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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

New Reports of Massive Spying, Criminality by US Government

By PATRICK MARTIN / GLOBAL RESEARCH
JULY 13, 2009

Reports in the American press on July 10 and 11 reveal massive illegality in the US government and intelligence apparatus. They demonstrate not only routine violations of democratic rights through illegal spying and wiretapping both at home and abroad, but also disregard for legally required reports to Congress.

According to a report July 12 in the *New York Times*, the CIA kept the House and Senate intelligence committees in the dark for eight years about a "secret counterterrorism program," on the instructions of then Vice President Richard Cheney. The *Times* account said that the current CIA Director Leon Panetta, a former Democrat congressman, recently told both the House and Senate intelligence committees about the existence of the program and Cheney's role in concealing it.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported July 11, citing an internal study by five intelligence agency officials, that the electronic surveillance under the Bush administration "went beyond the widely publicized warrantless wiretapping program ... encompassing additional secretive activities that created 'unprecedented' spying powers."

This program, conducted by the National Security Agency and separate from the CIA program, "came to be known in the Bush administration as the 'President's Surveillance Program,'" the newspaper said. The study was conducted jointly by the Inspectors General of the Justice Department, Pentagon, CIA, Directorate of National Intelligence and National Security Agency. The unclassified version of the study, released July 10, blacked out all details of the expanded surveillance program.

As in the case of the CIA program, the office

see SPYING p. 4

Vaccine May Be More Dangerous than Swine Flu

By DR. RUSSELL BLAYLOCK
JULY 7, 2009

An outbreak of swine flu occurred in Mexico this spring that eventually affected 4,910 Mexican citizens and resulted in 85 deaths. By the time it spread to the United States, the virus caused only mild cases of flu-like illness.

Thanks to air travel and the failure of public health officials to control travel from Mexico, the virus spread worldwide. Despite predictions of massive numbers of deaths and the arrival of doomsday, the virus has remained a relatively mild disease, something we know happens each year with flu epidemics.

Worldwide, there have only been 311 deaths

out of 70,893 cases of swine flu. In the United States, 27,717 cases have resulted in 127 deaths. Every death is a tragedy, but such a low death rate should not be the basis of a draconian government policy.

It is helpful to recall that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with the collusion of the media, constantly tell us that 36,000 people die from the flu each year, a figure that has been shown to be a lie. In this case, we are talking about 300 plus deaths for the entire world.

This virus continues to be an enigma for virologists. In the April 30, 2009 issue of *Nature*, a virologist was quoted as saying, "Where the hell it got all these genes from we don't know."

see SWINE FLU p. 2

Italy: Earthquake Survivors Resent Being Used as G8 Backdrop

By STEPHANIE WESTBROOK/AFTERDOWNINGSTREET.ORG
It's the slogan of the citizens committees that have formed in the central Italian city of L'Aquila, hit by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake on April 6, 2009.

And it was on display for world leaders during the G8 summit being held just outside the city in an area off limits to the local people.

On the morning of July 8, as the Group of Eight leaders began arriving in L'Aquila, activists sealed the hill overlooking the red zone and laid out huge sheets of white plastic to form 10-meter high letters reading "Yes We Camp." As Mattia Lolli of the 3e32 Committee, which takes its name from the time the earthquake hit, explained, "We want to make sure the G8 leaders

as well as public opinion in Italy know that three months after the earthquake there are still over 22,000 people living in tents."

The G8 summit was originally to take place on the island of Sardinia. On April 23 Silvio Berlusconi, Italy's scandal ridden prime minister, made the surprise announcement that the G8 summit would be moved to L'Aquila; saying it would put the world's spotlight on the devastated city. But that's not how it is seen by local residents, who are still mourning the loss of friends and loved ones — 300 people died in the quake — as well as their homes and their city.

Among the first events organized by the

see YES WE CAMP p. 5

NSA Security Scrambles to Plug Leaks About 9/11

By WAYNE MADSEN / WMR

WMR has learned that the National Security Agency "Q" Group, responsible for security, has grown to an immense security and counter-intelligence force, with an estimated one thousand government employees, contractors, and paid informants. NSA's Security force is reportedly primarily tasked with plugging any leaks of

classified or other information that points to US government involvement with the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. NSA Security has doggedly pursued a number of NSA employees, some in "sting" operations, others in frequent polygraphs and repeated security interviews where threats are made by tuggish NSA security agents with and without the presence of FBI agents, and others in constant surveillance operations at their homes, churches, and other locations away from the Fort Meade, Maryland, headquarters of the agency.

The most egregious NSA Security operation against a NSA employee was the 2004 arrest of NSA analyst Ken Ford, Jr. Ford became a target of opportunity for NSA Security and the FBI after Vice President Dick Cheney noted his name on an NSA signals intelligence report on Saddam Hussein's government that stated that there was no proof from interceptions of Iraqi communications that Saddam Hussein possessed "weapons of mass destruction." Cheney and other neocons in the Bush White House arranged for a "sting" operation to be mounted as retribution against Ford. Ford was charged with taking classified papers home from NSA headquarters, something that is quite impossible considering the stringent security in place at one of the most-secured complexes in the world.

Ford was convicted by a tainted jury and sentenced to seven years in federal prison. Ford, who is African-American, originally had an African-American federal trial judge. However, the judge was replaced by a pro-Iraq war Jewish US judge, Peter Messitte, who set out to ensure a guilty conviction of Ford in cahoots with

see NSA p. 7

More Brits Think Government Behind 7/7 London Bombings



July 7, 2005: The haunting image of a burn victim being guided to safety.

By MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

After four years, rumors swell in London that the British Government had a hand in the terrorist attacks of 7/7. Three Tube stations and a bus were struck with bombs that morning.

The government's official story, that the attacks were staged by four British Muslims, inspired by al Qaeda but unaffiliated with any specific group is being rejected by growing numbers of Brits.

The official story is weak: four British Muslims — Mohammad Sidique Khan, 30, Shehzad Tanweer, 22, Jermaine Lindsay, 19, and Hasib Hussain, 18 — blew themselves up using explosives cooked up in their bath tub, killing 56 and injuring 700 on three Tube trains and a double-decker bus.

They had traveled on a mainline train from Luton into King's Cross Thameslink Station in London, each carrying a heavy backpack of explosives.

At least that's the version of events as presented by a high-level Parliamentary inquiry and a government report, which were published in May 2006, ten months after the events.

One immediate problem was that the accused bombers just didn't seem to be the type.

They were family men, one a teacher, another played cricket the night before; not the actions a fundamentalist jihadist bent on suicide the following day. After viewing the Closed Circuit videos of the men, the police said they looked like "happy hikers", laughing and joking and carrying heavy bags.

London Anti-Terrorist Police admitted that the bombers "did not fit the preconceived terrorist profile."

They parked a rental car outside the train station and paid to park for seven days, then

see LONDON p. 7

US Behind Honduran Coup

The US Policy of Political Assassination Follows Obama into Office

By WAYNE MADSEN / WAYNE MADSEN REPORT
JULY 17-19, 2009

WMR has learned from knowledgeable sources inside Honduras that on July 5, as the Venezuelan plane carrying ousted President Manuel Zelaya and United Nations General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann to Honduras circled Tegucigalpa International Airport, the Honduran Air Force, with the knowledge of US military personnel at the Soto Cano/Palmerola airbase in Honduras and the US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in Miami, launched two planes to shoot down the aircraft. The Honduran air force planes were launched from the American base.

The Honduran Air Force commander who ordered the planes to shoot down the Venezuelan aircraft is General Luis Javier Prince Suazo, who

is a graduate, along with General Romeo Orlando Vasquez Velasquez, the armed forces commander, of the infamous US Army School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia. An emissary of Vasquez Velasquez visited SOUTHCOM headquarters in Miami just days before the coup to coordinate US military involvement with the coup.

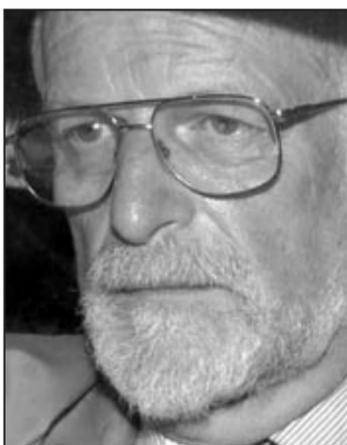
Bolivian President Evo Morales recently stated in Montevideo, the Uruguay capital, "I have first-hand information that the empire, through the US Southern Command, made the coup d'etat in Honduras." Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said in La Paz, the Bolivian capital, "it [the Honduran coup] was orchestrated by the State Department, you can bet your head on that . . . I believe Obama was not informed of the conspiracy; it was all the workings of the

State Department." Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently gave a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations. In the audience was John Negroponte, the former Deputy Secretary of State under George W. Bush and the US ambassador in Honduras during the reign of US-sponsored death squads. Negroponte has a number of financial and political interests in Honduras and he is close to some of the major Honduran junta members and chief supporters.

In addition to shooting down Zelaya's aircraft, the Honduran fighters also had orders to shoot down two other planes that planned to land at Tegucigalpa International after Zelaya's plane touched down. One of the two planes was carrying Presidents Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner of

see COUP p. 8

Dick Cheney's "Executive Assassination Ring" Was British Weapons Expert Dr. David Kelly a Target?



Weapons inspector David Kelly disputed Bush/Blair claims about Iraq WMDs.

By TOM BURGHARDT / GLOBAL RESEARCH

Revelations that the Central Intelligence Agency launched a world-wide assassination program, and then concealed its existence from the US Congress and the American people for eight years, carries an implication that death squads may have been employed against political opponents.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported July 13 that "A secret Central Intelligence Agency initiative terminated by Director Leon Panetta was an attempt to carry out a 2001 presidential authorization to capture or kill al Qaeda operatives, according to former intelligence officials familiar with the matter."

Investigative journalist Siobhan Gorman writes, "The precise nature of the highly classified effort isn't clear, and the CIA won't comment on its substance."

The *Washington Post* however, revealed July 16 that the assassination plan was sanctioned by President Bush. Unnamed "intelligence officials" told the newspaper that "a secret document known

as a 'presidential finding' was signed by President George W. Bush that same month, granting the agency broad authority to use deadly force against bin Laden as well as other senior members of al Qaeda and other terrorist groups."

According to *Post* reporter Joby Warrick, Bush's finding "imposed no geographical limitations on the agency's actions" and that the CIA was "not obliged to notify Congress of each operation envisaged under the directive." This implies that targets could be hit anywhere, including on the soil of a NATO ally or inside the United States itself.

According to the *Los Angeles Times* the program "was kept secret from lawmakers for nearly eight years at the direction of former Vice President Dick Cheney."

Despite these reports and hand-wringing amongst congressional Democrats, there's something fishy here. After all, isn't the whole point of America's "global war on terror" to

see KELLY p. 8

Webster Tarpley responds to Ellen Brown's article about hyperinflation in the July issue

The Second Wave of The Depression: Hyperinflation Likely

By WEBSTER TARPLEY

JULY 15, 2009

The second wave of the world economic depression is coming soon. Larry Summers, the economics czar of the Wall Street puppet regime currently in power in Washington, recently confessed to the *Financial Times* in an unguarded moment: "I don't think the worst is over . . ." A few weeks earlier, Jacques Attali, who served in the 1980s as the main economics adviser to French President Mitterrand, told an audience at the International Economic and Financial Forum (FIEF) in Paris that the world might well soon face a planetary Weimar "in the form of a hyperinflationary depression similar to the German events of 1922 - 1923."

During the last world economic depression, the first wave came in the form of the famous New York Stock market crash of October 1929. But this was only the beginning, and hardly the main event. The world depression of the 1930s was made irreversible by the British bankruptcy

of September 1931, when the Bank of England ceased gold payment. At that time, the vast majority of international trade was financed by pounds sterling bills of exchange drawn on London. When the British Pound began to float through a series of competitive devaluations, the lack of a stable reserve currency — and not the US Hawley-Smoot tariff — strangled world trade, thus making that depression as severe as it was. British default in turn undermined the US banking system, setting the stage for the banking panic which ravaged the United States in 1932 and 1933, to the point that not a single bank in the country was still operating by the time Franklin D. Roosevelt assumed the presidency in March of 1933. The United States would almost certainly have been lashed by additional waves of depression had it not been for the banking triage implemented by the Roosevelt administration during the bank holiday, and for other New Deal measures which succeeded in mitigating the Depression.

Other countries, notably Germany, went into a permanent depression which was expressed in a series of military campaigns which aimed at the economic looting of the other countries of Europe. Whatever the ideological fanatics of the discredited Austria and Chicago schools of economic analysis may claim, there is no automatic business cycle capable of lifting the modern world out of serious economic disintegration. The depression will end when adequate New Deal style policies are implemented, and not before, as I show in my new book, the second edition of *Surviving the Cataclysm*.

TODAY: BETWEEN 1929 AND 1931

Today, therefore, we are, so to speak, in the trough between the October 1929 wave (which corresponds to the derivatives crisis and banking panic of 2008) and the September 1931 wave, which this time around is highly likely to take the form of a hyperinflationary dollar crisis, or in

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Dick Cheney's "Executive Assassination Ring" Was British Weapons Expert Dr. David Kelly a Target?

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"capture or kill" al Qaeda suspects? What's so secretive or controversial about that?

The descriptions of the operation that have so far emerged however, bear a striking resemblance to charges laid earlier this year when investigative journalist Seymour Hersh said that the Bush administration stood-up an "executive assassination ring."

During a "Great Conversations" event at the University of Minnesota in March, the veteran journalist told the audience: "After 9/11, I haven't written about this yet, but the Central Intelligence Agency was very deeply involved in domestic activities against people they thought to be enemies of the state. Without any legal authority for it. They haven't been called on it yet. That does happen."

The program was allegedly shut down by Panetta on June 23, a day after leaning of the agency's clandestine initiative. What make these revelations all the more significant is that the CIA Director only learned of the program fully four months after assuming office.

"The implications," socialist analyst Bill Van Auken writes, "are clear. The CIA maintained the secrecy ordered by Cheney even after the latter had left office, and continued to conceal the existence and nature of the covert operation not only from Congress, but from the Obama administration itself."

But was the program shut down? *The Washington Post* further revealed that the plan, allegedly "on the agency's back burner for much of the past eight years, was suddenly thrust into the spotlight because of proposals to initiate what one intelligence official called a 'somewhat more operational phase'."

Col. Lawrence Wilkerson, a former top aide to US Secretary of State Colin Powell hints that the program was in a "somewhat more operational phase" years earlier, despite repeated denials by CIA officials and congressional staffers.

Wilkerson told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow Show July 14, "What I suspect has happened is what began to happen while I was still in the government, and that was we're killing the wrong people. And we're killing the wrong people in the wrong countries. And the countries are finding out about it, or at least there was a suspicion that the countries might find out about it, and so it was shut down. That's my strong suspicion."

According to Wilkerson, the teams may have been dispatched under deep cover, using Joint Special Operations Command as a cut-out, a

confirmation of charges made by Seymour Hersh in March. When US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was queried by the State Department, "after some hemming and hawing, which was Rumsfeld's forte, he finally admitted that he had dispatched some of these teams," Wilkerson explained.

Powell's former aide told Maddow, "It's laughable that the CIA has never lied to Congress. 'They lie to Congress on a routine basis.' Much the same can be said of General Powell who lied to the entire world 'on a routine basis' during the run-up to the invasion of Iraq.

It must also be said there is precedence for the CIA's alleged death squad activities during the Bush era. In Vietnam for example, the CIA and US Special Forces jointly ran a secret assassination program that targeted Vietnamese dissidents. As author Douglas Valentine revealed in his definitive study, *The Phoenix Program*, Operation Phoenix "was a computer-driven program aimed at 'neutralizing', through assassination, kidnapping, and systematic torture, the civilian infrastructure that supported the insurgency in South Vietnam."

Those programs never died and have since morphed into above top secret "Special Access Programs" used with deadly effect in Central and South America during the 1980s and across the Middle East today.

One Scandal Leads to Another

The latest scandal comes on the heels of revelations that the Bush administration's massive secret surveillance programs targeting the American people went far beyond well-publicized warrantless wiretapping.

A new 38-page declassified report issued July 10 by inspectors general of the CIA, National Security Agency, Department of Justice, Department of Defense and the Office of National Intelligence, collectively called the acknowledged "Terrorist Surveillance Program" and cross-agency top secret "Other Intelligence Activities" the "President's Surveillance Program" (PSP).

The IGs' report failed to disclose what these programs actually did, and probably still do today under the Obama administration. Shrouded beneath impenetrable layers of secrecy and deceit, these undisclosed programs lie at the dark heart of the state's war against the American people and perhaps, other regime opponents.

The CIA's Office of Inspector General said that "the program was an additional resource to enhance the CIA's understanding of terrorist networks and to help identify potential threats

to the US homeland," that the "PSP was one of many tools available to them, and that the tools were often used in combination." However, "some officers told the CIA OIG that there was insufficient legal guidance on the use of PSP-derived information." (pp. 33-34)

But with a thin reed provided by President Bush's executive orders, presidential findings and 2001 congressional authorization for war against al Qaeda, why would there be "insufficient legal guidance"? If "PSP-derived information" was used to target alleged al Qaeda operatives there wouldn't be a need for additional legal guidance. If however, the CIA "was very deeply involved in domestic activities" as Seymour Hersh averred, and used NSA information for political dirty tricks it would be a violation of the CIA's charter, one that comes with serious consequences including jail time.

Investigative journalists James Risen and Eric Lichtblau, who broke the NSA spy story in *The New York Times* in 2005, reported July 11 that intelligence officials "had difficulty citing specific instances" when the National Security Agency's wiretapping program contributed to successes against terrorists."

True enough as far as it goes, but perhaps these programs were highly efficacious in silencing those who were deemed politically suspect, even within the defense and security apparatus itself.

While major media in the United States insist that the Agency's assassination program was meant to target al Qaeda assets, one question inevitably raises its head: did the CIA and allied intelligence services murder political opponents? Were covert actions carried out by the CIA — at home or on the soil of America's allies — "against people they thought to be enemies of the state," as Hersh revealed?

More pointedly, was the British bioweapons expert Dr. David Kelly, who leaked information to the press that the British and American governments had falsified the case for the 2003 invasion of Iraq, murdered for exposing the fraudulent evidence for war or worse, planning an exposé on the West's continued development of offensive biological weapons?

The David Kelly File

Dr. David Kelly was an unlikely dissident. In fact Kelly wasn't a dissident at all, but a prominent figure in Britain's bioweapons defense establishment.

The former head of the microbiology department at Porton Down, the UK's secret see KELLY p. 8

The Second Wave of The Depression: Hyperinflation Likely

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other words a hyper stagflation and depression of the world economy radiating out from Wall Street and the City of London. What then might be the leading characteristics of the next wave of the current world economic breakdown crisis?

The next wave is likely to involve a worldwide dollar panic. Using ballpark figures, we can say that there are about \$4 to \$5 trillion sloshing around the world in the form of hot money, US Treasury securities, Euro dollars, and various forms of zeno-dollars. Japan has about a trillion, China almost \$2 trillion, and so forth. It is naturally very unwise for a developing country like China to hold so many dollars rather than using them to purchase needed infrastructure and capital goods, and the Chinese leaders are now very uncomfortable with their own foolish decision, which was of course taken under heavy US pressure. But the point is that this \$4.5 trillion overhang is by its very nature exceedingly unstable. Every country that holds large sums of dollars or US Treasury bonds is nervously eyeing every other such country to see if they show signs of bolting for the exit. Up to now, so far as we know, no large holder of dollars has attempted to reduce its exposure to the battered greenback by dumping these dollars on the international market. If anyone did so, it would cause a true universal financial panic which would create chaos and mayhem not just in the United States and Great Britain, but in the vast areas of the rest of the world as well. This is concretely how hyperinflation could now very well arise: if one or more US creditor nations attempts to abruptly lighten up on dollars, the value of the US currency could undergo a catastrophic collapse, and that would spell runaway hyperinflation on the US domestic front.

World Dollar Panic Imminent?

We need to recall that the value of a modern currency is not determined inside the country, but rather on the international foreign exchange markets. This is where the fatal vulnerability of the US dollar is located. In the ruined form of the Bretton Woods system which has prevailed for almost 40 years since Nixon's colossal historical vandalism of August 15, 1971, the US has emerged as the only country with a permanent license to finance imports by simply printing more of its own currency and sending those banknotes overseas. Every other country has to manufacture and export something that others want to buy in order to earn the necessary foreign exchange to pay for its own imports. The US license to print has made this country the buyer of last resort and the dumping ground for the unsold junk of the world, leading in the process to high permanent unemployment here. There are many signs that this inherently unworkable arrangement has now reached the breaking point.

International Currency Relations, Not Money Supply, Are The Key

Ms. Ellen Brown, who apparently supports the doctrines of the social credit movement of the 1930s, has recently argued that deflation is now on the agenda, and that hyperinflation can be ruled out. She bases this analysis on the fact that the private credit markets in this country have largely collapsed, and on the contention that the M1 and M2 money parameters have either declined or increased only slightly. But all of this is beside the point. The Federal Reserve and the Treasury have so far provided almost \$13 trillion of new loans to banks, insurance companies, credit card companies, and other purely financial institutions. This is being done in an effort to bailout the \$1.5 quadrillion world derivatives bubble, of which something like two-thirds or more, meaning one quadrillion dollars, can be located inside the dollar zone. The world depression started when this derivatives bubble went into reverse leverage, meaning that super losses instead of super profits were generated at the apex of the speculative pyramid, as seen in the case of the \$3 trillion AIG hedge fund located in London. The Obama regime is engaged in an hysterical attempt to restart derivatives production in the form of securitization, i.e. the creation of more and better asset backed securities derivatives. At the same time, the Obama regime has cynically and deliberately driven the Detroit automakers into bankruptcy, destroying hundreds of thousands of the few remaining industrial jobs here in the United States. This means that US industrial production continues in drastic decline. The mere mention of production reminds us that the assorted Austrian, Chicago, and social credit schools are predominantly or exclusively concerned with money and banking, and pay little or no attention to industrial, agricultural, and infrastructural production, meaning of course that they neglect the creation of those tangible physical use values, capital goods, and related forms of real wealth upon which human existence depends. With bailouts increasing and all forms of commodity production declining, we have the classic situation of far too much money chasing too few goods. Internal pressure towards hyperinflation comes from the fact that the bailout and public debt lending, on top of the bloated, fictitious, and exponentially growing mass of kited derivatives, are all charges which must be added to the prices of commodity production. Add this to the more important factor of looming dollar panic in the international exchanges, and the preponderance of the evidence points towards hyperinflation. "Helicopter Ben" Bernanke got his name from his famous recipe of throwing bales of dollars out of helicopters onto the lawns of bankers to stimulate the economy out of a depression, and this reminds us that the profile of the Anglo-American financial leadership from Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling, and Mervyn King to Summers, Geithner, and Bernanke is decidedly hyperinflationary. Ms.

Brown's belief that hyperinflation is impossible is therefore mistaken.

The German 1923 hyperinflation was generated internationally, not within Germany, as a campaign of economic warfare by Britain and France against their defeated rival. Germany had signed the Rapallo agreements with Soviet Russia, creating an economic combination which was more than a match for the Anglo-French. To abort the potential of Rapallo by creating chaos in the German economy, the Anglo-French systematically destroyed the value of the German Reichsmark on the international exchanges, taking advantage of the Versailles reparations system and the French occupation of the industrialized Ruhr area. The mark went down every day when the London exchange rate was announced. Today, it is the enormous international dollar overhang which threatens to annihilate the US greenback.

The one way deflation might actually come about is if someone like the self-professed Austrian school ideologue Ron Paul were to take power. Ron Pauls "libertarianism" alternative to Obama's continued bailouts of Wall Street is evidently an immediate deflationary crash, which he asserts will be followed by an automatic recovery. Ron Paul is a modern representative of the so-called liquidationist school to which 1920s Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon belonged. Mellon demanded the liquidation of stocks, bonds, real estate, and labor. German Chancellor Heinrich Brüning, another liquidationist, savagely cut German unemployment benefits (Ron Paul's "nanny state") at the height of the Depression, helping to bring on the debacle of January 1933. Liquidationists tend to be people who have money and who believe they will continue to have money even after an all-out crash, when they will be able to buy up distressed assets and desperate unemployed workers for rock-bottom prices and cash in. But liquidationism obviously cannot be a solution to depression of the entire society.

The recent meetings of the leaders of the expanded G-8 countries in L'Aquila, Italy were marked by a growing awareness that the US dollar, because of the criminally irresponsible policies of the Wall Street financiers who have dominated the Bush and Obama administrations, can no longer play the role of the single world reserve currency. Russian President Medvedev showed off a sort of future world coin to try to prod the Obama regime in the direction of serious world monetary reform, which is of course the urgent task before everyone. Naturally, finance oligarchs like Summers, Geithner, and Bernanke want to continue to play the role of world currency dictators, and not be forced to negotiate the end of Anglo-American hegemonism. The world needs to go toward a new pro-growth world monetary system in which the euro, the yen, the dollar, the ruble, the Chinese yuan, a possible Latin American monetary unit, and a possible Arab monetary unit would all be included. It will be important to make the transition toward such a new system as orderly as possible, since a catastrophic collapse of the dollar in the short term would be to no one's advantage, and would rather represent a sure path to universal ruin. World economic growth rates under the 1944 to 1971 Bretton

Vaccine May Be More Dangerous than Swine Flu

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Extensive analysis of the virus found that it contained the original 1918 H1N1 flu virus, the avian flu virus (bird flu), and two new H3N2 virus genes from Eurasia. Debate continues over the possibility that swine flu is a genetically engineered virus.

Naturally, vaccine manufacturers have been in a competitive battle to produce the first vaccine. The main contenders have been Baxter Pharmaceuticals and Novartis Pharmaceuticals, the latter of which recently acquired the scandal-ridden Chiron vaccine company. Both of these companies have had agreements with the World Health Organization (WHO) to produce a pandemic vaccine.

The Baxter vaccine, called Celvapan, has had fast track approval. It uses a new vero cell technology, which utilizes cultured cells from the African green monkey. This same animal tissue transmits a number of vaccine-contaminating viruses, including the HIV virus.

The Baxter Company has been associated with two deadly scandals. The first event occurred in 2006 when hemophilic components were contaminated with HIV virus and injected in tens of thousands of people, including thousands of children. Baxter continued to release the HIV contaminated vaccine even after the contamination was known.

The second event occurred recently when it was discovered that Baxter had released a seasonal flu vaccine containing the bird flu virus, which would have produced a real world pandemic, to 18 countries. Fortunately, astute lab workers in the Czech Republic discovered the deadly combination and blew the whistle before a worldwide disaster was unleashed.

Despite these two deadly events, WHO maintains an agreement with Baxter Pharmaceuticals to produce the world's pandemic vaccine.

Novartis, the second contender, also has an agreement with WHO for a pandemic vaccine. Novartis appears to have won the contract, since their vaccine is near completion. What is terrifying is that these pandemic vaccines contain ingredients, called immune adjuvants that a number of studies have shown cause devastating autoimmune disorders, including rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and lupus.

Animal studies using this adjuvant have found them to be deadly. A study using 14 guinea pigs found that when they were injected with the special adjuvant, only one animal survived. A repeat of the study found the same deadly outcome.

So, what is this deadly ingredient? It is called squalene, a type of oil. The Chiron company, maker of the deadly anthrax vaccine, makes an adjuvant called MF-59 which contains two main ingredients of concern—squalene and gp120. A number of studies have shown that squalene can trigger all of the above-mentioned autoimmune diseases when injected.

The MF-59 adjuvant has been used in several vaccines. These vaccines, including tetanus and diphtheria, are the same vaccines frequently associated with adverse reactions.

I reviewed a number of studies on this adjuvant and found something quite interesting. Several studies done on human test subjects found MF-59 to be a very safe immune adjuvant. But when I checked to see who did these studies, I found—to no surprise—that they were done by

the Novartis Pharmaceutical Company and Chiron Pharmaceutical Company, which have merged. They were all published in "prestigious" medical journals. Also, to no surprise, a great number of studies done by independent laboratories and research institutions all found a strong link between MF-59 and autoimmune diseases.

Squalene in vaccines has been strongly linked to the Gulf War Syndrome. On August 1991, Anthony Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs admitted that soldiers vaccinated with the anthrax vaccine from 1990 to 1991 had an increased risk of 200 percent in developing the deadly disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also called Lou Gehrig's disease. The soldiers also suffered

from a number of debilitating and life-shortening diseases, such as polyarteritis nodosa, multiple sclerosis (MS), lupus, transverse myelitis (a neurological disorder caused by inflammation of the spinal cord), endocarditis (inflammation of the heart's inner lining), optic neuritis with blindness and glomerulonephritis (a type of kidney disease).

Because squalene, the main ingredient in MF-59, can induce hyperimmune responses and induce autoimmunity, a real danger exists for prolonged activation of the brain's immune cells, the microglia. This type of prolonged activation has been strongly associated with such diseases as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS and possibly vaccine-related encephalitis. It has been shown that activation of the systemic immune system, as occurs with vaccination, rapidly activates the brain's microglia at the same time, and this brain inflammation can persist for long periods.

So, how would the gp120 get into the brain? Studies of other immune adjuvants using careful tracer techniques have shown that they routinely enter the brain following vaccination. What most people do not know, even the doctors who recommend the vaccines, is that most such studies by pharmaceutical companies observe the patients for only one to two weeks following vaccination—these types of reactions may take months or even years to manifest.

It is obvious that the vaccine manufacturers stand to make billions of dollars in profits from this WHO/government-promoted pandemic. Novartis, the maker of the new pandemic vaccine, recently announced that they would not give free vaccines to impoverished nations—everybody pays.

One must keep in mind that once the vaccine is injected; there is little you can do to protect yourself—at least by conventional medicine. It will mean a lifetime of crippling illness and early death.

There are much safer ways to protect oneself from this flu virus, such as higher doses of vitamin D3, selective immune enhancement using supplements, and a good diet.

Dr. Russell Blaylock is a board certified neurosurgeon, author and lecturer. Dr. Blaylock serves on the editorial staff of the Journal of the American Nutritional Association and is the associate editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons, official journal of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons. He has a monthly nutrition newsletter, published by NewsMax.com, The Blaylock Wellness Newsletter. Presently, he is a visiting professor in the department of biological sciences at Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi.

Woods system were the highest in recorded history before or since. This was accomplished through statism and dirigism in the form of narrow bands of isolation among the currencies, combined with gold settlements of surpluses and deficits among the nations, which provided an indispensable reality principle to restrain the hyperinflationary tendencies of the Anglo-Americans. The new world monetary system should include the abolition of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in their current forms, since these institutions have strangled the economic progress of the developing sector. Rather, the goal of the new monetary system should be to restart the export of high technology capital goods of the most modern type from Europe, Japan, and the United States toward the impoverished countries of Africa, South Asia, and certain parts of Latin America.

The Federal Government Should Stop Borrowing And Start Lending

Here in the United States, we need to wipe out the derivatives bubble with the help of a 1% Tobin tax or securities transfer tax, on all speculative financial transactions, including futures, options, stocks, bonds, commodities, foreign exchange, and so forth. A California Tobin tax would solve the state budget crisis. The top 16 Wall Street banks are zombie institutions that need to be seized and liquidated under Chapter 7 bankruptcy at once, with all of their derivatives going into the shredder. Foreclosures on homes, farms, and businesses should be banned outright for five years or for the duration of the depression, which

ever lasts longer. To provide a credit supply, the Federal Reserve should be seized and nationalized, and used as a vehicle to issue 0% Federal credit for productive activities only, not for speculation. To revive credit demand, state and local governments could then take out 0% Federal loans for such long overdue projects as the construction of 1,000 hospitals, the building of 50,000 miles of modern maglev rail systems, and 100 fourth-generation, high temperature, pebble bed nuclear reactors, plus the rebuilding of water systems and the interstate highway network. Idled auto plants should be reconverted for these purposes. Science drivers in the fields of space exploration and colonization, high energy physics, and biomedical research should also be fully funded in this way to provide technological modernization. The social safety net needs to be expanded and developed, with larger Social Security pensions for a generation whose 401(k)s and IRAs have been largely destroyed, along with increased Medicare and Medicaid benefits for those whose insurance companies are insolvent, like AIG and The Hartford, which have been devastated by derivatives speculation. These are quite simply the requirements for the maintenance of human civilization in this part of the world. Until measures like these are carried out, the United States and the world will continue to sink deeper into the bottomless pit of economic depression.

Webster Tarpley is an economic historian, radio host and author of 9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in USA, Obama, The Postmodern Coup and Surviving The Cataclysm and other books.

Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Big Whorehouse on the Potomac

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

After Americans have celebrated July Fourth, they can contemplate that the union of “free and independent states,” like the former British colonial power, has evolved into its final manifestation — a complete whorehouse. While members of parliament in London charge their expense accounts with every personal expenditure, including the rental of xxx-rated films, an American newspaper put the reporting of public policy out to bids until Politico.com blew the whistle.

In Washington, everything is for sale, including journalistic integrity. *The Washington Post*, which abandoned investigative reporting eons ago, decided to boost its sagging revenues by spreading her legs. *The Post's* business division put out a flyer offering lobbyists access at *The Post* CEO's gracious home to “those powerful few” in the Obama administration, Congress and among *The Post's* editors and reporters who decide the nation's policies, such as health care.

The Washington Post's flyer offered a Wal-Mart low cost of a mere \$25,000 for one “salon” to interact with decision-makers and \$250,000 for eleven interactions.

Alas, people with an old-fashioned sense of integrity impugned *The Washington Post's* new business model, and *The Post's* boss, Katharine Weymouth, had to rescind the offer that would have rescued the newspaper by turning it into a “facilitator for private lobbyist-official encounters.”

I say damn the old-fashioned moralists. America would be much better served if *The Washington Post* were selling access to lobbyists instead of selling the US government's PSYOPS operations in Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Georgia, Ukraine, Serbia, Venezuela, Honduras and everywhere else, for which the paper receives a pittance: The reporter can tell his editor that he has a deep source within the government, hardly an adequate recompense for wars that cost American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars at a time when Americans cannot pay the mortgages on their homes.

America would be better off if *The Washington Post* whored for lobbyists than for the US Imperial State, which has failed to adjust its imperial ambitions to its bankruptcy. As an example of its whoring for US Imperialism, on July 2, *The Washington Post* reported President Obama's claim that Russian Prime Minister Putin is a person who lives partly in the past, with “one foot in the old ways of doing business and one foot in the new.”

If Putin has “one foot in the new,” he is ahead of Obama, who has both feet in the past.

Obama said that Putin needs to learn that “the old Cold War approaches” to relations with the United States are “outdated.”

The Post reported this as if a failure of Putin's is endangering US-Russian relations. *The Post* did not point out that it is Obama, not Putin, who has wars of aggression against three independent countries — Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, with a fourth war threatened with Iran. We know for a fact these wars originated in Bush administration lies and deception, but Obama continues the occupations and expands the wars, thus endorsing the deceptions.

It is the Washington whorehouse that unilaterally abrogated the anti-ballistic missile treaty with Russia and began constructing anti-ballistic missile sites designed to negate Russia's nuclear deterrent. If Russia's nuclear weapons can be made useless, Russia can be knuckled under to accept America's hegemonic will, and US hegemony takes another step forward.

It is Washington that is surrounding Russia with military bases — an anti-ballistic missile base in Poland and an anti-ballistic missile radar site in the Czech Republic — American-made “color revolutions,” which have installed US puppet governments in Serbia, Ukraine and Georgia, and failures in former constituent parts of Soviet central Asia.

NATO, once a European-American alliance against Soviet invasion of Western Europe, is now a mercenary US force fighting for America in Afghanistan and attempting to encircle Russia from the Baltics to Central Asia.

Obama was in Russia discussing whether or not Russia is willing to give in to US demands to prostrate itself before US hegemony. Obama hopes to drive a wedge between Prime Minister Putin and President Medvedev, like the wedges Washington has facilitated between the

ambitious ruling ayatollahs in Iran. If Obama can get Putin and Medvedev at odds, Russia will be neutralized.

That would leave China alone as an obstacle to US world hegemony.

The United States has no media. But it does have a Ministry of Propaganda. Americans were programmed with days of propaganda that Islamic Iran, a member of the US-designated “axis of evil,” stole the election from the Iranian people. According to the US Ministry of Propaganda, the Iranian people are allied with the US government against the Iranian government.

Even people who are regarded as Iran experts said, without any evidence, that the elections were stolen. One of their arguments is that three hours were not enough time to count all the votes, yet it was announced that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won. The ignorance of “experts” made theft a certainty for American TV audiences.

The “experts” who make this assertion are obviously ignorant of Iran's electoral procedures. For the ignorant “experts” and the Americans deluded by them, here is the way it works:

There are more than 45,000 voting places, which means less than 1,000 votes per voting place, an easy number to count and report in three hours. At each voting place, there are a dozen or more observers, including every candidate's representatives, representatives of the Guardian Council and the local police. The votes are counted in the presence of all, and all sign documents attesting to the count.

The vote totals are forwarded to a central office in the region that has representatives of the candidates and the Guardian Council, where they are verified by a dozen or a dozen and a half witnesses. From here, the vote count goes to the minister of the interior, where the vote is announced.

Unless these procedures were not followed, and no evidence has been provided that the procedures were not followed, it is impossible to steal an Iranian election. It is much easier to steal an American one, which happens routinely.

There are thousands, indeed tens of thousands, of witnesses — perhaps hundreds of thousands of witnesses — to the Iranian vote. Yet, only Mir-Hossein Mousavi and his corrupt supporters among the high-living Iranian elite, who are fighting for personal power in Iran, contest the vote. The kids in the street were the usual dupes. At this stage in history, how can anyone believe that there is a pure candidate that wants to bring freedom and justice to the people? Anywhere. In any country, the United States included.

Ignorant “experts” made a great noise about the fact that 50 cities or towns had votes in excess of registered voters. Again, this is a demonstration of “Iranian experts” total ignorance. In Iran, voters can vote wherever they happen to be on the day of election. Vacationers, business people on travel, commuters and the partial absence of distinct voting districts can produce a vote count in excess of the local registered population.

The Guardian Council examined these differences, added them up and noted that if every additional vote were fraudulent, the number was insufficient to affect the outcome.

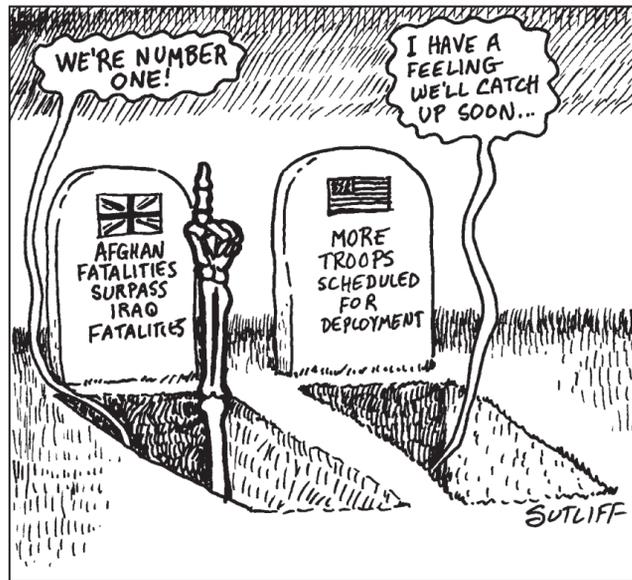
The Guardian Council has agreed to post every vote count.

Did you, dear Americans, learn of these facts from Fox News, CNN, *The New York Times* or the CIA and Mossad bloggers? Of course not. Every time “your” media opens their mouth, lies jump out that serve the US government's hegemonic propaganda.

America's salvation lies with Charles Pelton and *The Washington Post's* business-side managers. Once the American media are obviously a whorehouse, which they are, Americans might pull themselves out of their stupor and learn to recognize facts and think for themselves.

But don't hold your breath. From what I have seen, with few exceptions, Americans are as dumb and insouciant as they come. And they think they are the salt of the earth.

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal editorial page and Contributing Editor of National Review. He is coauthor of The Tyranny of Good Intentions. He has held numerous academic appointments, including the William E. Simon Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University, and Senior Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University.



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Cheney Sweats Out the Summer

By RAY MCGOVERN

So far the summer has been mild in the Washington, DC area. But for former Vice President Dick Cheney the temperature is well over 100 degrees. He is sweating profusely, and it is becoming increasingly clear why.

Cheney has broken openly with former President George W. Bush on one issue of transcendent importance — to Cheney. For whatever reason, Bush decided not to hand out blanket pardons before they both rode off into the sunset.

Cheney has complained bitterly that his former chief of staff, I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby should have been pardoned, rather than simply having his jail sentence “commuted.”

Cheney told the press that Bush left Libby “sort of hanging in the wind” by refusing to issue Libby a pardon before Bush left office. Libby had been convicted of perjury, obstruction of justice, and lying to federal agents investigating the leak of a

former CIA operations officer's identity.

“I believe firmly that Scooter was unjustly accused and prosecuted and deserved a pardon, and the President disagreed with that,” Cheney said. He would disclose no details of his efforts to lobby Bush on Libby's behalf, saying they would be “best left to history.”

It is getting close to history time. You do not need to be a cracker-jack analyst to understand that Cheney is feeling betrayed — that he is thinking not of Libby, but of himself, and fearing that, if our system of justice works, he could be in for some serious, uncommuted jail time.

His situation has grown pathetic. Aside from the man himself, it has fallen almost solely to faithful daughter Liz to defend her dad and to start a political backfire to keep him out of prison. She is to be admired for her faithfulness. In the process, though, she has unwittingly given much away.

Liz on the Offensive
 On *Washington Times'* “America's

Morning News” radio program July 13, Liz acted again as designated hitter, responding to the recent *New York Times* report that her father had given “direct orders” to the CIA to withhold “information about a secret counterterrorism program for eight years.”

Not for the first time, Liz Cheney disclosed what has her father so worried and agitated. She said he is “very angry” over recent press reports that Attorney General Eric Holder may be about to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate “the Bush administration's brutal interrogation practices.”

She branded this “shameful” — worse still, “un-American.” Not the interrogation practices, mind you, but the notion that her father should be held to account for them.

Typically, Ms. Cheney did well in sticking closely to her talking points, arguing that the issue is “somebody taking office and then starting to prosecute”

see CHENEY p. 4

Few Tears for Crimes Against Muslims

By LINDA S. HEARD / TEHRAN NEWS

As if we needed any more proof that the international media deliberately avoids exposing anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian injustices, its suspect behavior during recent days has sealed the case.

Even as we were being force-fed minute details of Michael Jackson's colorful life along with endless speculation as to the true parentage of his children, a former US Congresswoman and presidential candidate, Cynthia McKinney, was languishing in an Israeli jail.

Her “crime” was boarding the Free Gaza Movement's aid vessel *The Spirit of Humanity* in Cyprus, in an effort to break Israel's cruel siege of Gaza, which even the US President has condemned.

Like several of her sister vessels, *The*

Spirit of Humanity was attacked by the Israeli Navy in international waters before being boarded by Israeli commandos and dragged along with its crew and passengers toward Israel.

Once there, twenty-one human rights advocates from the US, Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Jordan, Palestine and Yemen, including McKinney, Noble Laureate Mairead Maguire, and documentary filmmaker Adam Shapiro, were incarcerated.

Let's be realistic. If just about any other high-profile US politician on any other mission had been detained within a cell block on foreign soil, the incident would have merited headlines.

However, McKinney's abduction went almost unnoticed. Not only was the story

relegated to the back pages, if it ran at all, there was a corresponding absence of comment from Congress and the White House.

McKinney is now home after refusing to sign a statement in Hebrew that she was guilty of a violation, but the mainstream media is certainly not clamoring at her door for interviews.

As far as I can tell, her ordeal has mostly been covered by left-wing outlets such as *Democracy Now* or Middle East networks including *Al Jazeera* and *Press TV*.

A number of McKinney's supporters say the reason for the media blackout was the fact that she is a Black American. But, in fact, it's her cause that's the problem

see MUSLIMS p. 4

CIA's Panetta Won't Penalize Torturers, Okays Renditions

By SHERWOOD ROSS

CIA Director Leon Panetta says he is not going to penalize agents who tortured prisoners if they “were doing their duty,” explaining, “if you have a President who exercises bad judgment, the CIA pays the price.”

In an interview published in the June 22nd issue of *The New Yorker* magazine, Panetta acknowledged to reporter Jane Mayer the CIA may still employ some people tainted by the torture program. Nevertheless, Panetta said, “I really respect the people who say we shouldn't have gotten involved in the interrogation business, but we had to do our jobs.”

This defense, of course, recalls the one used by Nazi Adolf Eichmann, the Holocaust architect responsible for sending countless European Jews to extermination camps. Eichmann said he was just following orders and Panetta implies CIA agents that tortured were just following orders from the Bush White House. Eichmann was found hiding in Argentina and taken to Israel, where he was tried, convicted, and hanged in 1962.

Not only is Panetta excusing CIA criminals but Mayer writes, “Panetta, for his part, has been persuaded that renditions are a tool worth keeping...Panetta told me, ‘The worst part of rendition was rendition to a black site. That will not be the case anymore. If we render someone, it will be to a country with jurisdiction over that individual.’”

“The Obama Administration,” Panetta says, “will take precautions to insure that rendered suspects are treated humanely, as the law requires,” Mayer writes. She quotes Panetta as saying, “I've talked to the State Department, and our people have to make very sure that people won't be mistreated.

Some places, obviously, it's more difficult to do. But we're going to have to press to make sure it doesn't happen, because it would fly in the face of everything the President has said we stand for.”

To which Mayer adds, “The Bush Administration professed to be taking similar precautions.” Mayer notes during the Bush years, “some of the most horrific allegations of abuse were made by detainees rendered not to secret black sites but to Egypt, Syria, and Morocco.”

Panetta seems to ignore that rendition on its face is a violation of Article 3 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture, ratified by the US in 1994. As Wikipedia notes, “Rendered suspects are denied due process because they are arrested without charges and deprived of legal counsel.”

Panetta told *The New Yorker*, “I'm going to give people the benefit of the doubt...If they do the job that they're paid to do, I can't ask for a hell of a lot more.” Mayer points out, “His words echo those of President Obama, who on April 16th promised immunity from prosecution to any CIA officer who relied on the advice of legal counsel during the Bush years.”

Jeffrey Smith, a former CIA general counsel pointed out that this is a low standard, given that “what the Justice Department approved was outrageous.” Panetta further told Mayer once he felt confident that there was no criminal liability inside the CIA he “didn't want to spend a lot of time dealing with the past and what mistakes were made.”

Under “extreme rendition,” alleged terror suspects have been abducted by the CIA and flown to be tortured (and/or murdered) in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Morocco, Jordan and Uzbekistan, among

other places. The practice was started in 1996 under President Bill Clinton and vastly expanded by President George W. Bush after 9/11.

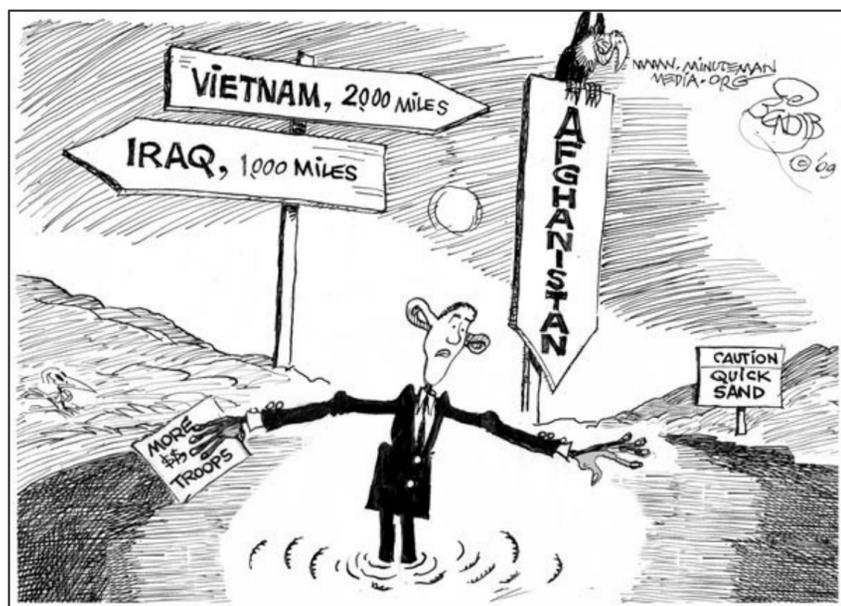
Sandy Berger, Clinton's National Security Council director, and counterterrorism boss Richard Clarke, have been identified as having approved extreme rendition. Clinton, of course, is also culpable. Italy would like to lay its hands on 22 CIA agents who abducted Milan resident cleric Hassan Osama Nasr for torture in Egypt.

CIA pilots involved in extreme rendition flights, as well as their boss, former CIA Director Porter Goss and CIA ex-counter-terrorism chief Cofer Black could also be called to account if the Obama Administration changes its mind about not “looking backward.” Recall Goss asked Congress to exempt CIA operatives from any law banning torture and Black told Congress, “After 9/11, the gloves came off.” Any European officials who transferred suspects to the CIA are also culpable.

If President Obama does not prosecute CIA agents and others who tortured, he will be in violation of the torture convention which, Mayer says, “requires a government to prosecute all acts of torture; failure to do so is considered a breach of international law.”

June 25th was Torture Accountability Action Day, one that saw demonstrations in many cities, including Washington, DC, by Americans who still believe in enforcing the laws, even if President Obama does not.

Sherwood Ross is a Miami-based director of the Anti-War News Service (AWNS). To comment or contribute to AWNS, contact him at sherwoodr1@yahoo.com.



Cheney Sweats Out the Summer

CHENEY from p. 3

people who carried out policies that they disagreed with, you know, in the previous administration."

As if unprecedented decisions to torture, in violation of international law and the War Crimes Act of 1996, can be accurately described as "policies" over which there can be honest disagreement. This is about crimes, not "policies."

Pulling out all the stops, Ms. Cheney worried aloud over what this does to "morale at the CIA," where the practitioners of what Bush called "an alternative set of procedures" for interrogation believed they were acting with the blessing of the Justice Department. (Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity addressed that bromide frontally on April 29, 2009, in a Memorandum to our new President.)

Liz Cheney went on to argue that this could in the future inhibit CIA functionaries from various actions, out of fear of criminal liability. (To me, that sounds like a distinct plus.)

The Decider

What has pretty much escaped notice in the Fawning Corporate Media (FCM) is that the former Vice President has also reminded us all that President Bush was the "decider."

That unusual word sounded quite macho as Bush strutted about reminding us often that he was also "commander in chief." But now, it could be the kiss of death — for Bush, as well as for Cheney.

Here's what Cheney allowed himself to tell *Face the Nation's* Bob Schieffer about "enhanced interrogation techniques" on May 10.

SCHIEFFER: "How much did President Bush know specifically about the methods that were being used? We know that you — and you have said — that you approved this..."

CHENEY: Right.

SCHIEFFER: "... somewhere down the line. Did President Bush know everything you knew?"

CHENEY: I certainly, yes, have every reason to believe he knew — he knew a great deal about the program. He basically authorized it. I mean, this was a presidential-level decision. And the decision went to the President. He signed off on it."

Small wonder that Republicans are wincing, although the wincing has been largely suppressed. *The Washington Post* reported recently that many Republicans now consider Cheney a major problem, but cannot say so.

The Post quoted one Republican strategist on the Cheney dilemma: "He continues to be a force among many members of our base, and while he is entirely unhelpful, no one has the standing to show him the door."

Spending four days in Dallas last week, I learned that George W. Bush continues to be a lofty hero among many folks there — with the notable exception of the hardy activists of the Dallas Peace Center and Code Pink.

Hefty donations keep pouring in for his library and institute, and any "mistakes" that may have been made during the Bush/Cheney administration are laid at the door of the former Vice President.

Leading Republicans are passionate about this. And the phenomenon is not limited to Dallas. Cheney is smart enough to know that he too may soon be "sort of hanging in the wind" along with his former subordinate, Libby.

It's Also About "Fixing" Intelligence

Approval of torture, assassination, warrantless eavesdropping — hey, there is quite enough to go on, and increasing signs that Cheney will be called on the carpet.

What we have been focusing on, however, glosses over Cheney's key role in purveying lies to get our representatives in Congress to approve a war that qualifies for what the post-WWII Nuremberg Tribunal called the "supreme international crime" — a war of aggression.

We Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) were on to Cheney very early. Six years ago today, we took the unusual step of sending a formal recommendation to President Bush that he "ask for Cheney's immediate resignation."

Our unprecedented appeal even caught the eye of the FCM, since our Memorandum for the President reviewed some of the deceit engineered by the Vice President in conjuring up a concocted rationale for war on Iraq and leading the cheerleading for it.

We noted that Cheney, skilled at preemption, had stolen a march on his vacationing colleagues by launching, in a major speech on August 26, 2002, a meretricious campaign to persuade Congress and the American people that Iraq was about to acquire nuclear weapons.

That campaign mushroomed, literally, in early October, with Bush and senior advisers raising the specter of a "mushroom cloud" threatening our cities. On the inside of the synthetic clouds one could almost read the label — "manufactured out of thin air in the Office of the Vice President."

In his memoir, the pitiable former CIA Director George Tenet complains that Cheney's assertion that Iraq would acquire nuclear weapons "fairly soon" did not square with the intelligence community's assessment.

Tenet adds, "I was surprised when I read about Cheney's assertion that, 'Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction.'"

Tenet whines that the Vice President did not send him a copy of the speech for clearance. But the malleable CIA director quickly got over it, and told CIA analysts to compose the kind of National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) that would provide ex post facto support for Cheney's bogus assertions. Just what Cheney (and Bush) ordered.

Tenet explains lamely, "I should have told the Vice President privately that, in my view, his speech had gone too far ... and not let silence imply agreement."

Yes, George; and you should have resisted White House pressure for a dishonest NIE to grease the skids to unnecessary war.

In fact Cheney, as well as Tenet, knew very well that Cheney's assertions were lies.

How? Saddam's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel, whom Saddam had put in charge of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, as well as missile development, told the United States when he defected in mid-1995 that all (that's right, all) such weapons had been destroyed at his order by the summer of 1991.

In mid-2002, the Iraqi foreign minister, whom CIA operatives had recruited and persuaded to remain in place, was telling us the same thing.

Unwelcome Intelligence

When they briefed the President and his senior advisers on this, CIA operations officers were astonished to learn first-hand that this intelligence was unwelcome.

These officers, who had used every trick in the book to "turn" the foreign minister and get him working for us, were told that further reporting from this source was not needed: "This isn't about intel anymore. This is about regime change," they were told.

Tenet was hardly astonished at reports of the non-existence of WMD. From documentary evidence in the Downing Street Minutes we know that Tenet on July 20, 2002, told the chief of British intelligence that the intelligence was being "fixed" around the policy.

And former UN inspectors like Scott Ritter could verify that some 90 percent of the WMD Iraq earlier possessed had been destroyed — some during the Gulf War in 1991, but most as a result of the inspections conducted by the UN.

The reporting from Hussein Kamel and the Iraqi foreign minister, sources with excellent access, was suppressed in favor of "evidence" — from forgeries, for example, like the infamous Iraq-Niger yellowcake report.

When finally US officials were forced to concede that the Iraq-Niger information was based on a forgery, lawmakers like Rep. Henry Waxman, D-California, protested loudly — but too late.

Three days before President Bush let slip the dogs of war, NBC's Tim Russert braced Cheney with the assertion by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that Saddam Hussein did not have a nuclear program.

Cheney strongly disagreed and cited support for his view from the CIA and other parts of the intelligence community. He even ratcheted up his bogus assessment of Iraq's nuclear capability: "We believe he has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons."

We? Maybe his wife, Lynne, and Liz were onboard for that judgment; few others believed it.

Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, retired CENTCOM commander but still enjoying access to the most sensitive information on Iraq, was sitting in the audience on August 26, 2002, and later described himself as astonished at the Iraqi threat as described by Cheney.

The most knowledgeable analysts — those who knew Iraq and nuclear weapons — scoffed at Cheney's faith-based intelligence.

In our July 14, 2003, appeal to President Bush to ask for Cheney's resignation, we warned of the likelihood that intelligence analysts would conclude that the best way to climb the ladder of success is to acquiesce in the cooking or "fixing" of their judgments, since neither senior nor junior officials would ever be held accountable.

This remains as acute a concern as the tolerance for torture and the like.

We shall have to demand that Attorney General Eric Holder do his duty and move quickly to start the process to hold accountable those responsible for dragging our country down into a moral abyss.

Ray McGovern works with Tell the Word, the publishing arm of the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in Washington, DC. He is a 27-year former veteran analyst of the CIA and co-founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS).

New Reports of Massive Spying, Criminality by US Government

SPYING from p. 1

of the vice president played a central role in enforcing secrecy and cover-up of the NSA operation. Cheney's legal adviser and later chief of staff, David Addington, had to personally approve every government official who was to be "read in" to the program by the NSA. Addington refused to be interviewed by the Inspectors General, as did former CIA director George Tenet, former attorney general John Ashcroft, and John Yoo, the Justice Department lawyer tasked with drafting legal guidelines for the secret surveillance.

The secret CIA counterterrorism program was first made public on July 8, when the House Intelligence Committee released a letter to Panetta. The letter noted Panetta's appearance before a closed-door session of the committee on June 24, where he announced that he had just discovered the existence of the secret counterterrorism program and was shutting it down, as well as notifying Congress as required by law.

The letter demanded that Panetta retract a statement he issued May 15, in response to criticism of the CIA by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, denying that the CIA had a policy of misleading Congress. This was contradicted, they wrote, by his admission that "top CIA officials have concealed significant actions ... and misled" members of Congress since 2001.

The ranking Republican member of the intelligence panel, Congressman Peter Hoekstra, made light of the program, saying, "It was on-again, off-again and never happened." One committee Democrat, Anna G. Eshoo of California, responded, "The whole committee was stunned" by Panetta's disclosure. "I think this is as serious as it gets."

What was the CIA doing?

The blizzard of press reports and commentaries that have followed Panetta's revelation—including the front-page "expose" in the *New York Times*—seem to be at least in part an exercise in damage control, if not outright disinformation, since they conceal the exact nature of the secret CIA program and downplay its actual significance.

The Times report asserts, "Intelligence and Congressional officials have said the unidentified program did not involve the CIA interrogation program [i.e., torture] and did not involve domestic intelligence activities." It adds that the program, "never became fully operational, involving planning and some training that took place off and on from 2001 until this year."

The Washington Post cited "two former agency officials who were familiar with the program" claiming that it "did not involve interrogations of detainees or surveillance of US-based communications." An earlier *Post* article (July 10) cited other unnamed "officials" declaring that the program "was an intelligence-collection activity run by the CIA's Counterterrorism Center ... It was not a covert action, which by law would have required a presidential finding and a report to Congress."

The Associated Press, in an

interview with former CIA and NSA chief Michael Hayden, quoted another "former official" declaring that CIA leaders were "very cautious" in their handling of the program and that they made decisions to narrow its focus. The official said that the program fell on a continuum between foreign intelligence collection and covert action."

It is not possible, on the basis of reports so far, to determine the exact nature of either the CIA or the NSA programs. But the close involvement of top officials of the Bush administration, including, in the case of the CIA program, Cheney's personal role, suggests that these activities were significant and extensive.

A remark by Representative Hoekstra of Michigan, former

control of the spy agency. He was sworn in as director on February 19, but his "subordinates" did not bother to tell him of the existence of the program that had been kept secret from Congress until June 23.

This means that throughout the so-called "debate" between President Obama and former Vice President Cheney over the release of Justice Department memos justifying torture, which took place in April, Cheney was in possession of information about secret CIA operations of which the new "commander-in-chief" was ignorant.

The military/intelligence apparatus operates according to its own rules, disclosing or withholding information from its supposed civilian superiors only when it is felt politically necessary.

What is being revealed—or rather only hinted at, since the key details are still shrouded in secrecy—is the existence of a "state within the state," a secret government that continues to function regardless of the individual who inhabits the White House.

The congressional Democrats and the Obama administration are active participants in the attack on democratic rights of both the American people and the people of the world. As political representatives of big business, they rely on this state apparatus to defend their class interests no less than the Republicans and Bush before them.

It has become a truism that there is more similarity than difference between the Bush administration and the Obama administration in relation to the defense of the US intelligence apparatus and its ongoing attacks on democratic rights.

On July 8, Obama threatened to veto the intelligence authorization bill if it requires expanded briefings of Congress, beyond the so-called Gang of Eight, the Democratic and Republican leaders of both houses and both intelligence committees. A White House statement said the veto would be necessary to prevent "restricting an important established means by which the president protects the most sensitive intelligence activities that are carried out in the national security interests."

The congressional Democrats' claims of concern are largely playing-acting, however. California Senator Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, deplored the concealment of the program but claimed that it represented no threat to civil liberties.

The struggle to defend democratic rights and to defeat the reactionary conspiracies of the US intelligence agencies must be taken up by the working class. Working people must raise the demand for the full exposure of all the covert operations of the CIA, NSA and other US intelligence agencies, and for the prosecution of all those officials responsible for authorizing and directing them.

This includes bringing to justice officials like Cheney, Bush and other top government officials who have been directly linked to crimes of spying, torture, kidnapping, secret detention without trial, and mass murder.

Patrick Martin is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

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chairman of the House intelligence committee and currently the ranking Republican, is suggestive, even chilling. He told the *New York Times* that Congress might have approved the secret CIA program immediately following the 9/11 attacks—"Maybe on September 12"—but not later on.

It takes some effort to imagine a counterterrorism program so invasive or extreme that the US Congress would balk. Congress approved a sweeping war powers resolution in October 2001, which effectively authorized the US invasion of Afghanistan in advance — a resolution employed by the Bush and Obama administrations as the legal justification for the Guantanamo Bay detention camp. In November 2001, Congress approved the USA Patriot Act, with only a single senator voting "no."

In subsequent years, Congress has passed laws ratifying the Bush administration's rejection of *habeas corpus* rights for Guantanamo prisoners, authorizing a system of kangaroo-court military tribunals, legalizing Bush's illegal spying operations and immunizing telecommunications companies that helped the US intelligence agencies spy on American citizens, and most recently, barring the release of photos of US torture victims. (Obama voted in the Senate for the telecom immunity provision and has pledged to issue an executive order if needed to keep the torture photos secret.)

Congressional Democrats and Republicans have rubber-stamped all manner of police-state measures in the name of the "war on terror." It is therefore worth asking what kind of a program was so atrocious or politically dangerous that it had to be kept secret even from the House and Senate intelligence committees.

A "state within a state"

A remarkable aspect of the revelation of the secret CIA program, passed over virtually without comment in the media coverage, is that CIA Director Panetta was not informed of the program for more than four months after he assumed nominal

Few Tears for Crimes Against Muslims

MUSLIMS from p. 3

rather than her color.

My analysis is based on the lack of media coverage given to the Viva Palestina aid convoy of trucks and ambulances from London to Gaza, led by British Parliamentarian George Galloway.

The Herculean efforts of hundreds of ordinary Britons to deliver much-needed humanitarian supplies to war-torn Gaza earlier this year was a non-event as far as the media was concerned until Galloway was barred from entering Canada as a result.

Unless you're a person who relentlessly digs on the internet, you probably are not aware that during McKinney's ordeal, Galloway, along with Vietnam War veteran Ron Kovic, were meeting up with over 200 Americans in Cairo armed with \$2 million (Dh7.35 million) that was raised in the US to buy trucks and medical aid destined for Gaza.

The Egyptian English-language paper *Al-Ahram Weekly* dubs this "the largest grassroots medical relief effort for Gaza in US history" but once again, this doesn't merit column inches in either US or European mainstream papers.

In a similar vein, is the way that the horrendous courtroom stabbing of 32-year-

old Marwa Al Sherbini was considered inconsequential by the German media until it elicited angry protests in her hometown of Alexandria.

There are so many aspects to this story, which should have been emblazoned across front pages.

First of all it was a blatant race crime, which Germany is normally sensitive about. Second, it begs questions concerning court security.

What were armed officers doing when Marwa was stabbed 18 times and why was her husband shot when he attempted to protect his pregnant wife?

What kind of editors would trash reports of such a horrendous crime carried out in full view of the authorities? What were they thinking?

Purely coincidentally, I was sitting at a table with one of Marwa's uncles in an Alexandria coffee shop when he received a call on his mobile and had to dash off because of a "family emergency."

Today, this exceptionally close-knit family is devastated and hurt that the murder of one of their own wasn't initially treated with the weight the crime deserved.

Egyptians are outraged at Germany's disinterest and the inaction of their own foreign

office. The numbers who attended her funeral, who gathered outside the German embassy in Cairo and who demonstrated in Cairo and Alexandria speak for themselves.

Because Marwa's dispute with her attacker was based on his objections to her Islamic headscarf, the death of the young pharmacist has become an emblem for the rights of Muslim women at a time when the French President is attempting to ban the burqa. Marwa loved life.

She didn't plan to become a martyr. But in the eyes of Egyptians calling for a mosque and a street in Alexandria to be renamed in her honor, she is a heroine.

If the US and Europe are chronically supine when it comes to Muslim causes, then the governments and media throughout the Arab and Muslim world should embrace them clearly and loudly.

With anti-Muslim hate crimes on the rise, Muslims need a strong united voice on the international stage. Shame on the world's media that appears to be united only in its anti-Muslim bias!

Linda S. Heard is a British writer specializing in Middle East affairs.

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Uncle Sam's "Al Qaeda Express Tour Service"

By WAYNE MADSEN / WAYNE MADSEN REPORT
WMR has learned from an intelligence source who served in Kabul that the United States military has imported into Afghanistan a number of veteran Bosnian Muslim fighters from the civil war in that former Yugoslav constituent republic. WMR previously reported on the United States importing Taliban guerrillas from Afghanistan to fight as "al Qaeda" insurgent groups in Iraq.

It now appears that the United States has done the same with regard to bringing Bosnian Muslim guerrillas into Afghanistan. A number of the Bosnians were affiliated with groups financed and trained by Osama Bin Laden, as well as Saudi and Iranian military and intelligence services.

On July 5, 2007, WMR reported: "... during the Bosnia War in the 1990s, the United States provided hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance to the Bosnians that was collected from various Arab and Muslim countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Egypt, and others.

The collection of most of the money was done via the Bosnia Federation Defense Fund, also known as the "Bosnia Defense Fund," which was run by Richard Perle, Douglas Feith, Feith's law firm — Feith and Zell (FANZ) — Riggs Bank (a principal for which was Jonathan Bush, uncle of George W. Bush), and the Central Bank of Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) in Sarajevo. Feith's former law partner, Jerusalem-based Marc Zell, is now partnered in a Baghdad law firm with Salem Chalabi, the nephew of Ahmad Chalabi.

WMR learned from a CIA source involved with the Bosnia Defense Fund that the agency was concerned that money transferred by Riggs (the major bank serving Saudi ambassador to the US Prince Bandar and his wife Princess Haifa) to the fund's account at the Central Bank in Sarajevo, was "bleeding" to terrorist elements believed to be linked to Osama bin Laden and "al Qaeda."

When the CIA source complained about Bosnia Defense Fund cash falling into the hands of Islamic terrorists, including people linked to bin Laden, he was told by one of the major Bosnia Defense Fund principals to "just make it fucking happen!"

The Bosnia link to "al Qaeda" was important. In fact, bin Laden had reportedly not only visited Bosnia, but carried at least one Bosnian diplomatic passport and had interfaced with Bosnian diplomats in Vienna, Austria.

WMR has learned of a money pipeline between bin Laden and Bosnia that existed since 1993, during a time when French intelligence documents reported that bin Laden and his forces in Darunta, Afghanistan were still under the operational control of the CIA and British intelligence.

The financial pipeline between bin Laden and Bosnia included the Third World Relief Agency; an Egyptian-born Saudi businessman named Yasin Kadi (who was once based in Chicago); a Tunisian-born Bosnian named Chafik Ayadi bin Muhammad, who headed Kadi's operations in Zagreb, Croatia; the Sarajevo Deposit Bank of Kadi and Ayadi; and the First Austrian Bank. The Third World Relief Agency connection also provides a link between bin Laden and the Egyptian "blind sheik," Omar Abdel Rahman, convicted for his role in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Yasin Kadi's Chicago link is important. During the time of the Bosnia Defense Fund's money flow to Sarajevo, a deal approved by the Clinton White House and the CIA, the current Democratic House Caucus Chairman and Chicago-based congressman Rahm Emanuel served as Assistant to the President for Political Affairs and Senior Advisor to the President for Policy and Strategy. Emanuel was closely involved with Clinton's foreign policy initiatives in Bosnia and Kosovo and he claims Clinton went to both places to deal with al Qaeda training. It now appears that Emanuel was telling part of the truth — the Clinton administration was, in

fact, supporting al Qaeda training in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In addition to Perle and Feith being involved with providing money to Bosnian Muslims, with the support of Rahm Emanuel, we also point out credible Serbian reports that fugitive American financier Marc Rich, pardoned by Bill Clinton, was involved in busting international sanctions by smuggling weapons to Bosnian Muslims. Rich's attorney was I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, who was recently spared a jail term by George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. (Present US Attorney General Eric Holder, as then-Deputy Attorney General, shepherded the Rich pardon through at the eleventh hour of the Clinton administration.)

During the fighting in Bosnia, NATO forces picked up a number of foreign Muslim irregulars. Two of those detained by Norwegian NATO forces later surfaced as Saudi hijackers of the US aircraft on 9/11. There is also intelligence that Egyptian lead hijacker Mohammed Atta worked for US-supported Muslim forces during the Bosnian civil war.

Kadi had used Chicago as a base to launder money to various groups affiliated to bin Laden's operations, including a deal involving a DuPage County real estate operation. After leaving the White House in 1999, Emanuel, possessing only a B.A. in Political Science became a Chicago investment banker for Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein and earned some \$20 million.

In 2002, Emanuel ran for the Democratic nomination for the open 5th district seat in Illinois against Nancy Kaszak. Emanuel's opponents charged that he held dual US-Israeli citizenship, was a millionaire "carpetbagger," and had served in the Israeli army during Desert Storm. The pro-abortion Emily's List charged that Emanuel cost America jobs through his support of NAFTA. Emily's List endorsed Kaszak earning the women's rights group the condemnation of organizations and media allied with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Ironically, Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein is part of Allianz AG, the firm that helped bankroll the Nazis in Germany in the early 1930s along with Brown Brothers Harriman, for whom George W. Bush's grandfather, Prescott, was a principal. Prescott also partnered in deals with German industrialist Fritz Thyssen, a major supporter of Adolf Hitler.

As head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Emanuel denied campaign funds to every pro-peace Democratic candidate advocating withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. In fact, Emanuel was an early Democratic supporter of George W. Bush's invasion and occupation of Iraq — something many opponents of the war claim has led to a recruitment boon for "al Qaeda."

WMR has received word from our Kabul intelligence source that many of the Bosnian Muslim civil war veterans are now acting as United Nations election monitors for the upcoming Afghanistan presidential and provincial council elections scheduled for August 20. Our source said he witnessed the Bosnians and American election monitors sitting around their hotel in Kabul stoned on Afghan hashish.

US special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke recently announced that the United States was ending its opium eradication program in Afghanistan. Afghanistan, under US occupation, now supplies some 90 percent of the world's opium.

Between the Taliban in Iraq and some Bosnian Muslims trained by "al Qaeda" who now serve in Afghanistan, "Uncle Sam's Express Tour Service" for terrorists, complete with drugs and cash payments, appears to be the best employment deal around.

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Yes We Camp

Earthquake Survivors Resent Being Used as G8 Backdrop

YES WE CAMP from p. 1

citizens committees on the occasion of the G8 summit was a candlelit march the night of June 6, the three-month anniversary of the earthquake, to remember the victims and "shed light on the responsibilities."

I arrived in L'Aquila with a group of over 40 people from Vicenza, Italy, where local residents have been working for more than three years to block construction of a new US military base. Despite having worked tirelessly for weeks to organize a national demonstration just the day before on July 4th, the No Dal Molin movement in Vicenza was able to fill an entire bus for the seven-hour ride to L'Aquila, intent on showing their solidarity with the local people who, like those in Vicenza, are working to defend their city.

The march started at midnight, with 5000 people holding candles illuminating what everyone remarked is now a ghost town. Only 23,000 of the 70,000 residents remain in the city — nearly all of them living in the tent camps — while the others have been sent to hotels on the coast. "L'Aquila is Italy's New Orleans" commented Francesca, a CodePink activist from California who was in Italy for the No Dal Molin demonstration.

Unlike most Italian marches, there were no signs, flags or banners, aside from one with the



23,000 of the 70,000 residents of L'Aquila remain in the city, nearly all of them living in tent camps.

the inappropriateness of using the tragedy as a backdrop for the international summit, especially so soon after the earthquake. Others talked about how the G8 was bringing more inconvenience to people who were already suffering, with roads closures and the blocking of internet and cell phone service for the duration of the summit. In addition, the frenetic 24-hour work being done to prepare the city for the G8 took vital resources away from the reconstruction work that would help get people back into their homes before the cold of winter hits this city in the mountains.

However, it wasn't just with the G8 that more control and restrictions were imposed on the citizens of L'Aquila. As the residents of the tent camps began to recover from the shock of the earthquake and started organizing to demand a role in the rebuilding of their city, new rules came into effect. In an attempt to stifle dissent, distributing flyers was forbidden within the camps, as was organizing assemblies and meetings. As Renato of the Abruzzo Social Forum noted, "The upcoming G8 summit was then used as an excuse to crush any dissent in L'Aquila."

But organize they did. In part thanks to the space set up in a public park by the 3e32 Committee, the only place in L'Aquila where people can gather outside the tent camps and where everyone can come and go as they please — no check points! There is a main tent for events, meetings, concerts and theatre as well as an internet point and a fair trade shop.

On July 7, the day before the official start of the G8, the citizens committees organized an all-day forum. Local residents as well as people from all over Italy gathered under the 3e32 tent to talk about the reconstruction, both physical and social, of L'Aquila.

The central focus of the citizens committees is the 100% Campaign, which calls for 100% reconstruction of the city, 100% participation on the part of the local residents in the decisions that affect the city, 100% transparency regarding how reconstruction money is spent. The funds thus far authorized by the Italian government are deemed to be insufficient to rebuild the city.

If compared to the 1997 earthquake in Umbria, with more than twice the number of people left homeless in L'Aquila, the government has authorized 20% less for the reconstruction of

L'Aquila, or 5.7 billion Euros. Adding insult to injury, the Italian parliament just recently approved the purchase of 131 Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jets for a total of 13 billion Euros. It is not yet clear who Italy intends to bomb.

In addition, the Italian government has handed down a decision made with no local input to build new housing on privately owned property outside the city expropriated from small landowners, changing forever the urban makeup of the city and risking the abandonment of the historic center — in other words, creating suburbs around a medieval city! The local residents are fighting to keep their city intact. In fact, the second part of the Yes We Camp slogan is But we won't go away.

Berlusconi, as owner of three private television channels and in control of the three public channels, has managed to create a very different image of L'Aquila. Antonello, a L'Aquila resident, talked about a recent trip with his family to the seaside, where he was told, "You people from L'Aquila are so lucky! You get free meals. You're going to have free houses. Berlusconi has solved all your problems and you have the nerve to complain!" It was reminiscent of Barbara Bush's comments on the people living in the Astrodome in Houston, Texas after hurricane Katrina.

But the Yes We Camp protests have managed to garner media attention. As Obama passed through L'Aquila on his way to tour the damage in the historic center, activists were on hand with banners to greet his motorcade. And on July 9, as the First Ladies toured the same area, the women of L'Aquila organized the march of the "Last Ladies" and occupied an empty apartment building demanding that it be used for the people still living in tents.

There are some concerns that, as the G8 comes to a close, there will be no "withdrawal" from L'Aquila. In fact, throughout Italy, unpopular decisions handed down from the central government are increasingly enforced by the military, including the construction of incinerators at Acerra and mega-landfills at Chiaiano near Naples. Berlusconi has also threatened to use the military to enforce the construction of the new US base in Vicenza and, more recently, for the construction of new nuclear power plants.

However, in each of these cases, the local people have succeeded in creating a movement to defend their territory and vindicate their right to dissent. And in this day and age of "representative systems" that are in effect killing democracy, what we see with the local citizens committees and assemblies are instead examples of true democracy.

Yes we camp. And we won't go away!
Stephanie Westbrook is a U.S. citizen who has been living in Rome, Italy since 1991. She is active in the peace and social justice movements in Italy. She can be reached at: steph@webfabbrica.com.



G8 First Ladies use L'Aquila disaster as back drop for photo op.

names of victims and another with two simple but effective words, Truth and Justice, a demand seen as "the best way to keep the memory of those who are no longer with us alive." The silence was broken only by the inappropriate sound of helicopters flying overhead monitoring this most peaceful of marches.

The police and military presence in L'Aquila had been on the increase as the G8 approached. Officers with machine guns were present at every intersection and citizens are subjected to what one 70-year-old woman referred to as "check points." As I walked through the city in the pre dawn hours following the march, the number of police and military vehicles on the streets was overwhelming.

While waiting for a regional bus, I asked people what they thought of holding the G8 in L'Aquila. Not a single person had anything positive to say. The most common criticism was

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Nuclear Nightmare: Hiroshima August 6, 1945

BY SUE AND PHILIP WHEATON

Sixty-four years ago, at the close of World War II, the US ushered in the Atomic Age in the form of hell on earth, delivered to Japan. On August 6, 1945 at 8:16am, a B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay* (named for the pilot Col. Paul Tibets' mother), dropped "Big Boy" on the Japanese industrial port city of Hiroshima. On August 9 at 11:02am, the B-29 bomber *Bock's Car*, piloted by Maj. Charles Sweeney, dropped "Fat Man" on the port city of Nagasaki. In both cities tens of thousands of human beings were instantly incinerated.

Eyewitnesses more than five miles away said the brightness of the Hiroshima explosion exceeded the sun tenfold. Its heat, estimated at over a million degrees Celsius, ignited the surrounding air, forming a fireball some 840 feet in diameter.

The Victims

Many who were not killed instantly hurled themselves into rivers, where their bodies washed back and forth in the estuary tides. Others, with bodies charred and skin dripping from their limbs like hot wax, walked, stumbled and fell, crying desperately for water. Living infants clung to dead mothers; living mothers carried their dead children. Survivors described blackened human forms so burned that one could not distinguish their front from their back when seeing them walking in the area.

Among those killed were thousands of Korean war slaves, who were being forced to work in the city's center on defense preparations, and an estimated 3,000 American citizens, most of Japanese heritage who were visiting in Japan at the time. Over 90% of the doctors and 93% of the nurses in Hiroshima were killed or injured.

Tens of thousands who survived the first hours died from the effects of radiation in the weeks, months and years following — and continue to suffer and die to this day. Many of these survivors, known as Hibakusha, wandered into the devastated area in search of missing relatives, unaware of the deadly radiation which would later disable their organs, cause horrible lesions on their skin and lead to slow and prolonged suffering and death.

(Atomic weapon radiation victims also include the American Hibakusha: those who lived downwind from the Utah and Nevada bomb test sites, Native Americans and others whose land and water have been poisoned by uranium mining, and military veterans affected in numerous ways, including by depleted uranium.)

Japanese Response

The Japanese surrender and resistance to it by military fanatics should be understood within the hard facts facing Japan before the atomic bombs were dropped. The Japanese navy had been effectively destroyed by the United States at Midway, the Russians had effectively destroyed the remnants of the Japanese army in Manchuria, and Japan's major cities had been destroyed by scorched-earth bombing. These facts made the Japanese military, government and emperor realize that the war was lost.

When news of the Nagasaki bombing reached Tokyo, Foreign Minister Togo proposed acceptance of the terms of surrender set by the United States, Great Britain and China; but Japan's Supreme War Direction Council was deadlocked on a decision. "Finally, at 2am August 10, 1945, Prime Minister Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki respectfully begged His Imperial Majesty Hirohito to make a decision. Hirohito did not hesitate, '...I do not desire any further destruction of cultures, nor any additional misfortune for the peoples of the world. On this occasion, we have to bear the unbearable.'...Against all precedent, the emperor himself convened an Imperial Conference and at noon on August 15, 1945, announced Japan's surrender. The war was over."

US Targeting Decisions: Mass Murder of Civilians

In dropping the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the US acted counter to criteria previously established by the atomic scientists and US officials for using the atomic bomb, criteria which included giving prior warning and not dropping the bomb on civilian areas. However, the criteria used for selecting the actual targets, including giving no warning and selecting "...a vital war plant employing a large number of workers and closely surrounded by worker's houses" were in direct contravention of the earlier criteria for the bomb's use and numerous treaties. The deliberate mass murder of hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians, overwhelmingly women, children, elders, and Korean war slaves, was celebrated by Harry Truman on August 9 in a profane radio message to the American people: "We thank god that (the atomic bomb) came to us instead of to our enemies, and we pray that god may guide us to use it in his ways and for his purposes."

Buildings in the Blast Zone

"Over two-thirds of Hiroshima's buildings were demolished. The hundreds of

fires, ignited by the thermal pulse, combined to produce a firestorm that had incinerated everything within about 4.4 miles of ground zero." However, several reinforced concrete buildings in the blast zone, including the beautiful domed building, now called the Atomic Bomb Dome, remained standing, though their interiors were gutted by fire. The Dome was made a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1996 over the objections of the US and China.

Our Visit to Hiroshima

When we visited Hiroshima in 2005 on the 60th anniversary of the bombing, we sat one evening with our host and her neighbors, all of whom live at the edge of Peace Park, where the bomb had fallen, and shared, over a pot luck supper, our thoughts — and tears. Many of their families had been afflicted by cancers and birth defects. We told them of our deep remorse for the suffering and loss our country had inflicted on their relatives and the Japanese people.

They shared with us that their parents and grandparents, who had survived because they were out of town on "that day," had never talked about the bomb; they had suffered post traumatic stress syndrome and so had remained silent about it. However, in 2005 the Japanese government, at US urging, was trying to revoke the anti-military clause in the Japanese constitution — a clause the US had insisted upon in 1945 — and the older people, now in their 70's, were now talking loud and clear, telling their stories, in testimonials in defense of the constitutional clause and for peace.

Ceremonies in DC in August

Today groups of Hibakusha travel around the world delivering their message: no more Hiroshima's; no more Nagasaki's; no more nuclear weapons. They will be in Washington this August. Come to the Washington-area Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Committee-sponsored ceremonies honoring them, hear their stories and observe moments of silence on the hours the bombs fell. The observances will be 6:30pm on August 5th at the Lincoln Memorial, 9:45pm on August 8th in front of the White House and 11:00am-12:00 noon on August 9th at the World War II Memorial on the Mall.

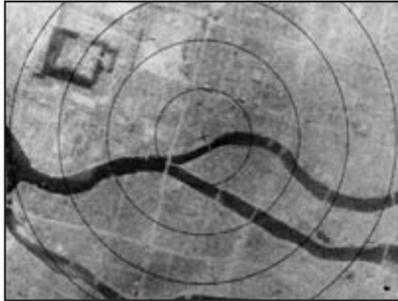
Philip E. Wheaton, an Episcopal priest, Latin American historian, theologian & author. Sue and Philip Wheaton are long-time peace and social justice activists living in Takoma Park, MD.



The atomic mushroom cloud over Hiroshima.



The Enola Gay dropped the bomb.



Aerial photos of Hiroshima before and after the blast.



The Atomic Dome, at ground zero in Hiroshima, is now a peace memorial and place of pilgrimage.



A devastated landscape. Most structures were made of wood, all incinerated in the blast.



Stunned survivors stream past the dead in the immediate aftermath. Most would soon succumb to radiation sickness.



Radiation caused burns, here a woman is burned in the pattern of the kimono she was wearing at the time of the blast.

The Bombing of Nagasaki August 9, 1945: The Untold Story

BY GARY G. KOHLS, MD

Sixty-four years ago, on August 9th, 1945, the second of the only two atomic bombs, a plutonium bomb, ever used as instruments of mass destruction was dropped on a virtually defenseless population in Nagasaki, Japan by an all-Christian bomb crew. The well-trained American airmen were only "doing their job," and they did it with military efficiency.

It had been only three days since the first bomb, a uranium bomb, had decimated Hiroshima on August 6. Chaos and confusion reigned in Tokyo, where Japan's fascist military government and the Emperor Hirohito had been searching for months for a way to an honorable end of the war, a war which had exhausted Japan to virtually moribund status.

The only obstacle to surrender had been the Truman administration's insistence on unconditional surrender, which meant that the Emperor, whom the Japanese regarded as a deity, would be removed from his figurehead position — an intolerable demand for the Japanese.

The Russian army was advancing across Manchuria with the stated aim of entering the war against Japan on August 8, so there was an extra incentive for the US to end the war quickly: the US military command did not want to divide any spoils or share power after Japan was defeated.

The US bomber command had spared Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Kokura from the conventional bombing that had burned to the ground 60+ other major Japanese cities during the first half of 1945. One of the reasons for delaying the targeting of undamaged cities with these new weapons was scientific: to see what would happen to intact buildings — and their living inhabitants — when atomic weapons were exploded overhead.

Early in the morning of August 9, 1945, a B-29 Superfortress called *Bock's Car*, took off from Tinian Island, with the prayers and blessings of its Lutheran and Catholic chaplains, and headed for Kokura, the primary target. The plutonium bomb in its hold was code-named "Fat Man," after Winston Churchill.

The only nuclear weapon field test, blasphemously named "Trinity," had occurred just three weeks earlier, on July 16, 1945 at Alamogordo, New Mexico. The lava-type rock that resulted from the intense heat that was generated — called trinitite — can still be found at the site today.

With instructions to drop the bomb only on visual sighting, *Bock's Car* arrived at

Kokura, but the city was clouded over. So after circling three times, looking for a break in the clouds, and using up a tremendous amount of valuable fuel in the process, it headed for its secondary target, Nagasaki.

Nagasaki, the setting for Puccini's beautiful opera "Madame Butterfly," is famous in the history of Japanese Christianity. Not only was it the site of the largest Christian church in the Orient, St. Mary's Cathedral, but it also had the largest concentration of baptized Christians in all of Japan. It was the city where the legendary Jesuit missionary, Francis Xavier, established a mission church in 1549, a Christian community which survived and prospered for several generations. However, as had happened in South America and other newly "discovered" countries, Portuguese and Spanish commercial interests soon followed the missionaries. Japanese rulers accurately regarded them as a threat to their sovereignty and the religion of the Europeans and their new Japanese converts soon became the target of brutal persecutions.

Within sixty years of the start of Xavier's mission church, professing Christianity became a capital crime. The Japanese Christians who refused to recant of their beliefs suffered ostracism, torture and even crucifixions similar to the Roman persecutions in the first few centuries of Christianity. After the reign of terror was over, it appeared to all observers that Japanese Christianity had been stamped out.

However, 250 years later, in the 1850s, after the coercive gunboat diplomacy of Commodore Perry forced open an offshore island for American trade purposes, it was discovered that there were thousands of baptized Christians in Nagasaki, living their faith in a catacomb existence, completely unknown to the government — which immediately started another purge. But because of international pressure, the persecutions were soon stopped, and Nagasaki Christianity came up from the underground. And by 1917, with no help from the government, the Japanese Christian community built the massive St. Mary's Cathedral, in the Urakami River district of Nagasaki.

Now it turned out, in the mystery of good and evil, that St. Mary's Cathedral was one of the landmarks that the *Bock's Car* bombardier had been briefed on, and looking through his bomb site over Nagasaki that day, he identified the cathedral and ordered the drop.

At 11:02am, Nagasaki Christianity was boiled, evaporated and carbonized in a scorching, radioactive fireball. The persecuted, vibrant, faithful, surviving center of Japanese Christianity had become ground zero.

And what the Japanese Imperial government could not do in over 200 years of persecution, American Christians did in nine seconds. 8,500 of the worshipping community of 12,000 perished directly as a consequence of the bomb.

The above true (and unwelcome) story should stimulate discussion among those who claim to be disciples of Jesus. The Catholic chaplain for the 509th Composite Group (the 1500 man Army Air Force group, whose only job was to successfully deliver the atomic bombs to their targets) was Father George Zabelka. Several decades after the war ended, he saw his grave theological error in religiously legitimating the mass slaughter that is modern land and air war. He finally recognized that the enemies of his nation were not the enemies of God, but rather children of God whom God loved, and whom the followers of Jesus are to also love. Father Zabelka's conversion to Christian nonviolence led him to devote the remaining decades of his life to speaking out against violence in all its forms, especially the violence of militarism. The Lutheran chaplain, William Downey, in his counseling of soldiers who had become troubled by their participation in making murder for the state, later denounced all killing, whether by a single bullet or by a weapon of mass destruction.

In his important book, *Hell, Healing and Resistance*, author Daniel Hallock talks about a 1997 Buddhist retreat led by Thich Nhat Hanh that attempted to deal with the hellish post-war existence of combat-traumatized Vietnam War veterans. Hallock wrote, "Clearly, Buddhism offers something that cannot be found in institutional Christianity. But then why should veterans (who largely have abandoned the faiths of their childhoods as hypocritical) embrace a religion that has blessed the wars that ruined their souls? It is no wonder they turn to a gentle Buddhist monk to hear what are, in large part, the truths of Christ."

As a lifelong Christian, that comment stung, but it was the sting of a sad and sobering truth. And as a physician who has dealt daily with psychologically traumatized patients, I know that it is violence, in all

see NAGASAKI p. 7



The atomic mushroom cloud over Nagasaki, photo signed by the pilot.



The crew of USAF B-29 Bock's Car.



A devastated landscape. The ruins of St. Mary's Cathedral can be seen in the distance.



St. Mary's Cathedral, also known as Urakami Cathedral was destroyed in the blast.



The toppled cathedral dome.



Aerial photos of Nagasaki before and after the blast.

More Brits Think Government Behind 7/7 London Bombings

LONDON from p. 1

purchased round-trip tickets to London. The suspects were seen to be arguing with cashiers, walking in and out of shops, including McDonalds, and "bumping into people" in the minutes before the blasts — hardly the behavior of people who are in the final crucial moments of planning a terror attack in which they will be killed, and who wish to go unnoticed.

"I've seen the CCTV footage of these people. They do not appear to be on their way to commit any crime at all," a London Metropolitan Police representative said.

"The roundtrip tickets, the fact that one of them spent a lot recently repairing his car and one of them had a family and was the teacher of the disabled and underprivileged children, it doesn't ring right," said Paul Beaver, a security and defense expert in London with close police contacts. "If you had that much commitment, how are you going to take your life? It's happened in Palestine, but these people were brought up in the UK." (Watson, Prison Planet)

Almost immediately after release of the official report, people noticed that there were problems with the official time-line as well.

The official story puts the bombers on the 7:40am train from Luton, which would have arrived at King's Cross in good time for them to board the Tube trains.

But, the 7:40am train never ran that morning. It was cancelled.

The Government has since corrected this information — but only after the error was raised by survivors. The revised story now is that the bombers actually caught an earlier train, the 7:25am from Luton, for the 35-minute journey to King's Cross. It was due to arrive in the capital at 8am.

But records show this train ran 23



Recently released photo of train damage shows floor blown upwards (lower left) as reported by numerous witnesses.

eyewitnesses who remember four men running between stations at triple speed and carrying large heavy backpacks.

Another problem with the revised timeline is that it is contradicted by an already released security camera frame which purports to show the bombers entering the Luton station at 7:22, which would give them only three minutes to walk up the stairs at Luton, buy their £22 round-trip tickets and get to the platform, which was already packed with commuters because of the earlier travel disruptions.

This still CCTV photo of the four bombers arriving at the station in Luton is the only one of the four men together on July 7. But this officially released still has serious problems. It appears to be a fake, and a crudely done one at that.

Another problem for the official story is that there are no eyewitnesses

was pushed upwards as if the bomb was underneath the train. They seem to think the bomb was left in a bag, but I don't remember anybody being where the bomb was, or any bag," he said.

Photos recently released seem to verify Lait's statement that the explosion came from under the floorboards of the train.

Victims and their families, like the 9/11 victim's families in the US are not pleased with the inconsistencies and basic mistakes in the official account and their explanation. The Government has so far refused to re-open the investigation and has stood by the increasingly discredited account. This has only fueled demand for books, DVDs and internet sites pointing out the glaring deficiencies of the official story.

Now even the Assistant Commissioner for Special Operations at the time of the bombings, Andy Hayman, has called for an independent public inquiry. In his new book *The Terrorist Hunters*, Mr. Hayman writes: "Incidents of less gravity have attracted the status of a public inquiry — train crashes, a death in custody, and even other terrorist attacks. How can there not be a full, independent public inquiry into the deaths of 52 commuters on London's transport system? ... There has been no overview, no pulling together of each strand of review, no one can be sure if key issues have been missed."

That's putting it mildly.

Just to be clear, Hayman is not suggesting the government is behind the attacks. His criticisms center on what he contends are "intelligence

of attack in the exact stations at the exact time of the actual events. "...At half-past nine this morning we were actually running an exercise...based on simultaneous bombs going off precisely at the railway stations where it happened this morning".

This is again reminiscent of the 9/11 events in the US where 15 or more drills and military exercises, some simulating hijackings, some even simulating planes crashing into buildings, were being conducted at the same time as the actual 9/11 attacks.

Another weakness of the official story is that the devastating explosions are claimed to have come from crude home-made explosives the bombers are supposed to have made in their bath tub, no less. Initial assessments of experts at the scene of the explosions were that high grade military explosives were used. Only later was the story changed to have the bombers cooking up their own home-made bombs.

Clifford Todd of the Forensic Explosives Laboratory at Fort Halsted in Kent has testified that the 7/7 bombs were made with a mixture of (don't laugh) hair peroxide, powdered masala spice and ground black pepper. However, according to his testimony on 2 May 2008, no pepper residue was detected at any of the four bomb sites.

Much of the controversy recently has centered on a low-budget home made documentary called *Ripple Effect* that points out many of the problems with the official story.

Ripple Effect is having an effect. The popularity of this video, similar to the run-away success of the *Loose Change* video in the US, has forced the government to respond. The TV show "Conspiracy Files" on BBC2 has responded with a hit-piece which attempts to "debunk" the claims made in *Ripple Effect*, but such efforts may be only adding fuel to the fire. Skepticism in Britain of the official story continues to grow.

As you might imagine, it is among London's Moslem community that skepticism of the government's story is greatest.

The chairman of Birmingham's Central Mosque, Dr. Mohammad Naseem, says in the BBC2 documentary: "We do not accept the government version of July 7, 2005. The *Ripple Effect* video is more convincing than the official statements."

Mr. Naseem has made 2,000 copies of *Ripple Effect* for members of his mosque. Even before the contentious video came out, one in four British Muslims thought the Government or the Secret Services were responsible for the 7/7 atrocities. Now the number of doubters is growing.

At Friday prayers recently, Dr. Naseem asked the congregation to raise their hands if they did not accept the government version of events. Nearly the entire gathering of 150 men and boys did so. (Sue Ried, *Daily Mail*)

Unable to counter *Ripple Effect* with propaganda, the government has resorted to force. The government is going after the film's creator, 60-year-old Yorkshireman Anthony John Hill who lives in Kells, County Meath, Ireland. He has been arrested and is currently fighting extradition to Britain. He is charged with "perverting the course of justice" for sending copies of his video to jury members in a terrorist case.

England has no First Amendment.



The inset shows a blowup of problems with the figure in the white cap. The railing behind the man appears to go in front of his arm, and another rail appears to continue across his face.

minutes late because of problems with the overhead line which disrupted most of the service between Luton to King's Cross that morning. It arrived in London at 8:23am, according to station officials.

Just as problematic is the official scenario for the bombers' supposed arrival at King's Cross. While it takes seven minutes to walk from the Thameslink line station to the main King's Cross station, the Police say the four men were seen on the main King's Cross concourse at 8:26am after getting off the Luton train at 8:23am. Yet they have not released any CCTV photos placing the men there, nor are there any

who can place the individuals — supposedly carrying large and heavy backpacks filled with homemade explosives — on the trains. In fact some of the surviving witnesses closest to the explosions remember there being no one and no back packs in the location of the explosions.

Bruce Lait, a victim of the Aldgate Station bombing, described to the Cambridge Evening News how he and his partner were sitting nearest to the bomb when it detonated. As they made their way out, a policeman pointed out where the bomb had been. "The policeman said 'mind that hole, that's where the bomb was'. The metal

failures" on the part of MI5 because, as he points out in his book, MI5 was well aware of and had been tracking Mohammad Sidiq Khan for some time.

Frustrated by the lack of response to the public criticism of the 7/7 report, families of the victims and survivors are taking High Court action over the government's refusal to grant an independent inquiry.

Even more suspicious is the revelation, made on the day of the events by Peter Power, a former Scotland Yard anti-terror expert, that they were conducting security drills on 7/7 that simulated the exact type

NSA Security Scrambles to Plug Leaks About 9/11

NSA from p. 1

Jewish US Attorney for Maryland Rod Rosenstein, and Jewish Assistant US Attorney for Southern Maryland David Salem, both Bush appointees. Nothing was done by the judge or prosecutors to dismiss from the jury a contractor whose company had major contracts with NSA. The trio of Messitte, Rosenstein, and Salem have also "rocket-docketed" a number of cases, resulting in slam dunk convictions, against Arab- and Iranian-Americans in the Southern District of Maryland.

NSA's Security chief is Kemp Ensor III. Ensor has built up what amounts to a massive law enforcement and intelligence agency in Maryland that operates as a virtual independent operation that answers to no one. Maryland's congressional delegation has shown little interest in oversight over the security operation.

In fact, WMR has learned that many NSA employees, aware of the political and other misuse of their agency by the Bush-Cheney administration, avidly backed Barack Obama for President hoping that the past era when NSA complied with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution would be restored. However, many NSA employees are bitterly disappointed that Obama has done nothing to curtail not only the widespread surveillance of the communications of law-abiding Americans but the constant "Stasi-like" harassment and surveillance conducted by Ensor's team of agents and confidential informants. WMR has also learned that NSA Security has been authorized to work directly with Washington area local police department intelligence divisions to carry out its surveillance of not only NSA employees and contractors, but journalists who report on the activities of NSA. Two police departments mentioned in this respect are the Alexandria, Virginia and Anne Arundel County Sheriff departments.

One senior-level NSA official recently found himself sitting in front of NSA Security questioners asking why he gave his NSA business cards to some students at a university. It turns out the official was trying to recruit students for NSA employment. When the official asked why there was a problem in his handing out his business cards, the answer by NSA Security was that some of them, all American citizens, had "Russian last names."

Even former NSA employees and contractors are being subjected to continual NSA Security surveillance and harassment at their work places and other locations, according to WMR's sources. Some have lost their jobs as a result of pressure from NSA Security.

WMR has in the past reported on NSA surveillance of journalists. On December 28, 2005, we reported: "WMR has learned that the National Security Agency (NSA), on the orders of the Bush administration, eavesdropped on the private conversations and e-mail of its own employees, employees of other US intelligence agencies — including the CIA and DIA — and their contacts in the media, Congress, and oversight agencies and offices. The journalist surveillance program, code named "Firstfruits," was part of a Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) program that was maintained at least until October 2004 and was authorized by then-DCI Porter Goss. Firstfruits was authorized as part of a DCI "Countering Denial and Deception" program responsible to an entity known as the Foreign Denial and Deception Committee (FDDC). Since the intelligence

community's reorganization, the DCI has been replaced by the Director of National Intelligence headed by John Negroponte and his deputy, former NSA director Gen. Michael Hayden."

Since the revelation of the NSA journalist monitoring database, which later added communications intercepts of journalist phone calls, emails, and faxes to its database, NSA Security has, according to information received by WMR, conducted physical surveillance of journalists it deems to be threats to the operations of the agency. The top targeted journalists, who make up a virtual "rogues' gallery" at NSA Security, complete with photographs and other personal information, are: former *Baltimore Sun* and current *Wall Street Journal* reporter Siobhan Gorman, *Washington Times* reporter Bill Gertz, former *Baltimore Sun* and current *New York Times* reporter Scott Shane, *Baltimore Sun* reporter Phil McGowan, author James Bamford, *New York Times* reporters James Risen and Eric Lichtblau, and this editor, Wayne Madsen.

In addition to the aforementioned, Firstfruits also contained the names of former *Washington Post* reporter Vernon Loeb, *New Yorker* journalist Seymour Hersh, and UPI's John C. K. Daly.

Ironically, NSA Security allegedly has its own connections in the news media. A *Washington Times* source revealed that the paper's writer of the "Inside the Beltway" column, John McCaslin, has a relative inside NSA Security — Robert McCaslin, the chief of NSA Security counter-intelligence and the chief "sting" agent against Ford. Robert is, according to the *Times* source is the brother of the paper's columnist.

NSA Security is also able to utilize the agency's most sophisticated electronic surveillance systems to monitor the activities of journalists. The cell phones of journalists are routinely used as listening devices, even when turned off. And what was considered a sure-fire method of avoiding having a cell phone used as a transmitter, removing the batteries in what has become known as "batteries out" conversations, is no longer safe. Even when the batteries are removed, the global positioning system (GPS) chip in cell phones continues to have enough residual power that two to three pings from satellites can give away a person's location and what other uniquely-identifiable cell phone are at the same location.

The bottom line is that a number of NSA personnel who were on duty in the months leading up to 9/11, the day of the attacks, and subsequent weeks and months are aware of undeniable facts that point to a massive cover-up by the Bush-Cheney administration of the circumstances surrounding 9/11, including what actually befell United Airlines flight 93 and who was issuing direct military orders from the White House.

The Obama administration, rather than lessen the pressure on the NSA personnel, has turned up the heat and is resorting to even more draconian methods to ensure silence. The word from inside NSA is that a state of fear exists and the mission of the agency, to conduct surveillance of foreign communications to provide threat indications and warnings to US troops and policy makers and protect sensitive US government communications from unauthorized eavesdropping is suffering as a result.

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The Bombing of Nagasaki : The Untold Story

NAGASAKI from p. 6

its myriad of forms, that bruises and breaks the human psyche and soul, and that that trauma is deadly and contagious, and it spreads through the families and on through the 3rd and 4th generations — and will continue until the military violence that fuels so much domestic violence is stopped.

One of the most difficult "mental illnesses" to treat is combat-induced posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In its most virulent form PTSD is, in my considered opinion, incurable. It is also a fact that, whereas most Vietnam War soldiers had been raised in churches where they actively practiced their faith, if they came home with PTSD, the percentage returning to the faith community approached zero.

This is a serious spiritual problem for any church that (either by its active support of its nation's "glorious" wars or by its silence on such issues) fails to teach its young people about what the earliest form of Christianity taught about violence: that it was forbidden for those who wished to follow Jesus.

If a Christian community fails to

thoroughly inform its confirmands about the gruesome realities of the war zone before they are forced to register for potential conscription into the military, it invites the condemnation that Jesus warned about in Matthew 18:5-6: "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believes in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

The purpose of this essay is to stimulate open and honest discussion (at least among the followers of Jesus) about the ethics of killing by and for one's government, not from the perspective of national security ethics, not from the perspective of the military, not from the perspective of (the pre-Christian) eye-for-an-eye retaliation that Jesus rejected, but from the perspective of the Sermon on the Mount, the core ethical teachings of Jesus found (in Matthew 5, 6 and 7 and Luke 6).

Out of that discussion (if any are

willing to engage in it) should come answers to those horrible realities that seem to immobilize decent Bible-believing Christians everywhere: Why are so many Christians so willing to commit (or support and/or pay for others to commit) homicidal violence against other fellow children of a loving, merciful, forgiving God, the God whom Jesus clearly calls us to imitate? And what can Christians do, starting now, to prevent the next war and the next epidemic of soul-destroying, combat-induced posttraumatic stress disorder?

What can we do to prevent the next round of such atrocities as this partial list, all of which have been largely perpetrated by professed Christians: the My Lai Massacre, Auschwitz and the other Nazi death camps, Dresden, El Mozote, Rwanda, Jonestown, the black church bombings, the execution of innocent death row inmates, the sanctions against Iraq (that killed 500,000 children during the 1990s) and the current war that has killed 1,000,000 civilians in Iraq), the military massacres in Fallujah and

the rest of Iraq and Afghanistan, the torturing of innocents at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo plus the many other international war crimes perpetrated by the current "Christian" government of the United States.

What is to be done to prevent the next Nagasaki?

A large portion of the responsibility for the prevention of military atrocities like Nagasaki lies within the American Christian churches and whether or not they will finally start emphatically teaching and living as the nonviolent Jesus taught and lived: the unconditional love of friend and enemy, the Golden Rule and the refusal to kill other children of God.

The next Nagasaki can be prevented if the churches courageously and publicly resist militarism by active nonviolent means and refuse their government's call for the bodies and souls of their sons and daughters.

Gary G. Kohls, MD, Duluth, MN for Every Church A Peace Church (www.ecpc.org)

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US Behind Honduran Coup

COUP from p. 1

Argentina, Rafael Correa of Ecuador, and Fernando Lugo of Paraguay. The other plane was carrying Organization of American States (OAS) Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza from Washington, DC. Zelaya and the other presidents and international organization leaders were forced to land in neighboring El Salvador after Honduran troops parked trucks on the runway as Zelaya's plane trickled the airport and opened fire on pro-Zelaya crowds waiting to welcome the president back to Honduras.

The two Honduran fighters also reportedly followed Zelaya's aircraft into El Salvadoran airspace before breaking off pursuit.

Contrary to international news reports, WMR has learned from eyewitnesses to the shooting at the airport that four people were killed and some 30 were wounded by Honduran military gunfire. One of those killed was a 8-year old indigenous native boy. In addition, a 20-year old man was killed, along with two other men in their mid-20s. Eyewitnesses to the massacre report that a CNN crew witnessed the dead boy and young men at a Red Cross facility but declined to film the scene.

Honduran soldiers shot out the tires of buses bringing people from the countryside into the capital to participate in anti-coup demonstrations.

WMR has also learned from Honduran sources that US ambassador to Honduras Hugo Llorens closely coordinated his activities with the coup leaders. Llorens' car was seen by the public traveling between the US embassy and the government buildings where the coup leaders were consolidating their hold on power. Llorens, a Cuban-born US citizen, was reportedly heavily involved in the 2002 coup against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez while serving in the National Security Council at the White House.

On the eve of the airport protest, Channel 11 News in Tegucigalpa was bombed by pro-junta forces. On board Zelaya's plane was a news crew from Telesur television.

It is also reported to WMR that the Archbishop of Tegucigalpa and two Catholic bishops supported the coup against Zelaya with the active involvement of Pope Benedict XVI in Vatican City. Archbishop Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga stated: "We must support [junta leader Roberto] Micheletti and the rule of law and the Constitution." The prelate added, "the

opposition are communists and socialists." The Catholic Church in San Pedro Sula was so supportive of the coup, the pro-Zelaya forces refer to it as "the Church of the Coup." However, Catholic priests and nuns are almost united in opposition to the coup. Many priests and nuns told parishioners, "We are with the people and opposed to the coup."

Congressman Cesar Ham, the presidential candidate of the progressive Democratic Unification (UD) party, was originally reported to have been shot and killed by Honduran troops. However, he recently turned up in Nicaragua after fleeing Honduras. WMR has learned from Honduran sources that Honduran troops were aided in locating anti-coup leaders by CIA agents in the country. On the day that Zelaya planned to return to Honduras by plane, CIA agents began questioning Americans in the country who were supporting Zelaya. CIA agents wanted to know where the Americans were staying in Honduras. In addition, WMR learned that the CIA helped Honduran intelligence track down Venezuelan and Nicaraguan journalists. The Honduran security forces had orders to kill the journalists.

WMR has also learned that support for Zelaya is strong among the Honduran police and the lower ranks of the Honduran military. There have been a number of cases where police and military personnel have refused to carry out their orders and aided opponents of the coup. Support for Zelaya is particularly strong in San Pedro Sula, Honduras's second largest city, and along the border with El Salvador. WMR has learned that the El Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front government is providing quiet assistance to Zelaya supporters along the border.

There are videos taken of anti-junta demonstrations by American Neil Brandvold who went to Honduras to support the Honduran people against the coup.

In what may be shallow hope, a number of pro-Zelaya supporters have said, "We have faith that Obama will help us." Based on the Obama administration's support for the coup and junta, those hopes now appear all but dashed.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based investigative journalist, author and syndicated columnist. He is a frequent political and national security commentator on TV. Madsen is the author of *Jaded Tasks: Big Oil, Black Ops & Brass Plates and Overthrow a Fascist Regime on \$15 a Day*.

Dick Cheney's "Executive Assassination Ring" Was British Weapons Expert Dr. David Kelly a Target?

KELLY from p. 2

biological and chemical warfare research facility, at the time of his 2003 death Kelly was a consummate insider, a trusted keeper of state secrets; dangerous and deadly secrets that could topple governments.

A civilian employee of Britain's Ministry of Defence (MoD), Dr. Kelly was a biological weapons expert and former United Nations weapons inspector in Iraq. His off-the-record conversations with journalist Andrew Gilligan about the British government's fraudulent claim that Iraq possessed "weapons of mass destruction" set off a firestorm that continues to smolder.

While David Kelly wasn't a spy, he did enjoy unprecedented access to the world of secret intelligence. Indeed, according to author Gordon Thomas, Kelly had helped orchestrate the defection of a top Russian microbiologist Vladimir Pasechnik (who turned up dead in 2001, allegedly from a stroke) and played a part in the FBI's investigation into the 2001 anthrax attacks in the United States by trying to identify the origin of the Ames strain used in the fatal mailings.

In 2008, the multiyear, multimillion dollar "Amerithrax" investigation was closed when the Bureau claimed that Dr. Bruce Ivins was the killer. Ivins, a top anthrax expert at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Ft. Detrick in Maryland committed suicide. According to the FBI version, the scientist killed himself just as the Bureau was about to arrest him for the crime.

Many were unconvinced that Ivins was the anthrax "lone gunman." Indeed, Sen. Patrick Leahy, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a target of the 2001 attacks, charged FBI Director Robert Mueller with staging a cover-up.

During 2008 hearings, Leahy angrily chided Mueller: "If he is the one who sent the letter, I do not believe in any way, shape or manner that [Ivins] is the only person involved in this attack on Congress and the American people. I do not believe that at all. I believe there are others involved, either as accessories before or after the fact, I believe there are others who can be charged with murder."

Richard Spertzel, Ivins' former boss at Ft. Detrick told investigative journalists Bob Coen and Eric Nadler, "He's dead and they can close the case and he can't defend himself. Nice and convenient isn't it?"

Thomas claims that Kelly had worked with two American scientists, Benito Que and Don Wiley, who also turned up dead under highly suspicious circumstances.

It was originally claimed by authorities that Que was bludgeoned to death during an attempted carjacking in Miami. "Strangely enough," *The Toronto Globe & Mail* reported in 2002, "his body showed no signs of a beating. Doctors then began to suspect a stroke."

Wiley, according to the Canadian newspaper "was an expert on how the immune system responds to viral attacks such as the classic doomsday plagues of HIV, ebola and influenza." After planning a trip to Graceland with his son police "found his rental car on a bridge outside Memphis, Tenn. His body was later found in the Mississippi River. Forensic experts said he may have had a dizzy spell and have fallen off the bridge."

As it turned out, the pair were "engaged in DNA sequencing that could provide 'a genetic marker based on genetic profiling.'" Thomas writes: "The research could play an important role in developing weaponized pathogens to hit selected groups of humans — identifying them by race. Two years ago, both men were found dead, in circumstances never fully explained."

Coincidence, or something more sinister?

By summer 2003, it was obvious that Saddam Hussein's regime did not possess WMDs and that the entire pretext for invading Iraq was based on a lie, concocted by the American regime, and in particular by Vice President Richard Cheney and the neoconservative mafia in control of America's defense and security apparatus.

Tasked to the Defence Intelligence Staff, Kelly read a draft of the Joint Intelligence Committee's

(JIC) dossier on Iraq's reputed WMDs. He was unhappy with many of the report's conclusions, according to multiple press reports. He disputed the infamous claim that the Iraqi Army was capable of launching battlefield biological and chemical weapons within "45 minutes" of an order from Saddam. This dubious claim, one of many, was inserted into the report at the insistence of MI6 political masters acting through the JIC.

During a trip to Iraq in June 2003, Kelly inspected what were alleged by the Bush administration to be "mobile weapons laboratories," a claim infamously made by US Secretary of State Colin Powell at the United Nations in February 2003. *The Observer* reported that a British scientist, who turned out to be David Kelly, told the newspaper: "They are not mobile germ warfare laboratories. You could not use them for making biological weapons. They do not even look like them. They are exactly what the Iraqis said they were — facilities for the production of hydrogen gas to fill balloons."

One of the key pieces of evidence to emerge was the JIC's, and Kelly's, involvement with Operation Rockingham, a secret program for weapons inspections in Iraq.

Former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter told the *Sunday Herald* that Operation Rockingham was a "dirty tricks" unit "designed specifically to produce misleading intelligence that Saddam has weapons of mass destruction to give the UK a justifiable excuse to wage war on Iraq."

Describing the unit as "dangerous," Ritter told investigative journalist Neil Mackay, "Rockingham was spinning reports and emphasizing reports that showed non-compliance (by Iraq with UN inspections) and quashing those which showed compliance. It was cherry-picking intelligence."

A political firestorm ensued, which threatened the viability of Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour government. Heads would have to roll; one of those heads as it turned out, would be David Kelly's.

After an appearance before Parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Committee on July 15, 2003, Kelly was visibly upset by his shoddy treatment by MPs. In an email to *New York Times* reporter Judith Miller, a serial-fabricator who had stitched-up evidence that Iraq was reconstituting its nuclear weapons program, Kelly said there "were many dark actors playing games."

During the whitewash known as The Hutton Inquiry, a British ambassador David Broucher reported a conversation he had with Kelly in Geneva. The ambassador asked Kelly what would happen if Iraq were invaded? The bioweapons expert replied, "I will probably be found dead in the woods."

Two days after giving testimony before Parliament he was.

"A Wet Operation, a Wet Disposal"

In The Strange Death of David Kelly, Liberal-Democratic MP Norman Baker builds a strong case that the scientist was murdered. Despite Lord Hutton's dubious findings that Kelly killed himself, several troubling facts intruded to upend the British government's apple cart. To summarize:

The lack of fingerprints found on the knife allegedly used by the scientist to slit his wrists; the lack of blood found at the scene, despite a verdict that he had sliced open an artery; unexplained contusions on Kelly's scalp; the position of the body discovered by searchers differed markedly from that alleged by detectives; bottled water, knife and wristwatch said to be found by detectives were not observed by the searchers who actually discovered the body; eight computers removed from Kelly's home and office by MI6 agents; missing dental records; the level of painkillers found in Kelly's stomach was "less than a third" of what is considered a fatal overdose by medical experts. On and on it goes...

One source told Baker that Dr. Kelly's death was "a wet operation, a wet disposal," a term used in intelligence circles to denote an assassination.

Six years after Kelly's murder, a group of British doctors have announced that "they were mounting a legal challenge to overturn the finding of suicide," *The Mail* on Sunday reports.

A 12-page opinion concludes: "The bleeding from Dr Kelly's ulnar artery is highly unlikely to have been so voluminous and rapid that it was the cause of death. We advise the instructing solicitors to obtain the autopsy reports so that the concerns of a group of properly interested medical specialists can be answered."

One motive which may have led to Kelly's murder was that the scientist was writing a book "exposing highly damaging government secrets before his mysterious death," *The Sunday Express* reported July 5.

According to published reports, Kelly intended to reveal that he had warned Prime Minister Tony Blair "there were no weapons of mass destruction anywhere in Iraq weeks before the British and American invasion." Despite warnings that the book would breach Britain's draconian Official Secrets Act, Kelly sought advice on how he might bring his findings into a publishable form.

These reports also suggest that Kelly threatened to "lift the lid" on a larger scandal, "his own secret dealings in germ warfare with the apartheid regime in South Africa."

Investigative journalists Bob Coen and Eric Nadler in their book *Dead Silence: Fear and Terror*

on the *Anthrax Trail* and a companion 90-minute documentary, "Anthrax War," provide startling evidence that Kelly's death is linked to a secret world of germ warfare research.

Indeed, according to Coen and Nadler, David Kelly's secret dealings included a connection with Dr. Wouter Basson, the cardiologist who was the former head of the South African apartheid regime's clandestine biological and chemical warfare program, Project Coast.

During Basson's 1999 trial and subsequent acquittal, evidence presented by some 150 witnesses, including operatives linked to South African snatch-and-kill squads, tied Basson to chemical and biological research used in extrajudicial executions by the apartheid regime. It was further alleged that Project Coast had conducted active research into the fabrication of "ethnic weapons" that would specifically target South Africa's black population.

In "Anthrax War," Basson states that his findings were shared with foreign scientists, including those affiliated with weapons research in Britain and the United States. According to a 2001 piece in *The New Yorker*, Basson had already put the fear into American intelligence during his TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Committee] appearance, where he handed over fourteen pages of notes from a visit to the United States in 1981. American Air Force officers had been eager to develop joint "medical projects" with South Africa, he wrote. ... Basson says that in 1995 his life was threatened on the street by a CIA agent. The American Embassy in Pretoria admits privately that the United States government is "terribly concerned" that Basson may start talking about his sources of information and technology. The Embassy hopes that an impression of "unwitting cooperation" is all that emerges in the way of an American connection. (William Finnegan, "The Poison Keeper," *The New Yorker*, January 15, 2001)

Coen and Nadler uncovered evidence that Kelly had discovered a "Porton Down-South Africa connection" linked to a global bioweapons black market. The investigative journalists told the *Express*, "We have proved there is a black market in anthrax. David Kelly was of particular interest to us because he was a world expert on anthrax and he was involved in some degree with assisting the secret germ warfare programme in apartheid South Africa."

Andrew Mackinlay, a British MP blamed for humiliating Kelly "to the point of suicide" started "asking questions in the House of Lords" after the scientist's death "about Kelly's relationship with these bad actors in Pretoria, even making inquiries about South African links to Pasechnik's Regma firm."

Founded in 2000 by the deceased scientist, Regma Bio Technologies was headquartered on the Porton Down campus and had signed a contract with the US Navy for anti-anthrax research.

What Mackinlay discovered about the entire operation was highly disturbing to say the least. His inquiry sparked "the convening of an extraordinary 'handling strategy meeting' involving thirteen officials from different government agencies. But any and all information about UK-South African germ work was withheld from the MP."

Mackinlay told Coen and Nadler, "This is one of the most closely guarded secrets of the British government."

The question is, did David Kelly threaten to reveal these "closely guarded secrets" in the book he was preparing, and was this a motive for certain "dark actors" to eliminate a person now considered "an enemy of the state"?

These programs are not Cold War relics. Biological weapons research continues today and remain one of America's most deadly secrets. As the 2001 anthrax attacks which employed a weaponized version of the bacteria to sow terror, and subsequent FBI cover-up illustrate, such programs remain fully operational.

The evidence suggests that Dr. David Kelly, as Norman Baker avers "may have signed his own death warrant" by threatening to reveal this secret underworld menacing all humanity with unimaginable horrors.

That an out-of-control agency like the CIA has the means, motives and opportunity to silence critics and that "no geographical limitations" were placed "on the agency's actions," should give pause to a society that considers itself a democracy.

Media revelations so far have suggested that the CIA and Special Operations Forces were assembling teams to "put bullets in [the al Qaeda leaders'] heads" as *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

But perhaps the Obama administration's trepidation in exploring this and other Bush-era programs through congressional hearings or the mechanism of a special prosecutor has much to do with fear of opening a proverbial can of worms.

One never knows where such an investigation might lead.

Tom Burghardt is a researcher and activist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to publishing in *Covert Action Quarterly* and *Global Research*, his articles can be read on *Dissident Voice*, *The Intelligence Daily*, *Pacific Free Press* and the whistleblowing website *Wikileaks*. He is the editor of *Police State America: US Military "Civil Disturbance" Planning*, distributed by AK Press.

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