detention centre after being arrested last July. UK Labour MP Ann Clwyd, who investigated the case and found it to be true, said, "She was held for about six weeks without charge. During that time she was insulted and told she was a donkey."

Several women are housed in solitary confinement, within cells 2.5m long by 1.5m wide. There remain extremely troubling questions as to why these women came to be classified as "security detainees" - a term invented by the Crusaders to justify the indefinite detention of prisoners without charge or legal access, as part of the war on terror. According to Swadi, who managed to visit Abu Ghraib in late March, the allegations against the women are "absurd." "One of them is supposed to be the mistress of the former director of the Mukhabarat. In fact, she's a widow who used to own a small shop. She also worked as a taxi driver, ferrying children to and from kindergarten. If she really had a relationship with the director of the Mukhabarat, she would scarcely be running a kiosk. These are baseless charges," she adds angrily. "She is the only person who can provide for her children."

The women appear to have been arrested -- not because of anything they have done, but merely because of who they are married to, and their potential intelligence value. US officials have previously acknowledged detaining Iraqi women in the hope of convincing male relatives to provide information; when US soldiers raid a house and fail to find a male suspect, they will frequently take away his wife or daughter instead.

[Warning: This site contains graphic images of sexual violence.]

<http://www.vialls.com/myahudi/rape.html>

History of the Geneva Conventions

On 24th June, 1859, Henri Dunant found himself in Northern Italy and witnessed the Battle of Solferino. Dunant immediately began organizing local peasants to carry the wounded from the battlefield. They were taken to local churches where local doctors attempted to help relieve their suffering. Over 300,000 men of the Austrian and French armies took part in the Battle of Solferino and resulted in the deaths of over 41,000 men. It is estimated another 40,000 men who took part in the battle later died from wounds, fever and disease.

After the battle, Dunant visited Emperor Napoleon III in France and persuaded him to issue the following orders to his soldiers: "Doctors and surgeons attached to the Austrian armies and captured while attending to the wounded shall be unconditionally released; those who have been attending to men wounded at the Battle of Solferino and lying in the hospital at Castiglione shall, at their request, be permitted to return to Austria."

Henri Dunant decided to write a book about his experiences in Solferino. He claimed in *A Memory of Solferino* (1862) that his intention was to promote the "adoption by all civilized nations of an international and sacred principle which would be assured and placed on record by a convention to be concluded between governments. This would serve as a safeguard for all official and unofficial persons engaged in nursing war victims."

In the book Henri Dunant warned: "If the new and frightful weapons of destruction, which are now at the disposal of the nations, seem destined to abridge the duration of future wars, it appears likely, on the other hand, that future battles will only become more and more murderous." He added: "Would it not be possible, in time of peace and quiet, to form relief societies for the purpose of having care given to the wounded in wartime by zealous, devoted and thoroughly qualified volunteers?"

A Memory of Solferino was well received by Victor Hugo who wrote to Dunant that he was "arming humanity and serving the cause of freedom. I pay the highest tribute to your noble efforts." Saint Marc Girardin added that he hoped the "book will be widely read, especially by those who are in favour of warfare, who seek to show its advantages and who speak of it in glowing terms."

Inspired by the work of Florence Nightingale (Crimean War) and Clara Barton (American Civil War), Dunant wanted to establish an organization concerned with the alleviation of human suffering. In 1862 Dunant sent Gustave Moynier, president of Geneva Society for Public Welfare, a copy of *A Memory of Solferino*. In the book Dunant stated that his intention was to promote the "adoption by all civilized nations of an international and sacred principle which would be assured and placed on record by a convention to be concluded between governments. This would serve as a safeguard for all official and unofficial persons engaged in nursing war victims."

Gustave Moynier went to see Dunant and invited him to a special meeting on 9th February, 1863, of the Geneva Society for Public Welfare. Dunant told the fourteen people who attended that he wanted to form an organization that sent volunteer nurses to the battlefield. He also wanted to improve the methods of transporting the wounded and the care they received in military hospitals.

After the meeting it was decided to form an International Committee for Relief to the Wounded. Guillaume Dufour was to be president while Dunant, Thomas Maunoir, Gustave Moynier, and Louis Appia agreed to serve as board members. This eventually became the International Committee of the Red Cross.

At the meeting in Geneva on 26th October, 1863, Guillaume Dufour, in his opening address, he tried to reduce the fears of those governments that had refused to send delegates to the meeting: "Every government must, within the limits of its domestic policy, take such action as it shall deem best, either to facilitate the

organization of Volunteer Sanitary Commissions, or to merely tolerate them. On this subject each Government must have perfect liberty of action. There can be no outside dictation or pressure exercised to compel any Government to execute any stipulation covering this ground.

At present, there is no question involved as to the formation of Voluntary Relief Associations, nor of any alterations in or interference with the consecrated military code of nations, which would certainly be calculated to create embitterment or distrust. Those who have entertained a contrary impression, are completely in error in regard to our purposes and aims. And if it has been these fears which have prevented several States from sending delegates to our Congress, I cannot help expressing a profound regret."

In 1864 the five men organized an international conference of 13 nations in Geneva to discuss the possibility of making warfare more "humane." At the end of the conference on 22nd August, 1864, the representatives signed the Geneva Convention. The agreement provided for the neutrality of ambulance and military hospitals, the non-belligerent status of persons who aid the wounded, and sick soldiers of any nationality, the return of prisoners to their country if they are incapable of serving, and the adoption of a white flag with a red cross for use on hospitals, ambulances, and evacuation centres whose neutrality would be recognized by this symbol.

The campaign then began to persuade the different countries to ratify the Convention. It was approved by Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Spain and Switzerland in 1864. They were followed by Britain (1865), Prussia (1865), Greece (1865), Turkey (1865), Austria (1866), Portugal (1866), Russia (1867), Persia (1874), Serbia (1876), Chile (1879), Argentina (1879) and Peru (1880).

Clara Barton, a nurse in the American Civil War, led the campaign to persuade the United States to sign the Geneva Convention. In 1877 Barton organized the American National Committee, which three years later became the American Red Cross. However, it was not until 1882 that the USA signed the Geneva Convention. It was also agreed to support Barton's efforts to distribute relief during floods, earthquakes, famines, cyclones and other peacetime disasters.

After the USA signed the Geneva Convention others followed including Bulgaria (1884), Japan (1886), Luxemburg (1888), Venezuela (1894), South Africa (1896), Uruguay (1900), Guatemala (1903), Mexico (1905), China (1906), Germany (1906), Brazil (1906), Cuba (1907), Panama (1907) and Paraguay (1907).

The Geneva Convention was amended and extended in 1906. After the First World War it was decided to further amend the convention. In 1929 a total of 47 nations agreed on rules about the treatment and rights of prisoners of war.

During the Second World War several nations failed to abide by the Geneva Convention. At the fourth convention in 1949 (21st April - 12th August) the attending nations agreed to extend and codify existing provisions for four groups of victims - the sick and wounded, shipwrecked sailors, prisoners of war and civilians in territory occupied by an army.

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/EUgeneva.htm>

International Humanitarian Law

The 1864 Geneva Convention laid the foundations for the contemporary humanitarian law. It was in a whole characterized by:

- Ø standing written rules of universal scope to protect the victims of conflicts;
- Ø its multilateral nature, open to all States; the obligation to extend care without discrimination to wounded and sick military personnel;
- Ø respect for and marking of medical personnel, transports and equipment using an emblem (red cross on a white background).

The creation of the modern humanitarian law was strongly tied with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, changing the matter of things. It was a big step towards humanity. Since then countries are bound by multilateral treaty, which is in force forever and on every occasion.

The essential rules of international humanitarian law

Persons who do not or can no longer take part in the hostilities are entitled to respect for their life and for their physical and mental integrity. Such persons must in all circumstances be protected and treated with humanity, without any unfavorable distinction whatever.

It is forbidden to kill or wound an adversary who surrenders or who can no longer take part in the fighting. The wounded and sick must be collected and cared for by the party to the conflict which has them in its power. Medical personnel and medical establishments, transports and equipment must be spared. The red cross or red crescent on a white background is the sign protecting such persons and objects and must be respected.

Captured combatants and civilians who find themselves under the authority of the adverse party are entitled to respect for their life, their dignity, their personal rights and their political, religious and other convictions. They must be protected against all acts of violence or reprisal. They are entitled to exchange news with their families and receive aid.

Everyone must enjoy basic judicial guarantees and no one may be held responsible for an act he has not committed. No one may be subjected to physical or mental torture or to cruel or degrading corporal punishment or other treatment.

Neither the parties to the conflict nor members of their armed forces have an unlimited rights to choose methods and means of warfare. It is forbidden to use weapons or methods of warfare that are likely to cause unnecessary losses or excessive suffering.

The parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants in order to spare the civilian population and civilian property. Neither the civilian population as whole nor individual civilians may be attacked. Attacks may be made solely against military objectives.

<http://www.redcross.lv/en/conventions.htm>

The American Strategy of Preemptive War and International Law

Dietrich Murswiek

Albert Ludwigs Universität Freiburg - Institute of Public Law March 2003

Abstract:

The article analyzes the American war on Iraq in its context with the U.S. National Security Strategy and its possible consequences for the development of public international law. The attack on Iraq without U.N. consent is illegal. A mandate for military actions against Iraq cannot be derived from existing Security Council resolutions. Unilateral use of military force can only be justified by self-defence. Anticipatory self-defence is only allowed, if the government can prove that a threat of an armed attack is imminent and leaves no choice of other means than military self-defence and no time to apply to the Security Council. In the present Iraq crisis the U.S. government cannot meet these criteria. By claiming a right to preemptive action, the U.S. government is pushing a change in public international law. If other States don't object a beginning practice of preemptive war, there could emerge a new rule of public international law that allows preemptive wars. Such a rule would leave it within the subjective discretion of each individual State to decide, whether another State is to be qualified as a "rogue State", poses a threat to international peace and can legally be attacked. Nobody wants a new rule to become law, which would allow nearly every State to wage war against a lot of other States. Actually, the U.S. claims the right to preemptive action exclusively for itself. If the U.S. is successful in promoting this exclusive right to preemptive self-defence, then the fundamental principle of sovereign equality of States will be overthrown.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=397601

'Preventive War' and International Law After Iraq

Duncan E. J. Currie LL.B. (Hons.) LL.M.

22 May, 2003

The doctrine of 'preventive war' announced and practised by the United States, the attack on Iraq by the United States supported by a number of countries described as the 'coalition of the willing,' and unilateral actions taken with respect to a number of international conventions such as the NPT, the ABM Treaty, the CTBT and the Kyoto Protocol have given rise to concern about the current state of international law and in particular whether the prohibitions against the use of force on which the United Nations Charter is founded are still respected by Member States and whether multilateralism and the rule of law is to be superseded by unilateralism and a return to reliance on the use of military and economic force instead of law and diplomacy.

...

The Kellogg-Briand Pact condemned recourse to war and renounced war as an instrument of national policy, and that the United Nations Charter, which was concluded "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind," requires that all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. The new Bush

doctrine of 'preventive war' which was published in the National Security Strategy in September 2002 contemplates attacking a state in the absence of specific evidence of a pending attack. This doctrine marks a departure from the prohibition of the use of force under international law, starting from the Kellogg-Briand pact, the establishment of the Nuremberg Charter, the conclusion of the United Nations Charter and the establishment of the International Criminal Court, and marks a return to a readiness to use force in international relations.

Following the publication of that doctrine, the United States, together with United Kingdom, Australia and other States, launched an attack on Iraq, having failed to gain approval of the Security Council under Chapter VII. Many international lawyers believe that attack was illegal and amounted to a war of aggression.

A number of breaches of international law have already been reported following the occupation of Iraq, including failure to prevent looting and allowing breakdown of law and order to take place in Baghdad, failure to provide humanitarian assistance and shooting of civilians during protest.

Members of the 'coalition of the willing' that go to Iraq under Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) would go as belligerent occupants and would be subject to the requirements of international law accordingly, and may themselves incur responsibility or individual liability for actions which have or which will place in Iraq.

http://www.globelaw.com/Iraq/Preventive_war_after_iraq.htm

Coalition Soldiers Immune from Iraqi Law

"Our people cannot tolerate that every day there is an ugly crime such as that in Mahmudiya," [President Malicki] added, referring to the market town near which the four Iraqis, including a young girl, were killed on March 12.

Mr. Maliki's assertion, which followed similar remarks he made in Kuwait on Wednesday, signaled the growing furor within the Iraqi government over the latest crime. The incident first became public last week, when the Fourth Infantry Division announced that it was investigating the involvement of American soldiers in the rape and slayings.

...

The strongly worded apology issued Thursday night by the top American commander in Iraq, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., and Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad revealed the deep concern among American officials over the criminal episode's potential to damage the entire American project in Iraq.

"We understand this is painful, confusing and disturbing, not only to the family who lost a loved one, but to the Iraqi people as a whole," the two senior officials said in a written statement. "The loss of a family member can never be undone. The alleged events of that day are absolutely inexcusable and unacceptable behavior."

The statement is all the more unusual because no soldiers have been convicted yet or even formally charged. On Monday, a recently discharged Army private, Steven D. Green, 21, was arrested in North Carolina on suspicion of rape and murder.

Three soldiers, some of whom are reported to have admitted their roles in the crime to investigators, are confined to base in Mahmudiya, 20 miles south of Baghdad, and their weapons have been confiscated.

Mr. Green was moved on Thursday to Louisville, Ky., where, in a half-hour hearing in which he pleaded not guilty, a federal judge ordered continued detention for him. Prosecutors said that Mr. Green, who was discharged from the Army in May before his suspected role in the case was discovered, is scheduled to be arraigned on Aug. 8 in Paducah, Ky.

The mayor of Mahmudiya, Mouayid Fadhil, said in a telephone interview on Thursday that American military investigators wanted to dig up the victims' bodies. But Iraq's Justice Ministry must first determine whether exhumation is allowed under Koranic law, he said. The victims' relatives are also reluctant to divulge the burial site out of shame over the fact that one of the dead, a girl as young as 15, was reported to have been raped by at least two American soldiers, the mayor said.

Sexual assault is considered one of the most heinous and shameful crimes in Muslim society; even mentioning the subject is often considered taboo. "We don't want to talk about this," Mr. Fadhil said. "She was raped."

The debate over exhuming the bodies could complicate the military investigation. American military officials declined on Thursday to talk about specifics of the investigation, but prosecutors undoubtedly want detailed forensic evidence to build as strong a case as possible against the suspects. The victims were examined by doctors at the local hospital months ago before being buried, Mr. Fadhil said, but the Americans want to check the corpses for themselves.

The victim in the suspected rape was Abeer Qassim Hamzeh. The others killed were her younger sister, father and mother, Mr. Fadhil said.

The case is one of at least five in which the military is investigating or prosecuting soldiers in the killings of unarmed Iraqi civilians. Four were announced in June alone. The Mahmudiya case is the only one that involves the rape of an Iraqi, making it especially incendiary.

In another case, in which marines are suspected of killing 24 Iraqi civilians in Haditha last November, the second-ranking American officer in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, has completed his review of an inquiry into whether Marine officers tried to cover up the shootings and is expected to announce his findings and recommendations in the next few days, said two military officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the findings have not been made public.

Mr. Maliki said at the news conference on Thursday that the Iraqi government would conduct its own inquiry into the Mahmudiya crime.

But Iraqi courts have no power to prosecute the soldiers. An order issued under the American-led Coalition Provisional Authority, which ruled Iraq after the American invasion until June 2004, said that foreign troops, missions and their consultants here are immune from Iraqi law.....

10.8 Lying as a Means of Political Control:

The Neo-Cons Allegiance to Leo Strauss

Leo Strauss' Philosophy of Deception

By Jim Lobe, AlterNet. Posted May 19, 2003.

Many neoconservatives like Paul Wolfowitz are disciples of a philosopher who believed that the elite should use deception, religious fervor and perpetual war to control the ignorant masses

What would you do if you wanted to topple Saddam Hussein, but your intelligence agencies couldn't find the evidence to justify a war?

A follower of Leo Strauss may just hire the "right" kind of men to get the job done – people with the intellect, acuity, and, if necessary, the political commitment, polemical skills, and, above all, the imagination to find the evidence that career intelligence officers could not detect.

The "right" man for Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, suggests Seymour Hersh in his recent New Yorker article entitled 'Selective Intelligence,' was Abram Shulsky, director of the Office of Special Plans (OSP) – an agency created specifically to find the evidence of WMDs and/or links with Al Qaeda, piece it together, and clinch the case for the invasion of Iraq.

<http://www.alternet.org/story/15935/>

Lies of the NeoCons:

From Leo Strauss to Scooter Libby The Philosophy of Mendacity

By John Walsh

All governments lie as I. F. Stone famously observed, but some governments lie more than others. And the neocon Bush regime serves up whoppers as standard fare every day. Why this propensity to lie? There are many reasons, but it is not widely appreciated that the neocons believe in lying on principle. It is the "noble" thing for the elite to do, for the "vulgar" masses, the "herd" will become ungovernable without such lies. This is the idea of the "noble lie" practiced with such success and boldness by Scooter Libby and his co-conspirators and concocted by the political "philosopher" Leo Strauss whose teachings lie at the core of the neoconservative outlook and agenda, so much so that they are sometimes called "Leocons."

Leo Strauss (1899-1973) was a Jewish-German émigré from the Nazi regime who eventually landed at the University of Chicago where he developed a following that has achieved enormous prominence in American politics. Among his students were Paul Wolfowitz who has openly acknowledged that he is a follower of Strauss as has the godfather of neoconservatism, Irving Kristol. Irving Kristol begat William Kristol, the director of operation for the DC neocons, editor of the Weekly Standard and "chairman" of the Project for the New American Century, which laid out the plans for the Iraq War. (PNAC also opined in 2000 that a Pearl

Harbor-like event would be necessary to take the country to war, and one year later, presto, we had the strange and still mysterious attack of September 11.) For his part Paul Wolfowitz begat Libby, in the intellectual sense, when he taught Libby at Yale. Others stars in the neon firmament are Richard Perle, Douglas Feith and lesser figures like Abram Shulsky, director of the Pentagon's Office of Special Plans, created by Donald Rumsfeld. Shulsky, also a student of Strauss, was responsible for fabricating the lies masquerading as intelligence that were designed to get the U.S. into the war on Iraq. While the neocons have a passion for the Likud party and Zionism, they also count among their number not a few pre-Vatican II Catholics and an assortment of cranks like Newt Gingrich and John Bolton and crypto fascists like Jeanne Kirkpatrick. The list goes on and Justin Raimondo has documented it in great detail over the years on Antiwar.com. But it is enough to note that Cheney's alter ego was Libby, and Rumsfeld's second in command until recently was Wolfowitz. So both Cheney, the de facto president with an apparently ill perfused cerebrum, and the geezer commanding the Pentagon have been managed by younger and very prominent Straussians for the past five years.

A superb account of the ideas of Strauss, his followers and his influence is to be found in *The Political Ideas of Leo Strauss* (hereafter PI) and *Leo Strauss and The American Right* (hereafter AR), both by Shadia Drury, professor of politics at the University of Calgary. Her account of Strauss's ideas and the prominence they play in American politics today will give you chills or nausea, perhaps both. As she says in PI (p.xii), "Strauss is the key to understanding the political vision that has inspired the most powerful men in America under George W. Bush. In my view men who are in the grip of Straussian political ideas cannot be trusted with political power in any society, let alone a liberal democracy. This book explains why this is the case." For those who wish to understand the neocon agenda, Drury's books are essential reading. She is clear and thorough.

Of pertinence to "Scooter's" case and the pack of lies he was concealing is Strauss's idea that a "philosopher elite" (i.e., Straussians) must rule. Moreover they must do so covertly. As someone remarked before last Friday, "Who ever heard of I. Lewis Libby?" a man who shunned the spotlight and operated behind the scenes. The reason for such covert rule, or cabal, is that the "vulgar" herd, as Strauss liked to call the rest of us, cannot appreciate "higher truths" such as the inevitability and necessity of wars in relations between states and even the utility of wars in governing a state. So the covert elite must be certain that myths like religion or the glory of the nation are not weakened for these are among the best ways to rule over the ignorant herd and lead it into war. (Note that the Straussians themselves are not religious. They are "above" religion, capable of dealing with tough truths like man's mortality. But in their view, religion is a crucial factor in governing in their view. Irving Kristol, following Strauss, tells us that religion is "far more important politically" than the Founding Fathers believed and that to rescue America it is necessary "to breathe new life into the older, now largely comatose religious orthodoxies." (AR, p. 148). Any religion will do – except perhaps Islam, which is more or less verboten, given the affinity of all leading neocons for Israel. Hence the neocons readily embrace the ideology and leadership of Christian fundamentalism which can keep the crowd under control and get them to march off to war and death. The neocons are mainly interested in foreign policy, as was Strauss, but in exchange for the support of the religious Right in foreign affairs, the neocons line up behind the domestic program of the fundamentalists. It's a win win situation, from their point of view

But useful lies of the grand sort like religious myth or blind nationalism need support by lesser lies at crucial moments. And so we go to the "smaller" lies like "weapons of mass destruction," the "smoking gun that comes in the form of the mushroom cloud." And here too the elite has a role to play. They are to use their "superior rhetorical skills" to make the weak argument seem stronger. In other words the cabal not only has to protect myths and manufacture lies but go to work in selling them. What Strauss called "rhetoric," we call spin.

All of this comes down to one word: lying. But for Strauss, these lies are necessary for the smooth function of society and triumph of one's own nation in war. Hence for Strauss, the lie becomes "noble." This phrase Strauss borrows and distorts from Plato who meant by a "noble lie" a myth or parable that conveyed an underlying truth about morality or nature. But in Strauss's hands the "noble lie" becomes a way of deceiving the herd. Strauss's "noble lies are far from "noble." They are intended to "dupe the multitude and secure power for a special elite" (AR, p. 79).

One other idea of Strauss's bears on the situation of "Scooter" Libby. How is the Straussian philosophical elite going to get from the halls of academe to the corridors of power? This depends on good luck and the "chance" encounter between the powerful and the Straussian. Here the contemporary neocons go beyond Strauss and leave nothing to chance.

It would even appear that they look for the stupid, gullible or those who are mentally compromised. So William Kristol becomes Vice President Quayle's chief of Staff, and Libby becomes the right hand man to the addled Cheney as well as assistant to the Quayle-like Bush. And there are many more.

Finally, Drury makes the point the Strauss and the neocons are not really conservative at all. They are radicals, at war with the entire modern enterprise which makes them turn to the ancients for their inspiration, and even there they need to distort the teachings of Socrates or Plato to make their case. But the Enlightenment comes to us with the advance of science to which Strauss is also hostile.

He says that he is not against science as such "but popularized science or the diffusion of scientific knowledge. Science must remain the preserve of a small minority; it must be kept secret from the common man." (PI, p. 154). But this is impossible. Science by its very nature is a vast social enterprise requiring the widest possible dissemination of its findings. Any society that puts a lid on this will fail, and so by natural selection, the Straussian project is doomed to fail.

But before that happens the Straussians can do a lot of damage. As Drury says, they "cannot be trusted with political power." But we can learn from them the importance of boldness, not in the pursuit of the "noble lie" but of the truth. And we must be certain that we are vigorous as we hunt them down and get them out of power. In that effort Shadia Drury has done us a great service.

John Walsh can be reached at jvwalshmd@gmail.com.

He thanks Gary Leupp a regular on CounterPoint.com for pointing him to Shadia Drury's books.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/walsh11022005.html>

Saving America:

Leo Strauss and the Neoconservatives

By Shadia B. Drury

There is a growing awareness that a reclusive German émigré philosopher is the inspiration behind the reigning neoconservative ideology of the Republican Party. Leo Strauss has long been a cult figure within the North American academy. And even though he had a profound antipathy to both liberalism and democracy, his disciples have gone to great lengths to conceal the fact. And for the most part they have succeeded -- as the article by James Atlas in *The New York Times* and the article by Seymour Hersh in *The New Yorker* indicate. This picture of Strauss as the great American patriot, who was a lover of freedom and democracy is pure fabrication. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The trouble with the Straussians is that they are compulsive liars. But it is not altogether their fault. Strauss was very pre-occupied with secrecy because he was convinced that the truth is too harsh for any society to bear; and that the truth-bearers are likely to be persecuted by society - specially a liberal society - because liberal democracy is about as far as one can get from the truth as Strauss understood it.

Strauss's disciples have inherited a superiority complex as well as a persecution complex. They are convinced that they are the superior few who know the truth and are entitled to rule. But they are afraid to speak the truth openly, lest they are persecuted by the vulgar many who do not wish to be ruled by them. This explains why they are eager to misrepresent the nature of Strauss's thought. They are afraid to reveal that Strauss was a critic of liberalism and democracy, lest he be regarded as an enemy of America. So, they wrap him in the American flag and pretend that he is a champion of liberal democracy for political reasons -- their own quest for power.

The result is that they run roughshod over truth as well as democracy. It should however be pointed out that being a critic of liberalism or democracy or both does not make one automatically an enemy of America. On the contrary, freedom and democracy can only be strengthened by intellectually confronting their critics. Strauss has no special antipathy for America. He is the enemy of liberty in general. It was for love of America that he wished to save her from her disastrous love affair with liberty, as I will explain.

Strauss's preoccupation with secrecy was no doubt connected to the fact that he did not feel at home in America. He realised how much his ideas were at odds with America's liberal modernity. He felt that in America, everything that does not fit the mould, everything that does not conform to public opinion, was ostracised. In a letter to a friend, Strauss complained that the academic atmosphere in America was oppressive, and that it was very difficult to publish. As a man forced to emigrate from his native Germany, learn a new language by watching television, and forced to conduct his scholarly life in this newly acquired language, Strauss must be the subject of our sympathy. But Strauss's American disciples continue to complain that they are oppressed, beleaguered, and ostracised by the liberal academy, and the equally liberal media. But surely, these are crocodile tears.

The Straussians are the most powerful, the most organised, and the best-funded scholars in Canada and the United States. They are the unequalled masters of right-wing think tanks, foundations, and corporate funding. And now they have the ear of the powerful in the White House. Nothing could have pleased Strauss more; for he believed that intellectuals have an important role to play in politics. It was not prudent for them to rule directly because the masses are inclined to distrust them; but they should certainly not pass up the opportunity to whisper in the ears of the powerful. So, what are they whispering? What did Strauss teach them? What is the impact of the Straussian philosophy on the powerful neoconservatives? And what is neoconservatism anyway?

Strauss is not as obscure or as esoteric as his admirers pretend. There are certain incontestable themes in his work. The most fundamental theme is the distinction between the ancients and the moderns - a distinction that informs all his work. According to Strauss, ancient philosophers (such as Plato) were wise and wily, but modern philosophers (such as Locke and other liberals) were foolish and vulgar. The wise ancients thought that the unwashed masses were not fit for either truth or liberty; and giving them these sublime treasures was like throwing pearls before swine. Accordingly, they believed that society needs an elite of philosophers or intellectuals to manufacture "noble lies" for the consumption of the masses. Not surprisingly, the ancients had no use for democracy. Plato balked at the democratic idea that any Donald, Dick, or George was equally fit to rule.

In contrast to the ancients, the moderns were the foolish lovers of truth and liberty; they believed in the natural rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They believed that human beings were born free and could be legitimately ruled only by their own consent.

The ancients denied that there is any natural right to liberty. Human beings are born neither free nor equal. The natural human condition is not one of freedom, but of subordination. And in Strauss's estimation, they were right in thinking that there is only one natural right - the right of the superior to rule over the inferior - the master over the slave, the husband over the wife, and the wise few over the vulgar many. As to the pursuit of happiness - what could the vulgar do with happiness except drink, gamble, and fornicate?

Praising the wisdom of the ancients and condemning the folly of the moderns was the whole point of Strauss's most famous book, *Natural Right and History*. The cover of the book sports the American Declaration of Independence. But the book is a celebration of nature - not the natural rights of man (as the appearance of the book would lead one to believe), but the natural order of domination and subordination.

In his book "On Tyranny," Strauss referred to the right of the superior to rule as "the tyrannical teaching" of the ancients which must be kept secret. But what is the reason for secrecy? Strauss tells us that the tyrannical teaching must be kept secret for two reasons - to spare the people's feelings and to protect the elite from possible reprisals. After all, the people are not likely to be favourably disposed to the fact that they are intended for subordination.

<http://evatt.org.au/publications/papers/112.html>

Profile: Leo Strauss,
Fascist Godfather of the Neo-Cons

by Jeffrey Steinberg

This profile appears in the March 21, 2003 issue of Executive Intelligence Review.

In a June 17, 1996 article by Richard Lacayo, Time magazine named the late University of Chicago philosopher Leo Strauss (1899-1973) as one of the most influential and powerful figures in Washington, D.C.—the man most responsible for the Newt Gingrich "Conservative Revolution" on Capitol Hill, and the intellectual godfather of Newtzi's "Contract on America" blueprint for vicious fascist austerity.

If Strauss' influence on politics in the capital of the most powerful nation on Earth was awesome in 1996, it is even more so today. The leading "Straussian" in the Bush Administration is Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who was trained by Strauss' alter-ego and fellow University of Chicago professor Allan Bloom. Wolfowitz leads the "war party" within the civilian bureaucracy at the Pentagon, and his own protégé, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, is Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff and chief national security aide, directing a super-hawkish "shadow national security council" out of the Old Executive Office Building, adjacent to the White House. According to Bloom biographer Saul Bellow, the day that President George H.W. Bush rejected Wolfowitz and Cheney's demand that U.S. troops continue on to Baghdad, during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Wolfowitz called Bloom on his private phone line to bitterly complain. It seems that "Bush 41" was not enough of a Nietzschean "superman" for Wolfowitz's taste.

However, Strauss' name may also prove to be a liability, particularly for those neo-conservative ideologues who are now attempting to steer President Bush into a no-win war in the Persian Gulf, in pursuit of an illusory world empire, and who are finding themselves under growing public attack.

On March 3, in a widely circulated radio interview on the Jack Stockwell Show in Salt Lake City (see EIR, March 14), Lyndon LaRouche had singled out Strauss as one of the leading intellectual figures, along with Bertrand Russell and H.G. Wells, steering the United States into a disastrous replay of the Peloponnesian War, which led to the collapse of Athens. Within days of the LaRouche interview, Leo Strauss was the subject of a series of public attacks, in the German, French and American media (see Documentation), for his role in producing the current generation of neo-conservatives.

Indeed, author Shadia B. Drury, in her 1997 book, *Leo Strauss and the American Right*, named the following prominent Washington players as among Strauss' protégés: Paul Wolfowitz; Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas; Judge Robert Bork; neo-con propagandist and former Dan Quayle chief of staff, William Kristol; former Secretary of Education William Bennett; the National Review publisher William F. Buckley; former Reagan Administration official Alan Keyes; current White House bio-ethics advisor Francis Fukuyama; Attorney General John Ashcroft; and William Galston, former Clinton Administration domestic policy advisor, and co-author, with Elaine Kamark, of the Joe Lieberman-led Democratic Leadership Council's policy blueprint.

Earlier Strauss allies and protégés in launching the post-World War II neo-conservative movement were Irving Kristol, Norman Podhoretz, Samuel Huntington, Seymour Martin Lipset, Daniel Bell, Jeane Kirkpatrick, and James Q. Wilson.

Nobody Here But Us Fascists

A review of Leo Strauss' career reveals why the label "Straussian" carries some very filthy implications. Although nominally a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany (he actually left for a better position abroad, on the warm recommendation of Nazi jurist Carl Schmitt), Strauss was an unabashed proponent of the three most notorious shapers of the Nazi philosophy: Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, and Carl Schmitt. Recent biographies have revealed the depth of Heidegger's enthusiasm for Hitler and Nazism, while he served as the Chancellor of Freiburg University, throughout the epoch of National Socialism, and was the leader of a Nietzschean revival. Carl Schmitt, the leading Nazi philosopher of law, was personally responsible, in 1934, for arranging a Rockefeller Foundation scholarship for Strauss, which enabled him to leave Germany, to study in England and France, before coming to the United States to teach at the New School for Social Research, and then, the University of Chicago. Strauss, in his long academic career, never abandoned his fealty to Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Schmitt.

The hallmark of Strauss' approach to philosophy was his hatred of the modern world, his belief in a totalitarian system, run by "philosophers," who rejected all universal principles of natural law, but saw their mission as absolute rulers, who lied and deceived a foolish "populist" mass, and used both religion and politics as a means of disseminating myths that kept the general population in clueless servitude. For Strauss and all of his protégés (Strauss personally had 100 Ph.D. students, and the "Straussians" now dominate most university political science and philosophy departments), the greatest object of hatred was the United States itself, which they viewed as nothing better than a weak, pathetic replay of "liberal democratic" Weimar Germany.

Among the current lot of neo-cons, Michael Ledeen stands out as the one person who openly flaunts his "universal fascism." For Wolfowitz, Kristol, and the rest, their association with Strauss could be a large contributing factor in their looming downfall—and none too soon.

http://www.larouchepub.com/other/2003/3011profile_strauss.html

Professor Strauss and the Neocon Takeover

By Jim Silva

02/06/06 "Lompoc Record" -- -- Have you seen the latest blockbuster? Like Star Wars, it's classic good verses evil - a power hungry dictator plotting to seize control of a goodly Republic. The twist is it's for adults. Ones who know reality is stranger than fiction. You guessed it! This epic thriller is actually your life, and it's called "The Fall of the Republic - Sleeping Through the Revolution." Here's a behind the scenes look:

Bush Jr. came to power surrounding himself with far right "neo-conservatives" that his daddy called "crazies in the basement."

Who are the crazies? A militant, anti-communist group of mainly Jewish intellectuals who studied the Trotskyite, Machiavellian political philosophy of Prof. Strauss at the University of Chicago. Wolfowitz, Ashcroft, Perle, Abrams, Chalabi, Bennett, Ho, Shulsky, Khalilzad, Schmitt, Kristol, are a few of the invasion architects, intelligence crafters, torture lawyers, Iraq ambassadors and U.S. puppets who studied under Strauss.

Together with Straussian devotees at neocon and pro-Israeli think tanks, they now control all powerful positions in our government.

What do neocons believe and want? They are anti-democratic, authoritarian, and they want power. Straussianism provides the intellectual framework and personal justification for their actions.

Strauss taught that an elite, wise ruling class must rule the unsophisticated masses by telling them noble lies for their own good.

Strauss loved Plato, interpreting his teachings to mean, "... true democracy is an act against nature and must be prevented at all costs."

He wrote leaders must use religion to control the masses.

"Because mankind is intrinsically wicked, he has to be governed," Strauss wrote. "Such governance can only be established, however, when men are united - and they can only be united against other people." Leaders must always provide an enemy.

Straussian teachings spark delusions of grandeur in neocon intellectuals, who imagine themselves as the wise ruling elite, set free of the bonds of honesty and equality.

The Project for a New American Century think tank springs directly from this authoritarian power cult. Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Bolton, Abrams, Libby, Perle, and others signed PNAC documents in 1997 advocating aggressive, militaristic world domination, domination of space, control of cyberspace (they don't want much), permanent bases in the Middle East, and employing troops in constabulatory (police) duties to enforce U.S. world empire, Pax Americana.

Neocon papers are thick with delusional paranoia like the following from Richard Perle, National Security Council: "No stages, this is total war. We are fighting a variety of enemies. There are lots of them out there. All this talk about first we are going to do Afghanistan, then we will do Iraq . . . this is entirely the wrong way to go about it. If we just let our vision of the world go forth, and we embrace it entirely and we don't try to piece together clever diplomacy, but just wage a total war . . . our children will sing great songs about us years from now."

Michael Ledeen, American Enterprise Institute Fellow, former NSC, State, and Defense Department consultant and influential White House advisor writes, "We can lead by the force of high moral example ... [but] fear is much more reliable, and lasts longer. Once we show that we are capable of dealing out terrible punishment to our enemies, our power will be far greater. We are a warlike people and we love war."

Perle, Wolfowitz, Bolton and others have a long history of calling for “winnable nuclear war.”

Henry Kissinger described the baffled response of established powers in the face of revolutionary challenge. “Lulled by a period of stability which seemed permanent, they find it nearly impossible to take at face value the assertion of the revolutionary power that it means to smash the existing framework. Those who warn against the danger in time are considered alarmists: those who counsel adaptation are considered balanced and sane.”

This movie will soon be over. Better wake up your congressman.

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article11811.htm>

The Long Reach of Leo Strauss

by William Pfaff

Published on Thursday, May 15, 2003
by the International Herald Tribune

PARIS -- The trouble with American conservatism during most of the 20th century was that it was not particularly intelligent. The Republican Party was and is a business party, anti-intellectual and to a considerable degree xenophobic.

The radical neoconservatives, who appeared in the 1960s, are the first seriously intelligent movement on the American right since the 19th century. They want to remake the international order under effective U.S. hegemony, destroy America's enemies and cripple or eliminate the United Nations and other institutions making a claim to international jurisdiction.

They have a political philosophy, and the arrogance and intolerance of their actions reflect their conviction that they possess a realism and truth others lack.

They include Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz; Abram Shulsky of the Pentagon's Office of Special Plans, Richard Perle of the Pentagon advisory board, Elliott Abrams of the National Security Council, and the writers Robert Kagan and William Kristol.

The main intellectual influence on the neoconservatives has been the philosopher Leo Strauss, who left Germany in 1938 and taught for many years at the University of Chicago. Several of the neoconservatives studied under him. Wolfowitz and Shulsky took doctorates under him.

Something of a cult developed around Strauss during his later years at Chicago, and he and some admirers figure in the Saul Bellow novel, "Ravelstein." The cult is appropriate because Strauss believed that the essential truths about human society and history should be held by an elite, and withheld from others who lack the fortitude to deal with truth. Society, Strauss thought, needs consoling lies.

He held that philosophy is dangerous because it brings into question the conventions on which civil order and the morality of society depend. This risks promoting a destructive nihilism.

According to Strauss, the relativism of modern American society is a moral disorder that could block it from identifying its real enemies. "Moral clarity" is essential. The Weimar Republic's toleration of extremism allowed the rise of the Nazi party.

Strauss made an intellectually powerful and sophisticated critique of post-Enlightenment liberalism. He saw the United States as the most advanced case of liberalism and thus the most exposed to nihilism.

He believed that Greek classical philosophy, notably that of Plato, is more true to nature than anything that has replaced it. Some critics say that his interpretation of Plato is perverse, but he said that he had recovered the "real" Plato, lost by later Neo-Platonic and Christian thinkers.

He also argued that Platonic truth is too hard for people to bear, and that the classical appeal to "virtue" as the object of human endeavor is unattainable.

Hence it has been necessary to tell lies to people about the nature of political reality. An elite recognizes the truth, however, and keeps it to itself. This gives it insight, and implicitly power that others do not possess. This obviously is an important element in Strauss's appeal to America's neoconservatives.

The ostensibly hidden truth is that expediency works; there is no certain God to punish wrongdoing; and virtue is unattainable by most people.

Machiavelli was right. There is a natural hierarchy of humans, and rulers must restrict free inquiry and exploit the mediocrity and vice of ordinary people so as to keep society in order.

This is obviously a bleak and anti-utopian philosophy that goes against practically everything Americans want to believe. It contradicts the conventional wisdom of modern democratic society.

It also contradicts the neoconservatives' own declared policy ambitions to make the Muslim world democratic and establish a new U.S.-led international order, which are blatantly utopian.

Strauss, who died in 1973, was no friend of hegemony, American or otherwise. He said that "no human being and no group of human beings can rule the whole of the human race justly." His concern during the Cold War was that Soviet universalism invited an alternative American claim to world rule.

His real appeal to the neoconservatives, in my view, is that his elitism presents a principled rationalization for policy expediency, and for "necessary lies" told to those whom the truth would demoralize.

Strauss's thought is a matter of public interest because his followers are in charge of U.S. foreign policy. But he is more interesting than they are.

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<http://www.commondreams.org/views03/0515-09.htm>

Practicing for Years:

The Long March of Dick Cheney

For his entire career, he sought untrammelled power. The Bush presidency and 9/11 finally gave it to him -- and he's not about to give it up.

By Sidney Blumenthal

The hallmark of the Dick Cheney administration is its illegitimacy. Its essential method is bypassing established lines of authority; its goal is the concentration of unaccountable presidential power. When it matters, the regular operations of the CIA, Defense Department and State Department have been sidelined.

Richard Nixon is the model, but with modifications. In the Nixon administration, the president was the prime mover, present at the creation of his own options, attentive to detail, and conscious of their consequences. In the Cheney administration, the president is volatile but passive, firm but malleable, presiding but absent. Once his complicity has been arranged, a closely held "cabal" -- as Lawrence Wilkerson, once chief of staff to former Secretary of State Colin Powell, calls it -- wields control.

Within the White House, the office of the vice president is the strategic center. The National Security Council has been demoted to enabler and implementer. Systems of off-line operations have been laid to evade professional analysis and a responsible chain of command. Those who attempt to fulfill their duties in the old ways have been humiliated when necessary, fired, retired early or shunted aside. In their place, acolytes and careerists indistinguishable from true believers in their eagerness have been elevated.

The collapse of sections of the façade shielding Cheney from public view has not inhibited him. His former chief of staff, I. Lewis Libby, indicted on five counts of perjury and obstruction of justice, appears to be withholding information about the vice president's actions in the Plame affair from the special prosecutor. While Bush has declaimed, "We do not torture," Cheney lobbied the Senate to stop it from prohibiting torture.

At the same time, Cheney has taken the lead in defending the administration from charges that it twisted intelligence to justify the Iraq war and misled the Congress even as new stories underscore the legitimacy of the charges.

Former Sen. Bob Graham has revealed, in a Nov. 20 article in the Washington Post, that the condensed version of the National Intelligence Estimate titled "Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs" that was submitted to the Senate days before it voted on the Iraq war resolution "represented an unqualified case that Hussein possessed [WMD], avoided a discussion of whether he had the will to use them and omitted the dissenting opinions contained in the classified version." The condensed version also contained the falsehood that Saddam Hussein was seeking "weapons-grade fissile material from abroad."

The administration relied for key information in the NIE on an Iraqi defector code-named Curveball. According to a Nov. 20 report in the Los Angeles Times, it had learned from German intelligence beforehand that Curveball was completely untrustworthy and his claims fabricated. Yet Bush, Cheney and, most notably, Powell in his prewar performance before the United Nations, which he now calls

the biggest "blot" on his record and about which he insists he was "deceived," touted Curveball's disinformation.

In two speeches over the past week Cheney has called congressional critics "dishonest," "shameless" and "reprehensible." He ridiculed their claim that they did not have the same intelligence as the administration. "These are elected officials who had access to the intelligence materials. They are known to have a high opinion of their own analytical capabilities." Lambasting them for historical "revisionism," he repeatedly invoked Sept. 11. "We were not in Iraq on September 11th, 2001 -- and the terrorists hit us anyway," he said.

The day after Cheney's most recent speech, the National Journal reported that the president's daily briefing prepared by the CIA 10 days after Sept. 11, 2001, indicated that there was no connection between Saddam and the terrorist attacks. Of course, the 9/11 Commission had made the same point in its report.

Even though experts and pundits contradict his talking points, Cheney presents them with characteristic assurance. His rhetoric is like a paving truck that will flatten obstacles. Cheney remains undeterred; he has no recourse. He will not run for president in 2008. He is defending more than the Bush record; he is defending the culmination of his career. Cheney's alliances, ideas, antagonisms and tactics have accumulated for decades.

Cheney is a master bureaucrat, proficient in the White House, the agencies and departments, and Congress. The many offices Cheney has held add up to an extraordinary résumé. His competence and measured manner are often mistaken for moderation. Among those who have misjudged Cheney are military men -- Colin Powell, Brent Scowcroft and Wilkerson, who lacked a sense of him as a political man in full. As a result, they expressed surprise at their discovery of the ideological hard man. Scowcroft told the New Yorker recently that Cheney was not the Cheney he once knew. But Scowcroft and the other military men rose by working through regular channels; they were trained to respect established authority. They are at a disadvantage in internal political battles with those operating by different rules of warfare. Their realism does not account for radicalism within the U.S. government.

Nixon's resignation in the Watergate scandal thwarted his designs for an unchecked imperial presidency. It was in that White House that Cheney gained his formative experience as the assistant to Nixon's counselor, Donald Rumsfeld. When Gerald Ford acceded to the presidency, he summoned Rumsfeld from his posting as NATO ambassador to become his chief of staff. Rumsfeld, in turn, brought back his former deputy, Cheney.

From Nixon, they learned the application of ruthlessness and the harsh lesson of failure. Under Ford, Rumsfeld designated Cheney as his surrogate on intelligence matters. During the immediate aftermath of Watergate, Congress investigated past CIA abuses, and the press was filled with revelations. In May 1975, Seymour Hersh reported in the New York Times on how the CIA had sought to recover a sunken Soviet submarine with a deep-sea mining vessel called the Glomar Explorer, built by Howard Hughes. When Hersh's article appeared, Cheney wrote memos laying out options ranging from indicting Hersh or getting a search warrant for Hersh's apartment to suing the Times and pressuring its owners "to discourage the NYT and other publications from similar action." "In the end," writes James Mann, in his indispensable book, "Rise of the Vulcans: The History of

Bush's War Cabinet," "Cheney and the White House decided to back off after the intelligence community decided its work had not been significantly damaged."

Rumsfeld and Cheney quickly gained control of the White House staff, edging out Ford's old aides. From this base, they waged bureaucratic war on Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger, a colossus of foreign policy, who occupied the posts of both secretary of state and national security advisor. Rumsfeld and Cheney were the right wing of the Ford administration, opposed to the policy of détente with the Soviet Union, and they operated by stealthy internal maneuver. The Secret Service gave Cheney the code name "Backseat."

In 1975, Rumsfeld and Cheney stage-managed a Cabinet purge called the "Halloween massacre" that made Rumsfeld secretary of defense and Cheney White House chief of staff. Kissinger, forced to surrender control of the National Security Council, angrily drafted a letter of resignation (which he never submitted). Rumsfeld and Cheney helped convince Ford, who faced a challenge for the Republican nomination from Ronald Reagan, that he needed to shore up his support on the right and that Rockefeller was a political liability. Rockefeller felt compelled to announce he would not be Ford's running mate. Upset at the end of his ambition, Rockefeller charged that Rumsfeld intended to become vice president himself. In fact, Rumsfeld had contemplated running for president in the future and undoubtedly would have accepted a vice presidential nod.

In the meantime, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld undermined the negotiations for a new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty being conducted by Kissinger. Fighting off Reagan's attacks during the Republican primaries, Ford was pressured by Cheney to adopt his foreign policy views, which amounted to a self-repudiation. At the Republican Party Convention, acting as Ford's representative, Cheney engineered the adoption of Reagan's foreign policy plank in the platform. By doing so he preempted an open debate and split. Privately, Ford, Kissinger and Rockefeller were infuriated.

As part of the Halloween massacre Rumsfeld and Cheney pushed out CIA director William Colby and replaced him with George H.W. Bush, then the U.S. plenipotentiary to China. The CIA had been uncooperative with the Rumsfeld/Cheney anti-détente campaign. Instead of producing intelligence reports simply showing an urgent Soviet military buildup, the CIA issued complex analyses that were filled with qualifications. Its National Intelligence Estimate on the Soviet threat contained numerous caveats, dissents and contradictory opinions. From the conservative point of view, the CIA was guilty of groupthink, unwilling to challenge its own premises and hostile to conservative ideas.

The new CIA director was prompted to authorize an alternative unit outside the CIA to challenge the agency's intelligence on Soviet intentions. Bush was more compliant in the political winds than his predecessor. Consisting of a host of conservatives, the unit was called Team B. A young aide from the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Paul Wolfowitz, was selected to represent Rumsfeld's interest and served as coauthor of Team B's report. The report was single-minded in its conclusion about the Soviet buildup and cleansed of contrary intelligence. It was fundamentally a political tool in the struggle for control of the Republican Party, intended to destroy détente and aimed particularly at Kissinger. Both Ford and Kissinger took pains to dismiss Team B and its effort. (Later, Team B's report was revealed to be wildly off the mark about the scope and capability of the Soviet military.)

With Ford's defeat, Team B became the kernel of the Committee on the Present Danger, a conservative group that attacked President Carter for weakness on the Soviet threat. The growing strength of the right thwarted ratification of SALT II, setting the stage for Reagan's nomination and election.

Elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, Cheney became the Republican leader on the House Intelligence Committee, where he consistently fought congressional oversight and limits on presidential authority. When Congress investigated the Iran-Contra scandal (the creation of an illegal, privately funded, offshore U.S. foreign policy initiative), Cheney was the crucial administration defender. At every turn, he blocked the Democrats and prevented them from questioning Vice President Bush. Under his leadership, not a single House Republican signed the special investigating committee's final report charging "secrecy, deception and disdain for law." Instead, the Republicans issued their own report claiming there had been no major wrongdoing.

The origin of Cheney's alliance with the neoconservatives goes back to his instrumental support for Team B. Upon being appointed secretary of defense by the elder Bush, he kept on Wolfowitz as undersecretary. And Wolfowitz kept on his deputy, his former student at the University of Chicago, Scooter Libby.

Earlier, Wolfowitz and Libby had written a document expressing suspicion of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's liberalizing perestroika and warning against making deals with him, a document that President Reagan ignored as he made an arms control agreement and proclaimed that the Cold War was ending.

During the Gulf War, Secretary of Defense Cheney clashed with Gen. Colin Powell. At one point, he admonished Powell, who had been Reagan's national security advisor, "Colin, you're chairman of the Joint Chiefs ... so stick to military matters." During the run-up to the war, Cheney set up a secret unit in the Pentagon to develop an alternative war plan, his own version of Team B. "Set up a team, and don't tell Powell or anybody else," Cheney ordered Wolfowitz.

The plan was called Operation Scorpion. "While Powell was out of town, visiting Saudi Arabia, Cheney -- again, without telling Powell -- took the civilian-drafted plan, Operation Scorpion, to the White House and presented it to the president and the national security adviser," writes Mann in his book. Bush, however, rejected it as too risky.

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf was enraged at Cheney's presumption.

"Put a civilian in charge of professional military men and before long he's no longer satisfied with setting policy but wants to outgeneral the generals," he wrote in his memoir. After Operation Scorpion was rejected, Cheney urged Bush to go to war without congressional approval, a notion the elder Bush dismissed.

After the Gulf War victory, in 1992, Cheney approved a new "Defense Planning Guidance" advocating U.S. unilateralism in the post-Cold War, a document whose final draft was written by Libby. Cheney assumed Republican rule for the indefinite future.

One week after Bill Clinton's inauguration, on Jan. 27, 1993, Cheney appeared on "Larry King Live," where he declared his interest in running for the presidency.

"Obviously," he said, "it's something I'll take a look at ... Obviously, I've worked for three presidents and watched two others up close, and so it is an idea that has occurred to me." For two years, he quietly campaigned in Republican circles, but discovered little enthusiasm. He was less well known than he imagined and less magnetic in person than his former titles suggested.

On Aug. 10, 1995, he held a news conference at the headquarters of the Halliburton Co. in Dallas, announcing he would become its chief executive officer. "When I made the decision earlier this year not to run for president, not to seek the White House, that really was a decision to wrap up my political career and move on to other things," he said.

But in 2000, Cheney surfaced in the role of party elder, above the fray, willing to serve as the man who would help Gov. George W. Bush determine who should be his running mate. Prospective candidates turned over to him all sensitive material about themselves, financial, political and personal. Once he had collected it, he decided that he should be the vice presidential candidate himself. Bush said he had previously thought of the idea and happily accepted.

Asked who vetted Cheney's records, Bush's then aide Karen Hughes explained, "Just as with other candidates, Secretary Cheney is the one who handled that."

Most observers assumed that Cheney would provide balancing experience and maturity, serving in his way as a surrogate father and elder statesman. Few grasped his deeply held view on presidential power.

With Rumsfeld returned as secretary of defense, the position he had held during the Ford administration, the old team was back in place. Rivals from the past had departed and the field was clear. The methods used before were implemented again.

To get around the CIA, the Office of Special Plans was created within the Pentagon, yet another version of Team B. Senior military dissenters were removed. Powell was manipulated and outmaneuvered.

The making of the Iraq war, torture policy and an industry-friendly energy plan has required secrecy, deception and subordination of government as it previously existed. But these, too, are means to an end.

Even projecting a "war on terror" as total war, trying to envelop the whole American society within its fog, is a device to invest absolute power in the executive.

Dick Cheney sees in George W. Bush his last chance. Nixon self-destructed, Ford was fatally compromised by his moderation, Reagan was not what was hoped for, the elder Bush ended up a disappointment. In every case, the Republican presidents had been checked or gone soft.

Finally, President Bush provided the instrument, Sept. 11 the opportunity. This time the failures of the past provided the guideposts for getting it right. The administration's heedlessness was simply the wisdom of Cheney's experience.

<http://dir.salon.com/story/opinion/blumenthal/2005/11/24/cheney/index.html>

Bush's Six-Pack

REVIEW: Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet

by James Mann, Viking Press, 372 pages

Reviewed by Georgie Anne Geyer

After two years of mysterious conjecture about what is really behind the adventurism of the Bush administration, we are now suddenly inundated with a series of excellent and revealing books about this curiously radical group of American men and women who, in such very odd and threatening ways, "govern" us.

And of all the books so far, James Mann's work on "the Vulcans" -- while not as charmingly salacious, politically angry, and gut-personal as the Bob Woodward, Paul O'Neill, and Richard Clarke books -- is a particularly valuable contribution, perhaps one that will come to stand as *The Best and the Brightest* of the Iraq War. Its value lies not only in the consummate fairness of the author's judgments (sometimes too fair, actually) but in the fact that Mann roves back in history meticulously and conscientiously to pull out the skeletons of these new foreign-policy ideologies of the Bush team and examine their DNA.

Contrary to what most observers have thought, these ideas did not come out of nowhere; in fact, they were buried to most Americans, but they were busily germinating just underneath the topsoil of the country's leadership classes. (As the evocative Pablo Neruda once noted, "Everything that is buried is not dead.")

The author establishes this to such a successful extent that, after reading this book, one can see, really for the first time, how utterly inevitable were the outcomes of the Vulcans' thinking. For, beginning in the 1970s and particularly with the commencement of Reagan's traditionally conservative presidency in 1981, this group of thinkers and doers was forming an "epochal change, the flowering of a new view of America's status and role in the world."

Indeed, at the end of this very readable book, Mann, who is a highly respected former foreign correspondent with the Los Angeles Times and an author and specialist on China, and whose two-year tenure at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington allowed him to write this book, makes it completely clear what he has to say.

"There was no question that the Vulcans' venture into Iraq grew out of their previous 35 years of thinking about America's role in the world. It represented a final step in the transfer of ideas that the Vulcans had formed during the cold war into a post-cold war world -- the ideas that the United States should emphasize military strength, should spread its ideals and should not accommodate other centers of power."

Hidden within the general picture that the Cold War ended in 1989 and a new, still unformed post-Cold War world started, "there lay another, entirely different historical narrative, one that began in the two decades before 1989 and continued for at least 15 years afterward. It was the story of the pursuit of unrivaled American power, the story of the rise of the Vulcans."

Curiously enough, the supposed author of these policies -- President George W. Bush -- is barely mentioned in this book. He is the man who isn't there and, obviously in the author's opinion, the man who didn't really have much to do with the thinking behind all that he let loose on the world.

"He could not have made decisions if the Vulcans had not laid out the choices," Mann writes in the foreword. "He could not have formulated policy without the words and ideas they brought to him." (So much for the "War President!")

Curiously, too, almost none of the neoconservatives who back up the Vulcans served in the armed forces -- most avidly sought out deferments, with Vice President Dick Cheney getting five of them because, as he said later, "I had other priorities."

Yet their policies are unidimensionally devoted to using military force, at almost every turn and with very few of the old rules and principles to hold them back. Here, too, they stand in sharpest contrast to the American establishment that came out of World War II. Almost all the leaders of that establishment were military men, some of them true heroes, and their contribution to their generation and to their country was to establish great peaceful institutions spanning the world that uniquely combined the political, the economic, and the social with the military only secondary in their plans.

http://www.amconmag.com/2004_06_07/review.html

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11.1 Bin Laden Hussein Connection

<http://www.insanereagan.com/pixmedia.shtml>

BCCI: The Dirty Bank that Connects the Bushes, the bin Ladens & Saddam Hussein

Questions Linger About Bushes and BCCI

Analysis by Lucy Komisar

04/05/07 -- -- NEW YORK, Apr 4 (IPS) - Now that the U.S. Congress is investigating the truth of President George W. Bush's statements about the Iraq war, they might look into one of his most startling assertions: that there was a link between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden.

Critics dismissed that as an invention. They were wrong. There was a link, but not the one Bush was selling. The link between Hussein and Bin Laden was their banker, BCCI. But the link went beyond the dictator and the jihadist -- it passed through Saudi Arabia and stretched all the way to George W. Bush and his father.

BCCI was the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, a dirty offshore bank that then-president Ronald Reagan's Central Intelligence Agency used to run guns to Hussein, finance Osama bin Laden, move money in the illegal Iran-Contra operation and carry out other "agency" black ops. The Bushes also benefited privately; one of the bank's largest Saudi investors helped bail out George W. Bush's troubled oil investments.

BCCI was founded in 1972 by a Pakistani banker, Agha Hasan Abedi, with the support of Sheik Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and head of the United Arab Emirates. Its corporate strategy was money laundering. It became the banker for drug and arms traffickers, corrupt officials, financial fraudsters, dictators and terrorists.

The CIA used BCCI Islamabad and other branches in Pakistan to funnel some of the two billion dollars that Washington sent to Osama bin Laden's Mujahadeen to help fight the Soviets in Afghanistan. It moved the cash the Pakistani military and government officials skimmed from U.S. aid to the Mujahadeen. It also moved money as required by the Saudi intelligence services.

The BCCI operation gave Osama bin Laden an education in offshore black finance that he would put to use when he organised the jihad against the United States. He would move money through the Al-Taqwa Bank, operating in offshore Nassau and Switzerland with two Osama siblings as shareholders.

At the same time, BCCI helped Saddam Hussein, funneling millions of dollars to the Atlanta branch of the Italian government-owned Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL), Baghdad's U.S. banker, so that from 1985 to 1989 it could make four billion dollars in secret loans to Iraq to help it buy arms.

U.S. Congressman Henry Gonzalez held a hearing on BNL in 1992 during which he quoted from a confidential CIA document that said the agency had long been aware that the bank's headquarters was involved in the U.S. branch's Iraqi loans.

Kickbacks from 15 percent commissions on BNL-sponsored loans were channeled into bank accounts held for Iraqi leaders via BCCI offices in the Caymans as well as in offshore Luxembourg and Switzerland. BNL was a client of Kissinger Associates, and Henry Kissinger was on the bank's international advisory board, along with Brent Scowcroft, who would become George Bush Sr.'s national security advisor. That connection makes the Bush administration's surprise and indignation at "oil for food" payoffs in Iraq seem disingenuous.

Important Saudis were influential in the bank. Sheik Kamal Adham, brother-in-law of the late Saudi King Faisal, head of Saudi intelligence from 1963 to 1979, and the CIA's liaison in the area, became one of BCCI's largest shareholders. George Bush Sr. knew Adham from his time running the CIA in 1975.

Another investor was Prince Turki bin Faisal al-Saud, who succeeded Adham as Saudi intelligence chief. The family of Khalid Salem bin Mahfouz, owner of the National Commercial Bank, the largest bank in Saudi Arabia, banker to King Fahd and other members of the ruling family, bought 20 to 30 percent of the stock for nearly one billion dollars. Bin Mahfouz was put on the board of directors.

The Arabs' interest in the bank was more than financial. A classified CIA memo on BCCI in the mid-1980s said that "its principal shareholders are among the power elite of the Middle East, including the rulers of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates, and several influential Saudi Arabians. They are less interested in profitability than in promoting the Muslim cause."

The Bushes' private links to the bank passed to Bin Mahfouz through Texas businessman James R. Bath, who invested money in the United States on behalf of the Saudis. In 1976, when Bush was the head of the CIA, the agency sold some of the planes of Air America, a secret "proprietary" airline it used during the Vietnam War, to Skyway, a company owned by Bath and Bin Mahfouz.

Bath then helped finance George W. Bush's oil company, Arbusto Energy Inc., in 1979 and 1980.

When Harken Energy Corp., which had absorbed Arbusto (by then merged with Spectrum 7 Energy), got into financial trouble in 1987, Jackson Stephens of the powerful, politically-connected Arkansas investment firm helped it secure 25 million dollars in financing from the Union Bank of Switzerland. As part of that deal, a place on the board was given to Harken shareholder Sheik Abdullah Taha Bakhsh, whose chief banker was BCCI shareholder Bin Mahfouz.

Then, in 1988, George Bush Sr. was elected president. Harken benefited by getting some new investors, including Salem bin Laden, Osama bin Laden's half-brother, and Khalid bin Mahfouz. Osama bin Laden himself was busy elsewhere at the time -- organising al Qaeda.

The money BCCI stole before it was shut down in 1991 -- somewhere between 9.5 billion and 15 billion dollars -- made its 20-year heist the biggest bank fraud in history. Most of it was never recovered. International banks' complicity in the offshore secrecy system effectively covered up the money trail.

But in the years after the collapse of BCCI, Khalid bin Mahfouz was still flush with cash. In 1992, he established the Muwafaq ("blessed relief") Foundation in the offshore Channel Islands. The U.S. Treasury Department called it "an al Qaeda front that receives funding from wealthy Saudi businessmen."

When the BCCI scandal began to break in the late 1980s, the Sr. Bush administration did what it could to sit on it. The Justice Department went after the culprits -- was virtually forced to -- only after New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau did. But evidence about BCCI's broader links exist in numerous U.S. and international investigations. Now could be a good time to take another look at the BCCI-Osama-Saddam-Saudi-Bush connection.

*Investigative journalist Lucy Komisar's chapter, "The BCCI Game: Banking on America, Banking on Jihad," appears in the new book "A Game as Old as Empire," just published by Berrett-Koehler (San Francisco). (END/2007)

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17488.htm>

"OSAMAGATE"

by Michel Chossudovsky
Professor of Economics, University of Ottawa

"Now the Taliban will pay a price" vowed President George W. Bush, as American and British fighter planes unleashed missile attacks against major cities in Afghanistan. The US Administration claims that Osama bin Laden is behind the tragic events of the 11th of September. A major war supposedly "against international terrorism" has been launched, yet the evidence amply confirms that agencies of the US government have since the Cold War harbored the "Islamic Militant Network" as part of Washington's foreign policy agenda. In a bitter irony, the US Air Force is targeting the training camps established in the 1980s by the CIA.

The main justification for waging this war has been totally fabricated.

The American people have been deliberately and consciously misled by their government into supporting a major military adventure which affects our collective future.

Centre for Research on Globalisation (CRG), Montréal
Posted at globalresearch.ca 9 October 2001

Confronted with mounting evidence, the US Administration can no longer deny its links to Osama. While the CIA admits that Osama bin Laden was an "intelligence asset" during the Cold War, the relationship is said to "go way back." Most news reports consider that these Osama-CIA links belong to the "bygone era" of the Soviet-Afghan war. They are invariably viewed as "irrelevant" to an understanding of present events.

Lost in the barrage of recent history, the role of the CIA in supporting and developing international terrorist organisations during the Cold war and its aftermath is casually ignored or downplayed by the Western media.

Yes, We did support Him, but "He Went Against Us"

A blatant example of media distortion is the so-called "blowback" thesis: "intelligence assets" are said to "have gone against their sponsors;" "what we've created blows back in our face." In a twisted logic, the US government and the CIA are portrayed as the ill-fated victims:

The sophisticated methods taught to the Mujahideen, and the thousands of tons of arms supplied to them by the US -- and Britain -- are now tormenting the West in the phenomenon known as "blowback," whereby a policy strategy rebounds on its own devisers.

The US Media, nonetheless, concedes that "the Taliban's coming to power [in 1995] is partly the outcome of the U.S. support of the Mujahideen, the radical Islamic group, in the 1980s in the war against the Soviet Union." But it also readily dismisses its own factual statements and concludes in chorus, that the CIA had been tricked by a deceitful Osama. It's like "a son going against his father."

The "blowback" thesis is a fabrication.

The evidence amply confirms that the CIA never severed its ties to the "Islamic Militant Network." Since the end of the Cold War, these covert intelligence links have not only been maintained, they have in become increasingly sophisticated.

New undercover initiatives financed by the Golden Crescent drug trade were set in motion in Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Balkans. Pakistan's military and intelligence apparatus (controlled by the CIA) essentially "served as a catalyst for the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the emergence of six new Muslim republics in Central Asia."

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO110A.html>

Saddam and the CIA

Saddam Was Key in Early CIA Plot

by Richard Sale, UPI

04/11/03

While many have thought that Saddam first became involved with U.S. intelligence agencies at the start of the September 1980 Iran-Iraq war, his first contacts with U.S. officials date back to 1959, when he was part of a CIA-authorized six-man squad tasked with assassinating then Iraqi Prime Minister Gen. Abd al-Karim Qasim.

...

According to another former senior State Department official, Saddam, while only in his early 20s, became a part of a U.S. plot to get rid of Qasim. According to this source, Saddam was installed in an apartment in Baghdad on al-Rashid Street directly opposite Qasim's office in Iraq's Ministry of Defense, to observe Qasim's movements.

Adel Darwish, Middle East expert and author of "Unholy Babylon," said the move was done "with full knowledge of the CIA," and that Saddam's CIA handler was an Iraqi dentist working for CIA and Egyptian intelligence. U.S. officials separately confirmed Darwish's account.

Darwish said that Saddam's paymaster was Capt. Abdel Maquid Farid, the assistant military attaché at the Egyptian Embassy who paid for the apartment from his own personal account. Three former senior U.S. officials have confirmed that this is accurate.

The assassination was set for Oct. 7, 1959, but it was completely botched. Accounts differ. One former CIA official said that the 22-year-old Saddam lost his nerve and began firing too soon, killing Qasim's driver and only wounding Qasim in the shoulder and arm. Darwish told UPI that one of the assassins had bullets that did not fit his gun and that another had a hand grenade that got stuck in the lining of his coat.

"It bordered on farce," a former senior U.S. intelligence official said. But Qasim, hiding on the floor of his car, escaped death, and Saddam, whose calf had been grazed by a fellow would-be assassin, escaped to Tikrit, thanks to CIA and Egyptian intelligence agents, several U.S. government officials said.

Saddam then crossed into Syria and was transferred by Egyptian intelligence agents to Beirut, according to Darwish and former senior CIA officials. While Saddam was in Beirut, the CIA paid for Saddam's apartment and put him through a brief training course, former CIA officials said. The agency then helped him get to Cairo, they said.

One former U.S. government official, who knew Saddam at the time, said that even then Saddam "was known as having no class. He was a thug -- a cutthroat."

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2849.htm>

Saddam Hussein: Taking Out the CIA's Trash

by Kurt Nimmo
Dissident Voice
August 2, 2003

A few years ago, a friend visiting the United States from Switzerland remarked upon what she viewed as one of the more conspicuous American personality quirks: Americans often seem to possess absolutely no curiosity when it comes to history -- not their own or that of the world at large. How can Americans make informed opinions, she mused, when they have no stomach for history, politics, or current events? My Swiss friend found this incomprehensible -- not only incomprehensible, but dangerous.

Enter Colin Powell. In a Reuters interview, Powell characterizes the missing Saddam Hussein as "a piece of trash waiting to be collected" by the United States military. Personalizing the vendetta against Saddam is nothing new -- Bush has done it from the start, as his father did the last time the US invaded Iraq. For millions of Americans, the invasion of Iraq and the ongoing devastation of that unfortunate and victimized country are all about Saddam. Like the irritating neighbor who cuts his grass at three in the morning and dumps the clippings over the fence, Americans react to Saddam Hussein on an emotional and personal level. Saddam -- thanks to Bush and the corporate media -- has taken on a biblical semblance of evil. Saddam Hussein is the yardstick we now use to measure wickedness. He is our Emmanuel Goldstein, replacing Osama in the neocon pantheon of evil.

In fact, Saddam is no better or worse than any number of dictators past or present. General Augusto Pinochet, Ferdinand Marcos, General Suharto, Anastasio Somoza, Pol Pot -- these are a few of the bloody dictators responsible for the death of literally millions of people (Pol Pot was responsible for the slaughter of 1.5 million people, Suharto 500,000 or more). These are dictators the United States either supported directly or indirectly over the years. In general, the American people know nothing about these sadists and murderous thugs or how their government supported them.

If Saddam is indeed "a piece of trash," as Powell claims, it is an indisputable fact that he is trash created by the United States. Saddam was almost entirely a Frankenstein creation of the CIA. This is a fact backed up by more than one US government official and documented in several books.

And yet, if you were to ask the average American if he or she finds it possible Saddam Hussein was groomed, financed, and supported by the CIA beginning with president John F. Kennedy -- who signed off on plan to overthrow the government of Iraq in 1963 -- chances are they wouldn't believe it. After all, we're the good guys, we do good in the world -- and that's why we're now attempting to track down Hussein and bring him to justice. It's all about liberating the Iraqi people and throwing off this sadistic butcher -- or so the Bushites want us to believe.

The Saddam-CIA story is out there, easy enough to find. In order to find it, simply point your browser at Google and enter the following search criteria: "Saddam CIA coup." Most of the results returned link to articles and news items reporting how the CIA attempted to overthrow Hussein several times since the first Gulf invasion. ABC, Time, MSNBC, USA Today, and other mainstream publications carry many of these stories. [See Time Magazine CIA/Kurdistan story below]

But Google also turns up stories infrequently if ever reported in the mainstream press about Saddam Hussein and the CIA -- as it turns out the Iraqi dictator and the now reviled Ba'ath Party were once favored CIA assets serving US interests. This is the sort of information you will not find splashed across the front page of the New York Times, let alone buried in section F16. In fact, most of this information appears primarily in papers such as the Hindustan Times or in books written by Arab authors. Since the story is at odds with the Bush version of reality, it's not front-page material in America.

In April of this year, however, as Bush was knee-deep into his invasion of Iraq, the UPI ran a story about Saddam's connection to the CIA. The story came and went. It was buried beneath a tidal wave of anti-Saddam propaganda and hysterical distortion unleashed by the Bushites and parroted by an obedient corporate media.

Prior to the UPI story, Roger Morris, a former National Security Council staffer in the 1970s, confirmed that the Ba'ath Party now so reviled by average Americans was essentially installed by the CIA in 1963 in response to the Iraqi leader General Abd al-Karim Qasim, a bloody dictator who backed out of the anti-Soviet Baghdad Pact and talked about nationalizing Iraq's oil industry. "We came to power on a CIA train," admitted Ali Saleh Sa'adi, Ba'ath Party secretary general at the time. As James Critchfield, then head of the CIA in the Middle East, told Andrew and Patrick Cockburn ("Out of the Ashes, The Resurrection of Saddam Hussein," 2000),

the CIA regarded the Ba'athist coup against Qasim "a great victory" and also considered it their favorite coup.

"The Ba'athist coup, resulted in the return to Iraq of young fellow-Ba'athist Saddam Hussein, who had fled to Egypt after his earlier abortive attempt to assassinate Qasim," writes Alfred Mendes ("Blood for Oil," Spectrezone). "Saddam was immediately assigned to head the Al-Jihaz al-Khas, the clandestine Ba'athist Intelligence organization. As such, he was soon involved in the killing of some 5,000 communists. Saddam's rise to power had, ironically, begun on the back of a CIA-engineered coup!"

In fact, according to Said K. Aburish ("A Brutal Friendship: The West and the Arab Elite," 1997), many of the people on CIA hit lists had nothing to do with the communists; thousands were "fellaheen [peasants] and the Muthaqafeen or educated classes." According to Aburish, the Ba'ath Party contact man during the CIA-engineered coup was William Lakeland, the US assistant military attache in Baghdad.

http://www.dissidentvoice.org/Articles7/Nimmo_Saddam-CIA.htm

CIA Betrays the Kurds, Months Before 9/11

Sunday, Jun. 24, 2001 By KEVIN FEDARKO

On Ain Kawa street in Erbil, just beyond the green arch bearing the inscription FREE KURDISTAN, there stands a gray house, No. 23-7. Everyone in this Christian suburb whispers about the six "unknown Americans" in their fancy white Landcruiser who used to visit No. 23-7 regularly. They were CIA case officers, and until they fled on Aug. 31, just as the Iraqi army was rolling into the Kurdish city, this was their base in Erbil. When they departed--driving fast, well before dawn-- they left three things behind. The first was the rent, four months' worth paid in advance. Second was hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of computers, scramblers and satellite phones, as well as equipment used by a TV-radio station that beamed anti-Saddam propaganda into Iraq 11 hours each day. Finally, they also left behind 1,500 members of the Iraqi National Congress, an opposition group based in Erbil, to whom the CIA had given financing, arms and--the I.N.C. now claims--an implicit understanding that if anything went wrong, these U.S. allies would not be abandoned to fend for themselves.

CIA officials say the agency offered no such guarantee. But in any case, as the Americans raced their Landcruiser toward the Turkish border and Iraqi troops began flooding the streets of Erbil, senior I.N.C. military officer Colonel Mukkadam Abu Khadim and his men were busy trying to stay alive. "The Mukhabarat [Iraq's secret police] had names and addresses," says Abu Khadim. "Those who didn't get away were seized." Of the 100 employees who worked for the rebel TV station, only 12 survived. Between 97 and 100 I.N.C. members were also killed on the spot; Abu Khadim says he interviewed an eyewitness who watched the execution of 30. "The Iraqis arrived at 4 p.m., interrogated his comrades, then blindfolded them and shot them at 5 p.m." Meanwhile Abu Khadim and 250 comrades fled to the mountain town of Salahuddin, a stronghold of Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani, the very man who had invited Saddam Hussein into northern Iraq. Asked if they felt betrayed by the CIA, an Abu Khadim aide shook his head in disbelief and replied, "I was astonished that the U.S. Air Force did not come to our rescue."

11.2 The Bushes, the bin Ladens, and the Carlyle Group

"If the United States boosts defence spending in its quest to stop Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden's alleged terrorist activities, his family may be the unexpected beneficiary of that, media reports said. "Among its far-flung business interests, the well-heeled Saudi Arabian clan, which says it is estranged from Laden, is an investor in a fund established by Carlyle Group, a well-connected Washington merchant bank specialising in buyouts of defence and aerospace companies," The Wall Street Journal said in an investigative dispatch. It said "through this investment and its ties to Saudi royalty, the bin Laden family has become acquainted with some of the biggest names in the Republican Party." "In recent years, former president George H W Bush, ex-secretary of state James Baker and ex-secretary of defence Frank Carlucci have made the pilgrimage to the bin Laden family's headquarters in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia). "Ex-president Bush makes speeches on behalf of Carlyle Group and is senior adviser to its Asian Partners Fund, while Baker is its senior counsellor and Carlucci is the group's chairman," the journal said." --Hindustani Times, 9/28/01

<http://www.bushwatch.com/bushmoney.htm>

The Bush-Bin Laden Family Connection

by Victor Thorn

When I wrote about the Carlyle Group having an inordinate amount of access to the current administration which is used for their own personal gain, some people may not have realized the general importance of this situation. So, to begin showing you how closely the Carlyle Group is interconnected with both the Bush and bin Laden families, let's start at the beginning.

In the early 1990's, the Carlyle Group (out of the kindness of their heart) chose to take a struggling businessman under their wing and give him a position in their company. But this wasn't just any old job. No, they put this individual on the Board of one of their subsidiaries – CaterAir. That would be commendable in most instances, except that this employee wouldn't be categorized as one of the most brilliant men in the world. But that didn't matter because the person in question who landed this gravy job was none other than George W. Bush. Yup, to keep him occupied until he could be "selected" to his future job as Governor of Texas, the Carlyle Group lent a helping hand.

But lo and behold, one hand quickly washed the other, for after George W. became Governor, he appointed several people to a Board that controlled the money invested by the Texas Teacher's Pension Fund – a total of \$100 million! So, this board decides to invest this PUBLIC MONEY with a certain group. Guess who it was. Yup, you're right – the Carlyle Group! In addition, another entity – the University of Texas Board of Regents – invested millions of dollars, too. And guess which way it went. I'll be damned, but it also went to the Carlyle Group. So, let's see – Texas, Bush, money, and the Carlyle Group. A mere coincidence? Who knows? But I'm reminded of that old saying – follow the money. A case in point is Wayne Berman, a Washington consultant and George W. Bush fundraiser who got kickbacks of \$900,000+ after Connecticut State Treasurer Paul Silvester pushed tens of millions of dollars of state pension funds to the investment portfolio of a certain group. And which group would that be? Yup, Carlyle!

Are things starting to smell a little fishy? Maybe it doesn't matter that oil companies gave thirteen-times more money to the Bush campaign in 2000 than they did to Gore, and that electric companies gave seven-times more. And this is coming from someone – me – that wouldn't vote for Al Gore if my very life depended on it. (Hell, I wouldn't want to vote for George Bush either if my life depended on it!) The point I'm trying to make is that there are tons of dirty dealings and shenanigans going on behind the scenes that aren't getting reported in the mainstream media.

Don't believe me? Well, how about this one. In December, 2001, Frank Carlucci and James Baker (both Carlyle representatives) met at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, D.C. for their annual investor conference. Also in attendance were the representatives of another important family that had invested huge amounts of money in the Carlyle Group. And what family were these individuals from? Hold your breath, but it was the BIN LADEN Family. Worse, another famous politician was rumored to be at this same meeting after he SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE with George W. Bush. And who was it that supposedly met with the bin Laden family after spending the night at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue? Answer: George Bush, Sr.!

Things are getting even stickier, huh? Well, Larry Klayman, spokesman for Judicial Watch, comments on this subject. "The idea of the President's father, an ex-President himself, doing business with a company under investigation by the FBI in the terror attacks of September 11 is horrible. President Bush should not ask, but demand that his father pull out of the Carlyle Group."

Tom Fitton, President of Judicial Watch, echoes this sentiment. "For the father of our current President to be doing business with foreign governments, there is a clear conflict of interest."

Now some of you may be wondering, "Hey, did I read that last paragraph correctly – that the Bush family was doing business with the bin Laden family?" Regrettably, yes you did. Here's the story. Back in the early 1970s when George Bush started his first company, Arbusto Energy, Inc, his first business partner was Salem bin Laden. Yes, Osama bin Laden's brother! This fact is confirmed by the United Kingdom's "Daily Mail" which wrote that Salem bin Laden, "Invested heavily in Bush's first business venture." Salem is also a close friend of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

Now some may say, hey, that was a long time ago. Let bygones be bygones. But how does that account, then, for George Bush Sr.'s meeting TWICE with the bin Laden family prior to the 9-11 attacks, the second time being in January, 2000? Or how the bin Laden's have been frequented by Bush, James Baker, and Frank Carlucci over the past few years in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia?

Charles Freeman, President of the Middle East Policy Council, has said of the clandestine relationship, "If there were ever any company closely connected to the U.S. and its presence in Saudi Arabia, it's the bin Laden Group. They're the establishment Osama's trying to overthrow."

This information changes the entire complexion of the "War on Terrorism" doesn't it? I mean, the bin Laden family initially invested \$2 million into the Carlyle Group, but that's only what's been 'seen.' A foreign investor with ties to

the bin Laden's told the European Wall Street Journal on September 28, 2001 that, "The family's overall interest with Carlyle is considerable larger." And according to the Wall Street Journal on September 27, 2001, guess who brokered these deals between the bin Ladens and Carlyle? Good 'ol George Bush, Sr.!

<http://www.sierratimes.com/cgi-bin/warroom/topic.cgi?forum=15&topic=36>

The Bushes, the Bin Ladens, and the Carlyle Group Slush Fund

Like Sears and Roebuck, Binney and Smith, Horn and Hardart, and Barnes and Noble, the Bush and Bin Laden families are a long standing business team that has been involved in various dubious joint ventures in the Middle East and around the world since the 1950s. And contrary to Saudi propaganda, the Bin Laden family never disinherited or otherwise excommunicated Osama from their midst. Such an act requires an elaborate ceremony in which the family gathers in the desert and at sunset and publicly banishes the subject family member in the presence of an imam who documents the ritual in the same manner as a priest documents a baptism or christening. According to the highest levels of Israeli intelligence, such a document does not exist because no such required ceremony ever occurred.

So the fact that Osama bin Laden is still a cherished member of the same family that has engaged in joint business activities for two generations with George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, Marvin Bush, Neil Bush, Jeb Bush, and Bush family consigliere James Baker and Bush's multibillion dollar slush fund activity, The Carlyle Group, gives his recent videotaped commentary on the U.S. presidential election more weight. Osama Bin Laden always comes to the rescue of George W. Bush when the chips are down. In August 2001, Bush was sinking in the polls amid continuing charges that his presidency was an illegal contrivance engineered by his brother in Florida, Florida's Secretary of State Katherine Harris, and five partisan members of the U.S. Supreme Court. Then, like a true and trusted business partner, Bin Laden delivered the 911 attacks while Bush was being read book excerpts about a pet goat in a Florida elementary school. Like two friendly business chums cracking jokes on the golf course, Bin Laden chided Bush about the pet goat story in his recent videotape.

Bin Laden, whose family was aided by the Bush's during the 1970s and 1980s in acquiring airports, aircraft, secret bank accounts, front companies, and real estate throughout Texas for the purpose of weapons smuggling and money laundering, came through for Bush by launching the very kind of "Pearl Harbor-level" attack called for by Bush's ideological allies serving with the Israeli-Russian Mafia-funded Project for the New American Century (PNAC). Bin Laden financial help to Bush's various failed oil ventures, including Arbusto, Spectrum 7 and Harken totaled \$1 million over the years. Dick Cheney, whose wife Lynne receives Israeli-Russian Mafia funds to support her \$125,000 chair at the American Enterprise Institute, immediately used the 911 attacks to consolidate the Bush regime's hold on power, generate windfall war profits for his old company Halliburton and take the nation's attention of the biggest corporate collapse in the history of the United States -- the Enron implosion.

Bush's friends and partners in the United Arab Emirates arranged for \$109,500 to be transferred to the joint Sun Trust Bank account in Florida used by hijackers Mohammed Atta and Marwan al Shehhi. Florida Governor Jeb Bush has extensive personal financial ties to Sun Trust. The wire transfer originated in Dubai and was transferred through Citibank in New York. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill

privately complained to the Emirates during a March 2002 visit to Dubai about the use of Dubai by the Al Qaeda terrorists prior to and after the 911 attacks. For example, hijacker Ziad Jarrah transited Dubai in January 2001 on his return to Florida after spending time at Al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Hijackers Wail and Waleed al Shehri, who were brothers, arranged to use special phone cards in the United States that could only be used to call Dubai.

O'Neill crossed swords with the Bush-Bin Laden partnership when he renewed the aggressive approach to UAE and Saudi involvement with terrorist money laundering begun by Clinton's National Security Adviser Sandy Berger. The Bush regime scrapped Berger's policies after it took office but O'Neill decided to take a hard line against the Saudis and Emiratis after 911. In December 2002, O'Neill was fired. It was not because of his skepticism over Bush's planned war against Iraq (we did not know about that until well after he was sacked), but it was O'Neill's decision to shut down the financial activities of Al Qaeda and its allies that earned him the wrath of the Bush-Bin Laden partnership and what led to his ultimate firing. Obviously, his distaste for the Iraqi invasion also did not endear O'Neill to the Israeli-Russian influenced neo-conservatives and PNACers.

<http://www.oilempire.us/bushbinladen.html>

The Ex-Presidents' Club

Oliver Burkeman and Julian Borger
Wednesday October 31, 2001
The Guardian

It is hard to imagine an address closer to the heart of American power. The offices of the Carlyle Group are on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC, midway between the White House and the Capitol building, and within a stone's throw of the headquarters of the FBI and numerous government departments. The address reflects Carlyle's position at the very centre of the Washington establishment, but amid the frenetic politicking that has occupied the higher reaches of that world in recent weeks, few have paid it much attention. Elsewhere, few have even heard of it.

This is exactly the way Carlyle likes it. For 14 years now, with almost no publicity, the company has been signing up an impressive list of former politicians - including the first President Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker; John Major; one-time World Bank treasurer Afsaneh Masheyekhi and several south-east Asian powerbrokers - and using their contacts and influence to promote the group. Among the companies Carlyle owns are those which make equipment, vehicles and munitions for the US military, and its celebrity employees have long served an ingenious dual purpose, helping encourage investments from the very wealthy while also smoothing the path for Carlyle's defence firms.

But since the start of the "war on terrorism", the firm - unofficially valued at \$3.5bn - has taken on an added significance. Carlyle has become the thread which indirectly links American military policy in Afghanistan to the personal financial fortunes of its celebrity employees, not least the current president's father. And, until earlier this month, Carlyle provided another curious link to the Afghan crisis: among the firm's multi-million-dollar investors were members of the family of Osama bin Laden.

The closest the Carlyle Group has previously come to public attention was last May, when a Seoul-based employee called Peter Chung was forced to resign from his £100,000-a-year job after sending an email to friends - subsequently forwarded to thousands of others - boasting of his plans to "fuck every hot chick in Korea over the next two years." The more business-oriented activities of Carlyle's staff have been conducted much more quietly: since it was founded in 1987 by David Rubenstein, a policy assistant in Jimmy Carter's administration, and two lawyer friends, the firm has been dispatching an array of former world leaders on a series of strategic networking trips.

Last year, George Bush Sr and John Major travelled to Riyadh to talk with senior Saudi businessmen. In September 2000, Carlyle hired speakers including Colin Powell and AOL Time Warner chair Steve Case to address an extravagant party at Washington's Monarch Hotel. Months later, Major joined James Baker for a function at the Lanesborough Hotel in London, to explain the Florida election controversy to the wealthy attendees.

We can assume that Carlyle pays well. Neither Major's office nor Carlyle will confirm the details of his salary as European chairman - an appointment announced shortly before he left the House of Commons after the election - but we know, for the purposes of comparison, that he is paid £105,000 for 28 days' work a year for an unrelated non-executive directorship. Bush gives speeches for the company and is paid with stakes in the firm's investments, believed to be worth at least \$80,000 per appearance. The benefits have attracted political stars from around the world: former Philippines president Fidel Ramos is an adviser, as is former Thai premier Anand Panyarachun - as well as former Bundesbank president Karl Otto Pohl, and Arthur Levitt, former chairman of the SEC, the US stock market regulator.

Carlyle partners, who include Baker and the firm's chairman, Frank Carlucci - Ronald Reagan's defence secretary, [Donald Rumsfeld's former roommate] and a former deputy director of the CIA - own stakes that would be worth \$180m each if each partner owned an equal slice. As in many areas of its work, though, Carlyle is not obliged to reveal the details, and chooses not to.

Among the defence firms which benefit from Carlyle's success is United Defense, a Virginia-based contractor which makes vertical missile launch systems currently on board US Navy ships in the Arabian sea, as well as a range of other weapons delivery systems and combat vehicles. Carlyle's other holdings span an improbable range, taking in the French newspaper Le Figaro and the company which bottles Dr Pepper.

"They are big, and they are quiet," says David Mulholland, business editor of Jane's Defence Weekly. "But they're not easy to get information out of, [but] United Defense are going to do well [in the current conflict]." United also owns Bofors, a Swedish munitions manufacturer.

Carlyle has said that it does not lobby the federal government, thus avoiding a conflict of interest when, for example, Carlucci met Rumsfeld in February when several important defence contracts were under consideration. But critics see that as a matter of definition.

"It should be a deep cause for concern that a closely held company like Carlyle can simultaneously have directors and advisers that are doing business and making

money and also advising the president of the United States," says Peter Eisner, managing director of the Center for Public Integrity, a non-profit-making Washington think-tank. "The problem comes when private business and public policy blend together. What hat is former president Bush wearing when he tells Crown Prince Abdullah not to worry about US policy in the Middle East? What hat does he use when he deals with South Korea, and causes policy changes there? Or when James Baker helps argue the presidential election in the younger Bush's favour? It's a kitchen-cabinet situation, and the informality involved is precisely a mark of Carlyle's success."

The world of private equity is an inherently secretive one. Firms such as Carlyle make most of their money buying firms which are not publicly traded, overhauling them and selling them at a profit, so the process by which likely targets are evaluated is much more confidential than on the open market. "These firms certainly don't go out of their way to get into the headlines," says Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Asset Management. "They'd rather make a splash in Institutional Pensions Week. The aim is to realise very high returns for your investors while exerting a high degree of control over the company. You don't want to get into the headlines when you force the management to fire a director."

The process has worked wonders at United, and this month the firm announced plans to go public, giving Carlyle the chance to cash in its investment.

But what sets Carlyle apart is the way it has exploited its political contacts. When Carlucci arrived there in 1989, he brought with him a phalanx of former subordinates from the CIA and the Pentagon, and an awareness of the scale of business a company like Carlyle could do in the corridors and steak-houses of Washington. In a decade and a half, the firm has been able to realise a 34% rate of return on its investments, and now claims to be the largest private equity firm in the world. Success brought more investors, including the international financier George Soros and, in 1995, the wealthy Saudi Binladin family, who insist they long ago severed all links with their notorious relative. The first president Bush is understood to have visited the Binladins in Saudi Arabia twice on the firm's behalf.

The Carlyle Group does not employ anyone at its Washington headquarters to deal with the press. Inquiries about the links with the Binladins (as most of the family choose to spell their name) are instead referred to someone outside the company, on condition he is referred to only as "a source familiar with the relationship." This source says: "I can confirm the fact that any Binladin Group investment in Carlyle has been terminated or is being terminated. It amounted to a \$2m investment in the Carlyle II Fund, which was anyway a very small portion of a \$1.3bn fund. In the scheme of the investments and in the scheme of the business of either party it was very small. We have to get this into perspective. But I think there was a sense that there were questions being raised and some controversy, and for such a small amount of money it was something that we wanted to put behind us. It was just a business decision."

But if the Binladins' connection to the Carlyle Group lasted no more than six years, the current President Bush's own links to the firm go far deeper. In 1990, he was appointed to the board of one of Carlyle's first purchases, an airline food business called Caterair, which they eventually sold at a loss. He left the board in 1992, later to become Governor of Texas. Shortly thereafter, he was responsible for appointing several members of the board which controlled the investment of

Texas teachers' pension funds. A few years later, the board decided to invest \$100m of public money in the Carlyle Group. The firm's magic touch was already bringing results. Today, it is proving as fruitful as ever.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/wtccrash/story/0,1300,583869,00.html#article_continue

Legal Group Blasts Papa Shrub On Bin Laden Link

Bush Sr. Could Profit From War

by Geoffrey Gray

Larry Klayman likes suing the United States government. Over the last seven years as chairman and general counsel of Judicial Watch, a public interest law firm in Washington, he has filed over 150 lawsuits against the feds, including more than 80 against former president Bill Clinton himself. Called the Ralph Nader of the right, Klayman has litigation habits considered by some Beltway insiders as wildly ambitious. Others think he's just plain crazy.

But now Klayman and Judicial Watch are pawing in disbelief through President George W. Bush's past business connections with the Saudi-based Bin Laden family. The firm is demanding that GWB's father, the original President Bush, immediately resign from his post as a paid senior adviser to the Carlyle Group, a private Washington equity firm that according to The New York Times has essentially become the nation's 11th largest defense contractor.

Carlyle's investors include the Bin Laden family, which has disowned its terrorist son Osama; Bush Sr.; and former Bush inner guard members Nick Carlucci and James Baker. Judicial Watch says all involved stand to benefit from any increase in U.S. defense spending.

"It's mind-boggling," says Klayman. "This conflict of interest has now turned into a scandal." With the recent U.S. air strikes in Afghanistan, Klayman says, the conflict of interest is now "direct."

Klayman questions why Bush the Younger is not aggressively pursuing Saudi Arabia, a country known to harbor terrorists. He points to Bush the Elder's business connections there, like the Saudi-based Bin Laden family, through Carlyle. "President Bush should not ask, but demand, that his father pull out of the Carlyle Group," says Klayman.

Neither former president Bush—who has continued advising his son on handling the war on terrorism—nor the Carlyle Group returned calls seeking comment.

In a case of "like father, like son," President Bush also had connections to the Carlyle Group, the Voice has learned. In the years before his 1994 bid for Texas governor, Bush owned stock in and sat on the board of directors of Caterair, a service company that provided airplane food and was also a component of Carlyle. For his consulting position, Bush was paid \$15,000 a year, according to a Texas insider, and a bonus \$1000 for every meeting he attended—roughly \$75,000 in total. Reports show Carlyle was also a major contributor to his electoral fund.

Upon hearing about the Bush-Bin Laden family connection, other Washington nonprofits have joined Judicial Watch in expressing their concern.

"Carlyle is as deeply wired into the current administration as they can possibly be," Charles Lewis, executive director of the Center for Public Integrity, told Bushwatch.org. "George Bush is getting money from private interests that have business before the government, while his son is president. And, in a really peculiar way, George W. Bush could, some day, benefit financially from his own administration's decisions, through his father's investments. The average American doesn't know that. To me, that's a jaw-dropper."

<http://www.carlylegroup.net/#papashrub>

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11.3 Coups d'Etat

The Message of the Governing Class to Skeptical Citizens:

"People who believe in conspiracies are misguided."

Always Left Unmentioned:

The number of coups d'état and coup attempts in the world since 1950.

- * 1951 Left-Wing military coup attempt in Pakistan
- * 1952: Military coup in Egypt overthrows the monarchy.
- * 1952: Fulgencio Batista leads successful and bloodless coup to topple democratically elected government of Cuba.
- * 1953: Anglo-American coup in Iran, codenamed Operation Ajax.
- * 1954: Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán is ousted by a coup d'état organized by the US CIA Operation PBSUCCESS in Guatemala.
- * 1954: Military coup in Paraguay.
- * 1954: Military Coup in Yanaon (French Colony in India) led by Dadala Raphael Ramanayya, overthrown French rule in Yanaon.
- * 1955: A counter-coup in Brazil led by Marshal Lott overthrown the two-days-long legal government of Carlos Luz and prevents a coup against the elected president Juscelino Kubitschek.
- * 1955: Military coup overthrows Argentine President Juan Perón
- * 1957: quasi-self-coup leads to the coexistence of two governments in San Marino for a month (so-called "Fatti di Rovereta").
- * 1958: Military coup in Pakistan. Army Chief and Defence Minister Gen. Ayub Khan overthrows the government of Iskander Mirza and becomes President after a winning a rigged referendum.
- * 1958: Civic/Military coup in Venezuela, overthrowing Marcos Perez Jimenez.
- * 1958: Military coup in Iraq overthrows the monarchy.
- * 1958: Military coup in France. General Jacques Massu takes over Algiers and threatens to invade Paris unless Charles de Gaulle becomes head of state.
- * 1959: Air Force military hijack a civil airplane and attempt a coup against Juscelino Kubitschek, in Brazil
- * 1960: Military coup in Turkey.
- * 1960: Military coup in Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- * 1961: The coup d'état of 16 May in South Korea led by Park Chung Hee. Overthrew Second Republic of South Korea and established the Supreme Council for National Reconstruction.
- * 1962: Failed Military backed and Catholic action led Coup in Sri Lanka then Ceylon.

- * 1963: Failed military coup attempt in Turkey.
- * 1963: Military coup in South Vietnam, overthrowing Ngo Dinh Diem.
- * 1963: Military coup in Ecuador.
- * 1963: Military coup in Syria.
- * 1963: Coup in Iraq backed by the CIA, followed by a counter-coup.
- * 1964: Military coup in Brazil led by General Castelo Branco installs the Brazilian military dictatorship.
- * 1964: Military coup in South Vietnam, overthrowing Duong Van Minh.
- * 1965: Military coup in Algeria Defense minister Col. Houari Boumedienne takes over .
- * 1965: Military coup in Indonesia.
- * 1965: Military coup in Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- * 1966: Military coup in Ghana.
- * 1966: Military coup in Nigeria leading to end of first republic. Major-General J.T.U Aguiyi-Ironsi becomes Head of State.
- * 1966: Shakhbut Bin-Sultan Al Nahyan, the ruler of the Abu Dhabi was deposed in a bloodless coup, being replaced by his brother Sheikh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nahyan.
- * 1967: Military coup in Greece. See Greek military junta of 1967-1974.
- * 1967: Attempted military coup ("Guitar-boy") in Ghana
- * 1967: Military coup in Nigeria. Yakubu Gowon comes to power.
- * 1968: Coup in Panama by Omar Torrijos.
- * 1968: Coup in Iraq backed by the CIA[citation needed] establishes rule of the Ba'ath Party.
- * 1969: Colonel Qadhafi overthrows monarchy in Libya.
- * 1969: Military coup in Somalia.
- * 1969: Pedro Aleixo, the legal vice-president of Brasil, is replaced by a Military Junta after Artur da Costa e Silva leaves the office due to a stroke.
- * 1970: Military coup in Pakistan, Army Chief Gen. Yahya Khan forces President Field Marshal Ayub Khan (who himself came to power in a coup) to hand over power to him.
- * 1970: Coup in Syria, led by Hafez al-Assad
- * 1970: Coup in Bolivia, soon followed by a leftist countercoup.
- * 1970: Coup in Cambodia, led by Prime Minister General Lon Nol. See Cambodian coup of 1970.
- * 1970: Coup in Oman, Qaboos bin Said ousts his father Said bin Taimur to become Sultan.
- * 1971: Military coup in Turkey (Coup by Memorandum).
- * 1971: Military coup in Uganda led by Idi Amin.
- * 1973: A military coup in Chile deposes president Salvador Allende, who dies during the coup, and installs the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. See Chilean coup of 1973.
- * 1973: The President of Uruguay dissolves Parliament and heads a coup.
- * 1974: Military coup in Portugal (Carnation Revolution).
- * 1974: Military coup in Cyprus sponsored by Greek colonels overthrows Makarios and triggers invasion by Turkey.
- * 1975: Military coup in Ethiopia by the communist junta led by General Aman Andom and Megistu Hailemariam.
- * 1975: Military coup in Bangladesh overthrows & kills Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- * 1975: Military coup in Nigeria overthrows Yakubu Gowon. Murtala Ramat Mohammed comes to power.
- * 1975: Military coup in Chad overthrows and kills President François Tombalbaye.
- * 1976: Military coup in Ecuador.

- * 1976: Military coup in Thailand.
- * 1976: Failed coup attempt in Nigeria. Murtala Ramat Mohammed killed but Olusegun Obasanjo escapes assassination and becomes head of state.
- * 1976: Military coup in Argentina leads to the Proceso de Reorganización Nacional.
- * 1977: Military coup in Pakistan. Army Chief Gen. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq overthrows the civilian government and hangs Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1979 after a sham trial.
- * 1978: Communist coup in Afghanistan.
- * 1979: The Coup d'état of December Twelfth in South Korea. Chun Doo-hwan established presidency.
- * 1979: On 4th June, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, Maj. Boakye Danquah and others lead a military uprising that removes the government of Gen. FWK Akuffo from power after an unsuccessful attempt in May.
Image:Jerryrawlings.jpg
- * 1980: 'Cocaine Coup' in Bolivia of Luis García Meza Tejada.
- * 1980: Military coup in Turkey.
- * 1980: Military coup in Liberia.
- * 1980: Successful coup in Suriname by military officers led by Dési Bouterse that resulted in military rule until 1988.
- * 1981: Failed coup in Spain led by Antonio Tejero.
- * 1981: 31st December Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings staged a successful military coup that overthrew Dr. Hilla Limann's government
- * 1981: Failed coup in Seychelles led by Mike Hoare.
- * 1981: Successful military coup in Poland led by Wojciech Jaruzelski.
- * 1982: Failed coup in Kenya by some members of the Kenya Air Force.
- * 1983: Military palace coup in Nigeria. Second republic president Shagari overthrown; Muhammadu Buhari takes power.
- * 1984: Cameroonian Palace Guard Revolt
- * 1984: Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya raise to power in Mauritania after a coup that overthrew the president Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla.
- * 1985: Military coup in Uganda led by Bazilio Olara-Okello and Tito Okello.
- * 1985: Military coup in Nigeria. Ibrahim Babangida replaces Muhammadu Buhari.
- * 1987: Failed coup attempt, known as the August 1987 Coup, in the Philippines led by Col. Gregorio Honasan.
- * 1987: Bloodless military coup in Fiji led by Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka overthrowing the government of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra and also deposing Queen Elizabeth as head of state. After temporarily handing power to a council of ministers, Rabuka later that year seized control of the country again and declared it a republic.
- * 1989: Another failed coup attempt in the Philippines, by Col. Gregorio Honasan. This coup is sometimes called the December 1989 coup.
- * 1990: Failed coup attempt in Trinidad & Tobago led by Jamaat al Muslimeen leader Yasin Abu Bakr (July 27th)
- * 1990: Failed coup attempt in Nigeria led by Col. Gideon Orkar.
- * 1991: Failed coup attempt (the so-called August Putsch) in the Soviet Union.
- * 1991: 1991-1994 Haiti U.S. backs armed group FRAPH which oust democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide until U.S. President Clinton orders Aristide's return to resume his mandate as president
- * 1991: Military coup in Thailand. Results in infamous incident Black May.
- * 1992: Military coup in Algeria cancels elections and forces President to resign.
- * 1992: Alberto Fujimori launches a self-coup in Peru.
- * 1992: Hugo Chávez Frías, current President of Venezuela, attempts a coup

- against then president Carlos Andres Perez and surrenders upon the realization of defeat.
- * 1993: Russian President Boris Yeltsin successfully launches a self-coup, illegally dissolving the Russian parliament.
 - * 1997: Military coup in Turkey, called 'post-modern coup' (February 28), overthrows the coalition government.
 - * 1999: Military coup in Pakistan. Army refuses to obey Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government. General Pervez Musharraf becomes dictator (with the title "Chief Executive") and exiles Nawaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia.
 - * 1999: Military coup in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).
 - * 2000: Unsuccessful coup in Fiji, under George Speight.
 - * 2000: A coup in Ecuador with strong support from indigenous groups and led by Lucio Gutiérrez overthrows president Jamil Mahuad.
 - * 2002: Coup attempt against President Hugo Chávez in Venezuela, Pedro Carmona is briefly installed as dictator until disposed by popular revolt within 48 hours, reinstalling the elected government regained control of the country.
 - * 2002: Military coup in Central African Republic.
 - * 2003: Attempted coup in Mauritania.
 - * 2003: Military coup in São Tomé and Príncipe.
 - * 2003: Military coup in Guinea-Bissau.
 - * 2003: Failed mutiny and coup attempt in the Philippines led by right-wing junior officers known as the Magdalo Group.
 - * 2004: Attempted coup in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
 - * 2004: Failed coup d'état in Chad against President Idriss Déby.
 - * 2004: Second attempted coup in the Democratic Republic of Congo (June).
 - * 2004: Attempted coup in Equatorial Guinea.
 - * 2004: Coup in Haiti against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.
 - * 2005: Coup in Togo legalized by parliamentary vote but unrecognized by international community.
 - * 2005: King Gyanendra of Nepal overthrows the government, making him the head of government. The government is reestablished April 24, 2006 after a massive democracy movement.
 - * 2005: Ecuadorian President Lucio Gutiérrez is ousted after street protests and Alfredo Palacio takes his office.
 - * 2005: A military coup in Mauritania overthrows President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. A new government is set up by a group of military officers headed by Ely Ould Mohamed Vall. The group formed the Military Council for Justice and Democracy to act as the governing council of the country.
 - * 2006: The Armed Forces of the Philippines allegedly attempted a military coup in the Philippines targeting President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which lead to a state of emergency in the country.
 - * 2006: The United Front for Democratic Change allegedly attempts to instigate a military coup in Chad to overthrow President Idriss Déby.
 - * 2006: The Royal Thai Army orchestrates a coup in Thailand that overthrows Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra while he is out of the country.
 - * 2006: The Malagasy Popular Armed Forces allegedly attempt a military coup in Madagascar against President Marc Ravalomanana.
 - * 2006: The military of Fiji overthrows President Josefa Iloilo and Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase in a bloodless coup.
 - * 2006: The military of Côte d'Ivoire claims to foil a coup attempt targeting President Laurent Gbagbo.

History of US Interventions in the Politics of Other Nations

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/project.jsp?project=US_interventions_project

An Introduction to Conspiratorial History

<http://www.threeworldwars.com/intro.htm>

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11.4 9/11 Warnings

They Tried to Warn Us: Foreign Intelligence Warnings Before 9/11

By Paul Thompson

The Congressional Joint Inquiry into 9-11 is now finished, but the findings that have been released fail to mention any warnings from foreign governments. The US mainstream media also has paid little attention to warnings from foreign governments.

Yet there were so many warnings—from both our friends and enemies alike—often specifically suggesting the targets or method of attack. In at least one case, the warnings actually mentioned hijackers by name. This type of communication between intelligence agencies normally occurs in secret, so one can only wonder what additional warnings or details were provided to us that have never been made public.

No US publication has ever put all the various foreign government warnings in one place; even Internet skeptics of Bush have paid scant attention to this issue. Here, for the first time, is such a list of warnings.

First, General Warnings

In late 2000, British investigators teamed up with their counterparts in the Cayman Islands and began a yearlong probe of three Afghan men who had entered the Cayman Islands illegally. [Miami Herald, 9/20/01, Los Angeles Times, 9/20/01] In June 2001, the Afghan men were overheard discussing hijacking attacks in New York City, and were promptly taken into custody. This information was forwarded to US intelligence [Fox News, 5/17/02]. In late August 2001, shortly before the attacks, an anonymous letter to a Cayman radio station alleged these same men were al-Qaeda agents “organizing a major terrorist act against the US via an airline or airlines.” [Miami Herald, 9/20/01, Los Angeles Times, 9/20/01, MSNBC, 9/23/01]

1. In late July 2001, Afghanistan’s Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil learned that Osama bin Laden was planning a “huge attack” on targets inside America. The attack was imminent, and would kill thousands, he learned from the leader of the rebel Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which was closely allied with al-Qaeda at the time. Muttawakil sent an emissary to pass this information on to the US Consul General, and another US official, “possibly from the intelligence services.” Sources confirmed that this message was received, but supposedly not taken very seriously, because of “warning fatigue” arising from too many terror warnings. [Independent, 9/7/02, Reuters, 9/7/02]

2. Also in late July 2001, the US was given a “concrete warning” from Argentina’s Jewish community. “An attack of major proportions” was planned against either the US, Argentina, or France. The information came from an unidentified intelligence agency. [Forward, 5/31/02]
3. An undercover agent from Morocco successfully penetrated al-Qaeda. He learned that bin Laden was “very disappointed” that the 1993 bombing had not toppled the World Trade Center, and was planning “large scale operations in New York in the summer or fall of 2001.” He provided this information to the US in August 2001. [Agence France Presse, 11/22/01, International Herald Tribune, 5/21/02, London Times, 6/12/02]
4. Hasni Mubarak, President of Egypt, maintains that in the beginning of September 2001 Egyptian intelligence warned American officials that al-Qaeda was in the advanced stages of executing a significant operation against an American target, probably within the US. [AP, 12/7/01, New York Times, 6/4/02] He learned this information from an agent working inside al-Qaeda. [ABC News, 6/4/02]

Warnings the Attack Will Come from the Air

Many warnings specifically mentioned a threat coming from the air.

1. In 1999, British intelligence gave a secret report to the US embassy. The report stated that al-Qaeda had plans to use “commercial aircraft” in “unconventional ways,” “possibly as flying bombs.” [Sunday Times, 6/9/02] On July 16, 2001, British intelligence passed a message to the US that al-Qaeda was in “the final stages” of preparing a terrorist attack in Western countries. [London Times, 6/14/02] In early August, the British gave another warning, telling the US to expect multiple airline hijackings from al-Qaeda. This warning was included in Bush’s briefing on August 6, 2001. [Sunday Herald, 5/19/02]
2. In June 2001, German intelligence warned the US, Britain, and Israel that Middle Eastern terrorists were planning to hijack commercial aircraft and use them as weapons to attack “American and Israeli symbols which stand out.” Within the American intelligence community, “the warnings were taken seriously and surveillance intensified” but “there was disagreement on how such terrorist attacks could be prevented.” This warning came from Echelon, a spy satellite network that is partly based in Germany. [Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 9/11/01, Washington Post, 9/14/01]
3. In late July 2001, Egyptian intelligence received a report from an undercover agent in Afghanistan that “20 al-Qaeda members had slipped into the US and four of them had received flight training on Cessnas.” To the Egyptians, pilots of small planes didn’t sound terribly alarming, but they passed on the message to the CIA anyway, fully expecting Washington to request information. “The request never came.” [CBS, 10/9/02] Given that there were 19 hijackers and four pilots (who trained on Cessnas) in the 9/11 plot, one might think this would now be a big news item. But in fact, the information has only appeared as an aside in a CBS “60 Minutes” show about a different topic.

4. In late summer 2001, Jordan intelligence intercepted a message stating that a major attack was being planned inside the US and that aircraft would be used. The code name of the operation was Big Wedding, which did in fact turn out to be the codename of the 9/11 plot. The message was passed to US intelligence through several channels. [International Herald Tribune, 5/21/02, Christian Science Monitor, 5/23/02]
5. Russian President Vladimir Putin publicly stated that he ordered his intelligence agencies to alert the US in the summer of 2001 that suicide pilots were training for attacks on US targets. [Fox News, 5/17/02] The head of Russian intelligence also stated, "We had clearly warned them" on several occasions, but they "did not pay the necessary attention." [Agence France-Presse, 9/16/01] The Russian newspaper Izvestia claimed that Russian intelligence agents knew the participants in the attacks, and: "More than that, Moscow warned Washington about preparation for these actions a couple of weeks before they happened." [Izvestia, 9/12/02]
6. Five days before 9/11, the priest Jean-Marie Benjamin was told by a Muslim at an Italian wedding of a plot to attack the US and Britain using hijacked airplanes as weapons. He wasn't told time or place specifics. He immediately passed what he knew on to a judge and several politicians in Italy. Presumably this Muslim confided in him because Benjamin has done considerable charity work in Muslim countries and is considered "one of the West's most knowledgeable experts on the Muslim world." [Zenit, 9/16/01] Benjamin has not revealed who told him this information, but it could have come from a member of the al-Qaeda cell in Milan, Italy. This cell supplied forged documents for other al-Qaeda operations, and wiretaps show members of the cell were aware of the 9/11 plot. [Los Angeles Times, 5/29/02, Guardian, 5/30/02, Boston Globe, 8/4/02] For instance, in August 2000, one terrorist in Milan was recorded saying to another: "I'm studying airplanes. I hope, God willing, that I can bring you a window or a piece of an airplane the next time we see each other." The comment was followed by laughter [Washington Post, 5/31/02]. In another case in January 2001, a terrorist asked if certain forged documents were for "the brothers going to the United States," and was angrily rebuked by another who told him not to talk about that "very, very secret" plan. [Los Angeles Times, 5/29/02] In March 2001, the Italian government gave the US a warning based on these wiretaps. [Fox News, 5/17/02]

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In October 2002, the story broke in Europe and Israel that on August 23, 2001, the Mossad had given the CIA a list of 19 terrorists living in the US. The Mossad had said that the terrorists appeared to be planning to carry out an attack in the near future. It is unknown if these are the same 19 names as the actual hijackers, or if the number is a coincidence. However, the four names on the list that are known are names of the 9/11 hijackers: Nawaf Alhazmi, Khalid Almihdhar, Marwan Alshehhi, and Mohamed Atta. [Die Zeit, 10/1/02, Der Spiegel, 10/1/02, BBC, 10/2/02, Ha'aretz, 10/3/02] These are also probably the four most important of the hijackers (and two of the pilots). From them, there were many connections to the others. The CIA had already been monitoring three of them overseas the year before, and two, Alhazmi and Almihdhar, were put on a watch list the same day the Mossad gave this warning. [AFP, 9/22/01, Berliner Zeitung, 9/24/01, Observer, 9/30/01, New York Times, 9/21/02]

Such detailed warnings of exact names fit in well with the reports that Israeli spies were tracking the hijackers for months before 9/11. Yet, as Jane's Intelligence Digest put it, "It is rather strange that the US media seems to be ignoring what may well be the most explosive story since the 11 September attacks..." [Jane's Intelligence Digest, 3/13/02] The spy ring story did get a little coverage in the US, but more recent stories claiming that Israel knew the exact names of at least some of the hijackers hasn't been reported here at all. Perhaps the story is too controversial for the US media to touch?

...

In case there was a failure of imagination, Italy had just set an example two months before 9/11 on how to respond to a terrorist threat: After receiving a warning that a summit of world leaders in the city of Genoa would be targeted by al-Qaeda, they conspicuously defended the city with increased police, anti-aircraft batteries, and constantly flying fighter jets. Apparently the press coverage of the defenses caused al-Qaeda to cancel the attack. President Bush could hardly have failed to notice, since he took the unusual step of sleeping on board a US aircraft carrier during the summit. [BBC, 7/18/01, CNN, 7/18/01, Los Angeles Times, 9/27/01]

Conclusion

One single warning should have been enough to take precautions, but with so many warnings coming in, how can inaction be explained as mere incompetence? Yes, it is often difficult to know which terrorist threats are real, and what information to trust. But if the US couldn't take seriously warnings from close allies like Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and so on, then what were they waiting for? What would they have taken seriously? And where is the outrage, the investigation? As can be seen with the recent Congressional inquiry, the typical US government response has been to ignore these foreign government warnings altogether, or to say they were lies. On October 17, 2002, CIA Director Tenet claimed that the only warnings "where there was a geographic context, either explicit or implicit, appeared to point abroad, especially to the Middle East." [Congressional Intelligence Committee, 10/17/02] On May 16, 2002, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice stated to the press: "I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon, that they would try to use an airplane as a missile." She added that "even in retrospect" there was "nothing" to suggest that. [White House, 5/16/02] On June 7, 2002, President Bush stated, "Based on everything I've seen, I do not believe anyone could have prevented the horror of September the 11th." [Sydney Morning Herald, 6/8/02]

Either the Bush Administration is lying, or most of America's close allies are. So why hasn't Congress investigated these foreign intelligence claims? Why hasn't a single mainstream media article connected all these dots, or given these warnings the coverage they deserve? Either some people within the US government knew the 9/11 attack would happen and did nothing, or some people within the US government failed to heed advice from a dozen foreign governments and properly defend the US from attack. Perhaps both. These people should be removed from office on the grounds of gross incompetence, or face the legal consequences of aiding and abetting terrorism. It seems clear that there are people who fear an investigation, and that that is why these dots are left unconnected.

Ultimately, we are all in grave danger if these same officials continue to be in charge of protecting us from terrorist attacks.

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/essay.jsp?article=essaytheytriedtowarnus>

9/11 Widows Blast Bush Administration over Rice, Tenet meeting

Larisa Alexandrovna

Published: Friday October 6, 2006

In an October 5th response to recent news of yet another pre-September 11th warning that was ignored by senior Bush administration officials, four widows who lost their husbands during the terrorist attacks have issued a statement about what they see as the failure of White House officials to act upon warnings that Al Qaeda was planning a strike on the United States.

Lorie Van Auken, Mindy Kleinberg, and Patty Cazaza – who are among the four widows from New Jersey known as the Jersey Girls (the fourth, Monica Gabrielle, is not a member of the group) – have issued a compilation of pre-9/11 terrorism warnings that they believe paints a disturbing picture of a negligent Presidency.

They also address the latest revelation from Watergate reporter Bob Woodward that then-National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice was warned of a possible attack on July 10, 2001 by then-CIA Director George Tenet.

The allegation in Woodward's book, *State of Denial*, is that Tenet was so concerned about the intelligence showing a possible attack that he phoned Rice and asked for an immediate meeting, which he got that same day, along with the CIA's top counterterrorism expert, Cofer Black. During the meeting, Tenet says, they expressed "in the starkest of terms" to Rice that an attack was imminent.

Rice has denied that such a meeting took place, citing the 911 Commission Report, which never mentioned any such meeting.

"It kind of doesn't ring true that you have to shock me into something I was very involved in," she stated when asked about the allegation.

In addition to Rice, then-Attorney General John Ashcroft was also warned by Tenet, as was Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, according to Woodward.

Ashcroft began to charter private jets shortly afterwards, avoiding all travel by commercial airliners in July and continuing to do so up until the attacks. According to a July 26, 2001 CBS news report, Ashcroft began flying by private plane after an FBI "threat assessment."

"In response to inquiries from CBS News over why Ashcroft was traveling exclusively by leased jet aircraft instead of commercial airlines, the Justice Department cited what it called a 'threat assessment' by the FBI, and said Ashcroft has been advised to travel only by private jet for the remainder of his term."

It remains unclear whether or not this concern for personal safety was in any way brought on by the Tenet warnings.

Initially backing Rice's denial were the 911 Commissioners themselves, who also denied having knowledge or having been briefed on such a meeting.

In a remarkable turn of events, however, records of the meeting between Commission members and Tenet counter that claim – as does a State Department log book – and support Woodward's assertions about the warnings that Rice and Ashcroft had received from the CIA. As reported by the San Francisco Chronicle:

Members of the commission -- an independent, bipartisan panel created by Congress to investigate the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks -- have said for days that they were not told about the July 10 meeting. But it turns out that the panel was, in fact, told about the meeting, according to the interview transcript and Democratic commission member Richard Ben-Veniste, who sat in on the interview with Tenet. The meeting was not identified by the July 10 date in the commission's best-selling report.

Rice added to the confusion by strongly suggesting that the meeting may never have occurred at all – even though administration officials had conceded for several days that it had. A State Department spokesman said later that while the meeting definitely happened, Rice and Tenet disputed Woodward's characterization of her response.

Why the meeting and Tenet's interview never made it into the official 911 Commission Report remains a mystery and adds to the concern of many 911 family members and activists that a second investigation is needed.

The four women, Van Auken, Kleinberg, Cazaza, and Gabrielle – who initially made news by forcing the Bush administration to acquiesce to forming the first 911 Commission and holding hearings – have issued a scathing response to this latest turn of events, citing many additional warnings that the Bush administration was given but that the 911 Commission failed, in their view, to adequately address.

Their statement, in its entirety, follows:

Statement Regarding al Qaeda Threats
October 5, 2006

Astonishingly, five years post 9/11 the public is made aware about an urgent July 10, 2001 meeting that took place between former CIA Director George Tenet and then, National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice. This information comes from Bob Woodward's newly released book, "State of Denial."

Despite this Administration's rhetoric that they had "no warnings" leading up to 9/11, it has become abundantly clear, that key Administration officials were made aware of the vast array of Al Qaeda threats and warnings that existed in years prior, and more importantly, in the weeks leading up to September 11, 2001.

When we add the July 10, 2001 meeting to the plethora of other clear warnings that our government had, a very concise view of the al Qaeda threat emerges. Those other warnings include, but are not limited to:

- Ø Warnings from leaders of other nations and foreign intelligence apparatus' of terrorist threats

- Ø June 30, 2001 Senior Executive Intelligence Briefing (SEIB) entitled "bin Laden Threats Are Real"
- Ø The threat of President Bush's assassination at the G-8 Summit by al Qaeda in July of 2001 – using aircraft to dive bomb the summit building
- Ø July 2001 Phoenix memo, which told of potential terrorists taking flight lessons
- Ø 52 FAA warnings – five of which mentioned al Qaeda's training for hijacking
- Ø August 6, 2001 Presidential Daily Brief entitled "bin Laden Determined to Strike in US"
- Ø National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) entitled "Islamist Extremists Learn to Fly"
- Ø Intelligence agency heads describing themselves with their "hair on fire" to characterize the imminent nature of the threats they were intercepting from Al Qaeda and their sense of urgency in relating them to the Bush Administration
- Ø The arrest of Zacharias Moussaoui in August of 2001
- Ø FBI Agent Harry Samit's 70 unsuccessful attempts to get a FISA Warrant to examine Moussaoui's belongings

Aside from scheduling a National Security Council meeting on September 4, 2001, two months after the July 10 "connect the dots" briefing from CIA director, George Tenet, the abundance of post 9/11 reports and commissions found no evidence of any action taken by appropriate officials. The 9/11 Commission itself concluded that in spite of an unprecedented attack threat in the months before 9/11, US "domestic agencies never mobilized in response to the threat. They did not have direction, and did not have a plan to institute. The borders were not hardened. Transportation systems were not fortified. Electronic surveillance was not targeted against a domestic threat. State and local law enforcement were not marshaled to augment the FBI's efforts. The public was not warned."

While certain members of the 9/11 Commission recalled a January 28, 2004 closed session meeting with former CIA Director, George Tenet, where this urgent July 10, 2001 meeting was discussed, this meeting was not referenced in the Commission's final report.

In the transcript testimony, the former CIA Director described the non-routine meeting that he and Cofer Black called for with then National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice as one of the "starkest warnings" ever given by the CIA to the White House on Al Qaeda.

To our continued dismay, both the Bush Administration and the 9/11 Commission have consistently failed to give a complete and honest accounting to the American public with regard to their actions and inactions leading up to the devastation of September 11, 2001.

The inexcusable result of this less than truthful accounting has resulted in America

making important national security decisions and passing legislation using the 9/11 Commission's conclusions and recommendations. Chillingly, these decisions appear to be based upon an unclear combination of partial truths mixed with distortions and omissions of important facts.

Incredibly, five years post 9/11 we have come full circle. In spite of all the clear warnings that our government received, why did those in power fail to invoke any defensive measures to protect our nation from the attacks of September 11, 2001?

We demand the immediate declassification and release of these latest documents and transcripts. The American public has the right to know what their government did or did not do to protect us from terrorist actions.

Finally, instead of reorganizing an entire intelligence community because they "weren't sharing information," and rather than telling us that "9/11 was a failure of imagination," what we needed was for the 9/11 Commission to state the truth and hold those responsible to account. The most effective change for America would be to have a National Security Council that understands that it is their job to translate vital information into action.

[Editor's note: Larisa Alexandrovna was involved in the writing of the film 9/11 Press for Truth.]

http://www.rawstory.com/news/2006/911_widows_blast_Bush_Administration_over_1006.html

The Lie that No One Could Imagine "Planes as Weapons"

A second line of defense for Bush was that, in [Condoleezza] Rice's words, the White House had expected "traditional hijackings" (i.e., hostage-taking) and that "no one could have imagined" that planes might be used as weapons against buildings in suicide attacks. How can this be so, given the long history of attempts to use planes in suicide attacks? (See, for starters, the section of Paul Thompson's article titled, "Attacks Using Planes as Weapons" - scroll down.)

One story in particular completely invalidates Ms. Rice's excuse, for it directly concerns a warning received by her employer. In July 2001, a few weeks before Bush received the "Bin Laden" PDB, Italian authorities warned the U.S. Secret Service that terrorists connected to al-Qaeda were planning to hijack a plane and crash it into George W. Bush's hotel at that month's Genoa summit of the G-8 nations. As a result of these warnings, the Italians shut down the Genoa airport and airspace and installed anti-aircraft batteries to protect the summit (also see LA Times, Sept. 27, 2001). George W. Bush and his entourage -- presumably including Condoleezza Rice -- spent a night on a U.S. aircraft carrier for protection, even as the other G-8 leaders boarded a luxury ship to go on an Adriatic pleasure cruise.

How could Bush (and Rice) have failed to connect the Aug. 6 warning of imminent hijackings in the U.S. by Bin Laden operatives to the late-July warnings of Bin Laden's intent to stage an aerial kamikaze attack on Bush in Genoa? Are we supposed to believe that within three weeks, Bush had forgotten the night he spent on an aircraft carrier out of fear that Osama Bin Laden wanted to crash an airplane into his hotel? In light of this combination, Rice's claim that "no one could have imagined" aerial suicide attacks strains all credibility.

The Genoa warning was merely the most obvious of many warnings and indications that terrorists connected to the Bin Laden network were planning to use hijacked airplanes as weapons against prominent targets on the ground in the United States. These warnings dated back many years, at the very least to the now well-known "Project Bojinka" plans of 1996 devised by the convicted original WTC bomber, Ramzi Yousef. The warnings apparently intensified in the summer of 2001, as further points below will show.

<http://www.911truth.org/ancien/questions.html>

Being Condoleezza Rice Means Never Having to Say You're Sorry

It was Rice, who declared after 9/11, "I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon, that they would try to use an airplane as a missile." Turns out she had been briefed by her predecessor about precisely that threat from al-Qaida against key sites in the United States, and against the G8 summit in Genoa - which Bush attended, sleeping aboard a Navy carrier instead of a comfy Italian hotel - in July 2001. And a 1999 report by the National Intelligence Council warned that al-Qaida terrorists could crash an airplane full of explosives into the Pentagon.

...

It was Rice who, along with Vice President Dick Cheney, assured Americans that Bush hadn't gone into hiding in the early hours after 9/11, when then-New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani effectively became the nation's Commander-in-Chief. Condi claimed the president was routed away from Washington because of credible threats to Air Force One. That turned out to be a whopper.

http://www.democraticunderground.com/articles/03/07/29_rice.html

THE LIE WON'T STAND

Bush Administration Explanations for Pre-9-11 Warnings Fail the Smell Test

Warnings Received From Heads of State, Allied Intelligence Services Specifically Warned of Attacks by Hijackers

Insider Trading Also Clearly Warned of Attacks

by Michael C. Ruppert

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[Ed. Note: May 31, 2002 - After commissioning a professional translation of a Russian news story used as a source in FTW reportage, we discovered the word "suicide" was not contained in warnings to the Bush Administration from Russian intelligence. Although the word "suicide" was not in the story by Izvestia, the fact remains 25 pilots training for hijack missions and attacks in the U.S. could have meant nothing other than suicide missions.]

May 16, 2002, 19:00 PDT (FTW) -- Never in the history of scandals involving the

United States government has an attempt to conceal criminal conduct by an administration been more transparently dishonest or more easily exposed. On May 15 White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer -- while making the startling admission that President Bush received CIA and FBI intelligence briefings in August indicating Osama bin Laden might be planning hijackings -- told major news sources including CBS News, "All appropriate action was taken based on the threat information we had," Fleischer said. "The president did not -- not -- receive information about the use of airplanes as missiles by suicide bombers."

In other statements Fleischer told the press, "The president was also provided information about bin Laden wanting to engage in hijacking in the traditional pre-9-11 sense, not for the use of suicide bombing, not for the use of an airplane as a missile." According to a May 16 story by the New York Times, "Mr. Fleischer said the information given to the president in Texas [last August], had prompted the administration to put law enforcement agencies on alert."

Every major position taken by an administration in full retreat and on the defensive can be easily deconstructed and shown to be false.

For more than seven months FTW has been documenting specific warnings received by the U.S. government from both foreign intelligence services and, in one case, from Russian President Vladimir Putin, indicating commercial airliners were going to be used by terrorists to attack -- among other things -- the World Trade Center in the week of Sept. 9. In order for Fleischer's statement to be credible he would have to assert then that George W. Bush either ignored or was not informed of a direct warning from a head of state and also from the German intelligence service, the BND.

As reported in the German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/f_a_zeitung_story.html

on Sept. 14, the BND warned both the CIA and Israel in June that Middle Eastern terrorists were "planning to hijack commercial aircraft to use as weapons to attack important symbols of American and Israeli culture." The story specifically referred to an electronic eavesdropping system known as Echelon, wherein a number of countries tap cell phone and electronic communications in partner countries and then pool the information. The BND warnings were also passed to the United Kingdom.

No known denial by the BND of the accuracy of this story exists, and the FAZ report indicates the information was received directly from BND sources.

According to a Sept. 14 report in the Internet newswire online.ie,

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/online_ie_story.html

German police, monitoring the phone calls of a jailed Iranian man, learned the man was telephoning U.S. intelligence agencies last summer to warn of an imminent attack on the World Trade Center in the week of Sept. 9. German officials confirmed the calls to the U.S. government for the story but refused to discuss additional details.

According to a story in Izvestia on Sept. 12

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/izvestia_story_pic.html

Russian intelligence warned the U.S. last summer that as many as 25 pilots were training for missions involving the crashing of airliners into important targets.

In an MSNBC interview on Sept. 15, Russian President Putin stated he had ordered Russian intelligence to warn the U.S. government "in the strongest possible terms" of imminent assaults on airports and government buildings before the attacks on Sept. 11. No credible information has emerged from any source indicating that Putin omitted the above information when issuing the warning.

Many other direct warnings were received by the U.S. government and have been documented in FTW's 9-11 timeline located at:

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/02_11_02_lucy.html.

These stories give the immediate lie to Fleischer's statements that Bush had no inkling of airliners being used as weapons.

But there is more.

In 1996 -- as reported by the German paper Die Welt on Dec. 6, and by Agence France Presse on Dec. 7 -- Western intelligence services, including the CIA, learned after arrests in the Philippines that Al Qaeda operatives had planned to crash commercial airliners into the Twin Towers. Details of the plan, as reported by a number of American press outlets, were found on a computer seized during the arrests. The plan was called "Operation Bojinka." Details of the plot were disclosed publicly in 1997 in the New York trial of Ramzi Youssef for his involvement in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

FBI MEMOS TRIGGER WHITE HOUSE BACKSTEPPING

In "traditional" hijackings the hijackers have no need or desire to learn how to fly.

As reported by the New York Times, CNN and the Washington Post (among others) the events leading to Fleischer's statements were the recent disclosure of FBI memoranda originated by field agents in Arizona and Minnesota that warned of a possible hijack attempt by bin Laden's followers. In both cases the suspects were taking flight lessons.

According to Newsweek and the New York Times, FBI agents in Phoenix submitted a classified memorandum in July naming Osama bin Laden and tracking the activities of possible Middle Eastern terrorist suspects who had enrolled in local flight schools. The memo, according to the Times, stated bin Laden's followers "could use the schools to train for terror operations." The information in the Phoenix memo was not shared with FBI field agents in Minnesota who had uncovered other startling evidence.

Just days before the attacks in early-September, FBI agents in Minnesota wrote

notes that subsequently became included in an internal FBI document warning that accused terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui "might be planning on flying something into the World Trade Center." A story from the May 20 issue of Newsweek by Michael Isikoff described how a local flight instructor had reported Moussaoui had "showed a suspicious interest in learning how to steer [and not land] large airliners... The [FBI] agents were 'in a frenzy, absolutely convinced he was planning to do something with a plane.'"

A multitude of sources have reported the FBI agents requested a warrant to search Moussaoui's personal computer but were denied by Attorney General John Ashcroft's Justice Department. After the 9-11 attacks the computer was seized and found to contain information directly related to the World Trade Center attacks.

This apparent lack of support from within the administration is consistent with reports released last fall by the BBC's Gregg Palast showing that in January 2001 the Bush Administration had issued direct orders to the FBI to curtail investigations of two of Osama bin Laden's relatives, Omar and Abdullah bin Laden. The two bin Ladens had been connected to possible terrorist activities and were living in Falls Church, Va., near CIA headquarters.

APPROPRIATE WARNINGS?

Fleischer's statement that adequate warnings had been given to appropriate federal agencies falls flat on its face. Two of the most "appropriate" agencies would have been the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard.

As documented by researchers like Jared Israel at www.tenc.net, it has been standard FAA procedure for more than 25 years to scramble U.S. fighters to intercept -- not shoot down -- any errant or non-responsive aircraft under FAA control. This protocol is even more stringent in the case of a hijacking. Yet, Vice President Dick Cheney and others have stated publicly there were no fighters available in some cases, and there was no heightened state of alert on Sept. 11. For 50 minutes on 9-11, in direct contravention of established policy, no fighters were scrambled to intercept two outstanding hijacked airliners even though it was known attacks were in progress.

Given the above information, it would have been an obvious move to have placed fighter aircraft on a heightened state of alert in this time period. This unresponsiveness stands in contrast to the fact that, in October 1999 at a time when there was no heightened alert, the ill-fated Lear Jet occupied by golfer Payne Stewart had an F-16 fighter and an A-10 attack aircraft flying beside it within minutes of losing radio contact and veering off course.....

[NOTE: The above article, written eight months after 9/11, goes on to explore the Insider Trading that occurred in the days leading up to the attacks. In the years since, Mr. Ruppert has written the breakthrough book, "Beyond the Rubicon," which contains a much more comprehensive report on the massive insider trading that was actually taking place, and contextualizes it in terms of the CIA's real-time monitoring of the Stock Market.

The book also examines in depth the role of Dick Cheney as the overseer of the half-dozen War Games being conducted on that fateful morning -- games which assured the system-wide confusion which allowed the attacks to succeed. One of

these games included multiple false hijackings, which caused multiple false radar blips of phantom planes being “hijacked” to be inserted into NORAD radar screens even as the real events were occurring. Other games caused legitimate air defense assets in the Northeast United States to be diverted from their normal areas of operation and away from any potential usefulness that morning. Others simulated planes being flown into buildings, and “live fly” exercises involving the interception of “rogue” aircraft.

And the last, Operation Tripod (or was it the first?) caused an army of government operatives to gather in lower Manhattan on the day before the attacks, to prepare for a simulated terrorist attack on New York City.

[See Reference 7.10 for an Excerpt from “Crossing the Rubicon.”](#)

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/051602_liewontstand.html

FBI Higher-Ups Dismiss Pre-911 Hijack Tip from Al-Qaeda Turncoat

He told agents of terrorist plan to hijack passenger planes

By Lisa Myers and the NBC Investigative Unit
Updated: 1:27 p.m. PT July 26, 2004

LONDON - More than a year before 9/11, a Pakistani-British man told the FBI an incredible tale: that he had been trained by bin Laden’s followers to hijack airplanes and was now in America to carry out an attack. The FBI questioned him for weeks, but then let him go home, and never followed up. Now, the former al-Qaida insider is talking.

In March, 2000, Niaz Khan said he was down and out, waiting tables in a curry house north of London, overwhelmed by gambling debts and increasingly drawn to the message of a radical local imam. The imam extolled Osama bin Laden and the rewards of dying for jihad.

Then, one night, outside a casino in Manchester, England, Khan said two mysterious men approached him. “First they say, ‘We can help you,’” recalls Khan. “I say, ‘How can you help me?’ Say, ‘OK, come sit in car.’ Said ‘Do you heard Osama name?’”

Khan, now 30, said the men told him they were working on behalf of Osama bin Laden, knew all about his background and gambling debts — information presumably gleaned from his fellow mosque members — and offered to teach him the ways of jihad.

They gave Khan several thousand dollars and flew him to Lahore, Pakistan, where he waited for instructions in a local hotel. He says that bin Laden’s followers then drove him, blindfolded, to a nearby safe house.

Khan told NBC News that for the next few weeks he was trained by al-Qaida to hijack passenger planes, and then sent to the United States. But when he told the FBI, headquarters was skeptical and, after several weeks, senior FBI officials ordered him released to the custody of British intelligence. Khan said, “I told them before the 9/11, about more than year, be... hijacking in America or on America airline.”

Khan said that at the Lahore training compound he and up to 30 other men were taught hijacking basics, including how to smuggle guns and other weapons through airport security, techniques to overpower passengers and crew and how to get into a cockpit.

Khan says he did not think about all the other people he might have killed and, at the time, didn't care. "Not that time," he said. "If I die, it doesn't matter because this life anyway, it's no good."

After about a week of training, Khan said he was given money to fly a circuitous route from Pakistan to Doha, Qatar, to London, to Zurich, Switzerland, back to London, and then off to New York. The purpose, he said, was to allow him to observe flight operations and on-board security measures.

Upon landing at JFK airport, Khan says he was supposed to go to a taxi stand, find a man in a white prayer cap and use a code. "He say, 'Your name Babu Khan?' " said Khan. "And you will be saying, 'Yes, my name Babu Khan.' 'Your name Babu Khan?' You say, 'Yes, my name Babu Khan.'"

But Khan claims he got cold feet. Instead of meeting his contact, he slipped away, retreated to New York, then took a bus to Atlantic City and gambled away almost all his money. Fearful that he had blown al-Qaida's cash, and aware that his terrorist trainers had copied his passport information and easily knew how to find him, Khan turned himself in and confessed. "I've been to Pakistan," he said. "I know about this hijacking, something going on."

Khan said his trainers never told him exactly what his terrorist mission in the United States would be. He said he was told he would learn more details from a half dozen other trained terrorists who, he was told, already were in the U.S.

For three weeks, FBI counter-terrorist agents in Newark, N.J. interrogated Khan, created composite drawings of his terrorist trainer and a fellow student and then wired Khan up and took him back to JFK airport, hoping to smoke out other conspirators. But they had no luck.

Congress' 9/11 report confirms that in April, 2000, an unnamed "walk-in" told the FBI he "was to meet five or six persons" — some of them pilots — who would take over a plane and fly to Afghanistan, or blow the plane up. The report adds that the "walk-in" passed a lie-detector test.

NBC News has learned that Khan passed not one but two FBI polygraphs. A former FBI official says Newark agents believed Khan and tried to aggressively follow every lead in the case, but word came from headquarters saying, "return him to London and forget about it" -- which, critics say, is exactly what the FBI did.

But the FBI insists it investigated Khan's allegations thoroughly, could not confirm them, and had no legal grounds to hold him. Federal prosecutors agreed. FBI officials say they did the right thing in turning Khan over to British authorities, and assumed they would carefully investigate.

But NBC News has learned that New Scotland Yard only interviewed Khan for about two hours, and then released him. Spokesmen for Scotland Yard and MI-5, the British intelligence agency, would not comment.

Khan said he watched the 9/11 attacks on television and was horrified. He said he was sad for the victims and relieved he had not carried out any attacks of his own. To him, the 9/11 plot rang familiar. "Maybe same plan," he said. "Maybe same training."

There's no evidence Khan was part of the 9/11 plot. But lawyers for 9/11 families urged him to tell his story, arguing it reveals a major missed clue.

Khan says the British tabloids offered to pay him to tell his story, but he declined. He wants it known that he has not accepted any money for any interview.

He is fearful for his life and, at first, was reluctant to talk to NBC. He changed his mind after a British newspaper published his name and, he says, surreptitiously took his photograph. Once it was published, he agreed to go on camera to talk about what he sees as a missed opportunity.

Khan remains surprised that, to this day, the FBI, CIA and Scotland Yard have never asked for his help in identifying the street address of the Lahore safe house where he and dozens of other men were trained. He says he saw some identifying signs and might be able to locate it today. "I just surprised because [they] never come back to ask some more things," he said. "[The FBI] believed me, but maybe not seriously."

Now that he's told his story, Khan plans to go back into the shadows—branded by some a terrorist and by others a traitor to the cause.

Lisa Myers is NBC News' Senior Investigative Correspondent

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5131524/>

US Government Leaders Missing in Action on 9/11

George Bush on 9/11: An "Interesting Day"

At approximately 8:48 a.m. on the morning of September 11, 2001, the first pictures of the burning World Trade Center were broadcast on live television. The news anchors, reporters, and viewers had little idea what had happened in lower Manhattan, but there were some people who did know. By that time, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the National Military Command Center, the Pentagon, the White House, the Secret Service, and Canada's Strategic Command all knew that three commercial airplanes had been hijacked. They knew that one plane had been flown deliberately into the World Trade Center's North Tower; a second plane was wildly off course and also heading toward Manhattan; and a third plane had abruptly turned around over Ohio and was flying back toward Washington, DC.

So why, at 9:03 a.m. - fifteen minutes after it was clear the United States was under terrorist attack - did President Bush sit down with a classroom of second-graders and begin a 20-minute pre-planned photo op? No one knows the answer to that question. In fact, no one has even asked Bush about it.

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/911timeline/main/essayaninterestingday.html>

Mirrored:

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/essay.jsp?article=essayaninterestingday>
and at:

<http://www.thememoryhole.org/911/bush-911.htm>

VIDEO: George Bush Split Screen: "Seven Minutes"
(Florida Classroom/New York)

Wherein the Commander in Chief Makes an Interesting Choice:
A choice that was denied by the White House, which claimed he
"left immediately" after the attacks -- until this video surfaced.

http://www.outlawwebdesigns.com/bi30/seven_minutes.htm

Military Chain of Command AWOL; Leaving Cheney in Charge

Top officials in the U.S. military chain of command consistently failed to exercise authority during the period of the actual attacks from 8:20 a.m. to 10:06 a.m. on September 11, 2001.

1. President George W. Bush: In the 45 minutes after the first attack (8:46 a.m.), Bush and a large entourage of White House staff, including Secret Service personnel and members of the Situation Room staff, proceeded with a planned visit to the Emma Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Florida. Much of this occasion was broadcast live on local and national television. Bush later said he thought the first attack was an accident, when he learned of it at 8:55 a.m., although this was at least 17 minutes after the FAA had informed NORAD that Flight 11 had been hijacked. At 9:05 a.m., while listening to children read in a classroom, he was informed of the second crash in a three-second whisper from his Chief of Staff, Andrew Card. Card has repeatedly claimed he said, "A second plane has hit the Towers. America is under attack." Bush did not ask for a clarification, and no one on his staff moved to activate a response. Multiple video documentations of the event show the president remained seated for at least seven minutes, and in the classroom for up to 13 minutes after 9:05 a.m. A full investigation would determine answers to the following: When was the White House entourage informed about the hijackings? What is the significance of Bush's later public statements, on two occasions, saying he had seen the first crash on television? (The only known footage of the first crash at 8:46 a.m. was not made available by the media until many hours after the attacks.) After the second crash (9:03 a.m.), why didn't the staff act then to protect the commander-in-chief and arrange for him to exercise decision-making authorities during a national emergency? A withdrawal from the schoolroom could have been easily effected without disturbing the children, yet Bush was allowed to stay in the room and listen to children read for a period of up to 13 minutes. Was there no concern for the President's safety, given that "America was under attack"? Who directed the Secret Service to keep the entourage in the school until Bush's brief statement of 9:32 a.m., which was broadcast nationally? Was the presidential staff not informed about the third flight by then hurtling towards its target in Washington, DC? The conduct of Bush and the entourage in the school, during the decisive period of the actual attacks, is in marked contrast to the rapid movements across the country during the rest of the day, when the attacks had been

concluded, and to reports from the White House in subsequent days (later retracted) that Air Force One itself had been a target of the attacks.

(For a complete treatment of news stories and other documentations of the above, see "An Interesting Day: President Bush's Movements and Actions on 9/11" by Allan Wood and Paul Thompson, at cooperativeresearch.org/timeline/main/essayaninterestingday.html)

2. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld: On hearing of the first and second plane crashes, Rumsfeld continued with a lecture to members of Congress, and then took a private briefing until the Pentagon itself was hit (see, for example, statements by Rumsfeld on "Larry King Live" (CNN, 12/5/01); and Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke (WBZ Boston, 9/15/01)). Rumsfeld has said he then went to the part of the building that had been struck, to assist in rescue efforts.
 - a. At 9:46 a.m., the National Military Command Center ("NMCC") at the Pentagon was still trying to locate both Rumsfeld and General Myers for a crisis meeting, according to the 9/11 Commission Report (p. 38). The report presents no evidence Rumsfeld was involved in decision-making before 10:30 a.m. Asked about Rumsfeld's apparent lack of response in his capacity as Secretary of Defense until about 25 minutes after the final crash, Commission Vice-Chairman Hamilton told a reporter, "I'm not going to answer that question," and turned away (Gail Sheehy, Mother Jones, 7/7/04).
 - b. On June 1, 2001, Rumsfeld signed on to a revision of previous procedures for interception of errant flights, which specified for the first time that cases of potential intercept orders for errant flights are to be forwarded "to the Secretary of Defense for approval." (CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION, J-3 CJCSI 3610.01A) This goes unmentioned in the 9/11 Commission Report. A full investigation must determine what effect, if any, this revision had on actual practice after June 1, and on September 11 itself; and whether the order makes Rumsfeld culpable for his absence from command and authority as Secretary of Defense during the decisive time of the attacks.
 - c. In public testimony under oath before the Kean Commission on March 23, 2004, Rumsfeld reiterated previous statements that he "had no idea hijacked airliners would be used as weapons" and concluded with the statement, "I plead ignorance." This gives rise to suspicion, given the many warnings of an attack of this nature in the years and weeks leading up to September 11 and the Pentagon MASCAL (mass casualty) action of October 24, 2000, a live emergency response exercise simulating the crash of an airliner into the Pentagon. Was Rumsfeld not informed about the MASCAL drill by his predecessor, Defense Secretary William Cohen? Was he also unaware of the warnings and the President's Daily Briefing of August 6, 2001 entitled "BIN LADIN DETERMINED TO STRIKE IN U.S."?

(See, Appendix B3, online at www.Justicefor911.org; and the Army news service report on the MASCAL exercises, online at www.mdw.army.mil/news/Contingency_Planning.html)

3. Gen. Richard Myers: Myers was the acting chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the attacks (in the absence of Gen. Hugh Shelton, who was on a

transatlantic flight). Myers has said that after hearing of the first WTC crash, he thought it was an accident. This gives rise to suspicion, given the many warnings of an attack of this nature and the Pentagon MASCAL (mass casualty) action of October 2000 (see, Appendix B-3, online). Was Myers unaware of the warnings, the President's Daily Briefing of August 6, 2001, or the MASCAL exercise of the previous year?

- a. According to his own reported statements and as confirmed in an exchange with Sen. Max Cleland at the Senate hearings of 9/13/04, Myers after hearing of the first plane crash (8:46 a.m.) proceeded to enter a meeting at the Capitol offices of Sen. Cleland. He has said he did not learn of the second attack until coming out of the meeting, just moments before the Pentagon was hit (at 9:38 a.m.).
 - b. Myers's statements go uncontested in the 9/11 Commission Report, but conflict directly with those of Richard Clarke in the book *Against All Enemies* (2004). Clarke on page 5 of his book places Myers in a teleconference on the crisis, surrounded by generals and colonels and specifically talking about a wargame codenamed "Vigilant Warrior." According to Clarke this was at 9:28 a.m. (one of the few precise times specified by Clarke in his account). Clarke quotes Myers as follows: "Not a pretty picture, Dick. We are in the middle of Vigilant Warrior, a NORAD exercise, but ... Otis has launched two birds toward New York. Langley is trying to get two up now [toward Washington]. The AWACS are at Tinker and not on alert." [Ellipsis in the original. A full investigation would determine whether this ellipsis was the result of a redaction by CIA or White House readers who cleared the book for publication, and would determine the content of the redacted material and its further implications. Note also that if Clarke's account is true, Myers is showing he was aware of interception attempts prior to the Pentagon attack, contrary to his testimony to the Senate two days later, see, Appendix A1.]
4. General Montague Winfield, director of the National Military Command Center ("NMCC") at the Pentagon: On the evening of September 10, Winfield arranged to be relieved of his scheduled shift at the NMCC on the next morning from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. This (and the further absence during most of that period of Rumsfeld, Myers and Bush) left his rookie second in command, then Capt. Joseph Leidig, in control of national crisis management at the NMCC during the two hours of the actual attacks.
 - a. In a written statement released by the Kean Commission prior to the testimony of Joseph Leidig on June 17, 2004, Leidig wrote: "On 10 September 2001, Brigadier General Winfield, U.S. Army, asked that I stand a portion of his duty as Deputy Director for Operations, NMCC, on the following day. I agreed and relieved Brigadier General Winfield at 0830 on 11 September 2001." Gen. Winfield was originally scheduled to testify before the Kean Commission on June 17, 2004, but canceled shortly beforehand. [Note: According to Lt. Col. Dawne Deskins of NEADS, the FAA Boston Center informed NORAD of the Flight 11 diversion at 8:31 a.m. (ABCNEWS, 9/11/02); according to the 9/11 Commission Report (p. 32), the alert to NEADS was at 8:38 a.m.]
 - b. A full investigation would determine whether Gen. Winfield was aware of the warning allegedly received by "top Pentagon brass" on "the night before

the attacks, causing some" of them "to cancel a trip," as reported by Newsweek two weeks consecutively (Newsweek, 9/13/01 and 9/20/01). A full investigation would also determine whether Gen. Winfield was aware of other advance warnings of imminent attack and of the Pentagon MASCAL exercise of October, 2000 (see, Appendix B3, online), and would question Gen. Winfield about why he decided on short notice to have himself relieved from command for two hours from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on September 11.

- c. In a Times-Discovery Channel documentary of 2002 ("The Pentagon Attack,") Gen. Winfield is seen in a videotaped interview describing how part of the attacks were experienced at the NMCC, also speaking on the process of determining the fate of Flight 93 after its crash at 10:06 a.m., as though he had been present. Was Gen. Winfield actually present at the NMCC at any point between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on September 11, and if so, was he exercising his command authority?
5. Many of the above facts appear at various points in the 9/11 Commission Report, especially in Chapter 1, but are not presented in an associated fashion. When combined, they strongly suggest the possibility of a cumulative and deliberate abdication of responsibility by key high officials during the time of the actual 9/11 attacks. A full investigation would closely scrutinize this collective failure to exercise authorities and duties, and consider the probable-cause circumstantial case that this was, in fact, the result of foreknowledge about attack details and/or motivated by a desire to avoid responsibility for the consequences of the events.
 6. A full investigation would also closely scrutinize the roles on September 11 of:
 - a. Vice-President Richard Cheney, the highest civilian official who apparently was "in the loop" during the duration of the 9/11 attacks;
 - b. Gens. Ralph Eberhart and Larry Arnold, the commanders of NORAD on September 11 and highest military officials who were apparently "in the loop";
 - c. Capt. Leidig at the NMCC, who assumed command there almost exactly at the time the military became aware of the attacks, according to official accounts;
 - d. Officials at the FAA such as Benjamin Sliney, then FAA National Operations Manager, who was on his first day at that position;
 - e. A full investigation would also scrutinize roles played by any and all of the above-named and other civilian and military officials in the planning and execution of the multiple air defense wargames conducted on the morning of September 11, 2001 (see, Appendix A1).
 - f. A full investigation would also specifically attempt to determine whether the above-named persons were aware of, or should have been aware, of the variety of indicators and warnings that aerial attacks would be staged by suicide pilots within the United States in the period leading up to September 11, 2001 (see, Appendix B3, online).

7. In May 2001, Cheney took charge of a counterterrorism task force under his purview. On September 11, he was the highest official involved in a command capacity during the period of the actual attacks. At an as-yet unspecified time after the first plane crash at 8:46 a.m., open phone-lines were established between the White House (where Cheney and Transportation Secretary Mineta were present), the Secret Service, FAA and NORAD (FAA, 5/21/03; Cheney on NBC, 9/16/01). The 9/11 Commission Report presents only short and highly selective passages from transcripts of these conversations. An investigation would if necessary issue subpoenas to obtain these transcripts and examine them towards clarifying the actual sequence of events and command structures for both: the pre-scheduled wargames and the defense response to the unfolding attacks.

http://www.justicefor911.org/iiA2_ChainofCommand_111904.php

Press Picks Up on September 11's AWOL Chain of Command

On the morning of September 11, Secretary Rumsfeld was having breakfast at the Pentagon with a group of members of Congress. He then returned to his office for his daily intelligence briefing. The Secretary was informed of the second strike in New York during the briefing; he resumed the briefing while awaiting more information. After the Pentagon was struck, Secretary Rumsfeld went to the parking lot to assist with rescue efforts...

At 9:44, NORAD briefed the conference on the possible hijacking of Delta 1989. Two minutes later, staff reported that they were still trying to locate Secretary Rumsfeld and Vice Chairman Myers [acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on that day]. The Vice Chairman joined the conference shortly before 10:00; the Secretary, shortly before 10:30. The Chairman [Gen. Hugh Shelton] was out of the country.

-- The 9/11 Commission Report, pp. 37-38

NEW YORK, Aug. 14, 2004 --

The official investigation of the September 11th events has failed to explain or even to ask why the top officials in the U.S. military chain of command were missing in action during the attacks.

Long a subject for 9/11 researchers, the riddle of the absent leadership was highlighted in new articles by author Gail Sheehy in this month's Mother Jones and last Saturday's Los Angeles Times.

George W. Bush was moved to present a renewed defense of his actions on Sept. 11 in an interview published in last Thursday's Washington Post.

Some background...

The first of the 9/11 flights was diverted and set on a course for Manhattan at about 8:13 a.m. The fourth and final flight crashed in Pennsylvania at either 10:03 or 10:06. Who acted as the commander of the U.S. military on Sept. 11th during the 110 minutes of the attacks? What explains the failure to follow standard air-defense response procedures, under which fighter jets should have been

dispatched in a timely fashion to survey each situation and be in place for additional action if required?

True, the Kean Commission's credo, "Our aim has not been to assign individual blame," (The 9/11 Commission Report, p. xvi), sounds admirable. Does it mean that public officials should not be held accountable for their decisions or omissions?

What the principals say

Bush has said he thought the first crash at the World Trade Center (8:46 a.m.) was an accident. After hearing of the second crash (9:05 a.m.), he says he didn't rush to take command of the situation because it might have upset second graders who were reading to him from "The Pet Goat."

In his office at the Pentagon, Donald **Rumsfeld** received word as each plane hit the Twin Towers, but apparently continued his scheduled lecture to a Congressional delegation on the subject of national preparedness against surprise attacks. After the opposite side of the Pentagon was hit (at 9:37 a.m. according to the report), he disappeared for 30 minutes while his generals tried to locate him and bring him to the war room.

Richard **Myers**, acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Sept. 11, says he thought the first crash was an accident. He went ahead with a meeting at the offices of Sen. Max Cleland, with whom he discussed the subject of national preparedness. Myers heard about the second crash (which happened at 9:03 a.m.) on leaving the meeting. Moments later, he was told the Pentagon had been hit.

The 9/11 Commission Report does not omit so much as obscure these failures to take charge, presenting them as items of human interest during wartime and repeating short justifications from each of the principals.

The report neglects to mention anything about the whereabouts on Sept. 11 of Gen. Montague **Winfield**, the director of the National Military Command Center or "war room" located in the Pentagon itself.

Sheehy on Rumsfeld

In exposing Rumsfeld, Sheehy goes easy on the Kean Commission. The lead sentence of her LAT editorial implicitly endorses its recommendation of a National Intelligence Director:

Donald Rumsfeld, one of the chief opponents of investing real power over purse and personnel in a new national intelligence chief, told the 9/11 commission that an intelligence czar would do the nation "a great disservice." It is fair to ask what kind of service Rumsfeld provided on the day the nation was under catastrophic attack.

"Two planes hitting the twin towers did not rise to the level of Rumsfeld's leaving his office and going to the War Room? How can that be?" asked Mindy Kleinberg, one of the widows known as the Jersey Girls, whose efforts helped create and guide the 9/11 commission. The fact that the final report failed to offer an explanation is one of the infuriating holes in an otherwise praiseworthy accounting.

Rumsfeld was missing in action that morning -- "out of the loop" by his own admission. The lead military officer that day, Brig. Gen. Montague Winfield, told the commission that the Pentagon's command center had been essentially leaderless: "For 30 minutes we couldn't find" Rumsfeld.

Sheehy is hasty in characterizing the situation at the NMCC as leaderless. If anything, the quote she cites suggests Winfield was "in the loop" during the time that Rumsfeld was missing. If that was the case, Winfield held the authority to lead.

But the record of the Commission proceedings suggests that, like Rumsfeld, Winfield did not hold a command function until after the attacks were over (see below). However, even in Winfield's absence, the next-ranking officer should have been in charge.

Sheehy: For more than two hours after the Federal Aviation Administration became aware that the first plane had been violently overtaken by Middle Eastern men, the man whose job it was to order air cover over Washington [Rumsfeld] did not show up in the Pentagon's command center.

This may be a veiled reference to a military administrative order of June 1, 2001, which formally included the Secretary of Defense in any decision to authorize the interception of errant civilian planes by military jets.

At least until then, interception of errant flights was a standard procedure, activated automatically once an air traffic controller determines a plane on instrument flight rules (IFR) is significantly off-course or has failed to respond to ground control. No formal authorization was required for the FAA to alert NORAD that an aircraft has deviated from its planned route, or for NORAD to scramble interceptors to reconnoiter and report. On the contrary, this was what was supposed to happen.

It is unclear whether the administrative order of June 1, by including Rumsfeld in these procedures, had any effect on practice. We do know that NORAD issued scramble orders to intercept errant flights within domestic airspace on 67 occasions prior to June 1, 2001. (Another fact mentioned nowhere in the Commission report.) And during the first minutes of their diversions, each of the 9/11 flights were simply errant aircraft, not yet turned into missiles. Interceptors should have been dispatched in a timely and automatic fashion, at least under the old rules.

Did Rumsfeld's absence from decision-making cause delays in scrambling interceptors? The 9/11 Commission Report does not ask.

Sheehy: It took [Rumsfeld] almost two hours to "gain situational awareness," he told the commission. He didn't speak to the vice president until 10:39 a.m., according to the report. Since that was more than 30 minutes after the last hijacked plane crashed, it would seem to be an admission of dereliction of duty.

[Original at www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-oe-sheehy13aug13,1,6693051.story; archived by Common Dreams at www.commondreams.org/views04/0813-08.htm]

Sheehy writes that the report's failure to scrutinize Rumsfeld's "admission of dereliction of duty" is "one of the infuriating holes in an otherwise praiseworthy accounting." True enough, it is one of the holes, and Sheehy like any journalist likes to concentrate on one story at a time. Or perhaps she avoided criticism of the Commission as a way of placating the LAT editors. She goes further in Mother Jones, telling how she put Lee Hamilton, vice-chairman of the Kean Commission, on the spot with the question, "Where was Rumsfeld on 9/11?":

"We investigated very carefully Mr. Rumsfeld's actions," said Hamilton. "He was having breakfast with Congressional leaders, and they hear a plane has hit the Pentagon, and he runs out."

"He had to have been told before the Pentagon was hit that two trade centers were hit and the country was under attack," I suggested. Was the commission comfortable with the fact that the country's Secretary of Defense was not in the chain of command or present in the Pentagon's command center until all four suicide hijacked planes were down?

"I'm not going to answer that question," said Hamilton, and turned away.

[Original at http://www.motherjones.com/news/update/2004/07/07_400.html]

Montague Winfield

The Joint Chiefs of Staff are technically advisers to the executive and theater command, which under law "runs from the President to the Secretary of Defense; and from the Secretary of Defense to the commander of the combatant command." As the theater of combat on Sept. 11 was domestic, the function of combatant command resided at the Pentagon in the NMCC.

The attacks made use of passenger transport, a realm supervised by the Federal Aviation Administration. Once it was clear that attacks were underway, the responsibility for aerial defense resided with the North American Aerospace Command (NORAD) under Gen. Ralph Eberhart.

Authority should have therefore run from Commander-in-Chief Bush to Secretary Rumsfeld to the NMCC under Winfield and NORAD under Eberhart, with Gen. Myers as the chief adviser.

Montague Winfield was originally scheduled to be at his command post on morning of Sept. 11. But on Sept. 10, he arranged for his deputy to relieve him the next morning at exactly 8:30 a.m. This turned out to be just eight minutes before the military was alerted to the diversion of the first flight (at 8:38 a.m. according to the timeline in The 9/11 Commission Report).

The report mentions Winfield by name only once, as a source in a footnote, without clarification (Ch. 1 fn 190, p. 463). His absence from the NMCC after 8:30 a.m. was first revealed to the Commission in a June 17, 2004 statement by his deputy, Capt. Charles J. Leidig (who was recently promoted to admiral).

(SEE: www.9-11commission.gov/hearings/hearing12/leidig_statement.pdf)

Winfield was scheduled to testify before the Kean Commission in public on the same day as Leidig. As on Sept. 11, he was a no-show. Leidig spoke for him, saying under oath that on Sept. 11, "Right after we resolved what was going on with United 93, around that time General Winfield took over" command of the NMCC.

(SEE: Transcript of June 17 hearings at www.9-11commission.gov/archive/hearing12/9-11Commission_Hearing_2004-06-17.pdf)

Thus Gen. Winfield apparently exercised no operational authority until after the attacks were over. In the further absence of Bush and Rumsfeld, the man in charge of the U.S. military during the attacks was apparently Capt. Leidig, a rookie in the job who, in his own words, first qualified in August 2001 "to stand watch as the Deputy Director for Operations in the NMCC."

However, Winfield either forgot his own absence or attempted to gloss over it when he was filmed for a 2002 Discovery-Times documentary, "Attack on the Pentagon." In that interview, he says that the "national leadership" was called to the NMCC "after the World Trade Center was struck." He also describes on camera the process of "resolving" what happened to Flight 93, the final flight, as though he was present.

Was Winfield present at the NMCC at any time during the attacks? If not, why would he try to hide an absence for which no one would otherwise think to blame him, since it was arranged the night before? Where was he during the 90 minutes after 8:30 a.m.?

George W. Bush

Though it took three years, Bush is finally taking some heat for his suspect actions on Sept. 11, mainly thanks to the film *Fahrenheit 9/11*. It shows footage after the moment when he learned about the second crash. In a Florida classroom, with dozens of cameras running, the White House chief of staff steps up to the seated Bush and whispers into his ear for about three seconds. Supposedly he says, "A second plane has hit the Towers. America is under attack." Bush does not ask for more information but remains seated for the next seven minutes, listening to the second-graders read.

Many have interpreted this as an individual loss of nerve at a crucial moment. In fact, that conclusion obscures a far more disturbing reality.

On that day Bush was accompanied by the usual large entourage of White House staff, among them Secret Service and national security personnel. As of 8:46, the time of the first crash, Bush and entourage were still on their way to the school. The caravan could have driven straight to Air Force One or a secure command center. Bush says he heard about the first crash at 8:55. This is long after the military should have informed the White House of the hijacking. How can he claim he thought it was an accident? And what about his staff? In the subsequent half-hour plus, as the whole world learned of the New York events, why did the Secret Service feel so little urgency about the president as a potential target? Despite the risks, and despite the national emergency, the meaningless photo opportunity proceeded for the next 46 minutes. Worse, after the second crash, everyone stayed put in the school until at least 9:32, half an hour later, with most

of the proceedings broadcast live on local and national TV. These are the periods of inaction that Bush and his staff must account for; and not just the "seven minutes" made famous by Michael Moore.

It gets worse. The famous Aug. 6 Presidential Daily Briefing, titled "BIN LADEN DETERMINED TO STRIKE IN THE U.S.," had warned of terrorist plans to hijack planes in the United States. Bush and members of his entourage should have easily recalled that during the G-8 Summit in July 2001, the Secret Service received warnings from multiple sources that Osama bin Laden wanted to crash an airplane into his hotel in Genoa, Italy. As a result of these warnings, the Italians shut down the Genoa airport and airspace and installed anti-aircraft batteries to protect the summit (also see LA Times, Sept. 27, 2001). (See "Bush, Rice and the Genoa Warning: Documenting a demonstrable falsehood.")

That and other high-level warnings of an imminent aerial terror attack in the weeks prior to Sept. 11 (once again: completely unmentioned in the Commission report) make the failure to act during the national emergency all the more maddening and inexcusable.

Sheehy is moved to consider darker motives, at least in her Mother Jones article. She returns to the Project for a New American Century, the policy initiative founded in 1997 that brought together Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney and most of their direct associates in the Bush administration, as well as Jeb Bush. The PNAC manifesto of the year 2000 - an open call for the U.S. to establish a new order in the Middle East by force and dominate the world militarily - expresses a not-so-hidden wish for "a new Pearl Harbor" that would end what the authors decry as a dangerous trend to isolationism.

Sheehy's exploration of this territory is an encouraging sign. We can only hope she and other reporters will take a closer look at the Kean Commission's many other "infuriating holes." As it turns out, the report's omissions belie any pretense of "praiseworthy accounting." And to many of those who have been paying attention to these issues since Sept. 11, the absence of a chain of command and of a credible U.S. air defense on Sept. 11 has always looked less like a "failure" than an intentional result of machinations behind the scenes.

(-Nicholas Levis)

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20040801011459507>

General Richard Myers: "We Hadn't Thought About This"

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service

(Posted on the Department of Defense Website)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23, 2001 -- Air Force Gen. Richard Myers wasn't in the Pentagon when terrorists attacked it Sept. 11, but the event was still a nightmare for him.

Watching the events unfold on television was "like watching a bad movie," the current chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told American Forces Radio and Television Service Oct. 17.

Myers said he was on Capitol Hill that morning in the offices of Georgia Sen. Max Cleland to discuss his confirmation hearing to become chairman. While in an outer office, he said, he saw a television report that a plane had hit the World Trade Center.

"They thought it was a small plane or something like that," Myers said. So the two men went ahead with the office call.

Meanwhile, the second World Trade Center tower was hit by another jet. "Nobody informed us of that," Myers said. "But when we came out, that was obvious. Then, right at that time, somebody said the Pentagon had been hit."

Somebody thrust a cell phone in Myers's hand. Gen. Ralph Eberhart, commander of U.S. Space Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, was on the other end of the line "talking about what was happening and the actions he was going to take."

On Sept. 11, Myers was vice chairman. He was sworn in as chairman Oct. 1. His predecessor, Army Gen. Henry Shelton, was "somewhere over the Atlantic" en route to Europe when the attacks occurred, so it was critical for Myers to get back to the Pentagon.

After learning that the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon hadn't been evacuated, Myers headed straight there and was soon joined by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Rumsfeld had been outside surveying the damage and checking the progress of rescue operations.

Myers said everyone just jumped in and did what had to be done in terms of command and control of the day. He said conflicting reports throughout the morning led to confusion in the Command Center.

"I didn't know what to believe at the time," he said. "We had these events, and then subsequently the airplane went down in Pennsylvania. We were trying to tie this together."

NORAD had by this time put fighter jets in the air in case other hijacked planes posed threats. "It was initially pretty confusing," Myers said. "You hate to admit it, but we hadn't thought about this."

He told of how his clothes smelled like smoke when he got home at the end of that long day, but then he focused on the tales of heroism that emerged.

"It was a terrible, terrible day," he said. "But as you would expect, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, (and) civilians here in the Department of Defense acted with great heroism that day."

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2001/n10232001_200110236.html

PLEASE NOTE: General Myers' highly dubious claim that no one had "thought about" planes being used as weapons is cast in truer light by the numerous warnings of the imminence of such attacks; the fact that the US Government War Games being overseen by Dick Cheney on that very day included the hijackings of commercial airliners and response drills to airplanes being flown into buildings; and by the fact

that the military itself had held MASCAL (mass casualty) drills just the year before which involved an airliner being flown into the Pentagon.

In addition, various Government Anti-Terrorism Manuals, including that of the US Air Force, under General Myers command on 9/11, featured pictures of the World Trade Center Towers with Cross-Hairs imposed upon them. A couple of these Manual Covers can be accessed at:

Government Preparatory Manuals Featuring WTC in Crosshairs

<http://www.thememoryhole.org/911/managing-wmd.htm>

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11.5 Repeated EXPLOSIONS on 9/11

{NOTE: This is a Reiteration of Reference 7.3}

Please watch the DVDs

**911 Mysteries
September 11 Revisited
911 Eyewitness
Loose Change Second Edition**

AUDIO: The Basement Explosion

in the North Tower which Preceded the Impact of American Airlines 11

This recording, from a morning business meeting at One Liberty Plaza, which captures both events, as well as the participants' immediate reactions, is included in the

DVD: Loose Change Second Edition

VIDEO and AUDIO: The series of massive explosions -- and the basement smoke that

followed -- as videotaped from the New Jersey Docks by Rick Siegel
is Included in the

DVD: 911 Eyewitness

VIDEO INTERVIEWS: First Responders Recount Multiple Explosions

DVD: September 11 Revisited ***

DVD: Loose Change Second Edition

***** VIDEO:**

The South Tower in the 22 Seconds Before the Arrival of United 175, During which the Pre-Explosions Reported by Many Eyewitnesses can be Heard in the Last Few Seconds Before Impact. (Note the bird freaking out in the foreground and recall that the airplane's fireball bloomed immediately on impact -- and that light travels faster than sound.)

<http://www.mediumrecords.com/wtc/southtower-plane.varick.mov>

(PLAY IT LOUD to hear beyond the sirens and helicopters.)

Explosive Testimony ***

by David Ray Griffin

(First Rate Reporting by America's Leading Theological Scholar)

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20060118104223192>

Mirrored at:

<http://www.mindfully.org/Reform/2006/911-WTC-Twin-Towers26jan06.htm>

Testimony of Firefighters, Police Officers, Paramedics, Reporters, and Survivors
<http://911proof.com/11.html>

VIDEO of Firefighter: "Bombs in the Building."

<http://www.terrorize.dk/911/witnesses/witnesses3.php#911.wtc.fireman.bomb.in.the.building>

First-hand Accounts of Underground Explosions In The North Tower

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/november2004/281104undergroundexplosions.htm>

Reports of Sights and Sounds of Explosions in the Oral Histories

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/oralhistories/explosions.html>

Witnesses Say They Heard Bombs Explode in WTC Buildings

<http://www.bcrevolution.ca/bombs.htm>

AUDIO: Recordings and Analysis

of Explosion Sounds and the World Trade Center

<http://www.mediumrecords.com/wtc/audio00.html>

Testimony of Eyewitnesses and

Visual Images of the Smoke from Underground Explosions

<http://www.explosive911analysis.com/>

Eyewitness Reports of Explosions Before WTC Disintegrations

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/eyewitness.html>

AUDIO/VIDEO ANALYSIS: The 9/11 WTC Disintegrations

http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/9-11_wtc_videos.html

911 Research Evidence Page

An Extremely Comprehensive Compilation of Critical Information

<http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence.html>

Massive Seismic Spikes Prior to Each Tower's Disintegration

<http://100777.com/node/245>

Visual Evidence of Controlled Demolition

<http://thewebfairy.com/911/demolition/controlled.htm>

Fire at the Base of WTC Two

<http://www.terrorize.dk/911/wtcfire4/>

Home video from 500 yards away from North Tower

(Smoke from the basement creeping up thirty-some floors from street level on the northwest corner of the building)

<http://wakeupfromyourslumber.blogspot.com/2006/09/amazing-new-911-video-released.html>

President Bush Refers to "Explosives"

A Mild Slip of the Tongue?

http://dc.indymedia.org/usermedia/audio/1/u2r2h--bush_explosives-15sep06.mp3

**VIDEO: The South Tower Disintegrates,
As Shot from the Front of the Trinity Church
(An Up Close and Personal Experience with the Concept of Pyroclastic Flow)**
<http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=south+tower+trinity>

COLLECTION of VIDEOS: The Destruction of the WTC Towers on 9/11
<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/index.html>

FRAME by FRAME: The Destruction of the South Tower in Individual Video Frames
http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/stc_frames.html

FRAME by FRAME: The Destruction of the North Tower in Individual Video Frames
http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/wtc1_close_frames.html

EXCELLENT VIDEO of Explosions and Disintegrations:

This is a very useful place to start investigating the whole “myth” of 911.

**High Resolution
DVD: 911 Mysteries**

The AWAKENING of BRAD ***

A Demolition Hobbyist -- and Conservative Republican -- is Angered by Doubters, Purchases 911 Videos and Begins to Do His Own Research. Watch the “911 Mysteries” DVD material by Clicking on Links at the Left Also Contains Purchasing Info at Bottom of Page
<http://www.911weknow.com/911mysteries.htm>

VIDEO: The South Tower from West Street

Firemen (and the camera person) run for their lives.

NOTE: Stray Demolition squibs can be seen below the demolition wave. These ejections cannot have been caused by air pressure -- as the Tower was hermetically sealed into three separate sections, each marked by the darker gray banding of its lobby.

<http://www.mediumrecords.com/wtc/southtower.weststreet.mpg>

VIDEOS and IMAGES: The Evidence for Controlled Demolition

The Images of **Photojournalist BILL BIGGART..... who died** taking his last pictures -- have been rescinded from this page. Please follow the link on the page to Biggart’s haunting photos of the toxic pyroclastic flows that bloomed ferociously from the South Tower. He was photographing the Stubs of the South Tower’s Lobby when the when the explosions that blew the North Tower’s outer steel columns 600 feet in every direction engulfed him.

http://www.plaguepuppy.net/public_html/collapse%20update/--=Close-up%20of%20south%20tower%20collapse.mpg

VIDEO: Onset of the North Tower Disintegration
(During Which the Camera Shakes, Followed by the Rooftop Antenna
Beginning to Give Way Just Prior to the Explosive Disintegration of the Tower)

NOTE: This video provides evidence of the explosive, pre-failure ground-level events described in both towers (characterized by eyewitnesses as “earthquake”-like, and as “the ground shook”) in that the video camera, trained perfectly steady on the North Tower, registers a pronounced shock wave just prior to the onset of its explosive failure.

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/north_tower_collapse.mpeg

VIDEO: The South Tower Disintegration
in **Higher Definition.**

NOTE: This video is sufficiently Hi-Def to reveal the flashes of the Cutter Charges that so many eyewitnesses referred to as “sparkling” and “popping all around the building.” These flashing charges, identical to those in many videos of Professional Controlled Demolitions, are also visible during the destruction of the North Tower, particularly well-captured in the **DVD: 911 Eyewitness.**

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/south_tower_collapse.mpeg

Also available at:

http://www.plaguepuppy.net/public_html/Flashes/flashes.htm

(If you have a capable version of Quicktime (such as Quicktime Pro -- available at apple.com), you can access the above video, Save as Quicktime Movie, Maximize the Viewing window, and Step Frame through the Cutter Flashes. Note that they often occur in areas blocked from the sun, and therefore cannot be reflections off broken glass. And note that they do not yield dust or projectiles as they die away. They are merely brilliantly bright and short lived bursts of light.)

This Video is also a perfect example of the official use of the verb “collapse” to describe the Fate of the Towers on 9/11 -- the obvious verb of choice -- which became a part of the Official 9/11 Lexicon from the very beginning. And while “collapse” is certainly a reasonable word to come up with to describe these images and the dynamics they capture, the word “explode” can easily be understood to be equally deserving of employment. Many of these images DEFINE the word explode. But the word “explode,” and particularly the word “demolition,” were considered vary bad form if uttered aloud in the Main Stream Media -- the latter word documented to cause its foolish user to receive anthrax in the mail -- quickly -- from the profoundly language-sensitive “terrorists” it very obviously offended.

VIDEO: Demolition Squibs Preceded the Demolition Wave in the North Tower
(NOTE: These are Interesting to Compare with Professional Demolition Videos.)
http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/videos/wtc1_jets_frames.html

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/towers/slides.html>

VIDEO: History Channel Videos of Controlled Demolitions

<http://thewebfairy.com/911/demolition/demolitions.htm>

VIDEO: 9/11 Controlled Demolitions Video Collection

<http://forums.bluelemur.com/viewtopic.php?t=4572&sid=4590582cbb80335758260dca0da8bbad>

VIDEO: Dakota Demolition

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/dakota_demolition.mov

VIDEO: Firemen who Survived Talking to Their Fellow Firemen

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/discussion_in_firehouse.mpg

VIDEO: Fireman Joe Casaliggi of Engine Seven:

All Tower Contents Turned to Dust

http://www.911research.com/wtc/evidence/videos/docs/collapsed_to_dust.mpg

VIDEO: Pyroclastic Flows - 9/11's 'Smoking Gun'

http://wakeupfromyourslumber.blogspot.com/2006/09/pyroclastic-flows-911-smoking-gun_13.html

VIDEO: First Demolition, SLO-MO and Close

<http://thewebfairy.com/911/demolition/close.htm>

VIDEO: Re-Open 9/11

The Video is Mightier Than the Pen.

Pics and Videos

http://www.reopen911.org/pictures_and_videos.htm

Thermite: Statement Regarding Thermite Devices

by Robert Moore

<http://www.journalof911studies.com/ThermiteDevicesMoore1.pdf>

The Physics of the Twin Towers' Disintegrations on 9/11

<http://www.physics.byu.edu/research/energy/htm7.html>

(NOTE: Can no longer be found at this website -- the portal of a major American University -- thanks to the direct intervention of President Bush)

The Site has been Mirrored at:

<http://www.janedoe0911.tripod.com/BilliardBalls.html>

MUSLIMS SUSPEND THE LAWS OF PHYSICS

Magic Muslims Force the Writer to Forget Everything He Thought He Knew

http://www.public-action.com/911/jmcm/physics_1.html

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11.6 World Trade Center Building Seven: The Third Skyscraper to Fail on 9/11

The Sudden Implosion of WTC Building Seven

By David R. Kimball

July 30, 2005

Everyone remembers the Twin Towers exploding at 9:59AM and 10:28AM EDT on September 11, 2001. Comparatively few people can recall that there was a third massive skyscraper, also a part of the World Trade Center, which fell very rapidly to the ground on that day. This was World Trade Center Building 7.

One reason that few remember WTC Building 7's collapse is that after September 11th it has been treated, both in the media and in The 9/11 Commission Report, as if it didn't happen.

"The total collapse of the third huge skyscraper late in the afternoon September 11th was reported as if it were an insignificant footnote... most people never saw video of Building 7's collapse... Incredibly, it is virtually impossible to find any mention of Building 7 in newspapers, magazines, or broadcast media reports after September 11th."

"The Commission avoids another embarrassing problem – explaining how WTC 7 could have collapsed, also virtually at free-fall speed – by simply not mentioning the collapse of this building."

The collapse of Building 7 at 5:20PM EDT was in itself a major event; the sudden and unexplained fall to earth of a 47-story steel-framed skyscraper is certainly news. Why has there been almost no mention of this in the U.S. media, and why was there no mention of Building 7's collapse in The 9/11 Commission Report? These are questions of great significance, and they cry out for answers. To be able to approach any kind of explanation, however, first some pertinent and verified facts of the Building 7 aspect of 9/11 need to be scrutinized.

The following eleven facts have been compiled from the research of reputable sources – those who have dared to question and have devoted innumerable hours into discovering what really happened on 9/11.

FACT 1: WTC Building 7 was one of the largest buildings in downtown Manhattan. It was 47 stories tall, about half the height of the Towers, and took up an entire city block. It was 300 feet from the closest Twin Tower (the North Tower, WTC 1), and was a steel-framed, concrete structure.

FACT 2: WTC Building 7 – on its 23rd floor – housed an Emergency Command Center for the City of New York that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani had built in the mid-1990's. On the morning of September 11th, Mayor Giuliani did not go "to his Command Center – with its clear view of the Twin Towers – but to a makeshift, street-level headquarters at 75 Barkley Street." WTC 7 also held the offices of numerous government agencies, including the Department of Defense, the CIA, the Secret Service, the IRS, and the Security and Exchange Commission. Late 2001 was the time of "the height of the investigation into Enron, so the majority of Enron's SEC filings were likely destroyed when World Trade Center 7 came down."

FACT 3: WTC Building 7 was not hit by airplane or significant debris on September 11th. It had been evacuated after the planes hit the towers. By the afternoon of September 11th, there were a few small fires of unknown origin evident in the building, and these small fires could be seen in only a few of the hundreds and hundreds of windows in the building.

FACT 4: On September 11, 2001, at 5:20PM, EDT, World Trade Center Building 7 suddenly and rapidly collapsed. Beginning with the penthouse, all 47 stories of it imploded into its own footprint in less than seven seconds. Three different videos of Building 7's vertical collapse – two from CBS video broadcasts, and one from an NBC news camera – can be seen online at <http://wtc7.net/videos.html>.

FACT 5: On September 16th, NASA flew an airplane over the World Trade Center site, recorded infrared radiation coming from the ground, and created a thermal map. The U.S. Geological Survey analyzed this data, and determined the actual temperature of the rubble. This map shows that five days after the collapse of Building 7, the surface temperature of a section of its rubble was 1,341° F. This high a temperature is indicative of the use of explosives.

“WTC 7's rubble pile continued to smolder for months.”

FACT 6: Fire Engineering magazine is the 125-year-old paper-of-record of the fire engineering community. Bill Manning, editor-in-chief, wrote an Editor's Opinion in the January, 2002 edition. His editorial, *Selling Out the Investigation*, pointed out that destruction of evidence – the hurried removal of rubble which should be examined by investigators – is illegal. He also issued a “call to action.” To quote excerpts:

“For more than three months, structural steel from the World Trade Center has been and continues to be cut up and sold for scrap. Crucial evidence that could answer many questions ... is on the slow boat to China...”

“I have combed through our national standard for fire investigation, NFPA 921, but nowhere in it does one find an exemption allowing the destruction of evidence for buildings over 10 stories tall.”

“Fire Engineering has good reason to believe that the ‘official investigation’ blessed by FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] and run by the American Society of Civil Engineers is a **half baked farce** [emphasis Mr. Kimball's] that may have already been commandeered by political forces whose primary interests, to put it mildly, lie far afield of full disclosure. Except for the marginal benefit obtained from a three-day, visual walk-through of evidence sites conducted by ASCE investigation committee members – described by one close source as a ‘tourist trip’ – no one's checking evidence for anything.”

“The destruction and removal of evidence must stop immediately.”

“Firefighters, this is your call to action. ...contact your representatives in Congress and officials in Washington and help us correct this problem immediately.”

FACT 7: In May of 2002, FEMA published their report #403 titled World Trade Center Building Performance Study. This report claims that the fires caused the building to collapse, but that the specifics of how this is supposed to have occurred "...remain unknown at this time."

FACT 8: The collapse of WTC Building 7 shows five characteristics of a controlled demolition:

1. It "dropped directly into its own footprint in a smooth, vertical motion;"
2. It "collapsed completely in less than seven seconds;"
3. "Dust streamed out of the upper floors of Building 7 early in its collapse;"
4. "WTC 7's roof inverted toward its middle as the collapse progressed;" and
5. "WTC 7's rubble was mostly confined to the block on which the building stood."

FACT 9: "Larry Silverstein is a rather large player within the realms of 21st Century real estate, finance, and politics." He "...had taken out a long lease on the World Trade Center only six weeks before 9/11. In a PBS documentary entitled 'America Rebuilds', originally aired in September of 2002, Silverstein made the following statement about Building 7:

'I remember getting a call from the, er, fire department commander, telling me that they were not sure they were gonna be able to contain the fire, and I said, "We've had such terrible loss of life, maybe the smartest thing to do is pull it." And they made that decision to pull, and we watched the building collapse.'

FACT 10: "It is inconceivable that anyone could be running around placing explosives in exactly the right places all within seven hours. In fact, implosions take a minimum of two weeks and up to two months to plan and place the charges. The fire department of New York does not even train their personnel to do controlled demolition. They are done by highly skilled experienced specialists who plan and test far ahead."

FACT 11: "... [George W.] Bush's brother, Marvin Bush, and his cousin, Wirt Walker III, were principles in the company [Stratesec, formerly named Securacom] that was in charge of security for the World Trade Center, with Walker being the CEO from 1999 until January 2002."

In Summation: A major aspect of 9/11 has been excluded from the entire U.S. media after September 11th, and was also omitted from The 9/11 Commission Report. This was the sudden fall to earth, on September 11th, 2001, of World Trade Center Building 7. Not hit by airplane or significant debris, 300 feet from the closest Twin Tower, and with just a few small fires burning within it, at 5:20PM EDT this massive concrete and steel-framed 47-story skyscraper imploded into its own footprint in less than seven seconds.

Its rapid implosion had all of the characteristics of a controlled demolition, and the World Trade Center leaseholder, Larry Silverstein, stated in so many words that the building had been collapsed by demolition. It takes weeks, if not months, to prepare the demolition of a building as large as WTC 7; this implosion could not have been engineered and implemented in seven chaotic hours on September 11th. Therefore, a question emerges:

Who had the means and expertise to engineer such a demolition and acquire needed materiel, and who had access to WTC Building 7 PRIOR TO September 11, 2001 in order to place the explosives?

An inquiry into the answer to this question might be a good place to begin a search for the real perpetrators of 9/11. Do we, the citizens of the United States, have the courage and honesty necessary to initiate an actual investigation, or will we continue living a Lie – and reap the consequences?

“Why do you notice the splinter in your friend’s eye, but overlook the timber in your own?”

-- Jesus of Nazareth

NOTE: Visit the website for a list of Mr. Kimball’s references.

<http://www.wtc7.net/articles/kimball/thirdskyscraper.html>

VIDEO: WTC Lease Owner Larry Silverstein

His Broadcast Admission of Building Seven Being “Pulled”:

WTC lease holder, Larry Silverstein, commenting on the controlled demolition of Building 7 in the PBS documentary "America Rebuilds," which aired in September of 2002:

“I remember getting a call from the, er.... fire department commander, telling me that they were not sure they were gonna be able to contain the fire, and I said, 'We've had such terrible loss of life, maybe the smartest thing to do is pull it.' And they made that decision to pull and we watched the building collapse.”

In the same documentary, America Rebuilds, a clean up worker at ground zero uses the term "pull" to describe the upcoming controlled demolition of Building 6 –

(Using the word “pull” as slang for “demolish”)

Unidentified Construction Worker:

"Hello? Oh, we're getting ready to pull building six."

Video: http://www.911blogger.com/files/video/wtc7_pbs.WMV

VIDEO: Luis Mendes, NYC Dept of Design and Construction:

"We had to be very careful how we demolished building six. We were worried about the building six coming down and then damaging the slurry walls, so we wanted that particular building to fall within a certain area."

http://thewebfairy.com/killtown/video/wtc7/pull_wtc6.wmv

VIDEO: Explosive Squibs as Building Seven Plunges to the Ground

http://st12.startlogic.com/~xenonpup/Flashes/squibs_along_southwest_corner.htm

VIDEO: Closeup of WTC 7 Footage Shows Unmistakable Demolition Charges

http://www.libertyforum.org/showflat.php?Cat=&Board=consp_911&Number=293140235

VIDEO: Building Seven Videos; CBS Video Frames at One Second Intervals

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/wtc/videos.html>

VIDEO: Larry Silverstein Recalling the Decision to "PULL" Building Seven

(The Version Below adds Contextual Information about Building Seven on the Day)

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4779078755753451581&q=Larry+Silverstein&hl=en>

(The Version Below is only Silverstein's "Pull it" recollection.)

<http://impeachpac.org/?q=node/1203>

How could Building Seven have been "pulled" without the prior placement of explosives? What does this issue portend regarding Towers One and Two?

NOTE: The site below contains several extremely compelling posts from photographer Tom Gordon, who first landed a job taking pictures of the WTC in 1988. According to Gordon, a case of mistaken identity put him high up in the North Tower one day in a room full of men being told their jobs had just ended after ten years of "service" to a particularly demanding and secretive client. The jobs (he learned at lunch) had centered on finding an economically feasible way to "deconstruct" the towers -- a process that aging and the decentralization of the finance industry that had accompanied the dawn of internet would soon make necessary. Among the intriguing aspects of Gordon's history are a diagram of the bizarre framing of WTC Building 7 -- an asymmetrical design that one disgruntled engineer implied was intended to function as a (facing-side collapsible) scaffold in the event of the toppling of the North Tower (as was subsequently attempted in 1993). Another document included is a simple drawing of the lateral dimensions of the 112 stories of scaffolding which would prove necessary (in the eyes of men of more limited vision) to take the buildings apart. The drawing is entitled "Deconstruction Plan -- World Trade Center."

But what is more compelling, perhaps, to those who seek to understand the failure of World Trade Center Seven, is the fact that the asymmetrical framing observed could not have produced the structure's perfectly simultaneous plunge to the ground on all sides -- were it not for the meticulous application of vast amounts of explosive energy to the portions of the building which were redundantly box-framed, to allow them to come apart at the same pace as the portions which were very lightly framed. The architectural diagram compared to the videos of this building's death speaks again of the presence of a deconstructive professionalism of the very highest order.

<http://www.rense.com/general47/pulled.htm>

Was Building Seven the True Destination of United 93?

A possible explanation for the pre-planting of explosives that led to its demolition.

http://www.gnn.tv/blogs/13977/Another_Angle_on_the_Destruction_of_WTC_Building_Seven

NOTE:

The DVD: 911 Eyewitness recorded the sounds of the explosions that felled WTC 7.

Also: The 911 Research website.....

<http://911research.wtc7.net/index.html>

had the foresight to include WTC7 in its name, and provides a remarkably thorough examination of the entire 911 drama, and its implications for America and the world.

List of Tenants in World Trade Center Seven on 9/11

Tenant	Square Feet	Floor	Industry
Salomon Smith Barney	1,202,900	Grnd, 1-6, 13, 18-46	Financial
Internal Revenue Service	90,430	24, 25	Government
U.S. Secret Service	85,343	9, 10	Government
American Express Bank	106,117	7, 8, 13	Financial
Standard Chartered Bank	111,398	10, 13, 26, 27	Financial
Provident Financial Management	9,000	7, 13	Financial
ITT Hartford Insurance Group	122,590	19-21	Insurance
First State Management Group	4,000	21	Insurance
Federal Home Loan Bank	47,490	22	Financial
NAIC Securities	22,500	19	Insurance
Securities & Exchange Comm	106,117	11, 12, 13	Financial/Gov
Office of Emergency Mgmt*	45,815	23	Government

*Mayor Giuliani's Command Center

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/background/tenants.html#wtc7>

911 was an Inside Job, Our Nation is in Peril

Looped Video of the Failure of Building Seven

"Those who have the privilege to know have the duty to act."

-- Albert Einstein

Links to many DVDs, etcetera

<http://www.911sharethetruth.com/>

SLIDESHOW: Building Seven, the Untold Story

Exposing the fraud of the government's story.

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/b7/index.html>

The Demolition of WTC 7 Compared with Other Professional Demolitions

Taken from an Italian Television Show

(No such comparison has appeared on an American Broadcast Network)

www.911podcasts.com/files/video/Italiandebateshow-WTC7.wmv

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11.7 **The Failure of Building Seven is Reported Prematurely in the Media**

File Under OOOOOPS! More Evidence that the 911 Legend was a Bit of a Rush Job

The BBC Reports that Building Seven Has COLLAPSED --

23 MINUTES BEFORE IT HAPPENS

BBC Reporter Solemnly Describes the Story of Building Seven's Collapse with the Building Clearly Visible, Standing Tall Behind Her, Until Her Live Feed is Suddenly "Lost," Moments Before the Actual Collapse

Santa Fe New Mexican | March 1, 2007

Devin Green

As today is my last day setting the homepage for The Santa Fe New Mexican I thought I would bid you all farewell. I resigned two weeks ago to better pursue my personal interests. It is to my great amusement however that this day coincides with an astonishing story to share in this blog. There is an uproar rising across the Internet over what is being called yet another blatant, 9/11 smoking gun.

Early this week an independent researcher, reviewing video archives of the BBC's 9/11 coverage, divulged the discovery of an earth shaking incongruence:

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458>

BBC reporters announced the collapse of the 47 story Salomon Brothers Building 23 minutes BEFORE the actual sudden collapse.

The building, also known as WTC 7, is clearly visible, standing tall, as a reporter gestures to the live view through the window behind her.

Despite the fact the Google censored the initial internet premier of this archived video, removing it from their video service, many more "mirrors" of the video were then set up across the net.

Watch the video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7SwOT29gbc&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eprisonplanet%2Ecom%2Farticles%2Ffebruary2007%2F260207building7%2Ehtm>

Below is a video of the actual event, which had not yet occurred, shot from ground level:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD06SAf0p9A&eurl=http%3A%2F%2F911scholars%2Eorg%2F>

Some may find this simply bewildering or a coincidental mistake. For 9/11 researchers it is a further revealing piece of evidence confirming internal premeditation to demolish the WTC. In response to demands for an explanation the BBC released a statement denying confirmation and foreknowledge. I recommend everyone wanting a good laugh to read their response:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part_of_the_conspiracy.html

The BBC claim that they lost the tapes of their 9/11 coverage due to a, and I quote, "cock-up, not conspiracy."

They just happened to lose their coverage of the most critical and historic event in the 21st century? The BBC's general policy on media management states:

"The following components to be retained:

- Ø Two broadcast standard copies of all transmitted/published TV, Radio and BBCi output – one to be stored on a separate site as a master
- Ø One browse-quality version for research purposes, to protect the broadcast material
- Ø All supporting metadata to enable research and re-use
- Ø A selection of original (i.e. unedited) material for re-use/re-versioning purposes
- Ø Hardware/software/equipment to enable replay/transfer of the media"

Obviously coverage like the 9/11 attacks would have merited many more copies than everyday broadcasts. And we are to believe the are all lost?

The BBC states that the events of 9/11 are "seared" in the memory of reporter Jane Standley, but that she can't remember what happened minute by minute. Personally I think watching a building collapse just minutes after saying it already had would be quite memorable.

The BBC tries to excuse possible mistakes due to the confusion of the day. But how many other 47 story buildings are near the WTC? No other buildings fell around the time or area of the Salomon Brothers Building (WTC 7). No other steel-frame buildings in the history of the world have even collapsed "due to fire" beside WTC 1, 2 and 7. Building 7 wasn't hit by an airplane and wasn't even directly adjacent to the twin towers. Calling that shot is no coincidence.

The BBC states: "We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they

don't help clear up the issue one way or another." I'll say they don't clear it up, at least not how the BBC would like..

Tapes of News 24:

(wait, let me find a new link, Google Video has now censored the footage from News 24... here is one!):

<http://media.putfile.com/time-stamped-BBC>

have other reporters claiming they "are being told" that WTC 7 has collapsed. The time-stamp on News 24 further confirms that the press release the BBC was apparently issued came out 23 minutes before the actual collapse.

"Are being told"? But the BBC now claims "We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening." And yet the BBC "rebuttal" goes on to say they always source their reports. I think we will have to follow the evidence on that one.

The BBC response finishes saying that an error is not evidence of conspiracy. (Lol. Is a random commenter on YouTube the best source they can get now?)

You call it an error if it was committed once. But three times? It has now emerged that CNN reported that WTC 7 "has either collapsed or is collapsing" while the building was still standing. Watch it here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8_o&eurl=

So now it should be plain to see that there was foreknowledge of Building 7's demise. But how could anyone know? **Let's listen to the man who admitted to demolishing the building explain. Ya gotta watch this video excerpted from a September 2002 PBS documentary:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WYdAJQV100>

That man is Larry Silverstein, the man who leased the WTC buildings mere months before the attack and made billions of dollars on his unusual terrorism insurance plan. "Pull it" is controlled demolition industry jargon for imploding a building. Silverstein's spokesperson later denied the admission, saying he meant "pull the firemen out of the building." Just listen to his statement though and its obvious what he meant.

Might then WTC 7's collapse have been a controlled demolition? **Watch the actual collapse again here and see what it looks like:**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tr6_WRPZjIM

That's Dan Rather's voice. Really tells it like it is there didn't he. The building wasn't in the process of collapsing minutes beforehand, but completely drops in the matter of a few seconds. It drops so fast actually that there is only one known scenario where such a free fall collapse is even physically possible. Controlled demolition.

Dr. Steven E. Jones, former physics professor of BYU University wrote a paper demonstrating this:

<http://stj911.org/>

It lead to his early retirement, but not before being published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. Dr. Jones later performed chemical analysis on melted WTC steel that suggests thermate may have been used in the demolition.

Eye witness testimonies also suggest controlled demolition. Over and over I have seen many different cases: warnings on the street going out before hand, explosions coinciding with the collapse, etc. For the sake of time I'll just mention one story here .

Why does Silverstein explain why they blew 7 up and later retract? I don't know, but in the beginning there were very few people questioning 9/11 and he basically related how things went along that day. Nowadays, with Loose Change being the most popular video on Google, questions are going to be asked. Like, how could they take down the building without weeks of planning and placement?

So why the early news reports? The BBC anchor who provides an explanation for the collapse 23 minutes before it even happens may give us some idea. The demolition being planned, an explanation for a huge building disappearing in a matter of seconds might have seemed to be in order, and a press release was prepared ahead of time to start the cover up from the first moment. But perhaps the news wire went out early, or the demolition went off late. This matter, of course, remains to be properly investigated.

There are many more question to be considered, and WTC 7 is just a small part of 9/11. **For a look at the bigger picture and to answer some of those questions check out the film Terrorstorm:**

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=786048453686176230>

[NOTE: It is this writer's opinion that "Terrorstorm," while riddled with important truth about the bigger picture, suffers from Alex Jones' extremely dramatic presentation. The film "911 Mysteries," while smaller in scope -- content to make the case, quietly and brilliantly, that the WTC Buildings were brought down by explosive demolition -- is an example of the profound power of understatement.]

911 Mysteries is available at:

<http://www.question911.com/linksall.htm>

That's enough to get someone started anyway.

The BBC is quick to deny that they are "*part of the conspiracy*" (italics added) and yet ironically that statement itself almost implies that there is a conspiracy.

And thus I turn in my badge, errrr, parking permit, and say goodbye to The New Mexican. Perhaps I'm leaving you with a question though. Why aren't the big TV news programs and newspapers covering the BBC's remarkable gift for clairvoyance? If you want them to demand it of them.

Better yet, take matters of informing yourself into your own hands. As I hope this blog entry has demonstrated, we have the technology with the Internet to move from the old autocratic information paradigm into a democratic system. Instead of today's five media companies who own most of the news industry dictating self-serving knowledge to millions of Americans, information can be traded freely based on its inherent merits in a diverse and widespread self correcting network.

But to come to face the ground truth we must take the time to wean ourselves from the old pipeline and open up to a bigger picture. 911blogger is a useful site for 9/11 news in this process. Alex Jones is an excellent news source to start looking at to understand the forces of fascism, tyranny and corruption taking control of the highest levels of our government. If you like the videos I used to post occasionally in my blog there are many more in a new feature called Rense TV part way down [rense.com](http://www.rense.com). There are many others out there as well, but use your discernment to weed out disinformation. Check the sources for yourself and confirm.

Obviously I don't agree with everything presented at these sites. But that's the point. Think for yourself. Push your limits. Become your own Editor.

http://www.infowars.com/articles/sept11/bbc_wtc_7_santa_fe_new_mexican_covers_controversy.htm

The clairvoyant collapse:

BBC reports on 9/11 WTC7 collapse -- 20 minutes before the event!

Posted by IAmNoOne on Wednesday, 28 February 2007 06:07:30

"It seems this was not a result of a new attack, it was because the building had been weakened during this morning's attacks." - BBC World News studio anchorman, talking about the collapse of WTC7 at approx. 17:10 on 09/11/2001 - approx 10 minutes BEFORE the actual collapse of WTC7.

How could that conclusion have been reached before the building ACTUALLY COLLAPSED?!

<http://rattube.com/blog1/2007/02/26/the-smoking-gun-wtc7-bbc-jumps-the-gun/>

David,

Archive video footage from 9/11/2001 came to light on Monday evening (26th Feb) which shows beyond reasonable doubt that the BBC had prior knowledge of how events were going to unfold on that tragic day. For this footage shows that BBC World News started reporting that WTC Building 7 had collapsed -- 20 minutes before it actually did! As the video clearly shows, as on-site BBC reporter Jane Standley is reporting on the event, i.e. the collapse of WTC7, also known as the Salomon Brothers' Building, WTC7 can clearly be seen STILL STANDING behind her! So far the BBC's response has been

a) the BBC couldn't have known and therefore they couldn't have reported it. This is a patent falsehood, as the BBC very clearly DID report on it before it happened, as shown by the video,

and

b) that the BBC has lost it's archive footage from that day and so of course they can make no comment.

The BBC's response is here:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part_of_the_conspiracy.html

As you can see from the comments, there are very few people who are buying the BBC's explanation. Another point to note is that the BBC is not publishing all the comments it receives -- for none of mine (six so far) have been published, and I know of a good dozen people who have commented but whose comments do not show. One can only assume that the BBC has received so many negative comments it is now refusing to publish any more. I have emailed the head of the BBC World news team, and his response was that "he believes none of his fellow journalists were told what to say." This belief is however surely highly subjective, and would surely need to be closely investigated in light of this footage.

The all-too convenient (and all-too predictable) claim by the BBC that they have lost their footage from that time ("for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy", naturally) is also suspicious in the extreme -- especially when the BBC could easily have downloaded the archive from the Internet Archive Organisation like everyone else did!

However, many people (including myself) DID download the original video footage from the Internet Archive, and this shows a number of things very clearly.

Among them:

1. The timestamp on the original footage downloaded from the Internet Archive Organization is:

Date: 2001-09-11 20:54:47 UTC
Air Time: 2001-09-11 16:54:47 EDT
Length: 0:41:41

This effectively answers any questions about the time of the broadcast. Not that this is necessary -- for even if the BBC was reporting on the collapse of WTC7 only 30 SECONDS before it actually collapsed the fact still remains that NO-ONE had any earthly (or divine!) reason to suspect that WTC7 was GOING to collapse -- and so the BBC could not possibly have known about it -- UNLESS they were told what to say by someone who DID know it was going to collapse!

2. That the BBC reported on the collapse of WTC7 before it actually happened.

3. That WTC7 was clearly still standing as Jane Standley moved to one side so the cameras could zoom in on it.

4. That the video feed to New York was mysteriously lost 5 minutes before the actual collapse occurred.

This begs a number of questions, only a few of which I will raise here.

1. How could the BBC have known WTC7 was going to collapse and therefore report on it before it actually did? It had been hit by nothing and there was only minimal damage; there was no reason AT ALL to suspect it would collapse, and even the 9/11 Commission, for all its faults, reported 3 years later that "there was only a small probability of occurrence" when talking about the reasons for the collapse of WTC7; namely because of fire damage. And yet, the BBC knew 20 minutes before it collapsed that this was why it had collapsed!! HOW???

2. WHO told the BBC that WTC7 was going to collapse, and how did THEY know?

3. How could the BBC have known the CAUSE of the collapse? The BBC's conclusions, far from being guesses, mirrored those of the subsequent 9/11 Commission. In the words of the BBC World News studio anchor man:

"It seems this was not a result of a new attack, it was because the building had been weakened during this morning's attacks."

How could that conclusion have been arrived at before the building even fell?!

Conclusions that can be drawn from this footage include:

1. The BBC was given a press release or something similar in which they were told to report that WTC7 had collapsed -- except the BBC released this information earlier than planned!

2. Jane Standley did not know which building was WTC7, despite her commentary on the live scene behind her. If she had, she would have no doubt commented on the fact that the building she was talking about still stood!

3. Jane Standley was told what to say, was reading from a script, had an autocue, or something similar.

4. Someone at the BBC realised that WTC7 (the largest rectangular building in the right hand side of the picture) was still standing because they yanked the live feed 5 minutes before the actual collapse -- which was after the BBC had been reporting on the collapse for a full 20 minutes!!

Please bear in mind that the events of 9/11 were supposedly a surprise. The attacks were low-tech, carried out by 19 Islamic hijackers carrying Stanley knives, under the direction of Osama Bin Laden from his cave in Afghanistan. If the official story, supported by the British government and so far endorsed by yourself too, is to be believed then there can be no prior knowledge at any stage. If there is found to be prior knowledge, by anyone, then this automatically calls into (further) doubt the entire official story.

And remember that there is a widespread view, supported by REAL evidence, that the attacks WERE an inside job, carried out by the US government in order to give it carte blanche in the War Of Terror. Just SOME of this evidence includes:

1. Molten steel in the basements of the WTC 6 weeks after the attacks, still at temperatures which far exceeded those at which aviation fuel could ever burn;
2. Eyewitness testimony and seismic data showing the occurrence of at least one explosion BEFORE the first plane hit, which would explain point 1...!;
3. Eyewitness testimony, including that of firemen, of subsequent explosions after the planes hit, and the subsequent gagging orders placed on those firemen;
4. The fact that WTC7 fell at free fall speed, and displayed all the classic signs of explosive demolition, coupled to the famous words of Larry Silverstein, the WTC lease holder: "And they made that decision to pull and we watched the building collapse." "Pull" being demolition slang for "demolish", i.e; "pull it down."
5. The fact that the Twin Towers fell at almost free-fall speed, far faster than any expert estimates of how long a "progressive pancake collapse" would have taken (approx: 6 seconds per 10 floors - giving a total collapse time in the region of 60 seconds, as opposed to the 10 - 13 seconds in reality);
6. The fact that Rudy Guilliani somehow knew that the Twin Towers were going to collapse -- again before there was any reason to think they would do so! For it has been proven by the radio transcripts that the fires were nowhere near as bad as we are led to believe -- firemen made it to the 78th floor of the North Tower and actually said they could "knock the fire down with just 2 lines"!
7. The rather dubious claim that the passport of one of the hijackers somehow managed to survive the crash of the plane and the subsequent explosion and end up virtually undamaged on the streets of New York -- and yet the black boxes, specifically designed to withstand any and all known crash conditions, were so badly damaged they could yield no useful information!

This has a strange parallel with the 7/7 bombings where the passport of one of the "bombers" was found at the scene of THREE of the bombings!!!

I could go on, but I won't. There is far more evidence, for those who care to look (and the numbers of those who DO care to look is increasing on a daily basis!), and those who have an interest in the truth, supporting the "conspiracy theory" that the US government did it, than that supporting the far more unlikely "conspiracy theory" that Osama Bin Laden and his band of merry men somehow managed to defeat the entire US air defence establishment (which had at least ELEVEN exercises in progress, not the single one that the BBC claimed in the Conspiracy Files last Sunday...) in order to hijack not one but four planes they could not fly in real life, and fly them unmolested around the northern USA for AN HOUR before somehow finding their way to miniscule targets without benefit of Air Traffic

Control assistance. When you think about it in those terms, it really does look weak, doesn't it?! And remember also that the "evidence" supporting the official story is almost totally circumstantial -- for we have seen none of it and are asked to trust our governments that they actually HAVE this evidence!! In fact, we are STILL waiting for Tony Blair to show us the evidence that Osama Bin Laden really was responsible... I suspect we will go on waiting!

Further analysis, including links to the BBC video, can be found here:

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/260207building7.htm>

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/270207trustanything.htm>

and here:

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458>

Whilst www.PrisonPlanet.com is not my favourite website, it at least has links to the videos saved on its own servers -- Google, Youtube, Liveleak and most other video upload sites have taken down every video, even suspending the accounts of those trying to upload them. It seems that the Internet Archive footage has now also been removed, which is not exactly a surprise, although far far far too late!! One would ask why they are doing this...!

I would hope that you would examine this footage and raise the subject in the House as a matter of some urgency, for it clearly undermines the entire basis of the "War of Terror" -- much like the government's outright lies over Iraqi WMD. There is no way this can be interpreted as anything other than prior knowledge on the BBC's part -- and sad to say ANY response other than concern at that possibility, or denying the veracity or the urgency of this material, as demonstrated on the BBC Editor's blog above, will show the public in no uncertain terms that the Opposition has as little interest in democracy or truth as the Labour Party does right now!!

I eagerly await your response...

PS. Since compiling this entry, it has also come to light that not only BBC World News, but also BBC 24 news and CNN were somehow able to report on the collapse of WTC7 before it did so.

I refer you to these articles:

<http://prisonplanet.com/articles/march2007/010307mediablacklists.htm>

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/march2007/010307Clairvoyant.htm>

If one news station broadcast this news early you could conceivably claim "sloppy reporting"; for three to do so indicates that there were notifications going out on the news wire that WTC7 had collapsed. This is confirmed somewhat by the words of Richard Porter in a personal email, in which he said:

"It got on to the wires... and we reported it too. That's how it works..."

So to sum up; it had "got on the wires" that WTC7, a steel-cored building, the likes of which had never collapsed before 9/11, hit by nothing and with only minimal damage, had collapsed -- before it actually did, when there was no theoretical earthly reason for it to do so. Once again, this brings into sharper focus the words of Larry Silverstein: "they gave the order to pull"...

WAS WTC7 DEMOLISHED?

AND IF SO, WHY HAVE THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE UK GOVERNMENT CONSISTENTLY LIED ABOUT IT?

Post edited by IAmNoOne on Thursday, 01 March 2007 17:09:47

<http://www.webcameron.org.uk/blogs/2784-BBC-reports-on-WTC7-collapse-20-minutes-before-it-collapsed>

BBC Pre-Knowledge:

After This Fiasco, How Can We Trust Anything They Told Us About 9/11?

The BBC Building 7 farce lends about as much credibility to the official story of 9/11 as weapons of mass destruction do for justifying the invasion of Iraq

Paul Joseph Watson
Prison Planet
Tuesday, February 27, 2007

The fiasco of a BBC journalist reporting in advance that Building 7 had collapsed as it loomed large behind her strikes at the very root of how the media were complicit in acting as facilitators for the official myth that was manufactured on 9/11. After this debacle, how can we trust anything we were told about September 11?

Though the video was almost immediately purged by the crowned kings of censorship -- Google -- it has since been re-uploaded to You Tube and feverishly copied everywhere. Watch the clip below. For an extended clip where the Building 7 farce is clearly annotated, click here [on link provided in the page], and skip forward to 14 minutes.

...
CNN had also been told the building was about to collapse, as is made clear below. [NOTE: Access the page to view the CNN Video.]

What seems obvious is that Silverstein was getting the cover story out as quickly as possible before the building was intentionally demolished, and that's how they were so sure it was going to collapse before it eventually did.

In addition, NYPD officer Craig Bartmer reported hearing bombs tear down the building as he ran away from it:

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/100207heardbombs.htm>

Debunkers have scoffed at our suggestion that some kind of press release had to have been issued for the BBC to report this ahead of time. Well how else do you

suggest the BBC learned of the building's demise before it happened? A psychic premonition?

This goes to the very heart of why the mainstream media is stuttering and the alternative is burgeoning -- the establishment press have become nothing more than ditto heads of the official version of events to the point where they don't even perform a cursory investigation of what they are being told by official sources. Their role is simply to repeat what the authorities tell them with no scrutiny whatsoever.

Nowhere was this more evident than on 9/11 when the corporate media mechanically relayed the 'Osama did it' fraud within hours of the attack, and afforded copious air time to highly suspicious individuals who just happened to know the intricate details of how each building collapsed within minutes of it occurring. This was key to solidifying the dogma of the official story, because anyone who saw the collapse of WTC 7 without having had the official propaganda drilled into them could see plain as day that it was a controlled demolition.

Indeed, controlled demolitions expert Danny Jowenko, unaware that the structure had collapsed on 9/11, immediately concluded that Building 7 had been deliberately demolished when he was shown the footage by a Dutch television crew, and maintains that position to this day.

The BBC Building 7 fiasco lends about as much credibility to the official story of 9/11 as weapons of mass destruction do for the justification of invading Iraq.

Besides the advance reporting of just the collapse itself, how could the news anchor tell us the reason for the collapse before it happened?

"This was not the result of a new attack," states the anchor, "It was because the building had been weakened during this morning's attacks."

How else could the BBC have relayed this information unless by way of some kind of press release or official statement by Silverstein, Giuliani or the NYFD? Who told them that the building had been weakened? In effect, the BBC were working to a 9/11 script and made the error of orating their lines too early.

This damning video is also a commentary on the credibility and impartiality of the BBC as a whole, especially in light of their ludicrously bias, slanted and error ridden Conspiracy Files hit piece that aired last Sunday. Perhaps debunker-in-chief Guy Smith can explain to us how his colleague prophesied the downfall of a building that, almost mockingly, appears in full view behind her head before the live feed is conveniently interrupted.

24 hours after the video first surfaced and was then unceremoniously "pulled" from Google Video (but not before it went viral everywhere else), there is still no response from the BBC and no mainstream coverage whatsoever, not even a 'look what the silly conspiracy theorists are saying' puff piece.

It seems our noble press whores are more concerned today about Helen Mirren eating a beef burger and James Cameron's fictional Jesus tomb.

What if we had unearthed footage of a CNN anchor reporting the collapse of the

twin towers as he stood below them? Would that be enough to provoke any interest? How about Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld announcing a joint press conference in which they admit they ran the attack? No doubt the noisy negativists would find some harebrained reason to dismiss that also.

Where is the BBC's clarification on this? How about Industrial Risk Insurers, surely they would be interested to find out that Silverstein was rapaciously anticipating their \$861 million payout before Building 7 "accidentally" collapsed?

Our sense of outrage on this matter should not be quelled by time and the stubbornness of official channels, namely the BBC and whoever their source for reporting the collapse was, to answer for, in the case of the BBC, their hideous "mistake," and the source for exactly how they were able to predict that a modern steel building that had suffered limited fire damage would suddenly collapse in its own footprint without the aid of explosive demolition.

[NOTE: This page also contains links to video of CNN and the BBC reporting this historical event before it occurred.]

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=WAT20070307&articleId=5011>

WTC 7 collapse reported before it happened

"On September 11th 2001, BBC World reported at 4:57pm Eastern Time that the Salomon Brothers Building (more commonly known as WTC7 or World Trade Building 7) had collapsed. (4:30 into the video clip)

This even made the 5pm EST headlines, what is bizarre is that the building did not actually collapse until 5:20pm EST.

9/11 was unusual enough, without BBC World being able to foretell the destiny of WTC 7.

What is even stranger, is that the women reporter is telling the world that the building had collapsed when you can see it in the background over her left shoulder. (14:40)

Then at 5:15pm EST, just five minutes before the building did actually collapse, her live connection from New York to London mysteriously fails. (21:15s)

So the question is, on 9/11 how did the BBC learn that WTC7 collapsed 23 minutes before it actually did.

Building Seven was 47 stories, modern in design with structural steel throughout, yet symmetrically collapsed in 6.5 seconds. Was someone leaking information?

No steel framed skyscraper has ever collapsed due to fire, before or after 9/11, most people who find out about WTC7, believe it was brought down by a controlled demolition, even demolition experts agree.

Please Investigate 9/11 -- "Time is of the essence."

Source: http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f_1172526096

[NOTE: The preceding page also contains video of the BBC's coverage.]

<http://www.brasschecktv.com/page/88.html>

CNN, BBC 24 Reports Conclusively Prove Media Prior Knowledge and False-Start Scripting of Building 7 Controlled Demolition

CNN Tells the Building Seven Story a Full Hour Too Soon

Aaron Dykes and Alex Jones / Jones Report | February 27, 2007

It has now been discovered that BBC 24 also reported the Building 7 collapse before it fell. Furthermore, CNN's Aaron Brown reported that Building 7 "has collapsed or is collapsing" over an hour before it fell.

These clips both reinforce the shocking, newly discovered BBC coverage wherein Jane Standley reports the collapse early -- with the building still standing behind her.

The early timing of these reports is now verified twiceover -- the BBC 24 report is time stamped at 21.54 -- or 4:54 P.M. Eastern Standard Time [See World Time Zones]. Secondly, CNN's Aaron Brown states the time as "4:15 Eastern Daylight Time," announcing Building 7 has fallen -- more than one hour before its actual collapse.

Furthermore, both the BBC report with Jane Standley and the CNN report with Aaron Brown clearly show Building 7 still standing, 'billowing with smoke' as the collapse is reported-- so premature reporting is confirmed visually as well.

There is no longer any doubt they were all reading off the same script. Reports mirrored testimony of scores of fire fighters, police and emergency workers who were told to get back from the building in the 2 hours before Salomon Brothers building (better known as WTC 7) fell at free-fall speed.

Rescue workers were told the building was to be brought down in a controlled demolition.

The group that carried out the demolition of Building 7 was in a position to feed the media and local authorities an official story. We have the controlled demolition of Building 7 hidden in plain sight -- including an admission by the building's 99-year lease holder Larry Silverstein.

We are witnessing the unraveling of the 9/11 cover-up.

New video and audio clips of emergency workers who were told the Building 7 was to be purposefully brought down are coming out on an hour-by-hour basis as thousands of 9/11 researchers investigate publicly available archives.

Alex Jones in his car on the afternoon of 9/11 also heard ABC News report that the government was considering demolishing Building 7. Jones didn't realize what he was hearing for several weeks. Now the evidence is coming out.

CNN'S REPORT IN-FOCUS AARON BROWN QUESTIONS SCRIPT ON-AIR, UNLIKE BBC

It is interesting to note that Aaron Brown seems to realize the incongruity of his reporting as he looks over his shoulder at Building 7 -- still standing and emitting massive trails of smoke.

Just after announcing that WTC 7 "has collapsed or is collapsing," he lets onto his confusion, stating:

"And I—I—You, to be honest, can see these pictures more clearly than I, but building number 7, one of the buildings in this very large complex of buildings that is that is the trade center."

Clearly, Brown, slicker than the BBC reporter, caught the errors in the script during live coverage and revised his words, saying instead -- as he looked at the standing structure:

"And now we are told that there's a fire there and that building may collapse as well as you can see."

BBC 24 REPORT IN-FOCUS

Time-Stamped BBC Broadcast Seals Media Foreknowledge of Building 7 Collapse and Use of Scripting

An alternate local BBC report -- which included a live time-stamp -- now positively establishes that BBC reported the collapse of WTC Building 7 at least 25-minutes prior to the actual collapse of the building.

The feed seen above (at top) reports at 21.54 London time that:

News is continuing to come in as you can imagine. We're now being told that another enormous building in New York has collapsed. It is the 47-story Salomon Brothers building [better known as WTC Building 7] which was situated very close to the World Trade Center, right there in this financial capitol.

21.54-- 5 hours earlier in New York-- is 4:54 p.m., well before the actual collapse at 5:20 p.m.

This live feed did not show WTC 7 standing during the announcement, as it was showing B-roll of rescue workers on the ground.

The words used are very similar to the BBC report with Jane Standley, who also reported the WTC 7 collapse prematurely -- with the building visible in the live frame beyond the window.

The latter coverage also included an explanation by the co-anchor that the building was not attacked, but, rather, was "weakened" -- perfectly in line with the official story even before the collapse took place.

BBC'S ABSURD RESPONSE IN-FOCUS

BBC Claims 9/11 Tapes Lost; CNN Archivist Contradicts This, Citing Multiple Copies Recorded

BBC responded to news of the early report on Building 7's collapse, claiming, amongst other excuses, that their 9/11 tapes have been lost.

A CNN archivist in Atlanta, and Infowars reader, corrected this erroneous notion:

"I'm an archivist with the CNN News Library in Atlanta, and I can tell you with absolute certainty, the mere idea that news agencies such as ours would "misplace" any airchecks from 9/11 is preposterous. CNN has these tapes locked away from all the others. People like myself, who normally would have access to any tapes in our library, must ask special permission in order to view airchecks from that day. Multiple tapes would have been recording their broadcast that day, and there are also private agencies that record all broadcasts from all channels -- constantly -- in the event that a news agency missed something or needs something. They don't just have one copy... they have several. It's standard procedure, and as soon as the second plane hit, they would start recording several copies on other tapes machines all day long.

The only information they need to give out is the source of the collapse claim. No one is saying the BBC is "part of the conspiracy," we're saying that someone gave that reporter the information ahead of time. The source of that information is the only thing they can reveal that would be meaningful."

WTC COMPLEX IN-FOCUS

WTC 3 Was Structurally Destroyed by Falling Debris, Yet Did Not Uniformly Collapse at Free-Fall Speed Like WTC 7

World Trade Center Building 3 -- known publicly as the 22-story Marriott Hotel positioned between the Twin Towers -- was heavily damaged during the collapse of WTC 2, yet it did not experience uniform collapse either vertically or horizontally -- but rather a crater of inconsistent breakage.

Yet, Building 7, which was comparably far removed from the two buildings hit by airliners, suffered only minor fires and sudden, uniform collapse -- typically indicative of a controlled demolition.

Clearly, the difference in damage between the two steel buildings is baffling and untenable under the explanation offered by the government's official story.

SEE ALSO:

Another Smoking Gun?

Now CNN Jumps the Gun: On 9/11 CNN Announced WTC 7 "Has Either Collapsed or is Collapsing" Over an Hour Before it Fell

MORE INFORMATION TO COME AS THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUE TO SURFACE THROUGH INDEPENDENT 9/11 RESEARCH.

BBC Responds to Building 7 Controversy; Claim 9/11 Tapes Lost
Pathetic five paragraph blog rebuttal does not answer questions as to source of report that Salomon Building was coming down, BBC claims tapes lost due to "cock-up" not conspiracy

Paul Joseph Watson / Prison Planet | February 27, 2007

The BBC has been forced to respond to footage showing their correspondent reporting the collapse of WTC 7 before it fell on 9/11, claiming tapes from the day are somehow missing, and refusing to identify the source for their bizarre act of "clairvoyance" in accurately preempting the fall of Building 7.

Here is the BBC's response to the questions about the footage that was unearthed yesterday, with my comments after each statement.

1. We're not part of a conspiracy. Nobody told us what to say or do on September 11th. We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening.

"We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down." If this is true, then how on earth did the BBC report the collapse of Building 7 before it happened? Psychic clairvoyance? Of course they were told that WTC 7 was coming down, just like the firefighters, police, first responders and CNN were told it was coming down. They had to have had a source for making such a claim. The BBC is acting like the naughty little boy who got caught with his hand in the cookie jar. No one here is claiming the BBC are "part of the conspiracy," but their hideous penchant to just repeat what authorities tell them without even a cursory investigation (and with the Building they are telling us has collapsed mockingly filling the background shot of the report), is a damning indictment of their yellow journalism when it comes to 9/11.

BBC Slip-up

2. In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best information we had. We did what we always did - sourced our reports, used qualifying words like "apparently" or "it's reported" or "we're hearing" and constantly tried to check and double check the information we were receiving.

How do "chaos and confusion" explain how the BBC reported on the collapse of a building, a collapse that happened "unexpectedly" according to their Conspiracy Files hit piece documentary, before it happened? In one breath the BBC is claiming they were not told of the impending collapse of the Building and in the next they are telling us that all their information is sourced. Which is it to be? Did the BBC have a source telling them the building was about to collapse -- or not? If not, how on earth could they pre-empt its fall? Do BBC reporters have access to a time machine? What was the source of this information?

3. Our reporter Jane Standley was in New York on the day of the attacks, and like everyone who was there, has the events seared on her mind. I've spoken to her today and unsurprisingly, she doesn't remember minute-by-minute what she said or did -- like everybody else that day she was trying to make sense of what she was seeing; what she was being told; and what was being told to her by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services.

Trying to make sense of what she was being told? She obviously didn't make much sense of the fact that the Building she was reporting had collapsed was prominently standing behind her! Unfortunately, for a news organization that prides itself on accuracy and credibility, "she doesn't remember" just doesn't cut it as an excuse.

4. We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I'd love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another.

We are asked to believe that the world's premiere news organization has somehow lost all its tapes of perhaps the biggest news event of the past 60 years. This is a copout. Whether they have lost the tapes or not, the BBC simply doesn't want to verify one hundred per cent their monumental foul-up, because they know it would only increase the exposure of this issue and lead to further questions. What is there to clear up? The reporter is standing in front of the building while saying it has already collapsed! This is a blatant effort to try and placate people making complaints while refusing to admit a monumental faux pas that further undermines the BBC's credibility in the aftermath of the Conspiracy Files debacle.

5. If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error -- no more than that. As one of the comments on You Tube says today "so the guy in the studio didn't quite know what was going on? Woah, that totally proves conspiracy... "

So now the BBC are so devoid of answers, they have to enlist the help of some moronic comment on a You Tube blog? Instead of issuing official statements and seeking the advice of legal professionals they produce a cobbled together five paragraph blog and include the testimony of some moron on a You Tube comment board. Pathetic! Answer the question BBC -- what was your source for reporting on multiple occasions that Building 7 had collapsed before it had collapsed, and identify the source that enabled the anchorman to comment that the building had collapsed due to it being weakened, an explanation still unanswered by NIST five and a half years later.

If you had reported the collapse of the twin towers before it happened would that have been just an error too? This "error" translated as \$800 million plus in insurance bounty for Larry Silverstein -- I'm sure Industrial Risk Insurers would be interested to know the source of your "error."

In addition, two separate sources reported that Secret Service Agent Craig Miller died as a result of the collapse of Building 7. Do you think he would have been interested in the "error" that led to your correspondent reporting the building's downfall in advance?

http://jonesreport.com/articles/270207_bbc_lost_response.html

BBC "MISTAKE" REVEALS ANOTHER PIECE OF THE 911 "INSIDE JOB" PUZZLE

BBC Reported the collapse of WTC Building 7... Twenty-three minutes before it happened... oooppps!
by VOX

As this gigantic news story spreads like wildfire across the Internet -- the major controlled media are doing what they always do when startling factual truths emerge that reveal the criminality of their neo-conservative/neo fascist partners who control America:

Nothing -- a total news blackout.

As for the BBC, their top executive is scrambling to issue lie after lie to cover-up yet another in the now constant river of "anomalies" about the attacks of 9-11 -- their first lie was that they seem to have "misplaced" the tapes of that day.

Not likely says CNN (another neo fascist media outlet). Their video archivist said that never in a million years would they NOT have a copy of the most important day in news in decades. They would have hundreds of them. With mounting emails and telephone calls pouring in, the BBC issued a second volley of lies. This time, lush in detail, none of it credible in the slightest -- just more insulting lies, coverups and obfuscations.

Here's the story:

Apparently on the day of the attacks of 9-11, the BBC prematurely reported the collapse of WTC7 some twenty-three minutes BEFORE IT ACTUALLY COLLAPSED!

WTC Building 7, sometimes referred to as the Solomon Brothers Building, contained offices of the CIA, US Customs, FBI, Secret Service and the SEC. It was this 47 story building that became shrouded in controversy because although NO PLANE HIT IT, for some inexplicable reason, 8 hours later, it completely collapsed, neatly and into it's own footprint, just like the others -- just like controlled demolitions. It's collapse has researchers viewing it as a sort of rosetta stone in proving that the attacks of September 11th were an "Inside Job." Leading scientists and researchers from around the world are coming forward, providing analysis, real explanations and demanding answers to the very suspicious collapse of Building 7.

In the video..... [of] the anchorman's reading of his teleprompter we already hear the scripted language emerge, the language that the conspirators have scripted to explain how their building 7, which would not be hit that day by any planes, would collapse.

Not only does the anchorman's teleprompter tell him that the building has collapsed, it tells him that the building collapsed because the fall of the other two buildings "weakened" it. Seemingly clairvoyantly peering into the future at what exactly would be revealed to be the administration's "later released" "official version," of the collapse.

...

Here we catch a clear glimpse of the workings of those who are actually behind the attacks. Certainly BBC did not order the crimes, but the very highest levels they like all in the major controlled media, they are the ones driving the getaway car, for they are solely responsible of covering up the crimes in the aftermath and guaranteeing that at least those who still get their information from the TV will never get the truth about what's really happening.

What does BBC say about this strange glimpse of the conspirators messing up and giving them their script too early. Their answer is "They lost the tapes of that day."

What!!!!

One can easily imagine that in order to control the flow of dialogue of the crime, in the direct aftermath of the crime, the timing of the many press releases (scripted lies) must be critical, and somewhere along the line mistakes are going to be made. Someone slipped up and sent out the script to the BBC twenty-three minutes before the conspirators actually blew up the building. Oooooops.

They received their script a little too early, "plane" and simple, and another clue and chapter in the biggest INSIDE JOB in the history of criminal acts gets revealed to us in clear sight.

What is the major media saying about these startling FACTS which are sweeping the Internet like wildfire?

Nothing. Not a single mention of what is perhaps one of the most startling anomalies to date in the whole string of anomalies about that inside job.

Vox

<http://london.craigslist.org/pol/315340618.html>

BBC's 9/11 Yellow Journalism Backfires

Building 7 becomes the Achilles heel of the official conspiracy theory

Paul Joseph Watson
Prison Planet
Monday, March 5, 2007

The BBC's Conspiracy Files documentary hit piece and their flustered attempts to adopt damage control over questions about why their correspondent reported the collapse of Building 7 before it happened, have only provoked a firestorm of new interest in 9/11 truth and exalted questions surrounding WTC 7 to the point where it is now the Achilles' heel of the official conspiracy theory.

The BBC was forced to issue a second response on Friday afternoon following a barrage of criticism against their initial effort to dismiss the Building 7 fiasco and their claim that they had mysteriously lost all footage from BBC World's 9/11 coverage.

Right from the word go the BBC have attempted to cloud this issue by erecting

and attacking another strawman framed debate, the accusation they were somehow part of a grand conspiracy on 9/11, in order to try and detract credibility from the questions being asked of them.

...
[The network] attempts to create a scenario whereby the collapse of Building 7 was easily anticipated, and this is why news organizations jumped the gun to report its demise. In reality, WTC 7 stood over 300 yards away from the twin towers and was partly shielded by WTC 6 which did not collapse yet was completely gutted by raging fires and debris damage, whereas WTC 7 had limited fires. Building 7 was structurally reinforced in 1989 giving it, "Enough redundancy to allow entire portions of floors to be removed without affecting the building's structural integrity," according to the New York Times.

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/march2007/050307yellowjournalism.htm>

Glitch in the False Flag Script Release

VIDEO: Mirrors of the Original BBC Report.

The entire BBC segment:

http://www.calgary911truth.org/my_weblog/2007/05/bbc_reports_the.html

Also at:

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f_1172526096

A short version is at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oNhbsJ81Q4&mode=related&search=

A longer version:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iGuWTjc3ao>

Architects Call for Investigation Into the Use of Explosives on 9/11

Documentation at: www.ae911truth.org...

On Behalf of the People of the United States of America, the undersigned Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth and affiliates hereby petition for, and demand, a truly independent investigation with subpoena power in order to uncover the full truth surrounding the events of 9/11/01 - specifically the collapse of the World Trade Center Towers and Building 7. We believe that there is sufficient doubt about the official story and therefore that the 9/11 investigation must be re-opened and must include a full inquiry into the possible use of explosives that may have been the actual cause behind the destruction of the World Trade Center Towers and WTC Building 7.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

Architects (Degreed & Licensed) Architectural Professionals
(Degreed)

Richard Gage, AIA, Architect

Walnut Creek, CA

Scott Page, M. Arch / Designer

Berkeley, CA

Don Gibbons, Architect
Pleasant Hill, CA
Jeffrey Tam, Architectural Professional
Oakland, CA
Jeff Arnold, Architect
Orinda, CA
Oscar Cisnero, Architectural Professional
Antioch, CA
John Cole, Architect
Walnut Creek, CA
Elwin Wong, Architectural Professional
Oakland, CA
David Crawford, Architect
Walnut Creek, CA
Henri Tso, Architectural Professional
Walnut Creek, CA
Haluk Akol, Architect & Structural Engineer
Lafayette, CA
Arthur Stopes, Planner
Berkeley, CA
John Eisenhart, Architect
San Diego, CA
Ken Huthcinson, Architectural Professional
Eugene, OR
Joe Bellows, Architect
Martinez, CA
Jan Leits, Architectural Professional
Berkeley, CA
John Howland, Architect
Walnut Creek, CA
Michael Reuter, Architectural Professional
Berkeley, CA
Eric Douglas, Architect
Howard Beach, NY
Chris Jung, Architectural Professional
Berkeley, CA
Peter Hendrickson, Architect
Santa Rosa, CA
Tim Clark, Architectural Professional
Albany, CA
Osvaldo Valdes, Architect
New York, NY
Jason Wilkinson, Architectural Professional
Berkeley, CA
Lily Livingston, Architect
Oakland, CA
Wendy Sitler, Designer
Berkeley, CA
Chris Swigert, Architect
Oakland, CA
Dominique Roddier, PhD, Naval Architect
Berkeley, CA
Jim Bedinghaus, Architect
St. Petersburg, Florida

Karlene Gullone, Architectural Professional
San Francisco, CA
C. Bryan Phelps - AIA, Architect
Boulder, CO
Dave Heller, Architectural Professional
Berkeley, CA
Christian Mungenast AIA, Architect
Arlington, MA
Kurt Worthington, Urban Planner
San Francisco, CA
Engineers (Degreed & Licensed)
Engineering Professionals (Degreed)
Ken Kious, Electrical Engineer
Walnut Creek, CA
Gregg Brazel, BSCNE, Constr. Engr'g
Evanston, IL
J. Marx Ayres, PE, Mechanical Engineer
Santa Monica, CA
Ted Muga, BSCE, Civil Engineer
San Diego, CA
Robert Nielson, PLS, Land Surveyor
Walnut Creek, CA
Kevin Ryan, BS Chem., Certified Quality Engineer
Bloomington, IN
John F. Shanahan, PE, Electrical Engineer
Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Ken Jenkins, BS Carnegie Melon, Electrical Engineer
San Rafael, CA
Joseph Testa, P.E., Civil Engineer
Thousand Oaks, CA
John Shinn, PhD., Chemical Engineer
Pleasant Hill, CA
John L Bursill, Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Avionics
Sydney, NSW
John Rexroat, Mfr. Engineer
Walnut Creek, CA
Nazareth "Blue" Lansing, Engineer
Houston, TX
Tony Szamboti, BS, Mechanical Engineering Professional
Dr. Michael Voschine, PhD., Structural Engineer
Miami, Florida
Doug Plumb, EE, Electrical Engineering Professional
Toronto, ON
Rob Tamaki, M.A.Sc., P.Eng., Civil Engineer
Vancouver, BC
Christopher Backus, BS, Mechanical Engineering
Redmond, WA
Jasper Tomlinson MA(Oxon) CEnv MCIWEM, Environmental and Water
Resources Engineer
London Uk, London
Jason Griffin, BS, Civil Engineer
Washington DC,
Jay Easwaran, Ph.D. (Metallurgy & Materials Sci.), Metallurgical Engineer
Indianapolis, Indiana

John Sotelo, BSME, MD, Mechanical Engineer
Eureka, CA
S. Drake, Electrical Engineer
Bear, DE
Ron Wilson, Engineering Staff
Fort Worth, Texas
Crystal, Mechanical Engineer
Seattle, WA
David Gregg Ph.D., Chemical Engineer
Moraga, California
James Brooks, B. Civil Eng, University of Texas, Engineering Consultant
Austin, TX
Others and Students
Angelo Petraglia, B. Arch., Student
Jackson, NJ
Ellis Goldberg BSEET, MBA, Marketing Engineering Consultant
Danville, CA
Mr. Roman Dulgarov, Student
Goose Creek, South Carolina
Abhinav Dhaka, Student
New Delhi, Delhi
Sterling Weeks, Student
Irvine, CA
Lloyd Hart, Construction Contractor
Oak Bluffs, MA
Peter Hinnners, Realtor
Joliet, IL
Dr P S Gill MD, Medical Doctor
Southampton, Hampshire
Matthew Naus, Teacher
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Jason Northrup, Computer Tech/IT Consultant
San Rafael, CA
Brooke Stiltner, IT Consultant/Student
San Francisco, CA
max, jr
Bozeman, MT
Johan L Golibal, Engineer
Spain, The Future
Robert S. Lynch, Structural Steel Detailer
Falls City, TX
Sam Christmas, Technical Support Analyst
Brighton, Uk, East Sussex
Randy Caruso, Web Designer
Beacon, NY
Rita Hill, Software Engineer
Trinidad, CO
John Mustanich, Mr.
Millbrae, CA
Justin Keogh, Physics Student
Tucson, AZ
Brian Kausler, Student
La Grande, Oregon

Harrison Heitman, Student
Conyers, GA
See Yang, Student
Maplewood, MN
Bill Donnelly, Computer Consultant
Chico, CA
Gabiella Sankovich
Richmond, CA
Thomas Spellman, Urban Activist
Lake Geneva, WI
Bruce A. Scherzer, Retired Power lineman
Bay City, Michigan

and by Active Participation

We cordially invite all Architects, Engineers, Interns and affiliates to JOIN US in this worthy patriotic cause. We welcome everyone who has an interest in contributing to the success of ongoing investigations into the WTC building collapses on 9/11. We want to hear about your interests, background, and what type of contribution you may be well-suited to make. Please let us know the kinds of activities that would appeal to you the most, such as forming/participating in a committee, local speaking arrangements, authoring statements, presenting lectures, appearing on radio, etc. in Section IV on the join form.

With our deepest appreciation,

Richard Gage, Architect

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread284823/pg1>

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11.8 Larry Silverstein and the 9/11 Insurance Payouts

Silverstein Disappointed by First Trial's Verdict

May 5, 2004

Developer Larry Silverstein has lost the majority of his insurance claims in court regarding the attacks on the World Trade Center.

A Federal Jury in Manhattan Monday ruled that the attacks on the Twin Towers constituted only one attack, and therefore the majority of Silverstein's insurers only owed one payout.

Therefore Silverstein's insurance payout, which he had hoped would be as much as \$7 billion, will be much closer to the \$3.5 billion one attack would have paid. The final payout is pending a final court case late this summer.

<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/wtc/archives/040505insurance.asp>

Lawyers Deliver Opening Statements in Second WTC Insurance Trial

October 19, [2004]

Lawyers delivered opening statements during the first day of litigation between

World Trade Center leaseholder Larry Silverstein and nine insurers on Monday, the New York Times reported.

While Silverstein attorney Bernard Nussbaum argued that the 9/11 attacks consisted of two separate incidents, thus entitling Silverstein to receive two separate insurance payouts, lawyers for the defense contend that Silverstein is entitled to only one payment because the event was a single incident according to the contract between the two sides, the paper explained.

If the jury rules in his favor, Silverstein stands to collect a double insurance payout from each insurer involved in the trial -- totaling an additional \$1.1 billion, the Times noted.

Earlier this year, a separate jury ruled that the collapse of the Twin Towers was a single event based on language outlined in the contract between the two sides, limiting Silverstein's insurance payout to a single payment of \$3.5 billion.

http://www.lowermanhattan.info/news/downtown/week_in_review_75445.aspx
x

Silverstein Awarded a \$5 Billion Payout on his Personal Investment of \$14 Million

October, 2006

During the 1990s, New York was suffering from the effects of Black Monday (1987) leading to high vacancy rates at the World Trade Center. George Pataki became governor of New York in 1995 on a campaign of cutting costs including privatizing the World Trade Center. A sale of the property was considered too complex, so it was decided by the Port Authority to open a 99-year lease to competitive bidding.

In January 2001, Silverstein, via Silverstein Properties and Westfield America, made a \$3.2 billion bid for the lease to the World Trade Center. Silverstein was outbid by \$50 million by Vornado Realty, with Boston Properties and Brookfield Properties also competing for the lease. However, Vornado withdrew and Silverstein's bid for the lease to the World Trade Center was accepted on July 24 2001, seven weeks before the buildings were destroyed in the September 11, 2001 attacks. This was the first time in the building's 31-year history that the complex had changed ownership.

The deal was described in a press release on July 24 2001:

"Silverstein Properties, Inc., and Westfield America, Inc. will lease the Twin Towers and other portions of the complex in a deal worth approximately \$3.2 billion – the city's richest real estate deal ever and one of the largest privatization initiatives in history."

The lease agreement applied to World Trade Center Buildings One, Two, Four and Five World Trade Center, and about 425,000 square feet of retail space. Silverstein put up only \$14 million of his own money. Silverstein was also given the right to rebuild the structures, should they be destroyed.

September 11, 2001 attacks

Dispute with Insurers

As a private developer with a 99-year lease on the World Trade Center, Silverstein insured the property. Following the September 11 2001 attacks, he sought payment for the destruction of the towers as two incidents. The two dozen insurers held that it was one incident. If it were considered to be a single incident, the payout would be \$3.55 billion and if it were two incidents, it would be \$7.1 billion. Silverstein sued the insurers. In October of 2006, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit upheld a Southern District verdict by a jury that the attacks must be considered a single occurrence. Yet, the same court also upheld a victory in the second phase of trial which was awarded to Mr. Silverstein in which temporary insurance policies in effect when the buildings were destroyed did require that the attack to be treated as two occurrences. Thus, nine insurance companies will pay double the approximately \$1 billion in coverage under their policies.

On December 6 2004, a federal jury ruled in favor of Silverstein giving him an additional \$1.1 billion from nine insurers, declaring it to be two "occurrences." However, in a previous trial, a different federal jury delivered a mixed verdict which highly favored insurers on April 29 2004.

At dispute in the trial were interpretation of standard forms used in the application for property insurance and when particular insurers saw which documents.

In total, Silverstein was awarded nearly \$5 billion in insurance money following the destruction of the Twin Towers. He plans to use some or all of the settlement to rebuild.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/larry-silverstein>

Controlling Interests

Ownership, Control, and Insurance of The World Trade Center

The World Trade Center complex came under the control of a private owner for the first time only in mid-2001, having been built and managed by the Port Authority as a public resource. The complex was leased to a partnership of Silverstein Properties and Westfield America.

The new controllers acquired a handsome insurance policy for the complex including a clause that would prove extremely valuable: in the event of a terrorist attack, the partnership could collect the insured value of the property, and be released from their obligations under the 99-year lease.

Ownership Change

Author Don Paul investigated this and related issues for his 2002 book, which contains the following passage detailing financial aspects and ownership changes of the complex preceding the attack.

On April 26 of 2001 the Board of Commissioners for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey awarded Silverstein Properties and mall-owner Westfield America a 99-year-lease on the following assets: The Twin Towers, World Trade Center Buildings 4 and 5, two 9-story office buildings, and 400,000 square feet of retail space.

The partners' winning bid was \$3.2 billion for holdings estimated to be worth more than \$8 billion. JP Morgan Chase, a prestigious investment-bank that's the flagship firm of its kind for Rockefeller family interests, advised the Port Authority, another body long influenced by banker and builder David Rockefeller, his age then 85, in the negotiations.

The lead partner and spokesperson for the winning bidders, Larry Silverstein, age 70, already controlled more than 8 million square feet of New York City real estate. WTC 7 and the nearby Equitable Building were prime among these prior holdings. Larry Silverstein also owned Runway 69, a nightclub in Queens that was alleged 9 years ago to be laundering money made through sales of Laotian heroin.

In December 2003, the Port Authority agreed to return all of the \$125 million in equity that the consortium headed by Silverstein originally invested to buy the lease on the World Trade Center. The Port Authority rejected a request by the Wall Street Journal to review the transaction. A press report from November 2003 about the same transaction noted that it would allow Silverstein to retain development rights.

The lease deal didn't close until July 24th, just 6 weeks before the attack.

Insurance Payouts

Don Paul also documented the money flows surrounding the loss of Building 7. In February of 2002 Silverstein Properties won \$861 million from Industrial Risk Insurers to rebuild on the site of WTC 7. Silverstein Properties' estimated investment in WTC 7 was \$386 million. So: This building's collapse resulted in a profit of about \$500 million.

The insurance money flows involved in the destruction of the original six World Trade Center buildings were far greater. Silverstein Properties, the majority owner of WTC 7, also had the majority interest in the original World Trade Center complex. Silverstein hired Willis Group Holdings Ltd. to obtain enough coverage for the complex. Willis undertook "frenetic" negotiations to acquire insurance from 25 carriers. The agreements were only temporary contracts when control of the WTC changed hands on July 24.

After the attack, Silverstein Properties commenced litigation against its insurers, claiming it was entitled to twice the insurance policies' value because, according to a spokesman for Mr. Silverstein, "the two hijacked airliners that struck the 110-story twin towers Sept. 11 were separate 'occurrences' for insurance purposes, entitling him to collect twice on \$3.6 billion of policies." This was reported in the Bloomberg News less than one month after the attack.

The ensuing legal battle between the leaseholders and insurers of the World Trade Center was not about how the 9/11/01 attack on the WTC could be considered two attacks, when the WTC was only destroyed once. Rather it seemed to revolve around whether the beneficiaries thought it was one or two "occurrences." The proceedings before U.S. District Judge John S. Martin involved a number of battles over the insurers' discovery rights regarding conversations about this issue between insurance beneficiaries and their lawyers.

In December 2004, a jury ruled in favor of the insurance holders' double claim.

A Parable

To put these events in perspective, imagine that a person leases an expensive house, and immediately takes out an insurance policy covering the entire value of the house and specifically covering bomb attacks. Six weeks later two bombs go off in the house, separated by an hour. The house burns down, and the lessor immediately sues the insurance company to pay him twice the value of the house, and ultimately wins. The lessor also gets the city to dispose of the wreckage, excavate the site, and help him build a new house on the site.

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/background/owners.html>

9/11 Insurance Fraud Struggle

Bank Buys Broker for CONCEALED DEMOLITION

An open e-mail letter to:

David Hough, Executive Director
London Market Insurance Brokers' Committee

Copy:

Judi McLeod,
Founder Editor, Canada Free Press
www.canadafreepress.com/

Steven Jones
Professor of Physics, Brigham Young University
Co-chair of Scholars for 9/11 Truth

Jim Fetzer
Distinguished McKnight University Professor of Philosophy
Co-chair of Scholars for 9/11 Truth www.st911.org/

Bcc

Date of sending: April 3, 2006

Dear Mr. Hough

Re: 9/11 - Bank Buys Broker for Concealed Demolition

In my e-mail to you titled, "Citigroup-AMEC 9/11 insurance fraud on Lloyd's of London?", I suggested that "Lloyd's convert its civil action in respect of alleged negligence by Citigroup-AMEC [in an alleged diesel-fueled fire leading to the destruction of WTC#7] into a RICO* suit in respect of apparent racketeering [including solicitation to murder], extortion, arson and insurance frauds ..."

(Full text of letter at www.st911.org/ some excerpts below)

RICO* -- Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization

We remind you that Lloyd's et al. have sued Citigroup-AMEC et al. in respect of the destruction of WTC#7 which with WTC#1 and 2, became the first three steel-framed buildings in history to collapse through fire on 9/11.

One of the directors of Citigroup is the disgraced former director of the C.I.A., John Deutch. Mr. Deutch is a director of Raytheon where he helped to destroy 'Able Danger' counter-intelligence data-mining evidence pointing at Mohammed Atta's and the other al-Qaeda cells in America a year before 9/11.

www.abledangerblog.com/20...chart.html

Deutch's Citigroup is now arranging credit of \$25 billion to help Cerberus Capital Management buy GMAC, the mortgage broker which allowed WTC leaseholder, Larry Silverstein, to structure an alleged 'double occurrence' insurance fraud.

biz.yahoo.com/ap/060403/g...html?.v=9

Post 9/11, Mr. Silverstein claimed damages for two buildings (WTC# 1 & 2) but the, together with his Citigroup-AMEC and GMAC advisors, must have concealed from the court their prior knowledge that at least three WTC buildings (#1, 2 & 7) had been rigged for demolition with explosives and/or incendiaries.

If Mr. Silverstein did not know that the three WTC buildings were so rigged, he could not meaningfully have agreed with the officers of the New York Fire Department to 'pull' WTC building 7.

www.prisonplanet.com/011904wtc7.html

'Pull' is industry jargon for taking a building down with explosives.

To secure the WTC mortgage, GMAC appears to have bought leaseholder-owned life insurance policies from Groupe Axa on behalf of mortgage investors, including, we suggest, Citigroup and various New York City Pension Funds ("NYPF") such as NY's Fire Department Pension Fund ("FDPF") and its Firefighters' Variable Supplements Fund ("FFVSF"), the latter being responsible for maximizing the retirement benefits of senior officers in the City fire department.

www.axa-financial.com/pre...ement.html

Around March 2000, these New York City Pension Funds were plaintiffs in what we consider was a Mafia-directed racketeering class action suit* against Orbital Sciences of Dulles VA.

* In the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division (Civil Action No. 99-197-A Jury trial demanded)

The NYPF suit appears to have been designed to extort mob control over war-gaming and insured-mortgage decision support technologies of Macdonald Dettwiler and Associates ('MDA') of Richmond, British Columbia, Canada.

www.mdacorporation.com/sy...ence.shtml

www.mdacorporation.com/ne...50301.html
www.mdacorporation.com/ne...10301.html

Following an out of court settlement, Orbital handed control of MDA to the CAI Private Equity group, custodian of the NYPF and many other labor union pension and insurance funds, thereby allowing 50 "prominent individuals" with CAI, Citigroup, GMAC and insiders to 'stage' hijackings for the 9/11 attack but conceal the subsequent demolitions in support of bogus insurance claims.

www.caifunds.com/specialinvestors.html
www.caifunds.com/successs...#macdonald

After 9/11, CAI, Citigroup, GMAC and their affiliates in Groupe AXA appear to have collected death certificates from families of dead firefighters and paid out "dead-firefighter" life insurance policies to victims' pension fund.

www.axa-financial.com/pre...ement.html

Deutch's Citigroup and GMAC appear to have conspired to use racketeering loans to finance 9/11 hijackings during bogus NORAD war games and divert attention from concealed demolitions and organized securities and insurance frauds.

New York firefighters with other City labor union members who missed, escaped or survived the 9/11 attacks, involuntarily profited from the deaths of their colleagues through AXA payments into their union pension and insurance funds.

City pension fund members are now at risk of being accused of participating in the 9/11 crimes and are therefore targets for racketeering and extortion.

We believe that Citigroup is buying GMAC to protect insider knowledge of the concealed demolitions of WTC buildings #1, 2 and 7 and the RICO activities of the CAI Private Equity Group members, who appear to be engaged directly or indirectly in murder, arson, racketeering and insurance frauds.

Once again, we invite you to forward this to your contacts at Lloyd's for consideration of a RICO suit against CAI's "50 prominent individuals" including the 9/11 insiders at Citigroup the bankers and GMAC the brokers.

Yours sincerely,

David Hawkins
British Columbia, Canada Tel: 604-542-0891

Notes on:

"9/11 - Bank Buys Broker for CONCEALED DEMOLITION"

Silverstein's lawyers referred to ... near-simultaneous burnings four different courthouses by deranged man constituted 'multiple events ... Silverstein ... and partners ... borrowed \$563 million from GMAC ... agreement to use insurance proceeds to pay off lender in trade center deal, the GMAC Commercial Mortgage Corporation."

www.greatgridlock.net/NYC/nycpress.html

"The World Trade Center leaseholder has won a court victory over his insurers ... A New York jury has decided that the 11 September 2001 attack on the two towers constituted two separate events. The US District Court ruling means Larry Silverstein could now get an extra \$1.1bn (£0.56bn) from nine insurers to finance reconstruction. He has been fighting the insurance companies, arguing he was owed \$7bn (£3.6bn) - double his \$3.5bn policy."

news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4075053.stm

...
Excerpts from, "9/11 - A Citigroup-AMEC insurance fraud on Lloyd's of London?"

...
by David Hawkins, Foundation Scholar, Cambridge University, Founder of the Citizen's Association of Forensic Economists at Hawks' CAFE ..

"An open e-mail letter to: David Hough, Executive Director London Market Insurance Brokers' Committee"

...
"Underwriters at Lloyd's have an ongoing action to recover damages in respect of the alleged negligence by Citigroup Construction Defendants—AMEC PLC et al. ("Citigroup-AMEC") which defendants allegedly caused damage to a substation underneath World Trade Center building 7, that substation being the property of a Lloyds' inseree, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. ("Con Ed")."

www.total911.info/city_sj_motion.pdf

Lloyd's, with others, allege that Citigroup-AMEC was negligent in designing and installing the 7WTC water mains which ruptured and prevented firefighting and the 7WTC diesel generators, fuel lines and tanks which malfunctioned and fed fires causing an 'implosion' of the Con Ed substation.

...
We allege the Citigroup-AMEC partners sabotaged the diesel generators to feed fires lit by arsonists on the 11th, 12th or 13th floors of WTC7 where the Securities & Exchange Commission lost between 3,000 to 4,000 files. The SEC files contained evidence of insider trading by Citigroup-AMEC investment bank partners in the shares of initial public offerings during the high-tech boom. The House Financial Services Committee was seeking information about the treatment Citigroup's Salmon Smith Barney investing banking division may have given WorldCom executives. Salomon had offices in 7 World Trade Center and Citigroup says back-up tapes of corporate emails from September 1998 through December 2000 were stored at the building and destroyed in 9/11. Citigroup subsequently paid \$2.65 billion to the settlement class which purchased WorldCom securities during the period from April 1999 through June 2002.

www.thestreet.com/markets...36925.html
www.citigroup.com/citigro...40510a.htm

At 5:20 p.m. on 9/11, 7 World Trade Center collapsed in its own footprint at a speed slightly slower than free fall under gravity in a manner consistent with a controlled demolition. Molten steel and partially evaporated steel members were found in the debris pile of WTC #1, 2 and 7. The thermal signature of 32 hot spots, 5 days and 10 days after the collapse, is consistent with all the buildings being rigged for demolition with an incendiary such as thermite.

We allege that the Citigroup-AMEC partnership now conspired to remove and destroy evidence of arson before filing bogus property insurance claims in an arrangement with Larry Silverstein and Silverstein Properties, including a claim for a double payment for the destruction of the Twin Towers. "Griffin quotes court documents to the effect that Silverstein had only \$14 million invested in the insurance deal for the Twin Towers (compared to 50 times as much by his [off-book] lenders) through limited liability investment vehicles."

9-11-inquiry.blogspot.com...oking.html

End of excerpts from "9/11 Citigroup-AMEC insurance fraud on Lloyds"

The above document resides at:

<http://www.hawkscafe.com/040506.html>

[Back](#)

11.9 The Massive Coincidence Theory of 9/11

Anomalies of the September 11th Attack, Its Run-Up, and Response

Accepting the official story of the 9/11/01 attack requires one to accept a long series of anomalies -- extremely improbable events, amazing coincidences, and contradictions.

This page.....

<http://911research.wtc7.net/sept11/analysis/anomalies.html>

.....lists many such anomalies, and provides links to in-depth examinations of many of them.

The Top Anomalies page.....

<http://911research.wtc7.net/sept11/analysis/topanomalies.html>

.....focuses on the more salient ones. The anomalies described on this page are organized into the following topics:

- * Run-up to the attack
- * Hijacking scenario
- * (Lack of) military response
- * World Trade Center destruction
- * Pentagon attack
- * Death toll
- * Coincidences in service of incompetence
- * Government response
- * Means, motive, and precedent

Run-Up to the Attack

Numerous incidents preceding the attack indicate many people had advance knowledge of the attack.

Ø Put Options

Stock trades bet on the fall in share values for the two airlines whose planes were used in the attack.

- Ø Put options purchases on United Airlines and American Airlines stock rose to four and 25 times normal levels in the days preceding the attack.

Ø Avoidance of the Airlines, the WTC, and the Pentagon

Government officials and executives avoided the targets of the attack.

- Ø Pentagon officials canceled travel plans on September 10th.
- Ø San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown received a warning not to fly on September 10th.
- Ø Scotland Yard prohibited Salman Rushdie from flying on September 11th.
- Ø Two employees of Odigo, the instant messaging service, received e-mail warnings of the attack two hours before the first assault on the WTC.
- Ø Business executives, some of whom worked in the WTC, were in Nebraska to attend a meeting at Offutt Air Force Base hosted by billionaire Warren Buffett on the morning of September 11th. The same base would be visited later that day by George W. Bush.

Hijacking Scenario

The attack scenario was irrational on the part of the alleged hijackers, and its execution is incomprehensible in light of their behavior. There is little or no credible evidence that Arab hijackers were involved in the September 11th attack, except in the takeover of Flight 93.

Ø Attack Plan

By flying from remote airports and going far out of their way, the attack planners exposed their plan to almost certain ruin, had the air defense system operated normally.

- Ø The originating airport for Flights 11 and 175 was Boston Logan instead of any of several airports near New York City. This created about 40 minutes of exposure to interception for each flight.
- Ø Flight 77 flew to the Midwest before turning around to return to Washington D.C.. It was airborne an hour and 23 minutes before allegedly attacking the Pentagon. That would provide ample opportunity for interception even if the air defense system were mostly disabled.
- Ø Flight 93 flew to the Midwest before turning around to fly toward Washington D.C. Had it reached the capital, it would have been airborne for more than an hour and a half. The odds of escaping interception with that plan would be infinitesimal under standard operating procedures.

Ø Behavior of Villains

The behavior of the alleged hijackers preceding the attack is inconsistent with skill and discipline needed to have a hope of pulling off such an attack.

- Ø Mohammed Atta allegedly barely caught Flight 11, a key flight in the event that he was supposedly planning for years.
- Ø The alleged hijackers partied at topless bars and drank alcohol, despite being portrayed as fundamentalist Muslims, for whom such behavior would be surprising, to say the least.

Ø Evidence Void

There is no hard evidence that any of the alleged hijackers were on any of the doomed flights, and substantial evidence that some weren't involved.

No video of any of the 19 hijackers at any of the three originating airports of the four flights has been made public, except for a video allegedly showing hijackers of Flight 77.

- Ø At least six [and possibly as many as nine] of the alleged hijackers have turned up alive since the attack.
- Ø None of the four flight crews radioed Air Traffic Control about hijackings in progress.
- Ø None of the four flight crews punched in the four-digit hijacking code.
- Ø No public evidence indicates that the remains of any of the hijackers was identified at any of the crash sites.
- Ø None of the contents of any of the black boxes have been made public.
- Ø The only 4-1/2 minutes of the phone call from Flight 11 Attendant Betty Ong made public describes a stabbing but does not provide any details indicating that Arab hijackers were on board.

Ø Phenomenal Success

The success with which hijackers allegedly took over four jets with knives and then piloted the jets to small targets is simply miraculous.

- Ø None of the four flight crews were able to stop the alleged hijackers, in spite of several of the pilots being Vietnam veterans.
- Ø None of the alleged hijackers were good pilots, yet the three buildings were hit with phenomenal precision.

(Lack of) Military Response

Despite normal intercept times of between 10 and 20 minutes for errant domestic flights, the airliners commandeered on 9/11/01 roamed the skies for over an hour without interference.

Ø Failures to Report

According to NORAD's timeline the FAA reported errant airliners after inexplicable delays.

- Ø The FAA took 18 minutes to report Flight 11's loss of communication and deviation from its flight plan.

- o The FAA took 39 minutes to report Flight 77's deviation from its flight plan.

Ø Failures to Scramble

Interceptors were only scrambled from distant bases after long delays.

- o Despite the fact that Flights 11 and 175 were headed for New York City, no interceptors were scrambled from nearby La Guardia, or from Langley, Virginia.
- o Despite NORAD's having received formal notification of the first hijacking at 8:38, no interceptors were scrambled from Andrews to protect the nearby Pentagon until after it was hit at 9:37.

Ø Failures to Intercept

Once in the air, interceptors flew at only small fractions of their top speeds, assuring they would fail to intercept the airliners.

- o The two F-15s scrambled from Otis AFB to chase Flight 11 flew at an average of 447 mph, about 23.8% of their top speed of 1875 mph.
- o The two F-16s scrambled from Langley to protect the capital flew at an average of 410.5 mph, about 27.4% of their top speed of 1500 mph.

Ø Failures to Redeploy

Nearby fighters on routine patrol duty were not redeployed to intercept the airliners, nor were fighters that belatedly reached Manhattan sent to defend the capital.

- o Two F-15s flying off the coast of Long Island were not redeployed to Manhattan until after the second tower was hit.
- o The two F-15s scrambled from Otis AFB to protect Manhattan could have reached the capital in 9.6 minutes once they arrived over New York City. That was still 34 minutes before the Pentagon was hit.

World Trade Center Destruction

On 9/11/01 three skyscrapers were totally destroyed, with structural collapse primarily due to fires given as the explanation. Fires and bombings have never before or since caused steel-frame buildings to collapse.

Ø Building 7

Building 7 imploded late on 9/11/01. It was not hit by an aircraft.

- o Building 7 experienced total collapse, allegedly because of fires, when no steel-frame building before or since has ever collapsed, totally or even partially, due to fires. Building 7 was an over-engineered 47-story steel-frame skyscraper, standing over 350 feet from the nearest of the Twin Towers. Public evidence documents only small fires in it on September 11th.
- o Building 7 collapsed in a nearly perfectly vertical fall, producing only minor damage in the Verizon and Post Office buildings only 60 feet on

- either side of it.
- Ø Building 7 collapsed into a remarkably small rubble pile of mostly pulverized remains, when no steel building falling for any reason has ever pulverized itself.
 - Ø Building 7 contained a 23-million-dollar emergency command center, but instead of using it for its ostensible purpose, then-Mayor Giuliani evacuated his team to a makeshift command center as soon as the September 11th attack started.
 - Ø The emergency command center was destroyed along with the rest of the building, even though it was constructed as a bomb-hardened shelter.
 - Ø The remains of Building 7 were rapidly removed and the steel recycled, evidently without any on-site and only extremely limited off-site examination. The rapid disposal operation proceeded despite the fact that no one was believed buried in the rubble, and the tidy rubble pile was not blocking adjacent roads.

Ø Twin Towers

The Twin Towers exploded into dust and shattered steel, a behavior inconsistent with the known behavior of steel structures outside of explosive demolition.

- Ø The South Tower was struck 17 minutes after the North Tower, and in a less damaging manner, and it had less severe fires, yet it collapsed 29 minutes before the North Tower.
- Ø The South Tower's core structure was largely undamaged by the off-centered jet impact, unlike the North Tower, yet it collapsed sooner.
- Ø The South Tower had much less severe fires than the North Tower, and yet collapsed sooner.
- Ø Smoke from the fires in the South Tower became progressively darker up to the time it collapsed.
- Ø Firefighters reached the crash zone of the South Tower and calmly described controllable fires.
- Ø Both towers started to disintegrate at regions above and below the crash zones in the first seconds of their falls.
- Ø Both towers fell straight down, through themselves, following the path of maximum resistance, a behavior never before observed in spontaneous collapses of any type of vertical structure.
- Ø The collapses of both towers exhibited features never otherwise seen except in controlled demolitions: sudden onset accompanied by thunderous bangs, visible explosions ringing their perimeters, energetic ejections of dust at regular intervals, and copious production of dust.
- Ø Both towers exploded outward and were shredded and pulverized -- a pattern of destruction much more destructive than normal controlled demolitions, yet this result was supposedly produced without the added energy of explosives.

Pentagon Attack

The Pentagon attack defies expectations that this prime terrorist target would have been defended, and that a terrorist would have hit the front side in a simple maneuver, rather than the back side in an extreme precision aerobatic maneuver.

Ø Wide-Open Target

The Pentagon -- the heart of the military establishment of the world's greatest super-power -- was hit after ample warning without being protected by any defensive action.

- Ø The 9:37 strike was well over an hour after the first signs of a hijacking and 34 minutes after the South Tower strike confirmed that an attack was underway.
- Ø The Pentagon is within 11 miles of Andrews Air Force Base, which apparently had two combat-ready fighter wings on 9/11/01.
- Ø The attack plane was monitored on radar as it approached the capital.

Ø Unlikely Super-pilot

Alleged Flight 77 pilot Hani Hanjour was not up to the task.

- Ø The spiral dive approach to the Pentagon was such an extreme maneuver that experienced air traffic controllers thought it was military jet. The tree-top final approach skimmed objects in the yard and crashed the plane into the first floor of the building. Experienced pilots have wondered if any human pilot could have executed the maneuver.
- Ø Hani Hanjour was considered incompetent by his flight school instructors, and was denied rental of a single-engine plane.

Ø Evidence Vacuum

Authorities systematically confiscated or destroyed the evidence.

- Ø Video recordings from adjacent businesses were seized by the FBI shortly after the attack and have never been seen since.
- Ø Only two video segments have been released by the Pentagon from all the security cameras that monitor its periphery. Neither clearly shows the attack aircraft.
- Ø Investigators were not allowed access to the crash site until well into October.

Ø More Than Just a Crash

Was the crash engineered?

- Ø A photographed scrap of aircraft debris that has markings similar to an American Airlines 757 corresponds to the forward portion of the starboard (right) side of the plane, yet the scrap was far to the left of the plane's path.
- Ø Eyewitnesses reported the smell of cordite.
- Ø Several eyewitnesses reported that the jetliner exploded before reaching the facade of the Pentagon.
- Ø Portions of the facade where the wing ends and tail of a 757 would have collided show no gouging. Were these parts shredded by explosives before they reached the facade?

Death Toll

The death toll of the attack, though horrific, was much lower than it would have been if not for numerous aspects of target selection and timing.

Ø Flights

All four flights were unusually empty.

- Ø Flights 11, 175, 77, and 93 were only at 51%, 31%, 20%, and 16% occupancy, respectively.

Ø World Trade Center

The towers were attacked -- [on election day in New York] -- before most people had arrived, and were hit high enough to allow most people to escape.

- Ø When Flight 11 hit the North Tower at 8:46 AM, the World Trade Center buildings were at less than half the occupancy of a typical mid-day.
- Ø The first tower to be attacked was hit just 15 stories below the top, and trapped people mostly between the 95th and 110th floors.
- Ø The second tower to be attacked was hit only 30 stories below the top, and the plane missed the core, allowing people to evacuate from above the impact zone. The 17 minutes that elapsed since the first hit allowed many people to escape the second tower while the elevators were still working.

Ø Pentagon

125 people were killed in a building with 20,000 people.

- Ø The portion of the Pentagon that was attacked, the West Block, was in the process of being renovated, and so was at low occupancy.
- Ø No high-level Pentagon officials were killed in the attack.

Coincidences in Service of "Incompetence"

Many decisions and events in the days and months preceding the attack helped to make the incompetence theory more plausible.

Ø War Games

Several war game exercises were being conducted on 9/11/01.

- Ø Operation Northern Vigilance redeployed northeast sector air defense resources to northern Canada and Alaska.
- Ø Operations Vigilant Warrior and Vigilant Guardian, which simulated hijackings and involved live radar "injects," may have confused military and civilian personnel monitoring aircraft.
- Ø The National Reconnaissance Office, which monitors satellites and airborne objects, was evacuated while the attack unfolded because it was conducting a plane-into-tower crash drill.

- ∅ The Tripod II biowarfare exercise, scheduled for 9/12/01, resulted in the deployment of FEMA to Manhattan before the attack.

∅ Rules Changes

Procedural changes would limit the ability of pilots and military commanders to respond to hijackings.

- ∅ Military orders stripped commanders in the field of autonomy in responding to hijackings.
- ∅ The FAA banned firearm possession by commercial pilots two months before the attack.

∅ Out to Lunch

Top officials were not available until after the attack was over.

- ∅ President George W. Bush remained at the publicized location of Booker Elementary School until about a half-hour after the news of the attack went on TV worldwide, first reading My Pet Goat to second-graders, and then holding a press conference.
- ∅ Acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff [Richard Myers] allegedly remained in a meeting with Senator Max Cleland until nearly the time the Pentagon was hit.
- ∅ [Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (in whom hijack intercept authority had been centralized only three months earlier) initially stayed in a meeting with Congressmen as the attacks commenced and claimed that he then chose to make his way to the Pentagon crash-site to inspect the damage, even while the National Military Command Center was trying -- unsuccessfully -- to reach him. Rumsfeld would later tell the 9/11 Commission that he had been "out of the loop."]
- ∅ Brigadier General Montague Winfield had Navy Captain Charles J. Leidig, Jr. -- a rookie -- assume his watch as Deputy Director for Operations for the National Military Command Center (NMCC) at 8:30 am on 9/11/01, and relieved him after the attack was over.

Government Response

Despite the worst failure in history of the military to protect American civilians, and the worst alleged engineering failures in history, there were no consequences for the responsible authorities, and no honest investigations.

∅ Air Defense Failures

No one was held to account for the numerous unprecedented failures in air defense.

- ∅ General Richard Myers, Acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on September 11th, was confirmed as Chairman on September 13th in spite of being unable to provide any meaningful answers to questions regarding the air defense failures.
- ∅ General Richard Eberhart, commander of NORAD on September 11th, was promoted to head the newly created NORTHCOM.
- ∅ NORAD's press release contradicted early statements by high-ranking

- officials that no interceptors had been scrambled on 9/11/01.
- Ø NORAD's vague timeline raises far more questions than it answers, yet officials have never been required to give a full account.
- Ø The 9/11 Commission advanced a new timeline which contradicts NORAD's earlier timeline and the testimony of military officials to the commission itself.

Ø **Building Collapse Inquiry**

The total collapses of WTC 1, 2, and 7 were the three largest engineering failures in history (based on the official story). How were they investigated?

- Ø FEMA was given the sole authority to investigate the collapses even though it is not an investigative agency.
- Ø The investigative team assembled by FEMA consisted of unpaid volunteers.
- Ø The investigators were not allowed access to Ground Zero.
- Ø The investigators were not provided with the blueprints of the buildings.
- Ø FEMA's report states the causes of the collapse "remain unknown at this time." (By the time the report was released the steel had been entirely disposed of.) The fact that Building 7 (supposedly) failed in a way that contradicts 100 years of engineering experience makes it the largest and least understood structural failure in history.
- Ø The 9/11 Commission Report failed to even mention the existence of Building 7.
- Ø The 9/11 Commission Report denied the existence of the Twin Towers' core structures.
- Ø NIST's report on the collapse of the Twin Towers purports to provide a "probable collapse sequence" for each Tower but truncates its timelines before the collapses even begin.

Means, Motive, and Precedent

The preceding list is far from complete. It does not include consideration of facts pertaining to the means, motive, and precedent for the crime. The official account's blaming one organization, while ignoring others with much more to gain and possessing tools and access better suited to the commission of the crime is arguably a vast anomaly. This subject is addressed by 911Review.com:

<http://911research.wtc7.net/sept11/analysis/anomalies.html>

9-11 Review: A Resource for Understanding the 9/11 Attack

9-11 Review is divided into 3 main sections:

The Attack and Cover-Up

- * Provides a factual overview of the attack
- * Reviews the major elements of the official mythology
- * Examines many facets of the subsequent cover-up

Means, Motive, and Precedent

- * Examines possible means used to execute the attack
- * Outlines some of the likely motives of the perpetrators
- * Reviews historical precedents to the attack viewed as an inside job

Information Warfare

- * Deconstructs campaigns designed to sabotage inquiry into the attack
- * Exposes common errors in the "9/11 skeptics" literature
- * Chronicles highlights of mainstream press attacks on the 9/11 Truth Movement

... and provides the following resources.

[Critiques](#)

[Articles](#)

[Letters](#)

[Links](#)

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<http://911review.com/>

11.10 [A Reading List and a DVD List:](#)

The following books and DVDs are recommended to anyone who wishes to gain a deeper understanding of the true dynamics now working to shape our future. Descriptions and reviews of the books (as posted on Amazon.com) are provided, followed by descriptions and ordering information for the DVDs.

Regarding the books, an indispensable core would be:

Ø [The New Pearl Harbor](#)
by David Ray Griffin

An easily accessible, methodically observed deconstruction of the Bush Administration's Official 9/11 Conspiracy Theory, written by America's most decorated and highly regarded theological scholar.

Ø [The End of America:
A Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot](#)
by Naomi Wolf

It never happens all at once, but there are Ten Steps which tyrants take in any Free Nation to turn it into a Police State. As the author very clearly describes, every single one of them is now being implemented in America.

Ø [The War on Truth:
9/11, Disinformation, and The Anatomy of Terrorism](#)
by Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed

9/11 was not the first time a Great Lie was draped around an Act of Terror, nor will it be the last. An amazing, mind-expanding history of how often "terrorism" is actually staged by the states it supposedly targets, this book details the ongoing liaisons between "Al-Qaeda" and the Intelligence Services of the United States, Great Britain, and Europe. The author is the esteemed Executive Director of the Institute for Policy Research & Development in Brighton. The War on Truth is a must-read.

- Ø Crossing the Rubicon:
The Decline of American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil
by Michael C. Ruppert

The profound achievement of the ex-LAPD Detective and editor of the internationally revered website, "From the Wilderness." The Keepers of the Game have broken his site -- which has now become an archive of the fifteen years of brilliant investigative work that built it -- but Mr. Ruppert's vision survives in full, as evidenced by this remarkable book. By presenting a Map of the Whole Terrain, "Crossing the Rubicon" allows us to understand the breadth of the challenge now facing the American Republic -- and provides a very clear warning about the implications of our indifference.

Also highly recommended:

- Ø 9/11 and American Empire:
Intellectuals Speak Out, Vol. 1
Edited by David Ray Griffin and Peter Dale Scott
- Ø The Terror Timeline:
Year by Year, Day by Day, Minute by Minute:
A Comprehensive Chronicle of the Road to 9/11 --
and America's Response
by Paul Thompson
- Ø The 9/11 Commission Report:
Omissions And Distortions
by David Ray Griffin
- Ø 9/11 Synthetic Terror:
Made in USA, Third Edition
by Webster Griffin Tarpley
- Ø The Sorrows of Empire
by Chalmers Johnson
- Ø Confessions of an Economic Hit Man
by John Perkins
- Ø The Secret History of the American Empire:
Economic Hit Men, Jackals, and the Truth about Global Corruption
by John Perkins
- Ø Hegemony or Survival:
America's Quest for Global Dominance
by Noam Chomsky
- Ø The Shock Doctrine:
The Rise of Disaster Capitalism
by Naomi Klein

- Ø **Armed Madhouse:
From Baghdad to New Orleans- --
Sordid Secrets and Strange Tales of a White House Gone Wild**
by Greg Palast
- Ø **The Global Class War:
How America's Bipartisan Elite Lost Our Future
and What it Will Take to Win it Back**
by Jeff Faux
- Ø **War on the Middle Class:
How the Government, Big Business, and Special Interest Groups
Are Waging War on the American Dream -- and How to Fight Back**
by Lou Dobbs
- Ø **The Uprising:
An Unauthorized Tour of the
Populist Revolt Scaring Wall Street and Washington**
by David Sirota
- Ø **The Impeachment of George W. Bush:
A Practical Guide for the Concerned Citizen**
by Elizabeth Holtzman, with Cynthia L. Cooper
- Ø **The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight: Revised and Updated:
The Fate of the World and What We Can Do Before It's Too Late**
by Thom Hartmann
- Ø **Hacked!
High Tech Election Theft in America, 11 Experts Expose the Truth!**
Edited by Abbe Waldman DeLozier and Vickie Karp

Descriptions and Reviews of the Books on the Reading List

- Ø **The New Pearl Harbor**
by David Ray Griffin

Review by E. Larson: "Our Republic is in Crisis"

"False-flag" terror attacks and invented threats have, throughout history, been used by governments around the world to fuel patriotic fervor in support of otherwise unpopular military/imperialist ventures, and suppress dissent. Is this what happened on 9/11?

The Bush Administration has not presented evidence for their conspiracy theory (that Al Qaeda is solely responsible) and their story is full of holes, supported by many lies and is inconsistent with hundreds of established facts.

In "The New Pearl Harbor," David Ray Griffin addresses and documents the strongest evidence uncovered so far and makes the case that a new investigation is needed to find out the whole truth. Some of the evidence: Standard, routine operating procedures for dealing with possibly hijacked

flights were not followed on 9/11 for any of the hijacked flights. Numerous pieces of evidence that what hit the Pentagon couldn't have been flown by Hani Hanjour and may not even have been a jumbo jet, let alone Flight 77. Evidence that 93 was shot down. Why did the Secret Service allow Bush to stay at his publicized location for a half hour after the 2nd tower was hit?

Why did the Bush Administration claim there were no warnings and no one could have imagined the attacks, when at least 11 countries had warned of coming attacks, even that planes would be used as missiles against the WTC and the Pentagon, and that such scenarios had been thought of and addressed in publications and statements by our own government? Several investigations that could have prevented 9/11 were obstructed. Investigations afterward were obstructed. Osama's capture was obstructed.

The first question in a criminal investigation is "who benefits?" The Bush Administration has started 2 wars which give them control in oil strategic regions, gotten massive increases in the military budget including for weaponizing space, the PATRIOT Act, patriotic fervor, suppressed dissent and has exploited the name of 9/11 continually in their public statements... David Ray Griffin's presentation casts that day in a whole new light. If you are willing to examine the evidence, you will likely come to the conclusion that all Americans need to deal with the facts and questions raised by this book, if we are to maintain our Republic and our democratic form of government.

Review by Sasha Sue:

How could a plane have hit the best-protected building in the US (the Pentagon) -- and not be shot down by any of its battery of missiles? Why did WTC 7 collapse if it was not hit by a plane? WTCs 1&2 were hit at 8:46 and 9:03. Knowing that the country was under attack, why did Bush continue with his photo-op plans in a Sarasota classroom of second-graders from 9:00-9:16, acting "as if he didn't have a single care in the world?" At 9:29 he delivered his televised address to the nation. Since both of these events took place at times and locations which were publicly announced in advance, how could it have been assumed that the president would not himself be a target?

In this well-documented and researched book, Dr. Griffin raises extremely troubling questions supported by persuasive arguments that the official account as reported by the 9/11 Commission and mass media is seriously flawed. Any critically-thinking person will appreciate Griffin's logical and scholarly tone along with the refreshing lack of unnecessary and distracting embellishments and sensationalism...

As an American citizen, I feel that it is vitally important to continually ask questions and to seek answers; indeed it is our responsibility and our duty as members of a free society. By not asking questions, however painful, we are doing ourselves (and our democracy) a grave disservice. Make no mistake, the information provided in this book is compelling and horrific. I did not (and still do not) want to open my mind and emotions to the author's premise of a revisionist theory pointing toward complicity at the

highest levels of government. Denial is a strong and effective defense mechanism, but unfortunately it can be a potent obstacle in revealing and accepting the truth. If America is to continue to be "the land of the free and the home of the brave," its citizens must bite the bullet and seek the truth, no matter the cost. Read this book, study it, and pass it along!

(And, for a little background context, google "project for a new american century" and "operation northwoods").

Review by DontGetMeStarted Jim:

Having never really questioned the official account of 9/11 until recently (this fifth anniversary seems to generate a bit more buzz than usual) I was only curious to read what one of the most prominent 9/11 "alternative analysts" had to say. Well, after reading this, I am not sure what to believe anymore, but I sure know what to NOT believe: any single word of the official account.

This book gives a rational, meticulous analysis of the gaping mismatch between facts and official reports. I was simply amazed at how much had been left un-reported, un-scrutinized, un-challenged by the mainstream media -- which I was consequently unaware of. The third tower collapse, engineers and firefighters reports, NORAD missing in action, the non-evacuation of the Pentagon, presidential bravado/nonchalance flying back without protection, the short-selling of airlines stock, etc.

The book is first and foremost about a huge failure of our media (where is the investigative press that was once a trademark of this country?). This failure is an indisputable fact, as ominous as the possible complicity theory. Ominous? Yes: if such a string of oddities and inconsistencies remains unchallenged by our mainstream media 5 years later, where is the deterrent for the next false flag terrorist operation (we know these had happened in the past)? For even if this one wasn't a false flag, it sure worked like one. If only because of this -- and without presuming of the outcome -- I concur with the only affirmative conclusion of the book: Reopen the investigation.

Ø The End of America: A Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot by Naomi Wolf

Review by Robert Adler:

This is a simple, clear, and deeply alarming book. Ms. Wolf looks to recent history to derive ten techniques that underpin dictatorships and police states. These are the basic ingredients that tyrants throughout the 20th century used to seize and keep control of their countries. The ingredients are familiar -- frighten people by invoking an external and internal threat, establish secret prisons, set up a paramilitary force answerable only to the leader, place ordinary citizens under surveillance, add to the fear with arbitrary arrests and detentions, target actual and potential opponents, restrict the press, cast reporters and whistleblowers as spies and critics as traitors, and, in the end, substitute rule by decree for the rule of law.

Ms. Wolf systematically documents how far down this dangerous road the Bush administration, abetted by a rubber-stamp Congress, has pushed our nation. We are not closing down Guantanamo, we're increasing its capacity. Blackwater and other paramilitary forces have free rein in Iraq, and, shockingly, contracts are in place for them to play an increasing role within the U.S. A new law is in place to remove control of the National Guard from the states and place it under federal control. Every newspaper reader is aware that the government has given itself the right to spy on ordinary citizens in a variety of ways, and continues to push for more.

Through its policy of "special renditions" the government has "disappeared" a number of citizens of other countries, sending them to be interrogated and tortured in CIA-run "black sites" scattered around the world. Here at home, tens of thousands of citizens are on the Transportation Security Administration's secret watch list and are subject to repeated detention and searches when they try to fly. Many of these are people who have done nothing more than be active in groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union or other organizations that the Bush administration finds bothersome. The precipitous removal of Dan Rather is just one of many examples of increasing intimidation of the press. Congressmen and Senators have been accused by administration members of endangering our troops and the nation when they try to exercise their Constitutional oversight and legislative roles. Bush has issued an inordinate number of "signing documents" through which he claims the right to ignore or selectively enforce legislation passed by Congress. Fundamental rights such as habeas corpus — the right not to be arrested and detained without due cause and due process — are under attack.

Ms. Wolf makes and documents the case that the liberty that we cherish, and which has made American great, is under threat. She adds urgency to her plea by pointing out that while it often takes years for a would-be tyrant to put these ten ingredients into place, once they are there, once citizens become aware that voicing an opinion can lose them their job or get them arrested, once they know that their phone calls and emails are not secure, that groups they belong to are infiltrated by informers, that ordinary people can be arrested and held without due process, that agents of the government can do whatever they want with impunity, the final slide into a full-fledged police state can happen quickly.

It's up to each citizen to decide how far down this path our nation has been bullied, and whether or not to heed Ms. Wolf's call for action to stop the slide toward arbitrary rule. But at the very least, every citizen needs to know what is going on. Reading this book is a good place to start.

Ø **The War on Truth:
9/11, Disinformation, and The Anatomy of Terrorism**
by Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed

In *The War on Truth* -- the long-awaited sequel to *The War on Freedom* -- Nafeez Ahmed provides the most comprehensive and controversial critique of the government's official version of what happened on 9/11. In this extensive new analysis, Ahmed doubles the data and investigates the worldwide web of terrorist networks across space and time.

Deconstructing the findings of the 9/11 Commission Report and the Joint Congressional Inquiry, he exposes disturbing liaisons between American, British and European intelligence services and al-Qaeda operatives in the Balkans, Caucasus, North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Asia-Pacific -- liaisons linked not only to 9/11, but also to prior terrorist attacks including the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 1998 US embassy bombings.

Against this background, Ahmed accomplishes the most detailed and wide-ranging study to date of the powerful vested interests and intrigues responsible for the collapse of US national security in the years and months leading to 9/11. Government documents, whistleblower testimony, and the findings of official inquiries are scrutinized to trace the innermost workings of the intelligence community, revealing precisely which government policies and operations facilitated the 9/11 intelligence failure, and pinpointing the specific agencies, individuals and decisions that emasculated the US air defense system.

Finally, Ahmed unlocks the underlying geostrategy of the War on Terror -- the culmination of a decades-long plan to secure and expand an increasingly unstable system. For anyone who remains uneasy about government policies on, and after, 9/11, *The War on Truth* is an invaluable resource that will radically alter perceptions of international terrorism, national security, and the clandestine machinery of Western power.

[Review by Lt. Col. Robert M. Bowman \(ret.\)](#)

[Former Director of Advanced Space Programs Development \("Star Wars"\), Air Force Space Division, under Presidents Ford and Carter](#)

[The War on Truth](#) is a monumental work of breathtaking scope and detail. Copiously documented, this book puts 9/11 in its historical context and shows that the American people have been subjected to a massive disinformation campaign. Every American interested in politics, history, and truth should read it.

Of all the possible conspiracy theories about 9/11, the most unbelievable of all is the official conspiracy theory about Osama bin Laden and 19 fanatical Muslim hijackers taking the government of the United States completely by surprise and getting 'lucky.' *The War on Truth* completely explodes this official myth and reveals the incredible hypocrisy and brazen lies of the government's hand-picked self-investigators of the so-called '9/11 Commission.'

[If you are a real patriot concerned for your country's future, you must read this book and keep it handy as a reference.](#)

Review by Justin Suran:

"Connecting the Dots"

Nafeez Ahmed has done what the corporate news media and our public officials have failed to do: offer us a plausible account of how and why America was attacked on September 11, 2001.

"It has been said that the intelligence agencies have to be right 100 percent of the time and the terrorists only have to get lucky once," observed Mindy Kleinberg, whose husband died in the WTC. "This explanation for the devastating attacks of September 11th, simple on its face, is wrong in its value. Because the 9/11 terrorists were not just lucky once: they were lucky over and over again." The War on Truth tells us why.

Review by Groucho Costello:

"The Case That We're Sliding into Totalitarianism on a Raft of Lies"

Having read several books on the phenomenon of terrorism and historical accounts of 9/11, I must conclude that Mr. Ahmed's book, "The War On Truth" is head and shoulders above the fray. Copiously researched and constructed from an abundance of corroborated sources amply qualifying his statements, Mr. Ahmed pops the membrane of the vainglorious hype balloons -- packaged for distribution by WH propaganda offices and politically motivated committees and floated by the corporate media -- revealing a national security complex that has been deeply politicized and compromised to serve elite transnational corporate interests at the peril and expense of the American people and indigenous populations around the world, particularly in Eurasia.

After consuming this reality sandwich --which illustrates the tactical use of terrorism to achieve corporate welfare and "strategic imperatives" -- you will never see the so-called "war on terror" in the same way. This is a good thing, because what America and its Western allies need more than anything else is a good dose of truth.

If we were a country of laws -- rather than political expediency -- there would have been a full-scale criminal investigation of 9/11 conducted by an Independent Special Prosecutor and Grand Jury with unlimited judicial subpoena power. Instead, we are sliding into totalitarianism on a raft of lies. Mr. Ahmed's book makes a strong case for returning to the lawful, Constitutional process and holding those who have treasonously hijacked the nation's intelligence and military capabilities accountable.

Review by Anti War (Florida, USA):

"Best, Most Important Book on 9/11"

Ahmed has done us a great service -- and outdone himself yet again -- with this brilliant sequel to The War on Freedom, his 3rd book. This book isn't about resolving theories of MIHOP [Made It Happen on Purpose] or LIHOP [Let it Happen on Purpose], which is of course a fairly banal issue of internal interest to the 9/11 truth movement, rather than the uninformed patriotic public unaware of 9/11 as "the big lie." It's an unprecedented, courageous confrontation with the entire political history of international terrorism in the post-Cold War period.

Ahmed doesn't repeat unnecessarily the writings of other authors who've written on 9/11. This is because The War on Truth is a work of original research, and isn't actually derivative of those other authors in any sense. Also, Ahmed's expertise -- the realm of political science and international

relations -- leads him to focus on exactly that. Physical theories are simply not the remit of his actual thesis, which is a political thesis about, to paraphrase him, the symbiotic ties between Western power and international terrorism. To be frank, Ahmed's work consistently outclasses every other 9/11 author for its sheer detail, meticulousness and wealth of documentation.

The War on Truth is based on more than 1,000 sources - largely mainstream news accounts, official documents, critical analysis of the official inquiries, and occasionally the critical use of the findings of some other researchers. To say that it's based on "left-gatekeepers" is simply disingenuous. This book is based on such an abundance of rich and credible sources, it's almost impossible to keep track except for Ahmed's superb, lucid narrative.

The overall result is a powerful and sophisticated argument that contributes new knowledge not only to the 9/11 truth movement, but to political science in general. Ahmed completely eclipses Tarpley and others with a detailed examination of the systematic linkages between western military intelligence services, regional intelligence services, and Al Qaeda networks, across several different continents.

For instance, he does detailed case studies of Al Qaeda activities in Algeria, Chechnya and the Philippines -- and finds that the respective Al Qaeda terrorist networks are fundamentally subverted and co-opted by local state intelligence services backed by the west! He extends the analysis to Madrid: and finds that the Al Qaeda perpetrators of the Madrid bombings were double agents working as informants for the Spanish government! So he goes much further than Tarpley in his analysis, and far deeper.

And he ties it all together with a fascinating overview of how Al Qaeda DOES exist, was created by the western powers, but [was] ultimately manipulated and co-opted by them not only during the Cold War but well after the end of the Soviet Union until today -- in the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, the Middle East (yes, including Pakistan and Saudi Arabia), etc.

Most disturbingly he demonstrates beyond doubt that these policies inevitably and directly produced anti-western terrorist attacks, with the full awareness of western government elements maintaining these 'ties with the devil,' as Ahmed ironically describes them. And his focus is not only Bush, but Clinton. Not only the USA, but Europe and Britain.

As for his discussion of the hijackers -- I've never read such a detailed and well documented account of the odd liaisons between the US military intelligence services and the alleged 9/11 hijackers. Ahmed doesn't bother going round in circles wondering whether or not the hijackers existed, or were actually on the plane, or not -- he simply presents report after report showing that these guys were monitored round-the-clock by the CIA and FBI both before and after their entry into our country, were trained by the US military, and were steeped in completely anti islamic practices like alcohol, cocaine, and lap dancing. And he clearly suggests, at one point, that these guys were probably double agents, although with characteristic and welcome caution, he doesn't labour the point and again leaves it to us to make up our own minds.

This is ultimately the real value of Ahmed's work. By sticking to simply laying out fact after fact in such intricate detail, he offers us a powerful antidote to the prevailing myth that can be given to anybody, whatever the political standpoint. Whether you're into MIHOP, LIHOP, or know nothing at all about the problems with the 9/11 official story, you need to read this book, urgently. It gives us the big, "geopolitical" picture of international terrorism and Al Qaeda as products of a worldwide system of western power, "symbiotically conjoined" to the "arteries" of that power, to paraphrase Ahmed again. So buy it, read it, get your friends and family to read it, and send copies to your representatives. This is probably the most important book you'll ever read.

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Crossing the Rubicon:

The Decline of American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil

by Michael C. Ruppert

The attacks of September 11, 2001, were accomplished through an amazing orchestration of logistics and personnel. Crossing the Rubicon discovers and identifies key suspects -- finding some of them in the highest echelons of American government -- by showing how they acted in concert to guarantee that the attacks produced the desired result.

Crossing the Rubicon is unique not only for its case-breaking examination of 9/11, but for the breadth and depth of its world picture -- an interdisciplinary analysis of petroleum, geopolitics, narcotraffic, intelligence and militarism -- without which 9/11 cannot be understood.

The US manufacturing sector has been mostly replaced by speculation on financial data whose underlying economic reality is a dark secret. Hundreds of billions of dollars in laundered drug money flow through Wall Street each year from opium and coca fields maintained by CIA-sponsored warlords and US-backed covert paramilitary violence. America's global dominance depends on a continually turning mill of guns, drugs, oil and money. Oil and natural gas -- the fuels that make economic growth possible -- are subsidized by American military force and foreign lending.

In reality, 9/11 and the resulting "war on terror" are parts of a massive authoritarian response to an emerging economic crisis of unprecedented scale. Peak Oil -- the beginning of the end for our industrial civilization -- is driving the elites of American power to implement unthinkable draconian measures of repression, warfare and population control.

Crossing the Rubicon is more than a story. It is a map of the perilous terrain through which, together and alone, we are all now making our way.

Michael C. Ruppert is the publisher and editor of From the Wilderness, a newsletter read by more than 16,000 subscribers in 40 countries. A former Los Angeles Police Department narcotics investigator, he is widely known for his groundbreaking stories on US involvement in the drug trade, Peak Oil and 9/11.

Review by Erik D. Curren: "Encyclopedic and Mind-Opening"

I came to this book from an interest in Peak Oil, but I was surprised to get so much more. Ruppert dissects the whole apparatus of American Empire here, from Wall Street to the White House to the Pentagon.

Yes, he finds conspiracies. But as a former LA cop, he points out that many successful criminal cases allege conspiracy, and that the charge is common in jurisprudence, despite an unjustified prejudice against it in political analysis. And like a determined detective, Ruppert connects the dots of clearly documented evidence to ferret out the criminals and their likely motives for horrendous crimes that affect us all. He says that 9/11 was orchestrated by our own government.

Incredible. It took me some time to get over the initial shock and disbelief. But it's hard to ignore Ruppert's mountains of evidence. The lesson? Don't count on Washington to solve our problems, and they're big ones. Instead, work with concerned citizens to come up with alternatives that go around the government. That seems like a lesson that could save our lives and leave some hope for our kids.

Even if you skim Ruppert's 600 pages, you'll be forever changed.

Review by Robert D. Steele:

As the #1 Amazon reviewer for non-fiction about global issues and national security (#66 over-all), as a former spy, founder of the Marine Corps Intelligence Command, and CEO and proponent for Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), I think I have a good foundation for evaluating this book.

It is so compelling and so troubling that I was obliged to create an eight-page worksheet to ensure I understood the details.

The author alleges that Dick Cheney personally oversaw the 9-11 scenario, with largely fabricated hijackers used by the U.S. military as OPFOR exercise personnel and aided by Israel and Saudi Arabia, that most of the so-called hijackers were not actually on the airplanes; that the two airplanes hitting the WTC were flown by remote control in at least the final minutes from WTC 7 where the Secret Service (Cheney's personal vehicle for running the government) and CIA had their offices; that all three buildings, including WTC 7 which was not hit at all were brought down by controlled explosions, and the Pentagon was hit by a missile aided by a homing device, not Flight 77, which was put down elsewhere. (He notes Congress was not evacuated, suggesting that either Cheney was incompetent or he knew the missile would hit the homing device in the Pentagon.)

Bottom line: he has NOT provided enough evidence to convict Cheney, but he HAS provided enough evidence to suggest that the 9-11 Commission was very derelict in its duties; that very select elements of the U.S. Government are engaging in a cover-up after facilitating the murder of U.S. citizens; and that a public investigation and trial of Dick Cheney are required.

Here are just a few highlights from this very complex and earnest book:

1) The end of cheap oil is a global crisis.

Central Asian reserves were thought to be a temporary respite from global chaos. When this was known not to be the case, in 2000, Wall Street cashed out and allowed the public to bear the brunt of the stock market crash, and the Clinton Administration began to develop Al Qaeda, with Saudi Arabia and Israel, as a covert operation. I am more inclined to believe we allowed Al Qaeda to develop, rather than nurtured them deliberately.

2) Wall Street depends heavily on drug money for liquidity.

When the Taliban killed the opium crop in Afghanistan, this was a form of economic warfare against Wall Street's immorality, and they were more than glad to support a U.S. invasion of Afghanistan which had the direct result of jumping Afghanistan's contribution to global heroin from 0 to 80%, with all that money going to Wall Street.

Stunningly, the author reports that the head of the Stock Exchange traveled to Colombia to invite the FARC to invest its drug money in US stocks -- the "ultimate cold call." Specific companies associated with laundering drug money through off-book deals include HP, Ford, Sony, GM, Whirlpool, GE, and Philip Morris.

3) The author provides a very compelling case for the possibility that there are two CIA's -- a very small elite that work for Wall Street, and were until recently led by Buzzy Krongard as Executive Director of CIA (his "former" firm did most of the puts on United Airlines and profited greatly from 9-11), and a "lip-service" CIA that bumbles around.

The links that he establishes between oil companies and logistics support companies to the U.S. military, and their importation of drugs that seem to explode anytime CIA goes into Laos or Afghanistan or Colombia or anywhere else in a big way, are remarkable.

He has very specific details, including references to drugs going to oil rigs off New Orleans and then directly in through the most corrupt police force in the country.

4) Congress passed the Patriot Act without reading it.

5) Massive deception has occurred in relation to terrorism. The U.S. refused multiple offers from both the Taliban and Somalia to deliver Bin Laden -- everything about post 9-11 has been about damage control, not investigation; the Kean Commission was riddled with conflicts of interest that the author discusses in detail.

6) Specific corporations are named that appear to merit investigation, including Acxiom, Brown & Root, Carlyle, Goldman Sachs, Halliburton, DynCorp, Lockheed, and Raytheon. One corporation, from Israel, broke its WTC lease at great expense the week prior to 9-11.

7) Numerous individuals are named who were not properly interviewed by the 9-11 Commission. Both those on watch and off watch (e.g. BGen Winfield who asked to be relieved from 0830 to 1100 from his post as director of the national military command center) have not been grilled. Mayo Shattuck of Alex Brown resigned on 12 September.

Dave Frasca, the FBI leader that blocked all investigations, Admiral Abbott, key person for Cheney, Karl Inderfurth, General Ahmed from Pakistan (\$100K to Al Qaeda in US the week before the attack), a whole host of people were simply not investigated.

8) This is massive evidence of sustained fraud by Wall Street, mortgage companies, and others, inclusive of schemes to draw money out of the U.S. Government (i.e. from the taxpayer) through Housing and Urban Development mortgage fraud in drug-affected neighborhoods, and from the Department of Defense.

The author alleges that by his detailed estimate, Wall Street has looted three trillion dollars from the U.S. Treasury.

As a side note, he points out that Enron's records were moved to Switzerland in what could be a deliberate cover-up of their role in all of this.

9) Murder hangs heavy in this book.

Lest anyone believe this is a fairy tale, the author ends the book with a copy of Operation Northwoods, the USJCS [United States Joint Chiefs of Staff] plan from 13 March 1962, to murder Americans in a series of events designed to provide a pretext for invading Cuba.

I cannot conclude that Cheney is guilty. I am completely persuaded that Cheney should be indicted, investigated, and tried by a jury of his peers: We the People.

Ø **9/11 and American Empire:
Intellectuals Speak Out, Vol. 1**
by David Ray Griffin and Peter Dale Scott

Practically from the moment the dust settled in New York and Washington after the attacks of September 11, a movement has grown of survivors, witnesses, and skeptics who have never quite been able to accept the official story. When theologian David Ray Griffin turned his attention to this topic in his book *The New Pearl Harbor* (2003), he helped give voice to a disquieting rumble of critiques and questions from many Americans and people around the world about the events of that day.

Were the military and the FAA really that incompetent? Were our intelligence-gathering agencies really in the dark about such a possibility? In short, how could so much go wrong at once, in the world's strongest and most technologically sophisticated country?

Both the government and the mainstream media have since tried to portray the 9/11 truth movement as led by people who can be dismissed as "conspiracy theorists" able to find an outlet for their ideas only on the net.

This volume, with essays by intellectuals from Europe and North America, shows this caricature to be untrue. Coming from different intellectual disciplines as well as from different parts of the world, these authors are united in the conviction that the official story about 9/11 is a huge deception manufactured to extend imperial control at home and abroad.

Contributors include Richard Falk, Daniele Ganser, David Ray Griffin, Steven E. Jones, Karin Kwiatkowski, John McMurtry, Peter Phillips, Morgan Reynolds, Kevin Ryan, Peter Dale Scott, Ola Tunander.

EXCERPT from Chapter Eleven

(by Peter Phillips, Bridget Thorton, and Celeste Vogler):

"In the fall of 2001, after an eight-month review of 175,000 Florida ballots never counted in the 2000 election, an analysis by the National Opinion Research Center confirmed that Al Gore actually won Florida and should have become president.

However, coverage of this report was only a small blip in the corporate media, as a much bigger story dominated the news after September 11, 2001.

The 2004 election was even more fraudulent.

The official vote count in 2004 showed that George W. Bush won by three million votes. But the exit polls projected a victory margin of five million votes for John Kerry.

This eight-million-vote discrepancy is much greater than any possible margin of error."

Review by G. Espada:

"One of the important books you'll ever read"

The essays in this timely and essential volume are written by a variety of intellectuals from academia, the military, the sciences, and beyond. To read this book is to discover the reality that is kept from consumers of watered-down and even deceptive mainstream news sources (remember WMD?)

There is no question that a conspiracy was involved in perpetrating 9/11 -- the government itself assures us this conspiracy involved 19 young Arab Muslims and a few ringleaders like Osama bin Laden (FBI says no hard evidence to link him, hence no indictment) and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (whose "testimony" was provided to the 9/11 commission by the CIA, and makes up most of the official case for the Muslim/ Arab conspiracy theory.)

The flimsy official story is contradicted by historical precedent of false-flag terror committed routinely by nations such as the U.S., Italy, and Israel, among others throughout history (search for the Lavon Affair, e.g.) This issue, as well as the inexplicable collapse of building number 7 and the twin towers are dealt with by examining facts surrounding the events, not

speculation or conjecture. The conclusion that is evidently correct is that elements of the U.S. government with help from the intelligence services of Pakistan, Israel, and others engineered a spectacular attack in order to draw the U.S. into a war our people would otherwise never have supported.

This issue is changing the world as I write these words and this book, which I own and will treasure as part of my collection of true 9/11 investigative work along with David Griffin's other books and books like the Terror Timeline by Paul Thompson, is an invaluable introduction to the issues for those just becoming aware of this historic hoax. Because of purposely deceitful "theorists" out there whose aim is to give the truth movement a bad name by for example claiming no planes hit the towers, volumes such as this are key to sorting fact from fiction and beginning on the path of restoring our democracy, exposing corporate media complicity in government corruption, and most importantly effecting a long-needed reconciliation with the Arab and Muslim peoples we have allowed to be unjustly persecuted for these crimes.

Ø **The Terror Timeline:
Year by Year, Day by Day, Minute by Minute:
A Comprehensive Chronicle of the Road to 9/11 -- and America's Response**
by Paul Thompson

Paul Thompson's The Terror Timeline offers a complete and thorough history of the many roads that converged on 9/11, including the development of Islamic fundamentalism, the activities of bin Laden and al-Qaeda, and the failures of U.S. investigations and counterterrorism efforts. It traces the actions (and inactions) of every important figure in the war on terror, both before and after 9/11, bringing them together in a volume that offers a comprehensive and provocative look at this complex subject. Packed with little-known facts and disturbing questions, The Terror Timeline is the first complete reference guide to the events of 9/11 and the war on terror -- the definitive primer on the most momentous issue of our times.

Review by R. Wilson:

"The Bible for 9/11 Researchers"

If you're a skeptic.
If you're not a skeptic.
If you want to follow the money.
If you want to follow the players.
If you want the backstory.
If you want the aftermath.

This book and its companion website at CooperativeResearch.org, is the single most comprehensive research tool and resource available. Period. Both the book & the website catalogue every 9/11 story, including those lost & "scrubbed" elsewhere. The book provides notes to original sources, and you can access the original sources, all from the mainstream media, at the website.

This book is a towering achievement. Highest recommendation.

Review by Robert D. Steele:

This extraordinary compilation of honest objective research goes as far as any human team can go. Paul Thompson and the Center for Cooperative Research are national -- nay, global -- treasures.

The timeline is most useful if read in conjunction with David Griffin's two books, "The New Pearl Harbor" and also "The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions."

Here are the two bottom lines:

1) There is, beyond reasonable doubt, a case to be made that elements of the U.S. Government were actively complicit with the terrorists, with the Bush family security company controlling the World Trade Center, with certain Wall Street firms, and with the Saudi Royal Family, in permitting 9/11 to happen as a pretext for war to secure energy resources in Afghanistan and Iraq.

2) The consequent "investigations" are a mockery of the American people and disrespect our concept of justice. There is no question but that the varied investigations have been both frustrated by an Administration in active denial mode, and by a Congress reluctant to confront the hands that feed them: the special interests.

It is clear to me that we need a People's Grand Jury that has access to the same level of technology that is represented by "Able Danger," that is to say, we must be able to do data mining on all of this information, and create public intelligence reports -- and public counterintelligence reports -- that connect the dots for the people...

Review by Patrick Buckley:

"The 9/11 Commission should be ashamed."

After comparing the facts revealed in Paul Thompson's Terror Timeline to those released in the 9/11 Commission's Final Report, I was forced to draw the conclusion that the Commission is guilty of issuing an incomplete and misleading account of the events leading up to, the causes of, and the actions during 9/11. Whether it be the dozens of specific warnings or the obstructions into FBI investigations; the ISI's complicity or the ignored money trail; the 9/11 war games or the unprecedented failure to defend America's skies; they are just a few of the dozen or so subjects that the 9/11 Commission consciously ignored; and they are critical, not just for the public's, but for history's understanding of the attacks. As long as we continue to ignore the problems that caused 9/11, we will be unable to correct them. I urge anybody and everybody -- especially my fellow Americans -- to read this book and spread the information it provides.

Ø **The 9/11 Commission Report:**
Omissions And Distortions
by David Ray Griffin

Review by Dr. Daniele Ganser:

This book is arguably the most important landmark in the investigation into 9/11 available on the book market so far. It is a very important, but also truly disturbing, book. For it shows to the reader in meticulous detail that the official investigation led by Thomas Kean and Philip Zelikow into the story about 9/11 presented by the White House has omitted and distorted so many facts that it can never seriously be accepted as the true account of what happened on 9/11.

Only very few people have read the 576 pages of the Kean/Zelikow report and tested the quality of the book. It is therefore of great value that Professor Emeritus David Ray Griffin has carried out this task and described in detail how sensitive facts regarding mysterious or even illegal behaviour by senior US executives had been supplied in sworn testimony to the Kean/Zelikow commission by members of the FBI but then ignored in the Kean/Zelikow book. Griffin also explains that no mention, let alone explanation, is given of the collapse of WTC 7 or of the BBC report that six of the 19 hijackers were still alive.

While Griffin explicitly suspects that the Bush administration and the Pentagon have covered up the true 9/11 story, he never claims to know it himself but asks for a new and truly independent investigation. It is this latter feature which greatly contributes to the credibility and importance of this courageous book.

I use this book with my history students to illustrate how history can be distorted through omissions and distortions.

Dr. Ganser, of the Center for Security Studies, Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland, is the Author of **NATO's Secret Armies: Operation Gladio and Terrorism in Western Europe** (Frank Cass, London and New York, January 2005)

Ø **9/11 Synthetic Terror:
Made in USA, Third Edition**
by Webster Griffin Tarpley

Review by Black Kaweah:

"A Tour de Force of Critical Analysis"

A remarkable look under the skin of the lurid scarecrow figure of modern terrorism to reveal the bones and sinews of a man-made monster, one with very direct genetic links to the Bader-Meinhof gang and the "strategy of tension" deployed after WW-II to justify the militarization of society and the targeting of selected groups. Once society gets used to the idea that odd little groups or demented individuals occasionally pull off spectacular attacks, the mask of any desired target group (leftists, hippies, Arabs) can be easily fitted to the patsy who will be blamed for the attack.

The National Security State needs its terrorists, and leaves nothing to chance in their care and feeding. By revealing the mundane operational details of these programs, and the continuity over time of both the strategies and the personnel involved, Tarpley brings these deliberately shadowy enterprises

into the realm of normal human activities. In this view, the series of staged events leading up to 9-11 (Waco, the Murrah building and all the rest) comes into clear focus as the successive elaborations of the same schema on an ever larger scale.

The use of visible patsies to focus blame, the networks of moles that protect and manage them, the aggressive coverups with blatant destruction of evidence and violent suppression of potential whistle-blowers, the fake investigations and popular press debunking... the pattern repeats with remarkable consistency, and the growing boldness of a cabal that has tasted success and has so far crushed all those who have tried to reveal the extent of their crimes.

Tarpley's deep knowledge of the Bush family and NATO secret terror operations in Europe make him the ideal historian to put the distinctly post-WW-II phenomenon of synthetic terrorism in its proper historical perspective, and in so doing he in effect does create a new field of historical inquiry. This is truly an important work, written with great precision and elegance.

Ø **The Sorrows of Empire**
by Chalmers Johnson

Review by Gianmarco Manzione:
"A Chilling Indictment of Imperial Excess"

Anyone interested in seeing through the smokescreen of newspeak Washington feeds us through our anesthetized mainstream media would be wise to pick up this book, where it is learned, among other things, that Saddam Hussein was one among many CIA-funded hit men who participated in several U.S.-backed coup attempts on the government of Abdel-Karim Kassem, who legalized the communist party in Iraq when he took power there in the 1950s -- provoking the disdain of the insidious and powerful Allen Dulles at the CIA. Mr. Johnson's inquiry into the underhanded history of U.S. relations with Iraq and Saudi Arabia is as chilling as it is revealing. A uniquely disturbing vibe pervades Johnson's book that never once allows the reader to indulge the kind of willfully ignorant denial in which so many find comfort.

Mr. Johnson's consistent indifference to partisan platitudes lends a refreshing credibility to his book. Indicting Democratic and Republican administrations alike, Johnson digs deep into the rapacious efficiency of the military industrial complex. As we know from the book "Devil's Game" -- Richard Dreyfuss's excellent investigation into the history of U.S. collusion with fundamental Islam -- President Kennedy eventually became complicit in Washington's disdain for Nasser's nationalist movement in Egypt during the 1950s, an ideology not entirely compliant with Western corporate interests and over which Hussein and his CIA-backed army triumphed in Iraq. Similarly, we learn that Lyndon Baines Johnson's entire political career was funded in no small part by Kellogg, Brown & Root, a major provider of logistical support to the U.S. military that was eventually headed by Dick Cheney years after Halliburton acquired the company in 1962. Suddenly, LBJ's virulent insistence on continued escalation in Vietnam makes a lot more sense.

Under Cheney's direction after he left the Defense Dept. in 1992, Johnson writes that "Brown & Root took in \$2.3 billion in government contracts" and that "as late as 1998 and 1999, when Dick Cheney was still president of the Halliburton company... it sold Saddam some \$23.8 million of oil-field equipment." Johnson goes on to speculate that "perhaps Bush Junior's obsession with Iraq, according to this line of thought, was his desire to seize its oil." This is the same Cheney that worked tirelessly to pressure top CIA officials to reverse their finding that Iraq had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks.

When it comes to the profits of war and the establishment of political environments around the world that ensure those profits, partisan affiliations take a back seat to business, and suddenly the Kennedys, Johnsons, Cheneys and Bushes all melt into the same stewing pot. It is a pot that Robert Higgs, senior fellow in political economy at the Independent Institute, describes as "a vast cesspool of mismanagement, waste, and transgressions... often entering deeply into criminal conduct."

None of this has anything to do with politics -- politics is merely the pawn -- this game is only about installing governments around the world that are willing to import Western free-market imperialism. Johnson focuses predominantly on one major aspect of this strategy: the establishment and maintenance of bases whose utility died with wars long over. Especially frightening is Johnson's discussion of "a new, highly secret air base" currently under construction in Oman that will "accommodate the most advanced American bombers, fighters, and cargo aircraft." The base is situated in a region and location perfectly suitable to impending conflict with Iran, and Johnson concludes that "this American buildup in Oman would be a sign of hostile intent toward Iran." Unfortunately, such a conflict is not as unthinkable as many may like to think, as "Iran is now the only serious obstacle to our military domination of the whole region."

Johnson's broad and informed historical perspective sheds light on the way in which U.S. military profits and power are manipulated to serve corporate avarice, often under the guise of humanitarian intervention (sound familiar?). Johnson's scholarship allows him to lend facts and clarity to widespread suspicions about the truth behind official rhetoric. In short: it really IS about oil, and Johnson's refusal to assign this reality to any political party in particular makes for an impeccably balanced and therefore all-the-more disturbing argument. Linking Bush Senior's oil interests to drilling programs just off the shores of Kuwait by Pennzoil, the oil company from which Bush senior began to gather his vast fortune in the early 1960s, Johnson recasts the first Gulf War under a sobering light in which we realize that we had a president who used our military to protect his private business interests while feeding the masses bubble gum stories about freedom and democracy.

These revelations are merely the tip of the iceberg. "The Sorrows of Empire" is a devastating book that distinguishes itself from other, similar tracts by haunting the reader with an unshakable fear and fury. It is a book that every American should read, one that allows us to look at the facts while distancing ourselves from the emotional, ill-informed and knee-jerk inanity that passes for political debate in this country.

Ø **Confessions of an Economic Hitman**
by John Perkins

John Perkins started and stopped writing *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* four times over 20 years. He says he was threatened and bribed in an effort to kill the project, but after 9/11 he finally decided to go through with this expose of his former professional life. Perkins, a former chief economist at Boston strategic-consulting firm Chas. T. Main, says he was an "economic hit man" for 10 years, helping U.S. intelligence agencies and multinationals cajole and blackmail foreign leaders into serving U.S. foreign policy and awarding lucrative contracts to American business. "Economic Hit Men (EHMs) are highly paid professionals who cheat countries around the globe out of trillions of dollars," Perkins writes. *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* is an extraordinary and gripping tale of intrigue and dark machinations. Think John Le Carré, except it's a true story.

Perkins writes that his economic projections cooked the books Enron-style to convince foreign governments to accept billions of dollars of loans from the World Bank and other institutions to build dams, airports, electric grids, and other infrastructure he knew they couldn't afford. The loans were given on condition that construction and engineering contracts went to U.S. companies. Often, the money would simply be transferred from one bank account in Washington, D.C., to another one in New York or San Francisco. The deals were smoothed over with bribes for foreign officials, but it was the taxpayers in the foreign countries who had to pay back the loans. When their governments couldn't do so, as was often the case, the U.S. or its henchmen at the World Bank or International Monetary Fund would step in and essentially place the country in trusteeship, dictating everything from its spending budget to security agreements and even its United Nations votes. It was, Perkins writes, a clever way for the U.S. to expand its "empire" at the expense of Third World citizens. -- **Alex Roslin**

Review by Gary E. Albers: "The Hit Man Takes Hits"

Since 1995, I have been cruising full time on my sailboat, visiting many countries south of the border. My travels include spending many months (in some cases, years) in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Bonaire, the Dominican Republic, etc. I'm presently spending six months in Venezuela. I don't hesitate to claim that I've learned much more about these countries and their peoples than the average U.S. citizen. I don't stay in insulated tourist hotels and resorts, but much prefer to mingle with the locals, playing music on guitar and talking politics. (BTW, knowing how to play guitar will buy infinitely more good will among the common people of Latin America than all the Gringo dollars you can carry.)

As far as Perkin's descriptions of events in the countries I've visited, I found him to be 100% credible; e.g., the unilateral invasion of Panama by the U.S., the role of United Fruit in the Latin countries, the devastating effects of U.S. big oil interests in Venezuela and Ecuador, his account of the ascendancy of Hugo Chavez, the explanations of why and how Torrijos, Roldos and Allende met their untimely ends. Perkin's accounts of such things may be new and surprising to U.S. readers, but they are completely accurate and well-known facts among Latins.

Having for a long time been a serious student of world history, I can also find nothing incorrect about Perkin's accounts of events in other parts of the world. In my opinion, this is a very important book. It should be made required reading at every high school in the U.S. Then we might have a chance of producing a new generation of U.S. citizens whose heads are not buried in the sand and who might stand some chance of reaching valid conclusions, DESPITE their incessant exposure to the U.S. mass media, about how the rest of the world lives and thinks.

If you are considering buying this book, read the five-star reviews. Most importantly, don't be intimidated by the caustic language and attempts at character assassination evident in many of the negative reviews. It shouldn't require much of your critical thinking skills to see that most of those reviews are nothing more than irrational, vindictive mud-slinging by right-wing fanatics. The mere fact that there are so many virulent condemnations of the book, the author, and his message, should alone be enough to stimulate your interest.

In sum, Perkins is entirely credible, the book is sufficiently documented, and his story is important for an understanding of the political realities surrounding "globalization" and the role of U.S. mega-corporations in that effort. It was also very well-written. I couldn't recommend any book more highly.

Ø **The Secret History of the American Empire:
Economic Hit Men, Jackals, and the Truth about Global Corruption**
by John Perkins

Review by Christopher Degetmon:

John picks up where he left off in his previous book, Confessions of an Economic Hit Man. This book provides more details exposing the underside of corporatism gone badly; shady dealings between governmental powers working in concert to undermine Third World Nations and further marginalize poor populations thus keeping them forever locked in their cultural ghettos without hope or economic opportunity.

Perkins insight on the way dictatorial governments deal with insurgent movements and why these movements exist is more than worth the price of admission.

No doubt this book will be greeted with a certain authoritarian thunder by those (and their representatives) that hold a vested interest in maintaining the status quo at all costs. As a species we are flying head long toward a precipice from which there may be no return. We may have already crossed the threshold of no return from the consequences of climate change further diminishing our viability as a species. Peak oil is upon us and the United States has not taken significant action to promote alternative sources of fuel to reduce our dependence on oil cartels. The ancient forests are being clear cut (as are all natural forests around the globe) and being converted into tree farms for the logging industry. The Amazon rain forest is also being clear cut to make way for cattle to supply our dependence on fast food restaurants.

This book is a wake up call of the highest priority. The choices we make now will ultimately determine whether we continue as a species on Planet Earth. Perkin's is an awakener of the highest caliber. Read everything he writes.

Ø **Hegemony or Survival:**
America's Quest for Global Dominance
by Noam Chomsky

Editorial Review from Amazon.com:

Noam Chomsky is considered the father of modern linguistics. In this richly detailed criticism of American foreign policy, he seeks to redefine many of the terms commonly used in the ongoing American war on terrorism. Surveying U.S. actions in Cuba, Nicaragua, Turkey, the Far East and elsewhere over the past half a century along with the modern American war in Iraq, Chomsky indicates that America is just as much a terrorist state as any other government or rogue organization. George W. Bush's 2003 invasion of Iraq drew worldwide criticism, in part because it seemed to present a new philosophy of pre-emptive war and an appearance of global empire building. But according to Chomsky, such has been the operating philosophy of American foreign policy for decades. Opponents of the Bush administration's tactics consistently point out how the American government supported Saddam Hussein for many years prior to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait (pictures of Donald Rumsfeld shaking Saddam's hand are easy to come by) as a means of pointing out how the United States is happy to fund despots when it's in American interests. But Chomsky, armed with extensive historical notation, takes this notion further, arguing how the repression of other nations' citizenry is, in fact, the very reason Americans support certain foreign leaders. The charges made throughout the book are severe, as are the dire consequences he posits if current trends are not reversed, and Chomsky is no more likely to make friends or gain supporters from the mainstream now than he's ever been. But *Hegemony or Survival* is relatively dispassionate. Instead of relying on camp or shock value or personal attacks as some of his contemporaries have done, Chomsky drives his well-supported points steadily forward in an earnest and highly readable style.

Ø **The Shock Doctrine:**
The Rise of Disaster Capitalism
by Naomi Klein

Review by John Gray, The Guardian, September 15, 2007

"The End of the World as We Know It"

Over the past few decades, many of the ideas of the far left have found new homes on the right. Lenin believed that it was in conditions of catastrophic upheaval that humanity advances most rapidly, and the idea that economic progress can be achieved through the devastation of entire societies has been a key part of the neo-liberal cult of the free market. Soviet-style economies left an inheritance of human and ecological devastation, while neo-liberal policies have had results that are not radically dissimilar in many countries. Yet, while the Marxist faith in central planning is now confined to

a few dingy sects, a quasi-religious belief in free markets continues to shape the policies of governments.

Many writers have pointed to the havoc and ruin that have accompanied the imposition of free markets across the world. Whether in Africa, Asia, Latin America or post-communist Europe, policies of wholesale privatisation and structural adjustment have led to declining economic activity and social dislocation on a massive scale. Anyone who has watched a country lurch from one crisis to another as the bureaucrats of the IMF impose cut after cut in pursuit of the holy grail of stabilisation will recognise the process Naomi Klein describes in her latest and most important book to date. Visiting Argentina not long before the economic collapse of 2002, I found the government struggling to implement an IMF diktat to roll back public spending at a time when the economy was already rapidly contracting. The result was predictable, and the country was plunged into a depression, with calamitous consequences in terms of poverty and social breakdown.

Klein believes that neo-liberalism belongs among "the closed, fundamentalist doctrines that cannot co-exist with other belief-systems ... The world as it is must be erased to make way for their purist invention. Rooted in biblical fantasies of great floods and great fires, it is a logic that leads ineluctably towards violence." As Klein sees it, the social breakdowns that have accompanied neo-liberal economic policies are not the result of incompetence or mismanagement. They are integral to the free-market project, which can only advance against a background of disasters. At times, writing in a populist vein that echoes her first book, *No Logo*, published seven years ago, Klein seems to suggest that these disasters are manufactured as part of a deliberate policy framed by corporations with hidden influence in government. Her more considered view, which is also more plausible, is that disaster is part of the normal functioning of the type of capitalism we have today: "An economic system that requires constant growth, while bucking almost all serious attempts at environmental regulation, generates a steady stream of disasters all on its own, whether military, ecological or financial. The appetite for easy, short-term profits offered by purely speculative investment has turned the stock, currency and real estate markets into crisis-creation machines, as the Asian financial crisis, the Mexican peso crisis and the dotcom collapse all demonstrate."

There are very few books that really help us understand the present. *The Shock Doctrine* is one of those books. Ranging across the world, Klein exposes the strikingly similar policies that enabled the imposition of free markets in countries as different as Pinochet's Chile, Yeltsin's Russia, China and post-Saddam Iraq. Part of the power of this book comes from the parallels she observes in seemingly unrelated developments. In a fascinating and alarming examination of the underside of recent history, she notes the affinities between the policies of shock therapy imposed in the course of neo-liberal market reform and the techniques of torture that have been routinely used by the US in the course of the "war on terror." Klein begins her first chapter with a moving account of a conversation she had with a victim of a covert programme of mind-control experiments, carried out in Canada in the 1950s, which used people suffering from minor psychiatric ailments to try out techniques of "de-patterning" that aimed to scramble and reshape their personalities.

Employing electroshock therapy, sensory deprivation and drug-induced comas, these experiments helped develop some of the "coercive interrogation techniques" that have been practised in Guantánamo Bay. Klein uses torture as a metaphor, and does not claim any cause-and-effect link between its re-emergence and the rise of neo-liberal shock therapy; but she does point to some disquieting similarities. Individuals and societies have been "de-patterned" with the aim of remaking them on a better, more rational model. In each case, the experiments have failed, while inflicting lasting and often irreparable damage on those who were subjected to them.

But has the free market experiment failed? As Klein sees it, free market shock therapy may actually have succeeded in achieving its true objectives. Post-invasion Iraq may be "a ghoulish dystopia where going to a simple business meeting could get you lynched, burned alive or beheaded." Even so, Klein points out, Halliburton is making handsome profits -- it has built the green zone as a corporate city-state, and taken on many of the traditional functions of the armed forces in Iraq. An entire society has been destroyed, but the corporations that operate in the ruins are doing rather well. Klein's message, then, seems to be that -- at least in its own, profit-centred terms -- disaster capitalism works.

There can be no doubt that fortunes have been reaped from the Iraq war as they have been from other experiments in disaster capitalism. Yet I remain unconvinced that the corporations Klein berates throughout the book understand, let alone control, the anarchic global capitalism that has been allowed to develop over the past couple of decades -- any more than the neo-liberal ideologues who helped create it foresaw where it would lead. Rightly, Klein insists that free market ideology must bear responsibility for the crimes committed on its behalf -- just as Marxist ideology must be held to account for the crimes of communism. But she says remarkably little about the illusions by which neo-liberal ideologues were themselves blinded. Milton Friedman and his disciples believed a western-style free market would spring up spontaneously in post-communist Russia. They were left gawping when central planning was followed by the criminalised free-for-all of the 90s, and were unprepared for the rise of Putin's resource-based state capitalism. These ideologues were not the sinister, Dr Strangelove-like figures of the anti-capitalist imagination. They were comically deluded bien-pensants, who promoted their utopian schemes with messianic fervour and have been left stranded by history, as the radiant future they confidently predicted has failed to arrive.

The neo-liberal order is already facing intractable problems. The Iraq war may have allowed another experiment in shock therapy, but a failed state has been created as a result of which Gulf oil -- which a former chair of the US joint chiefs of staff accurately described as "the jugular vein of global capitalism" -- is less secure than before. Faced with defeat in Iraq, the Bush administration seems to be gearing up for an assault on Iran -- a desperate move that would magnify the existing catastrophe many times over. At the same time financial crisis has reached into the American heartland as an implosion in speculation-driven credit markets has started to spread throughout the system. It is impossible to know how these crises will develop, but it is hard to resist the suspicion that disaster capitalism is now creating disasters larger than it can handle.

Ø **Armed Madhouse:**
From Baghdad to New Orleans --
Sordid Secrets and Strange Tales of a White House Gone Wild
by Greg Palast

In his most provocative and caustically funny book yet, Greg Palast, author of the national bestseller *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*, once again gives us the straight scoop on the stories that Big Media won't report. Digging up reams of documents marked "secret" and "confidential," Palast provides the latest lowdown on Bush's secret plans to seize Iraq's oil, the fix planned for the 2008 election, who drowned New Orleans, and the horror and the humor of the War on Terror. With diligent detective work, moral outrage, and a keen sense of the absurd, Palast takes on the "armed and dangerous clowns that rule us" as only he can.

Editorial Review from Publishers Weekly:

Palast (*The Best Democracy Money can Buy*) is a refreshing, fearless witness to the American political landscape -- and he doesn't really care whether or not you like him for it: "I am not a nice man. You want something heartwarming... buy a puppy." Though Palast comes right out and calls George Bush II un-American ("Greg, you have no respect for the office of the President.' No, I don't. Not one iota."), the author is not another TV or radio personality with an axe to grind. A former corporate fraud and racketeering investigator, Palast is an economist and investigative journalist, and his arguments are based on research and fact. At once scary, infuriating, fascinating and frustrating, this book covers almost all the controversial political territory of the new century (see the subtitle), including Hurricane Katrina. Palast believes that this crucial period has put every working citizen's rights at stake -- "from the Wage and Hour Law's 40-hour week to the Clayton Antitrust Law" -- and his well-reasoned outrage makes a convincing case. Unfortunately, Palast is short on solutions; the only actions he advocates are signing up at his web site and voting the bums out -- even though, as Palast points out, Bush already "lost the election. TWICE."

Ø **The Global Class War:**
How America's Bipartisan Elite Lost Our Future
and What it Will Take to Win it Back
by Jeff Faux

Why, in 1993, did the newly elected Bill Clinton pass the North American Free Trade Agreement, a pro-business measure invented by his political adversaries and opposed by his allies in labor and the environment?

The answer, according to Faux, is that Clinton was less devoted to his base than to his fellow elites, rewarding their donations to the Democratic Party with access to Mexico's cheap labor and lax environmental standards. With a fluid grasp of both history and economics, Faux, founder of the Economic Policy Institute, critiques both Democrats and Republicans for protecting transnational corporations "while abandoning the rest of us to an unregulated, and therefore brutal and merciless, global market."

Faux describes how free trade and globalization have encouraged businesses to become nationless enterprises detached from the economic well-being of any single country, to the detriment of all but transnational elites.

He details the genesis of NAFTA and the failure of the agreement to deliver on its promises to workers, predicting a severe American recession as its legacy.

Acclaim for The Global Class War:

"You will never think about 'free trade' the same way after reading Jeff Faux's superb book. As Faux makes clear, the globalization debate is really about whose interests are served by global elites, and how we need to go about reclaiming a democracy that serves ordinary people. This book should transform public discourse in America."

-Robert Kuttner, founding coeditor of the American Prospect and a contributing columnist to BusinessWeek

"Jeff Faux's astonishing story of how class works will scandalize the best names in Wall Street and Washington-especially the much admired Robert Rubin, who along with other elites colluded behind the backs of ordinary citizens in Mexico, Canada, and the United States. The most cynical Americans will be shocked by the sordid details. This really is an important book."

-William Greider, author of The Soul of Capitalism and Secrets of the Temple

"Globalization is a cover for American imperialism, but the beneficiaries are not the American people at the expense of foreigners but corporate executives at the expense of working-class and poor people wherever they may be. Jeff Faux offers a comprehensive and devastating analysis."

-Chalmers Johnson, author of The Sorrows of Empire

Ø War on the Middle Class: How the Government, Big Business, and Special Interest Groups Are Waging War on the American Dream -- and How to Fight Back by Lou Dobbs

Though a self-confessed "lifelong Republican and a strong believer in free enterprise," Dobbs's opinions have evolved away from mainline GOP and corporate dogma. Charging that the Clinton and Bush administrations have waged "class warfare" on the American middle class, he criticizes their free trade policies, which have eliminated manufacturing jobs in the U.S., either outright or by outsourcing them. He's scornful of a GOP that panders to its fundamentalist religious base with bills that focus on abortion, gay marriage and the Pledge of Allegiance while the huge federal deficits ("an estate tax on the middle class and their children") spiral out of control. He rails against the K Street lobbyists, like Jack Abramoff, and their friends in Congress; chastises the credit card and banking industries for engineering the new bankruptcy law to their own profits; and criticizes the press for its sloppy "he says, she says" journalism. But Dobbs risks

slipping from populist to demagogue in his jeremiad against the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in this country and his support for the vigilante Minuteman Project. Agree with him or not, Dobbs remains a refreshingly bold thinker who refuses to be intellectually pigeonholed.

Ø **The Uprising:**
An Unauthorized Tour of the
Populist Revolt Scaring Wall Street and Washington
by David Sirota

"This book engages in the nearly lost art of reporting to tell us what's going on in the many places that the elite media can't be bothered to look. It chronicles just how fed up Americans have become, and nominates a few heroes for them to turn to: that great senator Bernie Sanders, or the activist nun Pat Daly, for instance. It cheered me a good deal to read how many Americans are finally starting to fight back against the rule of greed that has been our lot for too many years."

— Bill McKibben, author of *Deep Economy*

Job outsourcing. Perpetual busy signals at government agencies. Slashed paychecks. Stolen elections. A war without end, fatally mismanaged. Ordinary Americans on both the Right and Left are tired of being disenfranchised by corrupt politicians of both parties and are organizing to change the status quo. In his invigorating new book, David Sirota investigates whether this uprising can be transformed into a unified, lasting political movement.

Throughout the course of American history, uprisings like the one we are seeing now have given birth to powerful movements to end wars, protect workers, and expand civil rights, so the prospect of today's uprising turning into a full-fledged populist movement terrifies Wall Street and Washington. In *The Uprising*, Sirota takes us far from the national media spotlight into the trenches where real change is happening—from the headquarters of the most powerful third party in America to the bowels of the U.S. Senate; from the auditorium of an ExxonMobil shareholder meeting to the quasi-military staging area of a vigilante force on the Mexican border. This is vital, on-the-ground reporting that immerses us in the tumultuous give-and-take of politics at its most personal.

Sirota also offers a biting critique of our politics. He shows how the uprising is, at its core, a reaction to faux "bipartisanship" in the nation's capital—the "bipartisanship" whereby Republican and Democratic lawmakers join together in putting the agenda of corporate interests above all those of ordinary citizens. Ultimately, Sirota reminds us that the Declaration of Independence, "America's original uprising manifesto," says that governments "derive their powers from the consent of the governed."

Irreverent and insightful, *The Uprising* shows how the governed have stopped consenting and have started taking action.

Ø **The Impeachment of George W. Bush:**
A Practical Guide for the Concerned Citizen
by Elizabeth Holtzman, with Cynthia L. Cooper

Review by Brian J. Mich:

Bringing the credibility of her many years of public service, most notably her work as a Congresswoman during the Watergate Committee and as a prosecutor, Elizabeth Holtzman, with Cynthia Cooper, has produced an important work that is, at the same time, both lawyerly and accessible. They provide the reader with the background -- both historical and legal -- of the important role of impeachment in the maintenance of our democratic system and then proceed to seamlessly lay out the evidence that overwhelmingly supports their conclusion. While I may not have been the hardest person to sell on their conclusion, the argument is so well-drawn that it is hard to imagine that anyone approaching the book with an open-mind wouldn't come away thinking that impeachment is a necessity or, at least, an option that needs to be explored more in the public discourse.

The most amazing (and, unfortunately, troubling) point made so well by this book is how close the parallel is between the behavior and attitude toward our democratic principles of the current White House and that of Nixon Administration. All the elements that moved the impeachment process after Watergate exist now: dishonesty in proceeding with military action, illegal electronic surveillance of American citizens, the retaliation against persons who challenge the Administration's actions, and the contempt of Congress and the democratic process. Add to those the additional factor that President Bush has demonstrated a total disregard for human life in his irresponsible execution of an unwinnable war and his failure to respond effectively to the devastation created by Hurricane Katrina and it is clear, as was the case over thirty years ago, that action needs to be taken.

As Ms. Holtzman and Ms. Cooper point out, the necessity to act comes not only from the need to remove the President from office, but, also, the need to send the message to all future Presidents (one that should have been clear from the Watergate years) that the disregard of our Constitution and laws will never be tolerated. It is for that reason alone that every person needs to read this book.

Ø The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight: Revised and Updated: The Fate of the World and What We Can Do Before It's Too Late by Thom Hartmann

Review by Peter Saflund:

"A Systems Perspective"

Last Hours offers a perspective that is all too often missing from debates about energy, over consumption, waste, and survival. As an engineer type, I find systems thinking, that is, discussions of the inter-relationships and critical dependencies inherent in our lifestyles, almost totally absent from political and business discussions on the energy topic. It's easy to assume we can by some unspecified miracle, easily substitute hydrogen or yet-to-be discovered energy sources to replace oil, and go on as we have before. Hartmann's book explains in an easy-to-understand way why this cannot happen. There are so many great points made in this book it's hard to pick one or two as more praiseworthy than others. However one that many

folks may not realize is that the so-called production of oil is not linear -- it takes much more time and money to get the last half of the oil out of a well than the first half. For this reason, serious, life-altering planetary shortages will occur long before we 'run out.' People who think we can just substitute nukes would benefit from knowing that it takes at least 12 years to build a plant. Once online, it takes another 17 years for it to pay for itself, and after that it may produce "free" electricity for 3 - 5 years before chemical reactions and radiation make it necessary either to replace major plant components -- a process that takes 3-5 years and may cost as much as the whole plant did originally, or retire the plant altogether. (This is not idle theory, it has already happened in the US). Lastly, those who whistle past the graveyard by insisting that the way things are is the way they ought to be (or some higher power would have intervened by now) may benefit from Hartmann's historically accurate account of the way things were before they got to the way they are. For skeptics I suggest that even if Hartmann were half right, you'd be motivated to start taking the important steps now.

Ø **Hacked!**
High Tech Election Theft in America, 11 Experts Expose the Truth!
Edited by Abbe Waldman DeLozier and Vickie Karp

Review by Joan Brunwasser:
9/11, Jury Duty, and What America is Demanding of Us Right Now

I got up very early today and headed downtown for my annual jury duty assignment. It seemed somehow appropriate for 9/11. Because I like to be prepared, I packed a raincoat, snacks, a water bottle, blank note cards, my Filofax, paper, and two books. I'm sure I looked like a bag lady, but you never know what you're going to need. Once a hoarder, always a hoarder. I'm in the middle of a disturbing novel, *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, and also packed *Hacked!* by Abbe Waldman DeLozier and Vickie Karp. I got it in the mail over the weekend and thought that the waiting game at the courthouse would be an ideal time to crack it open.

The introductory video at the Daley Center Courthouse echoed with patriotic refrains that could so easily be applied to the issue of voting integrity. The narrating judge talked about "fulfilling the duty and obligation as an American citizen" and the "diligence and sacrifice" of each of us that allows the justice system to work. He also talked about the juror's responsibility to make a final determination about what happened, weighing the "credibility of the testimony of the witness," keeping in mind that the witness may or may not be reliable and may or may not be telling the whole story. I looked around, trying to discern on the faces surrounding me if anyone else was struck by the themes of election reform.

As I sat there -- doing my patriotic duty with my fellow citizens, together, yet alone -- I attacked the book with my yellow marker. I highlighted so many passages that the pages seemed to glow. I'm sure I looked like an overgrown student on a rampage. It's so hard to read this material and stay calm. I found myself pulling on my hair from frustration and anguish. I wanted to go screaming down the hallway. I probably would have if I thought it would help, but rationally decided against it. Maybe my morning yoga is paying off.

The electronic voting machine vendors and their proponents have done a terrific job of framing the issue so that the onus always seems to be on the well-meaning, concerned citizens and/or voting activists. In the same way that Clean Skies, the Patriot Act, and Help America Vote have taken on Orwellian overtones, the presumption of innocence and home court advantage have been awarded to the vendors.

We need to constantly remind ourselves that it's the voters, not the machines, who are to be protected. Anything that does not directly contribute to furthering voting integrity should be discarded. We needn't apologize about it. That's simply the way it's supposed to be.

Karp and DeLozier's book traces the history of our surrendered elections. While 2000 and 2004 are strong in our recent memories, corrupted elections stretch back much farther. It is a sad story full of defeats, large and small. Historically, there was a much more direct connection between the voter and the vote. As more layers have been added, each has stripped away transparency and made oversight more difficult. With the insertion of electronic voting, secret software, and technicians who work on the machines (even in the midst of an election with no one able to understand or verify exactly what has been done), transparency is nothing more than a fond memory. These changes have not benefited the American people or the democratic process. The infamous hanging chads of the 2000 election became the pretext for adopting wholesale electronic voting at the expense of the voter. HAVA, which purports to "help" Americans vote, is ironically, a much bigger threat to voters' intentions than the system it has replaced.

DeLozier posts:

Why is our government allowing its citizens to vote on privately owned machines, without citizen oversight, using secret programming, without proper testing or certification, and looking the other way every time a machine miscounts an election? (xxvi)

Bev Harris asks, "If an elections official ruins an election -- loses votes forever, or mishandles the voting so badly that no one can repair the error -- we can fire that person. If an election's machine ruins an election, shouldn't we fire that voting system?" (Hacked, 18)

The entire rationale for electronic voting machines seems to be built on sand. (Readers, imagine that the following paragraph is written in 20-point font, bold, italicized, and underlined!) HAVA does not actually require the use of DREs, although it has been interpreted that way often enough that everyone thinks that it does. Section 301-303 actually says (emphasis mine), "At least one direct recording electronic voting system or other voting system equipped for individuals with disabilities" (163). Another case of repeating a lie over and over until it sounds true. This often-willful misinterpretation has led to almost four billion of our tax dollars being spent on this insecure, unreliable, expensive system, which is actually antithetical to democratic principles.

Here are some more lies and distortions.

- Ø Diebold has failed every test put to it by computer experts, yet it insists that its machines do what they're advertised to do. Worse yet, its and other vendors' wares are routinely certified. So then what does certification actually mean? And what kind of certifying body is the ITA when it is vendor-funded, and reports only to the vendors, who can choose to rectify the problems (or not) without voters being notified? The law asks: cui bono? Who benefits from such a system? Surely not the voters. (Please see the postscript about the just released Princeton's Center for IT Policy Report.)
- Ø What about the many reports issued after the 2004 election? Conyers' report, the GAO Report, Carter-Baker, the Harri Hursti/Black Box Voting Leon County hack, the Diebold security advisory alert, the California task force report commissioned by Secretary of State Bruce McPherson, the Brennan Center Report. Each was scathing regarding the gaping holes in the security of the poorly written software. Do we really need more proof that this is not working? What other system would get so many chances?
- Ø No background checks on company ownership or employees means that many of the companies change hands, involve foreign ownership, and employ known felons.
- Ø Why are public officials, who are paid with tax dollars, defending vendors at the expense of citizens and our elections? Why are former elections officials now lobbying (often those who once worked for them) for electronic voting machine vendor contracts?
- Ø Why would we want defense industry figures, former CIA bigwigs, right-wing extremists, or Venezuelan interests to control our voting? What about senators (formerly "long shot" candidates) with presidential aspirations? Why have we privatized this ultimate American institution? What have we gained, and more importantly, what have we lost?

May Schmidt, the election judge says:

I want a system that is easy, can be executed with minimal equipment and that the voters can understand easily. For me, the answer is hand-counted paper ballots. This system is cheaper, efficient and more transparent for the voter and election workers. I think voters trust paper ballots more. In my opinion if someone wanted to throw an election, one would have to have a group of complicit people in several precincts. With electronic voting it only takes one hacker to tamper with an election. It is the difference between NFL football and a pickup soccer game! (Hacked!, p. 56)

We are urged to educate ourselves. This book has a bountiful bibliography full of everything anyone needs to know to get plenty alarmed. The authors welcome your scrutiny. Once you're mad about what's going on, they recommend getting active. Educate yourself. Support voting integrity organizations. Pick up a camcorder and observe and record. Sometimes, a video is worth a thousand words. It has been proven useful in providing evidence for lawsuits.

Karp and DeLozier bring together a stellar group: Bev Harris, Lynn Landes, Bob Fittrakis and Harvey Wasserman, Rep. Cynthia McKinney, and others, including an election judge with 35 years of experience.

Each of the contributors seems to conclude that hand-counted paper ballots are the only way to secure elections. But even that is not enough. They must also be "hand counted in public view, with vote totals posted at the precinct level."

Here, the authors effectively offer point and counterpoint for the traditional arguments brought by proponents of electronic voting.

Many say that it's too late; electronic voting machines have been purchased all across the county, and now we have to use them.

We say: Citizens get what they settle for. We refuse to settle for electronic voting machines or optical scan counters. Period.

Many say it's the computer age, that's how we have to conduct elections.

We say: Computers have their place, and they have no place running the elections.

Many say it takes too long to hand count paper ballots.

We say: In certain cases, it can even be faster to hand count paper ballots than to wait days for uncertain results from highly suspect electronic voting machines. But even if it did take longer, what is more important? Speed? Or accuracy?

Many say we will not be able to win the battle of trashing these machines and going back to hand-counted paper ballots without incremental victories. Thus, amendments such as HR 550 and the other proposed legislative "solutions" covered in Rep. McKinney's chapter have value.

We say: How many more years, how many more elections will we allow to be compromised or stolen before we say, conclusively: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! NO MORE COMPUTERS! NO MORE MACHINES RUNNING OUR ELECTIONS! We will settle for no less than elections held with hand-counted paper ballots! (Hacked!, pp. 192-3)

I didn't need to be convinced. Now, I'm throwing the question back to you. Read the book and judge for yourself. Kathleen Wynne gave up her job to become a full-time voting activist. That's a lot to expect from any "normal" person. Realistically speaking, what can you do? What will you do?

Victoria Collier puts it well: "Do you support democracy?... If you do, then you must believe in the vote and you have the responsibility to fight for it right now. You have no right to turn away from that fight, or expect someone else to fight it for you" (70).

That's it, in a nutshell.

Five years ago today, when the planes struck the World Trade Center, I was getting a massage, an unusual treat. We sat and watched the television in stunned silence. I felt like I was suddenly speaking a foreign language. I just didn't get it. It didn't sink in. It was too weird. It was too new and raw.

It's been a long five years. I'm a lot older now. Another dubious election and its aftermath have aged me. But, I know what I know. I'm not so naive anymore. What I now know is that we're under attack, only it's from the inside, and it's striking at the core of who we are and what we'll be in an even more fundamental way than 9/11 did. My challenge is to wake people up, without burning out or going mad in the interim. I'd like to keep my hair. I could use some help. Won't you join me?

Order at:

<http://www.hackedelections.com/content/view/14/27/>

DVD List: Ordering Information for the Movies Cited in This Report

DVD: Why We Fight

Eugene Jarecki is not the kind of documentarian to tell us the war in Iraq is a mess. His purpose is to show us how we got there. And he does it the hard way, with nothing up his sleeve but the facts and the human cost of ignoring them. Why We Fight wants to shake us up, and boy, does it ever. Starting with Eisenhower's warning against the military-industrial complex in his 1961 farewell address as president, Jarecki sets up a wrestling match between American democracy and American imperialism and indicates why freedom is losing. Nothing greases the economy like war. All it needs is corporate and congressional collusion with the military. That it got. Jarecki sets archival war footage from the past half-century against the political maneuvering behind the scenes. The impact is shattering. You have to hand it to Jarecki ... for resisting the temptation to cherry-pick his speakers. For every Chalmers Johnson, a CIA man who grew critical of Bushworld, there's a Richard Perle ready to argue for pre-emptive attack, the merits of which he put into Bush's mouth. Impossible to ignore is Wilton Sekzer, a retired New York policeman who lost his son in the collapse of the Twin Towers on 9/11. Eager for revenge on Iraq, Sekzer feels betrayed when Bush comes up empty in the evidence department. From neocon think tanks to trade shows for weapons, Jarecki's film -- fluidly edited by Nancy Kennedy -- mounts a strong case against those who would exploit patriotism and human lives as a business proposition. No wonder Gore Vidal appears to chide us for living in a "United States of Amnesia." Why We Fight deserves high praise for making it that much tougher to wear blinders. [Review by Peter Travers]

Grand Jury Prize Winner at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival

Inspired by President Dwight David Eisenhower's Farewell Address

Featuring John McCain, Susan Eisenhower, Gore Vidal, Richard Perle and others

Written and Directed by Eugene Jarecki

Sony Pictures Classics

Order at:

www.amazon.com/Why-We-Fight-John-McCain/dp/B000FBH3W2/ref=pd_bbs_sr1/103-1662603-2987029?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1181547591&sr=1-1

DVD: 9/11 Mysteries, Part I: Demolitions ****

Astonishing footage, clean science, emotionally gripping.

The most comprehensive story to date on the demise of the Twin Towers and Building 7, traveling from "The Myth" through analysis into motivation and the players.

Watch the Professional Demolition Technician showing us how Thermite is applied to steel beams in a Diagonal Line in order to get the freshly severed steel to "walk" sideways off its foundation. Compare this to the Images from the Tower Rubble that follow.

Written and Directed by Smallstorm

Order at:

http://www.avatarpolitical.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=71&Itemid=55

DVD: 9/11 Blueprint for Truth: The Architecture of Destruction

Hundreds of Architects and Engineers Challenge the 9/11 Lie

"Courageous and Comprehensive. Richard Gage, AIA, has inspired and awakened the very professionals on whose ignorance and silence the cover-up of the 9/11 crime depends." -- Jim Hoffman, 911research.com

Chapters in Part I, WTC Building 7:

Symmetrical Collapse; Explosions; Fire; FEMA Report; Free Fall; Expert Corroboration; Squib Explosions; Molten Metal; Foreknowledge; Building 7 Conclusions

Chapters in Part II, WTC Twin Towers:

WTC History; Twin Towers' Structure; FEMA Deception; Explosions; Columns Cut; Rapid Onset; Demolition Waves; Free Fall Speed; Explosive Squibs; Symmetrical Collapse; Skeleton Broken Up; Molten Iron; Dust Clouds; Destruction by Fire; NIST Deceptions; Foreknowledge; Expert Corroboration; Conclusion

Order at: <http://www.ae911truth.org/dvdorder.php>

DVD: 9/11 Press for Truth

Five of the most prominent members of the Family Steering Committee -- each an American who lost a loved one in the Twin Towers -- tell their story for the first time, providing the most powerful argument yet for why 9/11 still needs to be investigated. The documentary is based in part on the Complete 9/11 Timeline that was compiled by citizen investigator Paul Thompson using the Cooperative Research website.

Produced by John Duffy, Paul Thompson, Kyle Hence and Paul Thompson;

Directed by Ray Nowosielski

Order at: http://cooperativeresearch.org/911_press_for_truth.html

And at: <http://www.911pressfortruth.com/>

DVD: Loose Change Second Edition

This film shows direct connection between the attacks of September 11, 2001 and the United States government. Evidence is derived from news footage, scientific fact, and most importantly, Americans who suffered through that tragic day. Produced by Korey Rowe and Jason Bermas; Directed by Dylan Avery
Order at: <http://lc911.com/lc911/product.php?productid=1>

DVD: 911 Eyewitness

For the first time, see and hear the massive explosions at the base of the towers causing clouds of dust to rise up from street level before each tower fell. Produced and Directed by Rick Siegel
Order at: <http://www.911eyewitness.com/>

DVD: September 11 Revisited

Stunning evidence that explosives were used in the complete demolition of the WTC Twin Towers and WTC Building Seven. Many of the surviving clips from eyewitnesses and news footage in this movie were only shown once on television and never replayed. Featuring Ex-BYU Physics Professor Steven Jones, Claremont Professor Emeritus David Ray Griffin and MIT Engineer Jeff King
Written and Directed by Dustin Mugford
Order at: <http://www.911revisited.com/order.html>

DVD: American Blackout

American Blackout chronicles the fraudulent US elections witnessed from 2000 to 2004 while following the story of Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, who not only took an active role in investigating these debacles but also found herself in the middle of one after publicly questioning the Bush Administration about the 9-11 terrorist attacks. American Blackout examines the contemporary tactics used to control our democratic process and silence political dissent. Directed by Ian Inaba
Order at: http://www.theconnection.com/american_index.cfm?ArtistID=400

DVD: VoterGate, The Movie

Fast-paced and engaging, the action documentary VoterGate reveals the shocking story of how touchscreen voting systems are highly susceptible to hacking and how these systems are being implemented across the country without the proper checks and balances to insure accuracy and accountability. Executive produced by Jeremy Manning and Stanley Weithorn; Produced by Kate Forrest; and Featuring Bev Harris
Download at: http://www.investigatethevote.org/votergate_qt256kb.html

DVD: Unconstitutional: The War on Our Civil Liberties

Facts and haunting stories about the lies and radical policies of the Bush Administration and their real victims -- the American people
Presented by Robert Greenwald
Written, Produced and Directed by Nonny de la Peña

The Disinformation Company
Order at: <http://www.akpress.org/2004/items/unconstitutional>

DVD: Uncovered: The War on Iraq

Based almost solely on actual clips of the President and the Administration in their lead up to the war in Iraq. Examines how the media was persuaded to publish and broadcast only the Administration's view of the danger that they claimed Hussein posed to the nation. Since we now know that there are no "weapons of mass destruction," it is supreme irony to watch and listen as Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Powell claim to know exactly what Hussein had and where he had it.

Former CIA personnel provide very interesting perspective on how information is collected and what it means when it's delivered to the Administration and Congress, before it's edited for political effect. It's hard not to come away from this film without feeling outraged that the population of a democracy could be so manipulated.

A film by Robert Greenwald

Order at:

<http://video.barnesandnoble.com/search/product.asp?ean=881394500129&z=y>

DVD: Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers

Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers is the story of what happens to everyday Americans when corporations go to war. Acclaimed director Robert Greenwald takes you inside the lives of soldiers, truck drivers, widows and children who have been changed forever as a result of profiteering in the reconstruction of Iraq. Iraq for Sale uncovers the connections between private corporations making a killing in Iraq and the decision makers who allow them to do so.

Produced and Directed by Robert Greenwald

Order at: <http://iraqforsale.org/buy.php>

DVD: Control Room

Startling and powerful, Control Room is a documentary about the Arab television network Al-Jazeera's coverage of the US-led Iraqi war, and conflicts that arose in managed perceptions of truth between that news media outlet and the American military. Al-Jazeera's determination to show images and report details outside the Pentagon's carefully controlled information flow draws the wrath of American officials, who accuse it of being an al-Qaida propagandist. (The killing of an Al-Jazeera reporter in what appears to be a deliberately targeted air strike is horrifying.) Most fascinating is the way Control Room allows well-meaning, Western-educated, pro-democratic Arabs an opportunity to express views on Iraq as they see it -- in an international context, and in a way most Americans never hear about.

Directed by Jehane Noujaim

http://www.amazon.com/Control-Room-Samir-Khader/dp/B0002X8U4I/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/103-1662603-2987029?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1181541802&sr=8-1

DVD: An Inconvenient Truth

An Inconvenient Truth makes the compelling case that global warming is real, man-made, and its effects will be cataclysmic if we don't act now. Al Gore, whose

commitment to this issue began in his twenties, presents a wide array of facts and information in a thoughtful and compelling way: often humorous, frequently emotional, always fascinating. In the end, An Inconvenient Truth accomplishes what all great films should: it leaves the viewer shaken, involved and inspired.

Directed by Davis Guggenheim

Order at: <http://www.climatecrisis.net/blog/>

Or at: <http://www.amazon.com/Inconvenient-Truth-Inconvenient/dp/B000ICL3KG>

DVD: JFK -- the Case for Conspiracy

Commentary, films, and photographs illuminating the "crime of the century," and the investigation and cover-up that followed.

Written and Directed by Robert Groden

Delta Entertainment Corporation

Order at:

http://www.deltaentertainment.com/dvd_single.html?item=11138

[Back](#)

11.11 Debunking the Official Disinformation about Fire and Steel

Fire and the WTC Towers

From a Presentation by Jim Hoffman:

And the BBC quoted structural engineer Chris Wise whose quote I'd like to read:

"It was the fire that killed the buildings. There is nothing on earth that could survive those temperatures with that amount of fuel burning. The columns would have melted, the floors would have melted, and eventually they would have collapsed one on top of each other."

[VIEW SLIDE] What's wrong with this? ... Well, the basic physics of fire temperatures. The melting point of steel is slightly below that of iron, which is 1535 Celsius. The highest temperature you can achieve by burning hydrocarbons in the atmosphere without pressurization or preheating of the air is around 825 Celsius, and that's when you have pre-mixed fuel and air -- the kind of blue flame you get with a gas stove. Diffuse flames of the type you have in building fires are far cooler than that, and oxygen-starved diffuse flames are far cooler still. Note that the the dark smoke, especially in the South Tower, indicate that those fires were oxygen starved; they were probably only a few hundred degrees Celsius.

[SLIDE] A more sophisticated theory that was presented within days of the attack, is the "column failure" theory, or as we call it, the "wet noodle" theory, in which the heat from the fires supposedly causes the columns, not to melt, but to lose most of their strength by softening because steel starts to soften long before it melts at high temperatures.

This was endorsed by the paper by Bazant and Zhou which was published a mere two days after the attack. Wow, these guys must be super-geniuses -- they had it all figured out two days after the attack. Their paper confidently proclaims:

"The structural resistance was found to be an order of magnitude less than necessary for survival."

I just find this article ridiculous. They pull numbers out of thin air. They clearly reveal their profound ignorance of structural engineering principles such as overdesign and margins of safety. And their report is self-described as simple and approximate, yet nobody else has even bothered, apparently, to do a quantitative analysis of the collapses. So I guess their report was just so brilliant that no more analysis was needed beyond their simple and approximate one.

The column failure theory was also endorsed by Silverstein, the owner, for his insurance claim.

[VIEW SLIDE] The column failure theory is unfortunately inapplicable because the temperatures were nowhere near hot enough for that scenario. It assumes that the columns on an entire floor were raised to around 800 degrees Celsius, but note that the fires didn't even cover a single floor of either tower.

None of the features of 700-degrees-plus-Celsius fires were observed, which are [that] the steel would glow red-hot, there would be extensive window breakage, bright emergent flames would be visible, and light smoke, not the black smoke that we saw, at least as time progressed, would have been evident.

Moreover, fires have never caused a column failure in any steel structure, because steel has a high thermal conductivity, which means you pour heat onto it, and it soaks it away -- the heat conducts very rapidly.

Corus Construction Corporation performed extensive tests in multiple countries in which they subjected steel-framed carparks, which were uninsulated, to prolonged hydrocarbon fueled fires, and the highest temperatures they recorded in any of the steel beams or columns was a mere 360 degrees Celsius. At that temperature, structural steel loses only about 1 percent of its strength.

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/towers/text/index.html>

About Jim Hoffman:

Jim Hoffman has worked in applying scientific visualization of mathematics, which was instrumental in the discovery of the first new examples of complete, embedded minimal surfaces in over one hundred years.

Hoffman's work has been featured in articles in Science News, Scientific American, and Nature, and he has co-authored papers in Science and Macromolecules. He is credited with involvement in the discovery of new, three-dimensional morphologies for modeling block co-polymers, such as the Split-P surface (a hybrid of the P and G triply periodic surfaces), and derived the first level set formulation for the Lidinoid surface.

He is also the Founder of the 911 Research.wtc7.net website. The principal contributors to the site are:

- * Jim Hoffman, Webmaster and Senior Editor
- * Gregg Roberts, Associate Editor
- * Victoria Ashley, Research Consultant
- * Jan Hoyer, Event Coordinator

<http://911research.wtc7.net/re911/about.html#who>

Fire Temperatures

Reprint of FAQ 11.3.3 at www.aisc.org/faq

Question: At what temperature does a typical fire burn?

The duration and the maximum temperature of a fire in a building compartment depends on several factors, including the amount and configuration of available combustibles, ventilation conditions, properties of the compartment enclosure, weather conditions, etc.

In common circumstances, the maximum temperature of a fully developed building fire will rarely exceed 1800°F [982°C]. The average gas temperature in a fully developed fire is not likely to reach 1500°F [816°C]. Temperatures of fires that have not developed to post-flashover stage will not exceed 1000°F [538°C].

http://www.aisc.org/MSCTemplate.cfm?Section=Steel_Interchange2&Template=/CustomSource/Faq/SteelInterchange.cfm&FaQID=2305

The Properties of Jet Fuel

Flash point:	38 °C
Autoignition temperature:	210 °C
Freezing point:	-47 °C (-40 °C for JET A)
Open air burning temperatures:	260-315 °C (500-599 °F)
Maximum burning temperature:	980 °C (1796 °F) [Pressurized]
Density at 15 °C (60 °F):	0.775-0.840 kg/L

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jet_fuel

On Thermal Conductivity

EXCERPT: Temperatures of Objects

It is common to find that investigators assume that an object next to a flame of a certain temperature will also be of that same temperature. This is, of course, untrue.

If a flame is exchanging heat with a object which was initially at room temperature, it will take a finite amount of time for that object to rise to a temperature which is 'close' to that of the flame.

Exactly how long it will take for it to rise to a certain value is the subject for the study of heat transfer. Heat transfer is usually presented to engineering students over several semesters of university classes, so it should be clear that simple rules-of-thumb would not be expected. Here, we will merely point out that the rate at which target objects heat up is largely governed by their thermal conductivity, density, and size. Small, low-density, low-conductivity objects will heat up much faster than massive, heavy-weight ones.

<http://www.doctorfire.com/flametmp.html>

The True Melting Point of Steel

(The 800°C Figure Cited in Numerous Post 9/11 Stories was a LIE.)

Steel is just the element iron that has been processed to control the amount of carbon. Iron, out of the ground, melts at around 1510 degrees C (2750°F). Steel often melts at **around 1370 degrees C** (2500°F).

http://education.jlab.org/qa/meltingpoint_01.html

“One difficulty in the manufacture of steel is its high melting point, **about 1,370° C** (about 2,500° F), which prevents the use of ordinary fuels and furnaces.”

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761559225_2/Iron_and_Steel_Manufacture.html

“Based on the melting point of the materials involved, it would take temperatures **in excess of 1370°c** to melt the stainless steel source capsule and steel probe body.....”

http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:xvm6DKP5reIJ:www.troxlerlabs.com/pdf%2520files/NC-646-D-134-S_4300.pdf+melt+%2B+1370+C+%2B+steel&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=14&gl=us

Table of Heat Conductivity of Various Metals

http://www.engineersedge.com/properties_of_metals.htm

Properties of Chemical Elements

<http://www.chemicalelements.com/elements/fe.html>

List of Elements by Melting Point

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_elements_by_melting_point

Perhaps the BBC was Talking about Cast Iron and Hoping to Slip it By?

<http://www.metrum.org/measures/castiron.htm>

Jet Fuel Burn Rates and the NIST's own Data regarding the WTC Fire Study

http://s9.invisionfree.com/Pilots_For_Truth/ar/t28.htm

The North Tower -- As Its Conclusion Approached

There Was No Inferno

This Page Contains Images of a Woman (identified by her surviving husband as Edna Cintron) Standing in the Original Impact Hole of American Airlines 11, as well as images of the Massive Core [the existence of which was denied by the 9/11 Commission] during construction.

NOTE:

Click on the small link below the picture of the woman to see VIDEO of her.

http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/wtc1_fire.html

Or go directly to this

VIDEO: Woman in the Hole Left by American Airlines 11,

the Tower's Core Not Red Behind Her,

Minimal Fire Nearby, Waving as She Waits for Rescue.

http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/wtc1_woman.html

**PHOTOGRAPH: A Woman Standing in the Hole Made by American Airlines 11
Waiting to be Rescued**

<http://hereisnewyork.org/gallery/showbig.asp?photoID=5088>

VIDEO: **MIT Engineer and Research Scientist Jeff King:

Controlled Demolition,

the Missing Mechanisms in the Official Narrative

and the Hasty Destruction of Evidence

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-8533904938803031452>

JEFF KING per 911 Review

<http://911review.org/Wiki/King,Jeff.shtml>

SPECIFIC LIES ABOUT MELTING STEEL CITED AND DECONSTRUCTED

<http://911review.com/coverup/fantasy/melting.html>

Underwriters Laboratory Says NO WAY WTC Steel Could Melt At 2000° F

UL Executive Speaks Out On WTC Study:

"The buildings should have easily withstood the thermal stress caused by pools of burning jet fuel."

From Kevin R. Ryan

Site Manager of the Environmental Health Laboratories
South Bend, Indiana

A division of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

To Frank Gayle

Deputy Chief of the Metallurgy Division

Material Science and Engineering Laboratory

National Institute of Standards and Technology

NIST and the World Trade Center at wtc.nist.gov

Dr. Gayle biography wtc.nist.gov/pi/wtc_profiles.asp?lastname=gayle

Date: 11/11/2004

Dr. Gayle,

Having recently reviewed your team's report of 10/19/04, I felt the need to contact you directly.

As I'm sure you know, the company I work for certified the steel components used in the construction of the WTC buildings. In requesting information from both our CEO and Fire Protection business manager last year, I learned that they did not agree on the essential aspects of the story, except for one thing -- that the samples we certified met all requirements. They suggested we all be patient and understand that UL was working with your team, and that tests would continue through this year. I'm aware of UL's attempts to help, including performing tests on models of the floor assemblies. But the results of these tests appear to indicate that the buildings should have easily withstood the thermal stress caused by pools of burning jet fuel.

There continues to be a number of "experts" making public claims about how the WTC buildings fell. One such person, Dr. Hyman Brown from the WTC construction crew, claims that the buildings collapsed due to fires at 2000F melting the steel (1). He states "What caused the building to collapse is the airplane fuel burning at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The steel in that five-floor area melts." Additionally, the newspaper that quotes him says "Just-released preliminary findings from a National Institute of Standards and Technology study of the World Trade Center collapse support Brown's theory."

We know that the steel components were certified to ASTM E119. The time temperature curves for this standard require the samples to be exposed to temperatures around 2000F for several hours. And as we all agree, the steel applied met those specifications. Additionally, I think we can all agree that even un-fireproofed steel will not melt until reaching red-hot temperatures of nearly 3000F (2). Why Dr. Brown would imply that 2000F would melt the high-grade steel used in those buildings makes no sense at all.

The results of your recently published metallurgical tests seem to clear things up (3), and support your team's August 2003 update as detailed by the Associated Press (4), in which you were ready to "rule out weak steel as a contributing factor in the collapse." The evaluation of paint deformation and spheroidization seem very straightforward, and you noted that the samples available were adequate for the investigation. Your comments suggest that the steel was probably exposed to temperatures of only about 500F (250C), which is what one might expect from a thermodynamic analysis of the situation.

However the summary of the new NIST report seems to ignore your findings, as it suggests that these low temperatures caused exposed bits of the building's steel core to "soften and buckle"(5). Additionally this summary states that the perimeter columns softened, yet your findings make clear that "most perimeter panels (157 of 160) saw no temperature above 250C." To soften steel for the purposes of forging, normally temperatures need to be above 1100C (6). However, this new summary report suggests that much lower temperatures were able to not only soften the steel in a matter of minutes, but lead to rapid structural collapse.

This story just does not add up. If steel from those buildings did soften or melt, I'm sure we can all agree that this was certainly not due to jet fuel fires of any kind, let alone the briefly burning fires in those towers. That fact should be of great concern to all Americans. Alternatively, the contention that this steel did fail at temperatures around 250C suggests that the majority of deaths on 9/11 were due to a safety-related failure. That suggestion should be of great concern to my company.

There is no question that the events of 9/11 are the emotional driving force behind the War on Terror. And the issue of the WTC collapse is at the crux of the story of 9/11. My feeling is that your metallurgical tests are at the crux of the crux of the crux. Either you can make sense of what really happened to those buildings, and communicate this quickly, or we all face the same destruction and despair that come from global decisions based on disinformation and "chatter".

Thanks for your efforts to determine what happened on that day. You may know that there are a number of other current and former government employees that have risked a great deal to help us to know the truth. I've copied one of these people on this message as a sign of respect and support. I believe your work could also be a nucleus of fact around which the truth, and thereby global peace and justice, can grow again. Please do what you can to quickly eliminate the confusion regarding the ability of jet fuel fires to soften or melt structural steel.

1. <http://www.boulderweekly.com/archive/102104/coverstory.html>
2. CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 61st edition, pg D-187
3. <http://wtc.nist.gov/media/P3MechanicalandMetAnalysisofSteel.pdf>
4. <http://www.voicesofsept11.org/archive/911ic/082703.php>
5. <http://wtc.nist.gov/media/NCSTACWTCStatusFINAL101904WEB2.pdf> (pg 11)
6. <http://www.forging.org/FIERF/pdf/ffaaMacSleyne.pdf>

Kevin Ryan

Site Manager
Environmental Health Laboratories

[NOTE: Shortly after writing this letter, Mr. Ryan was fired.]

Support the Legal Defense Fund for Whistleblower Kevin Ryan:

Help hold Underwriters Laboratories accountable for its role in testing the WorldTrade Center steel.

<http://ultruth.com/>

The Properties of Thermite and Related Observations:

As with everything presented at the Journal for 911 Studies website, the following excerpt is meticulously researched and accompanied by excellent, telling photographs.

1. WTC 7 collapsed straight down. This requires that, at the moment of collapse, if caused by fires weakening the supports, not only did the north and south pair of walls have to be of equal strength, but also the east and west pair. Without such symmetry this tall building would inevitably have toppled over. Even if the fires had been intense and widespread this dual symmetry would have only a very low probability of existence. Given the uneven distribution of the small fires at the time of collapse the probability of the required symmetry vanishes, hence fires did not cause the collapse.
2. The acceleration downwards of WTC 7 was 30 feet per second per second. This is so close to the free fall acceleration of 32.2 feet per second per second

in a vacuum that virtually no resistance throughout the fall can have existed. Also the acceleration of WTC 7 was constant right from the start. Steel softens slowly as it is heated and, when just failing, still provides substantial resistance. There was however no sign of the steel giving way gradually as its temperature rose. These two observations, taken together, imply that the support structures were instantly and completely severed.

3. **A stream of molten metal, yellow-hot and flashing white-hot, was observed running from WTC 2 near the plane impact region. Shortly after this the building collapsed. When metal is white hot it is at a temperature of at least 1200° C, and when yellow it is at about 1000° C, far hotter than possible from the burning of aircraft fuel or office materials. The use of an oxidizing chemical reaction, such as occurs with thermite, or something similar, is implied. The thermite reaction achieves a temperature well in excess of 2000° C, and produces molten iron as a by-product, melting point 1540° C. It is used to cut steel, melting point about 1500° C.**
4. During the collapse of WTC 1 and WTC 2 vast clouds of dense dust and portions of the steel columns were violently thrown out. The dust came mainly from the pulverization of the concrete that was in the floors. The dust cloud and steel were evident early in the collapse, before the parts had picked up much speed, so cannot have come from component impacts. For the pulverization of the concrete, and also to rapidly expand the dust cloud against the pressure of the atmosphere, a very substantial additional source of energy is required. The theory that this energy could have come from the potential energy in the building is clearly untenable as virtually all of the potential energy had to be consumed in providing the kinetic energy for the high downward acceleration, so close to free fall.
5. Computer simulations by Lu and Jiang show that, for WTC 1 and WTC 2, collapse in the fire damaged region would have been impossible at the known temperature of the steel supports.
6. Calculations by Gordon Ross show that, if a floor near the plane impact site instantly and totally disintegrated, the energy available from the falling of the top portion would not be sufficient to provide the energy needed to sustain the collapse through the undamaged lower portion. Thus, in the absence of explosives, the top would have decelerated and come to rest.

Deductions from observer statements and photographs

1. Weeks after 9/11 workers were still unearthing extremely hot material. A photograph shows solid yellow-hot metal clamped in the jaws of an excavator. The color shows this to be at least 1000° C. This cannot be aluminum, which melts at 660° C, and therefore must be iron or steel. It is impossible for a fire without a dense supply of fuel and forced draft to achieve such high temperatures, hence another energy source must have been involved.
2. **Molten metal was observed in the basement of all three buildings and the high temperatures were confirmed by aerial infra-red imaging. This observation can be readily explained by the use of thermite which**

contains a chemical oxidant, so does not depend on an air supply. The by-product of its reaction is molten iron. This would explain not only the high temperatures achieved in a confined space but also the presence of liquid metal, as described more fully in point 3 of the list above.

3. Numerous eye witnesses reported hearing and feeling explosions. Some were injured and some reported being blown off their feet.
4. A photograph of WTC 2 shortly after the collapse commenced shows the falling top block distorting, though it was straight just before the fall commenced. As there can be no force acting on the block during free fall, this could not have occurred unless the block had already lost its support structure.

www.journalof911studies.com/articles/Journal_2_Evidence_for_demolition_20.pdf

VIDEO: 9/11 Firefighters

"Molten Steel Flowing Like a Foundry"

Steve Watson
Infowars.net
Friday, November 17, 2006

A video of a firefighter describing seeing molten "steel" flowing at ground zero after 9/11 has emerged on Google video. He states that it was like a foundry or "lava in a volcano."

...

Molten metal found in the basement of the WTC suggests that the commonly used explosive thermite may be responsible for the collapse.

Physics professor Steven Jones, formerly of Brigham Young University, has conducted extensive research to prove that buildings not destroyed by explosives would have insufficient directed energy to produce the large quantities of melted metal that was discovered.

The molten steel was found five days after the collapse, on Sept. 16, when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) used an Airborne Visible/Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (AVIRIS) to locate and measure the site's hot spots.

...

The USGS Spectroscopy Lab produced images which showed dense thermal hot spots days and weeks after the attacks. ABC News reported that, "the temperature at the core of "the pile," is near 2000 degrees Fahrenheit, according to fire officials, who add that the fires are too deep for firefighters to get to."

In perfect conditions the maximum temperature that can be reached by hydrocarbons such as jet fuel burning in air is 1520° F (825° C). When the World Trade Center collapsed the deeply buried fires would have been deprived of oxygen and their temperatures would have significantly decreased.

Why was the temperature at the core of "the pile" nearly 500° F hotter than the maximum burning temperature of jet fuel a full seven days after the collapses?

There were no infernos in either of the twin towers before they collapsed, so what caused the hot spots deep in their wreckage?

<http://blog.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendID=62961422&blogID=194503788&Mytoken=C374056B-E139-451B-8AC28BD8D6574FB216257625>

The NIST's Final Report on the Collapse of the World Trade Center Towers

Abstract:

"This is the Final Report on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) investigation of the collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers, conducted under the National Construction Safety Team Act. This report describes how the aircraft impacts and subsequent fires led to the collapse of the towers after terrorists flew jet fuel laden commercial airliners into the buildings; whether the fatalities were low or high; including an evaluation of the building evacuation and emergency response procedures; what procedures and practices were used in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the towers; and areas in current building and fire codes, standards, and practices that warrant revision. Extensive details are found in the 42 companion reports. The final report on the collapse of WTC 7 will appear in a separate report."

<http://www.911research.com/essays/nist/index.html#exaggeration>

Analysis of the NIST's Final Report, per 911 Research

NIST's 3-Year \$20,000,000 Cover-Up of the Crime of the Century

On June 23, 2005 the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) published the draft of its 'Final Report of the National Construction Safety Team on the Collapses of the World Trade Center Towers' (document NISTNCSTAR1Draft.pdf), and in September it released its Final Report (document NISTNCSTAR1CollapseofTowers.pdf). This Report and a separate one on the case of WTC 7 represent the culmination of NIST's three-year investigation of the collapses of the three World Trade Center skyscrapers, funded with an initial budget of \$16 million and subsequent appropriations from taxpayers' money.

NIST's investigation is often cited as proving the official theory that the plane crashes and fires caused the collapses. Yet the Report does not explain why or how the buildings totally collapsed, despite the lack of a single historical precedent for a steel-framed skyscraper totally collapsing for any reason other than controlled demolition. And, in contrast to the Report's voluminous detail about the plane crashes, fires, and loss of life, it makes no attempt to characterize or explain the demolition-like features of the collapses -- such as their explosiveness, pulverization, verticality and nearly free-fall rapidity -- except for two sentences in a half-page section added to the Final Report to address criticisms of the Draft.

NIST simply avoids these troublesome issues by placing them outside the scope of its investigation, claiming that "global collapse" was "inevitable" after the "initiation of collapse."

<http://911research.wtc7.net/essays/nist/>

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11.12 President Bush's Change of Heart

How His Promise of a "Full-Scale Investigation" was "Re-Framed" Upon Further Consideration

- Ø He fought for more than a year to avoid the establishment of a 911 Commission.
- Ø Defeated in that, he attempted to chair it with the Historically Compromised International Operative Henry Kissinger.
- Ø Defeated in that when Kissinger refused to answer the question: "Do you represent anyone named "bin Laden," he slipped in the relatively unknown Bush Operative Philip Zelikow to oversee the "independent" inquiry.
- Ø He attempted to deny the investigation enough funding to function.
- Ø Defeated in that, he coughed up a profoundly modest budget, and set a time limit on the committee's work.
- Ø A time limit to which he gave special attention by refusing to turn over White House documents requested by the committee.
- Ø Defeated in that, he stalled toward the expiration of the committee's charter, then bombed it late with unsorted boxes of docs, and attempted to deny the committee access to the testimony of anyone in the White House.
- Ø Defeated in that, he reluctantly allowed Condoleezza Rice to appear, schooled to stall and sputter and take the longest possible route around the one question the committee most wanted to have answered:

"What was the name of the Presidential Briefing Document handed to the President on August 6th? The one which pre-disposed him to believe the first WTC suicide attack was obviously a "terrible accident," allowing him to sit with a clear conscience reading "My Pet Goat" among the eight-year olds in Florida while Americans by the score were burning alive and jumping to certain death to escape their agony in New York. Ms. Rice's answer, delivered with her best attempt at a straight face:

"Bin Laden Determined to Strike Inside the United States."

- Ø And just to maintain good form, the President finished off his dedication to the instrument of his promised "full scale investigation" by refusing to appear before it; refusing to even speak to the chairman of the committee without Dick Cheney at his side; refusing to be sworn; and refusing to allow any record of either of the men's recollections of their actions to be created.

Please See:

DVD: 911 Press for Truth

And/or Any of the 911 Websites cited at the end of these references.

AUDIO: Mr. Bush's Patriotic Intentions -- and Sputtering Follow Through

Before:

<http://users.adelphia.net/~earthwatch/BushOn911-2001.mp3>

After:

<http://users.adelphia.net/~earthwatch/BushOn911-2004.mp3>

Popular Mechanics Piece on the 911 Truth Movement

“FROM THE MOMENT the first airplane crashed into the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001, the world has asked one simple and compelling question: How could it happen?

Three and a half years later, not everyone is convinced we know the truth. Go to Google.com, type in the search phrase "World Trade Center conspiracy" and you'll get links to an estimated 628,000 Web sites. More than 3000 books on 9/11 have been published; many of them reject the official consensus that hijackers associated with Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda flew passenger planes into U.S. landmarks.

Healthy skepticism, it seems, has curdled into paranoia. Wild conspiracy tales are peddled daily on the Internet, talk radio and in other media. Blurry photos, quotes taken out of context and sketchy eyewitness accounts have inspired a slew of elaborate theories: The Pentagon was struck by a missile; the World Trade Center was razed by demolition-style bombs; Flight 93 was shot down by a mysterious white jet. As outlandish as these claims may sound, they are increasingly accepted abroad and among extremists here in the United States.

To investigate 16 of the most prevalent claims made by conspiracy theorists, POPULAR MECHANICS assembled a team of nine researchers and reporters who, together with PM editors, consulted more than 70 professionals in fields that form the core content of this magazine, including aviation, engineering and the military.

In the end, we were able to debunk each of these assertions with hard evidence and a healthy dose of common sense. We learned that a few theories are based on something as innocent as a reporting error on that chaotic day. Others are the byproducts of cynical imaginations that aim to inject suspicion and animosity into public debate. Only by confronting such poisonous claims with irrefutable facts can we understand what really happened on a day that is forever seared into world history.”

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/defense/1227842.html>

Analysis of the Popular Mechanics Piece, per 911 Research

“The Hearst-owned Popular Mechanics targeted the 9/11 Truth Movement (without ever acknowledging it by that name) with a cover story in its March 2005 edition. [1] Sandwiched between ads and features for monster trucks, NASCAR paraphernalia, and off-road racing are twelve dense and brilliantly designed pages purporting to debunk the myths of 9/11.

The article's approach is to identify and attack a series of claims which it asserts represent the whole of 9/11 skepticism. It gives the false impression that these claims, several of which are clearly absurd, represent the breadth of challenges to the official account of the flights, the World Trade Center attack, and the Pentagon attack. Thus it purports to debunk conspiracy theorists' physical-evidence-based claims, without even acknowledging that there are other grounds on which to question the official story. Indeed many 9/11 researchers don't even address the physical evidence, preferring instead to focus on who had the the means, motive, and opportunity to carry out the attack. I summarize some of this evidence at the end of this article.

While ignoring these and many other facts belying the official story, PM attacks a mere 16 claims of its choosing, which it asserts are the most prevalent among conspiracy theorists. PM groups these claims into four topics, each of which is given a richly illustrated two- or four-page spread. Since nearly all the physical-evidence-based challenges to the official story fall within one or another of these topics, the article gives the impression that it addresses the breadth of these challenges. However, for each topic, the article presents specious claims to divert the reader from understanding the issue. For example, the three pages devoted to attacking the Twin Towers' demolition present three red-herring claims and avoid the dozens of points I feature in my presentations, such as *The Twin Towers' Demolition* [2]

The article brackets its distortion of the issues highlighted by 9/11 skeptics with smears against the skeptics themselves, whom it dehumanizes and accuses of disgracing the memories of the victims, and repeatedly accuses of harassing individuals who responded to the attack. More important, it misrepresents skeptics' views by implying that the skeptics' community is an undifferentiated army that wholly embraces the article's sixteen poisonous claims, which it asserts are at the root of virtually every 9/11 alternative scenario. In fact much of the 9/11 truth community has been working to expose many of these claims as disinformation."

<http://911research.wtc7.net/essays/gopm/index.html>

9/11 and Chertoff: Cousin Wrote 9/11 Propaganda for PM

By Christopher Bollyn
Friday, 4 March 2005

..... Because the manager of public relations for Popular Mechanics didn't respond to repeated calls from American Free Press, I called Benjamin Chertoff, the magazine's "senior researcher," directly.

Chertoff said he was the "senior researcher" of the piece. When asked if he was related to Michael Chertoff, he said, "I don't know." Clearly uncomfortable about discussing the matter further, he told me that all questions about the article should be put to the publicist -- the one who never answers the phone.

Benjamin's mother in Pelham, New York, however, was more willing to talk. Asked if Benjamin was related to the new Secretary of Homeland Security, Judy said, "Yes, of course, he is a cousin."

<http://www.rumormillnews.com/cgi-bin/archive.cgi?noframes;read=66176>

CIA Connected President of Hearst Magazines Installed Chertoff Just Prior to 9/11

by Craig Paul Roberts,
Assistant Treasury Secretary in the Reagan Administration

Perhaps it is merely a coincidence that just prior to 9/11 Cathleen P. Black, who has family connections to the CIA and Pentagon and is president of Hearst Magazines, the owner of Popular Mechanics, fired the magazine's editor-in-chief and several senior veteran staff members and installed James B. Meigs and Benjamin Chertoff, a cousin of Bush administration factotum Michael Chertoff. It was Meigs and Benjamin Chertoff who produced the Popular Mechanics report that [David Ray] Griffin has eviscerated.

http://vdare.com/roberts/070326_evidence.htm

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11.13 DVD: 911 Press for Truth

Ordering Information:

In 9/11 Press for Truth, five of the most prominent members of the Family Steering Committee tell their story for the first time, providing the most powerful argument yet for why 9/11 still needs to be investigated. The documentary is based in part on the Complete 9/11 Timeline that was compiled by citizen investigator Paul Thompson using the Cooperative Research website.

At this site, you may also

- Ø View a Trailer
- Ø Download, Print, and Distribute a Poster for the film
- Ø Learn How to Host a Screening of the Film

Although independent investigations began within weeks of both Pearl Harbor and the Kennedy assassination, the same was not true of the attacks of September 11th. Most are unaware that formation of the 9/11 Commission was strongly opposed by many in Washington, including the Bush administration.

It was only due to pressure from the 9/11 families, led by a particular twelve calling themselves the Family Steering Committee, that, fourteen months after the attacks, the first hearing finally began. These twelve remained active in monitoring the Commission's investigation, providing a list of hundreds of specific, well-researched questions to the Commissioners. In the end, the Final Report failed to answer seventy percent of them.

You may place your order today at the website.

To order by check or money order, make it payable to

The Center for Cooperative Research and mail to:

PO Box 707
Chico, CA 95927

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See website for details on orders to be delivered outside the United States.

http://cooperativeresearch.org/911_press_for_truth.html

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11.14 Philip Zelikow

“The Creation and Maintenance of Public Myths”

by Mike Whitney

EXCERPT:

In the Orwellian world of make-believe; the narrative is everything. Invent a good story, run it through the ministry of truth (the media) and stick to it no matter how ridiculous it may sound. After all, if the media can shift the national debate from the war in Iraq, Social Security, and the enormous federal deficits to 14 weepy fundamentalists waving signs in front of a hospice in Florida where a brain-dead patient is being kept alive against her will; anything is possible.

In researching the Bush administration’s manipulation of public perceptions, I came across an interesting summary of the State Department’s Philip Zelikow, who was Executive Director on the 9-11 Commission, that greatest of all charades.

“Prof. Zelikow’s area of academic expertise is the creation and maintenance of, in his words, ‘public myths’ or ‘public presumptions’ which he defines as ‘beliefs (1) thought to be true (although not necessarily known to be true with certainty) and (2) shared in common within the relevant political community.’ In his academic work and elsewhere he has taken a special interest in what he has called ‘searing’ or ‘molding’ events (that) take on transcendent’ importance and therefore retain their power even as the experiencing generation passes from the scene.... He has noted that ‘a history’s narrative power is typically linked to how readers relate to the actions of individuals in the history; if readers cannot make the connection to their own lives, then a history may fail to engage them at all.”

(“Thinking about Political History” Miller center Report, winter 1999, p 5-7)

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article15398.htm>

The Sorcerer’s Apprentice

By Mark Jensen

Philip Zelikow’s is not a household name. Maybe it should be....

After George W. Bush took office, Zelikow was named to a position on the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and worked on other task forces and commissions as well. In 2003 was named executive director of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission).

Interesting for us is the fact that as a writer, Zelikow has focused on public skepticism toward governmental institutions. He wrote a book with Ernest May on The Kennedy Tapes, and another with Joseph Nye and David King on Why People Don't Trust Government.

(http://millercenter.virginia.edu/about/resumes/zelikow_apr_03.pdf)

Zelikow is an expert in the creation and maintenance of, to employ terms he used in a 1998 address, "public myths" or "public presumptions," which he defined as "beliefs (1) thought to be true (although not necessarily known to be true with certainty), and (2) shared in common within the relevant political community. The sources for such presumptions are both personal (from direct experience) and vicarious (from books, movies, and myths). For the generation who fought World War II, 'Munich' is an example of such a public presumption; for the Founding Fathers, 'Horatio' was a shared public presumption. The power of these presumptions derives from their role in facilitating conversation, analysis, and understanding."

Analyzing such "public myths" or "public presumptions," he took a special interest in what he called "'searing' or 'molding' events [that] take on 'transcendent' importance and, therefore, retain their power even as the experiencing generation passes from the scene. In the United States, beliefs about the formation of the nation and the Constitution remain powerful today, as do beliefs about slavery and the Civil War. World War II, Vietnam, and the civil rights struggle are more recent examples." He noted that "a history's narrative power is typically linked to how readers relate to the actions of individuals in the history; if readers cannot make a connection to their own lives, then a history may fail to engage them at all."

(Thinking about Political History, Miller Center Report (Winter 1999), pp. 5-7).

A strong case can be made that both in his drafting of the National Security Strategy of the United States of America" and in his work on the 9/11 Commission, Prof. Zelikow has been consciously engaged in misrepresenting the truth to Americans and, indeed, the world, so as to shape a new "public myth" or "public presumption" to mold 9/11 into a "'searing' or 'molding' event" of "'transcendent' importance" in a way that harnesses what he calls "history's narrative power."

<http://www.ufppc.org/content/view/1508/2/>

Zelikow Was Responsible

WBum on Huffintonpost.com
November 28, 2006

A Reaction to Trey Ellis' Article:

"What Does Zelikow Know that We Don't Know?"

Philip Zelikow was the Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission and was responsible for deciding the direction that all investigations (so to speak) took. He was responsible for what was included in the report and what was kept out. He

did all the final editing. That report was filled with distortions and there were many omissions. He decided who would be called to testify and who would be ignored. It should have been called the Kean/Zelikow Report and I would guess he had the most power and influence.

Now that the democrats are in the majority, there will be many new investigations and things that will have to be answered for. I would hate to be in his shoes if they decide to reinvestigate circumstances surrounding 9/11 and the run up to the war. He was complicit in making sure there was no REAL investigation and that so many questions were left unanswered.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/trey-ellis/what-does-zelikow-know-th_b_35057.html

Bush's War on Perception & The Bombing of the Golden Mosque

For the Atlanta Free Press
by Mike Whitney
January 20, 2007

We've heard a lot about the bombing of Samarra's Golden Mosque lately. Bush has brought it up twice in the last week alone.

...
The destruction of the Golden-dome Mosque took place in February 2006 and has been identified as the "catalyzing event" that plunged the country into sectarian violence. That, at least, is just the official version. No one knows really what happened because the administration refused to conduct an independent investigation and the media excluded any account that didn't square with the Pentagon's spin on events.

What we're left with is mere speculation.

Here's what we know: Less than 4 hours after the explosion, the Bush public relations team cobbled together a statement that the bombing was the work of Sunni extremists or al Qaida terrorists.

But, how did they know? They didn't have witnesses on the ground in Samarra and they've never produced a scintilla of evidence to support their claims. It may be that the administration simply saw the bombing as an opportunity to twist the facts to suit their own purposes?

After all, the incident has been a propaganda-bonanza for the Bush team. They've used it to support their theory that Iraq is "the central battle in the war on terror" and that "we must fight them there if we don't want to fight them over here." It's become one of the main justifications for the occupation; implying that the US military is needed as a referee to keep the warring factions from killing each other. It's all just nonsense that's designed to advance the administration's political agenda.

If there had been an investigation, it would have shown whether the perpetrators were experts or not by the placement of the explosives. There's a good chance they would've found bomb-residue which could have determined the composition of the material used. Forensics experts could have easily ascertained whether the explosives came from Iraqi munitions-dumps (as suggested) or from outside the country (like the USA, perhaps?).

...
In the first 30 hours after the blast, more than 1,500 articles appeared on Google News providing the government version of events without deviation and without any corroborating evidence; just fluff that reiterated the Pentagon's account verbatim and without challenge.

1500! Now that's a well-oiled propaganda system!

Most of the articles were "cookie cutter-type" stories which used the same buzzwords and talking points as all the others; no interviews, no facts, no second opinions; simple, straightforward stenography -- nothing more.

The story was repeated for weeks on end never veering from the same speculative theory. Clearly, a great amount of effort was being exerted to convince the American people that this was a significant event that would reshape the whole context of the war in Iraq. In fact, the media blitz that followed was grander than anything since 9-11; a spectacular display of the media's power to manipulate public opinion.

There were a few articles that didn't follow the party-line, but they quickly disappeared into a cyber-"black hole" or were dismissed as conspiracy theories. One report in AFP said that the bombing "was the work of specialists" and the "placing of explosives must have taken at least 12 hours." The article continued:

"Construction Minister Mohammed Jaafar said, 'Holes were dug into the mausoleum's four main pillars and packed with explosives. Then charges were connected together and linked to another charge placed just under the dome. The wires were then linked to another charge placed just under the dome. The wires were then linked to a detonator which was triggered at a distance.'"

Of course, what does that prove? Perhaps, al Qaida has skilled explosives experts? But why not investigate? After all, if this was the "catalyzing event" which was thrusting the country towards civil war; why not have the FBI come in and have a look-around?

A professional team of investigators could have quickly determined whether highly-trained saboteurs were operating in the area (which meant that American troops would be at greater risk). Isn't that worth checking out?

Nope. The Pentagon did nothing. There was no effort at all to find out who might have been involved. It was an open and shut case; wrapped up before the dust had even settled in Samarra.

Very strange.

...
None of the people living in the vicinity of the mosque were ever questioned. Likewise, the Construction Minister Mohammed Jaafar has never resurfaced in the news again. I expect that his comments in the newspaper may have had something to do with his sudden disappearance, but then maybe not. The Golden Mosque; truth or psy-ops?

The Bush administration is very serious about controlling information. That's why they launched the Pentagon's Dept of Strategic Information. The military is now

deeply engaged in “full spectrum dominance” of all information technologies. Consequently, “controlling the narrative” is more important than one might think. Propaganda is the cheapest and most effective way to control public behavior.

The growth in public relations illustrates the importance that political leaders put on managing perception in a way that compels the masses to conform to an elite agenda. That’s why the administration has spent zillions on PR campaigns and inserted themselves into every area of human communication. They are forever looking for the right combination of patriotic and religious imagery that will get the public to march along in harmony.

The Bush administration has made some notable contributions to the traditional propaganda-paradigm. In fact, former Counselor at the State Dept, Philip Zelikow, (who was also executive director of the 9-11 Commission and author of the National Security Strategy) is an expert in “the creation and maintenance of ‘public myths’ or ‘public presumptions,’ which he defines as beliefs thought to be true although not necessarily known to be true with certainty, shared in common with the relevant political community (sounds like Rumsfeld)..... He has taken a special interest in ‘searing’ or ‘molding’ events that take on ‘transcendent’ importance and, therefore, retain their power even as the experiencing generation passes from the scene.....”

“Searing’ or ‘molding’ events that take on ‘transcendent’ importance”?!? Like 9-11, for example?

“In the Nov-Dec 1998 issue of Foreign Affairs he co-authored [with the former head of the CIA] an article called ‘Catastrophic Terrorism’ in which he speculated that if the 1993 bombing of the World Trade center had succeeded ‘the resulting horror and chaos would have exceeded our ability to describe it. Such an act of catastrophic terrorism would be a watershed event in American history. ‘It could involve loss of life and property unprecedented in peacetime and undermine America’s fundamental sense of security, as did the Soviet bomb test in 1949. The US might respond with draconian measures scaling back civil liberties, allowing wider surveillance of citizens, detention of suspects and use of deadly force....”

...
Where, one might ask, did Zelikow get his crystal ball?

Zelikow correctly assumed that if a “catastrophic” event were to take place in America, it would trigger a massive reevaluation of all our ideological commitments; “civil liberties, surveillance of citizens, detention of suspects and use of deadly force.”

History would be divided into "pre 9-11 and post 9-11." And, all the restrictions on presidential power, inalienable rights, and aggressive war could be swept away in an instant.

Isn’t this the exact blueprint for what is taking place right now? What part of Zelikow’s dark-vision has not been actualized?

This theory is the intellectual foundation for the creeping fascism that has infected our country. Its evil-brilliance is that it goes beyond propaganda’s limited ability to shape public opinion and actually creates history by fabricating events that have a “searing” or “molding” effect on the collective psyche.

Zelikow has figured out that the real essence of controlling behavior is not simply "propagating" ideas but understanding how humans process information and, then, corrupting that process so it meets the objectives of the ruling elite.

Both 9-11 and the blowing up of the Golden dome Mosque are examples of how this theory works. 9-11 has been used to erase 200 years of legal precedent and establish a "unitary president" who has absolute power. The destruction of the mosque transforms a brutal colonial occupation into a "humanitarian intervention" which requires the US military to stay on indefinitely to prevent Iraqis from killing each other. In both cases, the "catastrophic" event creates the internal logic for the subsequent response.

<http://www.atlanticfreepress.com/content/view/740/81/>

In Whose Times?

by Bill Willers
December 15, 2006

If one is looking for a publication that upholds a left of center viewpoint, it won't be found these days in *In These Times*, a 30-year-old periodical founded by James Weinstein in collaboration with such as Herbert Marcuse, Noam Chomsky and Barbara Ehrenreich, ostensibly to "identify and clarify the struggles against corporate power now multiplying in American society."

The December 2006 issue contains an amazingly Fox Network-like piece by Laura Washington, in which she claims to be "salivating at the prospect of the Democrats reclaiming the middle." The "middle," that part of the political road Jim Hightower accurately described as populated with road kill, is where every corporate interest in the country has sought for years to contain Democrats. These interests include the "Republican-lite" Democratic Leadership Council as well as mainstream media pundits, those on Fox included. "Stay in the middle and win" has been a drumbeat applied to keeping views from the left from being heard, and it's a drumbeat that has resulted in a country that correctly sees the Democratic Party as representing nothing in particular.

Washington argues that the Democratic Party has been too far in "the wilderness of the left." With this assertion she is, of course, taking the position that it should move rightward. *In These Times* is a magazine with a progressive voice?

She then takes on the phenomenon of Barack Obama, the charismatic star who bonded early in his Senate career with Joe Lieberman, sometimes called "Bush's favorite Democrat," and who mirrors Lieberman's politics to the extent that he stumped for him in the race with Ned Lamont. After reporting "grumblings from the Democratic left" regarding Obama's centrism, Washington writes: "Still, I predict that by 2008, the whiners will be vanquished." "Whiners"! -- that favorite descriptor by such as Limbaugh, O'Reilly and Hannity when referencing those on the left trying to find a voice in this world so dominated by the corporate microphone.

On December 8, *The Nation*, also a high profile "progressive" periodical, published an essay by Christopher Hayes, the senior editor of *In These Times*, titled "9/11: The Roots of Paranoia," in which the author, troubled that a third of the US

population believes in some level of government involvement in the 9/11 attack, disparages the "so-called" 9/11 Truth Movement, which he calls "a rabbit hole of delusion." He first mentions the widely distributed film *Loose Change*, to which he refers disparagingly as "a low-budget film produced by two 20-somethings," then goes to "more highbrow offerings of a handful of writers and scholars, many of whom are associated with Scholars for 9/11 Truth." Two of the scholars he identifies by name: theologian David Ray Griffin and physicist Steven Jones.

Most certainly the scholars, of whom Hayes is so dismissive, are his intellectual equals, but Hayes treads on thin ice with an accusation that "The Truth Movement's relationship to the truth may be tenuous." Within the article's context, which is an attempt to denigrate the 9/11 Truth Movement, he is, in essence, claiming that the Movement itself is characterized by willful lying, and any journalist making such a serious charge should be able to cite evidence, not mere opinion, to back it.

Regarding investigative thoroughness, the two scholars cited, Griffin and Jones, are scrupulous in their investigative methodology. Moreover, James Fetzer, a leading 9/11 skeptic and retired professor of philosophy, has written numerous well-received books on research technique and cognitive inquiry. Hayes' suggestion that the Truth Movement is based on half-baked ideas and lies is simply untrue.

Nor are 9/11 skeptics of note only in academe. Go to

www.patriotsquestion911.com (really, go to it)

and find an astonishing list of figures who flatly reject the official version of the 9/11 Commission. They include individuals from the U.S. Senate (e.g., Mark Dayton, D-MN), the House (e.g., Curt Weldon, R-PA), the FBI (e.g., Louis Freeh, former director), the CIA (e.g., Raymond McGovern and Bill Christinson), the Departments of Defense (e.g., Morton Goulder, under Nixon, Ford and Carter), Treasury (e.g., Paul Craig Roberts, under Reagan), Labor (e.g., Morgan Reynolds under Bush II), Justice (e.g., John Loftus, under Carter and Reagan), State (e.g., George Kenny, under Bush I), and the U.S. Military (e.g., Major General Albert Stubblebine). Given that such open expressions are dangerous for one's professional life, it is safe to assume that for each one who comes forward, there are many remaining silent.

Now, add to those the numerous high-level governmental and military voices from around the world (Germany, Egypt, the UK, France, Russia and more), and consider that Lee Hamilton, Vice Chair of the 9/11 Commission, has admitted that the Commission was set up to fail.

Then ponder the fact that Bush's appointee to direct the 9/11 Commission, Philip Zelikow, whose admitted area of academic expertise is "creation and maintenance of public myths" (see pages 5-7 of the Miller Center Report on Contemporary Political History), had editorial control over the Commission's final report.

Despite all of this, *In These Times* editor Hayes seems irked that the Truth Movement continues to grow -- even after the official 9/11 Commission report was supposed to settle the matter once and for all," and he makes a flat statement that theories coming out of the Truth Movement are "terrible waste of time."

Citing divisions within the Truth Movement with "some [that] don't even think there were any planes," Hayes is unaware that creating silly, unbelievable scenarios, and inserting them within the larger Truth Movement, is an easy way of sabotaging the Movement itself. This is such an old tactic -- as with the establishment of corporate-backed phony "environmental" groups -- that the savvy should expect them. Hayes reveals a disturbing lack of political "street smarts" that one would think necessary for anyone in his position.

Hayes is alarmed that life in the U.S. "continues as before, even though tens of millions of people apparently believe they are being governed by mass murderers." But given the chilling ramifications of the Patriot Act and the now widely reported experience of American citizen Jose Padilla, it is more likely that paranoia is to be found within the silent masses, not those in the Truth Movement who, driven by anger at injustice and fatigue from endless lies, are willing to express openly their views.

Yes, the Truth Movement "raises questions," and the questions are of vastly greater importance than any theories that might arise from them. It is not necessary -- perhaps not even desirable -- to resort to scenarios that can then be dashed by the belittling label of "conspiracy" which, like the word "paranoia," can be applied to neutralize valid concerns. The questions themselves are so numerous and significant that demands for honest answers are implicit within them.

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<http://www.dissidentvoice.org/Dec06/Willers15.htm>

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11.15 The Mideast Death Toll in Response to 9/11

Iraq War Civilian Death Toll

Read the Actual Report from Johns Hopkins University:

<http://i.a.cnn.net/cnn/2006/images/10/11/human.cost.of.war.pdf>

**The New York Times
October 11, 2006**

By Sabrina Tavernise and Donald G. McNeil Jr,

BAGHDAD, Oct. 10 — A team of American and Iraqi public health researchers has estimated that 600,000 civilians have died in violence [as of July 2006] across Iraq since the 2003 American invasion, the highest estimate ever for the toll of the war here.

The figure breaks down to about 15,000 violent deaths a month, a number that is quadruple the one for July given by Iraqi government hospitals and the morgue in Baghdad and published last month in a United Nations report in Iraq. That month was the highest for Iraqi civilian deaths since the American invasion.

But it is an estimate and not a precise count, and researchers acknowledged a margin of error that ranged from 426,369 to 793,663 deaths.

It is the second study by researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. It uses samples of casualties from Iraqi households to extrapolate an overall figure of 601,027 Iraqis dead from violence between March 2003 and July 2006.

The findings of the previous study, published in *The Lancet*, a British medical journal, in 2004, had been criticized as high, in part because of its relatively narrow sampling of about 1,000 families, and because it carried a large margin of error.

The new study is more representative, its researchers said, and the sampling is broader: it surveyed 1,849 Iraqi families in 47 different neighborhoods across Iraq. The selection of geographical areas in 18 regions across Iraq was based on population size, not on the level of violence, they said.

The study comes at a sensitive time for the Iraqi government, which is under pressure from American officials to take action against militias driving the sectarian killings.

In the last week of September, the government barred the central morgue in Baghdad and the Health Ministry — the two main sources of information for civilian deaths — from releasing figures to the news media. Now, only the government is allowed to release figures. It has not provided statistics for September, though a spokesman said Tuesday that it would.

The American military has disputed the Iraqi figures, saying that they are far higher than the actual number of deaths from the insurgency and sectarian violence, in part because they include natural deaths and deaths from ordinary crime, like domestic violence.

But the military has not released figures of its own, giving only percentage comparisons. For example, it cited a 46 percent drop in the murder rate in Baghdad in August from July as evidence of the success of its recent sweeps. At a briefing on Monday, the military's spokesman declined to characterize the change for September.

The military has released rough counts of average numbers of Iraqis killed and wounded in a quarterly accounting report mandated by Congress. In the report, "Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq," daily averages of dead and wounded Iraqi civilians, soldiers and police officers rose from 26 a day in 2004 to almost 120 a day in August 2006.

The study uses a method similar to that employed in estimates of casualty figures in other conflict areas like Darfur and Congo. It sought to measure the number of deaths that occurred as a result of the war.

It argues that absolute numbers of dead, like morgue figures, could not give a full picture of the "burden of conflict on an entire population," because they were often incomplete.

The mortality rate before the American invasion was about 5.5 people per 1,000

per year, the study found. That rate rose to 19.8 deaths per 1,000 people in the year ending in June.

Gunshots were the largest cause of death, the study said, at 56 percent of all violent deaths, while car bombs accounted for about 13 percent. Deaths caused by the American military declined as an overall percentage from March 2003 to June 2006.

Violent deaths have soared since the American invasion, but the rise is in part a matter of spotty statistical history. Under Saddam Hussein, the state had a monopoly on killing, and the deaths of thousands of Iraqi Shiites and Kurds that it caused were never counted.

While the near collapse of the Iraqi state makes precise record-keeping difficult, authorities have made considerable progress toward tracking death figures. In 2004, when the Johns Hopkins study was first released, authorities were still compiling deaths on an ad hoc basis. But by this year, they were being provided regularly.

Iraqi authorities say morgue counts are more accurate than is generally thought. Iraqis prefer to bury their dead immediately, and hurry bodies of loved ones to plots near mosques or, in the case of Shiites, in sacred burial sites. Even so, they have strong incentives to register the death with a central morgue or hospital in order to obtain a death certificate, required at highway checkpoints, by cemetery workers, and for government pensions. Death certificates are counted in the statistics kept by morgues around the country.

The most recent United Nations figure, 3,009 Iraqis killed in violence across the country in August, was compiled by statistics from Baghdad's central morgue, and from hospitals and morgues countrywide. It assumes a daily rate of about 97.

The figure is not exhaustive. A police official at Yarmouk Hospital in Baghdad who spoke on the condition of anonymity said he had seen nationwide counts provided to the hospital that indicated as many as 200 people a day were dying.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/11/world/middleeast/11casualties.html?ei=5088&en=516b1d070ff83c15&ex=1318219200&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&pagewanted=print>

The BBC News

October 11, 2006

An estimated 655,000 Iraqis have died since 2003 who might still be alive but for the US-led invasion, according to a survey by a US university.

The research compares mortality rates before and after the invasion from 47 randomly chosen areas in Iraq.

...

Such a trend repeated nationwide would indicate a rise in annual death rates from 5.5 per 1,000 to 13.3 per 1,000 - meaning the deaths of some 2.5% of Iraq's 25 million citizens in the last three-and-a-half years.

The researchers say that in nearly 80% of the individual cases, family members produced death certificates to support their answers.

Reliable data is very hard to obtain in Iraq, where anti-US insurgents and sectarian death squads pose a grave danger to civilian researchers.

The survey updates earlier research using the same "cluster" technique which indicated that 100,000 Iraqis had died between the invasion and April 2004 -- a figure that was also dismissed by many supporters of the US-led coalition.

While critics point to the discrepancy between this and other independent surveys (such as Iraq Body Count's figure of 44-49,000 civilian deaths, based on media reports), the Bloomberg School team says its method may actually underestimate the true figure.

"Families, especially in households with combatants killed, could have hidden deaths. Under-reporting of infant deaths is a widespread concern in surveys of this type," the authors say.

"Entire households could have been killed, leading to survivor bias."

The survey suggests that most of the extra deaths -- 601,000 -- would have been the result of violence, mostly gunfire, and suggests that 31% could be attributable to action by US-led coalition forces.

The survey is to be published in a UK medical journal, the Lancet, on Thursday.

In an accompanying comment, the Lancet's Richard Horton acknowledges that the 2004 survey provoked controversy, but emphasises that the 2006 follow-up has been recommended by "four expert peers... with relatively minor revisions."

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6040054.stm

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11.16 Traumatic Brain Injuries Among American Soldiers

Problem:

Brain injuries occur during combat. From previous wars it has been estimated that approximately 20% of all military casualties have sustained a brain injury.

The rate of brain injuries in soldiers returning from the Middle East appears to be higher than expected.

Blast injuries can result in a TBI. Soldiers in both Iraq and Afghanistan are at risk for blast injuries from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), rocket-propelled grenades and land mines. It has been estimated that over 50% of all combat injuries are blast injuries.

During four months in 2003 the Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program (DVHIP) at Walter Reed Army Medical Center screened 155 injured soldiers who had returned from Iraq and were deemed as being at risk for brain injury.

62% of the soldiers screened were found to have a brain injury.

A brain injury can last a lifetime.

Needs:

- * Increase support for the Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program (DVHIP) at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
- * Ensure continued TBI screening for all soldiers returning from combat.
- * Increase availability and access to on-going community based services.
- * Increase Case Management services to survivors of TBI.
- * Expand efforts to educate the public about TBI.

How can Congress help support our soldiers?

- * Provide an additional **\$7 million** for DVHIP in the Department of Defense (DOD) appropriations bill for FY 2006.

www.biausa.org/word.files.to.pdf/good.pdfs/advocacyweek2005/soldierswithTBI8.pdf

US Veteran Brain Injury News

Traumatic Brain Injury Emerging As The Distinguishing Injury Of The Iraq War

By D.L. McCracken

Every war or major military conflict produces a characteristic injury or wound that eventually becomes that conflict's "signature wound." World War Two was associated with an increase in radiation-induced cancer from atomic bombs while the Vietnam war led to a better understanding and increase in occurrence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the physical effects of exposure to Agent Orange.

According to a report in The Scotsman, the war in Iraq will be no different in producing a "signature wound" only this time the wound is in the brains of those affected. Medical experts are witnessing an emerging and alarming increase in a disorder known as TBI or Traumatic Brain Injury. In other words, the Iraq war could produce a generation of brain-damaged ex-soldiers.

Soldiers are far better equipped in the 21st century to protect their lives from injuries caused by bullets and bombs but in so doing, the very soldiers who are surviving extreme bomb blasts are now displaying symptoms of brain damage caused by the brain-shaking event that occurs at the time of a nearby blast.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders, symptoms of a TBI can be mild, moderate, or severe depending on the extent of the damage to the brain. Approximately half of severely head-injured patients will need surgery to remove or repair ruptured blood vessels or bruised brain tissue. Disabilities resulting from a TBI depend upon the injury's severity, location, and the age and general health of the individual.

Some common disabilities include problems with thinking, memory, and reasoning, sensory processing (sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell), expression and understanding, depression, anxiety, personality changes, aggression, acting out, and social inappropriateness. More serious head injuries may result in stupor, coma and vegetative states.

One Washington medical centre is reporting that a staggering 83% of wounded Marines and sailors were suffering from temporary or permanent brain damage.

The emergence of this latest "signature wound" comes just one month after President Bush announced in his 2006 budget that he would eliminate a \$9 million program for the treatment of people with Traumatic Brain Injury.

<http://www.birf.info/home/library/vet/vet-tbi-iraq.html>

US Veterans Administration:

73,000 Mideast Vets Have Suffered Brain Injury or Mental Disorder

Feb. 28, 2007 — Jarod Behee was shot in the head in Iraq. He survived, but is still suffering from the after effects of a traumatic brain injury, or TBI.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that Behee is one of several thousand veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with some kind of mental disorder or brain injury, but veterans advocacy groups place that number even higher.

"What you have are two sets of books," said Paul Sullivan, a spokesman for Veterans for America.

"The Department Of Defense saying that there's 23,000 wounded from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the Department Of Veterans Affairs is actually treating 205,000 veterans from these two wars," Sullivan said.

The VA contends that the 205,000 is for treating all veterans, including the standard care that returning soldiers are allowed to receive for life.

However, by its estimates, 73,000 soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have suffered from some kind of brain injury or mental disorder.

It is an unforeseen cost of war that has overburdened the VA system, according to recent reports in Newsweek and congressional hearings on the subject. Veterans seeking treatment face red tape, weeks of waiting, and often to have to pay for outside experts in order to have their disability claims processed.

Behee's wife, Marissa, was so frustrated with the care that her husband had received at the VA in Palo Alto, Calif., that she pulled her husband out and put him in a private facility.

"For the first month, I thought this isn't the way he should be treated," she told "Good Morning America."

The VA in Palo Alto said that Behee's injury was complex, and that the Behees needed to be more patient.

Jim Nicholson, a spokesman for the Department of Veterans Affairs, acknowledges that there are delays in the system, but says the department is struggling to overcome a lack of knowledge about TBIs.

"This is a relatively new phenomenon. We are all doing intense research on it," Nicholson told "GMA's" Robin Roberts.

After six years of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, however, veterans' affairs advocates are asking why the VA did not take action sooner.

"It broke my heart to see the other guys there not getting the care, but they didn't have their family there to fight for them," Marissa Behee said.

Nicholson says that the VA is making a priority of the issue and pushing the claims of returnees from Iraq and Afghanistan to the top of its claims list.

He said the VA also had requested \$87 billion from the federal budget to help fund an expansion in TBI treatment and research.

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=2910973&page=1>

Losing Their Minds

More U.S. soldiers than ever are sustaining serious brain injuries in Iraq. But a significant number of them are being misdiagnosed, forced to wait for treatment or even being called liars by the Army.

Editor's note: Kudos to the Washington Post's Dana Priest and Anne Hull, who exposed the mistreatment of wounded Iraq-war veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center over the weekend [in January of 2007]. Last January Salon's Mark Benjamin exposed the hospital's failure to adequately treat serious Iraq war brain injuries in this disturbing feature. That article included the sad travails at the hospital of Spc. Wendell McLeod Jr. and his wife, Annette McLeod, who were heavily featured in Priest and Hull's Feb. 19 article (a photograph of the couple ran above the fold on the front page of the Post).

By Mark Benjamin

Jan. 5, 2006 | After fighting in heavy combat during the initial invasion of Iraq, Spc. James Wilson reenlisted for a second tour of duty. Now 24 years old, he loved the life of a soldier.

In the fall of 2004, his 1st Cavalry Division was mostly fighting in Sadr City, a volatile sector of Baghdad. On Sept. 6, Wilson was manning a .50-caliber machine gun atop a Humvee when a bomb or bombs went off directly under the vehicle, rocking his head forward and slamming it into the machine gun. A fellow soldier told Wilson that his Kevlar helmet had been split open by the impact. The heat from one blast felt like "a hair dryer" on his skin, multiplied "times 20," Wilson later wrote in his diary. To the best of his recollection, the force of the blast also knocked the gun from its mount, smashing it into his leg.

Although battered in the attack, Wilson didn't appear badly hurt -- on the outside, at least. But in the days that followed, the young soldier from Albany, Ga., says he often felt "really dizzy, lightheaded and dazed." Two weeks after the battle, Army medics felt Wilson was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and evacuated him out of Iraq for medical evaluation. Wilson was first flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where wounded troops are

stabilized, and then sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., in October 2004.

After arriving at Walter Reed, Wilson repeatedly told doctors that he had experienced a hard blow to the head during combat in Iraq. He suffered from symptoms strongly associated with a traumatic brain injury, which occurs when the brain is rocked violently inside the skull, tearing nerve fibers: seizures, short-term memory loss, severe headaches with eye pain, and dizzy spells that have made him vomit. During a visit to the Pentagon around Christmas 2004, Wilson got so dizzy he vomited "all over" the carpet while meeting Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz in his office.

Despite Wilson's description of his injury and his symptoms, Walter Reed officials repeatedly questioned his mental state and the authenticity of his combat story. In a June 2005 memorandum from an Army Physical Evaluation Board, some Walter Reed doctors stated that Wilson exhibited "conversion disorder with symptoms of traumatic brain injury." Conversion disorder holds that symptoms such as seizures arise from a psychological conflict rather than a physical disorder. Col. James F. Babbitt, president of the Physical Evaluation Board, accused Wilson of being a liar. "I believe that the preponderance of the evidence available to the Board supports an alternative diagnosis -- one of malingering," Babbitt wrote in that memo.

Wilson and his wife, Heidi, who has been staying with him at the hospital, vigorously fought the psychological diagnosis and furiously sought medical treatment. The malingering charge was especially painful. "I want my dignity, pride and respect back," Wilson says. After serving his country, being accused of misleading doctors, he says, "is the worst thing in the world."

Today, Wilson is thin and has a shaved head. He often clenches his eyes shut, as if to squeeze at the pain in his skull, or search out an elusive word or memory. Whenever a dim detail of his combat duty bubbles up in his mind, he types it into his diary. He holds his hands awkwardly, with his thumbs folded over his palms. His speech is at times slow and slurred. "I have been dealing with this all year because no one would help me," he says.

On Dec. 19, 2005, more than a year after he was admitted, Walter Reed finally sent Wilson to a neurological center to be treated for traumatic brain injury. Neuropsychological testing done at Walter Reed on Oct. 11, 2005, led officials to conclude that "there was no indication of malingering." According to a neurosurgeon with extensive experience treating combat head injuries, an October 2004 MRI of Wilson, combined with a description of his symptoms, showed that he should have been treated for a traumatic brain injury right then. Medical experts say the failure to treat a brain-injury victim promptly could hinder recovery.

Spc. Wilson is not alone among Iraq veterans who have been misdiagnosed or waited for treatment for traumatic brain injury. Other soldiers interviewed at Walter Reed with apparent brain injuries say they too have been deeply frustrated by delays in getting adequately diagnosed and treated. The soldiers say doctors have caused them anguish by suggesting that their problems might stem from other causes, including mental illness or hereditary disease. According to interviews with military doctors and medical records obtained by Salon, brain-injury cases are overloading Walter Reed. As a result, a significant number of

brain-injury patients are falling through the cracks from a lack of resources, know-how, and even blatant neglect.

...

"A lot of things are missed because the doctors are swamped," the physician says. Many military doctors are away serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, and some patients are forced to wait too long for surgeries they need. "We're overwhelmed in terms of resources," the physician says. (Salon agreed to withhold the identity of the physician, who was not authorized to speak to the media, and feared retribution from the hospital.)

The delay in proper diagnosis and treatment for Wilson and others with apparent brain injuries is particularly troubling because patients tend to benefit from a prompt response. An April 13, 2005, article about brain trauma from the Department of Defense's own press service says that "if the injury is detected and treated early, most victims can recover full brain function, or at least return to relatively normal lives."

Traumatic brain injury can come from a car wreck, or when the sudden pressure from shock waves from an explosion collide with the fluid-filled cavity around the brain. Diagnosis can be tricky because the memory loss, personality change or depression that can accompany traumatic brain injury can also mimic other combat injuries connected with mental health, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

But Dr. Gene Bolles, a former chief of neurosurgery at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, says it is plain wrong to place the burden of proof on wounded soldiers. Soldiers coming out of combat who say they've suffered a head blow and who show symptoms of traumatic brain injury should be treated for it, says Bolles. "You do what you can for them," he says flatly. "You believe them."

Bolles reviewed a summary of Wilson's October 2004 MRI from Walter Reed. He says it showed "evidence of loss of blood supply" to the brain and was "compatible with a head injury." Alongside Wilson's story and symptoms, he says, "This sounds like typical head injury syndrome to me; you can make that diagnosis."

He notes that the "shearing effect" on nerve tissue that comes with a serious head blow can be invisible to MRIs and CAT scans and that "there are no definitive tests that prove this syndrome." But soldiers even remotely suspected of having a brain injury, he says, should be treated aggressively for it, rather than with skepticism.

...

Annette McLeod says her husband, Spc. Wendell McLeod Jr., was belatedly diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury. McLeod landed at Walter Reed in August after being hit by a truck in Iraq but was not diagnosed with a brain injury until December. "If you come in and are missing a limb, they know how to handle you," says Annette McLeod. "Anybody with injuries you can't see is shoved to the side."

McLeod says that to her knowledge her husband, Wendell, was not initially screened for brain injury, even though he'd been hit by a truck. But his behavior was so erratic and his memory was so horrible, she says, that she badgered doctors until they ran some tests that identified his problem. "I knew there was something wrong because of the changes in him," she says. "He kept saying, 'I

can't remember. I can't remember.' This is a man who used to remember everything."

McLeod, 40, arrived at Walter Reed last August with a fractured vertebra, a chipped vertebra, four herniated discs in his back, and a shoulder injury. He also began suffering from bizarre mood swings. "I can't hardly remember anything," he says. Annette, who is staying with him at Walter Reed, took McLeod to the supermarket recently. "He walked down the aisle three times and could not remember what I asked him to get," she says. She makes her husband sit in the back seat of the car because ever since his accident he wildly grabs at the steering wheel.

McLeod was tested for traumatic brain injury in September but did not hear anything about the results until he was diagnosed in the first week of December. In the meantime, McLeod was told by officials that he might have been born with his brain problem. "They tried to say it was inherited," McLeod says. Annette says they were also told it could be psychological. The misdiagnosis and delays have been excruciating, she says angrily, with a lot of "just waiting around and waiting around and waiting around."

Sgt. Steve Cobb, age 46, tells a similar story. Injured in an armored personnel carrier accident in Iraq in 2004 while serving with the West Virginia National Guard, a head blow left him with short-term memory loss, hearing loss and the loss of peripheral vision in his left eye. He slurs his words and is so dizzy that he walks with a cane. Medics in Iraq first missed his brain problem completely and gave him aspirin. He served another eight months after the accident.

Cobb arrived at Walter Reed last May. In July, he was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury, but did not start getting therapy until September. He says that he, too, was told by hospital officials that he may have been born with his problem. "They said it was hereditary," Cobb says with disgust.

His memory is so bad that his wife, Natalie, is afraid he can't take care of himself. She has left her 13- and 19-year-old kids at home with family in West Virginia to be with her husband at Walter Reed. "We heard it was brain disease. We heard it was hereditary," she says over dinner one evening at a restaurant near the hospital. "I feel that they are letting the traumatic brain-injury patients slide through the cracks."

The stress of being misdiagnosed can further harm soldiers, says Bolles, the neurosurgeon, especially if patients get stuck in a pattern where doctors are denying that their injuries exist. "That in and of itself becomes a disability to these people if they get angry and frustrated," Bolles says. "That alone makes it worth treating these people early."

Wilson came back from Iraq a totally different man, according to his wife Heidi. In a photo of the couple from before his injury, the two are sitting on the edge of a fountain. Wilson stares squarely at the camera with a deft, slight smile. Heidi, in a white dress, sits in his lap, holding a bouquet.

Wilson's injury has left him so sensitive to light that his room at Malogne House, a residential facility behind the main hospital at Walter Reed, looks cavelike, lighted only by two dim bulbs. Looking at bright light, Wilson says, "is like welding without your mask on." Sometimes even the dim bulbs are too much. "It kills

him," Heidi says one evening in the room. "He puts little blankets over them." Heidi says her husband's brow turns a deep red during his worst headaches, which he says feels like his eyes are being sucked back into his skull. "I just want to take a drill and drill into my head," he says.

Sometimes Wilson remembers events from long ago, but not what happened five minutes ago. He still writes bits in his diary, attempting to piece his memory back together. He used to enjoy cooking Cajun food but now that's gone. "Everything tastes like rubber," he says. "I look at stuff I want to taste. I feel like I remember what it tastes like, but I can't."

When Heidi is away for a few days, his memory loss and olfactory problems collide, though he tries to keep a sense of humor about it. "If she is away, I may not take a bath for six days, until she gets back," he says. Heidi nods vigorously. "I'll get his bath ready and say, 'Time to get in the tub,'" she says.

But when the conversation returns to Wilson's treatment, their smiles quickly fade. It's hard for them to believe, after two hard tours of duty, that this is the kind of treatment he has received. "I just want to be taken care of," he says. "I just want healthcare."

http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2006/01/05/brain_trauma/

Casualties on the Home Front:

Pendleton Family Grapples with Iraq Veteran's Traumatic Brain Injury

By Brigid Brett

"Some days I don't feel so good," Kenny tells me when he wakes up. Today is one of those days. Like most sufferers of severe TBI, he experiences a range of symptoms, from memory loss to anxiety, depression and extreme fatigue. Sometimes he can't sleep and sometimes sleep comes upon him swiftly and without warning. He cannot be left alone for more than an hour or two because his anxiety becomes so acute when [his wife] Tonia is not there. Tasha and Alishia [his daughters] watch over their dad at those times.

And yet Kenny is one of the lucky ones. After 20 years as a military wife and as a key volunteer at Camp Pendleton -- a spouse who provides comfort and support to other Marine spouses -- Tonia has become a powerful advocate, not only for her own family but for injured military families nationwide. She has heard countless stories of abuse, abandonment, even suicide. She tells me about the man who had his jaw blown away and who now takes care of his five kids on his own because his wife couldn't bear to be married any longer. And about the 21-year-old National Guardsman who returned from Iraq with groin injuries and now has to wear diapers. His wife, Tonia says, is desperately trying to find ways that they can be intimate again.

Tonia doesn't judge the spouses that leave. She has experienced firsthand the anguish of having to care for her childhood sweetheart around the clock, of not being able to pay the bills, of monitoring her daughters' depression over the loss of the dad they once knew, while at the same time trying to decode what benefits she and her family are eligible for.

"Families of the deployed," she says, "live a bipolar life. We're either on a high because someone has returned or we're down in the depths because of another crisis we've run into. For us, normal is a constant low-grade depression."

As she says this I picture the images of the joyous reunions we see splashed across the front pages of our newspapers and realize few of us get to see what comes next -- the nightmares, the anger, the lashing out and pulling away -- all behind closed doors.

These can be symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, which is widely known as PTSD, says Richard Henley, counselor and case manager of the family program at Veterans Village in San Diego, a substance abuse treatment center for homeless veterans.

An invisible injury, PTSD can easily go undiagnosed and can take weeks, months or even years to appear. Although there are many resources both within and outside of the Veterans Affairs system to help families cope with the insidious and corrosive effects of PTSD, as a mental illness it is often shrouded by shame and stigma, and those who suffer from it most are often reluctant to ask for help.

Besides the physical and mental wounds, Henley sees three huge challenges confronting injured service members and their families: trying to navigate the medical care system within and outside the VA, reintegrating into the civilian world, and the loss of income.

"When a service member is severely injured and cannot go back to work, the spouse often has to give up their job to care for him," he says. "Going from being a two-income family to a one-income family can create serious hardships."

Serious hardships also arise because it can take months for a medical claim to be processed. Just as it is rare for severe injuries sustained on the battlefield to be simple -- many of the injured have multiple physical and mental issues -- so is it rare for a VA claim to be simple. A complicated set of requirements determines the outcome of a single claim, based on medical review boards, VA personnel, case managers and statements from the service members and their families. Add into the mix an antiquated medical filing system and the frequent disappearance of records as they are transferred around the world onto a myriad of desks already piled high with paperwork, and you can see how the "seamless transition" that the VA is trying to provide returning troops can be more like a ride through the desert in a sandstorm.

"I don't believe in blame, but I believe in accountability," Tonia says, her eyes blazing. "There is always more we can do."

When Kenny was undergoing rehabilitation for a month at Palo Alto's VA unit for traumatic brain injuries, she saw the need for a "home away from home" for the frightened and isolated families of the patients. So she launched into a frenzy of fundraising that led to the building of a 21-suite Fisher House on the VA grounds, where families can stay for free in "a place of healing and friendship."

"I've become a very squeaky wheel," she says. "Who is monitoring our needs? Is it the Command's responsibility? Is it Chaplain Services' responsibility? Is it Severely Injured Center's responsibility? Is there an assumption that someone else is doing it?"

Never assuming that anyone else will do it, Tonia is personally taking a "call to action" to Sen. Dianne Feinstein's office. One of her goals is to have long-term community-style housing for the families of the severely injured, who will never again be able to earn a living in the civilian world and who can no longer live out their lives on base. She is working with Habitat for Humanity in Orange County (www.habitatoc.org) to realize this vision.

Her other goal is to have a state ombudsman like there is in Missouri, who can serve as a point of contact and help meet the needs of service members and their families that are not otherwise being met.

"So many people are in the same predicament. They don't qualify to receive particular veterans benefits, they're not aware of the benefits available to them, they're embarrassed to ask for help or they don't know where to go for help," she says. "For instance, I can't pull on Kenny's Social Security until he's 62 or 65. ... What if he's dead? Do I still get it? Do I get a portion of it? What if he doesn't die due to his combat relation? How can I plan for the future if I can't plan for the now?"

When Kenny gets up to go to the bathroom, Tonia turns to me.

"They gave him back to me as roadkill," she says, cupping her hands as if holding a small, dead animal. "They didn't know if he'd be able to walk or talk again. ... I nursed him back and now my biggest fear is that I'm going to have to watch him slowly deteriorate again."

For the past few weeks he's been having "episodes" where he gets the chills, becomes breathless and is unable to speak. Nobody knows yet if these episodes are from TBI, PTSD or silent seizures.

I start to leave but Kenny invites me to stay for dinner. There is nothing he loves more than barbecuing for his family. Over pork chops, chicken and the best baked beans I've ever had, he tells me about Friday nights in Iraq when he'd cook for his men.

"It made me so happy to see them eat," he says. "Some of them didn't want to eat and I'd tell them they had to. They were good guys. I miss them."

http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/03/03/perspective/17_46_352_23_07.txt

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The Business of Treason
Illustrated
Chapter 12 References

12.1 9/11 Warnings Examined in Light of the Claim:

“No One Could Have Imagined.....”

[NOTE: This is a Reiteration of Reference 11.4]

They Tried to Warn Us: Foreign Intelligence Warnings Before 9/11

By Paul Thompson

The Congressional Joint Inquiry into 9-11 is now finished, but the findings that have been released fail to mention any warnings from foreign governments. The US mainstream media also has paid little attention to warnings from foreign governments.

Yet there were so many warnings -- from both our friends and enemies alike -- often specifically suggesting the targets or method of attack. In at least one case, the warnings actually mentioned hijackers by name. This type of communication between intelligence agencies normally occurs in secret, so one can only wonder what additional warnings or details were provided to us that have never been made public.

No US publication has ever put all the various foreign government warnings in one place; even Internet skeptics of Bush have paid scant attention to this issue. Here, for the first time, is such a list of warnings.

First, General Warnings

In late 2000, British investigators teamed up with their counterparts in the Cayman Islands and began a yearlong probe of three Afghan men who had entered the Cayman Islands illegally. [Miami Herald, 9/20/01, Los Angeles Times, 9/20/01] In June 2001, the Afghan men were overheard discussing hijacking attacks in New York City, and were promptly taken into custody. This information was forwarded to US intelligence [Fox News, 5/17/02]. In late August 2001, shortly before the attacks, an anonymous letter to a Cayman radio station alleged these same men were al-Qaeda agents “organizing a major terrorist act against the US via an airline or airlines.” [Miami Herald, 9/20/01, Los Angeles Times, 9/20/01, MSNBC, 9/23/01]

1. In late July 2001, Afghanistan’s Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil learned that Osama bin Laden was planning a “huge attack” on targets inside America. The attack was imminent, and would kill thousands, he learned from the leader of the rebel Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which was closely allied with al-Qaeda at the time. Muttawakil sent an emissary to pass this information on to the US Consul General, and another US official, “possibly from the intelligence services.” Sources confirmed that this message was received, but supposedly not taken very seriously, because of “warning fatigue” arising from too many terror warnings. [Independent, 9/7/02, Reuters, 9/7/02]

2. Also in late July 2001, the US was given a “concrete warning” from Argentina’s Jewish community. “An attack of major proportions” was planned against either the US, Argentina, or France. The information came from an unidentified intelligence agency. [Forward, 5/31/02]
3. An undercover agent from Morocco successfully penetrated al-Qaeda. He learned that bin Laden was “very disappointed” that the 1993 bombing had not toppled the World Trade Center, and was planning “large scale operations in New York in the summer or fall of 2001.” He provided this information to the US in August 2001. [Agence France Presse, 11/22/01, International Herald Tribune, 5/21/02, London Times, 6/12/02]
4. Hasni Mubarak, President of Egypt, maintains that in the beginning of September 2001 Egyptian intelligence warned American officials that al-Qaeda was in the advanced stages of executing a significant operation against an American target, probably within the US. [AP, 12/7/01, New York Times, 6/4/02] He learned this information from an agent working inside al-Qaeda. [ABC News, 6/4/02]

Warnings the Attack Will Come from the Air

Many warnings specifically mentioned a threat coming from the air.

1. In 1999, British intelligence gave a secret report to the US embassy. The report stated that al-Qaeda had plans to use “commercial aircraft” in “unconventional ways,” “possibly as flying bombs.” [Sunday Times, 6/9/02] On July 16, 2001, British intelligence passed a message to the US that al-Qaeda was in “the final stages” of preparing a terrorist attack in Western countries. [London Times, 6/14/02] In early August, the British gave another warning, telling the US to expect multiple airline hijackings from al-Qaeda. This warning was included in Bush’s briefing on August 6, 2001. [Sunday Herald, 5/19/02]
2. In June 2001, German intelligence warned the US, Britain, and Israel that Middle Eastern terrorists were planning to hijack commercial aircraft and use them as weapons to attack “American and Israeli symbols which stand out.” Within the American intelligence community, “the warnings were taken seriously and surveillance intensified” but “there was disagreement on how such terrorist attacks could be prevented.” This warning came from Echelon, a spy satellite network that is partly based in Germany. [Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 9/11/01, Washington Post, 9/14/01]
3. In late July 2001, Egyptian intelligence received a report from an undercover agent in Afghanistan that “20 al-Qaeda members had slipped into the US and four of them had received flight training on Cessnas.” To the Egyptians, pilots of small planes didn’t sound terribly alarming, but they passed on the message to the CIA anyway, fully expecting Washington to request information. “The request never came.” [CBS, 10/9/02] Given that there were 19 hijackers and four pilots (who trained on Cessnas) in the 9/11 plot, one might think this would now be a big news item. But in fact, the information has only appeared as an aside in a CBS “60 Minutes” show about a different topic.

4. In late summer 2001, Jordan intelligence intercepted a message stating that a major attack was being planned inside the US and that aircraft would be used. The code name of the operation was Big Wedding, which did in fact turn out to be the codename of the 9/11 plot. The message was passed to US intelligence through several channels. [International Herald Tribune, 5/21/02, Christian Science Monitor, 5/23/02]
5. Russian President Vladimir Putin publicly stated that he ordered his intelligence agencies to alert the US in the summer of 2001 that suicide pilots were training for attacks on US targets. [Fox News, 5/17/02] The head of Russian intelligence also stated, "We had clearly warned them" on several occasions, but they "did not pay the necessary attention." [Agence France-Presse, 9/16/01] The Russian newspaper Izvestia claimed that Russian intelligence agents knew the participants in the attacks, and: "More than that, Moscow warned Washington about preparation for these actions a couple of weeks before they happened." [Izvestia, 9/12/02]
6. Five days before 9/11, the priest Jean-Marie Benjamin was told by a Muslim at an Italian wedding of a plot to attack the US and Britain using hijacked airplanes as weapons. He wasn't told time or place specifics. He immediately passed what he knew on to a judge and several politicians in Italy. Presumably this Muslim confided in him because Benjamin has done considerable charity work in Muslim countries and is considered "one of the West's most knowledgeable experts on the Muslim world." [Zenit, 9/16/01] Benjamin has not revealed who told him this information, but it could have come from a member of the al-Qaeda cell in Milan, Italy. This cell supplied forged documents for other al-Qaeda operations, and wiretaps show members of the cell were aware of the 9/11 plot. [Los Angeles Times, 5/29/02, Guardian, 5/30/02, Boston Globe, 8/4/02] For instance, in August 2000, one terrorist in Milan was recorded saying to another: "I'm studying airplanes. I hope, God willing, that I can bring you a window or a piece of an airplane the next time we see each other." The comment was followed by laughter [Washington Post, 5/31/02]. In another case in January 2001, a terrorist asked if certain forged documents were for "the brothers going to the United States," and was angrily rebuked by another who told him not to talk about that "very, very secret" plan. [Los Angeles Times, 5/29/02] In March 2001, the Italian government gave the US a warning based on these wiretaps. [Fox News, 5/17/02]

...

In October 2002, the story broke in Europe and Israel that on August 23, 2001, the Mossad had given the CIA a list of 19 terrorists living in the US. The Mossad had said that the terrorists appeared to be planning to carry out an attack in the near future. It is unknown if these are the same 19 names as the actual hijackers, or if the number is a coincidence. However, the four names on the list that are known are names of the 9/11 hijackers: Nawaf Alhazmi, Khalid Almihdhar, Marwan Alshehhi, and Mohamed Atta. [Die Zeit, 10/1/02, Der Spiegel, 10/1/02, BBC, 10/2/02, Ha'aretz, 10/3/02] These are also probably the four most important of the hijackers (and two of the pilots). From them, there were many connections to the others. The CIA had already been monitoring three of them overseas the year before, and two, Alhazmi and Almihdhar, were put on a watch list the same day the Mossad gave this warning. [AFP, 9/22/01, Berliner Zeitung, 9/24/01, Observer, 9/30/01, New York Times, 9/21/02]

Such detailed warnings of exact names fit in well with the reports that Israeli spies were tracking the hijackers for months before 9/11. Yet, as Jane's Intelligence Digest put it, "It is rather strange that the US media seems to be ignoring what may well be the most explosive story since the 11 September attacks..." [Jane's Intelligence Digest, 3/13/02] The spy ring story did get a little coverage in the US, but more recent stories claiming that Israel knew the exact names of at least some of the hijackers hasn't been reported here at all. Perhaps the story is too controversial for the US media to touch?

...

In case there was a failure of imagination, Italy had just set an example two months before 9/11 on how to respond to a terrorist threat: After receiving a warning that a summit of world leaders in the city of Genoa would be targeted by al-Qaeda, they conspicuously defended the city with increased police, anti-aircraft batteries, and constantly flying fighter jets. Apparently the press coverage of the defenses caused al-Qaeda to cancel the attack. President Bush could hardly have failed to notice, since he took the unusual step of sleeping on board a US aircraft carrier during the summit. [BBC, 7/18/01, CNN, 7/18/01, Los Angeles Times, 9/27/01]

Conclusion

One single warning should have been enough to take precautions, but with so many warnings coming in, how can inaction be explained as mere incompetence? Yes, it is often difficult to know which terrorist threats are real, and what information to trust. But if the US couldn't take seriously warnings from close allies like Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and so on, then what were they waiting for? What would they have taken seriously? And where is the outrage, the investigation? As can be seen with the recent Congressional inquiry, the typical US government response has been to ignore these foreign government warnings altogether, or to say they were lies. On October 17, 2002, CIA Director Tenet claimed that the only warnings "where there was a geographic context, either explicit or implicit, appeared to point abroad, especially to the Middle East." [Congressional Intelligence Committee, 10/17/02] On May 16, 2002, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice stated to the press: "I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon, that they would try to use an airplane as a missile." She added that "even in retrospect" there was "nothing" to suggest that. [White House, 5/16/02] On June 7, 2002, President Bush stated, "Based on everything I've seen, I do not believe anyone could have prevented the horror of September the 11th." [Sydney Morning Herald, 6/8/02]

Either the Bush Administration is lying, or most of America's close allies are. So why hasn't Congress investigated these foreign intelligence claims? Why hasn't a single mainstream media article connected all these dots, or given these warnings the coverage they deserve? Either some people within the US government knew the 9/11 attack would happen and did nothing, or some people within the US government failed to heed advice from a dozen foreign governments and properly defend the US from attack. Perhaps both. These people should be removed from office on the grounds of gross incompetence, or face the legal consequences of aiding and abetting terrorism. It seems clear that there are people who fear an investigation, and that that is why these dots are left unconnected.

Ultimately, we are all in grave danger if these same officials continue to be in charge of protecting us from terrorist attacks.

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/essay.jsp?article=essaytheytriedtowarnus>

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12.2 Statement of the President on the Evening of 9/11

Statement by the President in His Address to the Nation

8:30 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices; secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.

The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed; our country is strong.

A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.

America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America -- with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.

Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans. Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and Washington, D.C. to help with local rescue efforts.

Our first priority is to get help to those who have been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from further attacks.

The functions of our government continue without interruption. Federal agencies in Washington which had to be evacuated today are reopening for essential personnel tonight, and will be open for business tomorrow. Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business, as well.

The search is underway for those who are behind these evil acts. I've directed the full resources of our intelligence and law enforcement communities to find those responsible and to bring them to justice. We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them.

I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called to offer their condolences and assistance.

America and our friends and allies join with all those who want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism. Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me."

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world.

Thank you. Good night, and God bless America.

END 8:35 P.M. EDT

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010911-16.html [Back](#)

12.3 Contradictory Statement of the President in Orlando Florida on December 2, 2001

Transcript (and VIDEO) from the White House Website.

Approximately 85% into the event, the President is asked by a young boy:

"One thing, Mr. President, is that you have no idea how much you've done for this country. And another thing is that, how did you feel when you heard about the terrorist attack?"

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/12/20011204-17.html [Back](#)

12.4 Contradictory Statement of the President in Ontario, California in January, 2002

Transcript (and VIDEO) from the White House Website.

Approximately 70% into the event, the President is asked by a young boy:

"What was the first thing that went through your head when you heard that a plane crashed into the first building?"

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020105-3.html [Back](#)

12.5 Lies About Air Defense Protocols

Ben Chertoff's "Fact" in response to the charge that United States Air Defense protocols were not followed on 9/11, as published in the 9/11 Issue of PM:

"In the decade before 9/11, NORAD intercepted only one civilian plane over North America: golfer Payne Stewart's Learjet, in October 1999. With

passengers and crew unconscious from cabin decompression, the plane lost radio contact but remained in transponder contact until it crashed. Even so, it took an F-16 1 hour and 22 minutes to reach the stricken jet. [NOTE: Numerous accounts dispute this. See below.] Rules in effect back then, and on 9/11, prohibited supersonic flight on intercepts. Prior to 9/11, all other NORAD interceptions were limited to offshore Air Defense Identification Zones (ADIZ). "Until 9/11 there was no domestic ADIZ," FAA spokesman Bill Schumann tells PM. After 9/11, NORAD and the FAA increased cooperation, setting up hotlines between ATCs and NORAD command centers, according to officials from both agencies. NORAD has also increased its fighter coverage and has installed radar to monitor airspace over the continent."

http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/military_law/1227842.html?page=3

Military Jets Scrambled 67 Times in a Nine Month Period Preceding 9/11

An Explosion of Disbelief: Fresh Doubts over 9-11 Acknowledged by Mainstream British Press

by Sue Reid
UK Daily Mail

Saturday, February 10, 2007

Initially, like most people in America, Professor [Emeritus David Ray] Griffin dismissed claims the attacks could have been an inside job.

It was only a year later, when he was writing a special chapter on American imperialism and 9/11 for his latest academic tome, that the professor was sent a 'timeline' on the day's events based entirely on newspaper and television accounts. It was then that he changed his mind.

And one of the most puzzling anomalies that he studied was that none of the hijacked planes was intercepted by fighter jets, even though there was plenty of time to do so and it would have been standard emergency procedure in response to a suspected terrorist attack.

Indeed, it is mandatory procedure in the U.S. if there is any suspicion of an air hijack. In the nine months before 9/11, the procedure had been implemented 67 times in America.

Readers of *The New Pearl Harbour* and viewers of *Loose Change* are reminded that it was 7.59 am when American Airlines Flight 11 left Boston.

Fifteen minutes later, at 8.14 am, radio contact between the pilot and air traffic control stopped suddenly, providing the first indication that the plane might have been hijacked.

Flight 11 should have been immediately intercepted by fighter pilots sent up from the nearby McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. They could have made the journey to the World Trade Centre in three minutes.

But, surprisingly, F-15 fighter jets were instead ordered out of an airbase 180 miles away at Cape Cod. They appear to have flown so slowly -- at 700 mph, instead of their top speed of 1,850 mph -- that they did not arrive in time to stop the second attack, on the South Tower of the World Trade Centre. They were 11 minutes too late.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=20070211&articleId=4737>

Observations from the 9/11 Timeline:

EXCERPT: Summary of 9/11 Verifiable Research

Compiled by Paul Thompson

September 14, 2001 (B): The Director of the Air National Guard explains why jets failed to scramble towards the hijacked aircraft for so long. He says that before 1997, 100 bases defended the US, but since then the number was reduced to seven, with only two fighter planes at each base defending the entire country from external threats. However, numerous air force bases on the East Coast alone, including bases in Westfield, Massachusetts, Syracuse, New York, Hartford, Connecticut and Andrews, Virginia, claim they have battle ready fighters on alert 24 hours a day. All of these bases were better positioned to respond to the hijacker airplanes than the bases ultimately chosen. Some of these bases have websites that get changed after 9/11, erasing claims that they have battle-ready fighters on alert. In 1999, when golfer Payne Stewart's plane went off course, fighters were scrambled from four different bases (none of the official seven) and reached his plane in 20 minutes. There are numerous other examples of fighter scramblings since 1997 that seem to contradict the "only seven bases" story. [ABC News, 10/25/99, Dallas Morning News, 9/16/01]

...

September 11-16, 2001: Andrews Air Force Base is 10 miles from Washington, DC, and Langley Air Force Base in 130 miles away. The official story is that there were no fighters at Andrews so none took off from there to intercept the hijacked planes, but it takes a few days for the media to come around to that point of view:

- 1) A few minutes after the Pentagon was hit, "fighter jets scrambled from Andrews Air Force Base..." [Denver Post, 9/11/01]
- 2) "It was after the attack on the Pentagon that the Air Force then decided to scramble F-16's out of the DC National Guard Andrews Air Force Base..." [NBC Nightly News, 9/11/01]
- 3) "Air defense around Washington is provided mainly by fighter planes from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland near the District of Columbia border. The D.C. Air National Guard is also based there and equipped with F-16 fighter planes, a National Guard spokesman said. But the fighters took to the skies over Washington only after the devastating attack on the Pentagon..." [San Diego Union Tribune, 9/12/01]
- 4) "Within minutes of the attack, American forces around the world were put on one of their highest states of alert -- Defcon 3, just two notches short of all-out war -- and F-16's from Andrews Air Force Base were in the air over Washington DC." [Telegraph, 9/16/01]

- 5) "Andrews Air Force Base, home to Air Force One, is only 15 miles away from the Pentagon, but it had no fighters assigned to it." [USA Today, 9/16/01]
- 6) "The District of Columbia National Guard maintained fighter planes at Andrews Air Force Base, only about 15 miles from the Pentagon, but those planes were not on alert and not deployed." [USA Today, 9/16/01]
- 7) "... As part of its dual mission, the 113th provides capable and ready response forces for the District of Columbia in the event of a natural disaster or civil emergency." "In the best tradition of the Marine Corps, a 'few good men and women' support two combat-ready reserve units at Andrews AFB." [DC Military website]
- 8) The District of Columbia Air National Guard website is changed shortly after 9/11. Previously its mission was "to provide combat units in the highest possible state of readiness." Afterwards, it was changed to read that the Guard has a "vision" to "provide peacetime command and control and administrative mission oversight to support customers and DCANG units in achieving the highest levels of readiness." [DCANG Home Page (before and after the change)]

<http://www.wanttoknow.info/9-11timeline60pg#scramble>

Failure to Defend the Skies on 9/11

Lies and Contradictions

Since Sept. 11 government representatives have in fact promoted a series of mutually contradictory narratives of how the nation's air defenses responded to the unfolding attacks. Various chronologies were presented at different times by the high military command, the North American Air Defense command (NORAD), the Federal Aviation Administration, and now the Kean Commission.

Little noticed, the original story was delivered by Gen. Richard Myers, vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and acting chairman on the morning of Sept. 11 (when Chairman Shelton was on a transatlantic flight). Just two days after the events, Myers, an air force man who had previously headed NORAD, appeared before the Senate for hearings. These had been scheduled weeks earlier, to consider his appointment by George W. Bush as the nation's supreme military officer. Myers told the Senate that no fighter jets were scrambled to intercept any of the 9/11 flights until after the Pentagon was struck.

The Pentagon attack occurred at 9:38 a.m., a full 1 hour 20 minutes after the first of the 9/11 flights was diverted from its designated flight path.

Myers's statement to the Senate was incredible, given the standard U.S. air defense protocols for dealing with errant instrument flights (including off-course passenger planes). In place many years before Sept. 11, these procedures are automatic and require no special order. Within minutes after a flight ceases to respond to ground control, the FAA is expected to alert NORAD -- which scrambles jet fighters to intercept the errant flight for reconnaissance purposes. These are supposed to be airborne within 10 minutes of the problem arising.

This routine was activated on at least 67 occasions in the year prior to June 1, 2001 and on 129 occasions in 2000. Exceptional as the events of 9/11 proved to be, the procedures should have also been activated automatically within minutes of each flight diversion on that day (i.e., long before anyone needed to realize that hijackers would fly multiple airliners into buildings). This did not happen.

Before Myers's disturbing admission to the Senate received much notice, NORAD under General Ralph Eberhard effectively put the lie to his statement. A partial timeline of U.S. air defense response published by NORAD on Sept. 18, 2001 presented the times at which NORAD was alerted about each flight diversion by the FAA. NORAD claimed to have responded to the alerts by scrambling two pairs of interceptors from the air force bases in Otis, Massachusetts and Langley, Virginia. These four fighters, however, never reached any of their targets in time to intercept and survey the situation, let alone prepare for a possible shutdown.

The NORAD timeline indicated that during the crisis hours of 9/11, the FAA became increasingly slower in delivering alerts to NORAD. This seemed to shift the blame for the failed response to the FAA.

As late as May 2003, General Arnold of NORAD, sitting alongside Gen. Myers, presented a slightly revised version of NORAD's Sept. 2001 timeline, in testimony to the Kean Commission. He revealed for the first time that NORAD was alerted about the hijacking of Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, at 9:16 a.m., a full 47 minutes before the claimed crash time at 10:03. But he stuck to the story about the other flights; in the case of AA77 which hit the Pentagon, the alert supposedly arrived at 9:24 am.

NORAD's story was disputed in the FAA statement of May 21, 2003. The FAA claimed that regardless of the official notification times claimed by NORAD, phone bridges were established immediately after the initial attack (at 8:46). NORAD was informed in real time throughout of all developments, including about the plane that ultimately hit the Pentagon, the FAA said.

Thus for more than a year the FAA has been in open dispute with NORAD on the issue of who informed whom and when about the Sept. 11 hijackings; unfortunately, this has never become the major media story it deserves to be.

The Kean Commission itself intervened in June 2004. In a staff statement delivered at its final set of hearings ("Improvising a Homeland Defense"), the Commission outlined a chronology that completely ditched the timeline that NORAD had upheld for two years. It also effectively placed almost all of the blame for delayed air defense response on the FAA.

Gens. Arnold and Myers, who testified to the Commission that same morning, were not held to account for having presented an entirely wrong timeline a year earlier. Instead, they simply thanked the Kean Commission for clearing up the confusion. In return, one commissioner made a point of telling the generals they were not to blame; after all, it was all the FAA's fault!

A group of FAA officials who testified in the subsequent, final session stuck by their old defense that they had in fact provided adequate and timely information to NORAD via the phone bridges. As the hearings concluded, they still disputed both timelines: the old one from NORAD, and the new one from the Kean

Commission. What a shame that evidence that might help in clearing up this matter was destroyed by an FAA official after the attacks.

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20040731213239607>

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12.6 Contents of Flight Data and Cockpit Voice Recorders Are Missing

All jetliners are equipped with flight data recorders (FDRs) and cockpit voice recorders (CVRs) contained in "black boxes" designed to survive the most severe crashes. To date, none of the contents of any of the black boxes have been released to the public. With the exception of a partial transcript of Flight 93's CVR, the contents of any of the black boxes remained unknown to the public until August of 2006, when the National Security Archive published long-hidden NTSB Reports including flight path and other studies of the commandeered flights. The studies include FDR data from Flight 77 and Flight 93. Authorities had previously claimed that all but the voice recorder on Flight 93 were either not recovered or too damaged to yield data. The black boxes of Flight 77 were allegedly found on September 14th.

According to the federal authorities controlling Ground Zero, the black boxes from the two crashed 767s, Flight 11 and Flight 175, failed to turn up in the rubble taken from the site. 4 The 9/11 Commission Report backs the FBI's story, flatly stating: "The CVRs and FDRs from American 11 and United 175 were not found."

There are accounts contradicting the official account of the black boxes. Two men who worked in the cleanup operation at Ground Zero claim that they helped authorities find three of the four black boxes in October of 2001.

One of the workers, New York City firefighter Nicholas DeMasi, has self-published a book with other Ground Zero workers in which he describes the recovery of the devices.

The book, *Behind the Scenes: GROUND ZERO, A Collection of Personal Accounts*, written by Gail Swanson, was published in 2003. It includes the accounts of firefighters Mike Bellone, Robert Barrat, and Nicholas DeMasi, and can be ordered through SummerOfTruth.org.

In December 2005, CounterPunch reported that an NTSB source contradicted the official account:

"Off the record, we had the boxes," the source says. "You'd have to get the official word from the FBI as to where they are, but we worked on them here." 6

Black Box Survivability Requirements

Events that would damage the recorders sufficiently to make them unreadable are extremely rare. NTSB spokesperson Ted Lopatkiewicz said that he couldn't recall a domestic case before 9/11/01 in which the recorders were not recovered. 7 The recorders are designed to survive the kinds of impacts that happened at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The FAA has placed durability requirements on the recorders and their casings to survive severe impact and fire.

The storage medium of each recorder is located in a protective capsule, which must be able to withstand an impact of 3,400 Gs (3,400 times the force of gravity). Additionally, each must also survive flames at 2,000 F for up to 30 minutes, and submersion in 20,000 feet of saltwater for 30 days. Typically, to increase their chances of survival, the recorders are located in the tail section of the aircraft, which usually sustains the least impact in a crash. 8

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12.7 FAA Official Scrapped Tape of 9/11 Controllers' Statements

Article archived from
The New York Times, May 6, 2004

By Matthew L. Wald

WASHINGTON, May 6, 2004 — At least six air traffic controllers who dealt with two of the hijacked airliners on Sept. 11, 2001, made a tape recording that same day describing the events, but the tape was destroyed by a supervisor without anyone making a transcript or even listening to it, the Transportation Department said in a report today.

The taping began before noon on Sept. 11 at the New York Air Route Traffic Control Center, in Ronkonkoma, on Long Island, where about 16 people met in a basement conference room known as "the Bat Cave" and passed around a microphone, each recalling his or her version of the events a few hours earlier.

But officials at the center never told higher-ups of the tape's existence, and it was later destroyed by an FAA official described in the report as a quality-assurance manager there.

[That manager crushed the cassette in his hand, shredded the tape and dropped the pieces into different trash cans around the building, according to a report made public today by the inspector general of the Transportation Department.](#)

http://summeroftruth.org/nyt_06may04.html

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12.8 Evidence Destruction

Official Response to the September 11th Attack

Officials' handling of the evidence of the September 11th attack has followed a clear pattern. The physical evidence most important to forensic analysis of the crime was destroyed or removed from the crime scene never to be seen again. Types of evidence not under the direct control of those officials were suppressed through a variety of means. These include photographs, video footage, and various once-public documents.

Destruction of Evidence: WTC Steel

The pattern of destruction of physical evidence is nowhere more apparent than in the rapid removal and recycling of the steel from Ground Zero. The structural steel was the most important evidence regarding the mass murder of September 11th. No amount of indulgence of forlorn hopes of finding survivors in the rubble, nor urgency of uncovering human remains for speedy identification, can justify the destruction of the evidence.

- Ø If it was necessary to remove steel to another location to accommodate rescue and recovery efforts, the steel easily could have been preserved.
- Ø Any steel pieces to be removed should first have been meticulously documented through the use of coordinate grids and photographs. This is standard practice in archeological excavations.
- Ø Building 7 was evacuated long before it collapsed, and it fell into a tidy rubble pile that did not even block adjacent roadways. There was no urgency in removing its rubble, and certainly not in destroying it.

The remains of the Twin Towers should have been afforded at least the same level of respect as the artifacts in an archeological dig, or remnants of an aviation disaster. Instead they were treated as garbage to be disposed of as quickly as possible. That the authorities hid their crime behind talk of rescue and recovery is exploitation of the most reprehensible kind. **In fact, families and friends of the victims vocally protested the destruction of the Ground Zero evidence.**

<http://911research.com/sept11/analysis/evidence.html>

[NOTE: Not only was the evidence destruction operation conducted over the concerted objections of victims' family members -- but of the firefighting community as well, which regarded a thorough investigation to be crucial to the future well-being of members of its brotherhood. See *** below.]

- Ø The city accepted a plan by Controlled Demolition Inc. for the recycling of the steel, 11 days after the attack.
- Ø The steel was sold to scrap metal vendors for a low price.
- Ø The vast majority of the steel was quickly removed to ships destined for blast furnaces in India and China.
- Ø New infrastructure was built to accelerate the removal.
- Ø Trucks hauling the steel were outfitted with \$1000 GPS locators.
- Ø **Investigators were barred from Ground Zero.**
- Ø **People were threatened with arrest for taking photographs.**

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/wtc/evidencecleanup.html>

*** Fire Engineering magazine is the 125-year-old paper-of-record of the fire engineering community. Bill Manning, editor-in-chief, wrote an Editor's Opinion in the January, 2002 edition. His editorial, *Selling Out the Investigation*, pointed out that destruction of evidence – the hurried removal of rubble which should be examined by investigators – is illegal. He also issued a "call to action." To quote excerpts:

"For more than three months, structural steel from the World Trade Center has been and continues to be cut up and sold for scrap. Crucial evidence that could answer many questions ... is on the slow boat to China..."

"I have combed through our national standard for fire investigation, NFPA 921, but nowhere in it does one find an exemption allowing the destruction of evidence for buildings over 10 stories tall."

"Fire Engineering has good reason to believe that the 'official investigation' blessed by FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] and run by the American Society of Civil Engineers is a **half baked farce** [emphasis Mr. Kimball's] that may have already been commandeered by political forces whose primary interests, to put it mildly, lie far afield of full disclosure. Except for the marginal benefit obtained from a three-day, visual walk-through of evidence sites conducted by ASCE investigation committee members – described by one close source as a 'tourist trip' – no one's checking evidence for anything."

"The destruction and removal of evidence must stop immediately."

"Firefighters, this is your call to action. ...contact your representatives in Congress and officials in Washington and help us correct this problem immediately."

[It did not.]

Fire Engineering magazine, January 2002

Destruction of Evidence: Records

On May 6, 2004, an FAA quality-assurance manager destroyed a cassette tape recording of statements by at least six air traffic controllers who handled hijackings on 9/11/01. According to the Transportation Department the tape was destroyed, "without anyone making a transcript or even listening to it."

Removal of Evidence From the Crime Scenes

There is abundant evidence that there were concerted programs to remove evidence from the three known sites of carnage on September 11th: Ground Zero in Manhattan, the west wing and lawn of the Pentagon, and the debris fields of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. This is particularly true of the Pentagon, where a mop-up operation by officials commenced immediately after the attack. It is not clear what evidence was removed from Ground Zero before the steel removal operation started, given that the scene was sealed off and under the control of persons hostile to a genuine investigation.

Removal of evidence from a crime scene by other than legitimate investigators and without proper documentation of the locations of artifacts is evidence of involvement in the crime.

Suppression of Evidence

The destruction and removal of evidence, so zealously undertaken by authorities overseeing the crime scenes, was not [easily] possible with various forms of documentary evidence gathered by people not invested in covering up facts of the attack. Authorities employed a variety of methods to suppress such evidence.

- Ø Images of the WTC collapses, once abundant on the web, apparently have been purged from web history archive sites. Extensive image databases, such as Google's, are missing images of the collapses.
- Ø A 78-minute audiotape of communications of firefighters in the South Tower was suppressed for over a year by the Port Authority and the Department of Justice.
- Ø Detailed engineering drawings of the Twin Towers and Building 7 have remained unavailable to the public.
- Ø New York City firefighters have reportedly been ordered to not to share what they witnessed on September 11th, and feared doing so would jeopardize their jobs.
- Ø Officials have refused to release video footage of the Pentagon attack beyond the five frames released in early 2002. There must be dozens of cameras on the Pentagon grounds that recorded the attack.
- Ø The FBI confiscated and refused to release footage of the Pentagon attack by security cameras owned by private businesses.
- Ø Air traffic controllers have been ordered by the FBI not to discuss what they know about the attack.

Destruction of Evidence is Evidence of Criminality

The rapid destruction by authorities of the WTC steel, and their efforts to seize and bottle up other forms of evidence relating to the attack, are, if not themselves criminal acts, strong evidence of their involvement in crimes.

<http://911research.com/sept11/analysis/evidence.html>

The Struggle to Force a Legitimate, Independent Investigation

DVD: 9/11 Press for Truth

NOTE:

Without the personal courage of the few 9/11 Families who refused to take the offered financial settlements in return for their silence, the 9/11 Commission would not have been formed.

Though the Commission sought to avoid examining evidence that would undermine the government and media-driven consensus about 9/11 which was formed before the sun went down that day -- it was not entirely successful. The forum provided by the Commission forced the public disclosure of many of the lies, duplicitous actions, and preposterously unlikely coincidences attending the government's conflicting descriptions of the attacks. The knowledge gained has in turn deepened worldwide skepticism and may yet lead to a level of disclosure unimagined by the criminals involved -- whomever they may eventually prove to be.

The Commission's own lies ("the cores of the towers were hollow tubes") and refusal to even mention Building Seven seem to have marked a tipping point in the willingness of many to go along with what Philip Zelikow would no doubt describe as the "well-seared myth of 9/11."

If mankind is someday able to look back at the beginning of the 21st Century and marvel of the capacity of a violent, frightened, ill-informed and "resource desperate" international political landscape to have somehow righted itself short of the destruction of billions of human beings -- the handful of people you will meet in this DVD will be owed a significant debt of gratitude.

Watch it.

DVD: 9/11 Press for Truth

Inadequate Funding as a Strategy

Begging the Boss for a Budget

".....Whereas the investigation of the Challenger disaster received \$50 million, Bush promised only \$3 million for the investigation of the much more deadly and complex disaster of 9/11..... "

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9/11_Commission

Clinton Inquiry Cost \$47 Million, U.S. Says

The independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, spent \$7.2 million investigating President Clinton in the six months that included the Senate impeachment trial last winter, bringing expenses for Mr. Starr's five-year investigation of President and Mrs. Clinton and their associates to \$47 million.

More than a quarter of the amount was spent during the Monica Lewinsky investigation and the impeachment, the General Accounting Office, an investigative arm of Congress, said in a report released on Thursday. The investigation is continuing.

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B05E1DD113EF931A35753C1A96F958260>

FEMA's "Investigation" was Supposed to be Sufficient

The total collapses of the Twin Towers and Building 7 were (based on the official

story) the three largest engineering failures in the history of the world.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is not an investigative agency.

- Ø No independent investigation was funded.
- Ø FEMA assembled a group of volunteer investigators: the Building Performance Assessment Team (BPAT), and gave them a budget of \$600,000 to create their report.
- Ø FEMA's investigators lacked subpoena power.
- Ø They were not allowed to see the buildings' blueprints.
- Ø The investigators were barred from Ground Zero. They were only allowed to examine the few large pieces of steel in salvage yards.
- Ø Engineers examined no steel until late October.
- Ø Salvage yards were visited on 57 days by March 15.
- Ø They had to guess where the pieces came from.
- Ø They saved 156 pieces (mostly "coupons") out of millions for further study.
- Ø By the time BPAT published its report: The World Trade Center Building Performance Study, in May 2002, Ground Zero had been scrubbed.

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/wtc/noninvestigation.html>

Dishonest Testimony from Federal Officials Allowed Without Consequence

For more than two years after the attacks, officials with North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) provided inaccurate information about the response to the hijackings in testimony and media appearances. Authorities suggested that U.S. air defenses had reacted quickly, that jets had been scrambled in response to the last two hijackings and that fighters were prepared to shoot down United Airlines Flight 93 if it threatened Washington, DC.

The Commission reported a year later that audiotapes from NORAD's Northeast headquarters and other evidence showed clearly that the military never had any of the hijacked airliners in its sights and [at one point chased a phantom aircraft](#) (**See: "[The Third NYC Airliner](#)," below) -- American Airlines Flight 11 -- long after it had crashed into the World Trade Center. For example, Maj. Gen. Larry Arnold and Col. Alan Scott told the commission that NORAD had begun tracking United 93 at 9:16 am, but the commission determined that the airliner was not even hijacked until 12 minutes later. According to later testimony, the military was not aware of the flight until after it had crashed in Pennsylvania.

The Commission was forced to use subpoenas to obtain the cooperation of the FAA and NORAD to release evidence such as audiotapes. The agencies' reluctance to release the tapes -- along with e-mails, erroneous public statements and other evidence -- led some of the panel's staff members and commissioners to believe

that authorities sought to mislead the commission and the public about what happened on September 11.

"I was shocked at how different the truth was from the way it was described,"

John Farmer, a former New Jersey attorney general who led the staff inquiry into events on September 11, said in an August 2006 interview.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9/11_Commission

The Various (Non)Investigations

Knowledgeable officials who were paying attention to the news on September 11th would have known by the end of the day that the events of that day included the following:

- Ø The largest failure in airport security, and first quadruple hijacking (with primitive weapons) in history.
- Ø Multiple and unprecedented failures to follow standard operating procedures in the interception of off-course aircraft.
- Ø The largest failure of the military to defend civilian life and property in the country's history.
- Ø The failure to defend two of the most recognized terrorist targets despite adequate warning times.
- Ø The three largest structural failures in recorded history: the total collapses of 1, 2, and 7 World Trade Center.
- Ø The only collapses of high-rise buildings in United States History. (1)

Clearly, failures of this magnitude warrant the most honest, painstaking, and well-resourced investigation. As of August, 2006, when most of the evidence has been destroyed, such an investigation has yet to be conducted. Instead there have been concerted efforts to stop any real investigation.

Air Defense Failures: Promotions and No Reprimands

Despite the enormity and inexplicable nature of the failures of NORAD, the Air National Guard, and the Air Force to protect New York City and Washington D.C., no public investigation has been conducted, and no officials have been reprimanded. To the contrary, General Richard Myers, Acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on September 11th, was confirmed as Chairman just two days later, despite his inability to answer basic questions about the failures. Richard Eberhart, commander of NORAD at the time of the attack, was later chosen to head the newly created Northern Command (NORTHCOM). (2)

WTC Disaster: "No Clear Authority" Stymied Collapse Investigation

Within 48 to 72 hours of the attack, representatives of the following agencies were on the scene of the World Trade Center attack, allegedly collecting data.

- Ø Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Ø American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- Ø National Science Foundation (NSF)

FEMA and its contractor, Greenhorne and O'Mara, Inc., created the Building Performance Assessment Team (BPAT), whose work would culminate in the World Trade Center Building Performance Assessment Study. The BPAT investigators were, except for a walk-through described as a "tourist trip," denied access to the evidence at Ground Zero. They did not have subpoena power.

It is widely recognized that the "investigations" carried out by these agencies were mismanaged and "muddled." (3) The people who were supposed to investigate the building failures were barred from examining the crucial evidence. A charter for a March 6, 2002 committee hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives listed the following problems with these efforts.

- Ø No clear authority and the absence of an effective protocol for how the building performance investigators should conduct and coordinate their investigation with the concurrent search and rescue efforts, as well as any criminal investigation.
- Ø Difficulty [which proved intractable] obtaining documents essential to the investigation, including blueprints, design drawings, and maintenance records.
- Ø Uncertainty as a result of the confidential nature of the BPAT study.
- Ø Uncertainty as to the strategy for completing the investigation and applying the lessons learned.

Ongoing Obstruction to Serious Investigation

On January 29, 2002, President Bush personally asked Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to limit the congressional investigation into the events of September 11, according to congressional sources. (4)

On May 23, 2002, Bush said that he was opposed to establishing a special, independent commission to probe how the government dealt with terror warnings before 9/11. (5, 6) This statement was just two days after Minnesota FBI agent Coleen Rowley wrote to FBI Director Mueller, "I have deep concerns that a delicate and subtle shading/skewing of facts by you and others at the highest levels of FBI management has occurred and is occurring." (7)

On the first anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the New York Times lamented: One year later, the public knows less about the circumstances of 2,801 deaths at the foot of Manhattan in broad daylight than people in 1912 knew within weeks about the Titanic. (8)

On November 27, 2002, George W. Bush named Henry Kissinger chairman of an "independent investigation" of the 9/11 attack, later dubbed the 9/11 Commission. (9) Kissinger, famous for his obsession with secrecy, is widely considered a war criminal outside of the U.S. On December 13, 2002, Kissinger resigned from the commission rather than comply with the requirement to disclose his business clients. (10) On December 16, 2002, Bush named Thomas Kean to replace Kissinger as chairman of the commission. The Bush administration hamstrung the already highly conflicted Commission by limiting the testimony of its officials. (11) Kean, who will remain president of Drew University, said he would devote one

day a week to the commission. (12) The Commission closed its doors in August of 2004 without addressing any of the charges made by skeptics of the official story.

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The Third NYC Airliner ***

The threat of family harm invoked to keep this damning nugget out of the soup.

The so-called "Phantom Jet" which was widely referenced in the official 9/11 narratives -- a plane thought to be American Airlines 11 by those tracking it (though we were all given to understand that AA 11 had already nosed its way into the North Tower) -- was later uniformly dismissed as an unfortunate mistake born of the "Fog of War."

Sounds plausible. Especially in light of what we now know about the massive confusion injected into the system by virtue of the 9/11 War Games, which were going on simultaneous to the real attacks, and which mimicked them in every respect.

However, might not the references to the "phantom jet" also be referring to.....

The Flying Elephant:

Evidence for Involvement of a Third Jet in the WTC Attacks

No mention of a large, commercial-class aircraft loitering in the restricted airspace of lower Manhattan during the strikes on the WTC towers will be found in the 9/11 Commission Report. It does not appear in any version of the Official Story. It is largely unknown even in critical studies of 9/11. Yet substantial evidence exists to support its presence coincident with the attacks, actually orbiting in close proximity to the towers for several minutes while the North Tower burned and the South Tower was struck. Photography, video footage and eyewitness accounts, including FDNY transcripts and mainstream media audio, confirm this fact.

http://www.journalof911studies.com/Journal_4_Jet.pdf

VIDEOS: [The Third Plane Circling the Towers on 9/11](#)

No avoidance warning from Air Traffic Control would be necessary, as no rational commercial pilot (no matter how curious) would risk his aircraft, crew or passengers in a "fly-by" of the burning North Tower. But in this anonymous Camera Planet segment we see a large, twin-jet aircraft (757/767-class) doing just that at approximately 8:58 am (assuming the time signature is uncorrected by one hour), five minutes before WTC2 will be struck. Even disregarding the indicated time, as WTC1 is burning and WTC2 is not, the segment is clearly recorded between 8:46 am and 9:03 am. Note this white aircraft with dark engines and dark vertical stabilizer is *not* the aircraft that will impact WTC2.

<http://terrorize.dk/911/wtc2hit13/911.wtc.yet.another.plane.wmv>

At 9:03 am, "UA 175" approaches from the south at an improbably high speed and impacts the South Tower. CNN aired this "amateur video" of the event, which captures (without notice by Aaron Brown or Paula Zahn) what is evidently the same jet seen in the Camera Planet segment, making a similar northwest pass (but farther west, approximately over Battery Park) as the South Tower hit occurs.

www.aredownload.com/video/wtc/WTC%20-%20Amateur%20Video%2004.mpg

At 9:04am, Diane Sawyer of ABC News made remarks on-air about the "circling" jet she and her colleagues "all saw" prior to the second strike. She admits she "just assumed" it was the same one that struck the South Tower.

<http://www.terrorize.dk/911/comments/911.wtc.plane.circling.around.wmv>

Other mostly ignored commentary referencing the unexplained plane:

http://911review.org/img/copter/another_plane.mp3

http://911review.org/img/copter/plane_dissappeared_explosion.mp3

Of interest with respect to this "mystery jet" is the phenomenon, acknowledged but unexplained by the Commission, of the "phantom Flight 11." At 9:21 am, after both towers had been hit, and long after "AA11" had struck the North Tower, Boston flight control, relaying information from FAA headquarters, informed NEADS that "AA11" was still in the air and heading south, perhaps to Washington, DC. Were they tracking this "third aircraft"?

<http://www.terrorize.dk/911/flight11/911.wtc.the.real.flight.11.ng.wmv>

[NOTE: The author of this study, which was generated at the excellent, peer-reviewed site, Journal of 911 Studies.....

<http://www.journalof911studies.com/>

was told by anonymous sources that harm would come to him and his family if he did not withdraw from the organization; and that his study should "go away." He did indeed withdraw from the organization, but his study will not "go away." Each of the co-editors of Journal of 911 Studies -- Steven Jones and Kevin Ryan -- has had his previous career ended by his pursuit of 911 research,

and neither of these men is likely to capitulate to threats in the face of their commitment to justice. These guys are the real deal. Walking the walk for the most righteous of reasons -- the very truest kind of American patriot.

It is a clarifying dose of perspective to compare the quality of their work to that of those who have attacked them for their efforts. The best place to make their acquaintance is at their home site -- Scholars for 911 Truth & Justice.

<http://www.stj911.com/>

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12.9 White House Ordered False Assurances on 9/11 Air Quality, Report says

August 23, 2003
Long Island, NY Newsday
by Laurie Garrett

NEW YORK -- In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center, the White House instructed the Environmental Protection Agency to give the public misleading information, telling New Yorkers it was safe to breathe when reliable information on air quality was not available.

That finding is included in a report released Friday by the Office of the Inspector General of the EPA. It noted that some of the agency's news releases in the weeks after the attack were softened before being released to the public: Reassuring information was added, while cautionary information was deleted.

"When the EPA made a September 18 announcement that the air was 'safe' to breathe, it did not have sufficient data and analyses to make such a blanket statement," the report says. "Furthermore, the White House Council on Environmental Quality influenced ... the information that EPA communicated to the public through its early press releases when it convinced EPA to add reassuring statements and delete cautionary ones."

On the morning of Sept. 12, according to the report, the office of then-EPA Administrator Christie Whitman issued a memo: "All statements to the media should be cleared through the NSC (National Security Council in the White House) before they are released."

...
The report also notes examples when EPA officials claimed that conditions were safe when no scientific support was available.

New York's leaders responded with dismay.

Rep. Jerry Nadler, a Manhattan Democrat, called for a Justice Department investigation. "That the White House instructed EPA officials to downplay the health impact of the World Trade Center contaminants due to 'competing considerations' at the expense of the health and lives of New York City residents is an abomination," he said in a news release.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said in an interview it was "understandable that in the midst of a crisis the White House did not want the EPA to sound alarmist." But, he warned, "If the public loses faith that things are safe when the government says so, we'll have done more damage than a pointed statement the week after 9/11 would have."

The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines03/0823-03.htm>

Metals in the Air at the Highest Levels Ever Recorded in the United States

February 11, 2002

Thomas Cahill, PhD, Delta Group member, is a noted expert on composition and transport of ultra-fine airborne particles. Dr. Cahill explains that World Trade Center aerosols contained high levels of sulfur, sulfur-based compounds, and very fine silicon that probably came from the thousands of tons of glass that had been in the WTC buildings. ... The sampling also indicated that there were almost always high concentrations of coarse particles -- those about 12 micrometers to 5 micrometers in diameter -- present in the air near the WTC site.

"These particles simply should not be there," Cahill says. "It had rained, sometimes heavily, on six days in the prior three weeks. That rain should have settled these coarse particles." He says their presence suggests the hot debris pile was continually generating the larger particles. The study also determined the chemical composition of the dust it sampled. **Some of the metals found in the air occurred at the highest levels ever recorded in the United States. Metals present at high levels included iron, titanium (some associated with powdered concrete), vanadium and nickel (often associated with fuel-oil combustion), copper and zinc. Mercury, lead, and asbestos were present at low levels.**

September 11, 2003

The study concludes that samples taken from the World Trade Center site contained four types of particles that the EPA considers harmful to human health: ultra-fine particulate matter composed of heavy metals known to cause lung damage, sulfuric acid harmful to pulmonary cells, ultra-fine glass particles that can travel through the lungs to the bloodstream and heart, and high-temperature carcinogenic organic matter.

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/entity.jsp?entity=thomas_cahill

EPA Complicit in Hiding Toxic Air at WTC Sites

February 21, 2002

The EPA's National Ombudsman's office convenes a hearing on the environmental issues that resulted from the attacks on the World Trade Center. Hugh Kaufman, the EPA ombudsman's chief investigator, remarks during the hearing that he believes the EPA, as well as state and city officials, have intentionally utilized inferior testing methods in order to avoid finding evidence that environmental conditions threaten public health.

"I believe EPA did not do that because they knew it would come up not safe and so they are involved in providing knowingly false information to the public about safety," Kaufman, says. "Not just EPA, the state and the city, too. We also had testimonies that all the agencies -- local, state, and federal -- have been consorting together every week to discuss these issues." Numerous experts testify at the hearing...

Government officials and employees were invited to participate -- including officials from the EPA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Geological Survey, the governor's office, state agencies, the mayor's office and city agencies -- but did not appear. "This is the first time this has happened in this type of hearing," Hugh Kaufman, tells United Press International.

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/entity.jsp?entity=thomas_cahill

White House Molded EPA's 9/11 Reports

Advisories Were Edited To Play Down Risk From Asbestos

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22, 2003

(CBS/AP) The Environmental Protection Agency's internal watchdog says White House officials pressured the agency to prematurely assure the public that the air was safe to breathe a week after the World Trade Center collapse.

"Competing considerations, such as national security concerns and the desire to reopen Wall Street, also played a role in EPA's air quality statements," the report said.

The New York Times, which reported on the inspector general's findings before they were made public, points out that officials from the EPA and from the White House criticized the report, saying investigators misunderstood the complexity of the situation after the terror attack.

The agency's initial statements in the days following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks were not supported by proper air quality monitoring data and analysis, EPA's inspector general, Nikki L. Tinsley, says in a 155-page report released late Thursday.

An email sent just one day after the attacks, from then-EPA Deputy Administrator Linda Fisher's chief of staff to senior EPA officials, said "all statements to the media should be cleared" first by the National Security Council, the report says.

Approval from the NSC, which is chaired by President Bush and serves as his main forum for discussing national security and foreign policy matters with his senior aides and Cabinet, was arranged through an official with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the report said.

That council, which coordinates federal environmental efforts, in turn "convinced EPA to add reassuring statements and delete cautionary ones," the inspector general found.

...
[A] section that said, "Even at low levels, EPA considers asbestos hazardous in this situation" was deleted and replaced with a section that read, in part, "Short-term, low-level exposure of the type that might have been produced by the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings is unlikely to cause significant health effects."

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/08/09/national/main567489.shtml>

Dusted: 38 Year Old Cleanup Worker Now Walks with a Cane

A 9-11 victim: Alex Sanchez fell ill after cleaning office buildings downtown.
by Kristen Lombardi

September 6th, 2005

Alex Sanchez likes to say he's "living proof" the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the September 11 terrorist attacks bordered on the criminal. Sanchez was exposed to dust from the World Trade Center disaster as a cleanup worker in skyscrapers around ground zero. He spent seven months enveloped in the lethal material, wiping it from cubicles, blowing it out of vents. It stung his throat, burned his eyes, and choked his lungs.

"The EPA said the air was safe," he remembers, as the fourth anniversary of 9-11 nears, "and when you read that coming from a government official, you don't second-guess it."

Now he does. Sanchez, 38, of Washington Heights, walks with a cane, hunched in pain, hampered by escalating respiratory problems. Doctors have diagnosed him with musculo-skeletal syndrome and asthma, attributed to exposure to the WTC dust. He takes as many as 23 medications.

Yet what bothers Sanchez isn't so much his own health -- "I'm already damaged goods," he says -- but the bigger picture. He thinks about people who live and work in the buildings surrounding ground zero, like the ones he used to clean, the ones he worries weren't properly tested for contamination. Residents, office workers, schoolchildren: These are the people who may still be breathing in toxic dust, yet not know it. "I'm afraid there are people who will end up just like me walking around these buildings today," he says.

Sanchez isn't alone. For more than a year, dozens of people who live and work in and around Lower Manhattan have been locked in a debate with the EPA over its latest proposal to test for lingering Trade Center dust. A coalition of activists -- from labor, tenant, small business, and environmental groups -- have pushed agency officials to do the right thing -- that is, determine the 9-11-related contamination remaining in downtown and clean it up.

...
The community has every reason to worry about remaining contamination. The collapse of the 110-story twin towers released a lethal cloud of debris. Concrete, steel, glass, asbestos, plastics, mercury, lead: It all came crashing down, pulverized into dust. Add to this brew the fires that burned for three months, giving off a putrid plume.

"It was a toxic soup," says Suzanne Mattei, of the New York City Sierra Club, who wrote a 265-page report on the 9-11 fallout. "People were exposed to not one chemical but multiple chemicals" -- in short, to dangerous stuff.

It didn't take long for those most heavily exposed -- the workers who sifted through the rubble and shipped it away -- to experience health problems. Almost instantly, the coughing emerged, as did wheezing, throat irritation, and chest pain. Last September, the Mount Sinai Medical Center released data from its 9-11 medical-screening program, which has tested over 14,000 first responders

and volunteers. The center reported that 88 percent suffered from at least one WTC-related ear, nose, or throat symptom. Over half endured respiratory ailments for months.

But you didn't have to work on the pile to get sick. Many, like Sanchez, who cleaned the Trade Center dust in downtown skyscrapers have suffered similar illnesses. In 2001, Queens College professor Steven Markowitz, an occupational-health physician, set up a medical van two blocks from the WTC site and screened 415 cleanup laborers. He recorded the coughs, the wheezing, the sore throats. A year later, he found most workers' symptoms were persisting.

...
Advocates don't sound optimistic. After all, they note, the decision rests with the EPA -- and the White House. And toxic Trade Center dust seems like one of many environmental causes the Bush administration has ignored, despite evidence. "It's a hard fight," Mattei says, "when you have a government that doesn't listen to science and doesn't want to admit it did anything wrong."

No one understands the consequences of this more than Sanchez. Every day, as he struggles with his health, he says he's reminded of how the administration first failed New Yorkers. And as he's become more active in the EPA fight, he's reminded of how the agency continues to fail the city. If it had come through for people, he asks, wouldn't the testing and cleanup have been finished long ago?

"I'm really disgusted by it," he says. "It's shameful."

<http://www.villagevoice.com/news/0536,lombardi,67520,5.html/full>

9/11 Hero Dies of Lung Disease and Mercury Poisoning

by Joshua Brustein
January, 2006

Detective James Zadroga was inside 7 World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001. He escaped -- barely -- when the building collapsed. But Zadroga could not escape the damage done to his body by the hundreds of hours he spent at Ground Zero cleaning up the rubble in the following weeks. On January 5 of this year, Zadroga died from lung disease and mercury poisoning -- a condition that hasn't been a widespread occupational hazard for over a century when hatters were sickened as they dyed beaver pelts.

<http://www.gothamgazette.com/article/health/20060130/9/1742>

September 11 Rescue Workers' Death Linked to Ground Zero Dust

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

WASHINGTON — The government's point man on Sept. 11 health programs said he is worried that an autopsy linking a retired detective's death to recovery work at ground zero may be a warning sign of other life-threatening cases.

Dr. John Howard also said it will take time to determine whether there is a scientific link between deaths and exposure to toxic dust. Some epidemiologists have said it will take 20 years or more to prove such a link.

Howard, who is to meet in New York this week with congressional leaders about ground zero health issues, was tapped by the Bush administration in February to coordinate the federal response to ongoing Sept. 11 health programs.

That role took on greater urgency with the April release of retired Detective James Zadroga's autopsy, which concluded "with a reasonable degree of medical certainty that the cause of death in this case was directly related to the 9/11 incident."

The autopsy said Zadroga died in January of respiratory failure caused by exposure to toxic dust.

...
Doctors and government officials worry Zadroga's death may be a so-called sentinel case, an early harbinger of future deaths from such exposure.

http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,193082,00.html?sPage=fnc.national/_911

Lung Problems Plague 9/11 Workers

Study: Nearly 70% Of Ground Zero Workers Had Respiratory Issues

"I can understand the frustration and the anger, and most importantly, the concern about their future."

Dr. John Howard,
National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health

NEW YORK, Sept. 5, 2006

(CBS/AP) Nearly 70 percent of recovery workers who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center suffered lung problems during or after their work at ground zero, a new health study released Tuesday shows.

Less than a week before the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Mount Sinai Medical Center issued the results of the largest study on related health effects. It found, among other things, that the ailments tended to be worst among those who arrived first at the site, and that high rates of lung "abnormalities" continued years later.

The study focused mostly on what has been dubbed "World Trade Center cough," which was little understood immediately after the attacks but became a chief concern of health experts and advocates.

"We're looking potentially at an iceberg, and we're just seeing the tip of the iceberg right now unfortunately," Mount Sinai's Dr. Robin Herbert told CBS Evening News Sunday anchor Russ Mitchell.

"We know that people were exposed to pulverized glass and pulverized cement and asbestos and benzene," says Herbert.

Findings highlighted by the study include:

- Ø Almost 70 percent of World Trade Center responders had new or worsened lung symptoms after the attacks.
- Ø Among responders who had no health symptoms before the attacks, 61 percent developed lung symptoms while working on the toxic pile.
- Ø One-third of those tested had abnormal lung function tests.

In lung function tests, responders had abnormalities at a rate double that expected in the general population. Those abnormalities persisted for months and in some cases years after the exposure, the study found.

"Our patients were very, very highly exposed, and are likely to suffer health consequences as a result of that for the rest of their lives," Herbert said.

The study, to be published Thursday, focused on 9,442 ground zero workers examined between July 2002 and April 2004.

They included construction workers, police and firefighters and other volunteers who worked at the site, in the city morgue or at a landfill where more than 1 million tons of trade center debris were carted.

...
The hospital has been the focal point of New York research on Sept. 11-related illnesses, and thousands have sought treatment there.

The report comes as public concern over the fate of ground zero workers has risen. In a class action lawsuit against the city and its contractors, 8,000 workers and civilians blame Sept. 11 for sinusitis, cancers and other ailments they developed after the attacks.

Dr. John Howard, who was appointed by the Bush administration in February to coordinate the various ground zero health programs, told The New York Times for Tuesday editions that he understands the skepticism of many responders.

"I can understand the frustration and the anger, and most importantly, the concern about their future," said Howard, the head of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. "I can't blame them for thinking, 'Where were you when we needed you?'"

...
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/09/05/national/main1967898.shtml>

Families: 9/11 Workers Died from WTC Toxins

Many Workers Fearful

by Amy Westfeldt

Jan 18, 2006

NEW YORK -- James Zadroga spent 16 hours a day toiling in the World Trade Center ruins for a month, breathing in debris-choked air. **Timothy Keller** said he coughed up bits of gravel from his lungs after the towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001. **Felix Hernandez** spent days at the site helping to search for victims.

All three men died in the past seven months of what their families and colleagues say were persistent respiratory illnesses directly caused by their work at Ground Zero.

While thousands of people who either worked at or lived near the site have reported ailments such as "trade center cough" since the terrorist attacks, some say that only now are the consequences of working at the site becoming heartbreakingly clear.

"I'm very fearful," said Donald Faeth, an emergency medical technician and officer in a union with two of the Ground Zero workers who died last year. "I think that there are several people who died that day and didn't realize that they died that day."

...

Karin DeShore said she does not need scientists to tell her what caused the death of her friend Keller, 41. DeShore was a Fire Department captain who took Keller to the trade center on Sept. 11.

"He came back coughing" two days later, she said. Faeth said that Keller told him that he coughed up debris so violently he could barely breathe on Sept. 11, and later developed emphysema.

Keller went home to Levittown on medical leave in March. He died on June 23 of heart disease complicated by bronchitis and emphysema.

Felix Hernandez, 31, worked on rescue and recovery work at Ground Zero following the attacks, said his former supervisor, Lt. Regina Pellegrino. In 2002, "it started with a cold he couldn't shake," she said.

Hernandez was diagnosed with various respiratory diseases and was told by doctors at one point that he may have cystic fibrosis, Pellegrino said. He left the job in 2004 when he became too weak to climb stairs, and died Oct. 23 of respiratory ailments in Florida.

Zadroga, a 34-year-old New York detective, logged 470 hours at the site in 2001, including Sept. 11, and died Jan. 5. Family members and co-workers said he had contracted black lung disease and had high levels of mercury in his brain.

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http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4155/is_20060118/ai_n16000558

Death by Dust

The Frightening Link Between the 9-11 Toxic Cloud and Cancer

by Kristen Lombardi
November 28th, 2006

It was October 6, 2004, three years after **Ernie Vallebuona**'s three-month stint as a rescue and recovery worker at ground zero in the wake of the 9-11 terrorist attacks, and he was hunched over and trembling, racked by a pain like nothing he had experienced in his 40 years of sound health. He had just returned to his Rockland County home after finishing the midnight-to-8 a.m. shift in the NYPD vice unit, where he'd reported to work for the last six years. Vallebuona had bought some fish from a street vendor near his office, on the Lower East Side. And as he drove the 35 miles from Manhattan to New City, he chalked up a

searing stomachache to food poisoning. Maybe the vendor had filleted that fish with a dirty machete?

By the time he pulled into his driveway, the pain had grown excruciating, too horrible for him to even lie in bed that day. The chills swept over his body; so did the shakes. He called his doctor, who suggested ulcer medication. His mother advised him to forget that diagnosis and consult a specialist instead, but like a lot of young, healthy men, he didn't listen right away.

Vallebuona isn't much for complaining; what ailing cop is? But for six months, he had noticed his body betraying him. His toes had reddened; his joints had stiffened. They throbbed in prickly pangs, as if glass shards were wedged underneath his skin. When his own heartbeat began to hurt, he had visited the family doctor, who diagnosed him with gout. He was told to drink cherry juice and take anti-inflammatory medicine. Neither worked.

Now as his stomach convulsed, Vallebuona listened to his mother at last. Later that day, he found himself at a gastroenterologist's office in Pomona, lying on a table, watching a nurse poke at his abdomen. She felt a lump and ordered tests. It would take a month to reach a definitive diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphoid tissue. Evidently, Vallebuona had developed a golf-ball-sized mass in his abdomen that had grown so fast and so quick that pieces of it were dying and depositing into his blood, causing gout-like symptoms.

One week after that, he was at a Manhattan hospital, meeting his oncologist, hearing about the heavy-duty chemotherapy he would have to undergo over the next four months. At the visit, a nurse explained he had an aggressive cancer -- a rare stage-three -- and asked a battery of questions.

Did he ever do modeling with glue?
Did he ever handle insecticides?
Did he ever work with chemicals like benzene?

Vallebuona answered no to all the questions. He had led a clean life; before becoming a cop, he'd worked in a bank.

Sitting in the examining room with him, Vallebuona's wife, Amy, finally spoke up.

"What about 9-11?" she asked. "What about all that smoke and dust?"

Only then did Ernie Vallebuona first consider the possibility that the events of September 11 could be the cause of his cancer.

This is not the story of rescue and recovery workers at ground zero getting sick with respiratory illnesses from their exposure; you have read those stories, and you have heard those cases.

This is the story of 9-11 and cancer.

To date, 75 recovery workers on or around what is now known as "the Pile" -- the rubble that remained after the World Trade Center towers collapsed on the morning of September 11, 2001 -- have been diagnosed with blood cell cancers that a half-dozen top doctors and epidemiologists have confirmed as having been likely caused by that exposure.

Those 75 cases have come to light in joint-action lawsuits filed against New York City on behalf of at least 8,500 recovery workers who suffer from various forms of lung illnesses and respiratory diseases -- and suggest a pattern too distinct to ignore. While some cancers take years, if not decades, to develop, the blood cancers in otherwise healthy and young individuals represent a pattern that experts believe will likely prove to be more than circumstantial. The suits seek to prove that these 8,500 workers -- approximately 20 percent of the total estimated recovery force that cleared the rubble from ground zero -- all suffer from the debilitating effects of those events.

The basis for the suits stems from the plaintiffs' argument that the government -- in a desperate attempt to revive downtown in the wake of the catastrophic events on 9-11 -- failed to protect workers from cancer-causing benzene, dioxin, and other hazardous chemicals that permeated the air for months. Officials made these failures worse by falsely reassuring New Yorkers that they faced no long-term dangers from exposure to the air lingering over ground zero.

"We are very encouraged that the results from our monitoring of air-quality and drinking-water conditions in both New York and near the Pentagon show that the public in these areas is not being exposed to excessive levels of asbestos or other harmful substances," Christine Todd Whitman, the then administrator of the EPA, told the citizens of New York City in a press release on September 18 -- only seven days after the attacks. "Given the scope of the tragedy from last week, I am glad to reassure the people of New York ... that their air is safe to breathe and the water is safe to drink."

Those statements were not only false and misleading, but may even play into the basis for the city's liability for millions of dollars in the recovery workers' lawsuits. Last February, U.S. District Judge Deborah Batts cited Whitman's false statements as the basis for allowing a different class-action lawsuit to proceed -- this one, against the EPA and Whitman, is on behalf of residents, office workers, and students from Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn, many of whom suffer from respiratory illnesses as a result of 9-11.

"No reasonable person would have thought that telling thousands of people that it was safe to return to Lower Manhattan, while knowing that such return could pose long-term health risks and other dire consequences, was conduct sanctioned by our laws," Batts wrote in her February 2 ruling.

"Whitman's deliberate and misleading statements made to the press, where she reassured the public that the air was safe to breathe around Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn, and that there would be no health risk presented to those returning to the areas, shocks the conscience."

And that was before anyone knew of the apparent cancer link, first reported in the New York news media in the spring of 2004. Even more shocking is the incidence of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses that have developed among those participating in the recovery workers' lawsuits. Given the fact that some cancers are slower to develop than others, it seems likely to several doctors and epidemiologists that many more reports of cancer and serious lung illnesses will surface in the months and years to come. The fact that 8,500 recovery workers have already banded together to sue, only five years later -- with 400 total cancer

patients among their number -- leads many experts to predict that these figures are likely to grow, meaning a possible death toll in the thousands.

In many ways, these illnesses suggest the slow but deteriorating health issues that faced the atomic-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where thousands died in the years and decades that followed the United States' use of nuclear weapons. And that similarity has not been lost on David Worby, the 53-year-old attorney leading the joint-action suits on behalf of those workers who are already sick, and even dying.

"In the end," Worby declares, "our officials might be responsible for more deaths than Osama bin Laden on 9-11."

In the five years since the attacks, much of the focus on the 9-11 health crisis has missed a broader question, the one that every ground zero worker fears most and the one that Ernie Vallebuona has already had to ponder: What about cancer? What if all that pulverized concrete and ground glass and caustic mist that Vallebuona inhaled while on the Pile didn't attack his lungs but instead went straight for his lymph nodes? Could this noxious mix have caused his lymphoma?

No one has done a comprehensive study of the health consequences on the estimated 40,000 rescue and recovery workers who raced to ground zero after the attacks. A study by Mount Sinai Medical Center -- one that received widespread media attention two months ago -- released statistics on the five-year anniversary of 9-11 that focused almost exclusively on respiratory problems and bypassed any mention of cancer today.

But David Worby has tracked the cancer patients among his growing client base for the last two years. Here are the latest tallies: Of the 8,500 people now suing the city, 400, or about 5 percent, have cancer. The biggest group by far consists of people like Vallebuona, who have blood cell cancers. Seventy-five clients suffer from lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma, and other blood cell cancers; most are men, aged 30 to 60, who appeared in perfect health just five years ago.

The field of cancer research is not known for consensus. But six prominent specialists on cancer and the link to toxins -- on the faculty of the nation's top medical schools and public health institutions -- all come to the same conclusions when told these statistics. They are Richard Clapp and David Ozonoff, professors of environmental health at Boston University School of Public Health; Michael Thun, director of epidemiological research at the American Cancer Society; Francine Laden, assistant professor of environmental epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health; Jonathan Samet, chairman of the epidemiology department at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; and Charles Hershberger, associate professor of oncology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

These doctors and epidemiologists agree that the incidence of cancer among this subset of workers sounds shockingly high, that they cannot and should not be dismissed as coincidence, and that the toxic dust cloud that hung over downtown Manhattan, and particularly the Pile, likely caused or promoted the diseases. Some even went so far as to say that the blood cancer cases, especially, indicate what could become a wave of cancer cases stemming from 9-11 over the next decades.

"Those numbers seem quite outrageous," is how Hesdorffer puts it. Now at Johns Hopkins, Hesdorffer directed until last year the tumor immunotherapy program at Columbia University Medical Center, where he treated two recovery workers who got cancer post-9-11. He notes that the average healthy adult person has a 20 percent risk of having cancer over a lifetime. Calculate that risk over five years -- the time frame from the events of 9-11 until today -- and it drops to about 1 percent. Yet 5 percent of the suits' workers -- 1 percent of the overall worker population -- have already been diagnosed with malignancies. And these patients don't include the thousands whose illnesses have yet to be recorded because they aren't participating in the lawsuits or in the World Trade Center medical-monitoring programs.

What the experts find most telling are the types of cancer now emerging. They say the blood cancer cases seem too disproportionate to be random. Two percent of these workers have been diagnosed with what amounts to related diseases, none of which fall into the "high-frequency" category, which includes prostate cancer. One out of 9,000 people nationwide gets lymphoma a year; for myeloma, it's one out of 30,000. By contrast, the 75 blood cancer patients translate into several dozen new cases a year.

"That's not just a fluke," says Ozonoff, who studies cancer clusters and toxic waste sites.

...

At 8:30 on the morning of the terrorist attacks, Ernie Vallebuona was driving with his three-year-old son, also named Ernie, to a nearby Home Depot in search of the perfect paint color for the family bathroom. Vallebuona always listens to 1010 WINS in the car, so he turned on the radio. He soon heard the incredible news that a plane had crashed into one of the twin towers. Instantly, he got the call to respond.

"We're all mobilizing," his NYPD supervisor told him via cell phone. "Get to work as fast as you can."

Over in Pomona, some 36 miles away from Manhattan, 37-year-old NYPD **Detective John Walcott** was at his suburban home, killing time before a midnight tour on the narcotics unit, where he'd worked for a dozen years. He was relaxing on the couch when a friend from St. Louis called.

"What the hell is going on in New York?" the friend asked, incredulously. Walcott had no idea what his friend meant. He flipped on the TV, only to see flames raging from the twin towers. Minutes later, he was behind the wheel of his minivan, speeding down the highway toward the World Trade Center.

Some 200 miles southeast of the Trade Center site, 49-year-old **Gary Acker** was working in a bomb shelter dubbed the "earth station," an undisclosed location where AT&T keeps its large satellite dishes. At the time, Acker was managing the company's disaster recovery team, which restores critical communications after catastrophes. He had long viewed the post as the crowning achievement in his 31-year career, one that suited his desire to make a difference.

When the first plane hit the north tower, he was sitting in an equipment room, four floors below ground, running emergency drills. No one had turned on the TV, so he remained oblivious to the events unfolding in Manhattan. His wife, Alison, called him.

"Look at the TV," she said, just as the second plane hit the south tower. Acker knew that New York City officials would be calling AT&T for help. "Pack up your equipment," he heard his wife say, "and get ready to ride."

Back in Manhattan, [Jessy McCarthy](#) was not about to roll anywhere. The Verizon field technician was sitting in his office on East 91st Street, listening to the news on the radio, when he heard about the planes hitting the towers. He froze in place, unable to pull himself away from the broadcast for hours that day. Only that afternoon did he manage to go to a nearby work site to repair phone lines. Sitting in his truck, he stared in disbelief at all the people doused in gray dust walking up Third Avenue from downtown. His eyes locked on the caravan of people who'd been caught in that cloud.

By the time McCarthy was taking in this ghostly scene, Vallebuona and Walcott had joined thousands of first responders at the World Trade Center. Both arrived at the site shortly after the 110-story twin towers came crashing down, and they spent the next 15 hours sifting through the wreckage. Racing to the scene from the Seventh Precinct, on Pitt Street, Vallebuona encountered a giant cloud of dust and smoke so hazy and dense, he couldn't see his hand in front of his face. He circled the periphery of what he thought was the scene, following the blaring sirens and running past pumper trucks and police cruisers twisted up like discarded tin cans. The dust caked his eyes and coated his lips. It filled his nostrils with a horrible smell, like burned plastic and flesh. Vallebuona happened to have a bandanna in his pants pocket, which he wrapped across his face. It did little to ward off the rancid odor.

Walcott was also experiencing the noxious effects of the chemical brew. While the massive cloud had dissipated, the crystalline particles hung in the air like speckles in a snow globe. He waded through mounds of pulverized dust, knee-deep, tasting it on his lips, spitting it out of his mouth. Without a mask, he was coughing immediately. First came the black mucus and ashen chunks, then the dry heaves and blood. For hours, he wiped away dark gunk dripping from his eyes. He couldn't help but think that something was wrong. But he focused on the mission at hand, on the faint hope of discovering survivors. That day, he stepped over the only human body that he would find intact -- a female, burned beyond recognition, a charred bra over her face.

Acker arrived on the scene 24 hours later, after driving with 11 team members up the East Coast in a company trailer equipped with satellite transmission consoles and multiplex cables. He would spend the next 33 days in and around ground zero -- first setting up a satellite at 1 Police Plaza, then manning phone lines across the street from what came to be known as the Pile. The plume enveloped the area from the moment he set foot there until he left. Many nights, he'd oversee the satellite atop 1 Police Plaza, just east of ground zero, and watch as the prevailing winds subsided and the bright-blue smoke settled in. It hung so heavily on the city that he couldn't see the guards stationed across the street.

In these early days, Acker, Vallebuona, and Walcott all struggled to protect themselves from the toxic dust. The foul odor clogged the air for the three months that Vallebuona ended up working at the site -- first on the Pile, hauling rubble with buckets, then around the perimeter, providing security and escorting residents to their dust-laden homes. When he and Walcott searched the rubble as part of the initial bucket brigade, they wore nothing over their faces but surgical

masks. Respirator masks came weeks into their months-long recovery work; sometimes they came with the wrong filters.

Because Walcott was a detective, he ended up spending his five-month stint not just at ground zero, but also at Fresh Kills. As much as he choked on the Lower Manhattan air, he dreaded the Staten Island landfill. Walcott knew everything in the towers had fallen -- desks, lights, computers.

But apart from the occasional steel beam, the detritus that he sifted through there consisted of tiny grains of dust -- no furniture pieces, no light fixtures, not even a computer mouse.

At times, the detectives would take shelter in wooden sheds, in an attempt to get away from what Walcott likes to call "all that freaking bad air." One day, he was sitting in the shed with his colleagues, eating candy bars and drinking sodas, when some FBI agents entered. They were dressed in full haz-mat suits, complete with head masks, which they had sealed shut with duct tape to ward off the fumes. As Walcott took in the scene, contrasting the well-protected FBI agents with the New York cops wearing respirator masks, one thought entered his mind: What is wrong with this picture?

The same thought would cross Acker's mind only fleetingly, and only after weeks of working near ground zero, while he was hacking so hard he vomited something akin to chewed-up licorice. During his first days at the site, he wore the painter's mask that an NYPD lieutenant had given him, but it soon became too filthy from debris. By October, he was spitting up so much gunk that he called his doctor for an antibiotics prescription. But he wouldn't leave the site; when the fumes got bad, he'd sit in the company trailer and flip on the air conditioner. That had a filter, at least. AT&T had stocked its disaster trailers with almost everything -- rubber boots, hard hats, rope, a first aid kit. Funny, Acker thought, staring at the shelves. All this stuff, yet no one had ever considered respirators.

Around this time, McCarthy was just beginning to report for recovery duty. When Verizon asked for volunteers to restore phone lines near ground zero, he didn't hesitate. He arrived for his first assignment in early October and wound up staying downtown for the next 13 months, going from basement to basement, moving from Wall Street skyscrapers to Chinatown walk-ups. The first thing he saw in the company terminals was the Trade Center dust, piled on top of consoles, crammed into corners. He had to wipe down the equipment with his bare hands to see the wires. The dust had an orange hue; at times, it twinkled. And it always stunk, an unforgettable smell he struggled to get past every time. Invariably, he'd find it in his hair, on his eyelashes, in his tool belt, even under his fingernails. Sometimes, he'd gaze at the ceiling and get the sense of standing in the middle of a meadow thick with pollen. He could see the soot and dust floating in the air.

When it occurred to these responders that they might be sacrificing their health for the sake of the cleanup -- as it did to anyone who came in contact with the foul-smelling smoke and dust -- they took comfort in the official word at the time. In the immediate aftermath of 9-11, the EPA issued multiple statements on the air quality downtown. All were reassuring in nature. On September 18, the day after the New York Stock Exchange reopened for business, the EPA's Whitman said the air was safe to breathe.

It has turned out those words were, in fact, false. In August 2003, the EPA inspector general issued a scathing 155-page report concluding that the agency hadn't had the data to make such blanket declarations at that time. By then, more than a quarter of EPA samples showed unsafe levels of asbestos, and the agency had yet to complete tests for mercury, cadmium, lead, dioxin, and PCBs. The inspector general's report went on to disclose another disconcerting fact -- that the White House had pressured the EPA to sanitize its warnings about ground zero. The inspector general revealed that the White House Council on Environmental Quality had taken a red pen to the agency's press releases, adding reassuring statements and deleting cautionary ones, creating the overly rosy picture that the air was clean.

In reality, the 9-11 fallout was like nothing anyone had been exposed to before. Everything in the towers had been ground into dust -- concrete, steel, glass, insulation, plastic, and computers. Dust analyses would detect glass shards, cement particles, cellulose fibers, asbestos, and a mixture of harmful components, including lead, titanium, barium, and gypsum. In all, the dust contained more than 100 different compounds, some of which have never been identified. And then there were the fires that smoldered for three months. They gave off not only the putrid plume, but also a blast of carcinogens -- asbestos, dioxin, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs. They also emitted benzene.

In one disturbing analysis done by the U.S. Geological Survey, the dust had such high alkalinity levels it rivaled liquid Drano.

Thomas Cahill, a physicist who sent a team to analyze the plume from a rooftop a mile away from ground zero, says he got worried once he noticed the color of the smoke had turned a fluorescent blue. That's a sure sign that ultra-fine particles (which can go deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream) were coming off the Pile and permeating the air. When his team tested the plume, the scientists found higher levels of sulfuric acid, heavy metals, and other insoluble materials than anywhere else in the world, even in the Kuwaiti oil fields. "Not nice stuff," says Cahill, a professor emeritus of physics at the University of California at Davis, who has published three papers on the 9-11 plume, "and it was all being liberated by that smoldering pile, so those people got the full force of it."

Today, Cahill is trying to identify what exactly the recovery workers were inhaling, but the data are incomplete. He does know one thing for certain: "You'd have to stand by a busy highway for eight years to get what these people on the site got in just four weeks." He then adds, "These poor people are part of an enormous experiment, I think."

In May 2003, John Walcott was 39 years old. He had just become a first-time father -- of his daughter, Colleen -- and had proudly coached a Bedford high school hockey team to the state regionals. That spring, he had noticed his energy fade. But he figured his 16-hour days juggling the narcotics beat, hockey practice, and parenthood were finally catching up to him. Still, the fatigue would consume him for weeks. He'd fall asleep at his desk or behind the wheel. Often he'd nod off in the middle of a conversation.

Then he got the diagnosis: acute myelogenous leukemia, a white-blood-cell cancer. He was ordered straight to the hospital, where he underwent chemotherapy for the next 28 days.

Eventually, a nurse would ask Walcott questions similar to those put to Vallebuona, the ones meant to pinpoint the possible causes for his cancer. Like Vallebuona, Walcott answered no to all the questions. And like Vallebuona, he didn't connect the dots between his time at ground zero and the cancer growing in his body.

Visiting him in the hospital later, his sister, Debbie, did.

"John," she said, "what the hell do you think you were around at ground zero?"

It was a question that Gary Acker would also have to confront that summer, in a visit to his own doctor's office. The AT&T manager had never shaken that World Trade Center cough, struggling with sore throats and lung infections for 18 months after completing his recovery work, suffering through all kinds of inhalers and antibiotic regimens. At one point, his doctor diagnosed him with sleep apnea and ordered him to wear a pilot-like mask strapped over his face at night, so as to reduce his roaring snores. It didn't work.

A perennial optimist, Acker ignored any hint that his health problems were 9-11 related. In September 2002, he got the first warning that his health was deteriorating from exposure to the dust cloud when he underwent a pulmonary test for the company. He was stunned by the doctor's response.

"How many packs of cigarettes do you smoke a day?" the doctor asked Acker.

"I don't smoke. I never have in my life."

"Well, you have a real breathing problem," the doctor informed him.

His second warning came in the summer of 2003, as Walcott was getting chemotherapy. In August, Acker was landscaping the backyard at his home, in Columbus, New Jersey, carrying two 50-pound buckets of stones, when his body buckled under a jolt of pain. It felt as if somebody had jabbed a fishhook into his rib cage and was slowly gutting him. He allowed for the possibility of a kidney stone and paid a trip to the doctor. Days later, he got a diagnosis that would stop his heart cold: multiple myeloma, a plasma cell cancer. Already, the super-advanced cancer had eaten its way through the bone marrow in his ribs, as well as many other bones in his body.

For a fleeting moment, Acker thought about that thick and foul plume hanging over the Pile; could it have caused his cancer? But his optimism flooded back and he focused on his treatment instead -- on the chemotherapy pills that he would take twice a day for the next 28 days. Only days later, after his oncologist confirmed that his myeloma likely formed in the last two years, did he finally make the tie-in to 9-11.

By the spring of 2004, Acker and Walcott had endured not only months of chemotherapy, but also stem cell transplants. They experienced a series of life-threatening infections and trips in and out of the hospital before beating their cancers into remission.

Meanwhile, Vallebuona had just begun noticing gout-like symptoms. They started in his big toes, which doubled in size and became hot to the touch, and then moved to his knees, joints, and chest. For six months, he went back and forth to the doctor, getting more medicine, seeking more remedies. He wouldn't doubt that diagnosis until October 2004, when the searing stomachache tipped him off to what had really been causing pain in his abdomen.

When he got the cancer diagnosis, Vallebuona was relieved about one thing. His doctor had been wrong about the gout. If nothing else, at least he wouldn't have to live with that excruciating pain for the rest of his life.

As Vallebuona was coming to grips with his cancer in the fall of 2004, Jessy McCarthy was still feeling healthy. The Verizon technician had managed to evade the kinds of respiratory problems that have afflicted so many ground zero workers -- the cough, the sinusitis, the asthma -- in the two years since his recovery assignment had ended. He would experience nothing to suggest the grave disease that would sneak up on him.

At least not until one day in October 2004, while taking a shower, when he saw a swelling around the glands under his arm, about the size of a marble. He thought: This is not right.

But McCarthy didn't feel sick; there were no dizzy spells or nausea. A trip to the family doctor to ask about the lump yielded little information, just something questionable about his blood. So McCarthy plodded on with his life, holding down his full-time job, taking care of his teenage son.

Suddenly, within weeks, he noticed the lump had grown, and more had developed. His lymph nodes swelled all over his body, underneath his arms, in his groin, around his neck and chest. The lumps just seemed to sprout; they grew so big that they looked like mini-baseballs. Suddenly, McCarthy found himself undergoing a battery of medical exams -- CAT scans, PET scans, blood tests, and anything else that would help narrow down the possibilities. It took six months to rule out every type of lymphatic infection. In March 2005, after a biopsy of one of his lymph nodes, McCarthy finally was given the definitive diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

By then, the recovery workers' lawsuits had been more than a year in the making. Back in the winter of 2004, Walcott had just survived the worst of his hospital stays, a 17-day stretch of 106-degree fevers, and was confined to his home. Months had passed since he learned that his leukemia likely resulted from his exposure to benzene while on the Pile, but he went in search of legal advice. He started with a lawyer friend, who encouraged him to keep looking. One attorney offered to take Walcott's case, as long as he put up his modest house to cover the fees. "Forget it," he said.

Eventually, parents of the kids on his high school hockey team heard about his plight. During a visit, Walcott told some parents about his fruitless search. They had an idea. They could contact a trial lawyer whose son went to the same high school; his name was David Worby.

"I took the case as a favor," the lead attorney in the recovery workers' lawsuits says, sitting in his spacious penthouse office in White Plains. A trim man whose

brown hair is graying at the temples, David Worby exudes confidence as he reclines in his chair and recalls the early days of what has become his greatest legal crusade. Long before the 9-11 suits, he had built a reputation as a gladiator lawyer on personal-injury cases; in 1989, he set a Westchester record by winning \$18 million for a construction worker run down by a car. Fifteen years later, he was settling into early retirement when one of the Bedford parents told him about the ailing Walcott.

"What was I supposed to do?" Worby asks.

What started out as a case for one sick recovery worker quickly snowballed. Today, a team of 20 attorneys at his firm of Worby Groner Edelman Napoli & Bern is handling the suits, filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, for the thousands of workers associated with the Trade Center cleanup -- police officers, firefighters, sanitation workers, iron workers, and Latino day workers. Last month, Federal District Judge Alvin Hellerstein rejected the city's claim for immunity in the Worby lawsuits and recently capped its liability at \$1 billion. The judge is expected to appoint a special master to settle the workers' claims.

Worby's client list continues to grow. It now includes Vallebuona, Acker, and McCarthy, all of whom came to him after he filed the first suits in September 2004. They found out about him as most of his clients do -- by word of mouth, one sick recovery worker to another, one worried spouse to another. Others have called him after hearing about the cases on TV or the radio or in the papers.

Most of the clients have grown ill from respiratory problems like asthma, sinusitis, and bronchitis. But some have kidney failure, and 400 people have developed cancer.

So far, 83 clients have died.

The number of cancer patients has multiplied at a rate that Worby says he never anticipated. Back in 2004, he represented only 20 workers who had cancer. But by last March, he had watched that number soar to 200, and within six months after that, it had doubled. Now he gets at least several calls a week from clients who have just been diagnosed with some cancer. Or from new clients who have had the cancer for weeks or months.

Like many trial lawyers, Worby has a penchant for talking in fervent, breathless tones, as though his words were writ large, in bright, blinking letters. Convinced that the 9-11 fallout has made for a cancer explosion, he doesn't hesitate to say so. "There is going to be a cancer catastrophe the likes of which we've never seen in this country," he says. "The numbers are going to be staggering."

Perhaps it'd be easy to dismiss him as another hot-aired plaintiffs' attorney were it not for his own command of numbers. He has become something of a gumshoe epidemiologist, compiling the data on his cancer patients that are lacking in the larger worker population, tracking their diseases, ages, diagnosis dates, and their 9-11 exposures. "Look at the cancers my clients have," he says, flipping through a dozen pages of a document entitled "Seriously Ill Clients." It's updated every month; this one is dated September 13, 2006. The document outlines what he calls his "cancer clusters" and lists rare cancers often associated with the 9-11 toxins, such as thyroid (30 people), tongue and throat (25), testicular (16), and brain (10). He keeps a separate document on the 75 people with blood cancers. Two dozen

of them have various forms of leukemia; the remaining four dozen have various forms of lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and other blood cell cancers.

"If I had two blood cancers, it'd be a strong coincidence," Worby argues. "But 70? That defies coincidence. The word coincidence should not be in anyone's vocabulary."

...
"We're in this period where no one wants to accept the link," Hesdorffer observes. Maybe the official denial stems from economics, from a desire to limit the amount of money owed to the thousands who have lost their health. Or maybe it has to do with politics. Admitting a link, as he points out, "would mean that the fallout from 9-11 was a lot bigger than we'd thought."

What it would mean is that people got cancer from government decisions. From the decision of Whitman to lie about the air quality in Lower Manhattan, which gave the recovery workers and many other New Yorkers a false sense of security. From the decision of the White House to put Wall Street ahead of public health, which the EPA inspector general found had influenced all those rosy statements. And from the decision to let workers toil without proper respirators for weeks, or without any respirators at all.

For Gary Acker, now 54 and still undergoing monthly chemical drips to heal his bones, gone are the annual trips hunting for caribou in Canada and fishing for trout in the Adirondacks. Those years in the late '90s when he threw the javelin and shot put in the New York version of the Olympics seem like an adolescent memory. No longer working at AT&T, he devotes his time to trying to relax, watching mindless sitcoms on TV, anything to make himself laugh. "If I'm laughing, I'm not stressed," he says. His doctors tell him that no stress means less chance of a cancer relapse.

Last year, Jessy McCarthy, now 48, had to work through his chemotherapy treatment, juggling the 72-hour drips with his job and his son for six months. He didn't have much choice; otherwise he'd lose his medical benefits. He could never afford the medical bills on his \$65,000 salary; some of his medications cost \$5,000 a dose. Now in remission, he continues to fix phone lines, though he knows the day will come when he can't anymore. Already, he has had to call for help on assignments he used to do alone. He also knows, in the back of his mind, that his cancer is the kind that will likely return, and possibly kill him.

Walcott and Vallebuona, both retired from the force because of their cancer, continue to live with the side effects of their treatments -- the lost feeling in their hands and feet and the extreme fatigue. While Vallebuona has undergone chemotherapy, radiation, and a stem cell transplant, he still hasn't been able to beat his lymphoma into remission. They also grapple with what they both like to call "chemo brain." The drugs left Walcott, now 42, too incoherent to witness or recall the first time his daughter learned to walk or talk. For Vallebuona, now 41, the littler things seem to escape him, like the weekend plans his wife mentioned earlier in the day. But even their foggy minds have not erased the memories of two planes hitting the World Trade Center on that sunny September morning, when they had woken up healthy and happy to be alive.

<http://www.villagevoice.com/news/0648,lombardi,75156,2.html>

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12.10 Silencing Congress and Silencing the Media

The “Terrorists” Send a Message: US Milled, Weapons Grade Anthrax

“Tom Daschle was in a position of enough power to derail all of the Empire’s new legislative imperatives. Though his public stance vocally supported the administration’s agenda, there were indications that, in the ultra-nationalistic fervor that followed the attacks, he was having quiet reservations about the new authoritarian onslaught. Daschle is by no means a crusader. Yet by October 10th his leadership had allowed Russ Feingold of Wisconsin to block passage of the undebated (and largely unread!) US Patriot Act -- a monstrosity whose passage the White House demanded.

Getting Daschle (and his presidential ambitions) into line was a critical task for the Empire, because major legislation like Homeland Security, various bioterrorism measures, and a multitude of investigations were soon going to fall within his grasp. Prior to 9/11 he had been a vocal critic of Washington’s ways, but as events would show, it was imperative to make sure that he would not find his voice.

On October 15 it was disclosed that Daschle’s office had received an anthrax letter, and that several members of his staff had been exposed. By the 18th of October it was disclosed that as many as 31 Senate staff members had tested positive for anthrax.

The Patriot Act that eviscerated the Constitution was passed without debate on October 24th, 2001. Politically and physically frightened, a chamber full of pragmatists adapted to the new world by trading the Bill of Rights for their own political and physical security. In other words, Congress had gotten the message. The few opposition voices that remained, having been rendered ineffective, could be left in place as symbols to show that debate still existed. On January 29, 2002, CNN announced that both the president and the vice-president had asked Daschle to limit any congressional investigation into the attacks, arguing that they might take resources away from the war on terror. Not only did Daschle comply, he delayed public investigations until revelations from other sources, particularly rank-and-file FBI agents, dictated that they had to be held to maintain the credibility of the American government.

Senator Pat Leahy of Vermont was also in a position to derail many of the unconstitutional actions and the legislation coming out of the White House. As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee he apparently had the power, the obligation, and the willingness to do so. He did so eloquently and with great fire until it was his turn to suffer. Throughout September, October, and November, Leahy was an open critic of the Bush administration and particularly of Attorney General John Ashcroft’s moves to wiretap attorney-client conversations, to detain foreign nationals in secret and without trial, and to conduct secret military tribunals with the power of life and death where constitutional concerns had been tossed out the window.

Leahy was especially irritated by Ashcroft’s imperial refusals to come and answer questions from the committee. He sent several terse letters to Ashcroft, and ultimately *demand*ed that Ashcroft appear. When that failed, Leahy demanded a *written* response to important questions from the committee. Ashcroft ignored Leahy, but only up to a point.

On November 16 Senator Leahy received his own anthrax letter. And the anthrax sent to Leahy's office was incredibly powerful, concentrated at a trillion spores per gram. When, on December 6, Ashcroft finally made an appearance before the Judiciary Committee he was treated with kid gloves in an utterly appalling display of total surrender. I found it hard to keep from screaming as I watched Ashcroft enjoy his dog-and-pony show on C-SPAN.

It was not for some months that the American public and the world were to know that the Ames strain of anthrax, which was identified as the strain sent to Congress, was solely and exclusively the product of a CIA weapons research program involving the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRID), the Dugway Proving Ground, and the Batelle Memorial Institute. All of the anthrax sent post 9/11 had come from within the United States and had originated in CIA-run covert research programs."

BOOK: Crossing the Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil, by Michael C. Ruppert (pages 269-270)

Windfall for the Nazis' Favorite Drug Company

Weaponization of anthrax is a difficult technical feat that only the US and Russian militaries have achieved....

In the wake of the anthrax mailings, thousands of postal workers took ciprofloxacin (Cipro) on the recommendation of federal health officials.

The scare induced hundreds of thousands more to buy and take the drug. Bayer corporation, which enjoyed a patent-based monopoly on Cipro, [and which was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy in Septemebr 2001] was granted an extension of its monopoly by Congress in late 2001.

<http://911research.com/post911/attacks/harassment.html>

The "Terrorsists" Send Powdered Party Favors to Their Favorite Journalists

Dan Rather of CBS News, Reporting on 9/11:

"Amazing. Incredible. Pick your word. For the third time today-- it's reminiscent of those pictures we've all seen too much on television before when a building was deliberately destroyed by well- placed dynamite to knock it down."

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/wtc7.html>

Anthrax in Dan Rather's Fan Mail

19 October 2001 (StudioBriefing)

A CBS staffer who opens Dan Rather's mail has tested positive for cutaneous anthrax, the network announced Thursday. In a statement, CBS News President Andrew Heyward said that the staffer, later identified as Claire Fletcher, a triathlete from Britain, was being treated with the antibiotic Cipro and "is expected to make a full recovery; in fact, she feels fine." Discussing the case, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said Thursday that no one else at CBS has tested positive for the

disease.....

<http://imdb.com/title/tt0189246/news>

Peter Jennings of ABC News, reporting on 9/11:

"Anyone who has ever watched a building being demolished on purpose knows that if you're going to do this you have to get at the under-infrastructure of the building to bring it down"

<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/thermite.htm>

October 16, 2001

Anthrax Found in Baby Of ABC News Producer

The 7-month-old son of an ABC News producer has been infected with anthrax, symptoms of which first showed up last month, a day after the baby was taken to a birthday party at the network's West 66th Street offices in Manhattan, city officials and ABC News executives said last night.

The case was confirmed only yesterday, after the child's mother, concerned about what had first been suspected to be an infected spider bite, pursued more vigorous tests.

...

It was the second confirmed anthrax case in New York City, both of which have taken place at major television news organizations, or been linked to them.

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9F0CEFD81F3FF935A25753C1A9679C8B63&sec=health&spon=&pagewanted=print>

The News Anchors are Human After All

Soon after, anthrax began popping up at the major networks and on Capitol Hill. The anchors may have been outraged at the original terrorist attacks of Sept. 11th. Now, with the spores pouring out of envelopes carried through the United States postal service to their office, that sense of outrage could not be contained. Tom Brokaw of NBC told "Dateline" that he was upset and angry. CBS's Dan Rather nearly broke down on the David Letterman's Show. They showed that human instincts could even affect journalistic strength when the going gets tough. Peter Jennings of ABC managed to escape such an episode. He remained cool throughout his ordeal.

<http://www.globaljournalist.org/archive/Magazine/anchors-feature4q.html>

The Anchors Are Targeted with Anthrax

The CBS employee, an assistant to Rather, was expected to fully recover, CBS officials said....

ABC spokesman Todd Polkes said that because the NBC and CBS news anchormen had apparently been targeted, extra precautions are being taken with mail addressed to ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings.

<http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/Bioter/sixanthraxcasesconfirmed.html>

Looking Deeper: Biowarfare, Population Control, and Vaccinations Research

The CIA's Role in the Anthrax Mailings:

Could Our Spies be Agents for Military-Industrial Sabotage, Terrorism, and Even Population Control?

A Special Report Expressly Prepared for Simultaneous Publication in
The Spectrum and Media ByPass

By Leonard G. Horowitz, D.M.D., M.A., M.P.H.*

...

Astonishingly, a photograph of the specific building in which the Ames strain of hyper-weaponized powdered anthrax was tested appears courtesy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from one of their educational slide presentations. This photo further establishes, as detailed in BMI's [Batelle Memorial Institute's] operations description, the direct association between the Dugway Proving Grounds "Life Sciences Facilities" and BMI's "Aerosol Engineering & Biological Sciences Facilities."

See the second side bar for information concerning Batelle's "Defense Enterprise Integration Services" and their logo that apparently reflects the secret coding system used by the British oligarchy's MI6, their Secret Service.

23. Most heavily implicated is Batelle and Bioport, both of which maintain financial and administrative links to highest level U.S. National Security officials, top government "defense" agencies in the United States and Britain, the DoD's "Joint Vaccine Acquisition Program," and the manufacture of the anthrax vaccine domestically and in the U.K. Based on a September 7, 2001 Associated Press report, a "new strain" of extremely lethal anthrax had been under development before September 2001, by an unnamed U.S. biological weapons contractor. This fit William Patrick's report in which he "said the American [anthrax] program had achieved a concentration of one trillion spores per gram."

How was William Patrick privy to this classified intelligence unless he had consulted, or worked, on the development? According to William Broad's New York Times article, this concentration of the Ames, IA strain of anthrax was unprecedented throughout the world. Even the Soviets were unable to produce weaponized anthrax concentrated beyond 500 billion spores per gram according to top Russian anthrax expert (employed by the CIA) Dr. Kanatjan Alibekov (alias, "Ken Alibek"). No one else had come close to describing such concentrated anthrax powder. Given this astonishing difference alone, the FBI should have been able to quickly determine the few, if not single, U.S. military bioweapons contractor(s) capable of this unprecedented feat simply by interrogating William Patrick. Facetiously, I reported to my radio audience on the World Wide Christian Network on December 3, 2001 -- this tip may be worth \$1 million according to the New York Times.

Batelle Memorial Institute (BMI).

BMI, according to its website (<http://www.battelle.org/nationsecurity/>), is a virtual one-stop-shopping-center for U.S. and foreign militaries, the Department

of Energy, the national security industries and the agencies, organizations, and institutions evaluating every major aspect of modern methods of population and environmental control and warfare. With nearly \$1 billion of business volume annually, Batelle's 7,500 scientists, engineers and support specialists, have designed and developed a wide variety of innovations from the uranium used in the top secret "Manhattan Project" of WWII to the Xerox copying process.

In addition to their voluminous research, development, and testing activities, this private institute co-manages America's most secret enterprises including the DoE's Brookhaven National Laboratory, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Oak Ridge Laboratory, and fully manages several others including the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Their two biological level-3 "Aerosol Engineering & Biological Sciences Facilities" in West Jefferson, Ohio appear in photographs on a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) promotions slide ([Click Here To View](#)) (See above photograph.)

The NY Times reported ... that the FBI investigation of anthrax mailings was stymied.

What else might be expected given the classified nature of this work and its operatives? Most are afforded protection by the National Security Agency and the CIA. Yet, stunningly, the FBI and CDC were blamed for destroying critical evidence. According to the report, the Ames, Iowa strain of anthrax, determined to be the one mailed from Trenton to Florida and Washington's capitol, had been suspiciously selected for destruction.

Iowa State officials suddenly confessed that they were ordered by CDC and FBI officials to destroy all of the remaining Ames, Iowa anthrax strain on or about October 8-9. The strain archive was then "destroyed on Oct. 10 and 11."

That means, as national attention was first focusing on the American Media, Inc.'s initial anthrax cases in Florida on October 7, and as the anthrax letters to Senators Daschle and Leahy were being mailed in Trenton on October 9, orders to destroy that particular strain were issued by FBI and CDC officials. This strongly suggests a conspiracy at the highest levels of the federal government.

Incriminating is the fact that this one strain, of more than 1,000 anthrax strains available, had been used in various labs for decades. Allegedly by mistake, these two agencies -- the FBI and CDC -- simultaneously urged/approved the strain's destruction.

It should be recognized that by April, 2000, the CIA assumed all oversight at the CDC, and other health science agencies, concerning HIV/AIDS and potentially other infectious diseases considered national security risks. Following 9-11, this CIA oversight of the government's top infectious disease research laboratories clearly included anthrax and smallpox.

Again, according to FBI and military officials interviewed by the BBC and The Guardian's Greg Palast, Bush administration officials and the CIA had blocked FBI investigations involving terror group financiers with ties to the Bush and bin Laden families, and by extension the vaccine makers with whom they held mutual investments. If assertions by anonymous sources and independent investigators are correct, that is, if there is a real association between the Carlyle Management Group and Bioport, or if additional links between the Bush family and the British

oligarchy that control Bioport's principle owner Porton Down can be determined, the FBI's inefficacy in solving the anthrax mailings mystery is thus reconciled. This would, of course, implicate highest level officials at the FBI as well as the CDC.

According to the Washington Post, by December 21, 2001, the FBI had still not investigated Porton Down for possible culpability in the anthrax mailings despite the fact they maintained the identical Ames strain of anthrax, and through ownership in Bioport was connected with BMI and the DoD's lucrative "Joint Vaccine Acquisitions Program."

...
http://www.tetrahedron.org/articles/anthrax/anthrax_espionage.html

Government By Anthrax

by Richard J. Ochs
(revised June 9, 2002)

Coup d'etat -- a sudden decisive exercise of force in politics by a small group.

Cabal -- a number of persons secretly united to bring about an overturn or usurpation, esp. in public affairs (Websters).

Who spread the anthrax last October and why? Well, who has that strain of anthrax and who has a motive? Most commentators and the FBI agree that only a select group of Americans have easy access to the Ames strain of anthrax used in the letters mailed last October. But why would any of them want to kill and terrorize Americans? The clue is in the timing. A chronology of events suggests that the motivation was to boost passage of controversial legislation in Congress last October, called the USA Patriot Act. A number of unlikely "coincidences" associated with the anthrax attacks makes it hard to believe that they were random.

CONSIDER THESE "COINCIDENCES"

- Ø The anthrax attacks were concurrent with the debate of Bush's Patriot Act by Congress and the media.
- Ø The Senators who received anthrax letters were trying to amend the Patriot Act to protect civil liberties and the innocent.
- Ø Two Senate democratic leaders received anthrax letters mailed the same day that Senator Feingold blocked an attempt to rush the bill through without discussion or amendments.
- Ø Senator Leahy received an anthrax threat after he expressed reservations about the Bill. As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, he managed the debate on the Bill.
- Ø Senate Majority Leader Daschle received the first Senate anthrax letter as he led the opposition to the original version of the Bill.
- Ø After receiving the anthrax letter, Daschle switched from supporting a 2 year limit on the Bill, later defending a 4-year sunset clause as the "appropriate balance."

- Ø No Republican received an anthrax letter.
- Ø The House and Senate buildings were closed and not reopened until after the Patriot Act was passed.
- Ø The Supreme Court was shut down with an anthrax scare the day after the constitutionally-challenged Patriot Act was signed by President Bush.
- Ø All the contaminated letters contained the Ames strain of anthrax, the DNA of which is traced to the original batch preserved in a university lab in Ames, Iowa. This strain was “weaponized” in Utah into a potent powder with an elaborate secret technique developed at Fort Detrick, Md.[1]
- Ø The FBI failed to interview Ft. Detrick anthrax experts for two months into their investigation, doing it only after the experts complained to the press of gross incompetence on the part of the FBI.
- Ø The FBI allowed the Iowa state lab to destroy the original batch of the Ames strain, making tracing the anthrax type more difficult.
- Ø The FBI overruled local homicide detectives who think that an anthrax expert was murdered, possibly because he knew too much.

A CURIOUS FLOW OF EVENTS

The following is a merger of “A Chronology of Anthrax Events,” published by the South Florida Sun-sentinel,[2] and the simultaneous proceedings of the Patriot Bill in Congress as reported in the local press.

Sept. 16 -- Anti-terrorism bill proposed.[3]

Sept. 18 – Two letters containing Ames anthrax are postmarked in Trenton, N.J., addressed to Tom Brokaw of NBC Nightly News and the New York Post.

Sept. 28 – Boy visiting ABC network in New York contracts anthrax.

Oct. 2 – USA Patriot Act anti-terrorism bill is introduced in Congress.

Oct. 3 – Tabloid editor of Boca Raton Sun, Florida, hospitalized with anthrax and dies two days later.

Oct. 3 – Senate Majority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (Dem., S.D.) says he doubts the Senate could take up the anti-terrorist legislation before next week, as the administration had asked. Attorney General John A. Ashcroft accuses Senate Democrats of dragging their feet.[4]

Oct. 4 – Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick J. Leahy (Dem., Vt.) accuses the administration of reneging on an agreement on the anti-terrorist bill. Some warn that “lawmakers are were overlooking constitutional flaws in their rush to meet the administration’s timetable.”[5]

Oct. 6 – Under the headline, “Glow of bipartisanship seems to dim,” the Baltimore Sun reports: “...opposed by most Senate Democrats, Ashcroft complained about

the rather slow pace...over his request for law enforcement powers...Hard feelings remain.”[6]

Oct. 8 – Under the headline, “Cracks in Bipartisanship Start to Show,” The Washington Post reports, “Congress has lost some of the shock-induced unity with which it first responded to the [9/11] attacks.”[7]

Oct. 9 – Senator Feingold blocks an attempt to rush the Patriot Act to a vote with little debate and no opportunity for amendments. Feingold criticizes the Bill as a threat to liberty.[8]

Oct. 9 – Identical anthrax letters are postmarked in Trenton, N.J., with lethal doses to Senators Daschle and Leahy.

Oct. 10 & 11 – The original batch of the Ames strain of anthrax is destroyed with the permission of the FBI, making tracing the anthrax type more difficult.[9]

Oct. 11 – First Senate version of the Bill passes.[10]

Oct. 12 – First House version of the Bill passes.[11]

Oct. 12 – House-Senate debate on Bill starts.[12]

Oct. 12 – Second anthrax case reported at NBC in NYC.

Oct. 13 – Baltimore Sun reports that the media may have been targeted for a “coordinated bioterrorism” attack.[13]

Oct. 13 – President Bush says: “The anthrax attacks might be tied to Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida terrorist network.”[14]

Oct. 15 – Tom Brokaw of NBC opens anthrax letter containing Islamic threats and phrases.

Oct. 15 – Senator Daschle’s office opens the letter mailed Oct. 9, containing a lethal dose of anthrax. Senator Leahy’s similar letter was misrouted to Virginia.

Oct. 16 – The Senate office buildings shut down.

Oct. 17 – House of Representatives shut down; 28 congressional staffers test positive for anthrax.

Oct. 17 – The New York and Florida letters are found to contain the Ames strain.

Oct. 18 – An assistant of CBS Dan Rather contracts anthrax.

Oct. 21 – Letters to N.Y.Post, NBC and Senator Daschle are found to have identical handwriting of “Death to America, Death to Israel, Allah is Great.”

Oct. 24 – House passes the final version of the Patriot Act and other previously unpopular Bush projects: Alaska oil drilling, \$25 billion in tax cuts for corporations, taps into Social Security funds and cuts in education.[15]

Oct. 25 – Congressional mail halted. Senator Daschle switched from supporting a

2 year limit on the Patriot Act to defending a 4 year sunset clause as the "appropriate balance." [16]

Oct. 26 – Senate passes the final version Patriot Act. [17]

Oct. 26 – President Bush signs the constitutionally questionable USA Patriot Act. [18]

Oct. 27 – Supreme Court shut down with anthrax scare. [19]

November -- No more anthrax letters received by anyone.

November – Congressional buildings reopened.

November – Three top anthrax experts with knowledge of the U.S. bioweapons program died under suspicious circumstances within a ten day period.

CONGRESS TERRORIZED

The atmosphere of terror in Congress was expressed by Representative Dennis Kucinich of Ohio: ". . . a state of siege trap[s] us in a state of fear, ill equipped to deal with the patriot games, the mind games, the war games. . ." He lamented the physical and psychological disruption and disorientation of lawmakers at a time when calm objectivity was required for wise decisions. [20] No doubt, the terrorized senators accepted an anti-terrorism bill more threatening to the rights and wellbeing of citizens than they otherwise would have. They granted more power to the President than they otherwise would have.

New York Times commentator William Safire wrote under the heading, "Seizing Dictatorial Power," that "Bush admits to dismissing the principles of law and the rules of evidence that undergird America's system of justice." [21]

The anthrax letters to the media can be considered peripheral to political targets. They guaranteed publicity and heightened general hysteria. Janette Rainwater, Ph.D., wrote that anthrax threats are useful "in creating panic and, in this case, providing a climate wherein legislation curtailing civil liberties can be passed." [22]

The anthrax scare at the Supreme Court likewise put a chill on their mission to defend civil liberties. Whether the anthrax is believed to have come from foreigners or Americans, the threats resulted in the granting of more power to the Executive Branch by the Legislative and Judicial Branches, seriously damaging "checks and balances."

FBI COMPROMISED?

The FBI's performance since the anthrax attacks has indicated either gross incompetence, conspiracy or cover up. The FBI allowed the Iowa state lab to destroy the original batch of the Ames strain on Oct. 10 and 11, making tracing the anthrax to its origins impossible. [23] The Bureau was criticized by Congress for not securing critical material evidence in one of the most frightening attacks on public health this country has ever seen. [24] Moreover, the Baltimore Sun reported on Dec. 9: "Two months after the FBI mobilized hundreds of agents to investigate the anthrax attacks, the bureau still has not interviewed the only Americans with experience producing anthrax for use as a weapon: aging veterans

of the U.S. biological warfare program based at Fort Detrick.”

According to Dr. Barbara Hatch Rosenberg of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), “The source of the mailed anthrax, or the information and materials to make it, is a U.S. government program.”[25] The Baltimore Sun reported on Dec. 9, 2001, that “Organisms made at a military lab in Utah are genetically identical to those mailed to members of Congress.” On February 5, Rosenberg wrote in the FAS webpage: “For more than 3 months now, the FBI has known that the perpetrator of the anthrax attacks is American.”[26]

BBC News reported on March 14 that “Dr. Rosenberg, an acknowledged authority on U.S. bio-defense, claimed that the FBI is dragging its feet because an arrest would be embarrassing to the U.S. authorities.” The BBC asked, “Has the FBI found the whole case too hot to handle?”[27]

During a lecture at Princeton University on Feb. 18, Rosenberg claimed that the FBI has a prime suspect. She called on the public and news media to keep up the pressure on the FBI., saying some of her sources, who she described as “government insiders,” have confided fear that the FBI might attempt to deal with the suspect discreetly, out of the glare of public scrutiny.[28] She wrote on Feb. 5: “The perpetrator is cocksure that he can get away with it. Does he know something that he believes to be sufficiently damaging to the United States to make him untouchable by the FBI?”[29]

Stanford biologist Steven Block, a leading expert on biological weapons, said revealing the identity of the culprit(s) may also reveal “that the U.S. may be violating” the international treaty outlawing the development of biological and chemical weaponry. The U.S. still refuses to ratify the international treaty for bioweapons facility inspections.[30]

A leading anthrax expert, Dr. Don C. Wiley, who may have been in a position to know of such a cover-up, died under suspicious circumstances a month after the attacks began.[31] According to Memphis police officials, the bridge which Dr. Wiley fell off on November 15, 2001, had a railing “high enough that even the 6’3” Wiley could not have accidentally fallen over without assistance.” The local police suspicion of homicide was overruled by the FBI “and other U.S. agencies,” who insisted it was a suicide.[32]

Would a U.S. agency kill a non-cooperator? According to former South African National Intelligence Agency deputy director Michael Kennedy, when another top bioweapons expert Dr. Wouter Basson refused a job offer, the CIA allegedly threatened to kill him.[33]

A COVER-UP?

Counterpunch wrote: “Knowledgeable U.S. and foreign intelligence sources have revealed that Wiley may have been silenced as a result of his discovery of U.S. government work on biological warfare agents long after the U.S. signed the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention.[34] President Nixon had actually ordered the Pentagon to stop producing biological weapons in 1969. It now seems likely that the U.S. military and intelligence community failed to follow Nixon’s orders.[35]

In fact, since 1972, “South African bio-chemical weapons allegedly transferred to the CIA included, in addition to anthrax, cholera, smallpox, salmonella, botulinum,

tularemia, thallium, E.Coli, racin, organophosphates, necrotising fasciitis, hepatitis A, HIV, paratyphoid, Sarin VX nerve gas, Ebola, Marburg, Rift Valley hemorrhagic viruses, Dengue fever, West Nile virus, highly potent CR tear gas, hallucinogens Ecstasy, Mandrax, BZ, and cocaine, anti-coagulant drugs, the deadly lethal injection drugs Scoline and Tubarine, and cyanide.”[36]

What the U.S. government would not want divulged is the fact that the U.S. has been in flagrant violation of the 1972 Convention, Article 1 of which states: “Each State party to the Convention undertakes never in any circumstance to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain: 1. Microbial or other biological agents, or toxins whatever their origin or method of production, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes. 2. Weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.”[37]

Dr. Wiley’s was not the only suspicious death of a scientist with knowledge of biological defenses. Just three days before Wiley’s death, Dr. Benito Que, a Miami Medical School cellular biologist died after “four men armed with a baseball bat attacked him at his car.” A week after Wiley died, Dr. Vladimir Pasechnik, a former Soviet bioweapons scientist was found dead near Britain’s biological warfare center.[38]

For those who disbelieve the possibility that the U.S. Government is the number one suspect in the anthrax attacks, they are directed to James Bamford’s book on the National Security Agency, Body of Secrets. The book reveals that in 1962, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lyman Lemnitzer was planning, along with other members of the Joint Chiefs, a virtual coup d’etat against the administration of President Kennedy using acts of terrorism carried out by the military but to be blamed on the Castro government in Cuba. The secret plan was code-named Operation Northwoods.[39]

Cuba accused the U.S. of using biological war weapons against it during the 1970s. In his book, Biological Warfare in the 21st Century, Malcolm Dando refers to the U.S. bio-attacks against Cuba. “The American covert campaign targeted the tobacco crop using blue mold, the sugar cane crop using cane smut, livestock using African swine fever, and the Cuban population using a hemorrhagic strain of dengue fever.”[40]

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Many World Class Microbiologists Die in the Wake of 9/11

Scientists' Deaths are Under the Microscope

By Alanna Mitchell, Simon Cooper and Carolyn Abraham
Compiled by Alanna Mitchell

Saturday, May 4, 2002

It's a tale only the best conspiracy theorist could dream up.

Eleven microbiologists mysteriously dead over the span of just five months. Some of them world leaders in developing weapons-grade biological plagues. Others the best in figuring out how to stop millions from dying because of biological weapons. Still others, experts in the theory of bioterrorism.

Throw in a few Russian defectors, a few nervy U.S. biotech companies, a deranged assassin or two, a bit of Elvis, a couple of Satanists, a subtle hint of espionage, a big whack of imagination, and the plot is complete, if a bit reminiscent of James Bond.

The first three died in the space of just over a week in November. Benito Que, 52, was an expert in infectious diseases and cellular biology at the Miami Medical School. Police originally suspected that he had been beaten on Nov. 12 in a carjacking in the medical school's parking lot. Strangely enough, though, his body showed no signs of a beating. Doctors then began to suspect a stroke.

Just four days after Dr. Que fell unconscious came the mysterious disappearance of Don Wiley, 57, one of the foremost microbiologists in the United States. Dr. Wiley, of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Harvard University, was an expert on how the immune system responds to viral attacks such as the classic doomsday plagues of HIV, ebola and influenza.

He had just bought tickets to take his son to Graceland the following day. Police found his rental car on a bridge outside Memphis, Tenn. His body was later found in the Mississippi River. Forensic experts said he may have had a dizzy spell and have fallen off the bridge.

Just five days after that, the world-class microbiologist and high-profile Russian defector Valdimir Pasechnik, 64, fell dead. The pathologist who did the autopsy, and who also happened to be associated with Britain's spy agency, concluded he died of a stroke.

Dr. Pasechnik, who defected to the United Kingdom in 1989, played a huge role in Russian biowarfare and helped to figure out how to modify cruise missiles to deliver the agents of mass biological destruction.

The next two deaths came four days apart in December. Robert Schwartz, 57, was stabbed and slashed with what police believe was a sword in his farmhouse in Leesberg, Va. His daughter, who identifies herself as a pagan high priestess, and several of her fellow pagans have been charged.

Dr. Schwartz was an expert in DNA sequencing and pathogenic micro-organisms, who worked at the Center for Innovative Technology in Herndon, Va.

Four days later, Nguyen Van Set, 44, died at work in Geelong, Australia, in a laboratory accident. He entered an airlocked storage lab and died from exposure to nitrogen. Other scientists at the animal diseases facility of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization had just come to fame for discovering a virulent strain of mousepox, which could be modified to affect smallpox.

Then in February, the Russian microbiologist Victor Korshunov, 56, an expert in intestinal bacteria of children around the world, was bashed over the head near his home in Moscow. Five days later the British microbiologist Ian Langford, 40, was found dead in his home near Norwich, England, naked from the waist down and wedged under a chair. He was an expert in environmental risks and disease.

Two weeks later, two prominent microbiologists died in San Francisco. Tanya Holzmayer, 46, a Russian who moved to the U.S. in 1989, focused on the part of the human molecular structure that could be affected best by medicine.

She was killed by fellow microbiologist Guyang (Matthew) Huang, 38, who shot her seven times when she opened the door to a pizza delivery. Then he shot himself.

The final two deaths came one day after the other in March. David Wynn-Williams, 55, a respected astrobiologist with the British Antarctic Survey, who studied the habits of microbes that might survive in outer space, died in a freak road accident near his home in Cambridge, England. He was hit by a car while he was jogging.

The following day, Steven Mostow, 63, known as Dr. Flu for his expertise in treating influenza, and a noted expert in bioterrorism, died when the airplane he was piloting crashed near Denver.

So what does any of it mean?

"Statistically, what are the chances?" wondered a prominent North American microbiologist reached last night at an international meeting of infectious-disease specialists in Chicago.

Janet Shoemaker, director of public and scientific affairs of the American Society for Microbiology in Washington, D.C., pointed out yesterday that there are about 20,000 academic researchers in microbiology in the U.S. Still, not all of these are of the elevated calibre of those recently deceased.

She had a chilling, final thought. When microbiologists die in a lab, there's a way of taking note of the deaths and adding them up. When they die in freakish accidents outside the lab, nobody keeps track.

Suspicious Deaths

The sudden and suspicious deaths of 11 of the world's leading microbiologists.

Who they were:

1. Nov. 12, 2001:

Benito Que was said to have been beaten in a Miami parking lot and died later.

2. Nov. 16, 2001:

Don C. Wiley went missing. Was found Dec. 20. Investigators said he got dizzy on a Memphis bridge and fell to his death in a river.

3. Nov. 21, 2001:

Vladimir Pasechnik, former high-level Russian microbiologist who defected in 1989 to the U.K. apparently died from a stroke.

4. Dec. 10, 2001:

Robert M. Schwartz was stabbed to death in Leesberg, Va. Three Satanists have been arrested.

5. Dec. 14, 2001:

Nguyen Van Set died in an airlock filled with nitrogen in his lab in Geelong, Australia.

6. Feb. 9, 2002:

Victor Korshunov had his head bashed in near his home in Moscow.

7. Feb. 14, 2002:

Ian Langford was found partially naked and wedged under a chair in Norwich, England.

8. 9. Feb. 28, 2002:

San Francisco resident Tanya Holzmayer was killed by a microbiologist colleague, Guyang Huang, who shot her as she took delivery of a pizza and then apparently shot himself.

10. March 24, 2002:

David Wynn-Williams died in a road accident near his home in Cambridge, England.

11. March 25, 2002:

Steven Mostow of the Colorado Health Sciences Centre, killed in a plane he was flying near Denver.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/printarticle/gam/20020504/UMURDN>

[Back](#)

12.11 BBC News Lies About Fire and Steel and the Structure of the Towers

An Instant Lie, Introduced in the Aftermath of 9/11 Shock and Awe

And Disseminated Immediately Throughout the United States and the West

"It was the fire that killed the buildings - nothing on Earth could survive those temperatures with that amount of fuel burning."

-- Structural engineer Chris Wise

BBC News
by Sheila Barter

September 13, 2001

The design of the World Trade Center saved thousands of lives by standing for well over an hour after the planes crashed into its twin towers, say structural engineers.

But the towers' ultimate collapse was inevitable, as the steel cores inside them reached temperatures of 800C -- raising questions as to why hundreds of rescue workers were sent into the doomed buildings to their deaths.

The steel and concrete structures performed amazingly well, said John Knapton, professor in structural engineering at Newcastle University, UK.

"I believe tens of thousands of lives have been saved by the structural integrity of the buildings," he told BBC News Online.

"They had a lot of their structure taken out, yet they remained intact for more than an hour, allowing thousands to escape."

Temperatures at 800C

But as fires raged in the towers, driven by aviation fuel, the steel cores in each building would have eventually reached 800C -- hot enough to start buckling and collapsing **[a blatant lie]**.

The protective concrete cladding on the cores **{there was none -- massive steel beams wick such heat away without need of "protection"}** would have been no permanent defence in these extraordinary circumstances -- keeping the intense heat at bay for only a limited timespan.

"It was the fire that killed the buildings. There's nothing on earth that could survive those temperatures with that amount of fuel burning," said structural engineer Chris Wise.

"The columns would have melted, the floors would have melted and eventually they would have collapsed one on top of each other."

The buildings' construction manager, Hyman Brown, agreed that nothing could have saved them from the inferno.

"The buildings would have stood had a plane or a force caused by a plane smashed into it," he said.

"But steel melts, and 24,000 gallons (91,000 litres) of aviation fluid melted the steel. Nothing is designed or will be designed to withstand that fire."

[NOTE: This is an example of the blatant lies which were widely circulated and allowed to stand in the stunned aftermath of 9/11. Lies which, even when very quietly debunked years later by the government's own "investigations," have endured in the minds of hundreds of millions of people to this day.]

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/1540044.stm>

The Properties of Jet Fuel

Flash point:	38 °C
Autoignition temperature:	210 °C
Freezing point:	-47 °C (-40 °C for JET A)
Open air burning temperatures:	260-315 °C (500-599 °F)
Maximum burning temperature:	980 °C (1796 °F) [Pressurized]
Density at 15 °C (60 °F):	0.775-0.840 kg/L

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jet_fuel

On Thermal Conductivity

EXCERPT: Temperatures of Objects

It is common to find that investigators assume that an object next to a flame of a certain temperature will also be of that same temperature. This is, of course, untrue. If a flame is exchanging heat with a object which was initially at room temperature, it will take a finite amount of time for that object to rise to a temperature which is 'close' to that of the flame. Exactly how long it will take for it to rise to a certain value is the subject for the study of heat transfer. Heat transfer is usually presented to engineering students over several semesters of university classes, so it should be clear that simple rules-of-thumb would not be expected. Here, we will merely point out that the rate at which target objects heat up is largely governed by their thermal conductivity, density, and size. Small, low-density, low-conductivity objects will heat up much faster than massive, heavy-weight ones.

<http://www.doctorfire.com/flametmp.html>

The True Melting Point of Steel

(The 800°C Figure Cited in Numerous Post 9/11 Stories was a LIE.)

Steel is just the element iron that has been processed to control the amount of carbon. Iron, out of the ground, melts at around 1510 degrees C (2750°F). Steel often melts at [around 1370 degrees C](#) (2500°F).

http://education.jlab.org/qa/meltingpoint_01.html

“One difficulty in the manufacture of steel is its high melting point, [about 1,370° C](#) (about 2,500° F), which prevents the use of ordinary fuels and furnaces.”

http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761559225_2/Iron_and_Steel_Manufacture.html

“Based on the melting point of the materials involved, it would take temperatures [in excess of 1370°c](#) to melt the stainless steel source capsule and steel probe body.....”

http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:xvm6DKP5reIJ:www.troxlerlabs.com/pdf%2520files/NC-646-D-134-S_4300.pdf+melt+%2B+1370+C+%2B+steel&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=14&gl=us

The BBC's 800°C Lie Did Not Fool Everyone

On a UK 9/11 Discussion Site, [ZUCO and snowygrouch](#) reveal that they've been doing their homework:

Poster: ZUCO
Joined: 22 Feb 2007
Posts: 137
Location: Manchester
Post Posted: Wed Mar 14, 2007 12:49 am

Quote:

Fire reaches 800 C -- hot enough to melt steel floor supports

Isn't this a blatant lie?

<http://www.exposethenewworldorder.co.uk>

"Those Who Sacrifice Liberty For Security Deserve Neither"
-- Benjamin Franklin

Poster: Snowygrouch
Joined: 02 Apr 2006
Posts: 445
Location: Oxford
Post Posted: Wed Mar 14, 2007 1:47 am

Yes its F***G crap.**

Even NIST says its wrong:

"NIST's findings do not support the "pancake theory" of collapse, which is premised on a progressive failure of the floor systems in the WTC towers"

Para. 9

http://wtc.nist.gov/pubs/factsheets/faqs_8_2006.htm

According to NIST: NOT ONE piece of structural WTC steel exceeded 600/650 degrees C.

In fact according to NIST: NONE of these parts exhibited ANY permanent microstructural changes due to fire. This in fact according to my metallurgy lecturer Dr John Duradola, Oxford Brookes University suggests that the steel did not even reach tempering stages (about 400 degrees C).

So yes its junk science of the worst degree. What else do you expect from the BBC..... real research!!! HA HA HA!!!

Thats a good one... Laughing ..oh my.....BBC and research in the same sentence. Oh I havnt laughed that much in days.

<http://www.nineeleven.co.uk/board/viewtopic.php?p=60965>

The 9/11 Commission Lies: James Hogue Interviews David Ray Griffin

EXCERPT:

JH: The same applies to Rumsfeld, who claims that he was surprised by the attack. The idea that he had not heard the reports that were heard by the rest of us is preposterous -- that there were two more planes out there, and one of them was heading toward Washington, DC.

DG: It's just so ludicrous, and yet our cowed newspeople, if any of them filed such a story and took it back to NBC or ABC or CBS or CNN or fair and balanced FOX News, not only would they not run it, they would say, "Joe, I think you'd better check yourself into a mental institution, because you are either deluding yourself into thinking that you had this interview with Rumsfeld, or you're deluding yourself to think that you could get it run on our network." So they censor themselves.

JH: And some of the most respected and highly paid investigative journalists are writing gibberish.

DG: Those two things go together: money and respect go together with holding pretty closely to the official story.

JH: Bread and circuses.

DG: Speaking of bread and circuses, I've just finished a piece comparing the Roman Empire to the U.S. Empire, and of course your reference there is how the Roman Empire kept the citizens entertained and amused while they were out destroying other cultures. As the famous saying has it, "They bring desolation and they call it peace," just as we are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are entertained by the runaway bride, the Aruba mystery, and Michael Jackson, as we face a global meltdown in terms of global warming and nuclear holocaust because of the increased desire for weapons and increased anger. We're on a suicidal path while we pay attention to trivia.

Let me reveal a little more about what the 9/11 Commission did not tell people. I have a few personal favorites, and number one, an outright explicit lie, is the way they dealt with the core columns of the Twin Towers. As you and many of your listeners know, these buildings were unique because they had these enormous columns that went up the middle of the buildings. There were 47 of them, absolutely massive at the bottom, and tapered off at the top.

The pancake theory is that the planes hit the towers, knocked a hole, weakened those floors, and that, plus the fire, somehow caused the floor above the hole to break loose and hit the floor below it, carrying all the floors above it.

JH: And all the supports had to give way equally.

DG: Yes, all the floors had to break loose simultaneously. So we're talking about a miracle. And you have to believe that this could happen in less than a tenth of a second per floor because the South Tower collapsed in ten seconds. Eighty floors - eight floors per second. Freefall speed.

So even if you could believe the pancake theory, you still would have these 47 steel columns sticking a thousand feet up in the air. However, the towers collapsed into a pile of rubble no more than three or four stories high.

How would the 9/11 Commission explain that?

Well, they said that the core of each tower consisted of a hollow steel shaft. Nary a steel column. That counts as one of the biggest lies in history, because you are talking about denying 47 steel columns, each one over a thousand feet tall. You can't tell a bigger lie than that, but they tell it.

...
There are at least ten things wrong with the pancake theory. But otherwise intelligent people will talk about it with a straight face. And the NIST report says that, when those planes came in, they stripped the fireproofing off the steel columns, and that's why the fire was able to heat the steel up enough to collapse the towers.

I'd like to ask those guys, "Do you have a steel grate in your fireplace? And when you burn wood in there do you put fireproofing on it to make sure that it doesn't melt or weaken so much that it turns into rubble?" A hydrocarbon fire cannot get halfway to the melting point of steel; and steel is one of the best conductors of heat...

There are those who need to believe this, but there are also those who will prostitute themselves so that the public can go back to its bread and circuses.

<http://vtcommons.org/node/190>

9/11 Commission Report Omissions and Distortions

The 9/11 Commission Report: An Elaborate Fiction

On July 22, 2004, the "National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States," also known as the "9/11 Commission," published its final Report, the "9/11 Commission Report." The Report became a best-seller and was hailed in the corporate media as the definitive Report on the attacks. However, the Report is more accurately characterized as the definitive narrative of the official myth of 9/11. As David Ray Griffin points out in his scholarly book, *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*, the Report systematically excludes almost every fact that doesn't support the official story.

...
One of the more interesting distortions of the report is its sole structural description of the Twin Towers:

"The outside of each tower was covered by a frame of 14-inch-wide steel columns; the centers of the steel columns were 40 inches apart. These exterior walls bore most of the weight of the building. The interior core of the buildings was a hollow steel shaft, in which elevators and stairwells were grouped."

(9/11 Commission Report, Page 559)

The following excerpt(s) from an e-mail message by 9/11 Truth activist Nicholas Levis provides some interesting details on the conduct of the Commission:

...

- Ø The majority of the nearly 400 questions submitted for investigation to the Kean Commission by the September 11 victims' families who lobbied the inquiry into existence (the Family Steering Committee) were not even addressed in The 9/11 Commission Report.

(See http://justicefor911.org/Appendix4_FSCQuestionRatings_111904.php)

- Ø The executive director and thus head of research for the Kean Commission, Philip Zelikow, is a close associate of Condoleezza Rice (they co-authored a book) and was a Bush 2000 transition team member who participated in meetings on the terrorist threat. He has now returned to Rice as a top aide at the State Department. The Family Steering Committee tracking the hearings called for his resignation due to grave conflict of interest in March 2004; this unfortunately went unreported in the major media and was completely ignored by the Commission.
- Ø Kean Commission member Max Cleland dropped out of the proceedings in December 2003, saying "Bush is scamming America" and that he didn't want to participate in a cover-up by the Commission of what the government knew about 9/11 in advance. (Off the record he has since said the Bush administration knew the attacks were coming.) This also got near-zero press coverage.
- Ø The report of the Commission does not even bother with redactions, or a summary of its own omissions. Unlike all other government reports relating to national security issues, we do not even have an idea of how much was left out.
- Ø At the end of October, 2004, a firefighter with the New York Fire Department as well as a Ground Zero recovery worker came forward to claim that the three of the four "black boxes" from the aircraft at Ground Zero were found during the clean-up work (Philadelphia Daily News, 10/28/04), contrary to the government's longstanding assertion that no trace of these devices was ever discovered, which assertion was reiterated in The 9/11 Commission Report (Ch. 1, fn. 76, p. 468).
- Ø The Commission's determination of the time of the UA 93 crash in Pennsylvania (10:03 am) requires us to believe that by coincidence, a separate natural seismic event in the area three minutes later caused a tremor of a magnitude similar to that of a plane crash.
- Ø The 9/11 Commission Report goes so far as to suggest that the issue of terror financing is irrelevant: "To date, the U.S. government has not been able to determine the origin of the money used for the 9/11 attacks. Ultimately the question is of little practical significance." (p. 172)

Mainstream Criticism of the Commission

The Commission report has also been vigorously attacked by writers who have apparently not examined the evidence that the attack was an inside job. In a cover

article in Harpers Benjamin DeMott blasted the report as a whitewash.

EXCERPT:

Whitewash as Public Service:

How The 9/11 Commission Report Defrauds the Nation

by Benjamin DeMott

The plain, sad reality -- I report this following four full days studying the work -- is that The 9/11 Commission Report, despite the vast quantity of labor behind it, is a cheat and a fraud. It stands as a series of evasive maneuvers that infantilize the audience, transform candor into iniquity, and conceal realities that demand immediate inspection and confrontation. Because it is continuously engaged in scotching all attempts to distinguish better from worse leadership responses, the Commission can't discharge its duty to educate the audience about the habits of mind and temperament essential in those chosen to discharge command responsibility during crises. It can't tell the truth about what was done and not done, thought and not thought, at crucial turning points. The Commissioners' immeasurably valuable access to the principals involved offered an extraordinary opportunity to amass material precious to future historians: commentary based on moment-to-moment reaction to major events. But the 567 pages, which purport to provide definitive interpretations of the reactions, are in fact useless to historians, because a seeming terror of bias transforms query after commissarial query -- and silence after silence -- into suggested new lines of self-justification for the interviewees. In the course of blaming everybody a little, the Commission blames nobody -- blurs the reasons for the actions and hesitations of successive administrations, masks choices that, fearlessly defined, might actually have vitalized our public political discourse.

www.harpers.org/WhitewashAsPublicService.html

Given the numerous lies and contradictions not mentioned by DeMott, we might describe his piece as praising the Report with faint condemnation.

<http://911review.com/coverup/commission.html>

9/11 Commission Report

Download and read the report itself. It is offered here as a single PDF file of the entire report, or as separate files broken down by chapter.

[NOTE: The Commission's description of the towers' cores appears on page 559, which is part of Chapter 9.]

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/911/>

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12.12 The Official "Investigations:"

The WTC Buildings' Catastrophic Failures Investigated

Without Access to their Construction Blueprints

(Think what could happen if they fell into the wrong hands.....)

Building Collapse Inquiry

The total collapses of WTC 1, 2, and 7 were the three largest engineering failures in history (based on the official story). How were they investigated?

- Ø FEMA was given the sole authority to investigate the collapses even though it is not an investigative agency.
- Ø The investigative team assembled by FEMA consisted of unpaid volunteers.
- Ø The investigators were not allowed access to Ground Zero.
- Ø **The investigators were not provided with the blueprints of the buildings.**
- Ø FEMA's report states the causes of the collapse "remain unknown at this time." (By the time the report was released the steel had been entirely disposed of.) The fact that Building 7 (supposedly) failed in a way that contradicts 100 years of engineering experience makes it the largest and least understood structural failure in history.
- Ø The 9/11 Commission Report failed to even mention the existence of Building 7.
- Ø The 9/11 Commission Report denied the existence of the Twin Towers' core structures.
- Ø NIST's report on the collapse of the Twin Towers purports to provide a "probable collapse sequence" for each Tower but truncates its timelines before the collapses even begin.

<http://911research.com/sept11/analysis/anomalies.html>

Experts Urging Broader Inquiry In Towers' Fall

New York Times
By James Glanz and Eric Lipton
December 25, 2001

Saying that the current investigation into how and why the twin towers fell on Sept. 11 is inadequate, some of the nation's leading structural engineers and fire-safety experts are calling for a new, independent and better-financed inquiry that could produce the kinds of conclusions vital for skyscrapers and future buildings nationwide.

...
Experts critical of the current effort, including some of those people who are actually conducting it, cite the lack of meaningful financial support and poor coordination with the agencies cleaning up the disaster site. They point out that the current team of 20 or so investigators has no subpoena power and little staff support and has even been unable to obtain basic information like detailed blueprints of the buildings that collapsed.

...
In calling for a new investigation, some structural engineers have said that one serious mistake has already been made in the chaotic aftermath of the collapses: the decision to rapidly recycle the steel columns, beams and trusses that held up the buildings. That may have cost investigators some of their most direct physical evidence with which to try to piece together an answer.

...

Interviews with a handful of members of the team, which includes some of the nation's most respected engineers, also uncovered complaints that they had at various times been shackled with bureaucratic restrictions that prevented them from interviewing witnesses, examining the disaster site and requesting crucial information like recorded distress calls to the police and fire departments.

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B00E0DA1531F936A15751C1A9679C8B63>

The 9/11 Commission Showed that September 11th was a Real Terrorist Attack, Right?

Whether or not you believe that governments carry out "false flag" terror, you might reasonably assume that the 9/11 Commission investigated September 11th, and concluded that Osama Bin Laden and his group of terrorists were solely responsible.

Unfortunately, a quick look at the government's investigations reveals that -- not only has there never been a real investigation -- but the behavior of government representatives in willfully obstructing all attempts at investigation comprises evidence of guilt. Specifically, in all criminal trials, evasiveness, obstruction, and destruction of evidence all constitute strong circumstantial evidence that the accused is guilty or, at the very least, not to be believed. 9/11 is no different.

For example, the former director of the FBI says there was a cover up by the 9/11 Commission.

And the 9/11 Commissioners knew that military officials lied to the Commission, and considered recommending criminal charges for such false statements, yet didn't bother to tell the American people. Indeed, the co-chairs of the Commission now admit that the Commission largely operated based upon political considerations.

9/11 Commission co-chair Lee Hamilton says "I don't believe for a minute we got everything right," that the Commission was set up to fail, that people should keep asking questions about 9/11, that the 9/11 debate should continue, and that the 9/11 Commission report was only "the first draft" of history.

9/11 Commissioner Bob Kerrey said that "There are ample reasons to suspect that there may be some alternative to what we outlined in our version.... We didn't have access....."

And former 9/11 Commissioner Max Cleland resigned from the Commission, stating: "It is a national scandal;" "This investigation is now compromised;" and "One of these days we will have to get the full story because the 9-11 issue is so important to America. But this White House wants to cover it up."

But let's back up and look at the 9/11 Commission in more detail. Preliminarily, President Bush and Vice-President Cheney took the rare step of personally requesting that congress limit all 9/11 investigation solely to "intelligence failures," so there has never been a congressional probe into any of the real issues involved.

The administration also opposed the creation of a 9/11 commission. Once it was forced, by pressure from widows of 9-11 victims, to allow a commission to be

formed, the administration appointed as executive director an administration insider, whose area of expertise is the creation and maintenance of "public myths" thought to be true, even if not actually true, who was involved in pre-9/11 intelligence briefings, and who was one of the key architects of the "pre-emptive war" doctrine.

This executive director, who controlled what the Commission did and did not analyze, then limited the scope of the Commission's inquiry so that the overwhelming majority of questions about 9/11 remained unasked.

The administration then starved the commission of funds, providing a fraction of the funds used to investigate Monica Lewinsky, failed to provide crucial documents, refused to share much information with the Commission, refused to require high-level officials to testify under oath, and allowed Bush and Cheney to be questioned jointly.

More importantly, the 9-11 Commission refused to examine virtually any evidence which contradicted the administration's official version of events. As stated by the State Department's Coordinator for Counterterrorism, who was the point man for the U.S. government's international counterterrorism policy in the first term of the Bush administration, "there were things the [9/11] commission[s] wanted to know about and things they didn't want to know about."

For example, the 9-11 Commission report fails to mention the CIA director's urgent warnings to top administration officials in July 2001 of an impending attack (indeed, the 9-11 Commission was briefed on these warnings, but denied they knew about them until confronted with contrary evidence). Moreover, numerous veteran national security experts were turned away, ignored, or censored by the 9/11 commission, even though they had information directly relevant to the commission's investigation. And the 9/11 Commission Report does not even mention the collapse of World Trade Center building 7 or any explosions in the buildings (the word "explosion" does not appear in the report). There are literally hundreds of other examples of entire lines of evidence which contradict the government's account which were ignored by the Commission.

A very well-documented book by a distinguished professor shows that the 9-11 Commission was a whitewash. According to law professor Richard Falk of Princeton, the author of this book "establishes himself, alongside Seymour Hersh, as America's number one bearer of unpleasant, yet necessary, public truths" (Seymour Hersh, as you might know, is the Pulitzer prize-winning reporter who uncovered the Iraq prison torture scandal).

Indeed, the very 9-11 widows who had pressured the administration to create the 9/11 Commission now "question the veracity of the entire Commission's report," and have previously declared it a failure which ignored 70% of their detailed questions and "suppressed important evidence and whistleblower testimony that challenged the official story on many fronts."

Moreover, a leading firefighters' trade publication called the investigation concerning the world trade center a "half-baked farce." In addition, the official investigators themselves were largely denied funding, access to the site and the evidence contained there, **or even access to such basic information as the blueprints for the world trade center**. Similarly, a professor of fire protection engineering, and the former chief of the fire science and engineering division of

the agency now investigating the world trade center disaster, wrote that the world trade center buildings could not have collapsed due to jet fuel fires, that evidence was being destroyed, and that there was no real investigation into the collapses.

Indeed, the blueprints for the world trade center are apparently STILL being withheld from reporters and the public, and the government agency in charge of the investigation has grossly mischaracterized the structure of the buildings.

And the government agency tasked with examining the collapse of the World Trade Centers did NOT investigate any anomalies in the collapse of the buildings, failing to even examine any of the following evidence:

- Ø the buildings' impossible near free-fall speeds and symmetrical collapses;
- Ø the unexplained fact that the core of the North Tower failed first;
- Ø the apparent demolition squibs;
- Ø the fact that the buildings turned to dust in mid-air;
- Ø the presence of molten metal in the basement areas in large pools in all of the buildings;
- Ø the unexplained presence of unusual compounds in the steel;
- Ø the unexplained swiss-cheese like holes in the steel;
- Ø and the unexplained straightening out of the upper 34 floors of the South Tower after they had precipitously leaned over and started toppling like a tree.

...

And did you know that investigators for the Congressional Joint Inquiry discovered that an FBI informant had hosted and even rented a room to two hijackers in 2000 and that, when the Inquiry sought to interview the informant, the FBI refused outright, and then hid him in an unknown location, and that a high-level FBI official stated these blocking maneuvers were undertaken under orders from the White House?

Or that a former FBI translator who Senators Leahy and Grassley, among others, have claimed is credible, and who the administration has gagged for years without any logical basis -- has stated that "this administration knowingly and intentionally let many directly or indirectly involved in that terrorist act [September 11th] go free – untouched and uninvestigated?"

Or have you heard that the FBI long ago found and analyzed the "black box" recorders from the airplanes which hit the Twin Towers, but has consistently denied that they were ever found?

Or did you know that the tape of interviews of air traffic controllers on-duty on 9/11 was intentionally destroyed by crushing the cassette by hand, cutting the tape into little pieces, and then dropping the pieces in different trash cans around the building as shown by this NY Times article (summary version is free; full version is pay-per-view) and by this article from the Chicago Sun-Times?

And amazingly, many years after the FBI stated it did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute Bin Laden for 9/11, that agency apparently still does not have hard evidence linking Bin Laden to the crime.

Still think the government really investigated and disclosed what happened on 9/11?

<http://911proof.com/6.html>

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12.13 First Responders Described Explosions

Their Statements Suppressed for Years

Records of 9/11 Response Not for Public, City Says
By Jennifer Steinhauer
The New York Times
July 23, 2002

The Bloomberg administration has concluded that many of the audio and written records of the Fire Department's actions on Sept. 11 should never be released to the general public.

The administration, in response to a lawsuit filed in State Supreme Court in Manhattan by The New York Times seeking numerous records concerning the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, has cited a variety of reasons for keeping the records secret. In court papers and interviews, administration officials and city lawyers have argued that a federal court order in Virginia has barred them from releasing much of the material, citing its value in the government's case against Zacarias Moussaoui, who is accused of being the "20th hijacker."

But lawyers for the administration argued that even if the order, issued by the judge overseeing the prosecution of Mr. Moussaoui, were amended or lifted, they would still have no intention of releasing audiotapes of the Fire Department dispatchers, hundreds of individual accounts of firefighters or transcripts of radio communications from that day.

The administration has argued that releasing these materials would be an invasion of privacy for the families of those who died at the trade center, and for the firefighters who responded to the disaster scene. The administration has said that that because the requested information involves "interagency" communication, it is exempt under the state Freedom of Information Law.

"The records requested by The Times were compiled for law enforcement purposes," according to legal documents filed by Michael A. Cardozo, the city's corporation counsel. He added: "Second, both the oral histories and the radio transmissions, especially the 911 calls, contain highly personal and emotionally charged material. Victims were recorded as they were experiencing life-threatening circumstances, in some instances as they were dying."

Shortly after he was appointed, Mr. Cardozo said that the administration planned to be much more responsive to media requests for documents and records than former Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's had been.

In its suit, which was filed in May, The Times rejects each of the city's claims,

arguing that much of the material -- some of which has already been provided to reporters by family members and other sources -- reflects information and images that have been viewed by millions of people through news accounts, documentaries and books about Sept. 11.

...
Mr. McCraw added in an interview yesterday: "The disclosures would not interfere with law enforcement, they do not reveal intimate personal details that someone should reasonably think should be secret, or constitute formal advice. These are documents that have huge historical and policy value for the city as a whole. They are the accounts of exactly how that operation worked from the ground level. That is precisely the kind of thing F.O.I.L. [Freedom of Information Law] is designed to make public."

Included in the material that the administration says should never become public are the oral histories given to Fire Department officials by scores of firefighters and chiefs after Sept. 11. Administration officials say that the firefighters and chiefs were promised confidentiality when they gave their accounts, and that to release them would violate that promise and reveal everything from opinions about the city's emergency response to gruesome details of death and damage.

...
A former senior official in the Fire Department said yesterday that the firefighters were, in fact, never told that their remarks would be kept confidential. "The histories are more than for historical purposes," said the former official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "They are of great value to understanding what happened there. I tend to think that people should be able to see them."

<http://foi.missouri.edu/terrorismfoiny/records911.html>

All Available NY Fire Dept Dispatch Tapes From 9/11

Released After a Three-and-a-Half-Year Court Fight

It took a bitterly fought lawsuit brought by the New York Times to get the Fire Department of New York to release some of its dispatch tapes from 9/11. The NYT requested the tapes in early 2002, got denied, and went to court. When the FDNY lost the fight three and a half years later, on 12 August 2005 it made available 23 CDs, almost all containing audio of radio dispatches, plus transcripts of oral histories and some other text. The NYT posted about one-quarter to one-third of the audio. The Memory Hole also received the discs due to its freedom of information request, and we're posting all of them.

Twenty-one of the CDs are audio CDs. The Memory Hole has ripped the audio into MP3 files and posted them at the Internet Archive. Each one lasts 44 to 47 minutes. The links below will open each MP3 (64 Kbps). Or you can go to the main Internet Archive page for the recordings here, where you'll find each audio file also available as a high-quality MP3 (128Kbps) and in an open-source format called Ogg Vorbis. You can also download all the files at once as a humongous zip file or listen to all the files as a continuous stream.

Disc 23 contains PDF files of 503 oral histories. The NYT has posted all of them at

http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/html/nyregion/20050812_WTC_GRAPHIC/met_WTC_histories_full_01.html

Disc 21 contains an audio transcript and an EMS logbook.

http://www.thememoryhole.org/911/fdny_dispatches.htm

Testimony of Explosions and the Destruction of the World Trade Center:

David Ray Griffin

EXCERPT:

Shortly after 9/11, the New York Fire Department recorded over 500 oral histories, in which firefighters and emergency medical workers recounted their experiences of that day. Mayor Bloomberg's administration, however, refused to release them. But then the New York Times, joined by several families of 9/11 victims, filed suit and, after a long process, the New York Court of Appeals ordered the city to release the bulk of these oral histories, which it did in August 2005. The Times then made them publicly available (NYT, 2005).

These oral histories contain many dozens of testimonies that speak of explosions and related phenomena characteristic of controlled demolition. I will give some examples.

Explosions

Several individuals reported that they witnessed an explosion just before one of the towers collapsed. Battalion Chief John Sudnik said: "we heard..... what sounded like a loud explosion and looked up and I saw tower two start coming down" (NYT, Sudnick, p. 4).

Several people reported multiple explosions. Paramedic Kevin Darnowski said: "I heard three explosions, and then..... tower two started to come down" (NYT, Darnowski, p. 8).

Firefighter Thomas Turilli said, "it almost sounded like bombs going off, like boom, boom, boom, like seven or eight" (NYT, Turilli, p. 4).

Craig Carlsen said that he and other firefighters "heard explosions coming from..... the south tower..... There were about ten explosions. We then realized the building started to come down" (NYT, Carlsen, pp. 5-6).

Firefighter Joseph Meola said, "it looked like the building was blowing out on all four sides. We actually heard the pops." (NYT, Meola, p. 5).

Paramedic Daniel Rivera also mentioned "pops." Asked how he knew that the south tower was coming down, he said:

It was a frigging noise. At first I thought it was -- do you ever see professional demolition where they set the charges on certain floors and then you hear 'Pop, pop, pop, pop, pop'?..... I thought it was that. (NYT, Rivera, p. 9)

<http://911review.com/articles/griffin/nyc1.html>

Long-Suppressed Oral Histories Corroborate Demolitions

On August 12, 2005, the New York Times announced the release of more than 12,000 pages of oral histories in the form of transcripts of interviews with 503 firefighters and emergency medical responders. The interviews were conducted between October of 2001 and January of 2002 under the order of New York City's fire commissioner at the time of the attack, Thomas Von Essen, who wanted to preserve first-hand accounts of the attack. (1)

The New York Times published the oral histories, and provides an index of PDFs of the interviews here. (2) The Times converted a subset of the interviews into text files. (3) The following pages excerpt passages from the accounts pertaining to the observation of aspects of the destruction of the Twin Towers.*

- Ø Explosions
- Ø Dust clouds
- Ø Ground shaking

The accounts also contain numerous descriptions of advanced warnings that WTC 7 would collapse.

- Ø WTC 7 collapse foreknowledge

* This compilation was facilitated by David Ray Griffin, the author of *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*, who in turn credits Matthew Everett, author of *Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and 9/11: A Scandal Beyond What Has Been Seen Before*, for locating many of the passages excerpted here.

References

1. City to Release Thousands of Oral Histories of 9/11 Today, New York Times, 8/12/05 [cached]
2. The Sept. 11 Records, New York Times, [cached]
3. Untitled, New York Times, [cached]

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/oralhistories/index.html>

Repeated EXPLOSIONS on 911

(Reiterated from Reference 7.3)

Please watch the DVDs

911 Mysteries

No agenda. No finger-pointing. Just the facts and the "mysteries." Look at that. Think about this. A story of people: Willie Rodriguez's recollection of ominous noises on the 34th floor, as the crisis raged. Who was up there, bumping around? Scott Forbes' similar story, weeks before the towers fell. A story of the nature of blasting itself. Here's how shaped charges slice through steel beams to control the way they fall.

You Can Stream it Right Now:

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article15250.htm>

**September 11 Revisited
911 Eyewitness
Loose Change Second Edition**

**AUDIO: The Basement Explosion
in the North Tower which Preceded the Impact of American Airlines 11**

This recording, from a morning business meeting at One Liberty Plaza, which captures both events, as well as the participants' immediate reactions, is included in the

DVD: Loose Change Second Edition

VIDEO and AUDIO: The series of massive explosions --

and the basement smoke that followed -- as videotaped from the New Jersey Docks by Rick Siegel is Included in the

DVD: 911 Eyewitness

VIDEO INTERVIEWS: First Responders Recount Multiple Explosions

**DVD: September 11 Revisited
DVD: Loose Change Second Edition**

**Explosive Testimony
by David Ray Griffin**

(First Rate Reporting by America's Leading Theological Scholar)

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20060118104223192>

Mirrored at:

<http://www.mindfully.org/Reform/2006/911-WTC-Twin-Towers26jan06.htm>

VIDEO of Firefighter: "Bombs in the Building!"

<http://www.terrorize.dk/911/witnesses/witnesses3.php#911.wtc.fireman.bomb.in.the.building>

Testimony of Firefighters, Police Officers, Paramedics, Reporters, and Survivors
<http://911proof.com/11.html>

First-hand Accounts of Underground Explosions In The North Tower

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/november2004/281104undergroundexplosions.htm>

Reports of Sightings and Sounds of Explosions in the Oral Histories

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/evidence/oralhistories/explosions.html>

Witnesses Say They Heard Bombs Explode in WTC Buildings

<http://www.bcrevolution.ca/bombs.htm>

**Testimony of Eyewitnesses and
Visual Images of the Smoke from Underground Explosions**
<http://www.explosive911analysis.com/>

Eyewitness Reports of Explosions Before WTC Disintegrations
<http://www.whatreallyhappened.com/eyewitness.html>

**AUDIO: Recordings and Analysis
of Explosion Sounds and the World Trade Center**
<http://www.mediumrecords.com/wtc/audio00.html>

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12.14 Firefighters' WTC Tapes on 9/11

For well over a year, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey refused to release the audiotape of firefighters' communications from the World Trade Center during the September 11 attacks. In early November 2002, [after prolonged legal action] the tape was released to the New York Times, then to other unspecified "news outlets" (according to the Associated Press). To my knowledge, the NYT is the only outlet to post excerpts from the tape; no one has yet posted the entire thing.

Below are transcripts of all portions that have been released. You can listen to them at the NYT's site by going to

<http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=FA0B13FF3E550C7A8CDDA80994DA404482>

In the right hand column is a box labeled "Multimedia." Inside it, click on

"Interactive Feature: The Tale of the Tape."
"9/11 Tape Raised Added Questions on Radio Failures"
"Fire Department Tape Reveals No Awareness of Imminent Doom"

EXCERPTS:

9:25 a.m.

Ladder 15: "Go ahead, Irons."
Ladder 15 Irons:

"Just got a report from the director of Morgan Stanley. 78 seems to have taken the brunt of this stuff, there's a lot of bodies, they say the stairway is clear all the way up, though."

Ladder 15: "Alright, ten-four Scott. What, what floor are you on?"
Ladder 15 Irons: "Forty-eight right now."
Ladder 15: "Alright, we're coming up behind you."

9:31 a.m.

Battalion Seven Aide: "Battalion Seven, you want me to relay?"
Ladder 15: "Yeah, Steve tell Chief Palmer they got reports that there's more planes in the area, we may have to back down here."

Battalion Seven Aide: "Ten-four." "Seven Alpha to Seven."
Battalion Seven: "Steve. Seven to Seven Alpha."
Ladder 15: "Fifteen to 15 Roof." "Fifteen Roof."
Ladder 15: "We got reports of another incoming plane. We may have to take cover. Stay in the stairwell."
Ladder 15 Roof: "Ten-four."
Ladder 15: "Fifteen to 15 Roof. That plane's ours. I repeat. It's ours. What floor are you on, Scotty?"
Ladder 15 Roof: "Fifty-four."
Ladder 15: "Alright. Keep making your way up. We're behind you."
Ladder 15 Roof: "Ten-four."

9:37 a.m.

Ladder 15 Lieutenant: "Tommy, listen carefully. I'm sending all the injured down to you on 40. You're going to have to get 'em down to the elevator. There's about 10 to 15 people coming down to you."
Ladder 15 Firefighter: "Okay."
Ladder 15 Lieutenant: "Ten civilians coming down. Fifteen to OV."
Ladder 15 Firefighter: "Got that, I'm on 40 right now, Lieu."

9:39 a.m.

Ladder 15 Lieutenant: "Alright Tommy, when you take people down to the lobby, try to get an EMS crew back."
Ladder 15 Firefighter: "Definitely."

9:43 a.m.

Battalion Seven Chief: "Battalion Seven to Ladder 15 Roof, what's your progress?"
Ladder 15 Roof: "Sixty-three, Battalion."
Battalion Seven Chief: "Ten-four."
Battalion Nine Chief: "Battalion Nine to Battalion Seven."
Battalion Seven Chief: "Go ahead Battalion Nine."
Battalion Nine Chief: "Orio, I couldn't find a bank to bring you up any higher. I'm on the 40th floor, what can I do for you?"
Battalion Seven Chief: "We're going to have to hoof it. I'm on 69 now, but we need a higher bank, kay."
Battalion Nine Chief: "What stairway you in Orio?"
Battalion Seven Chief: "The center of the building, boy, boy." "Tac One to Tac One Alpha."
Battalion Seven Chief: "Battalion Seven to Ladder 15 Roof, what floor?"
Battalion Nine Chief: "Battalion Nine to Battalion Seven."
Battalion Seven Chief: "... Battalion Nine."
Battalion Nine Chief: "Orio, I'm going to try and get a couple of CFRD engines on the 40th floor so send any victims down here, I'll start up a staging area."
Battalion Seven Chief: "...find a fireman service elevator close to 40, if we get some more cars in that bank, we'll be alright."

9:48 a.m.

Ladder 15: "Battalion Fifteen to Battalion Seven."
Battalion Seven: "Go Ladder 15."
Ladder 15: "What do you got up there, Chief?"

Battalion Seven Chief: "I'm still in boy stair 74th floor. No smoke or fire problems, walls are breached, so be careful."

Ladder 15: "Yeah Ten-Four, I saw that on 68. Alright, we're on 71 we're coming up behind you."

Battalion Seven Chief: "Ten-four. Six more to go."

Ladder 15: "Let me know when you see more fire."

Battalion Seven Chief: "I found a marshall on 75."

9:49 a.m.

Ladder 15: "Fifteen to 15 OV. Fifteen to 15 OV. Fifteen OV."

Ladder 15: "Tommy, have you made it back down to the lobby yet?"

Ladder 15 OV: "The elevator's screwed up."

Ladder 15: "You can't move it?"

Ladder 15 OV: "I don't want to get stuck in the shaft."

9:50 a.m.

Ladder 15: "Alright Tommy. It's imperative that you go down to the lobby command post and get some people up to 40. We got injured people up here on 70. If you make it to the lobby command post see if they can somehow get elevators past the 40th floor. We got people injured all the way up here."

Battalion Seven Aide: "Battalion Seven Alpha to Seven."

Battalion Seven Chief: "Go Steve."

Battalion Seven Aide: "Yeah Chief, I'm on 55, I got to rest. I'll try to get up there as soon as possible."

Battalion Seven Chief: "Ten-four."

9:50 a.m.

"Anybody see the highway one car? Highway one car we need it for an escort to the hospital for a fireman."

Battalion Seven Chief: "Battalion Seven to Ladder 15." "15 Irons."

Ladder 15: "Fifteen to 15 Roof and Irons."

Battalion Six Chief: "Battalion Six to command post."

9:52 a.m.

Battalion Seven Chief: "Battalion Seven to Battalion Seven Alpha." "Freddie, come on over. Freddie, come on over by us."

Battalion Seven Chief:

"Battalion Seven ... Ladder 15, we've got two isolated pockets of fire. We should be able to knock it down with two lines. Radio that, 78th floor numerous 10-45 Code Ones."

Ladder 15: "What stair are you in, Orio?"

Battalion Seven Aide: "Seven Alpha to lobby command post."

Ladder Fifteen: "Fifteen to Battalion Seven."

Battalion Seven Chief: "... Ladder 15."

Ladder 15: "Chief, what stair you in?"

Battalion Seven Chief: "South stairway Adam, South Tower."

Ladder 15: "Floor 78?"

Battalion Seven Chief:

"Ten-four, numerous civilians, we gonna need two engines up here."

Ladder 15: "Alright ten-four, we're on our way."

9:52 a.m.

Battalion Seven Aide: "Seven Alpha for Battalion Seven."

Battalion Seven Chief: "South tower, Steve, south tower, tell them... Tower one."

Battalion Seven to Ladder 15. "Fifteen."

Battalion Seven Chief:

"I'm going to need two of your firefighters Adam stairway to knock down two fires. We have a house line stretched we could use some water on it, knock it down, kay."

Ladder 15: "Alright ten-four, we're coming up the stairs. We're on 77 now in the B stair, I'll be right to you."

Ladder 15 Roof: "Fifteen Roof to 15. We're on 71. We're coming right up."

9:57 a.m.

"Division 3 ... lobby command, to the Fieldcom command post."

Battalion Seven Chief: "Operations Tower One to floor above Battalion Nine."

Battalion Nine Chief: "Battalion Nine to command post."

Battalion Seven Operations Tower One:

"Battalion Seven Operations Tower One to Battalion Nine, need you on floor above 79. We have access stairs going up to 79, kay."

Battalion Nine: "Alright, I'm on my way up Orio."

Ladder 15 OV: "Fifteen OV to Fifteen."

Ladder 15: "Go ahead Fifteen OV, Battalion Seven Operations Tower One."

Ladder 15 OV: "Stuck in the elevator, in the elevator shaft, you're going to have to get a difference elevator. We're chopping through the wall to get out."

Battalion Seven Chief:

"Radio lobby command with that Tower One."

9:58 a.m.

Battalion Seven Chief:

"Battalion Seven to Ladder 15."

(END OF TAPE)

<http://www.thememoryhole.org/911/firefighter-tape-excerpts.htm>

Tapes Tell of Firefighters' Courage at WTC

The New York Times
By Kevin Flynn

NEW YORK -- The voices, captured on a tape of Fire Department radio transmissions, betray no fear. The words are matter of fact.

Two hose lines are needed, Chief Orio Palmer says from an upper floor of the badly damaged south tower at the World Trade Center. Just two hose lines to attack two isolated pockets of fire. "We should be able to knock it down with two lines," he tells the firefighters of Ladder Co. 15 who were following him up the stairs of the doomed tower.

Lt. Joseph G. Leavey is heard responding: "Orio, we're on 78 but we're in the B stairway. Trapped in here. We got to put some fire out to get to you."

The time was 9:56 a.m. The firefighters had just arrived at a place where, 54 minutes earlier, many people had been waiting for elevators when the second plane came crashing through the building. At 9:56 a.m., Palmer and Ladder Co. 15 were surrounded by the wounded whom they hoped to evacuate.

Like the voice cockpit recorder from a downed jetliner, this tape, discovered in an adjacent building several weeks after Sept. 11, is providing a glimpse into unseen corners of the tragedy and the resolute advance of firefighters as they encountered the largest catastrophe of their lives.

The 78-minute tape, which was found in a room at 5 World Trade Center where radio transmissions were monitored, is the only known audio tape of firefighters at the scene. In recent months, officials of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, who maintained the recording system, have allowed fire officials and family members to listen to it. It was not publicly released, however, until this week. The release came after federal prosecutors, responding to a court motion by The New York Times, said its release would not interfere with the prosecution of terrorists.

Officials from the Port Authority and the Fire Department are still debating what the tape tells them about the breakdowns in radio communication that day. There are several long stretches of silence on the tape. Transmissions from only a few of the companies that operated in the south tower are recorded. A few additional snippets of conversation can be heard from firefighters operating in the north tower, where radios using the same frequency were also monitored.

But sections of the tape provide vivid images of the firefighters: The breathless voice of Palmer, a marathon runner, after dashing up dozens of flights of steps; the assurances from firefighters to him that they are coming on his heels; the effort to create a medical staging area for the wounded on the 40th floor.

At several points in the tape, fire commanders can be heard speaking with urgency. A commander alerts a colleague that he needs more companies to handle what he is facing in the south tower. The chiefs discuss the need to get more elevators into service, to carry firefighters up and to transport the injured back down.

But nowhere on the tape is there any indication that firefighters had the slightest indication that the tower had become unstable or that it could collapse.

"Chief, I'm going to stop on 44," Stephen Belson, an aide "Chief, I'm going to stop on 44," Stephen Belson, an aide to Chief Palmer, tells the chief at 9:25 a.m. as he

ascends.

"Take your time," the chief responds.

Half an hour later, the tape reveals, firefighters from Ladder Co. 15 had loaded 10 injured people into an elevator and begun a descent to the lobby. Down below, fire commanders were waiting, hoping to use that elevator, the only working one in the building, to ferry additional firefighters back up to the heavily damaged floors. But suddenly the elevator stopped, according to the tape.

"You're going to have to get a different elevator," a firefighter from Ladder Co. 15 says over the radio. "We're chopping through the wall to get out."

A few seconds later, at 9:58 a.m., Palmer tries to raise someone from the ladder company. "Battalion 7 to Ladder 15," he calls.

But the tape remains silent.

Lost Voices of Firefighters, Some on 78th Floor

By Jim Dwyer and Ford Fessenden
August 4, 2002.

A lost tape of lost voices, ignored until recently by investigators studying the emergency response on Sept. 11, shows that firefighters climbed far higher into the south tower than practically anyone had realized. At least two men reached the crash zone on the 78th floor, where they went to the aid of grievously injured people trapped in a sprawl of destruction.

Until the building's final minutes, one of the two firefighters, Battalion Chief Orio J. Palmer, was organizing the evacuation of people hurt by the plane's impact. He was accompanied by Fire Marshal Ronald P. Bucca. Both men died.

Only now, nearly a year after the attacks, are the efforts of Chief Palmer, Mr. Bucca and others becoming public. City fire officials simply delayed listening to a 78-minute tape that is the only known recording of firefighters inside the towers. The Fire Department has forbidden anyone to discuss the contents publicly on the ground that the tape might be evidence in the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui, the man accused of plotting with the hijackers.

According to four people who have heard it, the tape provides new, sharp and unforgettable images of the last minutes inside the trade center complex.

For months, senior officials believed that firefighters had gone no higher than about the 50th floor in each tower, well below most damage. The transmissions from Chief Palmer and others reveal a startling achievement: firefighters in the south tower actually reached a floor struck by the second hijacked airplane. Once they got there, they had a coherent plan for putting out the fires they could see and helping victims who survived.

About 14 or 15 minutes before the south tower collapsed, a group of people who had survived the plane's impact began their descent from the 78th floor. As they departed, Chief Palmer sent word to Chief Edward Geraghty that a group of 10 people, with a number of injuries, were heading to an elevator on the 41st floor.

That elevator was the only one working after the plane hit. On its last trip down, however, the car became stuck in the shaft. Inside the elevator was a firefighter from Ladder 15, who reported that he was trying to break open the walls. It is not clear whether the group of 10 had reached that elevator before it left the 41st floor but those who listened to the tape said it was most unlikely that they had enough time to escape, by the elevator or by stairs.

Only a minute or two of the tape covers transmissions from the north tower; the rest are from the south tower. Senior officials said this suggested that the communications problems that plagued the Fire Department's response to the attack were caused not simply by equipment failures, but possibly also by misunderstandings over how certain radio gear was working.

On the tapes, the commander of operations in the south tower, Donald Burns, is heard repeatedly calling for additional companies, but many firefighters headed for that building became caught in traffic or became confused about which tower they should report to. As events developed, the inability to get more firefighters into the south tower may have spared some lives, officials said.

The tape was recovered months ago by staff members from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, although authority officials could not be precise about the time. In January or February, the Port Authority offered a copy of the tape to Fire Department officials, but they declined the offer.

The fire officials said they were not told at the time that the tape contained important information and did not want to sign a confidentiality agreement demanded by the Port Authority.

In early July, after The New York Times reported the existence of the tape and the fact that consultants studying the department's response to the attack had not listened to it. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced that the fire investigators would immediately review it. A draft of the consultants' report does not take account of the tape's contents.

The department has identified the voices of at least 16 firefighters on the tape, and on Friday, their families were invited to listen to it in a ballroom at the Southgate Tower Suite Hotel near Pennsylvania Station. **First, they were required to sign a statement prepared by city lawyers saying they would not disclose the last words of their husbands, brothers and sons.**

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta told the families that he had not known the tape existed until very recently. Later, he declined to discuss its contents, but said it had a powerful effect on him. "Every time I've seen videotapes, listened to audio recordings or read the accounts of firefighters and their actions on Sept. 11, I've felt the same thing: an extraordinary sense of awe at their incredible professionalism and bravery."

As the tape played over the hotel sound system, a transcript was displayed on a video screen.

Chief Palmer's widow, Debbie Palmer, said she attended the session with trepidation, but as Commissioner Scoppetta did, she used the word "awe" to describe her feelings afterward. She had known little about her husband's movements on Sept. 11. Mrs. Palmer stressed that she would not break her

promise to keep the tape confidential but said it had given her some peace about her husband's last moments.

"I didn't hear fear, I didn't hear panic," she said. "When the tape is made public to the world, people will hear that they all went about their jobs without fear, and selflessly."

Chief Palmer, 45, worked as a firefighter and officer in every borough of the city except Staten Island, said Capt. Robert Norcross, a close friend. He was a student of communication technology, publishing a study of radio equipment in the Fire Department's internal newsletter. "Every time he went to work, Orio had a project," Captain Norcross said. "He was a very brilliant man. And he also was in excellent shape -- a marathoner. When the department started giving out a fitness medal, he was the first to win it three or four times."

Chief Palmer began his assignment in the north tower after the first plane struck, helping to organize the operations there. Soon after the second plane hit the south tower at 9:02 a.m., Chief Palmer moved into that building with Chief Burns.

Although most elevators were knocked out of service, Chief Palmer found one that was working and took it to the 41st floor. At that point, he was halfway to the impact zone, which ran from the 78th to the 84th floors.

As he began climbing, he crossed paths with a handful of injured people who had been in the 78th floor Sky Lobby, where scores of office workers had been waiting for express elevators when the second plane hit. The tip of its left wing grazed the lobby, instantly killing most of a group variously estimated between 50 and 200 people. Only a dozen ultimately escaped from the building. Among them was Judy Wein.

"We saw the firefighters coming up, and they would ask us, what floor did you come from?" Ms. Wein recalled in an interview. "We told them, 78, and there's lots of people badly hurt up there. Then they would get on their walkie-talkies and report back in."

Ed Nicholls, whose arm was nearly severed by the blast across the 78th floor, recalled in an interview that he saw a firefighter somewhere around the 50th floor who had advice on how to get out. "We encountered a fireman who told us to go to the 41st floor," he said.

While it is impossible to say if Chief Palmer was the firefighter whom Mr. Nicholls saw, the chief did send radio messages with the information that he collected from civilians trying to escape the building.

As Ling Young, another survivor of the 78th floor, made her way down, she passed two fire marshals, Mr. Bucca and James Devery. They had climbed the stairs from the lobby because they did not know about the elevator that ran to the 41st floor. "Ronnie was ahead of me, like a flight, at all times -- he was just in better shape," Mr. Devery said in an interview. "And then on the 51st floor there was a woman standing there on the stairwell landing and she had her arms out and her eyes were closed. And she was bleeding from the side." That was Mrs. Young, and she seemed ready to faint, he recalled, so he decided to escort her out.

"Then I yelled to Ronnie, I yelled up, because he was ahead of me -- I said, 'Ronnie,

I got to help her down, I'll be back,' " Mr. Devery said. "But he didn't answer me. He must have been two flights ahead of me."

Mr. Devery and Mrs. Young took the elevator on the 41st floor to the street. She spent weeks in the hospital recuperating.

When Chief Palmer reached the 75th floor, he reported meeting a fire marshal in the stairway, and officials said that was Mr. Bucca. The two men were well ahead of all the other firefighters in the building. Mr. Bucca, 47, was very fit, like Chief Palmer, and was active in the Army Reserve.

As they passed other survivors from the impact zone, Chief Palmer informed the fire officers on the lower floors about their injuries. Chief Geraghty, who had come to the 41st floor, called down to the ground for firefighters with medical training.

Chief Palmer also found an obstruction in the stairway and told the trailing fire companies how to get around it. He asked the chiefs below him to find an elevator that reached the 76th floor, those who heard the tape said.

Throughout, the voices of Chief Palmer, Chief Geraghty, and the other firefighters showed no panic, no sense that events were racing beyond their control.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/08/04/nyregion/04WTC.html>

Further Thoughts Concerning the World Trade Center Tower Fires

- (1) Most of the jet fuel burnt outside the buildings. This was particularly evident in the case of the south tower. After the impact nearly all of the jet fuel would have been spread throughout the area as a flammable mist. When this mist ignited it would have emptied the building of almost the entire fuel load, which then "exploded" outside the building. This is exactly what was seen in the videos of the impacts.
- (2) If any quantity of liquid jet fuel did manage to accumulate in the building, then its volatility would lead to large amounts of it being evaporated and not burnt (pyrolysed) in the interior of the building. This evaporated fuel would burn on exiting the building, when it finally found sufficient oxygen.
- (3) The jet fuel fires were brief. Most of the jet fuel would have burnt off or evaporated within 30 seconds, and all of it within 2-3 minutes (if all 10,000 gallons of fuel were evenly spread across a single building floor as a pool, it would be consumed by fire in less than 5 minutes). The energy, from the jet fuel, not absorbed by the concrete and steel within this brief period, would have been vented to the outside world.

This means that the jet fuel fire did not heat the concrete slabs or fire protected steel appreciably. Large columns such as the core columns would also not heat appreciably, even if they had lost all their fire-protection. Unprotected trusses may have experienced a more sizable temperature increase. The jet fuel fire was so brief that the concrete and steel simply could not absorb the heat fast enough, and consequently, most of the heat was lost to the atmosphere through the smoke plume.

- (4) Even if the fire-rated suspended ceilings and spray on fire-protection from the trusses was removed by the impacts and the trusses were heated till they had lost most of their room temperature strength, we know from the Cardington tests and real fires like Broadgate, that the relatively cold concrete slab will supply strength to the structural system, and collapse will not occur. Remember, that at Broadgate and Cardington, the beams/trusses were not fire-protected. Consider this quote: After the Broadgate Phase 8 fire and the Cardington frame tests there were benchmarks to test composite frame models. Research intensified because almost all the tests had unprotected steel beams (no fire rated suspended ceiling and no spray-on fire retardant) but collapse was not seen [3].
- (5) Since the jet fuel fire was brief, and the building still stood, we know that the composite floor slab survived and continued to function as designed (until the buildings were demolished one or two hours later). After the jet fuel fire was over, burning desks, books, plastic, carpets, etc, contributed to the fire. So now we have a typical office fire. The fact that the trusses received some advanced heating will be of little consequence. After some minutes the fires would have been indistinguishable from a typical office fire, and we know that the truss-slab combination will survive such fires, because they did so in the 1975 [WTC fire].
- (6) Of course, most of the weight of the building was supported by the central core columns. There is no indication as to how these 47 massive columns might have failed (at least in the case of the north tower, some of these columns, perhaps two or three, might have been displaced by the impacts). We know that the jet fuel fire was too brief to heat them appreciably. Since the central core area contained only lift shafts and stairwells, it contained very little flammable material. This meant that the core columns could only have been heated by the office fire burning in the adjacent region. Consequently, the core columns would have never got hot enough to fail. But we already know this because they did not fail in the 1975 WTC office fire.
- (7) Also, the building engineers placed the ventilation system in "purge mode." This forced fresh (cool) air into the core area keeping it free of smoke and hot gases.
- (8) You should consider that it has been calculated that if the entire 10,000 gallons of jet fuel from the aircraft was injected into just one floor of the World Trade Center, that the jet fuel burnt with the perfect efficiency, that no hot gases left this floor and that no heat escaped this floor by conduction, then the jet fuel could have only raised the temperature of this floor to, at the very most, 536°F (280°C). You can find the calculation at
<http://911research.wtc7.net/mirrors/guardian2/wtc/how-hot.htm>
- (9) Another reason that we know the fires were not serious enough to cause structural failure, is that witnesses tell us this. The impact floors of the south tower were 78-84. Here are a few words from some of the witnesses:

Stanley Prainnath was on the 81st floor of the south tower:

The plane impacts. I try to get up and then I realize that I'm covered

up to my shoulder in debris. And when I'm digging through under all this rubble, I can see the bottom wing starting to burn, and that wing is wedged 20 feet in my office doorway.

Donovan Cowan was in an open elevator at the 78th floor sky-lobby:

We went into the elevator. As soon as I hit the button, that's when there was a big boom. We both got knocked down. I remember feeling this intense heat. The doors were still open. The heat lasted for maybe 15 to 20 seconds I guess. Then it stopped.

Ling Young was in her 78th floor office:

Only in my area were people alive, and the people alive were from my office. I figured that out later because I sat around in there for 10 or 15 minutes. That's how I got so burned.

It is claimed that temperatures in the south tower were hot enough to cause the trusses to fail, but here we have eye-witnesses stating that temperatures were cool enough for them to walk away.

Interestingly, a tape of radio conversations between firefighters exists (but only relatives of the dead men have been allowed to hear it). Kevin Flynn, of the New York Times, reported:

Chief Orio Palmer says from an upper floor of the badly damaged south tower at the World Trade Center. Just two hose lines to attack two isolated pockets of fire. "We should be able to knock it down with two lines," he tells the firefighters of Ladder Co. 15 who were following him up the stairs of the doomed tower. Lt. Joseph G. Leavey is heard responding: "Orio, we're on 78 but we're in the B stairway. Trapped in here. We got to put some fire out to get to you." The time was 9:56 a.m.

So now we know that, just a few minutes before the collapse of the south tower, firefighters did not consider the fires to be that serious, and were in fact able to get right into the impact region without being killed by the heat that was (according to Eagar of Popular Mechanics) so intense that the trusses glowed red-hot and failed.

- (10) When fully developed fire conditions (temperatures of over 700°C) are reached, this results in the breaking of window glass. For example, the 1988 First Interstate Bank fire in Los Angeles, which showed greater heating effects over larger regions than those observed in either tower, rained broken window glass down on the streets below, presenting a considerable hazard to those on the ground. The First Interstate Bank did not collapse.
- (11) If the temperatures inside large regions of the towers were of the order of 700°C, then these regions would have been glowing red hot and there would have been visible signs of this from the outside. Even pictures taken from the air looking horizontally into the impact region show little sign of this.
- (12) Another reason the fire would not have been as hot as your typical office fire (at least on the impact floors) is that cross ventilation would have cooled it

somewhat. Consider the quote: Cross ventilation resulting from (broken) windows present in opposite walls causes a high intake of air and cooling effects [3].

- (13) If there had been severe fires burning in the core region this would have made the stairwells impassible. However the stairwells below the impact region on the North Tower were sufficiently clear to allow some occupants close to the impacted floors to escape and to allow firemen to reach at least the floors around the 70th level. In the South Tower, at least one stairwell remained operable as there were survivors from above the impact region.

http://911research.wtc7.net/mirrors/guardian2/wtc/WTC_ch2.htm [Back](#)

12.15 The "WAR GAMES" That Ensured the Success of the 9/11 Attacks

[Reiteration of Section 7.10]

VIDEO: Barry Zwicker: NORAD on 9/11: ****

What was the U.S. Military Doing that Day?

Interview with Michael Ruppert Regarding 9/11 War Games

Quickly Accessible at [Google Video](#)

[If you WATCH THIS VIDEO, you will learn about the War Games and gain an introduction to a genuine American Hero: ex-LAPD Detective Mike Ruppert](#)

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-895995587805019501>

BOOK: Crossing the Rubicon:

The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil

by Michael C. Ruppert

EXCERPT: "Simplifying the Case Against Dick Cheney"

As Summarized by Michael Kane

On May 8, 2001 - four months prior to 9/11 - the president placed Dick Cheney in charge of "[A]ll federal programs dealing with weapons of mass destruction consequence management within the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Justice, and Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies..." This included all "training and planning" which needed to be "seamlessly integrated, harmonious and comprehensive" in order to "maximize effectiveness." This mandate created the Office of National Preparedness in FEMA, overseen by Dick Cheney.

Dick Cheney was placed directly in charge of managing the seamless integration of all training exercises throughout the entire federal government and all military agencies. On 9/11 Cheney oversaw multiple war games and terror drills, including several exercises of NORAD, the Air Force agency whose mandate is to "watch the sky."

The evening before September 11th, 2001, the National Security Agency intercepted a communication between Khalid Shaikh Muhammad and the alleged

ringleader of the 9/11 attacks, Mohammed Atta. The communication stated, "The match is about to begin."

Were they "matching" their activities to the war games? Was the attack a rigged "match" between the defenders on one side, and the attackers with their accomplices on the other?

The White House was so infuriated when this communication leaked from the Senate Intelligence Committee that they threatened Senators with polygraphs and office searches for disclosing classified information. This leak struck a nerve within the White House.

We know multiple Air Force war games were running on the morning of 9/11, as documented extensively in the mainstream press. What Crossing the Rubicon has documented conclusively is that there was a live-fly drill taking place on 9/11 titled Vigilant Warrior. Richard Clarke disclosed the name of this drill on page 4 of his book, but it was Major Don Arias of NORAD who confirmed the definition of the title "Warrior" to Mike Ruppert via email.

Warrior = JCS/HQ NORAD sponsored FTX, or field training exercise (live-fly).

That means that the Vigilant Warrior drill conducted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff involved at least one real commercial aircraft in the skies, intended to simulate exactly the kind of airliner hijack emergency presented on 9/11.

Coincidence?

This was further supported by an April 18 2004 USA Today article titled, "NORAD had drills of jets as weapons." The report cited NORAD officials who confirmed live-fly drills were conducted using hijacked airliners originating from the continental United States used as weapons crashing into targets including the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The specific drill USA Today referred to was "planned in July [2001] and conducted later" -- likely on 9/11 itself.

Remember, on 9/11 the Bush administration claimed it had "no idea" aircraft would be used as weapons. Then why were they drilling such scenarios before and during 9/11? The White House dodged this by saying it wasn't aware of these drills but that is a transparent lie. The drills took place in the White House!

Secret Service runs simulated attack field exercises -- exactly what Vigilant Warrior was. This Joint Chiefs of Staff drill was likely being run through Secret Service lines of communication by a central command under Cheney's control.

Additional war games on 9/11 included Northern Vigilance, an exercise that pulled Air Force fighters from the east coast of the United States up into Canada and Alaska simulating an attack out of Russia. All of those fighters were rendered useless as the 9/11 plot unfolded -- too far away to respond.

One of the components of this drill included "false blips" (radar injects simulating aircraft in flight) placed on FAA radar screens. At one point FAA head Jane Garvey said they suspected up to 11 hijackings on 9/11. Was she saying they couldn't determine which were real, which were simulated, and which were live-fly military exercises?

Regardless, all of this rendered Air Force response on 9/11 useless.

In Air War Over America it is documented that General Arnold of NORAD didn't pull out of the war game titled Vigilant Guardian until reports of flight 93 being hijacked were coming in. That was at 9:16, a total of 54 minutes after it was known that flight 11 was a hijacking. What took so long? Were there still "false blips" on FAA radar screens at this time?

There were likely false blips on screen even after 9:16. The Kean Commission's report introduced "phantom flight-11" as being reported by the FAA at 9:25 on 9/11. The FAA reported flight 11 was heading to Washington D.C. at that time when in fact it had already struck the World Trade Center. The Kean Commission's report stated they were "unable to locate the source of the mistaken FAA information."

"Phantom flight-11" was a false blip, but since the war games are classified, specific information on "false blips" and other details can't be reported.

Now imagine being an air traffic controller with both real planes and "false blips" simulating hijackings on your screens when suddenly there are real, multiple, hijackings. Where do you send the few Air Force fighters that you have? You can't guess wrong, you don't have enough assets for that. The FAA doesn't even make that decision, the military does. The Kean Commission managed to scapegoat the FAA in their report, but the Air Force itself confirmed the FAA did its job properly on 9/11 in Air War Over America.

There were more 9/11 war games including Northern Guardian, Northern Denial (recently confirmed by an Assistant Editor at Harper's magazine) and an unnamed National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) drill for a plane crashing into NRO headquarters at precisely the time of an actual crash in New York [which caused the NRO to be evacuated].

[NOTE: The National Reconnaissance Office monitors the nation's skies, and administers the nation's spy satellite program. Its personnel are drawn from the US military and the CIA.]

Another coincidence?

War games, terror drills and exercises are run by the military quite frequently. In this case, they mirrored the real attacks of 9/11 with such shocking congruence as to be beyond the realm of coincidence.

This is made clear when we consider the warnings that had flooded U.S. Intelligence prior to 9/11, indicating that terrorists were planning to hijack aircraft and crash them into American targets on the ground during the week of September 9th, 2001. With that type of information, who in their right mind would then schedule war games that would leave New York and Washington D.C. completely undefended?

We've already shown that the man in charge of managing all such programs was Dick Cheney. Among the central decision-makers for the scheduling of so many simultaneous exercises would be Dick Cheney and Ralph Eberhart, head of NORAD.

It certainly was a perfect "match."

The Maestro

The most important revelation made about the 9/11 war games comes again from Major Don Arias of NORAD. With multiple war games running, there had to be someone coordinating them.

"Yes, there is an exercise maestro," said Don Arias in a phone interview.

So who was the maestro?

Mike Ruppert called every relevant military and government office looking for an answer to this question and received no response. At the final 9/11 Commission hearing on June 17, 2004, I asked General Ralph Eberhart -- the man in charge of NORAD on 9/11 -- who was in charge of coordinating the war games that day. His only response was, "No comment." None of the commissioners, including Chairman Kean, could answer this question.

FTW's research has concluded the maestro was either Dick Cheney, Ralph "Ed" Eberhart, or both. Whoever the maestro was, he was certainly under Cheney's management as per the May 2001 presidential mandate.

Additionally, Tripod II was a bio-terror exercise being set-up on the west side of lower Manhattan, reportedly scheduled to begin the next day. This exercise was being coordinated with FEMA and the Department of Justice-- two of the agencies placed directly under Cheney's control in May of 2001 by presidential mandate.

Another coincidence?

There is no question that Cheney would be responsible for managing this exercise. The Tripod II drill became the command & control emergency response center on 9/11. The command center in WTC 7 was reportedly evacuated by 9:30 on 9/11, but Tripod II provided a new command center organized just as the original was. How convenient.

The Air Force war games ensured the air attack would be successful, and Tripod II assured Cheney would have control of the response to the crisis of his making. Matching the war games with hijackings -- or hijacking the war games -- was the opportunity for Cheney to help ensure the 9/11 attacks would be successful, justifying what he calls, "The war that will not end in our lifetimes." The "war on terror" is actually a war for the world's last remaining hydrocarbon reserves. This energy war is a response to a coming energy crisis that Cheney was well aware of at least as early as 1999.

Conclusion

Crossing the Rubicon demonstrates much more than is presented here. The book goes into the failures of the 9/11 Commission, 9/11 insider trading, the curtailing of civil liberties, the coming economic crisis, biological warfare, the real history of Osama bin Laden, and many other issues critical to an understanding of today's historical reality.

Crossing the Rubicon also looks into the evolution of PROMIS software, a well-

documented artificial intelligence and data mining program whose current descendants played an integral role in the crimes of 9/11. As Dick Cheney was running a separate chain of command via the Secret Service, he also had the capability to intervene in the functions of the FAA through an evolution of PROMIS software developed and sold by Ptech, Inc. -- a company funded by Saudi terrorist financier Yassin Al Qadi. Al Qadi claims he met Dick Cheney in Jeddah before he was Vice President, a claim Cheney hasn't publicly refuted. FTW will soon be releasing an in-depth report on Ptech and its role in the crimes of 9/11.

What we have placed in front of you here is the legal case against Dick Cheney and other persons of interest within the U.S. government. Such evidence should constitute the foundation for articles of impeachment and criminal prosecution against George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, and their accomplices.

Review the documentation for yourself -- purchase

Crossing the Rubicon:

The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil

by Michael C. Ruppert at:

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_gw/103-6038043-2847042?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=crossing+the+rubicon&Go.x=12&Go.y=10&Go=Go

The piece above and more is at:

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/011805_simplify_case.shtml

Yet Another Perfectly Synchronized "Bizarre Coincidence:"

On the Morning of 9/11, the CIA Was Running a Simulation of a Plane Crashing into the National reconnaissance Office -- America's "Eyes on the Sky" -- Which Caused That Agency to be Evacuated as the Real Crisis Unfolded

One week after The Memory Hole first reported this story (14 August 2002), it was picked up by the Associated Press in the following article:

Agency planned drill for plane crash last Sept. 11
Associated Press
August 22, 2002

WASHINGTON -- In what the government describes as a bizarre coincidence, one U.S. intelligence agency was planning an exercise last Sept. 11 in which an errant aircraft crashed into one of its buildings. But the cause wasn't terrorism -- it was to be a simulated accident.

Officials at the Chantilly, Va.-based National Reconnaissance Office had scheduled an exercise that morning in which a small corporate jet crashed into one of the four towers at the agency's headquarters building after experiencing a mechanical failure.

The agency is about four miles from the runways of Washington Dulles International Airport.

Agency chiefs came up with the scenario to test employees' ability to respond to a

disaster, said spokesman Art Haubold. To simulate the damage from the plane, some stairwells and exits were to be closed off, forcing employees to find other ways to evacuate the building.

"It was just an incredible coincidence that this happened to involve an aircraft crashing into our facility," Haubold said. "As soon as the real world events began, we canceled the exercise."

Terrorism was to play no role in the exercise, which had been planned for several months, he said.

Adding to the coincidence, American Airlines Flight 77 -- the Boeing 767 that was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon -- took off from Dulles at 8:10 a.m. on Sept. 11, 50 minutes before the exercise was to begin. It struck the Pentagon around 9:40 a.m., killing 64 aboard the plane and 125 on the ground.

The National Reconnaissance Office operates many of the nation's spy satellites. It draws its personnel from the military and the CIA.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, most of the 3,000 people who work at agency headquarters were sent home, save for some essential personnel, Haubold said.

An announcement for an upcoming homeland security conference in Chicago first noted the exercise.

In a promotion for speaker John Fulton, a CIA officer assigned as chief of NRO's strategic gaming division, the announcement says, "On the morning of September 11th 2001, Mr. Fulton and his team ... were running a pre-planned simulation to explore the emergency response issues that would be created if a plane were to strike a building. Little did they know that the scenario would come true in a dramatic way that day."

The conference is being run by the National Law Enforcement and Security Institute.

<http://www.thememoryhole.org/911/cia-simulation.htm>

Why were 3000 NRO employees sent home on 9/11?

today's question...

<http://www.questionsquestions.net/topics/question.html>

Brian Salter, qq editor

5 June 2003:

There have been a number of disinfo limited hangouts floating around, all of them designed to offer apparently revealing inside details of 9/11 but actually serving the purpose of whitewashing evidence of US govt. complicity. One which has been hanging around for a while centers on the terrorist training exercise that the NRO (National reconnaissance Office) had scheduled the same morning of the attacks. The super-secret NRO happens to be the agency which operates US spy satellites.

A mainstream article about it is here:

http://www.boston.com/news/packages/sept11/anniversary/wire_stories/0903_plane_exercise.htm

The limited hangout build around this is that the 9/11 "terrorists" somehow learned about the secret exercise in advance, and "piggybacked" their own attack on the same date in order to confuse US defences. This is used as a supposed explanation for lack of action on prior warnings, failure of air defences to operate, etc, on the assumption that military and intel personnel thought that everything going on was part of the the "exercise." I don't know of any serious 9/11 researcher who finds this a credible overall theory, given the fact that there is an abundance of evidence pointing beyond such a scenario, to official complicity and specific prior knowledge. This has been discussed very thoroughly among researchers.

That aside, there is an interesting detail in the above article:

"The National Reconnaissance Office operates many of the nation's spy satellites. It draws its personnel from the military and the CIA. After the Sept. 11 attacks, most of the 3,000 people who work at agency headquarters were sent home, save for some essential personnel, Haubold said."

Sent home... why??

Recently, I heard one alternative speculation about this which deserves some inquiry. Namely, that certain high-ranking NRO staff may have needed this time to eliminate or alter satellite surveillance of the Washington, DC area during the attacks. Note that it has been alleged for years that the US has 24 hour high resolution satellite monitoring of the capitol and surrounding regions, where critical government institutions are located. If so, there would then be a record of Flight 77's flight path and impact. Would there be something there to hide? With the recent 9/11 Commission hearings on 9/11 air defences having stirred up debate, this is perhaps something to consider.

<http://www.oilempire.us/nro.html>

Wargames Were Cover For the Operational Execution of 9/11

by Alex Jones & Paul Joseph Watson | Updated September 20 2004

For almost three years since 9/11 independent researchers have stockpiled individual smoking guns which prove that the official version of events was not only a lie but operationally impossible.

However, no single smoking gun has yet been forwarded to explain why air defenses categorically reversed Standard Operating Procedure and failed to respond to hijacked jetliners.

Until now. More and more individuals are looking at the facts and highlighting exercise drills that took place on the morning of 9/11.

It is clear that at least five if not six training exercises were in operation in the days leading up to and on the morning of 9/11. This meant that NORAD radar screens showed as many as 22 hijacked airliners at the same time. NORAD had been briefed that this was part of the exercise drill and therefore normal reactive procedure was forestalled and delayed.

The large numbers of 'blips' on NORAD screens that displayed both real and 'drill'

hijacked planes explain why confused press reports emerged hours after the attack stating that up to eight planes had been hijacked. [Article at:]

<http://www.rense.com/general13/up.htm>

The drill scenario also explains a comment made by air traffic control personnel which was featured in a July 2004 BBC television report. The controller is told that a hijacked airliner is heading for New York and responds by saying, "is this real world or an exercise?"

..... What were the drills called and what was their nature?

1) OPERATION NORTHERN VIGILANCE: This was planned months in advance of 9/11 and ensured that on the morning of 9/11, jet fighters were removed from patrolling the US east coast and sent to Alaska and Canada, therefore reducing the amount of fighter planes available to protect the east coast.

2) BIOWARFARE EXERCISE TRIPOD II: Alex Jones first reported on this back in May when Rudolph Giuliani let the details of it slip in his testimony to the 9/11 Commission. FEMA arrived in New York on September 10th to set up a command post located at Pier 29 under the auspices of a 'biowarfare exercise' scheduled for September 12. This explains why Tom Kenney of FEMA's National Urban Search and Rescue Team, told Dan Rather of CBS News that FEMA had arrived in New York on the night of September 10th. This was originally dismissed as a slip of the tongue. Giuliani was to use this post as a command post on 9/11 after he evacuated WTC Building 7. As we reported back in January, Giuliani knew when to leave WTC 7 because he got advanced warning that the Trade Towers were about to collapse. "We were operating out of there when we were told that the World Trade Center was gonna collapse," Rudolph Giuliani told Peter Jennings of ABC News. How did Giuliani know the towers were about to collapse when no steel building in history had previously collapsed from fire damage?

3) OPERATION VIGILANT GUARDIAN: This exercise simulated hijacked planes in the north eastern sector and started to coincide with 9/11. Lt. Col. Dawne Deskins, NORAD unit's airborne control and warning officer, was overseeing the exercise. At 8:40 am she took a call from Boston Center which said it had a hijacked airliner. Her first words, as quoted by Newhouse News Service were, "It must be part of the exercise." This is another example of how the numerous drills on the morning of 9/11 deliberately distracted NORAD so that the real hijacked planes couldn't be intercepted in time.

4) OPERATION NORTHERN GUARDIAN: The details of this exercise are still scant but it is considered to be part of Vigilant Guardian, relating to simulating hijacked planes in the north eastern sector.

5) OPERATION VIGILANT WARRIOR: This was referenced in Richard Clarke's book 'Against All Enemies.' It is thought to have been the 'attack' component of the Vigilant Guardian exercise.

Another example of how air defenses were purposefully kept preoccupied so they couldn't protect New York was reported by this website in December of 2003. The Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing, based at Atlantic City International Airport in Pomona, were just eight minutes away from New York

and could have intercepted both Flight 11 and Flight 175.

Under NORAD procedures that date to the Cold War, two F-16 fighters from the 177th were parked around the clock on the Atlantic City runway. Pilots waited in a nearby building, ready to scramble.

But on the morning of 9/11, the F-16's were performing bombing runs over an empty stretch of the Pine Barrens near Atlantic City after being decommissioned from their usual role of protecting the skies of the east coast.

It was only after both trade towers were hit that the two F-16s landed and were refitted with air-to-air missiles, then sent aloft.

Now that we have established how NORAD were confused, delayed and distracted by the numerous wargames, the next question to ask is who if anyone was aware of which planes were 'real world' and which planes were 'exercise'? The answer to this question will provide us with the name of the individual who ran the operational execution of the 9/11 attack.

Dick Cheney.

Cheney was initially taken by the secret service to an underground bunker in the White House called the Presidential Emergency Operations Center.

From there, according to CNN, Cheney directed the US government's response to the unfolding attack.

Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta was in the Presidential Emergency Operating Center with Vice President Cheney as Flight 77 approached Washington, D.C. On May 23, 2003 in front of the 9/11 Commission, Secretary Mineta testified:

"During the time that the airplane was coming in to the Pentagon, there was a young man who would come in and say to the Vice President, "The plane is 50 miles out." "The plane is 30 miles out." And when it got down to "the plane is 10 miles out," the young man also said to the Vice President, "Do the orders still stand?" And the Vice President turned and whipped his neck around and said, "Of course the orders still stand. Have you heard anything to the contrary?"

As the plane in question hit the Pentagon, what else can we conclude but that the 'order' was not to shoot down the aircraft and to let it find its target.

Mineta stated that he did not know what the 'order' was because he wasn't there when it was made.

After the Pentagon was hit, Cheney was transferred to another bunker in what the Philadelphia Daily News describes as 'the underground Pentagon'.

Site R, a highly secure complex of buildings inside Raven Rock Mountain near Blue Ridge Summit, Pa., close to the Maryland-Pennsylvania state line and about seven miles north of Camp David, is a 53-year-old facility conceived at the start of the Cold War as an alternate command center in the event of nuclear war or an attack on Washington.

The bunker is built into a mountain hillside and is virtually camouflaged to the naked eye. The location betrays itself by the vast gaggle of satellites, microwave towers and antennae that festoon the perimeter. Inside the facility there are computer filled caverns and communication and tracking technology that would put a James Bond movie to shame.

The entire facility is guarded by heavily armed military police.

Within hours of 9/11 unfolding, five choppers had landed on the facility's helipad and top officials such as Paul Wolfowitz were ushered in to join Cheney in the command bunker.

Site R -- also known as Raven Rock or the Alternate Joint Communications Center is from where vice-President Dick Cheney ran the aftermath of the 9/11 attack. Cheney's command superceded the orders of the Pentagon, the FAA or the White House. He is the number one suspect in the murder of nearly 3,000 innocent people.

In May of 2001, by presidential order, Cheney was handed direct control of all wargame and drill operations. This meant he was solely in charge of the overlapping NORAD drills and wargames on the morning of 9/11, that prevented Standard Operating Procedure from being implemented, and any of the hijacked planes being intercepted.

The smoking guns of 9/11 are no longer disparate jigsaw pieces that serve to just raise more questions than they answer. We now have a coherent and plausible explanation of how the events unfolded, why there was no air defense response, and a prime suspect as to who executed these actions. The facts fit this version of events.

The 9/11 truth movement has just taken a giant leap towards dismantling the lies of September 11 and finally offering justice for those who lost their lives on that terrible day.

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/september2004/080904wargamescover.htm>

FEMA in NYC Prior to 9-11 for Project TRIPOD Terror Drill,

Scheduled for 9-12

By Gregor Holland

As of this writing, June 2, 2004, the transcript of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani's testimony to the 9-11 Commission during the May 18-19, 2004 hearings in New York is the only transcript of that hearing omitted from the Commission website (<http://www.9-11commission.gov>).

Did Rudy say something wrong?

In case you missed it live, you can listen to his testimony in full at the WNYC radio website at: <http://www.wnyc.org/news/articles/28147>. As Giuliani recounts his experience of the day of 9/11, and the evolving location of the Emergency Command Center that morning, you might want to pay special attention to what he says at the end of his prepared statement:

"... the reason Pier 92 was selected as a command center was because on the next day, on September 12, Pier 92 was going to have a drill, it had hundreds of people here, from FEMA, from the Federal Government, from the State, from the State Emergency Management Office, and they were getting ready for a drill for biochemical attack. So that was gonna be the place they were going to have the drill. The equipment was already there, so we were able to establish a command center there, within three days, that was two and a half to three times bigger than the command center that we had lost at 7 World Trade Center. And it was from there that the rest of the search and rescue effort was completed."

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL0406/S00031.htm>

9/11 War Games Questioned and War Game Nicknames Defined

9/11 Wargames & Terror Drills:

"Mr. Secretary, after the last Hearing, I thought that my office was promised a written response to my question regarding the four wargames on September 11th. I have not yet received that response, but would like for you to respond to the questions that I've put to you today. And then I do expect the written response to my previous question"

-- Representative Cynthia McKinney asking Donald Rumsfeld about the coincidental wargames that were running on 9/11.

VIDEO:

Cynthia McKinney questioning Donald Rumsfeld (From January (Feb?), 2005, 2 min): <http://fromthewilderness.com/mp3/McKinney.rm>

VIDEO:

(from the quote above) of McKinney asking Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers, and Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Tina Jonas questions about Dyncorp slave rings, the 3 trillion missing from the pentagon, and 9/11 wargames. From House Hearing FY06 (Dept. of Defense Budget) March 11th, 2005:

<http://www.spiegeltech.com/media/McKinney2.rm> (8 minutes long)

The transcript can be read here:

<http://www.911citizenswatch.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=500>

Agency planned exercise on Sept. 11 built around a plane crashing into a building --

Associated Press:

<http://newsmine.org/archive/9-11/questions/coincidental-911-exercise.txt>

The lost "terror drill"? Pt.11 (A), By Nico Haupt

<http://inn.globalfreepress.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=1073>

Exercise Naming Conventions:

The terms used for NORAD exercises have specific meanings. Per NORAD Instruction 33-7:

“Nicknames: A combination of two separate unclassified words which is assigned an unclassified meaning and is employed for unclassified administration, morale or public information. The first word must begin with the combination of letters of the alphabet allocated to the using agency.” A nickname is used exclusively to designate a drill, or exercise. Exercise terms are used to prevent confusion between exercise directives with actual operations.”

Ç9; Vigilant or Amalgam means it is a HQ NORAD sponsored exercise. Ç9; Guardian means it is a multi-command CPX, or command post exercise (no live-fly).

Which means that on 9/11 NORAD should have been conducting a NORADwide, multicommand, command post exercise with no live-fly.

Other exercise terms include: Ç9; Warrior = JCS/HQ NORAD sponsored FTX, or field training exercise (live-fly) (Source: Arias Donald C Maj 1AF/PA [Donald.Arias@tyndall.af.mil] Crossing the Rubicon)

Vigilant Guardian: Reflected a cold war mind-set: NORAD Participants practiced for an attack across the North Pole by Russian forces. September 11 was Day II of ‘Vigilant Guardian,’ an exercise that would pose an imaginary crisis, including the hijacking of commercial airliners, to North American Air defense outposts nationwide. (Source: multiple press sources including Aviation News, Newhouse News, Crossing the Rubicon)

Vigilant Warrior: According to Arias Donald C Maj 1AF/PA, Vigilant Warrior was a Joint Chiefs live-fly hijack drill. (Source: Richard Clarke, p. 5 of his book Against All Enemies and in Crossing the Rubicon)

Northern Guardian: Exercise on 911. (Source: Toronto Star, Dec. 9, 2001)

Northern Vigilance: Live-fly and Simulated exercise in Alaska and Canada. NORAD states Northern Vigilance was a redeployment of fighter resources to northern Canada and Alaska for an old DEW [Distant Early Warning] line, over the pole, Russian Bear bomber attack, which was also going on, on 9/11. (Source: Toronto Star, Dec. 9, 2001, NORAD website)

Tripod II: Exercise on 911 involving the Justice Department and New York City and State authorities. It had nothing to do with hijackings but was instead an exercise focused on a biowarfare attack that had been set up on New York’s Pier 29, about two miles from the World Trade Center. (Source: Rudy Giuliani, 911 Commission testimony)

Unnamed: The National Reconnaissance Office, a joint creation of the CIA and the air force that operates US spy satellites, was also running an exercise on September 11th. This one happened to involve a plane crashing into the headquarters of the ultra-secret agency in the Washington, DC suburb of Chantilly, Virginia, just outside Dulles International airport, the origin of Flight 77. (Source: Associated Press Aug. 21, 2002; Mr. John Fulton of the CIA)

Source: Culhavoc from Deadline Live's Message Board
<http://www.phpbbserver.com/phpbb/viewtopic.php?p=7202&highlight=&mforum=jackblood#7202>

12.16 Not One of the Four Hijacked 9/11 Pilots Threw the Hijack Code

EXCERPT of INTERVIEW:

Commander Ted Muga, U.S. Navy (ret)

Retired Naval Aviator (Grumman E-1 and E-2). Retired Pan-Am commercial airline pilot (Boeing 707 and 727).

And also in all four planes, if you remember, none of the planes ever switched on their transponder to the hijack code. There's a very, very simple code that you put in if you suspect that your plane is being hijacked. It takes literally just a split-second for you to put your hand down on the center console and flip it over. And not one of the four planes ever transponded a hijack code, which is most, most unusual. ...

Alex Jones Show 4/11/07

Appears half way through the second hour segment at

<http://www.realradioarchives.com/sound-2.htm>

Pilots of All Four Hijacked Planes Fail to Punch Standard Distress Code

(8:13 a.m.-9:28 a.m.) September 11, 2001

In the event of a hijacking, all airline pilots are trained to key an emergency four-digit code into their plane's transponder. This would surreptitiously alert air traffic controllers, causing the letters "HJCK" to appear on their screens. [CNN, 9/13/2001; Newsday, 9/13/2001; News (Portugal), 8/3/2002; 9/11 Commission, 7/24/2004, pp. 17-18]

The action, which pilots should take the moment a hijack situation is known, only takes seconds to perform. [Christian Science Monitor, 9/12/2001; CNN, 9/12/2001]

Yet during the hijackings of flights 11, 175, 77, and 93, none of the pilots do this. [CNN, 9/11/2001]

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/context.jsp?item=a813nodistresscode>

FBI Arrives at Boston Air Traffic Control Center Within "Minutes"

Soon after 8:46 a.m. September 11, 2001

The FBI arrives at the FAA's Boston Center, in Nashua, New Hampshire, "minutes after Flight 11 crashed into the World Trade Center," [**before the second tower is hit**] and seizes tape recordings of radio transmissions from the hijacked plane. Boston Center handled Flight 11, and recorded intermittent radio transmissions from its cockpit (see (After 8:14 a.m.-8:38 a.m.) September 11, 2001). [Christian

Science Monitor, 9/13/2001] According to FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown, the FAA has to turn over all its records from 9/11 to the FBI immediately afterwards. She says it is not unusual for the FAA to turn over its records after a major disaster, but normally this is to the National Transportation Safety Board, not the FBI. [Griffin, 2004, pp. 185]

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/context.jsp?item=a813nodistresscode>

Flight Attendants on All Four Flights Also Fail to Punch the Hijack Code

The [9/11] Commission believes that the Flight 11 "hijacking began at 8:14 or shortly thereafter," then supposedly a flight attendant notified American Airlines via telephone of the hijacking at 8:19 while the transponder was turned off at 8:21.

Despite the mayhem aboard, no crew member ever punched in the universal four-digit code available at multiple locations for a hijack in progress.

In fact, it never happened on any of the four alleged flights. How'd that happen?

The Report claims that American Flight 77 out of Dulles airport had U-turned and traveled undetected for 36 minutes on a course heading due east for Washington, DC. Even I don't believe government is that incompetent, yet the Commission sticks to its scrubbed-up version of the official story throughout. The alleged hijacker-pilot of Flight 77, Hani Hanjour, who even the Commission could not disguise as anything but "a terrible pilot" whose work was "well below standard" according to his instructors, comes in at 7,000 feet and then does a "330-degree turn. At the end of the turn, it was descending through 2,200 feet... Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, traveling at approximately 530 miles per hour." Very impressive flying for a beginner behind a big Boeing, wouldn't you say? I wonder if the Commissioners have ever driven a car or motorcycle over 120 mph? They only have one engine but things sure speed up, I can testify, compressing decision-making times drastically. You'd better be quick at good decisions or you lose control in a hurry. How could a guy like Hanjour pull this off? He couldn't. Impossible.

According to the Commission's account, Flight 77's transponder had been turned off at 8:56. Hey guys, that's a felony, and under routine FAA and NORAD procedures, an unresponsive aircraft would have warranted a fighter interceptor immediately. But somehow that September day was different and the plane reportedly was never intercepted and supposedly crashed into the Pentagon 41 minutes later, leaving not a trace after slithering through an 18 foot hole in the wall. Not even the merest scrape on the lawn. That's the Commission's story and they're sticking to it. Uh huh. Despite a fallen Pentagon façade, even the photo shown on p. 313 of the Report offers little support for the "Flight (of fancy) 77" theory. Hanjour flew miraculously and then suspended the laws of physics too!

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig4/reynolds6.html>

EXCERPT: "Home Run" Auto Pilot and the Override of the Hijack Codes

Most readers will have heard of a "transponder," prominent in most news reports immediately following the attacks on New York and Washington. Technically a transponder is a combined radio transmitter and receiver which operates

automatically, in this case relaying data between the four aircraft and air traffic control on the ground. The signals sent provide a unique "identity" for each aircraft, essential in crowded airspace to avoid mid-air collisions, and equally essential for Home Run controllers trying to lock onto the correct aircraft. Once it has located the correct aircraft, Home Run "piggy backs" a data transmission onto the transponder channel and takes direct control from the ground. This explains why none of the aircraft sent a special "I have been hijacked" transponder code, despite multiple activation points on all four aircraft. Because the transponder frequency had already been piggy backed by Home Run, transmission of the special hijack code was rendered impossible. This was the first hard proof that the target aircraft had been hijacked electronically from the ground, rather than by [FBI-inspired] motley crews of Arabs toting penknives.

[NOTE: Full article appears in Reference 12.16]

<http://www.geocities.com/mknemesis/printer.html>

Israeli Special-Ops Passenger Shot or Stabbed by Hijackers?

(8:20 a.m.)

An FAA memo written on the evening of 9/11, and later leaked, suggests that a man on Flight 11 was shot and killed by a gun before the plane crashed into the WTC. The "Executive Summary," based on information relayed by a flight attendant to the American Airlines Operation Center, stated "that a passenger located in seat 10B [Satam Al Suqami] shot and killed a passenger in seat 9B [Daniel Lewin] at 9:20 am." (Note that since Flight 11 crashed at 8:46, the time must be a typo, probably meaning 8:20).

A report in Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz on September 17 identifies Lewin as a former member of the Israel Defense Force Sayeret Matkal, Israel's most successful special-operations unit. [United Press International, 3/6/2002]

Sayeret Matkal is a deep-penetration unit that has been involved in assassinations, the theft of foreign signals-intelligence materials, and the theft and destruction of foreign nuclear weaponry. Sayeret Matkal is best known for the 1976 rescue of 106 passengers at Entebbe Airport in Uganda. [New Yorker, 10/29/2001] Lewin founded Akamai, a successful computer company, and his connections to Sayeret Matkal remained hidden until the gun story became known. [Guardian, 9/15/2001]

FAA and American Airline officials later deny the gun story and suggest that Lewin was probably stabbed to death instead. [Washington Post, 3/2/2002; United Press International, 3/6/2002] Officials assert that the leaked document was a "first draft," and subsequently corrected, but declines to release the final draft, calling it "protected information." However, an FAA official present when the memo was drafted will dispute the FAA's claim, asserting that "[t]he document was reviewed for accuracy by a number of people in the room, including myself and a couple of managers of the operations center." [WorldNetDaily, 3/7/2002]

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?day_of_9/11=aa11&timeline=complete_911_timeline

[Back](#)

12.17 Dov Zakheim:

A PNAC Member of Special Interest

Pentagon Comptroller and CEO of System Planning Corporation International

Missing Trillions

The Promotion of High-End, Multiple Aircraft Remote Control Technology

Rumsfeld Buries Admission of Missing Two-Plus Trillion Dollars in 9/10/01 Press Conference

On September 10, 2001, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld held a press conference to disclose that over \$2,000,000,000,000 in Pentagon funds could not be accounted for. Rumsfeld stated: "According to some estimates we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions." According to a report by the Inspector General, the Pentagon cannot account for 25 percent of what it spends. 1 2

Such a disclosure normally might have sparked a huge scandal. However, the commencement of the attack on New York City and Washington in the morning would assure that the story remained buried. To the trillions already missing from the coffers, an obedient Congress terrorized by anthrax attacks would add billions more in appropriations to fight the "War on Terror."

The Comptroller of the Pentagon at the time of the attack was Dov Zakheim, who was appointed in May of 2001. Before becoming the Pentagon's money-manager, he was an executive at System Planning Corporation, a defense contractor specializing in electronic warfare technologies including remote-controlled aircraft systems. 3 4 Zakheim is a member of the Project for a New American Century and participated in the creation of its 2000 position paper Rebuilding America's Defenses which called for "a New Pearl Harbor." 5

Estimates of the sums of money missing vary wildly. A 2003 report put the amount missing at "more than a trillion dollars." 6

References

1. The War On Waste, CBSnews.com, 1/29/02 [cached]
2. Vince Gonzales Investigates The Pentagon's War On Waste, CBSNews,
3. Radar Physics Group, sysplan.com, [cached]
4. Flight Termination System, sysplan.com, [cached]
5. Profile, Dov S. Zakheim, rightweb.irc-online.org, 11/22/03 [cached]
6. Military waste under fire: \$1 trillion missing, San Francisco Chronicle, 7-18-03

<http://911research.wtc7.net/sept11/trillions.html>

VIDEO: CBS News Report on Missing Trillions

It's all about waste and inefficiency, and therefore important to remember: There is no possibility that any of our taxes are being purposefully diverted to "Off the Books" Projects.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj1rT4bszWg>

Profile: Dov S. Zakheim

From SourceWatch

Dr. Dov S. Zakheim left his position as Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in April 2004. [1] [2]

Dov S. Zakheim, when nominated to the Department of Defense by President George W. Bush, was CEO of SPC International (System Planning Corporation International) and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).[3]

He is also a director of Search for Common Ground.

Caryn Litt writes: "A Republican, Zakheim joined the Department of Defense in 1981, under then President Ronald Reagan. He was responsible for such tasks as preparing defense planning guidance for nuclear war.

"Zakheim, known as a conservative thinker on defense and national security issues, was invited, in 1999, to serve on the 'Vulcans,' a volunteer team of foreign policy experts that advised then Texas Governor George W. Bush on international affairs.

"Zakheim was sworn in as the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Defense on May 4, 2001. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, impressed with Zakheim's experience with ballistic missile proliferation and his recognition of the importance of space in military affairs, had asked Zakheim to take on the position.

"As Chief Financial Officer, Zakheim's priority has been financial management. Because of the war in Afghanistan, his office has been forced to prepare five budgets in less than a year, including the recent \$20 billion supplemental war package.

"Zakheim's regions of expertise are Western Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia, and he is considered an expert on domestic Israeli politics. He is frequently called on to provide Israeli political commentary as well as commentary on national defense and foreign policy issues. He has appeared on numerous television networks and programs, such as Larry King Live and the McNeil-Lehrer Newshour.

"A graduate of Columbia University with a bachelor's in government, Zakheim earned his doctorate in economics and politics at Oxford."

In 1998, the Committee for Peace and Security in the Gulf sent an "open letter to then president Bill Clinton for Washington to adopt a 'comprehensive political and military strategy for bringing down Saddam and his regime,' centred on support for the INC (Iraqi National Congress) and US air power.

"That 1998 letter was signed by many of the charter members of PNAC (Project for the New American Century), including Donald H. Rumsfeld, and four of his top deputies at the Pentagon, Paul Dundes Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith, Dov S. Zakheim, and Peter W. Rodman."

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Dov_S._Zakheim

System Planning Corporation Promotes Its Flight Termination System

System Planning Corporation's is proud to offer the Flight Termination System (FTS), a fully redundant turnkey range safety and test system for remote control and flight termination of airborne test vehicles. The FTS consists of SPC's Command Transmitter System (CTS) and custom control, interface, and monitoring subsystems. The system is fully programmable and is flexible enough to meet the changing and challenging requirements of today's modern test ranges.

The FTS is generally deployed in one of two configurations:

- Ø Multi-Site System: a network of multiple CTS units spread over a large geographic area
- Ø Multi-Control System: multiple operator consoles sharing control of a single CTS unit

Multi-Site System

Because many installations require several remote CTS units that can be controlled from either the remote site or a centralized site, the FTS has been developed to control a fully redundant automated network of transmitters. The system can be configured to operate as a single local site or with up to eight remote sights over an extended range. Each CTS unit may be controlled locally (manually), or as part of the larger FTS system. The fully redundant central control unit also supports either manual or automated modes of operation.

Mission logging is performed by the Range Monitor, an independent subsystem which monitors commands to the CTS as well as transmitted RF tones. All activity is recorded for post-mission analysis.

One of FTS's major strengths is its flexibility. A fully programmable command library provides a variety of mission-specific command tones in addition to the required Command Destruct sequence.

- Ø Multi-site configuration
- Ø Multi-control configuration

Download brochure for complete system or RF subsystem.

<http://www.sysplan.com/Radar/FTS>

Recherché du Trillions Perdu

By Jerry Mazza
Online Journal Associate Editor

Jul 20, 2006

Pardon my bebop French, paraphrasing Marcel Proust's famous novel, *Recherché Du Temps Perdu*, which is about his childhood memories flashed to life by a piece of tea-soaked toast whose taste reminds him of a childhood cookie. In my case, *Recherché du trillions perdu* (Remembrance of trillions lost) was triggered by

seeing that tidbit Donald Rumsfeld gave us on September 10, 2001: that the Pentagon could not account for \$2.3 trillion dollars. It had vanished in the rabbit hole and the story was buried the next day under the rubble of 911. Merde.

And in fact Rummy lamented that was \$8,000 for every man, woman and child in America. One Jim Minnery, a former marine turned whistle-blower, risked his job at the Defense Finance And Accounting Service when he asked about the millions missing from one defense agency's balance sheets. Minnery attempted to follow the money, criss-crossing the country looking for clues, only to have his boss look at him and say, "Why do you care about this stuff." He was reassigned and the booboo written off.

And the memory flashes forward to January 31, 2005, and the Pentagon announces that Rabbi Dov Zakheim, the Pentagon Comptroller, has Misplaced a Trillion Dollars. In fact, al Jazeera (of all news outlets) reported a "General Accounting Office report found Defence inventory systems so lax that the US Army lost track of 56 airplanes, 32 tanks and 36 Javelin missile command launch-units." How could all this have been lost in my memory? Of course, Rabbi Zakheim resigned, complaining that the pressure of keeping track of all that loot was too much trouble.

Yet this conflicts with other reports saying Dov was the Mastermind Behind 911.

[NOTE: Article reprinted below.]

On the web at:

<http://www.thetruthseeker.co.uk/print.asp?ID=1927&Pictures=Off>

In fact, the Stephen St. John Article tells us that Dov Zakheim was chief executive officer of System Planning Corporation's International Division, that is, yes it's all coming back now, till President George W. Bush made him undersecretary of defense and comptroller of the Pentagon. In fact, he rose like a star over the Pentagon's labyrinth of marble hallways, boardrooms, inner and innermost offices.

And if memory serves, before that, from 1985 to 1987, he was under secretary of defense for planning and resources, and held various senior Pentagon posts in the Reagan madhouse. Before that with the Congressional Budget Office. Then on to Corporate VP of Systems Planning Corporation, a high-tech research, analysis, and manufacturing firm, then Chief Executive Officer and President of SPC International, Inc. In 1998, Zakheim, expert in ballistic missiles, worked with the Rumsfeld Commission. And more, yes, he is a long-time Bush crony, policy advisor to Governor Bush in the 2000 campaign theft. Yes, it all comes back.

In fact, in addition to his System Planning Corporation stewardship, he co-authored the now infamous article, "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, forces and Resources for a New Century," published, yes, by The Project for a New American Century (PNAC) in September 2000, exactly a year before 9/11. In his piece, he gave us that now infamous page 51 on which he wrote that "the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event, like a new Pearl Harbor." Merde.

I'm aware this is old history but it's flashing back, saying look at me, don't forget.

SPC produced remote control airborne vehicle technologies, and Zakheim had the Pentagon means to pay for them. Also, System Planning Corporation markets the technology to take over the controls of an airborne vehicle already in flight. For example the Flight Termination System technology could literally hijack the hijackers and land the plane safely wherever it wanted.

The Flight Termination System can be used with the CTS technology that can actually control up to eight vehicles at the same time. Just go to SPC's site... It's all there, better than United Flight 93 or Oliver Stone's sleepy World Trade Center. It all comes back now: the technology developed in the late '70s after the first terror hijackings that then got into the wrong hands. And Zakheim's proximity to what Stephen St. John calls the Command Control Communications Network in DC interwoven with a cousin network of Zionic if not bionic neo-cons. Merde. Je ne suis pas fou. I am not crazy. They are.

And so one is left with that aftertaste of acrid smoke, lingering for months, a huge gray cloud hovering over the WTC ruin, the sharp blue sky of September, the white gold sun ennobling it with an eerie beauty even in catastrophe. One remembers, even when one wishes to forget. But remember we must, over and over, and learn the lesson, or be doomed to live it again. Merde.

Jerry Mazza is a freelance writer who lives in New York, not far from that huge hole in the city's soul. Reach him at. gvmaz@verizon.net.

http://onlinejournal.com/artman/publish/article_1015.shtml

Following Zakheim and Pentagon trillions to Israel and 9-11

By Jerry Mazza
Online Journal Associate Editor

Jul 31, 2006, 00:19

Think of this as part two of Recherche du trillions perdu, my Online Journal article on Dov Zakheim, former Bush appointee as Pentagon Comptroller from May 4, 2001 to March 10, 2004. At that time he was unable to explain the disappearance of \$1 trillion dollars. Actually, nearly three years earlier, Donald Rumsfeld announced on September 10, 2001 that an audit discovered \$2.3 trillion was also missing from the Pentagon books. That story, as I mentioned, was buried under 9-11's rubble. The two sums disappeared on Zakheim's watch.

Yet on May 6, 2004, Zakheim took a lucrative position at Booz Allen Hamilton, one of the most prestigious strategy consulting firms in the world. One of its clients then was Blessed Relief, a charity said to be a front for Osama bin Laden. Booz, Allen & Hamilton then also worked closely with DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which is the research arm of the Department of Defense. So the dark card was shifted to another part of the deck.

Judicial Inc's bio of Dov (linked below) tells us Zakheim was/is a dual Israeli/American citizen and an ordained rabbi and had been tracking the halls of US government for 25 years, casting defense policy and influence on Presidents Reagan, Clinton, Bush Sr. and Bush Jr. He is, as I described him earlier, the bionic Zionist. In fact, Judicial Inc points out that most of Israel's armaments were gotten thanks to him. Squads of US F-16 and F-15 were classified military surplus and sold to Israel at a fraction of their value.

Judicial Inc also points out that Israel, a country of 4.8 million Russian and Polish Jewish émigrés, flies on one of the biggest Air Forces in the world, thanks to Dov. Conflict of interest here? Depends on what you're interested in. That is, in 2001 Dov was CEO of SPS International, part of System Planning Corporation, a defense contractor majoring in electronic warfare technologies, including remote-controlled aircraft systems, and the notorious Flight Termination System (FTS) technology that could hijack even a hijacked plane and land or crash it wherever.

More from the resume: Wikipedia points out that Zakheim is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and in 2000 a co-author of the Project for the New American Century's position paper, *Rebuilding America's Defenses*, advocating the necessity for a Pearl-Harbor-like incident to mobilize the country into war with its enemies, mostly Middle Eastern Muslim nations. ...

Dov and the World Trade Center

Perhaps not coincidentally in May 2001, when Dov served at the Pentagon, it was an SPS (his firm's) subsidiary, Tridata Corporation, that oversaw the investigation of the first "terrorist" attack on the World Trade Center in 1993. This would have given them intimate knowledge of the security systems and structural blueprints of the World Trade Center. From the '90s through 2001, WTC Security was handled by Securacom, a Kuwait-American firm, on whose board Marvin Bush, the president's brother, sat. After 9/11, Securacom was let go, changed its name to Stratosec, and was delisted from the Stock Exchange in 2002.

According to Conspiracy News.net writers Shadow and 'Pax' in *Dov Zakheim and the 9/11 Conspiracy*, ([and I suggest you look at this link](#)):

<http://www.thetruthseeker.co.uk/article.asp?ID=2775>

Mirrored at:

http://911review.org/brad.com/batcave/Dov_Zakheim_911.html

"According to the SPC website (4), a recent customer at that time was Eglin AFB, located in Florida. Eglin is very near another Air Force base in Florida-MacDill AFB, where Dov Zakheim contracted to send at least 32 Boeing 767 aircraft, as part of the Boeing /Pentagon tanker lease agreement. (5)

"As the events of September 11, 2001 occurred, little was mentioned about these strange connections, and the possible motives and proximity of Dov Zakheim and his group. Since there was little physical evidence remaining after the events, investigators were left only with photographic and anecdotal evidence.

"There is a photograph of the Flight Termination System module, from their site.(5). Note it has a cylindrical shape, and is consistent with the size and shape of the object observed under the fuselage of flight 175.

"The Boeing lease deal involved the replacement of the aging KC-135 tanker fleet with these smaller, more efficient Boeing 767s that were to be leased by Dov Zakheim's group. The planes were to be refitted with refueling equipment, including lines and nozzle assemblies."

(Remember both Flight 175, that hit the South Tower, and Flight 11, that hit the North Tower, were Boeing 767s. Flights 77 and 93 were 757s.)

"In the enlargement of flight 175's photo, we can clearly see a cylindrical object under the fuselage, and a structure that appears to be attached to the right underside of the rear fuselage section.

"When seen in comparison, it is obvious that the plane approaching the Trade Center has both of these structures -- the FTS module and the midair refueling equipment, as configured on the modified Boeing 767 tankers. Of particular interest is the long tube-like anomalous structure under the rear fuselage area of flight 175-this structure runs along the right rear bottom of the plane, as it also does on the Boeing 767 refueling tanker pictured.

"After considering this information, I [the author/s] am convinced that flight 175, as pictured on the news media and official reports, was in fact a refitted Boeing 767 tanker, with a Flight Termination System attached. Use of this system would also explain the expert handling of aircraft observed in both New York and Washington investigations, which has been officially credited to inexperienced flight school students.

"Since the refitted 767s were able to carry both passengers and a fuel load, as shown in this photo, it is likely that the plane designated Flight 175 was in fact a refitted 767 tanker, disguised as a conventional commercial passenger plane.

"As shown in this photo of a 767 being serviced, the FTS unit, when in position, would be small and unobtrusive enough to be fairly innocuous (at least to casual observers, such as passengers). The smallest circle indicates the size and position of the anomaly depicted in the photos of Flight 175. The larger circle, which is the size of the engine housing, shows the size of the anomaly in relation to the engine. Note the size and position of the open hatches on the engine housing, which would tend to discredit the widely held theory that the anomaly is an open hatch or cargo door.

"As the . . . diagram shows, all flights involved in the events traveled very near many military installations, and appear to have traveled in a manner suggesting guidance and possible transfer of the control of the planes among the bases.

"Since the evidence from the World Trade Center site was quickly removed, there is little concrete evidence of the involvement of Dov Zakheim, who has since left his position at the Pentagon. However, the proximity of Eglin AFB to MacDill AFB in Florida and Dov Zakheim's work via SPC contracts and the Pentagon leasing agreement on both of these installations, combined with SPC's access to World Trade Center structural and security information from their Tridata investigation in 1993, is highly suspicious. Considering his access to Boeing 767 tankers, remote control flight systems, and his published views in the PNAC document, it seems very likely he is in fact a key figure in the alleged terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001."

EDITORIAL RESPONSE TO READERS' COMMENTS:

"In response to some of our readers who have questioned our premise that it was Rabbi Dov Zakheim who 'called for' the Pearl Harbor type of incident, we here at Conspiracy News Net acknowledge that the PNAC document was written by the

likes of William Kristol and Donald Kagan, and therefore as the real brains behind the agenda they are the ones calling for it in a literal sense. However, we do stand by our assertion that the Rabbi called for it as well, insofar that he signed his name onto this document. If he signed it he agrees with it and therefore he is calling for it.

"Some of you have argued that we are singling out Rabbi Zakheim because he is Jewish, implying that we are pushing some sort of twisted anti-Semitic agenda while noting that he is not the only one who signed the PNAC document and therefore wondering why our article is about him and not the others. We do not mean to imply that the Rabbi acted alone, our article simply points out that Rabbi Zakheim had access to things like structural integrity, blueprints and any number of important facets of information about the WTC through his work with TRIDATA CORPORATION in the investigation of the bombing of the WTC in 1993.

"That he had access to REMOTE CONTROL Technology through his work at System Planning Corporation (SPC). That he had access to BOEING AIRCRAFT through a lease deal HE BROKERED while working at the Pentagon.

" . . . Finally that he was part of a group of politically radical Straussian Neo-Conservatives, who, through their association with PNAC, called for restructuring of the Middle East, noting that a Pearl Harbor type of event MAY BE NEEDED to foster the frame of mind required for the American public to accept such a radical foreign policy agenda. In light of all this information we here at Conspiracy News Net stand by our statement that Mr. Zakheim not only called for the slamming of the WTC Towers on 9-11, but he actively took part in their demolition by providing the logistics necessary for such an attack to occur."

http://onlinejournal.com/artman/publish/article_1047.shtml

The Mastermind Behind 911?

Stephen St. John – APFN June 10, Updated Dec 17, 2004

With regard to Blueridge's reference to remote control of 9/11 flights, please check out System Planning Corporation of Alexandria, Virginia, at:

<http://www.sysplan.com>

System Planning Corporation designs, manufactures and distributes highly sophisticated technology that enables an operator to fly by remote control as many as eight different airborne vehicles at the same time from one position either on the ground or airborne. For those looking for an extraordinarily interesting hobby, please see photos and specs of this hardware (about the size of a small refrigerator) at www.sysplan.com/Radar/CTS

Just be sure your mom doesn't catch you causing havoc with the airlines.

Also, System Planning Corporation markets the technology to take over the controls of an airborne vehicle already in flight. For example, the Flight Termination System technology could hijack hijackers and bring the plane down safely. The Flight Termination System can be used in conjunction with the CTS technology that can control up to 8 airborne vehicles simultaneously. See:

<http://www.sysplan.com/Radar/FTS>

Unfortunately, these systems as of yet are not able to prevent lyrics such as "When you get caught between the moon and New York City"!

The possibility of nefarious use of these brilliant technologies developed and deployed by Systems Planning Corporation certainly deserves careful consideration in any full and impartial investigation of what actually took place on 9/11.....

http://disc.server.com/discussion.cgi?id=149495;article=57214;show_parent=1

Courtesy News Watcher and www.libertyforum.org

Postscript

In March this year, Rabbi Dov Zakheim resigned from his position at the Pentagon. Although he refused to tell journalists the exact reason for his departure, he hinted that his job as the Pentagon's chief financial officer, controlling the flow of hundreds of millions of dollars, was exhausting.....

Thereafter Zakheim took a lucrative position as a vice president of the consultancy Booz Allen Hamilton. According to a May 6, 2004 press release, he will be an officer in Booz Allen's "public sector" business.

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0709-06.htm>

Note:

"Booz, Allen, & Hamilton is a client for Blessed Relief, the charity said to be a front for Osama Bin Laden. Booz, Allen, & Hamilton also works closely with DARPA."

<http://www.thetruthseeker.co.uk/print.asp?ID=1927&Pictures=Off>

Hard to get a good photo of Mr. Zakheim. During the year of research devoted to this project -- his profile on the web has noticeably shrunk. You used to be able to access his biography on the Department of Defense website at:

http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/zakheim_bio.html

No longer.

"Home Run"

Electronically Hijacking the World Trade Center Attack Aircraft

Copyright Joe Vialls, October 2001 & January 2002

In the mid-seventies America faced a new and escalating crisis, with US commercial jets being hijacked for geopolitical purposes. Determined to gain the upper hand in this new form of aerial warfare, two American multinationals collaborated with the Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) on a project designed to facilitate the remote recovery of hijacked American aircraft. Brilliant both in concept and operation, "Home Run" [not its real code name] allowed

specialist ground controllers to listen in to cockpit conversations on the target aircraft, then take absolute control of its computerized flight control system by remote means.

From that point onwards, regardless of the wishes of the hijackers or flight deck crew, the hijacked aircraft could be recovered and landed automatically at an airport of choice, with no more difficulty than flying a radio-controlled model plane. The engineers had no idea that almost thirty years after its initial design, Home Run's top secret computer codes would be broken, and the system used to facilitate direct ground control of the four aircraft used in the high-profile attacks on New York and Washington on 11th September 2001.

Before moving on to the New York and Washington attacks, we first need to look at the ways in which an aircraft is normally controlled by its pilot, because without this basic knowledge, Home Run would make no sense. In order to control an aircraft in three-dimensional space, the pilot uses the control yoke (joystick) in front of him, rudder pedals under his feet, and a bank of engine throttles located at his side. Without engine thrust the aircraft would not fly at all, so the throttles are largely self explanatory: For more speed or altitude increase throttle, for less speed or altitude decrease throttle.

In order to raise or lower the nose of the aircraft, the pilot pulls or pushes on the control yoke, which in turn raises or lowers the elevators on the horizontal tailplane. To bank the aircraft left or right, the pilot moves the control yoke to the left or right, which in turn operates the ailerons on the outer wings. Lastly, to turn left or right at low speed or "balance" turns at high speed, the pilot presses the left or right rudder pedals as required, which in turn move the rudder on the vertical stabilizer.

Back in the early days of flight, the control yoke and rudder pedals were connected to the various flight control surfaces by thin cables, meaning the pilot had direct physical control over every movement the aircraft made. This was no great problem for an average man flying a small biplane, but as aircraft grew ever bigger, heavier and faster over the years, the loadings on the control yoke and rudder pedals became huge, certainly well beyond the ability of a single pilot to handle unaided.

By the late fifties we were well into the age of hydraulics, where just like the power steering on your automobile, hydraulic rams were placed in line between the pilot's control cables and each individual control surface. Now when the pilot moved the control yoke, the cables activated sensors, which in turn activated one or more hydraulic rams, which in turn moved one or more control surfaces. For the first time since Bleriot and the Wright brothers, pilots were of necessity being steadily distanced from direct control of their own aircraft.

When the multinationals and DARPA finally came on the scene in the mid-seventies, aircraft systems were even more advanced, with computers controlling onboard autopilots, which in turn were capable of controlling all of the onboard hydraulics. In combination these multiple different functions were now known as the "Flight Control System" or FCS, in turn integrated with sophisticated avionics capable of automatically landing the aircraft in zero visibility conditions. In summary, by the mid-seventies most of the large jets were capable of effectively navigating hundreds of miles and then making automatic landings at a selected airport in zero-zero fog conditions. All of this could be accomplished unaided, but

in theory at least, still under the watchful eyes of the flight deck crews.

In order to make Home Run truly effective, it had to be completely integrated with all onboard systems, and this could only be accomplished with a new aircraft design, several of which were on the drawing boards at that time. Under cover of extreme secrecy, the multinationals and DARPA went ahead on this basis and built "back doors" into the new computer designs. There were two very obvious hard requirements at this stage, the first a primary control channel for use in taking over the flight control system and flying the aircraft back to an airfield of choice, and secondly a covert audio channel for monitoring flight deck conversations. Once the primary channel was activated, all aircraft functions came under direct ground control, permanently removing the hijackers and pilots from the control loop.

Remember here, this was not a system designed to "undermine" the authority of the flight crews, but was put in place as a "doomsday" device in the event the hijackers started to shoot passengers or crew members, possibly including the pilots. Using the perfectly reasonable assumption that hijackers only carry a limited number of bullets, and many aircraft nowadays carry in excess of 300 passengers, Home Run could be used to fly all of the survivors to a friendly airport for a safe auto landing. So the system started out in life for the very best of reasons, but finally fell prey to security leaks, and eventually to compromised computer codes. In light of recent high-profile CIA and FBI spying trials, these leaks and compromised codes should come as no great surprise to anyone.

Activating the primary Home Run channel proved to be easy. Most readers will have heard of a "transponder," prominent in most news reports immediately following the attacks on New York and Washington. Technically a transponder is a combined radio transmitter and receiver which operates automatically, in this case relaying data between the four aircraft and air traffic control on the ground. The signals sent provide a unique "identity" for each aircraft, essential in crowded airspace to avoid mid-air collisions, and equally essential for Home Run controllers trying to lock onto the correct aircraft. Once it has located the correct aircraft, Home Run "piggy backs" a data transmission onto the transponder channel and takes direct control from the ground. This explains why none of the aircraft sent a special "I have been hijacked" transponder code, despite multiple activation points on all four aircraft. Because the transponder frequency had already been piggy backed by Home Run, transmission of the special hijack code was rendered impossible. This was the first hard proof that the target aircraft had been hijacked electronically from the ground, rather than by [FBI-inspired] motley crews of Arabs toting penknives.

The Home Run listening device on the flight deck utilizes the cockpit microphones that normally feed the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR), one of two black boxes armored to withstand heavy impact and thereby later give investigators significant clues to why the aircraft crashed. However, once hooked into Home Run, the CVRs are bypassed and voice transmissions are no longer recorded on the 30-minute endless loop recording tape. If Home Run is active for more than thirty minutes, there will therefore be no audible data on the Cockpit Voice Recorders. To date, crash investigators have recovered the CVRs from the Pentagon and [Pennsylvania] aircraft, and publicly confirmed that both are completely blank. The only possible reason for this, is data capture by Home Run, providing the final hard proof that the attack aircraft were hijacked electronically from the ground, rather than by "Arab terrorists."

Many readers might by now be indignant; convinced this is incorrect or misleading information because of "those telephone calls from the hijacked aircraft." Which telephone calls exactly? There are no records of any such calls, and the emotional claptrap the media fed you in the aftermath of the attack was in all cases third-person. We had the media's invisible "contact" at an airline who "said" a hostess called to report a hijacking, and we had a priest (?) who "said" he received a call from a man asking him in turn to call his wife and tell her he loved her.

Presumably this man would have had his wife's name filed in his cellphone, and faced with imminent death would have called her direct. The FAA helped out by claiming that it had "overheard" a heated argument from a cockpit where the radio transmit switch had been left in the "on" position. When push came to shove, the FAA was forced to retract, and admit that the mythical argument was not on the tapes at all.

Critically, the passenger manifests for all four aircraft serve as the final (independent) proof that no alleged hijackers or anyone of Arabic name boarded any of the four aircraft used in the attacks. As Laurence T. May points out:

"On September 11, airline check-in counters were the only places in the United States that required travellers to present a photo ID in order to travel. A photo ID meant (and still means) a card issued by some branch of civil government. Years ago, the United States government took the first step toward a national ID card when it mandated the requirement that all passengers present a photo ID card before being allowed to get on a commercial airplane.

"This means that the tightest security that the typical American ever confronts is airport security. This is the model for all other security systems governing the general public. Let's go through the check-in routine together. Pretend that it's September 11, and you are a check-in agent at either a United Airlines counter or an American Airlines counter. It is your job to ask the standard questions. "Did you pack your own luggage? Have you had it in your possession at all times?" Then you ask for a photo ID. The name on the ID must match the name on the ticket. The photo must match the person presenting the card." And, you guessed it, the name on the ID must match that on the passenger manifest held by the airline ground staff! It seems highly likely that these revealing passenger manifests will magically disappear when the American Government realizes the dangers of allowing the public access to such incriminating documents. For that reason I have listed the full manifests on a separate page. To visit that page and copy the lists, [click here](#).

Whether more information will be forthcoming about Home Run is unknown, but nowadays there are large numbers of people apart from the author privy to the basic data. As long ago as the early nineties, a major European flag carrier acquired the information and was seriously alarmed that one of its own aircraft might be "rescued" by the Americans without its authority. Accordingly, this flag carrier completely stripped the American flight control computers out of its entire fleet, and replaced them with a home grown version. These aircraft are now effectively impregnable to penetration by Home Run, but that is more than can be said for the American aircraft fleet.

A casual count indicates that more than 600 aircraft in the USA and elsewhere are

still vulnerable and could be used in further attacks at any time, which might help explain why America has been bombing the Afghans primarily with bags of wheat. For the first time in US history, American officials appear to be genuinely fearful of future reprisals, and justifiably so with 600 giant bombs parked on the wrong side of their missile defence shield.

It is a "Catch 22" situation. In order to make all of the aircraft safe, the flight control systems would have to be stripped out and replaced, at a cost of billions of dollars the airlines cannot afford because they are going broke. Nor is there enough time. The most innovative anti-hijacking tool in the American arsenal, has now become the biggest known threat to American national security.

For the purpose of public reassurance I would like to publish a complete list of aircraft which cannot be affected by Home Run, but I cannot do so for legal reasons. Any aircraft manufacturer not on the list might feel inclined to sue me for defamation and I can't afford that. However, there is nothing to stop me publishing my personal choice of aircraft for a flight from, say, Atlanta to Singapore via JFK, Frankfurt, and Kuala Lumpur.

From Atlanta to JFK I would probably travel on a Boeing 737, and connect with a Boeing 777 for the onward flight to Frankfurt. At Frankfurt I would probably board an Airbus A340 for Kuala Lumpur, and finish the journey on a DC9 or a Fokker 100. Naturally I might be unlucky and pick an aircraft with an intoxicated pilot, or an unrelated mechanical problem, but apart from those minor risks I'd feel pretty safe.

15 October 2001

After this page had been hit on by more than 10,000 curious visitors, the current issue of "Business Week" (22 September) decided to publish an unusual letter, suggesting that the events of the 11th of September would have ended rather differently if there was a capability for Ground Tower Control to "take over the controls of a hijacked plane" (issue still available at any US newsagent).

Remember, the American Federal Government kept Reagan National airport in downtown Washington, DC shut, despite the fact that none of the "hijacked" planes came from there. However, if it were possible to "take over the controls" of a plane, then it would take less than a minute for planes close to DCA airport to be diverted to a target anywhere in the capital. There were just two aircraft types involved on the 11th of September.

Eventually, after much reluctance, the government has now opened up Reagan National airport again, but ONLY for planes with less than 156 seats. Now what kind of planes previously operating happily out of Reagan National will this new "seating" restriction exclude? Hint: Among a few others, the Boeing 757 and 767.

Cynics might be tempted to conclude that, as usual, "important" politicians and bureaucrats are being provided with discreet special protection from Home Run, while everyday Americans are left to take their chances as best they can, and run the continual risk of being shot down by one of their own F16 fighters. Ignorance may be bliss for some folk, but not for those who have studied this page and realized the implications.

18 October 2001

Suddenly, more than five weeks after the attack and for no apparent reason, the most powerful newspaper in the western world published a major article "reinforcing" the myth that physical hijackers were responsible for the attacks on 11 September. No hard facts of course, no corroboration at all, just the usual pathetic series of media "sources", all of them far too "secret" to reveal.

Within hours of this newspaper going to press, television reporters across the entire western world repeated the fiction to their own viewing publics. From London in England to Sydney in Australia, everyone woke to this new "proof" that Arabs were the real culprits. Never mind public safety, please believe what we, your trusted and experienced news peddlers, are telling you. To read the propaganda, [click here](#).

20 January 2002

In his interview with the German daily "Tagesspiegel" on January 13th, former German Secretary of Defence Andreas Von Buelow made the following statement:-

"There is also the theory of one British flight engineer: According to this, the steering of the planes was perhaps taken out of the pilots' hands, from outside. The Americans had developed a method in the 1970s, whereby they could rescue hijacked planes by intervening into the computer piloting [automatic pilot system]. This theory says, this technique was abused in this case..."

Not quite so much a theory as might first appear. When I released the above report about "Home Run" remote control in October 2001, I mentioned that one European flag carrier was aware of the technology, though at that precise point in time I thought it prudent not to name the actual airline:

"As long ago as the early nineties, a major European flag carrier acquired the information and was seriously alarmed that one of its own aircraft might be "rescued" by the Americans without its authority. Accordingly, this flag carrier completely stripped the American flight control computers out of its entire fleet, and replaced them with a home grown version. These aircraft are now effectively impregnable to penetration by Home Run, but that is more than can be said for the American aircraft fleet..."

The European flag carrier which completely stripped the American flight computers out of its aircraft was Lufthansa, the German national airline. Bearing in mind his former posts as Secretary of Defence and Minister of Science and Technology, Herr Von Buelow would have known all about this mammoth but secretive task.

How very clever (and discreet) of Von Buelow to sort of "drop the information" into the middle of an interview about the 9/11 attacks!

NOTE: The author is a former member of the Society of Licenced Aeronautical Engineers & Technologists, London This report may be mirrored or copied unedited in the public interest

12.18 Pentagon: Human DNA Sturdier than the Vaporized Airplane

EXCERPT: Review of "The New Pearl Harbor" by David Ray Griffin

by Craig Paul Roberts

Contradictions in the official conspiracy theory leap off the pages and hit the reader in the face. For example, the evidence that Flight 77, a Boeing 757, crashed into the Pentagon is the government's claim to have obtained from the wreckage enough bodies and body parts to match the DNA for each person on the passenger list and flight crew. Simultaneously, the absence of passenger luggage, fuselage, wing and tail sections -- indeed the absence of a 100,000 pound airliner -- is attributed to the vaporization of the airplane due to the high speed crash and intense fire. The incompatibility of vaporized metal but recovered flesh and blood stood unnoticed until Griffin pointed it out.

Another striking inconsistency in the official conspiracy theory is the difference in the impact of airliners on the Pentagon and the WTC towers. In the case of the Pentagon, the emphasis is on why the airliner caused so little damage to the building. In the case of the WTC towers, the emphasis is why the airliners caused so much damage.

Perhaps it is merely a coincidence that just prior to 9/11 Cathleen P. Black, who has family connections to the CIA and Pentagon and is president of Hearst Magazines, the owner of Popular Mechanics, fired the magazine's editor-in-chief and several senior veteran staff members and installed James B. Meigs and Benjamin Chertoff, a cousin of Bush administration factotum Michael Chertoff. It was Meigs and Benjamin Chertoff who produced the Popular Mechanics report that Griffin has eviscerated.

In his conclusion Griffin reminds us that the 9/11 attack has been used to start wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, to plan an attack on Iran, to curtail constitutional protections and civil liberties in the US, to radically expand US military budgets and the power of the executive, and to enrich entrenched vested interests. Griffin is definitely correct about this regardless of whether a believable case can ever be made for the government's version of the 9/11 conspiracy.

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Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan Administration. He is the author of Supply-Side Revolution: An Insider's Account of Policymaking in Washington; Alienation and the Soviet Economy and Meltdown: Inside the Soviet Economy.

http://vdare.com/roberts/070326_evidence.htm

The Pentagon Attack Papers *****

**Seven Hours in September:
The Clock that Broke the Lie**

Appendix to

THE TERROR CONSPIRACY

by Jim Marrs

Publication date, Sept. 6, 2006

by Barbara Honegger, M.S.

Barbara Honegger, M.S. is Senior Military Affairs Journalist at the Naval Postgraduate School (1995-present), the Navy's advanced science, technology and national security affairs university. This research, as all of Honegger's research and publications on September 11, are solely in her capacity as a concerned private citizen and do not imply official endorsement. Honegger served as Special Assistant to the Assistant to the President and White House Policy Analyst (1981-83); was the pioneering Irangate author and whistleblower on the October Surprise (October Surprise, Tudor, 1989; and Iran-Contra expose documentary film "Cover-Up"); and was called as a researcher/witness at both the October 23, 2004, and August 27, 2005, Los Angeles Citizens 9/11 Grand Jury hearings held at Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles, Calif. Much of the information and analysis contained in this evidence summary was presented at the L.A. Citizens Grand Jury hearings and at the 9/11 Emergency Truth Convergence conference held at American University in Washington, D.C. in July, 2005.

The San Francisco Chronicle commemorated the 100th anniversary of The Great Earthquake of 1906 with a series of front-page articles headed by a single icon - a charred clock frozen at 5:12 am, the exact moment "The Big One" hit.[1] A century after that devastating event, the stopped clock serves as both the ultimate evidence and the symbol that "captures it all."

Again, almost 100 years later, clocks frozen in time at the Pentagon on the morning of September 11, 2001 both "capture it all" and are the ultimate evidence that shatters the "Official Lie" of what happened that terrible morning.

The Pentagon was first attacked at 9:32 am, much earlier than the 9/11 Commission and official cover story claim. (In this summary of evidence, the more precise time of 9:31:40 am is "rounded up" for ease of reference.)

The Pentagon and mainstream media first reported 9:43 as the time of alleged Flight 77 impact (some reports, presumably taken from official sources, were as late as 9:48 and 9:47). Over time, the time given by officials for the claimed outside impact on the building has been moved earlier and earlier, down to 9:37 (as of the time of this writing), but has never come close to the actual time of the first violent event at the Pentagon - 9:32.

Clearly, if the official story that Flight 77 hit the Pentagon at 9:37 were true, Flight 77 could not have been the source of massive damage to the west side of the building a minimum of five minutes earlier at 9:32.

Converging Lines of Proof of a 9:32 Violent Event at the Pentagon on September 11, well before the Official Story says anything hit the building:

Multiple standard-issue, battery-operated wall clocks on the walls of the area of the Pentagon attacked on 9/11 -including one in the heliport just outside the west

face- were stopped between 9:31 and 9:32-1/2 by a violent event, almost certainly a bomb or bombs inside the building and/or in a truck or construction trailer parked right outside the west face. The first Associated Press report, in fact, stated that the Pentagon had been damaged by a "booby trapped truck." The Navy posted the stopped heliport clock on an official website and another of the stopped clocks is in the 9/11 display at the Smithsonian Institution.[2] These are just some of the west section Pentagon clocks that stopped between 9:31 and 9:32-1/2 on September 11.

April Gallop, an Army employee with a Top Secret clearance, was at her desk in the Army administrative offices in the west section of the Pentagon on 9/11, the area of the building most heavily destroyed, when what she said sounded and felt "like a bomb" went off. "Being in the Army with the training I had, I know what a bomb sounds and acts like, especially the aftermath, and it sounded and acted like a bomb. There was no plane or plane parts inside the building, and no smell of jet fuel." Ms. Gallop still has the watch she was wearing that morning, which stopped shortly after 9:30.

The FAA's [Federal Aviation Administration] timeline document "Executive Summary-Chronology of a Multiple Hijacking Crisis--September 11, 2001" reads: "0932: ATC (Air Traffic Control) AEA reports aircraft crashes into west side of Pentagon." [3] The time is the critical fact here, not the claimed cause.

Denmark's soon-to-be Foreign Minister Per Stig Moller was in a building in Washington, D.C. on 9/11 from which he looked out, heard an explosion and saw the smoke first rise from the Pentagon. He immediately looked at his watch, which read 9:32 am. He gave radio interviews in Denmark the next morning in which he stated that the Pentagon had been attacked at 9:32.[4]

On August 27, 2002, then White House Counsel and now Attorney General Alberto Gonzales gave the Secretary of the Navy lecture at the Naval Postgraduate School in which Gonzales explicitly and clearly states that "The Pentagon was attacked at 9:32". A tape of this segment of his talk was played at the 9/11 Emergency Truth Convergence at American University in Washington, D.C. in July 2005, and is on the public record.

The Pentagon was attacked by bomb(s) at or around 9:32 am, possibly followed by an impact from an airborne object significantly smaller than Flight 77, a Boeing 757.

We have already seen that Army employee April Gallop, whose watch was stopped by the violent event at the Pentagon shortly after 9:30, says that her military training and experience led her to immediately determine the source of the initial explosion was a bomb.

I have interviewed an Army auditor from Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, who was on temporary duty assignment at the Pentagon before, on and after 9/11. He was in the Army financial management spaces only minutes before the Pentagon explosion on the morning of 9/11. He had just returned to his temporary office on the ground floor of the adjacent south side of the Pentagon by the cafeteria when he heard an explosion and felt the building shake. Immediately afterwards, he said, hundreds of panicked Pentagon personnel ran by him down the corridor just outside his office and out the South Entrance, yelling "Bombs!" and "A bomb went off!" The witness has requested that his name not be used in this summary, but is

willing to testify to a grand jury or independent official investigation.

This Army financial management/audit area is part of, or contiguous to, the Army personnel offices, which was one of two main west section offices heavily destroyed in the Pentagon attack, the other being the Naval Command Center. The day before 9/11, September 10, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld held a press conference at which he acknowledged that the Pentagon was "missing" -could not account for and needed to "find"- \$2.3 Trillion dollars (other reports said \$2.6 Trillion). Were the auditors who could "follow the money," and the computers whose data could help them do it, intentionally targeted? It is worth noting that the Pentagon's top financial officer at the time, Dov Zakheim, who also acknowledged the "missing" trillions, had a company that specializes in aircraft remote-control technology. As remnants found in the Pentagon wreckage have been identified as the front-hub assembly of the front compressor of a JT8D turbojet engine used in the A-3 Sky Warrior jet fighter,[5] and as Air Force A-3 Sky Warriors -normally piloted planes- were secretly retrofitted to be remote-controlled drones and fitted with missiles in a highly compartmented operation at an airport near Ft. Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport in Colorado in the months before 9/11,[6] the question further arises as to whether Pentagon auditors and their computerized data were intentionally targeted on 9/11.

The Ft. Monmouth Army auditor and his two colleagues were also eyewitnesses to multiple teams of bomb-sniffing dogs and their K-9 handlers in camouflage uniform at the Pentagon metro station just outside the Pentagon at approximately 7:30 am on 9/11. He said that K-9 bomb squads had not been at the Pentagon metro stop before 9/11, or since, but only that day. Since K-9 dog squads don't usually search for airliners, but bombs, a bomb attack was clearly anticipated. Ms. Gallop said she also saw the bomb sniffing K-9 teams that morning, from the top of the Pentagon metro stop looking down.

Survivor eyewitnesses from inside the west section of the Pentagon reported that the blast caused its windows first to expand outwards, and then inwards.[7]

Multiple witnesses said they smelled cordite after the initial explosion at the Pentagon, an explosive which has a distinct and very different smell from that of burning jet fuel.[8] And as we have already noted, Ms. Gallop said there was no smell of jet fuel inside the most damaged section of the building shortly after the first violent event that stopped her watch there shortly after 9:30.

Even Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld told Sam Donaldson in an ABC News interview shortly after 9/11 that he first thought a bomb had gone off in the building. Donaldson: "What did you think it was?" Rumsfeld: "A bomb? I had no idea..."

It is important to note that bomb explosion(s) at 9:32 am on the ground floor of the west section of the Pentagon are not inconsistent with there having also been a later, or even near-simultaneous, impact by some airborne object -- a piloted plane, unmanned drone, or missile -- into the same or nearby section of the building, which may have been the cause of the collapse of the west wall section approximately 20 minutes after the initial violent event. Indeed, if a heat-seeking missile hit the building after the bomb(s) went off, the heat from the explosion(s) would become the target for the missile. Recall that the A-3 Sky Warrior planes were retrofitted shortly before 9/11, not only enabling them to be remotely controlled but also fitted with missiles. The round-shaped exit hole in the inner

wall of the "C" Ring is evidence that a missile or a piloted or pilot-less remote-controlled plane significantly smaller than Flight 77 also struck the building subsequent to bombs going off and penetrated the inside of the third ring, as bomb detonations would not have resulted in such a near-symmetrical round-shaped opening.

I have interviewed the then Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations on 9/11, Robert Andrews -the top civilian official in charge of special operations under Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld- a former Green Beret whose office was on the second floor of the south section of the Pentagon, adjacent to the west section. While drawing the path that he took that morning on a sketch of the Pentagon, he revealed the following:

Immediately after the second World Trade Center attack of 9:03 am, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld left his office on the Potomac side of the Pentagon and went (merely) across the hall on the same floor to his Executive Support Center (ESC), which is set up for teleconferencing. There, he joined the teleconference of top government officials run by Richard Clarke out of the White House Situation Room media room. Clarke, in his book *Against All Enemies*, confirms that Rumsfeld was among the first officials on this teleconference shortly after the second WTC tower was hit. Clarke's account and Andrews' confirmation of it are completely at odds with the official cover story and the 9/11 Commission, which claim that no one could locate Secretary Rumsfeld until approximately 10:30 am when he walked into the National Military Command Center (NMCC). The fact that Rumsfeld, the military's top civilian official, was on Clarke's teleconference with the top official of the FAA, Director Jane Garvey, also puts the complete lie to the official cover story that Air Force interceptors weren't scrambled in time because the military and FAA "couldn't talk each other" on 9/11. The top-most officials of the Pentagon and FAA were talking to one another constantly on Clarke's teleconference from as early as 9:15. This taped Clarke teleconference is the "Butterfield tape" of 9/11. [During the 1970s Watergate scandal, secretly-made tapes of President Nixon's Oval Office conversations revealed by Alexander Butterfield were the "smoking guns" which forced Nixon to resign or face certain impeachment and trial in the Senate.]

Immediately after the second WTC tower was struck at 9:03 am, Andrews and his aide left his office and ran as fast as they could down to the Secretary of Defense's West section basement Counterterrorism Center (CTC), beneath the ground-level location of the violent event in the building that morning, arriving at approximately 9:10. While he and his aide were in this west side basement CTC, a violent event caused the ceiling tiles to fall off the ceiling and smoke to pour into the room. Andrews immediately looked at his watch, which read approximately 9:35 am but which was set fast to ensure timely arrival at meetings, so the actual time was closer to 9:32. He and his aide then immediately evacuated the CTC with the goal of joining Rumsfeld in his Executive Support Center (ESC) across the hall from Rumsfeld's main office. He said that Rumsfeld was already on the White House teleconference when they arrived. En route to Rumsfeld's ESC, Andrews said when he and his aide entered the corridor on the inside ring of the west section, "we had to walk over dead bodies" to get to the inner courtyard. (Note: This is two rings further in towards the center from the inner most hole made by whatever allegedly impacted the Pentagon that morning.)

Once in the inner courtyard, Andrews and his aide ran as fast as they could to Rumsfeld's Executive Support Center, where he joined Rumsfeld as his special

operations/counterterrorism adviser during Clarke's White House teleconference. Andrews also said that Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld spoke with President Bush while in the Pentagon Executive Support Center. Whether this was via the teleconference or by phone or other means was not stated. The fact that Rumsfeld personally communicated with Bush on 9/11 while Rumsfeld was in his Pentagon ESC was published on an official DoD web site.[9]

WTC janitor William "Willy" Rodriguez, the last non-emergency response person to leave the WTC alive on 9/11, has testified that he was in the first basement level of the WTC when an immense explosion went off below him in the yet-deeper subbasement level(s) of the building a few seconds before the plane hit the tower high above.[10] As Robert Andrews revealed that the west side basement level of the Pentagon was damaged at approximately 9:32 am and as we know that the cause of the 9:32 Pentagon attack was not an impact event but explosives, there are thus eye- and ear witness reports of bombs going off in both the Pentagon and the WTC underground level(s) before both buildings were hit by anything from the outside.

As no "outside" terrorist, al Qaeda or otherwise, could have had access to either the Pentagon or the sustained advance access needed to pre-place explosives inside the WTC, only domestic insiders could have pre-placed the explosives in both the Pentagon and the WTC. Further, because the WTC1 deep-basement explosions(s) experienced by Willy Rodriguez happened before the tower was hit by a plane; as any incoming plane not controlled by the same party that triggered the sub-basement detonation(s) could have veered off from the building at the last second, ruining the plane-impact-as-cover-story for the later building collapse; and as the sub-basement explosions were necessary for the actual later collapse of the buildings by controlled demolition, the same domestic-US insiders had to have controlled both the sub-basement detonations and the incoming plane(s). Thus, even if al Qaeda hijackers were on the incoming planes, they were not in final control of the impact of the planes into the buildings, which had to have been guaranteed by domestic/US insider controllers to ensure the sub-basement bombs didn't go off prematurely and destroy the plane-impact cover story. This fact is critical, as it takes jurisdiction for the mass murders at the WTC away from the Bush Administration's FBI, which oversees crimes committed in the air, and places it squarely with the State of New York, as murder is a State crime and multiple/mass murders are the sum of individual State crimes. Because the controllers of the timing of the basement level explosives had to have also been the controllers of the final approach of the planes, and the former was clearly on the ground and not in the air, a Manhattan grand jury can suddenly pull jurisdiction for the Bush-Cheney Reichstag Fire out of their hands.

Because the real modus operandi at the Pentagon and WTC are so similar, it is logical to deduce that the same domestic-US terrorists were responsible for pre-placing and detonating the bombs - both inside the WTC and inside the Pentagon. That is, a single group of US-domestic conspirators -not al Qaeda or any other outside terrorists- must have planned both the WTC and Pentagon attacks and controlled both the approaching planes and the inside-the-building explosions in real time on 9/11.

In addition to the already legion evidence that Flight 77 did not hit the Pentagon -- i.e. the small hole in the west side of the Pentagon being not nearly large enough for the plane's fuselage, let alone wing width; no damage to the lawn where Flight 77 allegedly struck and skidded before hitting the building; wrecked plane parts at

the site identified as being from an A-3 Sky Warrior, a far smaller plane than that of Flight 77, a Boeing 757; Pentagon requests to TV media on the morning of 9/11 not to take up-close images, etc. -- there is also official evidence that Flight 77 did not hit the building:

In the Air Force's own account of the events of 9/11, *Air War Over America*, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) general who finally ordered interceptor jets scrambled on 9/11, although too late, Gen. Larry Arnold, revealed that he ordered one of his jets to fly down low over the Pentagon shortly after the attack there that morning, and that this pilot reported back that there was no evidence that a plane had hit the building. This fighter jet -not Flight 77- is almost certainly the plane seen on the Dulles airport Air Traffic Controller's screen making a steep, high-speed 270-degree descent before disappearing from the radar. [When a plane flies low enough to go undetected, it is said to be "under the radar."] Military pilots -like the one sent by Gen. Arnold on 9/11 to report on the Pentagon's damage- are trained to fly 500 feet above ground in order to evade radar detection. In fact, when the Air Traffic Controller responsible for the plane and her colleagues watched the extremely difficult 270-degree maneuver on her screen, they were certain that the plane whose blip they were watching perform this extremely difficult feat was a US military aircraft, and said so at the time. It almost certainly was.

Thus, the likely reason the Pentagon has refused to lower the current official time for "Flight 77" impact, 9:37, to 9:32 am -the actual time of the first explosions there- is that they decided to pretend the blip represented by Arnold's surveillance jet approaching just before 9:37 was "Flight 77." As the official cover story claims that the alleged 9:37 impact was the only Pentagon attack that morning, yet by the time Arnold's surveillance jet arrived on the scene the violent event had already happened, the Pentagon cannot acknowledge the earlier 9:32 time without revealing an attack on the building prior to the alleged impact.

It is significant that the The 9/11 Commission Report ignores the testimony of Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta to its own commission and did this only for the testimony of Secretary Mineta. The clear reason for this blatant and targeted censorship is that Mineta's eyewitness testimony is extremely dangerous to the official cover story. The portion of Mineta's testimony that is particularly dangerous is his claim that Vice President Cheney, in charge in the Presidential Emergency Operations Center (PEOC) beneath the White House since before Mineta arrived in the PEOC at 9:20, insisted to an incredulous "young man" that "the orders (given earlier by Cheney to this same individual) still stand" when the man told Cheney that the presumed plane they had been tracking as a blip on a screen was 50, then 30, and finally just 10 miles from Washington - orders which could only have been not to shoot down the plane. Otherwise there would have been no reason for the agent to ask Cheney if they "still" stood, despite the plane's being almost upon the capital where Cheney himself was. This is critical because of the timing that can be inferred from Mineta's testimony: As Mineta arrived at the PEOC at 9:20 am, and as Mineta estimated the "still stand?" interaction between Cheney and the agent happened 5 to 6 minutes after that, or about 9:25, it can be inferred based on the officially given speed of the plane represented by the blip of 540 mph that whatever that fast- approaching blip represented, it arrived in the vicinity of the Pentagon at approximately 9:32 - nowhere close to the original official cover story time of 9:43, or even the six-minute-earlier time the Pentagon finally settled on for an alleged impact time of 9:37.

All of this also happened at 9:32:

- * After an inexplicable delay during which they knew that both WTC towers were under attack, the Secret Service suddenly acts as if the attacks are "real," rushing President Bush out of the library at the Florida school where he had been reading to children.
- * The firefighters are suddenly ordered out of WTC 1.
- * The New York Stock Exchange is ordered closed.
- * The takeover of Flight 93 begins with the stabbing of a flight attendant and one of the alleged hijackers announcing that there is a bomb on board, picked up by flight controllers.

Other relevant interviews:

I interviewed the famous "lone taxi driver" whose cab is the only car visible still parked on I-395 above the Pentagon lawn looking down at the west face after the other cars have left the freeway. This taxi can be seen in overhead photos taken on the morning of 9/11 and viewable on the Internet. The driver said his was the last car allowed onto that section of I-395 before police put up a barricade and that he decided not to immediately leave the scene like the others "because I realized this was history and I wanted to see for myself." He stated that he saw no evidence of a plane having impacted the building nor any visible plane pieces on the lawn at the time he arrived, which was after the first violent event in the building, as black smoke was streaming up and to the right from inside-the-building fires. The taxi cab driver drew a diagram of what he saw that morning while overlooking the Pentagon's west face from I-395.

I interviewed a Navy public affairs officer assigned to the Naval Command Center, one of the two major Pentagon west section areas destroyed on 9/11, the other being the Army Financial Management/Audit area as mentioned earlier. This officer was not in the building that morning but was quickly assigned as the deputy public affairs officer at the underground "back-up Pentagon" location in Pennsylvania close to the Maryland border, Site R. This eyewitness Navy officer inside Site R said Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and later Vice President Cheney were flown to the Site R underground bunker in response to Richard Clarke's officially declaring "Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operations" (COG/COOP) on the morning of 9/11. This is confirmed in Clarke's book, *Against All Enemies*, in which he reports that Rumsfeld chose Wolfowitz to be the designated COG/COOP official at Site R in his stead. Perhaps significantly, Site R and Camp David are not far from the crash site of Flight 93. Details about Site R, on and after 9/11, are also in James Bamford's book, *A Pretext for War*.

On February 4, 2004, I interviewed Air Force General Ralph Eberhart, Commander of NORAD on 9/11. To my knowledge, Gen. Eberhart has granted no other interview since the events of September 11. Before asking questions, I gave Gen. Eberhart copies of all the mainstream press articles published as of that date on the subject of the confusion of his NORAD Northeast Sector (NEADS) personnel who were running NORAD's "Vigilant Guardian/Vigilant Warrior" emergency response war game exercises that morning. As of the date of the interview, therefore, the then head of NORAD was made aware of the initial confusion by his own NEADS "game" players on 9/11 between incoming exercise

reports and incoming reports of the actual hijacks.

I first asked Gen. Eberhart if there was any connection between NORAD's "Vigilant Guardian/Vigilant Warrior" exercise being run on 9/11 and the plane-crashing-into-tower emergency response exercise simultaneously being held at National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) headquarters outside Washington, D.C.[12/first cite] He replied, "No." I was surprised at this, as a large portion of NRO personnel are from his own agency, the Air Force. I asked for reconfirmation, to which he again said, "No." Laying the ground for the next question, I mentioned that NEADS' "game" director Lt. Col. Dawne Deskins had said that she was confused as to whether initial reports of the hijacked planes on the morning of 9/11 were "real world" or "part of the game." This, I said, showed that the NORAD exercises that morning had to have been on a hijack scenario at least similar to the actual attacks, as otherwise there would have been no grounds for confusion. After considering this for a moment, Gen. Eberhart refused to answer any further questions and abruptly ended the interview.

In addition to the already well known and officially acknowledged evidence of Bush Administration foreknowledge of the broad outlines of the September 11 attacks -advance warnings from the intelligence agencies of as many as 11 foreign countries and the content of the now-famous August 6, 2001 presidential daily brief (whose 10-page attachment still has not been made public), etc.- there is strong evidence that Bush administration insiders had near perfect -if not complete- advance knowledge of both the details and the date of the September 11 attack:

(Note: That Bush Administration insiders had advance knowledge of the date and details of an "outside" attack is not inconsistent with these insiders having facilitated and even orchestrated the attacks. That is, the plot behind the attacks of September 11 is similar to that of the Reichstag fire, through which Hitler rapidly consolidated power. Like the Nazi-facilitated Reichstag fire, there was a real though highly-unlikely-to-succeed "outside" plot about which Administration insiders gained advance intelligence. They then secretly protected and enabled this plot to ensure that it not only succeeded, but succeeded spectacularly as the psychological operation needed to justify the entire subsequent Bush-Cheney global and domestic agenda.)

1) Shortly after September 11, Newsweek reported that before 9/11, the Bush Administration initiated a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court surveillance/tap of "up to 20" suspected al Qaeda-linked terrorists then in the US, but that then FISA Court Chief Justice Royce Lamberth subsequently ordered the then-already-ongoing surveillance stopped. This can only mean one thing - that the Bush Justice Dept./FBI/NSA initiated the tap before asking the FISA Court for a warrant for it, as with the now-famous post-9/11 NSA taps initiated by the Bush administration without first applying for FISA warrants.

As "up to 20" is a clever way of saying "19" without making the link to 9/11 explicit, the Bush Administration Justice Dept/FBI/NSA almost certainly initiated surveillance of all 19, or close to all 19, of the soon-to-be alleged 9/11 hijackers before 9/11. Though Judge Lamberth ordered the surveillance ended once the administration filed the formal warrant application, there is evidence that the Bush administration ignored his order to cease the tap and continued the surveillance of the alleged 9/11 hijackers up to and including the day of 9/11.

Zacarias Moussaoui -the only person indicted by the Bush Administration for anything even related to 9/11- has stated in court filings that both he "and my (al Qaeda) brothers" then in the US were surveilled by the Bush administration before 9/11 and that the Bush administration knows he can prove it. How could this be the case? If Moussaoui was one of the "up to 20" al Qaeda-linked terrorist suspects they surveilled before 9/11 without an advance FISA warrant as reported by Newsweek, then Moussaoui was also one of the "up to 20" whose taps Judge Lamberth ordered stopped. Moussaoui, after all, was originally named as the "20th hijacker" of the 9/11 plot. Amazingly, the FISA Act requires that, if the FISA Court rejects a surveillance initiated before a warrant has been applied for, as in this case, the court has to inform the "target" of the surveillance and give him the government's stated reason for the tap in the surveillance application. Moussaoui says that he can "prove" the Bush administration/FBI initiated surveillance on him before 9/11 because, it can be deduced, the FISA Court itself told him so after Lamberth ordered his --and those of the other "up to 20"-- surveillance ended.

If this is the case, it opens the very real possibility that the FISA Court likewise informed most or all 19 of the "up to 20" alleged 9/11 hijackers before 9/11 that they were being surveilled by the Bush Administration - and the reason for such surveillance. This also throws new light on the claims by the Pentagon's then-secret data mining task force, "Able Danger," to have tracked lead 9/11 hijacker Mohamed Atta and at least four of the other 19 hijackers beginning in January, 2000, when Atta actually did enter the country according to Daniel Hopsicker in his book, *Welcome to Terrorland*. The FBI falsely claimed, and still falsely claims, that Atta did not enter the US until the summer of 2000, six months later. The likely reason for this intentional lie about when Atta first entered the country is what Atta is known to have done while inside the US between January and the Summer of 2000. Hopsicker reveals that, among other activities, Atta visited Portland, Maine, in March, 2000, and perhaps even earlier. An abiding "mystery" of the official cover story is why Atta drove to Portland, Maine on September 10, the day before 9/11, and then flew from Portland to Boston early on the morning of September 11. The answer to this "mystery," which the FBI clearly already knows, is the link between what Atta was doing in Portland before the administration admits he was even in the country, as well as what he was doing there the day before 9/11 and early on the morning of 9/11. This may all have something to do with the fact that the CIA reportedly runs secret flights out of an airport in Portland, Maine, and that "rendition" detainees have said they were flown out of the country on special jets after first stopping at Portland's International Jet Port.[12]

2) The FBI's top bin Laden/al Qaeda hunter until shortly before 9/11, John O'Neill, "happened" to be at the same hotel in the same town near Tarragona, Spain in mid-July 2001 just before lead hijacker Mohamed Atta and 9/11 plot "coordinator" Ramzi Binalshibh. Some Bush administration officials now also believe that 9/11 "mastermind" Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (KSM) met there for what the 9/11 Commission calls "the Final 9/11 Planning Meeting." This cannot be -and is not- a coincidence. O'Neill, who was in close contact with German intelligence -recall that Atta led the "German cell" for the 9/11 attacks- and Spanish intelligence, had clearly been alerted to the upcoming meeting and was at the hotel to surveil/tap/bug the room where the meeting was about to be held. O'Neill and his agency, the Bush administration's FBI, thus knew every detail, or nearly every detail, of the planned 9/11 plot at least two months in advance.

Perhaps just as significantly, European media reported that bin Laden was in an

American hospital in Dubai incapacitated for surgery during precisely this same mid-July, 2001, period of the Spanish "final 9/11 Planning Meeting." Reportedly, bin Laden was visited in the hospital by the area's then CIA station chief. The question naturally arises as to whether bin Laden was telephoned by Atta, Binalshibh, and perhaps also KSM, or visa versa, while the latter were at the "Final 9/11 Planning Meeting" in the hotel that O'Neill had pre-bugged. If so, then O'Neill, the FBI, and the highest levels of the Bush Administration -including O'Neill's then boss, Attorney General Ashcroft, who suddenly stopped flying commercial aircraft about this time- knew not only every detail of the 9/11 plot as of that date, but almost certainly recorded all the key "outside" conspirators plotting their "final plans" including possibly bin Laden himself, on tape - clearly another "Butterfield" tape to be demanded by subpoena.

As noted above, on 9/11 itself the US military was conducting NORAD/ Air Force emergency response exercises on scenarios involving multiple hijacks, and the NRO was conducting an emergency response exercise on the scenario of a plane crashing into one of the towers at its headquarters just outside Washington, D.C.[11] - many NRO personnel being from the Air Force and CIA. It is next to impossible for this to have been the case unless the exercises, also referred to as war games, were intentionally scripted to mirror what had been learned from the above-mentioned detailed advance intelligence. That is, the purpose of the war games held on 9/11 was to practice how to defend against the very attacks that John O'Neill's Tarragona meeting surveillance, the Pentagon's "Able Danger" data-mining tracking, and the FBI's FISA-warrant-less surveillance of the "up to 20" ("19"?) suspected al Qaeda terrorists had already revealed. You don't practice something in a multi-million-dollar set of exercises that you "can't imagine." The date for the actual attacks -September 11- was then chosen to coincide with the Pentagon's exercises, which in turn mirrored the real attack plans (see below).

Perhaps the most burning data point to prove Bush administration complicity in 9/11 is the fact that lead hijacker Mohamed Atta took to the mid-July "final 9/11 planning meeting" in Spain the information that "the date has been set" (i.e. set by someone else other than Atta), and that he, Atta, didn't yet know it, but would "know it" in five to six weeks, or by late August, 2001.[13] Atta was clearly waiting to learn the date of "his own" attack. This last piece of the puzzle fell into place during the first phase of Zacarias Moussaoui's sentencing trial, in the 58-page transcript of 9/11 "mastermind" Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's interrogation "testimony" read into the trial record by the Bush administration prosecution. In this KSM transcript, it is revealed that bin Laden and KSM "allowed Atta to choose" both the final targets for the attacks and the attack date." [14] From this, therefore, we know that neither bin Laden nor "mastermind" KSM nor "coordinator" Binalshibh set the September 11 attack date. However, from what Atta said to Binalshibh -and probably also KSM and even possibly bin Laden by phone link- at the "Final Planning Meeting" in Spain, we also know that neither did Atta. Atta was waiting to learn the date of his "own" attack five to six weeks after the mid-July "final 9/11 planning meeting," and that date did not come from any of his al Qaeda superiors. It must be the case then, despite KSM's claim that he "let" Atta choose the date, that none of the top "outside" terrorist conspirators set the date for the September 11 attacks, including Atta.

The key and central fact of the entire 9/11 plot is that the attack date Atta was "waiting for" was the date of the Bush administration's planned war games, which, in a vicious circle, were scripted to mirror the content of Atta's attack plan gleaned via advance intelligence obtained from O'Neill's surveillance of the "final planning

meeting" near Tarragona, the Pentagon's "Able Danger" tracking of Atta, and the FBI's warrantless surveillance of Atta and other of the about-to-be alleged hijackers. Atta was thus the sole individual to whom the date the Bush administration finally chose for its war games - 9/11- was leaked as soon as it was selected and he bought his one-way ticket as soon as he learned it, in late August, 2001, just as he had predicted at the "final planning meeting." The No. 1 Bush administration conspirator, therefore, is whoever gave the administration's own war game scenario details and date -9/11- to Mohamed Atta.

Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Ahmed, then head of Pakistan's military intelligence agency ISI, is a prime suspect for the middleman who laundered this No. 1 Bush administration conspirator's insider war game information to Atta. On the morning of 9/11 he was having breakfast with future CIA Director Porter J. Goss and Senator Bob Graham, who co-chaired the joint House/Senate "investigation" of the 9/11 attacks, and had met with CIA Director George Tenet and with top officials at the Pentagon, about to conduct the war games, in the few days leading up to 9/11. He is most likely the person who was told the date and details of the Pentagon's emergency response exercises and communicated them, directly or via an intermediary, to Atta, as Ahmed also approved wiring \$100,000 to Atta shortly before 9/11. Atta then confirmed 9/11 as the date for the war games -which was the date of the attacks- in his now-famous NSA-intercepted call with KSM of September 10, in which he related "The Match is about to begin. Zero hour is tomorrow." "Match" is a way of saying "exercise" or "war game." This critical September 10 intercept, by the way, was almost certainly made without an advance FISA warrant, putting the lie to now CIA Director and then NSA Director Gen. Michael Hayden's patently false claim that the "first" warrantless taps were initiated in defensive response to 9/11, and thus came after the attacks.

Another abiding "mystery" of September 11 is why Gen. Eberhart, the commander of NORAD on 9/11, claimed to the 9/11 Commission that on the morning of 9/11 NORAD was conducting, among others, a preplanned "Soviet-era" emergency response exercise[15] in which US fighter jets were to defend against Russian nuclear bombers. After all, the Soviet Union had ceased to exist ten years before. He didn't say "Russian," he said "Soviet." This is very strange until one discovers that, despite repeated official and media claims that September 11 was "completely unique" and that the skies over America had "never before" been cleared of all commercial and private civilian aircraft, NORAD had conducted another emergency response exercise 40 years earlier, which completely cleared the skies over the mainland US. This was on October 14, 1961, in a war game called "Sky Shield II," which was based on a scenario of how to defend against an air attack by Soviet bombers on New York City.[16] The main difference between the 1961 exercise and September 11 is that the clearing of the skies was announced in advance to the public in "Sky Shield." This original Soviet-era exercise, which included 1,800 US and 15 Canadian military planes and was billed as "the greatest exercise ever conducted by Western air-defense forces," is mentioned in the Air Force's own account of the events of September 11, Air War Over America. In fact, Gen. Larry Arnold, NORAD's commander for the continental US on 9/11 directly under Eberhart who finally ordered interceptor jets scrambled to belatedly meet the hijack threat, made a point of including the eerily similar 1961 Air Force war game in the book. Not only did both the 1961 and September 11 NORAD "Soviet-era" war game scenarios include attacks on New York City; in the 1961 exercise, US military planes played the role of Soviet attack bombers. That is, the US military pre-scripted both the defense and the "attack" by its own planes pretending to be Soviet aircraft. If Gen. Eberhart's testimony to the 9/11

Commission is correct, NORAD may have been conducting a "Soviet-era" exercise much like the one in 1961, on 9/11.

In this light, it is significant that mainstream press stories contain intriguing reports that point to the possibility that there were two American Airlines "Flight 11s," leaving from two different gates at Boston Logan airport within a few minutes of one another on 9/11, as well as emerging evidence of other of the hijacked 9/11 flight numbers possibly being "twinned,"[17] or duplicated. The question thus naturally arises, were these "twin" planes US military planes "playing" hijacked airliner "attackers," similar to the 1961 scenario except substituting commandeered airliners for Soviet bombers? And could the 9/11 exercise have included a "trigger" event to clear the skies over the mainland US so that a realistic test of US air defenses could be conducted without interference from the thousands of civilian aircraft normally in the air?

Key quotes from New York Times articles during the 1961 NORAD exercise are eerily similar to stories appearing on 9/11 [text in parentheses and italics added]: "It is not so much the fear of collisions with military aircraft that has caused civilian planes to be ordered out of the skies, as it is the knowledge that inadequate [civilian FAA] electronic flight controls will be available during the exercise to guide them. Strategic Air Command (SAC) bombers, playing the role of the marauding forces, will seek to foul communications and radar. They will drop tinsel-like pieces of metal called "chaff" overhead [like the myriad small pieces of metal scrap found on the Pentagon lawn and Shanksville, Pennsylvania "crash" site on 9/11?...]...that will throw radarscopes [including the FAA's] into a confusion of false signals."; "All the bomber missions were laid out ahead of time and fed into the NORAD computer"; "An automated shorthand running display of the entire battle was provided at NORAD combat center and in similar centers at Strategic Air Command headquarters [where President Bush was taken on 9/11] and in the Pentagon [which was attacked on 9/11]"; "A fight plan for every aircraft [private, commercial and military] is fed into the computer's memory beforehand. When a plane shows on the radarscope, a console operator picks up an aluminum electronic gun, points it at the blip, and squeezes the trigger. That brings the flight to the computer's attention. If the flight [plan] is filed in its memory, the computer automatically replies, 'Yes, I am aware of that [plane].' It does this by marking the flight with an F for Friendly. While the computer compares the flight with its memorized data, it marks the flight P for Pending. Finally, it may mark it H for Hostile. 'We have two minutes to identify a flight [as Friendly] before we scramble [interceptor jets]...to make a visual identification of an uncertain aircraft or to attack it.'; 'We do not train [in exercises like the 1961 'Sky Shield II, or on 9/11] with Hostile symbology [showing on screens]; therefore, the Strategic Air Command's bombers playing the role of the attacking [Soviet Russian] force [on October 14, 1961] were marked K, for Faker.'"; and "There are seventeen units of Army Air Defense Artillery with ground-to-air anti-aircraft missiles near New York [in 1961; how many more were there on 9/11, 40 years later, when none were used?]" The 1961 war game was directed by then NORAD commander Air Force Gen. Laurence Sherman Kuter from his combat operations center at NORAD's Colorado Springs headquarters, which in the mid-1960s moved to Cheyenne Mountain, Gen. Eberhart's command center on 9/11. It may also be significant that the Air Force's war games simulation center is at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, which Gen. Kuter had earlier commanded and where lead 9/11 hijacker Mohamed Atta received training.

The Pentagon's "Able Danger" data miners claim that "Department of Defense

lawyers"-almost certainly from the National Security Agency, then headed by Gen. Hayden, an officer in the Air Force, the same service that planned the 9/11 war games- blocked planned meetings with the FBI at which they wanted to tell the FBI that they had "tracked" Atta and other of the 9/11 hijackers prior to 9/11 and ask the FBI to initiate additional surveillance on them. The fact that the FBI did initiate exactly such a surveillance of the "up to 20 Al Qaeda linked terrorist suspects" before 9/11 is strong evidence that, despite its current claims to the contrary, the Pentagon's "Able Danger" team did communicate what they learned from tracking Atta and the others to the FBI before 9/11, and that the FBI then initiated FISA-warrant-less surveillances of Atta and others subsequently ordered stopped by then Chief FISA Court Judge Lamberth - all prior to 9/11. The fact that initially-suspected "20th 9/11 hijacker" Moussaoui officially filed claims that he "and my brothers" were surveilled before 9/11 is further evidence that the FBI continued to watch all or most of the 9/11 hijackers right up until the attacks, despite Lamberth's order to cease and desist. FBI Headquarters supervisors David Frasca and his deputy Maltbie refused 70 --seventy-- urgent requests by Moussaoui's FBI interrogator for either a FISA Court warrant or an "ordinary" criminal warrant to get into Moussaoui's computer and surveil anyone mentioned therein. Doing so would have clearly stopped the plot, as Moussaoui now claims to have personally known 17 -almost all- of the alleged 19 hijackers.[18]

In addition to all the evidence that plane-impacts-plus-fire was the carefully planned cover story for the cause of collapse of WTC 1, 2 and 7, as well as the west façade of the Pentagon, both of which were initially hit by inside-the-buildings bombs, not planes, the other overwhelming line of evidence for 9/11 being an "Inside Job" is the anthrax attacks.

Any evidence linking 9/11 to the anthrax letters --dated September 11 but sent in mid-October and only to Democratic leaders in Congress, no Republicans-- is direct evidence of an inside job because that particular type of anthrax is known to have been of the highly controlled "Ames strain" developed by the US Army at Ft. Detrick, Maryland, and at the University of Iowa in Ames, Iowa. It was also high-spore-count, military-grade weaponized anthrax refined according to a trade secret reportedly held by William Patrick, former Ft. Detrick bioweapons expert, mentor of Steven Hatfill, the only "person of interest" stalked by the FBI as a suspect in the still "unsolved" anthrax case, and the close friend and colleague of Bush Administration bio-counterterrorism expert Jerry Hauer, a signer of the PNAC manifesto calling for "a new Pearl Harbor."

On September 11, this same Jerry Hauer personally delivered anti-anthrax Cipro to Vice President Cheney's staff at the White House. Why? The conservative legal watchdog group Judicial Watch has filed a suit against Vice President Cheney and other Bush Administration officials demanding to know why Cipro was delivered to the executive mansion --and only to the executive mansion-- on the day of the attacks. So far the response has been deafening silence. On September 10, the day before 9/11, FEMA and other emergency response personnel arrived in New York City for a counter-bioterrorism exercise called "Tripod II" claimed by the Bush administration to have been scheduled to begin September 12. There is reason to believe that the bio-agent this drill was to practice defending against was anthrax, as Jerry Hauer was also a major planner of the New York City exercise. And there is also a strong possibility the true start date for the exercise was September 11, as many "exercise" personnel were already in place in New York City on September 10. As the Air Force's war game scenario had just "come to life" in real attacks on 9/11, were Hauer and Cheney worried that the same thing

might be about to happen with their counter-bioterrorism "exercise" Tripod II? Is this why the anti-anthrax drug Cipro was distributed to the White House, "just in case"? If so, it would be strong evidence that Tripod II was on the scenario of defending New York City against an anthrax attack. Was the "vector," or delivery vehicle, for that emergency response exercise scenario anthrax attack to have been by air via hijacked plane(s)?

Notably, in their book on bioterrorism, *Germs*, Judith Miller and William Broad claim, apparently from inside sources, that Ramzi Yousef's plans for the first World Trade Center attack in 1993 included explosively pushing large quantities of cyanide out into New York City. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the "mastermind" of 9/11, is Ramzi Yousef's uncle. Finally, former New York City mayor Rudolf Giuliani testified to the 9/11 Commission that when WTC7, the location of his emergency operations center, collapsed on 9/11, he moved those operations to the command and control center set up on Pier 92 for the "Tripod II" bio-terrorism exercise and that it worked even better than the original. Giuliani told the 9/11 Commission, "The reason Pier 92 was selected as a command center was because on the next day, on September 12, Pier 92 was going to have a drill. It had hundreds of people there - from FEMA, from the Federal Government, from the State [Dept.], from the [New York] State Emergency Management Office- and they were getting ready for a drill for biochemical attack. So that was going to be the place they were going to have the drill. The equipment was already there, so we were able to establish a command center there that was two and a half to three times bigger than the command center that we had lost at 7 World Trade Center. And it was from there that the rest of the (9/11 and subsequent) search and rescue effort was completed."

Conclusion

The US military, not al Qaeda, had the access to plant explosives inside its own most heavily defended world headquarters, the Pentagon. The US military, not al Qaeda, had the access to plant the explosives Willy Rodriguez heard and felt go off deep in the sub-basement of the World Trade Center. The US military, not al Qaeda, had the sustained access weeks before 9/11 to also plant controlled demolition charges throughout the superstructures of WTC 1 and WTC2, and in WTC7, which brought down all three buildings on 9/11. The US military, not al Qaeda, had access to the sulfur-enhanced military-grade thermite (thermate) detected in the sub-basement levels of the WTC needed to melt the steel found molten there weeks later. The US military, not al Qaeda, would have chosen the least populated and most reinforced section of the Pentagon -its newly upgraded west wedge- to strike, minimizing casualties. Real terrorists would have maximized them. A US military plane, not one piloted by al Qaeda, performed the highly skilled, high-speed 270-degree dive towards the Pentagon that Air Traffic Controllers on 9/11 were sure was a military plane as they watched it on their screens. Only a military aircraft, not a civilian plane flown by al Qaeda, would have given off the "Friendly" signal needed to disable the Pentagon's anti-aircraft missile batteries as it approached the building. Only the US military, not al Qaeda, had the ability to break all of its Standard Operating Procedures to paralyze its own emergency response system. Only the US military, not al Qaeda, had access to the weaponized, military-grade US Army "Ames strain" anthrax contained in letters mailed only to Democratic Congressional leaders. It is absurd to believe that al Qaeda would target only Democrats, especially as the US leadership at the time of 9/11 was Republican. When he received the anthrax letter dated September 11, then Senate Democratic leader Thomas Daschle was calling for a Congressional

investigation of 9/11 and had already been warned off from "looking too closely at" 9/11 by both President Bush and Vice President Cheney. When he received his anthrax letter, another Democratic leader, Senator Patrick Leahy, was leading the Congressional resistance to the PATRIOT Act, the assault on Americans' privacy and civil liberties justified by "al Qaeda's" attack, clearly drafted by the Bush Administration before 9/11 and "in the can" awaiting its "trigger event."

And who in the US military chain of command and US civilian leadership are among the prime suspects for these acts of High Treason? First and foremost are the signers of the pre-9/11 Project for a New American Century (PNAC) manifesto calling for "a new Pearl Harbor" to catalyze its global domination agenda, including Vice President Dick Cheney; Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld; then Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz; Richard Perle, then head of Secretary Rumsfeld's Defense Policy Board; Jerry Hauer, the federal government's top bio-terrorism expert who took anti-anthrax Cipro to the White House on 9/11; Gary Bauer, the right-wing 'family values' zealot who 'happened' to be one of the 'witnesses' who immediately claimed publicly to have seen 'Flight 77 hit the Pentagon', proven by the evidence to be a physical impossibility; and then National Security Council Middle East adviser Zalmay Khalizad, soon to be the first US Ambassador to Afghanistan after 9/11 and now US Ambassador to Iraq -- the very two countries whose invasions are rationalized as retaliation for the 9/11 attacks. During the Cold War, Khalizad was a liaison to then CIA "bag man" Osama bin Laden in the CIA's covert war against the Soviets in Afghanistan, the crucible from which al Qaeda emerged.

Another key suspect is Air Force General William Hayden, now Director of the CIA and then head of the National Security Agency (NSA), which tapped the calls of lead hijacker Mohamed Atta and 9/11 "mastermind" Khalid Sheikh Mohammed the day before 9/11, and surely on many other occasions before 9/11 as well - all almost certainly without FISA warrants as required by law. These pre-9/11 warrant-less NSA taps put the lie to President Bush's claim that he initiated the program of warrant-less NSA taps of al Qaeda suspects because of -and thus only after- 9/11. Yet another key suspect is Army Lieutenant General William "Jerry" Boykin, the radical Christian fundamentalist Special Operations commando recently proposed to head the Army's Special Operations Command. Yet another is the Pentagon's POP2 office, reportedly to plan and script "false flag" operations - attacks orchestrated by the US military but made to appear perpetrated by an outside enemy to justify US military "retaliation." Yet another suspect is Defense Intelligence Agency Iran expert Lawrence "Larry" Franklin, who was "loaned" to Perle and Wolfowitz's neocon associate Douglas Feith and arrested for passing national security secrets to Israeli operatives at the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Franklin also was and is an officer in the Air Force reserves, which directed NORAD's "Vigilant Guardian/Vigilant Warrior" war game exercises on 9/11.

Scrutiny should also be leveled at the scriptwriters for the NORAD and NRO emergency response exercises planned for and held on 9/11, especially members of their lead "White Teams," which set the content and then oversee both "Red Team attackers" and "Blue Team defenders" on the actual day of an exercise, in this case on 9/11 itself. And every one of the as-yet-to-be-identified "top Pentagon officials" who the day before 9/11, according to Newsweek, suddenly cancelled their already-booked flights for September 11.[19] Also National Military Command Center (NMCC) commander Brig. Gen. Montague Winfield, who on that same day, September 10, asked his deputy, Navy Capt. Charles Leidig to take

over for him the next morning between 8:30 and 10:30 - precisely the time window of the "game" whose details and date had been given to Atta. Further investigation should be directed at the (government) "agency" the 9/11 Commission revealed, without identifying it by name, took out the vast majority of the put options on American Airlines, United Airlines, Boeing and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in the few days before 9/11. Also, Michael Chertoff, US Attorney for the District of New Jersey during the first 1993 attack on the World Trade Center who, as a private attorney, represented Egyptian-born US resident Magdy Elamir, under investigation for illegally diverting millions of dollars and whose brother, Mohammed Elamir, funded arms smugglers linked to al Qaeda.[20] Significantly, Mohamed Atta's name in his country of birth, Egypt, was also Mohamed Elamir. In other words, the very man President Bush put in charge of the entire 9/11 "investigation" and who is now Director of Homeland Security -- the top official charged with defending the US mainland from an attack by al Qaeda-- may have been directly involved with Al Qaeda and even with Mohamed Atta himself. And FBI headquarters supervisor David Frasca and his deputy Michael Maltbie, who ignored 70 pleas by Zacarias Moussaoui's FBI interrogator to let him investigate the contents of Moussaoui's computer before 9/11. Attention should also be directed to Phillip Zelikow, NSC adviser along with Zalmay Khalizad to then NSC Adviser Condoleezza Rice before and on 9/11. Zelikow both orchestrated The 9/11 Commission Report cover up of the administration's inside job and, at Rice's personal request, rewrote the Bush administration's official national strategic plan draft to better match the global domination agenda of the pre-9/11 PNAC manifesto.

These are just some of the names being knitted into the scroll of the September 11 Truth Revolution.

Notes:

1. The clock stopped at the moment the Great Earthquake hit San Francisco on April 18, 1906 is at <http://sfgate.com/greatquake/>.
2. The clock at the Pentagon heliport just outside the west section, frozen at 9:31:40 am by the violent event at the Pentagon, was posted on an official Navy web site at: http://www.news.navy.mil/view_single.asp?id=2480Pentagonclock_BBC. Yet another stopped Pentagon clock is in the September 11 exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution. It was originally posted at <http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/september11/collection/record.asp?ID=19>.
3. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) timeline document "Executive Summary Chronology of a Multiple Hijacking Crisis, September 11, 2001."
4. Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moller interview with Denmark Radio P3, September 12, 2001, 6:15 am Denmark time. "...I saw smoke and fire rising from the Pentagon at 9:32...My first impression was that a bomb had been detonated at the Pentagon." The audio of this radio interview is in the 9/11 video documentary "Bomberne som Forsvandt" by Danish researcher Henrik Melvang, available at www.unmask.dk and at www.bombsinsidewtc.dk. See also 9/11 timeline by European researcher Jose Garcia in Reality, Truth and Evil Facts, Questions and Perspectives on September 11, 2001, Temple Lodge Publications, 2005.
5. The 9/11 Conspiracy, Catfeet Press/Open Court, James Fetzer, editor, 2006, chapter by Prof. James Fetzer; and photos of a JT8D turbojet engine and the

remnant found at the Pentagon at
<http://www.simmeringfrogs.com/articles/jt8d.html>.

6. Report by two civilian defense contractor employees at "Secret Global Hawk Refit for Sky Warrior," <http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2005/05/318250.shtml>.
7. 9/11 -- Coup Against America: The Pentagon Analysis, compilation of Pentagon eyewitness reports, photos and analyses with hundreds of references, by Pete Tiradera, 2006, available from petertiradera@yahoo.com.
8. Pentagon eyewitness Don Perkal to MSNBC: "Even before stepping outside, I could smell the cordite. I knew explosives had gone off somewhere." Also eyewitness account of AmTrak electrical engineer Samuel Danner who was at the site and said he smelled cordite (American Free Press, July 7, 2006, reporting based on audio report by Republic Broadcasting Network, summary at <http://www.total911.info/2006/07/pentagon-eyewitness-ids-global-hawk.html>).
9. Author interview with former Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, Monterey, California; summary posted on Naval Postgraduate School web site www.nps.navy.mil, subsequently changed to www.nps.edu. Article no longer posted; hard copy available from the author.
10. Videotaped testimony of William ("Willy") Rodriguez, former World Trade Center janitor and the last person to leave the WTC alive on September 11, in the 9/11 documentary "Loose Change," second edition", text in parentheses added: "All of a sudden we hear 'Boom!' in the basement. I thought it was a generator that blew up, and I said to myself, 'Oh, my God, I think it was a generator. And I was going to verbalize it, and when I finished saying that in my mind I heard (another, second) 'Boom!' right on the top (above), pretty far away. And so it was a difference (in space and time) between coming from the basement and coming from the top...and a person comes running into the office (in the first basement level, from a deeper basement level) saying 'Explosion!' ...and he said '(it was from) The elevators!' And there were many (deep basement WTC1) explosions."
11. "Agency (NRO) Planned Exercise on September 11 Built Around a Plane Crashing into a Building," Associated Press, August 22, 2002; by Jonathan Lumpkin; "They Scrambled Jets, but It was a Race They Couldn't Win," Syracuse Post-Standard, January 20, 2002, by Hart Seely; "Rome Staff's Efforts on 9/11 Earn Praise, Commission Says Military Did the Best It Could with the Information It Had," Syracuse Post-Standard, June 18, 2004, by Hart Seely; Complete 9/11 Military Exercises Timeline, Cooperative Research, at http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&before-9/11=militaryExercises;

Crossing the Rubicon, by Michael Ruppert, Chapter 19: "Wargames and High Tech: Paralyzing the System to Pull Off the Attacks" and Chapter 20: "Q&A: Many Asked, Some Answered -- and a Golden Moment," New Society Publishers, 2004. In the Acknowledgements to Rubicon, p. xi, Ruppert credits the author with what he refers to as "the Holy Grail of 9/11 research" (p. 336): Thanks to Barbara Honegger, who kept hammering on the wargames until we all paid notice... you showed me the most important lead I needed to put it all together."

12. "Detainee's Suit Gains Support from Jet's Log," New York Times, March 30, 2005, p. A1. Key excerpt, text in parentheses added: "Mr. Arar (a "rendered" detainee)

says he followed the (Gulfstream jet) plane's movements on a map displayed on a video screen (inside the plane), watching it as he traveled to Dulles Airport outside Washington, to a Maine Airport he believed was in Portland (Maine), to Rome, and finally to Amman, Jordan, where he was blindfolded and driven to Syria." Though the FAA claims its records show a plane on that date making the other stops but landing in Bangor, not Portland, Maine, the detainee's account may be accurate, as only Portland's airport is labeled an "International Jet Port," specializing in landings and takeoffs of just such private, corporate and government jets.

13. Ironically, at the final hearing of the Kean Commission, where its report was released to the press and public, commissioner John Lehman responded to the question, What if anything remained unknown, by noting that the Commission still wasn't clear as to "how Atta chose the date for the attacks."
14. Summary interrogation of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, claimed "mastermind" of the September 11 attack plot, read into the Zacarias Moussaoui sentencing trial record by the prosecution on March 27, 2006; the full text is part of the court proceedings transcript for that date available through Exemparis.com.
15. The 9/11 Commission Report, note 116, p. 458, at <http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf>.

Key excerpt: "On 9/11, NORAD was scheduled to conduct a military exercise, Vigilant Guardian, which postulated a bomber attack from the former Soviet Union."

16. Air War Over America: Sept. 11 Alters Face of Air Defense Mission, by Leslie Filson, US Air Force account of the events of September 11, p. 66. Also "Civilian Planes to be Grounded 12 Hours Today in Defense Test," New York Times, October 14, 1961, pp. 1 and 4; "Civilian Planes Halted 12 Hours in Defense Test: Joint Maneuvers Fill Air Over Canada and US with Military Craft, Cities 'Hit' by Bombers," New York Times, October 15, 1961, pp. 1 and 46; "Computer is Key to Area Defense: Ever-Alert Device in (New) Jersey Joins in Air Exercises," New York Times, October 15, 1961, p. 46; and "US-Canada Test of Air Defense Rated a Success: President Receives a Report on Maneuvers, Search is Pushed for Missing B-52," New York Times, October 16, 1961, pp. 1 and 16.
17. For example, see "Flight 11: The Twin Flight", by "Woody Box" at <http://new.globalfreepress.com/article.pl?sid=04/03/14/212247> and "Flight 11 and Flight 93 'Survived'" at <http://inn.globalfreepress.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=858>
18. "Moussaoui, Undermining Case, Now Ties Himself to 9/11 Plot," New York Times, March 28, 2006, pp. A1 and A14.
19. Newsweek, September 24, 2001.
20. "Michael Chertoff - Where All the Questions Should Start," January 12, 2005, <http://allspinzone.blogspot.com>.

Source:
http://blog.lege.net/content/Seven_Hours_in_September.pdf

See also
Seismic Observations during September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attack.

<http://johnmccarthy90066.tripod.com/id206.html>

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12.19 The Problems with the Legend of Flight 93

United 93 Reported on the Tarmac at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport

WCPO.COM

Plane Lands In Cleveland; Bomb Feared Aboard

Reported by: 9News Staff

Web produced by: Liz Foreman

9/11/01 11:43:57 AM

A Boeing 767 out of Boston made an emergency landing Tuesday at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport due to concerns that it may have a bomb aboard, said Mayor Michael R. White.

White said the plane had been moved to a secure area of the airport, and was evacuated.

United identified the plane as Flight 93. The airline did say how many people were aboard the flight.

United said it was also "deeply concerned" about another flight, Flight 175, a Boeing 767, which was bound from Boston to Los Angeles.

On behalf of the airline CEO James Goodwin said: "The thoughts of everyone at United are with the passengers and crew of these flights. Our prayers are also with everyone on the ground who may have been involved.

"United is working with all the relevant authorities, including the FBI, to obtain further information on these flights," he said.

http://web.archive.org/web/20021109040132/http://wcpo.com/specials/2001/americaattacked/news_local/story14.html

DVD: Loose Change, Second Edition

BOOK: Crossing the Rubicon:

The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil
by Michael C. Ruppert

(See pages 587-589)

The Cleveland Airport Mystery

by Woody Box

(The freelance researcher from Germany who compiled the available data)

We summarise our findings:

.....Delta 1989.....	Flight X
Moment of landing.....	10:10.....10:45
Begin of evacuation.....	12:30.....11:15
Number of passengers.....	69.....200
Passengers brought to.....	FAA / Airport.....NASA
Exact location.....	Runway 18/36Runway 28/10
.....near I-X Center.....	near NASA Center

The 69 passengers of Delta 1989 are (hopefully) alive and well. Questions remain:

Where did Flight X come from, who were the 200 passengers, and what happened to them?

http://de.geocities.com/woody_box2000/clevelandmystery.html

Crash Site Photos, Descriptions and Eyewitness Accounts of the Demise of "United 93"

<http://killtown.911review.org/flight93.html>

Other Plane Crash Photos and Descriptions

<http://killtown.911review.org/flight93/427-585.html>

Observations of the Mayor of Shanksville

Ernie Stull, mayor of the nearby village of Shanksville, recalls...

Question: They had been sent here because of a crash but there was no plane?

Ernie Stull: No. Nothing. Only this hole.

Question: I thought it was a crash site...

Ernie Stull: And it is. But there was nothing there to see. The plane had completely disintegrated. Puff. It hit the ground and flew to pieces -- completely."

Question: At the very first, what did you think it could be?

Ernie Stull: Well...that a plane had crashed. But when we got here, there wasn't anything.

Question: What do you mean--there wasn't anything?

Ernie Stull: Well...there was no plane. There was what you see a hole. And that is the dirt that the airliner threw out -- and the hole, about 6 meters deep...and that was all there was." -- 9/11 File Unsolved [Reprint]

We know it crashed, but not why; FBI is silent, fueling "shot down" rumors

"Ernie Stuhl is the mayor of this tiny farming borough that was so brutally placed on America's psychic map on the morning of Sept. 11, when United Airlines Flight 93 slammed nose-down into the edge of a barren strip-mine moonscape a couple of miles outside of town.

A 77-year-old World War II veteran and retired Dodge dealer, he's certainly no conspiracy theorist. But press the mayor for details, and he will add something surprising.

"I know of two people -- I will not mention names -- that heard a missile," Stuhl said. "They both live very close, within a couple of hundred yards ... This one fellow's served in Vietnam and he says he's heard them, and he heard one that day." The mayor adds that based on what he knows about that morning, military F-16 fighter jets were "very, very close." -- Philadelphia Daily News (11/18/01)

Panoply of the Absurd

"When Der Spiegel confronts Stull with the English translation of these passages in the book and the film script, the man is speechless: "My statements were taken completely out of context. Of course there was an airplane. It's just that there wasn't much left of it after the explosion. That's what I meant when I said 'no airplane.' I saw parts of the wreckage with my own eyes, even one of the engines. It was lying in the bushes."

Wisnewski disputes accusations that he manipulated Stull and mentions a statement Stull made in the WDR film, in which his description was correctly reproduced: "The airplane was completely destroyed. Bang! It crashed into the ground and disintegrated -- completely."

Although this is correct, it amounts to hair-splitting, since Wisnewski and Brunner also suggest in the film that there was no aircraft." -- Der Spiegel (09/08/03)

9-11 Mysteries Remain

"One question, "is what happened to the physical wreckage of the plane?"

"There was no plane," Ernie Stull, mayor of Shanksville, told German television in March 2003:

"My sister and a good friend of mine were the first ones there," Stull said. "They were standing on a street corner in Shanksville talking. Their car was nearby, so they were the first here -- and the fire department came. Everyone was puzzled, because the call had been that a plane had crashed. But there was no plane."

"They had been sent here because of a crash, but there was no plane?" the reporter asked.

"No. Nothing. Only this hole."

When AFP asked Stull about his comments, he disagreed about when he had gone to the crash site. "A day or two later," Stull said, was about when he went to the site. But he reiterated the fact that they saw little evidence of a plane crash." -- americanfreepress.net (09/17/04)

<http://killtown.911review.org/flight93/witnesses.html>

Observations of Coroner Wally Miller

"It was as if the plane had stopped and let the passengers off before it crashed," Miller said.

-- Pittsburg Post Gazette (10/15/01)

"Miller was among the very first to arrive after 10:06 on the magnificently sunny morning of September 11. Once he was able to absorb the scene, Miller says, "I stopped being coroner after about 20 minutes, because there were no bodies there. It became like a giant funeral service."

Thousands of people -- the locals estimate up to 1,000 a week -- have arrived at an old coal-mining access trail called Skyline Road, where finally they can see what remains of Flight 93: nothing. "There's not really much to it, is there?" Wally Miller often says to families and other visitors who are bewildered by what they don't see.

Immediately after the crash, the seeming absence of human remains led the mind of coroner Wally Miller to a surreal fantasy: that Flight 93 had somehow stopped in mid-flight and discharged all of its passengers before crashing. "There was just nothing visible," he says. "It was the strangest feeling." It would be nearly an hour before Miller came upon his first trace of a body part.

-- Washington Post (05/12/02)

"Wallace Miller, the lanky, Civil War-studying county coroner, did see it. He sat at the family funeral home, his father, Wilbur, with him. They watched the second plane sweep in low, from nowhere. They winced when it hit.

He takes off his glasses, cleans them with his T-shirt. "This is the most eerie thing," he says. "I have not, to this day, seen a single drop of blood. Not a drop."

-- Pittsburgh Live (09/11/02)

Witnesses Describe the "Small White Jet"

Witnessed 2nd plane before and after the explosion:

Susan McElwain, 51 -- who lives two miles from the site, knows what she saw -- the white plane rocketed directly over her head.

"It came right over me, I reckon just 40 or 50 ft above my mini-van," she recalled. "It was so low I ducked instinctively. It was traveling real fast, but hardly made any sound."

"Then it disappeared behind some trees. A few seconds later I heard this great explosion and saw this fireball rise up over the trees, so I figured the jet had crashed. The ground really shook. So I dialed 911 and told them what happened."

"I'd heard nothing about the other attacks and it was only when I got home and saw the TV that I realized it wasn't the white jet, but Flight 93.

I didn't think much more about it until the authorities started to say there had

been no other plane. The plane I saw was heading right to the point where Flight 93 crashed and must have been there at the very moment it came down."

"There's no way I imagined this plane -- it was so low it was virtually on top of me. It was white with no markings but it was definitely military, it just had that look."

"It had two rear engines, a big fin on the back like a spoiler on the back of a car and with two upright fins at the side. I haven't found one like it on the internet. It definitely wasn't one of those executive jets. The FBI came and talked to me and said there was no plane around."

"Then they changed their story and tried to say it was a plane taking pictures of the crash 3,000ft up."

"But I saw it and it was there before the crash and it was 40ft above my head. They did not want my story -- nobody here did."

Mrs McElwain, who looks after special needs children, is further convinced the whole truth has yet to come out because of a phone call she had within hours from the wife of an air force friend of the family.

"She said her husband had called her that morning and said 'I can't talk, but we've just shot a plane down,'" Susan said.

"I presumed they meant Flight 93. I have no doubt those brave people on board tried to do something, but I don't believe what happened on the plane brought it down. If they shot it down, or something else happened, everyone, especially the victims' families, have a right to know."

-- Daily Mirror (9/13/02)

Tom Spinelli, 28 -- was working at India Lake Marina, a mile and a half away. "I saw the white plane," he said.

"It was flying around all over the place like it was looking for something. I saw it before and after the crash."

India Lake also contributes to the view there was an explosion on board before the Newark-San Francisco flight came down. Debris rained down on the lake -- a curious feat if, as the US government insists, there was no mid-air explosion and the plane was intact until it hit the ground.

"It was mainly mail, bits of in-flight magazine and scraps of seat cloth," Tom said. "The authorities say it was blown here by the wind." But there was only a 10mph breeze and you were a mile and a half away? Tom raised his eyebrows, rolled his eyes and said: "Yeah, that's what they reckon."

-- Daily Mirror (9/13/02)

Jim Brandt -- Somerset County resident Jim Brandt said that he saw another plane in the area. He said it stayed there for one or two minutes before leaving.

--The Pittsburgh Channel (9/12/01)

Dale Browning -- "It's the damndest darn thing," said Dale Browning, a farmer. "Everybody's seen this thing in the sky, but no one can tell us what it is."

Rick Chaney -- Chaney described the plane as a Lear-jet type, with engines mounted near the tail and painted white with no identifying markings.

Susan Custer -- said she saw a small white jet streaking overhead.

Dennis Decker -- "As soon as we looked up, we saw a mid-sized jet flying low and fast," Decker said. "It appeared to make a loop or part of a circle, and then it turned fast and headed out." Decker and Chaney described the plane as a Lear-jet type, with engines mounted near the tail and painted white with no identifying markings.

Robin Doppstadt -- was working inside her family food-and-supply store when she heard the crash. When she went outside, she said, she saw a small white jet that looked like it was making a single circle over the crash site.

"Then it climbed very quickly and took off. "

--The Bergen Record (9/14/01)

John Fleagle, manager, Indian Lake Marina --

"Like I said, probably within, within 45 seconds or a minute of impact, we were there. We were there before any fireman, any paramedics, or anybody; we were on site. When we got there, there was a plane flying up above and he was smart, he flew straight for the sun, so you couldn't, you couldn't look at it and see exactly what type of plane, or if it was a fighter or what it was. But we caught a glimpse of it and as he was swinging, he was basically traveling in the same direction as the plane."

-- GNN: "UA 93: The Road To Shanksville (Pt 2)"

<http://killtown.911review.org/flight93.html#links>

New Wireless Technology

While serious doubts regarding the cell calls were expressed in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, a new landmark in the wireless telecom industry has further contributed to upsetting the [9/11] Commission's credibility. Within days of the release of the 9/11 Commission Report in July, American Airlines and Qualcomm, proudly announced the development of a new wireless technology --which will at some future date allow airline passengers using their cell phones to contact family and friends from a commercial aircraft (no doubt at a special rate aerial roaming charge). See...

http://www.qualcomm.com/press/releases/2004/040715_aa_testflight.html)

"Travelers could be talking on their personal cellphones as early as 2006. Earlier this month [July 2004], American Airlines conducted a trial run on a modified aircraft that permitted cell phone calls." (WP, July 27, 2004)

Aviation Week (07/20/04) described this new technology in an authoritative report published in July 2004:

"Qualcomm and American Airlines are exploring [July 2004] ways for passengers to use commercial cell phones inflight for air-to-ground communication. In a recent 2-hour proof-of-concept flight, representatives from government and the media used commercial Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) third-generation cell phones to place and receive calls and text messages from friends on the ground.

For the test flight from Dallas-Fort Worth, the aircraft was equipped with an antenna in the front and rear of the cabin to transmit cell phone calls to a small in-cabin CDMA cellular base station. This "pico cell" transmitted cell phone calls from the aircraft via a Globalstar satellite to the worldwide terrestrial phone network"

Needless to say, neither the service, nor the "third generation" hardware, nor the "Pico cell" CDMA base station inside the cabin (which so to speak mimics a cell phone communication tower inside the plane) were available on the morning of September 11, 2001.

The 911 Commission points to the clarity and detail of these telephone conversations.

In substance, the Aviation Week report creates yet another embarrassing hitch in the official story.

The untimely July American Airlines / Qualcomm announcement acted as a cold shower. Barely acknowledged in press reports, it confirms that the Bush administration had embroidered the cell phone narrative (similar to what they did with WMDs) and that the 9/11 Commission's account was either flawed or grossly exaggerated.

Altitude and Cellphone Transmission

According to industry experts, the crucial link in wireless cell phone transmission from an aircraft is altitude. Beyond a certain altitude which is usually reached within a few minutes after takeoff, cell phone calls are no longer possible.

In other words, given the wireless technology available on September 11 2001, these cell calls could not have been placed from high altitude.

...

According to the Commission's account:

"the first 46 minutes of Flight 93's cross-country trip proceeded routinely. Radio communications from the plane were normal. Heading, speed, and altitude ran according to plan. At 9:24, Ballinger's warning to United 93 was received in the cockpit. Within two minutes, at 9:26, the pilot, Jason Dahl, responded with a note of puzzlement: "Ed, confirm latest mssg plz—Jason."70 The hijackers attacked at 9:28. While traveling 35,000 feet above eastern Ohio, United 93 suddenly dropped 700 feet. Eleven seconds into the descent, the FAA's air traffic control center in Cleveland received the first of two radio transmissions from the aircraft...."

At least ten cell calls are reported to have taken place on flight 93.

The Report confirms that passengers started placing calls with cell and air phones shortly after 9:32am, four minutes after the Report's confirmation of the plane's

altitude of 35,000 feet. In other words, the calls started some 9 minutes before the Cleveland Center lost UAL 93's transponder signal (9:41) and approximately 30 minutes before the crash in Pennsylvania (10:03)

"At 9:41, Cleveland Center lost United 93's transponder signal. The controller located it on primary radar, matched its position with visual sightings from other aircraft, and tracked the flight as it turned east, then south.¹⁶⁴"

This suggests that the altitude was known to air traffic control up until the time when the transponder signal was lost by the Cleveland Center. (Radar and visual sightings provided information on its flight path from 9:41 to 10:03.)

Moreover, there was no indication from the Report that the aircraft had swooped down to a lower level of altitude, apart from the 700 feet drop recorded at 9:28 from a cruising altitude of 35,000 feet.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO408B.html>

The New Standard in Voice Morphing

(When Hearing Shouldn't be Believing)

February 1, 1999 - Los Alamos National Laboratory has developed a voice morphing technology that can clone the speech of any person by taking a few minutes digital recording of that person's voice.

***"Gentlemen!
We have called you together to inform you that we are going to overthrow
the United States government."***

So begins a statement being delivered by Gen. Carl W. Steiner, former Commander-in-chief, U.S. Special Operations Command.

At least the voice sounds amazingly like him.

But it is not Steiner. It is the result of voice "morphing" technology developed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

By taking just a 10-minute digital recording of Steiner's voice, scientist George Papcun is able, in near real time, to clone speech patterns and develop an accurate facsimile. Steiner was so impressed, he asked for a copy of the tape.

For Hollywood, it is special effects. For covert operators in the U.S. military and intelligence agencies, it is a weapon of the future.

Digital morphing — voice, video, and photo — has come of age, available for use in psychological operations. PSYOPS, as the military calls it, seek to exploit human vulnerabilities in enemy governments, militaries and populations to pursue national and battlefield objectives.

Voice-morphing? Fake video? Holographic projection? They sound more like Mission Impossible and Star Trek gimmicks than weapons. Yet for each, there are corresponding and growing research efforts as the technologies improve and offensive information warfare expands.

Whereas early voice morphing required cutting and pasting speech to put letters or words together to make a composite, Papcun's software developed at Los Alamos can far more accurately replicate the way one actually speaks. Eliminated are the robotic intonations.

Video and photo manipulation has already raised profound questions of authenticity for the journalistic world. With audio joining the mix, it is not only journalists but also privacy advocates and the conspiracy-minded who will no doubt ponder the worrisome mischief that lurks in the not too distant future."

Washington Post (02/01/99) <http://thewebfairy.com/killtown/oddities.html>

New Generation of Voice Changing Ability -- Broadcast Quality!

Executive Pro Voice Transformer

For The Best of the Best! This is the Unit of Choice of The Professional

New Generation Voice Transformer -- The Professional's Choice

This unit is an entirely new generation of advanced voice disguise and transformation technology. The Voice Transformer gives you total and unparalleled control of timbre, tone, formant, reverberation, and pitch. No other unit on the market offers these exclusive features.

User Friendly Design

The user interface feature four slider controls that allow for precise real-time adjustments. The convenient "hands free" headset/microphone allows you to concentrate on your conversation and not the operation of the unit.

You can store the exact settings of a particular voice in one of eight memories so you can change voices instantly, even in the same conversation without the other party ever knowing.

You can effectively portray eight different people instantly, even with gender changes!

20-Second Installation

Simply remove your handset from your telephone, and plug the modular jack cable supplied with the voice transformer into the handset plug. That's it.

Technical Information For The Technically Minded

Since most people are unfamiliar with what the "formant" component of the human voice is, here are the details. Human voices consist of two components. One is fundamental waves that are pitch-sensitive and the other is non pitch-sensitive fixed harmonics. The harmonics components that change along with with vocal cords and with the physical shape of the vocal tract add distinctive characteristics to person's voice and are caller formants. All of the other telephone voice changers on the market today strictly pitch shifters, not addressing the critical formant control component of the human voice. They change formants

when they alter pitch, so the voice that are pitched higher sound like "Mickey Mouse" and voice that are pitched higher sound like "Mickey Mouse." With the Voice Transformer's pitch slider, you can control pitch independently, without making formants change, while its formant slider works to effectively control the vocal cords and shape of the vocal tract. So it can change a male voice into a female or even a child's voice, yet sound completely natural.

Quality Engineered and Manufactured

Unit comes complete with a quality hands free microphone/earpiece, Size: 7" x 6.5" x 2". (Not compatible with cellular phones, cordless phones, or dial-in-handset phones.)

Executive Pro Voice Transformer For The Best of the Best

This is the Unit of Choice of The Professional: \$795.00

HOW TO ORDER:

TOTALLY SECURE 128 BIT ENCRYPTED ONLINE ORDERING!

[Order Online Now]

<http://www.pimall.com/nais/provoice.html>

Project Achilles Report Parts One, Two and Three

by Prof. A.K. Dewdney, January 23rd 2003

Preliminary low-altitude cellphone experiment

January 23 2003; 4:35 - 5:40 pm

Civic Airport, London, Ontario, Canada

Equipment:

Aircraft: Diamond DA20/C1 Katana two-seater

Engine: 125 hp

Body & airframe: fiberglass/carbon fiber composite

Weight fully loaded: 1630 lbs

Cellphones: one Motorola model "120 CDMA" cellphone (A)

Two Motorola "i1000 plus" cellphones (B)

(both fully charged at flight time)

The flight plan consisted of four "laps," elongated circuits (shaped like a paperclip) over London, Ontario airspace. Each lap was about seven to eight miles long and two to three miles wide. Three calls were made on each of two straight legs in each lap. Calls alternated between cellphone A and cellphone B. A second i1000, intended for use at higher altitudes, slipped to the cockpit floor and could not be retrieved in those cramped quarters. A check of battery levels of the first i1000, however, showed that there had been no significant power drain on the unit.

```

*** A ***** B ***** A ***** end
*
* W — E
*
*
*** B ***** A ***** B ***** begin

```

Note: “altitude” means above ground altitude, not height above sea level, as recorded by the altimeter.

Results:

Lap 1 @ 1,100 feet altitude:

1st leg:	A to business number B to business number A to business number	no connection? 1 min. complete 1 min. complete
2nd leg	B to home number A to home number B to home number	no connection? (broken) complete complete

Lap 2 @ 2,100 feet altitude:

1st leg:	A to home number B to home number A to home number	no connection? no voice, just a “beep” no connection?
2nd leg	B to home number A to home number B to home number	1 min. complete no voice no voice

Lap 3 @ 3,100 feet altitude:

1st leg:	A to home number B to home number A to home number	missed making the call “system busy” incomplete
2nd leg	B to home number A to home number B to home number	“please wait: CLEARNET” incomplete call made late, incomplete

Lap 3 @ 3,500 feet altitude:

A to home number B to home number	incomplete complete, but breaking up
--------------------------------------	---

Calls to the business number were recorded by the message system.

Two calls made it through. Of the 17 calls to the home number, only about ten calls got through. In three of these, we had a conversation (of sorts) and the rest were just white noise. (no record of which)

After the third call, I decided that the cockpit was too noisy to hear the message system, so I changed my plan and called home (my wife), instead. Calls to the business number were recorded by the message system. Two calls made it through. Of the 17 calls to the home number, only about ten calls got through. In three of these, we had a conversation (of sorts) and the rest were just white noise. (no record of which)

Summary: In the preliminary test, only five of the 16 (attempted) calls resulted in any meaningful voice contact. In at least two of those calls, no connection whatever could be established with cellsites below. The composition of the Diamond Katana (manufactured right here in London, Ontario) makes it almost transparent to EM radiation at radio wavelengths and the results of this experiment are therefore optimal. Aircraft with metal skins will undoubtedly fare rather worse in the percentage of calls making it through.

low altitude (1100-2100'): 4/12 or 33 percent

mid altitude (3100 - 3500'): 1/7 or 14 percent

Conclusion: the purpose of this experiment was to probe the effect of altitude on cellphone service and to iron out wrinkles in experimental procedure. In the first instance, it looks as though there might well be a decline in service with increasing altitude. The phenomenon must now be mapped more carefully.

As far as operating procedures is concerned, it is probably best to make calls to a number you know well, to be familiar with the various status messages on each cellphone display screen, and to have someone at the other end who can log the time of the call, as well as to summarize the content. (The cockpit in most light aircraft is so noisy that one cannot always hear a voice at the other end, although I did hear my wife talking somewhat clearly on two occasions.) Also, it is important to be very organized, having a special carrier case for cellphones, writing/recording materials, etc. The airspeed of the Katana was just a little fast for me to comfortably make the calls and stay organized at the same time. Two of the calls were made rather late in the current lap, even as we began to climb out to the next one. It would be better to have a separate person operating the cellphones. We also need a meaningful call classification system to fill the gaps between complete failure and an audible conversation.

All calls were handled by the Bell Mobility Network, which has some 25 cellsites operating in the London area. I have now located all the cellsites in London, Ontario, thanks to a very helpful set of maps provided by a local cell phone aficionado:

[<www.arcx.com/sites/>](http://www.arcx.com/sites/)

Plans are now under way for part two (Below). This will involve a Cessna four-seater (with an aluminum skin), five or six cellphones of various types, an expert to operate them on my queue, and a flight plan that will explore the effect up to 10,000 feet beyond which, according to one airline pilot, there is absolutely no hope of getting through.

A. K. Dewdney

(with thanks to Corey Barrington, pilot with empire Aviation)

'Project Achilles' - Report, Part Two

by A.K. Dewdney - February 25th 2003

Equipment:

- * Diamond Katana four-seater (Empire Aviation)
- * Cellphones: C1, C2, C3, C4 (See appendix for descriptions.)

Personnel:

- * Corey Barrington (pilot)
- * Darren Spicknell (operator - technician for Wireless Concepts, Inc)
- * Kee Dewdney (director)
- * Pat Dewdney (ground recorder)

Weather: unlimited ceiling, light scattered cloud at 3,000 and 25,000 feet, visibility 15 miles, wind 5 knots from NW, air temperature -12 C.

For this experiment, we flew a circular route, instead of the elongated oval. The circle centred on the downtown core and took us over most of the city suburbs. All locations below are referred to the city centre and are always about three miles distant from it.

Protocol:

At times specified by the director, the operator made a call to a specified number, stating the code number of the cellphone (1 to 4) and the altitude. The receiver recorded whatever was heard and the time the call was received. At the first three altitudes of 2000, 4000, and 6000 feet abga each cellphone was used once. At 8000 feet abga, only C2 and C3 were tried, C1 and C4 now being hors de combat.

Results with timeline:

time (pm)	call no.	C#	loc.	operator	recorder
5:05	- started taxi to runway				
5:12	- takeoff				
5:14	- at 2000 feet (above-ground altitude)				
5:15	Call #1	C1	N	success	not very clear
5:17	Call #2	C2	W	success	not very clear
5:19	Call #3	C3	SW	failure	
5:21	Call #4	C4	S	success	not clear/ breaking up
5:24	- climbed to 4000 feet abga				
5:25	Call #5	C1	NE	failure	
5:26	Call #6	C2	N	success	clear
5:27	Call #7	C3	NW	failure	
5:29	Call #8	C4	W	failure	
5:33	- climbed to 6000 feet abga				
5:34	Call #9	C1	SE	failure	
5:36	Call #10	C2	E	failure	
5:37	Call #11	C3	NE	failure	
5:38	Call #12	C4	N	failure	
5:39	Call #13	C1	NW	failure	
5:40	Call #14	C2	SW	success	clear
5:42	Call #15	C3	S	failure	

5:43	Call #16	C4	SE	failure
5:44	Call #17	C1	E	failure
5:45	Call #18	C2	NE	failure
5:45	Call #19	C3	NE	success breaking up
5:46	Call #20	C4	N	failure
5:49 - began climb to 8000 feet abga (cellphones 2 and 3 only)				
5:50	Call #21	C2	W	failure
5:50	Call #22	C3	SW	failure
5:51	Call #23	C2	S	success buzzy
5:53 - completed climb to 8000 feet abga				
5:58	Call #24	C3	SE	failure
5:58	Call #25	C2	E	failure
5:58	Call #26	C3	E	failure
5:59	Call #27	C2	NE	failure
6:00	Call #28	C3	N	failure
6:01	Call #29	C1	N	failure
6:01	Call #30	C2	NW	failure
6:02	Call #31	C3	NW	failure
6:02	Call #32	C4	NW	
6:15 - landed at airport				

Conclusions:

To the extent that the cellphones used in this experiment represent types in general use, it may be concluded that from this particular type of aircraft, cellphones become useless very quickly with increasing altitude. In particular, two of the cellphone types, the Mike and the Nokia, became useless above 2000 feet. Of the remaining two, the Audiovox worked intermittently up to 6000 feet but failed thereafter, while the BM analog cellphone worked once just over 7000 feet but failed consistently thereafter. We therefore conclude that ordinary cellphones, digital or analog, will fail to get through at or above 8000 feet abga.

It should be noted that several of the calls rated here as "successes" were difficult for the Recorder to hear, witness description such as "breaking up" or "buzzy." Summary table

altitude (in feet)	calls tried	calls successful	percent success
2000	4	3	75%
4000	4	1	25%
6000	12	2	17%
8000	12*	1	18%

* includes three calls made while climbing; last successful call was made from just over 7000 feet.

The four cellphones operated via four different cellular networks (cellsites). Because calls were made from a variety of positions for each network, it cannot be said that failures were the fault of cellsite placement. the London, Ontario, region is richly supplied with cellsites belonging to five separate networks.

It may be noted in passing that this experiment was also conducted in a radio-transparent aircraft with carbon-fibre composite construction. Failure to make a call from such an aircraft with any particular brand of cellphone spells automatic failure for the same cellphone from a metal-clad aircraft flying at the same altitude.

A metal skin attenuates all cellphone signals to a significant degree. It may safely be concluded that the operational ceiling for cellphones in aluminum skin aircraft (most passenger liners, for example) would be significantly lower than the ones reported here.

It may therefore safely be concluded that cellphone calls from passenger aircraft are physically impossible above 8000 feet abga and statistically unlikely below it.

A. K. Dewdney, February 25/03

Appendix - Cellphone types, networks (courtesy of Darren Spicknell)

C1 Motorola i95cl - Telus Mike Network - 800 Mhz IDEN
C2 Motorola StarTac - Bell Mobility - 800 Mhz Analog
C3 Audiovox 8300 - Telus PCS Network - 1.9 Ghz CDMA / 800 MHz
C4 Nokia 6310i - Rogers AT&T - 1.9 Ghz GHZ GSM. (Tri-Band - Has an 1.8 GHz and 900 Mhz GSM these are European frequencies)

IDEN - Integrated Digital Enhanced Network
CDMA - Code Division Multiple Access
GSM - Global Systems for Mobile Communications

Power Levels -- The Project Achilles team

Power output of these handsets. The Nokia 6310i and Audiovox 8300 when in digital mode will output 0.2 Watts.

When the Analog Motorola StarTac is operating it is at 0.6 Watts optimal.

When and IF the Audiovox 8300 is in analog mode it will operate at 0.6 Watts (However, this is not normally the case - you will see wattage levels around 0.52 - 0.45 approximately)

Frequency

Both the Telus Mike (C1) and Motorola StarTac (C2) operate in the 800 MHz range. This will allow the signal to travel at a great distance. However, the IDEN (Mike) network has fewer site locations and is a newer Digital network. Most digital technologies operate on a "all or none" basis. When it has signal it will work well. As the signal fades, one hears no static, but some digital distortion just before the call drops.

Networks

Mike Network: Newer, all-digital network with modern antenna design, and fewer cellsites

Bell Mobility Analog: Older, analog network with less focused antenna design but many cellsites

Telus PCS: Newer, digital network with multiple frequencies, modern antenna design, and many cellsites

Rogers GSM: Our newest digital network with modern antenna design and many

cellsites

A. K. Dewdney,
February 25th 2003

'Project Achilles' - Final (Third) Report and Summary of Findings

A. K. Dewdney, 19th April 2003

During the early months of the year 2003, the author conducted three experiments to determine whether and how well cellphones could be operated from aircraft. The first flight (Part One) was essentially a probe of the experimental situation, to acquire some primary data and to work out a simple, readily implemented protocol. The results of Part Two (Diamond Katana 4-seater) have already appeared in these pages. The results of Part Three (Cessna 172-R) appear immediately below.

Since this completes the suite of experiments, it is appropriate to summarize the findings and to draw some conclusions. The conclusions are based partly on the experiments and partly on two other sources. (See Appendix B at the end of the report.) Expert opinion and eyewitness testimony are acceptable not only in court, but in certain scientific inquiries where events are of short duration or experiments are too expensive or impossible to carry out. Of course, eyewitness accounts do not carry the same weight as expert opinions or actual experiments, but the eyewitness accounts quoted below seem to be both consistent and compelling.

Disclaimer: The companies hired to assist in this experiment, namely Empire Aviation and Cellular Solutions, both of London, Ontario, Canada, acted as disinterested commercial parties, with no stake in the outcome or even knowledge of the purpose of the tests.

Part Three - April 19th 2003

The previous experiment, called Part Two, established a distinct trend of decreasing cellphone functionality with altitude. It was conducted in a four-seater Diamond Katana over the city of London (pop. 300,000), Ontario in Canada, an area richly supplied with some 35 cellsites distributed over an area of about 25 square miles. The flight path was an upward spiral, punctuated every 2000 feet (abga) with a level circuit around the outskirts of the city. On each circuit a fixed number of cellphone calls were attempted by an expert operator employing a battery of well-charged phones broadly representative of those on the market both currently and in the year 2001.

(It should be remarked that not only is the cellphone technological base in Canada identical to its US counterpart, but Canadian communication technology is second to none, Canada being a world-leader in research and development.)

The purpose of Part Three was to test the effects of what might be called "Faraday attenuation" on the strength and success of calls. The presence of a metallic shell around some electronic devices can alter their behavior by its ability to attract and store electrons, especially electromagnetic waves. For this reason, the experimental craft was switched from the Katana, which is supposed to be relatively transparent to em radiation, to an aircraft with an aluminum skin, as below.

Equipment:

- * Cessna 172-R (2002) four-seater (Empire Aviation)
- * cellphones: C1, C2, C3, C4, C5 (See Appendix A for descriptions.)

Personnel:

- * Corey Barrington (pilot - Empire Aviation)
- * Darren Spicknell (operator - technician for Wireless Concepts, Inc)
- * Kee Dewdney (director)
- * Pat Dewdney (ground recorder)

Weather: unlimited ceiling, light scattered cloud at 5,000, solid /broken 24,000 feet, visibility 12 miles, wind 11 knots from SSW, air temperature +19 C.

For this experiment, we flew the same circular route as we did in Part Two, The circle centered on the downtown core and took us over most of the city suburbs. All locations below are referred to the city centre and are always about two miles distant from it.

Protocol:

At times specified by the director, the operator made a call to a specified number, stating the code number of the cellphone (1 to 5) and the altitude. The ground recorder noted whatever was heard and the time the call was received. At the first two altitudes of 2000, 4000 above ground altitude (abga) each cellphone was used once. At 6000 and 8000 feet abga, each cellphone was used twice only C2, C3, and C5 were tried, C1 and C4 being hors de combat.

Results with timeline:

time (pm)	call no.	C#	loc.	operator	recorder
7:05	- started taxi to runway				
7:12	- takeoff				
7:15	- at 2000 feet (aboveground altitude)				
7:17	Call #1	C1	N	success	clear, slight breakup
7:18	Call #2	C2	W	success	clear
7:20	Call #3	C3	SW	success	clear
7:22	Call #4	C4	S	success (2 tries)	clear
7:23	Call #5	C5	SE	success	clear
7:27	- climbed to 4000 feet abga				
7:28	Call #6	C1	NE	success	clear
7:30	Call #7	C2	N	success	clear
7:31	Call #8	C3	NW	"success"	(frag) no complete word
7:32	Call #9	C4	W	failure	no ring
7:34	Call #10	C5	SW	success	clear
7:35	- climbed to 6000 feet abga				
7:39	Call #11	C1	SE	success	clear
7:41	Call #12	C2	E	success	clear
7:42	Call #13	C3	E	success	clear, slight breakup
7:44	Call #14	C4	NE	failure	no ring

7:44	Call #15	C5	NE	failure no ring
7:45	Call #16	C1	N	failure no ring
7:46	Call #17	C2	N	success clear
7:47	Call #18	C3	NW	failure no ring
7:48	Call #19	C4	NW	failure no ring
7:49	Call # 20	C5	W	success clear
7:50	Call #21	C1	W	failure no ring
7:51	Call #22	C2	SW	failure no ring
7:52	Call #23	C3	SW	failure no ring
7:53	Call #24	C4	S	failure no ring
7:54	Call #25	C5	S	success clear
7:55 - begin climb to 8000 feet abga (cellphones C2, C3 and C5)				
7:55	Call #26	C2	SE	failure no ring
7:57	Call #27	C3	E	failure no ring
7:59	Call #28	C5	E	success clear, slight breakup
8:00 - completed climb to 8000 feet abga				
8:01	Call #29	C2	NE	failure no ring
8:02	Call #30	C3	NE	failure no ring
8:03	Call #31	C5	N	failure no ring
8:04	Call #32	C2	NW	success clear
8:05	Call #33	C3	NW	failure no ring
8:07	Call #34	C5	W	failure no ring
8:20 - landed at airport				

The following table summarizes the results:

altitude (feet)	calls tried	calls successful	percent success
2000	5	5	100%
4000	5	3	60%
6000	15	6	40%
8000	15	2	13%

Note: calls "tried" includes retired cellphones C1 and C4 above the altitude of 4000 feet where, in the opinion of the cellphone expert, they would have failed to get through, in any case. Failure to include them in the count would make the results at different altitudes non-comparable.

The results of this experiment may be compared to the results from Part Two where, instead of the Cessna, we used the Diamond Katana:

altitude (feet)	calls tried	calls successful	percent success
2000	4	3	75%
4000	4	1	25%
6000	12	2	17%
8000	20	1	5%

To make the results comparable, however, cellphone C5 was omitted from the calculations, since it was not used in the first experiment.

altitude (feet)	calls tried	calls successful	percent success
2000	4	3	75%
4000	4	1	25%
6000	12	2	17%
8000	12	1	8%

Analysis

Since the (1.5 mm) skin of the Cessna appears to have made little difference to the outcome of the experiment, the data of Parts Two and Three may be combined, as follows, to produce more reliable figures for the battery of test phones that were used in the experiment:

altitude (feet)	calls tried	calls successful	percent success
2000	9	8	89%
4000	9	4	44%
6000	27	8	30%
8000	35	3	9%

The data from the first three altitudes appear to fit an inverse-linear model of attenuation. In other words, the probability of a call getting through varies inversely as the altitude, according to the formula:

Probability of success = $k/\text{altitude}$, where k is a constant

It will be noted that the values of k implied by these data, at least up to 6000 feet abga are remarkably consistent. However, at 8000 feet the k -value falls precipitously, implying that a different regime may be in play.

altitude (feet)	k-value
2000	1780
4000	1760
6000	1800
8000	720

The expected model of attenuation with distance is of course inverse squared, a natural consequence of the three dimensions that any uniform radiation must travel through. Inverse squared attenuation follows a slightly different pattern or formula:

Probability of success = $k/\text{altitude}^2$

To estimate k , it seems reasonable to use the data from 4000 feet and 8000 feet as benchmarks for the calculation of the constant k (not the same constant as was used in the foregoing analysis, of course.)

At 4000 feet abga the implied k -value is 7,040,000, while at 8000 feet, the implied k -value is 5,760,000. although here again the k -value appears to drop (indicating that the actual attenuation may be worse than inverse squared), we use an average of the two estimates, following our consistent practice of always giving the benefit of the doubt to the cellphones, so to speak.

Taking an average value of $k = 6,400,000$, we obtain the formula,

Probability of success = $6,400,000/\text{altitude}^2$

Using this formula, we can get a best-case estimate for the probability of cellphone success from a slow-moving light aircraft, as summarized in the following table.

altitude (feet)	probability of cellphone call getting through
4,000	0.400
8,000	0.100
12,000	0.040
16,000	0.025
20,000	0.016
24,000	0.011
28,000	0.008
32,000	0.006

Private pilots flying light aircraft are nowadays familiar with the fact that they may use their cellphones to make calls to the ground, at least if they are not higher than one or two thousand feet. Above that altitude, calls get rather iffy, sometimes working, sometimes not. The higher a pilot ascends, the less likely the call is to get through. At 8000 feet the pilot will not get through at all unless he or she happens to be using a cellphone with the same capabilities as C5 (See appendix A.) But even that cellphone begins to fail at 6000 feet.

Calls from 20,000 feet have barely a one-in-a-hundred chance of succeeding.

The results just arrived at apply only to light aircraft and are definitely optimal in the sense that cellphone calls from large, heavy-skinned, fast-moving jetliners are apt to be considerably worse.

Conclusions

It cannot be said that the Faraday attenuation experiment (Part Three) was complete, in the sense that the operator normally held the phone to his ear, seated in a normal position. This meant that the signals from the test phones were only partially attenuated because the operator was surrounded by windows that are themselves radio-transparent.

Although we cannot say yet to what degree the heavier aluminum skin on a Boeing 700-series aircraft would affect cellphone calls made from within the aircraft, they would not be without some effect as windows take up a much smaller solid angle at the cellphone antenna. Signals have a much smaller window area to escape through, in general.

As was shown above, the chance of a typical cellphone call from cruising altitude making it to ground and engaging a cellsite there is less than one in a hundred. To calculate the probability that two such calls will succeed involves elementary probability theory. The resultant probability is the product of the two probabilities, taken separately. In other words, the probability that two callers will succeed is less than one in ten thousand. In the case of a hundred such calls, even if a large majority fail, the chance of, say 13 calls getting through can only be described as infinitesimal. In operational terms, this means "impossible."

At lower altitudes the probability of connection changes from impossible to varying degrees of "unlikely." But here, a different phenomenon asserts itself, a phenomenon that cannot be tested in a propellor-driven light aircraft. At 500 miles per hour, a low-flying aircraft passes over each cell in a very short time. For example if a cell (area serviced by a given cellsite) were a mile in diameter, the aircraft would be in it for one to eight seconds. Before a cellphone call can go

through, the device must complete an electronic "handshake" with the cellsite servicing the call. This handshake can hardly be completed in eight seconds. When the aircraft comes into the next cell, the call must be "handed off" to the new cellsite. This process also absorbs seconds of time. Together, the two requirements for a successful and continuous call would appear too much time for a speaking connection to be established. Sooner or later, the call is "dropped."

This assessment is borne out by both earwitness testimony and by expert opinion, as found in Appendix B, below. Taking the consistency of theoretical prediction and expert opinion at face value, it seems fair to conclude that cellphone calls (at any altitude) from fast-flying aircraft are no more likely to get through than cellphone calls from high-flying slow aircraft.

A. K. Dewdney,
February 19th 2003

The author has not placed his university affiliations below his name, as the research described here was not conducted with any university facilities or supported by university-administered grants. He currently holds the titles of Professor Emeritus of Computer Science and Adjunct Professor of Biology at the University of Western Ontario, as well as Professor of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo.

APPENDIX A: Cellphone types

- * C1 - Motorola i95cl - Telus Mike Network - 800 Mhz IDEN
- * C2 - Motorola StarTac - Bell Mobility - 800 Mhz Analog
- * C3 - Audiovox 8300 - Telus PCS Network - 1.9 Ghz CDMA / 800 MHz
- * C4 - Nokia 6310i - Rogers AT&T - 1.9 Ghz GHz GSM. (Tri-Band - Has an 1.8 GHz and 900 Mhz GSM these are European frequencies)
- * C5 - Motorola Timeport 8767 - Bell Mobility - 800 MHz Analog (CDMA Tri-Mode 1.9 GHz CDMA / 800 Mhz CDMA)

APPENDIX B: Letters

Professional opinions

=====

Dear Sir

I have yet to read the entire [Ghost Riders] article but I do have a background in telecommunications. Using a cell phone on an air craft is next to impossible. The reasons are very detailed, but basically the air craft would run major interference, as well as the towers that carry the signal would have a difficult time sending and receiving due to the speed of the air craft. As well, calling an operator? Well that is basically impossible.

Having worked for both a major Canadian and American provider I had to instruct my staff that operator assistance is not an option. Have you ever tried to use a cell phone in some public buildings? Impossible. There are too many spots that service is voided. Just a tidbit of information to share.

Megan Conley <megan_conley@hotmail.com>

Hi,

I am an RF design engineer, having built out Sprint, Verizon and another network in New Orleans. You are absolutely correct. We have trouble making these things work for cars going 55 mph on the ground. If you need another engineer's testimony for any reason, let me know I will corroborate.

my engineering site: http://www.geocities.com/rf_man_cdma/

Brad Mayeux <cdmaman@engineer.com>

Anecdotal evidence

=====

Sir,

Yours is the first article I've read which focuses on those dubious 'cell phone calls'. Last month my Wife and I flew to Melbourne, about 1000 miles south of here.

Cell phones are Verboten in Airliners here, but on the return journey I had a new NOKIA phone, purchased in Melbourne, and so small I almost forgot it was in my pocket. I furtively turned it on. No reception anywhere, not even over Towns or approaching Brisbane. Maybe it's different in the US, but I doubt it.

There has to be an investigation into this crime. Justice for the thousands of dead and their families demands it.

Best

Bernie Busch <bbusch@iprimus.com.au>

Hi Prof

I have repeatedly tried to get my cell phone to work in an airplane above 2-3000 feet and it doesn't work. My experiments were done discretely on [more than] 20 Southwest Airlines flights between Ontario, California and Phoenix, Arizona. My experiments match yours. Using sprint phones 3500 and 6000 models, no calls above 2500 ft [succeeded], a "no service" indicator at 5000 ft (guestimate).

There seem to be two reasons. 1. the cell sites don't have enough power to reach much more than a mile, 2. The cell phone system is not able to handoff calls when the plane is going at more than 400 mph.

This is simply experimental data. If any of your contacts can verify it by finding the height of the Pennsylvania plane and it's speed one can prove that the whole phone call story is forged.

Rafe <rafeh@rdlabs.com> (airline pilot)

Greetings,

I write in praise of your report, as I have felt from day one that the cell phone 'evidence' was perhaps the flimsiest part of the story, and am amazed that nobody has touched it until now.

I'd also like to bring up the point of airspeed, which is what made the cell calls a red-flag for me in the first place. I'm not sure what your top speed achieved in the small plane was, but, in a large airliner travelling at (one would think) no less than 450mph, most cell phones wouldn't be able to transit cells fast enough to maintain a connection (at least, from what i understand of the technology) .. and we're talking 2001 cell technology besides, which in that period, was known to drop calls made from cars travelling above 70mph on the freeway (again, due to cell coverage transits)

Anyway, thanks for shining the light, keep up the good work

Ben Adam

Dear Professor,

Responding to your article, I'm glad somebody with authority has taken the trouble to scientifically prove the nonsense of 9/11.

I was travelling between two major European cities, every weekend, when the events in the US occurred. I was specifically puzzled by the reports that numerous passengers on board the hijacked planes had long conversations with ground phone lines, using their mobile phones (and not on board satellite phones). Since I travelled every weekend, I ignored the on board safety regulations to switch off the mobile phone and out of pure curiosity left it on to see if I could make a call happen.

First of all, at take off, the connection disappears quite quickly (ascending speed, lateral reception of ground stations etc.), I would estimate from 500 meters [1500 feet approx.] and above, the connection breaks.

Secondly, when making the approach for landing, the descent is more gradual and the plane is travelling longer in the reach of cellphone stations, but also only below 500 meters. What I noticed was that, since the plane is travelling with high speed, the connection jumps from one cellphone station to another, never actually giving you a chance to make a phone call. (I have never experienced this behaviour over land, e.g. by car). Then, if a connection is established, it takes at least 10-30 seconds before the provider authorises a phone call in the first place. Within this time, the next cellstation is reached (travel speed still > 300KM/h) and the phone, always searching for the best connection, disconnects the current connection and tries to connect to a new station.

I have done this experiment for over 18 months, ruling out weather conditions, location or coincidence. In all this time the behaviour was the same: making a

phone call in a plane is unrealistic and virtually impossible.

Based on this, I can support you in your findings that the official (perhaps fabricated) stories can be categorised as nonsense.

With kind regards.

Peter Kes <kpkas@yahoo.com>

It must be clearly understood that Prof. Dewdney's tests were conducted in slow-moving (<150kts) light aircraft at relatively low altitudes (<9000ft AGL). The aircraft from which the alleged calls were made on 9/11 were flying at over 30,000 ft at speeds of over 500 MPH.

During a recent round-trip flight from Orange County, CA to Miami, FL (via Phoenix, AZ), I, personally conducted an unofficial "test" using a brand new Nokia 6101 cellular phone [NB: 2005 technology]. En route, I attempted (discretely, of course) a total of 37 calls from varying altitudes/speeds. I flew aboard three types of aircraft: Boeing 757, 737, and Airbus 320. Our cruising altitudes ranged from 31-33,000ft, and our cruising speeds, from 509-521 MPH (verified post-flight by the captains). My tests began immediately following take-off. Since there was obviously no point in taking along the wrist altimeter I use for ultralight flying for reference in a pressurized cabin, I could only estimate (from experience) the various altitudes at which I made my attempts.

Of the 37 calls attempted, I managed to make only 4 connections - and every one of these was made on final approach, less than 2 minutes before flare, I.e., at less than 2,000ft AGL.

Approach speeds varied from 130-160 kts (Vref, outer marker), with flap and gear extension at around 2,000ft (again, all speeds verified by flightdeck crews). Further, I personally spoke briefly with the captains of all four flights: I discovered that in their entire flying careers, NOT ONE of these men had EVER been successful in making a cell phone call from cruising altitude/speed in a variety of aircraft types. [NB: Rest assured the ubiquitous warnings to "turn off all electronics during flight" are completely unfounded. All modern aircraft systems are fully shielded from all forms of RF/EMF interference (save EMP, of course). This requirement was mandated by the FAA many years ago purely as a precautionary measure while emerging advanced avionics systems were being flight tested. There is not a single recorded incident of interference adversely affecting the performance of airborne avionics systems.]

Obviously, my casual, seat-of-the-pants attempt at verifying a commonly known fact can hardly be passed off as a "scientific" test. Ergo, I shall offer Prof. Dewdney's conclusion, excerpted from his meticulously detailed and documented paper re slow-flying light aircraft at low altitudes.

Nila Sagadevan

Prof. Dewdney:

I do not pretend to be any sort of expert of cellular communications, but I am an electronics engineer and hold both amateur and commercial FCC licenses, so I do have some understanding of the relevant principles of radio communication systems.

I read with interest your analysis of terrestrial contact probabilities via cellphones from aircraft. I believe your conclusions are sound, but would like to comment on an element which you pondered regarding the sort of apparent discontinuity in what seems otherwise to be an inverse-square relation beyond a certain altitude.

Cellphones operate by Frequency Modulation, and as such the (apparent) signal strength is not discernible to the listener because the intelligence is contained only in the frequency and phase information of the signal before demodulation. Hence, the system works pretty well until it is so weak that it is abruptly lost. That is, the system can no longer "capture" the signal. It does not get louder and softer with signal strength -until the signal is below the detection level of the receiver, at which point it is essentially disappears. The cellphone also adjusts the transmit power according to the signal level received at the tower end of the link. Once it is at maximum output, if the signal diminishes beyond some minimum threshold depending on the receiver design, it is lost altogether and not simply degraded in quality. Analogous behavior is experienced with FM broadcast stations; as you travel away from the transmitter the station is received with good fidelity until at some distance it rather suddenly cannot even be received any longer at all.

Additionally, cellphone towers are certainly not optimally designed for skyward radiation patterns. Since almost all subscribers are terrestrial that is where the energy is directed, at low angles.

In summary, if your observed discontinuous behavior is real, and I believe there is technical reasoning for such, the probability of making calls beyond some threshold altitude is not simply predictably less, but truly impossible with conventional cellphones under any condition of aircraft etc. because of the theoretical limits of noise floor in the receiving systems. I think the plausibility of completing the calls from 30,000+ ft. is even much lower than might be expected from extrapolations of behavior at lower altitudes which you investigated.

Thank you for your thoughtful work in this area.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Barton

Dear Dr Dewdney

I too can verify that on a private charter airline, Champion Air, which was a 737-300, I believe that is correct or it might have been a 727-300. But regardless of that, we took off from Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport at 0735 in July of 2003. As we were taxiing to the run way the pilot told us to please turn off all electronic equipment, i.e. Cell Phones, Laptops, etc. I did so, but shortly after take off and

before the pilot said we could use our "electronic equipment" I thought I would call my mom and let her know we were in the air. We had not been off the ground for more than 2 minutes. I would guess between 2000 and 5000 ft. I was using at the time one of Motorola's top of the line phones, a V60t. My cell phone carrier is Cingular which is quite a widespread carrier as you probably know, I had absolutely no signal at all. Since we were flying to Cozumel, Mexico I kept trying and watching for a signal until we got out past the coast line of Texas, when then I knew for sure I wouldn't get a signal again until we landed in Cozumel. Again in June 2004 we flew out of DFW, same airline, same type of plane, and the same thing occurred. This time I left my phone on from take off and up until it lost the signal. Again we couldn't have been more than 2000 to 3000 ft. off the ground. I lost the signal and never again got a signal until the plane landed in Cozumel. I find it highly unlikely that anyone could have used a cell phone on 9/11/01 at above 2000 feet.

Sincerely,
Brad Taylor

<http://physics911.net/projectachilles>

REVIEW: The Film "United 93"

Pandora's Press Release: Hollywood's 9/11 Propaganda Docudrama Opens A New Box of Demons By Cole Smithey

"United 93" is an odd film by any standard. Filmmaker Paul Greengrass (notable for his terrific 2002 docudrama "Bloody Sunday" about the 1972 British Army massacre of 27 civilians in Northern Ireland) wrote and directed what is a disturbingly prosaic piece of dramatic conjecture about one of the most puzzling events of 9/11. As a fictionalized docudrama, "United 93" punctures all suspension-of-disbelief because of the intrinsic absurdness that the mightiest military power on earth couldn't scramble a dozen squads of F-16 fighter planes to perform aerial escorts for the "11 commercial airliners" believed to be hijacked on 9/11. Greengrass disguises art as journalism by matter-of-factly declaring that United 93 crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania at the "heroic" hands of its passengers in spite of the fact that the now famous "crash site" produced not one human corpse or even a single drop of blood.

A somber prologue introduces four young Muslim men praying inside their hotel room in the wee hours on the morning of September 11, 2001. The scene divulges a subtly racist undercurrent that plays out during the film with the thinly concealed hubris that America's Neocons have benefited from under the guise of false patriotism since 9/11.

In the film's production notes, Greengrass gives his mission statement: "There are lots of ways to find meaning in the events of 9/11. Television can convey events as they happen. A reporter can write history's rough first draft. Historians can widen the time frame and give us context ... Filmmakers have a part to play, too, and I believe that sometimes, if you look clearly and unflinchingly at a single event, you can find in its shape something much larger than the event itself -- the DNA of our times."

"Sometimes" is the key word that absolves Greengrass of his self-imposed responsibility for mapping out any DNA of falsification or rampant government and corporate corruption that permeates every dust particle left behind in the wake of 9/11.

In practice, the filmmaker leverages the contrasting estimable talents of Ken Loach's devoted director of photography Barry Akroyd ("Raining Stones") with three editors -- Clare Douglas ("Bloody Sunday"), Christopher Rouse ("The Bourne Supremacy"), and Richard Pearson ("Men In Black II"). His "clear and unflinching" gaze at the "single event" diverts in telling ways from recorded facts. Greengrass gets a performance windfall from Ben Sliney the actual FAA Operations Manager on duty at Herndon, Virginia on 9/11, playing himself with the hard-bitten charisma that comes from years of experience. However, Greengrass still can't help nudging out dramatic truth when he has Sliney give the order for a "national ground stop" for all air traffic in the country, when, in fact, it was FAA head Jane Garvey who gave that order.

The cell phone/air phone calls are an area of tacit fiction that the auteur fudges with discreet but significant treatment. The actual recorded calls from the "passengers" of United 93 are suspiciously vague and calculated. The calls were never more than a couple of sentences long and share a symmetrical brand of abstract logic that rings false in the context of a hijacked aircraft.

Transcripts of the "calls" reads like answers from a sixth grader cheating on a test he doesn't know the questions to.

"It's bad news. I need you to be happy."

"Ted, what can I do? What can I tell the pilot?"

"We've been hijacked. He had an Islamic book."

"It's getting very bad on the plane ... the plane is making jerky movements."

These examples taken, from the 9/11 Commission's Report as referenced in writer/director Dylan Avery's persuasive documentary "9/11 Loose Change," are telling for their clipped structure and ridiculously short length. They don't convey any of the mile-a-minute patter that a panicked person would use to call for immediate help in a hijack situation.

Greengrass fudges the notable call in which a "passenger" introduces himself to his own mother using his first and last name. The director's "clear" gaze doesn't extend to quoting the "actual" air phone dialogue, perhaps because he couldn't compensate for its inherent falseness. He does however include the caller asking his mother if she believes him when he tells her the plane has been hijacked.

Ultimately, "United 93" is a regurgitation of suspicious media-fueled speculation about events on an airplane that we know very little about. This is a movie that does more to discourage raising questions about what really happened to flight 93 than it does to encourage debate over the bastion of lies that have been fed to the American people.

It is an interesting footnote that United flight 93 was not scheduled to fly on 9/11, and that the plane (tail number N51UA) was spotted by United Airline's employee

David Friedman on April 10, 2003 at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and that the plane is listed as still valid with the FAA. Dylan Avery provided essential information used in this article in his documentary "9/11 Loose Change."

http://filmcritic1963.typepad.com/reviews/2006/04/united_93_.html

The 9-11 Passenger List Oddity **by Vincent Sammartino**

[Reiterated from Reference 8.1]

Now, we come to most interesting stuff -- the Social Security Death Index, and thanks to Victor Thorn's idea, the September 11th Victim's Compensation Fund. After all, it's one thing to say that the flight lists are not on the up and up, but it's another thing to prove it.

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is a privately-owned website that is not affiliated with Social Security. It boasts an accuracy rate of about 83% (e-mail them any questions you may have). Anyway, to check its reliability, I inputted the names of people I knew that had died in my family, along with friends and neighbors. Being a true skeptic, I had no way of knowing whether they were telling the truth or not. With the exception of a cousin, I found everyone I was looking for. (Be sure you have the person's true first name -- they may not be listed by the state they last lived in, but can be found in the state where their social security number was issued.) By all means try it yourself.

Which brings us to the 9-11 Victims Compensation Fund (also known as the Shut Up and Take the Money Fund), which most of you have heard about.

9-11 Victims Compensation Fund

This is where our government opened up the Treasury and gave family members of those who lost their lives that day lots of money. In return, these families were basically told to shut up about anything else concerning 9-11. (Considering all the lies surrounding this horrific event, you can see why.)

At this point there is one thing we should never forget, and that is how powerful the notion of human greed is. Remember this concept as you read the number of victims whose family members sought compensation.

The names of the victims can be found on the CNN website.

Here are the results:

Flight 11: of the 92 people who are listed as dying on this flight, only 20 are listed in the SSDI. (22%)

Of these 20 people, only three are on the 9-11 Compensation Fund list:

**Judy Larocque
Laurie Neira
Candace Lee Williams**

Flight 77: of the 64 people who are listed as dying on this flight, only 14 are listed in the SSDI. (22%)

Of these 64 people, only five are on the 9-11 Compensation Fund list:

William Caswell
Eddie Dillard
Ian Gray
John Sammartino
Leonard Taylor

Flight 175: of the 65 people who are listed as dying on this flight, only 18 are listed in the SSDI. (28%)

Of these 65 people, only three are on the 9-11 Compensation Fund list:

Michael C. Tarrou
Gloria Debarrera
Timothy Ward

Flight 93: of the 45 people who are listed as dying on this flight, only 6 are listed in the SSDI. (13%)

Of these 45 people, none are on the 9-11 Compensation Fund list:

No one.

Have you noticed anything strange yet? Of the passengers and crew of Flight 11, 77, 175 & 93, only 22%, 22%, 28%, 13% respectively are in the SSDI.

Remember human greed? Of the 266 people that we were told died on these jets, only 11 relatives applied for compensation. Can you believe that not a single relative from Flight 93 applied for compensation? I can't. Were all the relatives of the victims so rich that they weren't eligible to receive compensation? No, that's not it. (The minimum federal award was \$250,000, and the average pay-out was about \$1.8 million. The recipients only had to make agreement: they couldn't sue the airlines.)

You should also know that most lawyers told their clients to take the money and run (which is what most lawyers would do -- take the sure money). Ellen Mariani clearly elaborated on this point during her appearance on the radio show mentioned above.

Finally, during the past week, thanks to Lisa Guliani's insatiable quest for the truth, the 9-11 Victims Compensation Final Report has come to light.

9-11 Victims Compensation Final Report

Oddly, but consistent with everything concerning 9-11, the actual complete list of the people who benefited has been omitted from this report. Even without this, it does contain an interesting fact. According to the report, 98% of all the people who suffered a loss on 9-11 took the fund money. The average payment was \$1.8 million.

But here's where it gets strange. According to the government, here are the number of people who accepted the compensation fund:

Out of a total of 92 people on Flight 11, only 65 accepted the 9-11 fund (71%)
Out of a total of 65 people on Flight 175, only 46 accepted the 9-11 fund (71%)
Out of a total of 64 people on Flight 77, only 33 accepted the 9-11 fund (52%)
Out of a total of 45 people on Flight 93, only 25 accepted the 9-11 fund (56%)

Does any of this seem a little odd to you? Or is it possible that not only were the jets on 9-11 magical, but their passengers as well?

So there you have it; yet another glaring 9-11 inconsistency -- just maybe the biggest of them all?

Skeptically yours,
Vincent Sammartino

<http://911review.org/Sept11Wiki/PassengerList.shtml>

Media Published Fake Passenger Lists for American Airlines Flight 11

Author: Gerard Holmgren

[Reiterated from Reference 8.1]

As everyone knows, on Sept 11 2001, 5 Arabs allegedly hijacked American Airlines flight 11 and crashed it into the North Tower of the World Trade Centre at 8.46 A.M. It was part of a crime which killed approximately 3000 people.

Any crime of this magnitude, is - or should be - subject to rigorous examination by investigative and law enforcement authorities, such as the FBI. In any crime involving the illegal use of a plane, it is obvious that one of the first investigative steps taken by such authorities is to find out who was on the plane.

This is not a difficult thing to do. Airlines keep well organized records of everybody on any particular flight. The apparent ID of anyone on that flight - regardless of whether they used a true or false ID - should be immediately available to authorities.

Unless authorities decide that disclosure of such information may jeopardize the investigation, it should also be easily available to the media. It should be as simple as an exchange of faxes or emails between the media and either the airline involved or one of the relevant authorities to which the airline has released the information. Or possibly printed copies handed out at a press conference.

In relation to the alleged AA11, there has never been any indication that such information has been withheld for security reasons. We have been given the clear impression that the information relating to exactly who was on that plane has been made available to us via the media - which presumably sourced it in the manner suggested above. If the information had been withheld, one would expect that to be known.

..... Anybody can put up a website, do an interview or send an email, claiming to be family or friend of a plane victim. But the only credible, official source for such information is the airline passenger list, and the only credible source for obtaining

this information is the airline itself, or authorities and media to which the airline makes it available. One can't demand an explanation of what happened to particular people alleged to be on the flight unless one can prove that they were on the flight. Implicit in the official story is the assumption that such information has been established in the public domain by the media.

It is therefore incumbent upon any serious investigator to properly examine such passenger lists and ensure that they match with other alleged facts we have been given, and with the processes by which one would expect the information to have been sourced.....

Someone is fibbing.

Here is a summary of the anomalies between the lists.

Collectively, these sources list the names of 95 alleged innocents.

CNN lists 87 names, which should be a complete list, but indicates that the list is incomplete. The 8 left out are Vamsikrishna, Roux, Iskander, Jalbert, Tu, Weems, Ward and Booms.

USA Today lists 86 names, citing this as a "partial list." Those missing are Caplin, Jalbert, Jude Larson, Natalie Larson, Roux, Tu, Weems, Ward and Iskander.

NBC lists 87 names. Its the same as USAT with the addition of Iskander, but changes Peter Hashem to Peter el-Hachem.

PBS is identical to NBC.

The Boston daily lists 89 innocents and describes it as a a partial list. Those missing are Iskander, Vamsikrishna, Tu, Weems, Ward and Booms. It is the only list to name Jalbert.

A year later it lists 87 names, changing Heath Smith to Heather Smith, Hashem to el-Hachem , and losing Caplin, the two Larsons, Jalbert and Roux for Iskander, Vamsikrishna, and Booms.

The Washington Post published a "partial list" containing 89 names. Those missing are Iskander, Vamsikrishna, Jalbert, Tu , Weems and Ward .

The "We Will Never Forget" website lists 88 names. Those missing are Vamsikrishna, Jalbert, Booms, Tu, Weems, Ward and Roux.

The AA11 memorial website lists 90 names and claims 95 aboard. The missing names are Vamsikrishna, Tu, Weems, Ward and Jalbert.

Wikipedia claims a summation of 93 aboard, but lists only 92 names (including hijackers). It is the only site to list Lana Tu. Those missing are Iskander, Caplin, the two Larsons, Jalbert, Weems, Ward and Roux. This makes it the same as the USA Today list with the addition of Tu or put another way -- the same as the NBC and PBS lists except that Tu is in for Iskander.

The American Memorials/Obituary site lists 90 names and is the only list to name Weems and Ward. It leaves out Tu, Jalbert, Vamsikrishna, Roux and Booms.

Several sources claim that AA released 77 (or 75) names on Sept 12, but the Washington Post published 89 names the same day, and the Boston Daily published 89 -- but not the same 89 -- the day after, while Fox News was still claiming that only 81 names were confirmed a week later.

..... Since the media which sells us the official story universally agrees that there were 92 aboard -- 87 innocents and 5 hijackers, then 8 of these names (although we can't yet specify which 8) must be fictitious. If 8 are confirmed as fictitious, then we are perfectly entitled to speculate with some validity that any number of the 95 could be fictitious.

What's even more curious is that four of these names [from AA 11] also appear on the lists for UA 175, alleged to have hit the South Tower of the WTC at 9.03: Jalbert, Roux, Ward and Weems.

**[In other words,
the official reporting of these four "victims"
not only has them switching planes --
but switching Airlines as well:
from American to United.**

**From which it becomes obvious --
it wasn't the Airlines who were generating these very flexible lists,
even though these lists are supposed to originate with them.]**

What a mess! This crime -- the murder of approximately 3000 people, and the excuse for two wars and alarming attacks on civil liberties -- and presumably more to come -- is supposed to have been properly investigated and documented? Why should we be expected to believe who the hijackers were, when the spin doctors can't even do a credible fabrication job of a list of innocent victims?

<http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2004/05/288505.shtml>

Flight 93 in Summation

Crash Site:

FOX Reporter: Any large pieces of debris at all?

Eyewitness Konicki: Na, there was nothing, nothing that you could distinguish that a plane had crashed there.

Strange Finds:

"It was practically intact," Richard's sister, Lori, said of the credentials, which were returned in their wallet. "It just looked like it wasn't damaged or hadn't gone through much of anything at all, which is so bizarre and ironic."

Mysterious White Jet:

The plane I saw was heading right to the point where Flight 93 crashed and must have been there at the very moment it came down...It was white with no markings but it was definitely military, it just had that look...They did not want my story - nobody here did."

Initial Reports:

"A Boeing 767 out of Boston made an emergency landing Tuesday at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport...United identified the plane as Flight 93.

Coroner at the Scene:

"This is the most eerie thing," he says. "I have not, to this day, seen a single drop of blood. Not a drop."

The Crater:

"The smoking crater looked, he says, "like someone took a scrap truck, dug a 10-foot ditch and dumped all this trash into it."

The Dirt:

"The area in which the plane hit had just been backfilled."

Debris Field:

"Crowley confirmed that there were two other aircraft within 25 miles of the United flight that were heading east when it crashed, scattering debris over 8 miles."

Shanksville Photo Gallery - Witnesses - Archived Articles - Shanksville blogposts

Compare with other crashes: Pan Am 103, USAir 427, & UA 585

<http://killtown.911review.org/flight93.html>

The 9/11 Cell Phone Calls:

More Holes in the Official Story

by Michel Chossudovsky

www.globalresearch.ca 10 August 2004

The URL of this article is: <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO408B.html>

"We Have Some Planes"

The 9/11 Commission's Report provides an almost visual description of the Arab hijackers. It depicts in minute detail events occurring inside the cabin of the four

hijacked planes.

In the absence of surviving passengers, this "corroborating evidence," was based on passengers' cell and air phone conversations with their loved ones. According to the Report, the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) was only recovered in the case of one of the flights (UAL 93).

Focusing on the personal drama of the passengers, the Commission has built much of its narrative around the phone conversations. The Arabs are portrayed with their knives and box cutters, scheming in the name of Allah, to bring down the planes and turn them "into large guided missiles"

Report, Chapter 1,

http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report_Ch1.pdf

The Technology of Wireless Transmission

The Report conveys the impression that cell phone ground-to-air communication from high altitude was of reasonably good quality, and that there was no major impediment or obstruction in wireless transmission.

Some of the conversations were with onboard air phones, which contrary to the cell phones provide for good quality transmission. The report does not draw a clear demarcation between the two types of calls.

More significantly, what this carefully drafted script fails to mention is that, given the prevailing technology in September 2001, it was extremely difficult, if not impossible, to place a wireless cell call from an aircraft traveling at high speed above 8000 feet:

"Wireless communications networks weren't designed for ground-to-air communication. Cellular experts privately admit that they're surprised the calls were able to be placed from the hijacked planes, and that they lasted as long as they did. They speculate that the only reason that the calls went through in the first place is that the aircraft were flying so close to the ground."

<http://www.elliott.org/technology/2001/cellpermit.htm>

Expert opinion within the wireless telecom industry casts serious doubt on "the findings" of the 9/11 Commission. According to Alexa Graf, a spokesman of AT&T, commenting in the immediate wake of the 9/11 attacks:

"it was almost a fluke that the [9/11] calls reached their destinations... From high altitudes, the call quality is not very good, and most callers will experience drops. Although calls are not reliable, callers can pick up and hold calls for a little while below a certain altitude."

http://wirelessreview.com/ar/wireless_final_contact/

New Wireless Technology

While serious doubts regarding the cell calls were expressed in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, a new landmark in the wireless telecom industry has further

contributed to upsetting the Commission's credibility. Within days of the release of the 9/11 Commission Report in July, **American Airlines and Qualcomm, proudly announced the development of a new wireless technology -- which will at some future date allow airline passengers using their cell phones to contact family and friends from a commercial aircraft** (no doubt at a special rate aerial roaming charge). See:

http://www.qualcomm.com/press/releases/2004/040715_aa_testflight.html

"Travelers could be talking on their personal cellphones as early as 2006. Earlier this month [July 2004], American Airlines conducted a trial run on a modified aircraft that permitted cell phone calls." (WP, July 27, 2004)

Aviation Week (07/20/04) described this new technology in an authoritative report published in July 2004:

"Qualcomm and American Airlines are exploring [July 2004] ways for passengers to use commercial cell phones inflight for air-to-ground communication. In a recent 2-hr. proof-of-concept flight, representatives from government and the media used commercial Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) third-generation cell phones to place and receive calls and text messages from friends on the ground.

For the test flight from Dallas-Fort Worth, the aircraft was equipped with an antenna in the front and rear of the cabin to transmit cell phone calls to a small in-cabin CDMA cellular base station. This "pico cell" transmitted cell phone calls from the aircraft via a Globalstar satellite to the worldwide terrestrial phone network."

Needless to say, **neither the service, nor the "third generation" hardware, nor the "Picco cell" CDMA base station inside the cabin (which so to speak mimics a cell phone communication tower inside the plane) were available on the morning of September 11, 2001.**

The 911 Commission points to the clarity and detail of these telephone conversations.

In substance, the Aviation Week report creates yet another embarrassing hitch in the official story.

The untimely July American Airlines / Qualcomm announcement acted as a cold shower. Barely acknowledged in press reports, it confirms that the Bush administration had embroidered the cell phone narrative (similar to what they did with WMDs) and that the 9/11 Commission's account was either flawed or grossly exaggerated.

Altitude and Cellphone Transmission

According to industry experts, the crucial link in wireless cell phone transmission from an aircraft is altitude. Beyond a certain altitude which is usually reached within a few minutes after takeoff, cell phone calls are no longer possible.

In other words, **given the wireless technology available on September 11 2001, these cell calls could not have been placed from high altitude.**

The only way passengers could have got through to family and friends using their cell phones, is if the planes were flying below 8000 feet. Yet even at low altitude, below 8000 feet, cell phone communication is of poor quality.

The crucial question: at what altitude were the planes traveling, when the calls were placed?

While the information provided by the Commission is scanty, the Report's timeline does not suggest that the planes were consistently traveling at low altitude. In fact the Report confirms that a fair number of the cell phone calls were placed while the plane was traveling at altitudes above 8000 feet, which is considered as the cutoff altitude for cell phone transmission.

Let us review the timeline of these calls in relation to the information provided by the Report on flight paths and altitude.

United Airlines Flight 175

United Airlines Flight 175 departed for Los Angeles at 8:00:

"It pushed back from its gate at 7:58 and departed Logan Airport at 8:14."

The Report confirms that **by 8:33, "it had reached its assigned cruising altitude of 31,000 feet."** According to the Report, **it maintained this cruising altitude until 8.51, when it "deviated from its assigned altitude":**

"The first operational evidence that something was abnormal on United 175 came at 8:47, when the aircraft changed beacon codes twice within a minute. At 8:51, the flight deviated from its assigned altitude, and a minute later New York air traffic controllers began repeatedly and unsuccessfully trying to contact it."

And one minute later at 8.52, Lee Hanson receives a call from his son Peter.

[Flight UAL 175] "At 8:52, in Easton, Connecticut, a man named Lee Hanson received a phone call from his son Peter, a passenger on United 175. His son told him: "I think they've taken over the cockpit—An attendant has been stabbed—and someone else up front may have been killed. The plane is making strange moves. Call United Airlines—Tell them it's Flight 175, Boston to LA."

Press reports confirm that Peter Hanson was using his cell (i.e it was not an air phone). **Unless the plane had suddenly nose-dived, the plane was still at high altitude at 8.52.** (Moreover, Hanson's call could have been initiated at least a minute prior to his father Lee Hanson picking up the phone.)

Another call was received at 8.52 (one minute after it deviated from its assigned altitude of 31,000 feet). The Report does not say whether this is an air phone or a cell phone call:

Also at 8:52, a male flight attendant called a United office in San Francisco, reaching Marc Policastro. The flight attendant reported that the flight had been hijacked, both pilots had been killed, a flight attendant had been stabbed, and the hijackers were probably flying the plane. The call lasted about two minutes, after which Policastro and a colleague tried

unsuccessfully to contact the flight.

It is not clear whether this was a call to Policastro's cell phone or to the UAL switchboard.

At 8:58, UAL 175 "took a heading toward New York City."

"At 8:59, Flight 175 passenger Brian David Sweeney tried to call his wife, Julie. He left a message on their home answering machine that the plane had been hijacked. He then called his mother, Louise Sweeney, told her the flight had been hijacked, and added that the passengers were thinking about storming the cockpit to take control of the plane away from the hijackers.

At 9:00, Lee Hanson received a second call from his son Peter:

It's getting bad, Dad—A stewardess was stabbed—They seem to have knives and Mace—They said they have a bomb—It's getting very bad on the plane—Passengers are throwing up and getting sick—The plane is making jerky movements—I don't think the pilot is flying the plane—I think we are going down—I think they intend to go to Chicago or someplace and fly into a building—Don't worry, Dad— If it happens, it'll be very fast—My God, my God.

The call ended abruptly. Lee Hanson had heard a woman scream just before it cut off. He turned on a television, and in her home so did Louise Sweeney. Both then saw the second aircraft hit the World Trade Center.⁵⁰ At 9:03:11, United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower of the World Trade Center. All on board, along with an unknown number of people in the tower, were killed instantly."

American Airlines Flight 77

American Airlines Flight 77 was scheduled to depart from Washington Dulles for Los Angeles at 8:10... "At 8:46, the flight reached its assigned cruising altitude of 35,000 feet."

At 8:51, American 77 transmitted its last routine radio communication. The hijacking began between 8:51 and 8:54. As on American 11 and United 175, the hijackers used knives (reported by one passenger) and moved all the passengers (and possibly crew) to the rear of the aircraft (reported by one flight attendant and one passenger). Unlike the earlier flights, the Flight 77 hijackers were reported by a passenger to have box cutters. Finally, a passenger reported that an announcement had been made by the "pilot" that the plane had been hijacked....

On flight AA 77, which allegedly crashed into the Pentagon, the transponder was turned off at 8:56am; the recorded altitude at the time the transponder was turned off is not mentioned. According to the Commission's Report, cell calls started 16 minutes later, at 9:12am, twenty minutes before it (allegedly) crashed into the Pentagon at 9.32am:

" [at 9.12] Renee May called her mother, Nancy May, in Las Vegas. She said her flight was being hijacked by six individuals who had moved them to the rear of the plane."

According to the Report, when the autopilot was disengaged at 9:29am, the aircraft was at 7,000 feet and some 38 miles west of the Pentagon. This happened two minutes before the crash.

Most of the calls on Flight 77 were placed between 9.12am and 9.26am, prior to the disengagement of automatic piloting at 9.29am. The plane could indeed have been traveling at either a higher or a lower altitude to that reached at 9.29. Yet, at the same time there is no indication in the Report that the plane had been traveling below the 7000 feet level, which it reached at 9.29am.

At some point between 9:16 and 9:26, Barbara Olson called her husband, Ted Olson, the solicitor general of the United States. [using an airphone]

Report p 7, see
http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report_Ch1.pdf

United Airlines Flight 93

UAL flight 93 was the only one of the four planes that, according to the official story, did not crash into a building. Flight 93 passengers, apparently: "alerted through phone calls, attempted to subdue the hijackers. and the hijackers crashed the plane [in Pennsylvania] to prevent the passengers gaining control."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Airlines_flight_93

Another version of events, was that UAL 93 was shot down.

According to the Commission's account:

"the first 46 minutes of Flight 93's cross-country trip proceeded routinely. Radio communications from the plane were normal. Heading, speed, and altitude ran according to plan. At 9:24, Ballinger's warning to United 93 was received in the cockpit. Within two minutes, at 9:26, the pilot, Jason Dahl, responded with a note of puzzlement: "Ed, confirm latest mssg plz—Jason."70 The hijackers attacked at 9:28. **While traveling 35,000 feet above eastern Ohio, United 93 suddenly dropped 700 feet.** Eleven seconds into the descent, the FAA's air traffic control center in Cleveland received the first of two radio transmissions from the aircraft...."

At least ten cell calls are reported to have taken place on flight 93.

The Report confirms that passengers started placing calls with cell and air phones shortly after 9.32am, four minutes after the Report's confirmation of the plane's attitude of 35,000 feet. In other words, **the calls started some 9 minutes before the Cleveland Center lost UAL 93's transponder signal (9.41) and approximately 30 minutes before the crash in Pennsylvania (10.03)**

"At 9:41, Cleveland Center lost United 93's transponder signal. The controller located it on primary radar, matched its position with visual sightings from other aircraft, and tracked the flight as it turned east, then south.164 "

This suggests that the altitude was known to air traffic control up until the time when the transponder signal was lost by the Cleveland Center. (Radar and visual

sightings provided information on its flight path from 9.41 to 10.03.)

Moreover, there was no indication from the Report that the aircraft had swooped down to a lower level of altitude, apart from the 700 feet drop recorded at 9.28. from a cruising altitude of 35,000 feet:

"At 9:32, a hijacker, probably Jarrah, made or attempted to make the following announcement to the passengers of Flight 93: "Ladies and Gentlemen: Here the captain, please sit down keep remaining sitting."

"We have a bomb on board. So, sit." The flight data recorder (also recovered) indicates that Jarrah then instructed the plane's autopilot to turn the aircraft around and head east. The cockpit voice recorder data indicate that a woman, most likely a flight attendant, was being held captive in the cockpit. She struggled with one of the hijackers who killed or otherwise silenced her.

Shortly thereafter, the passengers and flight crew began a series of calls from GTE airphones and cellular phones. These calls between family, friends, and colleagues took place until the end of the flight and provided those on the ground with firsthand accounts. They enabled the passengers to gain critical information, including the news that two aircraft had slammed into the World Trade Center.⁷⁷ ...At least two callers from the flight reported that the hijackers knew that passengers were making calls but did not seem to care.

The hijackers were wearing red bandanas, and they forced the passengers to the back of the aircraft.⁸⁰ Callers reported that a passenger had been stabbed and that two people were lying on the floor of the cabin, injured or dead—possibly the captain and first officer. One caller reported that a flight attendant had been killed.⁸¹ One of the callers from United 93 also reported that he thought the hijackers might possess a gun. But none of the other callers reported the presence of a firearm. One recipient of a call from the aircraft recounted specifically asking her caller whether the hijackers had guns.

The passenger replied that he did not see one. No evidence of firearms or of their identifiable remains was found at the aircraft's crash site, and the cockpit voice recorder gives no indication of a gun being fired or mentioned at any time.

We believe that if the hijackers had possessed a gun, they would have used it in the flight's last minutes as the passengers fought back.⁸² Passengers on three flights reported the hijackers' claim of having a bomb. The FBI told us they found no trace of explosives at the crash sites. One of the passengers who mentioned a bomb expressed his belief that it was not real. Lacking any evidence that the hijackers attempted to smuggle such illegal items past the security screening checkpoints, we believe the bombs were probably fake. During at least five of the passengers' phone calls, information was shared about the attacks that had occurred earlier that morning at the World Trade Center. Five calls described the intent of passengers and surviving crew members to revolt against the hijackers. According to one call, they voted on whether to rush the terrorists in an attempt to retake the plane. They decided, and acted. At 9:57, the passenger assault began. Several passengers had terminated phone calls with loved ones in order to join the revolt. One

of the callers ended her message as follows:

"Everyone's running up to first class. I've got to go. Bye." The cockpit voice recorder captured the sounds of the passenger assault muffled by the intervening cockpit door. Some family members who listened to the recording report that they can hear the voice of a loved one among the din.

We cannot identify whose voices can be heard. But the assault was sustained. In response, Jarrah immediately began to roll the airplane to the left and right, attempting to knock the passengers off balance. At 9:58:57, Jarrah told another hijacker in the cockpit to block the door. Jarrah continued to roll the airplane sharply left and right, but the assault continued. At 9:59, Jarrah changed tactics and pitched the nose of the airplane up and down to disrupt the assault. The recorder captured the sounds of loud thumps, crashes, shouts, and breaking glasses and plates.

At 10:00:03, Jarrah stabilized the airplane. Five seconds later, Jarrah asked, "Is that it? Shall we finish it off?" A hijacker responded, "No. Not yet. When they all come, we finish it off." The sounds of fighting continued outside the cockpit. Again, Jarrah pitched the nose of the aircraft up and down. At 10:00:26, a passenger in the background said, "In the cockpit. If we don't we'll die!" Sixteen seconds later, a passenger yelled, "Roll it!" Jarrah stopped the violent maneuvers at about 10:01:00 and said, "Allah is the greatest! Allah is the greatest!" He then asked another hijacker in the cockpit, "Is that it? I mean, shall we put it down?" to which the other replied, "Yes, put it in it, and pull it down." The passengers continued their assault and at 10:02:23, a hijacker said, "Pull it down! Pull it down!" The hijackers remained at the controls but must have judged that the passengers were only seconds from overcoming them. The airplane headed down; the control wheel was turned hard to the right.

The airplane rolled onto its back, and one of the hijackers began shouting "Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest." With the sounds of the passenger counterattack continuing, the aircraft plowed into an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 580 miles per hour, about 20 minutes' flying time from Washington D.C. Jarrah's objective was to crash his airliner into symbols of the American Republic, the Capitol or the White House. He was defeated by the alerted, unarmed passengers of United."

The Mysterious Call of Edward Felt from UAL 93

Earlier coverage of the fate of UAL 93 was based in part on a reported cell call from a passenger named Edward Felt, who managed to reach an emergency official in Pennsylvania. How he got the emergency supervisor's number and managed to reach him remains unclear.

The call was apparently received at 9.58 am, eight minutes before the reported time of the crash at 10.06 am in Pennsylvania:

"Local emergency officials said they received a cell phone call at 9.58 am from a man who said he was a passenger aboard the flight. The man said he had locked himself in the bathroom and told emergency dispatchers that the plane had been hijacked. "We are being hijacked! We are being hijacked!" he was quoted as saying. A California man identified as Tom Burnett reportedly called his wife and

told her that somebody on the plane had been stabbed. "We're all going to die, but three of us are going to do something," he told her. "I love you honey."

The alleged call by Edward Felt from the toilet of the aircraft of UAL 93 was answered by Glenn Cramer, the emergency supervisor in Pennsylvania who took the call.

It is worth noting that Glenn Cramer was subsequently gagged by the FBI."

[Robert Wallace's analysis, as published in Sept 2002 by the Daily Mirror, is reproduced immediately following this article.]

Ironically, this high profile cell call by Ed Felt, which would have provided crucial evidence to the 9/11 Commission was, for some reason, not mentioned in the Report.

American Airlines Flight 11

Flight 11 took off at 7:59. Just before 8:14. The Report outlines an airphone conversation of flight attendant Betty Ong and much of the narrative hinges upon this airphone conversation

There are no clear-cut reports on the use of cell phones on Flight AA11. According to the Report, American 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center at 8.46.

Concluding Remarks

A large part of the description, regarding the 19 hijackers relies on cell phone conversations with family and friends.

While a few of these calls (placed at low altitude) could have got through, the wireless technology was not available. On this issue, expert opinion within the wireless telecom industry is unequivocal.

In other words, at least part of the Commission's script in Chapter 1 on the cell phone conversations, is fabricated.

According to the American Airline / Qualcomm announcement, the technology for cell phone transmission at high altitude will only be available aboard commercial aircraft in 2006. This is an inescapable fact.

In the eyes of public opinion, the cell phone conversations on the Arab hijackers is needed to sustain the illusion that America is under attack.

The "war on terrorism" underlying the National Security doctrine relies on real time "evidence" concerning the Arab hijackers. The latter personify, so to speak, this illusive "outside enemy" (Al Qaeda), which is threatening the homeland.

Embodied into the Commission's "script" of 911, the narrative of what happened on the plane with the Arab hijackers is therefore crucial. It is an integral part of the Administration's disinformation and propaganda program. It constitutes a justification for the anti-terror legislation under the Patriot Acts and the waging of America's pre-emptive wars against Afghanistan and Iraq.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO408B.html>

What Happened to Flight 93

by Richard Wallace

Mirror, 12 September 2002

www.globalresearch.ca 25 March 2004

The URL of this article is: <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/WAL403A.html>

The unmarked military-style jet swooped down at high speed through the valley, twice circled the smoldering black scar where Flight 93 had careered into the ground just seconds earlier and then hurtled off over the horizon.

At least six eyewitnesses saw the mysterious aircraft on the morning of September 11 last year. But the US authorities deny it ever existed.

So when George Bush laid a wreath yesterday at the crash site in a remote valley outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania, he was one of only a handful of people who know what really happened to the 40 innocents and four hijackers aboard the doomed United Airlines Boeing 757-200.

Those unimaginable final seconds as passengers showed courageous defiance apparently wrestling for control of the aircraft have become one of the defining images of the tragedy.

And "Let's roll" -- ringleader Todd Beamer's no-nonsense call to arms -- became a defining battle cry in America's war on terror.

But of the four aircraft taken on September 11, the exact fate of Flight 93 after its two-hour journey is proving difficult for US officials to explain.

What was the white jet doing there and why won't they admit to its presence? Why did other witnesses see smoke and flames trailing from Flight 93 as it fell from the sky, indicating a possible explosion aboard?

Or -- and this is proving to be the most uncomfortable question of all -- in the moments before the airliner piled into the black, spongy earth at 575mph did an American fighter pilot have to do the unthinkable and shoot down a US civil airliner?

Susan McElwain, 51, who lives two miles from the site, knows what she saw -- the white plane rocketed directly over her head.

"It came right over me, I reckon just 40 or 50ft above my mini-van," she recalled. "It was so low I ducked instinctively. It was traveling real fast, but hardly made any sound. "Then it disappeared behind some trees. A few seconds later I heard this great explosion and saw this fireball rise up over the trees, so I figured the jet had crashed. The ground really shook. So I dialed 911 and told them what happened.

"I'd heard nothing about the other attacks and it was only when I got home and saw the TV that I realized it wasn't the white jet, but Flight 93.

Didn't think much more about it until the authorities started to say there had been no other plane. The plane I saw was heading right to the point where Flight 93 crashed and must have been there at the very moment it came down.

"There's no way I imagined this plane -- it was so low it was virtually on top of me. It was white with no markings but it was definitely military, it just had that look.

"It had two rear engines, a big fin on the back like a spoiler on the back of a car and with two upright fins at the side. I haven't found one like it on the internet. It definitely wasn't one of those executive jets. The FBI came and talked to me and said there was no plane around.

"Then they changed their story and tried to say it was a plane taking pictures of the crash 3,000ft up.

"But I saw it and it was there before the crash and it was 40ft above my head. They did not want my story -- nobody here did."

Mrs. McElwain, who looks after special needs children, is further convinced the whole truth has yet to come out because of a phone call she had within hours from the wife of an air force friend of the family.

"She said her husband had called her that morning and said 'I can't talk, but we've just shot a plane down,'" Susan said. "I presumed they meant Flight 93. I have no doubt those brave people on board tried to do something, but I don't believe what happened on the plane brought it down.

"If they shot it down, or something else happened, everyone, especially the victims' families, have a right to know."

Lee Purbaugh, 32, was the only person to see the last seconds of Flight 93 as it came down on former strip-mining land at precisely 10.06am -- and he also saw the white jet.

He was working at the Rollock Inc. scrap yard on a ridge overlooking the point of impact, less than half a mile away. "I heard this real loud noise coming over my head," he told the Daily Mirror. "I looked up and it was Flight 93, barely 50ft above me. It was coming down in a 45 degree and rocking from side to side. Then the nose suddenly dipped and it just crashed into the ground. There was this big fireball and then a huge cloud of smoke."

But did he see another plane? "Yes, there was another plane," Lee said. "I didn't get a good look but it was white and it circled the area about twice and then it flew off over the horizon."

Tom Spinelli, 28, was working at India Lake Marina, a mile and a half away. "I saw the white plane," he said.

"It was flying around all over the place like it was looking for something. I saw it before and after the crash."

India Lake also contributes to the view there was an explosion on board before the Newark-San Francisco flight came down. Debris rained down on the lake -- a

curious feat if, as the US government insists, there was no mid-air explosion and the plane was intact until it hit the ground.

"It was mainly mail, bits of in-flight magazine and scraps of seat cloth," Tom said. "The authorities say it was blown here by the wind." But there was only a 10mph breeze and you were a mile and a half away? Tom raised his eyebrows, rolled his eyes and said: "Yeah, that's what they reckon."

Light debris was also found eight miles away in New Baltimore. A section of engine weighing a ton was located 2,000 yards -- over a mile -- from the crash site. Theorists point out a Sidewinder heat-seeking missile attacks the hottest part of aircraft -- the engine.

The authorities say the impact bounced it there. But the few pieces of surviving fuselage, local coroner Wallace Miller told us, were "no bigger than a carrier bag."

Nearly all the passengers were reduced to charcoal on impact and the largest piece of human tissue found was a section of spine eight inches long.

CURIOUSLY, military officials insist there was never any pursuit of Flight 93, although they were informed that it was a suspected hijack at 9.16am, 50 minutes before the plane came down.

At 9.35am they assumed it was heading for Washington DC after it changed course in a 180 degree turn and three F-16s -- top speed 1,800mph -- now patrolling over the capital were told to "protect the White House at all costs".

An anonymous flight controller said on the day that an F-16 was "in hot pursuit" of Flight 93 -- Washington to Shanksville is seven to 10 minutes flying time.

A few minutes before the crash Bill Wright, piloting a single-engine Piper, could see Flight 93 three miles away, but was suddenly told to turn away and land immediately without explanation.

At 9.58am a 911 call -- the last mobile phone contact from Flight 93 -- was made from one of the airliner's toilets by passenger Edward Felt.

Glenn Cramer, the emergency supervisor who answered it, said on the day: "He was very distraught. He said he believed the plane was going down.

"He did hear some sort of an explosion and saw white smoke coming from the plane, but he didn't know where. And then we lost contact with him."

Glenn Cramer has now been gagged by the FBI.

Also, according to sources, the last seconds of the cockpit voice recorder are the loud sounds of wind, hinting at a possible hole somewhere in the fuselage. What caused the smoke and explosion? Why the wind sounds?

The FBI's later explanation for the white jet was that a passing civilian Fairchild Falcon 20 jet was asked to descend from 34,000ft to 5,000ft some minutes after the crash to give co-ordinates for the site. The plane and pilot have never been produced or identified. Susan McElwain says a Falcon 20 was not the plane she saw.

FURTHER verification that some kind of military aircraft was operating in the area is scientifically irrefutable.

At 9.22am a sonic boom - caused by supersonic flight - was picked up by an earthquake monitoring station in southern Pennsylvania, 60 miles from Shanksville.

That Todd Beamer and others launched an assault on the hijackers there is no doubt. The brief extracts released from audio tapes indicate a fierce struggle going on at the cockpit door.

But nobody -- official or otherwise -- has categorically said the group got into the cockpit or that their actions led to the crash. Those final, agonizing moments are mere presumption.

President Bush and his team have the whole story. So why aren't they telling the rest of us?

UA93: THE EVIDENCE

THE WITNESSES

At least SIX witnesses, including Susan Mcelwain saw a small military type plane flying around shortly BEFORE UA93 crashed. The FBI denies its existence

THE DEBRIS

The US Government insists the plane exploded on impact yet a one-ton section of the engine was found over a mile away and other light debris was found scattered over eight miles away

THE MOBILE CALL

Passenger Edward Felt made an emergency call from the plane. He spoke of an explosion and seeing some white smoke. The supervisor who took the call has been gagged by the FBI

THE F-16s

UA93 was identified as a hijack at 9.16am. At 9.35am three F-16s were ordered to "protect the White House at all costs" when it turned towards the capital. At 10.06am it crashed at Shanksville, less than 10mins flying time from Washington

THE BLACK BOXES

Sources claim the last thing heard on the cockpit voice recorder is the sound of wind - suggesting the plane had been holed

THE SONIC BOOM

The FBI insists there was no military plane in the area but at 9.22am a sonic boom - caused by a supersonic jet -- was picked up by an earthquake monitor in southern Pennsylvania, 60 miles away from Shanksville.

Operation Northwoods Excerpt

[In March of 1963, the proposal for Operation Northwoods was presented by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to President Kennedy and his Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara. It detailed plans for a "False Flag" Terrorist Attack against the United States -- to be carried out by US Military forces -- which would then be blamed on Cuba. The "attack" would have have justified an invasion.]

[Pg 13 of 15-pg GWU file on Operation Northwoods (Pg 10 of Pentagon report)]

Hijacking attempts against civil air and surface craft should appear to continue as harassing measures condoned by the government of Cuba.

It is possible to create an incident which will demonstrate convincingly that a Cuban aircraft has attacked and shot down a chartered civil airliner enroute from the United States. The destination would be chosen only to cause the flight plan to cross Cuba. The passengers could be a group of college students off on a holiday.

An aircraft at Eglin AFB would be painted and numbered as an exact duplicate for a civil registered aircraft belonging to a CIA proprietary organization in the Miami area. At the designated time the duplicate would be substituted for the actual civil aircraft and would be loaded with selected passengers, all boarded under carefully prepared aliases. The actual aircraft would be converted to a drone.

The drone aircraft and the actual aircraft will be scheduled to allow a rendezvous south of Florida. From the rendezvous point the passenger-carrying aircraft will descend to minimum altitude and go directly into an auxiliary field at Eglin AFB where arrangements will have been made to evacuate the passengers and return the aircraft to its original status. The drone aircraft meanwhile will continue to fly the filed flight plan. When over Cuba the drone will be transmitting on the international distress frequency a "MAY DAY" message stating he is under attack by Cuban MIG aircraft. **The transmission will be interrupted by destruction of the aircraft which will be triggered by radio signal.**

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/20010430/northwoods.pdf>

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12.20 The Refusal of the 9/11 Commission to Explore Quashed FBI Investigations

By Bryan Sacks

At the twelfth and final public session of the 9/11 commission hearings this week in the NTSB building in Washington, DC, the disappointment was palpable among family members of the 9/11 deceased. A less-than distinguished panel of FBI and CIA agents took turns praising the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Al-Qaeda, and offered little hope that future efforts would be successful in stopping terrorism. But give the CIA and FBI this: they can still recognize a marketing opportunity when they see it.

Apparently unfamiliar with the concept of shame, representatives from two of the agencies whose failures bear clear responsibility for the events of 9/11 saw the morning session as an opportunity to shill for 'patience' and, tacitly, more money. One after another, in front of the surviving family members, many of whom clutched pictures of their dead sons, daughters, husbands and wives, the agents fawned over the incredible resourcefulness, commitment and dedication of Al Qaeda operatives (in one notable exchange, Al Qaeda was glowingly described as "innovative," "creative" and "entrepreneurial" -- why not just say you were outsmarted?) The CIA agents referred familiarly to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Osama Bin Laden as 'KSM' and 'UBL'. The uninitiated might have gotten the impression they were speaking of protégés, and not hated enemies. Earlier, in a jaunty tone completely incongruous with the substance of his statement, the CIA's Dr. Kay told the commission that "(Al-Qaeda) may strike next week, next month or next year, but it will strike." The agencies took no responsibility for the attacks, and they were not challenged to.

But the nadir of the morning session came when commissioner James Thompson asked all of the panelists how best to combat the new type of stateless enemy Al-Qaeda represents. FBI special agent Mary Deborah Doran answered last. She had already warned the Commission in her introductory remarks that, as a "street agent," she was removed from the "policy and administrative decision-making processes" that determined the scope of the FBI's investigation of Al Qaeda, and thus could not speak to them (no one did that day, including Executive Assistant FBI Director John Pistole, seated to her right). Her answer to Thompson's question was: "I think what we need to do ... at the FBI street-agent level, is to continue what we've always done, and that is to pursue all the information that we do get ... to its logical end ... "

Here, in classic doublespeak fashion, Doran gives an answer that is a non-answer. She had to be aware that several FBI "street-level" investigations into the activities of the 9/11 terrorists were stymied by higher-ups in the weeks prior to 9/11, each under strange circumstances, and well before the street-level agents felt like they had reached their "logical end." Consider the following cases, all drawn from mainstream news sources, summarized in David Ray Griffin's well-researched expose, "The New Pearl Harbor:"

- 1) Ken Williams of the Phoenix FBI office sent a now-famous July 10, 2001 memo to the counterterrorism division of the FBI suggesting that the organization institute a national program to keep tabs on suspicious flight-school students. This came just a few weeks after the CIA learned that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 plot and a well-known terrorist at that time who the CIA was monitoring, was recruiting jihadists to come to the US to take part in attacks here. Williams, who had previously been transferred to an unrelated arson case despite tracking the hijackers for more than a year, had been back on the case for about a month when he wrote the memo, which also warned of a possible "effort by Osama bin Laden to send students to the US to attend civil aviation universities and colleges" (Fortune, May 22, 2002). His suggestion for a national program was ignored before 9/11.

- 2) FBI agent Robert Wright of the Chicago field office, who had been investigating a suspected terrorist cell for three years, was informed in January 2001 that the case was being closed. This despite Wright's contention that his case was growing stronger. His investigation included individuals from the notorious

Ptech, a software company which provided product for the White House, Congress, FBI, CIA, IRS, Army, Navy, and FAA and which was raided by federal agents in December 2002.

Three months before September 11, Wright wrote a stinging internal memo charging that the FBI was not interested in thwarting a terrorist attack, but rather "was merely gathering intelligence so they would know who to arrest when a terrorist attack occurred." (UPI, May 30, 2002, cited in Griffin, p. 83);

3) Legal officer Colleen Rowley worked in the FBI's Minneapolis field office when agents arrested Zacarias Moussaoui in August of 2001. The commission made repeated mention of the fact that Moussaoui, by that time, was considered a very dangerous person capable of crashing a plane into the World Trade Center. The Minneapolis felt so strongly about the need to detain him that a request was sent to FBI headquarters to search Moussaoui's laptop computer under the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Approximately 10,000 requests under FISA over the past 20 years had been made without a single request being turned down, but the Minneapolis agency's request never got out of the FBI.

The request had been excised of the critical intelligence that made the case for Moussaoui's connection to Al Qaeda in Chechnya on its path to FBI headquarters. Excised of that justification, the request was never forwarded for FISA consideration, spurring Rowley to charge that the FBI was "sabotaging" the case, and another agent to charge that headquarters was "setting this up for failure." (Senate Intelligence Committee, October 17, 2002; Time, July 21 and July 27, 2002 and Sydney Morning Herald July 28, 2002, each cited in Griffin, p. 81);

4) **On Aug 28, 2001 the New York FBI office requested opening a criminal investigation in soon-to-be hijacker Khalid Almihdhar based on evidence he had been involved in the USS Cole bombing. The request was turned down, on the basis that, as Griffin puts it, "Almihdhar could not be tied to the Cole investigation without the inclusion of sensitive intelligence information."**

This led one frustrated FBI agent to write in an email that "someday someone will die--and ... the public will not understand why we were not more effective." (Congressional Intelligence Committee, cited in Griffin, p. 83). Perhaps Doran, a New York FBI agent herself, knew something about this? She was not asked directly.

What these examples make clear is that FBI "street agents" and translators don't have the power to follow their investigations to their logical ends when they are obstructed by their superiors. In light of these facts, Doran's breezy recommendation that the FBI street agents "keep doing what we've always done" is entirely inadequate, and inspires no confidence. Neither Thompson nor any other commissioner pressed for a better answer. And while the FBI's "unprecedented transformation" after 9/11 testified to by FBI Executive Assistant Director For Counterterrorism John Pistole on April 14 may sound impressive to some, it does not explain nor address the past obstruction of promising investigations. Factor in the erosion of civil liberties required for its execution, and the "unprecedented transformation" appears to be of dubious value.

There are several other aspects about the FBI's behavior pre- and post-9/11 that scream out for further investigation. **One of the most bizarre cases still unfolding involves the targeting of former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds, who was fired by the agency shortly after reporting a number of complaints to her superiors. According to a June 7, 2004 story in The New Republic, those complaints included the charge that a fellow FBI translator, Can Dickerson, tried to recruit Edmonds into a foreign organization whose documents Dickerson had been translating and which had been under investigation by the FBI.** Edmonds then filed a wrongful termination suit and took her grievance to Senators Charles Grassley and Patrick Leahy, as well as the television program "60 Minutes," which aired an interview with her in 2002.

But the FBI has since gone to extraordinary lengths to silence Edmonds. In May, the Bureau re-classified all of the information it presented to Sens. Grassley and Leahy, nearly two years after it had become public. It even violated its own rules for reclassification in doing so. The reclassification has had the effect of silencing Grassley and Leahy on the matter, too, who had been pressing the Bureau for a fuller account of the matter. Now they were limited to writing classified letters to the FBI.

Edmonds, meanwhile, has seen her wrongful termination suit delayed for two years and most recently was informed by Judge Reggie Walton on June 14 that her hearing was delayed once again (for the fourth time), with no date set for a rescheduling. The delays result from an effort from Attorney General John Ashcroft to invoke the State Secrets Privilege, which can quash lawsuits on the basis that their continuation would damage national security. Judge Walton is still waiting for the government to make its case for the invoking of the States Secrets Privilege. In the meantime, as the New Republic notes, while Edmonds herself is not gagged, she is not permitted to reference any of the now-classified information that could substantiate her claims.

At her June 14 press conference outside the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse in Washington, DC, Edmonds summarized her charges clearly, stating that for more than two years, "John Ashcroft has been relentlessly engaged in actions geared toward covering up my report and investigations into my allegations. His actions ... include gagging the United States Congress, blocking court proceedings on my (wrongful termination suit) by invoking the State Secrets Privilege, quashing the subpoena for my deposition on information regarding 9/11, withholding documents requested under the Freedom Of Information Act and preventing the release of the Inspector General's report of its investigations into my report and allegations."

She threw down a gauntlet to all citizens, members of Congress and federal officials that so far have not spoken out, saying, "To become an American citizen, I took the citizenship oath. In taking this oath, I pledged I would support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Therefore, not only do I have the right to challenge John Ashcroft's anti-constitution(al) and un-American actions, but as an American citizen I am required to do so. So are you."

Edmonds did testify with the 9/11 commission behind closed doors, but a host of disturbing questions still remain before the commission:

- Ø Why weren't any of the agents mentioned above called to testify in the commission's public hearings? What legitimate claim to a thorough investigation can be made without their public testimony?
- Ø Were the FBI agents who saw their investigations stymied at least deposed in private sessions?
- Ø Why was Robert Wright's investigation derailed, and why did the government move to block significant portions of his book in 2002, such that it remains unpublished to this day?
- Ø Why was the information connecting Moussaoui's connection with rebels in Chechnya excised before it reached the FBI Deputy General?
- Ø **And why have lower-level agents been demoted and/or punished for doing their jobs while their superiors, who spiked, obstructed or otherwise compromised their promising investigations been rewarded?**

In sum, the day's hearings played as a commercial for supporting the efforts of the country's intelligence agencies without additional public scrutiny of them. We've seen that show before, and we know how it ends. If the commission's report fails to adequately address Sibel Edmonds' charges, and fails to address the obstructed FBI investigations prior to 9/11, the unanswered questions which haunt the 9/11 Inquiry will grow louder and more insistent, and neither the 9/11 families nor the concerned citizens of this country will have the closure they deserve.

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Works Referred to:

1. David Ray Griffin, *The New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing Questions about the Bush Administration and 9/11*. Northampton: Olive Branch Press, copyright 2004.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/sacks06262004.html>

Government Employees Responsible for 9/11 Failures Are Promoted

January 10, 2003:

FBI Director Mueller personally awards Marion (Spike) Bowman with a presidential citation and cash bonus of approximately 25 percent of his salary. [Salon, 3/3/2003] Bowman, head of the FBI's National Security Law Unit and the person who refused to seek a special warrant for a search of Zacarias Moussaoui's belongings before the 9/11 attacks, is among nine recipients of bureau awards for "exceptional performance." The award comes shortly after a 9/11 Congressional Inquiry report saying Bowman's unit gave Minneapolis FBI agents "inexcusably confused and inaccurate information" that was "patently false." [Star-Tribune (Minneapolis), 12/22/2002]

Bowman's unit also blocked an urgent request by FBI agents to begin searching for Khalid Almihdhar after his name was put on a watch list. In early 2000, the FBI acknowledged serious blunders in surveillance Bowman's unit conducted during sensitive terrorism and espionage investigations, including agents who illegally

videotaped suspects, intercepted e-mails without court permission, and recorded the wrong phone conversations. [Associated Press, 1/10/2003] As Senator Charles Grassley (R) and others have pointed out, not only has no one in government been fired or punished for 9/11, but several others have been promoted:

Pasquale D'Amuro, the FBI's counterterrorism chief in New York City before 9/11, is promoted to the bureau's top counterterrorism post. [Time, 12/30/2002]

FBI Supervisory special agent Michael Maltbie, who removed information from the Minnesota FBI's application to get the search warrant for Moussaoui, is promoted to field supervisor and goes on to head the Joint Terrorism Task Force at the FBI's Cleveland office. [Salon, 3/3/2003; Newsday, 3/21/2006]

David Frasca, head of the FBI's Radical Fundamentalist Unit, is "still at headquarters," Grassley notes. [Salon, 3/3/2003] The Phoenix memo, which was addressed to Frasca, was received by his unit and warned that al-Qaeda terrorists could be using flight schools inside the US (see July 10, 2001 and July 27, 2001 and after). Two weeks later Zacarias Moussaoui was arrested while training to fly a 747, but Frasca's unit was unhelpful when local FBI agents wanted to search his belongings—a step that could have prevented 9/11 (see August 16, 2001 and August 20–September 11, 2001). "The Phoenix memo was buried; the Moussaoui warrant request was denied." [Time, 5/27/2002] Even after 9/11, Frasca continued to "[throw] up roadblocks" in the Moussaoui case. [New York Times, 5/27/2002]

President Bush later names Barbara Bodine the director of Central Iraq shortly after the US conquest of Iraq. Many in government are upset about the appointment because of her blocking of the USS Cole investigation, which some say could have uncovered the 9/11 plot. She failed to admit she was wrong or apologize. [Washington Times, 4/10/2003] However, she is fired after about a month, apparently for doing a poor job.

An FBI official who tolerates penetration of the translation department by Turkish spies and encourages slow translations just after 9/11 is promoted (see March 22, 2002). [CBS News, 10/25/2002] The CIA has promoted two unnamed top leaders of its unit responsible for tracking al-Qaeda in 2000 even though the unit mistakenly failed to put the two suspected terrorists on the watch list (see August 23, 2001). "The leaders were promoted even though some people in the intelligence community and in Congress say the counterterrorism unit they ran bore some responsibility for waiting until August 2001 to put the suspect pair on the interagency watch list." CIA Director Tenet has failed to fulfill a promise given to Congress in late 2002 that he would name the CIA officials responsible for 9/11 failures. [New York Times, 5/15/2003]

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/searchResults.jsp?searchtext=%22January+10%2C+2003%22&events=on&entities=on&articles=on&topics=on&timelines=on&projects=on&titles=on&descriptions=on&dosearch=on&search=+Go+>

Obstruction: A Key to 9/11

By Michelle Mairesse

U. S. military officials gave the F.B.I. information that during the nineties, five of

the hijackers were trained at secure U.S. military installations. Saeed Alghamdi, Ahmad Alnami, and Ahmed Alghamdi all listed their address at the Pensacola Naval Station. A high-ranking Pentagon official said another of the hijackers may have been trained in strategy and tactics at the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama. The fifth man may have received language instruction at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Both were former Saudi Air Force pilots who had come to the United States, according to the Pentagon source. Why were they there?

...

The agencies keep changing their stories. On August 21, 2001, the F.B.I. listed Kahlil Almidhar and Nawaf Alhamzi as suspects for border-watch. Shortly afterward, the bureau learned the two were already in the country and began an unsuccessful search.

The C.I.A. initially said they were unaware of Alhazmi's presence in this country until immigration officials notified them in August 2001. The C.I.A. later admitted that months earlier Malaysian intelligence reported a meeting in a Kuala Lumpur condo between Khalid Almidhar, Salem Alhamzi, and other suspects.

Those in attendance were videotaped by Malaysia's Special Branch at the request of the United States and were later identified as including not only hijackers Alhazmi and Almidhar, but also a one-legged al Qaeda fighter named Tawfiq bin Attash, alias Khalad. (The F.B.I. had identified Khalad as a leading suspect in the U.S.S. Cole bombing in October 2000.)

Newsweek reported that the Malaysian agency continued to watch the condo, though the C.I.A. seemed to lose interest. "'We couldn't fathom it, really,' Rais Yatim, Malaysia's Legal Affairs minister, told Newsweek. 'There was no show of concern.'" Too bad, because Zacarias Moussaoui stopped by on his way to the United States later that year.

Moussaoui entered the United States in February 2000 and enrolled in the same Oklahoma flight school Murad had attended. After flunking out in Oklahoma, he resumed lessons on flight simulators in Eagan, Minnesota, where his eccentric behavior aroused suspicions. The F.B.I. detained him on immigration charges on August 17. Among his possessions, they discovered a laptop computer.

Eager to examine the computer, Minneapolis F.B.I. agents repeatedly requested a special warrant to examine Moussaoui's computer, and bureau attorneys in Washington repeatedly denied their requests, claiming there was insufficient evidence. The special court that reviews warrants covered by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act has approved more than 12,000 Justice Department applications for covert search warrants and wiretaps and rejected only one since the act was passed in 1978.

The Memo of FBI Agent Coleen Rowley

After the 9/11 attacks, F.B.I. agent Coleen Rowley, general counsel in the Minneapolis field office, wrote a scorching 13-page open letter to F.B.I. Director Robert S. Mueller III and the Senate Intelligence Committee. She asserted that the French government had shared ample intelligence on Moussaoui, including information on his links to Osama bin Laden, information that supported requests for a special surveillance warrant to search Moussaoui's laptop computer in the weeks before the terrorist attacks.

(The French, who had put Moussaoui on a watch list in 1999 because they suspected him of terrorist activities, insisted that they had shared their thick dossier with American intelligence agencies.)

Rowley said some field agents were so frustrated that they joked about spies and moles for bin Laden working at Washington headquarters.

Rowley complained that agents' reports from Arizona and Minneapolis landed on the desk of **David Frasca**, head of the Radical Fundamentalists Unit, who had actually telephoned Rowley as she and other agents watched the 9/11 attacks on television. He instructed her not to proceed with the Moussaoui investigation, with the cryptic explanation that Minneapolis might screw up something else going on elsewhere in the country. Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

Even Senate Investigating Committee members wondered why Yemen-born Ramzid Binalshibh was refused a visa four times when his roommate Moussaoui breezed right through. Binalshibh wired some nice chunks of money to Moussaoui without raising any red flags, though. Perhaps he should have applied as a Saudi resident because Saudis always got service with a smile.

J. Michael Springmann, formerly chief of the visa section at the U.S. Embassy in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, claims that he rejected hundreds of suspicious visa applications, but the C.I.A. officer overruled him and ordered the visas to be issued.

Springmann protested to the State Department, the Office of Diplomatic Security, the F.B.I., the Justice Department and congressional committees, but was told to shut up.

Springmann observed that 15 of the 19 people who allegedly flew airplanes into buildings in the United States got their visas from the same CIA-dominated consulate in Jeddah. As a special favor to residents of Saudi Arabia (including non-Saudi citizens), applicants for non-immigrant visas could apply at private travel agencies anywhere in Saudi Arabia and receive their U.S. visa through the mail. During the month following the 9/11 attack, 102 applicants received their visas by mail, 2 more were interviewed, and none were rejected.

No doubt about it -- the Saudis always got special treatment. In a November 6, 2001 BBC broadcast Greg Palast revealed just how special that treatment was. After Pakistan expelled the World Association of Muslim Youth (WAMY) and India claimed that the organization was linked to terrorist bombings in Kashmir and the Philippines military accused WAMY of funding Muslim insurgency, the F.B.I. got orders to leave them alone.

Osama Bin Laden

The bin Laden family members got extra special treatment. Palast says that days after the hijackers took off from Boston aiming for the Twin Towers, "a special charter flight out of the same airport whisked 11 members of Osama Bin Laden's family off to Saudi Arabia. That did not concern the White House. Their official line is that the Bin Ladens are above suspicion -- apart from Osama, the black sheep, who they say hijacked the family name. That's fortunate for the Bush family and the Saudi royal household, whose links with the Bin Ladens could

otherwise prove embarrassing. But Newsnight has obtained evidence that the F.B.I. was on the trail of other members of the Bin Laden family for links to terrorist organisations before and after September 11th."

The owner of a motel outside Oklahoma City had a strange story to tell Jim Crogan (Los Angeles Weekly, July 26, 2002). About six weeks before 9/11, three men tried unsuccessfully to rent a room at the weekly rate. He later saw photos of the men and recognized them as suspected conspirators and terrorists.

"The motel owner said that Moussaoui and a man who appeared to be Marwan al-Shehhi -- who helped crash a jetliner into the south tower of the World Trade Center -- were friendly and said a few things, but Atta was clearly the leader."

"'He did most of the talking and seemed very serious,' said the owner, adding, 'I was standing face to face, about two feet away from Atta, and talked to the three of them for about 10 minutes.'"

DOJ

After the owner reported the incident to the F.B.I., he heard from the bureau several weeks later. "'The agent told me they had passed on a copy of my statement to Moussaoui's defense team, and I might be getting a call from them. But I was under no obligation to talk to them. However, I don't know if that was the truth. Since then, I have never heard from anyone connected to Moussaoui's case.'"

Cogan says that the convicted Oklahoma City bombers, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, were said to have stayed at the same motel, "interacting with a group of Iraqis during the weeks before the bombing."

Television reporter Jayna Davis also interviewed motel staff and former guests, collecting signed affidavits about their contacts with McVeigh and the Iraqis. The bureau twice refused to accept her materials.

Cogan notes that the absence of this information from the public record "raises new questions about the FBI investigation of Moussaoui and even the 1995 destruction of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City."

The purported ringleader of the hijackers, Mohammed Atta, has been the focus of Daniel Hopsicker's investigations since the twin towers fell. Hopsicker says that Atta and at least four other hijackers trained at South Florida flight schools that locals believed were C.I.A. proprietaries. Atta was the beneficiary of a U.S.-German scholars exchange program who never lacked for cash and spent some of it partying in a very un-Islamic fashion.

Witnesses told Hopsicker that records from the flight school Atta attended "were deemed sensitive enough to have merited being escorted back to Washington by Florida Governor Jeb Bush aboard a C130 cargo plane, which left Sarasota less than 24 hours after the Sept attack."

Who knew?

http://www.hermes-press.com/keys9_11.htm

Another FBI Agent Blows the Whistle

**New evidence that the Bureau quashed another terror probe before 9/11
by Jim Crogan**

WHEN FBI COUNSEL COLLEEN ROWLEY DROPPED her bombshell, a now-famous letter to the director, detailing how bureau higher-ups thwarted attempts to investigate accused 20th hijacker, Zacarias Moussaoui, before the September 11 attacks, she set off a firestorm. The scorching produced a mea culpa of sorts in June from FBI Director Robert Mueller and a promise of reform.

Now there's another whistle blower telling a similar pre-9/11 tale. And so far, the FBI has gone to great lengths to silence him.

The Weekly has learned that Chicago-based special agent Robert Wright has accused the agency of shutting down his 1998 criminal probe into alleged terrorist-training camps in Chicago and Kansas City. The apparent goal of the training camps, according to confidential documents obtained by the Weekly, was to recruit and train Palestinian-American youths, who would then slip into Israel. Recruits at these camps reportedly received weapons training and instruction in bomb-making techniques in the early 1990s. The bomb-making curriculum included the sort of explosives later used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. And government documents state that two trainees came from the Oklahoma City area.

One alleged trainer at the terror camps is now fending off a government lawsuit to seize his bank accounts, car and property for alleged money laundering on behalf of the militant group Hamas. So far, no one has been prosecuted for these alleged terrorism-related activities.

The official government position is that Middle Eastern groups had no involvement in the 1995 bombing carried out by Timothy McVeigh, and that conclusion may stand the test of time. The FBI, however, never fully investigated leads suggesting a different verdict, according to law-enforcement and government sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Congressional investigators are starting to re-examine the entire matter. There's also another troubling question: Why has the FBI dismissed or ignored evidence linking the Oklahoma City bombing to the Middle East? Is it because these leads are unlikely to pan out or because the agency still has something to hide regarding its own intelligence-gathering lapses?

ROBERT WRIGHT'S STORY IS DIFFICULT TO PIECE together because he is on government orders to remain silent. And by extension so are his attorneys when it comes to confidential information. Wright has written a book, but the agency won't let him publish it or even give it to anyone. All of this is in distinct contrast to the free speech and whistle-blower protections offered to Colleen Rowley, general counsel in the FBI Minneapolis office, who got her story out before the agency could silence her.

Wright, a 12-year bureau veteran, has followed proper channels, sending his book off for an internal review and asking for permission to respond to reporters' queries. Neither of those efforts panned out, and he has since sued the agency over this publication ban. The best he could do was a May 30 press conference in Washington, D.C., where he told curious reporters that he had a whopper of a tale

to tell, if only he could.

Wright did say that FBI bureaucrats "intentionally and repeatedly thwarted his attempts to launch a more comprehensive investigation to identify and neutralize terrorists." And that "FBI management failed to take seriously the threat of terrorism in the U.S." Wright was careful not to illegally disclose any confidential details about what he knew, but tears filled his eyes as he apologized to the families of September 11 victims for the Bureau's mistakes leading up to 9/11. He also made a tantalizing reference to his removal from a money-laundering case that, he implied, had a direct connection to investigations into terrorism.

This still-active case centers on Mohammed Abdul Hamid Khalil Salah, 49, a naturalized American citizen who was born in Jerusalem. Salah has described himself as a humanitarian who distributed money collected in the U.S. to needy West Bank Palestinian families. He's also reportedly worked in Arab-owned grocery stores, as a used car salesman and as a computer analyst for a Chicago-based Islamic charitable group, the Quranic Literacy Institute, which the FBI alleges was involved in money laundering. Institute and Muslim leaders have vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

Both the American and Israeli governments contend that Salah served as a money courier for the terrorist group Hamas. Salah's attorney in the civil action, Mathew Piers, did not return phone calls from the Weekly. But in published accounts, Piers adamantly denied that his client was a bagman for Hamas. Salah and his wife are still living in Chicago in a house the government is trying to seize.

In June 1998, the feds filed a civil assets-forfeiture suit against Salah. Such actions are frequently used to seize the money and property of drug dealers. In the Salah case, the U.S. Attorney's Office went after personal property and accounts in seven banks, with a total estimated value of \$1.5 million. In the civil complaint, the government alleged that Salah intended the funds would "support a conspiracy involving international terrorist activities, [and] the domestic recruitment and training in support of such activities, including extortion, kidnapping and murder of citizens of Israel."

Attached to the complaint is a 40-page sworn affidavit from agent Wright. In it, Wright details bank accounts, property deals and money transfers designed to support Hamas. But among the most intriguing elements is a reference to Salah's earlier trial in Israel, which received substantial press coverage in Israel at the time.

In 1993, Israeli intelligence arrested Salah and another naturalized American, Mohammed Jarad, on suspicion of transferring hundreds of thousands of dollars to Hamas for guns and ammunition.

Salah was interrogated by Israeli military intelligence -- he says he was tortured, a claim the Israelis deny. Under interrogation, Salah reportedly confessed to recruiting Islamic militants and then helping to instruct them in the use of poisons, chemical weapons and explosives. The training supposedly occurred in the late 1980s. Later, in 1991, Salah allegedly served as a financial agent for Hamas, opening accounts at a number of Chicago-area banks. Wright's affidavit states that between June 1991 and December 1992, Salah spent more than \$100,000 in direct support of Hamas military activities. Wright added that the weapons purchased were used in Hamas assaults and suicide attacks on Israeli citizens.

In 1994, at Salah's secret military trial, Israeli prosecutors introduced a statement signed by another Palestinian detainee, Naser Hidmi, formerly a student at Kansas State University. Hidmi stated in an affidavit that he accepted Salah's invitation to a four-day "retreat" at a camp in the Chicago area in June 1990. At the camp, he reportedly studied Hamas philosophy and received explosives training. Hidmi also asserted in his statement that he met Salah again at a conference of Muslim youth held in Kansas City in December of the same year. On that occasion, Hidmi claimed he got more Hamas training and Salah participated in the instruction.

In 1995, Salah pleaded guilty to funneling funds to Hamas and he served about five years in prison before being released and deported to the U.S. Mohammed Jarah served six months in jail following a plea bargain to a lesser charge.

While Salah sat in an Israeli prison, the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control added his name to the list of "Specially Designated Terrorists," because of his alleged Hamas connections. After he returned to Chicago, Salah found himself squarely in the FBI's crosshairs. In 1995, Wright began investigating money laundering on behalf of international terrorist organizations. This investigation led him to Salah.

Wright's affidavit alleges that Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, a Hamas leader, directed Salah's activities, at one point authorizing him to give \$790,000 to Hamas military units. The Israeli government indicted Marzook, while he was living in the U.S., for abetting terror attacks in Israel. American authorities arrested Marzook and held him for two years before deporting him to Jordan.

Wright also alleged that Salah funneled money through Switzerland via Saudi businessman Yassin Kadi. The U.S. government has since designated Kadi as a financial supporter of Osama bin Laden and frozen his American assets. Kadi too has denied any wrongdoing.

The assets-forfeiture case against Salah, which was filed in an Illinois federal court, remains active. Wright was removed from the case shortly after it was filed. And he would apparently contend, if allowed to talk, that his FBI superiors ordered him to drop any criminal investigation into Salah and the terrorist camps allegedly run by Hamas.

WRIGHT'S WAS NOT THE ONLY PROBE of Middle Eastern links to terrorists and acts of terror in the U.S. Unbeknownst to Wright, an investigation of Salah and his alleged involvement in training camps was undertaken by the House of Representatives Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare. This task force, as previously reported in the Weekly, had issued alerts to law enforcement and U.S. intelligence agencies in the months prior to the Oklahoma City bombing. It had warned of an impending Islamist terror campaign, allegedly run by Hamas and directed by Iran.

After the 1995 blast, Oklahoma City – based television reporter Jayna Davis spoke numerous times with task-force executive director Yossef Bodansky. He eventually gave her a memo in which he'd summarized intelligence reports detailing the operations of the terror camps. In the memo, constructed from his intelligence reports, Bodansky wrote that Iranian intelligence had ordered Hamas to develop cadres from among Palestinian youth living in the U.S.

"The idea," Bodansky wrote, "was to build a group of highly trained Arabs with U.S. passports who can be inserted into Israel to replace local cadres killed or arrested by Israeli Forces." The Iranians, Bodansky contended, argued that Israel would treat the Americans with "kid gloves." He also stated it would be easier for these recruits to infiltrate Israel with U.S. documents.

Bodansky declined to be interviewed by the Weekly, but in the memo, Bodansky also alleged that the first round of training took place in Chicago, "organized by Muhammad Salah" in 1990. Bodansky stated that "25 trainees" took part and all were given code names.

"Salah and five other instructors, including a Libyan-American, who was a former Marine," he wrote, conducted training. The instruction included military topics, sabotage, and one group received "detailed instructions on building car bombs from readily available, off the shelf materials."

Bodansky also wrote that a second round of training occurred at a December 1990 Hamas youth conference in Kansas City. "Secret sessions," he added, "were devoted to leadership and command training." Another round of training also occurred in Kansas City in 1991. During this meeting, he said, some people were given "highly detailed and practical instructions in supervising the construction of explosives, including car bombs like the one used in Oklahoma City."

The operatives, Bodansky stated, were then assigned to locations throughout the U.S. He also alleged that so-called "Lilly whites" were subsequently trained at the same Chicago camps in 1993. These were people, whose backgrounds he stated, would not make them suspect. These individuals were given weapons training as well as the latest instruction in bomb-making techniques. Two individuals from Oklahoma City, he added, attended this camp. Bodansky did not name these men.

The information supplied to reporter Davis mirrors the information about Salah and the terror training camps that emerged from Israel and through Wright's affidavit. Wright's attorney told the Weekly that Wright knew nothing of Bodansky's parallel investigation.

TO DATE, THE FBI AND DEPARTMENT OF Justice have seemingly exerted more effort in shutting down these leads than pursuing them. Last October, the Justice Department blocked the court appearance of retired Oklahoma City FBI agent Dan Vogel at a hearing in the state murder case against convicted Oklahoma City – accomplice Terry Nichols. In an interview with the Weekly, Vogel said he intended to tell the court the truth -- that he had accepted evidence from former TV reporter Jayna Davis that tied Timothy McVeigh, Nichols and a group of Iraqis working in Oklahoma City to a larger bombing conspiracy.

Vogel said he passed the materials to the Bureau but was later told the documents were returned because of questions regarding who owned the documents. Davis and her attorneys contend that the documents were never returned. Whatever the case, the Bureau's reputed rationale for spurning potential evidence is slim indeed.

Wright got no explanation at all when he was ordered to cease his own probe, said Chicago-based attorney David Schippers, who is representing Wright along

with Judicial Watch, a Washington, D.C. – based legal foundation. (Schippers is most famous for his role as lead counsel spearheading the House impeachment of former President Bill Clinton.) "Bob was simply pulled off these investigations," said Schippers. The FBI "just shut down the operations and never told him why."

The FBI and the Department of Justice declined comment for this story.

Wright chronicled his allegations against the Bureau in a complaint filed with the Inspector General's Office of the Department of Justice. The FBI, in turn, has threatened to discipline or fire Wright if he publicizes the details of the complaint. The Inspector General's Office has failed to act, referring the matter to Congress instead. And there, finally, investigators got interested, and called Wright in for an interview, said sources close to the investigation. It remains to be seen how far and how vigorously these leads will be pursued.

http://www.prisonplanet.com/another_fbi_agent_blows_the_whistle.htm

Translator in Eye of Storm on Retroactive Classification

By Anne E. Kornblut, Globe Staff | July 5, 2004

WASHINGTON -- Sifting through old classified materials in the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, FBI translator Sibel Edmonds said, she made an alarming discovery: Intercepts relevant to the terrorist plot, including references to skyscrapers, had been overlooked because they were badly translated into English.

Edmonds, 34, who is fluent in Turkish and Farsi, said she quickly reported the mistake to an FBI superior. Five months later, after flagging what she said were several other security lapses in her division, she was fired. Now, after more than two years of investigations and congressional inquiries, Edmonds is at the center of an extraordinary storm over US classification rules that sheds new light on the secrecy imperative supported by members of the Bush administration.

In a rare maneuver, Attorney General John Ashcroft has ordered that information about the Edmonds case be retroactively classified, even basic facts that have been posted on websites and discussed openly in meetings with members of Congress for two years. The Department of Justice also invoked the seldom-used "state secrets" privilege to silence Edmonds in court. She has been blocked from testifying in a lawsuit brought by victims of the Sept. 11 attacks and was allowed to speak to the panel investigating the Sept. 11 attacks only behind closed doors.

Meanwhile, the FBI has yet to release its internal investigation into her charges. And the Senate Judiciary Committee, which oversees the bureau, has been stymied in its attempt to get to the bottom of her allegations. Now that the case has been retroactively classified, lawmakers are wary of discussing the details, for fear of overstepping legal bounds.

"I'm alarmed that the FBI is reaching back in time and classifying information it provided two years ago," Senator Charles E. Grassley, a Republican from Iowa and a leading advocate for Edmonds, said last Friday. "Frankly, it looks like an attempt to impede legitimate oversight of a serious problem at the FBI."

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/07/05/translator_in_eye_of_storm_on_retroactive_classification/

Open Letter by Sibel Edmonds:

FBI knew about 9/11 plot in April 2001

Sunday, August 1 2004

Inspector General Report

(Please refer to DOJ-IG report Re: Sibel Edmonds and FBI Translation, provided to you prior to the completion of your report).

I provided your investigators with a detailed and specific account of this issue and the names of other witnesses willing to corroborate this. (Please refer to tape-recorded 3.5 hours testimony by Sibel Edmonds, provided to your investigators on February 11, 2004).

Today, almost three years after 9/11, and more than two years since this information has been confirmed and made available to our government, the administrators in charge of language departments of the FBI remain in their positions and in charge of the information front lines of the FBI's Counter terrorism and Counterintelligence efforts. Your report has omitted any reference to this most serious issue, has foregone any accountability what so ever, and your recommendations have refrained from addressing this issue, which when left un-addressed will have even more serious consequences. This issue is systemic and departmental. Why did your report choose to exclude this information and this serious issue despite the evidence and briefings you received? How can budget increases address and resolve this misconduct by mid-level bureaucratic management? How can the addition of a new bureaucratic layer, ' Intelligence Czar', in its cocoon removed from the action lines, address and resolve this problem?

Melek Can Dickerson, a Turkish Translator, was hired by the FBI after September 11, and was placed in charge of translating the most sensitive information related to terrorists and criminals under the Bureau's investigation. Melek Can Dickerson was granted Top Secret Clearance, which can be granted only after conducting a thorough background investigation. Melek Can Dickerson used to work for a semi-legit organizations that were the FBI's targets of investigation. Melek Can Dickerson had on going relationships with two individuals who were FBI's targets of investigation. For months Melek Can Dickerson blocked all-important information related to these semi-legit organizations and the individuals she and her husband associated with. She stamped hundreds, if not thousands, of documents related to these targets as "Not Pertinent." Melek Can Dickerson attempted to prevent others from translating these documents important to the FBI's investigations and our fight against terrorism. Melek Can Dickerson, with the assistance of her direct supervisor, Mike Feghali, took hundreds of pages of top-secret sensitive intelligence documents outside the FBI to unknown recipients. Melek Can Dickerson, with the assistance of her direct supervisor, forged signatures on top-secret documents related to certain 9/11 detainees. After all these incidents were confirmed and reported to FBI management, Melek Can Dickerson was allowed to remain in her position, to continue the translation of sensitive intelligence received by the FBI, and to maintain her Top Secret clearance. Apparently bureaucratic mid-level FBI management and administrators decided that it would not look good for the Bureau if this security

breach and espionage case was investigated and made public, especially after going through Robert Hanssen's case (FBI spy scandal). This case (Melek Can Dickerson) was confirmed by the Senate Judiciary Committee (Please refer to Senator Leahy and Grassley's letters dated June 19 and August 13, 2002, and Senator Grassley's statement on CBS-60 Minutes in October 2002, provided to your investigators in January-February 2004). This Dickerson incident received major coverage by the press (Please refer to media background provided to your investigators in January-February 2004). According to Director Mueller, the Inspector General criticized the FBI for failing to adequately pursue this espionage report regarding Melek Can Dickerson.

...

Today, more than two years since the Dickerson incident was reported to the FBI, and more than two years since this information was confirmed by the United States Congress and reported by the press, these administrators in charge of FBI personnel security and language departments in the FBI remain in their positions and in charge of translation quality and translation departments' security. Melek Can Dickerson and several FBI targets of investigation hastily left the United States in 2002, and the case still remains uninvestigated criminally. Not only does the supervisor facilitating these criminal conducts remain in a supervisory position, he has been promoted to supervising Arabic language units of the FBI's Counterterrorism and Counterintelligence investigations. Your report has omitted these significant incidents, has foregone any accountability what so ever, and your recommendations have refrained from addressing this serious information security breach and highly likely espionage issue. This issue needs to be investigated and criminally prosecuted. The translation of our intelligence is being entrusted to individuals with loyalties to our enemies. Important "chit-chats" and "chatters" are being intentionally blocked.

...

Over three years ago, more than four months prior to the September 11 terrorist attacks, in April 2001, a long-term FBI informant/asset who had been providing the bureau with information since 1990, provided two FBI agents and a translator with specific information regarding a terrorist attack being planned by Osama Bin Laden. This asset/informant was previously a high-level intelligence officer in Iran in charge of intelligence from Afghanistan. Through his contacts in Afghanistan he received information that: 1) Osama Bin Laden was planning a major terrorist attack in the United States targeting 4-5 major cities, 2) the attack was going to involve airplanes, 3) some of the individuals in charge of carrying out this attack were already in place in the United States, 4) the attack was going to be carried out soon, in a few months. The agents who received this information reported it to their superior, Special Agent in Charge of Counterterrorism, Thomas Frields, at the FBI Washington Field Office, by filing '302' forms, and the translator translated and documented this information. No action was taken by the Special Agent in Charge, and after 9/11 the agents and the translators were told to "keep quiet" regarding this issue. The translator who was present during the session with the FBI informant, Mr. Behrooz Sarshar, reported this incident to Director Mueller in writing, and later to the Department of Justice Inspector General. The press reported this incident, and in fact the report in the Chicago Tribune on July 21, 2004 stated that FBI officials had confirmed that this information was received in April 2001, and further, the Chicago Tribune quoted an aide to Director Mueller that he (Mueller) was surprised that the Commission never raised this particular issue with him during the hearing (Please refer to Chicago Tribune article, dated July 21, 2004). Mr. Sarshar reported this issue to your investigators on February 12, 2004, and provided them with specific dates, location, witness names, and the contact

information for that particular Iranian asset and the two special agents who received the information (Please refer to the tape-recorded testimony provided to your investigators during a 2.5 hours testimony by Mr. Sarshar on February 12, 2004). I provided your investigators with a detailed and specific account of this issue, the names of other witnesses, and documents I had seen. (Please refer to tape-recorded 3.5 hours testimony by Sibel Edmonds, provided to your investigators on February 11, 2004). Mr. Sarshar also provided the Department of Justice Inspector General with specific information regarding this issue (Please refer to DOJ-IG report Re: Sibel Edmonds and FBI Translation, provided to you prior to the completion of your report).

After almost three years since September 11, many officials still refuse to admit to having specific information regarding the terrorists' plans to attack the United States. The Phoenix Memo, received months prior to the 9/11 attacks, specifically warned FBI HQ of pilot training and their possible link to terrorist activities against the United States. Four months prior to the terrorist attacks the Iranian asset provided the FBI with specific information regarding the "use of airplanes," major US cities as targets, and "Osama Bin Laden issuing the order." Coleen Rowley likewise reported that specific information had been provided to FBI HQ. All this information went to the same place: FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC, and the FBI Washington Field Office, in Washington DC. Yet, your report claims that not having a central place where all intelligence could be gathered as one of the main factors in our intelligence failure. Why did your report choose to exclude the information regarding the Iranian asset and Behrooz Sarshar from its timeline of missed opportunities? Why was this significant incident not mentioned; despite the public confirmation by the FBI, witnesses provided to your investigators, and briefings you received directly? Why did you surprise even Director Mueller by refraining from asking him questions regarding this significant incident and lapse during your hearing (Please remember that you ran out of questions during your hearings with Director Mueller and AG John Ashcroft, so please do not cite a "time limit" excuse)?

...

Over two years ago, and after two "unclassified" sessions with FBI officials, the Senate Judiciary Committee sent letters to Director Mueller, Attorney General Ashcroft, and Inspector General Glenn Fine regarding the existence of unqualified translators in charge of translating high level sensitive intelligence. The FBI confirmed at least one case: Kevin Taskesen, a Turkish translator, had been given a job as an FBI translator, despite the fact that he had failed all FBI language proficiency tests. In fact, Kevin could not understand or speak even elementary level English. He had failed English proficiency tests and did not even score sufficiently in the target language. Still, Kevin Taskesen was hired, not due to lack of other qualified translator candidates, but because his wife worked in FBI Headquarters as a language proficiency exam administrator. Almost everybody in FBI Headquarters and the FBI Washington Field Office knew about Kevin. Yet, Kevin was given the task of translating the most sensitive terrorist related information, and he was sent to Guantanamo Bay to translate the interrogation of and information for all Turkic language detainees (Turkish, Uzbeks, Turkmen, etc.). The FBI was supposed to be trying to obtain information regarding possible future attack plans from these detainees, and yet, the FBI knowingly sent unqualified translators to gather and translate this information. Further, these detainees were either released or detained or prosecuted based on information received and translated by unqualified translators knowingly sent there by the FBI. Senator Grassley and Senator Leahy publicly confirmed Kevin Taskesen's case (Please refer to Senate letters and documents provided to your investigators

in January-February 2004). CBS-60 Minutes showed Kevin's picture and stated his name as one of the unqualified translators sent to Guantanamo Bay, and as a case confirmed by the FBI (Please refer to CBS-60 Minutes transcript provided to your investigators). Department of Justice Inspector General had a detailed account of these problems (Please refer to DOJ-IG report Re: Sibel Edmonds and FBI Translation, provided to you prior to the completion of your report).

...

After more than two years since Kevin Taskesen's case was publicly confirmed, and after almost two years since CBS-60 Minutes broadcasted Taskesen's case, Kevin Taskesen remains in his position, as a sole Turkish and Turkic language translator for the FBI Washington Field Office. After admitting that Kevin Taskesen was not qualified to perform the task of translating sensitive intelligence and investigation of terrorist activities, the FBI still keeps him in charge of translating highly sensitive documents and leads. Those individuals in the FBI's hiring department and those who facilitated the hiring of unqualified translators due to nepotism/cronyism are still in those departments and remain in their positions. Yet, your report does not mention this case, or these chronic problems within the FBI translation departments, and within the FBI's hiring and screening departments. The issue of accountability for those responsible for these practices that endangers our national security is not brought up even once in your report.

...

In October 2001, approximately one month after the September 11 attack, an agent from a (city name omitted) field office, re-sent a certain document to the FBI Washington Field Office, so that it could be re-translated. This Special Agent, in light of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, rightfully believed that, considering his target of investigation (the suspect under surveillance), and the issues involved, the original translation might have missed certain information that could prove to be valuable in the investigation of terrorist activities. After this document was received by the FBI Washington Field Office and retranslated verbatim, the field agent's hunch appeared to be correct. The new translation revealed certain information regarding blueprints, pictures, and building material for skyscrapers being sent overseas. It also revealed certain illegal activities in obtaining visas from certain embassies in the Middle East, through network contacts and bribery. However, after the re-translation was completed and the new significant information was revealed, the unit supervisor in charge of certain Middle Eastern languages, Mike Feghali, decided NOT to send the re-translated information to the Special Agent who had requested it. Instead, this supervisor decided to send this agent a note stating that the translation was reviewed and that the original translation was accurate. This supervisor stated that sending the accurate translation would hurt the original translator and would cause problems for the FBI language department. The FBI agent requesting the retranslation never received the accurate translation of that document. I provided your investigators with a detailed and specific account of this issue, the name and date of this particular investigation, and the names of other witnesses willing to corroborate this.

...

Only one month after the catastrophic events of September 11; while many agents were working around the clock to obtain leads and information, and to investigate those responsible for the attacks, those with possible connections to the attack, and those who might be planning possible future attacks; the bureaucratic administrators in the FBI's largest and most important translation unit were covering up their past failures, blocking important leads and information, and jeopardizing on going terrorist investigations. The supervisor involved in this incident, Mike Feghali, was in charge of certain important Middle Eastern languages within the FBI Washington Field Office, and had a record of

previous misconducts. After this supervisor's several severe misconducts were reported to the FBI's higher-level management, after his conducts were reported to the Inspector General's Office, to the United States Congress, and to the 9/11 Commission, he was promoted to include the FBI's Arabic language unit under his supervision. Today this supervisor, Mike Feghali, remains in the FBI Washington Field Office and is in charge of a language unit receiving those chitchats that our color-coded threat system is based upon. Yet your report contains zero information regarding these systemic problems that led us to our failure in preventing the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In your report, there are no references to individuals responsible for hindering past and current investigations, or those who are willing to compromise our security and our lives for their career advancement and security.

...

The latest buzz topic regarding intelligence is the problem of sharing information/intelligence within intelligence agencies and between intelligence agencies. To this date the public has not been told of intentional blocking of intelligence, and has not been told that certain information, despite its direct links, impacts and ties to terrorist related activities, is not given to or shared with Counterterrorism units, their investigations, and countering terrorism related activities. This was the case prior to 9/11, and remains in effect after 9/11.

If Counterintelligence receives information that contains money laundering, illegal arms sale, and illegal drug activities, directly linked to terrorist activities; and if that information involves certain nations, certain semi-legit organizations, and ties to certain lucrative or political relations in this country, then, that information is not shared with Counterterrorism, regardless of the possible severe consequences.

In certain cases, frustrated FBI agents cited "direct pressure by the State Department," and in other cases "sensitive diplomatic relations" is cited. The Department of Justice Inspector General received detailed and specific information and evidence regarding this issue (Please refer to DOJ-IG report Re: Sibel Edmonds and FBI Translation, provided to you prior to the completion of your report). I provided your investigators with a detailed and specific account of this issue, the names of other witnesses willing to corroborate this, and the names of certain U.S. officials involved in these transactions and activities.

...

After almost three years the American people still do not know that thousands of lives can be jeopardized under the unspoken policy of "protecting certain foreign business relations." The victims family members still do not realize that information and answers they have sought relentlessly for over two years has been blocked due to the unspoken decisions made and disguised under "safeguarding certain diplomatic relations."

Your report did not even attempt to address these unspoken practices, although, unlike me, you were not placed under any gag. Your hearings did not include questions regarding these unspoken and unwritten policies and practices. **Despite your full awareness and understanding of certain criminal conduct that connects to certain terrorist related activities, committed by certain U.S. officials and high-level government employees, you have not proposed criminal investigations into this conduct, although under the laws of this country you are required to do so.**

How can budget increases address and resolve these problems, when some of

them are caused by unspoken practices and unwritten policies? How can a new bureaucratic layer, ' Intelligence Czar', in its cocoon removed from the action lines, override these unwritten policies and unspoken practices incompatible with our national security?

I know for a fact that problems regarding intelligence translation cannot be brushed off as minor problems among many significant problems. Translation units are the frontline in gathering, translating, and disseminating intelligence. A warning in advance of the next terrorist attack may, and probably will, come in the form of a message or document in foreign language that will have to be translated. That message may be given to the translation unit headed and supervised by someone like Mike Feghali, who slows down, even stops, translations for the purpose of receiving budget increases for his department, who has participated in certain criminal activities and security breaches, and who has been engaged in covering up failures and criminal conducts within the department, so it may never be translated in time if ever. That message may go to Kevin Taskesen, or another unqualified translator; so it may never be translated correctly and be acted upon. That message may go to a sympathizer within the language department; so it may never be translated fully, if at all. That message may come to the attention of an agent of a foreign organization who works as a translator in the FBI translation department, who may choose to block it; so it may never get translated. If then an attack occurs, which could have been prevented by acting on information in that message, who will tell family members of the new terrorist attack victims that nothing more could have been done? There will be no excuse that we did not know, because we do know.

I am writing this letter in light of my direct experience within the FBI's translation unit during the most crucial times after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, in light of my first hand knowledge of certain problems and cases within the Bureau's language units, and in light of what has already been established as facts. As you are fully aware, the facts, incidents, and problems cited in this letter are by NO means based upon personal opinion or un-verified allegations. As you are fully aware, these issues and incidents were found confirmed by a Senior Republican Senator, Charles Grassley, and a Senior Democrat Senator, Patrick Leahy. As you know, according to officials with direct knowledge of the Department of Justice Inspector General's report on my allegations, "none of my allegations were disproved." As you are fully aware, even FBI officials "confirmed all my allegations and denied none" during their unclassified meetings with the Senate Judiciary staff over two years ago. However, neither your commission's hearings, nor your commission's five hundred sixty seven-page report, nor your recommendations include these serious issues, major incidents, and systemic problems. Your report's coverage of FBI translation problems consists of a brief microscopic footnote (Footnote #25). Yet, your commission is geared to start aggressively pressuring our government to hastily implement your measures and recommendations based upon your incomplete and deficient report.

In order to cure a problem, one must have an accurate diagnosis. In order to correctly diagnose a problem, one must consider and take into account all visible symptoms. Your Commission's investigations, hearings, and report have chosen not to consider many visible symptoms. I am emphasizing "visible," because these symptoms have been long recognized by experts from the intelligence community and have been written about in the press. I am emphasizing "visible" because the few specific symptoms I provided you with in this letter have been confirmed and publicly acknowledged. During its many hearings your

commission chose not to ask the questions necessary to unveil the true symptoms of our failed intelligence system. Your Commission intentionally bypassed these severe symptoms, and chose not to include them in its five hundred and sixty seven-page report. Now, without a complete list of our failures pre 9/11, without a comprehensive examination of true symptoms that exist in our intelligence system, without assigning any accountability what so ever, and therefore, without a sound and reliable diagnosis, your commission is attempting to divert attention from the real problems, and to prescribe a cure through hasty and costly measures. It is like attempting to put a gold-lined expensive porcelain cap over a deeply decayed tooth with a rotten root, without first treating the root, and without first cleaning/shaving the infected tooth.

Respectfully,

Sibel D. Edmonds

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20040801215339657>

Sibel Edmonds: A Patriot Silenced

(1/26/2005)

Sibel Edmonds, a 32-year-old Turkish-American, was hired as a translator by the FBI shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 because of her knowledge of Middle Eastern languages. She was fired less than a year later in March 2002 for reporting shoddy work and security breaches to her supervisors that could have prevented those attacks.

Edmonds has been fighting the corruption permeating the FBI since her unfair dismissal and sued to contest her firing in July 2002. On July 6, 2004, Judge Reggie Walton in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed Edmonds' case, citing the government's state secrets privilege. The American Civil Liberties Union is representing Edmonds in her appeal of that ruling. Oral arguments in the case are scheduled for April 21, 2005.

The privilege, when properly invoked, permits the government to block the release in litigation of any material that, if disclosed, would cause harm to national security. However, the government has employed the privilege to dismiss Edmonds' entire case in an effort to protect itself from embarrassment. While an FBI translator, Edmonds discovered poorly translated documents relevant to the 9-11 attacks and reported the shoddy work to her supervisors. She also expressed concerns about a co-worker who had previously worked for an organization under FBI surveillance and had a relationship with a foreign intelligence officer also under surveillance. In addition, Edmonds claimed that she was told to work slowly to give the appearance that the agency was overworked so it would receive a larger budget, despite a large backlog of documents that needed translating.

Even though she followed all appropriate procedures for reporting her concerns up the chain of command, Edmonds was retaliated against and fired. After her termination, many of Edmonds' allegations were confirmed by the FBI in unclassified briefings to Congress. More than two years later, in May 2004, the Justice Department retroactively classified Edmonds' briefings, as well as the FBI briefings, and forced Members of Congress who had the information posted on their Web sites to remove the documents.

<http://www.aclu.org/safefree/general/18828res20050126.html>

Sibel Edmonds Silenced

Edmonds' allegations of impropriety at the FBI came to the attention of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which held unclassified hearings on the matter on June 17, 2002 and July 9, 2002. During the hearings, the FBI provided various unclassified documents and statements relating to the case, and even acknowledged that some of Edmonds' complaints, particularly regarding misconduct by her fellow translators and mismanagement within her unit, had merit. This led to two Senators sending letters, dated June 19, 2002 August 13, 2002, and October 28, 2002 — to Inspector General Glenn Fine, Attorney General Ashcroft, and FBI Director Robert Mueller, respectively — asking for explanations and calling for an independent audit of the FBI's translation unit. These documents were published on the Senators' web sites and were republished by a watchdog group, Project On Government Oversight (POGO).

Meanwhile, on July 22, 2002, Edmonds filed suit against the Department of Justice, the FBI, and several high-level officials, alleging that she was wrongfully terminated from the FBI in retaliation for reporting criminal activities committed by government officials and employees. On October 18, 2002, Attorney General John Ashcroft invoked the State Secrets Privilege in order to prevent disclosure of the nature of Edmonds' work on the grounds that it would endanger national security, and asked that the suit be dismissed.

On August 15, 2002, a separate suit, *Burnett v. Al Baraka Investment & Dev. Corp.*, was filed by families of 600 victims of the September 11, 2001 (9/11) attacks against Saudi banks, charity organizations, and companies. Edmonds was to file a deposition in this case regarding her claim that FBI had foreknowledge of al-Qaeda's attacks against the World Trade Center.

On December 11, 2003, Attorney General Ashcroft, again invoking the State Secrets Privilege, filed a motion calling for Edmonds' deposition to be suppressed and for the entire case to be dismissed. The judge, seeking more information, ordered the government to produce any unclassified material relating to the case. In response, Ashcroft submitted further statements to justify the use of the State Secrets Privilege, and on May 13, 2004, took the unprecedented step of retroactively classifying as Top Secret all of the material and statements that had been provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2002 relating to Edmonds' own lawsuit, as well as the letters that had been sent by the Senators and republished by POGO.

On June 23, 2004, the lawfulness of the retroactive reclassification was challenged in a suit filed by POGO, citing fear that the group might be retroactively punished for having published the letters on its website. The Justice Department tried, but failed, to get the suit dismissed, and said that POGO could not prove that it was being threatened with prosecution. On February 18, 2005, the day before a hearing on the case, the Justice Department, under the leadership of a new Attorney General, backed away from its claim that those particular documents were classified, and approved their release in full. [5][6] It is not clear whether this concession affects the publishability of other statements and documents relating to Edmonds; the Justice Department's gag order, of sorts, seems to remain in effect, since a court has not determined whether the department actually has the authority to retroactively reclassify the documents.

In the meantime, however, the reclassification was successful; Edmonds was barred from testifying in the 9/11 class action suit, and on July 6, 2004, her own suit was dismissed on state secrets grounds. Edmonds immediately appealed the latter decision.

The day the appeal was filed, the Inspector General released an unclassified summary of a highly classified report on an investigation that had concluded “that many of her allegations were supported, that the FBI did not take them seriously enough, and that her allegations were, in fact, the most significant factor in the FBI’s decision to terminate her services. ... Rather than investigate Edmonds’ allegations vigorously and thoroughly, the FBI concluded that she was a disruption and terminated her contract.”[7]

But on April 21, 2005, in the hours before the hearing of her appeal, three judges issued a ruling that barred all reporters and the public from the courtroom. During the proceedings, Edmonds was not allowed into the courtroom for the hearing. On May 6, 2005, when her case was dismissed, no reason was provided, and no opinion cited.

On August 5, 2005, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) petitioned for the Supreme Court of the United States to review the lower courts’ application of the State Secret Privilege in both lawsuits. The ACLU claims that the courts conflated the State Secrets Privilege and the Totten rule.[8] On November 28, 2005, the Supreme Court declined to review the decisions.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sibel_Edmonds

The Derailment of the Investigation into Ptech

Entries Below Quoted from the 911 Timeline

1996: Vulgar Betrayal Investigation Launched

Vulgar Betrayal, the most significant US government investigation into terrorist financing before 9/11, is launched. This investigation grows out of investigations Chicago FBI agent Robert Wright had begun in 1993 (see After January 1993), and Wright appears to be the driving force behind Vulgar Betrayal. He later will say, “I named the case Vulgar Betrayal because of the many gross betrayals many Arab terrorists and their supporters” committed against the US, but the name will later prove to be bitterly ironic for him. Over a dozen FBI agents are assigned it and a grand jury is empanelled to hear evidence. Wright will be removed from the investigation in late 1999 (see August 3, 1999), and it will be completely shut down in early 2000 (see August 2000). [Federal News Service, 6/2/2003; Chicago Tribune, 8/22/2004; LA Weekly, 8/25/2004; Judicial Watch, 12/15/2004] The investigation will first identify suspected terrorism financier Yassin al-Qadi as a target in 1997, but it will run into many obstacles in investigating him and others. Assistant US attorney Mark Flessner, the lead prosecutor for Vulgar Betrayal, will later claim that supervisors at the Justice Department’s headquarters obstructed the investigation because it appeared to trace terrorism financing to important figures in Saudi Arabia, a key US ally. Wright will later state that had the leads into al-Qadi and others been fully investigated, “I believe the FBI could have identified other significant links to Osama bin Laden, links which may have been addressed to prevent future attacks against the United States by bin Laden and his terrorist trainees.” [Federal News Service, 6/2/2003; Chicago Tribune, 8/22/2004]

April 1998: FBI Agent Stifles Investigation into Ptech Figures

FBI agent Robert Wright will later recall that at this time, he is pleasantly surprised when FBI management provides his Vulgar Betrayal investigation with a 10 year veteran agent to assist with his efforts. According to Wright, the unnamed agent is assigned to “investigate a company and its 20-plus subsidiaries which were linked to a major financier of international terrorism.” However, Wright and fellow agent John Vincent will soon become dismayed when they realize the agent is not actually doing any work. He merely shuffles papers to look busy when people walk by. He will continue to do no work on this important assignment until the Vulgar Betrayal investigation is effectively shut down one year later (see August 3, 1999). Wright will claim in 2003, “The important assignment he was given involved both the founder and the financier of Ptech.” Presumably these could be references to Oussama Ziade, the president and chief founder of Ptech, and Yassin al-Qadi, apparently Ptech’s largest investor. [Federal News Service, 6/2/2003]

Early 1999-March 21, 2000: Muslim FBI Agent Refuses to Wear Wire in Meeting with BMI Head; FBI Infighting Follows

Gamal Abdel-Hafiz, the only Muslim FBI agent in the years just prior to 9/11, becomes involved in FBI agent Robert Wright’s Vulgar Betrayal investigation in early 1999. An accountant working for BMI Inc., an investment firm with connections to many suspected terrorism financiers (see 1986-October 1999), tells Abdel-Hafiz that he is worried that BMI funds had helped fund the 1998 US embassy bombings in Africa (see August 7, 1998). BMI president Soliman Biheiri hears that Abdel-Hafiz had been told about this, and wants to meet with him to discuss it (apparently without realizing that Abdel-Hafiz is an undercover FBI agent). Wright asks Abdel-Hafiz to wear a wire to the meeting, but Abdel-Hafiz refuses to do so. This leads to infighting within the FBI. On July 6, 1999, Abdel-Hafiz files a religious discrimination complaint, accusing Wright of making derogatory comments to fellow agents. [Frontline, 10/16/2003] On March 21, 2000, Wright makes a formal internal complaint about Abdel-Hafiz. FBI agent Barry Carmody seconds Wright’s complaint. Wright and Carmody accuse Abdel-Hafiz of hindering investigations by openly refusing to record other Muslims. In an affidavit, Wright claims that Abdel-Hafiz refused to wear the wire “based on religious reasons saying, ‘A Muslim doesn’t record another Muslim.’” Abdel-Hafiz does not deny the quote, but claims it was taken out of context. [Wall Street Journal, 11/26/2002; ABC News, 12/19/2002; Frontline, 10/16/2003]

Federal prosecutor Mark Flessner and other FBI agents back up the allegations against Abdel-Hafiz. [ABC News, 12/19/2002] Carmody will also claim that, in a different investigation, Abdel-Hafiz hindered an inquiry into the possible ties to Islamic militants of fired University of South Florida Professor Sami al-Arian by refusing to record a conversation with the professor in 1998. [Tampa Tribune, 3/4/2003] Complaints to superiors and headquarters about Abdel-Hafiz never get a response. [Fox News, 3/6/2003] “Far from being reprimanded, in February 2001 Abdel-Hafiz [is] promoted to one of the FBI’s most important anti-terrorism posts, the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia, to handle investigations for the FBI in that Muslim country.” [ABC News, 12/19/2002; Frontline, 10/16/2003] In 2003, FBI agent John Vincent will complain, “Five different FBI field divisions complained of this agent’s activities, and the FBI headquarters response was to promote him to a sensitive position in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.” [Federal News

Service, 6/2/2003] Abdel-Hafiz will be suspended in February 2003 over charges that he faked a break-in of his own house in order to collect \$25,000 in insurance benefits and then failed an FBI polygraph test when asked about it. In January 2004, the FBI's Disciplinary Review Board will reinstate him after deciding there was insufficient evidence in the case. [Tampa Tribune, 3/4/2003; Frontline, 10/16/2003]

August 3, 1999: Wright Removed from Vulgar Betrayal Investigation

Chicago FBI agent Robert Wright is abruptly removed from the Vulgar Betrayal investigation into terrorism financing (see 1996). The entire investigation apparently winds down without his involvement, and will shut down altogether in 2000 (see August 2000). A New York Post article will state, "[T]he official reason was a fear that Wright's work would disrupt FBI intelligence-gathering. My sources find this dubious: After years of monitoring these individuals, the bureau had likely learned all it could.... [But] conversations with FBI personnel indicate that he was told informally that his work was too embarrassing to the Saudis. In support of this is the fact that Wright was shut down as he seemed to be closing in on Yassin al-Qadi." [Washington Post, 5/11/2002; New York Post, 7/14/2004] Wright later will claim that a reason he is given for being taken off the investigation is a recent dispute he is having with a Muslim FBI agent who refuses to wear a wire (see Early 1999-March 21, 2000). [Federal News Service, 6/2/2003] He is also accused of sexually harassing a female FBI agent. This charge is investigated and later dropped. [Chicago Tribune, 8/22/2004] Wright is removed from counterterrorism work altogether and remains that way at least through early 2002. [Associated Press, 3/15/2002] In September 1999, he will hire Chicago lawyer David Schippers, famed as House investigative counsel in the Clinton impeachment, to help fight the closure of the investigation. Although Schippers is known as an enemy of President Clinton, Wright will say, "I'm confident President Clinton had absolutely nothing to do with the lack of support and eventual closure of the Vulgar Betrayal investigation." [Federal News Service, 6/2/2003; CNN, 6/19/2003]

August 2000: Vulgar Betrayal Investigation Shut Down

Vulgar Betrayal, the most significant US government investigation into terrorist financing before 9/11, shuts down. FBI agent Robert Wright launched the investigation in 1996 (see 1996) and was removed from the investigation in late 1999 (see August 3, 1999). Apparently the investigation accomplished little after Wright's departure. [LA Weekly, 8/25/2004; Judicial Watch, 12/15/2004; Robert G. Wright, Jr., v. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 5/16/2005] A March 2000 affidavit named Yassin al-Qadi as a source of terrorist funds in Chicago, but no charges are brought against him. [ABC News, 12/19/2002] Mark Flessner, an assistant US attorney assigned to Vulgar Betrayal in 1996, later will recall, "Vulgar Betrayal was a case where the FBI's intelligence agents would not cooperate with the criminal agents trying to put these guys in jail. They refused to let us arrest them. They only wanted to watch them conduct their business." He will also claim that Frances Fragos Townsend, a Justice Department official working a variety of posts, helps close down the investigation. He will say Townsend did not share information but "deliberately obstructed it. And I found that very disconcerting." He will claim that she completely supports FBI intelligence agents and refuses to share their information with the Vulgar Betrayal investigation. A federal grand jury was impaneled in 1996 to support Vulgar Betrayal, but without the information from FBI intelligence, Flessner did not have enough evidence to

return indictments. "I couldn't even get permission to do the basic things you do, such as collecting phone numbers from their targets' incoming and outgoing calls, and addresses from their mail." With the shut down of the investigation in 2000, Flessner will resign from the Justice Department in frustration. After 9/11, Townsend will be appointed President Bush's Homeland Security Adviser and counterterrorism director for the National Security Council. [LA Weekly, 8/25/2004]

February-March 2001: Politicians Warned about Terrorism Funding in US

In September 1999, FBI agent Robert Wright hired David Schippers as his lawyer to represent him in his troubles with the FBI (see August 3, 1999). Schippers was the House Judiciary Committee's chief investigator in the Clinton impeachment trial. Schippers later will claim that at this time he begins contacting congresspeople that he knows from the impeachment trial with concerns about terrorism. He later recalls, "I was talking primarily about the infiltration of Hamas [inside the US] -- how they're moving the money. I have evidence on that. I have all kinds of material." In an obvious reference to the Vulgar Betrayal investigation, he also will assert that he knew US intelligence had "established the sources of the money flow of bin Laden" as early as 1996, but by 1999 had faced high-level obstructions into investigating these matters. But he will claim, "I couldn't get anybody to talk to me." [WorldNetDaily, 10/21/2001; Ahmed, 2004, pp. 258-260] Schippers later claims he will continue to warn politicians about terrorism funding in the US, while also warning them about a potential al-Qaeda attack on lower Manhattan based on information he will receive in May 2001 (see May 2001; July-Late August 2001).

May 2001: Clinton Impeachment Lawyer Learns About Al-Qaeda Manhattan Attack Warning

David Schippers, the House Judiciary Committee's chief investigator in the Clinton impeachment trial, was hired to represent FBI agent Robert Wright in September 1999 (see August 3, 1999). After 9/11, Schippers will claim that he began privately informing congresspeople about Wright's investigation into terrorism financing in the US in early 2001, but found little interest (see February-March 2001). Schippers appears to have had different sources than Wright who began telling him about attack warnings. Supposedly, the first warning was based on a secret February 1995 report which stated that bin Laden was planning three attacks on the US: the bombing of a federal building in the heartland of the US, shooting down or blowing up an airplane, and a massive attack in lower Manhattan. Schippers believes the first warning was a prediction of the April 1995 Oklahoma City bombing (see April 19, 1995) and the second was a prediction of the 1996 explosion of TWA Flight 800 (see July 17, 1996-September 1996). In some versions of this warning, the Manhattan attack was meant to be caused by a "dirty bomb" -- explosives mixed with radioactive materials -- but other accounts described the use of planes as weapons instead. He says one of his sources for this early warning was Yossef Bodansky, director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare. Schippers will claim that his sources continued to uncover further information. The Manhattan warning "had started out just a general threat, but they narrowed it and narrowed it, more and more with time," until the "same people who came out with the first warning" tell him in May 2001 that "an attack on lower Manhattan is imminent." Schippers speaks to several FBI agents directly, and hears that "there are [other agents] all over the country who are frustrated and just waiting to come out." They are frustrated by

“a bureaucratic elite in Washington short-stopping information,” which gives “terrorism a free reign in the United States.” Schippers later claims that some FBI agents later told him that before 9/11, “they had [Mohamed] Atta in their sights.” They also had attempted to “check out” the names and activities of “very strange characters training at flight schools.” He will claim that “FBI agents in Chicago and Minnesota” tell him “there [is] going to be an attack on lower Manhattan.” Schippers will later claim that he will attempt to contact Attorney General John Ashcroft and other politicians about this warning in coming months, but that they will show little interest (see July-Late August 2001). [WorldNetDaily, 10/21/2001; Indianapolis Star, 5/18/2002; Ahmed, 2004, pp. 258-260]

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/context.jsp?item=a0498nowork>

The FBI's "Investigation" of Software Company PTECH

STEVE INSKEEP, host: People who tipped off the FBI about a Boston-area software company say federal authorities failed to properly investigate suspicions of terrorism. On Friday, the FBI raided the computer software company Ptech, which was a military contractor. Authorities insist the company never had a chance to obtain classified information, but some security experts suggest otherwise. NPR's Chris Arnold reports.

CHRIS ARNOLD reporting:

First, it's important to stress that no Ptech employees have been arrested, and authorities do not officially characterize the raid into the company's offices as a terrorism investigation. So the company, which has a number of Muslim employees, may well be innocent of any wrongdoing. But there have been some troubling questions raised about Ptech by its own employees and others close to the company. The story sounds like something out of a Tom Clancy novel on cybersnooping. Joe Bergantino is a reporter with the Boston CBS affiliate WBZ-TV. He's been working on the Ptech story for months, but he says he held off airing it at the request of federal investigators.

Mr. JOE BERGANTINO (Reporter, WBZ-TV): The worst-case scenario is that this is a situation where this was planned for a very long time to establish a company in this country and in the computer software business that would target federal agencies and gain access to key government data to essentially help terrorists launch another attack.

ARNOLD: Part of what concerns experts is the nature of Ptech's software. They say it's used to broadly assess strengths and weaknesses across organizations.

Ms. INDIRA SINGH (Risk Management and Computer Systems Consultant): The Ptech consultants and employees come into contact with the most sensitive information in an organization.

ARNOLD: Indira Singh was one of the first people to raise alarm about Ptech. She's a risk management and computer systems consultant. Singh was working with a major Wall Street bank and was thinking of using Ptech's software and consulting services. While checking on the company, she talked to an ex-employee. She says that person told her that some people at Ptech were concerned that one of its central investors was Yasin al-Qadi, who the FBI suspects of financing terrorist groups. Singh says she was told that at least several other

employees and executives had ties to organizations suspected by the US government of funding terrorism. Singh says given that Ptech was doing work for the FBI, the Air Force, Navy and a host of other agencies, she became very concerned.

Ms. SINGH: I called the FBI directly.

ARNOLD: Singh says she'd learned that an ex-Ptech employee had also called the Boston office of the FBI months before, soon after the attacks on September 11th. So when she called that same office in May of this year, she hoped to hear that Ptech had been investigated and cleared of suspicion or was being aggressively looked into. She doesn't believe that it was.

Ms. SINGH: None of that was done. And the language, the kind of language law enforcement, counterterrorism and the FBI agents themselves were using basically indicated to me that absolutely no investigation was going on, that it was totally at a standstill, at which point my hair stood on end.

ARNOLD: A spokesperson for the FBI denies that the bureau failed to follow up on leads. Singh says she and others had to apply further pressure before the government started aggressively investigating the matter nearly a year after the FBI was first notified.

Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said Ptech's software has now been scrutinized and it in no way jeopardizes the security of the country. But some security experts think the government is downplaying the potential threat. John Pike is a defense and intelligence analyst who heads up GlobalSecurity.org, a Washington-based non-profit policy group.

Mr. JOHN PIKE (GlobalSecurity.org): When you look at all of the different military security agencies that they have as customers, it's very difficult to imagine how they would not be encountering sensitive information, classified information.

ARNOLD: Indira Singh now believes that some Ptech employees had access to lots of information that could be dangerous in the hands of terrorists. She says Ptech did work for the Department of Energy in which it essentially blueprinted the process for nuclear waste disposal. She says Ptech employees could have learned how nuclear waste is transported and where it's stored. The company denies any ties to terrorist groups.

Chris Arnold, NPR News, Boston.

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<http://www.globalsecurity.org/org/news/2002/021208-secure01.htm>

Obstruction of Investigations Prior to 9/11

And Reasons to Doubt the Official
Legend of Osama Bin Ladin

The consistent high-level obstruction of U.S. counterterror field investigations prior to September 11, which might have uncovered the plot before its execution.

http://justicefor911.org/iiB2_%20Obstruction_111904.php

Greg Palast on BBC Newsnight reveals incoming Bush Administration issued Jan 2001 order to "back off" on investigations of Saudi and Bin Laden family funding of terror networks.

GREG PALAST:

The CIA and Saudi Arabia, the Bushes and the Bin Ladens. Did their connections cause America to turn a blind eye to terrorism?

UNNAMED MAN:

There is a hidden agenda at the very highest levels of our government.

JOE TRENTO, (AUTHOR, "SECRET HISTORY OF THE CIA"):

The sad thing is that thousands of Americans had to die needlessly.

PETER ELSNER:

How can it be that the former President of the US and the current President of the US have business dealings with characters that need to be investigated?

PALAST:

In the eight weeks since the attacks, over 1,000 suspects and potential witnesses have been detained. Yet, just days after the hijackers took off from Boston aiming for the Twin Towers, a special charter flight out of the same airport whisked 11 members of Osama Bin Laden's family off to Saudi Arabia. That did not concern the White House.

Their official line is that the Bin Ladens are above suspicion -- apart from Osama, the black sheep, who they say hijacked the family name. That's fortunate for the Bush family and the Saudi royal household, whose links with the Bin Ladens could otherwise prove embarrassing. But Newsnight has obtained evidence that the FBI was on the trail of other members of the Bin Laden family for links to terrorist organisations before and after September 11th.

This document is marked "Secret". Case ID - 199-Eye WF 213 589. 199 is FBI code for case type. 9 would be murder. 65 would be espionage. 199 means national security. WF indicates Washington field office special agents were investigating ABL -- because of it's relationship with the World Assembly of Muslim Youth, WAMY -- a suspected terrorist organisation. ABL is Abdullah Bin Laden, president and treasurer of WAMY.

This is the sleepy Washington suburb of Falls Church, Virginia where almost every home displays the Stars and Stripes. On this unremarkable street, at 3411 Silver Maple Place, we located the former home of Abdullah and another brother, Omar, also an FBI suspect. It's conveniently close to WAMY. The World Assembly of Muslim Youth is in this building, in a little room in the basement at 5613 Leesburg Pike. And here, just a couple blocks down the road at 5913 Leesburg, is where four of the hijackers that attacked New York and Washington are listed as having lived.

The US Treasury has not frozen WAMY's assets, and when we talked to them, they insisted they are a charity. Yet, just weeks ago, Pakistan expelled WAMY operatives. And India claimed that WAMY was funding an organisation linked to bombings in Kashmir. And the Philippines military has accused WAMY of

funding Muslim insurgency. The FBI did look into WAMY, but, for some reason, agents were pulled off the trail.

TRENTO:

The FBI wanted to investigate these guys. This is not something that they didn't want to do -- they wanted to, they weren't permitted to.

PALAST:

The secret file fell into the hands of national security expert, Joe Trento. The Washington spook-tracker has been looking into the FBI's allegations about WAMY.

TRENTO:

They've had connections to Osama Bin Laden's people. They've had connections to Muslim cultural and financial aid groups that have terrorist connections. They fit the pattern of groups that the Saudi royal family and Saudi community of princes -- the 20,000 princes -- have funded who've engaged in terrorist activity.

Now, do I know that WAMY has done anything that's illegal? No, I don't know that. Do I know that as far back as 1996 the FBI was very concerned about this organisation? I do.

PALAST:

Newsnight has uncovered a long history of shadowy connections between the State Department, the CIA and the Saudis. The former head of the American visa bureau in Jeddah is Michael Springman.

MICHAEL SPRINGMAN:

In Saudi Arabia I was repeatedly ordered by high level State Dept officials to issue visas to unqualified applicants. These were, essentially, people who had no ties either to Saudi Arabia or to their own country. I complained bitterly at the time there. I returned to the US, I complained to the State Dept here, to the General Accounting Office, to the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and to the Inspector General's office. I was met with silence.

PALAST:

By now, Bush Sr, once CIA director, was in the White House. Springman was shocked to find this wasn't visa fraud. Rather, State and CIA were playing "the Great Game."

SPRINGMAN:

What I was protesting was, in reality, an effort to bring recruits, rounded up by Osama Bin Laden, to the US for terrorist training by the CIA. They would then be returned to Afghanistan to fight against the then-Soviets.

The attack on the World Trade Center in 1993 did not shake the State Department's faith in the Saudis, nor did the attack on American barracks at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia three years later, in which 19 Americans died. FBI agents began to feel their investigation was being obstructed. Would you be surprised to find out that FBI agents are a bit frustrated that they can't be looking into some Saudi connections?

MICHAEL WILDES, (LAWYER)

I would never be surprised with that. They're cut off at the hip sometimes by

supervisors or given shots that are being called from Washington at the highest levels.

PALAST:

I showed lawyer Michael Wildes our FBI documents. One of the Khobar Towers bombers was represented by Wildes, who thought he had useful intelligence for the US. He also represents a Saudi diplomat who defected to the USA with 14,000 documents which Wildes claims implicates Saudi citizens in financing terrorism and more. Wildes met with FBI men who told him they were not permitted to read all the documents. Nevertheless, he tried to give them to the agents.

WILDES:

"Take these with you. We're not going to charge for the copies. Keep them. Do something with them. Get some bad guys with them." They refused.

PALAST:

In the hall of mirrors that is the US intelligence community, Wildes, a former US federal attorney, said the FBI field agents wanted the documents, but they were told to "see no evil."

WILDES:

You see a difference between the rank-and-file counter-intelligence agents, who are regarded by some as the motor pool of the FBI, who drive following diplomats, and the people who are getting the shots called at the highest level of our government, who have a different agenda -- it's unconscionable.

PALAST:

State wanted to keep the pro-American Saudi royal family in control of the world's biggest oil spigot, even at the price of turning a blind eye to any terrorist connection so long as America was safe. In recent years, CIA operatives had other reasons for not exposing Saudi-backed suspects.

TRENTO:

If you recruited somebody who is a member of a terrorist organisation, who happens to make his way here to the US, and even though you're not in touch with that person anymore but you have used him in the past, it would be unseemly if he were arrested by the FBI and word got back that he'd once been on the payroll of the CIA. What we're talking about is blow-back. What we're talking about is embarrassing, career-destroying blow-back for intelligence officials.

PALAST:

Does the Bush family also have to worry about political blow-back? The younger Bush made his first million 20 years ago with an oil company partly funded by Salem Bin Laden's chief US representative. Young George also received fees as director of a subsidiary of Carlyle Corporation, a little known private company which has, in just a few years of its founding, become one of Americas biggest defence contractors. His father, Bush Senior, is also a paid advisor. And what became embarrassing was the revelation that the Bin Ladens held a stake in Carlyle, sold just after September 11.

ELSNER:

You have a key relationship between the Saudis and the former President of the US who happens to be the father of the current President of the US. And you

have all sorts of questions about where does policy begin and where does good business and good profits for the company, Carlyle, end?

PALAST:

I received a phone call from a high-placed member of a US intelligence agency. He tells me that while there's always been constraints on investigating Saudis, under George Bush it's gotten much worse. After the elections, the agencies were told to "back off" investigating the Bin Ladens and Saudi royals, and that angered agents. I'm told that since September 11th the policy has been reversed. FBI headquarters told us they could not comment on our findings. A spokesman said: "There are lots of things that only the intelligence community knows and that no-one else ought to know.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/events/newsnight/1645527.stm>

Lost In Translation

FBI Translator Sibel Edmonds Grants First Interview to Ed Bradley

Aug. 8, 2004

Sibel Edmonds was hired as a translator of Turkish and other Middle Eastern languages by the FBI after the Sept. 11 attack.

Quote:

"We were told by our supervisors that this was the great opportunity for asking for increased budget and asking for more translators."
Sibel Edmonds

(CBS) This is the story of hundreds, if not thousands, of foreign language documents that the FBI neglected to translate before and after the Sept. 11 attacks -- documents that detailed what the FBI heard on wiretaps and learned during interrogations of suspected terrorists.

Sibel Edmonds, a translator who worked at the FBI's language division, says the documents weren't translated because the division was riddled with incompetence and corruption.

Edmonds was fired after reporting her concerns to FBI officials. She told her story behind closed doors to investigators in Congress and to the Justice Department. Most recently, she spoke with the commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks.

She first told Correspondent Ed Bradley her story a year after Sept. 11. Because she is fluent in Turkish and other Middle Eastern languages, Edmonds, a Turkish-American, was hired by the FBI soon after Sept. 11 and given top-secret security clearance to translate some of the reams of documents seized by FBI agents who have been rounding up suspected terrorists across the United States and abroad.

Edmonds says that to her amazement, from the day she started the job, she was told repeatedly by one of her supervisors that there was no urgency-- that she should take longer to translate documents so that the department would appear overworked and understaffed. That way, it would receive a larger budget for the next year.

"We were told by our supervisors that this was the great opportunity for asking for increased budget and asking for more translators," says Edmonds. "And in order to do that, don't do the work and let the documents pile up so we can show it and say that we need more translators and expand the department."

Edmonds says that the supervisor, in an effort to slow her down, went so far as to erase completed translations from her FBI computer after she'd left work for the day.

"The next day, I would come to work, turn on my computer, and the work would be gone. The translation would be gone," she says. "Then I had to start all over again and retranslate the same document. And I went to my supervisor and he said, 'Consider it a lesson and don't talk about it to anybody else and don't mention it.'

"The lesson was don't work, and don't do the translations. ...Don't do the work because -- and this is our chance to increase the number of people here in this department."

Edmonds put her concerns about the FBI's language department in writing to her immediate superiors and to a top official at the FBI. For months, she said she received no response. Then, she turned for help to the Justice Department's inspector general and to Sen. Charles Grassley, whose committee, the Judiciary Committee, has direct oversight of the FBI.

"She's credible," says Grassley. "And the reason I feel she's very credible is because people within the FBI have corroborated a lot of her story. "The FBI has conceded that some people in the language department are unable to adequately speak English or the language they're supposed to be translating. Kevin Taskasen was assigned to Guantanamo Bay in Cuba to translate interrogations of Turkish-speaking al Qaeda members who had been captured after Sept. 11. The FBI admits that he was not fully qualified to do the job.

"He neither passed the English nor the Turkish side of the language proficiency test," says Edmonds.

Critical shortages of experienced Middle Eastern language translators have plagued the FBI and the rest of the U.S. intelligence community for years.

Months before the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, one of the plotters of the attack was heard on tape having a discussion in Arabic that no one at the time knew was about how to make explosives -- and he had a manual that no one at the time knew was about how to blow up buildings. None of it was translated until well after the bombing, and while the FBI has hired more translators since then, officials concede that problems in the language division have hampered the country's efforts to battle terrorism.

According to congressional investigators, this may have played a role in the inability to prevent the Sept. 11 attacks. The General Accounting Office reported that the FBI had expressed concern over the thousands of hours of audiotapes and pages of written material that have not been reviewed or translated because of a lack of qualified linguists.

"If they got word today that within, in a little while, the Hoover Dam was going to be blown up, and it takes a week or two to get it translated, as was one of the problems in this department, you know, you couldn't intervene to prevent that from happening," says Grassley.

In its rush to hire more foreign language translators after Sept. 11, the FBI admits it has had difficulty performing background checks to detect translators who may have loyalties to other governments, which could pose a threat to U.S. national security.

Take the case of Jan Dickerson, a Turkish translator who worked with Edmonds. The FBI has admitted that when Dickerson was hired, the bureau didn't know that she had worked for a Turkish organization being investigated by the FBI's own counter-intelligence unit.

They also didn't know she'd had a relationship with a Turkish intelligence officer stationed in Washington who was the target of that investigation. According to Edmonds, Dickerson tried to recruit her into that organization, and insisted that Dickerson be the only one to translate the FBI's wiretaps of that Turkish official.

"She got very angry, and later she threatened me and my family's life," says Edmonds, when she decided not to go along with the plan. "She said, 'Why would you want to place your life and your family's life in danger by translating these tapes?'"

Edmonds says that when she reviewed Dickerson's translations of those tapes, she found that Dickerson had left out information crucial to the FBI's investigation -- information that Edmonds says would have revealed that the Turkish intelligence officer had spies working for him inside the U.S. State Department and at the Pentagon.

"We came across at least 17, 18 translations, communications that were extremely important for the ongoing investigations of these individuals," says Edmonds. "She had marked it as 'not important to be translated.'"

What kind of information did she leave out of her translation?

"Activities to obtain the United States military and intelligence secrets," says Edmonds.

She says she complained repeatedly to her bosses about what she'd found on the wiretaps and about Dickerson's conduct, but that nobody at the FBI wanted to hear about it, not even the assistant special agent in charge.

"He said 'Do you realize what you are saying here in your allegations? Are you telling me that our security people are not doing their jobs? Is that what you're telling me? If you insist on this investigation, I'll make sure in no time it will turn around and become an investigation about you,'" says Edmonds.

Sibel Edmonds was fired. The FBI offered no explanation, saying in the letter only that her contract was terminated completely for the government's convenience.

But three months later, the FBI conceded that on at least two occasions, Dickerson had, in fact, left out significant information from her translations. They say it was

due to a lack of experience and was not malicious.

Dickerson quit the FBI and now lives in Belgium. She declined to be interviewed, but she told The Chicago Tribune that the allegations against her are preposterous and ludicrous. Grassley says he's disturbed by what the Dickerson incident says about internal security at the FBI.

"You shouldn't have somebody in your organization that's compromising our national security by not doing the job right, whether it's lack of skills or whether it's intentional," says Grassley.

Does the Sibel Edmonds case fall into any pattern of behavior, pattern of conduct, on the part of the FBI?

"The usual pattern," says Grassley. "Let me tell you, first of all, the embarrassing information comes out, the FBI reaction is to sweep it under the rug, and then eventually they shoot the messenger."

Special agent John Roberts, recently retired as a chief of the FBI's Internal Affairs Department, agrees. And while he is not permitted to discuss the Edmonds case, for the last 10 years, he has been investigating misconduct by FBI employees. He says he is outraged by how little is ever done about it.

"I don't know of another person in the FBI who has done the internal investigations that I have and has seen what I have, and that knows what has occurred and what has been glossed over and what has, frankly, just disappeared, just vaporized, and no one disciplined for it," says Roberts.

Despite a pledge from FBI Director Robert Mueller to overhaul the culture of the FBI in light of 9/11, and encourage bureau employees to come forward to report wrongdoing, Roberts says that in the rare instances when employees are disciplined, it's usually low-level employees like Edmonds who get punished and not their bosses.

"I think the double standard of discipline will continue no matter who comes in, no matter who tries to change," says Roberts. "You, you have a certain, certain group that, that will continue to protect itself. That's just how it is."

Has he found cases since Sept. 11 where people were involved in misconduct and were not, let alone reprimanded, but were even promoted? Roberts says yes.

"That's astonishing," Bradley told Roberts. "You would think that after 9/11, that's a big slap in the face. This is a wake-up call here."

"Depends on who you are," says Roberts. "If you're in the senior executive level, it may not hurt you. You will be promoted." Last month, the FBI took the highly unusual step of retroactively classifying information it gave to Congress two years ago about the Sibel Edmonds case.

As for the FBI's language division, the bureau says it has dramatically beefed up its translation capabilities.

12.21 Insider Trading in the Days Before 9/11

“Profiting From Disaster?”

CBS News, September 19, 2001

Sources tell CBS News that the afternoon before the attack, alarm bells were sounding over unusual trading in the U.S. stock options market. An extraordinary number of trades were betting that American Airlines stock price would fall. The trades are called "puts" and they involved at least 450,000 shares of American. But what raised the red flag is more than 80 percent of the orders were "puts," far outnumbering "call" options, those betting the stock would rise. Sources say they have never seen that kind of imbalance before, reports CBS News Correspondent Sharyl Attkisson. Normally the numbers are fairly even.

After the terrorist attacks, American Airline stock price did fall obviously by 39 percent, and according to sources, that translated into well over \$5 million total profit for the person or persons who bet the stock would fall. Sources tell 60 Minutes that the initial options were bought through at least two brokerage firms including NFS, a subsidiary of Fidelity Brokerage, and TD Waterhouse, a discount firm. TD Waterhouse says they handled approximately 3 percent of the initial orders for "puts" on American Airline stock. The company says it has looked at the orders and has determined no evidence of any suspicious activity. At least one Wall Street firm reported their suspicions about this activity to the SEC shortly after the attack. The same thing happened with United Airlines on the Chicago Board Options Exchange four days before the attack. An extremely unbalanced number of trades betting United's stock price would fall — also transformed into huge profits when it did after the hijackings. "We can directly work backwards from a trade on the floor of the Chicago Board Options Exchange. The trader is linked to a brokerage firm. The brokerage firm received the order to buy that 'put' option from either someone within a brokerage firm speculating, or from one of the customers," said Randall Dodd of the Economic Strategy Institute....

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2001/09/19/eveningnews/main311834.shtml>

“New Scrutiny of Airlines Options Deals”

by Christian Berthelsen
San Francisco Chronicle
September 19, 2001

The Chicago Board Options Exchange said yesterday that it is looking into an unusual spike in trading in two airline stocks in advance of last week's terrorist attacks. As reported in The Chronicle, options trading in the stocks of the parent companies of American and United airlines was unusually heavy in the three trading days prior to the attack. That activity is the focus of an international investigation in the United States and several other countries that is trying to determine whether people with advance knowledge of the attacks sought to profit from the trading.

Four American and United planes, along with their crew and passengers, were hijacked on Sept. 11. Three were used in the terrorist attacks against the twin towers of the World Trade Center and against the Pentagon. The fourth crashed in rural Pennsylvania. Both airlines' stocks fell precipitously when trading

resumed on Monday, with shares of UAL, the parent of United, dropping 43 percent, and shares of AMR, the parent of American, dropping 39 percent. Both recovered slightly yesterday, with UAL rising \$1.49 to close at \$18.99, and AMR rising \$2, to close at \$20. The Chicago Exchange, the largest options market in the nation and the board on which United options are officially listed, experienced volume eight times its normal levels in the trading of UAL Corp. put options on the Friday before the attack.

The purchaser of a put contract is guaranteed the right to sell a specific amount of shares at a specified price by a certain date. The purchaser profits from the deal when the share price drops lower than the agreed sale price. Lynn Howard, the exchange's chief spokeswoman, said, "As is usual, CBOE is conducting an investigation of trading prior to the news event." Howard declined to elaborate on the specific nature of the inquiry. Sources who have agreed to speak on condition of anonymity say government investigators are also looking at the trades. Exchange officials and market makers in San Francisco refused to discuss the inquiry.

On the day before the terrorist attack there was a spike of 25 times the normal levels in the trading ratio of UAL put options, with larger-than-average volume coming through the Pacific Exchange. Dale Carlson, a vice president of the Pacific Exchange, refused to comment on whether an inquiry is taking place there in the trading of put options on UAL or any other security. A floor broker with TFM Investment Group, the market maker in UAL options at the Pacific Exchange, also refused to comment.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2001/09/19/BU184559.DTL>

"Suspicious Profits Sit Uncollected: Airline Investors Seem to be Lying Low"

San Francisco Chronicle, September 29, 2001

Investors have yet to collect more than \$2.5 million in profits they made trading options in the stock of United Airlines before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to a source familiar with the trades and market data. The uncollected money raises suspicions that the investors -- whose identities and nationalities have not been made public -- had advance knowledge of the strikes. "Usually, if someone has a windfall like that, you take the money and run," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Whoever did this thought the exchange would not be closed for four days. This smells real bad." The source and others in the financial industry speculate that the purchaser or purchasers -- having initially assumed the money could be picked up without detection -- now fear exposure, or that the account has been frozen. The markets were closed for four days after the attack, giving investigators time to notice the anomalous trades.

Securities regulators and law-enforcement agents throughout the United States and Europe are investigating unusual patterns in short sales and the purchase of "put" options, both of which are financial-market bets that the price of a given stock will fall. Authorities here and abroad have not publicly disclosed any conclusions they have reached and refuse to discuss the case. There was an unusually large jump in purchases of put options on the stocks of UAL Corp. and AMR Corp. in the three business days before the attack on major options exchanges in the United States. On one day, UAL put option purchases were 25

times greater than the year-to-date average. In the month before the attacks, short sales jumped by 40 percent for UAL and 20 percent for American. A put option gives the buyer a right to sell the underlying security at a certain price on a certain date; the purchaser profits when the share price drops lower than the agreed sale price. In a short sale, an investor borrows stock from a broker and sells it, hoping to buy it back at a lower price.

October series options for UAL Corp. were purchased in highly unusual volumes three trading days before the terrorist attacks for a total outlay of \$2,070; investors bought the option contracts, each representing 100 shares, for 90 cents each. Those options are now selling at more than \$12 each. There are still 2,313 so-called "put" options outstanding, according to the Options Clearinghouse Corp. Other financial professionals have told The Chronicle that an estimated \$5 million to \$10 million in all could have been made on the trades, including trading on other days and purchases of options on the parent company of American, AMR Corp. Four United and American aircraft crashed in the attacks.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2001/09/29/MN186128.DTL>

"Suspicious Trading Points to Advance Knowledge by Big Investors of September 11 attacks"

by Barry Grey
October 5, 2001

In the two weeks preceding the September 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington, there was a sudden and unaccountable rush of speculative trades on the US stock and bond markets that indicate some wealthy and well-connected investors had advance knowledge of the impending catastrophe. Those involved bet large sums on the prospect of a major crisis that would drive down the value of stocks in the airline, tourism and insurance industries, and undermine confidence in the US economy as a whole.

Investigations are currently under way by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the federal watchdog agency for the stock and bond markets, the Secret Service and the FBI. These probes have been given little prominence by the media, in stark contrast to the round-the-clock warnings of new terrorist plots and reports of suspects detained in the US and Europe. The SEC has issued terse acknowledgments that it is looking into suspicious financial transactions to see if they are connected to terrorist organizations.

But the scale of the stock and bond activity under scrutiny belies the notion that it could be the work of Osama bin Laden's guerrilla band, let alone the fanatics who carried out the September 11 atrocities.

Over the past several days the Wall Street Journal has carried reports of the SEC and Secret Service probes, and dispatches have been published by the Associated Press and USA Today. But the New York Times and the Washington Post have remained strangely silent, and the network news outlets have said nothing. The Wall Street Journal reported on October 2 that the ongoing investigation by the SEC into suspicious stock trades had been joined by a Secret Service probe into an unusually high volume of five-year US Treasury note purchases prior to the attacks.

The Treasury note transactions included a single \$5 billion trade. As the Journal explained: "Five-year Treasury notes are among the best investments in the event of a world crisis, especially one that hits the US. The notes are prized for their safety and their backing by the US government, and usually rally when investors flee riskier investments, such as stocks." The value of these notes, the Journal pointed out, has risen sharply since the events of September 11. The article went on to quote Michael Shamosh, a bond-market strategist for Tucker Anthony Inc., who said, "If they were going to do something like this they would do it in the five-year part of the market. It's extremely liquid, and the tracks would be hard to spot."

The SEC is investigating a surge in short-selling activity in a variety of stocks in the days preceding the attacks. It has asked US securities firms to produce customer accounts and stock-trading records involving short selling prior to September 11. Short sellers borrow shares and then sell them at the current price. They wager that at the future date by which they must pay for the borrowed shares, the price will have fallen, enabling them to pocket the difference.

In the week prior to September 11, shares in airlines, insurance firms, tourism-related businesses and financial companies with offices in the World Trade Center suffered disproportionate drops in their prices, arousing the suspicion of the SEC following the hijack-bombings. After the attacks, these stocks were hit particularly hard by the sell-off on Wall Street. The SEC has been extremely tight-lipped about its probe, in which it has enlisted securities firms and government agencies in Europe, Canada and other countries.

But on Tuesday the Investment Dealers Association, a trade association for the Canadian securities industry, posted on its web site a list sent by the American SEC of 38 stocks. The US agency had asked the Canadians to look into trading in these stocks between August 27 and September 11.

As soon as US officials became aware of the Internet posting, they demanded that the Investment Dealers Association yank it from the web site, and the Canadian organization complied. However, reporters and others were able to copy the list before it was pulled. The list includes the parent companies of American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, United and US Airways, as well as Carnival and Royal Caribbean cruise lines, aircraft maker Boeing and defense contractor Lockheed Martin. Several insurance companies are on the list -- American International Group, Axa, Chubb, Cigna, CNA Financial, John Hancock and MetLife. The SEC list also includes several big companies that were tenants in the collapsed Twin Towers of the World Trade Center: investment firms Morgan Stanley, the complex's largest occupant; Lehman Brothers; Bank of America; and the financial firm Marsh & McLennan. Other major companies listed include General Motors, Raytheon, LTV, WR Grace, Lone Star Technologies, American Express, Bank of New York, Bank One, Citigroup and Bear Stearns.

Testifying on Wednesday before the House Committee on Financial Services, Dennis Lormel, chief of the FBI Financial Crimes Section, said, "To date, there are no flags or indicators ... that people took advantage of this." However USA Today quoted co-founder of PTI Securities Jon Najarian, described as an "active player" on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, who said, "The volumes were exceptional versus the norm." It is impossible at this point to say which individuals, groups or corporate entities had advance knowledge of the

September 11 attacks and used this knowledge to cash in, or whether any of them were based inside the US. But the otherwise inexplicable rush of Treasury note buys and short-selling in specific stocks is a further indication that those involved in the planning of the attacks included highly sophisticated and well-endowed people with a deep understanding of many facets of American society.

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2001/oct2001/bond-o05.shtml>

"Shady Trader Eyed For 9/11 Tip"

by David K. Li and Kati Cornell
New York Post
May 25, 2002

An accused inside-trader made suspicious stock trades on Sept. 10, leading investigators to believe he might have known about the terror attacks a day later, a federal prosecutor said yesterday. Notorious short trader Amr Ibrahim Elgindy -- also known as "Tony" and "Anthony Pacific" -- allegedly ordered his kids' \$300,000 trust fund liquidated the day before terrorists slammed planes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. "He made a comment predicting the market would drop to 3,000," Assistant U.S. Attorney Ken Breen told a judge in San Diego. "Perhaps Mr. Elgindy had pre-knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks. Instead of trying to report it, he tried to profit from it."

Federal authorities busted Elgindy for allegedly leading a ring of inside-traders -- including two FBI agents -- who used confidential information to short-trade stocks. Short sellers borrow what they believed to be overvalued stocks, sell them and then buy them back at lower prices, thus pocketing the difference. A lawyer for the Egyptian-born financial analyst, a well-known Internet stock commentator, ripped prosecutors for "racially profiling" her client. She said Elgindy had legitimate reason to believe the stock market would fall, and that the Sept. 10 timing was coincidental. The Dow Jones was above 10,000 but falling fast a week before terrorists flew hijacked airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. "It seems like the government, for lack of factual evidence, has decided to smear my client with terrorist innuendoes," defense lawyer Jeanne Knight said.

U.S. Magistrate John Houston said he didn't consider the prosecution's Sept. 11 allegations when he ordered Elgindy held without bail. Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn want Elgindy and four other suspected co-conspirators, who were busted on Wednesday, brought back to New York to stand trial. Two FBI agents used confidential databases to give Elgindy inside information about publicly traded companies, an indictment says. Elgindy would borrow those stocks and trash those companies on his Web site, driving prices down, prosecutors said.

http://propagandamatrix.com/shady_trader_eyed_for_911_tip.htm

"Feds: Ex-Agent Had Key Data"

Newsday, May 29, 2002
by Anthony M. DeStefano

In a criminal case with a specter of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, prosecutors disclosed yesterday that classified information had been found during a search of possessions of a former FBI agent allegedly part of an insider trading conspiracy.

The tantalizing revelation was made by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth Breen in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn during the arraignment of Lynn Wingate, who is on administrative leave from the FBI, and former agent Jeffrey Royer on charges they were involved in a stock trading racketeering conspiracy.

During arguments over whether Royer should be given bail, Breen said that the former agent posed a risk of flight, partly because of classified information about "another subject matter" that was unearthed during the execution of a search warrant of his possessions. Royer, 39, who left the FBI in December 2001, faces charges that he obtained confidential agency material both while he was an agent and after he left and passed it on to Amr I. Elgindy. A self-styled Wall Street whistle-blower and noted short seller of stocks, Elgindy was charged Friday with being the kingpin of the conspiracy. Breen did not elaborate in court yesterday but said the confidential data found was material Royer had no legitimate reason for having and might lead to "something more serious."

Judge Raymond Dearie indicated that prosecutors might have to make use of special court procedures reserved for classified information if they wanted to use it in opposing bail for Royer. Royer remained free yesterday but had to wear an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet pending a hearing tomorrow. Wingate was free after posting a \$100,000 bond secured by property she owns in Colorado and her parents own in Florida. Breen also disclosed that investigators found some of the divorced Royer's property at Wingate's Albuquerque, N.M., home.

The indictment accused the defendants of running an insider trading conspiracy in which Royer allegedly leaked confidential FBI information to Elgindy who then would make trades based on the data. The indictment also charges that when Royer left the FBI, he continued to access confidential FBI files through Wingate, 34. Elgindy, 34, was being held without bail. During a hearing in San Diego last week, Breen said that Elgindy's attempt to liquidate the trust accounts of his children on Sept. 10 might "perhaps" mean he had "pre-knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks, and, rather than report it, he was attempting to profit from that information." Defense attorney Jeanne G. Knight scoffed at that suggestion and said it was an attempt by the prosecution to smear Elgindy, a U.S. citizen and native of Egypt, with "terrorist innuendoes."

http://propagandamatrix.com/Ex_Agent_Had_Key_Data.htm

"German Firm Probes Final World Trade Center Deals"

Reuters, August 6, 2003

by Erik Kirschbaum

German computer experts are working round the clock to unlock the truth behind an unexplained surge in financial transactions made just before two hijacked planes crashed into New York's World Trade Center on September 11. Were criminals responsible for the sharp rise in credit card transactions that moved through some computer systems at the WTC shortly before the planes hit the twin towers? Or was it coincidence that unusually large sums of money, perhaps more than \$100 million, were rushed through the computers as the disaster unfolded? A world leader in retrieving data, German-based firm Convar is trying to answer those questions and help credit card companies, telecommunications firms and accountants in New York recover their records from computer hard

drives that have been partially damaged by fire, water or fine dust. Using a pioneering laser scanning technology to find data on damaged computer hard drives and main frames found in the rubble of the World Trade Center and other nearby collapsed buildings, Convar has recovered information from 32 computers that support assumptions of dirty doomsday dealings. "The suspicion is that inside information about the attack was used to send financial transaction commands and authorizations in the belief that amid all the chaos the criminals would have, at the very least, a good head start," said Convar director Peter Henschel. "Of course it is also possible that there were perfectly legitimate reasons for the unusual rise in business volume," he told Reuters in an interview.

"It could turn out that Americans went on an absolute shopping binge on that Tuesday morning. But at this point there are many transactions that cannot be accounted for," Henschel said. "Not only the volume but the size of the transactions was far higher than usual for a day like that. There is a suspicion that these were possibly planned to take advantage of the chaos."

Richard Wagner, a data retrieval expert at the company, said illegal transfers of more than \$100 million might have been made immediately before and during the disaster. "There is a suspicion that some people had advance knowledge of the approximate time of the plane crashes in order to move out amounts exceeding \$100 million," Wagner said. "They thought that the records of their transactions could not be traced after the main frames were destroyed." The companies are paying between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for each computer recovered, Henschel said. The high recovery costs are one reason why only a limited number of hard drives are being examined. Convar has turned down a request by one British newspaper to try to recover personal last hour e-mails sent by someone trapped in the doomed building. Henschel said the companies in the United States were working together with the FBI to piece together what happened on September 11 and that he was confident the destination of the dubious transactions would one day be tracked down.

http://www.reuters.com/news_article.jhtml?type=search&StoryID=458677

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article4367.htm>

9/11 Investigations Official: "No profiteering on terror attacks"

Sun Times, September 19, 2003
by David Roeder

Somewhere out there are hedge funds or individual investors who profited from the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. But they had no foreknowledge of the catastrophes, an FBI spokesman said Thursday. Spokesman Ed Cogswell said the FBI has closed its investigation of stock and option trading that took place days before the attacks. He said the investigation turned up "absolutely no evidence" of anyone with inside knowledge of what would happen.

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/terror/cst-fin-fbi19.html>

<http://physics911.org/net/modules/wfsection/article.php?articleid=6>

SUPPRESSED DETAILS OF CRIMINAL INSIDER TRADING LEAD DIRECTLY INTO THE CIA's HIGHEST RANKS

CIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR "BUZZY" KRONGARD MANAGED FIRM THAT HANDLED "PUT" OPTIONS ON UAL

by Michael C. Ruppert

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FTW, October 9, 2001 -- Although uniformly ignored by the mainstream U.S. media, there is abundant and clear evidence that a number of transactions in financial markets indicated specific (criminal) foreknowledge of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In the case of at least one of these trades -- which has left a \$2.5 million prize unclaimed -- the firm used to place the "put options" on United Airlines stock was, until 1998, managed by the man who is now in the number three Executive Director position at the Central Intelligence Agency. Until 1997 A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard had been Chairman of the investment bank A.B. Brown. A.B. Brown was acquired by Banker's Trust in 1997. Krongard then became, as part of the merger, Vice Chairman of Banker's Trust-AB Brown, one of 20 major U.S. banks named by Senator Carl Levin this year as being connected to money laundering. Krongard's last position at Banker's Trust (BT) was to oversee "private client relations." In this capacity he had direct hands-on relations with some of the wealthiest people in the world in a kind of specialized banking operation that has been identified by the U.S. Senate and other investigators as being closely connected to the laundering of drug money.

Krongard (re?) joined the CIA in 1998 as counsel to CIA Director George Tenet. He was promoted to CIA Executive Director by President Bush in March of this year. BT was acquired by Deutsche Bank in 1999. The combined firm is the single largest bank in Europe. And, as we shall see, Deutsche Bank played several key roles in events connected to the September 11 attacks.

THE SCOPE OF KNOWN INSIDER TRADING

Before looking further into these relationships it is necessary to look at the insider trading information that is being ignored by Reuters, The New York Times and other mass media. It is well documented that the CIA has long monitored such trades -- in real time -- as potential warnings of terrorist attacks and other economic moves contrary to U.S. interests. Previous stories in FTW have specifically highlighted the use of Promis software to monitor such trades.

It is necessary to understand only two key financial terms to understand the significance of these trades, "selling short" and "put options."

"Selling Short" is the borrowing of stock, selling it at current market prices, but not being required to actually produce the stock for some time. If the stock falls precipitously after the short contract is entered, the seller can then fulfill the contract by buying the stock after the price has fallen and complete the contract at the pre-crash price. These contracts often have a window of as long as four months.

"Put Options," are contracts giving the buyer the option to sell stocks at a later date. Purchased at nominal prices of, for example, \$1.00 per share, they are sold in blocks of 100 shares. If exercised, they give the holder the option of selling selected stocks at a future date at a price set when the contract is issued. Thus, for an investment of \$10,000 it might be possible to tie up 10,000 shares of United or American Airlines at \$100 per share, and the seller of the option is then obligated to buy them if the option is executed. If the stock has fallen to \$50 when the contract matures, the holder of the option can purchase the shares for \$50 and immediately sell them for \$100 -- regardless of where the market then stands. A call option is the reverse of a put option, which is, in effect, a derivatives bet that the stock price will go up.

A September 21 story by the Israeli Herzliyya International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism, entitled "Black Tuesday: The World's Largest Insider Trading Scam?" documented the following trades connected to the September 11 attacks:

- Ø Between September 6 and 7, the Chicago Board Options Exchange saw purchases of 4,744 put options on United Airlines, but only 396 call options. Assuming that 4,000 of the options were bought by people with advance knowledge of the imminent attacks, these "insiders" would have profited by almost \$5 million.
- Ø On September 10, 4,516 put options on American Airlines were bought on the Chicago exchange, compared to only 748 calls. Again, there was no news at that point to justify this imbalance; Again, assuming that 4,000 of these options trades represent "insiders," they would represent a gain of about \$4 million.
- Ø [The levels of put options purchased above were more than six times higher than normal.]
- Ø No similar trading in other airlines occurred on the Chicago exchange in the days immediately preceding Black Tuesday.
- Ø Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., which occupied 22 floors of the World Trade Center, saw 2,157 of its October \$45 put options bought in the three trading days before Black Tuesday; this compares to an average of 27 contracts per day before September 6. Morgan Stanley's share price fell from \$48.90 to \$42.50 in the aftermath of the attacks. Assuming that 2,000 of these options contracts were bought based upon knowledge of the approaching attacks, their purchasers could have profited by at least \$1.2 million.
- Ø Merrill Lynch & Co., with headquarters near the Twin Towers, saw 12,215 October \$45 put options bought in the four trading days before the attacks; the previous average volume in those shares had been 252 contracts per day [a 1200% increase!]. When trading resumed, Merrill's shares fell from \$46.88 to \$41.50; assuming that 11,000 option contracts were bought by "insiders," their profit would have been about \$5.5 million.
- Ø European regulators are examining trades in Germany's Munich Re, Switzerland's Swiss Re, and AXA of France, all major reinsurers with exposure to the Black Tuesday disaster. [FTW Note: AXA also owns more

than 25% of American Airlines stock making the attacks a "double whammy" for them.]

On September 29, 2001 -- in a vital story that has gone unnoticed by the major media -- the San Francisco Chronicle reported, "Investors have yet to collect more than \$2.5 million in profits they made trading options in the stock of United Airlines before the Sept. 11, terrorist attacks," according to a source familiar with the trades and market data.

"The uncollected money raises suspicions that the investors -- whose identities and nationalities have not been made public -- had advance knowledge of the strikes." They don't dare show up now. The suspension of trading for four days after the attacks made it impossible to cash-out quickly and claim the prize before investigators started looking.

"October series options for UAL Corp. were purchased in highly unusual volumes three trading days before the terrorist attacks for a total outlay of \$2,070; investors bought the option contracts, each representing 100 shares, for 90 cents each. [This represents 230,000 shares]. Those options are now selling at more than \$12 each. There are still 2,313 so-called "put" options outstanding [valued at \$2.77 million and representing 231,300 shares] according to the Options Clearinghouse Corp."

"The source familiar with the United trades identified Deutsche Bank Alex Brown, the American investment banking arm of German giant Deutsche Bank, as the investment bank used to purchase at least some of these options." This was the operation managed by Krongard until as recently as 1998.

As reported in other news stories, Deutsche Bank was also the hub of insider trading activity connected to Munich Re. just before the attacks.

CIA, THE BANKS AND THE BROKERS

[Understanding the interrelationships between CIA and the banking and brokerage world is critical to grasping the already frightening implications of the above revelations. Let's look at the history of CIA, Wall Street and the big banks by looking at some of the key players in CIA's history.](#)

Clark Clifford -- The National Security Act of 1947 was written by Clark Clifford, a Democratic Party powerhouse, former Secretary of Defense, and one-time advisor to President Harry Truman. In the 1980s, as Chairman of First American Bancshares, Clifford was instrumental in getting the corrupt CIA drug bank BCCI a license to operate on American shores. His profession: Wall Street lawyer and banker.

John Foster and Allen Dulles -- These two brothers "designed" the CIA for Clifford. Both were active in intelligence operations during WW II. Allen Dulles was OSS station chief in Berne, Switzerland, where he met frequently with Nazi leaders and looked after U.S. investments in Germany. John Foster went on to become Secretary of State under Dwight Eisenhower and Allen went on to serve as CIA Director under Eisenhower and was later fired by JFK. Their professions: partners in the most powerful -- to this day -- Wall Street law firm of Sullivan, Cromwell.

Bill Casey -- Ronald Reagan's CIA Director and OSS veteran who served as chief wrangler during the Iran-Contra years was, under President Richard Nixon, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. His profession: Wall Street lawyer and stockbroker.

David Doherty -- The current Vice President of the New York Stock Exchange for enforcement is the retired General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

George Herbert Walker Bush -- President from 1989 to January 1993, also served as CIA Director for 13 months from 1976-7. He is now a paid consultant to the Carlyle Group, the 11th largest defense contractor in the nation, which also shares joint investments with the bin Laden family.

A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard -- The current Executive Director of the Central Intelligence Agency is the former Chairman of the investment bank A.B. Brown and former Vice Chairman of Banker's Trust.

John Deutch -- This retired CIA Director from the Clinton Administration currently sits on the board at Citigroup, the nation's second largest bank, which has been repeatedly and overtly involved in the documented laundering of drug money. This includes Citigroup's 2001 purchase of a Mexican bank known to launder drug money, Banamex.

Nora Slatkin -- This retired CIA Executive Director also sits on Citibank's board.

Maurice "Hank" Greenberg -- The CEO of AIG insurance, manager of the third largest capital investment pool in the world, was floated as a possible CIA Director in 1995. FTW exposed Greenberg's and AIG's long connection to CIA drug trafficking and covert operations in a two-part series that was interrupted just prior to the attacks of September 11. AIG's stock has bounced back remarkably well since the attacks. To read that story, please go to

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ciadrugs/part_2.html.

One wonders how much damning evidence is necessary to respond to what is now irrefutable proof that CIA knew about the attacks and did not stop them. Whatever our government is doing, whatever the CIA is doing, it is clearly NOT in the interests of the American people, especially those who died on September 11.

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/10_09_01_krongard.html

PROFITS OF DEATH -- INSIDER TRADING AND 9-11

by Tom Flocco - Edited by Michael C. Ruppert

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FTW, December 6, 2001 -- On October 9th, FTW broke a story on insider trading connected to the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center that sparked worldwide controversy. In that story we reported how the Israeli Herzliyya Institute for Counterterrorism had documented that unknown individuals -- with accurate

foreknowledge of the attacks -- had purchased an obvious and unusually large number of "put" options on United and American Airlines shortly before the attacks.

Additional companies hit hard by the insider trading included Axa Re(insurance) and Munich Re as well as American investment giants Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley.

Put options are essentially a bet that a stock's price will fall abruptly. The seller, having entered into a time-specific contract with a buyer, does not need to own the actual shares at the time the contract is purchased. Therefore, if a holder of the put option has a contract to sell a stock such as American Airlines for (e.g.) \$100 a share on a Friday and the stock falls to \$50 on Wednesday, they can purchase the stock, sell it on Friday and double their money. The person on the other end of the contract (the call) has an obligation to buy the shares at the agreed upon price. The bank handling the transaction as a broker is the only entity knowing the identities of both parties.

FTW also revealed that the A.B. Brown (Alex Brown) investment arm of the banking giant Deutschebank / A.B. Brown had been headed until 1998 by the man who is now the Executive Director of the Central Intelligence Agency -- A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard. In fact, Krongard is but one name in a long history of CIA interconnections to stock trading and the world's financial markets. We also discussed, in detail, the evidence indicating that the CIA and other intelligence agencies monitor stock trading in real time for the purpose of identifying potential attacks of any nature that might damage the U.S. economy.

The original FTW story is located at:

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/10_09_01_krongard.html.

Critics of FTW's initial story -- not having read any of five related stories dating back to an October 2000 piece on PROMIS software -- claimed that we had not made the links to establish culpability. But we knew that the links were there, that our case was solid, and that new evidence would not go undiscovered for long.

Now, investigative reporter Tom Flocco digs deep and strikes pay dirt in a three-part series that reveals not only deeper links between the CIA, Wall Street and the insider trades of 9-11, but also discloses that a key executive at Deutschebank -- an American -- became, just weeks before the attacks, a convicted felon. His crime: conspiracy to launder drug money to arrange the purchase of U.S. weapons -- in association with two Pakistanis who also attempted to acquire nuclear bomb components -- for use by Islamic fundamentalist terrorists. -- MCR

CIA Does Not Deny Stock Monitoring Outside U.S.

(Part I in a series)

In a returned phone call from the Central Intelligence Agency, press spokesman Tom Crispell denied that the CIA was monitoring "real-time," pre-September 11, stock option trading activity within United States borders using such software as the Prosecutor's Management Information System (PROMIS).

"That would be illegal. We only operate outside the United States," the intelligence official said.

However, when asked whether the CIA had been using PROMIS beyond American borders to scrutinize world financial markets for national security purposes, Crispell replied, "I have no way of knowing what operations are [being affected by our assets] outside the country."

Extensive media reporting confirms that investors at Deutschebank-Alex Brown and other global financial entities may have profited from prior knowledge of the attacks while purchasing disproportionate pre-attack put option contracts on targeted U.S. airlines and related insurance or investment firms. All of these firms suffered serious losses resulting from the September 11th attacks and their stocks abruptly plummeted.

Confirmation that the CIA or other U.S. intelligence agencies were monitoring financial markets and had seen these trades before the attacks would have staggering implications for thousands of victims' families.

The CIA official also declined to comment on the actual capabilities of PROMIS. The highly technical software has been described as a system that "interfaces with any database ... as police can input an alleged terrorist's name or credit card, and the software will provide details of the person's movements through purchases...", according to an 11-10-01 Toronto Sun report.

The importance of PROMIS is that it is not only capable of interfacing with a wide variety of data bases in different computer languages and then integrating the data, but it has also been modified for intelligence purposes. It has then been sold throughout the world by spy agencies through third parties to clients such as banks and investment houses envious of its unique capabilities. One key modification by agencies such as the CIA and Mossad -- not disclosed to most users -- is a secret "back door" that permits those with the right codes to enter databases undetected, retrieve and/or alter information, and leave without a trace. PROMIS has been extensively reported as being used throughout the world's financial markets because of its versatility in facilitating international transactions.

Further clouding the issue of pre-attack stock screening by U.S. intelligence, the Canadian daily revealed that U.S. police said many of the suspected terrorists were apprehended (and detained) "through use of the state-of-the-art computer software program PROMIS."

In March 2000, CIA director George J. Tenet told the Senate that Osama bin Laden's group (Al Q'aeda) was "embracing the opportunities offered by recent leaps in information technology." A FOX News story and stories in FTW disclosed in November that Osama bin Laden was believed to have the software.

The issue of CIA monitoring of stock trades follows on the heels of wide reports indicating that investigators are carefully probing the insider trading with its resultant profits, reported to be in the 10's of millions of dollars -- some of which a Deutschebank investor has yet to claim.

A promiss is a promiss

Crispell also declined comment when asked whether the Treasury Department or FBI had questioned CIA Executive Director and former Deutschebank-Alex Brown

CEO, A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard, about CIA monitoring of financial markets using PROMIS and his former position as overseer of Brown's "private client" relations.

[Note: Krongard stayed with A.B. Brown to head "private client" operations after it was acquired by Banker's Trust in 1997. As Krongard was leaving in 1998 to join the CIA as counselor to Director George Tenet, Banker's Trust was acquired by Deutschebank. Banker's Trust had been previously criticized by the U.S. Senate and regulators for money laundering. Krongard was promoted to Executive Director at CIA in March 2001. -- MCR]

Wide reports -- including a 9/28/01 story in the Asian Wall Street Journal and a 10/1/01 story in The Guardian -- indicate that investigators are checking Deutschebank's alleged links to Saudi "private banking," terrorist bank accounts, and \$2.5 million in unclaimed United Airlines (UAL) put options profits; however, no government acknowledgment had ever been given of CIA's alleged use of PROMIS software prior to the attacks.

In a recent phone conversation, when asked about alleged terrorist ties to Deutschebank and potential pre-attack CIA trade monitoring via PROMIS, Treasury Department spokesman Rob Nichols remarked, "This is clearly an interesting line of questioning regarding conflicts of interest."

However, news searches indicate that no member of Congress has publicly questioned whether wealthy terrorist-connected Saudi nationals participated in the private client operations of Deutschebank-Alex Brown. Osama bin Laden and almost all of the alleged 9-11 hijackers are of Saudi nationality. Also, no member of Congress expressed public interest in asking Krongard about whether or not the CIA affected "real-time" pre-attack trade monitoring using PROMIS software at any location.

[Note: Under a program known as Echelon, the governments of the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand routinely circumvent prohibitions on domestic electronic spying by having the agencies of the other governments do it for them. -- MCR]

Michael Ruppert, editor and publisher of From The Wilderness (FTW) newsletter (www.copvca.com), has been interviewed by both the House and Senate for his expertise on illegal covert CIA operations. He said recently that, "It is well documented that the CIA has long monitored such (suspicious or unusual) trades - in real time -- as potential warnings of terrorist attacks and other economic moves contrary to U.S. interests."

Ruppert was the first to point out after 9-11 that CIA Executive Director Buzzy Krongard has extensive past ties to Deutschebank-Alex Brown. Ruppert added, "There is abundant and clear evidence that a number of transactions in financial markets indicated specific [criminal] foreknowledge of the September 11 attacks ... and the firm which was used to place put options on UAL stock was, until 1998, managed by the man who is now in the number three position at the CIA."

Ruppert also confirmed that two October 17 calls to the FBI resulted in spokespersons declining to give their names after revealing that "the FBI has discontinued use of the PROMIS software." Moreover, on October 24, Justice Department spokesperson Loren Pfeifle declined to answer any questions about where, when, or how PROMIS had been used and would only say, "I can confirm

that the DOJ has discontinued use of the program." This followed almost 17 years of denials by the FBI and the Department of Justice -- in court and under oath -- that they used the software at all in a law enforcement or intelligence capacity.

Krongard's current lofty intelligence community position, combined with his prior leadership of a financial institution allegedly connected to terrorist hijacker bank accounts [see Part II], suspicious UAL options contracts, and "private banking" is so controversial that it has not as yet sparked any official investigation. That said, the evidence is substantial enough to potentially expose the prior-knowledge issue -- if Congress chooses to act.

And while Treasury Department official Rob Nichols agreed that unresolved conflict of interest questions remain, the CIA Executive Director is still currently charged with supervision of the U.S. intelligence investigation of his former firm and its "private banking" operations.

Reuters has reported that Krongard "was [also] involved in setting up the CIA experiment into investing in high-tech companies with the goal of acquiring innovative technology for its own use."

Commenting on the CIA's venture capital firm In-Q-Tel, started in 1999 to encourage development of private-sector technologies for use in the intelligence world, Krongard said on August 1, 2001 -- just 5 weeks before the Trade Center attacks -- "I think In-Q-Tel's a wonderful model ... in accessing the capabilities of the private sector."

On October 16, Fox News reported that, according to sources, accused Russian spy and FBI agent Robert Hanssen sold high-tech PROMIS software to Russia, and that Osama bin Laden allegedly purchased it from Russian organized crime sources.

Fox reported that, "Government officials suspect bin Laden may have the highly sophisticated U.S. government software that has been used by several other governments, including the United States, for classified intelligence and law enforcement information."

The admission by U.S. government officials that PROMIS was widely used by a number of governments further blurs the pre-attack stock monitoring issue since intelligence officials will likely continue to decline comment, save for closed-door congressional oversight hearings or challenges by those victims' families choosing to bypass settlements adjudicated by the Attorney General's office in favor of direct intervention by the courts.

The buck stops where?

Tom Crispell, the CIA official, was cooperative while attempting to maintain intelligence confidentiality in the face of what he termed as "ongoing investigations surrounding the Twin Towers tragedies by the CIA, FBI, Justice, and Treasury Departments." However, this was in great contrast to an FBI spokesperson who refused to offer either his first or last name, while declining comment on any matter related to events of September 11.

During a series of calls, some spokespersons quickly attempted to defer and deflect questions to another government agency, i.e. "We don't deal with that issue. Call the other [entity]."

However, many would agree, given the evidence, that the 9-11 terrorism is closely linked to economic issues. President Bush has stated that this is "economic warfare." Yet few appear to be questioning an apparent paucity of critical information sharing among key government agencies on the issue.

As U.S. investigators retrace the financial trails connecting the Twin Towers, terrorist hijackers and their accomplices, many of whom may still be in the country, evidence is being turned up by FBI, CIA, Justice, Treasury and NSA that does involve global banking conglomerate Deutschebank-Alex Brown.

\$2.5 million unclaimed UAL investor profits

For example, according to a 10-19-2001 Wall Street Journal report, an unnamed investor purchased 2,000 United Airlines (UAL) put option contracts through Deutsche Bank-Alex Brown on September 6 -- betting the stock would shortly plummet. And USA Today reported that an individual purchased 810 UAL puts on August 6.

A Baron's source claimed on 10-8-2001 that the pre-attack UAL order placed through Deutsche Bank was for 2,500 contracts which were "split into 500 chunks each, directing each order to different U.S. exchanges around the country simultaneously."

According to San Francisco Chronicle reporters Christian Berthelsen and Scott Winokur a source familiar with the UAL trades said investors have yet to claim \$2.5 million in profits on contracts purchased before United airliners crashed into a New York Trade Tower and a deserted Pennsylvania field on September 11.

The Chronicle source also identified Deutschebank-Alex Brown as the investment firm used to purchase some of the UAL options; and Rohini Pragasam, a bank spokeswoman, declined to comment on the transaction.

The source (who requested anonymity) said, "Usually, if someone has a windfall like that, you take the money and run. Whoever did this thought the Exchange [NYSE] would not be closed for four days. This smells real bad."

The German news weekly Der Spiegel revealed that Deutschebank also handled accounts worth about \$100 million for Osama bin Laden's family. These were part of 10 accounts it suspected were linked to terrorists or terrorist activities and which it later handed over to German authorities after the attacks, according to a report in Britain's The Guardian. But no further comments have been forthcoming from the financial giant.

German Central Bank President Ernst Welteke said a study -- concerning principal hijack subjects residing in Germany and unusual patterns in short-selling of insurance, airline and other financial company shares -- pointed to "terrorism insider trading" in those stocks.

The SEC Is Investigating

A phone interview with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) press spokesman John Nester, of the Washington, DC office, revealed that the Commission, "has already forwarded a general request to Deutschebank-Alex

Brown and other investment firms for unspecified information related to the suspicious put option contracts placed prior to the attacks on the Trade Towers and the Pentagon." But the spokesman declined comment regarding the identities of complying banks or the contents of any information obtained.

Nester augmented his response by adding that "according to SEC Associate Director of Enforcement Bill Baker -- who just spoke on a panel outside New York last week -- our SEC probe is much broader than investigations made by countries in Europe (who also lost citizens), many of whom have already closed their financial investigations of investment banks like Deutschebank." No results of those probes have been made public.

While the SEC media director said "the investigation is still ongoing with no current conclusions," Nester (speaking for the SEC), had difficulty explaining the job description of current New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Executive Vice President for Enforcement, David P. Doherty. He would only say that the NYSE "regulates itself as an SRO or self-regulating organization...." This vague answer is all the more provocative because Doherty is a retired General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Nester added, "The SEC has oversight responsibility regarding the NYSE, and we are also working with Justice, Treasury, and the FBI, having set up professional point men at each firm we are looking at -- so we don't have to reinvent the wheel every time we call a company [related to the attacks] to get an answer to a question."

The "reinvent the wheel" statement raised an eyebrow regarding the level of corporate cooperation in the investigation, although Nester declined to add further comment.

In Spite of CIA Ties the NYSE Is Little Help

When asked about the status of the investigation into the disproportionate pre-attack stock option trades involving United and American Airlines, Merrill Lynch, Marsh and McLennan Insurance, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, Bear Stearns, and American Express, etc. -- all icons of American capitalism -- NYSE Communications Director Ray Pellecchia said, "We don't even confirm that there is an ongoing investigation."

"We report to the SEC as a matter of course," Pellecchia added. But after being referred to as a "persistent piece of work," this writer asked Pellecchia to discuss Doherty's role in the investigations. He said, "We stand by this statement."

And after pressing for information about what the NYSE is actually doing to investigate the suspicious trades on behalf of thousands of victims' families who may be concerned about the "prior-knowledge" issue, Pellecchia still declined to confirm that Doherty's enforcement office had even sent a report to the SEC.

When asked why so many former key CIA executives currently hold, or have held in the past, top level executive management positions connected in some way to the stock market via either the SEC, NYSE, or other investment banking entities, Pellecchia replied tersely, "I am quite aware of Mr. Doherty's background and experience."

Pellecchia also declined to discuss anything related to current CIA Executive Director A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard and his past relationship with Alex Brown.

Expecting Miracles?

Questions remain as to who will ultimately take center stage in investigating conflicts of interest or the real-time monitoring of world financial markets by U.S. intelligence entities to protect national security; let alone terrorist ties to wealthy Saudi private clients at global financial institutions having direct access (via correspondent banking relationships) to U.S. banks.

For while thousands of American families, victimized by terrorism, still remain numb with grief, information is being advanced daily regarding what could be described by some as casual, if not negligent, long-term, slipshod governmental responsiveness to fundamental internal national security and safety questions -- or worse.

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/12_06_01_death_profits_pt1.html

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12.22 The Investigation is Abandoned

The Securities and Exchange Commission began an investigation in October of 2001 into an unusually high level of "put option" purchases on American and United airlines stock in the period just prior to 9/11, representing investments anticipating a fall in their stock prices. These options are purchased through financial brokers and do not publicly reveal the investors involved. The suspicion is that some knew of the pending attack and attempted to make a profit. A large number of these put options were never cashed in. The results of the SEC investigation, and its current status are being explored by the national Commission at the suggestion of 9/11 CitizensWatch researchers. After nearly two years without public comment on their investigation, the FBI, on September 18th, announced it had closed its investigation of what market watchers had called "the worst case of insider trading in history" saying that there was no link between the highly anomalous and suspiciously timed trades and accomplices to bin Laden.

<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/JohnJudge/CWstatI102003.html>

SEC: Investigation Must be Conducted by "Senior Personnel"

Schooled in "Appropriate Discretion"

Unanswered questions about the manipulation of stocks before 9/11 also suggest insider traders' foreknowledge of the potential attacks.

On May 22, FBI agents Jeffrey A. Royer and Lynn Wingate were charged with racketeering conspiracy, securities fraud, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. Royer was also charged with extortion. They allegedly used the FBI's Automated Case Support database to monitor the investigation, passing confidential information about the investigations of companies to participants in a stock manipulation scheme, according to the Washington Post (5/23/02).

A news release from US Attorney Alan Vinegard stated, "The allegations reveal a shocking partnership between an experienced stock manipulator and law

enforcement agents, undertaken for their illicit personal financial gain.”

Assistant US Attorney Kenneth Breen said stock advisor Amr Ibrahim Elgindy, charged in the indictment, called his Salomon Smith Barney broker, trying to sell \$300,000 in stock from his children’s trust funds on the afternoon of September 10. During the conversation, Elgindy “predicted that the Dow Jones industrial average, which at the time stood at about 9,600, would soon crash to below 3,000,” according to the New York Times (5/25/02).

This case raises the question of whether Congress will publicly disclose other indications of intelligence complicity in prior knowledge of the 9/11 attacks. According to the San Francisco Chronicle (10/19/01), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) privately asked North American securities firms to participate in an information-sharing system to trace “large numbers of trades in securities of companies affected by the attacks.”

Curiously, however, the SEC asked companies “to designate senior personnel who appreciate ‘the sensitive nature’ of the case, and can be relied upon to ‘exercise appropriate discretion.’”

On 10/2/01, Canadian securities officials confirmed that the SEC had asked firms to review records for 38 companies, suggesting that some buyers and sellers might have had advance knowledge of the attacks.

However, Congress has refused to make public what the Chronicle reported was an SEC “control list” containing confidential information about transactions, individuals, relationships, and entities identified by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies in the probe.

Neither has the Joint Congressional Intelligence Committee publicly referred to prior knowledge of the attacks as it relates to stock transaction profits.

The Wall Street Journal (10/2/02) reported that the Secret Service was also probing an unusually high volume of five-year US Treasury note purchases made prior to the attacks. One purchase included a single \$5 billion trade. The Journal called Treasury notes among the best investments in the event of a world crisis, with their value having risen substantially since 9/11.

The Associated Press reported that a German Central Bank study strongly pointed to “terrorism insider trading” not only in airline and insurance companies but also in gold and oil futures.

Will Congress chalk it up to just a remarkable coincidence?

In an interview with Scoop Media, former D.C. US attorney Joseph de Genova took a hard line, saying, “If the Congress does not want to get answers to these critical questions regarding who profited [from prior knowledge of the attacks], then it needs to be litigated.”

While thousands of American families, victimized by terrorism, still remain numb with grief, information is being advanced daily regarding slipshod government response to fundamental national security and safety concerns.

http://www.chicagomediawatch.org/02_3_unanswered.shtml

SEC and 9/11 Insider Trading: NO ANSWERS

After 9/11, investigations were launched around the world into suspicious pre-9/11 trading that clearly indicated detailed foreknowledge of the attacks. Bloomberg News documented massive spikes in put options (a bet the stock will fall) in specific companies whose stock did in fact fall precipitously once trading opened. Put option expert Phil Erlanger estimated that profits would have been in the billions of dollars. Amr 'Tony' Elgindy exercised trades that suggested prior knowledge of 9-11 as Assistant U.S. Attorney Ken Breen pointed out to the court in a recent federal trial.

So, where does this money trail lead?

Why have we learned nothing from the SEC about who placed these trades?

Do we not have a right to know?

http://www.unansweredquestions.org/top_11.html

The Death of American Citizens as a Market Commodity:

Insiders Gained Massive Profits Off Mass Murder

But The US Government Refuses to Follow the Money

Worst Insider Trading in History

Massive pre-attack 'insider trading' offer authorities hottest trail to accomplices by Kyle F. Hence

Part II -- Billions in Pre-911 Insider Trading Profits Leaves a Hot Trail: How Bush Administration Naysayers May Have Let it go Cold

Part I of Making a Killing provided a glimpse of a shadowy, legitimized global financial network that is employed by criminals of all kinds to carry out or manage the profits from all manner of nefarious activity. It documented how the Bush Administration in 2001 undermined, stalled and withdrew from a global effort to clamp down on money laundering.

We learned the indirect connection Enron had to intense lobbying efforts which ultimately swayed the Administration. And how following the attacks of 9-11, Bush changed his tune and working with allies in the war on terrorism, seized over \$100 million linked to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Unfortunately, this is likely the tip of the iceberg of drug and terror money that is managed by the highest echelons of double-breasted gucci suited criminals.

In Part II, we will examine closely what is likely the largest, most globalized and heinous case of insider trading in economic history and how it offered authorities a hot money trail to follow. If successful in tracking the perpetrators, authorities would not only be successful in implicating obvious accomplices in the 9-11 attacks, but also would be able to strike deeply into the infrastructure of a shadow financial network and hundreds of billions of dollars that flow through it.

As of mid-March, authorities say they have frozen over \$100 million in terrorist assets. But how to strike deeper to prevent future attacks? Some believe the answer lies at the end of the paper trail that investigators are following from huge insider trading placed on carefully selected stocks in the days leading up to 9-11.

According to Phil Erlanger, a former Senior Technical Analyst with Fidelity, and founder of a Florida firm that tracks short selling and options trading, insiders made off with billions (not mere millions) in profits by betting on the fall of stocks they knew would tumble in the aftermath of the WTC and Pentagon attacks.

Please see:

<http://www.erlangersqueezeplay.com>

Andreas von Bulow, a former member of the German Parliament, once responsible for the oversight of the German secret services, estimated that profits by insider traders were \$15 billion.

CBS offered a far more conservative figure when it reported (Sept 26) that "at least seven countries are dissecting suspicious trades that may have netted more than \$100 million in profits."

Regardless of estimates, to Dylan Ratigan of Bloomberg Business News, the evidence was compelling: "This is the worst case of insider trading ever." [Good Morning Texas, Sept. 20, 2001] The sheer scope, size and the uncanny timing of 9-11 insider trading demanded an aggressive investigation. But the stakes involved, with nearly 3000 dead, have never been higher for financial crimes investigators.

Suspicious trading was first identified by Japanese authorities. But soon concerns were raised and a pattern could be discerned in countries around the world including Singapore, Hong Kong, Italy, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany and Canada. Jonathan Winer, an ABC News Consultant said "it's absolutely unprecedented to see cases of insider trading covering the entire world from Japan to the US to North America to Europe." [World News Tonight, Sept. 20, 2001] Investigators were soon hot on the trail on a matter of obvious national security to many nations.

Bloomberg News reported that Former chief of Enforcement at the SEC, William McLucas said regulators will "certainly be able to track down every trade, where the trade cleared, where the trade was directed from."

However, Treasury Secretary O'Neill downplayed hopes for a successful investigation by pointing out the challenge of penetrating veils of secrecy before a name can be attached to a suspicious trade; "You've got to go through ten veils before you get to the real source." [AP; September 20, testimony before Senate Banking Committee]. Talk about lowering the bar of expectations; very unsettling coming from someone who could help bring to justice those guilty of the worst terrorist attack history -- the massacre of thousands.

In the months since these comments, tightlipped authorities have revealed few details. Any questions put to those prosecuting the war on terrorist funding cannot be answered. The familiar refrain is heard; "our investigation is ongoing." Though widely reported in September and October of last year, months have

elapsed since the insider trading received attention. The unresolved crime of 9-11 insider trading is a dark cloud that hangs over this administration and its prosecution of the 'war on terrorism.' What is worse is that those who profited remain free to use those profits of death to finance their next attack.

For those who dismiss the whole phenomena, here's what we do know thus far from reports from major newspapers and television news outlets around the globe. Taken separately any of the following details or comments is notable, but taken together and placed in context, the evidence of unprecedented profiteering by terrorists and/or those with prior knowledge is clearly undeniable.

Massive Put Options spikes and 'Naked' calls Bloomberg News reported that put options in UAL Corp (parent for United Airlines) surged 285 times the average volume and 75 times the total number of put options traded up until that time. This was the largest reported spike. In another observation of the same phenomena reported in the September 22nd Herald Sun, UAL put options contracts soared 90 times in one day over total from the previous three weeks. That's 90x not 90%. On September 10, put option contracts on AMR (parent for American Airlines) spiked 60 times the daily average and five times the total of all \$30 put options traded before September 10. ["Pre-attack trading probed: Regulators in U.S., Europe and Asia check put options"; Judy Mathewson and Michael Nol, September 19]

"I saw put-call numbers higher than I've ever seen in 10 years of following the markets, particularly the options markets," said John Kinnucan, principal of Broadband Research quoted in The San Francisco Chronicle.

Bloomberg.com and Erlangersqeezeplay.com published reports identifying a clear pattern of highly unusual, and in some cases, massive spikes in put options in stocks that would have been deemed by those with detailed prior knowledge most likely hardest hit in the market aftermath of a WTC attack. These were primarily airline (UAL and AMR, notably not Delta), insurance, brokerage and hotel stocks. Phil Erlanger also noted a pattern of significant spikes in 'naked calls' in the same stocks. Naked calls are a high-risk form of short selling not backed up by stock position in the company at issue.

Thirty-eight companies were placed on a SEC list and circulated amongst brokerages that placed the put options on behalf of clients. These included among many others, TD Waterhouse, NFS (subsidiary of Fidelity of Boston), Alex Brown/Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, and Lehman Brothers. [The San Francisco Chronicle; AP]. In the January 2002 Congressional record, an informal survey conducted by Levin-Grassley staffs, revealed that 10 of 22 responding securities and brokerage firms, managed accounts for 45,000 offshore clients.

Below are a few standouts on the SEC list ['*' indicates a WTC tenant; (-x) represents the multiple over average volume]: Airlines: UAL (285x), AMR (60x) Insurance sector: Marsh & McLennan (93x)*, Citigroup (45x), Swiss Re, XL Capital Brokers: Bear Stearns (60x), Morgan Stanley (27x)*, Merrill Lynch (12x)

Not included on the SEC list, but featured on the Erlangersqeezeplay.com report, were hotel chains Marriott, Hilton and Starwood Hotels.

Most anomalous were the huge put option trading spikes placed in only two of the three major US airlines.

Almost always, if investors believe the airline industry is due to drop, they will short all three major carriers. This was not the case here because Delta did not see spikes similar to UAL and AMR.

Analysts also noted that though the insurance sector was one of the strongest in a depressed stock market, there were huge spikes in put options in Marsh & McLennan and in Citigroup. Marsh & McLennan, the biggest insurance broker, was a World Trade Center tenant with 1,700 employees. It also saw, next to UAL, the highest spike in put options; thus you have a confluence of facts that, in the minds of many experienced traders and experts, amounts to unequivocal evidence of foul play. Clearly traders placed bets based on sure-fire insider prior knowledge. The odds against this happening randomly or coincidentally are astronomical; probably incalculable.

The put options, though they received the bulk of news coverage, were reportedly only one of several instruments used by the insiders. Suspicious trading in 5-year bonds and in oil and gold futures was also noted, and presumably investigated.

Oil and gold futures The Associated Press reported on September 22nd that a German Central Bank study strongly points to "terrorism insider trading" not only in airline and insurance companies but also in gold and oil futures. These he said, "could not be chalked up to coincidence." Bundesbank President, Ernst Welteke, said that though it would be "extremely difficult to really verify" but he believed "in one or the other case it will be possible to pinpoint the source."

Unusual high volume in pre-attack 5 year bond trading The Wall Street Journal reported on October 2 that the Secret Service had begun a probe into an unusually high volume of five-year US Treasury note purchases made prior to the attacks. **The Treasury note transactions included a single \$5 billion trade.** The Journal noted that "Five-year Treasury notes are among the best investments in the event of a world crisis, especially one that hits the US. The notes are prized for their safety and their backing by the US government, and usually rally when investors flee riskier investments, such as stocks." The value of these notes, the Journal pointed out, has risen sharply after the events of September 11.

'Last hours' surge of financial activity at WTC According to a Reuters report of December 16, German data retrieval experts, hired by WTC tenant firms, were mining data off damaged hard disks recovered from the ground zero. **The goal is to discover who was responsible for the movement of unusually large sums of money through the computers of the WTC in the hours before the attack. Peter Henschel, director of Convar, the firm responsible, said, "not only the volume, but the size of the transactions was far higher than usual for a day like that."** Richard Wagner, a data retrieval expert estimated that more than \$100 million in illegal transactions appeared to have rushed through the WTC computers before and during the disaster.

The evidence and comments offered by traders, analysts, bankers and others in the immediate aftermath indicates there was, in fact, a carefully planned and sophisticated effort of massive profiteering from the precipitous fall of stocks that occurred when trading opened following the attack.

This is expert documentation and observations based on years of experience. The implications are absolutely frightening. And all the more reason for authorities to

pull out all the stops to identify and prosecute those responsible and shut down the global financial network facilitated the most heinous of crimes. Unfortunately, that's not exactly what's happened.

'Naysayers' raise suspicions; Enron diverts attention from dire National security issue. Months have passed since the launch of investigations by the SEC, NYSE, CBOE (Chicago Board of Options Exchange), Department of Justice, FBI, Secret Service, CIA, Department of Treasury, and the NSA.

And yet there is no news, no suspects, no prosecutions, nothing.

There are fears now that early 'naysayers' may have let a hot trail to go cold and allowed the terrorist insiders to cover their tracks. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, the FBI's Dennis Lormel said on October 3, 2001 before Congress that there were "no flags or indicators" referring to mere "rumors" about the pre-attack insider trading.

The Enron scandal, beginning in October, followed on the heels of the 9-11 attack and subsequent investigations into Enron began to divide and stretch the limited resources of the agencies and regulators involved. The media focus began to shift as well with six or eight Congressional committees holding hearings and providing all sorts of media drama. Congress began to look toward remedies to stave off a total crisis of confidence in our economic system, and justifiably so. Obviously, the largest bankruptcy in US history, affecting thousands of employees with 401k plans and millions of pensioners, merits serious attention. Ironically, it may lead them to crack down on the same infrastructure; employed by Enron's Andrew Fastow and terrorist alike.

However, a case could be made that the focus on Enron has diverted attention away from a matter of far greater national security. The insiders, possibly the masterminds behind the suicide attacks, have walked away with huge profits for their sophisticated pre-attack trading; estimated by some to be in the billions of dollars. More to the point, they are now planning and financing their next attack with these 9-11 takings, as yet unmolested by a genuinely aggressive U.S. effort to shut them down.

In light of the weighty and compelling evidence, Lormel's insistence there were "no flags or indicators" of possible terrorist insider trading, is blatantly wrong or worse, suspect.

Most of the information above, including Bloomberg trading charts documenting massive put options spikes, was in the public domain prior to his testimony. Yet, Lormel claimed there was no indication of suspicious trading. Why then were investigations launched by over a dozen nations and 8 or 9 U.S. government agencies, exchanges and commissions?

How does one account for supporting comments of the traders and analysts with years of hands-on experience in the markets?

Lormel's testimony, coming from an official charged with tracking down, and starving terrorists of funding to protect Americans does little to inspire confidence; especially in the wake of the worst intelligence failure in US history. On the contrary, such remarks only raise very uncomfortable suspicions and legitimate concern that the forces behind walls of financial secrecy are so powerful as to

thwart or intimidate the highest echelon of those responsible for executing our nation's war on terrorism. Or on drug trafficking. Or on Enronomic tax evasion and corporate fraud for that matter.

The obvious challenge for authorities is to put these suspicions to rest and follow the money trail to those complicit in the attacks. To do so, requires investigators to break through the veils of bank secrecy in offshore tax havens that may protect terrorists and Enron profiteers alike. Unfortunately, thanks to the Bush Administrations withdrawal from last year's FATF efforts, investigators may be having difficulty in doing so. And once again, the trail may have gone cold. And yet it is not unreasonable to expect that given such a matter of national security, Congress and the authorities would pull out ALL the stops. They would act quickly to force financial entities to divulge the names of those who placed the trades in question.

Surely, 'the most powerful nation in the world' can apply enough pressure on non-cooperating financial jurisdictions to force them to reveal the identities of terrorists who could attack again at any moment. The reality of the threat of more attacks precludes the use of past excuses and inaction. The Cayman Islands, Nauru, indeed most offshore havens lack standing armies. While it may be perhaps 'the hardest of nuts to crack,' the urgency and justification demands we do whatever is necessary to do so, at little risk to our nation's armed forces.

A real war on terrorism would lead to seizures of billions not millions. Nothing close to this level has yet occurred and the investigation has yielded little in five months. According to a statement by Representative LaFalce on the Congressional Record, the Treasury Department, as of late January had failed to exercise, even once, their new powers to pressure non-cooperating overseas and offshore financial facilities. Investigators into pre-attack trading have not implicated a single insider, terrorist or otherwise. UN efforts are creeping along ineffectively with many nations failing to fully cooperate or not cooperate at all, as divulged to the press by American UN Ambassador Negroponte at a February event aired on C-SPAN. There is a distressing and suspicious pattern here. The administration's will to pursue this matter is sorely lacking.

Another case in point: In December of 2000, the U.S. and Russia co-sponsored a UN Security Council resolution to freeze monies linked to designated terrorists. The list included five alleged close associates of Bin Laden -- Amin al-Haq, Saqar al-Jadawi, Ahmad Sa'id Al-Kadr, Sa'd A-Sharif and Bilal bin Marwan. Inexplicably the U.S. Treasury did not officially place these five on the U.S. blacklist until October 12, 2001. Why the delay of ten months and who is responsible for it? Naturally, this case raises further suspicion, as it rightly should, regarding the intent and integrity of those charged with protecting our national interests and security.

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/HEN204B.html>

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12.23 The Suppression of Evidence of the 9/11 Role of Pakistani Intelligence

BOOK: "War and Globalisation, the Truth behind September 11"

by Michel Chossudovsky

Published simultaneously in 6 languages. Available via mail and online orders at:

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In this timely study, Michel Chossudovsky blows away the smokescreen, put up by the mainstream media, that 9-11 was an "intelligence failure."

Through meticulous research, the author uncovers a military-intelligence ploy behind the September 11 attacks, and the coverup and complicity of key members of the Bush Administration. Chossudovsky peels back the layers of rhetoric to reveal a huge hoax -- a complex web of deceit aimed at tricking the American people and the rest of the world into accepting a military solution which threatens the future of humanity.

The foreknowledge issue is a Red Herring: "A Red Herring is a fallacy in which an irrelevant topic is presented in order to divert attention from the original issue."

Political Deception: The Missing Link behind 9-11

by Michel Chossudovsky

ON May 16th The New York Post dropped what appeared to be a bombshell: "Bush Knew" Hoping to score politically, the Democrats jumped on the bandwagon, pressuring the White House to come clean on two "top-secret documents" made available to President Bush prior to September 11, concerning "advance knowledge" of Al Qaeda attacks. Meanwhile, the U.S. media had already coined a new set of buzzwords: "Yes, there were warnings" and "clues" of possible terrorist attacks, but "there was no way President Bush could have known" what was going to happen. The Democrats agreed to "keep the cat inside the bag" by saying: "Osama is at war with the U.S." and the FBI and the CIA knew something was cooking but "failed to connect the dots." In the words of House Minority Leader, Richard Gephardt:

"This is not blame-placing ... We support the President on the war against terrorism -- have and will. But we've got to do better in preventing terrorist attacks." 1

The media's spotlight on 'foreknowledge' and so-called "FBI lapses" served to distract public attention from the broader issue of political deception. Not a word was mentioned concerning the role of the CIA, which throughout the entire post-Cold War era, has aided and abetted Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda, as part of its covert operations.

Of course they knew! The foreknowledge issue is a red herring. The "Islamic Brigades" are a creation of the CIA. In standard CIA jargon, Al Qaeda is categorized as an "intelligence asset." Support to terrorist organizations is an integral part of U.S. foreign policy. Al Qaeda continues to this date (2002) to participate in CIA covert operations in different parts of the World.² These "CIA-Osama links" do not belong to a bygone era, as suggested by the mainstream media.

The U.S. Congress has documented in detail, the links of Al Qaeda to agencies of the U.S. government during the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as in Kosovo.³ More recently in Macedonia, barely a few months before September 11, U.S. military advisers were mingling with Mujahideen mercenaries financed by Al Qaeda. Both groups were fighting under the auspices of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), within the same terrorist paramilitary formation.⁴

The CIA keeps track of its "intelligence assets." Amply documented, Osama bin Laden's whereabouts were always known.⁵ Al Qaeda is infiltrated by the CIA.⁶ In other words, there were no "intelligence failures!" In the nature of a well-led intelligence operation, the "intelligence asset" operates (wittingly or unwittingly) with some degree of autonomy, in relation to its U.S. government sponsors, but ultimately it acts consistently, in the interests of Uncle Sam.

While individual FBI agents are often unaware of the CIA's role, the relationship between the CIA and Al Qaeda is known at the top levels of the FBI. Members of the Bush Administration and the U.S. Congress are fully cognizant of these links.

The foreknowledge issue focussing on "FBI lapses" is an obvious smokescreen. While the whistleblowers serve to underscore the weaknesses of the FBI, the role of successive U.S. administrations (since the presidency of Jimmy Carter) in support of the "Islamic Militant Base", is simply not mentioned.

Fear and Disinformation Campaign

The Bush Administration -- through the personal initiative of Vice President Dick Cheney -- chose not only to foreclose the possibility of a public inquiry, but also to trigger a fear and disinformation campaign:

"I think that the prospects of a future attack on the U.S. are almost a certainty... It could happen tomorrow, it could happen next week, it could happen next year, but they will keep trying. And we have to be prepared."

7

What Cheney is really telling us is that our "intelligence asset," which we created, is going to strike again. Now, if this "CIA creature" were planning new terrorist attacks, you would expect that the CIA would be first to know about it. In all likelihood, the CIA also controls the so-called 'warnings' emanating from CIA sources on "future terrorist attacks" on American soil.

Carefully Planned Intelligence Operation

The 9-11 terrorists did not act on their own volition. The suicide hijackers were instruments in a carefully planned intelligence operation. The evidence confirms that Al Qaeda is supported by Pakistan's military intelligence, the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI). Amply documented, the ISI owes its existence to the CIA:

"With CIA backing and the funneling of massive amounts of U.S. military aid, the ISI developed [since the early 1980s] into a parallel structure wielding enormous power over all aspects of government ... The ISI had a staff composed of military and intelligence officers, bureaucrats, undercover agents and informers estimated at 150,000."⁸

The ISI actively collaborates with the CIA. It continues to perform the role of a 'go-between' in numerous intelligence operations on behalf of the CIA. The ISI directly supports and finances a number of terrorist organizations, including Al Qaeda.

The Missing Link

The FBI confirmed in late September, in an interview with ABC News (which went virtually unnoticed) that the 9-11 ring leader, Mohammed Atta, had been financed from unnamed sources in Pakistan:

"As to September 11th, federal authorities have told ABC News they have now tracked more than \$100,000 from banks in Pakistan, to two banks in Florida, to accounts held by suspected hijack ring leader, Mohammed Atta. As well . . . "Time Magazine" is reporting that some of that money came in the days just before the attack and can be traced directly to people connected to Osama bin Laden. It's all part of what has been a successful FBI effort so far to close in on the hijacker's high commander, the money men, the planners and the mastermind."⁹

The FBI had information on the money trail. They knew exactly who was financing the terrorists. Less than two weeks later, the findings of the FBI were confirmed by Agence France Presse (AFP) and the Times of India, quoting an official Indian intelligence report (which had been dispatched to Washington). According to these two reports, the money used to finance the 9-11 attacks had allegedly been "wired to WTC hijacker Mohammed Atta from Pakistan, by Ahmad Umar Sheikh, at the instance of [ISI Chief] General Mahmoud [Ahmad]." 10 According to the AFP (quoting the intelligence source):

"The evidence we have supplied to the U.S. is of a much wider range and depth than just one piece of paper linking a rogue general to some misplaced act of terrorism." 11

Pakistan's Chief Spy Visits Washington

Now, it just so happens that General Mahmoud Ahmad, the alleged "money man" behind 9-11, was in the U.S. when the attacks occurred. He arrived on the 4th of September, one week before 9-11, on what was described as a routine visit of consultations with his U.S. counterparts. According to Pakistani journalist, Amir Mateen (in a prophetic article published on September 10):

"ISI Chief Lt-Gen. Mahmoud's week-long presence in Washington has triggered speculation about the agenda of his mysterious meetings at the Pentagon and National Security Council. Officially, he is on a routine visit in return to CIA Director George Tenet's earlier visit to Islamabad. Official sources confirm that he met Tenet this week. He also held long parleys with unspecified officials at the White House and the Pentagon. But the most important meeting was with Marc Grossman, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. One can safely guess that the discussions must have centered around Afghanistan ... and Osama bin Laden. What added interest to his visit is the history of such visits. Last time Ziauddin Butt, Mahmoud's predecessor, was here, during Nawaz Sharif's government, the domestic politics turned topsy-turvy within days." 12

Nawaz Sharif was overthrown by General Pervez Musharraf. General Mahmoud Ahmad, who became the head of the ISI, played a key role in the military coup.

Schedule of Pakistan's Chief of Military Intelligence Lt. General Mahmoud Ahmad, Washington, 4-13 September 2001

Ø **Summer 2001:**

Pakistan's ISI Chief Lt. General Mahmoud Ahmad transfers \$100,000 to 9-11 Ringleader Mohamed Atta.

Ø 4 September: Ahmad arrives in the US on an official visit.

Ø 4-9 September: He meets his US counterparts including CIA Head George Tenet.

Ø 9 September: Assassination of General Massood, leader of the Northern Alliance. Official statement by Northern Alliance points to involvement of the ISI-Osama-Taliban axis.

Ø 11 September: Terrorist Attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon.

At the time of the attacks, Lt General Ahmad was at a breakfast meeting at the Capitol with the chairmen of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees Sen Bob Graham and Rep Porter Goss. Also present at the meeting were Sen. John Kyl and the Pakistani ambassador to the U.S., Maleeha Lodhi.

Ø 12-13 September: Meetings between Lt. General Ahmad and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. Agreement on Pakistan's collaboration negotiated between Ahmad and Armitage. Meeting between General Ahmad and Secretary of State Colin Powell

Ø 13 September: Ahmad meets Senator Joseph Biden, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

...

While the Washington Post acknowledges the links between ISI Chief Mahmoud Ahmad and Osama bin Laden, it fails to dwell on the more important question:

What was Mahmoud doing on Capitol Hill on the morning of September 11, together with Rep. Porter Goss and Senator Bob Graham and other members of the Senate and House intelligence committees?

Neither does it acknowledge the fact, amply documented by media reports that "the money-man" behind the hijackers had been entrusted by the Pakistani government to discuss the precise terms of Pakistan's "collaboration" in the "war on terrorism" in meetings held at the State department on the 12th and 13th of September.

When the "Foreknowledge" issue hit the street on May 16th, "Chairman Porter Goss said an existing congressional inquiry has so far found 'no smoking gun' that would warrant another inquiry." 18 This statement points to an obvious "cover-up."

The Investigation and Public Hearings on "Intelligence Failures"

In a bitter irony, Rep. Porter Goss and Senator Bob Graham -- the men who hosted the mysterious September 11 breakfast meeting with the alleged "**hijacker's high commander**" (to use the FBI's expression), had been put in charge of the investigation and public hearings on so-called "intelligence failures."

Meanwhile, Vice President Dick Cheney had expressed anger on a so-called "leak" emanating from the intelligence committees regarding

"the disclosure of National Security Agency intercepts of messages in Arabic on the eve of the attacks. The messages (...) were in two separate conversations on Sept. 10 and contained the phrases 'Tomorrow is zero hour' and 'The match is about to begin.' The messages were not translated until Sept. 12" 19

Red Carpet Treatment to the Alleged "Money Man" Behind 9-11

The Bush Administration had not only provided red carpet treatment to the alleged "money man" behind the 9-11 attacks, it also had sought his 'cooperation' in the "war on terrorism." The precise terms of this 'cooperation' were agreed upon between General Mahmoud Ahmad, representing the Pakistani government and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, in meetings at the State Department on September 12 and 13.

In other words, the Administration decided in the immediate wake of 9-11, to seek the 'cooperation' of Pakistan's ISI in "going after Osama," despite the fact (documented by the FBI) that the ISI was financing and abetting the 9-11 terrorists.

Contradictory?

One might say that it's like "asking the Devil to go after Dracula."

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO206A.html>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/asiapcf/south/02/22/kidnapped.reporter/index.html>

911 Timeline: ISI Director General Mahmood Ahmed

October 12, 1999: General Musharraf Takes Control of Pakistan

Gen. Pervez Musharraf becomes leader of Pakistan in a coup. One major reason for the coup is the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] felt the previous ruler had to go "out of fear that he might buckle to American pressure and reverse Pakistan's policy [of supporting] the Taliban." [New York Times, 12/8/2001] Shortly thereafter, Musharraf replaces the leader of the ISI, Brig Imtiaz, because of his close ties to the previous leader. Imtiaz is arrested and convicted of "having assets disproportionate to his known sources of income." It comes out that he was keeping tens of millions of dollars earned from heroin smuggling in a Deutsche Bank account. [Financial Times, 8/10/2001] Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed, [is] a close ally of Musharraf who is instrumental in the success of the coup. Mahmood actually secured the capital and detained Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, but then

honored the chain of command and stepped aside so Musharraf, as head of the military, could take over. Mahmood is rewarded by being made the new director of the ISI. [Guardian, 10/9/2001; Coll, 2004, pp. 504-505]

Spring 2000: ISI Director Said to Become Fundamentalist Muslim

Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed, director of the Pakistani ISI since October 1999 (see October 12, 1999), is not considered especially religious. However, around this time he begins telling his colleagues that he has become a "born-again Muslim." While he doesn't make open gestures such as growing a beard, when US intelligence learns about this talk they find it foreboding and wonder what its impact on the ISI's relations with the Taliban will be. Perhaps not coincidentally, around this time he begins meeting less frequently with CIA liaisons and becomes less cooperative with the US. [Coll, 2004, pp. 510-511] But if Mahmood becomes a fundamentalist Muslim, that would not be very unique in the ISI. As Slate will write shortly after 9/11, "many in the ISI loathe the United States. They view America as an unreliable and duplicitous ally, being especially resentful of the 1990 sanctions, which came one year after the Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan. Furthermore, the ISI is dominated by Pashtuns, the same tribe that is the Taliban's base of support across the border in Afghanistan. Partly because of its family, clan, and business ties to the Taliban, the ISI, even more than Pakistani society in general, has become increasingly enamored of radical Islam in recent years." [Slate, 10/9/2001]

April 4, 2000: ISI Director Visits Washington and Is Told to Give Warning to Taliban

ISI Director and "leading Taliban supporter" Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed visits Washington. He meets officials at the CIA and the White House. In a message meant for both Pakistan and the Taliban, US officials tell him that al-Qaeda has killed Americans and "people who support those people will be treated as our enemies." The US threatens to support the Northern Alliance, who are still engaged in a civil war with the Taliban. A short time later, Mahmood goes to Afghanistan and delivers this message to Taliban leader Mullah Omar. However, no actual US action, military or otherwise, is taken against either the Taliban or Pakistan. Author Steve Coll later notes that these US threats were just bluffs since the Clinton administration was not seriously considering a change of policy. [Washington Post, 12/19/2001; Coll, 2004, pp. 508-510]

Summer 2000: Saeed Sheikh Frequently Calls the ISI Director

In 2002, French author Bernard-Henri Levy is presented evidence by government officials in New Delhi, India, that Saeed Sheikh makes repeated calls to ISI Director Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed during the summer of 2000. Later, Levy gets unofficial confirmation from sources in Washington regarding these calls that the information he was given in India is correct. He notes that someone in the United Arab Emirates using a variety of aliases sends Mohamed Atta slightly over \$100,000 between June and September of this year (see June 29, 2000-September 18, 2000), and the timing of these phone calls and the money transfers may have been the source of news reports that Mahmood Ahmed ordered Saeed Sheikh to send \$100,000 to Mohamed Atta (see October 7, 2001). However, he also notes that there is evidence of Sheikh sending Atta \$100,000 in August 2001 (see Early August 2001), so the reports could refer to that, or both \$100,000 transfers could involve Mahmood Ahmed, Saeed Sheikh, and Mohamed Atta. [Levy, 2003, pp.

June 29, 2000-September 18, 2000: Hijackers Receive \$100,000 in Funding from United Arab Emirates Location

Hijackers Mohamed Atta and Marwan Alshehhi receive a series of five money transfers from the United Arab Emirates:

- Ø On June 29, \$5,000 is wired by a person using the alias "Isam Mansur" to a Western Union facility in New York, where Alshehhi picks it up
- Ø On July 18, \$10,000 is wired to Atta and Alshehhi's joint account at SunTrust from the UAE Exchange Centre in Bur Dubai by a person using the alias "Isam Mansur"
- Ø On August 5, \$9,500 is wired to the joint account from the UAE Exchange Centre by a person using the alias "Isam Mansour"
- Ø On August 29, \$20,000 is wired to the joint account from the UAE Exchange Centre by a person using the alias "Mr. Ali"
- Ø On September 17, \$70,000 is wired to the joint account from the UAE Exchange Centre by a person using the alias "Hani (Fawar Trading)."

Some sources suggest a suspicious activity report was generated about this transaction (see (Late September 2000)). [Financial Times, 11/29/2001; Newsweek, 12/2/2001; New York Times, 12/10/2001; MSNBC, 12/11/2001; US Congress, 9/26/2002; 9/11 Commission, 8/21/2004, pp. 134-5 pdf file; US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia; Alexandria Division, 7/31/2006 pdf file]

Hijackers Nawaf Alhazmi and Khalid Almihdhar previously received a transfer from the United Arab Emirates from a "Mr. Ali" (see April 16-18, 2000). The identity of the person behind these aliases is in dispute. It has been claimed that the hijackers received funding from Saeed Sheikh, a known ISI and al-Qaeda agent who sends the hijackers money in August 2001 (see Early August 2001 and Summer 2001 and before). [CNN, 10/6/2001] Apparently based on information from Indian intelligence, the Indian press claims that Pakistani ISI Director Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed orders Saeed to send the hijackers the money at this time. [Frontline, 10/6/2001; Daily Excelsior (Jammu), 10/18/2001]

French author Bernard-Henri Levy later claims to have evidence from sources inside both Indian and US governments of phone calls between Sheikh and Mahmood during this same time period, and he sees a connection between the timing of the calls and the money transfers (see Summer 2000). [Levy, 2003, pp. 320-324] However, Atta may have received another payment of approximately \$100,000 at this time (see June 2000-August 2001), possibly from Saeed, and evidence suggests Saeed sends \$100,000 to Atta the next year (see Early August 2001 and Summer 2001 and before). Most media reports saying that Saeed sent Atta \$100,000 usually fail to give enough detail to clarify which \$100,000 is being referred to. On the other hand, the FBI and the 9/11 Commission will say that these transfers were made by Ali Abdul Aziz Ali, a nephew of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who also provides some other funding for the plot (see December 5, 2000). [New York Times, 12/10/2001; US Congress, 9/26/2002; Associated Press, 9/26/2002; 9/11 Commission, 7/24/2004, pp. 260, 534]

May 2001: Tenet Visits Pakistan; Armitage Calls on India

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, a former covert operative and Navy Seal, travels to India on a publicized tour while CIA Director Tenet makes a quiet visit to Pakistan to meet with President Pervez Musharraf. Armitage has long and deep Pakistani intelligence connections (as well as a role in the Iran-Contra affair). It would be reasonable to assume that while in Islamabad, Tenet, in what was described as “an unusually long meeting,” also meets with his Pakistani counterpart, ISI Director Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed. [SAPRA (New Delhi), 5/22/2001]

Summer 2001: Pakistani Intelligence Protects Al-Qaeda Leader from Arrest

The Pakistani ISI allows an al-Qaeda leader to escape arrest. Egyptian investigators are looking for Ahmed Said Khadr, because he is wanted for funding the bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, in 1995 (see November 19, 1995). [Time, 5/6/2002; National Post, 10/14/2003] Khadr, a Canadian citizen, had been arrested in Pakistan shortly after the bombing but was then let go after a huge strike and an appeal by the Canadian government. [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 4/20/2006] His name appeared on a list of top al-Qaeda suspects issued by the United Nations in 1999. [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 3/3/2004] Egyptians surround the safe house in Pakistan where Khadr is hiding. They notify the ISI to help arrest him, and ISI Director Mahmood Ahmed promises swift action. Instead, a car sent by the ISI filled with Taliban and having diplomatic plates arrives, grabs Khadr, and drives him to safety in Afghanistan. [Time, 5/6/2002] Khadr will be killed in an October 2003 shootout with the Pakistani army. After his death, a sympathetic jihadist group will refer to him as a “founding member” of al-Qaeda. [National Post, 10/14/2003; Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 4/20/2006]

September 4-11, 2001: ISI Director Visits Washington for Mysterious Meetings

ISI Director Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed visits Washington for the second time. On September 10, a Pakistani newspaper reports on his trip so far. It says his visit has “triggered speculation about the agenda of his mysterious meetings at the Pentagon and National Security Council” as well as meetings with CIA Director Tenet, unspecified officials at the White House and the Pentagon, and his “most important meeting” with Marc Grossman, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. The article suggests, “[O]f course, Osama bin Laden” could be the focus of some discussions. Prophetically, the article adds, “What added interest to his visit is the history of such visits. Last time [his] predecessor was [in Washington], the domestic [Pakistani] politics turned topsy-turvy within days.” [News (Islamabad), 9/10/2001] This is a reference to the Musharraf coup just after an ISI Director’s visit on October 12, 1999 (see October 12, 1999).

(8:00 a.m.) September 11, 2001: Intelligence Committee Chairs Meet with ISI Head and Possible 9/11 Attack Funder as the Attack Occurs

At the time of the attacks, ISI Director Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed is at a breakfast meeting at the Capitol with the chairmen of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, Senator Bob Graham (D) and Representative Porter Goss (R) (Goss is a 10-year veteran of the CIA’s clandestine operations wing). The meeting is said to last at least until the second plane hits the WTC. [Washington Post, 5/18/2002]

Graham and Goss later co-head the joint House-Senate investigation into the 9/11 attacks, which has made headlines for saying there was no “smoking gun” of Bush knowledge before 9/11. [Washington Post, 7/11/2002]

Note that Senator Graham should have been aware of a report made to his staff the previous month (see Early August 2001) that one of Mahmood’s subordinates had told a US undercover agent that the WTC would be destroyed. Evidence suggests that attendee Mahmood ordered that \$100,000 be sent to hijacker Mohamed Atta. Also present at the meeting were Senator Jon Kyl (R) and the Pakistani ambassador to the US, Maleeha Lodhi. (All or virtually all of the people in this meeting had previously met in Pakistan just a few weeks earlier.) Senator Graham says of the meeting: “We were talking about terrorism, specifically terrorism generated from Afghanistan.” The New York Times reports that bin Laden was specifically discussed. [Vero Beach Press Journal, 9/12/2001; Salon, 9/14/2001; New York Times, 6/3/2002]

October 7, 2001: ISI Director Replaced at US Urging; Role in Funding 9/11 Plot Is One Explanation

ISI Director Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed is replaced in the face of US pressure after links are discovered between him, Saeed Sheikh, and the funding of the 9/11 attacks. Mahmood instructed Saeed to transfer \$100,000 into hijacker Mohamed Atta’s bank account prior to 9/11. This is according to Indian intelligence, which claims the FBI has privately confirmed the story. [Press Trust of India, 10/8/2001; Times of India, 10/9/2001; India Today, 10/15/2001; Daily Excelsior (Jammu), 10/18/2001]

The story is not widely reported in Western countries, though it makes the Wall Street Journal. [Australian, 10/10/2001; Agence France-Presse, 10/10/2001; Wall Street Journal, 10/10/2001] It is reported in Pakistan as well. [Dawn (Karachi), 10/8/2001] The Northern Alliance also repeats the claim in late October. [Federal News Service, 10/31/2001] In Western countries, the usual explanation is that Mahmood is fired for being too close to the Taliban. [London Times, 10/9/2001; Guardian, 10/9/2001] The Times of India reports that Indian intelligence helped the FBI discover the link, and says, “A direct link between the ISI and the WTC attack could have enormous repercussions. The US cannot but suspect whether or not there were other senior Pakistani Army commanders who were in the know of things. Evidence of a larger conspiracy could shake US confidence in Pakistan’s ability to participate in the anti-terrorism coalition.” [Times of India, 10/9/2001] There is evidence some ISI officers may have known of a plan to destroy the WTC as early as July 1999. Two other ISI leaders, Lt. Gen. Mohammed Aziz Khan and Lt. Gen. Muzaffar Usmani, are sidelined on the same day as Mahmood. [Fox News, 10/8/2001] Saeed had been working under Khan. The firings are said to have purged the ISI of its fundamentalists. However, according to one diplomat, “To remove the top two or three doesn’t matter at all. The philosophy remains....

[The ISI is] a parallel government of its own. If you go through the officer list, almost all of the ISI regulars would say, of the Taliban, “They are my boys.” [New Yorker, 10/29/2001] It is believed Mahmood has been living under virtual house arrest in Pakistan (which would seem to imply more than just a difference of opinion over the Taliban), but no charges have been brought against him, and there is no evidence the US has asked to question him. [Asia Times, 1/5/2002] He also has refused to speak to reporters since being fired [Associated Press, 2/21/2002], and outside India and Pakistan, the story has only been mentioned

infrequently in the media since. [Sunday Herald (Glasgow), 2/24/2002; London Times, 4/21/2002] He will reemerge as a businessman in 2003, but still will not speak to the media (see July 2003).

July 2003: Fired ISI Director Resurfaces as Businessman

Lt. Gen. Mahmood Ahmed, who lost his position as ISI Director one month after 9/11 (see October 7, 2001), resurfaces in Pakistan as the head of a subsidiary of a prominent business consortium. The New Yorker notes that it is "a position that require[s] government backing." Ahmed was considered close to the Taliban, and according to some media accounts, ordered money to hijacker Mohamed Atta. He still apparently has not given any media interviews or been interviewed by US intelligence since his firing. [New Yorker, 7/28/2003]

September 18, 2003: Questions of ISI Leader's Ties to 9/11 Resurface

A Wall Street Journal review of Bernard-Henri Levy's book "Who Killed Daniel Pearl?" notes, "It is a fact that Gen. Mahmood Ahmed, then head of the ISI, wired \$100,000 to Mohamed Atta before 9/11 through an intermediary. (This was reported in the Journal on Oct. 10, 2001.) So what have we done about it?" The article notes that few are willing to look into this issue or take action against Pakistan since Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf is considered a close ally and cooperative in the fight against terrorism. [Wall Street Journal, 9/18/2003] Other reviews of the book raise similar points, and even the conservative columnist George Will notes in the Washington Post, "It is not fantasy that there have been many reports that the then-head of Pakistani intelligence was responsible for \$100,000 being wired to Mohamed Atta, the lead 9/11 hijacker." [Washington Post, 10/5/2003]

July 22, 2004: Prominent Figures See Ties Between the ISI, 9/11, and Even the CIA

Michael Meacher, a British member of Parliament, and a cabinet minister in Tony Blair's government until 2003, writes in the Guardian, "Significantly, [Saeed] Sheikh is ... the man who, on the instructions of General Mahmood Ahmed, the then head of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), wired \$100,000 before the 9/11 attacks to Mohamed Atta, the lead hijacker. It is extraordinary that neither Ahmed nor Sheikh have been charged and brought to trial on this count. Why not?" Daniel Ellsberg, the "Pentagon Papers" whistleblower during the Nixon presidency, states in the same article, "It seems to me quite plausible that Pakistan was quite involved in [9/11] ... To say Pakistan is, to me, to say CIA because ... it's hard to say that the ISI knew something that the CIA had no knowledge of." [Guardian, 7/22/2004]

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline_pf.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&the_isi:_a_more_detailed_look=mahmoodAhmed

Suppression: Beyond the September 11 Breakfast Meeting on Capitol Hill by Michel Chossudovsky

The chairmen of the Joint Inquiry on 9/11 Sen. Bob Graham and Rep Porter Goss are in "conflict of interest." Or are we dealing with something far more serious?

The chairmen of the Joint Inquiry have dubious links to Pakistan's Inter-Services

Intelligence (ISI) which is known to have actively supported Al Qaeda and the Taliban.

Moreover, according to intelligence sources, including the FBI, Pakistan's ISI played a role in financing the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The two Joint Inquiry chairmen Sen. Bob Graham and Rep Porter Goss were fully cognizant of the "Pakistani ISI connection" and the role played by its former head, General Mahmoud Ahmad.

Why then did they choose to exclude an examination of the role of the ISI from the Joint Inquiry's 858 page Report?

While hinting to "Saudi support and involvement" in 9/11, the Report fails to mention that the Pakistani government, its military and intelligence apparatus (ISI), have actively supported and financed a number of terrorist organizations, with the support of Washington.

Was it "an intelligence failure" to seek the cooperation of the Pakistani government in the "war on terrorism" in an agreement brokered by the head of the ISI, a spy agency, which is known to support the Islamic brigades?

..... While the Joint inquiry has collected mountains of intelligence material, through careful omission, the numerous press and intelligence reports in the public domain (mainstream media, alternative media, etc), which confirm that key members of the Bush Administration were involved in acts of political camouflage, have been carefully removed from the Joint inquiry's hearings.

<http://911review.org/Wget/www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO308C.html>

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12.24 The "Hunt" for Usama Bin Laden *****

Repeated, Specific Examples of How the US Government has AVOIDED CAPTURING our "Great Enemy"

per Cooperative research: The Complete 911 Timeline
Managed by Paul Thompson

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&before_9/11=huntForBinLaden

DVD: 911 Press for Truth *****

Featuring the 911 Families who Forced the 911 Commission to Convene over the Efforts of the Bush Administration to Avoid It
Also Featuring the Excellent, Extensive Research and
On-Camera Observations of Extraordinary Citizen Paul Thompson

WAMY Investigation Suppression & the Hijackers Down the Street

<http://www.bushnews.com/binladens.htm>

The Effort to Avoid Catching Bin Laden

by Michael Meacher
Member of Parliament

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1036571,00.html>

Bin Laden Walks Out of Tora Bora

“..... A videotape, obtained exclusively by the CIA and not previously reported..... shows bin Laden walking on a trail toward Pakistan at the end of the battle of Tora Bora in December 2001, when U.S. forces came close but failed to capture him.

<http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2006/9/10/10951/5080/>

Mid-December 2001

The White House Leaves Usama's Capture to the Pakistanis

Classified CIA reports passed to Bush in his morning briefings of early December..... warned that 'the back door is open' and that a bare few Pakistani army units were visible gathering near the Pakistani border.

<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/context.jsp?item=a1201videoacrossborder>

The Politics of Crime

Brigadier General James Mattis Ignored

“..... By now, the Taliban's stronghold in Kandahar had fallen or, more correctly, had been abandoned by the soldiers of the regime. The Taliban retreat from Kandahar was emblematic of the war. None of Afghanistan's cities had been won by force alone. Taliban fighters, after intense bombing, had simply made strategic withdrawals. A number of American officers were now convinced that this was about to happen at Tora Bora, too.

One of them was Brig. Gen. James N. Mattis, the commander of some 4,000 marines who had arrived in the Afghan theater by now. Mattis, along with another officer with whom I spoke, was convinced that with these numbers he could have surrounded and sealed off bin Laden's lair, as well as deployed troops to the most sensitive portions of the largely unpatrolled border with Pakistan. He argued strongly that he should be permitted to proceed to the Tora Bora caves. The general was turned down.”

www.talkleft.com/story/2006/09/11/019/81711

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12.25 Colin Powell's Promise of a "White Paper:" Never Delivered

Secretary of State Colin Powell promised in Sept. 2001 to deliver to foreign governments a State Department White Paper establishing the provenance of the attacks and the guilt of Osama BinLadin. No reports since indicate that this was done, no White Paper has ever been published.

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=2004081212004979>

Patriots Question 9/11

Commentary of Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney – Former 6-term Congresswoman from Georgia 1993 - 2002, 2005 - 2006. Member of the House Armed Services Committee and Member of the International Relations Committee. Georgia state legislator 1988 - 1992.

Congressional Briefing 7/22/05:

"Within days of the attacks, we were told that the perpetrators were from a terrorist network known as al-Qaeda. When reporters and members of the public asked for details, then Secretary of State Colin Powell promised that

it would be made all clear to the world in a White Paper.

Nearly 4 years, and 2 wars later, we still have no official statement from the Bush administration on the specifics of who did it, who aided and financed them or what their origins are.

For the families who suffered so much loss this surely feels like adding insult to injury. They deserve to know everything that there is to be known about how their loved ones died. They fought for an investigation that would be non-partisan, independent, and that would get to the bottom of things. But, as work got underway, not only did the Commission run up against obstruction by the administration and non-cooperation from government agencies, many, if not most of the commissioners themselves had conflicts of interest.

And several commissioners spoke out about problems in the process; the lack of investigative rigor and heavy reliance on previous work; the Joint-Commission Report, the drafting of recommendations before the investigative process got rolling, the failure to take testimony under oath or in many cases to even take transcripts. ...

Then last year, we got the final report. An extensive, prosaically impressive report. But as some of us sat down to read it, the errors and omissions immediately jumped out at us.

How was it that it took over an hour after the first transponder went off before planes were scrambled to meet the threat? All of them too late.

What happened to those reports that surfaced within months of September 11th stating that 7 or more of the alleged hijackers had come forward and claimed that they were victims of stolen identities ...? Why did the Commission choose not even to address this?

What about the terrorist Omar Said Sheikh? ... According to Indian intelligence, this man received orders from a Pakistani General to transfer \$100,000 to Mohammed Atta. People all over the world are talking about this story. But not a word about it in the Report.

<http://patriotsquestion911.com/>

White House Press Secretary: Let's Pretend He Never Said It

"We to this day don't know why NORAD [the North American Aerospace Command] told us what they told us," ... "It was just so far from the truth. . . It's one of those loose ends that never got tied."

Thomas H. Kean, the former New Jersey Republican governor and co-chair of the 9/11 Commission.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/01/AR2006080101300.html>

(How can we be satisfied with the 9/11 Commission Report when the leaders of the 9/11 Commission say that they were lied to?)

Shortly after 9/11, Colin Powell said on "Meet the Press" that a paper outlining the evidence supporting the government's identification of the alleged perpetrators would soon be released. Such a paper was never released. When later asked about the paper, White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan denied that Colin Powell had promised one.

<http://www.vt911.org/>

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12.26 The Bush Administration's Efforts to Deny a 9/11 Investigation

DVD: 911 Press for Truth *****

Featuring the 911 Families who Forced the 911 Commission to Convene over the Efforts of the Bush Administration to Avoid It

Also Featuring the Excellent, Extensive Research and On-Camera Observations of Extraordinary Citizen Paul Thompson

President Bush Orders the "Full Scale Investigation"

Before:

<http://users.adelphia.net/~earthwatch/BushOn911-2001.mp3>

After:

<http://users.adelphia.net/~earthwatch/BushOn911-2004.mp3>

The Truth Follows:

9/11 Commission Primer

July 20, 2004

After months of research and testimony, this week the bipartisan National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) will release its final report on the events surrounding 9/11 and recommendations for protecting our country from future attacks. This is a moment the Bush administration sought to prevent. The 9/11 Commission Primer by the Center for American Progress reminds its readers of the administration's attempts to obstruct and discredit the work of the Commission, and abdicate responsibility for protecting our country.

White House Opposed Formation of Commission:

President Bush and Vice President Cheney both contacted then-Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle in the months after 9/11 to insist on strict limits in the scope of any investigation into the attacks. Newsweek reported on February 4, 2002, that Vice President Cheney called Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD) to "warn" him not to open hearings into the attacks. If Daschle pressed the issue, Cheney "implied he would risk being accused of interfering with the mission" against terrorism. And despite entreaties from the families of victims of 9/11 attacks and a bipartisan group of senators and congressmen, the president vocally resisted forming an investigatory commission. President Bush only relented on November 27, 2002, a year after the attacks.

Bush's Hand-Picked Co-Chairman Steps Down:

On November 27, 2002, President Bush appointed Henry Kissinger to head the 9/11 Commission. At the time, the NYT opined the White House had chosen him "to contain an investigation it has long opposed." Less than a month later, Kissinger resigned from the post over conflicts of interest.

White House Resisted Fully Funding:

Time Magazine reported last year that the White House "brushed off" a request by Commission Chairman Tom Kean to boost the investigation's budget by \$11 million, even though the Commission stated it could not complete the investigation without the funds.

White House Opposed Time Extension for Finishing Commission's Work:

In January 2004, President Bush and House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) opposed granting a two-month extension, even though Commission members said the extra time was necessary to finish their work. Two weeks later, after public outcry, the White House capitulated and announced on February 4, 2004, that it would allow the Commission to have the extra 60 days it needed.

President's Chief Counsel Tried to Influence Panel:

Top White House counsel Alberto Gonzales tried to manipulate the 9/11 Commission, calling Republican commissioners Fred F. Fielding and James R. Thompson just before they gathered on March 24, 2004, to hear the testimony of former White House counterterrorism chief Richard A. Clarke. After the calls, "Fielding and Thompson presented evidence questioning the former official's credibility," leading critics to denounce the impropriety of Gonzales' phone calls.

The Bush administration also sought to withhold key information from the Commission during the investigation. The White House dragged its feet in allowing National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to testify, and fought hard to limit the president's appearance before the Commission. The White House also denied Commission members access to critical information, in particular the president's daily intelligence updates.

White House Refused to Allow National Security Advisor to Testify:

On March 28, 2004, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice tried to justify her resistance to testifying in front of the Commission, arguing, "it is a longstanding principle that sitting national security advisers do not testify before the Congress." The White House soon faced the reality that former top White House officials Lloyd Cutler, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Samuel Berger and John Podesta appeared before congressional committees while serving as advisers to presidents, and that Adm. William Leahy, chief of staff to Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, appeared before the special congressional panel investigating the Pearl Harbor attacks. On March 30, 2004, the White House finally bowed to pressure and announced that Rice would testify in public under oath before the Commission.

White House Demanded Panel Not Seek Additional Testimony:

In exchange for Rice's testimony, the White House specifically demanded that "the panel agree not to seek testimony from other White House aides," even if that testimony were to become critical to the Commission's mandate.

White House Tried to Limit Bush's Testimony to One Hour:

On February 25, 2004, President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney announced "strict limits" surrounding their private interviews with the 9/11 Commission, saying Bush would submit to only a single hour of questioning. On March 2, 2004, the Commission rejected the hour deadline as unacceptable. A week later, on March 10, 2004, White House spokesman Scott McClellan backtracked on the demand, saying, "The president's going to answer all of the questions they want to raise. Nobody's watching the clock."

White House Demanded Joint Bush/Cheney Testimony:

The White House also demanded that President Bush and Vice President Cheney not be forced to testify under oath and be allowed to testify together, facilitating the potential coordination of their testimony. Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton, members of the Commission, indicated that they would prefer them to testify separately.

White House Denied Request for Presidential Daily Briefs:

The Commission struggled with the White House for access to the "Presidential Daily Brief" (PDB), a document presented to the President each morning containing that day's intelligence. After months of negotiations, the White House limited access to the PDBs to only four commissioners, who then would brief the full ten-member panel. However, although the four-member team "asked to look at 360 PDBs dating back to [1998,] White House counsel Alberto Gonzales permitted them to see just 24."

White House Denied Access to Panel's Own Notes:

After limiting the number of commissioners who could view the PDBs, the White House refused to give the panel access to notes commissioners with access had taken on them. On March 14, 2004, 15 months after the creation of the Commission, the White House finally agreed to provide the Commission with a 17-page summary of the PDBs from the Bush and Clinton administrations related to al Qaeda.

White House Held Back Additional Documents:

On April 1, 2004, it was discovered that the Bush White House had not turned over about 75 percent of the almost 11,000 pages of Clinton records "that document custodians had determined should be released to the Commission investigating the terrorist attacks," even though the records were vital to the panel's mission. Clinton "had given authorization to the National Archives to gather evidence from Mr. Clinton's files that was sought by the independent Commission... But the Bush administration... had final authority to decide what would be turned over."

As the Bush administration's efforts to stonewall the 9/11 Commission began to fail, the administration and its allies stepped up their attempts to discredit the Commission, commissioners and witnesses. While Attorney General John Ashcroft launched an unjustified attack on Commission member Jamie Gorelick for her previous work in the Justice Department, the Heritage Foundation was providing a forum for those who sought to discredit the Commission. In an interesting twist, just this month Ashcroft recanted on his criticism of Gorelick.

Ashcroft Attempted to Shift Blame to Gorelick – And Just Recently Recanted:

Ashcroft used his appearance before the 9/11 Commission to launch a personal attack on Commissioner Jamie Gorelick, who served as deputy attorney general from 1994 to 1997. Ashcroft surprised the Commission and sandbagged Gorelick by releasing a memo she authored in 1995, claiming that it created "the single greatest structural cause for the September 11th problem." But contrary to Ashcroft's assertion, Gorelick's memo intended to facilitate communication within the FBI, helping to overcome existing restrictions on information sharing with their roots in the Reagan and Bush I administrations. Moreover, under questioning by the Commission, Ashcroft later admitted that "his own deputy attorney general, Larry Thompson, had renewed the terms of the Gorelick memo in August 2001." Ashcroft reversed himself just this month. In July 2004, he conceded that Gorelick's memo permitted "interaction and information sharing between prosecutors and intelligence officers" and allowed the FBI to use the fruits of an intelligence investigation "in a criminal prosecution."

Sensenbrenner Impugned Gorelick, Then Got Rebuked by Republican Chairman:

Archconservative House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) also impugned Gorelick by appearing on Fox News and calling on her to resign and stand as a witness before the 9/11 Commission because of her Bush administration-endorsed memo. But Republican 9/11 Commission Chairman Tom Kean "dismissed the request and said Gorelick was one of the hardest-working and nonpartisan members of the commission. He also said she had recused herself from involvement in issues on which she worked while serving in government" -- a policy that stands for all Commission members with prior government experience.

Delay Attacked 9/11 Panel for Asking Tough Questions:

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX) played his usual role of right-wing ringmaster by leading the charge to malign the Commission with unsubstantiated accusations of partisanship. DeLay said, "Some commissioners' tactics during questioning have served to distort witness statements, cut off witness answers and otherwise blur the distinction between the commission's work and a prime-time cable talk show." He also stretched the story by claiming that "the politicization of the commission undermines the war effort [in Iraq] and endangers our troops." [Congressional Quarterly, 4/16/04]

Heritage Foundation Questioned Need for 9/11 Commission:

The Heritage Foundation served as a forum for conservative columnists attacking the existence of the 9/11 Commission. "Let's shut down the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States -- the September 11 Commission.

After all, what's the point?," wrote columnist Rich Tucker. Paul Rosenzweig wrote that the Commission is "unseemly" for publicizing its work, even though the publicity was being urged by Republican Chairman Tom Kean who "believes the only way to force the government to change is to get the public alarmed and angry at the dysfunctional way the agencies now are operating."

Murdoch Machine Overlooked Facts In Commenting on Testimony:

In an unusual front-page editorial in his New York Post, Australian right-wing billionaire Rupert Murdoch and his media machine attacked Democratic 9/11 commissioners as "shills." The editorial then went on to make factually inaccurate claims. For instance, it said that pre-9/11 "intelligence reports all talked about attacks occurring against targets overseas," and that "it clearly was not a fact that President Bush was warned against possible attacks in this country." The editorial then accused Commissioner Richard Ben-Veniste of slander for saying as much. But Ben-Veniste was entirely accurate: the bipartisan 9/11 congressional inquiry found the Administration received warnings of a possible homeland attack in May 2001, and the president was personally warned on August 6 of "patterns of suspicious activity in this country consistent with preparations for hijackings or other types of attacks." The August 6 briefing also warned of the possibility "that a group of Bin Ladin supporters was in the US planning attacks with explosives."

Frist Attacked Clarke, Then Was Contradicted by Party Colleagues:

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) delivered a speech on the floor of the Senate claiming that former Bush counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke, who testified before the 9/11 Commission, "told two entirely different stories" about the Bush administration's handling of terrorism. Frist implied Clarke had perjured himself by purportedly telling two different stories under oath — first to Congress in 2002 and then to the 9/11 Commission this year — and threatened severe consequences "if it is found that he has lied before Congress." But Frist soon admitted "that he personally had no knowledge that there were any discrepancies" between the two testimonies. Soon after, Intelligence Committee Chairman Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) contradicted Frist and said that "Clarke's testimony before a joint congressional panel on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks did not contradict his later testimony" before the 9/11 Commission.

Even today, the Bush administration has refused to accept responsibility for the 9/11 attacks, instead passing the counterterrorism buck as far from the president as possible. As columnist Richard Cohen noted, "If the president wants to own Sept. 11" for his political gain "he's entitled. But it does not come alone. Sept. 10 is his, too." But while the White House was busy blaming the FBI, the FBI was pointing fingers at the attorney general, who was shooting back at the FBI and CIA.

The White House Blamed the FBI:

During questioning before the 9/11 Commission, Rice said, "I also understood that that was what the FBI was doing, that the FBI was pursuing these al Qaeda cells. I believe in the August 6 memorandum it says that there were 70 full field investigations under way of these cells. And so there was no recommendation that we do something about this; the FBI was pursuing it." Later in the hearing, when pressed on whether the FBI was actually aggressively pursuing terrorism threats in the United States, Rice ducked any White House accountability, "The

responsibility for the FBI to do what it was asked was the FBI's responsibility." The White House provided The New York Times parts of a classified memo from Richard Clarke to Rice that referenced the tasking of the FBI's field offices. Then President Bush again put the focus squarely on the FBI, saying "whoever was the Acting FBI Director, had they found something, would have said, Mr. President, we have found something that you need to be concerned about in your duties to protect America. That didn't happen."

The FBI Blamed Ashcroft:

Newsweek reported an "extraordinary confrontation" between the attorney general and then-FBI director Louis Freeh at the annual meeting of FBI Special Agents in Charge in May 2001. Ashcroft and Freeh met before their appearance and the attorney general laid out his priorities, "'basically, violent crime and drugs,' recalls one participant. Freeh replied bluntly that those were not his priorities, and started to talk about terror and counterterrorism. 'Ashcroft didn't want to hear about it,' says a former senior law enforcement official." The New York Times and Washington Post reported that Thomas J. Pickard, acting director of the FBI in the summer of 2001, told the 9/11 Commission that Ashcroft had "little interest" in terrorism.

Ashcroft Blamed the FBI and CIA: Ashcroft's press spokesperson, Mark Corallo, asserted that Ashcroft was briefed regularly by the CIA and FBI regarding threats posed by al Qaeda, and "he [Ashcroft] was not briefed that there was any threat to the United States. He kept asking if there was any action he needed to take, and he was constantly told no, you're doing everything you need to do."

Clarke Stands Alone in Taking Responsibility:

Testifying before the 9/11 Commission, former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke became the first Bush administration official to take responsibility for the failure to protect America in the lead up to the deadly attacks. While President Bush repeatedly said he wanted to "usher in an era of personal responsibility," neither he nor any of his officials admitted they ignored repeated terror warnings and dramatically reduced counterterrorism efforts before 9/11 (see American Progress' 9/11 backgrounder for details). Instead, the president has ignored the public record that shows he received warnings, and essentially denied he had any prior warning of an imminent attack.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2004/07/b124722.html#obstructing>

Bush Cooperation to be Defined by Subpoenas?

New York Times
October 29, 2003

"The commission investigating the government's failures before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks is in danger of becoming a study in recalcitrance by the Bush administration. The independent commission's mandate is to supply a definitive account of the government's handling of the terrorist plot that killed almost 3,000 people. But the White House continues to fence with requests for classified documents crucial to the inquiry. ... The commission chairman, former Gov. Thomas Kean of New Jersey, a Republican, is threatening to subpoena the administration for documents that officials should forthrightly turn over. Among

the key questions is the nature of an intelligence report to President Bush a month before the attacks -- only sketchily confirmed thus far by the White House -- that Al Qaeda might try to hijack passenger airplanes. ... How can an unstinting investigation of the truth of Sept. 11 not be of paramount concern to any official sworn to protect the public? The approaching presidential election makes the administration's evasions even more suspect. Failure to document and face the truth will only feed conspiracy theories and undermine the nation's chances of weathering future threats."

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=9/11_commission

White House Obstruction

Family members of victims of the terror attacks say the White House has smothered every attempt to get to the bottom of the outrageous intelligence failures that took place on its watch.

By Eric Boehlert

June 18, 2003 | For family members of those who died on Sept. 11, last week brought a rare chance to meet face-to-face with a man who has become a symbol of their dissatisfaction -- FBI director Robert Mueller. The bureau had quietly invited several dozen family members to Washington to hear a presentation on the war on terrorism, but for the small band of husbands, wives and parents who successfully lobbied Congress last year for an independent 9/11 commission to investigate the attacks, it was a chance to ask some of the troubling questions they have about that day.

They weren't simply queries about the national security collapse that occurred on 9/11, and how a hijacked plane, flying hundreds of miles off course, was able to dive-bomb untouched into the Pentagon a full hour after the World Trade Center had already been attacked twice. Or how more than a dozen terrorists were able to enter America illegally and then live here undetected for weeks and months, and why U.S. intelligence sources failed to piece together significant clues that emerged in advance of the attack.

Family advocates also wanted to know why the government -- and specifically the Bush administration -- has been so reluctant to find answers to any of the obvious questions about what went wrong that day, why so little has been fixed, and why virtually nobody has accepted any responsibility for the glaring failures.

While the administration of President George W. Bush is aggressively positioning itself as the world leader in the war on terrorism, some families of the Sept. 11 victims say that the facts increasingly contradict that script. The White House long opposed the formation of a blue-ribbon Sept. 11 commission, some say, and even now that panel is underfunded and struggling to build momentum. And, they say, the administration is suppressing a 900-page congressional study, possibly out of fear that the findings will be politically damaging to Bush.

"We've been fighting for nearly 21 months -- fighting the administration, the White House," says Monica Gabrielle. Her husband, Richard, an insurance broker who worked for Aon Corp. on the 103rd floor of the World Trade Center's Tower 2, died during the attacks. "As soon as we started looking for answers we were blocked, put off and ignored at every stop of the way. We were shocked. The

White House is just blocking everything."

Another 9/11 family advocate -- a former Bush supporter who requested anonymity -- was more blunt: "Bush has done everything in his power to squelch this [9/11] commission and prevent it from happening."

<http://dir.salon.com/story/news/feature/2003/06/18/911/index.html>

Bush Perched on Cheney's Sturdy Knee

It would have been a pleasure to be able to congratulate President Bush on his openness in agreeing to sit down today with the independent commission on the 9/11 attacks and answer questions. Unfortunately, Mr. Bush conditioned his cooperation on stipulations that range from the questionable to the ridiculous.

The strangest of the president's conditions is that he will testify only in concert with Vice President Dick Cheney. The White House has given no sensible reason for why Mr. Bush is unwilling to appear alone. (When asked at his recent press conference, the president gave one of his patented nonresponses: "Because it's a good chance for both of us to answer questions that the 9/11 commission is looking forward to asking us, and I'm looking forward to answering them.")

Given the White House's concern for portraying Mr. Bush as a strong leader, it's remarkable that this critical appearance is being structured in a way that is certain to provide fodder for late-night comedians, who enjoy depicting him as the docile puppet of his vice president.

Mr. Bush's reluctant and restrictive cooperation with the panel is consistent with the administration's pattern of stonewalling reasonable requests for documents and testimony and then giving up only the minimum necessary ground when the dispute becomes public. Today's testimony will be in private in the White House, away from reporters or television cameras. [And away from seven of the nine commissioners -- who were forbidden to attend.] The session will not be recorded, and there will be no formal transcript. The president's aides have defended this excessive degree of secrecy with the usual arguments about protecting highly classified information and not wanting to establish dangerous precedents.

The idea that the panel may wring from Mr. Bush some comment that may endanger national security is ridiculous. The commission, led by the respected former Republican governor of New Jersey, Thomas Kean, has already heard, in public, from the leaders of the nation's top intelligence agencies, the secretary of defense and Mr. Bush's national security adviser. It seems highly unlikely that the president knows secrets more sensitive than they do. If he did, he would certainly be free to go off the record while discussing them.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/29/opinion/29THU1.html?ex=1398571200&en=b605446388cdbaf0&ei=5007&partner=USERLAND>

The 911 Commission and the Myth of Its "Independence"

But as far as the 9-11 Commission is concerned, and at least for the moment, the White House got what it wanted. President George W Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney will have a private conversation with the commission as a tandem,

not under oath, and behind closed doors. This testimony won't be recorded. The commission will hardly have more than two or three hours to ask crucial questions to both, when it could have at least double the time to ask questions to each of them separately. The arrangement of course prevents them from contradicting each other -- a basic premise of any criminal investigation. It makes sure that the all-powerful, all-seeing Cheney is the Praetorian Guard capable of preventing any Bush rhetorical disaster.

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Front_Page/FD07Aa01.html

Knowledge of CIA-Bush Administration Meeting of July 10, 2001 Withheld from 9/11 Commission

by Peter Rundlet, Counsel to the 9/11 Commission

Most of the world has now seen the infamous picture of President Bush tending to his ranch on August 6, 2001, the day he received the ultra-classified Presidential Daily Brief (PDB) that included a report entitled "Bin Laden Determined To Strike in US." And most Americans have also heard of the so-called "Phoenix Memo" that an FBI agent in Phoenix sent to FBI headquarters on July 10, 2001, which advised of the "possibility of a coordinated effort" by bin Laden to send students to the United States to attend civil aviation schools.

As a Counsel to the 9/11 Commission, I became very familiar with both the PDB and the Phoenix Memo, as well as the tragic consequences of the failure to detect and stop the plot. A mixture of shock, anger, and sadness overcame me when I read about revelations in Bob Woodward's new book about a special surprise visit that George Tenet and his counterterrorism chief Cofer Black made to Condi Rice, also on July 10, 2001:

They went over top-secret intelligence pointing to an impending attack and "sounded the loudest warning" to the White House of a likely attack on the U.S. by Bin Laden.

Woodward writes that Rice was polite, but, "They felt the brushoff."

If true, it is shocking that the administration failed to heed such an overwhelming alert from the two officials in the best position to know. Many, many questions need to be asked and answered about this revelation -- questions that the 9/11 Commission would have asked, had the Commission been told about this significant meeting. Suspiciously, the Commissioners and the staff investigating the administration's actions prior to 9/11 were never informed of the meeting. As Commissioner Jamie Gorelick pointed out, "We didn't know about the meeting itself. I can assure you it would have been in our report if we had known to ask about it."

The Commission interviewed Condoleezza Rice privately and during public testimony; it interviewed George Tenet three times privately and during public testimony; and Cofer Black was also interviewed privately and publicly. All of them were obligated to tell the truth. Apparently, none of them described this meeting, the purpose of which clearly was central to the Commission's investigation. Moreover, document requests to both the White House and to the CIA should have revealed the fact that this meeting took place. Now, more than two years after the release of the Commission's report, we learn of this meeting from Bob Woodward.

Was it covered up? It is hard to come to a different conclusion. If one could suspend disbelief to accept that all three officials forgot about the meeting when they were interviewed, then one possibility is that the memory of one of them was later jogged by notes or documents that describe the meeting. If such documents exist, the 9/11 Commission should have seen them. According to Woodward's book, Cofer Black exonerates them all this way: "Though the investigators had access to all the paperwork about the meeting, Black felt there were things the commissions wanted to know about and things they didn't want to know about." The notion that both the 9/11 Commission and the Congressional Joint Inquiry that investigated the intelligence prior to 9/11 did not want to know about such essential information is simply absurd. At a minimum, the withholding of information about this meeting is an outrage. Very possibly, someone committed a crime. And worst of all, they failed to stop the plot.

– Peter Rundlet

NOTES from the public commentary on this article:

The United States is not nearly so concerned that its acts be kept secret from its intended victims as it is that the American people not know of them."

-- Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark

...

Why did the Bush administration fight the creation of an independent, bipartisan investigation into 9/11 in the first place?

Once they caved to public pressure, why were they so uncooperative in delivering 10's of thousands of documents requested by the Commission?

Why did Bush and Cheney refuse to testify to the 9/11 Commission unless they appeared together?

Why didn't they testify publicly? Or under oath?

You'd think that a government so very concerned about 9/11 would have been more eager to get to the bottom of what happened that day. You'd think that at the very least, they wouldn't have tried to appoint Henry Kissinger initially, to oversee the Commission.

Almost every member of the 9/11 Commission, including Jamie Gorelick, has strong ties to defense contractors. Draw your own conclusions there.

<http://thinkprogress.org/2006/09/30/911-meeting/>

Bush Obstructs Investigation Into 9-11 Attack

White House denies funding to Commission

Bush's obstruction of the investigation began coming into focus last March when Time Magazine reported that the White House brushed off a request made by the 9-11 Commission Chairman Tom Kean, the Republican former governor of New Jersey, to boost his budget by \$11 million. Kean had sought the funding as part of the \$75 billion supplemental spending bill that the president had just requested to pay for the war with Iraq. Bush's refusal to increase the commission's budget frustrated and angered a number of the members on the 9-11 panel.

The White House had chosen Kean to lead the investigation, but only after its first choice, Henry A. Kissinger, the former secretary of state, resigned from the post rather than release a list of clients of his consulting firm. Former congressman Lee Hamilton, the panel's top Democrat, was named vice chairman of the commission by Congressional Democrats.

Kean and Hamilton had requested additional funding in a letter to the Bush administration in March 2003. The money was to pay for a staff of about sixty and their expenses. Kean had planned to field a separate task force for each of nine areas that the Commission is required to investigate according to the law that had established it.

The 9-11 Commission has a May 2004 deadline to complete its work. But it will spend the \$3 million it was originally allocated around August 2003 -- if it doesn't get the requested supplement.

"We hope that this request will be included in the supplemental appropriations proposal now being prepared by the administration," wrote Kean and Hamilton in a March 19 letter to a CIA official who is in charge of intelligence community budgeting. The request has been endorsed by the entire bipartisan 9-11 Commission at a recent meeting.

In denying the request, the White House perplexed members of the commission. "This is very counterproductive if the White House's intention is to prevent the commission from being politicized, because it will look like they have something to hide," said a Republican member of the commission.

Bush's roadblocks thwart 9-11 Commission, angers victims' families

In the first week of July, the Boston Globe reported that the 9-11 Commission expressed concern that the congressionally mandated panel is at risk of missing its final report deadline of May 2004 unless the Bush administration acts swiftly to expand its level of cooperation.

Without greater cooperation, Kean said, "we cannot do the job we are supposed to do." The panel provided a report card on the 16 federal agencies covered by its inquiry, describing only the State Department as being fully cooperative, and the FBI as having improved its performance.

Kean and Hamilton told reporters that only recently had the administration shown any willingness to provide the necessary information, including transcripts of interrogations of Al Qaeda detainees and some internal National Security Council documents. But much more is required, they said, for the commission's staff of 60 people to accomplish their job on time.

The Commission complained that the Bush administration had failed to turn over key documents and information it needed to complete a report on its findings. But June and July were not the first time their investigation had been thwarted by the Bush government. The commission cited other, similar roadblocks to their investigation which must meet a 2004 deadline.

The White House has placed conditions on access to and usage of some documents, and such disagreements have yet to be resolved. The CIA, which

failed to effectively predict the Al Qaeda threat, has been slow to provide documents on management and budget issues from before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Problems with the Department of Defense were "particularly serious." The commission's six-month progress report noted that requests relating to the North American Air Defense Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have been met with considerable delays.

No doubt, if the 9-11 Commission's report -- addressing what led to the attacks with airliners that killed more than 3,000 people and how to prevent future acts of terror -- is not finished by mid 2004, its delay will become a presidential election issue.

One 9-11 Commissioner complained, "The Department of Homeland Security has been unhelpful. If we don't get these issues resolved, the public is not going to have the report it deserves."

Attorney General John Ashcroft's Justice Department has also been a source of frustration for the commission. The Commission objects to the department's insistence that an official accompany employees being interviewed by the commission. "It's some intimidation . . . to have someone sitting behind you," Kean said.

Kean and Hamilton charged the Justice Department was behind a directive barring intelligence officials from being interviewed by the panel without the presence of agency colleagues. At a recent news conference, described the presence of "minders" at the interviews as a form of intimidation. "I think the commission feels unanimously that it's some intimidation to have somebody sitting behind you all the time who you either work for or works for your agency," he said. "You might get less testimony than you would [otherwise]."

Relatives of those killed in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon expressed outrage at Bush hindering the investigation.

"I am going to assume the White House is stonewalling the investigation," said Stephen Push, director of Families of September 11.

"How do you not question the government?" asked Mindy Kleinberg of September 11 Advocates, whose husband, Allan, perished in the World Trade Center.

The 9-11 Commission's requests for documents related to the pending case against Zacarias Moussaoui, the alleged "20th hijacker" who was arrested in Minneapolis before the attacks, have so far been ignored. Kean said discussions were underway to determine how the commission could access what are considered some of the most important clues to what the government may have known before the terrorist attacks without jeopardizing any trial.

Kleinberg said she believes that the Moussaoui dossier is important and that the 9-11 Commission must have access to it to do a sufficient job -- even if it means risking the government's case.

"I would rather see the safety of the nation put forth rather than prosecuting one potential terrorist," she said.

<http://www.interventionmag.com/cms/modules.php?file=article&name=News&op=modload&sid=447>

ACTION ALERT: 9/11 Treason Independent Prosecutor Act

A People's Petition calling for the creation of an independent Special Prosecutor investigation of the role of government officials in the events leading up to the 9/11 attack. AND a list of more than 150 reported facts that provide grounds for such an investigation.

<http://www.envirosagainstawar.org/know/read.php?itemid=3586>

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12.27 9/11 Commission Report

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9-11 Commission), an independent, bipartisan commission created by congressional legislation and the signature of President George W. Bush in late 2002, is chartered to prepare a full and complete account of the circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, including preparedness for and the immediate response to the attacks. The Commission is also mandated to provide recommendations designed to guard against future attacks.

On July 22, 2004 the Commission released its public report, which is available for download from this site. The report is also available in bookstores nationwide and from the Government Printing Office.

Commission Members

Thomas H. Kean, Chair
Lee H. Hamilton, Vice Chair
Richard Ben-Veniste, Fred F. Fielding, Jamie S. Gorelick, Slade Gorton, Bob Kerrey, John F. Lehman, Timothy J. Roemer, James R. Thompson

[NOTE: Former Senator and Commission Member Max Cleland resigned in protest, labeling the proceedings a "scam."]

Commission Staff

Philip D. Zelikow, Executive Director
Chris Kojm, Deputy Executive Director
Daniel Marcus, General Counsel

The Commission closed on August 21, 2004.

DOWNLOAD THE REPORT FROM:

<http://www.9-11commission.gov/>

BOOK: The 9/11 Commission Report:
Omissions And Distortions
by David Ray Griffin

ORDER at:

<http://www.amazon.com/11-Commission-Report-Omissions-Distortions/dp/1566565847>

The 9/11 Commission Report: A 571-Page Lie

by Dr. David Ray Griffin
Sunday, May 22, 2005

In discussing my second 9/11 book, *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*, I have often said, only half in jest, that a better title might have been "a 571-page lie." (Actually, I was saying "a 567-page lie," because I was forgetting to count the four pages of the Preface.) In making this statement, one of my points has been that the entire Report is constructed in support of one big lie: that the official story about 9/11 is true.

Another point, however, is that in the process of telling this overall lie, *The 9/11 Commission Report* tells many lies about particular issues. This point is implied by my critique's subtitle, "Omissions and Distortions." It might be thought, to be sure, that of the two types of problems signaled by those two terms, only those designated "distortions" can be considered lies.

It is better, however, to understand the two terms as referring to two types of lies: implicit and explicit. We have an explicit lie when the Report claims that the core of each of the Twin Towers consisted of a hollow steel shaft or when it claims that Vice President Cheney did not give the shoot-down order until after 10:10 that morning. But we have an implicit lie when the Commission, in its discussion of the 19 alleged suicide hijackers, omits the fact that at least six of them have credibly been reported to be still alive, or when it fails to mention the fact that Building 7 of the World Trade Center collapsed. Such omissions are implicit lies partly because they show that the Commission did not honor its stated intention "to provide the fullest possible account of the events surrounding 9/11." They are also lies insofar as the Commission could avoid telling an explicit lie about the issue in question only by not mentioning it, which, I believe, was the case in at least most instances.

Given these two types of lies, it might be wondered how many lies are contained in *The 9/11 Commission Report*. I do not know. But, deciding to see how many lies I had discussed in my book, I found that I had identified over 100 of them. Once I had made the list, it occurred to me that others might find this summary helpful. Hence this article.

One caveat: Although in some of the cases it is obvious that the Commission has lied, in other cases I would say, as I make clear in the book, that it appears that the Commission has lied. However, in the interests of simply giving a brief listing of claims that I consider to be lies, I will ignore this distinction between obvious and probable lies, leaving it to readers, if they wish, to look up the discussion in *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*. For ease in doing this, I have parenthetically indicated the pages of the book on which the various issues are discussed.

Given this clarification, I now list the omissions and claims of *The 9/11 Commission Report* that I, in my critique of that report, portrayed as lies:

1. The omission of evidence that at least six of the alleged hijackers---including Waleed al-Shehri, said by the Commission probably to have stabbed a flight attendant on Flight 11 before it crashed into the North Tower of the WTC---are still alive (19-20).
2. The omission of evidence about Mohamed Atta---such as his reported fondness for alcohol, pork, and lap dances---that is in tension with the Commission's claim that he had become fanatically religious (20-21).
3. The obfuscation of the evidence that Hani Hanjour was too poor a pilot to have flown an airliner into the Pentagon (21-22).
4. The omission of the fact that the publicly released flight manifests contain no Arab names (23).
5. The omission of the fact that fire has never, before or after 9/11, caused steel-frame buildings to collapse (25).
6. The omission of the fact that the fires in the Twin Towers were not very big, very hot, or very long-lasting compared with fires in several steel-frame buildings that did not collapse (25-26).
7. The omission of the fact that, given the hypothesis that the collapses were caused by fire, the South Tower, which was struck later than the North Tower and also had smaller fires, should not have collapsed first (26).
8. The omission of the fact that WTC 7 (which was not hit by an airplane and which had only small, localized fires) also collapsed---an occurrence that FEMA admitted it could not explain (26).
9. The omission of the fact that the collapse of the Twin Towers (like that of Building 7) exemplified at least 10 features suggestive of controlled demolition (26-27).
10. The claim that the core of each of the Twin Towers was "a hollow steel shaft"---a claim that denied the existence of the 47 massive steel columns that in reality constituted the core of each tower and that, given the "pancake theory" of the collapses, should have still been sticking up many hundreds of feet in the air (27-28).
11. The omission of Larry Silverstein's statement that he and the fire department commander decided to "pull" Building 7 (28).
12. The omission of the fact that the steel from the WTC buildings was quickly removed from the crime scene and shipped overseas before it could be analyzed for evidence of explosives (30).
13. The omission of the fact that because Building 7 had been evacuated before it collapsed, the official reason for the rapid removal of the steel---that some people might still be alive in the rubble under the steel---made no sense in this case (30).
14. The omission of Mayor Giuliani's statement that he had received word that the World Trade Center was going to collapse (30-31).

15. The omission of the fact that President Bush's brother Marvin and his cousin Wirt Walker III were both principals in the company in charge of security for the WTC (31-32).
16. The omission of the fact that the west wing of the Pentagon would have been the least likely spot to be targeted by al-Qaeda terrorists, for several reasons (33-34).
17. The omission of any discussion of whether the damage done to the Pentagon was consistent with the impact of a Boeing 757 going several hundred miles per hour (34).
18. The omission of the fact that there are photos showing that the west wing's façade did not collapse until 30 minutes after the strike and also that the entrance hole appears too small for a Boeing 757 to have entered (34).
19. The omission of all testimony that has been used to cast doubt on whether remains of a Boeing 757 were visible either inside or outside the Pentagon (34-36).
20. The omission of any discussion of whether the Pentagon has a anti-missile defense system that would have brought down a commercial airliner---even though the Commission suggested that the al-Qaeda terrorists did not attack a nuclear power plant because they assumed that it would be thus defended (36).
21. The omission of the fact that pictures from various security cameras---including the camera at the gas station across from the Pentagon, the film from which was reportedly confiscated by the FBI immediately after the strike---could presumably answer the question of what really hit the Pentagon (37-38).
22. The omission of Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's reference to "the missile [used] to damage [the Pentagon]" (39).
23. The apparent endorsement of a wholly unsatisfactory answer to the question of why the Secret Service agents allowed President Bush to remain at the Sarasota school at a time when, given the official story, they should have assumed that a hijacked airliner might be about to crash into the school (41-44).
24. The failure to explore why the Secret Service did not summon fighter jets to provide air cover for Air Force One (43-46).
25. The claims that when the presidential party arrived at the school, no one in the party knew that several planes had been hijacked (47-48).
26. The omission of the report that Attorney General Ashcroft was warned to stop using commercial airlines prior to 9/11 (50).
27. The omission of David Schippers' claim that he had, on the basis of information provided by FBI agents about upcoming attacks in lower Manhattan, tried unsuccessfully to convey this information to Attorney General Ashcroft during the six weeks prior to 9/11 (51).

28. The omission of any mention of the FBI agents who reportedly claimed to have known the targets and dates of the attacks well in advance (51-52).
29. The claim, by means of a circular, question-begging rebuttal, that the unusual purchases of put options prior to 9/11 did not imply advance knowledge of the attacks on the part of the buyers (52-57).
30. The omission of reports that both Mayor Willie Brown and some Pentagon officials received warnings about flying on 9/11 (57).
31. The omission of the report that Osama bin Laden, who already was America's "most wanted" criminal, was treated in July 2001 by an American doctor in the American Hospital in Dubai and visited by the local CIA agent (59).
32. The omission of news stories suggesting that after 9/11 the US military in Afghanistan deliberately allowed Osama bin Laden to escape (60).
33. The omission of reports, including the report of a visit to Osama bin Laden at the hospital in Dubai by the head of Saudi intelligence, that were in tension with the official portrayal of Osama as disowned by his family and his country (60-61).
34. The omission of Gerald Posner's account of Abu Zubaydah's testimony, according to which three members of the Saudi royal family---all of whom later died mysteriously within an eight-day period---were funding al-Qaeda and had advance knowledge of the 9/11 attacks (61-65).
35. The Commission's denial that it found any evidence of Saudi funding of al-Qaeda (65-68).
36. The Commission's denial in particular that it found any evidence that money from Prince Bandar's wife, Princess Haifa, went to al-Qaeda operatives (69-70).
37. The denial, by means of simply ignoring the distinction between private and commercial flights, that the private flight carrying Saudis from Tampa to Lexington on September 13 violated the rules for US airspace in effect at the time (71-76).
38. The denial that any Saudis were allowed to leave the United States shortly after 9/11 without being adequately investigated (76-82).
39. The omission of evidence that Prince Bandar obtained special permission from the White House for the Saudi flights (82-86).
40. The omission of Coleen Rowley's claim that some officials at FBI headquarters did see the memo from Phoenix agent Kenneth Williams (89-90).
41. The omission of Chicago FBI agent Robert Wright's charge that FBI headquarters closed his case on a terrorist cell, then used intimidation to prevent him from publishing a book reporting his experiences (91).

42. The omission of evidence that FBI headquarters sabotaged the attempt by Coleen Rowley and other Minneapolis agents to obtain a warrant to search Zacarias Moussaoui's computer (91-94).
43. The omission of the 3.5 hours of testimony to the Commission by former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds—testimony that, according to her later public letter to Chairman Kean, revealed serious 9/11-related cover-ups by officials at FBI headquarters (94-101).
44. The omission of the fact that General Mahmoud Ahmad, the head of Pakistan's intelligence agency (the ISI), was in Washington the week prior to 9/11, meeting with CIA chief George Tenet and other US officials (103-04).
45. The omission of evidence that ISI chief Ahmad had ordered \$100,000 to be sent to Mohamed Atta prior to 9/11 (104-07).
46. The Commission's claim that it found no evidence that any foreign government, including Pakistan, had provided funding for the al-Qaeda operatives (106).
47. The omission of the report that the Bush administration pressured Pakistan to dismiss Ahmad as ISI chief after the appearance of the story that he had ordered ISI money sent to Atta (107-09).
48. The omission of evidence that the ISI (and not merely al-Qaeda) was behind the assassination of Ahmad Shah Masood (the leader of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance), which occurred just after the week-long meeting between the heads of the CIA and the ISI (110-112).
49. The omission of evidence of ISI involvement in the kidnapping and murder of Wall Street Reporter Daniel Pearl (113).
50. The omission of Gerald Posner's report that Abu Zubaydah claimed that a Pakistani military officer, Mushaf Ali Mir, was closely connected to both the ISI and al-Qaeda and had advance knowledge of the 9/11 attacks (114).
51. The omission of the 1999 prediction by ISI agent Rajaa Gulum Abbas that the Twin Towers would be "coming down" (114).
52. The omission of the fact that President Bush and other members of his administration repeatedly spoke of the 9/11 attacks as "opportunities" (116-17).
53. The omission of the fact that The Project for the New American Century, many members of which became key figures in the Bush administration, published a document in 2000 saying that "a new Pearl Harbor" would aid its goal of obtaining funding for a rapid technological transformation of the US military (117-18).
54. The omission of the fact that Donald Rumsfeld, who as head of the commission on the US Space Command had recommended increased funding for it, used the attacks of 9/11 on that very evening to secure such funding (119-22).

55. The failure to mention the fact that three of the men who presided over the failure to prevent the 9/11 attacks—Secretary Rumsfeld, General Richard Myers, and General Ralph Eberhart---were also three of the strongest advocates for the US Space Command (122).
56. The omission of the fact that Unocal had declared that the Taliban could not provide adequate security for it to go ahead with its oil-and-gas pipeline from the Caspian region through Afghanistan and Pakistan (122-25).
57. The omission of the report that at a meeting in July 2001, US representatives said that because the Taliban refused to agree to a US proposal that would allow the pipeline project to go forward, a war against them would begin by October (125-26).
58. The omission of the fact that Zbigniew Brzezinski in his 1997 book had said that for the United States to maintain global primacy, it needed to gain control of Central Asia, with its vast petroleum reserves, and that a new Pearl Harbor would be helpful in getting the US public to support this imperial effort (127-28).
59. The omission of evidence that some key members of the Bush administration, including Donald Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz, had been agitating for a war with Iraq for many years (129-33).
60. The omission of notes of Rumsfeld's conversations on 9/11 showing that he was determined to use the attacks as a pretext for a war with Iraq (131-32).
61. The omission of the statement by the Project for the New American Century that "the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein" (133-34).
62. The claim that FAA protocol on 9/11 required the time-consuming process of going through several steps in the chain of command--even though the Report cites evidence to the contrary (158).
63. The claim that in those days there were only two air force bases in NORAD's Northeast sector that kept fighters on alert and that, in particular, there were no fighters on alert at either McGuire or Andrews (159-162).
64. The omission of evidence that Andrews Air Force Base did keep several fighters on alert at all times (162-64).
65. The acceptance of the twofold claim that Colonel Marr of NEADS had to telephone a superior to get permission to have fighters scrambled from Otis and that this call required eight minutes (165-66).
66. The endorsement of the claim that the loss of an airplane's transponder signal makes it virtually impossible for the US military's radar to track that plane (166-67).
67. The claim that the Payne Stewart interception did not show NORAD's response time to Flight 11 to be extraordinarily slow (167-69).

68. The claim that the Otis fighters were not airborne until seven minutes after they received the scramble order because they did not know where to go (174-75).
69. The claim that the US military did not know about the hijacking of Flight 175 until 9:03, when it was crashing into the South Tower (181-82).
70. The omission of any explanation of (a) why NORAD's earlier report, according to which the FAA had notified the military about the hijacking of Flight 175 at 8:43, was now to be considered false and (b) how this report, if it was false, could have been published and then left uncorrected for almost three years (182).
71. The claim that the FAA did not set up a teleconference until 9:20 that morning (183).
72. The omission of the fact that a memo by Laura Brown of the FAA says that its teleconference was established at about 8:50 and that it included discussion of Flight 175's hijacking (183-84, 186).
73. The claim that the NMCC teleconference did not begin until 9:29 (186-88).
74. The omission, in the Commission's claim that Flight 77 did not deviate from its course until 8:54, of the fact that earlier reports had said 8:46 (189-90).
75. The failure to mention that the report that a large jet had crashed in Kentucky, at about the time Flight 77 disappeared from FAA radar, was taken seriously enough by the heads of the FAA and the FBI's counterterrorism unit to be relayed to the White House (190).
76. The claim that Flight 77 flew almost 40 minutes through American airspace towards Washington without being detected by the military's radar (191-92).
77. The failure to explain, if NORAD's earlier report that it was notified about Flight 77 at 9:24 was "incorrect," how this erroneous report could have arisen, i.e., whether NORAD officials had been lying or simply confused for almost three years (192-93).
78. The claim that the Langley fighter jets, which NORAD had previously said were scrambled to intercept Flight 77, were actually scrambled in response to an erroneous report from an (unidentified) FAA controller at 9:21 that Flight 11 was still up and was headed towards Washington (193-99).
79. The claim that the military did not hear from the FAA about the probable hijacking of Flight 77 before the Pentagon was struck (204-12).
80. The claim that Jane Garvey did not join Richard Clarke's videoconference until 9:40, after the Pentagon was struck (210).
81. The claim that none of the teleconferences succeeded in coordinating the FAA and military responses to the hijackings because "none of [them] included the right officials from both the FAA and the Defense Department" ---although Richard Clarke says that his videoconference included FAA head Jane Garvey as well as Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and General Richard Myers, the

acting chair of the joint chiefs of staff (211).

82. The Commission's claim that it did not know who from the Defense Department participated in Clarke's videoconference---although Clarke's book said that it was Donald Rumsfeld and General Myers (211-212).
83. The endorsement of General Myers' claim that he was on Capitol Hill during the attacks, without mentioning Richard Clarke's contradictory account, according to which Myers was in the Pentagon participating in Clarke's videoconference (213-17).
84. The failure to mention the contradiction between Clarke's account of Rumsfeld's whereabouts that morning and Rumsfeld's own accounts (217-19).
85. The omission of Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta's testimony, given to the Commission itself, that Vice-President Cheney and others in the underground shelter were aware by 9:26 that an aircraft was approaching the Pentagon (220).
86. The claim that Pentagon officials did not know about an aircraft approaching Pentagon until 9:32, 9:34, or 9:36---in any case, only a few minutes before the building was hit (223).
87. The endorsement of two contradictory stories about the aircraft that hit the Pentagon---one in which it executed a 330-degree downward spiral (a "high-speed dive") and another in which there is no mention of this maneuver (222-23).
88. The claim that the fighter jets from Langley, which were allegedly scrambled to protect Washington from "Phantom Flight 11," were nowhere near Washington because they were mistakenly sent out to sea (223-24).
89. The omission of all the evidence suggesting that the aircraft that hit the Pentagon was not Flight 77 (224-25).
90. The claim that the military was not notified by the FAA about Flight 93's hijacking until after it crashed (227-29, 232, 253).
91. The twofold claim that the NMCC did not monitor the FAA-initiated conference and then was unable to get the FAA connected to the NMCC-initiated teleconference (230-31).
92. The omission of the fact that the Secret Service is able to know everything that the FAA knows (233).
93. The omission of any inquiry into why the NMCC initiated its own teleconference if, as Laura Brown of the FAA has said, this is not standard protocol (234).
94. The omission of any exploration of why General Montague Winfield not only had a rookie (Captain Leidig) take over his role as the NMCC's Director of Operations but also left him in charge after it was clear that the Pentagon was facing an unprecedented crisis (235-36).

95. The claim that the FAA (falsely) notified the Secret Service between 10:10 and 10:15 that Flight 93 was still up and headed towards Washington (237).
96. The claim that Vice President Cheney did not give the shoot-down authorization until after 10:10 (several minutes after Flight 93 had crashed) and that this authorization was not transmitted to the US military until 10:31 (237-41).
97. The omission of all the evidence indicating that Flight 93 was shot down by a military plane (238-39, 252-53).
98. The claim that Richard Clarke did not receive the requested shoot-down authorization until 10:25 (240).
99. The omission of Clarke's own testimony, which suggests that he received the shoot-down authorization by 9:50 (240).
100. The claim that Cheney did not reach the underground shelter (the PEOC [Presidential Emergency Operations Center]) until 9:58 (241-44).
101. The omission of multiple testimony, including that of Norman Mineta to the Commission itself, that Cheney was in the PEOC before 9:20 (241-44).
102. The claim that shoot-down authorization must be given by the president (245).
103. The omission of reports that Colonel Marr ordered a shoot-down of Flight 93 and that General Winfield indicated that he and others at the NMCC had expected a fighter jet to reach Flight 93 (252).
104. The omission of reports that there were two fighter jets in the air a few miles from NYC and three of them only 200 miles from Washington (251).
105. The omission of evidence that there were at least six bases with fighters on alert in the northeastern part of the United States (257-58).
106. The endorsement of General Myers' claim that NORAD had defined its mission in terms of defending only against threats from abroad (258-62).
107. The endorsement of General Myers' claim that NORAD had not recognized the possibility that terrorists might use hijacked airliners as missiles (262-63).
108. The failure to highlight the significance of evidence presented in the Report itself, and to mention other evidence, showing that NORAD had indeed recognized the threat that hijacked airliners might be used as missiles (264-67).
109. The failure to probe the issue of how the "war games" scheduled for that day were related to the military's failure to intercept the hijacked airliners (268-69).
110. The failure to discuss the possible relevance of Operation Northwoods to the attacks of 9/11 (269-71).

111. The claim---made in explaining why the military did not get information about the hijackings in time to intercept them---that FAA personnel inexplicably failed to follow standard procedures some 16 times (155-56, 157, 179, 180, 181, 190, 191, 193, 194, 200, 202-03, 227, 237, 272-75).
112. The failure to point out that the Commission's claimed "independence" was fatally compromised by the fact that its executive director, Philip Zelikow, was virtually a member of the Bush administration (7-9, 11-12, 282-84).
113. The failure to point out that the White House first sought to prevent the creation of a 9/11 Commission, then placed many obstacles in its path, including giving it extremely meager funding (283-85).
114. The failure to point out that the Commission's chairman, most of the other commissioners, and at least half of the staff had serious conflicts of interest (285-90, 292-95).
115. The failure of the Commission, while bragging that it presented its final report "without dissent," to point out that this was probably possible only because Max Cleland, the commissioner who was most critical of the White House and swore that he would not be part of "looking at information only partially," had to resign in order to accept a position with the Export-Import Bank, and that the White House forwarded his nomination for this position only after he was becoming quite outspoken in his criticisms (290-291).

I will close by pointing out that I concluded my study of what I came to call "the Kean-Zelikow Report" by writing that it, "far from lessening my suspicions about official complicity, has served to confirm them. Why would the minds in charge of this final report engage in such deception if they were not trying to cover up very high crimes?" (291)

<http://www.septembereleventh.org/newsarchive/2005-05-22-571pglie.php>

Key Witnesses Blatantly 'Overlooked' in Official Coverup

The Omission Of Key Evidence Is The 'Smoking Gun' Clue Of The 9/11 Report

[NOTE: The list below does not include William Rodriguez, nor Scott Forbes, among others. Rodriguez, hailed as a 9/11 hero for his prodigious courage during rescue efforts, had to leverage his "celebrity" in order to gain an audience with the Commission. His explicit testimony of repeated explosions during the ordeal -- explosions which began in the WTC Basement from which he had managed building maintenance for twenty years -- in the seconds before the airplane impact above, was ignored by the Commission. Forbes, who worked in the Towers, and debriefed later by Scotland Yard regarding the unprecedented pre-911 evacuations, security bypassing power-downs and "concrete dust producing" weekend work being done by outside maintenance crews -- was not allowed to testify at all before the 911 Commission, despite repeated requests on his part.]

Below Are Some of The People Who Held Crucial Missing Elements of the 9/11 Story But Whose Pivotal Knowledge Was Not Reported by the Official 9/11 Commission Even Though Known By Witnesses Within The FBI

John O'Neill - FBI (Dead)
John Pistole - FBI (Alive)
Robert Wright - FBI (Alive)
Sibel Edmonds - FBI (Alive)
Lt General Mahmoud - ISI (Alive)
Omar Sheikh - ISI (Death Sentence)
Daniel Pearl - WSJ (Dead)
Robert Baer - Ex CIA (Alive)

Read details of their missing evidence at:

<http://www.btinternet.com/~nlpwessex/Documents/WAT911OmissionReport.htm#FightSmartListing>

The Commission's Glaring Denial of the Importance of 9/11 Funding

"Director General of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen Mahmud Ahmed has been replaced after the FBI investigators established credible links between him and Umar Sheikh, one of the three militants released in exchange for passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane in 1999. The FBI team, which had sought adequate inputs about various terrorists including Sheikh from the intelligence agencies, was working on the linkages between Sheikh and former ISI chief Gen Mahmud which are believed to have been substantiated, reports PTI website. Informed sources said there were enough indications with the US intelligence agencies that it was at Gen Mahmud's instruction that Sheikh had transferred 100,000 US dollars into the account of Mohammed Atta, one of the lead terrorists in strikes at the World Trade Centre on Sept 11, it adds."

Gen Mahmud's exit due to links with Umar Sheikh
Dawn (Pakistan), 9 October 2001

How Did The 9/11 Commission
Avoid The Issue Of Disclosing Who Funded 9/11?

Simple -- By Not Discussing It:

"To date, the U.S. government has not been able to determine the origin of the money used for the 9/11 attacks. Ultimately the question is of little practical significance."

THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT, JULY 2004 (p.172)

Incredibly, Analysis Of The Funding of The 9/11 Plot is Given Just Three Paragraphs (On p172) Out of a More Than 500 Page Report

Even Though The FBI Had Earlier Told A Senate Committee That It Had Traced The Origins Of The 9/11 Funding To Accounts In Pakistan

"An FBI official has told a Senate hearing here that investigators had 'traced the origin of the funding of 9/11 back to financial accounts in Pakistan, where high-ranking and well-known Al Qaeda operatives played a major role in moving the money forward, eventually into the hands of the hijackers located in the US.' John S. Pistole, deputy assistant director of the FBI's counter terrorism division, did not

specify how those accounts in Pakistan were funded. He was testifying before the Senate Governmental Affairs committee on Thursday."

Pakistan linked to 9/11 funds
Daily Times (Pakistan), 2 August 2003

"To date, the U.S. government has not been able to determine the origin of the money used for the 9/11 attacks. Ultimately the question is of little practical significance."

THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT, JULY 2004 (p.172)

Why Is That?

"I think there is very compelling evidence that at least some of the terrorists were assisted not just in financing -- although that was part of it -- by a sovereign foreign government and that we have been derelict in our duty to track that down... It will become public at some point when it's turned over to the archives, but that's 20 or 30 years from now. I do not believe we got the full cooperation that we needed. As an example, as of today there are 13 requests outstanding with the FBI alone for additional information which would help us follow the trail - including the trail of foreign government involvement. That agency and others have been reticent to come forward."

Senator Bob Graham, Chairman of the
Senate Select Committee On Intelligence
Improving Intelligence
PBS Online, 11 Dec 2002

"Over three years ago, more than four months prior to the September 11 terrorist attacks, in April 2001, a long-term FBI informant/asset who had been providing the bureau with information since 1990, provided two FBI agents and a translator with specific information regarding a terrorist attack being planned by Osama Bin Laden. This asset/informant was previously a high-level intelligence officer in Iran in charge of intelligence from Afghanistan. Through his contacts in Afghanistan he received information that: 1) Osama Bin Laden was planning a major terrorist attack in the United States targeting 4-5 major cities, 2) the attack was going to involve airplanes, 3) some of the individuals in charge of carrying out this attack were already in place in the United States, 4) the attack was going to be carried out soon, in a few months. The agents who received this information reported it to their superior, Special Agent in Charge of Counterterrorism, Thomas Fields, at the FBI Washington Field Office, by filing '302' forms, and the translator translated and documented this information. No action was taken by the Special Agent in Charge, and after 9/11 the agents and the translators were told to 'keep quiet' regarding this issue. The translator who was present during the session with the FBI informant, Mr. Behrooz Sarshar, reported this incident to Director Mueller in writing, and later to the Department of Justice Inspector General.... After almost three years since September 11, many officials still refuse to admit to having specific information regarding the terrorists' plans to attack the United States.... Why did your report choose to exclude the information regarding the Iranian asset and Behrooz Sarshar from its timeline of missed opportunities?... To this date the public has not been told of intentional blocking of intelligence..... If Counterintelligence receives information that contains money laundering, illegal arms sale, and illegal drug activities, directly linked to terrorist activities; and if that

information involves certain nations, certain semi-legit organizations, and ties to certain lucrative or political relations in this country, then, that information is not shared with Counterterrorism, regardless of the possible severe consequences. In certain cases, frustrated FBI agents cited 'direct pressure by the State Department,' and in other cases 'sensitive diplomatic relations' is cited.....

After almost three years the American people still do not know that thousands of lives can be jeopardized under the unspoken policy of 'protecting certain foreign business relations.' The victims family members still do not realize that information and answers they have sought relentlessly for over two years has been blocked due to the unspoken decisions made and disguised under 'safeguarding certain diplomatic relations.'

Despite your full awareness and understanding of certain criminal conduct that connects to certain terrorist related activities, committed by certain U.S. officials and high-level government employees, you have not proposed criminal investigations into this conduct, although under the laws of this country you are required to do so.....

As you are fully aware, these issues and incidents were found confirmed by a Senior Republican Senator, Charles Grassley, and a Senior Democrat Senator, Patrick Leahy. As you know, according to officials with direct knowledge of the Department of Justice Inspector General's report on my allegations, 'none of my allegations were disproved.' As you are fully aware, even FBI officials 'confirmed all my allegations and denied none' during their unclassified meetings with the Senate Judiciary staff over two years ago. However, neither your commission's hearings, nor your commission's five hundred sixty seven-page report, nor your recommendations include these serious issues....."

Open Letter To Thomas Kean --
Chairman Of The 9/11 Commission
From Former FBI Translator And Whistleblower
Sibel Edmonds
Asia Times, 5 August 2004

"While the [911] commission documents the high-level ties that al-Qaida had with Pakistan's government agencies, it has failed to confirm or refute persistent, credible reports connecting key Pakistan government officials to the 9/11 attacks.... While 9/11 commission co-chairman Thomas Kean considers the panel's report definitive, it has a glaring hole with the money trail. The panel says the attacks cost somewhere between \$400,000 and \$500,000 to execute. Where did the money come from? Despite reports of ISI links, the report says al-Qaida had many sources of funding, but the commission could not find out where the 9/11 funds originated. On Oct. 9, 2001, the Pakistani daily Dawn reported the ISI director-general, Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Ahmed, was fired after FBI investigators established a link between him and a \$100,000 wire transfer to 9/11 lead hijacker Mohammed Atta in the summer of 2000. This report was also carried by the Wall Street Journal. Paul Sperry, Washington bureau chief for WorldNetDaily.com, wrote in his Jan. 30, 2002, column that Dennis Lormel, who until the end of 2003 led the FBI's terrorist finance investigations, confirmed this transaction.... On May 15, 2003, a group of 9/11 victims' relatives met with the commission co-chairman Thomas Kean and other senior staff and submitted a list of questions, which included a mention of Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Ahmed. A June 17, 2004, the New York Times reported that Lorie Van Auken, whose husband died in the World Trade

Center, was 'irate' that the June 16 commission narrative of the 9/11 attacks did not even mention the allegation about Ahmed's role in the \$100,000 transfer to Mohammed Atta. Clearly, the ISI link is no mere conspiracy theory."

Outside View: 9/11 report sidesteps Pakistan
United Press International, 26 July 2004

"Pakistan on Friday denied a report claiming that its intelligence officers knew in advance of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks. The report by Arnaud de Borchgrave, a journalist awarded by the Zia regime for his reporting on the Afghan war, also claimed that Al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden was treated at a military hospital in Peshawar.... Mr de Borchgrave....claimed that on the eve of the publication of its report, the 9/11 commission received a document from Pakistan showing that Pakistani intelligence officers knew in advance of the attacks.... The document, according to the report, claimed that Pakistani intelligence had been actively facilitating the relocation of Al Qaeda from Afghanistan to Pakistan and that some serving and retired intelligence officers were still helping the network. Such officers, the report said, had provided money and directions to militant groups, specially the Arab hijackers of 9/11 from Al Qaeda. The document, apparently, failed to impress the authors of the commission's report....."

'Pakistan had no hint of 9/11 attacks'
Dawn (Pakistan), 24 July 2004

"Business as usual. That's the message of today's 9-11 Commission report. No one is held accountable for anything.... Writing today in The Guardian (U.K.), Michael Meacher, a member of the British Parliament and former environment minister, pointed out that Omar Sheikh, who's about to hang for the murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, wired \$100,000 before the 9-11 attacks to lead hijacker Mohammed Atta—on the orders of General Mahmoud Ahmed, then head of the ISI. And it turns out, Meacher writes, that General Ahmed was in D.C. on September 11, 2001: He had just had a series of meetings 'in the White House, the Pentagon, the National Security Council, and with George Tenet.... and Marc Grossman, the undersecretary of state for political affairs. **When Ahmed was exposed by The Wall Street Journal as having sent the money to the hijackers, he was forced to 'retire' by President Pervez Musharraf. Why hasn't the U.S. demanded that he be questioned and tried in court?'**

Then Meacher zooms in on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a bin Laden lieutenant often identified in reports as 'KSM.' He was arrested in Pakistan in March 2003. A congressional report has identified him as having been 'active in recruiting people to travel outside Afghanistan, including to the U.S., on behalf of bin Laden.' Meacher wryly notes that, although the CIA and FBI were both aware of that, 'neither agency apparently recognized the significance of a bin Laden lieutenant sending terrorists to the U.S. and asking them to establish contacts with colleagues already there.' And he points out that The New York Times has already written that 'American officials said that KSM, once Al Qaeda's top operational commander, personally executed Daniel Pearl..... but he was unlikely to be accused of the crime in an American criminal court because of the risk of divulging classified information.' Meacher adds, 'Indeed, he may never be brought to trial.' Bottom line: Some events preceding 9-11 implicate too many people high up in both the Clinton and Bush administrations for either Kerry or Bush to raise the issue in an election campaign."

"In London's prestigious The Guardian (July 22, 2004), Michael Meacher, a Labor MP writing a piece on 'The Pakistan Connection' has made [the] sensational disclosure that a British Pakistani Islamist Omar Saeed Sheikh, waiting to be hanged in Pakistan for the alleged murder of the Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in 2002 [is] held by both the US government and Pearl's wife not responsible for the murder while Islamabad refuses to try other suspects newly implicated in Pearl's kidnap and murder for fear the evidence they produce in court might acquit Sheikh. Sheikh is the man who knows too much and Pakistani authorities fear that if he gets out of their hands, he might spill their secret beans since he had been involved in their key operations. According to Meacher Sheikh had been the conduit for transferring US\$100,000 by Gen Mahmud Ahmed, the then head of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to Mohammed Atta, the [9/11] lead hijacker.' Meacher wants General Mahmud to be questioned and put on trial.... For years the CIA used the ISI as a conduit to pump billions of dollars into militant Islamist groups in Afghanistan, both before and after the Soviet invasion of 1979....

The case of Ahmed confirms that parts of the ISI directly supported and financed Al-Qaeda, and it has long been established that the ISI has acted as go-between in intelligence operations on behalf of the CIA."

Wajid Shamsul Hasan,
Former Pakistan High Commissioner to UK
"Is Aziz the Continuity Factor For Washington After
Musharraf?"
South Asia Tribune, 29 July 2004

"Confusion" and "Incompetance:"

**The Two Most Often Employed Explanatory Tactics of Cover-Up
Predictably Absent Any Effort Toward Accountability
More Often Followed by Promotion Rather than Punishment**

"A chilling new detail of U.S. intelligence failures emerged Thursday, when the Justice Department disclosed that about 20 months before the Sept. 11 attacks, a CIA official had blocked a memo intended to alert the FBI that two known Al Qaeda operatives had entered the country.

The two men were among the 19 hijackers who crashed airliners into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania..... If the FBI had received the official communique from the CIA's special Osama bin Laden unit when it was ready for transmittal in January 2000, its agents likely could have tracked down the men, according to U.S. intelligence officials familiar with a newly declassified report of the Justice Department's inspector general. The report's conclusion that an agent had written a memo specifically designed for transmittal to the FBI to alert the bureau to the men's presence — and that a supervisor deliberately had prevented it from being sent — is new.

The reason the CIA official, identified by the fictitious name 'John,' put a hold on the communique remains a mystery, the report said. It said the officials

involved didn't recall the incident. Even when the author of the memo followed up a week later with an e-mail asking if it had been sent to the FBI, nothing was done. The memo was written by an FBI agent on assignment to the CIA's special Bin Laden unit. According to the report, rather than send his memo directly to the FBI, he sent it to the deputy chief of the CIA unit because only supervisors were authorized to send such memos to the FBI.... The CIA was unable to locate a response to the e-mail. Fine's report concludes that the CIA didn't turn over documentation of the electronic memo until Fine's investigators came across a reference and specifically asked for it in February 2004. That came so late in the investigation that it delayed release of the report and caused many more CIA and FBI officials to be interviewed, the report says. Ultimately, Fine's investigators gave up trying to find an explanation."

Memo on 9/11 Plotters Blocked
Los Angeles Times, 10 June 2005

"After the 9/11 attacks, when American forces began capturing Taliban and al Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan, [FBI Director] Mueller made a key decision: He refused to allow his agents to be present at any of the interrogations by the CIA and military personnel at secret locations around the world and at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The decision angered FBI agents who had worked on previous terrorism investigations involving some of these same shady characters--including Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the self-proclaimed mastermind of the 9/11 attacks...."

Dodging a peck of trouble
US News, 28 March 2005

"A former Pakistani diplomat has told the BBC that the US was planning military action against Osama Bin Laden and the Taleban even before last week's attacks. Niaz Naik, a former Pakistani Foreign Secretary, was told by senior American officials in mid-July that military action against Afghanistan would go ahead by the middle of October. Mr Naik said US officials told him of the plan at a UN-sponsored international contact group on Afghanistan which took place in Berlin.... Mr Naik was told that Washington would launch its operation from bases in Tajikistan, where American advisers were already in place. He said that he was in no doubt that after the World Trade Center bombings this pre-existing US plan had been built upon and would be implemented within two or three weeks."

US 'planned attack on Taleban'
BBC Online, 18 September 2001

"Both civilian and military officials of the Defense Department state flatly that neither Congress nor the American public would have supported large-scale military operations in Afghanistan before the shock of 9/11."

The Military
9/11 Commission Staff Statement No 6, 2004

"The United States needs bases in Central Asia to ensure security and stability in the region, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers has said. Commenting on the demand by Russia and China that the US leave the bases now that the Afghan war is over, Myers said 'Central Asia is important to the United States for lots of reasons, not just for operations in Afghanistan.'"

US needs bases in Central Asia: General Myers
Press Trust of India, 15 July 2005

"...for the foreseeable future oil will remain an essential commodity. Greater attention must therefore be given to increasing supplies of oil in ways that diversify supplies from areas other than the Persian Gulf. The most promising new source of world supplies is the Caspian region, which appears to contain the largest petroleum reserves discovered since the North Sea. This geopolitical crossroad, which includes Iran, Russia, and a number of newly-independent states [i.e. the 'stans'] struggling with post-Soviet modernization and dangers of Islamic extremism, demands more attention by American policymakers."

AMERICA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS
A Report from The Commission on
America's National Interests, July 2000
Co-authored by Richard Armitage et al [pdf]
(Richard Armitage, a supporter of the PNAC agenda,
became deputy Secretary of State with specific
responsibility for Pakistan and other Asian states in
2001)

"Henry Kissinger, former US secretary of state, on Wednesday warned that the global battle for control of energy resources could become the modern equivalent of the 19th century 'great game' the conflict between the UK and Tsarist Russia for supremacy in central Asia. 'The great game is developing again,' he told a meeting of the US-India Business Council.

"The amount of energy is finite, up to now in relation to demand, and competition for access to energy can become the life and death for many societies. It would be ironic if the direction of pipelines and locations become the modern equivalent of the colonial disputes of the 19th century.' "

Kissinger warns of energy conflict
Financial Times, 1 June 2005

"A free press is one where it's OK to state the conclusion you're led to by the evidence."

Bill Moyers
The Battle for PBS
In These Times, 31 May 2005

<http://www.btinternet.com/~nlpwessex/Documents/WAT911OmissionReport.htm>

Meanwhile --

The Unmentioned Mechanism at Work in the Background of All These Lies:

War And Oil -- Global Energy Crisis Looming -- Information at:

<http://www.btinternet.com/~nlpwessex/Documents/energycrisis.htm>

What is the 9/11 Truth? -- The First Steps

(Journal for 9/11 Studies August 2006/Volume 2)

http://72.14.253.104/search?q=cache:xs9AOEdU3MYJ:worldtradecentertruth.com/Article_1_Ryan5.pdf+Journal+for+9/11+Studies+August+2006/Volume+2&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=1

What Really Happened on 9/11:

A Condensed, Comprehensive Analysis with Links to the 9/11 Commission Report

<http://freedom4um.com/cgi-bin/readart.cgi?ArtNum=34437>

9/11 Commission Report per Citizen Watch

<http://www.ratical.org//////////ratville/JFK/JohnJudge/CWstatI102003.html#p13g>

Kevin Ryan of Underwriters Laboratory

The Observation that cost him his job:

**Underwriters Laboratories Executive Kevin Ryan Speaks Out of WTC Study
“The buildings should have easily withstood the thermal stresses caused by pools of burning jet fuel.”**

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20041112144051451>

An Example of Effective Action:

Scholars and other educators have historically played a significant role in effecting social and political change, and the public often looks to academic experts for leadership in this area. Public demonstrations, civil disobedience, economic boycotts, petitions and appeals to Congress are just a few examples of different types of actions. Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice advocates only civility and nonviolence in any actions we support.

One recent example of an effective action by a group of scholars, in January of 2007, involved a Pentagon official publicly calling for US corporations to boycott any law firms who had helped Guantanamo detainees pro bono (and proceeded to list those who were helping). In response, more than 100 deans from the nation's law schools quickly organized to sign on and produce a strong public statement denouncing the official. By the next day the official had rescinded his statements and apologized.

We believe that in addition to spreading information through essays, talks and media, actions may be required to bring the necessary change to expose the truths of the 9/11 attacks. Below are actions and ideas for actions which we support and encourage you to participate in.

Ø **Support the Legal Defense Fund for Whistleblower Kevin Ryan:**

<http://ultruth.com/>

Help hold Underwriters Laboratories accountable for its role in testing the World Trade Center steel.

Ø **Sign the petition “Scholars Call for Release of 9/11 Information:”**

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/929981172?tl=1141667399>

Ø **Support whistleblower Sibel Edmonds:**

http://stj911.com/actions/Sibel_Edmonds.html

<http://stj911.com/action.html>

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12.28 World Trade Center Building Seven: The Third Skyscraper to Fail on 9/11

[Reiteration of Reference 11.6]

The Sudden Implosion of WTC Building Seven

By David R. Kimball

July 30, 2005

Everyone remembers the Twin Towers exploding at 9:59AM and 10:28AM EDT on September 11, 2001. Comparatively few people can recall that there was a third massive skyscraper, also a part of the World Trade Center, which fell very rapidly to the ground on that day. This was World Trade Center Building 7.

One reason that few remember WTC Building 7's collapse is that after September 11th it has been treated, both in the media and in The 9/11 Commission Report, as if it didn't happen.

“The total collapse of the third huge skyscraper late in the afternoon September 11th was reported as if it were an insignificant footnote... most people never saw video of Building 7's collapse... Incredibly, it is virtually impossible to find any mention of Building 7 in newspapers, magazines, or broadcast media reports after September 11th.”

“The Commission avoids another embarrassing problem – explaining how WTC 7 could have collapsed, also virtually at free-fall speed – by simply not mentioning the collapse of this building.”

The collapse of Building 7 at 5:20PM EDT was in itself a major event; the sudden and unexplained fall to earth of a 47-story steel-framed skyscraper is certainly news. Why has there been almost no mention of this in the U.S. media, and why was there no mention of Building 7's collapse in The 9/11 Commission Report? These are questions of great significance, and they cry out for answers. To be able to approach any kind of explanation, however, first some pertinent and verified facts of the Building 7 aspect of 9/11 need to be scrutinized.

The following eleven facts have been compiled from the research of reputable sources – those who have dared to question and have devoted innumerable hours into discovering what really happened on 9/11.

FACT 1: WTC Building 7 was one of the largest buildings in downtown Manhattan. It was 47 stories tall, about half the height of the Towers, and took up an entire city block. It was 300 feet from the closest Twin Tower (the North Tower, WTC 1), and was a steel-framed, concrete structure.

FACT 2: WTC Building 7 – on its 23rd floor – housed an Emergency Command Center for the City of New York that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani had built in the mid-1990's. On the morning of September 11th, Mayor Giuliani did not go “to his Command Center – with its clear view of the Twin Towers – but to a makeshift, street-level headquarters at 75 Barkley Street.” WTC 7 also held the offices of numerous government agencies, including the Department of Defense, the CIA, the Secret Service, the IRS, and the Security and Exchange Commission. Late 2001 was the time of “the height of the investigation into Enron, so the majority of Enron’s SEC filings were likely destroyed when World Trade Center 7 came down.”

FACT 3: WTC Building 7 was not hit by airplane or significant debris on September 11th. It had been evacuated after the planes hit the towers. By the afternoon of September 11th, there were a few small fires of unknown origin evident in the building, and these small fires could be seen in only a few of the hundreds and hundreds of windows in the building.

FACT 4: On September 11, 2001, at 5:20PM, EDT, World Trade Center Building 7 suddenly and rapidly collapsed. Beginning with the penthouse, all 47 stories of it imploded into its own footprint in less than seven seconds. Three different videos of Building 7’s vertical collapse – two from CBS video broadcasts, and one from an NBC news camera – can be seen online at <http://wtc7.net/videos.html>.

FACT 5: On September 16th, NASA flew an airplane over the World Trade Center site, recorded infrared radiation coming from the ground, and created a thermal map. The U.S. Geological Survey analyzed this data, and determined the actual temperature of the rubble. This map shows that five days after the collapse of Building 7, the surface temperature of a section of its rubble was 1,341° F. This high a temperature is indicative of the use of explosives.

“WTC 7’s rubble pile continued to smolder for months.”

FACT 6: Fire Engineering magazine is the 125-year-old paper-of-record of the fire engineering community. Bill Manning, editor-in-chief, wrote an Editor’s Opinion in the January, 2002 edition. His editorial, *Selling Out the Investigation*, pointed out that destruction of evidence – the hurried removal of rubble which should be examined by investigators – is illegal. He also issued a “call to action.” To quote excerpts:

“For more than three months, structural steel from the World Trade Center has been and continues to be cut up and sold for scrap. Crucial evidence that could answer many questions ... is on the slow boat to China...”

“I have combed through our national standard for fire investigation, NFPA 921, but nowhere in it does one find an exemption allowing the destruction of evidence for buildings over 10 stories tall.”

“Fire Engineering has good reason to believe that the ‘official investigation’

blessed by FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] and run by the American Society of Civil Engineers **is a half baked farce** [emphasis Mr. Kimball's] that may have already been commandeered by political forces whose primary interests, to put it mildly, lie far afield of full disclosure. Except for the marginal benefit obtained from a three-day, visual walk-through of evidence sites conducted by ASCE investigation committee members – described by one close source as a 'tourist trip' – no one's checking evidence for anything."

"The destruction and removal of evidence must stop immediately."

"Firefighters, this is your call to action. ...contact your representatives in Congress and officials in Washington and help us correct this problem immediately."

FACT 7: In May of 2002, FEMA published their report #403 titled World Trade Center Building Performance Study. This report claims that the fires caused the building to collapse, but that the specifics of how this is supposed to have occurred "...remain unknown at this time."

FACT 8: The collapse of WTC Building 7 shows five characteristics of a controlled demolition:

1. It "dropped directly into its own footprint in a smooth, vertical motion;"
2. It "collapsed completely in less than seven seconds;"
3. "Dust streamed out of the upper floors of Building 7 early in its collapse;"
4. "WTC 7's roof inverted toward its middle as the collapse progressed;" and
5. "WTC 7's rubble was mostly confined to the block on which the building stood."

FACT 9: "Larry Silverstein is a rather large player within the realms of 21st Century real estate, finance, and politics." He "...had taken out a long lease on the World Trade Center only six weeks before 9/11. In a PBS documentary entitled 'America Rebuilds', originally aired in September of 2002, Silverstein made the following statement about Building 7:

'I remember getting a call from the, er, fire department commander, telling me that they were not sure they were gonna be able to contain the fire, and I said, "We've had such terrible loss of life, maybe the smartest thing to do is pull it." And they made that decision to pull, and we watched the building collapse.'"

FACT 10: "It is inconceivable that anyone could be running around placing explosives in exactly the right places all within seven hours. In fact, implosions take a minimum of two weeks and up to two months to plan and place the charges. The fire department of New York does not even train their personnel to do controlled demolition. They are done by highly skilled experienced specialists who plan and test far ahead."

FACT 11: "... [George W.] Bush's brother, Marvin Bush, and his cousin, Wirt Walker III, were principles in the company [Stratesec, formerly named Securacom] that was in charge of security for the World Trade Center, with Walker being the CEO from 1999 until January 2002."

In Summation: A major aspect of 9/11 has been excluded from the entire U.S. media after September 11th, and was also omitted from The 9/11 Commission Report. This was the sudden fall to earth, on September 11th, 2001, of World Trade Center Building 7. Not hit by airplane or significant debris, 300 feet from the closest Twin Tower, and with just a few small fires burning within it, at 5:20PM EDT this massive concrete and steel-framed 47-story skyscraper imploded into its own footprint in less than seven seconds. Its rapid implosion had all of the characteristics of a controlled demolition, and the World Trade Center leaseholder, Larry Silverstein, stated in so many words that the building had been collapsed by demolition. It takes weeks, if not months, to prepare the demolition of a building as large as WTC 7; this implosion could not have been engineered and implemented in seven chaotic hours on September 11th. Therefore, a question emerges:

Who had the means and expertise to engineer such a demolition and acquire needed materiel, and who had access to WTC Building 7 PRIOR TO September 11, 2001 in order to place the explosives?

An inquiry into the answer to this question might be a good place to begin a search for the real perpetrators of 9/11. Do we, the citizens of the United States, have the courage and honesty necessary to initiate an actual investigation, or will we continue living a Lie – and reap the consequences?

“Why do you notice the splinter in your friend’s eye, but overlook the timber in your own?”

-- Jesus of Nazareth

NOTE: Visit the website for a list of Mr. Kimball’s references.

<http://www.wtc7.net/articles/kimball/thirdskyscraper.html>

VIDEO: WTC Lease Owner Larry Silverstein

His Broadcast Admission of Building Seven Being “Pulled”:

WTC lease holder, Larry Silverstein, commenting on the controlled demolition of Building 7 in the PBS documentary "America Rebuilds," which aired in September of 2002:

“I remember getting a call from the, er.... fire department commander, telling me that they were not sure they were gonna be able to contain the fire, and I said, 'We've had such terrible loss of life, maybe the smartest thing to do is pull it.' And they made that decision to pull and we watched the building collapse.”

In the same documentary, America Rebuilds, a clean up worker at ground zero uses the term "pull" to describe the upcoming controlled demolition of Building 6 –

(Using the word “pull” as slang for “demolish”)

Unidentified Construction Worker:

"Hello? Oh, we're getting ready to pull building six."

Video: http://www.911blogger.com/files/video/wtc7_pbs.WMV

VIDEO: Luis Mendes, NYC Dept of Design and Construction:

"We had to be very careful how we demolished building six. We were worried about the building six coming down and then damaging the slurry walls, so we wanted that particular building to fall within a certain area."

http://thewebfairy.com/killtown/video/wtc7/pull_wtc6.wmv

VIDEO: Explosive Squibs as Building Seven Plunges to the Ground

http://st12.startlogic.com/~xenonpup/Flashes/squibs_along_southwest_corner.htm

VIDEO: Closeup of WTC 7 Footage Shows Unmistakable Demolition Charges

http://www.libertyforum.org/showflat.php?Cat=&Board=consp_911&Number=293140235

VIDEO: Building Seven Videos; CBS Video Frames at One Second Intervals

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/wtc/videos.html>

VIDEO: Larry Silverstein Recalling the Decision to "PULL" Building Seven

(The Version Below adds Contextual Information about Building Seven on the Day)

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4779078755753451581&q=Larry+Silverstein&hl=en>

(The Version Below is only Silverstein's "Pull it" recollection.)

<http://impeachpac.org/?q=node/1203>

How could Building Seven have been "pulled" without the prior placement of explosives? What does this issue portend regarding Towers One and Two?

NOTE: The site below contains several extremely compelling posts from photographer Tom Gordon, who first landed a job taking pictures of the WTC in 1988. According to Gordon, a case of mistaken identity put him high up in the North Tower one day in a room full of men being told their jobs had just ended after ten years of "service" to a particularly demanding and secretive client. The jobs (he learned at lunch) had centered on finding an economically feasible way to "deconstruct" the towers -- a process that aging and the decentralization of the finance industry that had accompanied the dawn of internet would soon make necessary. Among the intriguing aspects of Gordon's history are a diagram of the bizarre framing of WTC Building 7 -- an asymmetrical design that one disgruntled engineer implied was intended to function as a (facing-side collapsible) scaffold in the event of the toppling of the North Tower (as was subsequently attempted in 1993). Another document included is a simple drawing of the lateral dimensions of the 112 stories of scaffolding which would prove necessary (in the eyes of men of more limited vision) to take the buildings apart. The drawing is entitled "Deconstruction Plan -- World Trade Center."

But what is more compelling, perhaps, to those who seek to understand the failure of World Trade Center Seven, is the fact that the asymmetrical framing observed could not have produced the structure's perfectly simultaneous plunge to the ground on all sides -- were it not for the meticulous application of vast amounts of explosive energy to the portions of the building which were redundantly box-framed, to allow them to come apart at the same pace as the portions which were very lightly framed. The architectural diagram compared to the videos of this building's death speaks again of the presence of a deconstructive professionalism of the very highest order.

<http://www.rense.com/general47/pulled.htm>

Was Building Seven the True Destination of United 93?

A possible explanation for the pre-planting of explosives that led to its demolition.

http://www.gnn.tv/blogs/13977/Another_Angle_on_the_Destruction_of_WTC_Building_Seven

911 was an Inside Job, Our Nation is in Peril

Looped Video of the Failure of Building Seven

**"Those who have the privilege to know have the duty to act."
-- Albert Einstein**

Links to many DVDs, etcetera

<http://www.911sharethetruth.com/>

SLIDESHOW: Building Seven, the Untold Story

Exposing the fraud of the government's story.

<http://911research.wtc7.net/talks/b7/index.html>

The Demolition of WTC 7 Compared with Other Professional Demolitions

**Taken from an Italian Television Show
(No such comparison has appeared on an American Broadcast Network)**

<http://www.911podcasts.com/files/video/Italiandebateshow-WTC7.wmv>

NOTE:

The DVD: 911 Eyewitness recorded the sounds of the explosions that felled WTC 7.

Also: The 911 Research website.....

<http://911research.wtc7.net/index.html>

provides a remarkably thorough examination of the entire 911 drama, and its implications for America and the world.

List of Tenants in World Trade Center Seven on 9/11

Tenant	Square Feet	Floor	Industry
Salomon Smith Barney	1,202,900	Grnd, 1-6, 13, 18-46	Financial
Internal Revenue Service	90,430	24, 25	Government
U.S. Secret Service	85,343	9, 10	Government
American Express Bank	106,117	7, 8, 13	Financial
Standard Chartered Bank	111,398	10, 13, 26, 27	Financial
Provident Financial Management	9,000	7, 13	Financial
ITT Hartford Insurance Group	122,590	19-21	Insurance
First State Management Group	4,000	21	Insurance
Federal Home Loan Bank	47,490	22	Financial
NAIC Securities	22,500	19	Insurance
Securities & Exchange Comm	106,117	11, 12, 13	Financial/Gov
Office of Emergency Mgmt*	45,815	23	Government

*Mayor Giuliani's Command Center

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/background/tenants.html#wtc7>

File Under OOOOOPS! More Evidence that the 911 Legend was a Bit of a Rush Job

The BBC Reports that Building Seven Has COLLAPSED --

23 MINUTES BEFORE IT HAPPENS

**BBC Reporter Solemnly Describes the Story of Building Seven's Collapse
with the Building Clearly Visible, Standing Tall Behind Her,
Until Her Live Feed is Suddenly "Lost,"
Moments Before the Actual Collapse**

Santa Fe New Mexican | March 1, 2007
Devin Green

As today is my last day setting the homepage for The Santa Fe New Mexican I thought I would bid you all farewell. I resigned two weeks ago to better pursue my personal interests. It is to my great amusement however that this day coincides with an astonishing story to share in this blog. There is an uproar rising across the Internet over what is being called yet another blatant, 9/11 smoking gun.

Early this week an independent researcher, reviewing video archives of the BBC's 9/11 coverage, divulged the discovery of an earth shaking incongruence:

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458>

BBC reporters announced the collapse of the 47 story Salomon Brothers Building 23 minutes BEFORE the actual sudden collapse:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD06SAf0p9A&eurl=http%3A%2F%2F911scholars%2Eorg%2F>

This building, also known as WTC 7, is clearly visible, standing tall, as a reporter gestures to the live view through the window behind her.

Despite the fact the Google censored the initial internet premier of this archived video, removing it from their video service, many more "mirrors" of the video were then set up across the net.

Watch the video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7SwOT29gbc&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eprisonplanet%2Ecom%2Farticles%2Ffebruary2007%2F260207building7%2Ehtm>

Some may find this simply bewildering or a coincidental mistake. For 9/11 researchers it is a further revealing piece of evidence confirming internal premeditation to demolish the WTC. In response to demands for an explanation the BBC released a statement denying confirmation and foreknowledge. I recommend everyone wanting a good laugh to read their response:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part_of_the_conspiracy.html

The BBC claim that they lost the tapes of their 9/11 coverage due to a, and I quote, "cock-up, not conspiracy."

They just happened to lose their coverage of the most critical and historic event in the 21st century? The BBC's general policy on media management states:

"The following components to be retained:

- Ø Two broadcast standard copies of all transmitted/published TV, Radio and BBCi output – one to be stored on a separate site as a master
- Ø One browse-quality version for research purposes, to protect the broadcast material
- Ø All supporting metadata to enable research and re-use
- Ø A selection of original (i.e. unedited) material for re-use/re-versioning purposes
- Ø Hardware/software/equipment to enable replay/transfer of the media"

Obviously coverage like the 9/11 attacks would have merited many more copies than everyday broadcasts. And we are to believe the are all lost?

The BBC states that the events of 9/11 are "seared" in the memory of reporter Jane Standley, but that she can't remember what happened minute by minute. Personally I think watching a building collapse just minutes after saying it already had would be quite memorable.

The BBC tries to excuse possible mistakes due to the confusion of the day. But how many other 47 story buildings are near the WTC? No other buildings fell around the time or area of the Salomon Brothers Building (WTC 7). No other steel-frame buildings in the history of the world have even collapsed "due to fire" beside WTC 1, 2 and 7. Building 7 wasn't hit by an airplane and wasn't even directly adjacent to the twin towers. Calling that shot is no coincidence.

The BBC states: "We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another." I'll say they don't clear it up, at least not how the BBC would like. **Tapes of News 24:**

(wait, let me find a new link, Google Video has now censored the footage from News 24... here is one!):

<http://media.putfile.com/time-stamped-BBC>

have other reporters claiming they "are being told" that WTC 7 has collapsed. The time-stamp on News 24 further confirms that the press release the BBC was apparently issued came out 23 minutes before the actual collapse.

"Are being told"? But the BBC now claims "We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening." And yet the BBC "rebuttal" goes on to say they always source their reports. I think we will have to follow the evidence on that one.

The BBC response finishes saying that an error is not evidence of conspiracy. (Lol. Is a random commenter on YouTube the best source they can get now?) **You call it an error if it was committed once. But three times? It has now emerged that CNN reported that WTC 7 "has either collapsed or is collapsing" while the building was still standing. Watch it here:**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1LetB0z8_o&url=

So now it should be plain to see that there was foreknowledge of Building 7's demise. But how could anyone know? **Let's listen to the man who admitted to demolishing the building explain. Ya gotta watch this video excerpted from a September 2002 PBS documentary:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WYdAJQV100>

That man is Larry Silverstein, the man who leased the WTC buildings mere months before the attack and made billions of dollars on his unusual terrorism insurance plan. "Pull it" is controlled demolition industry jargon for imploding a building. Silverstein's spokesperson later denied the admission, saying he meant "pull the firemen out of the building." Just listen to his statement though and its obvious what he meant.

Might then WTC 7's collapse have been a controlled demolition? **Watch the actual collapse again here and see what it looks like:**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tr6_WRPZjIM

That's Dan Rather's voice. Really tells it like it is there didn't he. The building wasn't in the process of collapsing minutes beforehand, but completely drops in the matter of a few seconds. It drops so fast actually that there is only one known scenario where such a free fall collapse is even physically possible. Controlled demolition.

Dr. Steven E. Jones, former physics professor of BYU University wrote a paper demonstrating this:

<http://stj911.org/>

It lead to his early retirement, but not before being published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. Dr. Jones later performed chemical analysis on melted WTC steel that suggests thermate may have been used in the demolition.

Eye witness testimonies also suggest controlled demolition. Over and over I have seen many different cases: warnings on the street going out before hand, explosions coinciding with the collapse, etc. For the sake of time I'll just mention one story here .

Why does Silverstein explain why they blew 7 up and later retract? I don't know, but in the beginning there were very few people questioning 9/11and he basically related how things went along that day. Nowadays, with Loose Change being the most popular video on Google, questions are going to be asked. Like, how could they take down the building without weeks of planning and placement?

So why the early news reports? The BBC anchor who provides an explanation for the collapse 23 minutes before it even happens may give us some idea. The demolition being planned, an explanation for a huge building disappearing in a matter of seconds might have seemed to be in order, and a press release was prepared ahead of time to start the cover up from the first moment. But perhaps the news wire went out early, or the demolition went off late. This matter, of course, remains to be properly investigated.

There are many more question to be considered, and WTC 7 is just a small part of 9/11. **For a look at the bigger picture and to answer some of those questions check out the film Terrorstorm:**

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=786048453686176230>

[NOTE: It is this writer's opinion that "Terrorstorm," while riddled with important truth about the bigger picture, suffers from Alex Jones' extremely dramatic presentation. The film "911 Mysteries," while smaller in scope -- content to make the case, quietly and brilliantly, that the WTC Buildings were brought down by explosive demolition -- is an example of the profound power of understatement.]

911 Mysteries is available at:

<http://www.question911.com/linksall.htm>

That's enough to get someone started anyway.

The BBC is quick to deny that they are "*part of the conspiracy*" (italics added) and yet ironically that statement itself almost implies that there is a conspiracy.

And thus I turn in my badge, errrr, parking permit, and say goodbye to The New Mexican. Perhaps I'm leaving you with a question though. Why aren't the big TV news programs and newspapers covering the BBC's remarkable gift for clairvoyance? If you want them to demand it of them.

Better yet, take matters of informing yourself into your own hands. As I hope this blog entry has demonstrated, we have the technology with the Internet to move from the old autocratic information paradigm into a democratic system. Instead of today's five media companies who own most of the news industry dictating self-serving knowledge to millions of Americans, information can be traded freely based on its inherent merits in a diverse and widespread self correcting network.

But to come to face the ground truth we must take the time to wean ourselves from the old pipeline and open up to a bigger picture. 911blogger is a useful site for 9/11 news in this process. Alex Jones is an excellent news source to start looking at to understand the forces of fascism, tyranny and corruption taking control of the highest levels of our government. If you like the videos I used to post occasionally in my blog there are many more in a new feature called Rense TV part way down [rense.com](http://www.rense.com). There are many others out there as well, but use your discernment to weed out disinformation. Check the sources for yourself and confirm.

Obviously I don't agree with everything presented at these sites. But that's the point. Think for yourself. Push your limits. Become your own Editor.

http://www.infowars.com/articles/sept11/bbc_wtc_7_santa_fe_new_mexican_covers_controversy.htm

The clairvoyant collapse:
BBC reports on 9/11 WTC7 collapse -- 20 minutes before the event!

Posted by IAmNoOne on Wednesday, 28 February 2007 06:07:30

"It seems this was not a result of a new attack, it was because the building had been weakened during this morning's attacks." - BBC World News studio anchorman, talking about the collapse of WTC7 at approx. 17:10 on 09/11/2001 - approx 10 minutes BEFORE the actual collapse of WTC7.

How could that conclusion have been reached before the building ACTUALLY COLLAPSED?!

<http://rattube.com/blog1/2007/02/26/the-smoking-gun-wtc7-bbc-jumps-the-gun/>

David,

Archive video footage from 9/11/2001 came to light on Monday evening (26th Feb) which shows beyond reasonable doubt that the BBC had prior knowledge of how events were going to unfold on that tragic day. For this footage shows that BBC World News started reporting that WTC Building 7 had collapsed -- 20 minutes before it actually did! As the video clearly shows, as on-site BBC reporter Jane Standley is reporting on the event, i.e. the collapse of WTC7, also known as the Salomon Brothers' Building, WTC7 can clearly be seen STILL STANDING behind her! So far the BBC's response has been

a) the BBC couldn't have known and therefore they couldn't have reported it. This is a patent falsehood, as the BBC very clearly DID report on it before it happened, as shown by the video,

and

b) that the BBC has lost it's archive footage from that day and so of course they can make no comment.

The BBC's response is here:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2007/02/part_of_the_conspiracy.html

As you can see from the comments, there are very few people who are buying the BBC's explanation. Another point to note is that the BBC is not publishing all the comments it receives -- for none of mine (six so far) have been published, and I know of a good dozen people who have commented but whose comments do not show. One can only assume that the BBC has received so many negative comments it is now refusing to publish any more. I have emailed the head of the BBC World news team, and his response was that "he believes none of his fellow journalists were told what to say." This belief is however surely highly subjective, and would surely need to be closely investigated in light of this footage.

The all-too convenient (and all-too predictable) claim by the BBC that they have lost their footage from that time ("for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy", naturally) is also suspicious in the extreme -- especially when the BBC could easily have downloaded the archive from the Internet Archive Organisation like everyone else did!

However, many people (including myself) DID download the original video footage from the Internet Archive, and this shows a number of things very clearly.

Among them:

1. The timestamp on the original footage downloaded from the Internet Archive Organization is:

Date: 2001-09-11 20:54:47 UTC
Air Time: 2001-09-11 16:54:47 EDT
Length: 0:41:41

This effectively answers any questions about the time of the broadcast. Not that this is necessary -- for even if the BBC was reporting on the collapse of WTC7 only 30 SECONDS before it actually collapsed the fact still remains that NO-ONE had any earthly (or divine!) reason to suspect that WTC7 was GOING to collapse -- and so the BBC could not possibly have known about it -- UNLESS they were told what to say by someone who DID know it was going to collapse!

2. That the BBC reported on the collapse of WTC7 before it actually happened.

3. That WTC7 was clearly still standing as Jane Standley moved to one side so the cameras could zoom in on it.

4. That the video feed to New York was mysteriously lost 5 minutes before the actual collapse occurred.

This begs a number of questions, only a few of which I will raise here.

1. How could the BBC have known WTC7 was going to collapse and therefore report on it before it actually did? It had been hit by nothing and there was only minimal damage; there was no reason AT ALL to suspect it would collapse, and even the 9/11 Commission, for all its faults, reported 3 years later that "there was only a small probability of occurrence" when talking about the reasons for the collapse of WTC7; namely because of fire damage. And yet, the BBC knew 20 minutes before it collapsed that this was why it had collapsed!! HOW???

2. WHO told the BBC that WTC7 was going to collapse, and how did THEY know?

3. How could the BBC have known the CAUSE of the collapse? The BBC's conclusions, far from being guesses, mirrored those of the subsequent 9/11 Commission. In the words of the BBC World News studio anchor man:

"It seems this was not a result of a new attack, it was because the building had been weakened during this morning's attacks."

How could that conclusion have been arrived at before the building even fell?!

Conclusions that can be drawn from this footage include:

1. The BBC was given a press release or something similar in which they were told to report that WTC7 had collapsed -- except the BBC released this information earlier than planned!

2. Jane Standley did not know which building was WTC7, despite her commentary on the live scene behind her. If she had, she would have no doubt commented on the fact that the building she was talking about still stood!

3. Jane Standley was told what to say, was reading from a script, had an autocue, or something similar.

4. Someone at the BBC realised that WTC7 (the largest rectangular building in the right hand side of the picture) was still standing because they yanked the live feed 5 minutes before the actual collapse -- which was after the BBC had been reporting on the collapse for a full 20 minutes!!

Please bear in mind that the events of 9/11 were supposedly a surprise. The attacks were low-tech, carried out by 19 Islamic hijackers carrying Stanley knives, under the direction of Osama Bin Laden from his cave in Afghanistan. If the official story, supported by the British government and so far endorsed by yourself too, is to be believed then there can be no prior knowledge at any stage. If there is found to be prior knowledge, by anyone, then this automatically calls into (further) doubt the entire official story. And remember that there is a widespread view, supported by REAL evidence, that the attacks WERE an inside

job, carried out by the US government in order to give it carte blanche in the War Of Terror. Just SOME of this evidence includes:

1. Molten steel in the basements of the WTC 6 weeks after the attacks, still at temperatures which far exceeded those at which aviation fuel could ever burn;
2. Eyewitness testimony and seismic data showing the occurrence of at least one explosion BEFORE the first plane hit, which would explain point 1...!;
3. Eyewitness testimony, including that of firemen, of subsequent explosions after the planes hit, and the subsequent gagging orders placed on those firemen;
4. The fact that WTC7 fell at free fall speed, and displayed all the classic signs of explosive demolition, coupled to the famous words of Larry Silverstein, the WTC lease holder: "And they made that decision to pull and we watched the building collapse." "Pull" being demolition slang for "demolish", i.e; "pull it down."
5. The fact that the Twin Towers fell at almost free-fall speed, far faster than any expert estimates of how long a "progressive pancake collapse" would have taken (approx: 6 seconds per 10 floors - giving a total collapse time in the region of 60 seconds, as opposed to the 10 - 13 seconds in reality);
6. The fact that Rudy Guilliani somehow knew that the Twin Towers were going to collapse -- again before there was any reason to think they would do so! For it has been proven by the radio transcripts that the fires were nowhere near as bad as we are led to believe -- firemen made it to the 78th floor of the North Tower and actually said they could "knock the fire down with just 2 lines"!
7. The rather dubious claim that the passport of one of the hijackers somehow managed to survive the crash of the plane and the subsequent explosion and end up virtually undamaged on the streets of New York -- and yet the black boxes, specifically designed to withstand any and all known crash conditions, were so badly damaged they could yield no useful information! **This has a strange parallel with the 7/7 bombings where the passport of one of the "bombers" was found at the scene of THREE of the bombings!!!**

I could go on, but I won't. There is far more evidence, for those who care to look (and the numbers of those who DO care to look is increasing on a daily basis!), and those who have an interest in the truth, supporting the "conspiracy theory" that the US government did it, than that supporting the far more unlikely "conspiracy theory" that Osama Bin Laden and his band of merry men somehow managed to defeat the entire US air defence establishment (which had at least ELEVEN exercises in progress, not the single one that the BBC claimed in the Conspiracy Files last Sunday...) in order to hijack not one but four planes they could not fly in real life, and fly them unmolested around the northern USA for AN HOUR before somehow finding their way to miniscule targets without benefit of Air Traffic Control assistance. When you think about it in those terms, it really does look weak, doesn't it?! And remember also that the "evidence" supporting the official

story is almost totally circumstantial -- for we have seen none of it and are asked to trust our governments that they actually HAVE this evidence!! In fact, we are STILL waiting for Tony Blair to show us the evidence that Osama Bin Laden really was responsible... I suspect we will go on waiting!

Further analysis, including links to the BBC video, can be found here:

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/260207building7.htm>

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/270207trustanything.htm>

and here:

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/6458>

Whilst www.PrisonPlanet.com is not my favourite website, it at least has links to the videos saved on its own servers -- Google, Youtube, Liveleak and most other video upload sites have taken down every video, even suspending the accounts of those trying to upload them. It seems that the Internet Archive footage has now also been removed, which is not exactly a surprise, although far far far too late!! One would ask why they are doing this...!

I would hope that you would examine this footage and raise the subject in the House as a matter of some urgency, for it clearly undermines the entire basis of the "War of Terror" -- much like the government's outright lies over Iraqi WMD. There is no way this can be interpreted as anything other than prior knowledge on the BBC's part -- and sad to say ANY response other than concern at that possibility, or denying the veracity or the urgency of this material, as demonstrated on the BBC Editor's blog above, will show the public in no uncertain terms that the Opposition has as little interest in democracy or truth as the Labour Party does right now!!

I eagerly await your response...

PS. Since compiling this entry, it has also come to light that not only BBC World News, but also BBC 24 news and CNN were somehow able to report on the collapse of WTC7 before it did so. I refer you to these articles:

<http://prisonplanet.com/articles/march2007/010307mediablacklists.htm>

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/march2007/010307Clairvoyant.htm>

If one news station broadcast this news early you could conceivably claim "sloppy reporting"; for three to do so indicates that there were notifications going out on the news wire that WTC7 had collapsed. This is confirmed somewhat by the words of Richard Porter in a personal email, in which he said:

"It got on to the wires... and we reported it too. That's how it works..."

So to sum up; it had "got on the wires" that WTC7, a steel-cored building, the likes of which had never collapsed before 9/11, hit by nothing and with only minimal damage, had collapsed -- before it actually did, when there was no theoretical

earthly reason for it to do so. Once again, this brings into sharper focus the words of Larry Silverstein: "they gave the order to pull"...

WAS WTC7 DEMOLISHED?

AND IF SO, WHY HAVE THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE UK GOVERNMENT CONSISTENTLY LIED ABOUT IT?

Post edited by IAmNoOne on Thursday, 01 March 2007 17:09:47

<http://www.webcameron.org.uk/blogs/2784-BBC-reports-on-WTC7-collapse-20-minutes-before-it-collapsed>

BBC Pre-Knowledge:

After This Fiasco, How Can We Trust Anything They Told Us About 9/11?

The BBC Building 7 farce lends about as much credibility to the official story of 9/11 as weapons of mass destruction do for justifying the invasion of Iraq

Paul Joseph Watson
Prison Planet
Tuesday, February 27, 2007

The fiasco of a BBC journalist reporting in advance that Building 7 had collapsed as it loomed large behind her strikes at the very root of how the media were complicit in acting as facilitators for the official myth that was manufactured on 9/11. After this debacle, how can we trust anything we were told about September 11?

Though the video was almost immediately purged by the crowned kings of censorship -- Google -- it has since been re-uploaded to You Tube and feverishly copied everywhere. Watch the clip below. For an extended clip where the Building 7 farce is clearly annotated, click here [on link provided in the page], and skip forward to 14 minutes.

...
CNN had also been told the building was about to collapse, as is made clear below. [NOTE: Access the page to view the CNN Video.]

What seems obvious is that Silverstein was getting the cover story out as quickly as possible before the building was intentionally demolished, and that's how they were so sure it was going to collapse before it eventually did.

In addition, NYPD officer Craig Bartmer reported hearing bombs tear down the building as he ran away from it:

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/february2007/100207heardbombs.htm>

Debunkers have scoffed at our suggestion that some kind of press release had to have been issued for the BBC to report this ahead of time. Well how else do you suggest the BBC learned of the building's demise before it happened? A psychic premonition?

This goes to the very heart of why the mainstream media is stuttering and the alternative is burgeoning -- the establishment press have become nothing more than ditto heads of the official version of events to the point where they don't even perform a cursory investigation of what they are being told by official sources. Their role is simply to repeat what the authorities tell them with no scrutiny whatsoever.

Nowhere was this more evident than on 9/11 when the corporate media mechanically relayed the 'Osama did it' fraud within hours of the attack, and afforded copious air time to highly suspicious individuals who just happened to know the intricate details of how each building collapsed within minutes of it occurring. This was key to solidifying the dogma of the official story, because anyone who saw the collapse of WTC 7 without having had the official propaganda drilled into them could see plain as day that it was a controlled demolition.

Indeed, controlled demolitions expert Danny Jowenko, unaware that the structure had collapsed on 9/11, immediately concluded that Building 7 had been deliberately demolished when he was shown the footage by a Dutch television crew, and maintains that position to this day.

The BBC Building 7 fiasco lends about as much credibility to the official story of 9/11 as weapons of mass destruction do for the justification of invading Iraq.

Besides the advance reporting of just the collapse itself, how could the news anchor tell us the reason for the collapse before it happened?

"This was not the result of a new attack," states the anchor, "It was because the building had been weakened during this morning's attacks."

How else could the BBC have relayed this information unless by way of some kind of press release or official statement by Silverstein, Giuliani or the NYFD? Who told them that the building had been weakened? In effect, the BBC were working to a 9/11 script and made the error of orating their lines too early.

This damning video is also a commentary on the credibility and impartiality of the BBC as a whole, especially in light of their ludicrously bias, slanted and error ridden Conspiracy Files hit piece that aired last Sunday. Perhaps debunker-in-chief Guy Smith can explain to us how his colleague prophesied the downfall of a building that, almost mockingly, appears in full view behind her head before the live feed is conveniently interrupted.

24 hours after the video first surfaced and was then unceremoniously "pulled" from Google Video (but not before it went viral everywhere else), there is still no response from the BBC and no mainstream coverage whatsoever, not even a 'look what the silly conspiracy theorists are saying' puff piece.

It seems our noble press whores are more concerned today about Helen Mirren eating a beef burger and James Cameron's fictional Jesus tomb.

What if we had unearthed footage of a CNN anchor reporting the collapse of the twin towers as he stood below them? Would that be enough to provoke any interest? How about Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld announcing a joint press conference in which they admit they ran the attack? No doubt the noisy

negativists would find some harebrained reason to dismiss that also.

Where is the BBC's clarification on this? How about Industrial Risk Insurers, surely they would be interested to find out that Silverstein was rapaciously anticipating their \$861 million payout before Building 7 "accidentally" collapsed?

Our sense of outrage on this matter should not be quelled by time and the stubbornness of official channels, namely the BBC and whoever their source for reporting the collapse was, to answer for, in the case of the BBC, their hideous "mistake," and the source for exactly how they were able to predict that a modern steel building that had suffered limited fire damage would suddenly collapse in its own footprint without the aid of explosive demolition.

[NOTE: This page also contains links to video of CNN and the BBC reporting this historical event before it occurred.]

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=WAT20070307&articleId=5011>

WTC 7 collapse reported before it happened

"On September 11th 2001, BBC World reported at 4:57pm Eastern Time that the Salomon Brothers Building (more commonly known as WTC7 or World Trade Building 7) had collapsed. (4:30 into the video clip)

This even made the 5pm EST headlines, what is bizarre is that the building did not actually collapse until 5:20pm EST.

9/11 was unusual enough, without BBC World being able to foretell the destiny of WTC 7.

What is even stranger, is that the women reporter is telling the world that the building had collapsed when you can see it in the background over her left shoulder. (14:40)

Then at 5:15pm EST, just five minutes before the building did actually collapse, her live connection from New York to London mysteriously fails. (21:15s)

So the question is, on 9/11 how did the BBC learn that WTC7 collapsed 23 minutes before it actually did.

Building Seven was 47 stories, modern in design with structural steel throughout, yet symmetrically collapsed in 6.5 seconds. Was someone leaking information?

No steel framed skyscraper has ever collapsed due to fire, before or after 9/11, most people who find out about WTC7, believe it was brought down by a controlled demolition, even demolition experts agree.

Please Investigate 9/11 -- "Time is of the essence."

Source: http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=49f_1172526096

[NOTE: This page also contains video of the BBC's coverage.]
<http://www.brasschecktv.com/page/88.html>

CNN, BBC 24 Reports Conclusively Prove Media Prior Knowledge and False-Start Scripting of Building 7 Controlled Demolition

Aaron Dykes and Alex Jones / Jones Report | February 27, 2007

It has now been discovered that BBC 24 also reported the Building 7 collapse before it fell. Furthermore, CNN's Aaron Brown reported that Building 7 "has collapsed or is collapsing" over an hour before it fell.

These clips both reinforce the shocking, newly discovered BBC coverage wherein Jane Standley reports the collapse early -- with the building still standing behind her.

The early timing of these reports is now verified twiceover -- the BBC 24 report is time stamped at 21.54 -- or 4:54 P.M. Eastern Standard Time [See World Time Zones]. Secondly, CNN's Aaron Brown states the time as "4:15 Eastern Daylight Time," announcing Building 7 has fallen -- more than one hour before its actual collapse.

Furthermore, both the BBC report with Jane Standley and the CNN report with Aaron Brown clearly show Building 7 still standing, 'billowing with smoke' as the collapse is reported-- so premature reporting is confirmed visually as well.

There is no longer any doubt they were all reading off the same script. Reports mirrored testimony of scores of fire fighters, police and emergency workers who were told to get back from the building in the 2 hours before Salomon Brothers building (better known as WTC 7) fell at free-fall speed.

Rescue workers were told the building was to be brought down in a controlled demolition.

The group that carried out the demolition of Building 7 was in a position to feed the media and local authorities an official story. We have the controlled demolition of Building 7 hidden in plain sight -- including an admission by the building's 99-year lease holder Larry Silverstein.

We are witnessing the unraveling of the 9/11 cover-up.

New video and audio clips of emergency workers who were told the Building 7 was to be purposefully brought down are coming out on an hour-by-hour basis as thousands of 9/11 researchers investigate publicly available archives.

Alex Jones in his car on the afternoon of 9/11 also heard ABC News report that the government was considering demolishing Building 7. Jones didn't realize what he was hearing for several weeks. Now the evidence is coming out.

CNN'S REPORT IN-FOCUS AARON BROWN QUESTIONS SCRIPT ON-AIR, UNLIKE BBC

It is interesting to note that Aaron Brown seems to realize the incongruity of his reporting as he looks over his shoulder at Building 7 -- still standing and emitting massive trails of smoke.

Just after announcing that WTC 7 "has collapsed or is collapsing," he lets onto his confusion, stating:

"And I—I—You, to be honest, can see these pictures more clearly than I, but building number 7, one of the buildings in this very large complex of buildings that is that is the trade center."

Clearly, Brown, slicker than the BBC reporter, caught the errors in the script during live coverage and revised his words, saying instead -- as he looked at the standing structure:

"And now we are told that there's a fire there and that building may collapse as well as you can see."

BBC 24 REPORT IN-FOCUS

Time-Stamped BBC Broadcast Seals Media Foreknowledge of Building 7 Collapse and Use of Scripting

An alternate local BBC report -- which included a live time-stamp -- now positively establishes that BBC reported the collapse of WTC Building 7 at least 25-minutes prior to the actual collapse of the building.

The feed seen above (at top) reports at 21.54 London time that:

News is continuing to come in as you can imagine. We're now being told that another enormous building in New York has collapsed. It is the 47-story Salomon Brothers building [better known as WTC Building 7] which was situated very close to the World Trade Center, right there in this financial capitol.

21.54-- 5 hours earlier in New York-- is 4:54 p.m., well before the actual collapse at 5:20 p.m.

This live feed did not show WTC 7 standing during the announcement, as it was showing B-roll of rescue workers on the ground.

The words used are very similar to the BBC report with Jane Standley, who also reported the WTC 7 collapse prematurely -- with the building visible in the live frame beyond the window. The latter coverage also included an explanation by the co-anchor that the building was not attacked, but, rather, was "weakened" -- perfectly in line with the official story even before the collapse took place.

BBC'S ABSURD RESPONSE IN-FOCUS

BBC Claims 9/11 Tapes Lost; CNN Archivist Contradicts This, Citing Multiple Copies Recorded

BBC responded to news of the early report on Building 7's collapse, claiming, amongst other excuses, that their 9/11 tapes have been lost.

A CNN archivist in Atlanta, and Infowars reader, corrected this erroneous notion:

"I'm an archivist with the CNN News Library in Atlanta, and I can tell you with absolute certainty, the mere idea that news agencies such as ours would "misplace" any airchecks from 9/11 is preposterous. CNN has these tapes locked away from all the others. People like myself, who normally would have access to any tapes in our library, must ask special permission in order to view airchecks from that day. Multiple tapes would have been recording their broadcast that day, and there are also private agencies that record all broadcasts from all channels -- constantly -- in the event that a news agency missed something or needs something. They don't just have one copy... they have several. It's standard procedure, and as soon as the second plane hit, they would start recording several copies on other tapes machines all day long.

The only information they need to give out is the source of the collapse claim. No one is saying the BBC is "part of the conspiracy," we're saying that someone gave that reporter the information ahead of time. The source of that information is the only thing they can reveal that would be meaningful."

WTC COMPLEX IN-FOCUS

WTC 3 Was Structurally Destroyed by Falling Debris, Yet Did Not Uniformly Collapse at Free-Fall Speed Like WTC 7

World Trade Center Building 3 -- known publicly as the 22-story Marriott Hotel positioned between the Twin Towers -- was heavily damaged during the collapse of WTC 2, yet it did not experience uniform collapse either vertically or horizontally -- but rather a crater of inconsistent breakage.

Yet, Building 7, which was comparably far removed from the two buildings hit by airliners, suffered only minor fires and sudden, uniform collapse -- typically indicative of a controlled demolition.

Clearly, the difference in damage between the two steel buildings is baffling and untenable under the explanation offered by the government's official story.

SEE ALSO:

Another Smoking Gun?

Now CNN Jumps the Gun: On 9/11 CNN Announced WTC 7 "Has Either Collapsed or is Collapsing" Over an Hour Before it Fell

MORE INFORMATION TO COME AS THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUE TO SURFACE THROUGH INDEPENDENT 9/11 RESEARCH.

BBC Responds to Building 7 Controversy; Claim 9/11 Tapes Lost
Pathetic five paragraph blog rebuttal does not answer questions as to source of report that Salomon Building was coming down, BBC claims tapes lost due to "cock-up" not conspiracy

Paul Joseph Watson / Prison Planet | February 27, 2007

The BBC has been forced to respond to footage showing their correspondent

reporting the collapse of WTC 7 before it fell on 9/11, claiming tapes from the day are somehow missing, and refusing to identify the source for their bizarre act of "clairvoyance" in accurately preempting the fall of Building 7.

Here is the BBC's response to the questions about the footage that was unearthed yesterday, with my comments after each statement.

1. We're not part of a conspiracy. Nobody told us what to say or do on September 11th. We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down. We didn't receive press releases or scripts in advance of events happening.

"We didn't get told in advance that buildings were going to fall down." If this is true, then how on earth did the BBC report the collapse of Building 7 before it happened? Psychic clairvoyance? Of course they were told that WTC 7 was coming down, just like the firefighters, police, first responders and CNN were told it was coming down. They had to have had a source for making such a claim. The BBC is acting like the naughty little boy who got caught with his hand in the cookie jar. No one here is claiming the BBC are "part of the conspiracy," but their hideous penchant to just repeat what authorities tell them without even a cursory investigation (and with the Building they are telling us has collapsed mockingly filling the background shot of the report), is a damning indictment of their yellow journalism when it comes to 9/11.

BBC Slip-up

2. In the chaos and confusion of the day, I'm quite sure we said things which turned out to be untrue or inaccurate - but at the time were based on the best information we had. We did what we always did - sourced our reports, used qualifying words like "apparently" or "it's reported" or "we're hearing" and constantly tried to check and double check the information we were receiving.

How do "chaos and confusion" explain how the BBC reported on the collapse of a building, a collapse that happened "unexpectedly" according to their Conspiracy Files hit piece documentary, before it happened? In one breath the BBC is claiming they were not told of the impending collapse of the Building and in the next they are telling us that all their information is sourced. Which is it to be? Did the BBC have a source telling them the building was about to collapse -- or not? If not, how on earth could they pre-empt its fall? Do BBC reporters have access to a time machine? What was the source of this information?

3. Our reporter Jane Standley was in New York on the day of the attacks, and like everyone who was there, has the events seared on her mind. I've spoken to her today and unsurprisingly, she doesn't remember minute-by-minute what she said or did -- like everybody else that day she was trying to make sense of what she was seeing; what she was being told; and what was being told to her by colleagues in London who were monitoring feeds and wires services.

Trying to make sense of what she was being told? She obviously didn't make much sense of the fact that the Building she was reporting had collapsed was prominently standing behind her! Unfortunately, for a news organization that prides itself on accuracy and credibility, "she doesn't remember" just doesn't cut it

as an excuse.

4. We no longer have the original tapes of our 9/11 coverage (for reasons of cock-up, not conspiracy). So if someone has got a recording of our output, I'd love to get hold of it. We do have the tapes for our sister channel News 24, but they don't help clear up the issue one way or another.

We are asked to believe that the world's premiere news organization has somehow lost all its tapes of perhaps the biggest news event of the past 60 years. This is a copout. Whether they have lost the tapes or not, the BBC simply doesn't want to verify one hundred per cent their monumental foul-up, because they know it would only increase the exposure of this issue and lead to further questions. What is there to clear up? The reporter is standing in front of the building while saying it has already collapsed! This is a blatant effort to try and placate people making complaints while refusing to admit a monumental faux pas that further undermines the BBC's credibility in the aftermath of the Conspiracy Files debacle.

5. If we reported the building had collapsed before it had done so, it would have been an error -- no more than that. As one of the comments on You Tube says today "so the guy in the studio didn't quite know what was going on? Woah, that totally proves conspiracy... "

So now the BBC are so devoid of answers, they have to enlist the help of some moronic comment on a You Tube blog? Instead of issuing official statements and seeking the advice of legal professionals they produce a cobbled together five paragraph blog and include the testimony of some moron on a You Tube comment board. Pathetic! Answer the question BBC -- what was your source for reporting on multiple occasions that Building 7 had collapsed before it had collapsed, and identify the source that enabled the anchorman to comment that the building had collapsed due to it being weakened, an explanation still unanswered by NIST five and a half years later.

If you had reported the collapse of the twin towers before it happened would that have been just an error too? This "error" translated as \$800 million plus in insurance bounty for Larry Silverstein -- I'm sure Industrial Risk Insurers would be interested to know the source of your "error."

In addition, two separate sources reported that Secret Service Agent Craig Miller died as a result of the collapse of Building 7. Do you think he would have been interested in the "error" that led to your correspondent reporting the building's downfall in advance?

http://jonesreport.com/articles/270207_bbc_lost_response.html
BBC Reported the collapse of WTC Building 7... Twenty-three minutes before it happened... oooppps!

BBC "MISTAKE" REVEALS ANOTHER PIECE OF THE 911 "INSIDE JOB" PUZZLE
by VOX

As this gigantic news story spreads like wildfire across the Internet -- the major controlled media are doing what they always do when startling factual truths emerge that reveal the criminality of their neo-conservative/neo fascist partners who control America:

Nothing -- a total news blackout.

As for the BBC, their top executive is scrambling to issue lie after lie to cover-up yet another in the now constant river of "anomalies" about the attacks of 9-11 -- their first lie was that they seem to have "misplaced" the tapes of that day.

Not likely says CNN (another neo fascist media outlet). Their video archivist said that never in a million years would they NOT have a copy of the most important day in news in decades. They would have hundreds of them. With mounting emails and telephone calls pouring in, the BBC issued a second volley of lies. This time, lush in detail, none of it credible in the slightest -- just more insulting lies, coverups and obfuscations.

Here's the story:

Apparently on the day of the attacks of 9-11, the BBC prematurely reported the collapse of WTC7 some twenty-three minutes BEFORE IT ACTUALLY COLLAPSED!

WTC Building 7, sometimes referred to as the Solomon Brothers Building, contained offices of the CIA, US Customs, FBI, Secret Service and the SEC. It was this 47 story building that became shrouded in controversy because although NO PLANE HIT IT, for some inexplicable reason, 8 hours later, it completely collapsed, neatly and into it's own footprint, just like the others -- just like controlled demolitions. It's collapse has researchers viewing it as a sort of rosetta stone in proving that the attacks of September 11th were an "Inside Job." Leading scientists and researchers from around the world are coming forward, providing analysis, real explanations and demanding answers to the very suspicious collapse of Building 7.

In the video..... [of] the anchorman's reading of his teleprompter we already hear the scripted language emerge, the language that the conspirators have scripted to explain how their building 7, which would not be hit that day by any planes, would collapse.

Not only does the anchorman's teleprompter tell him that the building has collapsed, it tells him that the building collapsed because the fall of the other two buildings "weakened" it. Seemingly clairvoyantly peering into the future at what exactly would be revealed to be the administration's "later released" "official version," of the collapse.

...

Here we catch a clear glimpse of the workings of those who are actually behind the attacks. Certainly BBC did not order the crimes, but [at] the very highest levels they, like all in the major controlled media, they are the ones driving the getaway car, for they are solely responsible of covering up the crimes in the aftermath and guaranteeing that at least those who still get their information from the TV will never get the truth about what's really happening.

What does BBC say about this strange glimpse of the conspirators messing up and giving them their script too early. There answer is "They lost the tapes of that day."

What!!!!

One can easily imagine that in order to control the flow of dialogue of the crime, in the direct aftermath of the crime, the timing of the many press releases (scripted lies) must be critical, and somewhere along the line mistakes are going to be made. Someone slipped up and sent out the script to the BBC twenty-three minutes before the conspirators actually blew up the building. Oooooops.

They received their script a little too early, "plane" and simple, and another clue and chapter in the biggest INSIDE JOB in the history of criminal acts gets revealed to us in clear sight.

What is the major media saying about these startling FACTS which are sweeping the Internet like wildfire?

Nothing. Not a single mention of what is perhaps one of the most startling anomalies to date in the whole string of anomalies about that inside job.

Vox

<http://london.craigslist.org/pol/315340618.html>

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12.29 Senior Military, Intelligence, Law Enforcement, and Government Officials Question the 9/11 Commission Report

Many well known and respected senior U.S. military officers, intelligence services and law enforcement veterans, and government officials have expressed significant criticism of the 9/11 Commission Report or have made public statements that contradict the Report. Several even allege government complicity in the terrible acts of 9/11. This website is a collection of their statements. It is not an organization and it should be made clear that none of these individuals are affiliated with this website.

Listed below are statements by more than 100 of these senior officials. Their collective voices give credibility to the claim that the 9/11 Commission Report is tragically flawed. These individuals cannot be simply dismissed as irresponsible believers in some 9/11 conspiracy theory. Their sincere concern, backed by their decades of service to their country, demonstrate that criticism of the Report is not irresponsible, illogical, nor disloyal, per se.

In fact, it can be just the opposite.

[The list below introduces these people. Their statements appear in the section immediately following.]

U.S. FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Senator Max Cleland – Former member of the 9/11 Commission, resigned in December 2003. Currently serves on the board of directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. U.S. Senator from Georgia 1997 - 2002. Secretary of State of Georgia 1982 - 1996. Administrator of the U.S. Veterans Administration 1977 - 1981. Captain, U.S. Army awarded Silver Star and Bronze Star for bravery in Viet Nam. Triple amputee from war injuries.

Senator Bob Graham – Former U.S. Senator from Florida 1987 - 2004. Former Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Co-Chairman of the Joint House-Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (JICI) that investigated the events of 9/11. Former Governor of Florida 1979 - 1986

Senator Mark Dayton – Former U.S. Senator from Minnesota 2001 - 2006. Member, Senate Committee on Armed Services and Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Services.

Gov. Jesse Ventura – 38th Governor of Minnesota 1999 - 2003. Member, U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition Team 12 (precursor to SEAL) 1969 - 1975. U.S. Navy Reserves, SEAL Team 1. Former professional wrestler and actor. The Running Man (1987), Predator (1987). Author or co-author of I Ain't Got Time to Bleed: Reworking the Body Politic from the Bottom up (2000), Quotations of Chairman Jesse (2000), Do I Stand Alone?: Going to the Mat Against Political Pawns and Media Jackals (2001), Jesse Ventura Tells It Like It Is: America's Most Outspoken Governor Speaks Out About Government (2002), The New Prohibition: Voices of Dissent Challenge the Drug War (2004).

Congressman Ron Paul, MD – 9-term Congressman from Texas, 1979 - 1985, 1997 - present. Member of the House Financial Services Committee, the International Relations committee, and the Joint Economic Committee. On the Financial Services Committee, he serves as the Vice Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee. 1988 Libertarian Party candidate for President. Former Flight Surgeon, U.S. Air Force.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich – 6-term Congressman from Ohio. Former mayor of Cleveland. Chairman of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Member, Committee on Education and Labor. 2003 recipient of the Gandhi Peace Award.

Congressman Curt Weldon – Former 10-term Congressman from Pennsylvania 1987 - 2006. Former Vice Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. Former Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney – Former 6-term Congresswoman from Georgia 1993 - 2002, 2005 - 2006. Member of the House Armed Services Committee and Member of the International Relations Committee. Georgia state legislator 1988 - 1992.

Norman Mineta - U.S. Secretary of Transportation 2001 - 2006. U.S. Secretary of Commerce 2000 - 2001. Senior Vice President, Lockheed Martin 1995 - 2000. Former 12-term Congressman from California 1971 - 1995. Currently, Vice Chairman of the Board, Hill & Knowlton.

Louis Freeh – Director of the FBI, 1993 - 2001. Former U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York, appointed by President George H.W. Bush. Former Deputy United States Attorney in New York. Former FBI agent. Former officer in the United States Army JAG Corps Reserve.

Edward L. Peck – Deputy Director of the White House Task Force on Terrorism under Ronald Reagan. Former Deputy Coordinator, Covert Intelligence Programs at the State Department. U.S. Ambassador and Chief of Mission to Iraq (1977 - 1980). 32-year veteran of the Foreign Service.

Morton Goulder – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Warning under Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter (1973 - 1977). Founder of Sanders Associates.

Marcus Raskin, JD – Former member of the special staff of the National Security Council in President Kennedy's Administration. Senior Fellow and Professor of Policy Studies, George Washington University. Co-founder and Senior Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies. Advisor to the Episcopal Urban Bishops. Former member of the Presidential Commission on Education and advisor to the Bureau of the Budget and the Office of Science and Technology in the Executive Office of the President. Author, co-author and editor of more than 20 books on national security and domestic affairs, including *The Four Freedoms under Siege: The Clear and Present Danger from Our National Security State* (2006), *In Democracy's Shadow: The Secret World of National Security* (2005), *Liberalism* (2003), *Visions and Revisions: Reflections on Culture and Democracy at the End of the Century* (1998), *Abolishing the War System* (1992), *The Common Good: Its Politics, Policies, and Philosophy* (1986), *The Politics of National Security* (1979).

Joseph C. Wilson IV – Retired diplomat of the U.S. Foreign Service, specializing in Africa. Rose to the position of Special Assistant to President Bill Clinton and Senior Director for African Affairs, National Security Council. Former Political Adviser to Commander in Chief, U.S. Armed Forces, Europe. Former U.S. Ambassador to Gabon and São Tomé and Príncipe. Acting ambassador to Baghdad when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. 22-year Foreign Service career 1976 - 1998. In February 2002, he investigated reports of Iraq's attempt to buy uranium from Niger for the George W. Bush administration. Husband of Valerie Plame, a covert CIA operative, specializing in weapons of mass destruction, whose identity was revealed to reporters by members of the Bush administration. In October 2003, Wilson received the Ron Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling from the Fertel Foundation and the Nation Institute.

Morgan Reynolds, PhD – Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Labor under George W. Bush 2001 - 2002. Former Director of the Criminal Justice Center at the National Center for Policy Analysis. Professor Emeritus, Economics, Texas A&M University.

Paul Craig Roberts, PhD – Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury under Ronald Reagan, "Father of Reaganomics", Former Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal. Currently Chairman of the Institute for Political Economy and Research Fellow at the Independent Institute. Former William E. Simon chair in political economy, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University. Former Senior Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University. Author or co-author of several books on economics and politics, including; *The Supply-Side Revolution* (1985), *Alienation and the Soviet Economy: The Collapse of the Socialist Era* (1990), *The Soviet Union After Perestroika* (1991), *The Capitalist Revolution in Latin America* (2003).

Catherine Austin Fitts – Assistant Secretary of Housing under George H.W. Bush. Former Managing Director and Member of the Board of Wall Street investment bank, Dillon, Read & Co

William Bergman, MA, MBA – Former Economist and Senior Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago 1990 - 2004. In 2003 - 2004, he was assigned to investigate terrorism-related money laundering.

John Loftus – Former Federal Prosecutor, Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Department of Justice under Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Former U.S. Army Intelligence officer. Currently author and frequent media commentator on terrorism and intelligence services.

George Kenney – Former career Foreign Service Officer, serving as Yugoslav desk officer at the State Department headquarters in Washington, DC. Resigned his commission in 1991 over US policy towards the Yugoslav conflict. Then served as consultant in residence at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Currently consultant and commentator on foreign affairs and current events.

Fred Burks – Former State Department Interpreter for Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, Vice Presidents Dick Cheney and Al Gore, Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Madeleine Albright. 18-year State Department career.

J. Michael Springman – Former career Foreign Service Officer with the State Department and the International Foreign Trade Administration of the Commerce Department. Former Consular Officer in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he supervised the issuance of visas. 20-year Federal Government career.

Michael Mennard, PhD – Retired career Foreign Service Officer, U.S. State Department. Served as Regional Public Affairs Officer in India. Contributing author to *The Suppressed Serbian Voice* and *The Free Press in America* (1994)

Daniel Ellsberg, PhD – Former Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense. Former State Department envoy to Viet Nam. While working for the government, Ellsberg attained the ultimate civil service grade of GS-18, equivalent to a Major General. Former U.S. Marine Corps officer. Former military analyst for the Rand Corporation. Most well known for leaking the Pentagon Papers to the New York Times in 1971.

Robin Hordon – Former FAA Air Traffic Controller at the Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center, located in Nashua, NH, 1970 - 1981. Former Certified Commercial Pilot. Former Certified Flight Instructor and Certified Ground Instructor. After leaving the FAA, he had a 12-year career in the field of comedy ending up as artistic coordinator for "Catch A Rising Star" in Harvard Square in Cambridge, MA.

Philip J. Berg, Esquire – Former Deputy Attorney General, State of Pennsylvania.

Major General Albert Stubblebine, U.S. Army (ret) – Former Commanding General of U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, 1981 - 1984. Also commanded the U.S. Army's Electronic Research and Development Command and the U.S. Army's Intelligence School and Center. Former head of Imagery Interpretation for Scientific and Technical Intelligence. 32-year Army career.

Col. Ronald D. Ray, U.S. Marine Corps (ret) – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense during the Reagan Administration and a highly decorated Vietnam veteran (two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart). Appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve on the American Battle Monuments Commission (1990 - 1994), and on the 1992 Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces. Military Historian and Deputy Director of Field Operations for the U.S. Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington, D.C. 1990 - 1994.

Col. Robert Bowman, PhD, U.S. Air Force (ret) – Director of Advanced Space Programs Development under Presidents Ford and Carter. U.S. Air Force fighter pilot with over 100 combat missions. (PhD in Aeronautics and Nuclear Engineering, Cal Tech). Former Head of the Department of Aeronautical Engineering and Assistant Dean at the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology. Also taught Mathematics and English at the University of Southern California, the University of Maryland, and Phillips University.

Col. George Nelson, U.S. Air Force (ret) – Former U.S. Air Force aircraft accident investigator and airplane parts authority. 34-year Air Force career.

Lt. Col. Karen U. Kwiatkowski, PhD, U.S. Air Force (ret) – Former Political-Military Affairs Officer in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Also served on the staff of the Director of the National Security Agency. 20-year Air Force veteran.

Lt. Col. Shelton F. Lankford, U.S. Marine Corps (ret) – Retired U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilot with over 300 combat missions flown. 21-year Marine Corps career.

Lt. Col. Guy S. Razer, MS, U.S. Air Force (ret) – Retired U.S. Air Force fighter pilot (F-111, F-15E, F-16, B-1, F-18, Mig-29, and Suu-22). Flew combat missions over Iraq. Former instructor at the USAF Fighter Weapons School and NATO's Tactical Leadership Program. 20-year Air Force career.

Lt. Col. Jeff Latas, U.S. Air Force (ret) – Former combat fighter pilot (F-15E and F-111). Former President, U.S. Air Force Accident Investigation Board. Also served as Pentagon Weapons Requirement Officer and as a member of the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review. Awarded Distinguish Flying Cross for Heroism, four Air Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals, and nine Aerial Achievement Medals. 20-year Air Force career. Currently commercial airline pilot.

Commander Ted Muga, U.S. Navy (ret) – Retired Naval aviator (Grumman E-1 and E-2). Retired Pan-Am commercial airline pilot (Boeing 707 and 727).

Major Douglas Rokke, PhD, U.S. Army (ret) – Former Director U.S. Army Depleted Uranium Project. 30-year Army career.

Capt. Russ Wittenberg, U.S. Air Force – Former Air Force fighter pilot with over 100 combat missions. Commercial pilot for Pan Am and United Airlines for 35 years, flying 707, 720, 727, 737, 747, 757, 767, and 777 's. Had previously flown the actual two United Airlines airplanes that were hijacked on 9/11 (Flight 93, which impacted in Pennsylvania, and Flight 175, the second plane to hit the WTC).

Capt. Daniel Davis, U.S. Army – Former U.S. Army Air Defense Officer and NORAD Tac Director. Decorated with the Bronze Star and the Soldiers Medal for bravery under fire and the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in Viet Nam. Also served in the Army Air Defense Command as Nike Missile Battery Control Officer for the Chicago-Milwaukee Defense Area. Founder and former CEO of Turbine Technology Services Corp., a turbine (jet engine) services and maintenance company (15 years). Former Senior Manager at General Electric Turbine (jet) Engine Division (15 years). Private pilot.

Barbara Honegger, MS – Senior Military Affairs Journalist at the Naval Postgraduate School, the U.S. Navy's advanced science, technology and national security affairs

university (1995 - present). White House Policy Analyst and Special Assistant to the Assistant to President Ronald Reagan (1981 - 1983).

Lt. Col. Stephen L. Butler, EdD, U.S. Air Force (ret) – Former Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the Defense Language Institute. Served as a B-52 Radar Navigator in the Gulf War. 24-year Air Force career.

Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, U.S. Army Reserve – Commander of Special Troops Battalion, 9th Theater Support Command. Former Chief of the Army's Controlled HUMINT (Human Intelligence) Program, overseeing Army Intelligence and Security Command's global controlled HUMINT efforts. A former member of the Able Danger data mining program that targeted Al Qaeda's global structure. Awarded the Bronze Star for bravery. Fellow, Center for Advanced Defense Studies. 23-year military intelligence career.

Capt. Scott J. Phillipott, U.S. Navy – Commanding Officer of the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf. Former head of the Able Danger data mining program that targeted Al Qaeda's global structure. Former commanding officer of the frigate USS Estocin. Former Commanding Officer of the coastal patrol ship USS Typhoon. U.S. Naval Academy graduate. Awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals, and the Navy Achievement Medal. 23 years of Navy service.

Major Erik Kleinsmith, U.S. Army - Former Chief of Intelligence, Land Information Warfare Activity (LIWA). Awarded Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. 14-year Army career. Currently Project Manager for Intelligence Analytical Training, Lockheed Martin Company.

James D. Smith - Former Able Danger Program Manager for Orion Scientific Systems, a Department of Defense contractor. Previously at Orion, managed and performed criminal intelligence support activities within the Gulf States Initiative (GSI) Program – a joint federal (U.S. Army and National Guard) and multi-state project (Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi).

Col. David Hunt, MA, U.S. Army (ret) – Expert in Special Operations, Counter Terrorism and Intelligence Operations. Most recently, served as Tactical Advisor in Bosnia where he facilitated all national intelligence matters for the Commander in Chief. Coordinated a \$350,000,000 national security program for the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency in 1997. 29-year Army career. Currently author and media commentator on terrorism and military operations. Author of *On the Hunt: How to Wake Up Washington and Win the War on Terror* (2007), *They Just Don't Get It: How Washington Is Still Compromising Your Safety--and What You Can Do About It* (2006).

Major John M. Newman, PhD, U.S. Army (ret) – Former Executive Assistant to the Director of the National Security Agency. Former military attaché in China. 21-year career in U.S. Army Intelligence. Currently, professor of history and international relations at the University of Maryland.

Major Scott Ritter, U.S. Marine Corps – Former Marine Corps Intelligence Officer and Chief Weapons Inspector for the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq 1991 - 1998.

Capt. Gregory M. Zeigler, PhD, U.S. Army – Former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer.

Capt. Eric H. May, U.S. Army (ret) – Former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer. Former inspector and interpreter for the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty team.

Wayne Madsen – Former U.S. Navy Intelligence Officer, specialist in electronic surveillance and security. Formerly assigned to the National Security Agency and the State Department. Currently, investigative journalist, nationally distributed columnist, and author. Senior Fellow, Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), a non-partisan privacy public advocacy group in Washington, DC. Frequent media commentator on terrorism and security matters. Author of *Genocide and Covert Operations in Africa 1993-1999* (1999), co-author of *America's Nightmare: The Presidency of George Bush II* (2006), *Jaded Tasks: Big Oil, Black Ops & Brass Plates* (2006), *The Handbook of Personal Data Protection* (1992).

U.S. GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS

David L. Griscom, PhD – Research physicist, retired in 2001 from Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, DC, after 33 years service. Fellow of the American Physical Society. Fulbright-García Robles Fellow at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City (1997). Visiting professorships of research at the Universities of Paris and Saint-Etienne, France, and Tokyo Institute of Technology (2000 - 2003). Adjunct Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Arizona (2004 - 2005). Winner of the 1993 N.F. Mott Award sponsored by the Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids, the 1995 Otto Schott Award offered by the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung (Germany), a 1996 Outstanding Graduate School Alumnus Award at Brown University, and the 1997 Sigma Xi Pure Science Award at NRL. Principal author of 109 of his 185 published works, a body of work which is highly cited by his peers. Officially credited with largest number of papers (5) by any author on list of 100 most cited articles authored at NRL between 1973 and 1988.

Lon J. Waters, PhD Mathematics – Former staff member of the Maui High Performance Computing Center, a U.S. Department of Defense funded high performance computing and research facility. Former staff member of Sandia National Laboratories, a major research facility of the National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Department of Energy. Member Advisory Editorial Board, Journal of 9/11 Studies.

Raymond L. McGovern – Former Chairman, National Intelligence Estimates, **CIA**, responsible for preparing the President's Daily Brief (PDB) for Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. 27-year CIA veteran. Former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer.

William Christison – Former National Intelligence Officer and Director of the **CIA's** Office of Regional and Political Analysis. 29-year CIA veteran.

Robert David Steele (Vivas) – U.S. Marine Corps infantry and intelligence officer for twenty years. Second-ranking civilian (GS-14) in U.S. Marine Corps Intelligence from 1988 - 1992 and a member of the Adjunct Faculty of Marine Corps University. Also former clandestine services case officer with the **CIA**. 25-year U.S. military and intelligence career. Currently Founder and CEO of OSS.net and a proponent of Open Source Intelligence.

Melvin A. Goodman, PhD – Former Division Chief and Senior Analyst at the Office of Soviet Affairs, **CIA**, 1966 - 1990. Senior Analyst at the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, State Department, 1974 - 1976. Professor of International Security at the National War College 1986 - 2004. Currently Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy and Adjunct Professor of International Relations at Johns Hopkins University. Author and co-author of several books on international relations, including: Wars of Eduard Shevardnadze, Gorbachev's Retreat: The Third World, and Bush League Diplomacy: How the Neoconservatives Are Putting the World at Risk.

Robert Baer – Former **CIA** Case Officer, Specialist in the Middle East, Directorate of Operations. Awarded Career Intelligence Medal. 21-year CIA veteran. Best-selling author, screenwriter, and actor. Academy Award-winning *Syriana* was based on Baer's memoir *See No Evil*. Writer and on-camera presenter for Emmy Award-nominated documentary *Cult of the Suicide Bomber*. Author of two nonfiction books about CIA operations, *See No Evil* (2002) and *Sleeping with the Devil* (2004) and the novel *Blow the House Down* (2007).

Michael Levine – Former Senior DEA investigator. 25-year DEA career. Former DEA Country Attaché, Argentina and Uruguay (1979 - 1982). Former DEA Special Operations Officer, worldwide. Awards include the Octavio Gonzalez Award, given by the International Narcotic Enforcement Officer's Association for the undercover penetration of Roberto Suarez, Bolivian cocaine cartel; at that time, the biggest case in drug war history. Over twenty other awards from the US Justice and Treasury Departments and from foreign police agencies. Author of several nonfiction books on DEA investigations, including *Deep Cover* and *Big White Lie*. Radio show host and frequent media commentator on intelligence and covert operations.

Coleen Rowley – Former Special Agent and Minneapolis Division Counsel, FBI. 24-year FBI career. Agent Rowley was selected one of Time Magazine's three 2002 Persons of the Year for revealing FBI headquarters' efforts to "throw up roadblocks and undermine" FBI field investigations of Al Qaeda operatives in the four weeks prior to 9/11.

Sibel D. Edmonds – Witness before the 9/11 Commission. Former Language Translation Specialist, performing translations for counterterrorism and counterintelligence operations, FBI.

Steve Elson – Former Special Agent with the U.S. Navy, DEA and FAA. Specialist in Counterterrorism, Intelligence, and Security. Twenty-two years military experience, primarily in Naval Special Warfare and nine years Federal service with the FAA and DEA. Retired Navy SEAL.

William G. Weaver, JD, PhD – Former U.S. Army Signals Intelligence officer. Currently Director of Academic Programs, Institute for Policy and Economic Development, University of Texas, El Paso, specializing in executive branch secrecy policy, governmental abuse, and law and bureaucracy. Author, co-author, and editor of several books on law and political theory, including: *Presidential Secrecy and the Law* (2007), *New Perspectives on American Law: An Introduction to Private Law in Politics and Society* (1997), *Political Science and Feminism: Integration or Transformation?* (1997), *Pragmatism in Law and Society* (1991).

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY, INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Paul Hellyer – Former Minister of National Defense of Canada. Former Deputy Prime Minister. Former Member of House of Commons.

Peter Dale Scott, PhD – Former Canadian diplomat who served at the United Nations and the Canadian Embassy in Warsaw, Poland. Professor Emeritus of English at the University of California, Berkeley. He is author of *Drugs, Oil and War* (2003), and seven other books including *Deep Politics and the Death of JFK* (1993, 1996) and *The Iran-Contra Connection* (in collaboration, 1987). Co-editor of *9/11 and American Empire (Vol I) – Intellectuals Speak Out* (2006). His writings deal among other matters with U.S. covert operations and their impact on democracy at home and abroad.

Michael Meacher – Former Under Secretary for Industry, Under Secretary for Health and Social Security, Minister for the Environment, and Member of the House of Commons (UK).

Tony Benn – Former Member of British Parliament 1942 - 2001. Longest serving MP in the history of the Labour party. Former Minister of Technology. Former Secretary of State for Industry. Former Secretary of State for Energy. Former Postmaster General.

Andreas von Buelow, PhD – Former State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Defense of West Germany. Former Minister of Research and Technology. Member of Bundestag (Parliament) 1969 - 1994.

Horst Ehmke, PhD – Former Minister of Justice (West Germany). Former Minister for Research and Technology. Cabinet Member under Chancellors Kurt Kiesinger and Willy Brandt 1966 - 1974. Professor of Law, University of Freiburg

Ernst Welteke – Former President of Deutsche Bundesbank (German Federal Bank) 1999 - 2004. German politician and political economist. Member of the Hessian State Parliament, 1974 - 1995.

Francesco Cossiga – Former President of Italy (1985 - 1992) and Former Prime Minister.

General Leonid Ivashov – Former Chief of Staff of the Russian armed forces on 9/11/2001, and Department Chief for General affairs in the Soviet Union's Ministry of Defense.

Gen. Hosni Mubarak – President of Egypt, 1981 - present. Former Vice President, 1975 - 1981. Former Commander of the Egyptian Air Force and Deputy Minister of War.

Mohamed Hassanein Heikal – Former Foreign Minister of Egypt.

General Pervez Musharraf – President of Pakistan and Chief of Staff of the Pakistan Army. Assumed power on October 12, 1999 after a coup d'état and assumed the title of President on June 20, 2001.

General Mirza Aslam Beg – Former Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Army.

Giulietto Chiesa – Member of European Parliament, 2004 - present (Italy). Vice Chairman, Committee on International Trade. Member of Committee on Security and Defense. Journalist 1980 - 2004.

Paul Lannoye – Member of European Parliament, 1989 - 2004 (Belgium). Former Vice Chairman, Committee on Energy, Research and Technology. Former Vice Chairman, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

Col. Pierre-Henri Bunel, French Army (ret) – Army intelligence and artillery officer. Graduate of École Militaire of St. Cyr. Expert in the effects of artillery weapons and explosives. Served in the Gulf War as battlefield damage assessment officer and aide-de-camp to French General Michel Roquajoffre. Bunel was one of four French officers decorated by General Norman Schwarzkopf for service in the Gulf War. Also Served in French and NATO operations in Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Yugoslavia. 24-year army career.

Heikki Kurttila, D.Sc. (Tech.) (Doctor of Technology) – Safety Engineer and Accident Analyst, National Safety Technology Authority (TUKES), Finland. Specialist in the investigation of pressure vessel explosion accidents and the impacts of the shock waves caused by them.

David Shayler – Former Counter-Terrorism Officer, MI5 (Britain)

9/11 COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF MEMBERS
WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE COMMISSION REPORT
WHILE CITING OFFICIAL OBSTRUCTION

Thomas H. Kean, Chairman, 9/11 Commission – Former Governor of New Jersey 1982 - 1990. Also served for 10 years in the New Jersey Assembly. Currently President of Drew University.

Lee Hamilton, Vice Chairman, 9/11 Commission – Former 17-term Congressman from Indiana. Former Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Currently President and Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and serves as a member of the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Timothy J. Roemer, PhD, 9/11 Commissioner – Former 6-term Congressman from Indiana (1991 - 2003). Former member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Currently President of the Center for National Policy.

Jamie S. Gorelick, 9/11 Commissioner - Former Deputy Attorney General of the United States 1994 - 1997. Former General Counsel of the Defense Department 1993 - 1994. Co-chaired, with Senator Sam Nunn, the Advisory Committee of the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection. Also served on the CIA's National Security Advisory Panel. Vice chair of Fannie Mae 1997 - 2003. Currently a partner at the law firm, WilmerHale. Also serves on the Board of Directors of Schlumberger and United Technologies Corporation and is a member of the Harvard College Board of Overseers.

John J. Farmer, Jr., Senior Counsel, 9/11 Commission – Former Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. Former Chief Counsel to former New Jersey Governor.

Christine Todd Whitman -- Former Commissioner of the State Commission of Investigations. Former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey.

Peter Rundlet, Counsel for the 9/11 Commission – Former Associate Counsel to President Clinton. Former White House Fellow, serving in the Office of the Chief of Staff to President Clinton. Currently Vice President for National Security and International Affairs, Center for American Progress.

STATEMENTS OF THE ABOVE OFFICIALS

U.S. FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Senator Max Cleland

New York Times Article 10/26/03: "As each day goes by, we learn that this government knew a whole lot more about these terrorists before Sept. 11 than it has ever admitted." <http://www.commondreams.org>

Boston Globe Article 11/13/03: "If this decision stands [to limit access to White House documents], I, as a member of the [9/11] Commission, cannot look any American in the eye, especially family members of victims, and say the Commission had full access. This investigation is now compromised." http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2003/11/13/911_panel_to_get_access_to_withheld_data/

Salon Article 11/21/03: Regarding the 9/11 Commission:

"It is a national scandal."

<http://dir.salon.com>

Resigned from the 9/11 Commission, 12/03, after having served on it for 12 months. Former Senator Bob Kerrey from Nebraska was selected to replace him. The 9/11 Commission Report was issued 7 months later.

Transcript of audio interview 3/23/04: "One of these days we will have to get the full story because the 9-11 issue is so important to America. But this White House wants to cover it up." <http://www.democracynow.org>

Bio: <http://memory.loc.gov>

Senator Bob Graham

Article Salon 9/8/04: "As the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman during the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks and the run-up to the Iraq war, Sen. Bob Graham tried to expose what he came to believe were national security coverups and manipulations by the Bush administration. But he discovered that it was hard to reveal a coverup playing by the rules. Much of the evidence the Florida Democrat needed to buttress his arguments was being locked away, he found, under the veil of politically motivated classification. ...

Question by Mary Jacoby: You write about the Bush administration's suppression of the joint House-Senate intelligence panel's findings on Saudi Arabian links to 9/11. What exactly was suppressed, and why?

Bob Graham: In general terms it included the details of why we [on the committee] had raised suspicion that the Saudi government and various representatives of Saudi interests had supported some of the hijackers -- and might have supported all of them. My own personal conclusion was that the evidence of official Saudi support for at least two of the terrorists in San Diego was, as one CIA agent said, incontrovertible. ...

The White House played a heavy role throughout not only our investigation but the investigation of the 9/11 commission." <http://dir.salon.com>

Article Boston Globe 9/5/04: "Two of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers had a support network in the United States that included agents of the Saudi government, and the Bush administration and FBI blocked a congressional investigation into that relationship, Senator Bob Graham wrote in a book to be released Tuesday.

The discovery of the financial backing of the two hijackers "would draw a direct line between the terrorists and the government of Saudi Arabia, and trigger an attempted coverup by the Bush administration," the Florida Democrat wrote.

And in Graham's book, "Intelligence Matters," obtained by The Miami Herald yesterday, he makes clear that some details of that financial support from Saudi Arabia were in the 27 pages of the congressional inquiry's final report that were blocked from release by the administration, despite the pleas of leaders of both parties on the House and Senate intelligence committees."
<http://www.boston.com>

Editor's note: Despite the finding of the Joint House-Senate Select Intelligence Committee's 2002 Report (p.415) of "sources of foreign support for some of the September 11 hijackers", the 9/11 Commission Report (p. 172) states, "Similarly, we have seen no evidence that any foreign government -- or government official - - supplied any funding." For more information on foreign support of the 9/11 hijackers, see Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, Major John Newman, William Bergman, and Michael Meacher.

Bio: <http://bioguide.congress.gov...>

Senator Mark Dayton

Senate Hearings on the 9/11 Commission Report 7/31/04: "They [NORAD] lied to the American people, they lied to Congress and they lied to your 9/11 Commission. ... For almost three years now NORAD officials and FAA officials have been able to hide their critical failures that left this country defenseless during two of the worst hours in our history." <http://www.911truth>

Editor's note: On August 1, 2006, Thomas Kean, Chairman of the 9/11 Commission said, "We, to this day, don't know why NORAD [the North American Aerospace Command] told us what they told us. It was just so far from the truth. ... It's one of those loose ends that never got tied."

Despite the many public statements by 9/11 Commissioners and staff members acknowledging they were repeatedly lied to, not a single person has ever been charged, tried, or even reprimanded for lying to the 9/11 Commission.

Article 7/31/04: "Dayton, a former Minnesota state auditor, called the FAA's and NORAD's failures "the most gross incompetence and dereliction of responsibility and negligence that I've ever, under those extreme circumstances, witnessed in the public sector."

http://www.911readingroom.org/bib/whole_document.php?article_id=306

Bio: <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Governor Jesse Ventura

Video interview, The Alex Jones Show 9/26/06: "The thing I question on 9/11 was simply the fact; where were our planes? When all this was going on and planes were being hijacked an hour apart and there were four of them. They cover about a six-hour space. At no time, to my knowledge, did we have any fighter planes up in the air. Why? ...

In light of the fact that there was a cover-up that got us into the Viet Nam war and there was, in my opinion, a cover-up of John Kennedy's assassination, I would just say that I don't believe it's beyond reason to not at least consider that the government certainly would do things like that."

http://www.infowars.com/articles/sept11/video_ventura_questions_911_fable.htm

Interview Black Op Radio 8/20/04: "At first, again, I wanted to believe 9/11, you know. But the problem I have with 9/11 is just a real simple one. I'm trying to figure out -- and of course they're now attempting to answer it somewhat -- how we could have failed so miserably in not having air defense. ...

And the problem I have with 9/11 is that. Where the heck was our defense? Who was sleeping at the wheel? While all of these planes... I mean, I've been to air traffic control when I was Governor, and you've got a dozen people there looking at these dials, watching every plane in their sector. They know where it's going and they know what direction it's supposed to be going.

Now, how is it that these planes were able to be hijacked at half hour intervals, turned directly opposite the way they're supposed to be going and no bells went off, no emergency sirens went off, no fighter jets were scrambled? Just what the hell happened in that area of time?! And that's the part that troubles me about 9/11. ...

I mean here's the Pentagon, the head of our military. How was this plane able to circle the city of Baltimore [sic] at least once, picking out a target, and then drive into it, and we didn't have -- nothing up in the air? There wasn't one scrambled fighter jet up there to defend in any way, shape, or form?"

<http://www.libertypost.org>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Ventura

Congressman Ron Paul, MD

Audio interview The Alex Jones Show 1/18/07: "Dr. Ron Paul, Texas Congressman exploring a run for President, appeared on The Alex Jones Show Wednesday and had the following to say about 9/11:

Caller: I want a complete, impartial, and totally independent investigation of the events of September 11, 2001. I'm tired of this bogus garbage about terrorism. Ask Michael Meacher about how he feels about this bogus war on terrorism. Can you comment on that please?

Congressman Paul: Well, that would be nice to have. Unfortunately, we don't have that in place. It will be a little bit better now with the Democrats now in charge of oversight. But you know, for top level policy there's not a whole lot of difference between the two policies so a real investigation isn't going to happen. But I think we have to keep pushing for it. And like you and others, we see the investigations that have been done so far as more or less cover-up and no real explanation of what went on." <http://www.total911.info>

Bio: <http://www.house.gov/paul/bio.shtml>

Congressman Dennis Kucinich

Video interview with Justin A. Martell of Student Scholars for 9/11 Truth 4/5/07:

Justin A. Martell: Would you in any way maybe address the 9/11 Truth Movement?

Congressman Kucinich: First of all, you have to understand that all over the country people are concerned about whether or not they've been told the truth about 9/11. And the way that the administration handled 9/11, taking us into a war against Iraq that had nothing to do with 9/11, deepened people's suspicions about the possibility there may have been a cover-up. Because, why would the government lie about a cause for war? And so, what I'm saying is that I respect the concerns people have about whether they've been told the truth or not.

Because I want to be President of the United States, I know that unless you address that lack of trust, you're not going to be able to successfully lead a nation. And I want to be quite specific about this. It's my intention as Chairman of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee to focus in on two areas that I've -- there are a number of areas, probably dozens of areas that haven't been appropriately probed -- but I know of two, that I'm looking at. I'm not at liberty to discuss exactly what they are, but our committee will hold hearings on two discreet areas that have major implications with respect to the story that Americans have been told about 9/11." <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIS6UJ8kRIY>

Article 3/26/07: "Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich predicted Sunday that by the time the New Hampshire primary arrives early next year, so many Americans will have tired of the war in Iraq that his peace platform will make him the choice for the Democratic nomination. ...

He also said that as chairman of a House subcommittee on domestic policy, he plans to launch an investigation of "a narrow portion" of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He offered few details, but said his subcommittee would be looking at "a few, specific discrepancies in the public record." The 9/11 Commission that published its final report in 2004 never resolved some conflicting facts, Kucinich said. He announced his own look at 9/11 in answer to a question from an audience member. The man complained that the 9/11 Commission was too tied to the Bush administration to offer an unbiased report, and Kucinich agreed." <http://timesunion.com>

Bio: <http://kucinich.house.gov/Biography/>

Website: <http://kucinich.us/>

Congressman Curt Weldon

Fox News Article 8/28/05: Regarding the 9/11 Commission -- "There's something very sinister going on here that really troubles me," Weldon told FOX News on Thursday, blasting the Sept. 11 commission for not taking the claims more seriously. He said some panel members were trying to smear [Lt. Col. Anthony] Shaffer and Able Danger. "What's the Sept. 11 commission got to hide?" Weldon asked." <http://www.foxnews.com>

Press conference transcript 9/17/05: Regarding the 9/11 Commission Report "There's something wrong here, something tragically wrong. The American people, the families, the country and the Congress need to know the truth, the whole truth, the complete truth. And so far we haven't gotten it. ... Somebody's got to connect the dots and answer the questions. If the 9/11 Commission won't do it, then Congress has to do it."

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=viewArticle&code=20050917&articleId=965>

Speech on the floor of Congress 10/19/05: "I am not a conspiracy theorist, but there is something desperately wrong, Mr. Speaker. There is something outrageous at work here. This is not a third-rate burglary of a political campaign headquarters. This involved what is right now the covering up of information that led to the deaths of 3,000 people, changed the course of history, led to the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, and has disrupted our country, our economy and people's lives." <http://frwebgate>

Editor's note: The 9/11 Commission Report asserts that only three of the alleged hijackers were known to U.S. intelligence agencies prior to 9/11; Nawaf al-Hazmi, Salem al-Hazmi, and Khalid al-Mihdar. There is no mention in the Report that the names and photographs of alleged hijacker Marwan al-Shehhi and alleged ring-leader Mohamed Atta had been identified by the Department of Defense antiterrorist program known as Able Danger more than a year prior to 9/11 and that they were known to be affiliates of al-Qaida. Able Danger also identified Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdar.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,165948,00.html>

See also Rep. Curt Weldon, Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, Capt. Scott J. Phillpott, Major Erik Kleinsmith, and James D. Smith.

Bio: <http://www.montcogop.org>

Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney

Congressional Briefing 7/22/05: "Within days of the attacks, we were told that the perpetrators were from a terrorist network known as al-Qaeda. When reporters and members of the public asked for details, then Secretary of State Colin Powell promised that it would be made all clear to the world in a White Paper.

Nearly 4 years, and 2 wars later, we still have no official statement from the Bush administration on the specifics of who did it, who aided and financed them or what their origins are.

For the families who suffered so much loss this surely feels like adding insult to injury. They deserve to know everything that there is to be known about how their loved ones died. They fought for an investigation that would be non-partisan, independent, and that would get to the bottom of things. But, as work got underway, not only did the Commission run up against obstruction by the administration and non-cooperation from government agencies, many, if not most of the commissioners themselves had conflicts of interest.

And several commissioners spoke out about problems in the process; the lack of investigative rigor and heavy reliance on previous work; the Joint-Commission Report, the drafting of recommendations before the investigative process got rolling, the failure to take testimony under oath or in many cases to even take transcripts. ...

Then last year, we got the final report. An extensive, prosaically impressive report. But as some of us sat down to read it, the errors and omissions immediately jumped out at us.

How was it that it took over an hour after the first transponder went off before planes were scrambled to meet the threat? All of them too late.

What happened to those reports that surfaced within months of September 11th stating that 7 or more of the alleged hijackers had come forward and claimed that they were victims of stolen identities ...? Why did the Commission choose not even to address this?

What about the terrorist Omar Said Sheikh? ... According to Indian intelligence, this man received orders from a Pakistani General to transfer \$100,000 to Mohammed Atta. People all over the world are talking about this story. But not a word about it in the Report.

What about Osama bin Laden and his role in the Mujahadin backed by the CIA in the 1980's to fight the Soviets? The Commission didn't go there."
<http://www.911readingroom.org>

Editor's note: Despite the finding of the Joint House-Senate Select Intelligence Committee's 2002 Report (p.415) of "sources of foreign support for some of the September 11 hijackers", the 9/11 Commission Report (p. 172) states, "Similarly, we have seen no evidence that any foreign government -- or government official - supplied any funding." For more information on Omar Said Sheikh and foreign support of the 9/11 hijackers, see Senator Bob Graham, Major John Newman, William Bergman, and Michael Meacher.

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

"We want truthful answers to question. ...

As Americans of conscience, we ask for four things:

- o An immediate investigation by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
- o Immediate investigation in Congressional Hearings.
- o Media attention to scrutinize and investigate the evidence.
- o The formation of a truly independent citizens-based inquiry."

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

Bio: <http://www.ratical.org/co-globalize/CynthiaMcKinney>

Norman Mineta, Secretary of Transportation

9/11 Commission testimony 5/23/03:

Lee Hamilton: We thank you for that. I wanted to focus just a moment on the Presidential Emergency Operating Center [PEOC]. You were there for a good part of the day. I think you were there with the vice president. And when you had that order given, I think it was by the president, that authorized the shooting down of commercial aircraft that were suspected to be controlled by terrorists, were you there when that order was given?

Norm Mineta: No, I was not. I was made aware of it during the time that the airplane coming into the Pentagon. There was a young man who had come in and said to the vice president, "The plane is 50 miles out. The plane is 30 miles out." And when it got down to, "The plane is 10 miles out," the young man also said to the vice president, "Do the orders still stand?" And the vice president turned and whipped his neck around and said, "Of course the orders still stand. Have you heard anything to the contrary?" Well, at the time I didn't know what all that meant. And --

Lee Hamilton: The flight you're referring to is the --

Norm Mineta: The flight that came into the Pentagon. ...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDfdOwt2v3Y>

Norm Mineta: I didn't know about the order to shoot down. I arrived at the PEOC at about 9:20 a.m. And the president was in Florida, and I believe he was on his way to Louisiana at that point when the conversation that went on between the vice president and the president and the staff that the president had with him.

Tim Roemer: So when you arrived at 9:20 [at the Presidential Emergency Operating Center in the White House], how much longer was it before you overheard the conversation between the young man and the vice president saying, "Does the order still stand?"

Norm Mineta: Probably about five or six minutes.

Tim Roemer: So about 9:25 or 9:26. And your inference was that the vice president snapped his head around and said, "Yes, the order still stands." Why did you infer that that was a shoot-down?

http://www.youtube.com/index?&session=_NFQZwPUAKAjIpMGNb52tkYMu6BDQPJlv-c6PSb_wvna1XxsA-vCVBUSRqgQSOoyAaMc_rFhedBmwChCHG0eJddrOUMYQWHuwKE8Q54Ec3M-gUkmF1f4ANWjjkpSUxrChWDF4YHIboa9VJrgMtCzJM2qcalFTXeLigbNQ0Vk7jHzkGDxQiw_tWIFIRHrvrZ_-0C3792xVM=

[This video was scrubbed from YouTube as well -- see below.]

Editor's note: Secretary Mineta's testimony is entirely omitted from the 9/11 Commission Report. His testimony directly contradicts the 9/11 Commission Report in two key points.

1. Mr. Mineta testified he arrived at the Presidential Emergency Operations Center (PEOC) in the White House at 9:20 a.m. and observed Vice President Dick Cheney discussing with an aide that the incoming Flight 77 was 50 miles out at 9:25 or 9:26. The 9/11 Commission Report maintains Vice President Cheney did not arrive at the PEOC until 9:58, over one-half hour later. Mr. Mineta's testimony is further supported by the fact that Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon at 9:37, which is the correct time it would have taken Flight 77 to arrive at the Pentagon, if it had been about 50 miles out at 9:26.

2. The Commission Report maintains the government did not know the whereabouts of Flight 77 prior 9:32, when Dulles Tower air controllers "observed a primary radar target tracking eastbound at a high rate of speed." Mr. Mineta's testimony reveals Vice President Cheney was being informed of the plane's position for several minutes before that, and perhaps considerably longer.

Also of interest, is that the first approximately 15 minutes of Mr. Mineta's testimony before the Commission (Panel 1, Friday, May 23, 2003) during which he discusses the points mentioned above, have been edited out of the official 9/11 Commission video archives. However, his entire testimony does appear in the transcript.

Bio: <http://www.nndb.com/people/649/000024577/>

Louis Freeh, Former Director of the FBI

Essay: An Incomplete Investigation - Why did the 9/11 Commission ignore "Able Danger"? Wall Street Journal 11/17/05:

"Even the most junior investigator would immediately know that the name and photo ID of Atta in 2000 is precisely the kind of tactical intelligence the FBI has many times employed to prevent attacks and arrest terrorists. Yet the 9/11 Commission inexplicably concluded that it "was not historically significant." This astounding conclusion--in combination with the failure to investigate Able Danger and incorporate it into its findings--raises serious challenges to the commission's credibility and, if the facts prove out, might just render the commission historically insignificant itself. ... No wonder the 9/11 families were outraged by these revelations and called for a "new" commission to investigate."

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=110007559>

Interview, Lou Dobbs Tonight 11/30/05: Regarding the Able Danger anti-terrorism data mining program.

Lou Dobbs: Why is there this reaction to what is called by more than half of our congressmen and women, to open up and to allow our elected representatives to know what happened?

Louis Freeh: Well, it's a great question. I mean, the issue here, which was the issue when the 9/11 commission first responded to this, is they obviously missed

something. They obviously didn't consider what at least is a very important allegation.

Their response to it, it was historically insignificant. Historically insignificant that an intelligence unit may have identified by name and photo, Mohamed Atta a year before the 9/11 hijackings as a member of al Qaeda in the United States.

Lou Dobbs: Tim Roemer, Slade Gorton, other members of the 9/11 commission have said they just had no hard evidence to deal with here. How do you respond?

Louis Freeh: I disagree with that. I was a prosecutor and an FBI agent for many, many years. I deal in facts. You have two witnesses. You have United States Naval Academy graduate, Captain Phillipott, you have Lieutenant Colonel Shaffer, an army intelligence officer. These aren't data loaders, these are intelligence experts who both have said, unequivocally, this unit identified Mohammed Atta by name and possibly photo in mid 2000.

To say that they don't have any documents to prove their case, these aren't informants that we have to verify their credibility. We have testimonial evidence, which, as a prosecutor, that's more potent sometimes than documentary evidence.

Lou Dobbs: You were director of the FBI until June of 2001. Were you ever aware of Able Danger? Was the FBI ever given any reason to sense that there was some military intelligence or military intelligence evidence or suggestion that there would be an attack or some relationship to Mohamed Atta?

Louis Freeh: Absolutely not. Myself, but also my former colleagues and current FBI colleagues, we read about this in the newspapers in August of this year.

And what is very significant here Lou -- which is a point that has been made, and which I think you made -- we had officers at Able Danger who made appointments, actually made appointments to go to the FBI and share this intelligence in 2000 and those appointments were canceled.

It had to be a very powerful stimulus, this intelligence and information, to make these officers want to really breach the chain of command and go directly to the FBI. We'd like to know why those appointments were canceled."

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0511/30/ldt.01.html>

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<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,165948,00.html>

See also Rep. Curt Weldon, Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, Capt. Scott J. Phillipott, Major Erik Kleinsmith, and James D. Smith.

Bio: <http://www.fbi.gov/libref/directors/freeh.htm>

Edward L. Peck and Morton Goulder

Signatories: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

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- o An immediate investigation by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
- o Immediate investigation in Congressional Hearings.
- o Media attention to scrutinize and investigate the evidence.
- o The formation of a truly independent citizens-based inquiry."

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Peck

Marcus Raskin, JD

Endorsement of [David Ray Griffin's book] The New Pearl Harbor: "This is an important, extraordinarily well-reasoned and provocative book that should be widely read. Griffin raises disturbing questions that deserve thoughtful and truthful answers from our government."

<http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sveniot/nph/>

Bio: <http://www.ips-dc.org/bios.htm#Marcus%20Raskin>

Joseph C. Wilson IV

Interview with Citizens for Legitimate Government 7/6/05:

CLG: I can't let this moment pass without asking you about 9/11 and the Bush Administration. Do you notice any oddities about how the Bush Administration handled the events, the aftermath or the investigation of 9/11? Do you see any holes in the government's explanation of events?

Joseph Wilson: I have obviously followed the inquiries into 9/11 and I know Dick Clarke and Rand Beers very well but I am not an expert. I look to the "Jersey Girls" [Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Lorie Van Auken, and Mindy Kleinberg] who have so assiduously pushed the case in the memory of their late husbands, for real understanding. I have great admiration for them and for what they have done. They are not satisfied, so neither am I. <http://www.legitgov.org>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_C._Wilson

Morgan Reynolds, PhD

Video 6/2/06: "I first began to suspect that 9/11 was in inside job when the Bush-Cheney Administration invaded Iraq. ... We can prove that the government's story is false." <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-8180123292618944278>

Essay 6/9/05: "It is hard to exaggerate the importance of a scientific debate over the cause(s) of the collapse of the twin towers [each 1300+ feet tall, 110 stories] and building 7 [610 feet tall, 47 stories, and not hit by an airplane]. If the official

wisdom on the collapses is wrong, as I believe it is, then policy based on such erroneous engineering analysis is not likely [to] prove to be sound."
<http://www.lewrockwell.com/reynolds/reynolds12.html>

Bio: <http://nomoregames.net/index.php?page=bio>

Paul Craig Roberts, PhD

Endorsement of 9/11 and American Empire (Vol I) – Intellectuals Speak Out [by David Ray Griffin and Peter Dale Scott]:

"This is the most important book of our time. Distinguished national and international scientists and scholars present massive evidence that the 9/11 Commission Report is a hoax and that the 9/11 "terrorist attack" has been manipulated to serve a hegemonic agenda in the Middle East. The book's call for a truly independent panel of experts to be empowered to bring out the true facts must be heeded or Americans will never again live under accountable government."

http://www.interlinkbooks.com/product_info.php?products_id=1545&osCsid=5a22b94fffd724962a118f454c5d7194&osCsid=5a22b94fffd724962a118f454c5d7194#reviews

Essay 8/16/06: "We know that it is strictly impossible for any building, much less steel columned buildings, to "pancake" at free fall speed. Therefore, it is a non-controversial fact that the official explanation of the collapse of the WTC buildings is false." <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article14566.htm>

Essay 2/6/06: "There are not many editors eager for writers to explore the glaring defects of the 9/11 Commission Report. One would think that if the report could stand analysis, there would not be a taboo against calling attention to the inadequacy of its explanations."

<http://www.counterpunch.org/roberts02062006.html>

Bio: <http://www.vdare.com/roberts/bio.htm>

Catherine Austin Fitts

Audio Interview 9/9/04: Regarding 9/11 "The official story could not possibly have happened... It's not possible. It's not operationally feasible... The Commission was a whitewash." (About 45 minutes into the file.)

<http://157.22.130.4/data/20040909-Thu1700.mp3>

[NOTE: This interview has been scrubbed.]

Essay 3/22/04: "The first category of people who benefited were those who are guilty and complicit in designing, implementing and financing the 9-11 operation. On such a sophisticated and successful covert operation, the people responsible would have had budgets and financing and would have organized the operation to maximize their political and financial benefits."

<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/FIT403A.html>

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

"We want truthful answers to question. ...

As Americans of conscience, we ask for four things:

- o An immediate investigation by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
- o Immediate investigation in Congressional Hearings.
- o Media attention to scrutinize and investigate the evidence.
- o The formation of a truly independent citizens-based inquiry."

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

Bio: http://www.solari.com/about/ca_fitts.html

William Bergman, MA, MBA

Essay Curious Coincidences of 2001: Following the 9/11 Money Trail 1/4/06: "On p. 172 of the final [9/11 Commission] report, after discussing money laundering issues, the commission concluded, "To date, the U.S. government has not been able to determine the origin of the money used for the 9/11 attacks. Ultimately, the question is of little practical significance."

This rather ridiculous statement suggests that some of the biggest bones may be buried in the financial area. Examples include wire transfers from Pakistan to Mohamed Atta in Florida bank accounts in mid-2001, a spike in U.S. currency growth in July and August 2001, suspicious activity reporting by financial institutions in July and August 2001, and the commission's misleading description of the emphasis on counterterrorism in anti-money laundering initiatives.

As early as October 2001, government investigative work and media reports publicly suggested that Mohamed Atta had been receiving wire transfers in bank accounts in Florida in the year before 9/11. Some of those transfers were reported to have been arranged by people linked to Pakistani intelligence services as well as al-Qaeda.

One of those reportedly involved in making the transfers [General Mahmoud Ahmed] left his position as Director of the Pakistani intelligence service soon after September 11. This person happened to be visiting Washington the week before 9/11, and was having breakfast with leaders of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees on the very morning of 9/11 – leaders of the subsequent Congressional Joint Inquiry into the events of September 11.

A complete discussion of what we know about these transfers, whether these transfers were or were not made, and if they were, who arranged them and how, would seem to be a critical element of any full and complete investigation. Yet, amazingly, and yet, perhaps not so amazingly, they went unmentioned in the 9/11 commission's final report. ...

Under-explored financial issues relating to 9/11 appear to be part of a broader, significant problem. The 585-page final report of the 9/11 Commission is extensively footnoted and superficially impressive. Many people worked long and hard on it. However, in a statement following the Able Danger revelations several months ago, members of the September 11th Advocates (the above-noted victim families group) aptly described the report as a "hollow failure."

Unanswered questions pointing to serious issues abound, and in a variety of areas."

http://sandersresearch.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1179&Itemid=102

[For more information on the September 11th Advocates, see Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Monica Gabrielle, Mindy Kleinberg, and Lorie Van Auken.]

Editor's note: Despite the finding of the Joint House-Senate Select Intelligence Committee's 2002 Report (p.415) of "sources of foreign support for some of the September 11 hijackers", the 9/11 Commission Report (p. 172) states, "Similarly, we have seen no evidence that any foreign government -- or government official - - supplied any funding." For more information on foreign support of the 9/11 hijackers, see Senator Bob Graham, Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, Major John Newman, and Michael Meacher.

Editor's note: The 9/11 Commission states in its Monograph on Terrorist Financing, "The U.S. government investigation unequivocally concluded that there was no evidence of illicit trading in the U.S. markets with knowledge of the terrorist attacks. The Commission staff, after an independent review of the government investigation, has discovered no reason to doubt this conclusion." For more information on 9/11-related investment irregularities, see Paul Zarembka and Ernst Welteke .

John Loftus

Article 9/6/03: "The information provided by European intelligence services prior to 9/11 was so extensive that it is no longer possible for either the CIA or FBI to assert a defence of incompetence."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1036571,00.html>

Bio: <http://www.harrywalker.com>

George Kenney

Audio interview of James Fetzer 2/25/06 - "I must admit it's difficult for me, as a former bureaucrat, to imagine that people within the US government could pull off a successful conspiracy. On the other hand, I cannot believe, much as I might like to, the standard account of 9/11."

<http://www.podcastdirectory.com/podshows/257176>

Bio: <http://www.electricpolitics.com/faq.html>

Fred Burks

Essay: "How is it possible that our military's highly touted missile detections systems could not locate Flight 77 in the 42 minutes it was known to be lost before it crashed into the heart of the defense system of the U.S.? ...

An even bigger question is why isn't our media asking these questions? Why isn't our military spending many millions of dollars to find out why military defense systems failed on 9/11? Why is it that the 9/11 commission budget was far less than the budget allotted to the Challenger Disaster or even the Monika Lewinsky affair?" <http://www.wanttoknow.info/911starwars>

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

J. Michael Springman

Video of Speech to National Press Club 6/10/02:

"I used to be in charge of the visa section at the CIA's Consulate in Jeddah. ... There for a year and a half I issued visas to terrorists recruited by the CIA and its asset Osama Bin Laden. ... Fifteen of the nineteen people who allegedly flew airplanes into buildings in the United States got their visas from the same CIA Consulate at Jeddah."

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=zgYFo79q1Ek&mode=related&search=>

BBC Interview 11/6/01: "In Saudi Arabia I was repeatedly ordered by high level State Dept officials to issue visas to unqualified applicants. These were, essentially, people who had no ties either to Saudi Arabia or to their own country. I complained bitterly at the time there. I returned to the US, I complained to the State Dept here, to the General Accounting Office, to the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and to the Inspector General's office. I was met with silence. ...

What I was protesting was, in reality, an effort to bring recruits, rounded up by Osama Bin Laden, to the US for terrorist training by the CIA. They would then be returned to Afghanistan to fight against the then-Soviets." <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

Bio: <http://www.springmannslaw.com/Overview.shtml>

Michael Mennard, PhD

Statement to this website 5/6/07: "I am concerned about the numerous inconsistencies in the official account of 9/11. I support a new investigation regarding the tragic events of that day, the events leading up to it, and subsequent efforts to ignore the whole matter."

Daniel Ellsberg, PhD

Interview 7/14/06: Regarding 9/11 "There is no question in my mind, that there is enough evidence to justify a very comprehensive and hard hitting investigation of the kind we have not seen. With subpoenas, general questioning of people, releasing a lot of documents. There's no question that very serious questions have been raised about how much they knew before hand and how much involvement there may have been."

http://www.infowars.com/articles/terror/pentagon_papers_author_gov_maybe_did_911.htm

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

Bio: <http://www.ellsberg.net/content/view/14/27/>

Robin Hordon

Statement to this website 4/10/07:

"I knew within hours of the attacks on 9/11/2001 that it was an inside job. Based on my 11-year experience as an FAA Air Traffic Controller in the busy Northeast corridor, including hundreds of hours of training, briefings, air refuelings, low altitude bombing drills, being part of huge military exercises, daily military training exercises, interacting on a routine basis directly with NORAD radar personnel, and based on my own direct experience dealing with in-flight emergency situations, including two instances of hijacked commercial airliners, I state unequivocally: There is absolutely no way that four large commercial airliners could have flown around off course for 30 to 60 minutes on 9/11 without being intercepted and shot completely out of the sky by our jet fighters unless very highly placed people in our government and our military wanted it to happen.

It is important for people to understand that scrambling jet fighters to intercept aircraft showing the signs of experiencing "IN-FLIGHT EMERGENCIES" such as going off course without authorization, losing a transponder signal and/or losing radio contact is a common and routine task executed jointly between the FAA and NORAD controllers. The entire "national defense-first responder" intercept system has many highly-trained civilian and military personnel who are committed and well-trained to this task. FAA and NORAD continuously monitor our skies and fighter planes and pilots are on the ready 24/7 to handle these situations. Jet fighters typically intercept any suspect plane over the United States within 10 - 15 minutes of notification of a problem.

This type of "immediate, high speed, high priority and emergency" scramble had been happening regularly approximately 75 - 150 times per year for ten years. ...

I believe that 9/11 was what is known as a "False Flag Operation" in which a country inflicts casualties upon itself, and then blames it on an enemy that they want to go to war against. It is one more instance in the United States' long history of using "False Flag Operations" and blatant propaganda to ramp-up hostile emotions towards an enemy in a population otherwise resistant to going to war."

Link to Full Statement and Expanded Bio:

<http://www.patriotsquestion911.com/Statement%20Hordon.html>

Article 3/12/07: "When it became clear that there hadn't been a systems failure of any kind on the morning of September 11th, Hordon was certain that something had gone terribly wrong within the upper echelons of authority. A pilot (third level air carrier) as well as an ATC, he is well versed on in-flight emergency protocol. He is also adamant that if these procedures had been followed on 9/11 not one of the hijacked planes would have reached their targets.

"I'm sorry but American 11 should have been intercepted over southwest Connecticut—bang, done deal." ...

The unfathomable delays seen in military action on 9/11 are inconceivable to those who have painstakingly investigated the matter -- and for a man who worked for years keeping air travel over the U.S. safe. ...

"I think we all have to agree that, one way or another, the U.S. military was involved in the attacks. The advantage that Rumsfeld had is that he can classify, reshape, make available, make unavailable any information that he wants, at any time and deny that information to the public for any reason, especially national security."

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/march2007/120307firstfifteen.htm>

Philip J. Berg, Esquire

Article 10/29/04: "The official story of what actually took place on 9-11 is a lie."
http://www.americanfreepress.net/html/trade_towers_rescue.html

Statement 1/4/07: "Berg continued there is overwhelming evidence that: "Bush and his cronies made 9/11 happen or let it happen. And, if they let it happen, then they made it happen. Either way, they are responsible; and more important, they have completely and unequivocally covered-it-up!" MS Word doc at
http://www.911forthetruth.com/pdfs/PR_01042007.doc

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20041026093059633>

Member: Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice

Association Statement: "Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice is a non-partisan organization consisting of independent researchers and activists engaged in uncovering the true nature of the September 11, 2001 attacks."

Bio: <http://www.911forthetruth.com>

U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS

General Wesley Clark, U.S. Army (ret)

Video interview ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos 3/5/06: "I think when you look at this country, right now, we need a 2-party system that works. We need Congress to do its job. We need real investigation of some of the abuses of authority that are apparently going on at the Executive branch. ... We've never finished the investigation of 9/11 and whether the administration actually misused the intelligence information it had. The evidence seems pretty clear to me. I've seen that for a long time." <http://securingamerica.com/node/692>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wesley_Clark

Major General Albert Stubblebine, U.S. Army (ret)

Video 7/11/06:

"One of my experiences in the Army was being in charge of the Army's Imagery Interpretation for Scientific and Technical Intelligence during the Cold War. I

measured pieces of Soviet equipment from photographs. It was my job. I look at the hole in the Pentagon and I look at the size of an airplane that was supposed to have hit the Pentagon. And I said, 'The plane does not fit in that hole.' So what did hit the Pentagon? What hit it? Where is it? What's going on?"

<http://www.undersiegemovie.com/media/stubblebine.wmv>

Editor's note: For more information on the impact at the Pentagon, see Colonel Nelson, Lt. Col. Kwiatkowski, Major Rokke, Capt. Wittenberg, and Steve DeChiaro.

Bio: <http://www.canadiansub.com/Board>

Col. Ronald D. Ray, U.S. Marine Corps (ret)

Article 7/10/06:

"The former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense under the Reagan Administration and a highly decorated Vietnam veteran and Colonel has gone on the record to voice his doubts about the official story of 9/11 -- calling it 'the dog that doesn't hunt.' 'I'm astounded that the conspiracy theory advanced by the administration could in fact be true and the evidence does not seem to suggest that's accurate,' he said."

http://www.knowledgedrivenrevolution.com/Articles/200607/20060701_911_Ray.htm

Bio: <http://www.firstprinciplespress.org>

Col. Robert Bowman, PhD, U.S. Air Force (ret) *****

Director of Advanced Space Programs Development under Presidents Ford and Carter. U.S. Air Force fighter pilot with over 100 combat missions. (PhD in Aeronautics and Nuclear Engineering, Cal Tech). Former Head of the Department of Aeronautical Engineering and Assistant Dean at the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology. Also taught Mathematics and English at the University of Southern California, the University of Maryland, and Phillips University.

Video 9/11/04:

"A lot of these pieces of information, taken together, prove that the official story, the official conspiracy theory of 9/11 is a bunch of hogwash. It's impossible. ... There's a second group of facts having to do with the cover up. ... Taken together these things prove that high levels of our government don't want us to know what happened and who's responsible...."

Who gained from 9/11? Who covered up crucial information about 9/11? And who put out the patently false stories about 9/11 in the first place? When you take those three things together, I think the case is pretty clear that it's highly placed individuals in the administration with all roads passing through Dick Cheney.

I think the very kindest thing that we can say about George W. Bush and all the people in the U.S. Government that have been involved in this massive cover-up, the very kindest thing we can say is that they were aware of impending attacks and let them happen. Now some people will say that's much too kind, however even that is high treason and conspiracy to commit murder."

***** [NOTE: DO NOT MISS THIS CLIP. And remember who this man is.]

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6900065571556128674>

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

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As Americans of conscience, we ask for four things:

- o An immediate investigation by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
- o Immediate investigation in Congressional Hearings.
- o Media attention to scrutinize and investigate the evidence.
- o The formation of a truly independent citizens-based inquiry."

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

Member: Pilots for 9/11 Truth

Association Statement: "Pilots for 9/11 Truth is an organization of aviation professionals and pilots throughout the globe that have gathered together for one purpose. We are committed to seeking the truth surrounding the events of the 11th of September 2001. Our main focus concentrates on the four flights, maneuvers performed and the reported pilots. We do not offer theory or point blame. However, we are focused on determining the truth of that fateful day since the United States Government doesn't seem to be very forthcoming with answers."

Website: <http://www.thepatriots.us>

Col. George Nelson, U.S. Air Force (ret)

Essay:

"In all my years of direct and indirect participation, I never witnessed nor even heard of an aircraft loss, where the wreckage was accessible, that prevented investigators from finding enough hard evidence to positively identify the make, model, and specific registration number of the aircraft -- and in most cases the precise cause of the accident. ...

The government alleges that four wide-body airliners crashed on the morning of September 11 2001, resulting in the deaths of more than 3,000 human beings, yet not one piece of hard aircraft evidence has been produced in an attempt to positively identify any of the four aircraft. On the contrary, it seems only that all potential evidence was deliberately kept hidden from public view. ...

With all the evidence readily available at the Pentagon crash site, any unbiased

rational investigator could only conclude that a Boeing 757 did not fly into the Pentagon as alleged. Similarly, with all the evidence available at the Pennsylvania crash site, it was most doubtful that a passenger airliner caused the obvious hole in the ground and certainly not the Boeing 757 as alleged. ...

As painful and heartbreaking as was the loss of innocent lives and the lingering health problems of thousands more, a most troublesome and nightmarish probability remains that so many Americans appear to be involved in the most heinous conspiracy in our country's history."

<http://www.physics911.net/georgenelson>

Editor's note: For more information on the impact at the Pentagon, see General Stubblebine, Lt. Col. Kwiatkowski, Major Rokke, Capt. Wittenberg, and Steve DeChiaro.

Member: Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice

Member: Pilots for 9/11 Truth

Lt. Col. Karen U. Kwiatkowski, PhD, U.S. Air Force (ret)

Contributor to 9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out 8/23/06.

Account of Lt. Col. Karen Kwiatkowski, Pentagon employee and eyewitness to the events at the Pentagon on 9/11:

"I believe the Commission failed to deeply examine the topic at hand, failed to apply scientific rigor to its assessment of events leading up to and including 9/11, failed to produce a believable and unbiased summary of what happened, failed to fully examine why it happened, and even failed to include a set of unanswered questions for future research. ...

It is as a scientist that I have the most trouble with the official government conspiracy theory, mainly because it does not satisfy the rules of probability or physics. The collapses of the World Trade Center buildings clearly violate the laws of probability and physics. ...

There was a dearth of visible debris on the relatively unmarked [Pentagon] lawn, where I stood only minutes after the impact. Beyond this strange absence of airliner debris, there was no sign of the kind of damage to the Pentagon structure one would expect from the impact of a large airliner. This visible evidence or lack thereof may also have been apparent to the secretary of defense [Donald Rumsfeld], who in an unfortunate slip of the tongue referred to the aircraft that slammed into the Pentagon as a "missile." ...

<http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/transcript.aspx?TranscriptID=3845>

I saw nothing of significance at the point of impact -- no airplane metal or cargo debris was blowing on the lawn in front of the damaged building as smoke billowed from within the Pentagon. ...

All of us staring at the Pentagon that morning were indeed looking for such debris, but what we expected to see was not evident.

The same is true with regard to the kind of damage we expected. ... But I did not see this kind of damage. Rather, the facade had a rather small hole, no larger than 20 feet in diameter. Although this facade later collapsed, it remained standing for 30 or 40 minutes, with the roof line remaining relatively straight.

The scene, in short, was not what I would have expected from a strike by a large jetliner. It was, however, exactly what one would expect if a missile had struck the Pentagon. ...

More information is certainly needed regarding the events of 9/11 and the events leading up to that terrible day."

Editor's note: For more information on the impact at the Pentagon, see General Stubblebine, Colonel Nelson, Major Rokke, Capt. Wittenberg, and Steve DeChiaro.

Bio: <http://militaryweek.com/>

Lt. Col. Shelton F. Lankford, U.S. Marine Corps (ret)

Letter to the Editor 2/5/07, Regarding 9/11:

"Our government has been hijacked by means of a "new Pearl Harbor" and a lot of otherwise good and decent people who are gullible enough to think that the first three steel-framed buildings in history fall down because they have some fires that the fire fighter on the scene said could be knocked down with a couple of hoses and through which people walked before they were photographed looking out the holes where the plane hit. One of these - bldg 7, [610 feet tall, 47 stories] was never hit by a plane and even NIST is ashamed to advance a reason for its collapse. And, miracle of miracles, these three buildings just happened to be leased and insured by the same guy who is on tape saying they decided to "PULL" the last one to fall."

<http://www.michigandaily.com>

Statement to this website 2/20/07:

"This isn't about party, it isn't about Bush Bashing. It's about our country, our constitution, and our future. ...

Your countrymen have been murdered and the more you delve into it the more it looks as though they were murdered by our government, who used it as an excuse to murder other people thousands of miles away.

If you ridicule others who have sincere doubts and who know factual information that directly contradicts the official report and who want explanations from those who hold the keys to our government, and have motive, means, and opportunity to pull off a 9/11, but you are too lazy or fearful, or ... to check into the facts yourself, what does that make you? Scholars for 9/11 truth

have developed reams of scientific data. Michael Ruppert published an exhaustive account of the case from the viewpoint of a trained investigator. David Ray Griffin provides a context for the unanswered or badly answered questions that should nag at anyone who pretends to love this country.

Are you afraid that you will learn the truth and you can't handle it? ...

Do a little research. Google is a wonderful tool.

What does it all add up to? The Commission was, as was the Warren Commission before it, a dog and pony show ... "

Member: Pilots for 9/11 Truth

Lt. Col. Guy S. Razer, MS, U.S. Air Force (ret)

Statement to this website 3/25/07:

"After 4+ years of research since retirement in 2002, I am 100% convinced that the attacks of September 11, 2001 were planned, organized, and committed by treasonous perpetrators that have infiltrated the highest levels of our government. It is now time to take our country back.

The "collapse" of WTC Building 7 [610 feet tall, 47 stories, and not hit by an airplane] shows beyond any doubt that the demolitions were pre-planned. There is simply no way to demolish a 47-story building (on fire) over a coffee break. It is also impossible to report the building's collapse before it happened, as BBC News did, unless it was pre-planned. Further damning evidence is Larry Silverstein's video taped confession in which he states "they made that decision to pull [WTC 7] and we watched the building collapse."

We cannot let the pursuit of justice fail. Those of us in the military took an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." Just because we have retired does not make that oath invalid, so it is not just our responsibility, it is our duty to expose the real perpetrators of 9/11 and bring them to justice, no matter how hard it is, how long it takes, or how much we have to suffer to do it.

We owe it to those who have gone before us who executed that same oath, and who are doing the same thing in Iraq and Afghanistan right now. Those of us who joined the military and faithfully executed orders that were given us had to trust our leaders. The violation and abuse of that trust is not only heinous, but ultimately the most accurate definition of treason!"

Member: Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice

Member: Pilots for 9/11 Truth

Website: <http://www.myspace.com/supereagle69>

Lt. Col. Jeff Latas, U.S. Air Force (ret)

Member: Pilots for 9/11 Truth

Association Statement: "Pilots for 9/11 Truth is an organization of aviation professionals and pilots throughout the globe that have gathered together for one purpose. We are committed to seeking the truth surrounding the events of the 11th of September 2001. Our main focus concentrates on the four flights, maneuvers performed and the reported pilots. We do not offer theory or point blame. However, we are focused on determining the truth of that fateful day since the United States Government doesn't seem to be very forthcoming with answers."

Commander Ted Muga, U.S. Navy (ret)

Retired Naval aviator (Grumman E-1 and E-2). Retired Pan-Am commercial airline pilot (Boeing 707 and 727).

Interview, Alex Jones Show 4/11/07:

Alex Jones: Recap Hani Hanjour's maneuver, what they claim -- go through the maneuver they claim he did and then what supposedly happened there at the Pentagon ...

Commander Muga: The maneuver at the Pentagon was just a tight spiral coming down out of 7,000 feet. And a commercial aircraft, while they can in fact structurally somewhat handle that maneuver, they are very, very, very difficult. And it would take considerable training. In other words, commercial aircraft are designed for a particular purpose and that is for comfort and for passengers and it's not for military maneuvers. And while they are structurally capable of doing them, it takes some very, very talented pilots to do that. ...

When a commercial airplane gets that high, it get very, very close to getting into what you refer to as a speed high-speed stall. And a high-speed stall can be very, very violent on a commercial-type aircraft and you never want to get into that situation. I just can't imagine an amateur even being able to come close to performing a maneuver of that nature.

And as far as hijacking the airplanes, once again getting back to the nature of pilots and airplanes, there is no way that a pilot would give up an airplane to hijackers. ...

I mean, hell, a guy doesn't give up a TV remote control much less a complicated 757. And so to think that pilots would allow a plane to be taken over by a couple of 5 foot 7, 150 pound guys with a one-inch blade boxcutter is ridiculous.

And also in all four planes, if you remember, none of the planes ever switched on their transponder to the hijack code. There's a very, very simple code that you put in if you suspect that your plane is being hijacked. It takes literally just a split-second for you to put your hand down on the center console and flip it over. And not one of the four planes ever transponded a hijack code, which is most, most unusual. ...

Commercial airplanes are very, very complex pieces of machines. And they're designed for two pilots up there, not just two amateur pilots, but two qualified commercial pilots up there. And to think that you're going to get an amateur up into the cockpit and fly, much less navigate, it to a designated target, the probability is so low, that it's bordering on impossible."

Appears half way through the second hour segment at

<http://www.realradioarchives.com/sound-2.htm>

Member: Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice

Member: Pilots for 9/11 Truth

Major Douglas Rokke, PhD, U.S. Army (ret)

Article 8/19/05, Regarding the impact at the Pentagon on 9/11/2001:

"When you look at the whole thing, especially the crash site void of airplane parts, the size of the hole left in the building and the fact the projectile's impact penetrated numerous concrete walls, it looks like the work of a missile. And when you look at the damage, it was obviously a missile."

<http://www.rense.com/general67/radfdf.htm>

Editor's note: For more information on the impact at the Pentagon, see General Stubblebine, Colonel Nelson, Lt. Col. Kwiatkowski, Capt. Wittenberg, and Steve DeChiaro.

Capt. Russ Wittenberg, U.S. Air Force

Former Air Force fighter pilot with over 100 combat missions. Commercial pilot for Pan Am and United Airlines for 35 years, flying 707, 720, 727, 737, 747, 757, 767, and 777 's.

Had previously flown the actual two United Airlines airplanes that were hijacked on 9/11 (Flight 93, which impacted in Pennsylvania, and Flight 175, the second plane to hit the WTC).

Article 7/17/05:

"The government story they handed us about 9/11 is total B.S. plain and simple." ... Wittenberg convincingly argued there was absolutely no possibility that Flight 77 could have "descended 7,000 feet in two minutes, all the while performing a steep 270 degree banked turn before crashing into the Pentagon's first floor wall without touching the lawn."...

"For a guy to just jump into the cockpit and fly like an ace is impossible -- there is not one chance in a thousand," said Wittenberg, recalling that when he made the jump from Boeing 727's to the highly sophisticated computerized characteristics of the 737's through 767's it took him considerable time to feel comfortable flying."

<http://www.arcticbeacon.com/17-Jul-2005.html>

[NOTE: The above article has been scrubbed.]

Audio Interview 9/16/04, Regarding Flight 77, which allegedly hit the Pentagon:

"The airplane could not have flown at those speeds which they said it did without going into what they call a high speed stall. The airplane won't go that fast if you start pulling those high G maneuvers at those bank angles. ... To expect this alleged airplane to run these maneuvers with a total amateur at the controls is simply ludicrous..."

It's roughly a 100 ton airplane. And an airplane that weighs 100 tons all assembled is still going to have 100 tons of disassembled trash and parts after it hits a building. There was no wreckage from a 757 at the Pentagon. ... The vehicle that hit the Pentagon was not Flight 77. We think, as you may have heard before, it was a cruise missile."

http://911underground.com/WING_TV_2004-09-16_Russ_Wittenberg_Interview.MP3

Editor's note: For more information on the impact at the Pentagon, see General Stubblebine, Colonel Nelson, Lt. Col. Kwiatkowski, Major Rokke, and Steve DeChiaro.

Member: Pilots for 9/11 Truth

Capt. Daniel Davis, U.S. Army

Former U.S. Army Air Defense Officer and NORAD Tac Director. Decorated with the Bronze Star and the Soldiers Medal for bravery under fire and the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in Viet Nam.

Statement to this website 3/23/07:

"As a former General Electric Turbine engineering specialist and manager and then CEO of a turbine engineering company, I can guarantee that none of the high tech, high temperature alloy engines on any of the four planes that crashed on 9/11 would be completely destroyed, burned, shattered or melted in any crash or fire. Wrecked, yes, but not destroyed. Where are all of those engines, particularly at the Pentagon? If jet powered aircraft crashed on 9/11, those engines, plus wings and tail assembly, would be there."

Additionally, in my experience as an officer in NORAD as a Tactical Director for the Chicago-Milwaukee Air Defense and as a current private pilot, there is no way that an aircraft on instrument flight plans (all commercial flights are IFR) would not be intercepted when they deviate from their flight plan, turn off their transponders, or stop communication with Air Traffic Control. No way! With very bad luck, perhaps one could slip by, but no there's no way all four of them could!

Finally, going over the hill and highway and crashing into the Pentagon right at the wall/ground interface is nearly impossible for even a small slow single engine airplane and no way for a 757. Maybe the best pilot in the world could accomplish that but not these unskilled "terrorists".

Attempts to obscure facts by calling them a "Conspiracy Theory" does not change the truth. It seems, "Something is rotten in the State."

Barbara Honegger, MS

Essay 9/6/06:

"The US military, not al Qaeda, had the sustained access weeks before 9/11 to also plant controlled demolition charges throughout the superstructures of WTC 1 and WTC 2, and in WTC 7, which brought down all three buildings on 9/11. ...

A US military plane, not one piloted by al Qaeda, performed the highly skilled, high-speed 270-degree dive towards the Pentagon that Air Traffic Controllers on 9/11 were sure was a military plane as they watched it on their screens. Only a military aircraft, not a civilian plane flown by al Qaeda, would have given off the "Friendly" signal needed to disable the Pentagon's anti-aircraft missile batteries as it approached the building.

Only the US military, not al Qaeda, had the ability to break all of its Standard Operating Procedures to paralyze its own emergency response system."

http://blog.lege.net/content/Seven_Hours_in_September.pdf

Lt. Col. Stephen L. Butler, EdD, U.S. Air Force (ret)

Article 6/4/02: "Of course Bush knew about the impending attacks on America. He did nothing to warn the American people because he needed this war on terrorism." http://www.truthout.org/docs_02/06.06E.butler.bush.htm

Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, U.S. Army Reserve

Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee 2/15/06, Regarding the Able Danger project:

"... basic law enforcement investigative techniques, with 21st Century data mining and analytical tools ... resulted in the establishment of a new form of intelligence collection – and the identification of Mohammed Atta and several other of the 9-11 terrorists as having links to Al Qaeda leadership a full year in advance of the attacks. ...

After contact by two separate members of the ABLE DANGER team, ... the 9-11 [Commission] staff refused to perform any in-depth review or investigation of the issues that were identified to them. ... It was their job to do a thorough investigation of these claims – to not simply dismiss them based on what many now believe was a "preconceived" conclusion to the 9-11 story they wished to tell. ... I consider this a failure of the 9-11 staff – a failure that the 9-11 Commissioners

themselves were victimized by – and continue to have perpetrated on them by the staff as is evidenced by their recent, groundless conclusion that ABLE DANGER's findings were "urban legend."

<http://www.abledangerblog.com/2006/02/lt-col-shaffers-written-testimony.html>

Interview Fox News 8/24/05:

"Why did this operation, which was created in '99 to target Al Qaeda globally, offensively, why was that turned off in the Spring of 2001, four months before we were attacked? I can't answer that, either. I can tell you I was ordered out of the operation directly by a two-star general. But I don't know what the bigger picture was of why you'd want to stop an operation going after the very target who attacked us, in advance, why you'd want to turn it off."

[NOTE: Do not miss this **INDICTMENT of the US Government's attack on its own anti-AlQaeda operation, the highly successful Abel Danger Program.]**

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1956542165192088795&hl=en>

Bio: <http://www.c4ads.org/anthony.shaffer>

Capt. Scott J. Phillpott, U.S. Navy

Fox News Article 8/23/05:

"I will not discuss this outside of my chain of command. I have briefed the Department of the Army, the Special Operations Command and the office of (Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence) Dr. Cambone as well as the 9/11 Commission. My story has remained consistent. Atta was identified by Able Danger in January/February 2000."

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,166504,00.html>

Bio: <http://www.bcnavyleague.org> (page 5)

Major Erik Kleinsmith, U.S. Army

Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee 9/21/05:

"Mr. KLEINSMITH: From March 1999 until February of 2001, I was an active duty Army Major and the Chief of Intelligence of the Land Information Warfare Activity. ...

In December of 1999, we were approached by U.S. Special Operations Command to support Able Danger. ... In the months that followed, we were able to collect an immense amount of data for analysis that allowed us to map Al Qaeda as a worldwide threat with a surprisingly significant presence within the United States.

In approximately April of 2000, from my recollections, our support to Able Danger became severely restricted and ultimately shut down due to intelligence oversight concerns. ... I, along with one of my analysts, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Terri Stephens, were forced to destroy all data, charts, and other analytical products that we had not already passed on to SOCOM-related Able Danger. ...

Chairman Arlen SPECTER: Are you in a position to evaluate the credibility of Captain Phillpott, Colonel Shaffer, Mr. Westphal, Ms. Preisser, or Mr. J.D. Smith, as to their credibility when they say they saw Mohammed Atta on the chart?

Mr. KLEINSMITH: Yes, sir. I believe them implicitly from the time that I had worked with all of them, and everyone you had mentioned was part and I had contact with during this time. I cannot—

Chairman SPECTER: You had contact with all of them?

Mr. KLEINSMITH: Yes, sir. I cannot corroborate them completely and say that, yes, they saw it, because I myself do not remember seeing either a picture or his name on any charts, but I believe them implicitly. When they say they do, I believe them."

http://judiciary.senate.gov/testimony.cfm?id=1606&wit_id=4669

Editor's note: The 9/11 Commission Report asserts that only three of the alleged hijackers were known to U.S. intelligence agencies prior to 9/11; Nawaf al-Hazmi, Salem al-Hazmi, and Khalid al-Mihdar. There is no mention in the Report that the names and photographs of alleged hijacker Marwan al-Shehhi and alleged ring-leader Mohamed Atta had been identified by the Department of Defense antiterrorist program known as Able Danger more than a year prior to 9/11 and that they were known to be affiliates of al-Qaida. Able Danger also identified Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdar.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,165948,00.html>

See also Rep. Curt Weldon, Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, Capt. Scott J. Phillpott, Major Erik Kleinsmith, and James D. Smith.

James D. Smith

Former Able Danger Program Manager for Orion Scientific Systems, a Department of Defense contractor.

Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee 2/15/06: Regarding the Able Danger data mining program.

Mr. SMITH: "I have recollection of a visual chart that identified associations of known terrorist Omar Abdul Rahman, within the New York City geographic area and the name of that particular chart escapes me, but it was -- we called the Brooklyn Cell.

Mohammed Atta's picture, an association of Rahman, was on the chart. ... Several of these charts addressing multiple topics were retained by me and turned over to Representative Curt Weldon. ... I have direct recollection of the chart because I had a copy up until 2004. ...

At the time, after 9/11 when the pictures were released in newspapers and I did the compare on the chart, when I saw his picture there, I was extremely elated and, to anyone that would listen to me, I showed them the chart that was in my possession.

Rep. Curt WELDON: Mr. Smith, one of the [9/11] commissioners stated publicly after the story ran in the New York Times, that you couldn't have had the photograph, because he didn't have a driver's license. Would you comment on where you got the photograph from?

Mr. SMITH: We were getting the information from Arab sources through Los Angeles. We were able to get a lot of inside Arabic information. ...

Rep. WELDON: Did anyone from the 9/11 Commission staff ever talk to you, Mr. Smith?

Mr. SMITH: No, sir. ...

Rep. WELDON: How sure are you that it was Mohammed Atta's name and picture?

Mr. SMITH: I'm absolutely certain. I used to look at it every morning.

Rep. WELDON: You looked at it every morning. So it wasn't a one time deal?

Mr. SMITH: No, sir.

Rep. WELDON: And was that the chart you think that was given to me that I gave to the White House?

Mr. SMITH: Yes, sir. It was."

<http://www.floppingaces.net/wp-content/hearing.pdf>

Col. David Hunt, MA, U.S. Army (ret)

Interview Fox News 2/15/06:

Interviewer: We had Congressman Weldon on a couple days ago. Able Danger is not going away.

Col. Hunt: No and it shouldn't. This is about very, very good guys; six to ten; both military and civilian; Lieutenant Colonels and Navy Captains; O-6's; who did data mining and discovered some very interesting information. Oh, by the way, the program should be running now. It was completely successful.

They went to the government and the government didn't want to talk to them. And they went to the 9/11 Commission and they didn't want to talk to them. Now they're testifying again. And there's some amazing stuff coming out of this. And with the war on terror, we need the Able Danger's and we don't need the government going after its own agents, which is what they did here.

Interviewer: But it seems there's some debate on Capital Hill regarding Able Danger about whether or not U.S. officials knew about Mohammed Atta before September 11th or if they didn't.

Col. Hunt: What's being talked about in the Congressional Record -- It's part of the Congressional Record. Open. Open -- is that the White House was -- Libby was briefed and Hadley were briefed in 2001. [Scooter Libby, Chief of Staff to

Vice President Dick Cheney 2001 - 2005. In 2007, convicted of four felony counts related to perjury and obstruction of justice. Stephen Hadley, Appointed National Security Advisor on 1/26/05. Served as Deputy National Security Advisor 2001 - 2004.] A lot of people knew about Atta. These guys have it on the record.

<http://208.255.115.175/UserSavedClips/e8ce7e98-a553-4158-adf5-502e136926c8.aspx>

Bio: http://premierespeakers.com/david_hunt

Major John M. Newman, PhD, U.S. Army (ret)

Congressional briefing testimony 7/22/05: "It falls to me this morning to bring to your attention the story of Saeed Sheikh, whose full name is Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, and his astonishing rise to power in Al Qaeda, his crucial role in 9/11, which is completely, utterly, missing from the 9/11 Commission report...

The 9/11 Commission which studied US intelligence and law enforcement community performance in great detail, (maybe not so much great detail, but they did), neglected to cover the community's performance during the weeks following the attacks to determine who was responsible for them, not a word about that in the Report.

The Report does discuss the immediate US responses but the immediate investigation is never addressed, and anyone who has closely studied the post-9/11 investigation knows that the first breakthrough came two weeks into the investigation when the money transfers from the United Arab Emirates to the hijackers were uncovered.

Furthermore, if you have studied that investigation, you know there is no disputing that while investigators may have struggled with the identity of the paymaster, they were clear about one thing, he was Al Qaeda's finance chief. For this reason alone you have to ask why the 9/11 Commission Report never mentions the finance chief's role as the 9/11 paymaster."

<http://www.vt911.org/McKinneyReport20050722transcript.pdf>

Editor's note: Despite the finding of the Joint House-Senate Select Intelligence Committee's 2002 Report (p.415) of "sources of foreign support for some of the September 11 hijackers", the 9/11 Commission Report (p. 172) states, "Similarly, we have seen no evidence that any foreign government -- or government official - - supplied any funding." For more information on foreign support of the 9/11 hijackers, see Senator Bob Graham, Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, William Bergman, and Michael Meacher.

Major Scott Ritter, U.S. Marine Corps

Former Marine Corps Intelligence Officer and Chief Weapons Inspector for the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq 1991 - 1998.

Video 7/22/06: "I, like the others, are frustrated by the 9/11 Commission Report, by the lack of transparency on the part of the United States government, both in terms of the executive branch and the legislative branch when it comes to putting

out on the table all facts known to the 9/11 case."

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1232419751782017310&q=%22ray+mcgovern%22&hl=en>

Capt. Gregory M. Zeigler, PhD, U.S. Army

Former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer

Statement to this website 9/19/06:

"I knew from September 18, 2001, that the official story about 9/11 was false. ... [A]nomalies poured in rapidly: the hijackers' names appearing in none of the published flight passenger lists, BBC reports of stolen identities of the alleged hijackers or the alleged hijackers being found alive, the obvious demolitions of WTC 1 and 2 [each 1300+ feet tall, 110 stories], and WTC 7 [610 feet tall, 47 stories, and not hit by an airplane], the lack of identifiable Boeing 757 wreckage at the Pentagon ...

Member: Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice

Capt. Eric H. May, U.S. Army (ret)

Former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer. Former inspector and interpreter for the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty team.

Essay -- 9/11 and Non-investigation:

"As a former Army officer, my tendency immediately after 911 was to rally 'round the colors and defend the country against what I then thought was an insidious, malicious all-Arab entity called Al-Qaida. In fact, in April of 2002, I attempted to reactivate my then-retired commission to return to serve my country in its time of peril. ...

Now I view the 911 event as Professor David Griffin, author of The New Pearl Harbor, views it: as a matter that implies either

A) passive participation by the Bush White House through a deliberate stand-down of proper defense procedures that (if followed) would have led US air assets to a quick identification and confrontation of the passenger aircraft that impacted WTC 1 and WTC 2, or worse ...

B) active execution of a plot by rogue elements of government, starting with the White House itself, in creating a spectacle of destruction that would lead the United States into an invasion of the Middle East ..."

<http://mujca.com/captain.htm>

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

Wayne Madsen

Former U.S. Navy Intelligence Officer, specialist in electronic surveillance.

Speech 11/11/06:

"After five years of talking to many individuals in the intelligence community, in the military, foreign intelligence agencies, and a whole host of other people, people from the air traffic control community, the FAA, I came to the conclusion that after five years what we saw happen on that morning of September 11, 2001, was the result of a highly-compartmentalized covert operation to bring about a fascist coup in this country. ...

These people need to be brought to justice, if not by our own Congress, then by an international tribunal in the Hague, in the Netherlands. Bush, Blair, Rumsfeld, Cheney should be sitting in the same dockets where Milosevic and the Croatia-Serbia war criminals sat."

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=4123922031956964333&q=%22wayne+madsen%22+dc911truth&hl=en>

Endorsement of The New Pearl Harbor: "David Griffin's The New Pearl Harbor belongs on the book shelves of all those who, in any way, doubt the veracity of the accounts presented to the public by the Bush administration concerning the worst terrorist attack in America's history. The facts presented in this book are disturbing — and they should be. Griffin's book goes a long way in answering the age-old question inherent in American political scandals: What did the President know, and when did he know it?"

http://www.interlinkbooks.com/BooksN/New_Pearl_Harbor.html

Bio: <http://www.waynemadsenreport.com/aboutus.php>

U.S. GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS

David L. Griscom, PhD

Research physicist, retired in 2001 from Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, DC, after 33 years service. ... Officially credited with largest number of papers (5) by any author on list of 100 most cited articles authored at NRL between 1973 and 1988.

Personal blog 1/5/07:

"David Ray Griffin has web-published a splendid, highly footnoted account of The Destruction of the World Trade Center: Why the Official Account Cannot Be True.

<http://911review.com/articles/griffin/nyc1.html>

This scholarly work, rich in eyewitness accounts, includes 11 separate pieces of evidence that the World Trade Center towers 1, 2 [each 1300+ feet tall, 110 stories], and 7 [610 feet tall, 47 stories, and not hit by an airplane] were brought

down by explosives. ...

I implore my fellow physicists and engineers who may have the time, expertise, and (ideally) supercomputer access to get to work on the physics of the World Trade Center collapses and publish their findings in refereed journals like, say, the Journal of Applied Physics.

The issue of knowing who was really behind the 9/11 attacks is of paramount importance to the future of our country, because the "official" assumption that it was the work of 19 Arab amateurs (1) does not match the available facts and (2) has led directly to the deplorable Patriot Act, the illegal Iraq war, NSA spying on ordinary Americans, repudiation of the Geneva Conventions, and the repeal of habeas corpus (a fundamental point of law that has been with us since the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215).

Surely these Orwellian consequences of public ignorance constitute more than sufficient motivation for any patriotic American physicist or engineer to join the search for 9/11 Truth!"

<http://impactglassman.blogspot.com/>

Member: for 9/11 Truth and Justice

Bio: <http://www.impactglassresearchinternational.com/index.html>

Lon J. Waters, PhD Mathematics

Signatory of Petition of Solidarity to the Attorney General of New York for a new independent grand jury investigation of 9/11 11/19/04:

"We the undersigned: a) think that there is ample evidence and probable cause to believe that many grave and still unresolved crimes were committed by US officials prior to, during and after the events of 9/11; b) observe that most of these apparent crimes, including but not limited to abetment of mass murder, criminal negligence, insider trading, and obstruction of justice fall well within the jurisdiction of New York's top law enforcement officials ..."

<http://www.justicefor911.org>

Member: Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice

U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Raymond L. McGovern

Former Chairman, National Intelligence Estimates, CIA, responsible for preparing the President' Daily Brief (PDB) for Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. 27-year CIA veteran. Former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer.

Video 7/22/06:

"I think at simplest terms, there's a cover-up. The 9/11 report is a joke. The

question is: What's being covered up? Is it gross malfeasance, gross negligence, misfeasance? ... Now there are a whole bunch of unanswered questions. And the reason they're unanswered is because this administration will not answer the questions. ... I just want to reassert, what Scott [Ritter, former Major in the U.S. Marines Corps, former Chief Weapons Inspector for the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq] said and this is the bottom line for me, just as Hitler in 1933 cynically exploited the burning of the parliament building, the Reichstag, this is exactly what our President did in exploiting 9/11. The cynical way in which he played on our trauma, used it to justify attacking, making a war of aggression on a country that he knew had nothing to do with 9/11. That suffices for me, I think Scott is exactly right, that's certainly an impeachable offense."

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1232419751782017310&q=%22ray+mcgovern%22&hl=en>

Endorsement of 9/11 and American Empire (Vol I) – Intellectuals Speak Out:

"It has long been clear that the Bush-Cheney administration cynically exploited the attacks of 9/11 to promote its imperial designs.

But the present volume confronts us with compelling evidence for an even more disturbing conclusion: that the 9/11 attacks were themselves orchestrated by this administration precisely so they could be thus exploited. If this is true, it is not merely the case, as the Downing Street memos show, that the stated reason for attacking Iraq was a lie. It is also the case that the whole 'war on terror' was based on a prior deception."

http://www.interlinkbooks.com/product_info.php?products_id=1545&osCsid=8d0700658728be7cca0a55e552edd0d4&osCsid=8d0700658728be7cca0a55e552edd0d4#reviews

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20041026093059633>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_mcgovern

William Christison

Former National Intelligence Officer and Director of the CIA's Office of Regional and Political Analysis. 29-year CIA veteran.

Essay: Stop Belittling the Theories About September 11 8/14/06:

"I now think there is persuasive evidence that the events of September did not unfold as the Bush administration and the 9/11 Commission would have us believe. ... An airliner almost certainly did not hit The Pentagon. ... The North and South Towers of the World Trade Center almost certainly did not collapse and fall to earth because hijacked aircraft hit them."

<http://www.dissidentvoice.org/Aug06/Christison14.htm>

Article 9/7/06:

"David Griffin believes this all was totally an inside job - I've got to say I think that it was too. ... I have since decided that... at least some elements in this US government had contributed in some way or other to causing 9/11 to happen or at least allowing it to happen. ... The reason that the two towers in New York actually collapsed and fell all the way to the ground was controlled explosions rather than just being hit by two airplanes. ... All of the characteristics of these demolitions show that they almost had to have been controlled explosions."

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/september2006/070906insidejob.htm>

Audio interview 9/29/06:

"We very seriously need an entirely new very high level and truly independent investigation of the events of 9/11. I think you almost have to look at the 9/11 Commission Report as a joke and not a serious piece of analysis at all. It gave the administration what it wanted to support their official story on what happened on the date of September 11 and that's all they cared about. ... It's a monstrous crime.

Absolutely a monstrous crime."

http://www.electricpolitics.com/podcast/2006/09/the_case_for_intellectual_inte.html

Bio: <http://www.amalpress.com/>

Robert David Steele (Vivas)

U.S. Marine Corps infantry and intelligence officer for twenty years. Second-ranking civilian (GS-14) in U.S. Marine Corps Intelligence from 1988 - 1992

Essay 10/7/06: Review of Webster Tarpley's 9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in the USA.

"I am forced to conclude that 9/11 was at a minimum allowed to happen as a pretext for war, and I am forced to conclude that there is sufficient evidence to indict (not necessarily convict) Dick Cheney, Karl Rove and others of a neo-conservative neo-Nazi coup d'etat and kick-off of the clash of civilizations. ...

This is, without question, the most important modern reference on state-sponsored terrorism, and also the reference that most pointedly suggests that select rogue elements within the US Government, most likely led by Dick Cheney with the assistance of George Tenet, Buzzy Kronguard, and others close to the Wall Street gangs, are the most guilty of state-sponsored terrorism....

I sit here, a 54-year old, liberally educated, two graduate degrees, war college, a life overseas, 150 IQ or so, the number #1 Amazon reviewer for non-fiction, a former Marine Corps infantry officer, a former CIA clandestine case officer, founder of the Marine Corps Intelligence Center, and I have to tell anyone who cares to read this: I believe it.

I believe it enough to want a full investigation that passes the smell test of the 9/11 families as well as objective outside observers."

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0930852370>

Article 10/27/06: "While Steele stopped short of saying 9/11 was a complete inside job, he agreed that the evidence points to the overwhelming complicity of the Bush administration.

"The U.S. government did not properly investigate this and there are more rocks to be turned over," said Steele adding, "I'm absolutely certain that WTC 7 [610 feet tall, 47 stories, and not hit by an airplane] was brought down by controlled demolition and that as far as I'm concerned means that this case has not been properly investigated. There's no way that building could have come down without controlled demolition."

<http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/october2006/271006googlecia.htm>

Bio: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Melvin A. Goodman, PhD

Former Division Chief and Senior Analyst at the Office of Soviet Affairs, CIA, 1966 - 1990.

Congressional briefing testimony 7/22/05:

"I think the 9/11 Commission has taught me that we need to be extremely rigorous and extremely tenacious in pursuing that truth, because there is a corporate mentality in this country that is working against allowing the truth to surface, even in tragedies, such as the 9/11 tragedy. ...

I want to talk about the [9/11] Commission itself, about the flawed process of the Commission and finally about the conflict of interest within the Commission that is extremely important to understand the failure of the Commission."

<http://www.vt911.org/McKinneyReport20050722transcript.pdf>

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20041026093059633>

Bio: <http://ciponline.org/biographies>

Robert Baer

Former CIA Case Officer, Specialist in the Middle East, Directorate of Operations. Awarded Career Intelligence Medal. 21-year CIA veteran.

Audio Interview 6/9/06:

Thom Hartmann: "Are you of the opinion there was an aspect of 'inside job' to

9/11 within the U.S. government?"

Baer: "There is that possibility, the evidence points at it."

Hartmann: "And why is it not being investigated?"

Baer: "Why isn't the WMD story being investigated? Why hasn't anybody been held accountable for 9/11? We held people accountable after Pearl Harbor. Why has there been no change in command? Why have there been no political repercussions? Why has there been no -- any sort of exposure on this? It really makes you wonder."

<http://www.911blogger.com/2006/06/former-cia-member-robert-baer-comments.html>

Essay 1/12/02:

"Did bin Laden act alone, through his own al-Qaida network, in launching the attacks? About that I'm far more certain and emphatic: no."

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/extracts/story/0,,631434,00.html>

Bio: <http://www.concertideas.com>

Michael Levine

Former Senior DEA investigator. 25-year DEA career.

Signatory: Petition requesting a reinvestigation of 9/11:

"We want truthful answers to question. ...

As Americans of conscience, we ask for four things:

- o An immediate investigation by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
- o Immediate investigation in Congressional Hearings.
- o Media attention to scrutinize and investigate the evidence.
- o The formation of a truly independent citizens-based inquiry."

<http://www.911truth.org/article>

Coleen Rowley

Former Special Agent and Minneapolis Division Counsel, FBI. 24-year FBI career. Agent Rowley was selected one of Time Magazine's three 2002 Persons of the Year for revealing FBI headquarters' efforts to "throw up roadblocks and undermine" FBI field investigations of Al Qaeda operatives in the four weeks prior to 9/11.

Memo to FBI Director Robert Mueller 5/21/02:

Regarding FBI headquarters (FBIHQ) obstruction of terrorism investigations.

"The fact is that key FBIHQ personnel whose job it was to assist and coordinate with field division agents on terrorism investigations and the obtaining and use of FISA searches (and who theoretically were privy to many more sources of intelligence information than field division agents), continued to, almost inexplicably, throw up roadblocks and undermine Minneapolis' by-now desperate efforts to obtain a FISA search warrant, long after the French intelligence service provided its information and probable cause became clear. HQ personnel brought up almost ridiculous questions in their apparent efforts to undermine the probable cause. ..."

When, in a desperate 11th hour measure to bypass the FBIHQ roadblock, the Minneapolis Division undertook to directly notify the CIA's Counter Terrorist Center (CTC), FBIHQ personnel actually chastised the Minneapolis agents for making the direct notification without their approval ...

I know I shouldn't be flippant about this, but jokes were actually made that the key FBIHQ personnel had to be spies or moles, like Robert Hansen, who were actually working for Osama Bin Laden to have so undercut Minneapolis' effort."

<http://www.time.com/time/covers/1101020603/memo.html>

Interview 9/25/05:

"And what I did was, I think, I put the first good dent in the blanket defense that for 8 and a half, 9 months, was holding -- that 9/11 could not have been prevented. ..."

[W]e were all settling for, '9/11 could not have been prevented', it was 'hindsight.' Condi Rice, "Well, no one could have ever imagined that someone would fly..." and of course, when she says that, she's disregarding a whole bunch of things. People are letting her get away with it. She's disregarding the fact of two or three prior incidents of people trying to fly planes into buildings, attempted takeovers of cockpits... We're also ignoring the fact that in Minneapolis [FBI office], the acting supervisor, arguing with [FBI] headquarters said, 'This is a guy [Zacarias Moussaoui] that could fly a plane into the World Trade Center' on August 22nd!"

<http://www.nowpublic.com/node/16468>

Editor's note:

Despite Agent Rowley's high-profile revelations and intimate knowledge of FBI headquarter's efforts to obstruct investigations of Al Qaeda-related terrorist activities in the four weeks prior to 9/11, the 9/11 Commission never interviewed her.

The 9/11 Commission Report contains no mention of her allegations that FBI headquarters "continued to, almost inexplicably, throw up roadblocks and undermine" FBI field agent counterterrorism efforts. The Report only obliquely mentions Agent Rowley in a single footnote.

Bio: <http://www.pbs.org/now/politics/rowley.html>

Sibel D. Edmonds

Witness before the 9/11 Commission. Former Language Translation Specialist, performing translations for counterterrorism and counterintelligence operations, FBI.

Letter to 9/11 Commission 8/1/04:

"I find your report seriously flawed in its failure to address serious intelligence issues that I am aware of, which have been confirmed, and which as a witness to the commission, I made you aware of. Thus, I must assume that other serious issues that I am not aware of were in the same manner omitted from your report. These omissions cast doubt on the validity of your report and therefore on its conclusions and recommendations."

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0802-06.htm>

Article 7/22/04:

"My translations of the 9/11 intercepts included [terrorist] money laundering, detailed and date-specific information ... if they were to do real investigations, we would see several significant high-level criminal prosecutions in this country [the US] ... and believe me, they will do everything to cover this up."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/alqaida/story/0,,1266511,00.html>

Interview, The Alex Jones Show 7/24/06:

Alex Jones: I'm asking you -- I mean, clearly, where does the evidence point on 9/11?

Sibel Edmonds: Well, that is the whole point, Alex. They are not letting out all the evidence. ...

Alex Jones: But even if they cut evidence out of reports, we have the clear evidence of Thermite in the buildings, we have clear evidence of C.I.A. insider trading, NORAD standing down, U.S. troops already massed in central Asia, Bush having the launch order two days before to attack Afghanistan. I mean, Sibel, when you put all that together-- I'm asking you personally-- where does all the evidence point?

Sibel Edmonds: The evidence points to a massive government cover-up. ...

Alex Jones: Sibel, what I'm asking you is, in your gut, do you think 9/11 to some extent is an inside job?

Sibel Edmonds: Well, again, as I am telling you, I'm trying to tell you is, I have all the evidence of cover-up. Now, who were the people behind this? And why? And how? We don't have a definite answer. As I said, we can come up with theories, we can come up with speculation, but they do not -- I mean, in my

opinion, they are not facts. But also what government has been giving us, again, I don't consider those a total -- you know -- total truth or fact either.

Alex Jones: Would you be surprised?

Sibel Edmonds: No. I wouldn't.

Alex Jones: You wouldn't be surprised if elements or criminal elements or private contractors were involved in 9/11?

Sibel Edmonds: No, I wouldn't be surprised.

Alex Jones: So you wouldn't be surprised like many others, because of the evidence and the cover-up you've seen, if 9/11 was an inside job?

Sibel Edmonds: At this point, I'd have to say no, I wouldn't be surprised.

Alex Jones: Do you think the evidence is leaning towards that?

Sibel Edmonds: Well, again, considering the level of cover-up and the length at which they have gone to gag people and prevent information -- this information from coming out, I would say yes.

Bio: http://www.nswbc.org/nswbc_staff.htm

Bogdan Dzakovic

Witness before the 9/11 Commission. 14-year Counter-terrorism expert in the Security Division of the Federal Aviation Administration. Team Leader of the FAA's Red (Terrorism) Team, which conducted undercover tests on airport security through simulated terrorist attacks. Former Team Leader in the Federal Air Marshal program. Former Coast Guard officer.

Video transcript 8/21/05: Regarding the 9/11 Commission:

"The best I could say about it is they really botched the job by not really going into the real failures. ... At worst, I think the 9/11 Commission Report is treasonous."

<http://www.911report.com/media/stevebogdan.pdf>

Steve Elson

Former Special Agent with the U.S. Navy, DEA and FAA. Specialist in Counterterrorism, Intelligence, and Security. Twenty-two years military experience, primarily in Naval Special Warfare and nine years Federal service with the FAA and DEA. Retired Navy SEAL.

Article 8/3/04:

A former Navy SEAL and Drug Enforcement Administration rep in South America, Elson is not a timid man. "I'd give the commission a 'D' for investigating

the FAA," he declares. ... "The commissioners knew a lot more than they included in the 9/11 report," he says. "They sold out."

<http://www.secure-skies.org/Berger1.php>

Bio: http://www.nswbc.org/nswbc_staff.htm

William G. Weaver, JD, PhD

Former U.S. Army Signals Intelligence officer.

Essay 9/5/06: Regarding the 9/11 Commission:

"In their responsibility to report all the facts: They either refused to interview all relevant experts and witnesses, or, they censored the reports provided to them by those with direct and first-hand information.

Both these acts were selective and intentional. Contrary to their pledge to establish accountability: They refused to hold anyone accountable and lamely justified it by saying, "We don't want to point a finger at anyone."

<http://www.nswbc.org/Press%20Releases/NSWBC-911Comm.htm>

Bio: <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=21347>

Letter to Congress regarding the 9/11 Commission Report 9/13/04, signed by the following 25 military, intelligence, and law enforcement veterans:

"[W]e the undersigned wish to bring to the attention of the Congress and the people of the United States what we believe are serious shortcomings in the report and its recommendations. ...

Omission is one of the major flaws in the Commission's report. We are aware of significant issues and cases that were duly reported to the commission by those of us with direct knowledge, but somehow escaped attention. ...

The omission of such serious and applicable issues and information by itself renders the report flawed, and casts doubt on the validity of many of its recommendations. ...

The Commission, with its incomplete report of "facts and circumstances," intentional avoidance of assigning accountability, and disregard for the knowledge, expertise and experience of those who actually do the job, has now set about pressuring our Congress and our nation to hastily implement all its recommendations. ...

We the undersigned, who have worked within various government agencies (FBI, CIA, FAA, DIA, Customs) responsible for national security and public safety, call upon you in Congress to include the voices of those with first-hand knowledge and expertise in the important issues at hand. We stand ready to do our part."

<http://www.pogo.org/m/hsp/hsp-911commission-040913.pdf>

Edward J. Costello, Jr. – Former Special Agent, Counterterrorism, FBI. Former Judge pro tem., Los Angeles, CA.

John M. Cole – Former Intelligence Operations Specialist, in the FBI's Counterintelligence Division. In charge of FBI's foreign intelligence investigations covering India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. 18-year FBI career.

Mark Conrad, JD – Retired Agent in Charge, Internal Affairs, U.S. Customs, responsible for the internal integrity and security for areas encompassing nine states and two foreign locations. Former Federal Sky Marshall. 27-year U.S. Customs career. Currently Associate General Counsel, National Association of Federal Agents. Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Troy University.

Rosemary N. Dew – Former Supervisory Special Agent, Counterterrorism and Counterintelligence, FBI. Former member of The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) and the Electronic Commerce/Cyber Crime Working Group. 13-year FBI career.

Bogdan Dzakovic – Witness before the 9/11 Commission. 14-year Counter-terrorism expert in the Security Division of the Federal Aviation Administration. Team Leader of the FAA's Red (Terrorism) Team, which conducted undercover tests on airport security through simulated terrorist attacks. Former Team Leader in the Federal Air Marshal program. Former Coast Guard officer. (See also individual statement above.)

Sibel D. Edmonds – Witness before the 9/11 Commission. Former Language Translation Specialist, performing translations for counterterrorism and counterintelligence operations, FBI. (See also individual statement above.)

Steve Elson – Former Special Agent with the U.S. Navy and the FAA. Specialist in Counterterrorism, Intelligence, and Security. Twenty-two years military experience, primarily in Naval Special Warfare and nine years Federal service with the FAA and DEA. Retired Navy SEAL. (See also individual statement above.)

David Forbes – Former head of Thames Valley Police Fraud Squad, trained at New Scotland Yard. Over 30 years experience in law enforcement, commercial and industrial security-related risk management, and service sector business management. Currently Aviation, Logistics and Govt. Security Analyst, BoydForbes, Inc.

Melvin A. Goodman – Former Division Chief and Senior Analyst at the Office of Soviet Affairs, CIA, 1966 - 1990. Senior Analyst at the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, State Department, 1974 - 1976. Professor of International Security at the National War College 1986 - 2004. Currently Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy and Adjunct Professor of International Relations at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author and co-author of five books on international relations. (See also individual statement above.)

Mark Graf – Former Security Supervisor, Planner, and Derivative Classifier, Department of Energy. Former Chairman of the Rocky Flats (DOE) Physical Security Systems Working Group from 1990 through 1995.

Gilbert M. Graham – Retired Special Agent, Counterintelligence, FBI. 24-year FBI career.

Diane Kleiman – Former Special Agent, US Customs.

Lt. Col. Karen U. Kwiatkowski, PhD, U.S. Air Force (ret) – Former Political-Military Affairs Officer in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Also served on the staff of the Director of the National Security Agency. 20-year Air Force veteran. (See also individual statement above.)

Lynne A. Larkin – Former CIA Operations Officer. Served in several CIA foreign stations and in the CIA's counter-intelligence center helping chair a multi-agency task force and seminars on coordinating intelligence among intelligence and crime prevention agencies.

David MacMichael, PhD – Former Senior Estimates Officer with special responsibility for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the CIA's National Intelligence Council. Former Captain, U.S. Marine Corps.

Raymond L. McGovern – Former Chairman, National Intelligence Estimates, CIA, responsible for preparing the President' Daily Brief (PDB) for Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. 27-year CIA veteran. Former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer. (See also individual statement above.)

Theodore J. Pahle – Former Senior Intelligence Officer with the Defense Intelligence Agency. His 37-year intelligence career was exclusively as a HUMINT (Human Intelligence) operations officer with DIA, Office of Naval Intelligence and U.S. Army Intelligence. He is a Middle East and Latin American operations specialist. Today, he continues to support the HUMINT effort as a contract instructor.

Behrooz Sarshar – Retired Language Translation Specialist, performing Farsi translations for counterterrorism and counterintelligence operations dealing with Iran and Afghanistan, FBI.

Brian F. Sullivan – Retired Special Agent and Risk Management Specialist, FAA. Retired Lieutenant Colonel, Military Police.

Commander Larry J. Tortorich, U.S. Navy (ret) – Former Deputy Program Manager for Logistics – Tomahawk Cruise Missiles. 24-year Navy career in the fields of aviation and counterterrorism. Two years as a federal employee with DHS/TSA in the fields of security and counterterrorism.

Jane A. Turner – Retired Special Agent, FBI. 24-year FBI career.

John B. Vincent – Retired Special Agent, Counterterrorism, FBI. 27-year FBI career.

Fred Whitehurst, JD, PhD – Retired Supervisory Special Agent/Laboratory Forensic Examiner, FBI. Former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer.

Col. Ann Wright, U.S. Army (ret) – Retired Army officer and former U.S. Diplomat. Served 13 years on active duty with the U.S. Army and 16 years in the U.S. Army Reserves. She was a member of the International law team in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada and served in Panama and Somalia. She joined the Foreign

Service in 1987 and served as Deputy Chief of Mission of U.S. Embassies in Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Afghanistan. She helped reopen the US Embassy in Kabul in December, 2001.

Matthew J. Zipoli – Special Response Team (SRT) Officer, DOE. Vice President, Security Police Officer's Association, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY, INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Paul Hellyer

Former Minister of National Defense of Canada. Former Deputy Prime Minister.

Video 5/25/04: Regarding 9/11: "I think the inquiry has been very shallow, very superficial. I would like to see a much tougher, more in-depth inquiry. ... I would like to see someone in a position of authority ask those questions and insist on getting answers, at least to why some of the things that happened that seem to be, for an ordinary person, inexplicable. ... I'm very disturbed about a lack of transparency. Everyone talks about it, and no one is willing to come clean, as it were. ... We have to try and get the truth. ... I hope that somebody has the courage and persistence to keep at it until we get it."

<http://www.septembereleventh.org/kc/multimedia/movies/Hellyer.mov>

Bio: <http://www.nationmaster.com>

Peter Dale Scott, PhD

Former Canadian diplomat who served at the United Nations and the Canadian Embassy in Warsaw, Poland. Professor Emeritus of English at the University of California, Berkeley.

Congressional briefing testimony 7/22/05 (p.52):

"The American people have been seriously misled about the origins of the al Qaeda movement blamed for the 9/11 attacks, just as they have been seriously misled about the reasons for America's invasion of Iraq. ...

The 9/11 Commission Report assures Americans that "Bin Ladin and his comrades had their own sources of support and training, and they received little or no assistance from the United States. This misleading statement fails to consider that:

- Ø **Al Qaeda elements received considerable indirect U.S. Government assistance, first in Afghanistan until 1992, and thereafter in other countries such as Azerbaijan (1992-95) ...**
- Ø **Key members of the network which became al Qaeda, such as Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, Ali Mohamed, Mohamed Jamal Khalifa, and lead hijacker Mohammed Atta, were granted visas to enter the United States, despite being suspected of terrorism. Al Qaeda foot soldiers were also admitted to the United States for training under a special visa program. ...**

[Editor's note: See also J. Michael Springman.]

Ø Repeatedly al Qaeda terrorists were protected by FBI officials from investigation and prosecution."

[Editor's note: See also Coleen Rowley and Bryan Sacks.]

<http://www.vt911.org/McKinneyReport20050722transcript.pdf>

Bio: <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~pdscott/>

Michael Meacher

Former Under Secretary for Industry, Under Secretary for Health and Social Security, Minister for the Environment, and Member of the House of Commons (UK).

Video 5/6/06: Regarding the 9/11 Commission Report "It was a 580-page avoidance of any serious explanation. ... The official investigative report says the US has never been able to find the sources of financing for 9/11. And then they say this "That after all is a matter of no great importance." [Editor's note: 9/11 Commission Report, p.172]

I find that astonishing. It is a matter of absolutely central importance. So there was a very great deal of evidence. And it seems to me extraordinary that the United States with its stupendous military capabilities and the most technologically advanced country in the world completely and totally failed to follow up on these leads."

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8274552561914055825>

Essay 7/22/04: "[Ahmed Omar Saeed] Sheikh is also the man who, on the instructions of General Mahmoud Ahmed, the then head of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), wired \$100,000 before the 9/11 attacks to Mohammed Atta, the lead hijacker. It is extraordinary that neither Ahmed nor Sheikh have been charged and brought to trial on this count. Why not? ...

When Ahmed was exposed by the Wall Street Journal as having sent the money to the hijackers, he was forced to "retire" by President Pervez Musharraf. Why hasn't the US demanded that he be questioned and tried in court?"

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/alqaida/story/0,,1266511,00.html>

Bio: <http://www.epolitix.com>

Tony Benn

Former Member of British Parliament 1942 - 2001. Longest serving MP in the history of the Labour party. Former Minister of Technology. Former Secretary of State for Industry. Former Secretary of State for Energy.

Signatory: Petition For An Independent International Truth Commission On 9/11.

"[T]he Bush administration has never offered a detailed and documented account of its claims about the events of 9-11 which have allegedly revolutionized human affairs. Nor has it explained obvious and serious discrepancies in its own statements and actions. No systematic proof has ever been published or offered as to who the terrorists were, how they operated, where they came from, and why they were not stopped. ...

The Kean-Hamilton panel's limited funding from Congress makes a mockery of the tragedy of 9-11, considering that it is only a small fraction of the huge sums spent to investigate Bill Clinton. ...

We therefore call upon statesmen, thinkers, journalists, investigators, artists, scientists, jurists, academics, humanitarians, religious leaders, activists and other eminent personalities from around the world to form an Independent International Truth Commission dedicated to preventing unproven assertions about 9-11 from setting the stage for a new world conflagration."

<http://iitc.911review.org/>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Benn

Andreas von Buelow, PhD

Former State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Defense of West Germany. Former Minister of Research and Technology. Member of Bundestag (Parliament) 1969 - 1994.

Video 5/6/06: "The official story is so inadequate and far-fetched that there must be another one."

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8274552561914055825>

Article/Interview 1/13/02: "The planning of the attacks was technically and organizationally a master achievement. To hijack four huge airplanes within a few minutes and within one hour, to drive them into their targets, with complicated flight maneuvers! This is unthinkable, without years-long support from secret apparatuses of the state and industry."

<http://www.ratical.org/ratville/CAH/VonBuelow>

Horst Ehmke, PhD

Former Minister of Justice (West Germany). Former Minister for Research and Technology. Cabinet Member under Chancellors Kurt Kiesinger and Willy Brandt 1966 - 1974. Professor of Law, University of Freiburg

Article 7/22/04: "Terrorists could not have carried out such an operation with four hijacked planes without the support of a secret service."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/alqaida/story/0,,1266511,00.html>

Bio: <http://translate.google.com>

Ernst Welteke

Former President of Deutsche Bundesbank (German Federal Bank) 1999 - 2004. German politician and political economist. Member of the Hessian State Parliament, 1974 - 1995.

Telegraph Article 9/23/01: "Ernst Welteke, president of the Bundesbank, said financial investigators had found strong indications of suspicious dealings in gold and oil, as well as unusual movements in airline and insurance shares, in the days before the September 11 attacks in the United States. ..." "There are ever clearer signs that there were activities on international financial markets that must have been carried out with the necessary expert knowledge."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2001/09/23/woil23.xml>

Washington Post Article 9/22/01: "The president of Germany's central bank said today there was mounting evidence that people connected to the attacks in New York and Washington sought to profit from the tragedy by engaging in "terrorism insider trading" on European stock and commodity markets.

Ernst Welteke, head of the Bundesbank, said a preliminary review by German regulators and bank researchers showed there were highly suspicious sales of shares in airlines and insurance companies, along with major trades in gold and oil markets, before Sept. 11 that suggest they were conducted with advance knowledge of the attacks.

Welteke said his researchers came across what he considers almost irrefutable proof of insider trading as recently as Thursday, but he refused to release details pending further consultations with regulators in other countries.

"What we found makes us sure that people connected to the terrorists must have been trying to profit from this tragedy," he told European finance ministers and central bankers."

<http://web.archive.org/web/20011109160700/www.miami.com/herald/special/news/worldtrade/digdocs/099922.htm>

Francesco Cossiga

Former President of Italy (1985 - 1992) and Former Prime Minister.

Book 9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in USA: "Cossiga indicated his suspicion that the attacks presupposed some form of complicity within the US security system. The mastermind of the attack, Cossiga observed must have been a "sophisticated mind, provided with ample means not only to recruit fanatic kamikazes, but also highly specialized personnel. I add one thing: it could not be accomplished without infiltrations in the radar and flight security personnel." As for Bin Laden, Cossiga added that "it is not thinkable that he did everything by himself." (La Stampa 9/14/01, EIR 9/15/01) (p. 36)

Download from:

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/media/2005/07/317436.pdf>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francesco_Cossiga

General Leonid Ivashov

Former Chief of Staff of the Russian armed forces on 9/11/2001, and Department Chief for General affairs in the Soviet Union's Ministry of Defense.

Essay 1/22/06: Regarding 9/11 "Only secret services and their current chiefs – or those retired but still having influence inside the state organizations – have the ability to plan, organize and conduct an operation of such magnitude. ...

Osama bin Laden and "Al Qaeda" cannot be the organizers nor the performers of the September 11 attacks. They do not have the necessary organization, resources or leaders."

<http://www.physics911.net/ivashov>

Gen. Hosni Mubarak

President of Egypt, 1981 - present. Former Vice President, 1975 - 1981. Former Commander of the Egyptian Air Force and Deputy Minister of War.

CNN Interview 9/15/01: Regarding 9/11 "... those who did that [piloted a 757 into the Pentagon] should have flown in the area a long time, for example. The Pentagon is not very high, a pilot could come straight to the Pentagon like this to hit, he should have flown a lot in this area to know the obstacles which could meet him when he is flying very low with a big commercial plane to hit the Pentagon in a special place.

Somebody has studied this very well, someone has flown in this area very much.

Q: Are you suggesting it was an inside operation, I may ask, who do you think is behind this?

Mubarak: Frankly speaking I don't want to jump to conclusions. ... let us wait and see what is the result of the investigations, because something like this done in the United States is not an easy thing ... I am speaking as a former pilot, I know that very well, I flew very heavy planes, I flew fighters, I know that very well, this is not an easy thing, so I think we should not jump to conclusions from now."

http://www.presidency.gov.eg/html/14-Sept2001_press_2.html

BBC Interview 9/19/01 - "When asked about the expected repercussions of an assault on Afghanistan and the killing of Osama bin Laden, Mubarak said he didn't believe bin Laden alone was responsible for the attacks on the US. "American experts also believe the operation is beyond bin Laden."

http://www.presidency.gov.eg/html/19-Sept2001_press.html

Article 10/25/01: "I find it hard to believe that people who were learning to fly in Florida could, within a year and a half, fly large commercial airlines and hit with accuracy the towers of the World Trade Center which would appear, to the pilot from the air, the size of a pencil. Only a professional pilot could carry out this mission, not someone who learned to fly for 18 months in Florida."

<http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Politics/Presidency/President/Interview/000001/0401050300000000000070.htm>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hosni_Mubarak

Mohamed Hassanein Heikal

Former Foreign Minister of Egypt.

Article 10/10/01: Regarding 9/11 "Bin Laden does not have the capabilities for an operation of this magnitude. When I hear Bush talking about al-Qaida as if it was Nazi Germany or the communist party of the Soviet Union, I laugh because I know what is there. Bin Laden has been under surveillance for years: every telephone call was monitored and al-Qaida has been penetrated by American intelligence, Pakistani intelligence, Saudi intelligence, Egyptian intelligence. They could not have kept secret an operation that required such a degree of organisation and sophistication."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4273924,00.html>

General Pervez Musharraf

President of Pakistan and Chief of Staff of the Pakistan Army. Assumed power on October 12, 1999 after a coup d'état and assumed the title of President on June 20, 2001.

New Yorker Article 8/12/02: "Musharraf told me that he was still unconvinced that bin Laden was the main figure in the attacks. "I didn't think it possible that Osama sitting up there in the mountains could do it," he said. "He was perhaps the sponsor, the financier, the motivating force. But those who executed it were much more modern. They knew the U.S., they knew aviation. I don't think he has the intelligence or the minute planning. The planner was someone else."

http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/020812fa_fact2

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pervez_Musharraf

General Mirza Aslam Beg

Former Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Army.

Book 9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in USA: "Many of us in this region believe that Osama or his al-Qaeda were not responsible for 11 September attacks in New York and Washington, yet the coalition led by United States is busy on 'Afghan bashing,' chasing objectives, which go much beyond Osama bin Laden. The information which is now coming up, goes to prove that involvement by the 'rogue elements' of the U.S. military and intelligence organization is getting more obvious. Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda definitely do not have the knowhow and the capability to launch such operations involving such high precision coordination, based on information and expertise." (EIR, December 10, 2001)

Download from:

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/media/2005/07/317436.pdf>

Bio: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirza_Aslam_Beg

Giulietto Chiesa

Member of European Parliament, 2004 - present (Italy). Vice Chairman, Committee on International Trade. Member of Committee on Security and Defense. Journalist 1980 - 2004.

Speech 11/18/05 (video) : "Four years ago, an enormous media event changed the course of the world. Billions of people were given only one explanation for that, which is entirely false. Therefore everyone who dares to question it is treated as if he was a fool. ... Media are silent. I believe you know what event I am speaking of; September 11."

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6301106744767231966>

Bio: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members>

Paul Lannoye

Member of European Parliament, 1989 - 2004 (Belgium). Former Vice Chairman, Committee on Energy, Research and Technology. Former Vice Chairman, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

Open Letter 5/24/04: "I implore legislators, parliamentarians, and citizens worldwide to become involved in the global 9-11 Truth Movement by signing up at www.911Visibility.org and www.911Truth.org. These organizations have worked with 9-11 family members, and citizens worldwide to lobby government, media, and the 9-11 Commission to demand truth, and to hold public actions to educate the world about the apparent 9-11 cover up."

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20040525172510598>

Bio: <http://www.paullannoye.be/carriere.php>

Col. Pierre-Henri Bunel, French Army (ret)

Army intelligence and artillery officer. Graduate of École Militaire of St. Cyr. Expert in the effects of artillery weapons and explosives. Served in the Gulf War as battlefield damage assessment officer and aide-de-camp to French General Michel Roquejoffre. Bunel was one of four French officers decorated by General Norman Schwarzkopf for service in the Gulf War. Also Served in French and NATO operations in Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Yugoslavia. 24-year army career.

Essay included in Pentagate by Thierry Meyssan (2002): Regarding Department of Defense photos of the Pentagon on 9/11 - "This image of the impact on the Pentagon is very instructive as to the nature of the explosion. ... It corresponds to a detonation of an explosive with high energetic power. The explosion does not correspond to a deflagration of kerosene [as would result from the impact of an airliner]. ...

One distinguishes at ground level, starting from the right-hand side of the photo and going to the base of the mass of white vapor, a white line of smoke. ... As opposed to the smoke that would come out of two kerosene-fueled engines, this

smoke is white. The turbojets of a Boeing 757 would in fact leave a trail of much blacker smoke. The examination of this photo alone already suggests a single engine flying vehicle much smaller in size than an airliner. ...

The last photo was produced by the Department of Defense and published on a Navy Web site.

<http://911research.wtc7.net/pentagon/evidence/photos/punchout.html>

In examining it, one can see an almost circular hole topped by a black smudge, This perforation is about seven feet in diameter and is situated in the wall of the third line of buildings working inward from the façade. It is supposed to have been made by the nose of the plane. That would mean that the nose of the aircraft, a radome of carbon fiber that is far from being armored, would have traversed without destroying them six load-bearing walls of building considered to be rather solid. ... The appearance of the perforation in the wall certainly resembles the effects of anti-concrete hollow charges that I have been able to observe on a number of battlefields. ...

This photo, and the effects described in the official version, lead me therefore to think that the detonation that struck the building was that of a high-powered hollow charge used to destroy hardened buildings and carried by an aerial vehicle, a missile."

<http://www.voltairenet.org/article139203.html#article139203>

Heikki Kurttila, D.Sc. (Tech.) (Doctor of Technology)

Safety Engineer and Accident Analyst, National Safety Technology Authority (TUKES), Finland. Specialist in the investigation of pressure vessel explosion accidents and the impacts of the shock waves caused by them.

Analysis of the collapse of WTC Building 7, 11/18/05: "Conclusion: The observed collapse time of WTC 7 was 6.5 seconds. That is only half a second longer than it would have taken for the top of the building to fall to the ground in a vacuum, and half a second shorter than the falling time of an apple when air resistance is taken into account. ... The great speed of the collapse and the low value of the resistance factor strongly suggest controlled demolition."

http://www.saunalahti.fi/wtc2001/WTC7_collapse_examination.pdf

David Shayler

Former Counter-Terrorism Officer, MI5 (Britain)

Video 3/6/06:

"The available evidence indicates that people in key positions in the FBI, the State Department, the CIA and so on were not loyal to the Constitution; that they saw an opportunity in plans laid down by genuine Islamic terrorists to carry out an operation that would shock the world and would therefore justify U.S. adventurism in the middle East, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq."

[NOTE: This Video is a MUST SEE.]

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5403286136814574974>

A PERSONAL NOTE ABOUT THIS WEBSITE (from the moderator):

Patriots Question 911

I believed the official explanation of 9/11 for four and one-half years. During that time, I remember becoming angry at news stories about people who challenged that explanation. However, in the Spring of 2006, I saw the documentary, *Loose Change*, on the Internet. Although not an entirely objective documentary, it raised many serious and disturbing questions about the events of 9/11 that I had previously simply accepted without much critical thought.

And so I began a several month period of researching the events of 9/11. I found a great deal of material challenging the 9/11 Commission Report on websites like 911truth.org, physics911.net, Scholars for 9/11 Truth and many others. I attended a lecture by David Ray Griffin. I learned much about what has become known as the 9/11 Truth Movement.

Much of the information and most of the rather limited media coverage about the 9/11 Truth Movement focuses on a handful of college professors, such as: David Ray Griffin, Steven Jones, James Fetzer, Kevin Barrett, William Woodward, and A.K. Dewdney. In August 2006, I began searching for statements about 9/11 by senior U.S. military officers, intelligence services and law enforcement veterans, and government officials. Because of their experience in intelligence gathering, espionage, terrorism, and covert military operations, I felt their opinions about 9/11 would be valuable. I was surprised by the amount of their criticism of the official account of 9/11 that I found scattered around the Internet. I had learned of virtually none of this criticism through newspapers, television, or radio news sources.

I feel this criticism by experienced professionals is extremely important and that it has been seriously under-reported. This website was launched in September 2006 in an effort to provide an easily accessible reference collection of their public statements.

I continued my research and found that many more than just a handful of professors had publicly questioned the official account of 9/11. However most had received negligible media coverage. In January 2007, a new section of the website was launched that featured statements by over 100 professors.

I strongly desire to increase this collection of statements by responsible individuals who question the official account of 9/11. If you are aware of any similar statements made by 9/11 survivors or family members, or senior military officers, intelligence services and law enforcement veterans, government officials, or professors, I would greatly appreciate knowing about them. Please contact me at

alan.miller@PatriotsQuestion911.com.

Additionally, if you find any errors in this material, please let me know.

I don't claim to know what really happened on 9/11. I cannot examine the facts of the matter first hand. And I don't have the experience to know what's possible and what is unlikely regarding terrorist activities or military operations. For that

analysis, I need to rely on experts. I greatly value these individuals' statements because many of the government employees have spent large portions of their careers studying espionage, terrorism, and military operations throughout the world and personally planned and carried out United States' military and intelligence activities. I also greatly value the statements by the professors who have devoted their careers to understanding and teaching the truth about a wide variety of subjects.

My objective, at this point, is to have our government launch a new, extremely thorough, independent, and totally impartial re-examination of the terrible acts of 9/11 and the events leading up to them. In my opinion, and in the opinion of the above listed experienced individuals, the current 9/11 Commission Report is seriously inadequate in explaining what really happened.

I also want to acknowledge that none of the information on this website is the result of any original investigation on my part. I have merely researched and compiled public information available on the Internet. I want to thank those in the 9/11 Truth Movement for their efforts over the last five years in conducting a great deal of research and for keeping the Movement alive in the face of both ridicule and indifference.

DEMAND A NEW 9/11 INVESTIGATION!

9/11 is the most important event in American history since December 7, 1941, when Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor. The magnitude of the impact of 9/11 on America and the rest of the world cannot be overstated. The terrible acts of 9/11 and the events leading up to them deserve a thorough, independent and unimpeachable investigation. And if some rogue element within the U.S. government is responsible for the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 9/11, as several of these individuals allege, it is critical that that be disclosed and forcefully dealt with.

For the sake of those who died on 9/11, their families, the American people, and for the sake of peace in the world, please continue to seek the truth about 9/11. Demand a thorough and impartial reinvestigation of 9/11.

- Ø Write your elected representatives in Congress.
<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>
- Ø Write your local television stations, radio stations and newspapers.
<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/media>
- Ø Write to national tv and radio networks, newspapers, and magazines.
<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=111>

If you are a 9/11 survivor, or family member, or an active or former senior member of the military, intelligence services, law enforcement agencies, or government, or a professor who has concerns about the 9/11 Commission Report and would like your comment added to this website, please contact me.

alan.miller@PatriotsQuestion911.com

Lastly, I'd like to share with you some pertinent quotes from Teddy Roosevelt and Mark Twain.

"Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official save exactly to the degree in which he himself stands by the country. It is patriotic to support him insofar as he efficiently serves the country. It is unpatriotic not to oppose him to the exact extent that by inefficiency or otherwise he fails in his duty to stand by the country."

— Teddy Roosevelt

"To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public."

— Teddy Roosevelt

"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it."

— Mark Twain

"In the beginning of a change the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot."

— Mark Twain

Sincerely,

Alan Miller

Email: alan.miller@PatriotsQuestion911.com

[NOTE: As of this writing (May 10, 2007) -- not only does Mr. Miller's website contain the statements of the 100-plus Senior Military, Intelligence Service, Law Enforcement, and Government Officials cited above, it also contains the statements of more than 130 distinguished Professors, more than 100 9/11 Survivors and Family Members, and more than 70 Media Professionals.]

LINKS TO 9/11 RESOURCES

A wealth of information about 9/11 is available on the Internet and in books and videos. I cannot list them all. However, the following links are good places to begin looking for information.

9/11 Truth Movement Sites

911Truth.org

<http://www.911truth.org/>

9/11Blogger.com

<http://www.911blogger.com/>

Physics911.net

<http://www.physics911.net/>

Scholars for 9/11 Truth

<http://67.15.255.19/~c911sch1/>

Scholars for 9/11 Truth & Justice

<http://stj911.org/index.html>

Complete 9/11 Timeline

http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/project.jsp?project=911_project

Pilots for 9/11 Truth

<http://pilotsfor911truth.org/>

9/11 Information Center

<http://www.wanttoknow.info/911information>

Killtown

<http://www.geocities.com/killtown/>

9/11Proof.com

<http://911proof.com/index>

Veterans for 9/11 Truth

<http://v911t.org/>

Nineeleven.co.uk

<http://www.nineeleven.co.uk/>

9/11 Truth Videos

9/11: Press for Truth

Meet the Jersey Girls and Witness the
911 Families' Remarkable Struggle to Force an Investigation
<http://www.911pressfortruth.com/>

Loose Change Second Edition

Young military guys make a movie on their laptop, and seed the changing
consciousness of a country -- Google's most watched movie.
<http://www.loosechange911.com/>

9/11 Mysteries

"Excellent. The best of the 9/11 movies."
-- David Ray Griffin, author of The New Pearl Harbor
"WOW! is my reaction to this movie. Great insight into demolitions and
what really happened on 9/11/2001."
-- Steven E. Jones, physics professor, Brigham Young University
"An outstanding contribution to understanding 9/11. Simply superb."
-- James H. Fetzer, founder, Scholars for 911 Truth
<http://www.911weknow.com/911-mysteries-movie.html>

September 11 Revisited

<http://www.911revisited.com/>

911 Eyewitness

The Raw Evidence of the 9/11 Demolition of World Trade Center 1, 2 & 7
<http://www.911eyewitness.com/>

9/11 Commission Report and Defenders

The 9-11 Commission Report

<http://www.9-11commission.gov/>

National Institute of Standards and Technology

http://wtc.nist.gov/pubs/factsheets/faqs_8_2006.htm

Popular Mechanics

http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/military_law/1227842.html

9/11 Families

WTC United Family Group

<http://www.coalitionof911families.org/>

Families of September 11

<http://www.familiesofseptember11.org/news.aspx?s=5>

September 11th Families Association

<http://www.911families.org/>

Peaceful Tomorrows

<http://www.peacefultomorrows.org/>

<http://www.patriotsquestion911.com/>

Respected Leaders and Families Launch 9/11 Truth Statement

Demanding Deeper Investigation into the Events of 9/11

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Oct. 26, 2004) - An alliance of 100 prominent Americans and 40 family members of those killed on 9/11 today announced the release of the 911 Truth Statement, a call for immediate inquiry into evidence that suggests high-level government officials may have deliberately allowed the September 11th attacks to occur. The Statement supports an August 31st Zogby poll that found nearly 50% of New Yorkers believe the government had foreknowledge and "consciously failed to act," with 66% wanting a new 9/11 investigation.

Focusing on twelve questions, the Statement highlights areas of incriminating evidence that were either inadequately explored or ignored by the Kean Commission, ranging from insider trading and hijacker funding to foreign government forewarnings and inactive defenses around the Pentagon. The Statement asks for four actions: an immediate investigation by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Congressional hearings, media analysis, and the formation of a truly independent citizens-based inquiry.

The Statement's list of signatories includes notables spanning the political spectrum, from Presidential candidates Ralph Nader, Michael Badnarik, and David Cobb to Catherine Austin Fitts, a member of the first Bush administration, as well as Washington veterans like Pentagon whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg and retired CIA analyst Ray McGovern. Other signers range from peace activists like Code Pink co-founder Jodie Evans and Global Exchange's Kevin Danaher to former US Ambassador and Chief of Mission to Iraq, Edward L. Peck; from environmentalists like Randy Hayes and John Robbins to business leaders such as Paul Hawken and Karl Schwarz, CEO of Patmos Nanotechnologies; from populist journalist Ronnie Dugger to renowned investigative reporter Kelly Patricia O'Meara.

The Statement also includes 43 noted authors, including New York Times #1 bestseller John Gray, as well as 18 eminent professors, historians, and theologians. Other notables include five-term Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, singers Michelle Shocked and Michael Franti, and actors Ed Asner and Mimi Kennedy.

The Statement was facilitated by 911truth.org, a leading coalition. The organization has also announced a press conference outside of Eliot Spitzer's Manhattan office (corner of Cedar and Nassau) at 2:00PM on Thursday, Oct. 28th where 9/11 family members and victim group representatives will file a formal

complaint demanding the first criminal investigation of 9/11 events by the New York Attorney General.

The Statement

We Want Real Answers About 9/11

On August 31, 2004, Zogby International, the official North American political polling agency for Reuters, released a poll that found nearly half (49.3%) of New York City residents and 41% of those in New York state believe US leaders had foreknowledge of impending 9/11 attacks and "consciously failed" to act. Of the New York City residents, 66% called for a new probe of unanswered questions by Congress or the New York Attorney General.

In connection with this news, we have assembled 100 notable Americans and 40 family members of those who died to sign this 9/11 Statement, which calls for immediate public attention to unanswered questions that suggest that people within the current administration may indeed have deliberately allowed 9/11 to happen, perhaps as a pretext for war.

We want truthful answers to questions such as:

1. Why were standard operating procedures for dealing with hijacked airliners not followed that day?
2. Why were the extensive missile batteries and air defenses reportedly deployed around the Pentagon not activated during the attack?
3. Why did the Secret Service allow Bush to complete his elementary school visit, apparently unconcerned about his safety or that of the schoolchildren?
4. Why hasn't a single person been fired, penalized, or reprimanded for the gross incompetence we witnessed that day?
5. Why haven't authorities in the U.S. and abroad published the results of multiple investigations into trading that strongly suggested foreknowledge of specific details of the 9/11 attacks, resulting in tens of millions of dollars of traceable gains?
6. Why has Sibel Edmonds, a former FBI translator who claims to have knowledge of advance warnings, been publicly silenced with a gag order requested by Attorney General Ashcroft and granted by a Bush-appointed judge?
7. How could Flight 77, which reportedly hit the Pentagon, have flown back towards Washington D.C. for 40 minutes without being detected by the FAA's radar or the even superior radar possessed by the US military?
8. How were the FBI and CIA able to release the names and photos of the alleged hijackers within hours, as well as to visit houses, restaurants, and flight schools they were known to frequent?
9. What happened to the over 20 documented warnings given our government by 14 foreign intelligence agencies or heads of state?

10. Why did the Bush administration cover up the fact that the head of the Pakistani intelligence agency was in Washington the week of 9/11 and reportedly had \$100,000 wired to Mohamed Atta, considered the ringleader of the hijackers?
11. Why did the 911 Commission fail to address most of the questions posed by the families of the victims, in addition to almost all of the questions posed here?
12. Why was Philip Zelikow chosen to be the Executive Director of the ostensibly independent 911 Commission although he had co-authored a book with Condoleezza Rice?

Those who are demanding deeper inquiry now number in the hundreds of thousands, including a former member of the first Bush administration, a retired Air Force colonel, a European parliamentarian, families of the victims, highly respected authors, investigative journalists, peace and justice leaders, former Pentagon staff, and the National Green Party.

As Americans of conscience, we ask for four things:

1. An immediate investigation by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.
2. Immediate investigation in Congressional Hearings.
3. Media attention to scrutinize and investigate the evidence.
4. The formation of a truly independent citizens-based inquiry.

Given the importance of the coming election, we feel it is imperative that these questions be addressed publicly, honestly, and rigorously so that Americans may exercise their democratic rights with full awareness.

In closing, we pray and hope for the strength to approach this subject with wisdom and compassion so that we may heal from the wounds inflicted on that terrible day.

Signed,

Signatories

Note: All organizations are mentioned for identification purposes only. Individuals have signed this statement as an act of their own conscience, not to signify organizational endorsement.

1. Virginia Deane Abernethy, Ph.D., anthropologist, author, Population Politics
2. Ed Asner, actor, activist
3. Marshall Auerback, international portfolio strategist for David W. Tice & Associates, Inc.
4. Catherine Austin Fitts, Asst. Secretary of Housing in the first Bush administration
5. Keidi Obi Awadu, aka The Conscious Rasta, talk show host, LIBRadio
6. Michael Badnarik, Libertarian candidate for President

7. Byron Belitsos, publisher, Origin Press, author Planetary Democracy
8. Philip J. Berg, Esquire, former deputy attorney general, Pennsylvania
9. Medea Benjamin, activist, author, co-founder, Global Exchange and Code Pink
10. Dennis Bernstein, investigative reporter, radio host of KPFA's Flashpoints
11. Steve Bhaerman aka Swami Beyondananda, author, political comedian
12. Brad Blanton, Ph.D., psychotherapist, author, Radical Honesty
13. Sanial Bonder, spiritual teacher and author, Great Relief
14. Dr. Robert Bowman, USAF Lt. Col. (Rtd.), founder, Institute for Space and Security Studies
15. John Buchanan, author, candidate for the Republican Party Presidential nomination, 2004
16. Gray Brechin, Ph.D., author, environmental historian, professor, UC Berkeley
17. Fred Burks, presidential interpreter for Bush, Clinton, Cheney, and Gore
18. Norma Carr-Rufino, Ph.D., author, professor of management, San Francisco State University
19. Angana Chatterji, Ph.D., scholar-activist and professor of anthropology
20. Paul Cienfuegos, co-founder, Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County
21. David Cobb, attorney, national presidential candidate, US Green Party
22. John Cobb, Ph.D., theologian, co-author, For the Common Good
23. Ernest Callenbach, founder/editor, Film Quarterly, author, Ecotopia
24. Kevin Danaher, Ph.D., author, speaker, co-founder, Global Exchange
25. Stephen Dinan, author, Radical Spirit
26. Ronnie Dugger, journalist/author, co-founder, Alliance for Democracy
27. Rachel Ehrenfeld, Ph.D., Director, American Center for Democracy, author, Funding Evil
28. Daniel Ellsberg, author, Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers
29. Jodie Evans, co-founder, Code Pink
30. Richard Falk, Professor Emeritus of International Law, Princeton University
31. Michael Franti, musician, filmmaker, human rights worker
32. Janeane Garofalo, actress, comedienne, talk show host, Air America Radio
33. Jim Garrison, Ph.D., president, State of the World Forum, author, America as Empire
34. Bruce Gagnon, Chair, Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
35. Ric Giardina, author, consultant, speaker, former Director of Trademarks and Brands for Intel
36. John Gray, Ph.D., #1 bestselling author, Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus
37. Stan Goff, 25-year Army Special Ops veteran, author, Full Spectrum Disorder
38. Melvin Goodman, senior fellow, Center for International Policy, author, former Senior Analyst, CIA, professor, National War College
39. Morton Goulder, Deputy Secretary for Intelligence and Warning under Nixon, Ford, and Carter
40. David Ray Griffin, Ph.D., theologian, author, New Pearl Harbor
41. Doris "Granny D" Haddock, campaign finance crusader, NH Democratic candidate for Senate
42. Thom Hartmann, radio host; author, Unequal Protection
43. Richie Havens, singer, songwriter, performer, artist
44. Paul Hawken, bestselling author, environmentalist, entrepreneur, founder of Smith & Hawken
45. Randy Hayes, founder, Rainforest Action Network, US National Director, Direction Conservation

46. Richard Heinberg, author, *The Party's Over*, core faculty, New College of California
47. Van Jones, executive director, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
48. Rob Kall, editor, OpEdNews.com, president, Futurehealth, Inc.
49. Georgia Kelly, executive director, Praxis Peace Institute
50. Sean Kelly, Ph.D., author, professor of philosophy and religion, CA Institute of Integral Studies
51. John Joseph Kennedy, Democratic Write-in Presidential Candidate for 2004
52. Mimi Kennedy, actress, *Dharma and Greg*, progressive activist
53. Faiz Khan, M.D., Triage Emergency Physician on 9/11, Assistant Imam
54. David Korten, author, *When Corporations Rule the World*
55. Frances Moore Lappé, author, *Diet for a Small Planet*; founder, Small Planet Institute
56. Scott M. Legere, 25 year radio broadcaster as Scott Ledger, Tampa FL
57. Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor, TIKKUN Magazine, author, *Healing Israel/Palestine*
58. Michael Levine, bestselling author of *Deep Cover*, journalist, 25-year veteran of the DEA
59. Joanna Macy, Ph.D., eco-philosopher, author
60. Enver Masud, founder, The Wisdom Fund, author, *The Truth About Islam*
61. John McCarthy, former Special Forces Captain, president, Veterans Equal Rights Protection Advocacy
62. Ray McGovern, former CIA analyst, co-founder, Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity
63. Cynthia McKinney, five-term Congresswoman from Georgia
64. Ralph Metzner, Ph.D., author, professor, co-founder, Green Earth Foundation
65. Mark Crispin Miller, media critic, author, professor, New York University
66. Joseph W. Montaperto, New York City Fire Department
67. Leuren Moret, geoscientist, radiation specialist, environmental commissioner
68. Ralph Nader, Independent candidate for President
69. Craig Neal, author, co-founder, The Heartland Institute, former publisher, *Utne Reader*
70. Jeff Norman, executive director, Tour of Duty
71. Jenna Orkin, Esquire, World Trade Center Environmental Organization
72. Kelly Patricia O'Meara, investigative journalist, public relations
73. Michael Parenti, Ph.D., author, *Superpatriotism and The Terrorism Trap*
74. Edward L. Peck, former US Ambassador and Chief of Mission to Iraq, former Deputy Director to the White House Task Force on Terrorism
75. Peter Phillips, Ph.D., professor, Sonoma State University, director, Project Censored
76. Henri Poole, Internet pioneer, board member, Free Software Foundation
77. Robert Rabbin, author, speaker, creator of TruthForPresident.org
78. Paul H. Ray, Ph.D., sociologist, author, *The Cultural Creatives*
79. John Renesch, business futurist, author, *Getting to the Better Future*
80. John Rensenbrink, professor emeritus, Bowdoin College, co-founder, US Green Party
81. John Robbins, author, founder, EarthSave International
82. William Rodriguez, 9/11 rescue effort hero, founder, Hispanic Victims Group
83. Neal Rogin, Emmy-award winning writer, performer, social observer
84. Allen Roland, Ph.D., psychotherapist, published author and peace activist
85. Rosemary Radford Ruether, professor of feminist theology, Graduate Theological Union

86. Michael Ruppert, publisher/ editor, From The Wilderness, author, Crossing the Rubicon
87. Chris Sanders, founder, Sanders Research Associates
88. Karl W. B. Schwarz, President, CEO, Patmos Nanotechnologies, LLC
89. Peter Dale Scott, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, author, Drugs, Oil, and War
90. Firefighter Kevin Shea, FDNY Hazmat Operations
91. Michelle Shocked, singer/ songwriter, activist
92. Indira Singh, risk management and computer systems consultant
93. J. Michael Springmann, attorney, former Foreign Service Officer, US Department of State
94. Douglas Sturm, Ph.D., university professor emeritus, Bucknell University
95. Marjorie Hewit Suchocki, Ph.D., theologian, author
96. Chuck Turner, Boston City Council
97. James W. Walter Jr., venture investor, philanthropist, founder of Walden Three
98. Dan Whaley, E-commerce pioneer, founder of GetThere.com, acquired for \$750M
99. Burns H. Weston, J.S.D., Professor of Law Emeritus, Director, Center for Human Rights, U-Iowa
100. Howard Zinn, professor, historian, author, A People's History of the United States

Family Members

1. Joanne Barbara, wife of FDNY Asst. Chief of Dept. Gerard Barbara
2. Gayle Barker, sister of William A. Karnes, WTC
3. Michele Bergsohn, wife of Alvin Bergsohn, Cantor Fitzgerald
4. Derrill Bodley, father of Deora Bodley, passenger on Flight 93
5. Kathryn C. Bowden, sister of Thomas H. Bowden, Jr. WTC1, 104th floor
6. Janet Calia, wife of Dominick Calia, Cantor Fitzgerald, WTC1
7. Maggie Cashman, wife of William Joseph Cashman, United Flight 93
8. Lynne Castrianno Galante, sister of Leonard Castrianno, 1WTC, 105th floor
9. Elza Chapa-McGowan, daughter of Rosemary Chapa, Pentagon
10. Bruce De Cell, father-in-law of Mark Petrocelli North Tower, 92nd floor
11. Ralph D'Esposito, father of Michael D'Esposito, WTC, 96th floor
12. Loisanne Diehl, Surviving Spouse, Michael D. Diehl, WTC2, 90th floor
13. Adina D. Eisenberg, sister of Eric Eisenberg, WTC
14. Jonathan M. Fisher, son of Dr. Gerald Paul "Geep" Fisher, Pentagon
15. Michael J. Fox, brother of Jeffrey L. Fox, Tower 2, 89th floor
16. Laurel A. Gay, sister of Peter A. Gay, AA Flight 11
17. Irene Golinsky, wife of Col. Ronald F. Golinski USA RET, Pentagon
18. Lori, Jerry, and Beatrice Guadagno, sister and parents of Richard Guadagno, Flight 93
19. Kristen Hall, daughter of fallen firefighter Thomas Kuveikis 9/11
20. Kurt D. Horning, father of Matthew D. Horning, WTC Tower One, 95th floor
21. Jennifer W. Hunt, wife of William C. Hunt, Euro Brokers
22. John Keating, son of Barbara Keating, passenger on AA Flight 11
23. L. Russell Keene II, father of Russ Keene III, WTC2, 89th floor, KBW
24. Peter Kousoulis, sister died in WTC
25. Paul & Barbara Kirwin, parents of Glenn Davis Kirwin, Cantor Fitzgerald 105th floor
26. Barbara Krukowski-Rastelli, mother of William E. Krukowski, NYC firefighter

27. Laura and Ira Lassman, parents of Nicholas C. Lassman, died in WTC, Tower One
28. Johnny Lee, husband of Lorraine Greene
29. Alicia LeGuillow, mother of Nestor A. Cintron III
30. Francine Levine, sister of Adam K. Ruhalter, who died on 9/11
31. Bob McIlvaine, father of Robert McIlvaine, WTC, Merrill Lynch
32. Mary McWilliams, mother of FF Martin E. McWilliams- Engine 22
33. Daryl J. Meehan, brother of Colleen Ann Barkow, WTC 1, 105th floor
34. Elvira P. Murphy, wife of Patrick Murphy, WTC 1
35. Natalee Pecorelli, sister of Thomas Pecorelli of Flight 11
36. James L Perry, M.D and Patricia J. Perry, parents of John W. Perry, Esq., NYPD Officer 9/11
37. David Potorti, brother of James Potorti, North Tower, WTC, Marsh & McLennan
38. Terry Kay Rockefeller, sister of Laura Rockefeller, North Tower, WTC
39. Grissel Rodriguez-Valentin, wife of Benito Valentin, WTC1, 94th floor
40. Alissa Rosenberg-Torres, widow of Luis Eduardo Torres, post-9/11 mother, writer
41. Elaine Saber, mother of Scott Saber
42. Julie Scarpitta, mother of Michelle Scarpitta, WTC Building 2, 84th floor
43. Paula Shapiro, mother of Eric Eisenberg, WTC2
44. Elizabeth Turner, wife of Simon Turner, lost on 11th September 2001
45. Adele Welty, mother of Firefighter Timothy Welty, FDNY, Squad 288
46. Joan W. Winton, mother of David Winton, WTC, South Tower, 89th floor
47. David Yancey, husband of Vicki Yancey, American Airlines Flight 77
48. Nissa Youngren, daughter of Robert G. LeBlanc, flight 175

Late Signatories (starting toward 200...)

1. Rita M. Haley, President, National Organization for Women, New York Chapter
2. Immortal Technique, Harlem-based hip-hop artist with Viper Records, Revolutionary I&II
3. Bob Kirkconnell, served in the U.S. Air Force 27 years, reaching the rank of Master Sergeant
4. Dennis Kyne, former Army air medic, 18th Airborne Corps during Gulf War I, musician, author, "Support the Truth"
5. Paul Landis, author, "Stop Bush Now!"
6. Eric H. May, former Army military intelligence officer and media essayist
7. Charles Shaw, Editor, Newtopia Magazine, National Peace Action Coordinator, National Green Party
8. Peter Erlinder, professor, William Mitchell College of Law, past-President National Lawyers Guild
9. Daniel Robert Rezac, 2004 Vice-Presidential Write-In Candidate, former Aviator & Armor Officer, Army National Guard, B.S.B.A.
10. Joel Horwitz, lost beloved cousin in WTC 1
11. Jessica Murrow, lost husband Stephen Adams, Beverage Manager, Windows on the World, WTC 1
12. Ellen Mariani, lost husband Neil on Flight 175
13. Jean Hunt, disabled survivor of Pentagon attack
14. Ralph & Brigitte Sabbag, lost son Jason in WTC 2

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20041026093059633>

[Back](#)

12.30 Scott Shuger:

The First Journalist to Question the Lies of NORAD, in his Groundbreaking Article:

IGNORAD

The military screw-up nobody talks about.

By Scott Shuger

Posted Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2002, at 5:20 PM ET

For all its successes, the U.S. anti-terror war was conceived in sin, the sin of U.S. government negligence. As much post-9/11 journalism has pointed out, there was the foreign-policy error of abandoning post-Soviet Afghanistan after having infused it with weapons, the CIA's failure to act more forcefully on tips and intercepts regarding al-Qaida operatives overseas, and the FBI's and INS's similar failings regarding suspicious characters already in the United States. And the FAA's (and the airlines', the airports', and security firms') breakdown on airport security. However, there has been a good deal less focus on another federal fubar, that perpetrated by the Air Force's North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

The NORAD home page declares its mission to include "the detection, validation, and warning of attack against North America whether by aircraft, missiles, or space vehicles." It may seem ungallant to say the obvious, but since no one else has, I will: At the aircraft part of this mission, NORAD sucks.

How does NORAD explain its failure to intercept any of the hijacked airliners on 9/11? Its commander, Gen. Ed Eberhart, pointed out in congressional testimony that the FAA has the primary responsibility for hijackings in U.S. airspace, that NORAD can only help respond once the FAA notifies it, and that on 9/11 the FAA delayed precious minutes before doing so. Eberhart has also said that while before 9/11, NORAD had practiced responding to a hijacked plane trying to slam into a target in the United States, the exercises assumed that the flight had originated overseas, giving intercepting jet fighters more time. More important, he also said that even if his aircraft had practiced the domestic scenario, it wouldn't have mattered. Why? "I really think that, for sure in the first two instances, and probably in the third, the time and distance would not have allowed us to get an airplane to the right place at the right time."

It's certainly true that the FAA didn't give the Air Force the speediest heads up: Newsday reported that the FAA delayed 29 minutes (!) before telling the military about the third (!) suspicious plane, the one that ultimately hit the Pentagon. And before 9/11, a domestic-hijacked-airliner-suicide attack was admittedly not the most probable of worries. But it's simply wrong to say that therefore, there probably wasn't anything NORAD could have done to change history.

According to NORAD's official 9/11 time line, the FAA notified NORAD at 8:40 a.m. Eastern time that there was something peculiar going on with American Flight 11. But NORAD didn't issue an order for fighters to scramble until 8:46 a.m., the time when American Flight 11 hit the first WTC tower. Six minutes later, at 8:52 a.m., two F-15 fighters responded to the order by launching from a base 153

miles from New York City. They still were not on the scene at 9:02 a.m. when the second airliner, United Flight 175, hit the second WTC tower. They wouldn't get there for another eight minutes, at 9:10 a.m. A NORAD senior officer, Major Gen. Larry Arnold, told NBC that when the fighters took off, they were flying straight to New York City. He also said that they were going "about 1.5 Mach, which is, you know, somewhere—11- or 1,200 miles an hour." But note that the F-15 fighters took 18 minutes to cover those 153 miles, which comes out to more like 510 mph. Yet, according to the Air Force, the F-15 has a top speed of 1,875 mph. So, you have to wonder, why were they flying at less than a third of what they're capable of?

According to NORAD, the FAA notified it at 9:24 a.m. that there was something suspicious with American Flight 77. Two F-16 fighters were immediately ordered launched, and they got airborne at 9:30 a.m. The New York Times reports that at first, they were headed to New York at "top speed" reaching "600 mph within two minutes," before vectoring toward Washington instead. These planes didn't arrive in the vicinity of the Pentagon until 9:49 a.m., 12 minutes after American Flight 77 hit it. (They then stayed in the skies above Washington to protect against the fourth errant airliner, United Flight 93, with orders to shoot it down if necessary, a command mooted by an apparent passenger insurrection that caused that plane to crash in a Pennsylvania field.) The F-16s covered the 130 miles of their journey in 19 minutes, which would be an average speed of about 410 mph. Now, that's artificially low because these fighters spent several minutes flying toward New York, but even allowing for this, you don't come up with anything like what the Air Force (which may know better than the New York Times) says is the plane's top speed of 1,500 mph. So, again, why didn't NORAD feel the need for speed? It wasn't because of FAA regulations prohibiting supersonic flight over land in U.S. civil airspace. A NORAD spokesman told me that fighters violate that speed restriction "when circumstances warrant."

That is, in both cases where NORAD launched fighters, a closer look suggests that it's just false that there was nothing they could have done. For one thing, they could have flown faster. ...

<http://www.slate.com/id/2060825/>

Obituary of Scott Shuger

A pioneer of Internet journalism.

By Michael Kinsley

Posted Monday, June 17, 2002, at 12:53 AM ET

When we hired Scott Shuger back in 1997 to try his hand at a new Slate feature called "Today's Papers," we thought we were doing him a favor. Scott, who died Saturday at the age of 50 in a scuba diving accident, had been a casual friend of several of us from the small world of Washington journalism, and the even smaller world of alumni of the Washington Monthly. Scott at that time was a respected free-lance writer and was having some success moving into television. For a while he was under contract to develop stories for 20/20 on ABC. Scott was doing OK.

But he was not having the blistering career that he, among others, felt he deserved. One reason may be that he did not suffer fools—an essential tolerance

for someone who needs to be in good favor with several editors and TV producers at the same time. Also, he had lovingly followed his wife, Debora, out to Los Angeles when UCLA offered her a professorship in medieval literature. Scott enjoyed L.A.—for the convenience of pursuing his passion for diving, among other reasons—but it was not the best place from which to peddle meaty articles about government policy. Scott could be cynical or playful, in life as well as in his writing, but an intense—patriotic, really—earnestness about defective weapons or intelligence reform or homeless policy was one of Scott's endearing characteristics.

...
It turned out that the favor we were doing by hiring Scott was for ourselves. "Today's Papers" quickly became our most popular feature. The idea (from the staff member who is now Slate's editor, Jacob Weisberg) was a good one, but the execution was brilliant. Like a cook who knows instinctively just how much spice to put in a stew, Scott turned out to be a natural at knowing exactly the right balance between telling it straight and adding his own insights. He developed a style and a set of conventions that allowed him to deliver a tremendous amount of information in few words, without making the result seem like a deadly summary.

Some of Scott's best insights were about the press itself. TP, as we call it, became a daily course in how the media think, what they get right and wrong, all illustrated by the day's news. He used the different ways the five papers covered (or didn't cover) the same story as a controlled experiment in journalistic practice. Scott actually stopped writing TP last September, in order to become Slate's principal writer about the war on terrorism, but Scott's style and method were stamped so strongly on the feature that many readers thought Scott was still writing it. ...

One subject that often came up was that of risk. Scott was an odd combination of macho daredevil and supercautious worrywart. (On one hike he carried a full-sized chair several miles up the side of a mountain, along with a heavy pack—an impressive feat of strength in service of a fastidious desire not to sit on the ground.) He was obsessed with personal security, carried various weapons (not firearms) for self-protection, and loved any opportunity to train women to repel attackers.

But he also was an explicit and adamant believer that experiencing life vividly is worth taking risks. Pending an autopsy, we do not yet know exactly what happened yesterday afternoon. I would be very surprised if this tragic accident were the result of some negligence or failure on Scott's part. At the same time, he was about as realistic as any human being can be—not all that realistic, I suppose, but still ... about the unavoidable dangers of his avocations.

He was not a gratuitous risk-taker, but he knew what he was doing and had thought intelligently about the potential cost.

<http://www.slate.com/id/2067029/>

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12.31 Richard Siegel

DVD: 911 Eyewitness

<http://www.911eyewitness.com/>

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12.32 Michael Ruppert

FTW OFFICES BURGLARIZED

All Computers Destroyed

FTW Crippled But Not Dead

by Michael C. Ruppert

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July 5th, 2006 4:09pm [PST], ASHLAND – Sometime after 7:30 PM on the evening of Sunday June 25, 2006, an unknown number of suspects entered the FTW offices by means of two passkeys. Once inside, a sledgehammer was used to smash through four solid-core doors secured with deadbolt locks to gain entry to our webmaster's office, my office, the administrative office and a storage area. All seven FTW computers were ripped or disconnected from peripherals and transported to a central unoccupied area of the building where their covers were unscrewed and removed. After the covers had been removed, all seven computers were smashed with sledgehammers. My monitor was also smashed at my desk. The computers were totally destroyed.

There are suspects and the Ashland, Oregon police department (APD) is conducting an active criminal investigation. For that reason I am not at liberty to either discuss or disclose certain details, especially the extent of damage to hard drives, back up status before the burglary, or whether data from damaged hard drives is, or will ever be, recoverable.

To date I have been impressed by the cooperation and thoroughness shown by APD and I intend to cooperate with them fully and provide whatever assistance I can as their investigation continues. In previous statements I have mentioned a meth ring operating locally and have also stated that I had seen no direct evidence of US government involvement. Those statements are still correct, although I will add that I also have not ruled out US government involvement.

[Photos: Broken door and Ashland cops dusting computers]

The only way to describe the damage is that it has been utterly devastating from business, emotional and professional perspectives. My residence was vandalized a week before the burglary.

As I write this report, a full ten days after the burglary, we are still unable to download orders from the internet, and we are also unable to ship any products. We have a large number of orders out there but unfortunately we cannot get any of that money into our checking account at present.

We are insured and it appears as though most of the losses will be covered. However, there are going to be significant cash outlays required to resume even a semblance of normal operations before insurance reimbursement takes place.

This includes expensive data recovery from certain damaged hard drives. For the time being, please send any donations to our mailing address, 655 Washington St., Ashland, OR 97520. Please indicate if you would like your donation returned once we have received reimbursement from our insurance carrier. We do need all the help we can get.

For new subscribers and those concerned about interruption of our services please be advised that, as time permits, we will make arrangements to extend subscriptions to make up for any lost time.

I have no words to describe the viciousness of this attack. No other valuables were taken and none of our other furnishings or equipment was destroyed. It is apparent that destroying data stored in our computers was the primary objective in this crime. Current estimated damages are in excess of \$20,000.

Please do not expect us to be able to immediately respond to emails. We are short-staffed and everyone here is doing a great job under the obvious and very unpleasant stress. We have desperate need for a bookkeeper in house to help reconstruct financial records and restore normal cash flow operations. Our problem is finding one willing to work in our environment.

Those of you who have been loyal FTW fans and subscribers know of the many, many challenges we have had to face over the years. I am now 55 years old and have been fighting this fight for a long time.

This is a time for a rethinking of all of our priorities. The one question I and the rest of FTW is trying to answer is how can we best serve you without experiencing the same battles again.

As the world around us and within the United States grows darker, I intend to use this time to evaluate where we go from here. The first thing I need to do is to consult closely with our writers and several key advisors and friends. FTW is not dead but I must honestly tell you that we are on life support at the moment.

As we restore our operations, piece by piece, we will resume the publication of new stories. We promise to finish the Pat Tillman series. Other than that, as those of us who have made FTW work arrive at a plan, we will keep you advised.

In the meantime, please let these photographs speak for themselves. Send us whatever help you can, and continue to give us the same loving patience you have always given us as these brutal and difficult challenges have arisen.

These are tough times for everyone.

Michael C. Ruppert

[Photos: Vandalism of Ruppert home; My monitor smashed at my desk; Store room door smashed with sledge hammer; Damage to Admin office; Sledge hammer damage to my door; All the dead computers.]

http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/070506_offices_burglarized.shtml

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12.33 Steven Jones:

[Reiteration of Reference 9.24 and 9.25]

BYU Professor Steven Jones' Internationally Renowned White Paper

"Why Indeed Did the World Trade Center Buildings Collapse?"

is
beautifully laid out here:
http://911readingroom.org/bib/jones/why_indeed_v3.html

Accompanied here by Jones being interviewed by Tucker Carlson (who refuses to play the video of Building 7's implosion which Jones had provided him):
<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article11017.htm>

Also available at:
http://wtc7.net/articles/stevenjones_b7.html

And at Professor Jones' current home on the web
www.journalof911studies.com

as a pdf file:
www.journalof911studies.com/volume/200609/WhyIndeedDidtheWorldTradeCenterBuildingsCompletelyCollapse.pdf

Journal for 911 Studies.com
is unsurpassed for thorough,
disciplined, peer-reviewed scientific analysis.
It is also one of the the only places on the web where you can see the
Third Jetliner in NYC
that was mentioned on air by Diane Sawyer
and several other news correspondents on the day of the attacks,
but has since become one of the most ferociously suppressed aspects of
9/11.

Bush Personally Intervenes with the Head of the Mormon Church and

BYU Professor Steven Jones is Removed from His Classes for His 9/11 Research

"BYU Places '9/11 Truth' Professor on Paid Leave

Deseret Morning News | Tad Walch | September 8 2006

Brigham Young University placed physics professor Steven Jones on paid leave Thursday while it reviews his involvement in the so-called "9/11 truth movement" that accuses unnamed government agencies of orchestrating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center.

Steven Jones BYU will conduct an official review of Jones' actions before determining a course of action, university spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said.

Such a review is rare for a professor with "continuing status" at BYU, where Jones has taught since 1985.

...

Jones became a celebrity among 9/11 conspiracy-theory groups after he wrote a paper titled.... **"Why Indeed Did the World Trade Center Buildings Collapse?"**

The paper was published two weeks ago in the book "9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out" and lays out Jones' hypothesis that the three towers fell because of pre-positioned demolition charges — not because of the planes that hit two of the towers.

http://www.infowars.com/articles/sept11/byu_places_jones_on_paid_leave.htm

George Bush Flies to Utah and Gets Together with Head Mormon Gordon Hinckley

Oddly enough, just 9 days prior to Dr. Jones being placed on "paid leave," on August 31st, George W. Bush was in Salt Lake City visiting The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' and meeting with the President Gordon B. Hinckley.

http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_4311393

'Bush and Hinckley meet for a fourth time'

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_4271005

If you would like to sign a petition supporting Dr. Steven Jones and his 9/11 research, please go here:

<http://tinyurl.com/l5346>

<http://edschultz.invisionzone.com/index.php?showtopic=19193&mode=threaded&pid=298104>

Professor Jones Elects to Retire from BYU

10/20/2006

Prof. Steven Jones elects to retire from BYU

Category: 9/11 News :

Author: Brian (9:40 pm)

Friends and Colleagues!

BYU issued a press release today -- I have elected to take early retirement from BYU. I don't have the actual release -- it will be in local papers tomorrow and may be on the BYU web site now.

I feel that this is a good move for me. I have been contacted by another school about joining their faculty, and may do so -- but no decision on that yet. I think it will work out for the best. I assure you all that I will continue in my research on 9/11 issues, and speaking out -- should have more time for these activities in fact.

I feel good about this -- not angry with BYU, moving on and happy with it overall.

Thanks for all your support, especially to those who signed the petition at st911.org in my behalf.

My sincere thanks to all my friends in the 9/11 truth community world-wide; we have a great, growing community of intelligent, caring people. We can do this!

Sincerely,

Steven E. Jones
Physicist

Professor Jones: A Position Statement

Letter to the Editor:

I stand firmly against the war in Iraq and any war of aggression.

I support scientific scrutiny of the events of 9/11/2001, a day which will live in infamy. I speak as a private citizen of the United States.

"In a democracy we can renounce war and proclaim peace. There is opportunity for dissent. Many have been speaking out and doing so emphatically. That is their privilege. That is their right, so long as they do so legally... We can give our opinions on the merits of the situation as we see it..." (Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, LDS General Conference, 6 April 2003.)

Wholeheartedly agreeing, I am exercising that right and that privilege. "A team of American and Iraqi public health researchers has estimated that 600,000 civilians have died in violence across Iraq since the 2003 American invasion," (New York Times, 11 Oct. 2006). I renounce these killings in the Middle Eastern wars.

We must insist on complete answers to questions about what really happened on September 11th, why there were no air defenses that day, and why we have gone to war in the Middle East. These issues transcend party politics. These yearnings for understanding of 9/11 and the wars that followed take us to the core of our heritage as Americans -- I support the Constitution of the United States. I am very concerned about those elected officials who would engage in pre-emptive war rather than "common defense" to "repel invasions" (Article I), compromise our rights against torture and cruel punishments (8th Amendment), take away the right of habeas corpus (Article I), and diminish the freedom to speak out without fear of reprisals (1st Amendment).

Two structural engineering professors in Switzerland have recently spoken out as I have also done, declaring that explosives were with "utmost probability" responsible for the collapse of World Trade Center 7 on September 11th. "WTC7 was with the utmost probability brought down by explosives", said one. [Tages-Anzeiger, 9/9/2006]

After seeing the collapse of World Trade Center 7 (see wt7.net), many instinctively want to know why this 47-story skyscraper, which was never hit by a plane, collapsed completely seven hours after the WTC Towers had collapsed. How could this happen? The 9/11 Commission report fails to mention the collapse of WTC7. Federal laboratories have not officially answered yet. FEMA explains how fire might initiate a collapse, then admits, "Our best hypothesis has only a low probability of occurrence." Is it a crime, then, to consider an alternative hypothesis, that explosives were used?

I invite you to study this matter for yourself. Please read the peer-reviewed articles published here: www.Journalof911Studies.com. This Journal is supported

by the Scholars for 9/11 Truth, which I co-chair, and considers the "official theory" of what happened on 9/11 as well as alternative explanations. One of my scientific papers on 9/11 issues is published in this Journal (as well as in a book edited by Professors David Ray Griffin and Peter Scott.) The paper therein by Joseph Firmage explores evidences that US intelligence knew in advance that the hijackers were coming and that the attacks were "allowed to happen," to justify wars in the Middle East. At least ten nations are on record as having warned the current administration that terrorist attacks were imminent, shortly before 9/11.

If another "9/11-like event" is "allowed to happen" in the near future, do you not suppose that it will be blamed this time on Iran or Syria, followed by a swift and deadly attack on the country blamed? Can you not imagine that a military draft will follow next, with college students constrained to enter the military, and handed rifles to go and kill people in the Middle East, by the tens of thousands?

Because of my concern for college-age students I have taught and loved for decades, I am motivated to speak out emphatically against what I judge – after thorough study and reflection – to be terrible wars, wars of aggression, founded on deceptions.

Steven E. Jones
Ph.D. Physicist
Co-Chair, Scholars for 9/11 Truth

[Since departed -- now Co-Editor of
Journal of 911 Studies.]

www.911truthseekers.org/modules/weblog/

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12.34 **Indira Singh:**

"I Made a Promise"

By Michael Kane

In this special report, Michael Kane recounts the personal story of JP Morgan IT professional, Indira Singh, a heroic 9/11 whistleblower who was fired, harrassed, and physically threatened for exposing the Saudi/terrorist-linked origins of one of the government's most pervasive software systems, and thereby offering the 9/11 Commission more truth than it ever wanted to know.

"Ptech had all the markings," said Indira Singh. All the markings of a CIA front company."

March 2, 2005 (911truth.org): Wall Street whistleblower Indira Singh has had her professional life ripped away from her because of keeping the promise she made to some 3,000 victims who died at Ground Zero on 9/11. She made that promise at Ground Zero on 9/11 as a civilian EMT. Indira was supposed to be on the 106th floor of the World Trade Center that morning, but she was late.

"I made a promise," said Indira during a lengthy FTW interview, "that if anything fell into my lap, I wouldn't look the other way, and I'm keeping that promise."

Something did fall into her lap..... something big.

Indira is an IT professional who started First Boston's Information Technology Group in 1970 and had worked on Wall Street up until 2002. She has been an IT consultant for Bank Trust, the U.N., JP Morgan, and American Express. In 1988 she started TibetNet, a derivative of the Defense Advanced Research Project (DARPA) Internet, the service on which you are likely reading this report at the moment.

On 9/11/2001, Indira worked for JP Morgan in a field called Risk Management, involving computer systems and programs designed to keep JP Morgan's entire information and financial structure safe. She had also worked with a Defense Advanced Research Project -- DARPA-funded technology group, with close ties to the CIA. This provided her with contacts deep within the government and corporate America. She was working on a program for JP Morgan -- the next generation of risk software -- whose function was to think about all the information going on throughout the enterprise as bank business was being conducted worldwide.

It would detect money laundering and other crimes in real time and then do something about it; perhaps alert an "intelligent" software agent or a person, or shutdown the transaction immediately. This capability could be accomplished by using an evolution of PROMIS software. FTW has extensively covered the PROMIS software controversy, the software stolen by the Justice Department from Inslaw which over the past two decades has evolved and merged with artificial intelligence.

"We were moving into the realm of much smarter software -- next generation software -- that would collect information on the fly and sort of think about it," said Indira. The CIA was interested in the technology behind Indira's risk application at one point. So was the Defense Department.

Indira's vision was to create software that could respond to "extreme event risk." 9/11 was an extreme event. Risk Management involves devising ways to stop big problems from happening throughout the enterprise. She needed a company to provide a key piece of this enterprise software.

"All the industry gurus recommended Ptech."

Indira was unsure whether Ptech was right. After all, they were a small company, and with software this expensive you couldn't afford to choose wrong. But everywhere she looked boosted her confidence in Ptech, especially when viewing their list of prominent clients.

The White House, Treasury Department (Secret Service), CIA, FBI, both houses of Congress, Air Force, Navy, Department of Energy, IRS, Booze Allen Hamilton, IBM, Enron and even NATO all used, and as of this writing, some still use Ptech software. IBM, a global strategic partner with JP Morgan, had selected Ptech for their Preferred Vendor program.

All of this convinced Indira that Ptech was the right choice. After getting the extensive site clearance JP Morgan required, Indira invited Ptech to the premises for a one-day evaluation of their software. But according to Indira, everything

was wrong that day. They didn't come with anything needed to do the one-day evaluation, but Ptech's chief scientist, Dr. Hussein Ibrahim, suggested to Indira that they develop the software on his laptop.

"If you know how these things are conducted, that was a show stopper," says Indira. Ptech would have been able to walk away with the blueprint to Indira's program on their laptop, and JP Morgan would have been left with nothing. Indira decided Ibrahim's proposition was a definite deal breaker.

Risk blueprints worth millions of dollars aren't given away at an introductory meeting; the industry doesn't work that way. To this day Indira is unsure of why Ibrahim would have even suggested this. "He's not a stupid man," she said, "he knows this is not how business is conducted."

Her Investigation Begins

With Ptech's people still in the office, Indira called Roger Burlton, who runs Business Process Renewal in Vancouver. Roger told Indira, "Don't let them out of your sight and don't let them leave with anything."

This was coming from one of the men who recommended Ptech to Indira in December of 2001, and was using them himself. But a lot had transpired since then. This was now May of 2002; just two months earlier Yaqub Mirza, who was on the board of Ptech, was the target of a terror-financing raid. Indira tells this reporter that she felt Roger knew more at the time than he let on to.

Roger recommended Indira speak to Jeff Goins, a former Ptech employee. This is where Indira first heard of Saudi terror financier Yasin Al Qadi and that he had been (and may have continued to be) an investor in Ptech. Al Qadi said he met Dick Cheney in Jeddah before he became Vice President, and that they still maintain "cordial relations." Indira confirmed that Jeff had taken his concerns to the FBI. In short order, Indira was talking to the FBI agent Jeff had spoken with.

"If there is an ongoing investigation that is fine," Indira told the FBI, "but you have to give me something to hang my hat on to pass on to my superiors. Otherwise I'm just passing on propaganda and I won't be caught dead doing that." The FBI agent sent her a video produced by Joe Bergantino for CBS in Boston, on Care International.

"The people in the video that the FBI were looking for right after 9/11 were Ptech employees." Muhammed Mubayyid and Suheil Laheir, who were both Ptech employees, formerly worked for Care International.

But this is not the Care everyone knows. This Care listed its corporate office in the same suite as Al Kifah's Boston office. Al Kifah was a Muslim organization whose Brooklyn office was named as the locus of the 1993 conspiracy to bomb the World Trade Center. Muhammed Mubayyid, who is still employed by Ptech and used to be the treasurer for Care, once made a donation to Al Kifah's Brooklyn office.

We should not forget the FBI had completely infiltrated the terrorist cell responsible for the '93 bombing with Egyptian informant Emad Salem. The FBI had dropped him from their payroll right when the informant himself was designing the bomb used in the WTC bombing.

Before it was Al Kifah, Indira says, Care was part of Maktab al-Khidamat (MAK), the accounting mechanism put in place by the CIA in 1988 to pass BCCI money through to the Pakistani ISI when bin Laden was the U.S.-Intel "fair-haired boy." In late 1993, Care and Al Kifah both launched efforts to make the Islamic religious movement more high-tech. A Care document announcing the project says, "It is the duty of every Muslim, especially those with the latest technical expertise from the U.S., to contribute this knowledge that Allah has bestowed on them."

So is that why MAK was being run out of Ptech under its new co-opted name, Care International?

"Your country is not the country you think it is," says Indira.

She took Joe Bergantino's report down to Virginia and interviewed Ptech employees herself -- to get it straight from the horse's mouth. Having further confirmed her worst nightmares, she demanded the FBI agent who gave her Bergantino's report re-open an investigation into Ptech. He said he couldn't. She told him to tell his supervisor. He already had, and was told there was nothing they could do.

Remember, the FBI was one of Ptech's clients -- or was it the other way around? "What do you do when the FBI tells you, 'Indira, you're in a better position to investigate this than we are'?"

Sent to the Principal's Office

Indira brought all of her information to Mark Coughlan, Chief Information Officer (CIO) at JP Morgan. Instantly he called Security, the General Auditor, and the CEO of JP Morgan/Chase. The next day Mark told Indira he had nightmares. "A CIO will know the type of damage that an enterprise architecture firm with that kind of software can do," says Indira.

They contacted the FBI. Mark informed her the FBI had confirmed everything she had put on the table.

"Everything!" exclaimed Indira in shock. "Even all the bits and pieces I wasn't sure about?" Mark sent Indira to the General Auditor.

Before the General Auditor would meet with her she was sent through his security people. "They treated me like I was crazy, like I was a terrorist." She finally met with Bill Moran, General Auditor of JP Morgan/Chase who, in no uncertain terms, threatened her. He asked where she had gotten her information. As she named her individual sources Moran said, "That person should be killed," to each name she mentioned.

According to Indira, the Chase mentality was, "Shut up and stay in your place." Indira told this reporter that JP Morgan was a great corporation which encouraged individuality and creativity until it merged with Chase. However, Senate Investigations headed by Carl Levin revealed JP Morgan was one of the main banks involved in laundering drug money, as was Chase. Corruption was no stranger to JP Morgan, nor to Chase. Bill Moran told Indira if she shut up about Ptech, she would have a long and prosperous career at JP Morgan/Chase.

Indira no longer works there.

"But Indira, everyone knew what Ptech was about!"

The same industry gurus who told Indira to use Ptech were now telling her, "But Indira, everyone knew what Ptech was about."

"Well I didn't!" yelled Indira during her testimony to the first 9/11 Citizens Commission on September 9, 2003, in NYC, "and neither did the 3,000 that were murdered on 9/11."

What exactly does that mean? Everyone knew what?

When Ptech first popped up on the scene in 1994 they were a very small company but incredibly well funded. They put up huge hospitality booths at industry trade shows and at the time they had only one client -- RJ Reynolds. They started to get very prestigious clients that other, more experienced and reputable American software firms were going after.

So who's playing who here? That was the question Cynthia McKinney had for Indira at the 9/11 Citizens Commission hearings. Are we really to believe every major government and military agency in America has been duped into opening their informational barn doors to Saudi terrorists?

"It had all the markings," said Indira. All the markings of a CIA front company.

"I think there is a CIA within the CIA," Indira told FTW. "I think there is a Shadow CIA that does the Iran-Contra type of things -- they get funding from illicit methods -- and that the Saudis are in on it. They might have trained some operatives, and later it backfired-it was blowback within blowback perhaps."

"What I do know, what the money trails do show, is that the Saudis are complicit. In other words, the ones that are extremely fundamentalist, the ones that promote Wahabiism -- I'm not saying it's all of them -- but parts of them are working hand-in-hand, lock step with elements within intelligence, whether it's official or unofficial. There's proof of that."

Ptech is the information architecture extension of that hand-in-hand relationship.

The CEO of Ptech is Oussama Ziade. Al Qadi visited Ptech in 1994 and provided \$5 million to start up the company, a quarter of the \$20 million Ptech raised from about 50 "angel" investors, according to CNN. Al Qadi was introduced to Ziade through BMI, Inc. of New Jersey, a critical component of this nexus that will be discussed later in this report.

"What we tried to do is keep (Al Qadi) interested, because he's connected to a lot of VCs (venture capitalists) in Saudi Arabia," Ziade said. "He's known as an international businessman that has connections." CNN says according to "all accounts," Al Qadi showed little interest in the company and never invested in Ptech again.

But according to Indira, Al Qadi funded Ptech well into 1999, and beyond that funded the 2001 Horizons Software venture, the Arabic version of the Ptech software. Hussein Ibrahim spent most of 2001 setting up Horizons in Cairo, Egypt.

Additionally, Al Qadi's lawyer said he had "sold his stake" in Ptech by 1999, but if this is true, how can CNN say he "showed little interest" and "never invested in Ptech" after 1994? While CNN may technically not be lying, their reporting is askew.

Beyond this, Al Qadi is linked to the Saudi royal family.

Al Qadi's wife is part of the Jamjoom family, and her father, Qadi's father-in-law, is a former high-ranking Saudi finance minister. This is the same Royal family with whom the Bush family and Dick Cheney are certainly no strangers. This comes from a Department of Treasury report produced on July 14, 2003. Indira was able to get her hands on a copy of the report, which this reporter reviewed on January 21, 2005.

The BMI Octopus

At the same time Indira had stumbled onto Yasin Al Qadi, Robert Wright was on the stairs of the Capitol in tears apologizing to the 9/11 victim's' family members for a fouled up investigation into Yasin Al Qadi, and much more. Indira didn't know of Agent Wright until seeing him on television.

"When Agent Wright said he was investigating a company with 26 subsidiaries, it was BMI, and Ptech was their crown jewel." Though Ptech wasn't a direct subsidiary of the New Jersey Islamic banking firm BMI, Dr. Hussein Ibrahim, Ptech's chief scientist who inexplicably asked Indira to develop JP Morgan's software on his laptop, was vice president of BMI from 1989 to 1995. BMI had also leased computer equipment to Ptech, and as mentioned earlier, it was BMI that introduced Ptech to Yasin Al Qadi.

Al Qadi was an investor in BMI. The FBI says other BMI investors include Mousa Abu Marzouk, who operates openly as a top Hamas leader based in Damascus, Syria, and is designated by the Treasury as a terrorism sponsor. In 1999, a BMI employee told the FBI that the company might have financed the bombings of U.S. embassy in East Africa in 1998, according to a sworn FBI statement.

Agent Wright had been investigating the president of BMI, Inc., an Egyptian citizen named Soliman Bihieri, who was later convicted of lying about his ties to terrorist leaders. Wright was working with Gamal Abdel-Hafiz, an FBI Agent born in Egypt. The code name of the operation was "Vulgar Betrayal."

Agent Abdel-Hafiz, by what may be more than just coincidence, was a friend of one of BMI's accountants. Because of this, he was asked by Agent Wright to have a meeting with Bihieri and wear a wire, but Hafiz refused.

"It's hard to emphasize how odd it was for an FBI agent to refuse to cooperate with an investigation when he had been approached by a grand jury subject," said Mark Flessner, the former prosecutor involved in the Vulgar Betrayal investigation. "It was surreal. I've never heard it happening in the history of the FBI."

When this hit the news, FBI Agent Carmody from Tampa, Florida alleged Abdel-Hafiz had also refused to record a phone conversation with Sami Al-Arian in 1998, a claim Hafiz denies.

Agent Abdel-Hafiz claims he feared for his life and felt the FBI could not protect him if he wore a wire on Soliman Bihieri. He referenced threats made to him when he first started working for the FBI as a translator in 1995, saying he felt the FBI didn't take adequate steps to ensure the safety of his ex-wife. But that was before Hafiz became a full-fledged FBI agent in 1996.

Astonishingly, after this occurred Agent Abdel-Hafiz was promoted to one of the FBI's most important anti-terrorism posts, the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia. The day he arrived, the USS Cole was bombed in Yemen. He quickly became involved in that investigation, and was later promoted to Assistant Legal Attaché in Riyadh with a GS 14 ranking -- the second highest level an agent can obtain. He was at that post on September 11, 2001.

Sound Fishy?

We can add FBI Agent Gamal Abdel-Hafiz to our list of those inexplicably promoted for so called "failures" around terrorism investigations and 9/11. This list includes General Richard B. Myers, General Ralph "Ed" Eberhart, and FBI Special Agent Dave Frasca.

Ultimately, the Vulgar Betrayal investigation was discontinued. Agent Wright spoke out about how his investigation was blocked and thwarted, writing a manuscript titled, "Vulgar Betrayal." Attorney Larry Klayman of the conservative legal watchdog group Judicial Watch has said the "Vulgar Betrayal" manuscript hits Bush and Cheney "hard," and former Attorney General John Ashcroft is not spared, either. This leaves little doubt as to the origins of the obstruction of Wright's investigation. Wright was eventually barred from speaking to the media.

But it gets murkier.

According to Indira Singh, Governor Kean, who headed the 9/11 Commission, sold a piece of property in New Jersey through BMI, Inc. This was revealed in the same Treasury Department report referenced earlier, from July 14, 2003. Regardless of whether Kean knew the extent of BMI's ties to funding terrorism, this is a direct and unacceptable conflict of interest. Imagine how embarrassed Governor Kean would have been if his own Commission revealed he had sold land through a terror-linked organization. He should have immediately recused himself from the Commission or publicly promised to get to the bottom of what BMI really was. It's not surprising that neither BMI nor Ptech are mentioned in the final 9/11 Commission report.

<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20050301231231793#investigation>

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12.35 Coleen Rowley

(And Other Truth Tellers of Note)

A Dream Come True

Few Americans love anything about their government as much as Coleen Rowley loved the FBI. When she was in the fifth grade, Rowley wrote a letter to the bureau's headquarters in Washington and got back a booklet called 100 Facts

About the FBI. From that point on, she dreamed of becoming an agent. Friends say she protested when her dean at the University of Iowa Law School refused to let an FBI recruiter on campus; she lost the battle but applied for a job on her own and was hired as a special agent after earning her law degree in 1980. She took pride in being a pioneer, part of the first wave of women fighting to be taken seriously in the bureau's male-dominated, button-down culture. She worked her way up the ladder as an FBI lawyer -- handling applications for searches and wiretaps, working organized-crime cases in New York City and becoming, in 1995, chief counsel in the Minneapolis field office. She won a reputation as a highly disciplined professional, opinionated, principled and supremely devoted to her job.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,249994,00.html>

Coleen Rowley's Memo to FBI Director Robert Mueller

EXCERPTS:

May 21, 2002

FBI Director Robert Mueller
FBI Headquarters Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Mueller:

I feel at this point that I have to put my concerns in writing concerning the important topic of the FBI's response to evidence of terrorist activity in the United States prior to September 11th. The issues are fundamentally ones of INTEGRITY and go to the heart of the FBI's law enforcement mission and mandate. Moreover, at this critical juncture in fashioning future policy to promote the most effective handling of ongoing and future threats to United States citizens' security, it is of absolute importance that an unbiased, completely accurate picture emerge of the FBI's current investigative and management strengths and failures.

To get to the point, I have deep concerns that a delicate and subtle shading/skewing of facts by you and others at the highest levels of FBI management has occurred and is occurring. The term "cover up" would be too strong a characterization which is why I am attempting to carefully (and perhaps over laboriously) choose my words here. I base my concerns on my relatively small, peripheral but unique role in the Moussaoui investigation in the Minneapolis Division prior to, during and after September 11th and my analysis of the comments I have heard both inside the FBI (originating, I believe, from you and other high levels of management) as well as your Congressional testimony and public comments.

I feel that certain facts, including the following, have, up to now, been omitted, downplayed, glossed over and/or mis-characterized in an effort to avoid or minimize personal and/or institutional embarrassment on the part of the FBI and/or perhaps even for improper political reasons:

1) **The Minneapolis agents who responded to the call about Moussaoui's flight training identified him as a terrorist threat from a very early point.** The decision to take him into custody on August 15, 2001, on the INS "overstay" charge was a deliberate one to counter that threat and was based on the agents' reasonable

suspicions. While it can be said that Moussaoui's overstay status was fortuitous, because it allowed for him to be taken into immediate custody and prevented him receiving any more flight training, it was certainly not something the INS coincidentally undertook of their own volition. I base this on the conversation I had when the agents called me at home late on the evening Moussaoui was taken into custody to confer and ask for legal advice about their next course of action. The INS agent was assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and was therefore working in tandem with FBI agents.

2) As the Minneapolis agents' reasonable suspicions quickly ripened into probable cause, which, at the latest, occurred within days of Moussaoui's arrest when the French Intelligence Service confirmed his affiliations with radical fundamentalist Islamic groups and activities connected to Osama Bin Laden, they became desperate to search the computer lap top that had been taken from Moussaoui as well as conduct a more thorough search of his personal effects. **The agents in particular believed that Moussaoui signaled he had something to hide in the way he refused to allow them to search his computer.**

3) The Minneapolis agents' initial thought was to obtain a criminal search warrant, but in order to do so, they needed to get FBI Headquarters' (FBIHQ's) approval in order to ask for DOJ OIPR [Department of Justice Office of Intelligence Review]'s approval to contact the United States Attorney's Office in Minnesota. Prior to and even after receipt of information provided by the French, FBIHQ personnel disputed with the Minneapolis agents the existence of probable cause to believe that a criminal violation had occurred/was occurring. As such, **FBIHQ personnel refused to contact OIPR to attempt to get the authority.** While reasonable minds may differ as to whether probable cause existed prior to receipt of the French intelligence information, it was certainly established after that point and became even greater with successive, more detailed information from the French and other intelligence sources. The two possible criminal violations initially identified by Minneapolis Agents were violations of Title 18 United States Code Section 2332b (Acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries, which, notably, includes "creating a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to any other person by destroying or damaging any structure, conveyance, or other real or personal property within the United States or by attempting or conspiring to destroy or damage any structure, conveyance, or other real or personal property within the United States") and Section 32 (Destruction of aircraft or aircraft facilities). It is important to note that the actual search warrant obtained on September 11th was based on probable cause of a violation of Section 32. Notably also, the actual search warrant obtained on September 11th did not include the French intelligence information. Therefore, the only main difference between the information being submitted to FBIHQ from an early date which HQ personnel continued to deem insufficient and the actual criminal search warrant which a federal district judge signed and approved on September 11th, was the fact that, by the time the actual warrant was obtained, suspected terrorists were known to have hijacked planes which they then deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. To say then, as has been iterated numerous times, that probable cause did not exist until after the disastrous event occurred, is really to acknowledge that the missing piece of probable cause was only the FBI's (FBIHQ's) failure to appreciate that such an event could occur. The probable cause did not otherwise improve or change. When we went to the United States Attorney's Office that morning of September 11th, in the first hour after the attack, we used a disk containing the same information that had already been provided to FBIHQ; then we quickly added Paragraph 19 which was the little we knew from news reports

of the actual attacks that morning. The problem with chalking this all up to the "20-20 hindsight is perfect" problem, (which I, as all attorneys who have been involved in deadly force training or the defense of various lawsuits are fully appreciative of), is that this is not a case of everyone in the FBI failing to appreciate the potential consequences. It is obvious, from my firsthand knowledge of the events and the detailed documentation that exists, that the agents in Minneapolis who were closest to the action and in the best position to gauge the situation locally, did fully appreciate the terrorist risk/ danger posed by Moussaoui and his possible co-conspirators even prior to September 11th. Even without knowledge of the Phoenix communication (and any number of other additional intelligence communications that FBIHQ personnel were privy to in their central coordination roles), the Minneapolis agents appreciated the risk. So I think it's very hard for the FBI to offer the "20-20 hindsight" justification for its failure to act!

Also intertwined with my reluctance in this case to accept the "20-20 hindsight" rationale is first-hand knowledge that I have of statements made on September 11th, after the first attacks on the World Trade Center had already occurred, made telephonically by the FBI Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) who was the one most involved in the Moussaoui matter and who, up to that point, seemed to have been consistently, almost deliberately thwarting the Minneapolis FBI agents' efforts.....

Even after the attacks had begun, the SSA in question was still attempting to block the search of Moussaoui's computer, characterizing the World Trade Center attacks as a mere coincidence with Minneapolis' prior suspicions about Moussaoui.

[NOTE: Though Rowley never mentioned him by name in this memo, it was later learned that the FBI Agent who repeatedly blocked the Moussaoui investigation was SSA David Frasca. In the aftermath of 9/11 -- Frasca was promoted.]

.....
The fact is that key FBIHQ personnel whose job it was to assist and coordinate with field division agents on terrorism investigations and the obtaining and use of FISA searches (and who theoretically were privy to many more sources of intelligence information than field division agents), continued to, almost inexplicably, throw up roadblocks and undermine Minneapolis' by-now desperate efforts to obtain a FISA search warrant, long after the French intelligence service provided its information and probable cause became clear.

HQ personnel brought up almost ridiculous questions in their apparent efforts to undermine the probable cause. In all of their conversations and correspondence, HQ personnel never disclosed to the Minneapolis agents that the Phoenix Division had, only approximately three weeks earlier, warned of Al Qaeda operatives in flight schools seeking flight training for terrorist purposes!

.....
Eventually on August 28, 2001, after a series of e-mails between Minneapolis and FBIHQ, which suggest that the **FBIHQ SSA deliberately further undercut the FISA effort by not adding the further intelligence information which he had promised to add that supported Moussaoui's foreign power connection and making several changes in the wording of the information that had been provided by the Minneapolis Agent**, the Minneapolis agents were notified that the NSLU Unit Chief did not think there was sufficient evidence of Moussaoui's

connection to a foreign power.

.....

During the early aftermath of September 11th, when I happened to be recounting the pre-September 11th events concerning the Moussaoui investigation to other FBI personnel in other divisions or in FBIHQ, almost everyone's first question was "Why?--Why would an FBI agent(s) deliberately sabotage a case? (I know I shouldn't be flippant about this, but **jokes were actually made that the key FBIHQ personnel had to be spies or moles, like Robert Hansen, who were actually working for Osama Bin Laden to have so undercut Minneapolis' effort.**)

.....

For example, at one point, the Supervisory Special Agent at FBIHQ posited that the French information could be worthless because it only identified Zacarias Moussaoui by name and he, the SSA, didn't know how many people by that name existed in France. A Minneapolis agent attempted to surmount that problem by quickly phoning the FBI's legal Attache (Legat) in Paris, France, so that a check could be made of the French telephone directories. Although the Legat in France did not have access to all of the French telephone directories, he was able to quickly ascertain that there was only one listed in the Paris directory. **It is not known if this sufficiently answered the question, for the SSA continued to find new reasons to stall.**

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,249997,00.html>

Who was covering for Moussaoui, and why?

By Patrick Martin
29 May 2002

The revelations over the past two weeks about advance warnings of the September 11 terrorist attacks have focused particularly on the role of Zaccarias Moussaoui, the Islamic fundamentalist arrested last August in Minneapolis. Moussaoui is the only person facing criminal charges for allegedly playing a role in the attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center and killed more than 3,000 people.

Fragments of a May 22 letter from Colleen Rowley, an official in the Minneapolis FBI office, to FBI Director Robert Mueller were reported in the press last week. Virtually the entire text of the letter is published in the current issue of Time magazine and posted on its web site, www.time.com. The letter documents not merely incompetence and bureaucratic indifference, but active opposition to an investigation of Moussaoui, sabotage so obvious that it led Minneapolis FBI personnel to joke that agents of Osama bin Laden must have penetrated the J. Edgar Hoover building.

Ever since September 11 the Bush administration has steadfastly maintained its opposition to any investigation into the circumstances leading up to the suicide hijackings, while offering shifting and contradictory explanations of how it was possible for terrorists to seize control of four commercial airliners simultaneously and hit the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

At first the White House, FBI and CIA claimed that the attacks came as a bolt from the blue, taking the US government totally by surprise, despite its vast intelligence apparatus employing hundreds of thousands of personnel. Anyone who questioned this claim, especially in view of the longstanding ties between

the US intelligence services and Osama bin Laden, the alleged inspirer of the attacks, was branded a “conspiracy theorist.”

The administration launched its long-planned war against Afghanistan, bombing and then invading that impoverished country, killing thousands of people -- from Taliban rank-and-file soldiers to civilians in peasant villages and urban centers -- who had no demonstrable connection to the destruction of the World Trade Center.

In the name of the “war on terrorism,” the administration drafted and pushed through Congress legislation that vastly expanded the powers of the government to spy on, arrest and imprison both American citizens and immigrants. These new powers were needed, according to Attorney General Ashcroft and other Bush spokesmen, to prevent a repetition of the “surprise attack” of September 11.

One Lie Replaces Another

Then came the revelation this month that September 11 was not such a surprise. Press reports compelled the White House to admit that Bush had been briefed on August 6, 2001 -- more than a month before the attacks on New York and Washington -- about Al Qaeda threats to hijack US commercial airliners.

The official story changed abruptly. Instead of no advance warning, White House and FBI spokesmen now claimed there had been too many warnings. The evidence had been plentiful, but so fragmentary that no one was able to put it together in time to forestall the hijackings.

With undisguised contempt for public opinion, the White House offered a new cover story that directly contradicted the old one that the White House had maintained for eight months. The new version, however, failed to explain why Bush & Co. had concealed the August 6 briefing and other evidence of advance warnings for months on end.

The American media dutifully swallowed the new set of lies without protest. Press accounts were filled with references to the failure to “connect the dots,” as though elaborate mental gymnastics were required to see the relationship between a warning of Islamic fundamentalist activity at US pilot-training schools (from the Arizona FBI) and the arrest (by the Minneapolis FBI) of Moussaoui, an Islamic fundamentalist who paid cash to be trained to fly a Boeing 747 while he could not even pilot a small plane.

This new cover story lasted barely a week before it was exploded by Rowley’s 13-page letter to Mueller and the Senate Intelligence Committee. Among other things, Rowley revealed that the local FBI reports from Arizona and Minneapolis had ended up on the desk of the same official at FBI headquarters, David Frasca, head of the Radical Fundamentalists Unit. Even on the morning of September 11, as the Minneapolis FBI agents were watching television coverage of the suicide attacks on the Twin Towers, Frasca called Rowley to tell her not to proceed with an investigation of Moussaoui because Minneapolis might “screw up” something else going on elsewhere in the country.

Nor were these the isolated actions of a single misguided official. Rowley points out, “Despite FBI leaders’ full knowledge of all the items mentioned herein ... the

SSA [supervisory special agent], his unit chief, and other involved HQ personnel were allowed to stay in their positions and, what's worse, occupy critical positions in the FBI's SIOC Command Center post-September 11th. (The SSA in question actually received a promotion some months afterward!)"

Rowley's letter confirms that there was extensive discussion within the government on the danger of hijackings by Islamic fundamentalists, although the public was not informed. Repeated efforts to investigate were being thwarted. Top-level FBI officials were protecting Moussaoui and his confederates, running interference for him when his own reckless and impulsive conduct brought him to the attention of the authorities. The question is, why?

The CIA and Islamic fundamentalism

There are two possible explanations. The first is that Moussaoui and others were being protected because they were engaged in operations that had the support of the US government -- in Chechnya or other territories of the former Soviet Union, in Bosnia, or elsewhere. Moussaoui himself was active in recruiting Islamic fundamentalists to fight in Chechnya against the Russian army.

CIA Director William Casey initiated the recruitment of Islamic fundamentalists from around the world to go to Afghanistan in the 1980s to fight in the decade-long guerrilla war against the Soviet military intervention. They received training in terrorist tactics, including the planting of bombs, from US intelligence agents. This was the milieu out of which Osama bin Laden -- himself a collaborator with the CIA in Afghanistan -- recruited the initial forces for his Al Qaeda organization.

After the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, many of these fighters, most of them Arabs, were allowed entry into the United States as a reward for their services in the war. In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, some of these Islamic fundamentalists turned against the US government, bombing the World Trade Center in 1993 and carrying out other attacks on US targets overseas. The phenomenon of former CIA-backed guerrillas using their US training to attack American targets became known as "blowback."

Many Islamic fundamentalists continued to make common cause with American imperialism, particularly in Bosnia, Chechnya, and other brutal guerrilla wars on the periphery of the former Soviet bloc. The US intelligence apparatus worked closely with these forces, particularly in Bosnia, Kosovo and Albania, but also in Chechnya and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia. US administrations regularly denounced the Russian military intervention in Chechnya -- a position taken by George W. Bush as a candidate, which he abandoned only after September 11 in pursuit of Russian support for the US intervention in Central Asia.

It is thus quite possible that top US intelligence officials were aware of Moussaoui's role as a recruiter for the Islamic fundamentalist forces fighting Russian troops in Chechnya and sought to protect him from the attentions of lower-level FBI agents.

There is a second possibility, which largely coincides with the first, but with the sinister addition that the alliance of the CIA with Islamic fundamentalist terrorists may have included actions within the United States itself. In other words, the US intelligence apparatus was aware at some level of the unfolding plans for terrorist

strikes against US targets, and let them proceed in order to provide a suitable pretext for the military action that the Bush administration and the Pentagon were planning to undertake in Central Asia.

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2002/may2002/sept-m29.shtml>

The FBI's Radical Fundamentalist Unit in Washington D.C.

by Steve Moore

Even AFTER the Twin Towers were hit, Agent Rowley asked her boss, Dave Frasca, if she could now obtain a criminal search warrant for Moussaoui's laptop and personal property, she was again refused because it was probably all a "coincidence," Agent Rowley was warned to "do nothing" because "we might 'SCREW UP' something else going on elsewhere in the country."

Dave Frasca-the Wash. DC FBI supervisor who was recently promoted by Mueller/Bush after successfully suppressing both pre-9/11 FBI field agent reports from Rowley and the 'Phoenix memo' that pointed to dangers from Arab flight students hijacking planes.

9-11: Foreknowledge or Deception?

Dave Frasca is the key supervising special agent in the charge of the FBI's Radical Fundamentalist Unit in Washington D.C. According to Newsweek (June 3, 2002, p. 25) "Frasca was the agent in charge of the Moussaoui case and his office also received the Phoenix memo." The New York Times also confirms that the "FBI clearinghouse for Al Qaeda intelligence was the Bin Laden and Radical Fundamentalist Units... The units had complete access to the Phoenix memorandum, the Moussaoui case and the Ressam debriefings." (Ressam is the man with the bomb intended for the L.A. Airport who was arrested at the Canadian border in December, 1999) (New York Times, May 27, 2002, p. A11)

Despite intense criticism of Dave Frasca by FBI agent Rowley in her famous report, she has never revealed publicly his name. Yet Patrick J. Leahy (an anthrax target), Democrat of Vermont; Charles E. Grussley, Republican of Iowa and Arlen Specter, Republican of Pennsylvania "have identified Dave Frasca" as the cutting edge of the U.S. Government's pre-September 11 do nothing policy in regards to Al Qaeda terrorists.

This short article will detail the key supervisory role Dave Frasca played in the events of September 11.

First some background facts. On August 6, 2001, President Bush received a briefing by the CIA titled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S." (National Post, May20, 2002, p.1) The report was prepared at Mr. Bush's request after he became alarmed at warnings of "an impending attack in the summer of 2001." (National Post, May 20, 2002, p. A9) At the time, Bush was concerned about "domestic targets." Yet According to Jonathan Freeland (writing in the National Guardian, May30-June5, 2002 p. 11) "Vice President Dick Cheney sat on a Counter-Terrorism Bill passed to him in July, 2001. The Attorney General John Ashcroft refused a demand for more FBI anti-terrorism agents. The Defense Secretary Donald

Rumsfeld did not deploy a predator drone aircraft which the Clinton Administration had used to track Bin Laden. National Security Advisor Condi Rice was warned by her Clintonite predecessor that she should spend more time on Al Qaeda than any other issue." She didn't

So on the one hand, we have the July unspecified "threat assessment," which has never been revealed, that caused President Bush to request the August 6th "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S." report which was also classified. On the other hand, cabinet members are involved in cut backs and go slows in regards to anti-terrorist actions by their departments. Even though they undercut the personal security of the American people, there is evidence that cabinet members took the threats as a real personal danger to themselves. For example, Attorney General John Ashcroft, who presides over the FBI, was getting enough disturbing indications of an attack that he "begin using only chartered planes on private as well as public business." (Paul Knox "A Problem Named Ashcroft" Globe and Mail, June 7, 2002, p.

When the possibility came up of a Al Qaeda suicide-hijack smashing into CIA headquarters in 1995, "FBI agents descended upon flying schools in 1995." (San Francisco Chronicle, March 6, 2002, p. A11) This was the swift government response to police interrogations of Abul Hakim Murad and Ramzi Yousef who were convicted in the United States and sentenced to life in prison for a plot to blow up 12 U.S. bound airlines flying out of Asia. Murad attended flight schools in New York, Texas, California and North Carolina. According to Filipino police report of 1995, "Murad's idea is that he will board an American commercial aircraft pretending to be an ordinary passenger, then he will hijack said aircraft, control its cockpit and dive it at CIA headquarters." Robert Delfin, Chief of Intelligence Command for the Philippines Police says, "We shared that with the FBI." (San Francisco Chronicle, March 6, 2002, p. A11) Murad was also in touch with 10 other Middle East men training in U.S. flight schools.

Special Agent Dave Frasca occupies a very important position mid-way between the Bush cabinet/FBI leadership and the FBI agents on the ground in various American cities. He is in the unusual position of taking important findings of intended radical Bin Laden-type terrorist actions to his supervisors, especially the heads of the FBI. Clearly, he was, along with the various world intelligence agencies, able to forward enough information through his supervisors to raise concerns with President Bush himself in July 2001.

FBI agent Kenneth Williams wrote the famous Phoenix memo on July 10, 2002 warning that Osama Bin Laden's foot soldiers might be training in American flight schools. Special Agent Dave Frasca, as the Head of the Radical Fundamentalist Unit in Washington D.C., received the memo. Kenneth Williams was the most senior member of a joint terrorist task force and according to Ronald Myers, a 31 year FBI veteran and William's former colleague, told the Los Angeles Times "He is one of the strongest agents I have ever met. Anyone in FBI management who wouldn't take what Williams said seriously is a fool." Dave Frasca got the memo but he is no "fool" as we shall see. (cnn.com, May20, 2002) Williams specifically recommended a nation-wide survey of Arab-American students attending flight schools. Unlike 1995, the FBI did not descent on flight schools as recommended by Senior Agent Kenneth Williams. Williams also recommended his memo be shared with other local FBI agents. It never was. The official view is that, unlike 1995, there were not enough agents available for the flight school survey. (Remember the cutbacks and refusals by cabinet members mentioned earlier)

Robert Mueller even refused to turn over the William's memo to Arlen Specter, a veteran Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee. It remains "classified." (cnn.com, May 20, 2002) Both Ashcroft and Mueller claim to not know of the memo until after September 11.

Even the Rowley letter to Robert Mueller was a "classified letter" but someone in the Congressional Committee released an edited version. The Rowley letter is explosive. In her memo, she says the Minneapolis FBI office identified Moussaoui as "a terrorist threat" from a very early point. He was arrested on August 15, 2001. Rowley reports "within days" the French Intelligence service confirmed "Moussaoui's affiliations with radical fundamentalist Islamic groups." The Minneapolis agents "became desperate" to search the computer lap top taken (3 of 5) from Moussaoui.

Enter Dave Frasca. Frasca thought there was not "probable cause" to search the computer even after being informed of the reports from French Intelligence Services. Keep in mind, that Moussaoui had informed his flight instructors that he only wanted to learn how to fly and not to land or take off. When the flight instructors first phoned the Minneapolis office, they didn't get much of a response. The second time they mentioned the "plane as a missile" idea and the local FBI made the arrest.

Just hours after Moussaoui was arrested Mr. Atlas, a student who drove Mr. Moussaoui from Oklahoma to a flight school in Minnesota, reported to the Minnesota FBI that Moussaoui believed it was "acceptable to kill civilians who harm Muslims and that he approved of Muslims who died as 'martyrs' in such attacks." (New York Times, May 24, 2002, p. 1)

According to Agent Rowley's 13 page memo to FBI Director Robert Mueller, Dave Frasca threw "up roadblocks and undermined Minneapolis' by now desperate efforts to obtain a FISA search warrant, long after the French Intelligence service provided information and probable cause became clear." (Rowley's memo to FBI, May 21, 2002, page 3) (see the following web site)

<http://www.time.com/time/covers/1101020603/memo.html>

Not only did Dave Frasca not share the information about Moussaoui to other appropriate intelligence/law enforcement authorities, he also, according to Rowley "never disclosed to the Minneapolis agents that the Phoenix Division had, only three weeks earlier, warned of Al Qaeda operatives in flight schools seeking flight training for terrorists purposes!" (Rowley's memo to FBI, May 21, 2002 p. 3) It is of course impossible to believe that Dave Frasca on his own, is just sitting on this information and not doing anything with it, unless ordered to do so.

The Minneapolis agents even tried to do an end run around Dave Frasca and notified the CIA's Counter Terrorist Center. The end result was that FBI headquarters personal (Dave Frasca and unnamed higher ups) "actually chastised the Minneapolis agents for making the direct notification without their approval." (Rowley Report, p. 4) Going even further, Dave Frasca "undercut" the search warrant application by not adding information on Moussaoui's foreign power connections which he had promised Minneapolis agents would be included. He also made damaging changes to the text provided by Minneapolis agents thereby, according to one Minneapolis agent, "setting this up for failure." (Rowley Report p. 4)

Even after the World Trade Center was hit, Agent Rowley asked Dave Frasca if she could now obtain a criminal search warrant for Moussaoui's laptop and personal property, she was again refused because it was probably all a "coincidence." Agent Rowley was warned to "do nothing" because "we might 'screw up' something else going on elsewhere in the country." (Rowley Report, p. 7) The words "do nothing" are interesting; even more revealing what's to 'screw up' at that point, except another plane going into another building?

After, when Rowley talked to other FBI agents in other parts of the country, the first question was Why? -- "Why would an FBI agent(s) deliberately sabotage a case?" Agent Rowley reports that jokes were made that FBI Headquarters personnel were "spies" or "moles" who were actually "working for Osama Bin Laden." (Rowley Report p. 7) Apparently no one mentioned that it could be the other way around i.e., Bin Laden working for the CIA/FBI. The notion that Bush cabinet members were urging the CIA/FBI chiefs to keep a lit on local FBI investigative actions to arrest or curtail terrorist plots was, at the time, an unthinkable thought. That after all, would not be a joke. It would be one of the most murderous, diabolical cover up committed against American citizens by an American President and cabinet.

Back to Dave Frasca, the head of the FBI's Radical Fundamentalist Unit. Here we have a classic case of a highly placed intelligence agent stonewalling for his paymasters. Frasca even suggested that the French Intelligence Reports were "worthless" because they only identified Zacarias Moussaoui by name and he didn't know how many people existed with that name in France. A Minneapolis agent phoned the FBI's legal attache in France who found only one Zacarias Moussaoui in the entire Paris phone directory (Rowley Report, p. 8) Rowley writes further that "we were prevented from even attempting to question Moussaoui on the day of the attacks, when in theory, he could have possessed further information about other co-conspirators." (Rowley Report, p. 9) According to Newsweek June 3, 2002, p. 22) "Moussaoui's computer, searched after September 11, revealed information about crop-dusting and large jets and his belongings included the phone number of lead hijacker Mohamed Atta's roommate."

So now the Bush Administration claims Moussaoui is the 20th hijacker. Yet Special Agent Dave Frasca who downplayed all reports of impending terrorist plots (the Phoenix Memo, French Intelligence Reports, the Moussaoui case, etc.) gets to maintain his highly placed position as does his unit Chief Superior. Furthermore, those FBI leaders who did the most stonewalling occupied "critical positions in the FBI SIOC Command Center post September 11." Rowley is particularly upset that Dave Frasca "actually received a promotion some months afterwards." (Rowley Report p. 5)

FBI agents don't get promoted for screwing up; they get promoted for a job well done. The key areas for further research are connecting the dots in the chain of command from Dave Frasca to his Unit Chief to the Director of the FBI to John Ashcroft, the Attorney General and President George Bush.

Clearly, we have an amazing amount of circumstantial evidence that the Bush Cabinet knew of a forthcoming terrorist attack and decided to allow the first hit in order to mobilize the American People behind their political and economic objectives (crush dissent, war on Iraq, oil pipelines, etc) Now, researchers need to

work their way up the ladder starting with Dave Frasca; and, at the same time, work down the ladder from the Bush Cabinet (the more difficult task). In time, perhaps decades, with the help of a few defectors, we will be able to connect all the dots.

The comments by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller on whether the Bureau has prior indications of the September 11 attacks are very revealing. On September 14, 2001, he said, "The tragedies quite clearly astonish and shock me and the country. The fact that there were a number of individuals that happened to have received training at flight schools here is news, quite obviously. If we had understood that to be the case, we would have -- perhaps one could have averted this. But beyond that, I and I think everyone else is just astonished at the extent of the tragedy." On Sept 17, 2002, Mueller says, "There were no warning signs that I'm aware of that would indicate this type of operation in the country." (Both quotes from the New York Times, Friday, May 31, 2002, p. A18)

Clearly, the cover-up was put into play immediately. For Agent Rowley, these statements by her boss caused many sleepless nights and raised for her the fundamental issue of "integrity." (Rowley Report, p. 1) Dave Frasca, on the other hand, has never spoken a word to the press, even though he was interviewed by U.S. Senators. The results of that interview are classified, not even an edited version surfaced.

What America needs is one good investigative reporter who can appeal to Dave Frasca's (and his superiors') conscience to make a public statement of the orders he (they) was operating under when he (they) stonewalled local FBI agents. Even a Watergate "deep throat" would be helpful in connecting the dots. Surely, there are Americans in high places who are uncomfortable with following orders which allowed the tragedy of September 11 to take place. Democracy may still be a part of the value system of humans caught up in the security apparatus. Certainly, there must be individuals in the FBI/CIA who view their vocation as protecting Americans rather than being complicit in their murder, especially in the thousands.

Perhaps I am being naive to think there are individuals who would risk their jobs or even their lives for freedom and act against the tyranny of the American Oligarchy. But George Washington did and so did Special Agent Coleen Rowley. Now more than ever, we need the Dave Frasca's of the FBI and CIA to come forward. The future of Democracy, the future of the world is at stake!

<http://portland.indymedia.org/en/2003/02/43525.shtml>

Code of Quiet

The Secret War on Whistle-Blowers

by Geoffrey Gray
June 19 - 25, 2002

She didn't want to talk. She hadn't answered the phone in weeks. Picking it up this time was a fluke. "I'm just trying to focus on my work," Coleen Rowley, the FBI's most outspoken special agent, told the Voice two days before testifying for the Senate Judiciary Committee. "I'm just trying to get back," she added, "back to the way it was."

That's a long way from where she is now, a long way from the fitful nights in May when she typed that 13-page memo to the chief at headquarters and transformed herself, virtually overnight, into America's most courageous counterterrorism superhero, "Cassandra" Rowley, whistle-blower extraordinaire -- the 20-year veteran who blasted her bosses as "careerists" and claimed her beloved agency "circled the wagons" to cover up a score of pre-9-11 intelligence blunders.

"It wasn't my intention to get the media involved," she said, in her Fargo-sweet accent. "Gosh, now it's a little like . . . whoa! . . . It's pretty way out there."

Was she worried about retaliation? Losing her job? Public smears?

She had to leave for Washington. She didn't want to say.

Enter the patriotic tattletale, star of America's most thrilling political drama. Martyrdom. Public interest. Betrayal. The stakes could not be higher, nor the poorly dressed characters and overwrought plot more ripe for prime time. It's Must-See Reality TV.

But a story like Rowley's often ends years later with a subtle game of bureaucratic payback, a bitter finale the public rarely gets to witness.

Rowley has been promised protection. Some think her mass exposure will provide her with a shield of immunity. So far, the Minneapolis field office reports that no investigations into her situation exist, and at the word of FBI director Robert Mueller, there will be none in the future.

Public promises, counter a chorus of former whistle-blowers, only last so long. "It's great TV for now," says Notra Trulock, former director of intelligence for the Department of Energy, "but she has no idea what's she's gotten herself into."

The first stop on the whistle-blower's roller coaster to ruin? Discreditation. That's what happened to Trulock, who was accused of racial bias when he blew the whistle on the bungled investigation into Wen Ho Lee, a scientist accused of spying for China. "Anonymous news leaks always come first," he says.

Fellow agents will peek into Rowley's personnel file, quiz her colleagues about her habits, and find something to feed the press, and already rumors are being whispered on the Hill. The gossip: Rowley once punished a whistle-blower herself.

Next, say those who've taken the ride, comes a gamut of retaliatory tactics: harassment from supervisors, the loss of office allies, a stripping of security clearance, the monitoring of activities, inter-office relocation -- one Department of Agriculture informer was moved to a desk in the hallway outside the bathroom! -- demotions, psychiatric or medical referrals, or "administrative leave," to put it euphemistically.

"The FBI never fires whistle-blowers, directly," says psychiatric social worker Don Soeken.

In the late '70s, Soeken worked for the U.S. Public Health Service, and his job was to perform "fitness for duty" examinations for federal employees whose

supervisors thought they were mentally unstable. But Soeken noticed something curious about his clientele. All his patients seemed to be whistle-blowers, Soeken says, and he was asked to label the muckrakers mentally unfit, giving the government the green light to dismiss them. Soeken refused. He then became a whistle-blower himself, reporting the shameful practice to Congress, and now helps whistle-blowers recover on a farm in West Virginia. He calls it the Whistlestop.

"There's only one commandment in the FBI," says one of his patients, Fred Whitehurst. "Thou shall not say anything bad about the FBI." Whitehurst used to be the FBI's chief forensic scientist for explosives analysis; he examined the powders left on the rubble from the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. For over a decade, he watched other lab scientists fudging reports to make quick criminal convictions. He howled. Now he lives in the backwoods of North Carolina, runs a forensic watchdog group, and drives a stripped-down Ford truck with crank-up windows.

Like Rowley, Whitehurst was praised in Congress for his courage. Senators promised him an award ceremony in the White House Rose Garden. What he got instead were demotions, a missing medical record, internal investigations, followed by psychological treatments. "The FBI will push you 'til you break," he says, "and you can never return from your day in the sun."

Like many other agents, he was flown to the Isaac Ray Center in Chicago to undergo a fitness-for-duty evaluation. For 27 years, Isaac Ray has enjoyed a contract to treat FBI personnel, and in addition to working on criminals and delinquents, they've also shrunk the heads of celebrity madmen like John F. Hinckley Jr.

"Vulgar rape" is how Whitehurst describes his experience there. "I was sentenced to a room for nine hours and wasn't even allowed to pee."

Isaac Ray denies the spooky, X-Files allegations. Evaluations -- which can stretch over several days and cost over \$10,000 -- are based on a comprehensive test featuring 565 yes-or-no questions, according to the center, and that test has not changed in 30 years. "People [like Whitehurst] who are 'normal' are going to have trouble if you give them enough stress over a long period of time," says center president Dr. James Cavanaugh. "But I can assure you nobody is being submitted to vulgarities or unusual procedures."

Whitehurst says he had no choice but to undergo the treatment, because if he refused, the bureau would fire him for insubordination.

"The strange thing is, Americans pray for patriotic individuals to save them from national disasters," Whitehurst says. "But when that someone comes along, they slice into your abdomen, pull 30 feet of gut out, stomp on it, and then what kind of hero are you?"

"You're not. You've been branded as a loon. All you have to do in the FBI is step in the line of fire. You'll get blown away."

The same day Rowley left for Washington, a colleague of hers, Special Agent Robert Wright, was waiting a few hundred miles away in the FBI's Chicago field office. Wright was getting nervous. Again. The producers from CNN's Crossfire

had been calling; they wanted the young, baby-faced Fed on their Thursday night show, with Carville and Novak, to coincide with the presumed lead story, Rowley's testimony. At the advice of his counsel, Wright agreed.

Wright's a whistle-blower, too -- well, sort of. He's a money guy, tracks the accounts of international terrorists, and like Rowley, he claims his investigation, code named Vulgar Betrayal, was obstructed by the bureau. Like Rowley, he also has suggested 9-11 could have been prevented. But unlike her, he can't seem to find anyone in Washington who'll listen.

Bob Novak started the questioning: "Mr. Wright, your charges against the FBI are really more disturbing, more serious, than Ms. Rowley's. Why is it, do you think, that you have been ignored by the media, ignored by the congressional committees, and no attention has been paid to your allegations?"

Wright paused. "I don't know the true reasons for that."

Part of the problem started with him. He asked the FBI for permission to go public with his 500-page manuscript, which he says outlines the failures of the FBI's counterterrorism efforts. Muzzled by the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, he sought help last summer from Judicial Watch, a Washington nonprofit famous for suing government to get documents and expose corruption. Judicial Watch is now suing the FBI for him. And his life is slowly going to hell.

Once on Al Qaeda's trail, Wright now works run-of-the-mill bank fraud cases. He's also been hit with two claims of harassment -- one sexual, one racial -- both deemed baseless by his lawyers. No one, it would seem, takes him seriously -- except Judicial Watch, who are calling him another victim of the bureau's "culture of fear."

Coleen Rowley walked into the chambers of the Senate Judiciary Committee like John Wayne, wearing a badge and carrying her pistol. Yet with a frumpy jacket and oversized glasses, she looked like a stressed librarian, the sleepless owner of many cats.

Hours before, her boss had promised the nation he would protect her. But nothing in the law requires him to. Federal whistle-blower statutes don't apply to FBI agents. Rather than being reviewed by a third party, their complaints are handled internally.

Shielded by nothing but her naïveté and the goodwill of her boss, Rowley sat alone before a hundred flashbulbs and told the world the FBI needs to change, quickly. She was polite, thorough, boring.

During the recess, the network pundits seemed disappointed with the performance. Sure, Rowley had fleshed out the details of her letter, they argued, but she wasn't naming names. She showed no outrage. She wasn't acting like a whistle-blower. She even commended Bob Mueller! She was positive about change! Hardly the renegade tone for what could be the last words of a martyr.

"Maybe the 'treatment' will be different for Rowley," says Soeken, "but I doubt it."

<http://www.villagevoice.com/news/0225,gray,35781,1.html>

Other Truth Tellers

Jesselyn Radack

Jesselyn Radack was a U.S. Department of Justice Ethics Adviser who counseled -- when asked -- that John Walker Lindh (the "American Taliban") could not be interrogated without his lawyer present, given that he had already retained one. Her legal opinion in the matter was ignored and then lied about -- the Justice Department going so far as to erase Radack's email files from her computer to back up the lie. Radack protested, reconstructed the files from her archives and chased the issue up the chain of command.

Threatened for her efforts, she responded to an article in Newsweek which continued to quote the government's lies by sending her files to the magazine, an act of conscience for which she was immediately subjected to criminal prosecution. Though charges would later be dropped and Radack absolved of wrongdoing -- she was forced from her career in the Department of Justice; then fired from the civilian job she landed in the aftermath due to continued government intervention against her; and then placed on the national "No Fly List," from which there is no means -- thanks to the Patriot Act -- to be removed.

Col. Ann Wright

On the eve of the US invasion of Iraq -- Col. Ann Wright, after 29 years in the US Army and a stint with the State Department, during which she served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. embassies in Afghanistan (which she'd volunteered to help open following the 2001 U.S. invasion), Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Mongolia -- and earlier diplomatic service in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Grenada, and Nicaragua -- resigned in disgust.

One of three state department officials to do so, she cited the Bush Administration's lies about Iraq and the disappearing civil liberties of the American people as reasons for her act of conscience. Wright immediately threw herself into trying to rally public support against the war, and in short order found herself subject to the same, constant "secondary searches" in every airport she passes through that many another American who has dared to dissent in the face of these strenuously enforced "new values" has been made to endure. She has found, however, that having to tell her story to every TSA agent who detains her seems to have made a deep impression on many of them -- the ugly abuse of power in these episodes too obvious to ignore. Especially now that knowledge of the war on truth behind Iraq has become a common currency among people in uniform.

INTERVIEW with The Truth Tellers:

Coleen Rowley, Jesselyn Radack, Ann Wright

On August 5th, 2005, I was fortunate enough to sit down for a quick interview with three bona fide patriots: Ann Wright, Coleen Rowley, and Jesselyn Radack. They were in town for the Veterans for Peace National Convention.

The trio had previously come together for the 'National Security Whistleblowers Coalition' event in April, 2005. Ann Wright proposed that they all meet again for the VFP Convention, where they held a workshop for conventioners called

'Speaking Truth to Power,' and shared their experiences as 'Truth-tellers.'

In Jesselyn Radack's case, she might still be working at the Department of Justice if it wasn't for the 'American Taliban' John Walker Lindh;

Jesselyn Radack (JR):

"... I was under criminal investigation for a year and a half, so I was muzzled during that time and under the advice of counsel not to speak with reporters... I worked in the Ethics Office at the DOJ, where I'd been an attorney for seven years... the Criminal Division called wanting to interrogate him (Lindh), in Afghanistan. Based on the ethics rules I said not to do that for a variety of reasons. They came back two days later and said, 'we did it anyway, what should we do now?'

I advised that the interview might have to be sealed and only used for national security or intelligence gathering purposes, not for criminal prosecution. Which as we all know, is how they ended up using it.

But... that's not my main complaint. My main complaint is that shortly thereafter I was basically blackmailed with a terrible performance evaluation that was out of the blue, unsigned, and told to find another job, or else it would be put in my permanent file.

And then, here's where it gets worse, the prosecutor which was prosecuting John Walker Lindh contacted me directly and said, 'as you know there is a Court Discovery order for all department correspondence related to his interrogation. I have two of your emails... I wanted to make sure I had everything.'

I said, 'no, not aware of the Court Order, and no, I wrote a lot more than two emails.'

And so when I went to find the emails to comply with the Court Order, they were gone. So I resurrected the emails from my computer archives, I resigned, and when it appeared to me that the emails still had not reached the court, I sent them over to Newsweek.

So after that, they were obviously mad, I didn't know how mad they would get, but they got me fired from my private sector job, and put me under criminal investigation. For what, I cannot tell you, because they never told me. That went on for about a year and a half, and as soon as that was over they referred me to the Maryland and D.C. Bars where I am licensed as an attorney, and during that time period, I was also put on the 'No-fly List'...

Every time I flew, I had to undergo secondary screening procedures... like 19 times. After 19 times I quit collecting the little 'TSA' things they put in your bags every time. I called the TSA Ombudsperson, and they would neither confirm nor deny that I was on the list. One airline told me that I was on the list.

Then, I reported to the ACLU, which had filed a lawsuit and was keeping track of the issue. As far as I know, there is no official way to find out if you're on the list, or to get off of it. It's just that the probability of being stopped 19 times out of the 19 times that you fly is like, one in 3 billion or something, my husband the economist calculated this for me.

And also, when I found out some of the other people who were on the list, people from the ACLU, anti-war protestors, people who seemed to be in some ways political enemies of the administration, it made a little more sense to me. Plus, senior administration officials called me a traitor and a turncoat and a terrorist sympathizer in the New York Times so, in a way it's not that surprising that I would end up on a 'watch-list', I guess."

That was under John Ashcroft's DOJ. I asked Ann Wright if she was on the no-fly list...

Ann Wright (AW):

"... I thought I was, under the lead-up to the Presidential election I was doing a lot of flying, a lot of speaking out, not for the Kerry campaign, but speaking about the role of dissent in a democracy, and that citizens need to watch carefully what any administration tells them, particularly this administration. And I don't know if it was a combination of doing a lot of short notice flights, and sometimes one way flights, and then picking up to go to another place, but during that period I would say at least 90% of the time, I was undergoing secondary searches.

But it gave me a great opportunity to recruit among the TSA agents, I'd say, "No, not a problem, that happens every time."

They'd say, "What do you mean it happens every time?"

I'd say, "Well I'm on - - something's happening, and maybe it's because of the talks I'm giving. And the flyers, the brochures for my future talks are in the case that you'll be going through so please just look at them and see..."

And they'd go, "You're against the war? Well, I'm against the war! You shouldn't be stopped for this sort of stuff."

So I'm not sure if I was on a list, or if it was because I was taking a lot short-notice flights... "

You might recognize Ann from her appearance in 'Uncovered: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War' or more recently: John Conyers' Downing Street Memo Hearing back on June 16th. She turned in her testimony at the very end of the Hearing and added this spoken statement to the record:

"As a 35 year Federal employee, 29 years in the military, and 16 years in the State Dept. Having re-opened our US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, in December of 2001... the Charges in Sierra Leone when all the trouble happened, in Somalia, in Grenada, in Nicaragua... I've had a lot of experience with the US government, and the trials and tribulations that we've had.

And I would just like to say that this Downing Street Memo is one of the most important documents that I've seen about all of the things that have happened here about Iraq.

To me, two things in particular; the illegality of the war -- and in fact, I came back specifically for your hearing, I was in Africa in Sierra Leone, (first time in 8 years since I left there), and going through London to talk with the Deputy Legal Counsel of the Foreign Office. A woman who, like myself, resigned from her long years, 30 years, with the British government.

She resigned because Tony Blair refused to accept the very standard analysis by all the government from the year 2002, that a war based on regime change was illegal.

She resigned over that.

The Attorney General of the UK switched his opinion 7 days before the start of the war. The illegality of going to war in the manner that we did is just crushing to me.

The second part, is the provocation that the United States did in Iraq is an aggressive, criminal act, and we need to impeach the President of the United States, and we need to hold in criminal contempt the senior leadership of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the National Security Council, and the Department of Justice, and the CIA.

And other than that, I think we're just doing fine."

Ann is not one to mince words.

By the way, the Downing St. Memo is officially not dead. Ann, Rep. Conyers, Cindy Sheehan, and others are going to Britain in the near future to rekindle the awareness that the memo originally sparked.

AW: ... and we're calling for US government employees to search in their files for the equivalent memos that record the conversations between our officials and UK officials. They are there. They do exist. In the State Dept., the DOD, the National Security Council, and we're hoping that just one very patriotic person will say, this is really important for the citizens of America, and I'm gonna leak this thing."

But don't call them 'whistleblowers.'

CR: 'Conscience Follower' -- 'Truth-teller' -- let's get away from these pejorative connotations.

JR: Yeah, you're stereotyped as a 'troublemaker', or a 'disgruntled employee' or 'unstable'...

CR: 'Conscientious Objector' -- 'Dissenter' -- I mean really, it's just patriotic things that we're trying to do -- Daniel Ellsberg calls it the 'Truthelling Coalition.' It's not as good as 'whistleblower' because 'whistleblower' has this certain extra connotation that the other labels seem to miss... and you settle for it, because there's not another decent word out there that means exactly the same.

JR: And you're labeled that, but most 'whistleblowers'... I don't know anyone

that went out in search of that moniker. You were just doing your job and then somehow you're labeled 'whistleblower,' and the first time that happened, I'm like, "No I'm not!"

But then it happens over and over: 'Your Name' and 'Whistleblower'...

CR: ... if I was Lakoff -- he always says you connote certain visual images with certain words. What do you connote with 'whistleblower'?

Remember 'Bewitched'? The nosy neighbor who used to peek in the window and when she saw Samantha doing witchcraft she actually blew a whistle?

Mrs. Kravitz! That's it! The nosy neighbor. Obnoxious.

JR: A tattletale!

CR: "I see her! Abner, come here!" That's the image that 'whistleblower' connotes. My neural pathways immediately connect to Mrs. Kravitz.

Ok, so it's like; 'Truth-tellers of Conscience Who Are Bringing to Light True Concerns, Issues or Illegalities!'

JR: And for me before I came here, when Ann invited me I complained to my husband, "Well, I'm against the war, but I don't know if I can really link my truth-telling to the war..." and he was like, "Of course you can! It's so obvious. You're telling the truth in an age of lies, and they've lied and lied and lied..."

And when I heard that they had a workshop on dissenters and conscientious objectors, it was like listening to my own story, but it took place in the military... it was very similar, you get involved in something, you think you're doing your job, you think you're doing the right thing, and then suddenly either quickly or slowly you realize that this is really wrong. So you do the logical thing and start complaining up the chain of command, and when that doesn't work... it just sort of snowballs.

Coleen Rowley is a Truth-teller because of events before and after 9/11. Her experience with the FBI gave her a unique and personal perspective on what happened that day...

CR: Preceding September 11th, I blame myself for being ONE of the thousands of people who did not do enough. And the main thing I did not do was call up to headquarters to find out what this logjam was.

And of course people say, well it wouldn't have achieved anything. In all probability it may not have changed history if I had called. But at the very least I would have learned some critical things. You never know what you can achieve unless you try them. My motto has become 'Always Try,' and I have dissected not only my own experience, but the Challenger, the Columbia, I've gone through incident after incident where people did not do what they should or could have done, because of a lot of reasons, a lot of rationalizations, a lot of excuse making, and then later found out if they had just tried, maybe it wouldn't have completely reversed things but it would have made that first step, and maybe with another step, some luck, it could have changed things.

And now after September 11th, there is a secondary effect; which is this kind of cover-up. In my letter I said, well I'm not gonna call it a 'cover-up,' that's too strong, however, I will call it puff, shade, skew, firm-up, massage, because there's a strong impetus after something bad has happened not to tell anybody what you did, not to unravel the mistake.

And what I did was, I think, I put the first good dent in the blanket defense that for 8 and a half, 9 months, was holding: that 9/11 could not have been prevented.

It was not true. The 9/11 Commission ultimately found that, but for 9 months you did not hear anybody say that 9/11 could have been prevented because it protected the thousands of people who made some tiny little mistakes, some egregious... Tenet, who knew all these dots, Ashcroft, who ranked terrorism his lowest priority in August of 2001, some of them are pretty egregious mistakes...

And we weren't unraveling ANY of it, we were all settling for, '9/11 could not have been prevented', it was 'hindsight.' Condi Rice: "Well, no one could have ever imagined that someone would fly..." and of course, when she says that, she's disregarding a whole bunch of things. People are letting her get away with it. She's disregarding the fact of two or three prior incidents of people trying to fly planes into buildings, attempted takeovers of cockpits... we're also ignoring the fact that in Minneapolis, the acting supervisor, arguing with headquarters said, "This is a guy that could fly a plane into the World Trade Center" on August 22nd!

And what I wanted is to start unraveling mistakes, because, how are you going to fix them and do better, in a very constructive way... if you don't you just get mired and continue down the same stupid path... "

And for citizens and allies of the United States, the 'same stupid path' has led us into the quagmire of Iraq.

What these Truthtellers tell me is that it's time for the citizens of the US to reassert control of their lives, and the destiny of this country. It's time to come to grips with the reality of terrorism, and stop letting the Bush administration, (and subsequent administrations), play on our fears.

It's time for our leaders to take a lesson from FDR: "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself."

CR: ... We're not going to be able to prevent terrorism, so we better recognize that it's here, and that we've got to do logical, judicious, ways of minimizing the threat, instead of letting the Barney Fifes of the world lead us into even further chaos, and higher threats.

We can reverse it. It's possible to reverse, but it's not through listening to Karl Rove.

AW: And the greatest frustration that people have is over their seeming inability to do anything. Well, the greatest way to get rid of that frustration is to do something... and it may not be the perfect thing, and it may not ultimately

amount to a hill of beans on one level, but it does amount to something in that person's individual psyche and their ability to take back control of how they feel about things.

We were talking to these men who went to prison, because they refused to go to war, and they said, when they went to prison, they felt the most free. That freed them.

Before I resigned, I was sent down from Mongolia where I was assigned, to Singapore, because they thought I was having a heart attack. I was suffering all the physical symptoms of a heart attack...

[T]he day I resigned, all the symptoms left. The physical manifestations of internal trauma...

CR: You know who had a big, bad case of that internal trauma? The Security Moms! The component that voted for Bush last time, the big changeover vote, they gave a bad case of this to the Security Moms.

They won't admit it, but that's what they did. And it brings out the worst in people's mindsets, and also in their ability to be judicious.

JR: I concur.

<http://www.nowpublic.com/node/16468>

David Shayler

VIDEO: Former Counter-Terrorism Officer, MI5 (Britain)

3/6/06:

"The available evidence indicates that people in key positions in the FBI, the State Department, the CIA and so on were not loyal to the Constitution; that they saw an opportunity in plans laid down by genuine Islamic terrorists to carry out an operation that would shock the world and would therefore justify U.S. adventurism in the middle East, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq."

[NOTE: This Video is a MUST SEE.]

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5403286136814574974>

Whistle-blowers Tell of Cost of Conscience

November 24, 2006, USA Today

In 2002, decorated FBI Special Agent Mike German was investigating meetings between terrorism suspects. When he discovered other officers had jeopardized the investigation by violating wiretapping regulations, he reported what he found to his supervisors. German says he had ... just received a mass e-mail from FBI Director Robert Mueller, urging other whistle-blowers to come forward. "I was assuming he'd protect me," German says. Instead ... his accusations were ignored, his reputation ruined and his career obliterated. Although the Justice Department's inspector general confirmed German's allegations ... he says he was barred from

further undercover work and eventually compelled to resign. The experience is familiar to other government employees who have blown the whistle on matters of national security since 9/11. An increasing number of whistle-blowers allege that rather than being embraced, they're being retaliated against for coming forward. Those who come forward often face harassment, investigation, character assassination and firing. For those who are fired ... there is little recourse. Most national security whistle-blowers are not protected from retaliation by law. That's because the intelligence-gathering agencies are exempted from the 1989 whistle-blower Protection Act. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has ruled against whistle-blowers in 125 of 127 of the reprisal cases seen by the court since 1994. Many had been star employees at the top of the pay scale and had spent decades in civil service.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-11-23-whistle-blowers_x.htm

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12.36 Lt Col Anthony Shaffer

Interviewed by Government Security News

EXCERPT:

Anthony Shaffer:

At one point in time, the then Director of Operations [for the Defense Intelligence Agency] had me come in and brief him on a series of operations. This was February /March 2001. This general said, "I want you to explain to me every one of your operations in detail." So, I started going through the laundry list of each operation and describing it to him.

From moment one, it was a bad conversation. It was like, "Well, I don't agree. Well, I don't agree. Well, I don't agree." So, he basically was saying all the operational focus that I had been required to focus on by the previous leadership, by Colonel Harding, was not something he wanted to pursue. No matter how much common sense, no matter how much reason I tried to use with him, it seemed to be an emotional issue with him.

GSN:

Did you take that as his personal philosophy or was that somehow reflective of a larger administration view?

SHAFFER:

I can't answer that question because some of these operations were driven by the Office of Secretary of Defense. They were telling him that we needed to do them. It was tasking from that level, plus in this case, from General Schoomaker.

GSN:

How do you explain his objections to your various activities?

SHAFFER:

I can only speak to the facts. His opinion was, "That's not part of your job." As he walked through things, he kept saying, "I don't see this as your job. This should be done by someone else."

I tried to explain to him how that's not their job. We're human intelligence. This is just an aspect of human intelligence. He disagreed with me.

It came to the point where we brought up Able Danger, where I was explaining the operation to him -- as you know it now, plus more -- and he looked at me and he said "Well, Tony, that's not your job."

I said, "Well, sir, with all due respect, this is an important operation focused on the global Al Qaeda target," and he said, "You're not hearing me, Tony. This is not your job."

"Well, sir, this is basically using human methodology, combined with data mining to..."

"Tony, you're not listening to me. This is not your job."

"Sir, this is important, I think..."

"Tony, I'm the two star here. I'm the two star. I'm telling you I don't want you doing anything with Able Danger."

"Sir, if not us then who?"

"I don't know, but it's not your job."

And that effectively ended my direct support and my unit's support to Able Danger.

http://www.gsnmagazine.com/sep_05/shaffer_interview.html

Able Danger Identified 9/11 Hijackers

The existence of Able Danger, and its purported early identification of the 9/11 terrorists, was first disclosed publicly on June 19, 2005, in an article[3] by Keith Phucas, a reporter for The Times Herald, a Norristown, Pennsylvania, daily newspaper. Eight days later, on June 27, 2005, Representative Curt Weldon, vice chairman of the House Armed Services and House Homeland Security committees, and the principal source for the Phucas article gave a special orders speech on the House floor detailing Able Danger:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise because information has come to my attention over the past several months that is very disturbing. I have learned that, in fact, one of our Federal agencies had, in fact, identified the major New York cell of Mohamed Atta prior to 9/11; and I have learned, Mr. Speaker, that in September of 2000, that Federal agency actually was prepared to bring the FBI in and prepared to work with the FBI to take down the cell that Mohamed Atta was involved in in New York City, along with two of the other terrorists. I have also learned, Mr. Speaker, that when that recommendation was discussed within that Federal agency, the lawyers in the administration at that time said, you cannot pursue contact with the FBI against that cell. Mohamed Atta is in the U.S. on a green card, and we are fearful of the fallout from the Waco incident. So we did not allow that Federal agency to proceed."

Rep. Weldon later reiterated these concerns during news conferences on February 14, 2006. He stated that Able Danger identified Mohamed Atta 13 separate times prior to 9/11 and that the unit also identified a potential problem in Yemen two weeks prior to the 12 October 2000 attack on the USS Cole.

The Pentagon released a statement in response, stating that they wished to address these issues during a congressional hearing before a House Armed Services subcommittee scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2006.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Able_Danger

Lt Col Anthony Shaffer Punished by Pentagon

Strongly Defended by Republican Congressman Weldon

Pentagon engaged in 'smear campaign' against whistleblower

On Sept. 20 2005, the military revoked the security clearance of Army Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, who was scheduled to testify in Congress the following day. Shaffer was to testify about a cover-up by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). He alleged that the DIA withheld information about one or more of the 9/11 hijackers from the FBI and the 9/11 Commission.

Yesterday, Representative Curt Weldon appeared on CNN where he alleged that the DIA was smearing the whistleblower (Lt. Col. Shaffer) and continuing a cover-up of the 'Able Danger' program. Rory O'Connor of Media is Plural seems to have firsthand information about Representative Weldon's grievances:

Weldon also characterized the Defense Department in general and the DIA in particular as "a bureaucracy out of control," and criticized DIA for revoking Shaffer's clearance, gagging him and other Able Danger analysts from speaking publicly about the program, and attempting to destroy Shaffer's reputation. ...

I asked Weldon if he was at all concerned about going after high Defense officials from his own party in such a public way.

"Am I concerned about retribution? Absolutely!" he replied. "But this is larger than the party... this is about 3000 dead people, the worst terror attack ever on U.S. soil. And, as (former FBI director Louis Freeh) told Tim Russert on Meet the Press last week, Able Danger is "the kind of tactical intelligence that would make a difference in stopping a hijacking."

So why can't Congress and the American people hear about it?

Ultimately, the buck stops with Rumsfeld."

<http://72.14.203.104/search?q=cache:7RG1jFLvKO0J:www.bradblog.com/archive/s/00001941.htm+%22VIDEO+-+Republican+Congressman+Alleges+9/11+Cover-up+by+Pentagon%22&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=1>

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12.37 Sibel Edmonds

An Inconvenient Patriot

By David Rose

08/15/05 "Vanity Fair" September 2005 Issue

Love of country led Sibel Edmonds to become a translator for the F.B.I. following 9/11. But everything changed when she accused a colleague of covering up illicit activity involving Turkish nationals. Fired after sounding the alarm, she's now fighting for the ideals that made her an American, and threatening some very powerful people.

In Washington, D.C., and its suburbs, December 2, 2001 was fine but cool, the start of the slide into winter after a spell of unseasonable warmth. At 10 o'clock that morning, Sibel and Matthew Edmonds were still in their pajamas, sipping coffee in the kitchen of their waterfront town house in Alexandria, Virginia, and looking forward to a well-deserved lazy Sunday.

Since mid-September, nine days after the 9/11 attacks, Sibel had been exploiting her fluency in Turkish, Farsi, and Azerbaijani as a translator at the F.B.I. It was arduous, demanding work, and Edmonds—who had two bachelor's degrees, was about to begin studying for her master's, and had plans for a doctorate—could have been considered overqualified. But as a naturalized Turkish-American, she saw the job as her patriotic duty.

The Edmondses' thoughts were turning to brunch when Matthew answered the telephone. The caller was a woman he barely knew—Melek Can Dickerson, who worked with Sibel at the F.B.I. "I'm in the area with my husband and I'd love you to meet him," Dickerson said. "Is it O.K. if we come by?" Taken by surprise, Sibel and Matthew hurried to shower and dress. Their guests arrived 30 minutes later. Matthew, a big man with a fuzz of gray beard, who at 60 was nearly twice the age of his petite, vivacious wife, showed them into the kitchen. They sat at a round, faux-marble table while Sibel brewed tea.

Melek's husband, Douglas, a U.S. Air Force major who had spent several years as a military attaché in the Turkish capital of Ankara, did most of the talking, Matthew recalls. "He was pretty outspoken, pretty outgoing about meeting his wife in Turkey, and about his job. He was in weapons procurement." Like Matthew, he was older than his wife, who had been born about a year before Sibel.

According to Sibel, Douglas asked if she and Matthew were involved with the local Turkish community, and whether they were members of two of its organized groups—the American-Turkish Council (A.T.C.) and the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (A.T.A.A.). "He said the A.T.C. was a good organization to belong to," Matthew says. "It could help to ensure that we could retire early and live well, which was just what he and his wife planned to do. I said I was aware of the organization, but I thought you had to be in a relevant business in order to join.

"Then he pointed at Sibel and said, 'All you have to do is tell them who you work for and what you do and you will get in very quickly.'" Matthew could see that

his wife was far from comfortable: “She tried to change the conversation to the weather and such-like.” But the Dickersons, says Matthew, steered it back to what they called their “network of high-level friends.” Some, they said, worked at the Turkish Embassy in Washington. “They said they even went shopping weekly for [one of them] at a Mediterranean market,” Matthew says. “They used to take him special Turkish bread.”

Before long, the Dickersons left. At the time, Matthew says, he found it “a strange conversation for the first time you meet a couple. Why would someone I’d never met say such things?”

Only Sibel knew just how strange. A large part of her work at the F.B.I. involved listening to the wiretapped conversations of people who were the targets of counter-intelligence investigations. As she would later tell investigators from the Justice Department’s Office of the Inspector General (O.I.G.) and the U.S. Congress, some of those targets were Turkish officials the Dickersons had described as high-level friends. In Sibel’s view, the Dickersons had asked the Edmondses to befriend F.B.I. suspects.

(In August 2002, Melek Can Dickerson called Sibel’s allegations “preposterous, ludicrous and slanderous.”)

Sibel also recalled hearing wiretaps indicating that Turkish Embassy targets frequently spoke to staff members at the A.T.C., one of the organizations that the Dickersons allegedly wanted her and her husband to join. Sibel later told the O.I.G. she assumed that the A.T.C.’s board—which is chaired by Brent Scowcroft, President George H. W. Bush’s national-security advisor—knew nothing of the use to which it was being put. But the wiretaps suggested to her that the Washington office of the A.T.C. was being used as a front for criminal activity.

Sibel and Matthew stood at the window of their oak-paneled hallway and watched the Dickersons leave. Sibel’s Sunday has been ruined.

Immediately and in the weeks that followed, Sibel Edmonds tried to persuade her bosses to investigate the Dickersons. There was more to her suspicions than their peculiar Sunday visit. According to the documents filed by Edmonds’s lawyers, Sibel believed Melek Can Dickerson had leaked information to one or more targets of an F.B.I. investigation, and had tried to prevent Edmonds from listening to wiretaps of F.B.I. targets herself.

But instead of carrying out a thorough investigation of her allegations, at the end of March 2002 the F.B.I. fired Edmonds.

Edmonds is not the first avowed national security whistle-blower to suffer retaliation at the hands of a government bureaucracy that feels threatened or embarrassed. But being fired is one thing. Edmonds has also been prevented from proceeding with her court challenge or even speaking with complete freedom about the case.

On top of the usual prohibition against disclosing classified information, the Bush administration has smothered her case beneath the all-encompassing blanket of the “state-secrets privilege”—a Draconian and rarely used legal weapon that allows the government, merely by asserting a risk to national security, to prevent the lawsuits Edmonds has filed contesting her treatment from

being heard in court at all. According to the Department of Justice, to allow Edmonds her day in court, even at a closed hearing attended only by personnel with full security clearance, “could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the foreign policy and national security of the United States.”

Using the state-secrets privilege in this fashion is unusual, says Edmonds’s attorney Ann Beeson, of the American Civil Liberties Union. “It also begs the question: Just what in the world is the government trying to hide?”

It may be more than another embarrassing security scandal. One counter-intelligence official familiar with Edmonds’s case has told Vanity Fair that the F.B.I. opened an investigation into covert activities by Turkish nationals in the late 1990’s. That inquiry found evidence, mainly via wiretaps, of attempts to corrupt senior American politicians in at least two major cities—Washington and Chicago. Toward the end of 2001, Edmonds was asked to translate some of the thousands of calls that had been recorded by this operation, some dating back to 1997.

Edmonds has given confidential testimony inside a secure Sensitive Compartmented Information facility on several occasions: to congressional staffers, to investigators from the O.I.G., and to the staff from the 9/11 commission. Sources familiar with this testimony say that, in addition to her allegations about the Dickersons, she reported hearing Turkish wiretap targets boast that they had a covert relationship with a very senior politician indeed—Dennis Hastert, Republican congressman from Illinois and Speaker of the House since 1999. The targets reportedly discussed giving Hastert tens of thousands of dollars in surreptitious payments in exchange for political favors and information. “The Dickersons,” says one official familiar with the case, “are only the tip of the iceberg.”

It’s safe to say that Edmonds inherited her fearless obstinacy from her father, Rasim Deniz, who died in 2000. Born in the Tabriz region of northwestern Iran, many of whose natives speak Farsi (Persian), Turkish, and Azerbaijani, he was one of the Middle East’s leading reconstructive surgeons, but his forthright liberal and secular opinions brought him into a series of conflicts with the local regimes. One of Sibel’s earliest memories is of a search of her family’s house in Tehran by members of SAVAK, the Shah’s secret police, who were looking for left-wing books. Later, in 1981, came a terrifying evening after the Ayatollah Khomeini’s Islamist revolution, when Sibel was 11. She was waiting in the car while her father went into a restaurant for takeout. By the time Deniz returned, his vehicle had been boxed in by government S.U.V.’s and Sibel was surrounded by black-clad revolutionary guards, who announced they were taking her to jail because her headscarf was insufficiently modest.

“My father showed his ID and asked them, ‘Do you know who I am?’” Sibel says. “He had been doing pro bono work in the slums of south Tehran for years, and now it was the height of the Iran-Iraq war. He told them, ‘I have treated so many of your brothers. If you take my daughter, next time I have one in my operating room who needs an amputation at the wrist, I will cut his arm off at the shoulder.’ They let me go.”

It was time to get out. As soon as he could, Deniz abandoned his property and his post as head of the burn center at one of Tehran’s most prestigious hospitals, and the family fled to Turkey.

When Sibel was 17, she wrote a paper for a high-school competition. Her chosen subject was Turkey's censorship laws, and why it was wrong to ban books and jail dissident writers. Her principal was outraged, she says, and asked her father to get her to write something else. Denis refused, but the incident caused a family crisis. "My uncle was mayor of Istanbul, and suddenly my essay was being discussed in an emergency meeting of the whole Deniz tribe. My dad was the only one who supported what I'd done. That was the last straw for me. I decided to take a break and go to the United States. I came here and fell in love with a lot of things—freedom. Now I wonder: was it just an illusion?"

Sibel enrolled at a college in Maryland, where she studied English and hotel management; later, she received bachelor's degrees at George Washington University in criminal justice and psychology, and worked with juvenile offenders. In 1992, at age 22, she had married Matthew Edmonds, a divorced retail-technology consultant who had lived in Virginia all his life.

For a long time, they lived an idyllic, carefree life. They bought their house in Alexandria, and Sibel transformed it into an airy spacious haven, with marble floors, a library, and breathtaking views across the Potomac River to Washington. Matthew had always wanted to visit Russia, and at Sibel's suggestion they spent three months in St. Petersburg, working with a children's hospital charity run by the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. Sibel's family visited America often, and she and Matthew spent their summers at a cottage they had bought in Bodrum, Turkey, on the Aegean coast.

"People said we wouldn't last two years," Sibel says, "And here we still are, nearly 13 years on. A lot of people who go through the kind of experiences I've had find they put a huge strain on their marriage. Matthew is my rock. I couldn't have done it without him."

In 1978, when Sibel was eight and the Islamists' violent prelude to the Iranian revolution was just beginning, a bomb went off in a movie theater next to her elementary school. "I can remember sitting in the car, seeing the rescuers pulling charred bodies and stumps out of the fire. Then, on September 11, to see this thing happening here, across the ocean—it brought it all back. They put out a call for translators, and I thought, Maybe I can stop this from happening again."

The translation department Edmonds joined was housed in a huge, L-shaped room in the F.B.I.'s Washington field office. Some 200 to 300 translators sat in this vast, open space, listening with headphones to digitally recorded wiretaps. The job carried heavy responsibilities. "You are the front line," Edmonds says. "You are the filter for every piece of intelligence which comes in foreign languages. It's down to you to decide what's important—'pertinent,' as the F.B.I. calls it, and what's not. You decide what requires verbatim translation, what can be summarized, and what should be marked 'not pertinent' and left alone. By the time this material reaches the agents and analysts, you've already decided what they're going to get." To get this right requires a broad background of cultural and political knowledge: "If you're simply a linguist, you won't be able to discern these differences."

She was surprised to discover that until her arrival the F.B.I. had employed no Turkish-language specialists at all. In early October she was joined by a second Turkish translator, who had been hired despite his having failed language-proficiency tests.

Several weeks later, a third Turkish speaker joined the department: Melek Can Dickerson. In her application for the job, she wrote that she had not previously worked in America. In fact, however, she had spent two years as an intern at an organization that figured in many of the wiretaps—the American-Turkish Council.

Much later, after Edmonds was fired, the F.B.I. gave briefings to the House and Senate. One source who was present says bureau officials admitted that Dickerson had concealed her history with the A.T.C., not only in writing but also when interviewed as part of her background security check. In addition, the officials conceded that Dickerson began a friendship at the A.T.C. with one of the F.B.I.'s targets. "They confirmed that when she was supposed to be listening to his calls," says one congressional source. "To me, that was like asking a friend of a mobster to listen to him ordering hits. She might have an allegiance problem. But they seemed not to get it...They blew off their friendship as 'just a social thing.' They told us 'They had been colleagues at work, after all.'"

Shortly after the house visit from the Dickersons, Sibel conveyed her version of the event to her supervisor, Mike Feghali—first orally and then in writing. The "supervisory language specialist" responsible for linguists working in several Middle Eastern languages, Feghali is a Lebanese-American who had previously been an F.B.I. Arabic translator for many years. Edmonds says he told her not to worry.

To monitor every call on every line at a large institution such as the Turkish Embassy in Washington would not be feasible. Inevitably, the F.B.I. listens more carefully to phones used by its targets, such as the Dickersons' purported friend. In the past, the assignment of lines to each translator has always been random: Edmonds might have found herself listening to a potentially significant conversation by a counter-intelligence target one minute and an innocuous discussion about some diplomatic party the next. Now, however, according to Edmonds, Dickerson suggested changing this system, so that each Turkish speaker would be permanently responsible for certain lines. She produced a list of names and numbers, together with her proposals for dividing them up. As Edmonds would later tell her F.B.I. bosses and congressional investigators, Dickerson had assigned the American-Turkish Council and three other "high-value" diplomatic targets, including her friend, to herself.

Edmonds found this arrangement very questionable. But she says that Dickerson spent a large part of that afternoon talking with Feghali inside his office. The next day he announced in an e-mail that he had decided to assign the Turkish wiretaps on exactly the basis recommended by Dickerson.

Like all his translators, Edmonds was effectively working with two, parallel lines of management: Feghali and the senior translation-department bosses above him, on one hand, and, on the other, the investigators and agents who actually used the material she translated. Early in the new year, 2002, Edmonds says, she discovered that Dennis Saccher, the F.B.I.'s special agent in charge of Turkish counter-intelligence, had developed his own, quite separate concerns about Dickerson.

On the morning of January 14, Sibel says, Saccher asked Edmonds to come into his cramped cubicle on the fifth floor. On his desk were printouts from the F.B.I. language-department database. They showed that on numerous occasions

Dickerson had marked calls involving her friend and other counter-intelligence targets as “not pertinent,” or had submitted only brief summaries stating that they contained nothing of interest. Some of these calls had a duration of more than 15 minutes. Saccher asked Edmonds why she was no longer working on these targets’ conversations. She explained the new division of labor, and went on to tell him about the Dickersons’ visit the previous month. Saccher was appalled, Edmonds says, telling her, “It sounds like espionage to me.”

Saccher asked Edmonds and a colleague, Kevin Taskasen, to go back into the F.B.I.’s digital wiretap archive and listen to some of the calls that Dickerson had marked “not pertinent,” and to re-translate as many as they could. Saccher suggested that they all meet with Feghali in a conference room on Friday, February 1. First, however, Edmonds and Taskasen should go to Saccher’s office for a short pre-meeting—to review their findings and to discuss how to handle Feghali.

Edmonds had time to listen to numerous calls before the Friday meeting, and some of them sounded important. According to her later secure testimony, in one conversation, recorded shortly after Dickerson reserved the targets’ calls for herself, a Turkish official spoke directly to a U.S. State Department staffer. They suggested that the State Department staffer would send a representative at an appointed time to the American-Turkish Council office, at 1111 14th St. NW, where he would be given \$7,000 in cash. “She told us she’d heard mention of exchanges of information, dead drops—that kind of thing,” a congressional source says. “It was mostly money in exchange for secrets.” (A spokesperson for the A.T.C. denies that the organization has ever been involved in espionage or illegal payments. And a spokesperson for the Assembly of Turkish American Associations said that to suggest the group was involved with espionage or illegal payments is “ridiculous.”)

Another call allegedly discussed a payment to a Pentagon official, who seemed to be involved in weapons-procurement negotiations. Yet another implied that Turkish groups had been installing doctoral students at U.S. research institutions in order to acquire information about black market nuclear weapons. In fact, much of what Edmonds reportedly heard seemed to concern not state espionage but criminal activity. There was talk, she told investigators, of laundering the profits of large-scale drug deals and of selling classified military technologies to the highest bidder.

Before entering the F.B.I. building for their Friday meeting with Saccher, Edmonds and Taskasen stood for a while on the sidewalk, smoking cigarettes. “Afterwards, we went directly to Saccher’s office,” Edmonds says. “We talked for a little while, and he said he’d see us downstairs for the meeting with Feghali a few minutes later, at nine A.M.” They were barely out of the elevator when Feghali intercepted them. He didn’t know they had just come from Saccher’s office.

“Come on, we’re going to start the meeting,” he said. “By the way, Dennis Saccher can’t be there. He’s been sent out somewhere in the field.” Later, Edmonds says, she called Saccher on the internal phone. “Why the hell did you cancel?” she asked. Bewildered, he told her that immediately after she and Taskasen had left his office Feghali phoned him, saying that the conference room was already in use, and that the meeting would have to be postponed.

Edmonds says Saccher also told her that he had been ordered not to touch the case

by his own superiors, who called it a “can of worms.” Despite his role as special agent in charge of Turkish counter-intelligence, he had even been forbidden to obtain copies of her translations. Saccher had two small children and a settled life in Washington. If he dared to complain, Edmonds says, he risked being assigned “to some fucked-up office in the land of tornadoes.”

Instead, Edmonds was ushered into the windowless office of Feghali’s colleague, translation-department supervisor Stephanie Bryan. Investigating possible espionage was not a task for which Bryan had been trained or equipped.

Bryan heard Edmonds out and told her to set down her allegations in a confidential memo. Edmonds says that Bryan approved of her writing it at home. Edmonds gave the document to Bryan on Monday, February 11. Early the following afternoon, the supervisor summoned Edmonds. Waiting in a nearby office were two other people, Feghali and Melek Can Dickerson. In front of them were Edmonds’s translations of the wiretaps and her memo.

“Stephanie said that she’d taken my memo to the supervisory special agent, Tom Frields,” Edmonds says. “He apparently wouldn’t even look at it until Mike Feghali and Dickerson and seen it and been given a chance to comment. Stephanie said that, working for the government, there were certain things you didn’t do, and criticizing your colleagues’ work was one of them.

She told me, ‘Do you realize what this means? If you were right, the people who did the background checks would have to be investigated. The whole translation department could be shaken up!’ Meanwhile, I was going to be investigated for a possible security breach—for putting classified information on my home computer. I was told to go the security department at three P.M.”

Before Edmonds left, Dickerson had time to sidle over to her desk. According to Edmonds, she made what sounded like a threat: “Why are you doing this, Sibel? Why don’t you just drop it? You know there could be serious consequences. Why put your family in Turkey in danger over this?”

Edmonds says the F.B.I.’s response to her was beginning to shift from indifference to outright retaliation. On February 13, the day after her interview with the bureau security office, three agents came to her home and seized the computer she shared with her husband. “I hadn’t had time to back up the data, and I told them that most of my business was on that computer, Matthew Edmonds says.

“An agent called the next morning,” Matthew says. “He told me, ‘Everything on your computer is destroyed, and we didn’t back it up.’ They were playing games. When I got the computer back, they had wiped out everything. Four days later, I got a CD-ROM with it all backed up.”

A lifelong conservative Republican, Matthew was being shocked into changing his worldview. I was so naïve. I mean, what do you do if you think your colleague might be a spy? You go to the F.B.I.! I thought if Sibel’s supervisor wasn’t fixing this problem she should go to his superior, and so on up the chain. Someone would eventually fix it. I was never a cynical person. I am now.”

While the agents were examining the Edmondses’ computer, Mike Feghali was writing a memo for his own managers, stating “there was no basis” for Sibel’s allegations. A day earlier, an F.B.I. security officer had interviewed Dickerson. A

report issued by the O.I.G. in January 2005 states, “The Security Officer did not challenge the co-worker [Dickerson] with respect to any information the co-worker provided, although that information was not consistent with F.B.I. records. In addition...he did not review other crucial F.B.I. records, which would have supported some of Edmonds’ allegations.” Instead, he treated her claims as “performance issues,” and “seemed not to appreciate or investigate the allegation that a co-worker may have been committing espionage.”

According to a congressional source, the fact that Edmonds was a mere contract linguist, rather than an agent, made her claims less palatable. “They seemed to be saying, ‘We don’t need someone like this making trouble,’” the source says. “Yet, to her credit, she really did go up through the chain of command: to her boss, his boss, and so on.”

Edmonds reached the top of the language-section management on February 22, when she met with supervisory special agent Tom Fields, a gray-haired veteran who was approaching the end of a long bureau career. At first it seemed he was trying to set her mind at rest: “He told me, I just want to assure you that everything is fine, and as far as you’re concerned, your work on this matter is done,” Edmonds says. “I told him, ‘No, it’s not fine. My family is worried about possible threats to their safety in Turkey.’ His face went through a transformation. He warned me that these issues were classified at the highest level and must not be disclosed to anyone. He started to interrogate me: Who had I told? He said if it was anyone unauthorized he could have me arrested.”

Edmonds’s meeting with Fields on the 22nd was probably her last chance to save her job. The inspector general’s 2005 report disclosed, “Immediately after the meeting, [Fields] began to explore whether the F.B.I. had the option to cease using Edmonds as a contract linguist.”

Four days later the bureau’s contracting unit told him, “If it was determined that [she] was unsuitable, the F.B.I. would have sufficient reason to terminate her contract.” Stymied by Fields, Edmonds tried to go still higher, and on March 7 she was granted an audience with James Caruso, the F.B.I.’s deputy assistant director for counterterrorism and counter-intelligence. Edmonds says he listened politely for more than an hour but took no notes and asked no questions. Afterward, Matthew picked her up and they drove to the Capital Grille for an early lunch.

It was only 11:30 and the restaurant was still empty, but as the Edmondses began to study their menus, they saw two men in suits pull up outside in an F.B.I.-issue S.U.V. They came inside and sat down at the next table.

“They just sat and stared at Sibel,” Matthew says. “They took out their cell phones, opened them, and put them on the table. They didn’t eat or drink—just sat, staring at Sibel, the whole time we were there.” Modified cell phones, Sibel knew, are commonly used by bureau agents as a means of making covert recordings.

That afternoon, Sibel wrote to two official bodies with powers to investigate the F.B.I.—the Justice Department’s internal affairs division, known as the Office of Professional Responsibility, and its independent watchdog, the O.I.G. She went on to send faxes to the Senate Intelligence Committee and Senators Charles Grassley, Republican from Iowa, and Patrick Leahy, Democrat from Vermont, both of

whom sit on the Senate Judiciary Committee, to say that she had found evidence of possible national-security breaches.

On March 8, Sibel appeared at a dingy little office in Washington's China Town, where she was polygraphed. According to the 2005 inspector general's report, the purpose of this examination was to discover whether she had made unauthorized disclosures of classified information. "She was not deceptive in her answers," the O.I.G. reported.

Dickerson was polygraphed two weeks later, on March 21, and she too was deemed to have passed. But, according to an official cited in the report, the questions she was asked were vague and unspecific. "The polygraph unit chief admitted that questions directly on point could have been asked but were not." Nevertheless, then and for a long time afterward, "the FBI continued to rely on the [Dickerson] polygraph as support for its position that Edmonds' allegations were unfounded."

Dickerson's polygraph test, however unsatisfactory, seems to have sealed Edmonds' fate at the FBI. The following afternoon, she was asked to wait in Stephanie Bryan's office. "Feghali saw me sitting there and leaned across the doorway," Edmonds says. "He tapped his watch and said, 'In less than an hour you will be fired, you whore.'" A few minutes later, she was summoned to a meeting with Fields. They were joined by Bryan and George Stukenbroeker, the chief of personal security and the man in charge of investigating her case. Edmonds had violated every security rule in the book, Stukenbroeker said.

A hulking security guard arrived to help escort her from the building. Edmonds asked if she could return to her desk to retrieve some photos, including shots of her late father of which she had no copies. Bryan refused, saying, "You'll never set foot in the FBI again."

Bryan promised to forward them, says Edmonds, who never got the photos back. Edmonds looked at Fields. "You are only making your wrongdoing worse, and my case stronger. I will see you very soon," she told him. According to Edmonds, Fields replied, "Soon maybe, but it will be in jail. I'll see you in jail." (When interviewed by the O.I.G., Fields and another witness denied making this comment.)

Matthew was waiting outside. "I'm not a crybaby," Sibel says. "But as I got into my husband's car that afternoon, I was in floods, shaking.

As soon as she returned home from the February meeting where Dickerson allegedly cautioned her not to endanger her family in Turkey, Sibel called her mother and sister in Istanbul, even though it was the middle of the night there. Sibel is the oldest of three sisters. The youngest was studying in America and living with the Edmondses in Alexandria, but the middle sister – whose name Edmonds wishes to protect – was enjoying a successful career at an international travel company based in Istanbul. The 29-year-old was also engaged to be married. Within days of receiving Sibel's call, she flew with her mother to Washington.

Early in April, Sibel and Matthew were having lunch in their favorite Thai restaurant in Old Town Alexandria – a precious chance, with their house now fully occupied with Sibel's family, to share a private moment together. "My

phone rang," Sibel says. "It was my middle sister. She said something really bad had happened and I must come back at once."

The sister's Istanbul neighbor had just phoned, saying that two policemen had knocked on her door, asking for the sister's whereabouts. They would not disclose the reason, saying only that it was an "intelligence matter." They also left a document. Sent by Tevfik Asici of the Atakoy Branch Police Station and dated April 11, it was addressed to Sibel's sister and read, "For an important issue deposition/interrogation is required. If you do not report to the station within 5 days, between 09:00 and 17:00, as is required by Turkish law CMK.132, you will be taken/arrested by force."

In July 2002, with a written recommendation from Senator Grassley, Sibel's sister requested political asylum in the United States. Her application statement cited the threat allegedly made by Dickerson, adding that Sibel would be considered "a spy and a traitor to Turkey under Turkish law, and the Turkish police will use me to get at her. Turkish police are known for using cruelty and torture during interrogation; subjects are kept without advice to family members and often disappear with no trace." Estranged from Sibel, the sister remains in America, unable to go home.

Edmonds did what numerous avowed whistleblowers had done before: she appealed to congress, and she got a lawyer – David Colapinto of the Washington firm of Kohn, Kohn and Calapinto, which advertises itself on its Web site as specializing in cases of this kind. He filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act for full disclosure of what happened inside the bureau, and submitted a claim for damages for the violation of Edmonds's constitutional rights. By August he was ready to depose Douglas Can Dickerson. But before their scheduled deposition, the couple abruptly left the country. Douglas had been assigned to an air-force job in Belgium. Virgil Magee, a U.S. Air Force spokesman in Belgium, confirms that Dickerson remains on active duty in Europe, but refuses to say exactly where.

That fall, Attorney General John Ashcroft tried to wipe out Edmonds's legal action by invoking the state secrets privilege. This recourse, derived from English common law, has never been the subject of any congressional vote or statute. Normally, says Ann Beeson of the A.C.L.U., it is used by the government when it wants to resist the legal "discovery" in court of a specific piece of evidence that it fears might harm national security if publicized. But in Edmonds case Ashcroft argued that the very subject of her lawsuit was a state secret. To air her claims in front of federal judges would jeopardize national security.

This, Beeson says, had distinct advantages for the F.B.I. and the Department of Justice: it meant they did not have to contest the merits of her claims. Moreover, the substance of the arguments they used to justify this level of secrecy was and is secret itself. The full version of Ashcroft's declaration invoking the privilege, filed on October 18, 2002, was classified, and in the public case for blocking Edmonds's action rested on the mere assertion that it would be damaging to proceed. Later, in 2004, the law firm of Motley Rice sought to depose her for a pending case on behalf of the families of 9/11 victims. Immediately, Ashcroft asserted the privilege again. Motley Rice submitted a list of questions it wanted to ask Edmonds, almost all of which were prohibited. Among them: "When and where were you born?," "What languages do you speak?," and "Where did you go to school?"

Edmonds still wanted to fight, and to challenge Ashcroft in court. But over the next few months, the relationship with her lawyers began to suffer. "Let's face it, taking on the D.O.J. is no joke, especially in Washington," Edmonds says.

It was the absolute low point. I tried to find another firm," she says, "but as soon as I mentioned the state-secrets privilege, it was like, 'Turn around, go back, and by the way the clock is running at \$450 an hour.' I must have been turned away by 20 firms."

The Dickersons, the Justice Department, and the F.B.I. and its relevant personnel declined to comment for this article. In August 2002, Melek Can Dickerson told the Chicago Tribune, "both the F.B.I. and the Department of Justice have conducted separate investigations of [Edmonds's] claims.... They fired her and, interestingly, they continued my contract."

In September 2002, Colonel James Worth of the Office of the Air Force Inspector General said that, in response to a letter from Edmonds, there had been a "complete and thorough review of Major [Douglas] Dickerson's relationship with the American-Turkish Council" that found "no evidence of any deviation from the scope of his duties." Edmonds says she was not interviewed by those conducting the review.

Edmonds' treatment by the F.B.I. seems to fit two baleful patterns: the first is the bureau's refusal to address potentially disastrous internal-security flaws; the second is a general tendency among national-security agencies to retaliate against whistle-blowers.

John Cole, Another Truth-teller Targeted

Amid the lush greenery of his parents' garden in Plattsmouth, Nebraska; former F.B.I. senior intelligence-operations specialist John Cole describes how these institutional inclinations combined to destroy his career. Now 44, Cole joined the F.B.I. in 1985. By the late 1990's, he was running undercover operations in the Washington area, focusing on counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence. Later, while playing a key role in the 9/11 investigation, he became the F.B.I.'s national counter-intelligence program manager for India, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Early in the fall of 2001, Cole was asked to assess whether a woman who had applied to work as a translator of Urdu, Pakistan's national language, might pose a risk to security. "The personnel security officer said she thought there was something that didn't seem right," Cole says. "I went through the file, and it stuck out a mile: she was the daughter of a retired Pakistani general who had been their military attaché in Washington." He adds that, to his knowledge, "Every single military attaché they've ever assigned has been a known intelligence officer."

After September 11, this association looked especially risky. The Pakistani intelligence service had trained and supported the Taliban in Afghanistan, and still contained elements who were far from happy with President Pervez Musharraf's pro-American policies. Cole gave his findings to the security officer. "Well done," she said. "You've found it."

A week later, she called Cole again, to say that the woman had started work that morning with a top-secret security clearance.

F.B.I. director Robert Mueller had promised Congress that the bureau would hire lots of new Middle Eastern linguists, and normal procedures had been short-circuited as a result. As of July 2005, the woman was still a bureau translator. Sibel Edmonds said she remembers her well — as the leader of a group that pressed for separate restrooms for Muslims.

Cole says the incident was only one of several that caused him to doubt the quality and security of the FBI's counterterrorism efforts, and, like Edmonds, he says he tried to fix the problems he saw by going up the chain of command. Getting rid of an agent of his stature was a lot more difficult than firing a contract linguist.

Cole says the retaliation began when, after years of glowing reports, his annual appraisal found his work in one area to be "minimally acceptable." Next, he was placed under investigation by the Office of Professional Responsibility, first on a charge that he lied on a routine background check, and then, after he had disclosed classified information without authorization. Finally, he was demoted to menial roles: "They literally had me doing the Xeroxing." Bitterly disillusioned, he says, he resigned in March 2004.

"According to the terms of our employment, whistle-blowing is an obligation," Cole says, "We sign a piece of paper every year saying we will report any mismanagement or evidence of a possible crime. But the management's schtick is that if you draw attention to the bureau's shortcomings you're disgracing it.

Mike German

Cole is one of about 50 current and former members of the FBI, C.I.A., National Security Agency, and other bodies who have made contact recently with Sibel Edmonds. Another is Mike German, one of the bravest and most successful counterterrorism agents in the bureau's history, who penetrated a neo-Nazi gang in Los Angeles and a militia group in Seattle and brought them to justice.

German made his bed of nails in 2002 when he was asked to get involved in an investigation into a suspected cell of Islamist terrorists. "I came down and reviewed the case, and it was a complete mess," he says. "There were violations of FBI policy and violations of the law. As someone who had been through successful terrorism prosecutions, I knew you couldn't afford to make mistakes."

Like Cole, German says he thought himself obliged to report what was going wrong, not to penalize other agents but in the hope of putting it right. "I thought the bureau would do the right thing: that the case would get back on track, and we'd get the opportunity to take action against the bad guys involved." Instead, he says, he faced the familiar litany of escalating retaliation — including an internal investigation of his own work on the terrorist cell case. "Bear in mind that only a handful of people have ever infiltrated terrorist groups," German says. "You'd think that after 9/11 they might have been interested in that. But word came back to me that I'd never get a counterterrorism case again." He resigned from the bureau in June 2004.

Russ Tice

As I talked to whistle-blowers, I had the impression that those treated the worst were among the brightest and best. There could be no clearer example than Russ Tice, and 18-year intelligence veteran who has worked for the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency (D.I.A.) and American's eavesdroppers, the National Security Agency. "I dealt with super-sensitive stuff," he says. "I obviously can't talk about it, but I had operational roles in both Afghanistan and Iraq."

It was at D.I.A. in the spring of 2001 that he wrote a report setting down his suspicions about a junior colleague, a Chinese-American who Tice says was living a lavish lifestyle beyond her apparent means. Although she was supposed to be working on a doctorate, he noticed her repeatedly in the office, late at night, reading classified material on an agency computer. "It's not like I obsessed over the issue," Tice says. "I did my job, and then 9/11 happened, and I was a very busy boy."

He moved to the N.S.A. toward the end of 2002. The trigger for his downfall the following April was the arrest of Katrina Leung; the F.B.I. informant accused of spying for China while having an affair with a bureau agent. It prompted Tice to send a classified e-mail to the D.I.A. security section, commenting that the Leung case showed that the F.B.I. was "incompetent." The implication was that the D.I.A. could prove it's competence by fully investigating the junior colleague.

Tice, a big, powerful man with a forthright manner, has to pause to control his emotions when he describes what happened as a consequence. "I was sent for an emergency psychiatric evaluation. I took all the computer tests and passed them with flying colors. But then the shrink says he believes I'm unbalanced. Later he said I'm suffering from "paranoid ideation." He was examined by an independent psychiatrist, who "found no evidence of mental disorder." But he had already been denied access to secure places at N.S.A. As a result, this highly commended technical-espionage expert was put to work in the N.S.A.'s motor pool, "wiping snow off cars, vacuuming them, and driving people around. People looked at me like I had bubonic plague." (The D.I.A. did not respond to a request for comment, and an agency spokesperson said the agency does not discuss personnel matters.)

After about eight months of this purgatory, apparently an attempt to persuade him to resign, he was placed on "administrative leave." Like other whistle-blowers, he tried to redress his treatment. In August 2004, Tice wrote letters to members of the House and Senate.

Six days later, the N.S.A. began the formal process which would lead to his getting fired, and to having his clearance revoked permanently. "What happened to me was total Stalin-era tactics," he says. "Everyone I know or ever worked with says I'm perfectly sane. Yet I just don't know what to do next. I've been in intelligence all my life, but without a security clearance, I can't practice my trade."

Echoing Cole and German, one of the congressional staffers who heard Edmonds's secure testimony likens the FBI to a family, "and you don't take your problems outside it. They think they're the best law enforcement agency in the world, that they're beyond criticism and beyond reproach." To an outside

observer that ethos alone might explain the use of the state secrets privilege against Edmonds. But, the staffer adds, some of the wiretaps she said she translated “mentioned government officials.”

Here may lie an entirely different dimension to her case. Vanity Fair has established that around the time the Dickersons visited the Edmondses, in December 2001, Joel Robertz, an F.B.I. special agent in Chicago, contacted Sibel and asked her to review some wiretaps. Some were several years old, others more recent; all had been generated by a counter-intelligence [operation] that had its start in 1997. “It began in D.C.,” says an F.B.I. counter-intelligence official who is familiar with the case file. “It became apparent that Chicago was actually the center of what was going on.”

Its subject was explosive; what sounded like attempts to bribe elected members of Congress, both Democrat and Republican. “There was pressure within the bureau for a special prosecutor to be appointed and take the case on,” the official says. Instead, his colleagues were told to alter the thrust of their investigation – away from elected politicians and toward appointed officials. “This is the reason why Ashcroft reacted to Sibel in such an extreme fashion,” he says. “It was to keep this from coming out.”

In her secure testimony, Edmonds disclosed some of what she recalled hearing. In all, says a source who was present, she managed to listen to more than 40 of the Chicago recordings supplied by Robertz. Many involved an F.B.I. target at the city’s large Turkish Consulate, as well as members of the American-Turkish Consulate, as well as members of the American-Turkish Council and the Assembly of Turkish American Associates.

Some of the calls reportedly contained what sounded like references to large scale drug shipments and other crimes. To a person who knew nothing about their context, the details were confusing and it wasn’t always clear what might be significant. One name, however, apparently stood out — a man the Turkish callers often referred to by the nickname “Denny boy.” It was the Republican congressman from Illinois and Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert.

[NOTE: Sixteen months after the publication of this article, Hastert -- his credibility badly damaged by revelations that he had for years harbored knowledge and done nothing to stop Representative Mark (Protect Our Children) Foley’s predatory sexual relations with a long list of young house pages -- stepped down rather than seek to continue leading his party after the midterm elections.]

According to some of the wiretaps, the F.B.I.’s targets had arranged for tens of thousands of dollars to be paid to Hastert’s campaign funds in small checks. Under Federal Election Commission rules, donations of less than \$200 are not required to be itemized in public filings.

Hastert himself was never heard in the recordings, Edmonds told investigators, and it is possible that the claims of covert payments were hollow boasts. Nevertheless, an examination of Hastert’s federal filings shows that the level of un-itemized payments his campaigns received over many years was relatively high. Between April 1996 and December 2002, un-itemized personal donations to the Hastert for Congress Committee amounted to \$483,000. In contrast, un-itemized contributions in the same period to the committee run on behalf of the House majority leader, Tom Delay, Republican of Texas, were only \$99,000. An

analysis of the filings of four other senior Republicans shows that only one, Clay Shaw of Florida, declared a higher total in un-itemized donations than Hastert over the same period: \$552,000. The other three declared far less. Energy and Commerce Committee chairman Joe Barton, of Texas, claimed \$265,000; Armed Services Committee chairman Duncan Hunter, of California, got \$212,000; and Ways and Means Committee chairman Bill Thomas, of California, recorded \$110,000.

Edmonds reportedly added that the recordings also contained repeated references to Hastert's flip-flop, in the fall of 2000, over an issue which remains of intense concern to the Turkish government – the continuing campaign to have Congress designate the killings of Armenians in Turkey between 1915 and 1923 a genocide. For many years, attempts had been made to get the house to pass a genocide resolution, but they never got anywhere until August 2000, when Hastert, as Speaker, announced that he would give it his backing and see that it received a full house vote. He had a clear political reason, as analysts noted at the time: a California Republican incumbent, locked in a tight congressional race, was looking to win over his district's large Armenian community. Thanks to Hastert, the resolution, vehemently opposed by the Turks, passed the International Relations Committee by a large majority. Then, on October 19, minutes before the full House vote, Hastert withdrew it.

At the time, he explained his decision by saying that he had received a letter from President Clinton arguing that the genocide resolution, if passed, would harm U.S. interests. Again, the reported content of the Chicago wiretaps may well have been sheer bravado, and there is no evidence that any payment was ever made to Hastert or his campaign. Nevertheless, a senior official at the Turkish Consulate is said to have claimed in one recording that the price for Hastert to withdraw the resolution would have been at least \$500,000.

Hastert's spokesman says the congressman withdrew the genocide resolution only because of the approach from Clinton, "and to insinuate anything else just doesn't make any sense." He adds that Hastert has no affiliation with the A.T.C. or other groups reportedly mentioned in the wiretaps: "He does not know these organizations." Hastert is "unaware of Turkish interests making donations," the spokesman says, and his staff has "not seen any pattern of donors with foreign names."

For more than years after Edmonds was fired, the Office of the Inspector General's inquiry ground on. At last, in July 2004, its report was completed – and promptly labeled classified at the behest of the F.B.I. It took months of further pressure before a redacted, unclassified version was finally issued, in January 2005. It seemed to provide stunning vindication of Edmond's credibility.

"Many of Edmonds' core allegations relating to the co-worker [Melek Can Dickerson] were supported by either documentary evidence or witnesses," the report said. "We believe that the F.B.I. should have investigated the allegations more thoroughly."

The F.B.I. had justified firing Edmonds on the grounds that she had a "disruptive effect," the report went on. However, "this disruption related primarily to Edmonds' aggressive pursuit of her allegations of misconduct, which the F.B.I. did not believe were supported and which it did not adequately investigate. In fact, as we described throughout our report, many of her allegations had basis in

fact," the report read. "We believe ... that the F.B.I. did not take them seriously enough, and that her allegations were, in fact, the most significant factor in the F.B.I.'s decision to terminate her services."

Meanwhile, Edmonds had new lawyers: the A.C.L.U.'s Ann Beeson, who is leading the challenge to the state-secrets privilege, and Mark Zaid, a private attorney who specializes in national-security issues. Zaid has filed a \$10 million tort suit, citing the threats to Edmonds's family, her inability to look after her real-estate and business interests in Turkey, and a series of articles in the Turkish press that have vilified her.

In July 2004, a federal district court had ruled in favor of the government's use of the state-secrets privilege. Like Ashcroft's declaration, its opinion contained no specific facts. Next came a bizarre hearing in the D.C. appeals court in April 2005. The room was cleared of reporters while Beeson spoke for 15 minutes. Then Beeson and Edmonds were also expelled to make way for the Department of Justice lawyers, who addressed the judges in secret. Two weeks later, the court rejected Edmond's appeal, without expanding on the district court's opinion. At press time, she was set to file a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court. If the court agrees to take the case, the government's reasons for its actions may finally be forced into the open; legal experts say the Supreme Court has never allowed secret arguments.

A week after the April appeal hearing, Edmonds gathered more than 30 whistle-blowers from the F.B.I., C.I.A., National Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and other agencies to brief staffers from the House and Senate. Among the whistle-blowers were Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers to the New York Times in 1971, and Coleen Rowley, the F.B.I. agent from Minneapolis who complained that Washington ignored local agents who in August 2001 had raised concerns about a flight student named Zacharias Moussoui, who has since admitted being an al-Qaeda terrorist.

Many of those present had unearthed apparent breaches of national security; many aid their careers had been wrecked as a result. At a press conference after the briefings, Congressman Edward Markey, Democrat of Massachusetts, praised Edmonds and her colleagues as "national heroes," pledging that he would introduce a bill to make it a crime for any agency manager to retaliate against such individuals. Afterward, the whistle-blowers mingled over hors d'oeuvres and explored their common ground and experiences. By July, they are working to formalize their not-for-profit campaign group, the National Security Whistleblowers Coalition. "When they took on Sibel," says Mike German, who is now the coalition's congressional liaison, "they made the wrong woman mad."

"I'm going to keep pushing this as long as I can, but I'm not going to get obsessional," Edmonds says. "There are other things I want to do with my life.

But the day the Iranians tried to arrest me, my father told me, "Sibel, you only live your life once. How do you choose to live? According to your principles, or in fear?"

I have never forgotten those words."

12.38 Plans Underway to Respond to Domestic Nuclear Attack

Bush orders contingency plans for attack on U.S.

From the Washington Post

May 10, 2007

WASHINGTON – President Bush issued a formal national security directive Wednesday ordering agencies to prepare contingency plans for a surprise, “decapitating” attack on the federal government, and assigned responsibility for coordinating such plans to the White House.

The prospect of a nuclear bomb being detonated in Washington without warning, whether smuggled in by terrorists or a foreign government, has been cited by many security analysts as a rising concern since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The order makes explicit that the focus of federal worst-case planning involves a covert nuclear attack against the capital, in contrast with Cold War beliefs that a long-range strike would be preceded by a notice of minutes or hours as missiles were fueled and launched.

“As a result of the asymmetric threat environment, adequate warning of potential emergencies that could pose a significant risk to the homeland might not be available, and therefore all continuity planning shall be based on the assumption that no such warning will be received,” states the 72-paragraph order.

The statement added, “Emphasis will be placed upon geographic dispersion of leadership, staff, and infrastructure in order to increase survivability and maintain uninterrupted Government Functions.”

After the 2001 attacks, Bush assigned about 100 senior civilian managers to secretly rotate to locations outside of Washington for weeks or months at a time to ensure the nation’s survival, a shadow government that evolved based on long-standing “continuity of operations plans.”

Since then, other agencies including the Pentagon, the office of the Director of National Intelligence and CIA have taken steps to relocate facilities or key functions outside of Washington, citing factors such as economics or the importance of avoiding Beltway “group-think.”

www.latimes.com/.../nation/la-na-attack10may10,1,436038.story?track=rss&ctrack=1&cset=true

Contingencies for nuclear terrorist attack

Government working up plan to prevent chaos in wake of bombing

James Sterngold, Chronicle Staff Writer

Friday, May 11, 2007

As concerns grow that terrorists might attack a major American city with a nuclear bomb, a high-level group of government and military officials has been

quietly preparing an emergency survival program that would include the building of bomb shelters, steps to prevent panicked evacuations and the possible suspension of some civil liberties.

Many experts say the likelihood of al Qaeda or some other terrorist group producing a working nuclear weapon with illicitly obtained weapons-grade fuel is not large, but such a strike would be far more lethal, frightening and disruptive than the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Not only could the numbers killed and wounded be far higher, but the explosion could, experts say, ignite widespread fires, shut down most transportation, halt much economic activity and cause a possible disintegration of government order.

The efforts to prepare a detailed blueprint for survival took a step forward last month when senior government and military officials and other experts, organized by a joint Stanford-Harvard program called the Preventive Defense Project, met behind closed doors in Washington for a day-long workshop.

The session, called "The Day After," was premised on the idea that efforts focusing on preventing such a strike were no longer enough, and that the prospect of a collapse of government order was so great if there were an attack that the country needed to begin preparing an emergency program.

One of the participants, retired Vice Adm. Roger Rufe, is a senior official at the Department of Homeland Security who is currently designing the government's nuclear attack response plan.

The organizers of the nonpartisan project, Stanford's William Perry, a secretary of defense in the Clinton administration, and Harvard's Ashton Carter, a senior Defense Department official during the Clinton years, assumed the detonation of a bomb similar in size to the weapon that destroyed Hiroshima in World War II.

Such a weapon, with a force of around 10 to 15 kilotons, is small compared with most Cold War-era warheads, but is roughly the yield of a relatively simple bomb. That would be considerably more powerful and lethal than a so-called dirty bomb, which is a conventional explosive packed with some dangerous radioactive material that would be dispersed by the explosion.

The 41 participants -- including the directors of the country's two nuclear weapons laboratories, Homeland Security officials, a number of top military commanders and former government officials -- discussed how all levels of government ought to respond to protect the country from a second nuclear attack, to limit health problems from the radioactive fallout and to restore civil order. Comments inside the session were confidential, but a number of the participants described their views and the ideas exchanged.

A paper the organizers are writing, summarizing their recommendations, urges local governments and individuals to build underground bomb shelters, much as people did in the early days of the Cold War; encourages authorities who survive to prevent evacuation of at least some of the areas attacked for three days to avoid roadway paralysis and damage from exposure to radioactive fallout; and proposes suspending regulations on radiation exposure so that first responders would be able to act, even if that caused higher cancer rates.

"The public at large will expect that their government had thought through this

possibility and to have planned for it," Carter said in an interview. "This kind of an event would be unprecedented. We have had glimpses of something like this with Hiroshima, and glimpses with 9/11 and with Katrina. But those are only glimpses."

Perhaps the most sobering issue discussed was the possibility of a chaotic, long-term crisis triggered by fears that the attackers might have more bombs. Such uncertainty could sow panic nationwide.

"If one bomb goes off, there are likely to be more to follow," Carter said. "This fact, that nuclear terrorism will appear as a syndrome rather than a single episode, has major consequences." It would, he added, require powerful government intervention to force people to do something many may resist -- staying put.

Fred Ikle, a former Defense Department official in the Reagan administration who authored a book last year urging attack preparation, "Annihilation from Within," said that the government should plan how it could restrict civil liberties and enforce a sort of martial law in the aftermath of a nuclear attack, but also have guidelines for how those liberties could be restored later.

That prospect underscored a central divide among participants at the recent meeting, several said.

Some participants argued that the federal government needs to educate first responders and other officials as quickly as possible on how to act even if transportation and communication systems break down, as seems likely, and if the government is unable to issue orders.

"There was a clear consensus that a nuclear bomb detonated in the United States or a friendly country would be an earth-shaking event, and we need to know how we will respond beforehand," said Ikle. "I wish we had started earlier, because this kind of planning can make an important difference."

But others said the meeting made it clear that the results of any attack would be so devastating and the turmoil so difficult to control, if not impossible, that the lesson should have been that the U.S. government needs to place a far greater emphasis on prevention.

"Your cities would empty and people would completely lose confidence in the ability of the government to protect them," said Steve Fetter, dean of the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland. "You'd have nothing that resembles our current social order. I'm not sure any preparation can be sufficient to deal with that."

Fetter added, "We have to hold current policymakers more responsible" for taking all out measures to prevent a nuclear attack.

Raymond Jeanloz, a nuclear weapons expert at UC Berkeley and a government adviser on nuclear issues, said that California might be better prepared than most states because of long-standing plans for dealing with earthquakes and other natural disasters. Those plans, he said, could be a useful model for first responders.

He added, as others did, that the dislocation and panic caused by a nuclear strike

could make any responses unpredictable.

"The most difficult thing is the fear that this kind of planning, even talking about it, can cause," Jeanloz said.

Michael May, a former director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, defended the survival planning, saying that people should get used to the idea that such a crisis, while dire, could be managed -- a key step in restoring calm.

"You have to demystify the nuclear issue," said May, who now teaches at Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation. "By talking about this, you take away the feeling of helplessness."

<http://www.netscape.com/viewstory/2007/05/11/if-terrorists-use-nukes/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sfgate.com%2Fcgi-bin%2Farticle.cgi%3Ff%3D%2Fc%2Fa%2F2007%2F05%2F11%2FTERROR.TMP&frame=true>

Bush To Be Dictator In A Catastrophic Emergency

by Lee Rogers
05-19-2007

The Bush administration has released a directive called the National Security and Homeland Security Presidential Directive. The directive released on May 9th, 2007 has gone almost unnoticed by the mainstream and alternative media. This is understandable considering the huge Ron Paul and immigration news but this story is equally as huge. In this directive, Bush declares that in the event of a "Catastrophic Emergency" the President will be entrusted with leading the activities to ensure constitutional government.

The language in this directive would in effect make the President a dictator in the case of such an emergency.

The directive defines a "Catastrophic Emergency" as the following.

"Catastrophic Emergency" means any incident, regardless of location, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the U.S. population, infrastructure, environment, economy, or government functions;

So what does this mean? This is entirely subjective and doesn't provide any real concrete definition of what such an emergency would entail. Assuming that it means a disaster on the scale of the 9/11 attacks or Katrina, there is no question that the United States at some point in time will experience an emergency on par with either of those events. When one of those events takes place, the President will be a dictator in charge of ensuring a working constitutional government.

The language written in the directive is disturbing because it doesn't say that the President will work with the other branches of government equally to ensure a constitutional government is protected. It says clearly that there will be a cooperative effort among the three branches that will be coordinated by the President. If the President is coordinating these efforts it effectively puts him in charge of every branch.

.....
The directive defines Enduring Constitutional Government as the following.

"Enduring Constitutional Government," or "ECG," means a cooperative effort among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Federal Government, **coordinated by the President**, as a matter of comity with respect to the legislative and judicial branches and with proper respect for the constitutional separation of powers among the branches, to preserve the constitutional framework under which the Nation is governed and the capability of all three branches of government to execute constitutional responsibilities and provide for orderly succession, appropriate transition of leadership, and interoperability and support of the National Essential Functions during a catastrophic emergency;

Further on in the document it states the following.

The President shall lead the activities of the Federal Government for ensuring constitutional government.

.....
The directive itself recognizes that each branch is already responsible for directing their own continuity of government procedures.

If that's the case, then why does the President need to coordinate these procedures for all of the branches?

.....
<http://www.roguegovernment.com/news.php?id=2169>

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT: The Suspension of Democracy

The Presidential Order in Its Entirety

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
May 9, 2007

National Security and Homeland Security Presidential Directive

NATIONAL SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE /NSPD 51

HOMELAND SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE /HSPD-20

Subject: National Continuity Policy

Purpose

(1) This directive establishes a comprehensive national policy on the continuity of Federal Government structures and operations and a single National Continuity Coordinator responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of Federal continuity policies. This policy establishes "National Essential Functions," prescribes continuity requirements for all executive departments and agencies, and provides guidance for State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and private sector organizations in order to ensure a comprehensive and integrated national continuity program that will enhance the credibility of our national

security posture and enable a more rapid and effective response to and recovery from a national emergency.

Definitions

(2) In this directive:

(a) "Category" refers to the categories of executive departments and agencies listed in Annex A to this directive;

(b) "Catastrophic Emergency" means any incident, regardless of location, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the U.S. population, infrastructure, environment, economy, or government functions;

(c) "Continuity of Government," or "COG," means a coordinated effort within the Federal Government's executive branch to ensure that National Essential Functions continue to be performed during a Catastrophic Emergency;

(d) "Continuity of Operations," or "COOP," means an effort within individual executive departments and agencies to ensure that Primary Mission-Essential Functions continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents, and technological or attack-related emergencies;

(e) "Enduring Constitutional Government," or "ECG," means a cooperative effort among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Federal Government, coordinated by the President, as a matter of comity with respect to the legislative and judicial branches and with proper respect for the constitutional separation of powers among the branches, to preserve the constitutional framework under which the Nation is governed and the capability of all three branches of government to execute constitutional responsibilities and provide for orderly succession, appropriate transition of leadership, and interoperability and support of the National Essential Functions during a catastrophic emergency;

(f) "Executive Departments and Agencies" means the executive departments enumerated in 5 U.S.C. 101, independent establishments as defined by 5 U.S.C. 104(1), Government corporations as defined by 5 U.S.C. 103(1), and the United States Postal Service;

(g) "Government Functions" means the collective functions of the heads of executive departments and agencies as defined by statute, regulation, presidential direction, or other legal authority, and the functions of the legislative and judicial branches;

(h) "National Essential Functions," or "NEFs," means that subset of Government Functions that are necessary to lead and sustain the Nation during a catastrophic emergency and that, therefore, must be supported through COOP and COG capabilities; and

(i) "Primary Mission Essential Functions," or "PMEFs," means those Government Functions that must be performed in order to support or implement the performance of NEFs before, during, and in the aftermath of an emergency.

Policy

(3) It is the policy of the United States to maintain a comprehensive and effective continuity capability composed of Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government programs in order to ensure the preservation of our form of government under the Constitution and the continuing performance of National Essential Functions under all conditions.

Implementation Actions

(4) Continuity requirements shall be incorporated into daily operations of all executive departments and agencies. As a result of the asymmetric threat environment, adequate warning of potential emergencies that could pose a significant risk to the homeland might not be available, and therefore all continuity planning shall be based on the assumption that no such warning will be received. Emphasis will be placed upon geographic dispersion of leadership, staff, and infrastructure in order to increase survivability and maintain uninterrupted Government Functions. Risk management principles shall be applied to ensure that appropriate operational readiness decisions are based on the probability of an attack or other incident and its consequences.

(5) The following NEFs are the foundation for all continuity programs and capabilities and represent the overarching responsibilities of the Federal Government to lead and sustain the Nation during a crisis, and therefore sustaining the following NEFs shall be the primary focus of the Federal Government leadership during and in the aftermath of an emergency that adversely affects the performance of Government Functions:

(a) Ensuring the continued functioning of our form of government under the Constitution, including the functioning of the three separate branches of government;

(b) Providing leadership visible to the Nation and the world and maintaining the trust and confidence of the American people;

(c) Defending the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and preventing or interdicting attacks against the United States or its people, property, or interests;

(d) Maintaining and fostering effective relationships with foreign nations;

(e) Protecting against threats to the homeland and bringing to justice perpetrators of crimes or attacks against the United States or its people, property, or interests;

(f) Providing rapid and effective response to and recovery from the domestic consequences of an attack or other incident;

(g) Protecting and stabilizing the Nation's economy and ensuring public confidence in its financial systems; and

(h) Providing for critical Federal Government services that address the national health, safety, and welfare needs of the United States.

(6) The President shall lead the activities of the Federal Government for ensuring constitutional government.

In order to advise and assist the President in that function, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism (APHS/CT) is hereby designated as the National Continuity Coordinator. The National Continuity Coordinator, in coordination with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (APNSA), without exercising directive authority, shall coordinate the development and implementation of continuity policy for executive departments and agencies. The Continuity Policy Coordination Committee (CPCC), chaired by a Senior Director from the Homeland Security Council staff, designated by the National Continuity Coordinator, shall be the main day-to-day forum for such policy coordination.

(7) For continuity purposes, each executive department and agency is assigned to a category in accordance with the nature and characteristics of its national security roles and responsibilities in support of the Federal Government's ability to sustain the NEFs. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall serve as the President's lead agent for coordinating overall continuity operations and activities of executive departments and agencies, and in such role shall perform the responsibilities set forth for the Secretary in sections 10 and 16 of this directive.

(8) The National Continuity Coordinator, in consultation with the heads of appropriate executive departments and agencies, will lead the development of a National Continuity Implementation Plan (Plan), which shall include prioritized goals and objectives, a concept of operations, performance metrics by which to measure continuity readiness, procedures for continuity and incident management activities, and clear direction to executive department and agency continuity coordinators, as well as guidance to promote interoperability of Federal Government continuity programs and procedures with State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and private sector owners and operators of critical infrastructure, as appropriate. The Plan shall be submitted to the President for approval not later than 90 days after the date of this directive.

(9) Recognizing that each branch of the Federal Government is responsible for its own continuity programs, an official designated by the Chief of Staff to the President shall ensure that the executive branch's COOP and COG policies in support of ECG efforts are appropriately coordinated with those of the legislative and judicial branches in order to ensure interoperability and allocate national assets efficiently to maintain a functioning Federal Government.

(10) Federal Government COOP, COG, and ECG plans and operations shall be appropriately integrated with the emergency plans and capabilities of State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and private sector owners and operators of critical infrastructure, as appropriate, in order to promote interoperability and to prevent redundancies and conflicting lines of authority. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall coordinate the integration of Federal continuity plans and operations with State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and private sector owners and operators of critical infrastructure, as appropriate, in order to provide for the delivery of essential services during an emergency.

(11) Continuity requirements for the Executive Office of the President (EOP) and executive departments and agencies shall include the following:

(a) The continuation of the performance of PMEFs during any emergency must be for a period up to 30 days or until normal operations can be resumed, and the capability to be fully operational at alternate sites as soon as possible after the occurrence of an emergency, but not later than 12 hours after COOP activation;

(b) Succession orders and pre-planned devolution of authorities that ensure the emergency delegation of authority must be planned and documented in advance in accordance with applicable law;

(c) Vital resources, facilities, and records must be safeguarded, and official access to them must be provided;

(d) Provision must be made for the acquisition of the resources necessary for continuity operations on an emergency basis;

(e) Provision must be made for the availability and redundancy of critical communications capabilities at alternate sites in order to support connectivity between and among key government leadership, internal elements, other executive departments and agencies, critical partners, and the public;

(f) Provision must be made for reconstitution capabilities that allow for recovery from a catastrophic emergency and resumption of normal operations; and

(g) Provision must be made for the identification, training, and preparedness of personnel capable of relocating to alternate facilities to support the continuation of the performance of PMEFs.

(12) In order to provide a coordinated response to escalating threat levels or actual emergencies, the Continuity of Government Readiness Conditions (COGCON) system establishes executive branch continuity program readiness levels, focusing on possible threats to the National Capital Region. The President will determine and issue the COGCON Level. Executive departments and agencies shall comply with the requirements and assigned responsibilities under the COGCON program. During COOP activation, executive departments and agencies shall report their readiness status to the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary's designee.

(13) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall:

(a) **Conduct an annual assessment** of executive department and agency continuity funding requests and performance data that are submitted by executive departments and agencies as part of the annual budget request process, in order to monitor progress in the implementation of the Plan and the execution of continuity budgets;

(b) In coordination with the National Continuity Coordinator, issue annual continuity planning guidance for the development of continuity budget requests; and

(c) Ensure that heads of executive departments and agencies prioritize budget resources for continuity capabilities, consistent with this directive.

(14) The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall:

(a) Define and issue minimum requirements for continuity communications for

executive departments and agencies, in consultation with the APHS/CT, the APNSA, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Chief of Staff to the President;

(b) **Establish requirements for, and monitor the development, implementation, and maintenance of, a comprehensive communications architecture to integrate continuity components**, in consultation with the APHS/CT, the APNSA, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Chief of Staff to the President; and

(c) Review quarterly and annual assessments of continuity communications capabilities, as prepared pursuant to section 16(d) of this directive or otherwise, and report the results and recommended remedial actions to the National Continuity Coordinator.

(15) **An official designated by the Chief of Staff to the President shall:**

(a) Advise the President, the Chief of Staff to the President, the APHS/CT, and the APNSA on COGCON operational execution options; and

(b) Consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security in order to ensure synchronization and integration of continuity activities among the four categories of executive departments and agencies.

(16) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall:

(a) Coordinate the implementation, execution, and assessment of continuity operations and activities;

(b) Develop and promulgate Federal Continuity Directives in order to establish continuity planning requirements for executive departments and agencies;

(c) Conduct biennial assessments of individual department and agency continuity capabilities as prescribed by the Plan and report the results to the President through the APHS/CT;

(d) Conduct quarterly and annual assessments of continuity communications capabilities in consultation with an official designated by the Chief of Staff to the President;

(e) Develop, lead, and conduct a Federal continuity training and exercise program, which shall be incorporated into the National Exercise Program developed pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8 of December 17, 2003 ("National Preparedness"), in consultation with an official designated by the Chief of Staff to the President;

(f) Develop and promulgate continuity planning guidance to State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and private sector critical infrastructure owners and operators;

(g) Make available continuity planning and exercise funding, in the form of grants as provided by law, to State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and private sector critical infrastructure owners and operators; and

(h) As Executive Agent of the National Communications System, develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive continuity communications architecture.

(17) The Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall produce a biennial assessment of the foreign and domestic threats to the Nation's continuity of government.

(18) The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall provide secure, integrated, Continuity of Government communications to the President, the Vice President, and, at a minimum, Category I executive departments and agencies.

(19) Heads of executive departments and agencies shall execute their respective department or agency COOP plans in response to a localized emergency and shall:

(a) Appoint a senior accountable official, at the Assistant Secretary level, as the Continuity Coordinator for the department or agency;

(b) Identify and submit to the National Continuity Coordinator the list of PMEFs for the department or agency and develop continuity plans in support of the NEFs and the continuation of essential functions under all conditions;

(c) Plan, program, and budget for continuity capabilities consistent with this directive;

(d) Plan, conduct, and support annual tests and training, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, in order to evaluate program readiness and ensure adequacy and viability of continuity plans and communications systems; and

(e) Support other continuity requirements, as assigned by category, in accordance with the nature and characteristics of its national security roles and responsibilities

General Provisions

(20) This directive shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with, and facilitates effective implementation of, provisions of the Constitution concerning succession to the Presidency or the exercise of its powers, and the Presidential Succession Act of 1947 (3 U.S.C. 19), with consultation of the Vice President and, as appropriate, others involved. Heads of executive departments and agencies shall ensure that appropriate support is available to the Vice President and others involved as necessary to be prepared at all times to implement those provisions.

(21) This directive:

(a) Shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and the authorities of agencies, or heads of agencies, vested by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations;

(b) Shall not be construed to impair or otherwise affect (i) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, and legislative proposals, or (ii) the authority of the Secretary of

Defense over the Department of Defense, including the chain of command for military forces from the President, to the Secretary of Defense, to the commander of military forces, or military command and control procedures; and

(c) Is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(22) Revocation. Presidential Decision Directive 67 of October 21, 1998 ("Enduring Constitutional Government and Continuity of Government Operations"), including all Annexes thereto, is hereby revoked.

(23) Annex A and the classified Continuity Annexes, attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this directive.

(24) Security. This directive and the information contained herein shall be protected from unauthorized disclosure, provided that, except for Annex A, the Annexes attached to this directive are classified and shall be accorded appropriate handling, consistent with applicable Executive Orders.

GEORGE W. BUSH

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070509-12.html

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12.39 **Impeachment: Democracy's Last Defense**

VIDEO: Ray McGovern, Former CIA Senior Analyst, and

Scott Ritter, Former Weapons Inspector:

High Treason and the Case for Impeachment

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1232419751782017310&q=%22ray+mc+govern%22&hl=en>

The "Democrats" Reluctance to Impeach --

Simple Cowardice?

Or Is Treason No Longer a "Winning Issue"?

Impeach Bush or Get Rid of the Impeachment Clause

by Dave Lindorff

What is it about impeachment that has the Democratic Party leadership so frightened?

Talking with members of Congress, one hears the same refrain: "I know Bush and Cheney have committed impeachable crimes, but impeachment is a bad idea."

The rationales offered are many, but all are either specious or based upon flawed reasoning. Let's consider them separately:

Excuse one, offered by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, is that impeachment would be a diversion from Democrats' main goals of ending the Iraq War, and passing important legislation. The reality, of course, is that many of the administration's impeachable acts relate directly to the war, so hearings would only build support for ending it. Meanwhile, with the slim majorities in both houses, Democrats cannot pass any significant progressive legislation that could survive a veto (or a presidential signing statement) and the record shows it.

Excuse two is that impeachment is divisive. This seems the height of absurdity. When voters handed Congress to the Democrats, they knew they were setting the stage for divided government. That was the whole point. Moreover, divisiveness in Washington has largely emanated from the White House, not from Congress. Anyhow, given administration intransigence on all the issues that matter to Democrats, they have no alternative but to take a stand.

Excuse three is a claim that the public opposes impeachment. This is simply wrong. The few straightforward scientific polls done on impeachment, such as one published by Newsweek last October, show a majority of Americans to want it. Furthermore, if Bush has committed impeachable acts, it is inappropriate for House members, all of whom swore to uphold and defend the Constitution, not to act.

Excuse four is that old canard that impeaching Bush would mean making Cheney president -- a deliberately scary prospect but one which any politician in Washington knows is garbage. Firstly, if Cheney were to become president because of a Bush impeachment or resignation, it would only be for a few months, and given his stunning lack of support among the public -- currently about 9 percent and falling -- he would be the lamest of lame ducks, unable to do anything. But more importantly, his own party would be certain to remove him before any removal of Bush, and for exactly that reason -- they would not want to be going into the 2008 election with Cheney as party leader. This is exactly what happened to Spiro Agnew, whom a Republican attorney general managed to indict and remove before the collapse of Nixon's presidency. The same thing can be expected to happen to Cheney, who would surely face either a sudden health crisis, or an indictment for corruption.

Finally, excuse five is that the president's crimes and abuses of power need to be proven before any impeachment bill. This is completely backwards. An impeachment bill can be filed by any member of Congress who believes the president has violated the Constitution. At that point, it is up to the House Judiciary Committee to consider the bill's merits and decide whether to ask the full House to authorize impeachment hearings. It is at an impeachment hearing where investigations should proceed. After all, only after the Judiciary Committee votes out an impeachment article can the full House consider whether to actually impeach. Calling for investigations before an impeachment hearing is like asking for an investigation before a grand jury investigation. It's redundant, simply a dodge.

Besides, some of this president's high crimes are self-evident. Take the case of Bush's ordering the National Security Agency to spy on Americans' communications without a warrant. A federal judge has already labeled this violation of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act a felony. There is no denying this felony occurred, or that Bush is responsible. The only question the House

needs to vote on is whether the felony is a "high crime" warranting impeachment.

The same applies Bush's refusal to enact over 1200 laws or parts of laws duly passed by Congress. Bush doesn't deny that he has usurped the power of the Congress, as laid down in Article I of the Constitution. Rather, he asserts -- with no basis in the wording of that document -- that as commander in chief in the war on terror, he has the "unitary executive" authority to ignore acts of Congress. Again, there is no need for an "investigation" to establish whether this happened. What Congress must do is decide whether this usurpation of its Constitutional role is an impeachable abuse of power.

Likewise the president's authorization of kidnap and torture. We know the president okayed torture. We know too, that he used his "unitary executive" claim to refuse to accept a law passed overwhelmingly by the last Congress outlawing torture. Finally, we know the president did not, as required by US and international law, act to halt torture and punish those up the chain of command who oversaw systematic, widespread torture.

There are many impeachable crimes by this president (and vice president), such as obstruction of justice in the Valeria Plame outing case, conspiracy (or treason) in the Niger "yellowcake" document forgery scandal, conspiracy to engage in election fraud, lying to Congress, criminal negligence in responding to the Katrina disaster, bribery and war profiteering, etc., which would require Judiciary Committee investigations.

In the meantime, though, Democrats need to step up to their responsibility.

If this president is not to be impeached, Congress may as well amend the Constitution to remove the impeachment clause.

It will, in that case, have become as much an anachronism as prohibition.

http://www.netscape.com/viewstory/2007/05/11/impeach-bush-or-get-rid-of-the-impeachment-clause/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.opednews.com%2Farticles%2Fopedne_dave_1_in_070511_impeach_bush_or_get_.htm&frame=true

The Case For Impeachment

Why We Can No Longer Afford George W. Bush

Lewis Lapham/Harper's Magazine, March 2006

On December 18 of last year, Congressman John Conyers Jr. (D., Mich.) introduced into the House of Representatives a resolution inviting it to form "a select committee to investigate the Administration's intent to go to war before congressional authorization, manipulation of pre-war intelligence, encouraging and countenancing torture, retaliating against critics, and to make recommendations regarding grounds for possible impeachment."

Although buttressed two days previously by the news of the National Security Agency's illegal surveillance of the American citizenry, the request attracted little or no attention in the press -- nothing on television or in the major papers, some scattered applause from the left-wing blogs, heavy sarcasm on the websites flying the flags of the militant right. The nearly complete silence raised the question as to what it was the congressman had in mind; and to whom did he think he was

speaking?

In time of war few propositions would seem as futile as the attempt to impeach a president whose political party controls the Congress; as the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee stationed on Capitol Hill for the last forty years, Representative Conyers presumably knew that to expect the Republican caucus in the House to take note of his invitation, much less arm it with the power of subpoena, was to expect a miracle of democratic transformation and rebirth not unlike the one looked for by President Bush under the prayer rugs in Baghdad. Unless the congressman intended some sort of symbolic gesture, self-serving and harmless, what did he hope to prove or to gain? He answered the question in early January, on the phone from Detroit during the congressional winter recess.

“To take away the excuse,” he said.. “that we didn’t know.” So that two or four or ten years from now, if somebody should ask, “Where were you, Conyers, and where was the United States Congress?” when the Bush Administration declared the Constitution inoperative and revoked the license of parliamentary government, none of the company now present can plead ignorance or temporary insanity, can say that “somehow it escaped our notice” that the President was setting himself up as a supreme leader exempt from the rule of law.

A reason with which it was hard to argue but one that didn’t account for the congressman’s impatience. Why not wait for a showing of supportive public opinion, delay the motion to impeach until after next November’s elections? Assuming that further investigation of the President’s addiction to the uses of domestic espionage finds him nullifying the Fourth Amendment rights of a large number of his fellow Americans, the Democrats possibly could come up with enough votes, their own and a quorum-of disenchanting Republicans, to send the man home to Texas. Conyers said:

“I don’t think enough people know how much damage this administration can do to their civil liberties in a very short time. What would you have me do? Grumble and complain? Make cynical jokes? Throw up my hands and say that under the circumstances nothing can be done? At least I can muster the facts, establish a record, tell the story that ought to be front-page news.”

Which turned out to be the purpose of his House Resolution 635 -- not a high-minded tilting at windmills but the production of a report, 182 pages, 1,022 footnotes, assembled by Conyers’s staff during the six months prior to its presentation to Congress, that describes the Bush Administration’s invasion of Iraq as the perpetration of a crime against the American people. It is a fair description.

Drawing on evidence furnished over the last four years by a sizable crowd of credible witnesses -- government officials both extant and former, journalists, military officers, politicians, diplomats domestic and foreign -- the authors of the report find a conspiracy to commit fraud, the administration talking out of all sides of its lying mouth, secretly planning a frivolous and unnecessary war while at the same time pretending in its public statements that nothing was further from the truth. The result has proved tragic, but on reading through the report’s corroborating testimony [1] one sometimes could counter its inducements to mute rage with the thought that if the would-be lords of the flies weren’t in the business of killing people, they would be seen as a troupe of off-Broadway comedians in a third-rate theater of the absurd.

Entitled "The Constitution in Crisis; The Downing Street Minutes and Deception, Manipulation, Torture, Retribution, and Coverups in the Iraq War," the Conyers report examines the administration's chronic abuse of power from more angles than can be explored within the compass of a single essay. The nature of the administration's criminal DNA and modus operandi, however, shows up in a usefully robust specimen of its characteristic dishonesty.

That President Bush comes to power with the intention of invading Iraq is a fact not open to dispute. Pleased with the image of himself as a military hero, and having spoken, more than once, about seeking revenge on Saddam Hussein for the tyrant's alleged attempt to "kill my Dad," he appoints to high office in his administration a cadre of warrior intellectuals, chief among them Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, known to be eager for the glories of imperial conquest.[2]

At the first meeting of the new National Security Council on January 30, 2001, most of the people in the room discuss the possibility of preemptive blitzkrieg against Baghdad.[3] In March the Pentagon circulates a document entitled "Foreign Suitors for Iraqi Oil Field Contracts"; the supporting maps indicate the properties of interest to various European governments and American corporations. Six months later, early in the afternoon of September 11, the smoke still rising from the Pentagon's western facade, Secretary Rumsfeld tells his staff to fetch intelligence briefings (the "best info fast... go massive; sweep it all up; things related and not") that will justify an attack on Iraq.

By chance the next day in the White House basement, Richard A. Clarke, national coordinator for security and counterterrorism, encounters President Bush, who tells him to "see if Saddam did this." Nine days later, at a private dinner upstairs in the White House, the President informs his guest, the British prime minister, Tony Blair, that "when we have dealt with Afghanistan, we must come back to Iraq." By November 13, 2001, the Taliban have been roused out of Kabul in Afghanistan, but our intelligence agencies have yet to discover proofs of Saddam Hussein's acquaintance with Al-Qaeda.[4] President Bush isn't convinced. On November 21, at the end of a National Security Council meeting, he says to Secretary Rumsfeld, "What have you got in terms of plans for Iraq?... I want you to get on it. I want you to keep it secret."

The Conyers report doesn't return to the President's focus on Iraq until March 2002, when it finds him peering into the office of Condoleezza Rice, the national security advisor, to say, "Fuck Saddam. We're taking him out."

At a Senate Republican Policy lunch that same month on Capitol Hill, Vice President Dick Cheney informs the assembled company that it is no longer a question of if the United States will attack Iraq, it's only a question of when. The vice president doesn't bring up the question of why, the answer to which is a work in progress. By now the administration knows, or at least has reason to know, that Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington, that Iraq doesn't possess weapons of mass destruction sufficiently ominous to warrant concern, that the regime destined to be changed poses no imminent threat, certainly not to the United States, probably not to any country defended by more than four batteries of light artillery.

Such at least is the conclusion of the British intelligence agencies that can find no

credible evidence to support the theory of Saddam's connection to Al Qaeda or international terrorism; "even the best survey of WMD programs will not show much advance in recent years on the nuclear, missile and CW/BW weapons fronts ..."

A series of notes and memoranda passing back and forth between the British Cabinet Office in London and its correspondents in Washington during the spring and summer of 2002 address the problem of inventing a pretext for a war so fondly desired by the Bush Administration that Sir Richard Dearlove, head of Britain's MI-6, finds the interested parties in Washington fixing "the intelligence and the facts... around the policy." The American enthusiasm for regime change, "undimmed" in the mind of Condoleezza Rice, presents complications.

Although Blair has told Bush, probably in the autumn of 2001, that Britain will join the American military putsch in Iraq, he needs "legal justification" for the maneuver -- something noble and inspiring to say to Parliament and the British public. No justification "currently exists." Neither Britain nor the United States is being attacked by Iraq, which eliminates the excuse of self-defense; nor is the Iraqi government currently sponsoring a program of genocide. Which leaves as the only option the "wrong-footing" of Saddam. If under the auspices of the United Nations he can be presented with an ultimatum requiring him to show that Iraq possesses weapons that don't exist, his refusal to comply can be taken as proof that he does, in fact, possess such weapons.[5]

Over the next few months, while the British government continues to look for ways to "wrong-foot" Saddam and suborn the U.N., various operatives loyal to Vice President Cheney and Secretary Rumsfeld bend to the task of fixing the facts, distributing alms to dubious Iraqi informants in return for map coordinates of Saddam's monstrous weapons, proofs of stored poisons, of mobile chemical laboratories, of unmanned vehicles capable of bringing missiles to Jerusalem.[6]

By early August the Bush Administration has sufficient confidence in its doomsday story to sell it to the American public. Instructed to come up with awesome text and shocking images, the White House Iraq Group hits upon the phrase "mushroom cloud" and prepares a White Paper describing the "grave and gathering danger" posed by Iraq's nuclear arsenal.[7] The objective is three-fold-- to magnify the fear of Saddam Hussein, to present President Bush as the Christian savior of the American people, a man of conscience who never in life would lead the country into an unjust war, and to provide a platform of star-spangled patriotism for Republican candidates in the November congressional elections.[8]

The ad campaign rolls out on September 7, when Britain's Tony Blair stands in front of the television cameras at Camp David, Maryland, with President Bush to say that a new report from the International Atomic Energy Agency shows new activity at Iraq's nuclear weapons sites.[9] On September 8, National Security Advisor Rice appears on Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer, to picture a mushroom cloud in America's future, and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, on Face the Nation, invites Bob Schieffer to "imagine a September 11 with weapons of mass destruction."

On the same day, Vice President Cheney shows up on Meet the Press to assure Tim Russert that "first of all, no decision's been made yet to launch a military operation." The President stays on both messages, informing reporters gathered at an Oval Office photo op on September 25 that when discussing the War on

Terror, "You can't distinguish between Al-Qaeda and Saddam," and then on October 1, after meeting with members of Congress, "Of course, I haven't made up my mind if we're going to war with Iraq." [10]

The autumn sales promotion reaches its crescendo on October 7, when the President, speaking to a live television audience from the Cincinnati Museum Center, pulls all the dead rabbits out of Karl Rove's magic hat--Saddam possessed of "horrible poisons and diseases and gasses and atomic weapons... we know that Iraq and Al-Qaeda have had high-level contacts that go back a decade. ... America must not ignore the threat gathering against us. Facing clear evidence of peril, we cannot wait for the final proof-the smoking gun-that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud. .."

Four days later in Washington, on the evening of October 11, Congress passes HJ Resolution 114, granting President Bush the power to "use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq." The grant excuses the President from the obligation to consult Congress on a formal declaration of war; its preamble reiterates the administration's fantastic assertions about "Iraq's demonstrated capability and willingness to use weapons of mass destruction, the risk that the current Iraqi regime will either employ those weapons to launch a surprise attack against the United States or its Armed Forces or provide them to international terrorists who would do so, and the extreme magnitude of harm that would result to the United States and its citizens from such an attack, [combining] to justify action by the United States to defend itself. .." Passage of the resolution, by a vote of 77 to 23 in the Senate, certifies as true what is known to be false and thus enlists Congress as an accomplice in the systematic perpetration of a criminal fraud.

Its war policy thus firmly established in all the major media markets, the Bush Administration over the span of the next five months holds fast to the policy of deceiving itself as well as the American people and the Congress. While the Pentagon assembles its forces for Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 20, 2003, President Bush continues to present himself as the victim of outrageous circumstance. In answer to a reporter's question at a White House press conference, he says, "You said we're headed to war in Iraq -- I don't know why you say that. I hope we're not headed to war in Iraq. I'm the person who gets to decide, not you."

Vice President Cheney tells Hans Blix, the chief U.N. weapons inspector, that unless his scouts soon find Saddam's WMD in Iraq, the United States "will not hesitate to discredit inspections in favor of disarmament;" meanwhile, having come to believe the lies stuffed into his mouth by informants paid to do just that, he appears on Meet the Press to say, "My belief is we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators."

President Bush in his State of the Union Address on January 28 falsely informs Congress that Saddam has been trying to buy enriched uranium in Africa; at the U. N. Security Council on February 5, Secretary of State Colin Powell conjures up the "sinister nexus between Iraq and the Al Qaeda terrorist network." [11]

The Conyers report doesn't lack for further instances of the administration's misconduct, all of them noted in the press over the last three years -- misuse of government funds, violation of the Geneva Conventions, holding without trial

and subjecting to torture individuals arbitrarily designated as “enemy combatants,” etc. -- but conspiracy to commit fraud would seem reason enough to warrant the President’s impeachment.[12]

Before reading the report, I wouldn’t have expected to find myself thinking that such a course of action was either likely or possible; after reading the report, I don’t know why we would run the risk of not impeaching the man.

We have before us in the White House a thief who steals the country’s good name and reputation for his private interest and personal use; a liar who seeks to instill in the American people a state of fear; a televangelist who engages the United States in a never-ending crusade against all the world’s evil, a wastrel who squanders a vast sum of the nation’s wealth on what turns out to be a recruiting drive certain to multiply the host of our enemies. In a word, a criminal -- known to be armed and shown to be dangerous.[13]

Under the three-strike rule available to the courts in California, judges sentence people to life in jail for having stolen from Wal-Mart a set of golf clubs or a child’s tricycle. Who then calls strikes on President Bush, and how many more does he get before being sent down on waivers to one of the Texas Prison Leagues ?

Last December, when Representative Conyers introduced House Resolution 635 -- together with two ancillary resolutions censuring President Bush and Vice President Cheney, each of them for “failing to respond to requests for information” about the origins of the Iraq war -- the word “impeach” was still regarded as excessive hyperbole, the unmentionable “I-word,” not to be seen or heard in the circles of proper Washington opinion.

A month later and the word was in general circulation, if not with reference to the misbegotten killing in Iraq at least in the context of the President’s directing the NSA to monitor, if necessary without first obtaining a court order, any and all telephone and email traffic, in, out, or around the United States, that might turn up a reference (ideological, operational, metaphorical, coincidental, or conversational) to an act (factual or fictional, past, present, or future) of terrorism.

So wide a spreading of government flypaper obviously was bound to collect (by accident, if not by design) a great deal of information about a great many American citizens under the impression that their words were their own. The President’s directive, a felony under the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (punishable by five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine), also nullified the Fourth Amendment’s guarantee of protection against unreasonable search and seizure.

As was to be expected, the first stirrings of objection appeared in the left-wing blogs, tens of thousands of citizens posting violently worded dissents on impeachbush.org, also at afterdowningstreet.org and impeachcentral.com.

On December 19, two days after President Bush affirmed his commander in chiefs right to affix wire taps whenever and wherever he so chose, Senator Robert Byrd (D., W.Va.) issued a statement saying that “we are a nation of laws and not men. ... I defy the Administration to show me where in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or the U.S. Constitution, they are allowed to steal into the lives of innocent Americans and spy. ... These astounding revelations about the bending and contorting of the Constitution to justify a grasping irresponsible administration under the banner of ‘national security’ are an outrage. ...”

Representative John Lewis (D., Ga.) told a radio interviewer in Atlanta that George W. Bush “is not a king, he is President,” going on to say that if the chance presented itself he would sign a bill of impeachment.

John Dean, White House counsel in the Nixon Administration and a man familiar with the arts of bugging phones and obstructing justice, observed, in conversation with Senator Barbara Boxer (D., Calif.), that “Bush is the first president to admit to an impeachable offence.”[14]

In the conservative quarters of opinion the objections were equally vigorous. On December 19, Norman Ornstein, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute allied with the Republican doctrine of small governments supporting large armies, sat for an interview on a Washington public radio station known for its liberal bias and audience. “I think that if we’re going to be intellectually honest here,” he said, “this really is the kind of thing that Alexander Hamilton was referring to when impeachment was discussed.”

The next day, writing in the Washington Times, Bruce Fein, former associate deputy attorney general under President Ronald Reagan, said of President Bush that he “presents a clear and present danger to the rule of law;” he later extended the thought by saying that if the President “maintains this disregard or contempt; for the coordinate branches of government, it’s that conception of an omnipotent presidency that makes the occupant a dangerous person.”

By the third week in January the word “impeachment” had been mentioned often enough in polite company to achieve a presence in the vocabulary of Senator Arlen Specter (R., Pa.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Appearing on ABC’s This Week on January 15, Specter said that he planned a February hearing on the matter of the warrantless domestic spying program, but even if it were to be found that the President exceeded his authority, impeachment was not the appropriate rebuke. Pressed on the point by George Stephanopoulos, Specter said: “Impeachment is a remedy. After impeachment, you could have a criminal prosecution, but the principal remedy, George, under our society is to pay a political price.”[15]

Would that it were so. The Bush Administration doesn’t believe in the theory of parliamentary government, much less in the notion of paying political prices. Its agents prefer the more frugal and efficient practice of stealing elections, gagging the voice of the Democratic minority in Congress, slandering people who presume to doubt either its wisdom or its virtue, conducting the business of government behind closed doors, alone with its Bibles and its pet Bismarcks in soundproof rooms.

On the off chance that any God-fearing citizen didn’t know what to expect, the president clarified the position in late December and again in early January, responding to what he clearly regarded as annoying questions about his directive to the NSA. Yes, he had told the NSA to take precautions, had done so more than once, would do so again. That was his job, to defend the American people; in time of war the Constitution gave him the right to do as he pleased, so did the act of Congress passed on September 14, 2001, three days after the loss of the World Trade Center.

The fact that he was compelled to address the subject was “shameful,” impertinent, and unpatriotic on the part of the reporter who inquired about

“unchecked executive power” and ascribed to him “some kind of dictatorial position. ... which I strongly reject.” Such questions also were dangerous, apt to bring on more terrorist attacks in the manner of 9/11.

The latter point was repeatedly reinforced by Vice President Cheney, who firmly reminded audiences in New York and Washington -- audiences composed primarily of lobbyists for the country’s media syndicates and weapons manufacturers -- that we live in a dangerous world, demanding a robust executive authority in the White House to ward off the forces of moral anarchy and social chaos.

“We’re at war,” the President said on December 19, “we must protect America’s secrets.”

No, the country isn’t at war, and it’s not America’s secrets that the President seeks to protect. The country is threatened by freebooting terrorists unaligned with a foreign government or an enemy army; the secrets are those of the Bush Administration, chief among them its determination to replace a democratic republic with something more safely totalitarian. The fiction of permanent war allows it to seize, in the name of the national security, the instruments of tyranny.

The question posed to the assembly is whether enough people care, and, if so, how do they respond when, in the language of the Declaration of Independence, “a long train of abuses and usurpations pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism.”

Although the abuses and usurpations are self-evident, obvious to anybody who takes the trouble to read the newspapers, the Bush Administration makes no attempt to conceal the Object evinced in the design of its purpose, because it counts on the romanticism as well as on the apathy of an American public reluctant to recognize the President of the United States as a felon.

Who wants to believe such a thing, much less acknowledge it as a proven fact?

More people than dreamed of in the philosophy of Karl Rove or by the content providers to the major news media. The heavy volume of angry protest on the Internet, reflected in the polls indicating the President’s steady decline in the popular esteem, suggests that at least half of the American electorate, in the red states and the blue, knows that the Bush Administration operates without reference to the rule of law, also that the President believes himself somehow divinely ordained, accountable only to Jesus and the oil companies, at liberty to wave what he imagines to be the scepter of the Constitution in whatever ways he deems best.

But in the news media they find no strong voice of dissent, in the Democratic Party no concerted effort to form a coherent opposition.

Which places the work of protecting the country’s freedoms where it should be placed -- with the Congress, more specifically with the Republican members of Congress. What else is it that voters expect the Congress to do if not to look out for their rights as citizens of the United States? So the choice presented to the Republican members on the Judiciary Committee investigating the President’s use of electronic surveillance comes down to a matter of deciding whether they will serve their country or their party.

I don't envy them the decision; the rewards offered by the party (patronage, campaign contributions, a fat retirement on the payroll of a K Street lobbying firm) clearly outweigh those available from the country -- congratulatory editorials in obscure newspapers, malicious gossip circulated by Focus on the Family and Fox News, an outpouring of letters and emails from grateful citizens not in positions to do anybody any favors.

To the cameras on ABC's "This Week" Senator Specter said that impeachment was probably not the best remedy for the President's misconduct, and if the February hearings proceed along the lines of most Senate hearings, they will find that the best remedy is no remedy. In rebuttal to testimony arguing that the President's breach of federal law constitutes a crime, other witnesses will say that the Constitution authorizes the President to overrule the law, and after a prolonged mumbling of lawyers about the balance that must be struck between civil liberties on the one hand and the national security on the other, it will be discovered that the balance sometimes shifts to meet the circumstances, which is why, thank God, America is a great country -- because it allows for the appearance of meaningful debate while at the same time making sure that the words have no consequences.

If, however, the committee rises to the recognition of its constitutional task -- that of correcting the imbalances of power that sometimes can foul the machinery of fair and honorable government -- it will take to heart the meaning of the word "remedy" -- a corrective measure, not a punishment.

It isn't the business of the Congress to punish President Bush. Any competent court in the country could arraign the President on charges identical to those brought against the crooked executives at Enron and Tyco International (fraud, misuse of stockholder funds, manipulation of intelligence) and send him off to jail dressed in an orange jump suit.

Nor is it the responsibility of Congress to sit in moral judgment; the sermons can be left to the Reverend Pat Robertson and the Yale Divinity School. It is the business of the Congress to prevent the President from doing more damage than he's already done to the people, interests, health, well-being, safety, good name, and reputation of the United States. To cauterize the wound and stem the flows of money, stupidity, and blood.

Lewis Lapham is the editor of Harper's Magazine.

References

1. The report borrows from hundreds of open sources that have become a matter of public record--newspaper accounts, television broadcasts (Frontline, Meet the Press, Larry King Live, 60 Minutes, etc.), magazine articles (in The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, The New York Review of Books), sworn testimony in both the Senate and House of Representatives, books written by, among others, Bob Woodward, George Packer, Richard A. Clarke, James Mann, Mark Danner, Seymour Hersh, David Corn, James Bamford, Hans Blix, James Risen, Ron Suskind, Joseph Wilson. As the congressman had said, "Everything in plain sight; it isn't as if we don't know."
2. In January of 1998 the neoconservative Washington think tank The Project for the New American Century (which counts among its founding members

Dick Cheney) sent a letter to Bill Clinton demanding “the removal of Saddam Hussein’s regime from power” with a strong-minded “willingness to undertake military action.” Together with Rumsfeld, six of the other seventeen signatories became members of the Bush’s first administration -- Elliott Abrams (now George W. Bush’s deputy national security advisor), Richard Armitage (deputy secretary of state from 2001 to 2005), John Bolton (now U.S. ambassador to the U.N.), Richard Perle (chairman of the Defense Policy Board from 2001 to 2003), Paul Wolfowitz (deputy secretary of defense from 2001 to 2005), Robert Zoellick (now deputy secretary of state). President Clinton responded to the request by signing the Iraq Liberation Act, for which Congress appropriated \$97 million for various clandestine operations inside the borders of Iraq. Two years later, in September 2000, The Project for the New American Century issued a document noting that the “unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification” for the presence of the substantial American force in the Persian Gulf.

3. In a subsequent interview on 60 Minutes, Paul O’Neill, present in the meeting as the newly appointed secretary of the treasury, remembered being surprised by the degree of certainty: “From the very beginning, there was a conviction that Saddam Hussein was a bad person and that he needed to go ... It was all about finding a way to do it.”
4. As early as September 20, Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy, drafted a memo suggesting that in retaliation for the September 11 attacks the United States should consider hitting terrorists outside the Middle East in the initial offensive, or perhaps deliberately selecting a non-Al-Qaeda target like Iraq.
5. Abstracts of the notes and memoranda, known collectively as “The Downing Street Minutes,” were published in the Sunday Times (London) in May 2005; their authenticity was undisputed by the British government.
6. The work didn’t go unnoticed by people in the CIA, the Pentagon, and the State Department accustomed to making distinctions between a well-dressed rumor and a naked lie. In the spring of 2004, talking to a reporter from Vanity Fair, Greg Thielmann, the State Department officer responsible for assessing the threats of nuclear proliferation, said, “The American public was seriously misled. The Administration twisted, distorted and simplified intelligence in a way that led Americans to seriously misunderstand the nature of the Iraq threat. I’m not sure I can think of a worse act against the people in a democracy than a President distorting critical classified information.”
7. The Group counted among its copywriters Karl Rove, senior political strategist, Andrew Card, White House chief of staff, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, and Lewis “Scooter” Libby, Dick Cheney’s chief of staff.
8. Card later told the New York Times that “from a marketing point of view... you don’t introduce new products in August.”
9. Bush confirms Blair’s statement, saying, “I don’t know what more evidence we need.” In Vienna, the day before, the IAEA issued a statement saying that there was no such report.

10. Collaborating in what was a team effort between March 2002 and March 2004, various high-ranking administration officials made 237 false or misleading statements (55 of them from President Bush himself) connecting Saddam to Al-Qaeda, exaggerating Iraq's biological and chemical weapons capabilities, misrepresenting Iraq's nuclear activities .
11. Powell occasionally complained about the falsehoods the administration obliged him to tell; a few days before delivering the U.N. speech he mentioned his unhappiness to Cheney, who told him, "Your poll numbers are in the seventies, you can afford to lose a few points."
12. The legal precedent for finding a conspiracy to commit fraud against the United States rests on the Supreme Court ruling *Hammerschmidt v. United States*, which upholds the charge against individuals who obstruct lawful government functions "by deceit, craft or trickery, or at least by means that are dishonest.

It is not necessary that the government shall be subjected to property or pecuniary loss by the fraud, but only that its legitimate official action and purpose shall be defeated by misrepresentation, chicane or the over-reaching of those charged with carrying out the government intention."

13. As of January 17, 2006, the rap sheet listed 2,229 American military dead in Iraq together with an unknown number of Iraqi civilians; what looks to be the sum of \$1 trillion, by some estimates \$2 trillion, already committed to The Project for the New American Century's real estate development in the Mesopotamian desert.

Better reasons to impeach a president than the one pressed into service against Bill Clinton, whose penis was known to be aimless and shown to be harmless.

14. By the second week in January a Zogby poll showed a majority of Americans (52-43 percent) favoring impeachment of the President if he were to be found entangled in the coils of illegal surveillance; a resolution to that effect had been carried out with rousing applause by the city council in Arcata, California; seven other members of the House of Representatives had come forward to co-sponsor Conyers's Resolution 635 -- Lois Capps (D., Calif.), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D., Tex;), Zoe Lofgren (D., Calif.), Donald Payne (D., N.J.), Charles Rangel (D., N.Y.), Maxine Waters (D., Calif.), and Lynn Woolsey (D., Calif.).
15. Together with Specter, two prominent Republican senators called for congressional hearings on the matter of the NSA's spying program, Chuck Hagel (Nebr.) and Olympia Snowe (Maine); seven others expressed serious misgivings-Richard Lugar (Ind.), Susan Collins (Maine), Sam Brownback (Kans.), John Sununu (N .H.), Larry Craig (Idaho), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), John McCain (Ariz.).

<http://www.pierretristam.com/Bobst/library/wf-100.htm>

Articles of Impeachment
of
President George W. Bush
and
Vice President Richard B. Cheney,
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice,
Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and
Attorney General Alberto Gonzales

“The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.”

ARTICLE II, SECTION 4 OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

President George W. Bush, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales have committed violations and subversions of the Constitution of the United States of America in an attempt to carry out with impunity crimes against peace and humanity and war crimes and deprivations of the civil rights of the people of the United States and other nations, by assuming powers of an imperial executive unaccountable to law and usurping powers of the Congress, the Judiciary and those reserved to the people of the United States, by the following acts:

- 1) Seizing power to wage wars of aggression in defiance of the U.S. Constitution, the U.N. Charter and the rule of law; carrying out a massive assault on and occupation of Iraq, a country that was not threatening the United States, resulting in the death and maiming of over one hundred thousand Iraqis, and thousands of U.S. G.I.s.
- 2) Lying to the people of the U.S., to Congress, and to the U.N., providing false and deceptive rationales for war.
- 3) Authorizing, ordering and condoning direct attacks on civilians, civilian facilities and locations where civilian casualties were unavoidable.
- 4) Instituting a secret and illegal wiretapping and spying operation against the people of the United States through the National Security Agency.
- 5) Threatening the independence and sovereignty of Iraq by belligerently changing its government by force and assaulting Iraq in a war of aggression.

- 6) Authorizing, ordering and condoning assassinations, summary executions, kidnappings, secret and other illegal detentions of individuals, torture and physical and psychological coercion of prisoners to obtain false statements concerning acts and intentions of governments and individuals and violating within the United States, and by authorizing U.S. forces and agents elsewhere, the rights of individuals under the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- 7) Making, ordering and condoning false statements and propaganda about the conduct of foreign governments and individuals and acts by U.S. government personnel; manipulating the media and foreign governments with false information; concealing information vital to public discussion and informed judgment concerning acts, intentions and possession, or efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction in order to falsely create a climate of fear and destroy opposition to U.S. wars of aggression and first strike attacks.
- 8) Violations and subversions of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, both a part of the "Supreme Law of the land" under Article VI, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, in an attempt to commit with impunity crimes against peace and humanity and war crimes in wars and threats of aggression against Afghanistan, Iraq and others and usurping powers of the United Nations and the peoples of its nations by bribery, coercion and other corrupt acts and by rejecting treaties, committing treaty violations, and frustrating compliance with treaties in order to destroy any means by which international law and institutions can prevent, affect, or adjudicate the exercise of U.S. military and economic power against the international community.
- 9) Acting to strip United States citizens of their constitutional and human rights, ordering indefinite detention of citizens, without access to counsel, without charge, and without opportunity to appear before a civil judicial officer to challenge the detention, based solely on the discretionary designation by the Executive of a citizen as an "enemy combatant."
- 10) Ordering indefinite detention of non-citizens in the United States and elsewhere, and without charge, at the discretionary designation of the Attorney General or the Secretary of Defense.
- 11) Ordering and authorizing the Attorney General to override judicial orders of release of detainees under INS jurisdiction, even where the judicial officer after full hearing determines a detainee is wrongfully held by the government.
- 12) Authorizing secret military tribunals and summary execution of persons who are not citizens who are designated solely at the discretion of the Executive who acts as indicting official, prosecutor and as the only avenue of appellate relief.
- 13) Refusing to provide public disclosure of the identities and locations of persons who have been arrested, detained and imprisoned by the U.S. government in the United States, including in response to Congressional inquiry.

- 14) Use of secret arrests of persons within the United States and elsewhere and denial of the right to public trials.
- 15) Authorizing the monitoring of confidential attorney-client privileged communications by the government, even in the absence of a court order and even where an incarcerated person has not been charged with a crime.
- 16) Ordering and authorizing the seizure of assets of persons in the United States, prior to hearing or trial, for lawful or innocent association with any entity that at the discretionary designation of the Executive has been deemed "terrorist."
- 17) Engaging in criminal neglect in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, depriving thousands of people in Louisiana, Mississippi and other Gulf States of urgently needed support, causing mass suffering and unnecessary loss of life.
- 18) Institutionalization of racial and religious profiling and authorization of domestic spying by federal law enforcement on persons based on their engagement in noncriminal religious and political activity.
- 19) Refusal to provide information and records necessary and appropriate for the constitutional right of legislative oversight of executive functions.
- 20) Rejecting treaties protective of peace and human rights and abrogation of the obligations of the United States under, and withdrawal from, international treaties and obligations without consent of the legislative branch, and including termination of the ABM treaty between the United States and Russia, and rescission of the authorizing signature from the Treaty of Rome which served as the basis for the International Criminal Court.

http://www.impeachbush.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=5054&news_iv_ctrl=1061

Impeachment Websites

Impeach Bush.Org

The Spark of Impeachment Has Been Lit

September 15 March on Washington committees are being set up in communities around the country. The ImpeachBush.org movement is uniting again with the anti-war movement to demand Impeach Bush, End the War Now! Tens of thousands will descend on Washington DC at the very moment that the national and international media will be focusing on General Petraeus' report to Congress, which is being issued on September 15.

Iraq war veterans and their families will make up a huge front contingent of the September 15 March on Washington. At the very moment that Congress will be debating the war in mid-September, the people will gather in an historic action demanding that Bush and Cheney be impeached for inciting a war of aggression, authorizing torture and conducting a massive spying program on the American people.

<http://www.impeachbush.org/site/PageServer>

Impeach Bush and Cheney

Impeachment is the cure for a constitutional crisis. Don't mistake the medicine for the disease. When you have a constitutional crisis, the founders are very clear. They said there is a way to deal with this. We don't have to have a war. We don't have to raise an army and go to Washington. We have procedures in place where we can sanction a president appropriately, do what needs to be done up to the point of removing him from office and continue the republic. - John Nichols in Tough Talk on Impeachment

Find out what you can do.

<http://www.impeachbushcheney.net/>

After Downing Street

After Downing Street is a nonpartisan coalition working to expose the lies that launched the war and to hold accountable its architects through impeachment.

Includes Citizen Video on Impeachment

<http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/>

Impeach Bush.tv

State Legislature can pass a Resolution of Impeachment

- * Status of Impeachment in Each State
- * Grounds for Impeaching Bush - lies, war, illegal wiretaps to name a few. See also "Bush should be Impeached..."
- * Constitutional Basis for Impeachment - The Constitution spells out who can be impeached, what for, and by whom.
- * Rules and Laws relating to Bush Impeachment - collection of links to important government documents.
- * Articles of Impeachment for George W. Bush - Proposed resolution for the House of Representatives.
- * What are Impeachable Offenses? - Discussion of the meaning of "high Crimes and Misdemeanors".
- * How to Impeach Bush - Impeachment is started by the people and finished by Congress.
- * Tally of Impeachment Charges from various Articles of Impeachment
- * Impeachments of Past Presidents - Andrew Johnson and William Clinton

<http://www.impeachbush.tv/impeach/>

Parting Thoughts:

As he left the confines of the Continental Congress, Ben Franklin was asked by an onlooker to comment on the nature of the New Government our Forefathers had just designed for America.

“What have we got, Ben? A Monarchy, or a Republic?”

Franklin replied: “You’ve got a Republic. If you keep it.”

#

Let’s stand up for our country.

We can do it in strong, repeatable steps.

- Ø Write your elected representatives in Congress.
<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>**
- Ø Write your local television stations, radio stations and newspapers.
<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/media>**
- Ø Write to national tv and radio networks, newspapers, and magazines.
<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=111>**

Demand impeachment.

Even if Congress falters; even if Bush and Cheney pardon one another in one last mocking dance -- a message will be sent, loud and clear:

Accountability for criminal activity by the President and Vice-President of the United States will not be dismissed;

An investigation into the hidden mechanisms behind 9/11 and the craven business relationships behind the “War on Terror” will thereby be made possible;

The possibility will become real that we can Bring our Troops Home from Iraq and let the people who live there find their own way to some kind of equilibrium in their society. To expect that it will be a bloody and painful process is beside the point. We broke their country. But we cannot fix it.

Though our own Democracy is under unprecedented attack, it is not yet abolished.

Therefore -- this is still America.

Those blessed enough to have been entrusted with its highest offices have sworn to uphold The Constitution of the United States -- their sense of entitlement and their super-lucrative business interests be damned.

That they have violated this sacred trust is no longer a subject of reasonable debate.

They are criminals, and they have committed treason.

They bring disgrace to the good name of the United States.

They cause people to die in the service of LIES -- every single day.

These are actions for which they deserve to be removed from high office.

If not -- then what have we become?

If not -- how shall we ever again dare to claim that we actually value the sacrifices of the millions of American citizens who have laid down their lives on behalf of our Republic?

Think about it. Talk about it.

Take action.

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