

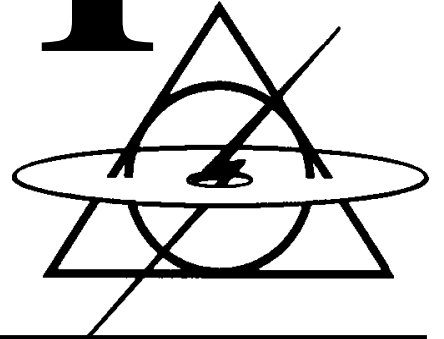


# CONTACT

## THE PHOENIX JOURNAL

### Y2K—THE NEW MILLENNIUM

*KNOWING TRUTH IS NOT ENOUGH,  
SUCCESSFUL CHANGE REQUIRES ACTION*



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# ECHELON Exposed— PROOF Of No Privacy

*Editorial comment:*

Regular CONTACT readers KNOW that in this world there is no such thing as privacy and have been advised to take that into consideration in all that they say and do. While only a decade ago such a matter-of-fact statement of the lack of privacy would have been (and was) greeted with ridicule or disdain, today the truth is being faced—at least, by a few European businesses that have a lot at stake in this new world of “global competition”.

The European Parliament has concluded a cursory investigation into the ECHELON system, as reported on in the story below. The extreme lack of depth in this report is indicative of the source, Associated Press, which is, of course, a purely Khazarian-controlled “news” outlet. Obviously, either it was too big of a story to ignore altogether, or it was necessary to cover it with a particular “spin”. Notice how LITTLE emphasis is placed on the FACT that there can no longer be, by definition, any privacy to so-called “private” communications.

[QUOTING:]

#### LATEST ON ECHELON

By Constant Brand, AP Write, 2/23/00

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—A U.S.-led communications monitoring network is intercepting “billions of messages per hour”—including telephone calls, fax transmissions and private e-mails, according to a European Parliament report made public Wednesday.

“We are not talking about a trivial thing here... we cannot stop them, they will continue,” said Duncan Campbell, author of the special Parliament-commissioned report on the ECHELON spy-network.

Campbell said that the intelligence network monitors and intercepts sensitive European-wide commercial communications. “The level of use is getting out of control,” he told a packed hearing of the Parliament’s Committee for Justice and Home Affairs.

He said Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand are

also involved in ECHELON. Other nations including France and Germany also participate in a lower level in the spy-network, which dates back 50 years to the beginning of the Cold War.

“The capacity of the filtering systems is enormous,” Campbell said. He added that most international Internet communications are being routed through the United States and through nine known U.S. National Security Agency interception sites.

Intelligence facilities located in the five countries can intercept fax, e-mail or telephone communications easily, he said. Campbell urged the European Union to take action to protect against unwanted interception of communications, which he said were violations of human rights.

Committee Chairman Graham Watson said he wanted to be sure the international surveillance system was not abusing its powers.

Campbell said Microsoft, IBM, and a certain “large American microchip maker” were providing certain product features which allow the interception of information flow.

(Continued on page 2)

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## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- God Is Creation—And Abundance.....page 10
- Doris’ Corner, by Doris Ekker.....page 12
- More Bush Connections From Sherman Skolnick.....page 13
- The News Desk, by John Ray.....page 15
- Public Notice Of Understanding.....page 22

Campbell said he did not know whether the U.S. corporations were benefiting from the information gathering but said previous commercial espionage resulted in the collapse of several European contracts in the airline industry—both military and commercial.

[END QUOTING]

A *LITTLE* bit more can be gleaned from the next article—again, remembering the highly controlled source of the information—which *TOUCHES* on the privacy aspect in the final paragraph. Note especially the use of a disinformation specialist to describe ECHELON as an “urban myth”—whatever that is supposed to be. Also note the “scant details” alluded to in the European Parliament report.

[QUOTING:]

#### EUROPE ACCUSES U.S. OF ECONOMIC SPYING

By Suzanne Daley, *New York Times*, 2/24/00

PARIS—Fears that the United States, Britain and other English-speaking countries are using a Cold War eavesdropping network to gain a commercial edge roused passions across Europe yesterday, even after the notion had been flatly denied in Washington and London. [As usual, “flatly denied” seems to mean there must be some truth to the allegations.]

The subject kept the European Parliament entranced for hours in Brussels, Belgium and drew banner headlines across Europe. One political cartoon showed Britain in bed with the United States, despite Britain’s membership in the European Union. “How the United States Spies on You”, was the headline in the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

The hubbub grew from a report prepared for the European Parliament that found that communications intercepted by a network called ECHELON had twice [Gee, only TWICE?] helped U.S. companies gain an advantage over Europeans.

Whatever the merits of the latest allegations [surely a lot more than what is reported here], suggestions of commercial spying have surfaced regularly in recent years. They have infuriated many Europeans, who seem to have little trouble believing that military espionage systems developed during the Cold War would be used now to help businesses in English-speaking nations.

ECHELON is a network of surveillance stations stitched together in the 1970s by the U.S. National Security Agency—with Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand—to intercept select satellite communications, according to recently declassified information in Washington.

The United States and Britain quickly rejected the idea that they would be using secret information to bolster their own economies.

“No’ is the short answer,” Prime Minister Tony Blair said in London. “These things are governed by extremely strict rules, and those rules will always be applied.”

“U.S. intelligence agencies are not tasked to engage in industrial espionage or obtain trade secrets for the benefit of any U.S. company or companies,” said State Department spokesman James Rubin in Washington.

“Although we cannot comment on the substance of the report, we can say that the NSA is not authorized to provide intelligence information to private firms,” he added [except, of course, on a case by case basis].

#### FRENCH IN A PIQUE

The denials did little to quell European fury, especially in France. Justice Minister Elisabeth Guigou said French companies are being encouraged to encrypt sensitive information to avoid detection by U.S. espionage operations. [Oops—who do you suppose holds the keys to all such encryption technology?]

She said ECHELON was set up as a military system dating originally to 1948 to eavesdrop on the Soviet Union and its allies during the Cold War, but has since been converted “for economic espionage... and for keeping a watch on competitors”.

Yesterday’s flare-up was prompted by publication of a report commissioned by the European Parliament 18 months ago, after initial allegations of commercial espionage. The 18-page report, written by free-lance journalist Duncan Campbell and based in large part on newspaper accounts [as incomplete and “spun” as this one], says ECHELON was used by the United States to gain the advantage in a least two deals involving major European companies.

The report describes ECHELON as a vast, coordinated system that includes a system of satellites and at least 10 listening posts worldwide that can intercept telephone calls, e-mails and faxes.

Citing “well-informed” news reports from 1995, Campbell’s report says information gleaned through ECHELON was given to Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp. when they were trying to win a \$6 billion contract from Saudi Arabia. The report says the spy network intercepted calls between the European consortium Airbus and Saudi airline and Government officials.

The report also charges that spy information helped Raytheon Corp. win a bid for a \$1.3 billion surveillance system for the Amazon rain forest over Thomson-CSF, a French company.

#### SCANT DETAILS OF SPYING

But the report offers few details about how the information was of use to the U.S. firms. Each example is described only in a short paragraph.

James Bamford, a U.S. journalist now writing his second [disinformation] book on the National Security Agency, said ECHELON’s supposed omnipotence has become an “urban myth”. He said it makes “no sense” that the agency would risk scandal and censure by illegally feeding secret intercepts to U.S. corporations.

“The NSA’s targets are on the front pages of the newspaper every day—Osama bin Laden, North Korea, missile transfers to Iran, nuclear weapons in Pakistan and India,” Bamford said. [Every situation listed is CONTROLLED by the same Khazarian puppet-masters who pull the strings on the intelligence agencies that are doing this monitoring.] “They don’t care about (European consortium) Airbus, they don’t care about Boeing, they don’t care about the Acme Shoe Co. in Des Moines.”

By most accounts, ECHELON works like an Internet search engine. Powerful computers at ground stations in the five countries search for key words, specific phrases, voices or other target information in data taken from civilian communications satellites overhead. Only a fraction of the vast data stream is intercepted and analyzed.

The European Union’s Executive Commission has

rejected demands to crack down on industrial espionage of the type described yesterday, saying that charges have not been proven.

In recent years, ECHELON also has been widely criticized in the United States as an excessive intrusion into the private [sic] communications of Americans and their allies.

[END QUOTING]

Now we get to the “full scoop” on the ECHELON technology with the following well-researched report from the “Center for Technology Policy”. (We are left to suppose that some concerned citizens set up this organization and pay the wages and overhead, I guess.) At any rate, the details provided and the scope of the material are EXCELLENT, although some comments are necessary in the area of “conclusions” near the end of this report.

[QUOTING:]

#### ECHELON: AMERICA’S SECRET GLOBAL SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

By Patrick S. Poole  
Deputy Director, Center for Technology Policy

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the greatest surveillance effort ever established, the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) has created a global spy system, codename ECHELON, which captures and analyzes virtually every phone call, fax, e-mail and telex message sent anywhere in the world. ECHELON is controlled by the NSA and is operated in conjunction with the General Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) of England, the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) of Canada, the Australian Defense Security Directorate (DSD) and the General Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) of New Zealand. These organizations are bound together under a secret 1948 agreement, *UKUSA*, whose terms and text remain under wraps even today.

The ECHELON system is fairly simple in design: Position intercept stations all over the world to capture all satellite, microwave, cellular and fiber-optic communications traffic, and then process this information through the massive computer capabilities of the NSA, including advanced voice recognition and optical character recognition (OCR) programs, and look for code words or phrases (known as the ECHELON “Dictionary”) that will prompt the computers to flag the message for recording and transcribing for future analysis. Intelligence analysts at each of the respective “listening stations” maintain separate keyword lists for them to analyze any conversation or document flagged by the system, which is then forwarded to the respective intelligence agency headquarters that requested the intercept.

But apart from directing their ears towards terrorists and rogue states, ECHELON is also being used for purposes well outside its original mission. The regular discovery of domestic surveillance targeted at American civilians for reasons of “unpopular” political affiliation or for no probable cause at all in violation of the *First, Fourth* and *Fifth Amendments* of the *Constitution*—are consistently impeded by very elaborate and complex legal arguments and privilege claims by the intelligence agencies and the U.S. Government. The guardians and caretakers of our

liberties, our duly elected political representatives, give scarce attention to these activities, let alone the abuses that occur under their watch. Among the activities that the ECHELON targets are:

**Political spying:** Since the close of World War II, U.S. intelligence agencies have developed a consistent record of trampling the rights and liberties of the American people. Even after the investigations into the domestic and political surveillance activities of the agencies that followed in the wake of the Watergate fiasco, the NSA continues to target the political activity of “unpopular” political groups and our duly elected representatives. One whistleblower charged in a 1988 *Cleveland Plain Dealer* interview that while she was stationed at the Menwith Hill facility in the 1980s, she heard real-time intercepts of South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond. A former Maryland Congressman, Michael Barnes, claimed in a 1995 *Baltimore Sun* article that under the Reagan Administration his phone calls were regularly intercepted, which he discovered only after reporters had passed transcripts of his conversations by the White House. One of the most shocking revelations came to light after several GCHQ officials became concerned about the targeting of peaceful political groups and told the *London Observer* in 1992 that the ECHELON dictionaries targeted Amnesty International, Greenpeace and even Christian ministries.

**Commercial espionage:** Since the demise of Communism in Eastern Europe, the intelligence agencies have searched for a new justification for their surveillance capability in order to protect their prominence and their bloated budgets. Their solution was to redefine the notion of national security to include economic, commercial and corporate concerns. An office was created within the Department of Commerce, the Office of Intelligence Liaison, to forward intercepted materials [*just TWICE, remember*] to major U.S. corporations. In many [*more than two?*] cases, the beneficiaries of this commercial espionage effort are the very companies that helped the NSA develop the systems that power the ECHELON network. This incestuous relationship is so strong that sometimes this intelligence information is used to push other American manufacturers out of deals in favor of these mammoth U.S. defense and intelligence contractors, who frequently are the source of major cash contributions to both political parties.

While signals intelligence technology [SIGINT] was helpful in containing and eventually defeating the Soviet Empire during the Cold War, what was once designed to target a select list of communist countries and terrorist states is now indiscriminately directed against virtually every citizen in the world. The European Parliament is now asking whether [or not] the ECHELON communications interceptions violate the sovereignty and privacy of citizens in other countries. In some cases, such as the NSA’s Menwith Hill station in England, surveillance is conducted against citizens on their own soil and with the full knowledge and cooperation of their Government. [*But that wouldn't happen here in the United States, right?*]

This report suggests that Congress pick up its long-neglected role as watchdog of the constitutional rights and liberties of the American people, instead of its current role as lap dog to the U.S. intelligence agencies. Congressional hearings ought to be held, similar to the Church and Rockefeller Committee hearings held in the

mid-1970s, to find out to what extent the ECHELON system targets the personal, political, religious and commercial communications of American citizens. The late Senator Frank Church warned that the technology and capability embodied in the ECHELON system represented a direct threat to the liberties of the American people. Left unchecked, ECHELON could be used by either the political Elite or the intelligence agencies themselves as a tool to subvert the civil protections of *Constitution* and to destroy representative government in the United States.

### INTRODUCTION

The culmination of the Cold War conflict brought home hard realities for many military and intelligence agencies which were dependent upon the confrontation for massive budgets and little civilian oversight. World War II Allied political and military alliances had quickly become intelligence alliances in the shadow of the Iron Curtain that descended upon Eastern Europe after the War.

But for some intelligence agencies, the end of the Cold War just meant a shift in mission and focus, not a loss of manpower or financial resources. One such U.S. governmental organization is the National Security Agency (NSA) [*the original purpose of which was containment of knowledge regarding “aliens”*]. Despite the disintegration of Communism in the former Soviet Union and throughout Eastern Europe, the secretive NSA continues to grow at an exponential rate in terms of budget, manpower and spying abilities. Other countries have noticed the rapid growth of NSA resources and facilities around the world and have decried the extensive spying upon their citizens by the U.S.

A preliminary report released by the European Parliament in January 1998 detailed research conducted by independent researchers that uncovered a massive U.S. spy technology network that routinely monitors telephone, fax and e-mail information on citizens all over the world, but particularly in the European Union (EU) and Japan. Titled “An Appraisal of Technologies of Political Control”<sup>(1)</sup>, this report, issued by the Scientific and Technological Options Assessment (STOA) Committee of the European Parliament, caused a tremendous stir in the establishment press in Europe. At least one major U.S. media outlet, *The New York Times*<sup>(2)</sup>, covered the issuance of the report as well.

The STOA report also exposed a festering sore spot between the U.S. and our EU allies. The widespread surveillance of citizens in EU countries by the NSA has been known and discussed by European journalists since 1981. The name of the system in question is ECHELON, and it is one of the most secretive spy systems in existence.

ECHELON is actually a vast network of electronic spy stations located around the world and maintained by five countries: the U.S., England, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. These countries, bound together in a still-secret agreement called *UKUSA*, spy on each other’s citizens by intercepting and gathering electronic signals of almost every telephone call, fax transmission and e-mail message transmitted around the world daily. These signals are fed through the massive supercomputers of the NSA to look for certain keywords called the ECHELON “dictionaries”.

Most of the details of this mammoth spy system

and the *UKUSA* agreement that supports it remain a mystery. What is known of ECHELON is the result of the efforts of journalists and researchers around the world who have labored for decades to uncover the operations of our government’s most secret systems. The 1996 publication of New Zealand journalist Nicky Hager’s book, *Secret Power: New Zealand’s Role in the International Spy Network*<sup>(3)</sup>, provided the most detailed look at the system and inflamed interest in ECHELON as well as the debate regarding its propriety.

This paper examines the expanse of the ECHELON system along with the intelligence agreements and exchanges that support it. The operation of ECHELON serves the NSA’s goal of spying on the citizens of other countries while also allowing them to circumvent the prohibition [against] spying on U.S. citizens. ECHELON is not only a gross violation of our *Constitution*, but it violates the good will of our European allies and threatens the privacy of innocent civilians around the world. The existence and expansion of ECHELON is a foreboding omen regarding the future of our constitutional liberties. If a government agency can willingly violate the most basic components of the *Bill of Rights* without so much as congressional oversight and approval, we have reverted from a republican form of government to tyranny.

### THE PARTIES

The success of the Allied military effort in World War II was due in no small part to successes in gathering enemy intelligence information and cracking those military and diplomatic messages. In addition, the Allied forces were able to create codes and encryption devices that effectively concealed sensitive information from prying Axis Power eyes. These coordinated signal intelligence (SIGINT) programs kept Allied information secure and left the enemies vulnerable.

But at the close of the conflict, a new threatening power—the Soviet Union—was beginning to provoke the Cold War by enslaving Eastern Europe. These signal intelligence agencies now had a new enemy toward which to turn their electronic eyes and ears to ensure that the balance of power could be maintained. The volleys of electronic hardware and espionage that would follow for forty years would be the breeding ground of the ECHELON spy system.

The diplomatic foundation that was the genesis of ECHELON is the *UKUSA* agreement. The agreement has its roots in the *BRUSA COMINT* (communications intelligence) alliance formed in the early days of World War II and ratified on May 17, 1943 by the United Kingdom and the United States.<sup>(4)</sup> The Commonwealth SIGINT Organization formed in 1946-47 brought together the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand post-war intelligence agencies.<sup>(5)</sup> Forged in 1947 between the U.S. and UK, the still-secret *UKUSA* agreement defined the relations between the SIGINT departments of those various governments. Direct agreements between the U.S. and these agencies also define the intricate relationship that these organizations engage in.

Foremost among those agencies is the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA), which represents the American interest. The NSA is designated as the “First Party to the *Treaty*”. The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) signed the *UKUSA* agreement on

behalf of the UK and its Commonwealth SIGINT partners. This brought Australia's Defense Signals Directorate (DSD), the Canadian Communications Security Establishment (CSE) and New Zealand's Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) into the arrangement. While these agencies are bound by additional direct agreements with the U.S. and each other, these four countries are considered the "Second Parties to the (*UKUSA*) Treaty". Third Party members include Germany, Japan, Norway, South Korea and Turkey. There are sources that indicate China may be included in this group on a limited basis as well.<sup>(6)</sup>

#### NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY (U.S.)

The prime mover in the *UKUSA* arrangement is undeniably the National Security Agency (NSA). The majority of funds for joint projects and facilities (discussed below) as well as the direction for intelligence gathering operations are issued primarily through the NSA. The participating agencies frequently exchange personnel, divide up intelligence collection tasks and establish common guidelines for classifying and protecting shared information. However, the NSA utilizes its role as the largest spy agency in the world to have its international intelligence partners do its bidding.

President Harry Truman established the NSA in 1952 with a presidential directive that remains classified to this day. The U.S. government did not acknowledge the existence of the NSA until 1957. Its original mission was to conduct the signal intelligence (SIGINT) and communications security (COMSEC) for the U.S. [and especially where this "security" applied to the "alien" "threat"]. President Ronald Reagan added the tasks of information systems security and operations security training in 1984 and 1988 respectively. A 1986 law charged the NSA with supporting combat operations for the Department of Defense.<sup>(7)</sup>

Headquartered at Fort George Meade, located between Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland, the NSA boasts the most enviable array of intelligence equipment and personnel in the world. The NSA is the largest global employer of mathematicians—featuring the best teams of code-makers and code-breakers ever assembled. The latter's job is to crack the encryption codes of foreign and domestic electronic communications, forwarding the revealed messages to their enormous team of skilled linguists to review and analyze the messages in over 100 languages. The NSA is also responsible for creating the encryption codes that protect the U.S. Government's communications.

In its role as gang leader for *UKUSA*, the NSA is primarily involved with creating new surveillance and code-breaking technology, directing the other cooperating agencies to their targets, and providing them with training and tools to intercept, process and analyze enormous amounts of signals intelligence. By possessing what is arguably the most technologically advanced communications, computer and code-breaking equipment of any government agency in the world, the NSA serves as a competent and capable taskmaster for *UKUSA*.

#### THE ECHELON NETWORK

The vast network created by the *UKUSA* community stretches across the globe and into the

reaches of space. Land-based intercept stations, intelligence ships sailing the seven seas and top-secret satellites whirling twenty-thousand miles overhead, all combine to empower the NSA and its *UKUSA* allies with access to the entire global communications network. Very few signals escape its electronic grasp.

Having divided the world up among the *UKUSA* parties, each agency directs its electronic "vacuum-cleaner" equipment toward the heavens and the ground to search for the most minute communications signals that traverse the system's immense path. The NSA facilities in the U.S. cover the communications signals of both American continents; the GCHQ in Britain is responsible for Europe, Africa and Russia west of the Ural Mountains; the DSD in Australia assists in SIGINT collection in Southeastern Asia and the Southwest Pacific and Eastern Indian Ocean areas; the GSCB in New Zealand is responsible for Southern Pacific Ocean collections, particularly the South Pacific island nations group; and CSE in Canada handles interception of additional northern Russian, northern European and American communications.<sup>(8)</sup>

#### THE FACILITIES

The backbone of the ECHELON network is [comprised of] massive listening and reception stations directed at the Intelsat and Inmarsat satellites that are responsible for the vast majority of phone and fax communications traffic within and between countries and continents. The twenty Intelsat satellites follow a geo-stationary orbit locked onto a particular point on the Equator.<sup>(9)</sup> These satellites carry primarily civilian traffic, but they do additionally carry diplomatic and governmental communications that are of particular interest to the *UKUSA* parties.

Originally, only two stations were responsible for Intelsat intercepts: Morwenstow in England and Yakima in the state of Washington. However, when the Intelsat 5 series was replaced with the Intelsat 701 and 703 satellites, which had much more precise transmission beams that prohibited reception of Southern Hemisphere signals from the Yakima base in the Northern Hemisphere, additional facilities were constructed in Australia and New Zealand.<sup>(10)</sup>

Today, the Morwenstow Station directs its ears towards the Intelsats traversing the atmosphere above the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and transmitting to Europe, Africa and western parts of Asia. The Yakima Station, located on the grounds of the Yakima Firing Station, targets Pacific Ocean communications in the Northern Hemisphere as well as the Far East. Another NSA facility at Sugar Grove, West Virginia covers traffic for the whole of North and South America. A DSD station at Geraldton, Australia and the Waihopai, New Zealand GCSB facility cover Asia, the South Pacific countries and the Pacific Ocean. An additional station on Ascension Island in the Atlantic Ocean between Brazil and Angola is suspected of covering the Atlantic Intelsat's Southern Hemisphere communications.<sup>(11)</sup>

Non-Intelsat satellites are monitored from these same stations, as well as from bases in Menwith Hill, England; Shoal Bay, Australia; Leitrim, Canada; Bad Aibling, Germany; and Misawa, Japan. These satellites typically carry Russian and regional communications.<sup>(12)</sup> It is known that the Shoal Bay facility targets a series of Indonesian satellites and that the Leitrim Station

intercepts communications from Latin American satellites, including the Mexican telephone company's *Morelos* satellite.<sup>(13)</sup>

Several dozen other radio listening posts operated by the *UKUSA* allies dot the globe as well, located at military bases on foreign soil and remote spy posts. These stations played a critical role in the time prior to the development of satellite communications because much of the world's communications traffic was transmitted on radio-frequency bands. Particularly in the high-frequency (HF) range, radio communications continue to serve an important purpose despite the widespread use of satellite technology because their signals can be transmitted to military ships and aircraft across the globe. Shorter range, very-high frequencies (VHF) and ultra-high frequencies (UHF) are also used for tactical military communications within national borders. Major radio facilities in the *UKUSA* network include Tangimoana, New Zealand; Bamaga, Australia; and the joint NSA/GCHQ facility at the Indian Ocean atoll of Diego Garcia.<sup>(14)</sup>

A separate high-frequency direction-finding (HFDF) network intercepts communications signals for the unique purpose of locating the position of ships and aircraft. While these stations are not actually involved in the analysis of messages, they play a critical role in monitoring the movements of mobile military targets. The Canadian CSE figures prominently in the HFDF *UKUSA* network, code-named CLASSIC BULLSEYE and hosting a major portion of the Atlantic and Pacific stations that monitored Soviet ship and submarine movements during the Cold War. Stations from Kingston and Leitrim (Ontario) to Gander (Newfoundland) on the Atlantic side, to Alert (Northwest Territories) located at the northernmost tip of Canada on the Arctic Ocean that listens to the Russian submarine bases at Petropavlovsk and Vladivostok, and finally to Masset (British Columbia) in the Pacific—monitor shipping and flight lanes under the direction of the NSA.<sup>(15)</sup> The CSE also maintains a small contingent at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, which probably monitors Latin American communications targets.

Another major support for the ECHELON system is the U.S. spy satellite network and its corresponding reception bases scattered about the *UKUSA* empire. These space-based electronic communications "vacuum cleaners" pick up radio, microwave and cell-phone traffic on the ground. They were launched by the NSA in cooperation with its sister spy agencies, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The Ferret series of satellites in the 1960s; the Canyon, Rhyolite and Aquacade satellites in the 1970s; and the Chalet, Vortex, Magnum, Orion, and Jumpseat series of satellites in the 1980s, have given way to the new and improved Mercury, Mentor and Trumpet satellites during the 1990s.

[Refer to Table I]

These surveillance satellites act as giant scoops picking up electronic communications, cell-phone conversations and various radio transmissions. The downlink stations that control the operations and targeting of these satellites are under the exclusive control of the United States, despite their location on foreign military bases. The two primary downlink facilities are at Menwith Hill, England, and Pine Gap, Australia.

INSIDE MENWITH HILL

The Menwith Hill facility is located in North Yorkshire near Harrogate, England. The important role that Menwith Hill plays in the ECHELON system was recognized by the recent European Parliament STOA report:

Within Europe, all e-mail, telephone and fax communications are routinely intercepted by the United

STEEPLEBUSH—Completed in 1984, this \$160 million system expanded the satellite surveillance capability and mission of the spy station beyond the bounds of the installation that began in 1974.

RUNWAY—Running east and west across the facility, this system receives signals from the second-generation geosynchronous Vortex satellites, and gathers miscellaneous communications traffic from Europe,

This allows the NSA to tap into the very heart of the British Telecomm network. Judge Jonathan Crabtree rebuked British Telecomm for their revelations and prohibited Mr. Morris from giving any further testimony in the case for “national security” reasons. According to Duncan Campbell, the secret spying alliance between Menwith Hill and British Telecomm began in 1975 with a coaxial connection to the British Telecomm microwave facility at Hunter’s Stone, four miles away from Menwith Hill—a connection maintained even today.<sup>(23)</sup>

Additional systems (TROUTMAN, ULTRAPURE, TOTALISER, SILVERWEED, RUCKUS, *et al*) complete the monumental SIGINT collection efforts at Menwith Hill. Directing its electronic vacuum cleaners towards unsuspecting communications satellites in the skies, receiving signals gathered by satellites that scoop up the most minute signals on the ground, listening in on the radio communications throughout the air, or plugging into the ground-based telecommunications network, Menwith Hill, alongside its sister stations at Pine

Gap, Australia and Bad Aibling, Germany, represents the comprehensive effort of the NSA and its *UKUSA* allies to make sure that no communications signal escapes its electronic net.

**Table I. U.S. SPY SATELLITES IN CURRENT USE**

SATELLITE	NO.	ORBIT	MANUFACTURER	PURPOSE
Advanced KH-11	3	200 miles	Lockheed Martin	5-inch resolution spy photographs
LaCrosse Radar Imaging	2	200-400 miles	Lockheed Martin	3-10 feet resolution spy photographs
Orion/Vortex	3	22,300 miles	TRW	Telecom surveillance
Trumpet	2	200-22,300 miles	Boeing	Surveillance of cellular phones
Parsae	3	600 miles	TRW	Ocean surveillance
Satellite Data Systems	2	200-22,300 miles	Hughes	Data Relay
Defense Support Program	4+	22,300 miles	TRW/Aerojet	Missile early warning
Defense Meteorological Support Program	2	500 miles	Lockheed Martin	Meteorology, nuclear-blast detection

Source: MSNBC<sup>(16)</sup>

States National Security Agency, transferring all target information from the European mainland via the strategic hub of London then by satellite to Fort Meade in Maryland via the crucial hub at Menwith Hill in the North York Moors of the UK.<sup>(17)</sup>

The existence and importance of the facility was first brought to light by British journalist and researcher Duncan Campbell in 1980.<sup>(18)</sup> Today, it is the largest spy station in the world, with over twenty-five satellite receiving stations and 1,400 American NSA personnel working with 350 UK Ministry of Defense staff on site. After revelations that the facility was coordinating surveillance for the vast majority of the European continent, the base has become a target for regular protests organized by local peace activists. It has also become the target of intense criticism by European government officials who are concerned about the vast network of civilian surveillance and economic espionage conducted from the station by the U.S.<sup>(19)</sup>

The beginnings of Menwith Hill go back to December 1951, when the U.S. Air Force and British War Office signed a lease for land that had been purchased by the British Government. The NSA took over the lease of the base in 1966 and they have continued to build up the facility ever since. Up until the mid-1970s, Menwith Hill was used for intercepting International Leased Carrier (ILC) and Non-Diplomatic Communications (NDC). Having received one of the first sophisticated IBM computers in the early 1960s, Menwith Hill was also used to sort through the voluminous unenciphered telex communications, which consisted of international messages, telegrams and telephone calls from the government, business and civilian sectors looking for anything of political, military or economic value.<sup>(20)</sup>

The addition of the first satellite intercept station at Menwith Hill in 1974 raised the base’s prominence in intelligence gathering. Eight large satellite-communications dishes were installed during that phase of construction. Several satellite-gathering systems now dot the facility:<sup>(21)</sup>

Asia and the former Soviet Union. The information is then forwarded to the Menwith Hill computer systems for processing. RUNWAY may have recently been replaced or complemented by another system, RUTLEY.

PUSHER—An HFDF system that covers the HF frequency range between 3MHz and 30MHz (radio transmissions from CB radios, walkie-talkies and other radio devices). Military, embassy, maritime and air flight communications are the main target of PUSHER.

MOONPENNY—Uncovered by British journalist Duncan Campbell in the 1980s, this system is targeted at the communication relay satellites belonging to other countries, as well as the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Intelsat satellites.

KNOBSTICKS I and II—The purpose of these antennae arrays are unknown, but they probably target military and diplomatic traffic throughout Europe.

GT-6—A new system installed at the end of 1996, GT-6 is believed to be the receiver for the third generation of geosynchronous satellites termed Advanced Orion or Advanced Vortex. A new polar-orbit satellite called Advanced Jumpseat may be monitored from here as well.

STEEPLEBUSH II—An expansion of the 1984 STEEPLEBUSH system, this computer system processes information collected from the RUNWAY receivers gathering traffic from the Vortex satellites.

SILKWORTH—Constructed by Lockheed Corporation, the main computer system for Menwith Hill processes most of the information received by the various reception systems.

One shocking revelation about Menwith Hill came to light in 1997 during the trial of two women peace campaigners appealing their convictions for trespassing at the facility. In documents and testimony submitted by British Telecomm in the case, R. G. Morris, head of Emergency Planning for British Telecomm, revealed that at least three major domestic fiber-optic telephone trunk lines—each capable of carrying 100,000 calls simultaneously—were wired through Menwith Hill.<sup>(22)</sup>

THE ECHELON DICTIONARIES

The extraordinary ability of ECHELON to intercept most of the communications traffic in the world is breathtaking in its scope. And yet the power of ECHELON resides in its ability to decrypt, filter, examine and codify these messages into selective categories for further analysis by intelligence agents from the various *UKUSA* agencies. As the electronic signals are brought into the station, they are fed through the massive computer systems, such as Menwith Hill’s SILKWORTH, where voice recognition, optical character recognition (OCR) and data-information engines get to work on the messages.

These programs and computers transcend state-of-the-art; in many cases, they are well into the future. MAGISTRAND is part of the Menwith Hill SILKWORTH supercomputer system that drives the powerful keyword search programs.<sup>(24)</sup> One tool used to sort through the text of messages, PATHFINDER (manufactured by the UK company, Memex)<sup>(25)</sup>, sifts through large databases of text-based documents and messages looking for keywords and phrases based on complex algorithmic criteria. Voice recognition programs convert conversations into text messages for further analysis. **One highly advanced system, VOICECAST, can target an individual’s voice pattern, so that every call that person makes is transcribed for future analysis.**

Processing millions of messages every hour, the ECHELON systems churn away 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, looking for targeted keyword series, phone and fax numbers and specified voiceprints. It is important to note that very few messages and phone calls are actually transcribed and recorded by the system. The vast majority are filtered out after they are read or



listened to by the system. Only those messages that produce keyword “hits” are tagged for future analysis. Again, it is not just the ability to collect the electronic signals that gives ECHELON its power; it is the tools and technology that are able to whittle down the messages to only those that are important to the intelligence agencies.

Each station maintains a list of keywords (the “Dictionary”) designated by each of the participating intelligence agencies. A Dictionary Manager from each of the respective agencies is responsible for adding, deleting or changing the keyword search criteria for their dictionaries at each of the stations.<sup>(26)</sup> Each of these station dictionaries are given code words, such as COWBOY for the Yakima facility and FLINTLOCK for the Waihopai facility.<sup>(27)</sup> These code words play a crucial identification role for the analysts who eventually look at the intercepted messages.

Each message flagged by the ECHELON dictionaries as meeting the specified criteria is sorted by a four-digit code representing the source or subject of the message (such as 5535 for Japanese diplomatic traffic, or 8182 for communications about distribution of encryption technology)<sup>(28)</sup> as well as the date, time and station code word. Also included in the message headers are the codenames for the intended agency: ALPHA-ALPHA (GCHQ), ECHO-ECHO (DSD), INDIA-INDIA (GCSB), UNIFORM-UNIFORM (CSE) and OSCAR-OSCAR (NSA). These messages are then transmitted to each agency’s headquarters via a global computer system, PLATFORM<sup>(29)</sup> that acts as the information nervous system for the UKUSA stations and agencies.

Every day, analysts located at the various intelligence agencies review the previous day’s product. As it is analyzed, decrypted and translated, it can be compiled into the different types of analysis: reports, which are direct and complete translations of intercepted messages; “gists”, which give basic information on a series of messages within a given category; and summaries, which are compilations from both reports and gists.<sup>(30)</sup> These are then given classifications: MORAY (secret), SPOKE (more secret than MORAY), UMBRA (top secret), GAMMA (Russian intercepts) and DRUID [*Oh yes, evil does wear a SIGN.*] (intelligence forwarded to non-UKUSA parties). This analysis product is the *raison d’être* of the entire ECHELON system. It is also the lifeblood of the UKUSA alliance.

### THE PROBLEM

The ECHELON system is the product of the Cold War conflict, an extended battle replete with heightened tensions that teetered on the brink of annihilation and the diminished hostilities of *détente* and *glasnost*. Vicious cycles of mistrust and paranoia between the United States and the Soviet Empire fed the intelligence agencies to the point that, with the fall of communism throughout Eastern Europe, the intelligence establishment began to grasp for a mission that justified its bloated existence.

But the rise of post-modern warfare—terrorism—gave the establishment all the justification it needed to develop even greater ability to spy on our enemies, our allies and our own citizens. ECHELON is the result of those efforts. The satellites that fly thousands of miles overhead and yet can spy out the most minute details on

the ground; the secret submarines that troll the ocean floors that are able to tap into undersea communications cables;<sup>(31)</sup> and all power the efficient UKUSA signals intelligence machine.

There is a concerted effort by the heads of intelligence agencies, federal law-enforcement officials and congressional representatives to defend the capabilities of ECHELON. Their persuasive arguments point to the tragedies seen in the bombings in Oklahoma City and the World Trade Center in New York City [*Perpetrated by whom, exactly, if not the very ones who pull the strings on these intelligence agencies?*]. The vulnerability of Americans abroad, as recently seen in the bombing of the American embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya, emphasizes the necessity of monitoring those forces around the world that would use senseless violence and terror as political weapons against the U.S. and its allies [*How appropriate—if only they would use this system to keep tabs on the Khazarians!*].

Intelligence victories add credibility to the arguments that defend such a pervasive surveillance system. The discovery of missile sites in Cuba in 1962, the capture of the *Achille Lauro* terrorists in 1995, the discovery of Libyan involvement in the bombing of a Berlin discotheque that killed one American (resulting in the 1996 bombing of Tripoli) and countless other incidents that have been averted (which are now covered by the silence of indoctrination vows and top-secret classifications) [*Oh, no, if there were others, you could be sure we would have heard them used for justification purposes.*] all point to the need for comprehensive signals intelligence gathering for the national security of the United States.

But despite the real threats and dangers to the peace and protection of American citizens at home and abroad, our *Constitution* is quite explicit in limiting the scope and powers of government. A fundamental foundation of free societies is that when controversies arise over the assumption of power by the state, power never defaults to the government, nor are powers granted without an extraordinary, explicit and compelling public interest. As the late Supreme Court Justice William Brennan pointed out:

“The concept of military necessity is seductively broad and has a dangerous plasticity. Because they invariably have the visage of overriding importance, there is always a temptation to invoke security ‘necessities’ to justify an encroachment upon civil liberties. For that reason, the military-security argument must be approached with a healthy skepticism: Its very gravity counsels that courts be cautious when military necessity is invoked by the Government to justify a trespass on [constitutional] rights.”<sup>(32)</sup>

Despite the necessity of confronting terrorism and the many benefits that are provided by the massive surveillance efforts embodied by ECHELON, there is a dark and dangerous side of these activities that is concealed by the cloak of secrecy surrounding the intelligence operations of the United States.

**The discovery of domestic surveillance targeting American civilians for reasons of “unpopular” political affiliation—or for no probable cause at all—in violation of the First, Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the Constitution is regularly impeded by very elaborate and complex legal arguments and privilege claims by the intelligence agencies and the**

**U.S. government. The guardians and caretakers of our liberties—our duly elected political representatives—give scarce attention to the activities, let alone the abuses, that occur under their watch. As pointed out below, our elected officials frequently become targets of ECHELON themselves [*Indeed, what a tremendous tool for BLACKMAIL.*], chilling any effort to check this unbridled power.**

In addition, the shift in priorities resulting from the demise of the Soviet Empire—and the necessity to justify intelligence capabilities—resulted in a redefinition of “national security interests” to include espionage committed on behalf of powerful American companies. This quiet collusion between political and private interests typically involves the very same companies that are involved in developing the technology that empowers ECHELON and the intelligence agencies

### DOMESTIC AND POLITICAL SPYING

When considering the use of ECHELON on American soil, the pathetic historical record of NSA and CIA domestic activities in regards to the constitutional liberties and privacy rights of American citizens provides an excellent guidepost for what may occur now with the ECHELON system. Since the creation of the NSA by President Truman, its spying capability has frequently been used to monitor the activities of an unsuspecting public.

### PROJECT SHAMROCK

In 1945 *Project SHAMROCK* was initiated to obtain copies of all telegraphic information exiting or entering the United States. With the full cooperation of RCA, ITT and Western Union (representing almost all of the telegraphic traffic in the U.S. at the time), the NSA’s predecessor and later the NSA itself were provided with daily microfilm copies of all incoming, outgoing and transiting telegraphs. This system changed dramatically when the cable companies began providing magnetic computer tapes to the agency that enabled the agency to run all the messages through its HARVEST computer to look for particular keywords, locations, senders or addressees.

*Project SHAMROCK* became so successful that the in 1966 NSA and CIA set up a front company in lower Manhattan (where the offices of the telegraph companies were located) under the codename LPMEDLEY. At the height of *Project SHAMROCK*, 150,000 messages a month were printed and analyzed by NSA agents.<sup>(33)</sup>

NSA Director Lew Allen brought *Project SHAMROCK* to a crashing halt in May 1975 as congressional critics began to rip open the program’s shroud of secrecy. The testimony of both the representatives from the cable companies and of Director Allen at the hearings prompted Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Senator Frank Church to conclude that *Project SHAMROCK* was “probably the largest government interception program affecting Americans ever undertaken.”<sup>(34)</sup>

### PROJECT MINARET

A sister project to *Project SHAMROCK*, *Project MINARET* involved the creation of “watch lists” by each of the intelligence agencies and the FBI of those

accused of “subversive” domestic activities. The watch lists included such notables as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Jane Fonda, Joan Baez and Dr. Benjamin Spock.

After the Supreme Court handed down its 1972 Keith decision<sup>(35)</sup>, which held that—while the president could act to protect the country from unlawful and subversive activity designed to overthrow the government—that same power did not extend to include warrantless electronic surveillance of domestic organizations, pressure came to bear on *Project MINARET*.<sup>(36)</sup> Attorney General Elliot Petersen shut down *Project MINARET* as soon as its activities were revealed to the Justice Department, despite the fact that the FBI (an agency under the Justice Department’s authority) was actively involved with the NSA and other intelligence agencies in creating the watch lists.

Operating between 1967 and 1973, over 5,925 foreigners and 1,690 organizations and U.S. citizens were included on the *Project MINARET* watch lists. Despite extensive efforts to conceal the NSA’s involvement in *Project MINARET*, NSA Director Lew Allen testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee in 1975 that the NSA had issued over 3,900 reports on the watch-listed Americans.<sup>(37)</sup> Additionally, the NSA Office of Security Services maintained reports on at least 75,000 Americans between 1952 and 1974. This list included the names of anyone that was mentioned in a NSA message intercept.

#### OPERATION CHAOS

While the NSA was busy snooping on U.S. citizens through Projects *SHAMROCK* and *MINARET*, the CIA got into the domestic spying act by initiating *Operation CHAOS*. President Lyndon Johnson authorized the creation of the CIA’s Domestic Operations Division (DOD) [*Oh dod, I thought that was the Department of Defense! With so much alphabet soup, it's hard to keep the letters straight!*], whose purpose was to “exercise centralized responsibility for direction, support and coordination of clandestine operations activities within the United States.”

When Johnson ordered CIA Director John McCone to use the DOD [*Let's pay attention: This refers to the DOMESTIC OPERATIONS DIVISION of the CIA, not the Department of Defense*] to analyze the growing college student protests of the Administration’s policy towards Vietnam, two new units were set up to target anti-war protestors and organizations: *Project RESISTANCE*, which worked with college administrators, campus security and local police to identify anti-war activists and political dissidents; and *Project MERRIMAC*, which monitored any demonstrations being conducted in the Washington, DC area. The CIA then began monitoring student activists and infiltrating anti-war organizations by working with local police departments to pull off burglaries, illegal entries (black-bag jobs), interrogations and electronic surveillance.<sup>(38)</sup>

After President Nixon came to office in 1969, all of these domestic surveillance activities were consolidated into *Operation CHAOS*. After the revelation of two former CIA agents’ involvement in the Watergate break-in, the publication of an article about *CHAOS* in *The New York Times*<sup>(39)</sup> and the growing concern about distancing itself from illegal domestic spying activities, the CIA shut down *Operation CHAOS*. But during the

life of the project, the Church Committee and the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States (the Rockefeller Commission) revealed that the CIA had compiled files on over 13,000 individuals, including 7,000 U.S. citizens and 1,000 domestic organizations.<sup>(40)</sup>

#### THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT (FISC)

In response to the discovery of such a comprehensive effort by previous administrations and the intelligence agencies, Congress passed legislation (the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act* of 1978)<sup>(41)</sup> that created a top-secret court to hear applications for electronic surveillance from the FBI and NSA to provide some check on the domestic activities of the agencies. In 1995, Congress granted the court additional power to authorize surreptitious entries. In all of these actions, congressional intent was to provide a check on the domestic-surveillance abuses mentioned above.

The seven-member court, comprised of federal District Court judges appointed by the Supreme Court Chief Justice, sits in secret in a sealed room on the top floor of the Department of Justice building. Public information about the Court’s hearings is scarce; each year the Attorney General is required by law to transmit to Congress a report detailing the number of applications each year and the number granted. With over 10,000 applications submitted to the FISC during the past twenty years, the court has only rejected one application (and that rejection was at the request of the Reagan Administration, which had submitted the application).

While the FISC was established to be the watchdog for the constitutional rights of the American people against domestic surveillance, it quickly became the lap dog of the intelligence agencies. Surveillance requests that would never receive a hearing in a state or federal court are routinely approved by the FISC. This has allowed the FBI to use the process to conduct surveillance to obtain evidence in circumvention of the U.S. *Constitution*, and the evidence is then used in subsequent criminal trials. But the process established by Congress and the courts ensures that information regarding the cause or extent of the surveillance order is withheld from defense attorneys because of the classified nature of the Court.<sup>(42)</sup> Despite Congress’s initial intent for the FISC, it is doubtful that domestic surveillance by means of ECHELON comes under any scrutiny by the Court.

#### POLITICAL USES OF ECHELON AND UKUSA

Several incidents of domestic spying involving ECHELON have emerged from the secrecy of the *UKUSA* relationship. What these brief glimpses inside the intelligence world reveal is that, despite the best of intentions by elected representatives, presidents and prime ministers, the temptation to use ECHELON as a tool of political advancement and repression proves too strong.

Former Canadian spy Mike Frost recounts how former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made a request in February 1983 to have two ministers from her own Government monitored when she suspected them of disloyalty. In an effort to avoid the legal difficulties involved with domestic spying on high

governmental officials, the GCHQ liaison in Ottawa made a request to CSE for them to conduct the three-week-long surveillance mission at British taxpayer expense. Frost’s CSE boss, Frank Bowman, traveled to London to do the job himself. After the mission was over, Bowman was instructed to hand over the tapes to a GCHQ official at their headquarters.<sup>(43)</sup>

Using the *UKUSA* alliance as legal cover is seductively easy. As *Spyworld* co-author Michel Gratton puts it:

“The Thatcher episode certainly shows that GCHQ, like NSA, found ways to put itself above the law and did not hesitate to get directly involved in helping a specific politician for her personal political benefit.... [The] decision to proceed with the London caper was probably not put forward for approval to many people up the bureaucratic ladder. It was something CSE figured they would get away with easily, so checking with the higher-ups would only complicate things unnecessarily.”<sup>(44)</sup>

Frost also told of how he was asked in 1975 to spy on an unlikely target—Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau’s wife, Margaret Trudeau. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police’s (RCMP) Security Service division was concerned that the Prime Minister’s wife was buying and using marijuana, so they contacted the CSE to do the dirty work. Months of surveillance in cooperation with the Security Service turned up nothing of note. Frost was concerned that there were political motivations behind the RCMP’s request: “She was in no way suspected of espionage. Why was the RCMP so adamant about this? Were they trying to get at Pierre Trudeau for some reason or just protect him? Or were they working under orders from their political masters?”<sup>(45)</sup>

The NSA frequently gets into the political spying act as well. Nixon presidential aide John Ehrlichman revealed in his published memoirs, *Witness to Power: The Nixon Years*, that Henry Kissinger used the NSA to intercept the messages of then-Secretary of State William P. Rogers, which Kissinger used to convince President Nixon of Rogers’ incompetence. Kissinger also found himself on the receiving end of the NSA’s global net. Word of Kissinger’s secret diplomatic dealings with foreign governments would reach the ears of other Nixon Administration officials, incensing Kissinger. As former NSA Deputy Director William Colby pointed out, “Kissinger would get sore as hell... because he wanted to keep it politically secret until it was ready to launch.”<sup>(46)</sup>

However, elected representatives have also become targets of spying by the intelligence agencies. In 1988, a former Lockheed software manager who was responsible for a dozen VAX computers that powered the ECHELON computers at Menwith Hill, Margaret Newsham, came forth with the stunning revelation that she had actually heard the NSA’s real-time interception of phone conversations involving South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond. Newsham was fired from Lockheed after she filed a whistleblower lawsuit alleging that the company was engaged in flagrant waste and abuse. After a top-secret meeting in April 1988 with then-Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Rep. Louis Stokes, Capitol Hill staffers familiar with the meeting leaked the story to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.<sup>(47)</sup> While Senator Thurmond was reluctant to pressure for a thorough investigation into the matter, his office revealed at the

time that the office had previously received reports that the Senator was a target of the NSA.<sup>(48)</sup> After the news reports, an investigation into the matter discovered that there were no controls or questioning over who could enter target names into the Menwith Hill system.<sup>(49)</sup>

The NSA, under orders from the Reagan Administration, also targeted Maryland Congressman Michael Barnes. Phone calls he placed to Nicaraguan officials were intercepted and recorded, including a conversation he had with the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua protesting the implementation of martial law in that country. Barnes found out about the NSA's spying after White House officials leaked transcripts of his conversations to reporters. CIA Director William Casey, later implicated in the Iran-Contra affair, showed Barnes a Nicaraguan Embassy cable that reported a meeting between embassy staff and one of Barnes' aides. The aide had been there on a professional call regarding an international-affairs issue, and Casey asked for Barnes to fire the aide. Barnes replied that it was perfectly legal and legitimate for his staff to meet with foreign diplomats.

Says Barnes, "I was aware that NSA monitored international calls, that it was a standard part of intelligence gathering. But to use it for domestic political purposes is absolutely outrageous and probably illegal."<sup>(50)</sup> Another former Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee has also expressed his concerns about the NSA's domestic targeting. "It has always worried me. What if that is used on American citizens?" queried former Arizona Senator Dennis DeConcini. "It is chilling. Are they listening to my private conversations on my telephone?"<sup>(51)</sup>

Seemingly non-controversial organizations have ended up in the fixed gaze of ECHELON, as several former GCHQ officials confidentially told the *London Observer* in June 1992. Among the targeted organizations they named were Amnesty International, Greenpeace and Christian Aid, an American missions organization that works with indigenous pastors engaged in ministry work in countries closed to Western, Christian workers.<sup>(52)</sup>

In another story published by the *London Observer*, a former employee of the British Joint Intelligence Committee, Robin Robison, admitted that Margaret Thatcher had personally ordered the communications interception of the parent company of the *Observer*, Lonrho, after the *Observer* had published a 1989 exposé charging bribes had been paid to Thatcher's son, Mark, in a multi-billion dollar British arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Despite facing severe penalties for violating his indoctrination vows, Robison admitted that he had personally delivered intercepted Lonrho messages to Mrs. Thatcher's office.<sup>(53)</sup>

It should hardly be surprising that ECHELON ends up being used by elected and bureaucratic officials to their political advantage or by the intelligence agencies themselves for the purpose of sustaining their privileged surveillance powers and bloated budgets. The availability of such invasive technology practically begs for abuse, although it does not justify its use to those ends. But what is most frightening is the targeting of such "subversives" as those who expose corrupt government activity, protect human rights from government encroachments, challenge corporate polluters or promote the gospel of Christ. That the vast intelligence powers of the United States should be

arrayed against legitimate and peaceful organizations is demonstrative not of the desire to monitor, but of the desire to control.

### COMMERCIAL SPYING

With the rapid erosion of the Soviet Empire in the early 1990s, Western intelligence agencies were anxious to redefine their mission to justify the scope of their global surveillance system. Some of the agencies' closest corporate friends quickly gave them an option—commercial espionage. By redefining the term "national security" to include spying on foreign competitors of prominent U.S. corporations, the signals intelligence game has gotten ugly. And it very well may have prompted the recent scrutiny by the European Union that ECHELON has endured.

While *UKUSA* agencies have pursued economic and commercial information on behalf of their countries with renewed vigor after the passing of Communism in Eastern Europe, the NSA practice of spying on behalf of U.S. companies has a long history. Gerald Burke, who served as Executive Director of President Nixon's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, notes commercial espionage was endorsed by the U.S. Government as early as 1970: "By and large, we recommended that henceforth economic intelligence be considered a function of the national security, enjoying a priority equivalent to diplomatic, military and technological intelligence."<sup>(54)</sup>

To accommodate the need for information regarding international commercial deals, the intelligence agencies set up a small, unpublicized department within the Department of Commerce, the Office of Intelligence Liaison. This office receives intelligence reports from the U.S. intelligence agencies about pending international deals that it discreetly forwards to companies that request it or may have an interest in the information. Immediately after coming to office in January 1993, President Clinton added to the corporate espionage machine by creating the National Economic Council, which feeds intelligence to "select" companies to enhance U.S. competitiveness. The capabilities of ECHELON to spy on foreign companies is nothing new, but the Clinton Administration has raised its use to an art:

- ◆ In 1990 the German magazine *Der Spiegel* revealed that the NSA had intercepted messages about an impending \$200 million deal between Indonesia and the Japanese satellite manufacturer NEC Corp. After President Bush intervened in the negotiations on behalf of American manufacturers, the contract was split between NEC and AT&T.
- ◆ In 1994, the CIA and NSA intercepted phone calls between Brazilian officials and the French firm Thomson-CSF about a radar system that the Brazilians wanted to purchase. A U.S. firm, Raytheon, was a competitor as well, and reports prepared from intercepts were forwarded to Raytheon.<sup>(55)</sup>
- ◆ In September 1993, President Clinton asked the CIA to spy on Japanese auto manufacturers that were designing zero-emission cars and to forward that information to the Big Three U.S. car manufacturers: Ford, General Motors and Chrysler.<sup>(56)</sup> In 1995, *The New York Times* reported that the NSA and the CIA's Tokyo

station were involved in providing detailed information to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor's team of negotiators in Geneva facing Japanese car companies in a trade dispute.<sup>(57)</sup> Recently, a Japanese newspaper, *Mainichi*, accused the NSA of continuing to monitor the communications of Japanese companies on behalf of American companies.<sup>(58)</sup>

- ◆ *Insight Magazine* reported in a series of articles in 1997 that President Clinton ordered the NSA and FBI to mount a massive surveillance operation at the 1993 Asian/Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) hosted in Seattle. One intelligence source for the story related that over 300 hotel rooms had been bugged for the event, which was designed to obtain information regarding oil and hydro-electric deals pending in Vietnam that were passed on to high-level Democratic Party contributors competing for the contracts.<sup>(59)</sup> But foreign companies were not the only losers: When Vietnam expressed interest in purchasing two used 737 freighter aircraft from an American businessman, the deal was scuttled after Commerce Secretary Ron Brown arranged favorable financing for two new 737s from Boeing.<sup>(60)</sup>

But the U.S. is not the only partner of the *UKUSA* relationship that engages in such activity. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ordered the GCHQ to monitor the activities of international media mogul Robert Maxwell on behalf of the Bank of England.<sup>(61)</sup> Former CSE linguist and analyst Jane Shorten claimed that she had seen intercepts from Mexican trade representatives during the 1992-1993 *NAFTA* trade negotiations, as well as 1991 South Korean Foreign Ministry intercepts dealing with the construction of three Canadian CANDU nuclear reactors for the Koreans in a \$6 billion deal.<sup>(62)</sup> Shorten's revelation prompted Canadian Prime Minister Sheila Copps to launch a probe into the allegations after the Mexicans lodged a protest.

But every spy agency eventually gets beat at their own game. Mike Frost relates in *Spyworld* how an accidental cell-phone intercept in 1981 of the American Ambassador to Canada discussing a pending grain deal that the U.S. was about to sign with China provided Canada with the American negotiating strategy for the deal. The information was used to outbid the U.S., resulting in a three-year, \$2.5 billion contract for the Canadian Wheat Board. CSE out-spooked the NSA again a year later when Canada snagged a \$50 million wheat sale to Mexico.<sup>(63)</sup>

Another disturbing trend regarding the present commercial use of ECHELON is the incestuous relationship that exists between the intelligence agencies and the U.S. corporations that develop the technology that fuels their spy systems. Many of the companies that receive the most important commercial intercepts—Lockheed, Boeing, Loral, TRW and Raytheon—are actively involved in the manufacturing and operation of many of the spy systems that comprise ECHELON. The collusion between intelligence agencies and their contractors is frightening in the chilling effect it has on creating any foreign or even domestic competition. But just as important is that it is a gross misuse of taxpayer-financed resources and an abuse of the intelligence agencies' capabilities.



THE WARNING

While the UKUSA relationship is a product of Cold War political and military tensions, ECHELON is purely a product of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century—the century of statism. **The modern drive toward the assumption of state power has turned legitimate national security agencies and apparati into pawns in a manipulative game where the stakes are no less than the survival of the Constitution.** The systems developed prior to ECHELON were designed to confront the expansionist goals of the Soviet Empire—something the West was forced out of necessity to do. But as Glyn Ford, European Parliament Representative for Manchester, England, and the driving force behind the European investigation of ECHELON, has pointed out: “The difficulty is that the technology has now become so elaborate that what was originally a small client list has become the whole world.”<sup>(64)</sup>

What began as a noble alliance to contain and defeat the forces of communism has turned into a *carte blanche* to disregard the rights and liberties of the American people and the population of the free world. As has been demonstrated time and again, the NSA has been persistent in subverting not just the intent of the law in regards to the prohibition of domestic spying, but the letter as well. The laws that were created to constrain the intelligence agencies from infringing on our liberties are frequently flaunted, re-interpreted and revised according to the bidding and wishes of political spymasters in Washington D. C. Old habits die hard, it seems.

As stated above, there is a need for such sophisticated surveillance technology [*Ha! Khazarian control of the planet?*]. Unfortunately, the world is filled with criminals, drug lords, terrorists and dictators that threaten the peace and security of many nations [**This author needs to know that the "criminals, drug lords, terrorists", etc.—are at the TOP of the pyramid, controlling this system!**]. The thought that ECHELON can be used to eliminate or control these international thugs is heartening [*YES, it is!*]. But defenders of ECHELON argue that the rare intelligence victories over these forces of darkness and death give wholesale justification to indiscriminate surveillance of the entire world and every member of it. But more complicated issues than that remain.

The shameless and illegal targeting of political opponents, business competitors, dissidents and even Christian ministries stands as a testament that if America is to remain free, we must bind these intelligence systems and those that operate them with the heavy chains of transparency and accountability to our elected officials. But the fact that the ECHELON apparatus can be quickly turned around on those same officials in order to maintain some advantage for the intelligence agencies, indicates that these agencies are not presently under the control of our elected representatives [*Duh.*].

That Congress is not aware of or able to curtail these abuses of power is a frightening harbinger of what may come here in the United States. The European Parliament has begun the debate over what ECHELON is, how it is being used and how free countries should use such a system. Congress should join that same debate with the understanding that consequences of ignoring or failing to address these issues could foster the demise of our republican form of government. Such

is the threat, as Senator Frank Church warned the American people over twenty years ago [*and which actually happened long before that*].

**At the same time, 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. If this Government ever became a tyranny [sic], if a dictator ever took charge in this country, the technological capacity that the intelligence community has given the Government could enable it to impose total tyranny, and there would be no way to fight back, because the most careful effort to combine together in resistance to the Government, no matter how privately it was done, is within the reach of the Government to know. Such is the capability of this technology...**

**I don't want to see this country ever go across the bridge. I know the capacity that is there to make tyranny total in America, and we must see to it that this agency 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.**<sup>(65)</sup>

[*Sorry, Mr. Patrick S. Poole, it's too late to hope that we don't cross the bridge over that abyss "from which there is no return" (though there IS)—it has been DONE for a very long time already, which is WHY this ECHELON system evolved in the first place. There IS total tyranny in America, as evidenced by the FACT that this "land of the free" imprisons more of its people than any other nation. "Operate within the law and under proper supervision"? Is that what's happening NOW? What is going to CHANGE? Thank GOD for the ability to turn this situation around—and then, as suggested above, it might be nice to keep somewhat closer tabs on those Khazarian controllers using this system!*]

This report is the fourth installment in the Free Congress Foundation/Center for Technology Policy's The Privacy Papers series. To order a copy of this report (\$10) or to subscribe for the 12-issue series (\$50), call 1 (800) 638-0660.

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Free Congress Research and Education Foundation,  
717 Second St. NE, Washington D.C. 20002  
202-546-3000

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While we must be critical of the conclusions, we are very appreciative for the sharing of this wealth of well-researched information, which confirms what we have been told by Cmdr. Hatonn for a very long time.

# God Is Creation —And Abundance

2/22/00—#2

## MANY THINGS ABOUND

**Hatonn**—I recognize no wars as either won or lost, for ALL WARS ARE "LOST". I RECOGNIZE ONLY "BEGINNINGS IN WINNING" TO BE OF GOD, GLOBE AND MAN.

Dharma had a "bad night", as I caused her to look back over the many supposedly "negative" things which have happened through her lifetime, as I have also shared with others, theirs. Most will not remember, YET, but a few had to confront some choices NOW. And no, it is not that you have to face the axe, it is only in recognition of your position, your job and sorting of "feelings" and "commitment".

Why would I want to share even the Native American flow through someone in the Philippines, as the above message indicates? BECAUSE you are brothers and sisters and we must historically recognize some of our roots. Our programs seem to get off-track because of the "living" experiences which appear to divert our cause, but even that is not so. Things are going EXACTLY "as they are going"! Players have to learn their roles, chelas, lest "one" be the only one in the play.

As to the Philippines, things are finally working around in the "business" world to allow for the harvest of some of the fruit trees.

It will be noted a lot of hoopla banging about on the EDSA holiday of trashing Marcos and sanitizing of others. But things are rarely what they appear to be and that is especially true in politics.

IT WILL BE NOTED THAT THE SCOUNDRELS OF THE MARCOS ERA ARE THE SAME SCOUNDRELS AND COURTESAN CRONIES WHO STILL RUN THE PHILIPPINES, ALONG WITH THE GLOBAL ELITE PUPPET-MASTERS.

ARE WE TRYING TO DISPLACE THESE DREGS OF SOCIETY? NO, WE ARE MOVING RIGHT THROUGH THEM AND IF THEY WANT TO SURVIVE, THEY WILL START CLEANING THEIR ROBES "NOW".

The people of the Philippines did not come out in force against Marcos. MARCOS WAS LIED TO, CHEATED, CONSPIRED AGAINST AND, FINALLY, BASICALLY KIDNAPPED AT EDSA.

Remember that THE PEOPLE are ALL of the people. Marcos was promised that in exchange for his participation with the PLAN, he would be able to stay the course and clean the nest. Well, when the nest is full of infection and infestation, it takes heroic measures to sanitize it.

In the upstart of these considerations, the assassins of Aquino were the "assassins" of Marcos. This is why there is NO TRUTH to the tales. The CIA shot Aquino and did it much as with Ruby Ridge and the Weavers and any other assassin's game. Where might Horiuchi have been on the day Aquino was shot? Where was such as Bo Gritz? Where were the trained Delta Force assassins? Well, a couple of them were in the Philippines at the landing of that plane, where Aquino met his fate—and worse yet,

Aquino KNEW IT. HE KNEW THAT EVEN AS PRESIDENT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO NOTHING TO CHANGE AROUND HIS NATION, FOR THE CORRUPTION WAS TOO GREAT. HE KNEW THAT MARCOS HAD BEEN A PAWN AND NOW, SO TOO WAS HE. CORY WENT RIGHT ON TO PROVE THAT TO BE CORRECT.

THE PEOPLE did not even march on "EDSA". THE CATHOLIC CHURCH THROUGH SIN (ALL KINDS) RALLIED WHEN THE POPE OF THE PHILIPPINES TOLD THEM TO DO SO. REMEMBER THAT THEY CAME TO THE PARTY WITH FOOD, FLOWERS AND... Then, once inside the walls, they were like jungle scavengers on a kill.

Marcos was to have been taken only "home" to his place in Ilocos Norte with family intact. He was lied to again and was flown directly to the shackles of the U.S., where he would be unable to extricate himself as they dismembered him for the "new" PLAN in place.

So WHO might have been the HERO of EDSA? That's right, Ferdinand Edralin Marcos. Enrile, in your terms of treason—with his corrupt band of traitors—should have been or should be tried for treason, not argued with about heroism on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. And yes, indeed, all this WILL COME FORTH AND BE KNOWN. And NO, it is not our position or right to have it happen out of proper sequence, for it is coming to be the TIME OF THE PEOPLE. Let us just take one step at a time, for it is THE TIME, as well, that those who are the historians, patriots and truly caring people fill their own roles for bringing about this MIRACULOUS change in such a way as to not be considered some "act" as in "miracle".

I bring Dharma into this occasion because there are very painful confrontations necessary here in OUR work. She will meet her responsibilities and others will meet their consequences. She has now told each who passed her way and made the way difficult that she has no further need for anything from them, except the consequences of their own deeds—as a group or as individuals—regardless of WHO each might be or represent. TRUTH WILL ALWAYS "OUT", IF GIVEN ATTENTION AND COMMITMENT.

We shall not dwell on this here.

## THE PHILIPPINES

Ah indeed, THE Philippines and the "Angel's Triangle". Indeed, THE PEOPLE will come forth in glory as they are able to rebuild their land and their own nations—and here I speak of rightful heritage from higher RIGHTS under God Creator.

Our "kind" have been put down for, lo, these many eons upon the stage of evil-makers. It is impossible to longer know the enemy. Ah, but we shall KNOW, and we shall rebuild and in so building we shall come again to WIN THE DAY.

And the serpent/dragon (never mind the silly fables) will go down hard and spew venom and fire (even Mt. Mayon will blow and huff and puff her fire and cinders), but THE PEOPLE "will survive" and, YES, through that which Marcos and Herman were willing to give in their

own lifetime—for whatever reason they may have begun their odysseys—they will have provided for the WAY, and I SHALL HONOR THEM BOTH. It does not matter who laid the PLAN—GOD CREATED THE PLAN—WE SERVE GOD, TRUTH, LOVE AND LIGHT AND WE DO SO HENCEFORTH IN WISDOM, AS WE CUT FROM THE PUPPET-MASTERS THOSE STRINGS THAT BIND WE-THE-PEOPLE.

On Thursday last—mark it well (the 17<sup>th</sup>) and pay attention—there was a warning shot from the “missile slingers” in the form of an “unidentified flying object”, but it was a man-made MISSILE and it was to make its message, and did, to the powers-that-be. NO, this was not something of our making, and NO, we do not back off, for it is ours to march directly ahead and allow God HIS day.

So, you must begin to release the strings you have in each individual perception of ill-content, for those dead shall be burying their own dead while we move right on into and within the LIGHT. We RECOGNIZE our enemies, ANNOUNCE them and leave them to their own miseries. THERE ARE NO “THINGS” ON THE GLOBE WORTH A SECOND GLANCE. GET MORE, IF YOU HAVE TO HAVE “THINGS” AGAINST WHICH TO MEASURE YOUR JOURNEY—AND YES, IT IS GOOD TO DO THAT SO THAT IT IS KNOWN THAT GOD IS NOT LOSS, GOD IS CREATION ITSELF—IN ABUNDANCE, IF WITHIN GOODNESS.

I want this, please, to be sent to “FJF”; fax is fine, as early as possible, for she and her team have worked diligently and without respite, as have you. “Tirelessly” is not a good term as always dumped on the hard workers toward great end, for everyone is BONE TIRED and each must reach out to support the other. **When you are too weary, you do not hear “Father”, for even the soul SEEMS weary. This is illusion of the greatest magnitude, however, for the very act of “going on in the face of all obstacles” proves the SOUL DOES NOT BREAK OR FATIGUE. Sometimes, in addition, you have to get so tired as to “give up and let God” instead of pursuing YOUR WAY. God sometimes has to wait long for you to reach THAT VERY POINT OF VIEW. “I DID IT MY WAY” IS NOT THE SONG, EXCEPT OF MAN!**

I think as you move forward that you will find GOD’S show-and-tells will be far greater than anything tossed around in the missile categories. And, if you see visions in the sky and they appear as Michaelangelo’s paintings—TURN FROM THEM, FOR THEY ARE FALSE IMAGES.

The very reason the “Man’s Plans” won’t work is that in the greater realization of mankind as a whole, the IMAGE of God has no recognized expression. For instance, a picture of “Jesus” in the sky—as pictured FOR YOU by some artist—is FALSE and the Muslims, for great instance, do not recognize the entity at all. So the show is wasted on them—and THIS HAS BEEN PROVEN IN “REAL TIME” SHOW-AND-TELL. A “Christian” image was projected and there was NO RECOGNITION by those “of God”. So be prepared for the unexpected in every circumstance. The idiots of games and “gotcha” failed to realize that it is AGAINST Muslim “religion” and doctrine, AND TRUTH, to have an image of God—for there are no IDOLS “allowed” in the very basic doctrine itself.

The battle (if you will) is certainly not of WAR. It is truly nothing more than the confrontation of that which is of total “order”—set against that which is total “chaos”. There is NO “DISORDER” IN THE COSMOS OR THE UNIVERSAL ORDER. If you allow your MIND to be in chaos predominantly, you shall be trapped in chaotic being. Remain in the order of REALITY and you shall not be

greatly, farther than the “moment”, impacted by the chaos of your illusions. REMEMBER THAT REALITY IS! PERCEPTION IS WHAT IS OF MANIFESTATION INTO PHYSICAL NON-REALITY. ALL IS MIND! ALL MIND, THEN, IS BASICALLY PERCEPTION AND CERTAINLY IS “THOUGHT” MADE MANIFEST OR THOUGHT REMAINING A MENTAL “STRUCTURE”.

So why hasn’t change come about prior to now? It HAS! But in your realization it has simply not been perceived by MAN that he could create a way to change toward goodness. Evil basically manufactured what was needed to destroy you and THAT IS OF MAN. Only a mere handful of scattered energy forms in human presentation have been able to KNOW that the evolvment COULD BE IDENTIFIED AND CREATED. THEREFORE, IF YOU HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS WONDROUS EXPERIENCE—EVEN IF SEEMINGLY NEGATIVE AT TIMES—YOU ARE SURELY BLESSED. FOR MOST, THE WORK AND JOURNEY IS ONLY JUST STARTING ON THIS STAGE “IN” TIME.

Most of you who have played such leading roles—as are noted to get TO HERE AND BEYOND—find you actually do not want “accolades”, just to do your job the rest of the way, PROPERLY. Accolades are a waste of EVERYONE’S time and are mostly “flattery” of the worst kind. Appreciation is a personal thing beyond speeches and “paybacks”.

Every contribution made toward or against our success is equally important—but the REWARDS will not be “considered” equal by any human measure. THIS is what is meant by NOT JUDGING.

I am changing to the focus of here, there and elsewhere so that I can give some general guidelines for consideration.

We will have some very important “centers” from which to share but for the minute, and myself included—because of the path-breaking necessities in the Philippines—we have to leave hands and heads pretty clear, for the hours are short and too much is taking place.

It is a very, very important emotional time here as these are the immediate days of celebration/mourning over the EDSA revolution as mentioned above.

I would, therefore, like to mention some things to you who are at getting historical books, etc. I have what I want for the Philippines and although we would find anything “interesting”, we aren’t very interested in going further.

The person whose writings we are now putting to disk is our focus and I will note for my own team here, why: His documentation is not without flaws, so let us not get goggled by anything. And, when we get ready to write the next chapters and the ongoing odyssey, I think you can guess where we are headed.

We are going to keep Ekkers totally without input, other than of interest, in any other exposés, e.g., Japan, etc. We are not trying to reform the world or even expose all the evils along the journey. I NEED TO, FIRST OF ALL, GET OUR JOB DONE, KEEP OUR PEOPLE ALIVE AND MAKE THIS WORK. WE ARE “NOT” IN THE GOLD BUSINESS—BUT THE NEED FOR GOLD IS MANDATORY.

As for contacting the author here in point, you should know that WE have a separate venture going with another group, where our coalition is directly attached with that entity. This “author” was on the Board of Trustees of THAT corporation entity until this very month, so we don’t have trouble finding the person—just finding the time to do so is a bother—but we also get flack that his story is not 100% accurate, either.

McDougald was a front investigator-writer for Cory

Aquino and played all sorts of games that ended him up quite wealthy and with bad, bad output of material. That is part of the corruption and when you read the material you will see it clearly.

As for the *Marcos Dynasty* book, that is easily acquired over here. But I do ask—until we can begin to withdraw attention from Dharma and myself—that we move gently with things like exposing the Japanese and Chinese operations, as regards any relationship to gold stashes, crashes and who did what to whom with treasure. WE ARE NOT IN THE TREASURE BUSINESS OR THE GOLD BUSINESS! I INSIST THAT BE FULLY STATED IN ALL INSTANCES BECAUSE WE HAVE GOOD RAPPORT AND EXCELLENT RESPECT HERE—DEALING DIRECTLY AND HONESTLY.

There will come a day in the not-too-distant future when many things will change and we can go all-out as the paper we must become, and yes, we welcome good articles on Marcos—but I’m here to tell you NOW: Marcos was “had” by your ELITE and he knows it, his family and the people KNOW IT, and right now is as touchy as it can get—through the “EDSA holidays”.

It is now admitted that things spiraled downhill from the minute Marcos was flown away—RIGHT TO TODAY. There is even infighting over who gets credit and the corruption was already in place before anyone did anything at EDSA. The CIA orchestrated the entire sham and this was the beginning of the end of the Bush Brigade because of the Russell Herman “thing”. Most of V.K. Durham’s writings on that topic are FALSE, as you might well have already guessed. I plan to leave that lay right there, for it is of no importance in what we do here—so stop the distraction. What Granny had to say about Russell, et al. is so false that she has trouble remembering her own stories and, therefore, she can’t even copy the last sentence she wrote or last words she spoke. It is fine, for there had to be a partnership to allow the documents in point to get properly shifted. But she kissed us off last April 24, when she severed everything with us with Russell Munk of Treasury. She was very helpful to us with that nastiness but when we are denounced, we certainly do not need hang around for an encore. It was assumed that Rick Martin was involved as well but if so, it was surely a very foolish move on his part.

**A lot of rats are getting uncovered in their cute little games and, frankly, so be it. I made my agreements with Russell and above—not a Cortright or a Durham. Moreover, I find that people who do such foolish things as they have done, on impulse for revenge or otherwise, are totally unstable and I certainly do NOT WISH THEM ON MY TEAM—THEY ARE THE VOLATILE TRAITORS AND BETRAYERS TO MEET THEIR OWN FOOLISH EGO-STATUS NEEDS.**

Back to the topic of “authors”: Yes, we will give all authors who can deliver whatever they wish on topics of historical value (in English, for we have no translators at this time) a forum and yes—as we move along a bit with some measure of abundance—an outlet for their work so that they can remain in security. However, we are not in the market in ANY measure for the would-be opinionists. There is enough opinion without dumping on more. This does not include authors who have truth or circumstantial evidence to back up their opinions. Our intent is to bring truth and allow people to move out from under the lies.

Now, realize, staff and friends, that we have no objection to anything the staff feels is interesting to run in the paper according to their own choices. Just do not involve us in your presentation, please. We will be moving further and further away from “invisible” references, for we

are not interested in prophecy—but rather—THE WAY IT IS. We ARE the prophecy and the bringing forth of the prophecies, so we don't need prophets all over the place—for you will note that most are FALSE. Remember: “Beware”!?! There will be more cornballs than you have hushpuppies, so THINK and use REASON, people. DO YOU REALLY THINK GOD CONDONES CRIME AND LIES? Well, it's “your” life, reader.

I will remind you how it is and will first be: A man who is starving or in pain must have his pain relieved and something for his table. Then we can better think, plan and “understand” our position. Therefore, that is what we strive for—a solution to the nagging distractions, and a bite of food to the starving, and some shelter for the homeless teammate and then we can move forward in unity to each move in our responsible positions. In other words, we have bad headaches and heartburn, so we need some Roloids to our burdened mates—first—then we can attend others properly.

Do I really need example? Well, OK, we need to get some relief to Peter K., Ron C., Mark P, Rodney S., John C., Eustace M., Gary W. and, for goodness' sakes, our own immediate co-workers, while squaring away our business systems and thus and so. This also means to get legal matters in order, all the legal team paid and supported to take on the next assignments and, in general, be ready to MOVE freely and with substantial support enough to keep momentum building instead of bogging.

Ekkers have now three, at least, interim possibilities which have no relationship to anything come prior to now to help with that “relief program” so that no one can come against us, for we will simply have “borrowed” fundings.

When I speak of some people, I want it recognized that we have people on hold in South Africa and Europe who need immediate relief, and we also need to restructure our mode of potential operations, which will better protect the hub parties.

One major player here in Luzon has her people in Europe as we write here, and that will be a very large project—or three—and will also pretty much move the program off its dime for recognition in all of Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

I would also add, for the benefit of the nay-sayers: We have already had funds transferred a time or two and a whole big bunch waiting as we write—however, the bank demands to hold the funds “to be sure of clearance” for “90 days”. It requires time to get that altered a bit to be acceptable. We have another matter in which the highest-ranking banker has made his own trip to Hong Kong to do the thing himself.

**It has been exactly a year since Rick and Charles cut out on us, and no, we don't need any who left us, hurt us and betrayed us—to come running back, for I called them BACK and have given them a full year to change those incorrect attitudes. There are no more knocks on their doors as Mr. Opportunity passes on. If forgiveness is the call of their day—then work it out with the god of your choice; man or beast.**

It is late now and time to leave this for about the third time today, and yet the work is not nearly done nor even the meetings finished.

These are strong days and the fire of hope is burning brightly, dear ones, and their prayers and hopes shall be answered.

In love and great sharing,

I AM, Hatonn

**dharm**

# Doris' Corner

By Doris Ekker, 2/24/00

I apologize for not doing my update, for yes, indeed, there is much going on which could be shared but would, of course, mean more to some than others. As an example, Teri would really appreciate the fact that Manny Villar, the Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, is planning to push our program through Congress and, as well, the Insurance Commission is working on it, as well as is the Bank Insurance Commission. The news out of Malaysia is that they are working on our program all the way to the Director of Finance in the national Government.

Most of these high-level decision-makers do come by to meet us but understand the privacy agreements and somehow they are able to keep DIRECT references out of the Press. They have so many “global” things already circulating that another mention of a “global” possibility fades into the ethers.

As we work on such as the book in progress, we realize more and more what a massive program of global grab has been afoot and, actually, how easy it was to put out lies and have them accepted so easily as to seem to be impossible. Then when the realization hits a person as to how totally easy, here where there are great riches for their backup reserves of gold, they are stunned at the simplicity. We always simply note that God always provides the “simple way”, which is not usually the human “easy” way.

For a while the people keep coming back—to sort of catch us being something we aren't—and now those that come regularly are coming because we NEVER CHANGE. We are simply “them” and “they—we”. Often they come wishing we would do something to “impress” the special person they bring, and we just smile and say “no”. I have learned that at times it certainly pays to “just say no”. Then, when they stop trying to impress us with their almighty high credentials, the information flow is incredible.

We now have people whom we realize are sent over by ones in very, very high places—to get the information. It is rather fun because we can then expect the “VIP” to show up while trying not to be recognized. Even “the Man” showed up, however, and nobody even flickered an eyelid. It is sort of like meeting a colleague from the office “out of uniform” somewhere and you just don't even recognize them. “Importance” and “who you know” or “who are your relatives” is ALL-IMPORTANT over here, as we suppose it is everywhere. But people are getting down to the nitty-gritty here and we chuckle, for we old folks have become the “ones to know” and “you know, they play with the hotel workers...” and we love it.

About the only thing we can note on the occasion of some visitors is a “gang up” of security personnel, who just “drop” by the lobby, or do their shopping in the magazine shop, or suddenly have business in the coffee shop or whatever. We note that while E.J. is visiting people, there is suddenly need for the security guards to check the pool, which is on the window side of the coffee shop, OFTEN. Even “the Man” said he liked to meet here because the security was so good. We just looked at him because we hadn't even noticed “the security”.

When we go over to send e-mail it is even more interesting, for all the security people are quick to seek us out and speak to us. Then, we go back by the grocery mart and there, again, we are cared for by the MANAGER (who even

invites us to his home) and the security guards, one or two of which keep us in sight until we cross the line into another's boundary. It is nice, I must admit, to have people actually like you and not be trying to drive you out of town or shoot you dead.

This will suffice for now, please, as if I get on with this typing I can finish it by the weekend. I would add though, for reference, that one of our “partners”, literally, is having a very large meeting “down south” in Mindanao this weekend starting on Friday, I think, so we might have a movie break with expectation of being totally swamped next week.

You can FEEL it in the air and read it in the papers, as the “important people” are suddenly “needing to spend more time with their families” as they duck for cover and those who have been taking such a beating, as in the Head of State, starts now, suddenly, talking from strength. We have had it back now, from DOZENS of sources, that the word is out and as soon as the working systems are in place—it is a GO! For one thing, it is now well recognized that if anyone is to get anything back from the “Strongman”, as they called Marcos, it will be through use of something that allows him to freely bring forth his gold stashes through his working people left in charge. And wouldn't you know that God would do it HIS way and hook us up in a joint contract with EXACTLY those people.

As E.J. says, if it were not for the hell back home and the hardship on those keeping the ship afloat, this would be incredible fun. Well, we're getting “there” too!

I'll catch you up ASAP, barring a catastrophe—which is getting ready to happen, as Mayon has started spewing out rocks the size of buses and the immediate area is evacuated. Pinatubo rumbles but doesn't yet show signs of blowing, although there are continual shiftings and quakings in the Philippine TRENCH, which is the deepest trench on the globe. That means that the Ring of Fire is pressed hard and the expectation is of great shifting. People are the same all over, though, as we witness it being like Los Angeles in the “oh well, what can you do?” And I find that I join them, only we make sure the extra water supply is available so if the water is out or “bad”, we have a few days' supply right here in our room. We look around and feel as secure here as anywhere, and other than ash and shaking, we shouldn't have much greater problems from the volcanoes, even though BOTH biggies are within reach of dumping misery on Manila from the “side-effects”. There is so little oxygen left in Manila that a bunch of ash would certainly be catastrophic in its own right.

This job is so obviously God's Plan, however, that we did learn to turn off the nerves because this is going to get done no matter how hard the little devils work.

To the ones in South Africa, hold on because the breaks are starting to fall and you may yet not have to involve in the terrible clandestine undertakings.

In Greece, we know the bindings are tight, so know that as soon as anything breaks we will shift what we can, in that it should be enough to meet some of our own commitments to you.

To Lester in New Zealand and Helen in Australia—thank you and you are never off our list.

And to Bob J., wow, are we ever going to have fun outsmarting the oil boys. They have these people in such a stranglehold over here as to be obviously trying to break their backs. We even have a plan of ability to help them as well through this pressure. And then, THIS will open the way for full-out development of the technology already available. Seems to us like the adversary is about to commit suicide!



# More Bush Connections From Sherman Skolnick

*This is a continuation in the series which ran in last week's issue under the heading "Skolnick Documents Bush's Use Of 'Bonus 3392-181'". We reiterate the caveat that the information presented is mostly NOT verifiable and we suggest that the contents be taken more along the lines of "an interesting read". This portion represents Section One of Part 3 in Skolnick's ongoing presentation. Those with Internet access might avail themselves of Mr. Skolnick's web-site:*

*<<http://www.skolnicksreport.com>>.*

## Greenspan Reportedly Aids & Bribes George Bush Family (Part 3)

By Sherman H. Skolnick  
<[skolnick@ameritech.net](mailto:skolnick@ameritech.net)>, 2/24/00

A senior U.S. Treasury Department official, in the Office of Internal Affairs, in his own handwriting, reportedly analyzed more than twenty-five banks by which the Federal Reserve participated in facilitating the bribery and corruption of former President George Herbert Walker Bush and his three sons. The secret wire-transfer records, some copies of which are attached to Part One and Part Two of this series, show billions and billions of dollars transferred to and from reported accounts of the Elder Bush and his sons—much of this directly authorized by the secret codes of Federal Reserve dictator Alan Greenspan. Since he acts like a corrupt Soviet commissar, he is called by us ALAN REDSPAN, acting as if he is answerable to no one (except the nameless, faceless ruling Elite who own and operate America). [These wire transfers were made payable to:]

—**Neil Bush**, who had been an official of the now defunct-by-fraud Silverado Savings & Loan of Denver. Through corruption linked to the American CIA and a major law firm in Chicago, Hopkins & Sutter, Neil Bush escaped being properly prosecuted on federal criminal charges of causing the downfall of this federally insured thrift acting covertly for the espionage agency. Hopkins & Sutter in the early 1990s had been the major outside counsel of the S&L bail-out agency, Resolution Trust Corporation, like Silverado, also themselves out of existence. There is an overlap to the corruption of Bush family crony William Rockefeller Clinton (more on this in a later part of this series).

—**Jeb Bush** (Governor of Florida) and his Colombia-born wife, [who are] reportedly implicated in massive dope trafficking and money laundering [related to] Colombian cocaine through reputed Bush family accounts in Banco Exterior De Espana, Malaga, Spain. Ostensibly, [this was] arranged through Bush family cocaine-money-laundry wizard Giogrio Pelossi. For details, visit our web-site: <http://skolnicksreport.com>.

—**George W. Bush** (Governor of Texas) through huge amounts in the Bush family reputed accounts, in and through NCNB of Texas, Garland, Texas. See Parts One and Two of this series. And reportedly by and through reputed Bush family accounts in Banco de Occidente, Panama City, Panama and Banco de Panama, Panama City, Panama. To cover up such details, the Bush family had to have Panama strongman Manuel Noriega grabbed by U.S. military in an invasion and transported to Florida for supposed "trial". A corrupt federal judge kept all Bush family corruption matters linked to Noriega and the American CIA OUT OF THE COURT RECORD.

Who all are involved, and what is involved, in the massive river of clandestine and illicit funds to and from the Elder Bush and his three sons? It falls mainly into these categories:

(1) Super-courier of "dirty money", Vincent W. Foster, Jr., an espionage kingpin jointly with Hillary Rodham-Clinton and Webster Hubbell.

(2) The reported bribery of judges of the Texas Supreme Court to okay a TWELVE BILLION DOLLAR lower-court judgment in favor of the Elder Bush's firm, PENNZOIL, against TEXACO, a major importer of oil from Iraq. Bush as well, strong-armed the U.S. Supreme Court judges in the Pennzoil-Texaco case (more in a further part of this series).

(3) Reputed soybean speculator and money washer Richard Dennis of Chicago, in combination with Senator Fred Thompson (R., Tenn.) and major movie moguls and sports celebrities (more coming).

(4) Extortion and kick-backs extracted from the weak oil sheikdoms of the Persian Gulf, done from the decade of 1980 to 1990 by the Elder Bush and his then private business partner, Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi strongman. Transactions through the Chicago branch of Italy's largest bank, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, owned in part by the Vatican; and arms deals for Saddam through BNL-Atlanta with the connivance of Bush and Hillary Clinton (more coming).

(5) Political assassinations and other bloody dirty tricks by the Bush family and others, through Bank of Credit and Commerce International, BCCI, and its alter-ego and successor, Pinnacle Banc Group, of the Chicago Mafia enclave of Cicero jointly with the head

of the Vatican Bank (more coming).

(6) The Bush family and the Manuel Noriega Affair (more coming).

(7) The Red Chinese Secret Police, the Bush Family, Kenneth W. Starr, the Japanese Mafia (YAKUZA) and the Chicago markets (more coming).

## THE VINCENT W. FOSTER, JR. AFFAIR— Section One

The Clintons' close crony Vincent W. Foster, Jr. was being tracked as a possible traitorous spy assisting Jonathan Pollard long before Foster's short-term position as Deputy Counsel in the Clinton White House, a secret Government report states.

The details are in a report put together by retired former intelligence agents and submitted to their former superiors. When the higher-ups wanted the matter covered up, the team showed it to members of our group, who took notes but were not permitted to keep a copy.

Surveilled under orders of a clandestine court meeting in a soundproof facility in the District of Columbia area, Foster was shown to have coded Swiss and other accounts ostensibly put there for him by Israeli intelligence, the Mossad (The Institute). The seldom-mentioned court's authority stemmed from the 1978 law, under the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act*. Usually, a federal judge from Chicago was one of those on the court panel. Deposits at Foster's account at one bank on the Swiss-Italian border, at Chiasso, Banca Della Svizzera Italiana—and accounts elsewhere—held at times two, seven and as much as ten million dollars between them, the report details. The deposits were put there reportedly for Foster's cooperation with the Mossad. Foster may have been blackmailed or tricked, however, by way of the purported existence of these accounts, [into supplying] top-most U.S. secrets to Israel and [into working] jointly with Jonathan Pollard, now serving a life sentence for confessing to spying for Israel as to U.S. secrets on the arming of Iraq by George Herbert Walker Bush and Caspar Weinberger. Foster, the report states, worked jointly with the person using the pseudonym of "Robert Maxwell", a high-level Mossad official posing as a U.S./British/European purported business tycoon in the mass media and elsewhere. Maxwell mysteriously fell off his boat to his death in the Atlantic late in 1991. His business empire, thereafter shown to be a fraud, collapsed. Others may likewise be blackmailing Israel, the report shows.

The suppressed document goes on to detail that since the early 1980s, Foster held the equivalent rank, as if he were a military general in the super-duper civilian government spying and code-cracking operation of the U.S., the National Security Agency. Foster continued this work in the few months that he was Deputy Counsel of the Clinton White House. In the 1980s and thereafter, Foster, with the aid of the Elder Bush, ran a so-called "Gold Bank" in the Caribbean, for [the



purpose of] supplying clandestine gold for use by spy operatives, the report sets out.

For more than twelve years, Foster traveled widely for the NSA, sometimes on behalf of reputed NSA proprietary Systematics, then headquartered in Arkansas; Systematics purported to be supplying bank computer software services. They actually apparently were spying on banks worldwide, friend and foe alike, for NSA. Traveling for NSA/Systematics hundreds of thousands of miles, Foster was the mastermind of a NSA project that tracked Federal Reserve and private wire transfers between banks, trillions of dollars per day. Foster acted jointly in the project with the aid of his two Rose Law Firm partners, Hillary Rodham-Clinton and Webster Hubbell, who had been Mayor of Little Rock and once Acting Chief Judge of the Arkansas Supreme Court. Foster's airline travel records, the report shows, were issued in his capacity as a "U.S. Government Official".

Because of being the master inquisitor of this action, Foster never believed the project and circumstances might someday find his own purported foreign coded accounts, or that such accounts—if he did not already know the funds were parked there for him—that such purported coded accounts could supposedly finger him as having violated American espionage laws.

This trio—Foster, Hillary, Hubbell—and their project made use of computer software, superior for money tracking, called PROMIS, stolen from its copyright owner and developer, INSLAW, Inc. High officials in the Reagan/Bush Administration, in fact, with the particular aid of George Bush, reportedly stole the software and sold it to foreign espionage agencies, supposedly for tracking political dissidents. The software actually had a "trap door" for the American CIA and the NSA to spy on intelligence agencies—friend and foe alike. The report contends that to successfully expose all this and Foster's role might damage both the G.O.P. and the Democratic Party.

A code-name-only Federal Agency commissioned the retired intelligence agents to put together a report on Foster, which was never supposed to be referred to publicly or see the light of day. Not supposed to be declassified for thirty years, the report contends among events:

—Foster, as spy chief, assisted Jonathan Pollard, a lower-level analyst at the Office of Naval Intelligence, ONI, to carry through security blocks the equivalent of an entire room full of the highest U.S. secrets on nuclear weapons, including tracking and targeting details and satellite coordinating codes and data. (Some of these details in binders were found in or near Foster's White House office after his death.)

—That Foster assisted Pollard on behalf of then Vice President George Bush and then U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. And Foster caused others to assist Pollard who did not himself have the authority to be carrying such secrets home with him. Both Foster and Pollard were apparently paid for this: supposedly through

the use of PROMIS Software and other means, to supply Israel with such data long before Israel had developed its own proficiency in the same field.

—In so doing, Foster purportedly enabled Israel to be perceived as a genuine nuclear threat to the then Soviet Union.

—That the so-called "publisher" tycoon, using the fake name "Robert Maxwell", assisted in these joint efforts. (When "Maxwell" died mysteriously, he was buried with top honors as if he were the head of Israeli intelligence, the Mossad.)

—That Foster jointly with his NSA/Systematics partners, Hillary Rodham-Clinton and Webster Hubbell (who went on to become 3<sup>rd</sup> in command in the Clinton Justice Department), supervised and strategized for the NSA purported proprietary, which, in turn, made use of the reputedly stolen INSLAW software. (A Chicago-area attorney, a close crony of Hillary's, John E. Gierum, of the suburb of Park Ridge, where she is from, confessed to this writer, in the presence of a witness, that the Clinton White House was trying to frame him on matters related to this. Gierum did not dispute the details of his confession when we confronted him in the Federal District Court in Chicago, 1996-97. The purpose of the intended "frame-up" was to silence Gierum.)

—That the Foster-Hillary-Hubbell trio aided the worldwide surveillance on bank wire transfers and transactions through the INSLAW "trap door". Also spying on transactions on an advance data basis of stock, bond, commodities, and options trading and brokering in the U.S. and elsewhere. This spying, the report states, benefited certain high-level persons in the U.S. and elsewhere, including George Herbert Walker Bush, Caspar Weinberger and others. Among the places used, the report contends, was a highly secret, heavily secure operation on the 94<sup>th</sup> floor of the World Trade Center in New York City. That operation, the report asserts, may have been the target of the bombing of that building in 1993, since the basement attack would cause noxious fumes to gather on the upper floors. (One of the accused so-called "Arab terrorists" bombers was actually close to Israeli intelligence, the report states.)

The document raises the issue that Israel and others may have had an interest to knock out the 94<sup>th</sup>-floor operation.

According to the report, a former high-level Mossad official, living in the Chicago area, coordinates some of the bank and brokerage spying through a supercomputer built into his home. The retired intelligence agency team [members] assert that he is a renegade now working AGAINST the Mossad and is highly corrupt. His address and particulars were made available by certain other sources for the purposes of targeting him for a so-called Israeli revenge attack on his residence. By accident, some years prior, this writer interviewed that official when he supposedly was still an Israeli official.

The report goes on to contend that Hillary was more or less Foster's "lover" and had knowledge of his purported coded secret accounts; that Hillary

had what is known in law as a beneficial interest in those accounts in Switzerland and elsewhere.

The report goes on to detail how Hillary and Foster were apparently able to blackmail various members of the U.S. Congress and federal agencies. The report lists 240 top U.S. officials who took bribes or were blackmailed as if they did take the bribes, by way of bribery funds parked in Swiss and other banks. A small group of former intelligence operatives, very adept with supercomputers, traced and determined these coded accounts and, through computer trickery, caused the accounts to be entirely withdrawn and wiped out, and the deposits transferred. Over 3½ million dollars of coded accounts supposedly belonging to U.S. officials were transferred to the U.S. Treasury Holding Account—a device for seizing illicit foreign funds of U.S. citizens.

The report contends, however, that under disguise of being seized for the U.S. Treasury Holding Account, the funds were actually stolen by the computer wizards. Left unanswered, the report asserts, is whether these accounts, including that supposedly of Foster with Hillary's beneficial interest, ever went to the U.S. Treasury Holding Account or actually to private accounts, including those of George Herbert Walker Bush and his family, and certain renegade operations of the American CIA, French CIA, the Mossad, British Counter-Intelligence and others.

Shortly before his death, the report states, Foster was upset when informed by the First Lady that Foster's purported coded accounts, supposedly from Israel, were found out and seized; that Foster was about to be charged with treason against the U.S.—based on those purported accounts. Those about to charge Foster—the report states that Hillary informed Foster—claimed he should have been sent to life in prison along with his confederate Jonathan Pollard. Hillary is quoted in the report as informing Foster that she thinks if he were to finger his accomplices in the Pollard treason, namely George Herbert Walker Bush and Caspar Weinberger, that it would not constitute a practical criminal defense in view of the influence of those two with the courts.

The report raises the issue that Foster's brother-in-law, Beryl Anthony, a former Arkansas Congressman, might be implicated in the spying jointly through Anthony's boss, Jim Thompson, former Illinois Governor and financed for high office by the Rockefeller Family. Thompson has been Chairman of the 400-member, Chicago-headquartered law firm, with worldwide offices, Winston & Strawn, of which Anthony has been a key member in their District of Columbia office.

The report makes the sinister point that Foster's death was "arranged" and "necessary" for reasons of protecting the bank/brokerage/foreign intelligence-agency spying project; that Foster had to be "terminated" for "national security".

In the Second Section of Part Three: More about why and HOW Foster was murdered; and the role of Redspan/Bush.

Stay tuned.

# The News Desk

By John Ray

## HOLOCAUST ON TRIAL: UPDATE

**[JR: Since mid-February there has been a press blackout on the details of the Irving-Lipstadt "Holocaust denial" libel trial, largely because Mr. Irving is doing well in court and the mandarins of media do not want to destabilize their own caricature of revisionists as sinister lunatics. It is getting more difficult for them to do their spin that can be easily refuted on the facts presented by "the experts". To think that the trial was expected to last 3 months and it is now just half way—and silence.]**

## RICH COUNTRIES OFFER NO REAL DEAL

By Naomi Koppel, *News Day*, 2/19/00

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—As the UN Conference on Trade and Development ended Saturday, the rich countries showed their reluctance to offer any concrete hope for the future of the world trading system as a whole, let alone the role of the developing countries within it.

UNCTAD Secretary-General Rubens Ricupero consistently billed the meeting in Thailand as an important part of the "healing process" following the collapse of the World Trade Organization's meeting in Seattle and its failure to launch new free-trade talks.

UNCTAD's meeting fell just two months after the Seattle meeting, and just at the point when nations were ready to stop licking their wounds and think seriously about how they could rescue the situation.

And the Bangkok meeting has succeeded where Seattle failed by producing an agreement acceptable to all, an agreement urging rich and poor countries to work to create a "prosperous, peaceful and secure world based on true partnership".

Yet the compromises made here are unlikely to be repeated in the WTO, which regulates world trade and where the stakes are much higher.

The European Union says it is a friend of the poor. It went to Seattle claiming it was looking for a "Development Round".

Yet the EU came into conflict with developing countries over its agricultural subsidy program and its insistence that issues such as labor rights and the environment should be considered. Developing nations view this as a deliberate move to make their goods more expensive.

None of the major trading powers has been willing to give unconditional agreement to a program to open its markets completely to goods from the world's 48 poorest countries.

UNCTAD may have restored a degree of hope to developing nations that their concerns are being taken seriously, but in the end, the conference can do nothing directly to influence the World Trade Organization, or to put pressure on individual countries.

The WTO certainly isn't making great progress on its own....

...Many commentators also see domestic politics, especially in the United States, as a major obstacle to the speedy launch of a new round.

Senior U.S. officials were conspicuously absent from

Bangkok.

"One of the problems is the degree to which the United States can agree to anything in an election year," said Eveline Herfkens, the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation.

Rita Hayes, U.S. Ambassador to the WTO, denied that, but offered no hope for any immediate movement....

...It is true that UNCTAD has its own mandate—providing vital data and know-how to developing nations to help them improve their capacity to compete in the global trading system—but nearly all the great hopes for Bangkok hinged on the idea that the meeting might kick-start the WTO.

EU Development Commissioner Poul Nielson expressed the general caution of the richer countries about what had come out of UNCTAD....

**[JR: How in the world can these Third World countries form partnerships with the big WTO countries when not one of the latter is willing to address the issues of these trade imbalances? The UNCTAD commission is nothing more than an appeasement-and-diversion organization. Greed motivates the globalists, so why would they be expected to give a caring thought to the needy of this world. The Third World nations have their special commodities and should organize and develop their own trading cartels, then perhaps the WTO will be forced to renegotiate their trade barriers.]**

## WOODEN NICKELS FLOAT

By Dr. Paul Hein, *Gold Eagle*, 2/17/00

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan didn't think there was need to worry about bank safety during the Y2K event. Although the Fed is planned to accumulate a nest egg of \$200 billion extra in the form of its scrip, withdrawing cash from the bank wasn't necessary, Mr. Greenspan insisted. "The most sensible thing is to leave it where it is," he told a Senate Banking Committee recently. He said that our money would be safe in the banks.

Well, Mr. Greenspan, as it turned out, you were correct but that begs the point, which is: How could you possibly withdraw the money anyway?

Does that sound like a stupid question? So, I guess, is the question, "What is a dollar?" although I've never had it answered by those who insist that "everybody knows what a dollar is". Sometimes a stupid question is simply one which we've never encountered before, or for which we have no answer—or don't want to give it.

So how do we take money from the bank? Let's consider, for a moment, the float. The term is used to designate the same funds in two accounts simultaneously. That happens readily, in this way: You write a check payable to a company thousands of miles away. Although you deduct the amount from your checkbook balance, your bank knows nothing about it; and the amount, let's say \$100, is still in your account at the bank. When the check arrives at its destination, it is quickly deposited and \$100 is added to the account of the recipient. Now it's in both your accounts simultaneously—a float. It will remain in both until the check is returned to your bank and cleared,

at which time it will be subtracted from your balance: end of float.

So what? Your modest check is only one of millions written every day. The float amounts to an awfully large number, which constitutes bank reserves which may justify additional lending. When some of those millions disappear with the clearance of checks, there may be an imbalance between bank deposits—loaned funds—and the reserves needed to maintain them.

When you attempt to withdraw money from the bank, what do you do? You may get cash, but you pay for it with a check. The bank won't consider giving you a fistful of bills just for the asking, no matter how large your account. If you write out a check to "cash", the bank will deposit it in its own account, which contains numbers not considered part of the money supply. The amount of "money" in the bank, however, has not changed. The cash is a "float", cash in your pocket, and the check which bought it in the bank's account will go out of existence when the cash is eventually deposited and put in the vault, where it ceases to be part of the money supply, which is cash or checkbook money in the hands of the non-bank public.

Money, in other words, is created in banks and can never be removed from them. Even if you sought to withdraw your funds from the bank by requesting a cashier's check, the bank would require that you "pay" for it with your own check for a corresponding amount. Money in the bank's account, though not part of the money supply, can still be used by the bank to buy assets, or as the reserves needed for additional lending.

Mr. Greenspan warned against withdrawing cash from the bank, therefore, not because the banks would lose money in the process (impossible!), and not even because, as he told Congress, "Walking around with a lot of \$100 bills is not the safest thing," but because cash is "high-powered" money. Deposit that \$100 bill in the bank, and if the reserve requirement is ten percent, the bank can instantly lend one thousand. Deposit a check for \$100, however, and the bank can only lend \$90, keeping ten [dollars] in reserve. Of course, it can then lend \$81, keeping nine [dollars] in reserve, and so on, until it has lent \$1000, but it is a slower process.

**Additionally, using cash for transactions makes those transactions private, and privacy is against public policy in the United States. The information needed to regulate the economy is not as readily provided by cash transactions as by the use of checks or credit cards, and is to be discouraged.**

So, was there any reason to take cash from the bank as 2000 approached? Sure. Nobody (as yet) refuses cash, but checks might have been suspect when the computer links needed to verify their "goodness" were jammed or inoperative. Should a store be willing to accept checks, it might change its mind when it finds that depositing or cashing those checks is hampered by computer snafus.

The encouraging thing, I suppose, is that when times get tough, people instinctively prefer to have money they can get their hands on, like cash. The discouraging thing is that they fail to realize that numbers engraved on bank "notes" are no more valid or significant than those handwritten or typed on checks. They represent nothing and entitle their holders to nothing from the source which issued them. There is, sadly, no actual money, and the numbers which represent imaginary money are in banks, were created in banks and can never leave the banking system.

If all depositors demanded cash, the banks would soon find their supply exhausted. Of course, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing could dust off those old \$10,000

denomination plates and start churning out some really large bills. It would be simpler, however, for the banks to simply issue cashier's checks in lieu of cash. If customers were reluctant to take them, they could be declared a "legal tender" by Congress for the duration of the emergency, just like withholding taxes were instituted during the Second World War as an emergency measure (which, we hope, will come to an end in our lifetime!). In whatever form, however, the "money" apparently leaving the bank does not and cannot leave. It's only a float that's out there bobbing around.

**[JR: The banking system of checks-and-balances is a lot like "let's pretend" games we played when we were children. The banksters have their own set of rules and magic numbers in their pretend games, which few of us understand, and yet it's our money they are playing with. It's also like the three-shells-and-a-pea game, only they pretend there is a pea. Should adding and subtracting be so complicated?]**

#### UF DENTAL RESEARCHER DEVELOPS LIFETIME PROTECTION FROM CAVITIES

*Science Daily, 2/9/00*

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Fighting tooth decay could someday be as simple as using a mouth rinse, thanks to a University of Florida researcher who has genetically altered the bacterium known to cause tooth decay into a form that may permanently prevent the disease.

The friendlier version appears safe and long lasting, and apparently has a sweet tooth of its own, thriving on a high-sugar diet in the laboratory, reports UF dentist Dr. Jeffrey Hillman in the February issue of the journal *Infection and Immunity*. Dr. Hillman constructed a new strain of the decay-causing bacterium *Streptococcus mutans* for use in replacement therapy.

*Streptococcus mutans*, a naturally occurring bacterium found in the mouth, breaks down food sugars, resulting in the formation of lactic acid. Over time, the acid destroys tooth enamel, causing cavities.

"Based on this accepted theory of the decay process, we eliminated the gene responsible for lactic acid production from a strain of *Streptococcus mutans*," said Dr. Hillman, a professor of oral biology at UF's College of Dentistry. "The new strain does not produce lactic acid and, therefore, will not cause decay."

Dr. Hillman studied the new strain—called an effector strain—in the laboratory and in rat models. He found it dominated the naturally occurring bacterium and blocked it from colonizing the tooth surface.

"The effector strain didn't cause tooth decay even when the animals were fed a high-sugar diet. In fact, sugar actually helps our strain to colonize," Dr. Hillman said. "It is genetically stable and should be safe for humans."

Dr. Hillman's new strain does not cause disease or predispose the host to other diseases. It also appears to stay permanently on teeth. Dr. Hillman said he believes the effector strain can eliminate most tooth decay.

"There is no way to know how much of the world's tooth decay is caused by *Streptococcus mutans*," Dr. Hillman said. "Most studies suggest that of the 500 or so bacterial species in the mouth, *Streptococcus mutans* causes the majority of decay."

Dr. Hillman added that clinical trials would help determine if one application is all that is needed for lifetime protection. The proposed studies will involve squirting a liquid solution of the effector strain on the patients' teeth. He said he hopes to start adult clinical trials this year.

"The ideal application would be to treat infants when their first teeth appear. Infants normally acquire *Streptococcus mutans* via contaminated saliva from their mother or primary caregiver," Dr. Hillman said. "The child would simply visit their dentist for a squirt of solution on their teeth. The approach also is designed for use in older children and adults."

Dr. Hillman's effector strain shows promise, said Dennis Mangan, chief of the Infectious Diseases and Immunity Branch at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

"Years of hard work by Dr. Hillman and other oral researchers are coming to fruition. The mechanisms by which bacteria adhere to and grow on the teeth as biofilm communities and then convert sugar to acids that damage the enamel are extremely complicated," Mangan said. "Dr. Hillman's work exploits this knowledge in a clever, yet scientifically feasible manner and takes us one step closer to the day when everyone will be free from dental caries throughout their lifetime."

Don't toss those toothbrushes. Even if Dr. Hillman's new strain is successful, it will never replace a good tooth brushing.

"Good dental hygiene will always be necessary because of plaque buildup," Dr. Hillman said.

A National Health Spending Trends report indicates that \$48 billion was spent on dental services in 1996. Dr. Hillman says the future treatment would result in dramatic savings for patients.

For the past 20 years, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research has funded Dr. Hillman's research, which has resulted in a number of product patenting and licensing agreements. OraGen, a biotechnology company located in Alachua, Florida, is licensing the new UF technology.

**[JR: This treatment would be a "Godsend" to all of us who consider a visit to our dentist for a drilling and a filling the ultimate dread. This is like a wonderful cure, but do you really believe the ADA and the dental industry would allow the destruction of a \$48 billion a year business? Too many great cures, inventions and developments that would really benefit mankind have been bought, destroyed or shelved by the "industry" in order to maintain the economic stability of those various industries and "professionals".]**

#### A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

By John McKenzie, *ABC News*, 2/17/00

It usually begins in medical school. Students receive drug company pens, and clocks and coffee mugs.

When they become doctors, the gifts they receive often increase in value: drug samples; tickets to ball games; dinners for doctors and their families; all-expense-paid trips to ski or beach resorts to "consult" with drug company representatives.

"The companies and sales reps will tell you," says Dr. Seth Landefeld of the University of California, San Francisco, "you deserve to be treated in a special way. You deserve to go out to a particularly nice place, to a nice conference."

It is all part of an intense marketing effort. Each drug company tries to convince doctors of the benefits of its medications, so the doctors, in turn, might prescribe them to you. By one published estimate, drug companies last year spent an average of \$13,000 on every physician in the country, which adds up to more than \$8 billion. Drug companies now employ 70,000 sales representatives, which means one sales representative for every nine

doctors. "It is important for pharmaceutical company representatives to be able to help educate doctors about the medicines—and the company that discovers and develops them knows best," says Judy Bello, a pharmaceutical industry representative.

#### **Incentives May Affect Your Health**

The question is: Do the gifts and entertainment drug companies offer lead some doctors to practice bad medicine?

"It's the gifts, it's the influence that's the problem," explains Dr. Robert Tenery of the American Medical Association. "Its creating incentives that may change the way doctors practice medicine and why they prescribe certain medications."

And, potentially, at the patient's expense.

**A recent analysis by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of 16 different studies showed that doctors courted by drug companies were more likely to engage in "non-rational" prescribing. In other words, they were more likely to order a drug that was more expensive or less effective than what the patient actually needed.**

The doctors were also more likely—in some cases, 20 times more likely—to ask a hospital to add the company's drug to the hospital inventory—even though most of the requested drugs "presented little or no therapeutic advantage".

#### **Doctors Deny Influence**

Still, most doctors deny that they are influenced by gifts.

"This is a very hot-button issue," says Landefeld. "There are few buttons in medicine you could push that get doctors stirred up faster."

In part, because many doctors suggest they're too clever to be manipulated by a pharmaceutical company.

"I've worked in places where we've had policies saying we will accept gifts but we won't be influenced by them," says Dr. Allen Shaughnessy of the Medical College of Pennsylvania. "And I try to point out that that's impossible. The two go hand in hand."

The American Medical Association, the country's largest doctor's group, tried to address this problem several years ago. Together with the pharmaceutical industry, the AMA put out guidelines that say gifts to doctors should serve a genuine "educational function" and not be of "substantial" value, usually defined as more than \$100.

But these guidelines are voluntary, and the AMA now concedes that many "troubling practices" have returned.

**[JR: It is obvious we have PAC groups (sales representatives) from the drug companies to influence doctors as to what drugs to prescribe for their patients. It's the old "medicine show" syndrome. Doctors who claim they are not influenced are certainly in denial.]**

#### FBI FORCED TO DROP FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT WACO TEST

By Lee Hancock, *The Dallas Morning News*, 2/18/00

The release of full plans for a potentially pivotal infrared field test in the Branch Davidian case came after FBI officials were forced to abandon their claim that even basic information about the camera used in Waco was classified, an infrared expert said Thursday.

Detailed protocols for the test planned for late March at Fort Hood were released Wednesday after a day of private meetings between both sides, their scientific experts and the federal judge overseeing the Davidians' wrongful-death lawsuit.

Justice Department and FBI officials had contended for months, to both a federal court and to congressional investigators, that revealing even the manufacturer of the camera or basic data about how high it operated in Waco would jeopardize law-enforcement secrets and classified national-security information.

They offered that argument to U.S. District Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr. of Waco in November when they tried to convince him to reject the recommendation of the Waco special counsel's office for a field test.

Not only would such a test be confusing and scientifically invalid, they wrote in the November pleading, it also could compromise government secrets....

...The British Government agreed last month to assist in the test with the loan of a Royal Navy Lynx helicopter equipped with a forward-looking-infrared, or FLIR, camera similar to the one the FBI used in the Waco siege. Both the British FLIR and the FBI camera are British-made GEC-Marconi devices.

A British Defense Ministry spokesman said Thursday that the loan was contingent on U.S. agreement that there would be no public access to sensitive operational information about the aircraft and its camera.

But in Wednesday's meeting to finalize the March tests, the court's British-based scientific experts and British Defense Ministry representative said none of the information that the FBI and the Justice Department had tried to withhold was considered secret or sensitive in their country, said Edward Allard, a retired infrared expert who attended the briefing on behalf of the sect's lawyers.

Those discussions took place in a classified meeting that was adjourned after all sides agreed that most of the FLIR information that the FBI had previously sought to withhold was operationally insignificant or available from public sources, Dr. Allard said.

"Right off the bat, the British said this information we're discussing in this meeting is not classified. The British military representatives said the only thing that's classified in our view is if somebody goes in and takes video footage inside our aircraft," he said.

An FBI technical expert who attended the meeting initially argued that information about the plane's altitude might allow someone to calculate the maximum range of their camera and evade detection, Dr. Allard said. But the FBI expert and the Government's infrared expert agreed that such fears were scientifically baseless, Dr. Allard said.

"The FBI had thought originally that the height of the aircraft, how high it was flying in operation, should be classified, and the British said, 'We don't care,'" Dr. Allard said. "So, finally, someone said, 'Is there anything here that is classified?'"...

...Pentagon officials said Thursday that they had no involvement because the information came from the FBI.

#### Davidian lawsuit

The field test could prove crucial in the Branch Davidians' upcoming wrongful-death lawsuit. The Davidians' lawyers have alleged that Government negligence and wrongdoing during the 1993 standoff near Waco led to the deaths of more than 80 sect members....

...Lawyers for the sect have argued that government gunfire in the last hour before the fire kept women and children from fleeing.

But Government officials insist that no one from their side fired a shot on April 19, 1993. They say the Government bears no responsibility because a Government arson investigation ruled that sect members deliberately set the fire.

Experts for the sect have argued that the infrared videotape recorded from an FBI airplane on April 19

contained repeated rhythmic flashes that could have come only from Government gunfire.

FBI officials have said that the flashes that appeared on the back side of the building during the last hour of the siege were caused by sunlight glints or electronic glitches in their camera....

...Experts hired by the Government have also contended that the camera was too far away and not sensitive enough to record ground gunfire.

But after Wednesday's meeting at the office of Special Counsel John C. Danforth in St. Louis, Mr. Bradford told reporters that the camera used in Waco was capable of detecting some types of gunfire and might record some gun flashes during the March test....

#### Conducting the test

...The test will involve repeated firing of weapons that both sides carried in Waco, including M-16 and Colt AR-15 assault rifles, grenade launchers, M-60 machine guns, shotguns and pistols.

The overhead cameras will record footage of armored vehicles like those the FBI used in Waco driving over debris, such as glass and aluminum, as well as footage of the debris itself and pools of standing water....

...The protocol also calls for no news media or public access to the test. After Wednesday's meeting, both sides in the case said they would not oppose some news media presence at Fort Hood.

But on Thursday, Mr. Danforth filed a pleading with Judge Smith arguing that he should deny a motion for media access filed earlier this week by *The Dallas Morning News* and *The Associated Press*....

...“The public interest in the reliability of the test and its results is amply protected by the presence of independent experts, attorneys for both sides and representatives from the office of the Special Counsel,” Thursday's motion by Mr. Danforth argued. “The test and its results will not be ‘shrouded in secrecy’ but will be completely disclosed at trial (if not before) and in the final report of the special counsel.”

**[JR: Time will tell as to how fair the trial will be by the presentation allowed by the judge and the misinformation “leaked” to the media from Government-appointed test experts to taint the minds of potential jurors long before the trial even begins. How’s that for truth and justice?]**

#### ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM SHOULD BE SUSPENDED

By Catherine Strong, *Boston Globe*, 2/17/00

WASHINGTON (AP)—The program to inoculate all 2.4 million American military personnel against anthrax as protection against biological warfare is based on “a paucity of science” and should be suspended, a House panel says in a report sharply critical of the Defense Department.

The anthrax vaccine should be considered experimental because its effectiveness against biological warfare is uncertain and the safety of troops taking the anthrax shots is not being monitored adequately, according to the report being released today by the House Government Reform National Security Subcommittee.

“At best, the vaccine provides some measure of protection to most who receive it,” says a draft of the report obtained by *The Associated Press*. “Just how much protection is acquired, by whom, for how long... are questions the Defense Department answers with an excess of faith but a paucity of science.”

A Defense Department spokesman, Jim Turner, said Wednesday that Pentagon officials were reviewing the

congressional recommendations.

“We don't think it should be mandatory and we don't think it should be force-wide,” Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., Chairman of the Subcommittee, said today on CBS' *The Early Show*. “We know people are getting sick. We don't know of the efficacy of this. We think it is being used in an experimental way.”

Pentagon and Food and Drug Administration officials have said repeatedly the vaccine is safe and effective. FDA officials also say they believe there is no basis for concluding the approved vaccine should be demoted to an investigational drug category.

The 80-page report was written by the Subcommittee's Republican majority after five hearings on the immunization program.

The vaccine has come under increasing scrutiny from lawmakers as soldiers have expressed concerns about taking the six-shot regimen. Complaints included fevers, muscle pain and dizziness. Reserve and National Guard pilots testified that morale was plummeting and colleagues would resign rather than take the vaccine.

In 1998, Defense Secretary William Cohen ordered all active-duty and reserve troops to get the shots, starting with soldiers most likely to encounter biological warfare overseas. More than 380,000 service members have been immunized so far.

About 200 to 300 have refused to take it because of concerns about its safety and efficacy, Pentagon officials say.

More than 400 reports of adverse reactions have been filed. While FDA officials have linked the vaccine to few of the reactions with a high level of confidence, the agency has not been able to rule it out entirely.

Anthrax has never been used in combat but the Pentagon fears Iraq, North Korea and other countries or terrorist groups might try. Anthrax is a naturally occurring bacteria found in domesticated animals; it can be produced as dry spores that, when inhaled, cause death within a few days.

“We feel the program is a vital force-protection program against a known threat,” Turner said.

But the House panel's report called the program unrealistic in providing protection against only one form of biological attack.

The vaccine was studied mostly for its effectiveness in protecting mill workers and livestock handlers decades ago against infection from touching animals or animal hides.

There is little research on the inhalation of anthrax spores by humans and no long-term health research on the vaccine, the report says; therefore, the vaccine should be regarded as an investigational drug, requiring the approval of troops to be administered.

The report also says the program should be suspended because some troops do not trust medical information provided by a Defense Department that has engaged in “heavy-handed propaganda”, labeling critics as paranoid rather than answering their questions.

Instead of encouraging reporting of adverse reactions, the lawmakers said, the military may have underreported problems with shots due to an “institutional culture that is hostile, even resistant, to reports”.

The lawmakers also were critical of BioPort Corp. of Lansing, Michigan, the vaccine's sole supplier. The report recommended research and development of a second-generation vaccine, allowing other companies to compete to alleviate supply shortages and cost increases.

**[JR: Despite the questions raised, the Pentagon has decided to override the recommendations of Congress and proceed with its inoculations. This decision by the Defense Department is totalitarian in nature and**

**should not be tolerated by our cowardly lions in Congress. If Congress' authority has not been relinquished in the mist of lies or to an undeclared UN Communist Manifesto, it should challenge the Pentagon's decision—now! The Pentagon has a double standard and is being selective on the military personnel they choose to court martial for refusing these shots.]**

### THE BRIBERY COAST

By John Diamond, *Chicago Tribune*, 2/20/00

WASHINGTON—Iraq is breaking the United Nations-imposed oil embargo with the help of Iran's military and the tacit cooperation of countries friendly to the United States, according to knowledgeable U.S. national security officials.

The arrangement helps raise money for Iraq and Iran, two nations that fought a bitter war in the 1980s. But it also helps several U.S. allies....

...The complex anatomy of this smuggling shows how barter, cash and competing agendas allow Iraq to raise hundreds of millions of dollars unfettered by an international embargo. It shows how the sharp increase in oil prices brings with it complications beyond the pocketbooks of Americans buying gasoline or heating oil.

It demonstrates the weaknesses inherent in trade embargoes, even those backed by the considerable U.S. military resources deployed to the Persian Gulf. And it points up some domestic concern that U.S. oil companies might lose out to foreign competitors if Iraq's oil trade is allowed to reopen.

Dealing exclusively in cash or barter, Iraq sells this illegal oil at a drastically cut rate of less than 20 percent of the open-market price because shippers risk losing everything if they are caught. The deal works for Iraq because unlike revenues from the UN-sanctioned oil-for-food program, this money comes with no strings attached. The illegal oil revenue is managed by members of Saddam Hussein's family and helps the Iraqi leader pay for the vast security apparatus that protects his reign, and it provides desperately needed hard currency to buy illegal weapons and spare parts to rebuild his military....

...A growing chorus of protesters, including U.S. lawmakers of both parties, wants to lift sanctions on Iraq, arguing that they hurt the Iraqi people. Last August, UNICEF estimated that a half-million more Iraqi children under 5 have died since the embargo began than expected under a normal infant mortality rate before the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.) the House Democratic Whip, called the current sanctions "infanticide masquerading as policy"... Rep. John Kasich (R-Ohio) said, "It could be argued that the sanctions have, in fact, strengthened the regime and weakened the people who would be needed to overthrow the regime."

The Clinton Administration wants to continue the sanctions on Iraq until Baghdad agrees to allow a resumption of weapons inspections, something the Iraqi government has repeatedly said it will not do.

But some outside experts argue that Washington's real agenda in keeping the sanctions going is to protect U.S. oil companies that would almost certainly be cut out of a share of the lucrative Iraqi market should trade resume. France, which supports lifting sanctions, would likely be the big beneficiary of resumption of trade with Iraq. This would repeat the pattern seen just last year, when sanctions on Libya were lifted and European oil firms gained lucrative contracts at the expense of U.S. competitors.

"There's almost always a hidden agenda," said Wenonah Hauter, an energy expert with Public Citizen, a non-profit advocacy group. "When you look at American policy concerning Iraq, it's in large part motivated by the oil industry and who will be able to go in there and partner with that nation."...

...In recent months, this form of smuggling has accelerated dramatically, reaching the highest levels since the embargo was imposed. In 1998, Iraqi illegal oil exports by sea averaged 50,000 barrels a day, according to the State Department. Today the rate is twice that.

But more than half of all the smuggled oil coming out of Iraq goes by land in tanker trucks bound for border crossings with Turkey, Syria and Jordan. In 1998, when the rate of smuggling was far less, a BBC reporter counted 700 trucks, most of them carrying diesel fuel, passing through the Kurdish-controlled border town of Dohuk, Iraq into Turkey. The legally approved oil that is part of the oil-for-food program passes into Turkey via pipeline.

These shipments continue under the nose of UN officials performing various monitoring jobs in the region and occur only after the truckers have paid a passage fee to the Kurds, who continue to play their middleman role despite open, mutual hostility with Iraq and Turkey.

A senior State Department official said the U.S. is loath to intervene because Turkey holds an important position in Washington's national-security posture, providing water to friendly states in the region and allowing U.S. warplanes to fly patrols over northern Iraq from Incirlik Air Base in southeast Turkey. Unlike the shipments by sea, there is no practical way for U.S. or UN forces to intercept the oil being trucked out of Iraq.

Jordan, another U.S. ally, strives to maintain cordial, or at least civil, relations with its more powerful neighbor, Iraq. This, combined with Jordan's long reliance on Iraq for oil, has led to a special exemption from the UN embargo. Even so, according to U.S. officials, some shipments into Jordan come from smugglers offering below-market prices for oil. Syria and Lebanon also receive regular shipments.

All these countries deny knowingly taking part in the smuggling.

The accelerated flow of smuggled oil from Iraq, though considerable, is barely a trickle in the world oil market and so has no effect on prices. The roughly 200,000 barrels per day smuggled out of Iraq represent less than 7 percent of that nation's total oil production. Iraq has the world's second-largest proven oil reserves, with 11 percent of the world total, surpassed only by Saudi Arabia, according to Paul McDonald of Global Energy Intelligence....

**[JR: The smuggling of Iraqi oil, despite the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, reminds me of the story of Gulliver, who while asleep was tied up by the Lilliputians and rendered helpless. To me, the moral of this story, dear readers, is that where profits are concerned, the little people can still compete as well as be troublesome, even in a world of giants.]**

### ISRAEL WINCES AS POPE, ARAFAT SIGN AGREEMENT

*Chicago Tribune* News Services, 2/16/00

ROME—The Vatican on Tuesday signed an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization that would protect freedom of religion and the legal status of Christian churches in a Palestinian state.

The agreement also underlines the "inalienable

national legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people".

Shortly before John Paul II met with Yasser Arafat in the Vatican, their representatives signed a document that, among other things, jointly stated that "unilateral decisions and actions altering the specific character and status of Jerusalem are morally and legally unacceptable".

The Pope plans a pilgrimage to holy sites in Israel and Palestinian-controlled territories in late March. On Tuesday he accepted an invitation from Arafat to add Jericho to his schedule, which, like Bethlehem, is under Palestinian control. It was Arafat's ninth visit with the Pope, who has never concealed his sympathy for the Palestinian cause.

"John Paul II once again expressed the solidarity of the Holy See for the Palestinian people, who are still waiting to see their legitimate aspirations realized," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said after the meeting.

Israel responded to news of the agreement by accusing the Vatican of interfering with its peace effort with the Palestinians. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said, "Israel expresses great displeasure with the declaration today in Rome."

Its statement said, "The inclusion of Jerusalem and other issues connected to the negotiations on final status in an agreement signed by these parties is an intervention in the negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and we are sorry about that."

The Vatican has long criticized Israel's disputed annexation of East Jerusalem and, worried about the security and status of Christian holy sites, has lobbied for the city to be granted a special, internationally guaranteed status. Israel's government, which views Jerusalem as its indivisible capital, has ignored previous Vatican calls for such status.

The wording on an internationally guaranteed statute for such status for Jerusalem reads as a reproach to the Israeli Government and a reaffirmation of the Vatican's support for a Palestinian state. But it also seeks to bind Palestinian leaders to recognize the rights and privileges of the Roman Catholic Church.

In itself, the document merely puts in writing what has been Vatican policy since 1994. By formally lending its moral authority to the Palestinian cause, however, the Vatican secured commitments on legal rights and religious freedom in an eventual Palestinian state, a significant diplomatic concession that the Holy See hasn't been able to get from Muslim countries.

Separately, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's leading security adviser said Israel would consider making minor changes to a proposed hand-over of West Bank land at the heart of a peacemaking crisis with the Palestinians.

The adviser, Danny Yatom, called on Arafat to resume negotiations the Palestinian President broke off 12 days ago.

Arafat had sought to include areas around Jerusalem in the 6.1 percent of the West Bank that Israel was to have transferred to the Palestinians on Jan. 20....

**[JR: The referenced area of East Jerusalem was taken by Israel from Jordan in 1967 and this "Judeo-Christian" disagreement just adds another contentious issue to the peace process in the Middle East. Israel is not about to concede any more land—and certainly not Jerusalem—because it does not serve their purpose or their plans for control in this area of the world.]**



PUSH FOR PEACE PROCESS  
MAY TIE U.S. HANDS IN MIDDLE EAST

Global Intelligence Update, *STRATFOR*, 2/15/00

**Summary**

**On Feb. 14, the Jerusalem daily *Haaretz* reported that Israel and the United States are developing a joint defense pact. Under the pact, Washington would actively guarantee Israeli security. The pact is part of an effort to secure a formalized peace between Israel and Syria. But to secure a peace agreement, the United States may commit itself to a long-term policy that would undermine its relations with Arab countries. This would ultimately limit the ability of the United States to develop and maintain relations with Arab nations.**

**Analysis**

The United States and Israel are discussing a joint defense pact, according to a Feb. 14 report in the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*. The pact would reportedly obligate the United States to defend Israel in the event of attack. Meant to facilitate the stalled, formal peace talks between Israel and Syria, the pact, however, could leave the United States in an unfavorable position in the region. It will effectively bind the foreign policies of the two nations, strain Washington's relations with Arab countries and dramatically limit Washington's future policy options.

The completion of the Israeli-Syrian peace process has become a major objective of the Clinton Administration. U.S. President Bill Clinton himself has taken an active role in leading the negotiations, inviting the leadership of both former antagonists to the United States, mediating the talks and offering incentives to Israel for a formalized peace agreement.

Apparently to move the stalled talks along, U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk has reportedly proposed that the United States commit to defend Israel, particularly in case of an attack involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and long-range ballistic missiles. So far, both the Pentagon and the State Department have refused to comment on the existence of the negotiations. The agreement would also reportedly place U.S. logistical bases on Israeli soil to expedite U.S. military operations in the event of attack. The United States, however, does not need pre-positioned supplies to launch a retaliatory strike in the event of an attack.

Instead, the defense pact seems more like an increasingly large package of American incentives meant to get Israel to keep the talks alive. Unfortunately, the incentive may be more than the United States can afford. The pact would substantially increase the U.S. commitment to Israel's continued security, which now stands at \$3 billion annually—more aid than any other country. Other reported initiatives include placing U.S. peacekeeping forces in the Golan Heights and Israel's recent request for \$17 billion in military aid, including cruise-missile technology. However, Washington has been careful to avoid firm security commitments in order to keep from antagonizing Arab nations.

The United States already provides Israel with aid, weapons and technology but a newly formalized defense pact would tie U.S. foreign policy to Israeli foreign policy. If conflicts between Israel and Arab nations arise, the United States would be forced to side with Israel—regardless of U.S. interests or relations with the Arab nations involved. The relationship would not work; Israel's foreign policy is often in direct conflict with the United States. Israel is known to have sold weapons and technology to U.S. adversaries such as China and Iran.

In the Arab world, Washington's working, if tenuous,

relations would be further endangered. Already, Persian Gulf nations have called for the United States to lower its military profile in the region. And Iran and Iraq have long clamored for the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces. By building a formalized, bilateral defense agreement with Israel, Washington ensures hostility from Arab nations.

Forged during the heat of the Cold War, the U.S.-Israeli relationship has since cooled. No longer of vital importance to U.S. strategic interests in the region, the peace process has become a hot-button issue in Washington largely due to the fact that it's an election year with an outgoing President who wants to leave behind a legacy. In the hope of formalizing an already tenuous peace, Washington may undercut its long-term interests in the region, and ultimately re-formulate its entire policy in the Middle East.

**[JR: This agreement could be the spark that will ignite the fires of war and set the world ablaze. We have a President, Cabinet and a Congress ready, willing and able to meet the needs and demands of Israel that are not in the best interests of the U.S. or its people. We cannot sustain Israel forever to the peril of the rest of the world.]**

EUROPEANS COLONISED AMERICA IN 28,000 BC

By Roger Highfield, *Electronic Telegraph*—UK, 2/19/00

Europeans colonised America up to 30,000 years ago, perhaps by crossing the Atlantic, according to a genetic analysis of Native Americans that sheds light on their origins.

By studying the DNA in "power packs" of cells called mitochondria, scientists can compare populations to reveal evidence of ancient migrations, the American Association for the Advancement of Science was told. Such work reveals four major lineages in Native Americans which can be traced to Siberia and Northeast Asia, notably in Baikal and Altai-Sayan.

However, a fifth—more minor—founding lineage, called haplogroup X, can be traced to Europe, and is found in North American populations, said Dr. Theodore Schurr of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Schurr said: "This is one of the intriguing findings that we have come across recently. These data imply that haplogroup X was present in the New World long before Europeans first arrived in the New World, before Columbus or the Vikings or anybody else."

The find has led to some speculation that ancient people crossed the Atlantic from the Old World, because evidence of the group has not so far been found in Asia, though he stressed that not all Central Asian groups had been analysed. Dr. Schurr said: "Haplogroup X was brought to the New World by an ancient Eurasian population in a migratory event distinct from those bringing the other four lineages to the Americas."

The haplogroup X occurs most among Algonkian-speaking groups such as the Ojibwa, and has been detected in two pre-Columbian North American populations. Today, haplogroup X is found in between two and four percent of European populations and in the Middle East, he said, particularly in Israel.

The complex origins of the first Americans has also been highlighted by an analysis of thousands of skulls from around the world. A team of anthropologists from the University of Michigan found that the study confirmed the complex origins of Native Americans that have been suggested by recent archeological and genetic studies.

Using comparisons of thousands of ancient and modern skulls, collected over a period of 20 years and

containing new data from Mongolia that became accessible just last summer, Professor Loring Brace showed how the native inhabitants of the Western Hemisphere fit into several different groups based on cranio-facial patterns. Their studies show that descendants of the first humans to enter the New World, including natives of Mexico, Peru and the southern United States, have no obvious ties to any Asian groups. He said: "This could be because they have been separated from their Asian sources for the longest period of time."

A second group—including the Blackfoot, Iroquois and other tribes from Minnesota, Michigan, Ontario and Massachusetts—was descended from the Jomon, the prehistoric people of Japan. The Inuit appear to be a later branch from that same Jomon trunk. Tribal groups who lived down the Eastern Seaboard into Florida share this origin, according to Professor Brace. Another group, originating in China and including the Athabascan-speaking people of the Yukon drainage of Alaska and Northwest Canada, spread as far south as Arizona and Northern Mexico.

He said: "Their cranio-facial configuration allies them more closely to the living Chinese than to any other population in either hemisphere."

**[JR: This reported theory raised too many challenging questions on both time and origin. CONTACT's own researcher, the late NORA BOYLES, wrote extensively on this subject and she highly recommended the findings of Professor Barry Fell's book *America B.C.* Fell's book always draws a lot of contentions, perhaps because it contains more truth than theory. Check it out while it is still in print.]**

CHECHENS' CONFIDENCE  
SURVIVES WAR LOSSES

By Colin McMahon, *Chicago Tribune*, 2/17/00

SAMASHKI, Russia—Hussein the Chechen rebel exuded confidence, even though his fellow fighters are on the run or getting bombed without letup.

A unit commander and survivor of the fight for Grozny, Hussein scoffed at Russian guarantees of victory in their 4 ½-month war in Chechnya. He also delivered some bold predictions of his own.

"We don't want to take all of Russia," he said, mixing irony with his magnanimity. "We don't have enough Chechens to do that. We just want Chechnya."

Hussein is either sorely deluded or knows something most of the world does not. His bravado, on full display during an interview at a safe house in the Chechen town of Samashki, reflects the stated confidence of his higher-ups in the ragtag but dedicated Chechen force.

The separatists insist that this war holds more parallels than differences to the first Chechen war of 1994-96. That one ended in a Russian defeat.

"How can the Russians say that they control 90 percent of Chechnya?" Hussein said. "Look at me. How did I get here? We can go where we need to."

Russia's so-called anti-terrorist operation has regained momentum. Having claimed Grozny earlier this month, the Russians have closed the capital city to all Chechen civilians in a bid to prevent any rebel revival. They have moved troops and armor south to attack rebel strongholds in the mountains.

Yet the war was supposed to be over by now. And an estimated 7,000 rebel fighters remain burrowed within Chechnya's mountains. They vow not only to withstand a pending Russian assault—they vow, current circumstances notwithstanding, to take back their land.

"In some ways this war is easier," said Hussein, 28, who commands about 30 fighters specializing in laying mines and other diversionary tactics. "We're a lot more experienced this time."

Hussein's mission in Samashki is twofold, he said. One of the more than 2,000 fighters who held Grozny for weeks in the face of a heavy Russian assault, Hussein said he needs a rest.

The goal is to buy Russian Army weapons. As in the last war, Hussein said, Russian soldiers are selling their hardware to Chechen middlemen or known rebel fighters.

"They won't sell their own Kalashnikov (automatic rifle) because it is registered to them by number and can be traced," he said. "But they will sell the Kalashnikovs of their dead comrades. And they sell other weapons belonging to the units."

The prices, according to Hussein, are ridiculously low. Grenade launchers and bazookas that can knock out tanks and armored-personnel carriers go for as little as \$8. Some items can be bought for bottles of vodka.

The best time to buy is before a soldier gets sent back from active duty.

"They all sell them—the soldiers, officers, all of them," Hussein said. Even tanks are for sale, for the right price. "But tanks we really don't need," he said.

It would be easy to dismiss Hussein's claims as Chechen disinformation—"bandit propaganda", in the words of Russian officials. Hussein refused to give his last name. He lied or obscured the truth at times.

He denied, for example, that fighters from other regions of Russia and other nations have joined the Chechens. They clearly have. He also denied that Islamic fundamentalists, referred to in the region as "Wahhabists", make up part of the fighting force. Chechen civilians across the breakaway province say Wahhabists are prevalent.

Hussein is a poor liar, though. His face turns red in shame or anger when he makes things up. Sometimes he even giggles, so it's easy to spot the whoppers.

Beyond that, history and economics are on Hussein's side. The sale of Russian weapons was prevalent in the last war, and conditions for the average Russian soldier have not improved much since then.

Most disturbing from the Russian point of view is the ability of Hussein and his small group to move about Chechnya seemingly at will.

On a warm and sunny day last week, they appeared in Samashki after a long hike from another town also supposed to be under Russian control. The roads between the towns are littered with Russian checkpoints. Yet they arrived without incident.

"The soldiers don't want to catch us," Hussein said. "They're afraid of us."

During the rebel escape from Grozny and other towns southwest of the capital, Hussein said, Russian troops would fire into the air to give away their position if they heard rebel bands approaching, thereby avoiding a chance encounter that would lead to a firefight. The rebels would then go around the Russians.

Rebel morale seems high, despite the loss of Grozny and the beating from Russian artillery and aircraft that rebel troops have taken along their retreat south.

"We did what we wanted in Grozny," Hussein said. "We showed that the Russians could not do what they said. They said they could take Grozny in days. It took them more than a month."

Yet the power of Russian warplanes and artillery, now bombarding rebel positions in the hills, is fearsome. The rebels have lost at least 1,500 fighters since the land war began Oct. 2. They understand that in some ways

this is a more brutal war.

Hussein offered an example of that brutality. During the first Chechen war, the rebels would execute Russian prisoners if they proved to be professional soldiers. The conscripts they would often let go.

Now the Chechens kill all Russian prisoners. The rebels found out that a lot of the conscripts from the last war ended up staying in the Russian Army only to face them again.

**[JR: I do not doubt that the soldiers on both sides have found an amiable way to survive a situation that is not of their own making. Perhaps the unwritten code of the Russian troops is live and let live to stay alive and go home again.]**

#### JUDGE BLOCKS SUIT AGAINST CLINTON

By Laurie Asseo, *News Day*, 2/18/00

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal appeals court Friday refused to revive a lawsuit by 31 members of Congress who accused President Clinton of overstepping his authority when he ordered the military to join in last year's NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.

The members of Congress lacked legal standing to pursue their argument that Clinton violated the 1973 *War Powers Act*, said the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Writing for the Court, Judge Laurence Silberman said the members of Congress lacked standing because they had "ample legislative power to have stopped prosecution of the war".

Congress could have passed a law forbidding the use of U.S. forces and it could have cut off funds for the operation, wrote Silberman, a Reagan nominee to the Court.

The Vietnam war-era *War Powers Act*, which has been ignored by presidents of both parties, requires a president to receive congressional approval for the "introduction into hostilities" of U.S. forces for more than 60 days. The NATO air campaign began March 24, 1999, and lasted for 11 weeks with no American combat deaths.

Rep. Tom Campbell, the California Republican who led the lawmakers suing the President, said lawmakers would consider appealing to the Supreme Court.

"The Court's decision today is a disappointment to all of us who try to uphold the *Constitution*," Campbell said in a statement released by his office. "To allow a president to make war on his own is a terrible error."

The 31 lawmakers, including four Democrats, noted in their lawsuit that a 213-213 House vote last April fell short of authorizing U.S. participation in the bombing.

U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman dismissed the case last June, saying those who sued failed to show "a sufficiently genuine impasse between the legislative and executive branches to give them standing".

All three members of the Appeals Court agreed that the members of Congress lacked standing to sue, although they differed on the reasons. The other two judges on the case were Judges A. Raymond Randolph, a Bush nominee, and David Tatel, a Clinton nominee.

**[JR: The War Powers Act is the rope that hangs us all. Neither the people nor Congress have any say as to when or where our troops are to be sent. Let's pray our "lawmakers" continue and take this matter all the way to the Supreme Court. Won't that be enlightening for us all? However, if Congress were really serious, they could repeal or pass legislation to remove that power they gave to the office of the president.]**

#### FIRST ARTIFICIAL DNA CAN CREATE NEW FORMS OF LIFE

By J. Leake and R. Dobson, *Sunday Times*—(UK), 1/23/00

Scientists have made the world's first synthetic DNA—the molecules that form the blueprint for life.

The breakthrough means that the first artificial organisms could be "born" within two years and raises the prospect of humans redesigning whole species, including themselves.

The DNA was created at the University of Texas where researchers have mapped out the exact way it will be configured to create synthetic organism one (SO1), the microbe destined to be the world's first man-made creature.

"We are synthesising DNA to create the first synthetic organism," said Professor Glen Evans, Director of the University's genome science and technology centre. "SO1 will have no specific function but once it is alive we can customise it. We can go back to the computer and change a gene and create other new life forms by simply pressing a button."

The researchers are planning to create a series of designer bugs, with super-efficient mechanisms for infecting target tissues such as cancer tumours—and then killing them. Some would infect the human gut to produce vitamin C.

Critics, however, have warned that the scientists risk unleashing a microbe master race with increased powers to infect humans and wildlife.

The researchers' success lies in having found a way to create long chains of DNA. Such chains are made up of four types of molecule which join up in twosomes known as "base pairs". The base pairs then link to form a ladder that twists into the famous DNA double helix.

In Nature, one chain of DNA can contain hundreds of thousands of base pairs. Until now, however, scientists have found it impossible to join together more than 100.

Evans' team has broken this barrier with a technique that first creates short chains of DNA and then joins them together in a controllable way.

The scientists are close to achieving chains that contain 100,000 base pairs—enough to form the basis for simple life forms.

The design for SO1 is based on analyses of the genes of other small bacteria. Genes are the functional units of DNA, each one being responsible for creating a protein essential to processes such as respiration.

Evans plans to copy the vital genes from each bacterium, select the best and join them together. In Nature, all DNA also contains "junk genes" with no function but Evans plans to omit these—possibly making SO1 the most efficient organism that has lived.

The work to create SO1 is complex but the test of success will be simple. Can SO1 feed and reproduce? If so, then Evans will, indeed, be celebrating new life. Opponents, however, will regard such an event very differently.

Tony Juniper, Policy and Campaigns Director of Friends of the Earth, said the bugs could present a serious threat to human health and the environment. He said: "Scientists have already unleashed genetically-modified organisms and we are now seeing the damage they can do. Playing God by creating entirely new life forms could have very serious consequences which should be publicly and fully debated."

Others are less perturbed. Michael Reiss, a specialist in bioethics at Cambridge University, said he would become concerned only if such life became

sentient. "In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, people thought there was some vital essence to life and there was real controversy when the first organic compounds were made. My own view is that DNA is just an extension of that process," he said.

Evans believes that man will one day be able to create complex life forms. For now, however, the first benefit could be simpler—the end of the vitamin pill. "Humans need but cannot make vitamin C because we lack one particular enzyme," he said. "If we put that enzyme into one of our artificial organisms and drink it, the bug will live in our guts making vitamin C forever."

#### SYRIAN NEWSPAPER CALLS HOLOCAUST A "MYTH"

*Reuters, 2/1/00*

DAMASCUS, Syria—An official Syrian newspaper on Monday described the Holocaust as a myth, accusing Israel of exaggerating the extent of the Nazi slaughter of Jews to gain Western support and contain its opponents.

"Why does Israel insist on bringing up this alleged Holocaust policy?" the Editor of the state newspaper *Tishreen*, Mohamed Kheir al-Wadi, wrote.

"I believe Israel and the Zionist organizations have two aims. The first is to receive more money from Germany and other Western establishments on the pretext of compensation for the Holocaust.

"The second aim is to invest the myth of the Holocaust and accuse anyone opposed to Zionism and its expansionist policies of anti-Semitism."

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's office had no immediate comment on the article, but the Jerusalem office of the Nazi-hunting Simon Wiesenthal Center called the comments "government-sanctioned Holocaust denial".

The center's Israel Director, Efraim Zuroff, said the article appeared designed to touch a raw Israeli nerve at a time of difficulty in peace talks between Syria and the Jewish state.

"The only explanation for such a thing is that the Syrians are upping the ante and trying to disparage Israel in one of Israel's most sacred principles," Zuroff told *Reuters*.

"We view this with particular severity because this reflects a deeply-ingrained anti-Semitism and does not bode well for the peace process. You can't make peace with a country that denies the Holocaust," he said.

The unusually strong Syrian attack at a sensitive time in Middle East peace negotiations followed a major conference on the Holocaust that ended in Stockholm, Sweden last week.

Participants from 48 countries pledged to ensure that World War Two atrocities, including the Nazi slaughter of Jews, remained in the spotlight.

The newspaper charged that Israel had convened the conference to further Jewish lies about the Holocaust in the face of credible voices questioning it, including that of the controversial British historian David Irving.

"Zionism is erasing from human memory 50 million Nazi victims and concentrating on the suffering of Jews, although historical facts prove that Zionism leaders then collaborated with the Nazis for the Jewish problem to get worse," *Tishreen* said.

"Zionism hides these dark pages of its history, blackens them completely and invents stories about the Holocaust and exaggerates it to astronomical levels," it said.

Syria and Israel agreed to restart peace negotiations

in December and concluded two rounds of talks in the United States.

But a third round failed to go ahead this month after Syria said it had not received guarantees from Israel indicating willingness to withdraw from the whole of the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East War.

Israel wants to discuss security arrangements and other elements of a peace deal first.

Syria maintains that Israel is not showing real intent to make peace, accusing it of continuing to oppress the Palestinians and expanding its arsenal using Western aid.

"Israel, which is presenting itself as heir to the victims of the Holocaust, committed and keeps on committing against the Arabs, crimes that are uglier than the ones committed by the old Nazis.

"The Nazis, for example, did not drive out a whole nation from their homeland and did not bury people alive—which is what the Zionists did," said *Tishreen*.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERS FEAR SUCCESS OF CASINOS MAY THREATEN SOVEREIGNTY

By Jim Barnett, *Newhouse News Service, 2/19/00*

If anything is a sure bet in Indian country these days, it's the lure of gambling. Tribal casinos closed out another banner year in 1999, raking in nearly \$10 billion in revenues—more than the total spent on tribes by a dozen federal agencies.

Casino money is helping some tribes build hope on reservations once condemned to despair. Oregon's Grande Ronde tribe, for example, recently issued \$2,800 dividends to members after paying for improvements to housing and social services.

The vast majority of the nation's 554 tribes, however, have no casinos and little hope of ever cashing in. Yet they are experiencing an unpleasant side effect of casino wealth: As gaming revenues have grown, so have political risks on Capitol Hill.

As the Clinton Administration plans to lobby for increased spending on tribes, tribal leaders fear they will face a no-win proposition: Additional federal money may come with conditions that undermine their governments' hard-won status as sovereigns.

"It's an attempt to punish based on a perception of success," said Wayne Shammel, a lawyer for the Cow Creek Band, which operates a casino in southern Oregon.

"You could hardly call us wealthy," Shammel said. "But before the advent of gaming, you certainly could call us destitute. Now, we're just in a position where we feel like maybe we've got a chance."

At issue are competing notions of federal responsibility to tribes and their 1.2 million members. It is an intense, if largely unnoticed, debate that starts each year with money—or lack of it—and escalates into questions of tribes' rights as sovereign nations.

Some members of Congress view tribal funding much like welfare: Once tribes can support themselves through casinos or other business ventures, they should give up federal money. A leading advocate of this view is Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Washington.

"The proper way is that subsidies like this ought to be based largely on need," said Gorton, a senior member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, which oversees federal spending on tribes.

Tribes see their basic federal support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs more like Social Security. They believe it is an entitlement, promised by treaties

and other acts of Congress in return for lands and resources handed over to the federal government.

"They say, 'You owe us; look what you took away from us,'" said Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colorado, Chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee. "They lost a hell of a lot more than they're getting, I'll tell you that."

The cornerstone of federal support for tribes is the Bureau of Indian Affairs' \$1.7 billion budget, much of which goes directly to tribes. In all, the federal government spends \$7.8 billion a year on tribes, with departments from Agriculture to Veterans Affairs pitching in.

But tribal governments don't get enough money from Indian Affairs to perform basic services, according to a recent bureau report. The report found that tribal governments meet only a fraction of needs in education, human services, community development and other areas.

The federal government should start bridging those gaps, particularly in light of mounting budget surpluses, the bureau's top officer said.

"What I cannot do is make programs that are inadequately funded succeed," said Kevin Gover, an American Indian and Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, under which the Bureau of Indian Affairs operates. "In the end, a lot of these conditions can only be relieved through the expenditure of real money."

Tribes and their political rivals do agree on one thing: The system of federal support for tribes needs to be fixed to help the poorest. But fixing it raises a difficult and politically explosive question: How do you measure tribes' needs fairly and accurately?

Under the current system, no such determination is made. The bureau's annual payments to each tribe depend on the amount paid the year before. But those direct payments are based on decades-old political deals rather than tribes' modern-day needs.

Gorton wants to require tribes to submit their business ledgers for federal review. Federal payments then would be based on each tribe's relative ability to help itself. It's the best and fairest way to allocate scarce federal resources, he said.

But tribal leaders and advocates argue that such a review amounts to a "means test" and would offend tribes' rights as sovereign nations. States with lotteries don't have to meet financial criteria to get federal assistance, they say, so why should tribes?

Further, tribes see means testing as the top of a slippery slope. Once Congress knows exactly how much money is made at American Indian casinos, it's only a matter of time before that source of wealth is taken away—just as lands were taken away in the 19th Century, they say.

Gover, who surveyed tribal leaders, said that even the poorest tribes object to a reallocation of bureau funds. "The sentiment I heard was that if you take from the rich tribes, someday you set the precedent to allow you to take it from us," he said.

Tribes' casino wealth was made possible by the 1988 *Indian Gaming Regulatory Act*, which allowed gambling on reservation land. A recent count found that 200 tribes had gaming compacts with 26 states, although some casinos operate without state approval.

The goal of the act was to promote economic development—liberating tribes from dependence on federal money. In addition, casino wealth has given

tribes means to sharpen their political skills.

Evidence of tribes' political ascendancy can be found across the country. Tribes are spending casino profits to challenge local governments in court, lobby legislatures, and influence state and federal campaigns.

If some members of Congress want to put limits on sovereignty, tribal leaders said, it is because they fear tribes' newly found clout.

"That has to be one of their concerns, that finally tribes have the resources to seek justice under the laws of this country," said Don Sampson, Executive Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Portland, Oregon.

In California, tribal support was critical last year to overwhelming passage of Measure 5, which legalized dozens of casinos. In a campaign that cost a total of \$100 million, tribes outspent rival Las Vegas casinos by a 3-to-1 ratio.

That kind of impact soon could be felt in the Northwest. Tribes already are planning to campaign against Gorton, who is up for re-election in November. Casino money also could finance a potential lawsuit seeking billions in damages from the federal government for extinction of some runs of salmon in the Columbia basin.

"Our lawyers are working around the clock on it," Sampson said.

Back on Capitol Hill, the perennial tribal funding debate ended in November with a modest boost in the budget of Indian Affairs. Also tucked into the Indian Affairs budget was a three-sentence budget rider that gives the bureau authority to shift 10 percent of funds from wealthy tribes to poor ones. The rider, in effect, gives Gover power to perform the means testing that tribes oppose.

The origin of the rider is disputed, although Gorton's staff and bureau officials agree it is a watered-down version of a Gorton proposal offered in 1998. In any case, Gover said, the rider will not threaten sovereignty because he does not plan to use its authority.

But the legislation could be a preview to this year's budget debate.

In February, the Clinton Administration will send Congress its budget proposal for the 2001 fiscal year. In it, Gover said, will be a request for a major increase in the Indian Affairs budget—although he would not reveal the amount.

Gorton does not plan to push for reform of tribal funding this year unless Gover asks for it, said Cynthia Bergman, a Gorton aide. While some poor tribes privately approved of Gorton's previous effort, she said, many reacted negatively.

Nevertheless, tribes fear that a backlash is coming, said Campbell, the Indian Affairs Chairman. Although the 20

largest American Indian casinos account for half of all revenues, tribes everywhere could be perceived as undeserving of unconditional federal assistance.

"No question about it," Campbell said, "Indians are scared to death."

Rather than fight the perception that all tribes are getting rich, Gover said he would seek more money

for programs aimed at poor American Indians.

For example, Gover said he wants to expand an \$18 million housing improvement fund that gets \$200 million in requests for help.

"I don't consider that means testing," Gover said. "I consider that targeted investing to needy Indians—and I think that's good policy."

*In fulfillment of legal requirements, this is the second of four publications of this Public Notice.*

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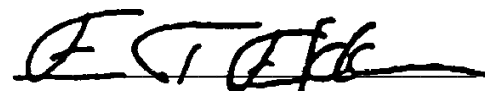
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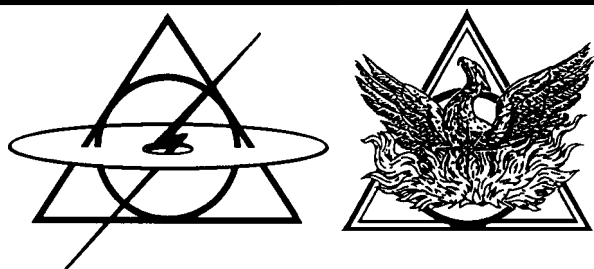
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