

THE COVERT WORLD OF ESPIONAGE

EYE SPY

INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE

SPY GAMES
GULF INTEL FOCUS



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TALKING SECRETS
WHISTLEBLOWERS & THE MEDIA

SEA CABLES
INTERCEPTION

BREACH
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- MH17 SHOOTDOWN • GRU THREADS • RUSSIAN SPY SUBMARINES
- EAVESDROPPING • A HIDDEN ADVANTAGE • FSB COUNTER-ESPIONAGE
- IRAN'S NUCLEAR SMUGGLERS • CIA-MOSSAD LIAISONS

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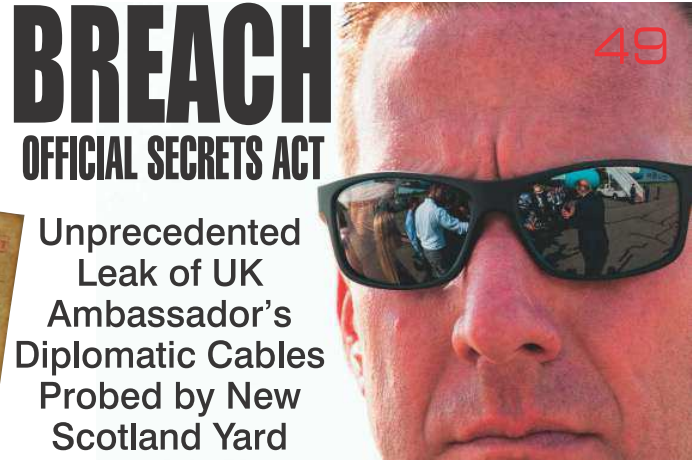
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"The person, persons or agency which leaked the cables, carefully selected only those parts of Sir Kim's overview of President Trump and his White House that were negative..."

ON UK AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON SIR KIM DARROCH'S RESIGNATION



MARITIME INTELLIGENCE SPECIAL



There is a distinct 'maritime intelligence' theme running through this edition of Eye Spy, with many of the world's spy agencies and defence forces either watching or actively participating in several major events on the surface of the world's oceans and seas or beneath. Much focus has been on happenings in the Gulf, where Iran continues to attract attention. Its hampering of international shipping has served only to increase tensions in an already vulnerable theatre. Away from the Middle East and in the much colder waters of the Barents Sea, intelligence watchers have yet to learn of the full circumstances of the deaths of 14 Russian sailors aboard one of Russia's most secret spy submarines. What is evident, the boat was involved with undersea cable research... and probably communication interception.

And this leads us to the Chinese technology giant Huawei. The company has been in the news of late following fears it is a conduit of China's intelligence service. Now security officials have warned its venture into the maritime cable industry also poses a threat. Two countries who continue to raise concerns are the United States and Australia. By simple coincidence, their bi-yearly naval exercise - Talisman Sabre - involving many ships and 25,000 personnel, was monitored by a spy ship despatched by the People's Liberation Army Navy. All the events are examined and analysed.

We also investigate the media's involvement in intelligence coverage and direct breaches - this following the leaking of classified cables sent by the UK Embassy in Washington which were leaked by a whistleblower. Their subsequent publication led to the resignation of Ambassador Sir Kim Darroch. In the public's interest?

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR



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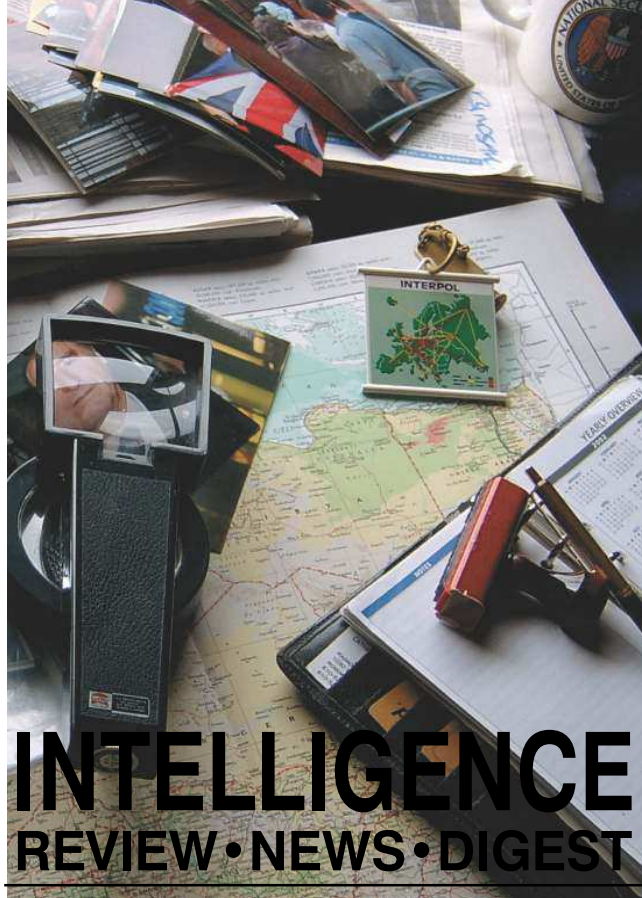
INTELLIGENCE CHOICE

TALKING SECRETS

History is littered with case files of intelligence employees of all ranks, choosing to share information to a wider audience. Their reasons for doing so are multi-faceted; personal, financial, spiteful etc. Others because they are genuinely concerned that an illegal action has taken place or could damage the long and short-term security of a service or even nation. In years goneby, there was no real mechanism to share their concerns - or internal affairs - to describe it in another way. This is no longer the case, with personnel having the option to seek guidance. In this engaging feature, Eye Spy examines some notable cases where the media was chosen as a route to disclosure.



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INTELLIGENCE REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST

THE DARK MASTER

FIFTH DIRECTORATE PLANNER PASSES

Known in the intelligence world as the 'Dark Master' and 'KGB Brain', Filipp Denisovich Bobkov, who joined the service in 1945, has died at the age of 93. Bobkov served for many years as Director of the feared Fifth Directorate. Dismissive of criticism and unrepentant about his career to the end, Bobkov's department was responsible for persecuting political dissidents during the height of the Cold War in the 1970s and 1980s.

Of those he deemed enemies of the state, Bobkov said: "These were people who were trying to overthrow our system. They were non-violent, it is true, but they were dangerous to society. I did



WWII photo of Filipp Bobkov during service with SMERSH

not make the laws, but I did my patriotic duty". However, many in the intelligence world today believe he over-stepped the mark.

MANCHESTER ARENA BOMBING

Brother of ISIS Suicide Bomber Extradited

Hashem Abedi, 22, the brother of ISIS terrorist Salman Abedi who detonated a bomb as concert goes began departing Manchester Arena following an event on 22 May 2017, has been extradited back to the UK.

The two men had left the UK for Libya around four weeks earlier, but Salman Abedi returned home to carry out the attack. Hashem

has been pursued ever since by MI5 and New Scotland Yard.

His extradition was made more difficult due to political and military unrest in the north African country. Here fighting factions, some still allied to ISIS, continue to wage war. Manchester-born Hashem was detained by members of the Rada Special Deterrence Force, just hours after the Manchester attack.

Special police negotiators backed by Foreign and Home Office officials, finally returned with the wanted man on 18 July 2019. He was driven to a police station in south London and charged with an array of offences, including: *'The murder of 22 people, the attempted murder of persons other than the 22 killed, and conspiracy to cause an explosion likely to endanger life'*. This is clear evidence the authorities believe he was complicit in the attack. Some sources believe Hashem, a university engineering student, sourced the material to build the bomb. Prior to the media being briefed about his return, family members of those who died were informed.

Less than 24-hours after he returned to the UK, Hashem Abedi appeared at Westminster Magistrates Court in London. There was a large security presence outside the building and inside he was flanked by five guards and police. Hashem denied any involvement in the attack.



Salman Abedi caught on CCTV as he made his way to the arena

No-one other than the Abedi brothers have been linked to the attack, despite intelligence-led operations leading to the arrest of 23 people. In time, they were all released without charge.



Hashem Abedi



Manchester Arena



Filipp Bobkov

Bobkov spearheaded the creation of the Anti-Zionist Committee of the USSR, to suppress dissidents and halt or discredit the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Many citizens were essentially locked up in Soviet psychiatric institutions, and Bobkov supported the action by claiming half of those arrested as dissidents were mentally ill. He was also a central character in countering what was perceived as "Western propaganda" and

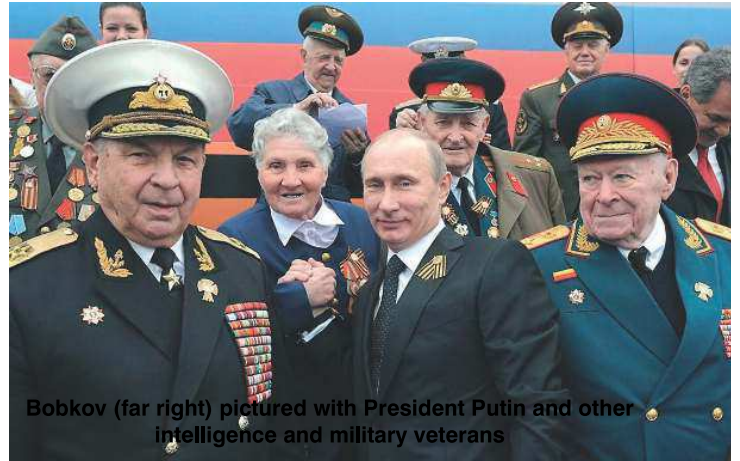
targeted students and other groups who dared to engage with literature and arts that were deemed anti-state.

In 1991, and with the collapse of Communism and the Soviet Union just months away, he resigned. Interestingly, in the same year, according to testimony given to the US Congress by former CIA officer, Richard Palmer, Bobkov allegedly supervised the transfer of Communist Party monies to

foreign banks and was instrumental in the creation of businesses and banks to be managed by KGB officers and their "trusted contacts." He later became the head of a private intelligence and security agency - the same one accused of attempting to assassinate the recently deceased

London businessman Boris Berezovsky in 1994. With his controversial years behind him, in 2008 President Putin appointed him as an Inspector General in the Russian Defence Ministry.

Filipp Bobkov died in Moscow on 23 June.



Bobkov (far right) pictured with President Putin and other intelligence and military veterans

The delay in his extradition has also impacted on the opening of the inquest. This will probably begin in 2020.

The Abedi family fled Libya for the UK following the demise of Muammar Gaddafi.

PARLIAMENT SQUARE CAR ATTACKER GUILTY

Salih Khater, 30, has been found guilty of attempted murder after the Sudanese man deliberately drove his vehicle at members of the public and police at Parliament Square, London on 14 August 2018. Police said his actions were "deliberate and premeditated." Intelligence sources believe he had a "terrorist motive."



Royal Visit to GCHQ

PRINCE CHARLES VISITS HEADQUARTERS

As part of the centenary celebrations for GCHQ, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, in his role as Royal Patron of the Intelligence Services, visited the Cheltenham headquarters in July. Prince Charles toured the building with the organisation's Director Jeremy Fleming and met representatives of community groups that GCHQ work closely with, and staff at the HQ. The Prince also had the chance to look at various artefacts in the GCHQ Museum, which included intelligence reports and the Royal Codebook. He later signed the visitors book on the desk of John Tiltman, who worked closely with GCHQ in the 1940s and was considered exceptional at cryptanalysis.

Following intelligence-related briefings, Prince Charles delivered a special address to staff; watched a Centenary Flypast from the Red Arrows over GCHQ's iconic 'Doughnut' headquarters trailing red, white, and blue smoke, and later planted a tree -

similar to those found at his private residence at Highgrove - to officially open a Centenary Garden for GCHQ staff promoting mental health and well-being.

"It was an honour to welcome His Royal Highness to our headquarters to commemorate 100-years of GCHQ's crucial work keeping the country safe" said Director Fleming.

His Royal Highness said: "Looking back at GCHQ's unfailing ability to



Red Arrows GCHQ flypast

rise to the challenges of its time gives me every confidence that this country, our freedom and our way of life, will continue to be well served by all of you, no matter what comes at us."



GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming watches Prince Charles sign the visitors book



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

FSB 'SPY PURGE' CONTINUES



Paul Whelan

President, we cannot keep America great unless we aggressively protect and defend America citizens wherever they are in the world," he said.

If convicted, he faces up to 20-years in prison.

DEFENCE SECRETS

In another spy case, a court in Moscow sentenced Polish national Marian Radzajewski, 42, to 14-years-in-prison on charges of espionage. Radzajewski has reportedly been held in custody in Russia since April 2018. FSB officials said they had caught him "attempting to make a deal" allegedly to smuggle secret parts

Moscow's Lefortovsky District Court has extended Paul Whelan's detention until 29 August after his arrest on charges of espionage in December 2018. The former US Marine and corporate security executive was arrested allegedly in possession of a flash-drive containing classified Russian information.

The extension coincides with claims Whelan's life had been threatened by a Russian investigator and that he was being

harassed in custody in an effort to force him to talk.

Andrea Kalan, a spokeswoman for the US Embassy in Moscow, said that officials at the prison, where he is being held ahead of his trial, were blocking human rights activists from communicating with Whelan. 'What are investigators hiding?', Kalan, who has previously complained about a lack of evidence in the case, wrote on Twitter. On 26 June Kalan acknowledged that the US had formally protested to Russia.

Eva Merkacheva, a journalist at *Moskovsky Komsomolets* newspaper and member of the rights council, said that guards at Moscow's Lefortovo prison had prevented her and officials who monitor prison conditions from communicating with Whelan in English.

Whelan has repeatedly denied the charges and insists he journeyed to Russia to attend a friend's wedding. In a recent court appearance, he called upon President Trump to intervene: "Mr

GRU AGENTS IN PLACE

UKRAINIAN CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE

A Ukrainian military officer (Lt. Colonel National Guard) employed in the country's defence sector (Ukroboronprom) has been arrested over suspicion of passing classified information to Russia's GRU spy agency. According to



The unidentified Lt. Colonel

court papers, the man, who was not named, was turned by an agent recruiter of the 316th Intelligence Center of the Main Directorate of the General Staff (GRU). Based in the city of Zaporizhia, he had reportedly journeyed to Russia to make initial contact with his handler in 2014.

After a covert probe by counter-intelligence officers, he was arrested in early July 2019 attempting to cross into Russia. He had reportedly made the journey on previous occasions - all to meet his GRU contact in the Russian city of Voronezh. These encounters were described as "regular meetings." Reports suggest he was first recruited by the GRU



GRU issued driver's licence

when Crimea was annexed by Russia.

SBU (Security Service - Ukraine Intelligence), reportedly discovered on his person, USB memory sticks and cell phones containing classified information. A Russian passport and a driver's licence were also found providing him with a new cover and legend. Officials said the defence contractor had been tasked with obtaining and transmitting "military information which would expose and put at risk Ukraine's defence capabilities." Some of the intelligence is believed

to relate to military defences and types of weaponry used by the Ukraine armed forces. "For this he received payment," an official said.

GRU AGENT JAILED

Another GRU operative arrested by Polish Intelligence, has been jailed on charges of "spying for Russia." Identified only as 'Marek W.', he was arrested in early 2018, after being caught passing classified material to a GRU man in 2015 and much of 2016. At the time he was working in the Economic Ministry.

Polish prosecutors said Marek W. informed Moscow on the country's plans to cut its dependence on Russian gas imports and countering the Nord Stream 2 undersea pipeline that will carry gas to Western Europe - avoiding Ukraine and Belarus.



Paul Whelan is escorted into court

of Russia's S-300 surface-to-air missile system to Poland.

SPY ARRESTS

Earlier this year, President Putin spoke publicly about the FSB's counter-espionage drive. He claimed figures for 2018 revealed "129 staff members [Russian Government and business people] and 465 agents of foreign intelligence agencies were unmasked as a result of special operations." Mr Putin said the spies "have been making every possible effort to get political,

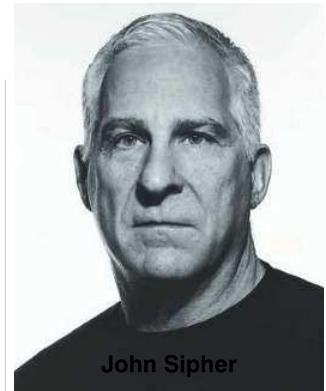
economic, scientific and technical information," this whilst "trying to influence the process going on in our country."



A bloodied Marian Radzajewski is arrested

Few case file examples were revealed: an exception being the jailing of Norwegian citizen Frode Berg.

Putin's claims were rejected by many intelligence people. "Absolutely ridiculous," said former CIA officer John Sipher. He worked for Langley's National Clandestine Service for nearly three decades and was based in Moscow. "If they arrested 600 people, my guess is they arrested 600 innocent people," he said.



John Sipher

Retired 30-year Langley veteran Joseph Wippl, believes those detained and operating on behalf of a foreign power could be counted on one hand. "I guess the FSB is talking about everyone of interest to them: drugs, thugs, environmentalists and Tsarists... they do exist."

Another CIA veteran Charles Goslin said: "An agent implies the contact is recruited. There is a difference here. He called Putin's figures "unrealistic."

THE FOURTH ESTATE

Claims News Collector 'Acted as Western Spy' Refuted

North Korea (DPRK) has released an Australian student who Pyongyang claims acted as a spy whilst engaged as a journalist and international student. Alek Sigley, 29, went missing in June whilst conducting research on life in North Korea. He lived in the capital and helped run a tourist firm, but NK spy chiefs insist this was simply cover for his "other duties to collect information," including

"photographs of locations." His disappearance was soon explained - he had been arrested by counter-espionage officers and questioned.

North Korea's state-controlled media house KCNA, claimed Sigley analysed the materials and on "many occasions transferred the information he acquired from every corner of Pyongyang." This information was allegedly received by DPRK opponents. NK officials said that when they questioned him, Sigley "admitted he had been spying and infringed on its sovereignty." A Swedish* diplomat was asked to intervene by Australia and soon he was "deported on humanitarian grounds."

Some intelligence watchers believe the arrest was linked to President Trump's impromptu visit to the DPRK when he crossed the



Alek Sigley



President Trump meets DPRK Chairman Kim Jong-Un and Republic of South Korea President Moon Jae at the demarcation line separating North and South Korea



demilitarised zone on the Korean Peninsula on 30 June. "They simply did not want Sigley reporting on the matter," one source said.

North Korea has a history of accusing foreigners of espionage, especially journalists whose writings reflect hardship in the country. This is often interpreted as "anti-state copy," according to those familiar with the country.

*Australia does not have an Embassy in the DPRK

INTELLIGENCE HINDSIGHT

LONDON BRIDGE ATTACK INQUEST CONCLUDES



After hearing nearly seven weeks of evidence at the Central Criminal Court in London, the inquest into the 3 June 2017, ISIS London Bridge and Borough Market terrorist attacks has ended. There were mixed reactions from participants and much emotion for the families of the bereaved. Eight people died in the attack and 48 were seriously injured. All three attackers were shot dead within 10-minutes by counter-terrorism officers.

Legal representatives of some victims described the case as a “damning list of intelligence failures.” Gareth Patterson has

been particularly outspoken in his criticism. He said MI5 had “failed to discharge their duty,” in not properly investigating the ringleader of the three-man terror cell, Khuram Butt. “The attack planning was going on for some time and was there to be detected,” he said. “It was eminently detectable and these eight tragic deaths did not need to happen.” However, that’s not how Chief Coroner Mark Lucraft QC ruled the case, nor the opinion of officers in MI5 and New Scotland Yard.

Mr Lucraft said: “My finding is that the pre-attack investigations of MI5 and SO15 (NSY CTC - Counter Terrorism Command)



were generally thorough and rigorous. On all the evidence and in the final analysis, I am not persuaded that investigative

opportunities were lost which could realistically have saved the lives of those who died.” He concluded saying he was “unconvinced” that MI5 and New Scotland Yard missed opportunities to prevent the attack, and refrained from apportioning any blame. However, he did reference the “absence of protective barriers” on the bridge which allowed the attackers to run down a number of people before they moved on to Borough Market where they stabbed several more victims to death. This followed an earlier TAV (Terrorist Attack by Vehicle) incident just ten weeks earlier on Westminster Bridge by Khalid Masood. In that attack four civilians were killed and a police officer outside the Houses of Parliament stabbed to death. “This





The terrorists hire van following the attack. Butt (inset) had wanted to secure a larger vehicle

NSY Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu

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Coroner Mark Lucraft QC

showed a weakness in systems for assessing the need for such measures and implementing them properly," Mr Lucraft said. Just six days after the attack, new security barriers were built on London Bridge and various other locations in the city.

Throughout the inquest attention regularly switched to the MI5 surveillance operation targeting Butt. He became a 'subject of interest' (SOI) as early as 2015, because of his extremist views. But the Service never secured intelligence to link him with his

cohorts Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba - both men did not feature on a watch list; nor too his frequent engagement with other characters and groups known to support ISIS and al-Qaida.

The inquest was told MI5 downgraded its security assessment on Butt just weeks before the attack. One MI5 officer, 'Witness L', told the inquest surveillance on Butt was downgraded because of the severity of other possible attacks. "In all my 28 years, most of which has been in international counter-terrorism, I cannot recall a time as alarming as this," he said.

New Scotland Yard Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, who was in court to hear the verdict, defended the Security Service and police. "Even those closest to the attackers, and we have heard from them during the inquest, knew nothing of their murderous plans. It will never be possible to stop every plot."



The deceased: Alexandre Pigeard, 26, James McMullan, 32, Sara Zelenak, 21, Christine Archibald, 30, Ignacio Echeverria Miralles de Imperial, 39, Xavier Thomas, 45, Sebastien Belanger, 36 and Kirsty Boden, 28

"With regards to the investigation itself, and with the benefit of hindsight, we know certain things could have been done differently. But after careful consideration, the Chief Coroner found that the pre-attack investigation was nonetheless thorough and rigorous, he was not persuaded that investigative opportunities were lost which could realistically have saved the lives of those who died," said Basu.

MI5 too has rejected claims more could have been done to stop the attacks, often citing intricacies and the sheer number of on-going surveillance operations.

Mr Lucraft was critical of the evidence given at the inquest by members of Butt's family, describing them as "not convincing witnesses." He believed they could have done more to notify

the authorities of his extremist views. A telephone call was, however, reportedly made to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline by Butt's brother-in-law warning of his increasingly extremist views. This information was seemingly never passed to MI5 or the relevant counter-terrorism officials in NSY.

Despite seven weeks of evidence, and learning of the enormous numbers on the MI5 watch list, some of the victims' relatives were unconvinced that more could not have been done. Philippe Pigeard, who lost his son, Alexandre, cited the lack of security barriers and "missed opportunities to neutralise" at least one of the attackers [Butt].

TERRORISTS KILLED LAWFULLY

On 16 July an inquest jury ruled all the terrorists had been killed ➤



Philippe Pigeard speaks with the media after the inquest. He believes "opportunities were lost" to stop the attack



All the terrorists were killed outside the Wheatsheaf public house

lawfully after the men ignored several “clear warning shouts to surrender.”

Film footage was released showing the men confronting unarmed police officers and members of the public. In one clip PC Bartek Tchorzewski came within a few feet of the knife-waving men in an attempt to disarm them. The police followed the terrorists further into Borough Market and alerted colleagues by requesting “Trojan” - coded speak for an armed CTC unit. The firearm specialists arrived within minutes. However, by then



NSY Commissioner Cressida Dick (centre) addresses the media following the ‘lawful killing’ ruling

several more people had been killed and injured.

The police noting ‘suicide’ belts on the terrorists waists demanded they surrender, but fearful the men could detonate the ‘explosives’, opened fire. Coroner Mark Lucraft praised the actions of the police and members of the public, and told a jury that the shooting dead of the terrorists was the only viable option and guided them by saying “it was the only safe conclusion in the circumstances.” He said “nothing but lethal force was appropriate.” After three hours the jury agreed.

NSY Commissioner Cressida Dick thanked the jury, and said the incident showed the “best and worst of humanity.” Dick also made reference to the remarkable actions of those unarmed officers and citizens who showed “tremendous bravery,” and to the emergency services who treated injured victims.



Stills from a video taken of the incident showing the attackers being confronted

Eye Spy understands a review has taken place at MI5 on some aspects of intelligence analysis of terrorist suspects.

SPY GAMES AND BLACKMAIL

IRAN MAINTAINS JAILED UK-IRANIAN NATIONAL WAS ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE

As Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe began her third hunger strike in Iran, husband Richard started his own protest outside the Iranian Embassy in London

Nazanin was arrested in Tehran in April 2016 as she was due to return to the UK from a family holiday with her then 22-month-old daughter Gabriella. She was charged with spying and sentenced to five-years in prison. Nazanin vehemently denies any involvement with espionage and has opted to go on hunger strike in Tehran in protest at her treatment and conditions. Iran continues to insist she embarked on a covert UK programme to recruit Iranians and help spread propaganda.

Iran’s ambassador to the UK, Hamid Baedinejad former Director-General for

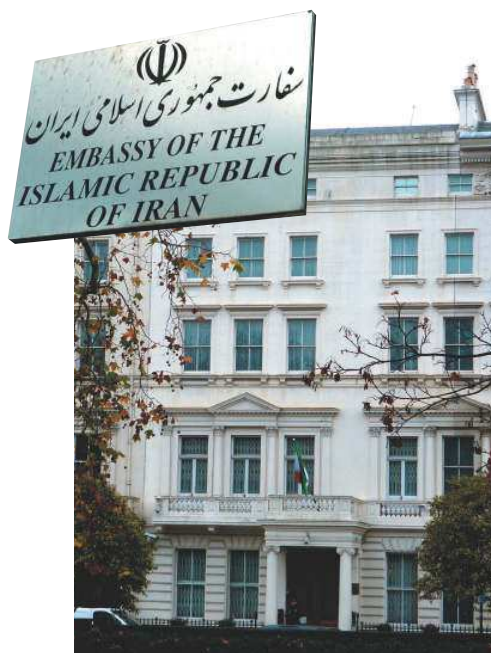
Political Affairs and International Security Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Richard Ratcliffe’s actions outside the Iranian Embassy on Princes Gate, made work for staffers “impossible” and put pressure on diplomatic staff. Thus Iran responded by erecting two large corrugated iron barriers in front of the entrance to the embassy. The ambassador said they were designed to shield staff from being filmed.

Called to answer questions over recent Iranian actions in the Gulf, Baedinejad quickly moved on to happenings outside his embassy. “Mr Ratcliffe was blocking the entrance of our



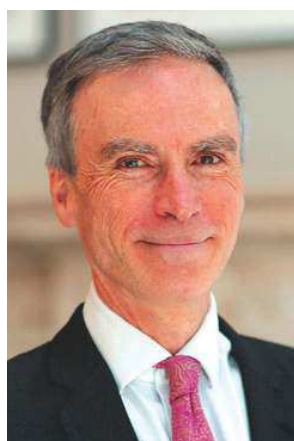
Richard Ratcliffe holds a photograph of his wife Nazanin and daughter Gabriella

© SNAPPER/JACK OF LONDON



Embassy of Iran, London

embassy and the peace of mind of our staff was in complete despair," he said. Baeidinejad referenced "media cameras 18-19 hours-a-day focusing on the entrance of the embassy, so any person going in and leaving is filmed which is totally unacceptable." Iranian officials also claimed important meetings had been cancelled due to the protest.



UK Foreign Office Minister
Andrew Murrison

UK Foreign Office Minister Andrew Murrison, who has been a central diplomatic figure in the recent Gulf meetings to lower tensions, made an appeal for Zaghari-Ratcliffe's



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Seyed Abbas Araghchi, said Zaghari-Ratcliffe would have to serve her sentence, calling Richard Ratcliffe's actions outside the Iranian embassy in London as "blackmail."

Araghchi said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran's judiciary will not be influenced by such acts of blackmail, and those convicted of espionage must serve their terms."

Araghchi also criticised the UK Government's support for the United States: "It appears that the British Government's entanglement with the predicament of Brexit has prevented it from having a correct understanding of the global realities. Immature companionship with America's bully-style measures will result in nothing but an increase in the Iranians' historical aversion to the UK policies."

Historical disputes were also raised. Araghchi called for an immediate settlement of a 40-



Iran Deputy
Foreign Minister,
Seyed Abbas
Araghchi

release on 23 June on his first visit to Tehran. Iran dismissed hopes of a resolution to her situation. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister,



year old debt which is related to the British government's refusal to honour a contract for Chieftain tanks sold to the Shah of Iran in 1976, but never received. Iran pursued it through the courts for years only to be met with UK resistance over whether it was legally able to pay the debt to entities that were subjected to sanctions.

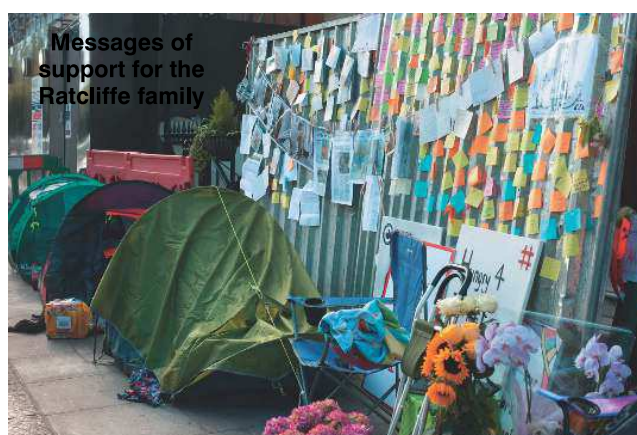
As for Zaghari-Ratcliffe: "She is an Iranian convicted on security charges and is spending her sentence in prison. Iran does not recognise dual nationality."

END OF HUNGER STRIKE

Zaghari-Ratcliffe ended her hunger strike on 29 June by eating a bowl of porridge, a move which prompted her husband to follow suit. She was duly taken to hospital for a check-up. "We certainly got the Iranian diplomats cross," said Richard. "Bringing the problem to their doorstep made them pay attention."



Iran's Ambassador to the UK, Hamid Baeidinejad

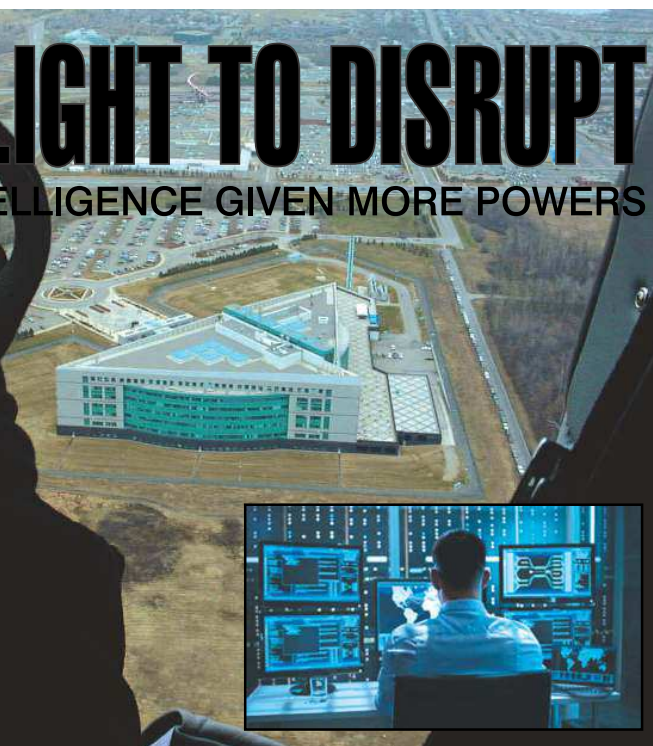


Messages of
support for the
Ratcliffe family

GREEN LIGHT TO DISRUPT

CANADIAN INTELLIGENCE GIVEN MORE POWERS

Aerial view of CSIS headquarters in Ottawa dubbed 'Triangle of Trust'



CSIS Director
David Vigneault

certainly they originate in the Russian Federation. Russia and Canada remain suspicious of each other's agenda in regions such as the Arctic Circle, and have disputed ownership of sea channels.

It is believed CSIS will now draw on more intelligence from the Five Eyes collaboration, thus some commentators believe the mandate is also linked to cyber defence. The law will also enable the Service to better confront any terrorism, espionage or subversive threats - both domestic and foreign in origin.

The new powers have been criticised by human rights' groups in Canada, who believe CSIS has been awarded a 'green light' to tackle problems with little public oversight. The country's Civil Liberties Association Director Cara Zwibel said they are a "fundamental concern." Zwibel said no-one outside CSIS "really knows what they are doing." Zwibel appears oblivious to the fact that CSIS is a secret intelligence organisation.

A new threat reduction mandate first discussed in 2015, has been brought into law, and gives Canada's spy services more powers to take direct action to counter current and emerging threats to the country's security. New amendments to existing laws will allow CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service), to take a wide range of actions and confront any foreign action deemed an "influence measure," widening its current role as simply a collector of intelligence. However, other more direct actions - such as actual engagement of foreign spies and deployment of officers (operational) will still need approval from a judge (warrant). Part of the mandate also includes laws



requiring a person or persons to assist CSIS in carrying out its warranted action. Called Assistance Orders, these could apply to both intelligence collection and disruption actions.

Fearful of interference in future elections and law-making, such as occurred in the 2016 US General Election, intelligence analysts believe the mandate is broad enough to disrupt foreign threats. CSIS spokesman John Townsend

would not reveal the type of action that might follow an external intrusion or operation, but said: "CSIS cannot discuss the precise nature of our investigations. CSIS actively investigates any threats to Canada's democratic institutions and supports the [Government's] collective effort to respond accordingly."

The Government said the new measures will bring Canada in line with other nations who have adopted similar laws.

Sources have revealed intelligence has already been secured that CSIS identified "likely foreign operations targeting democratic institutes." Who they are remains a tightly guarded secret, but almost

THE FASTEST AERIAL SPY

First SR71 Blackbird Pilot Passes

Robert 'Bob' Gilliland, the first pilot to fly the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird spy plane on 22 December 1964, died on America's Independence Day, aged 93. Gilliland had been recruited by legendary aircraft designer Clarence Johnson at Lockheed's famous Skunk Works in 1961.

Known as 'Dutch 51' in the air, Gilliland made dozens of test flights in Area 51. With 6,500 hours of flight time during his career, he still

holds the world record for the most experimental supersonic flight test times above Mach 2 and Mach 3 speeds.



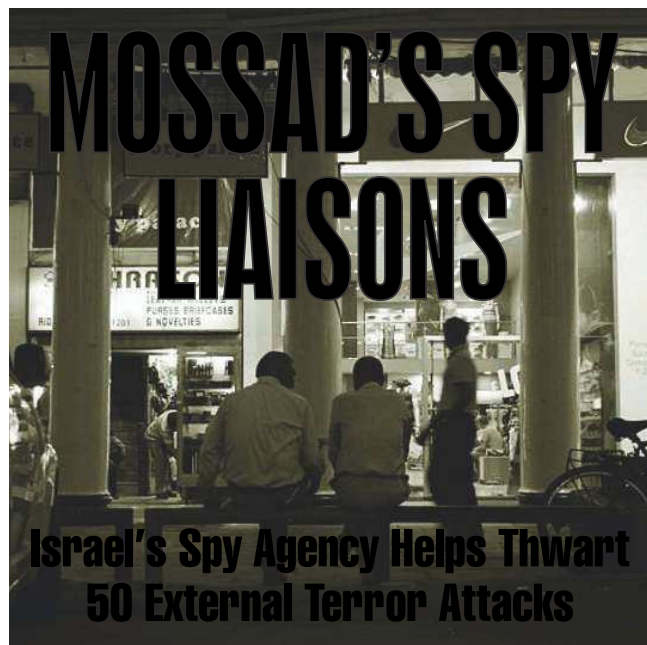
The SR-71 Blackbird project, the first and fastest manned stealth aircraft ever created at the time, was so secret even Gilliland's family didn't know about his



Robert 'Bob' Gilliland and the SR-71

role in developing the SR-71 until the United States declassified a detailed record of the project years later. Two years ago he was inducted into America's Aviation Hall of Fame.

PHOTOS COURTESY GILLILAND FAMILY



Intelligence sources in Tel Aviv said that the Mossad and Israeli Military Intelligence (Aman - part of the Israel Defence Force) had helped prevent fifty terrorist attacks by providing foreign governments and their intelligence agencies with information. Some of the

intelligence was linked to ISIS and Iranian-sponsored groups operating in their respective countries.

One Israeli media house said, "Turkey received Israeli-provided information that enabled its security services to prevent 12



Israeli Military Intelligence Director Herzl Halevi

attacks by Iran and ISIS." The reports did not give details of the exact nature of the attacks or proposed operations. Journalists also emphasised that despite the overt diplomatic hostility between Israel and Turkey, intelligence cooperation between the two countries has remained strong.

Speaking in June, Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke publicly about his country's capability to use cyber intelligence to help prevent dozens of attacks around the world. An example being informing the Australian Government of a planned attack on an UAE airline flight from Sydney to Abu Dhabi. "That plane was not going to be hijacked," said Netanyahu, "it was going to be bombed." Intelligence sources told Eye Spy the information given to Australia was secured by the

Amam's elite cyber agency - Unit 8200.

Also in June, reports emerged that the British security services had discovered three tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored inside disposable ice packs when they raided four properties in north-west London in 2015. A suspect was detained but reportedly released. The derailing of the suspected Hezbollah bomb plot was assisted by information provided by the Mossad. A British intelligence source said: "MI5 worked independently and closely with international partners to disrupt the threat of malign intent from Iran and its proxies in the UK." The foiled operation was linked to a wider terrorist endeavour targeting Israeli interests in the United States, Cyprus and Thailand.



GIFTS FOR COVERT COOPERATION

US State Dept Official Convicted of Espionage

WASHINGTON: Former US State Department official Candace Marie Claiborne, 62, has been sentenced to 40-months in prison for spying for the Chinese Government and misleading FBI investigators.

She was found to have lied to law enforcement and background investigators and to have hidden "extensive contacts with, and gifts from agents of the People's Republic of China, in exchange for

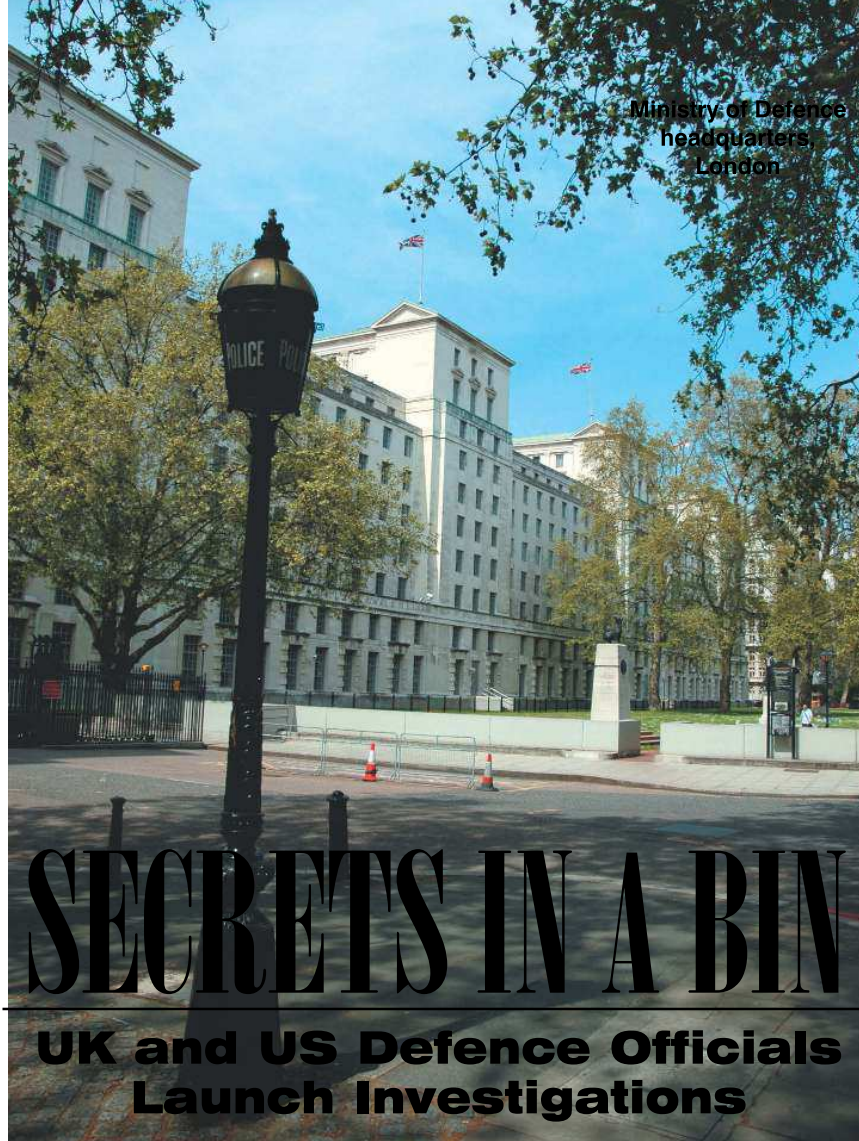
providing them with internal documents from the US State Department," a department spokesperson said.

"Chinese intelligence agents convinced Claiborne to trade her integrity and confidential information of the United States Government for cash and other gifts for herself and her family," Assistant Attorney John General Demers said. "Claiborne withheld information and lied repeatedly



about these foreign intelligence contacts. Violations of the public's trust are an affront to our citizens and to all those who honour their oaths. With this sentencing, justice has been imposed for these dishonourable criminal acts."

As a term of her lenient sentence, Claiborne will also serve 36 months of FBI supervised release and cooperate for a video with the State Department that may be used as a deterrent for current employees.



Ministry of Defence
headquarters,
London



Anthony Glees

Kremlin officials have been handed a bonus. "Porton Down is one of our most secret establishments. A nation that can't keep its secrets is a nation that can all too easily be undermined by a foreign power."

Besides the documents content, the primary fear is that names and other locations linked to the intelligence world could have been lost. The *Daily Star*, newspaper which received the papers, claimed they amounted to thousands of pages.

A Porton Down security officer said the "control of documents is outlined in the Defence Manual of Security known as Joint Service Publication (JSP) 440. The protective measures therein are subject to careful handling procedures and destruction guidelines."

He added the documents should not have been put in a bin risking possible state secrets. He added the Official Secrets Act in this case may have been broken.

The case has been widely featured in the Russian media, both print and television. RT called the case "deeply embarrassing for British Intelligence."

A former MI5 officer who regularly features in intelligence affairs in Russia, and well known to Eye Spy, said if the discovery is true, the documents could have been deliberately left by a whistleblower or even a spy [for collection]. The bin in this case being a dead letter drop.

Ironically, the Porton Down base supports a major Destructor Complex providing waste disposal services to the Dstl and other government bodies. This is used to safely destroy, chemicals, clinical waste, radiological waste, explosives waste and... digital storage media.

Ministry of Defence (MOD) investigators have begun a probe to discover how a number of intelligence and defence files found their way into a rubbish bin. Journalists were tipped-off by a member of the public who noticed certain line headers and agency logos on various papers partly pushed into a recycling bin at a car park in north London.

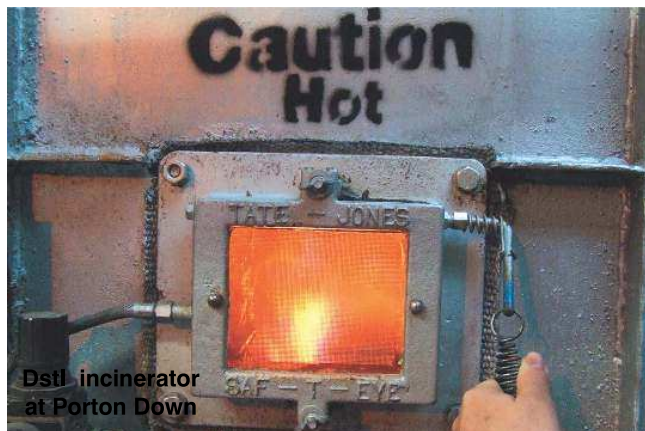
Some of the documents, dated between the late 1980s and just two years ago, are linked to the top secret MOD base at Porton Down, Wiltshire. The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) facility has been in the news of late for its investigative role in the Novichok poisoning of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal. Whilst the full content of the files have not been disclosed, there were references to equipment, guard patrols at the base, and alleged passwords to computers. One document was signed 'Duty Officer' whilst another referenced 'Ministry of Defence'.

A spokesman at the MOD confirmed an investigation had been authorised. "We take the protection of personal data very seriously and we have a range of procedures in place to

do so, including compliance to the Data Protection Act. We also expect third parties who legitimately hold our data to apply similar procedures."

Intelligence specialist Professor Anthony Glees, Director of Buckingham University Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies, said the Russians will be "laughing at us" if the incident is authentic. Calling it a "national disgrace," he said GRU chiefs along with





1,000 TOP SECRET USAF DOCUMENTS

The London incident is not the only case of classified documents being found outside their proper place of storage to make the headlines in recent weeks. The FBI is investigating a case in Fairborn, Ohio, after officers discovered more than 1,000 'Top Secret' marked files originating with the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) at Wright-Patterson AFB.

The residence belongs to Izaak Kemp, a 33-year-old USAF contractor with top secret security clearance who has already admitted copying the files. NASIC is a DOD intelligence section that analyses intelligence on foreign air and cyber threats.

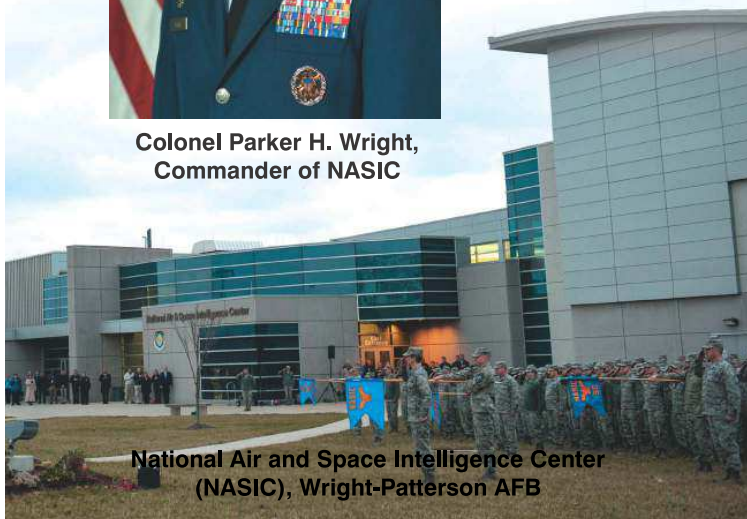
It is believed police focus on Kemp began when he was investigated for growing marijuana. Thereafter following a search, classified documents were discovered headed 'Top Secret Access Programs'. FBI officers and a special USAF investigative unit were called in and more files removed. All were described by Bureau agents as "extremely sensitive."



**Colonel Parker H. Wright,
Commander of NASIC**

Wright-Patterson AFB officials said Kemp was not authorised to take the documents, and their removal would have meant he had to bypass security check-points.

At present there are no legal court records of any crime being recorded, his arrest or charges.

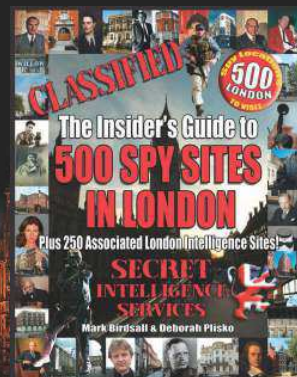


**National Air and Space Intelligence Center
(NASIC), Wright-Patterson AFB**

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During an evening broadcast in late June, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said his security forces had foiled a CIA-Mossad sponsored opposition coup attempt that included plans to assassinate him and his wife and kidnap other top military and political figures. Three alleged cells had been formed and tasked with kidnapping Interior Minister Nestor Reverol, Commander General of the National Guard, assassinating senior government and military man Diosdado Cabello and ex-mayor of Caracas Freddy Bernal. Thereafter former Defence Minister General Raul Baduel would be installed as President. Baduel was arrested on corruption charges in 2009 after falling out with the ruling Socialist Party.



Diosdado Cabello



Interior Minister Nestor Reverol

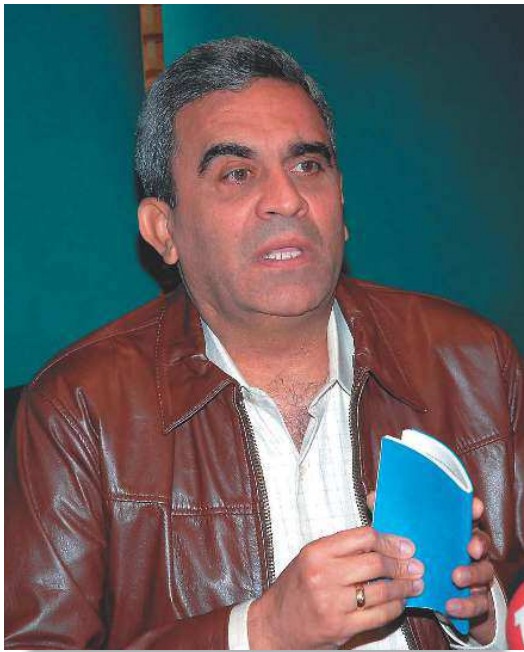
"We have revealed, dismantled and captured a fascist band of terrorists that planned a coup against Venezuelan society and Venezuelan democracy," said Maduro. "They are captured, behind bars, with clear evidence after following this group of criminals and fascists."

Maduro said the plan involved opposition leader, Juan Guaido as well as political leaders from Chile and Colombia - backed by the United States. Guaido, who in January invoked the constitution to assume a rival presidency, called on the armed forces in April to disavow Maduro in an uprising. Guaido is recognised by the United States and many other countries as the rightful President and head of state. Following Washington's support of Guaido, Maduro described US diplomats as "persona non grata" and gave them 72-hours to leave the country. There followed all manner of

violent protests against the government. US Secretary of State and former Director CIA Mike Pompeo said: "The United States does not recognise the Maduro regime as the Government of Venezuela. He does not therefore have the authority to break diplomatic relations." Guaido insisted the US officials should remain.

Venezuela's Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez accused the US and Israel of planning to send agents into the country to help seize key military bases, raid primary





General Raul Baduel

banks of cash to fund the operations and obtain munitions and equipment. He described this as a “terrorist action.” Rodriguez said authorities had also seized 140,000 machine gun cartridges which were destined for the plotters. ➤



Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez

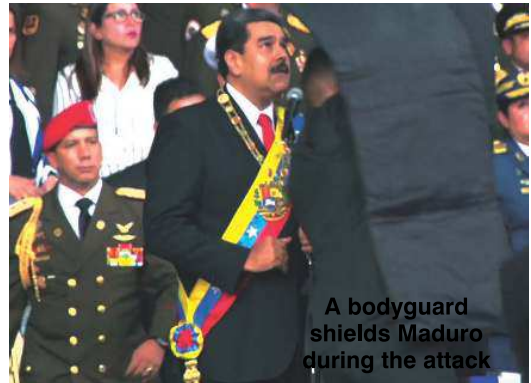


Presidents Nicolas Maduro and Vladimir Putin

2018 MUAV ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

'CREDIBLE SOURCE' CLAIMS ARMY DEFECTORS BEHIND OPERATION

In August 2018, two Miniature UAVs packed with explosives detonated close to Maduro as he addressed armed forces at a parade in Caracas, Venezuela. At the time, some officials described the attack as an “assassination attempt,” organised by the CIA. However, much debate existed that Maduro’s associates staged the incident to bolster support. US National Security Advisor John Bolton agreed. He said the incident gave the government an opportunity to “further crackdown on the opposition.”

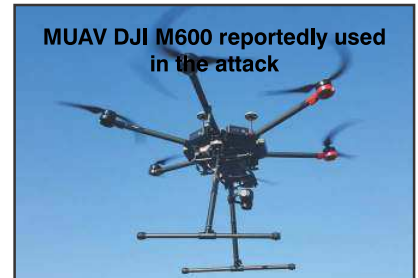


A bodyguard shields Maduro during the attack

Since then one of the alleged “true perpetrators” of the plot claims it was conducted by Venezuelan Army defectors. He told CNN: “We have tried every peaceful and democratic way to bring an end to this tyranny that dresses itself as democracy.” As for the possibility that civilians could have been killed - “that was the risk we had to take,” he said. Several US officials with access to the man’s full commentary and who were allegedly briefed by him, believe the operation was an “authentic attempt to kill Maduro.” A US State Department spokesperson, however, was a little more sceptical and cautioned “the story does not amount to evidence.”



One of the two MUAV's used in the attack caught on camera



MUAV DJI M600 reportedly used in the attack

The primary source said the plan was to fly the MUAVs, which were purchased online and test-flown on a remote farm in neighbouring Colombia, as close to the President as possible and detonate the explosives using a cell phone command. However, signal blockers caused the explosives to “detonate prematurely.” He reportedly provided CNN with video footage of the group test-flying the machines.

Following the incident, several opposition officials were arrested by SEBIN officers. One died just days later. (See Eye Spy 117).



A Venezuelan soldier injured after one of the MUAV's exploded



SEBIN seal and headquarters (building far right)

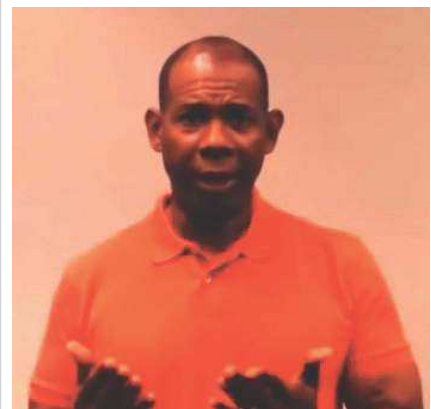
SPY DEFECTOR

One man specifically accused of involvement in the coup is General Manuel Ricardo Cristopher Figuera, 55, Maduro's former spy chief and head of the feared Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN). Guaido is alleged to have paid him thousands of dollars to assist the plotters.

Figuera defected to the United States and supports moves to oust Maduro, but rejects claims he was involved in an assassination plot. He said Maduro is the "head of a criminal enterprise and his own family is involved." Figuera learned his tradecraft in Communist Cuba and since fleeing the country has provided Langley with a list of inner secrets about Maduro's government. These include allowing Lebanese Hezbollah terror cells to

train in the country - all under government protection - hence claims of Mossad involvement in the coup, according to analysts. Israel Foreign Minister spokesman Emmanuel Nashon dismissed suggestions of Mossad involvement as "utter nonsense." Other claims made by Figuera include Maduro's family connection to the illegal trade in gold.

Before defecting, Figuera was one of five key Venezuelan figures placed under US sanctions earlier this year by Washington. He has since been described as "a mercenary, traitor and slave of the Americans," by Venezuelan officials. Figuera, who served just four months as head of SEBIN, was replaced by Gustavo Gonzalez Lopez, a SIGINT (signals intelligence) specialist, who once trained at US Army Fort Benning in Georgia, for 'Psychological Operations'. Lopez had previously held



Manuel Ricardo Cristopher Figuera

the post before mistrust and suspicion about his role in the 2018 MUAV incident at a military parade attended by Maduro. This led to his removal. (See Page 17)

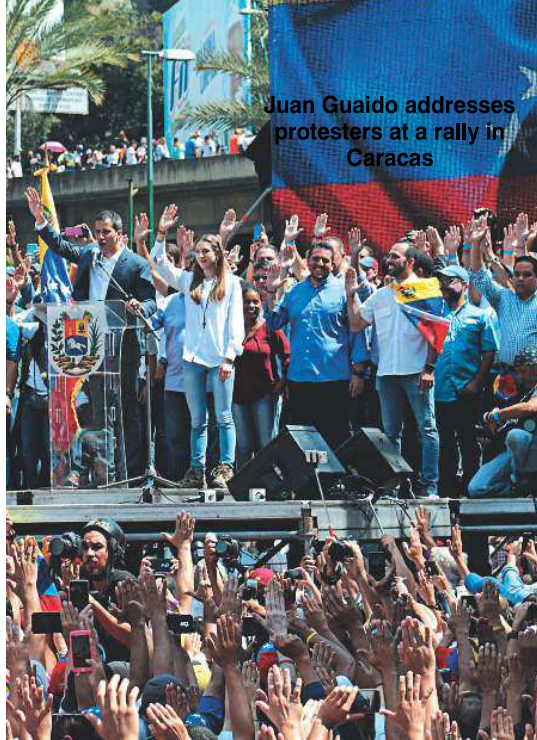
BACKGROUND

After Juan Guaido declared himself interim President in January, Maduro remained the de facto leader. He is supported by most of the country's senior military commanders and the hierarchy of SEBIN. During major protests against Maduro in April and May 2019, dozens of people were arrested and several deaths were reported. Human Rights' activists claim SEBIN duly tortured and imprisoned many opposition figures. Since the tensions, around 250 people have been detained, including several journalists and media houses raided. In April, Maduro ordered that the BBC and CNN should be removed from cable television and the closure of Radio Caracas. Both TV channels remain off air.



February 2019. Presidents Juan Guaido of Venezuela, Iván Duque Márquez of Colombia and US Vice President Mike Pence

Expanded US sanctions has led to a catastrophic economic collapse in the South



Juan Guaidó addresses protesters at a rally in Caracas



January 2019. Nicolas Maduro is sworn-in for a second term following the disputed election in which he won 68% of the vote



Gustavo Gonzalez Lopez

American nation and has fuelled malnutrition and disease, prompting an exodus of the population towards Mexico and the United States border. The armed forces backed by SEBIN have continued to side with Maduro's ruling Socialist Party despite calls by Guaidó to disavow Maduro.

Guaidó said he would continue to call on the armed forces to abandon Maduro - an appeal which has thus far failed to gain him enough

support. "The call we have made and that we will continue to make, is to the military family: that the armed forces put themselves on the side of the constitution," he said.

He dismissed the coup claims as a "new novel by the regime," saying the media had "lost count of how many times the same accusations had been repeated."

Venezuelan authorities recently announced that 17 people had been charged with attempting a coup on 30 April, during Guaidó's failed attempt to inspire an uprising.

INTELLIGENCE MEN AND DEATH SQUADS

A United Nations investigation based on interviews with over 550 people in Venezuela, has uncovered a legacy of "extrajudicial state killings" by a feared police unit known as Special Action Forces (FAES), and a sinister civilian group known as the 'Colectivos'. FAES falls under the command of the National Police and was established by Maduro in 2017, to "combat crime and terrorism."

UN Human Rights' Commissioner Michelle Bachelet said the number of "officially registered" people killed by government forces

in the last 18-months was nearly 5,300. Most perished because of their "resistance to authority." In simple terms, they opposed President Maduro's government. In the first five months of 2019, 1,569 people, described as "criminals" by Maduro officials have been killed. The Interior Ministry said all the deaths were "legitimate" because they had resisted arrest. However, that's not what Bachelet and her investigators discovered.

Within her report, accounts from 20 families who said heavily armed masked men dressed in black and with their faces concealed, had arrived in vehicles with no licence (registration) plates. Described as "death squads," Bachelet said they had forced entry into residences, assaulted families and then separated younger males before shooting them dead. Her report states: *'In every case, witnesses reported how FAES manipulated the crime scene and evidence. They would plant arms and drugs and fire their weapons against the walls or in the air to suggest a confrontation and to show the victim had resisted authority.'*

Bachelet said the evidence reflected Maduro's wider agenda to "neutralise, repress and criminalise political opponents and people who are critical of the government." Following a visit to Venezuela in June, she urged the President to "stop grave rights' violations." Previous reports by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have highlighted all manner of incidents where excessive force, torture, arbitrary detentions and general ill-treatment of those opposed to Maduro have suffered. The term 'state-sanctioned killings' features heavily in reports.

Already this year, 66 people have been shot dead whilst attending street demonstrations. Many were killed by the 'Colectivos', who were given weapons by Maduro. ➤



UN Human Rights' Commissioner Michelle Bachelet

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INTELLIGENCE AND THE COUP

During her research trip Bachelet also probed the death of retired Navy Captain Rafael Acosta Arevalo. He was detained by unidentified armed men along with six associates on 21 June, including two counter-intelligence officers. All simply disappeared for seven days. Bachelet discovered they had been accused of the plot to assassinate Maduro and sent before a military tribunal of the Directorate General of Military Counter-intelligence (DGCIM). Sitting in a wheelchair and unable to speak, Arevalo showed "clear signs of torture" according to his solicitor. He was sent to hospital but died hours later, almost certainly from injuries sustained while in detention [torture]. His family and legal team have been refused permission to see the body. Bachelet urged that the autopsy findings be released, and called on Maduro to "facilitate bringing to justice those responsible for his death." Two DGCIM officers have reportedly been charged with murder, but there is no reference to torture. Intelligence watchers believe that is highly unlikely, due to the prime suspects being associated with SEBIN, that the men will be brought to book. "A show case to elevate Maduro in the public eye as a fair leader," a former CIA analyst told Eye Spy.

A Maduro official did respond to the UN's disturbing findings. He said the report was "selective and openly partial vision." [Sic] He called the eye witnesses and sources "lacking in objectivity."

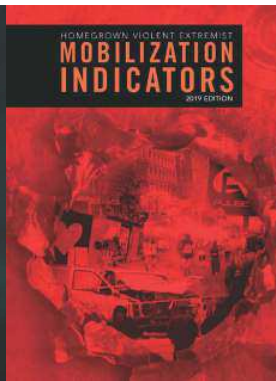
- A United Nations statistic claims an estimated four million people have left the country in the last four years. The inflation rate has now risen an astonishing 2,000,000% in the last two years, despite the country once boasting the largest oil reserves on the planet.



**Retired Navy Captain Rafael
Acosta Arevalo**

SIGNS

US Counter-terrorism Officials Publish Updated Report on Recognising a Person's Journey Towards Terrorism



be everywhere. We count on our partners to identify threats in their communities.”

Analysis of the impressive report shows the FBI have created various groupings to determine the likelihood of a person's intent to commit a terrorist act. Many indicators are explained indepth from

those that are readily observable, to others which seem unusual or out of character. Collectively they form a unique picture and critique of a person's possible journey towards terrorism and a very dark world.

The FBI, together with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and Department of Homeland Security, has published a comprehensive report (available to the public) on a plethora of signs that could signal a person's intent on committing a terrorist act, or that he or she is edging towards involvement.

'Homegrown Violent Extremist Mobilisation Indicators' is an updated version of the 2017 document and contains an explanatory list of 46 behavioural indicators. It was re-released in its current updated form as US intelligence officials continue to warn of a terrorist threat from homegrown violent extremists. The FBI recently revealed its divisional offices are involved with terror-related investigations in 50 states.

The Bureau also recognised that some of the clues to an individual's intent, may “involve constitutionally protected activities.” However, when combined with other activities they may raise suspicions. One example of multi-indicators and factors include the recent case of Syrian-born Mustafa Mousab Aloweme, 21, in Pittsburgh who was charged with plotting to bomb a church in the name of ISIS. He was outed after seeking weapons, recording a video pledging his allegiance to ISIS, printing



Michael McGarrity

out street maps, purchasing nails for shrapnel, chemicals and batteries. These combined with various other actions helped the FBI launch a sting operation in which his intentions became clear.

“The booklet provides our partners with tools to identify concerning behaviour so that it can be responsibly reported to law enforcement,” said Michael McGarrity, Assistant Director of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division. “We can't

From sheltered communications; moving monies; purchasing military-style fatigues and body armour; reading terrorist literature; watching certain social media activities on obscure web sites; Internet searches for groups such as ISIS; praising terrorist actors; guidance on the construction of improvised explosive devices (IEDs); unusual travel patterns and following or commenting on characters already associated with terrorism, the reader of the report can digest the clues which intelligence analysts use to determine if a person has effectively decided to act.

McGarrity revealed that data showed around one in four internationally-inspired plots on US soil were foiled from tips and information supplied by members of the public. And the FBI hope by releasing the report, more concerned or suspicious citizens will be persuaded to assist police in lessening the Homegrown Violent Extremist (HVE) threat to the United States. Most certainly, much of its content is applicable to beyond America and is recommended reading.



CLASSIFIED INFORMATION: IN THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST?

NOTES:



SECRETS AND THE MEDIA

Eye Spy examines the highly sensitive and controversial world of journalism, secrets and the release of materials deemed classified by the intelligence world to the public...

There are few journalists and investigative reporters who will not, at some stage of their career, come across, source, or be offered information that might impact on secrecy rules or fall foul of press regulations or controlling government bodies. The same can be said about leading media houses - all anxious and intent to provide their readers, listeners or watchers with impactful and unique programmes or editorial copy.

But there are pitfalls. What might seem an obscure, mundane or seemingly innocent comment or hard copy (information/report), could quite easily create a firestorm within government and especially the intelligence and defence services, if released. This is even more problematic when delivered without context or the wider implications it might have on national security. History is littered with case examples where classified information or details of secret operations has fallen into the hands of a journalist or media house and is



ultimately published. The *Washington Post's* powerful exposure of the 1972 Watergate complex break-in and WikiLeaks are examples, but cannot be categorised together for the editorial objective was very, very different.

Around that period also, the so-called 'Pentagon Papers' surfaced. This was a secret US defence and intelligence endeavour related to the Vietnam War which offered contradictory and controversial insight and evidence about America's political and military war effort and objectives in Vietnam.





Former *Washington Post* journalists Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward. Both men, in their early twenties at the time, were central to the Watergate expose



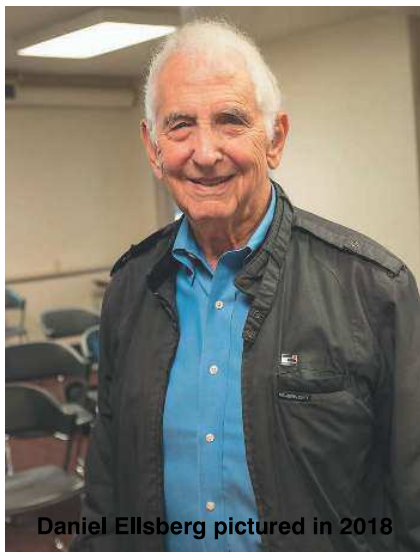
Rockefeller Center, New York City - early wartime location of MI6's British Security Coordination



One man involved with the project, officially known as the 'Report of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Vietnam Task Force', Daniel Ellsberg, provided

journalists with the material, and soon the report found its way onto the front page of *The New York Times* and other publications. He was charged with espionage, theft of government property and conspiracy - charges later dropped. But the story caused no end of problems for the White House.

Alternatively, thousands of intelligence stories have been altered or simply not published on the advice of government.



Daniel Ellsberg pictured in 2018



THE FOURTH ESTATE

Opposite to this is the deliberate supply of sensitive information to certain media houses for the out-sourcing and publication of materials by the so-called 'Fourth Estate'. This is information the intelligence world wants to be read by a wider audience - and there are a multitude of reasons why such a collaboration exists - be it propaganda or 'consumption' by an adversary. World War Two and the Cold War era saw hundreds of examples whereby trusted journalists were used to provide the public with carefully created stories - this whilst concealing an ulterior motive or objective. Sometimes a story is fashioned in a way to cause embarrassment or laced with political innuendo. Either way, controversy is bound to ensue.

There are also case examples that can be found (even within Langley's own library) where the CIA collaborated with journalists to help convince the public and watching world, that its actions were in the public good. And at times this meant the supply of certain edited

and 'crafted' information. But the CIA is not a lone operator in this field of tradecraft.

Anxious to secure the vital support of America in WWII, MI6 launched the biggest foreign intelligence endeavour ever to take place in the United States. The British Security Coordination (BSC) established in the Rockefeller Center, New York City, contacted and liaised with hundreds of key journalists and officials in an effort to convince the US public that America should join Britain to help defeat Nazi Germany. And the deception, disinformation and propaganda programmes - all words which come to mind - certainly worked.

More recently, some editorial copy and reports by investigative authors have created concern in the corridors of power. Former MI6 officer Christopher Steele's probe into Donald Trump's alleged liaison with powerful characters in Moscow was laced with information that could only have been sourced from insiders. However, without revealing the identity of those behind its 'general thrust' or proper referencing, the information was



President Trump speaks to the media. His relationship with certain journalists is acrimonious. Inset: Former FBI Director Robert Mueller

open to criticism and dispute. And Steele himself acknowledges this. As for Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into the entire circumstances, his team failed to corroborate much of the dossier's content. And even veteran 'Watergate' investigator Bob Woodward, described much of its content as "garbage."

This begs the two questions that many senior people engaged in media ask: "What to do with sensitive government information if received? And is it right that the public should be notified if it is considered in their best interests?" There are multiple of questions allied to this: "Is the information truly authentic? And what are the implications if released?" It's a dilemma which sooner or later is faced by editors and owners or controllers of all non-state owned media houses. More on the latter a little later.

ECHELON

Long before the existence of the public Internet in 1988, British investigative journalist Duncan Campbell revealed details of ECHELON - a worldwide top secret National Security Agency (NSA) programme which had the capability to listen to billions of telephone calls from around the world. What followed was a conspiracy theorist's dream - and all manner of public protests followed. RAF Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, which supports the biggest NSA station outside America, became a regular target for protesters - primarily because it was a central component of the ECHELON system.

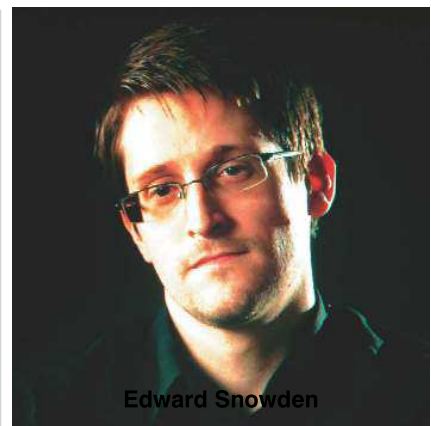
In the years that followed, in political moves to downplay its prowess, it was revealed the programme was only triggered by around 120 key words - all collected by the NSA for national security. Nevertheless, the secret was out. Campbell received much support for his actions by those engaged in the right of free speech and human rights' groups, whilst

intelligence officials questioned his motive. Three decades later, a man called Edward Snowden released thousands of top secret files on ECHELON's successors - further damaging the on-going security operation and basically quantifying Campbell's work and claims.

SNOWDEN AND 'FIVE EYES'

Detail and background of intelligence operations and engagement, as delivered by a single source, can always be disputed. However, when it is supported by a plethora of authentic paperwork or computer files, as in the case of Snowden, then it is difficult to dismiss, especially so if it is stamped with the emotive words 'intelligence' or 'classified'.

Snowden has long claimed his actions were intended to show the public that secret programmes are active in collecting information that is in effect private. What he failed to understand was that by releasing the material,



national security and the lives of many field operators, some engaged in foreign intelligence collection, was now threatened. Russia, China and Iran now had proper insight into how agencies such as the NSA and its counterparts in the 'Five Eyes' alliance, operated. This has also allowed the West's adversaries to circumnavigate many aspects

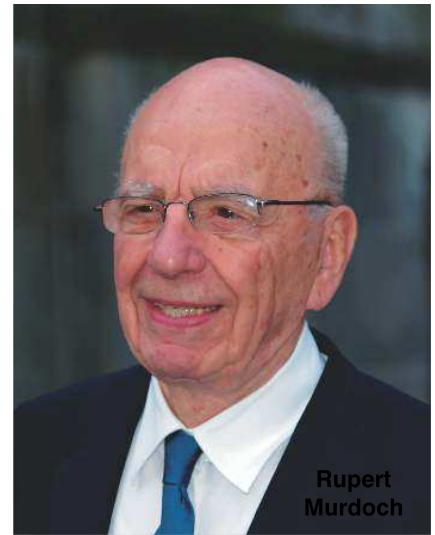


2015. Duncan Campbell at DeepSec In Depth Security Conference - speaking about Edward Snowden and associated topics

RAF Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire. The station is the largest overseas NSA facility in the world and central to its global operations



Annika Smethurst



Rupert Murdoch



1991. Duncan Campbell appearing on the British late-night Channel 4 discussion programme 'After Dark'

of its computer programming and counter-measures to be breached. Since 2013, numerous attempts to hack defence and intelligence systems have been made, some successful and undoubtedly assisted by the information leaked by Snowden. Many argue therefore this was not in the public's interest.

Returning to media 'management' of classified information when received by external sources: is it ever proper to publish? In the United States, all manner of intelligence copy has been published for years, often leading to resignations and legal action. But the USA is far from alone, with breaches occurring in every modern country. And it should be recognised that rules and regulations in respect of what can and can't be published differ greatly in many countries.

Editor's welcome unique information, it is the lifeblood of most media houses. However, mention the word 'intelligence' then it is discussion time.

INNOCENT ERROR?

Of interest, and undoubtedly connected to programmes similar to ECHELON, an incident occurred recently in Canberra, Australia, which saw security specialists raid the home

of journalist Annika Smethurst, National Politics Editor of the *Sunday Telegraph* and other News Corporation Australia publications. Here Australian Federal Police (AFP) investigators spent seven hours at Smethurst's home following the alleged release of classified information. Armed with a warrant, officers examined her computer and other electronic media. The raid was initiated after the Australian Defence Department notified the AFP.

The Canberra operation is being linked to Smethurst's reporting last year of a proposed plan by Australia's Home Affairs and Defence ministries that would grant the country's Australian Signals Directorate (ASD), a 'Five Eyes' operator, new powers. E-mails, text and even bank records could be secured by the ASD if given authority by the two ministries. Users and account holders would be oblivious to the action. Currently, the ASD is not permitted to engage in such operations - only the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) can investigate nationals (with a warrant).



ASD Director-General Mike Burgess. His agency falls under the Defence Ministry which first alerted AFP to the alleged intelligence breach

A joint response to the story came from the Home Affairs and Defence ministries and ASD: "There is no proposal to increase the ASD's powers to collect intelligence on Australians or to

covertly access their private data." And Prime Minister Scott Morrison, supportive of the police action said, "it never troubles me that our laws are being upheld."



Prime Minister Scott Morrison

Perhaps more relevant as to why the raid took place - in Smethurst's report - images were included of a top secret document. Investigating officials will now seek to discover how she obtained the document. "The ASD story is actually secondary in the minds of Australian Intelligence, but the alleged passing of a classified file is worrying," a source close to the affair told Eye Spy.

And just like the Snowden breach, the incident has divided public opinion. Australia's Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, said the security services were looking to "punish a journalist for reporting a legitimate news story that was clearly in the public's interest." News Corp Australia, owned by media magnate Rupert Murdoch, said the police action was a "dangerous act of intimidation" and sends out a "clear and dangerous signal to journalists and newsrooms across Australia."

STATE MEDIA

A plethora of state-owned media houses still exist in countries such as Russia, China, Iran, North Korea and elsewhere. Other media organisations in numerous countries are similarly attached or have strict rules on what can and can't be published. All have political, intelligence and security liaisons, some



The use of trusted sources is a regular occurrence in both the intelligence and media worlds

operating in the guise of specialist editors. And the output of most content is strictly controlled and monitored, despite governments claiming they are free to act independently. Interestingly, some of the content is undoubtedly intelligence-related or provided by government. In this case it is viewed by foreign office desks and agencies such as the CIA with suspicion, analysts believing it is tantamount to propaganda, unreliable or simply too supportive. Nevertheless, its content is still closely examined and often provides clues to a hidden agenda, future planning or the policy of a government or regime. As was the case when two oil tankers were attacked in the Gulf of Oman on 13 June 2019. In this case the CIA and US Defense Department output convincing evidence of Iranian involvement. However, all media houses in Iran were supportive of its government and dismissed the allegations - outputting contrived stories which were unconvincing. (See page 54)

Whilst many of Iran's media houses are private and publicly owned, they are subject to all manner of censorship. Similarly, by law, they must never criticise the government; if they do so they risk having their licences to operate revoked.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Controversially, there are also case examples where some governments act with force to target media houses which are considered a threat to national security or have in their possession intelligence files obtained without permission.

In 2013, amidst the Snowden affair, GCHQ technicians and officials met at the headquarters of the *Guardian* in London. GCHQ people watched as the newspaper's editors destroyed computer hard-drives used to store thousands

of intelligence files leaked by Snowden. The move followed the UK Government's warning that '*explicitly threatened the paper with an injunction*', the *Guardian* reported.

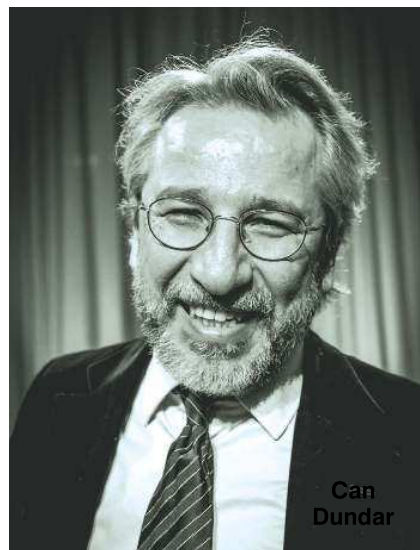
In 2015, well known Turkish journalists Can Dunder and Erdem Gul were arrested after their newspaper, the *Cumhuriyet* showed film stills of the country's intelligence service MiT - allegedly sending weapons to fighting factions in Syria. Dunder has since lived in exile in Germany. *Cumhuriyet* was awarded the Reporters Without Borders prize for the actions of its "independent and courageous journalism."

A more recent case occurred in Turkey in 2016, during the state of emergency when an attempted coup d'etat failed. Security officials raided the offices of *Zaman* in Istanbul, the country's biggest newspaper. *Zaman* supposedly was "too close" to Hizmet, an organisation headed by US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who fell out of favour with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He accused Hizmet of being a terrorist organisation. The government effectively seized control of the newspaper and purged numerous other independent media houses. There were also many journalists arrested.



Zaman's Editor, Abdulhamit Bilici (left) responded by saying "it was not possible to silence the media in the digital age." And many in the media

world believe he is correct. If a story or report is banned in one country, yet the author or journalist is determined it should be published, then it is likely to appear elsewhere or probably on the Internet.



Can Dunder



The Guardian offices, London



Erdem Gul and Can Dunder

However, even in the West some media platforms have specialists with close links to government bodies. This has led many freedom of speech supporters to cry "double standards," suggesting it is acceptable to publish intelligence content only when it suits.

UNDERSTANDING INTELLIGENCE

Receiving intelligence-related files from so-called 'whistleblowers' is also a dilemma for journalists - for the giver is usually a person who has a personal agenda - even though most argue that it is being done for the good of the public, i.e. Snowden. Some intelligence watchers believe such acts are tantamount to espionage, and indeed, there are case examples of individuals being charged with the offence.

Spy agencies argue that journalists are not in a position or sufficiently qualified to understand a classified document's content, or the wider implications of the release of government security material. In many cases this is true - for often there are hidden objectives within the content, or links to operations, secret offices and in some cases, spy networks. The sensitivity of a document is usually flagged by its classification, but not always. Similarly, some contain distribution lists allowing an insight into its wider importance and individuals associated with its content.



ADVICE AND COOPERATION

And it would be impossible to reflect or comment upon the publication of intelligence and security material, without making reference to Britain's Defence Advisory (DA) Notice system operated by the Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC).

The organisation states: 'DPBAC oversees a voluntary code which operates between the UK Government departments which have responsibilities for national security and the media. It uses the Defence Advisory (DA)-Notice System as its vehicle. The objective of the DA-Notice System is to prevent inadvertent public disclosure of information that would compromise UK military and intelligence operations and methods, or put at risk the safety of those involved in such operations, or lead to attacks that would ➤

Eye Spy Editor Mark Birdsall pictured with former D-Notice Committee Chairman Nick Wilkinson at the Ministry of Defence discussing forthcoming features and future relations, shortly after the launch of the magazine in 2001.

In 2009, Nick Wilkinson wrote the important book *Secrecy and the Media: The Official History of the United Kingdom's D-Notice System*, which provided an insightful look at the engagement of the intelligence and media world



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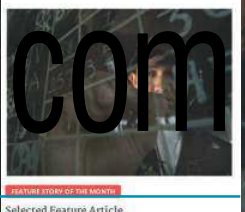
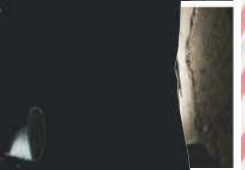
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Protesters at a Bradley Manning-Julian Assange rally in the United States

damage the critical national infrastructure and/or endanger lives'.

When officials believe an emerging news story or event may impact on national security, editors from all leading media platforms are advised on its content, and prior to publication should seek advice. Eye Spy too receives such 'guidance communications'. A brief example was the expected appearance of intelligence officers at an inquest - some whose name might surface.

However, many conspiracy theories exist over its exact role, including its power to censor by issuing a so-called 'D-Notice'. Few proven examples exist. The DA Office, which is over a century old and based at the Ministry of Defence in London, can be used to test, question and quantify the sensitivity of materials received or intelligence-related features in the planning: be that from a source, external news agency (foreign-based) or investigation. It is a system Eye Spy supports.

When such liaison takes place, 'consultation' and indeed, 'guidance' are words used by

intelligence and media figures alike if discussing a proposed project. In all cases involving national security and intelligence, to avoid conflict, engagement should be made. However, some editors are fearful that any communication may lead to an injunction.

Whilst such bodies as DPBAC operate within the UK, they are virtually powerless to stop publication overseas, and even more so on the Internet. In the last decade numerous new intelligence-related investigative media houses have emerged. Some of the websites openly endorse the publication of leaked intelligence files - WikiLeaks being perhaps the most recognised. However, they are far from alone. This of course is a major concern to the intelligence world - and with millions of staffers operating machines containing so many state secrets - some believe leaks are inevitable. US Army Intelligence analyst Bradley Manning (now Chelsea) is a good example. She gifted over half-a-million variously classified documents and cables to WikiLeaks. As for the reason she chose to betray her country, Manning said: "There were two worlds. The world in America, and the



world I was seeing [in Iraq]. I wanted people to see what I was seeing."

THE CONTENT

New counter-measures to deter such breaches are in place, but senior intelligence officials from many countries acknowledge that a determined employee intent to secure classified web-based files, will always find ways to circumnavigate security. One US intelligence official told Eye Spy: "Defence, intelligence, indeed most government computer-housed files are vulnerable, and naturally their content is of immense interest to the media... especially so to those who operate in countries deemed 'adversaries'. Even if they choose not to publish, there are many Internet sites, some obscure, that will."

Perhaps relevant to this overview are documents dubbed 'The Spy Cables' secured by Al Jazeera's 'investigative unit'. In 2015, amidst on-going talks and negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme, the media house began publishing selected files from the Mossad, CIA and MI6. Within, some documents that opposed the view of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who maintained Iran was "absolutely intent on securing a nuclear weapon." Al Jazeera editors said the intelligence files opposed "Mossad's formal assessment of Iran's nuclear capacity and intentions differed from the scenario outlined by Netanyahu at the United Nations." The affair caused great alarm in Israel.

As for how the media house actually secured the material is a little unclear, though some of the Mossad files were allegedly shared with South Africa.

Al Jazeera journalists said it was "in the public's interest" to publish. And that's a cover phrase which has been used for decades in the ongoing feud between the intelligence and media worlds.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Twenty years ago DA Chairman Nick Wilkinson told Eye Spy Editorial: "If in receipt of intelligence or security material... always think before you print, it might not be in the public's interest and could have implications for national security... seek guidance." It is a policy this magazine continues to adopt.



The decision to publish sensitive materials provided by 'intelligence sources' is often a difficult one for editors and media house owners to make

IRAN'S JAMES BOND



Tehran Moves to 'Paint' MOIS as Heroes

Strange but true, the public in Iran have been captivated by a new television series portraying the role of a determined group of Iranian counter-intelligence officers, thwarting foreign spies and identifying and jailing corrupt officials. Just as interesting, each case tackled by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps-controlled agency - MOIS (Ministry of State Intelligence and Security), is said to be based on real-life case files. Even stranger, the central character features an Iranian-American national, who producers say is based on *Washington Post* journalist Jason Rezaian, who was jailed in 2015 after being convicted of espionage.

Rezaian, who was released around 18-months later in a prisoner exchange, is currently engaged in a legal case with Iran, and is suing the country. He said he was used as a "political pawn" at the time as Iran and the West engaged in nuclear negotiations. During his captivity in the notorious Evin prison controlled by the IRGC, Rezaian said he was



President Hassan Rohani

"tortured" during long interrogations as they attempted to secure a confession to the espionage charges.

The first episode of the series, called *Gando*,* features the son of a government official. He is seen flying on a commercial aircraft which Iranian jets force to land. Confronted at an airport by agents, he opened his suitcase which is full of gold - and thereafter desig-



Journalist Jason Rezaian, with former US Secretary of State John Kerry

nated a spy. One agent turns to his colleague and says: "There are so many involved. If I tell you their names you'll be shocked. They were supposed to be role models of our country."

Another episode covers the activities of a female MOIS agent who infiltrates a conservationist group. This seems linked to the real year-long detention of eight environmentalists held on spy charges in Iran.

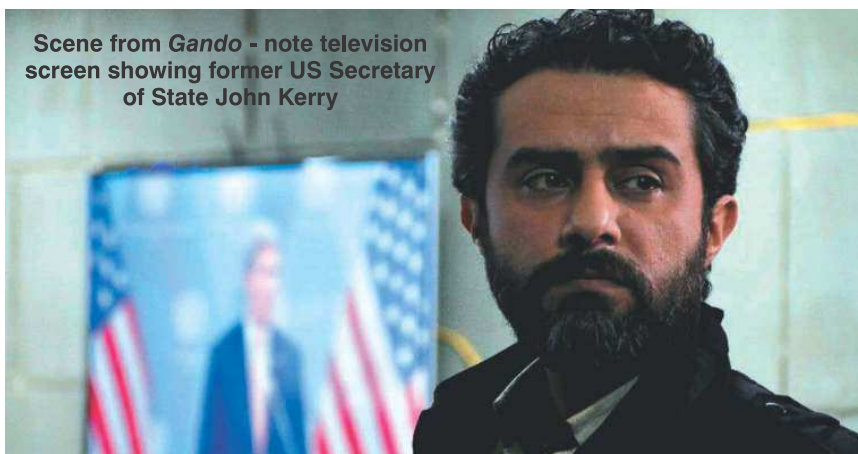
As for the Rezaian story-line injection, producer Javad Ashfar said the information came directly from MOIS and the IRGC. The series was ordered by representatives of the Martyr Avini Centre, which has direct threads with state-controlled media house Basij Centre.

Western intelligence officials, some who have actually monitored the broadcasts, believe the series has been produced to reflect Iranian public concern of President Hassan Rohani's government. "This is all about telling the public everything wrong in Iran at the moment is due to outside influence," an intelligence watcher said. This view is supported by academics, including senior fellow Saeid Golkar on Iran policy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. He said it is a product of the IRGC to shape the narrative and blame foreigners for the country's problems."

However, Presidential Advisor Hessamodin Ashna and Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi have both voiced anger at Iranian state television for airing the series. They claim it shows the government in a "very bad light" and "does not correspond to reality." Ashna also claimed some funding for the series came from outside Iran with the sole intention of weakening Rohani.

Despite adverse commentary, viewing figures released in Iran show *Gando* is popular.

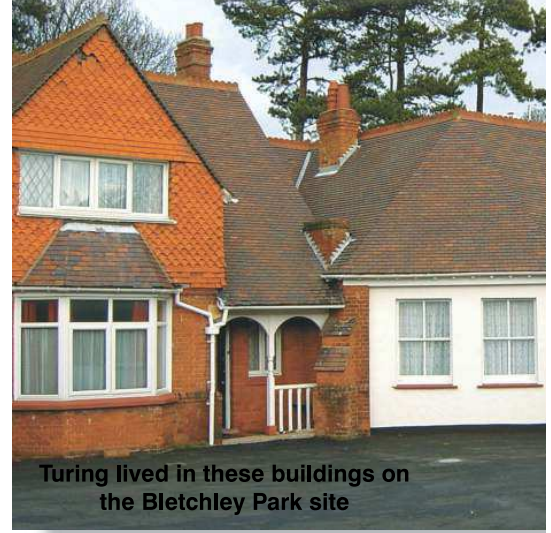
* *Gando* is a crocodile known for its patience and willingness to "wait for opportunities."



Scene from *Gando* - note television screen showing former US Secretary of State John Kerry

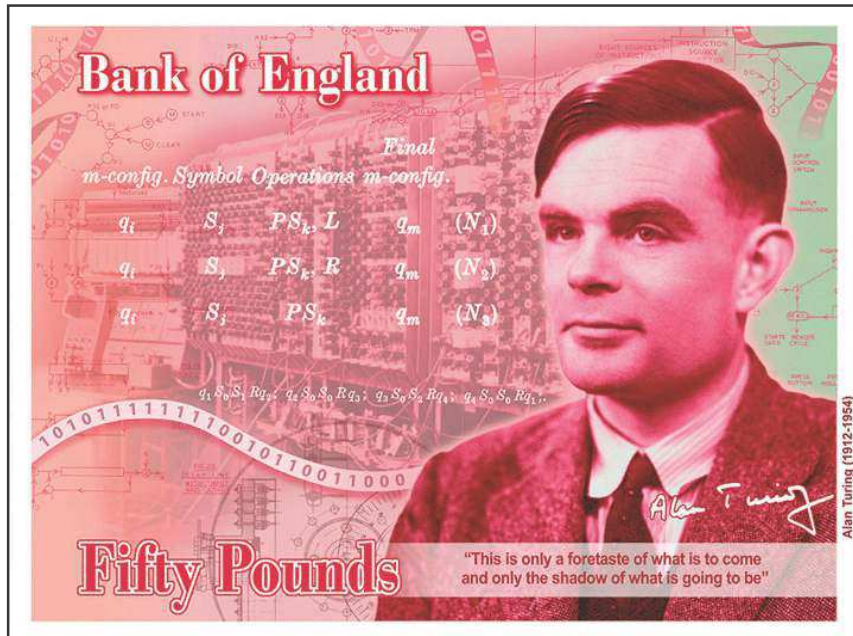
ALAN TURING

WWII CODEBREAKER HONOURED



Turing lived in these buildings on the Bletchley Park site

© BANK OF ENGLAND



New Face on £50 Note Announced

The Bank of England has confirmed that the brilliant WWII Bletchley Park codebreaker and computer pioneer Alan Turing, will be featured on the new UK £50 note.

Turing, who was born in London in 1912, helped accelerate the defeat of Germany by cracking Berlin's enciphered Enigma codes. Military historians recognise that his achieve-

ments and that of his colleagues saved millions of lives. Not so well celebrated is his work on the development of early computers at the National Physical Laboratory and University of Manchester. However, many consider him to be the father of computer science and artificial intelligence (AI).

A shortlist was drawn up by a committee which included scientific representatives

before the governor made the final decision. They included Mary Anning, Paul Dirac, Rosalind Franklin, William Herschel and Caroline



Mark Carney

Herschel, Dorothy Hodgkin, Ada Lovelace and Charles Babbage, Stephen Hawking, James Clerk Maxwell, Srinivasa Ramanujan, Ernest Rutherford, Frederick Sanger and Alan Turing.

"Alan Turing was an outstanding mathematician whose work has had an enormous impact on how we live today," said Bank of England Governor Mark Carney. "As the father of computer science and artificial intelligence, as well as a war hero, Alan Turing's contributions were far ranging and path breaking. Turing is a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand." Mr Carney said his legacy continued to have an impact on science and society today.

Iain Standen, Chief Executive of Bletchley Park Trust welcomed the news: "It is a fitting tribute to the life of Alan Turing. During WWII, he and a team of like-minded men and women, played a crucial role at Bletchley Park."

Turing's nephew, Sir Dermot Turing, said: "I am touched by all those who nominated Alan. I hope the news will inspire more people to



Iain Standen



Alan Turing (far left) pictured with fellow Bletchley Park codebreakers



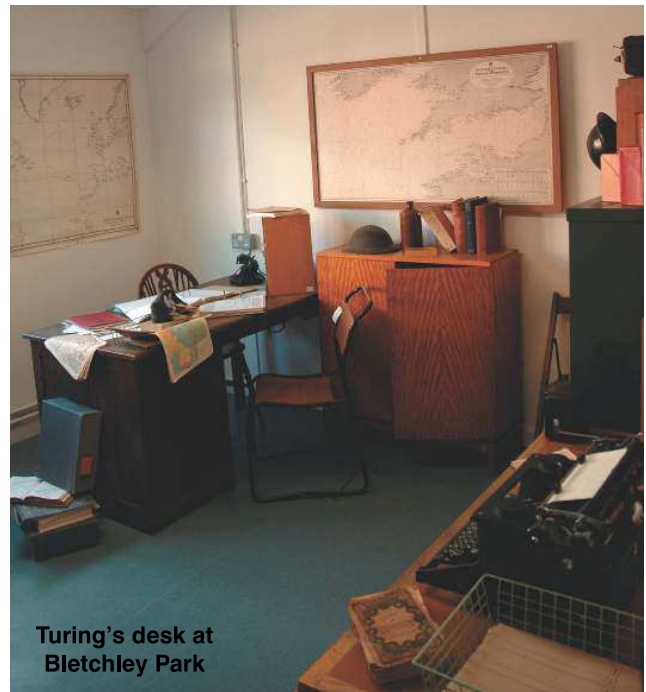
learn about his story and contribution to computer science.”

Turing's life changed forever in March 1953, when he was convicted of gross indecency for his relationship with a man. This effectively ended his government role. Sadly he committed suicide a year later. In 2009 he received a pardon.

The new polymer £50 note is expected to enter circulation in 2021. It uses a portrait of Alan Turing painted in 1951 by Elliott & Fry, which is currently on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London. It also contains a table diagram and instruction sequence from Turing's 1936 research paper titled '*Computable Numbers*', which laid the foundations for modern computing. Also included are technical drawings of the British Bombe cryptographic machine used to help crack Enigma.

GCHQ EXHIBITION

News of the announcement coincides with the opening of a new GCHQ exhibition at the Science Museum in London. Titled '*Top Secret: From Ciphers to Cyber Security*' the event explores 100-years of artefacts and information related to

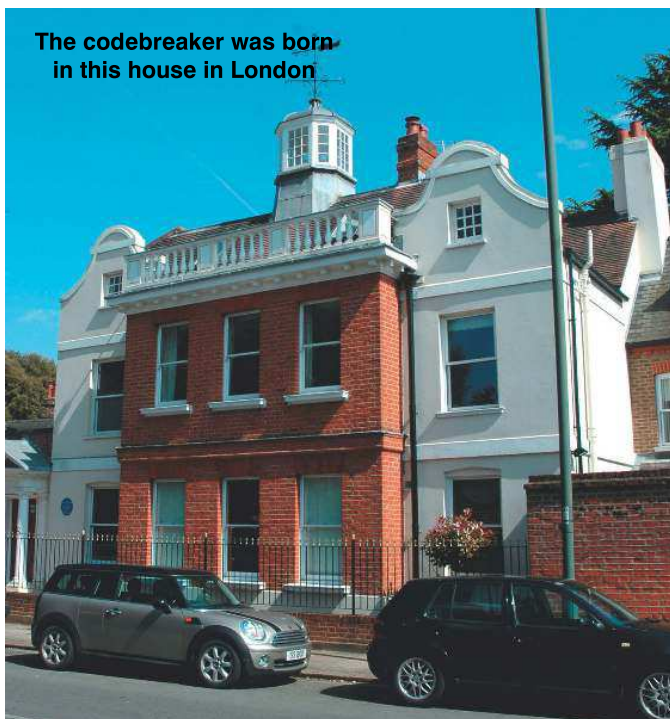


Turing's desk at Bletchley Park



Turing always chained his cup to a radiator to stop colleagues from using it!

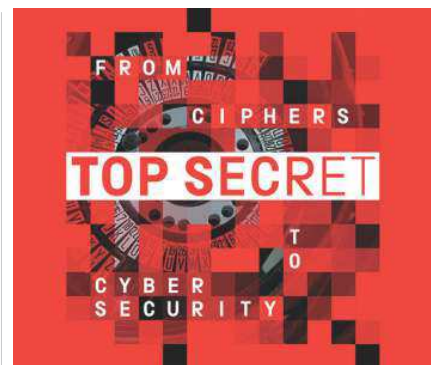
The codebreaker was born in this house in London



the organisation, its people and operations.

Jeremy Fleming, Director GCHQ said: "This unique collaboration between GCHQ and the Science Museum is a great way to mark our centenary and give visitors previously unseen insights into how GCHQ has helped protect the UK over the past 100 years.

"For the first time the public will be given a glimpse into our secret history of amazing intelligence, world-



leading innovation, and most of all brilliant people. And - as the threats to the UK become more diverse and more complex - it's a chance to encourage the next generation of recruits. Because at GCHQ we believe that with the right mix of minds, anything is possible."

Alan Turing worked for GC&GC the forerunner of GCHQ. Some of the displays on show at the exhibition are of course associated with him and the codebreakers of Bletchley Park.



Dutch prosecutors lodged charges against four suspects on the basis of extensive evidence collected by the MH17 Joint Investigation Team (JIT), which includes representatives from Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, Ukraine and the Netherlands. Three Russians, named as Igor Vsevolodovich Girkin, 48, Sergey Nikolayevich Dubinskiy, 56, and Oleg Yuldashevich Pulatov, 52, and Ukrainian Leonid Volodymyrovych Kharchenko, 47, have all been placed on national and international wanted lists. International arrest warrants were subsequently issued.

The Boeing 777 was downed by a Russian-made 9M38 surface-to-air missile launched from a Buk TELAR system on 17 July 2014, as it crossed eastern Ukrainian airspace while travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. The tragedy was doubly shocking because it occurred so soon after the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. Many of the MH17 victims were Dutch but there were also 38 Australians and ten Britons who perished.



Three Russians and a Ukrainian have been charged with causing the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in 2014 and the murder of its 298 passengers and crew. Eighty children were amongst the victims

The Dutch Public Prosecution Service allege the four men, all known to the wider intelligence world, cooperated with Russian Army elements to help obtain and deploy the system - ultimately used by Russian separatists. In previous months during the Ukraine crisis, several Ukrainian Air Force aircraft were targeted and a number brought down. Some observers, supportive of the action, believe the rogue element thought MH17 was a "legitimate military target."

INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND PRIME SUSPECTS

Video and images posted on social media, plus supportive intelligence from various countries, helped the JIT conclude the Buk missile that downed the Boeing 777 was provided by a Russian army unit. However, the prime evidence came from forensic examination of recovered debris. Australian Federal Police Commissioner Peter Crozier described the JIT endeavour as "one of the most complex criminal investigations ever to be conducted."

Investigators said the missile, fired from an area under the control of Russian separatists, was sourced from the 53rd Anti Aircraft Missile Brigade based in Kursk in the Russian Federation. Sergey Nikolayevich Dubinskiy, one of the men charged, is a senior GRU man who once headed the intelligence section of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and is charged with transporting the Buk system to a location



Igor Vsevolodovich Girkin - 'Strelkov' (right and inset)



Dutch Prosecutor Fred Westerbeke

just outside the village of Snizhne on the very day of the attack. Girkin, also known as 'Strelkov' and 'Perviy', a former GRU colonel, was identified as the commander of the Russian separatist unit which received the weaponry. Oleg Pulatov, one of the other men charged, is also a former Spetsnaz-GRU intelligence man and served as Deputy of Intelligence for the Donetsk People's Republic.

As for the role of Ukrainian Kharchenko, a GRU reconnaissance specialist who used the codename 'Krot', unofficial sources say he was instrumental in the arrival, deployment and departure of the Buk system.

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU - Ukrainian Intelligence), almost certainly aided by external Western agencies, probably NSA and GCHQ, intercepted telephone and cell phone calls requesting Russian support for the Donetsk fighters. Around 150,00 were received by the JIT, and a few contained crucial information connected to the shootdown. In one call, Girkin spoke directly to a Russian military contact. A transcript of that conversation was released in which he states: "If there is no large scale support to



Emergency workers at the crash site of MH17



The JIT investigative team and senior legal officials reveal their findings

arrive, we will be strangled. We are outnumbered by the enemy. If Russian air cover or artillery support is not dealt with we will not be able to hold ground. We need anti aircraft artillery, we need decent anti aircraft defence." [Sic]

On 11 July, just days before the MH17 strike, another taped conversation "indicated" the requested support was being delivered. This involved the 53rd Brigade and two individuals suspected of involvement and delivery of the Buk missile system. On one end of the line ➤



Sergey Nikolayevich Dubinskiy



Oleg Yuldashevich Pulatov



Leonid Volodymyrovych Kharchenko



Buk SAM vehicle of the same 'family' operated by the 53rd Anti Aircraft Missile Brigade



AFP investigator David Nelson

'Orion' - Oleg Vladimirovich Ivannikov. CIA analysts knew Ivannikov was Andrei Ivanovich, a senior GRU intelligence officer. The other person used the name 'Delfin'. He was identified as Colonel General Nikolai Fedorovich Tkachev, Chief Inspector of the Central Military District of the Russian Federation. The JIT said the Buk system was discussed.

Lead Australian Federal Police investigator David Nelson, head of the JIT, said these men

were not charged because "we are gathering more evidence about others involved." He acknowledged further names might be added to the wanted list, including those connected to the actual firing of the missile. One such person, designated 'Lieutenant X', is attached to the 53rd Brigade. "That individual is one of a number of people who could give us greater insight into what happened... and the identity of the [firing] crew," said Nelson. He has been named by various journalists.

Chief Dutch Prosecutor Fred Westerbeke believes Russia was directly implicated. He believes that Moscow knew what happened within 24-hours, but failed to inform anyone. In respect of the suspects, Westerbeke said: "This is just the start of criminal proceedings, finding the perpetrators has been complicated. The suspicion is they closely cooperated to get the Buk, put it in position, and to prepare it for the shoot down of the plane. Therefore they are suspects together."

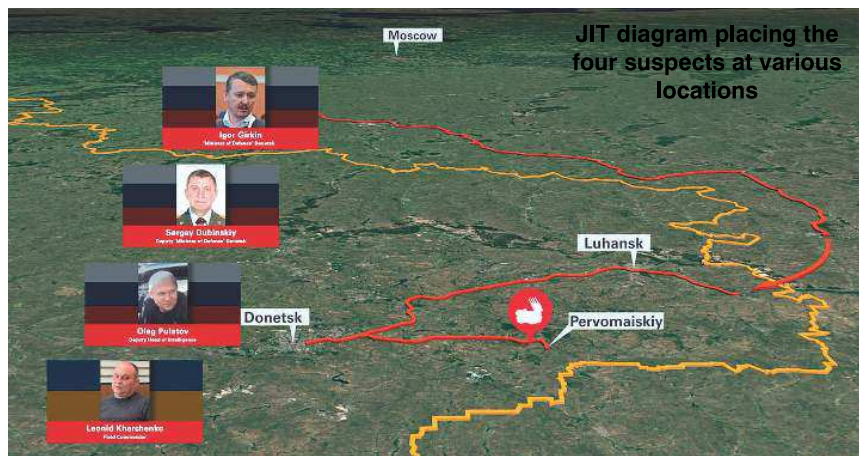
A press conference in the Netherlands showed how video and images posted on social media were first used to establish a unique finger-



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte discussed the JIT findings with Russia's President Putin at the recent G20 Summit in Japan

print that showed not only which missile launch platform was used in the attack, but the actual route it took to get to eastern Ukraine. The investigation compared the information from social media with images from sources such as Google Street View to help establish the route and unique tell-tale signs of the vehicle to confirm its identity.

Whilst the released JIT evidence is convincing, sources close to the investigation acknowledge that not all has been disclosed; other information is still being obtained.



JIT diagram placing the four suspects at various locations



2016. Major General Igor Konashenko pictured in Syria



- 1.** Paint samples are taken from a Buk missile and compared with paint from recovered missile fragments. **2.** The warhead section of a Buk missile which contains the explosive. **3.** Buk missile used to compare fragments found at the site.
- 4.** 'Venturi' located at the rear of the Buk missile. JIT investigators found this amongst debris at the crash site in Ukraine.

As for bringing those responsible to justice, it's highly unlikely the three Russians named will appear in court.

Commenting on the JIT report, Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Major General Igor Konashenko questioned the impartiality of the investigation. "May I remind [everyone] that the data presented in the briefing by the investigation team had two main sources -





Investigators search the debris fields

the Internet and the Ukrainian special services [SBU]. On this basis I have my doubts." Russia has consistently denied any involvement in the attack and Konashenko reiterated that "no Buk system has ever crossed the Ukrainian border." Some Russian critics of the investigation also claim the intercepted telephone calls were "tampered with to mislead." That's not how Holland's Chief Constable Wilbert Paulisson views the situation. "Even though they have not pushed the button themselves, they [Russia] are just as punishable." JIT investigators say their case does not rely on the Russian response.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte also revealed he spoke to Russia's President Vladimir Putin about the JIT's MH17 findings at the recent G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan. Asked about what transpired, Mr Rutte said: "I cannot say anything about it. The discussions must remain confidential."

Despite the evidence, and acknowledging MH17 was brought down by a missile, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said he still "does not believe Russia launched the missile." He also blamed Moscow's



accusers of "scapegoating Russia for political reasons." Mr Mohamad said from the very beginning "Russia was guilty without any proof being presented. It is difficult for us to accept that." Intelligence sources point out that the premier has a history of anti-West sentiment. For his part, Mr Putin said he "completely disagrees" with the evidence. "It proves nothing," he said. "They [JIT] have already made their mind up who is guilty. We cannot accept such an approach to an investigation. There is absolutely no proof."

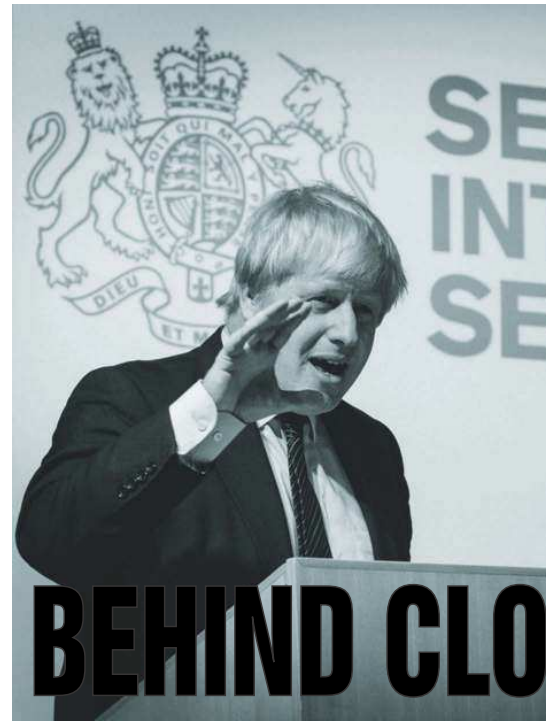
As for the Ukraine Government, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called the evidence "definitive" and urged Moscow to "acknowledge its responsibility for supplying the arms and cooperate with the investigation."

Fred Westerbeke summed up internal JIT opinion. "The possibility exists that the suspects wanted to shoot down a military plane instead of a passenger flight. Even if that was the original plan, we do hold them responsible for the downing of Flight MH17."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The constitutions of Russia and Ukraine do not allow its nationals to be extradited, thus the JIT never formally requested this. The primary suspects trials will start in March 2020 before the District Court in the Hague. An Eye Spy Dutch source familiar with the case said it was "most likely the men will be tried in absentia." And if they are convicted, Interpol would probably issue arrest warrants, meaning they face arrest if they ever leave Russia.

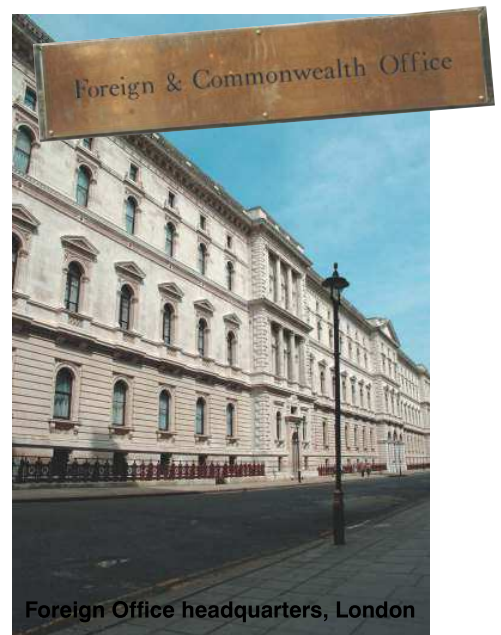


2018. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad with President Putin



Former Foreign Secretary's Access to Intelligence Restricted

BBC news sources informed that a number of extremely sensitive intelligence documents, some almost certainly stamped 'Secret', were allegedly withheld from maverick politician Boris Johnson, when he was appointed Foreign Secretary. Reasons for the decision are not clear, but security correspondents believe the move was first initiated by intelligence officials who feared his "ability to keep the information confidential"



Foreign Office headquarters, London

**Boris Johnson speaks to MI6 staffers
at Vauxhall Cross**



June 2019. A stony-faced former Prime Minister Theresa May shakes hands with Russia's President Putin at the recent G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan. It is the first time the leaders had met since the Kremlin-sponsored operation in Salisbury, England, to assassinate former GRU officer and MI6 agent Sergei Skripal



**Jeremy
Hunt**

and "behind closed doors." The Foreign Office does of course, oversee much of the work of Britain's overseas intelligence

Service - MI6 - and it is believed the documents in question are connected to the organisation and GCHQ.

Those close to Mr Johnson have disputed the story and typical of his style, the man who won the race to replace Prime Minister Theresa May, commented: "I can't discuss intelligence matters... nor can the premier - it's a secret." However, he did say the story was "not true" and was "extremely dubious about the provenance of the reports."

His own inner circle say he was "privy to everything he needed to see," but the BBC are standing by their story. The media house were told by a close associate of Johnson he himself was "concerned" that he was not always seeing the "full intelligence picture," as his role demanded. "There were questions about some issues Downing Street wanted to protect," a source said. "These concerned MI6 and GCHQ." The source declined to elaborate. As for May, she stands by her decision to appoint Johnson and trusted him.

In October 2016, Johnson visited MI6 headquarters and was shown some of the operational desks and even held an informal meeting with staffers and officers. Chief of MI6 Alex

Younger, said: "I was delighted to welcome the Foreign Secretary to Vauxhall Cross so he could see first-hand the kind of work that MI6 does." Johnson departed the building enthusiastically and was impressed with the Service. "Even from my relatively short period, I can testify to how vital is the work they do," he said.

Tensions always exist between political bodies and intelligence agencies, but insiders say that by the time Johnson departed his job, relations were good. And for the record, the ultimate decision to impart and distribute materials, projects and even intelligence-related tasks, rests solely with the Prime Minister. If May decided not to distribute certain information, that is acceptable.

However, regulations are in place (for legal purposes) that dictate the Foreign Secretary must 'sign off' (authorisation) for MI6 intelligence collection operations and actions. One FO insider acknowledged that limiting the "intelligence stream from junior officers did happen," but it would be "unprecedented" if



**MI6
Chief
Alex
Younger**

this happened to the actual minister in charge of the Foreign Office.

His rival for 10 Downing Street, Jeremy Hunt, was asked about the affair. He said: "We have the finest intelligence services in the world in this country. But that does depend on some discretion by the Foreign Secretary... I am not going to breach that now."

NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

LONDON: Former MI6 Chief Sir John Sawers launched an astonishing verbal attack on the current state of Britain's leadership - this as UK premier Theresa May exits Downing Street.



Sir John, who spent many years at the United Nations before his role with MI6, said the UK could have a Prime Minister who does "not have the standing that we have become used to in our top leadership."

Speaking to the BBC, Sawers said: "We are going through a political nervous breakdown here in the UK." He said that there are concerns in Whitehall regarding the political future of Britain, a veiled comment that indicates other senior political, defence and intelligence people are similarly concerned. Sir John also said it was a wrong decision to call a referendum on leaving the European. "It has left our international standing severely diminished," he said.



Huawei Spy Saga Moves to New Espionage Theatre

In the on-going war of words over security of global networks that deliver the Internet and all manner of communications, the United States and China have opened a new front line - beneath the world's oceans...

For the past few years Washington has waged a campaign to exclude China's Huawei Technologies from the next-generation of 5G cell networks due to security concerns. Huawei computer systems used in most US Government offices and all defence and intelligence agencies have either been removed, or are in the process of being dismantled. Similarly, the

US has warned its global partners in the intelligence world that sharing information may be stopped if they too don't avoid Huawei.

However, intelligence analysts and industry experts fear a far greater Horizon Threat has emerged in China. Huawei is embedding itself into the vast network of undersea cables that

carry nearly all of the world's Internet data. In previous years, Russia was the prime suspect in engaging (tapping) into such cables, and even today those concerns exist. A good case example being the fire aboard a top secret spy submarine operating in the Barents Sea which tragically resulted in the deaths of 14 Russian sailors. Naval intelligence experts have little doubt that the mission involved cable research, detection or interference. (See Page 66). America too is not entirely innocent of breaking into cables, its famous Cold War Operation Ivy Bells being one such example. However, the circumstances were very different. (See Page 41)

It is a common misconception that orbiting satellites, cell phone towers and other equipment form the heart of the Internet and carry data. Unbeknown to many users, it is almost 400 submerged cables - measuring 750,000 miles. Most have been laid by the United States and its allies in Europe and elsewhere: these carry more than 95 per cent of all data and voice traffic between the



**Cables carry
95% of all the
Internet's traffic**



The *Cable Innovator*, a specialised ship used to lay undersea cables pictured at the Royal Naval Dockyard in Bermuda



Submarine communication cable probably dating from WWII and defunct, crossing the shore at Hoy, Orkney Islands

continents. Today, Internet giants such as Facebook, Google and Amazon are leasing or purchasing cables from the many private companies and telecommunication operators that have constructed and laid them. "It is a growing industry and one that has become the primary focus of many defence and intelligence organisations," one maritime official employed by a cable-laying company told Eye Spy.

CHINA'S CLONING INDUSTRY

In the last decade or so, technical details of all manner of Western technology from advanced weaponry, aircraft and ship design, to powerful computers have been secured by Chinese Intelligence using its global network of spies. Many operatives are scientists and students embedded with contract companies or engaged with technical research in Western institutions. Now China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) has recently focussed its attention on undersea cables.



Submarine cables on display at the Dox Museum, Prague, Czech Republic

In 2018, an American telecommunications firm [withheld due to on-going legal issues] installed a secret new high-end technology system to improve its underwater infrastructure. After the update was completed, it was discovered the Chinese had apparently re-created the technology, even improving on its original design, and were about to start

installing it off the coast of China. A series of law suits ensued and the US company began an investigation into who was responsible for the breach. China's prowess in rapid reproduction (cloning) was evident again.

The extensive investigation focused on a possible spy or cyber hack. Specialists performed the usual digital forensics, running background checks on employees and contractors who had access to laboratories, information, computer servers, reports and other internal systems but nothing was discovered. It soon transpired there was a much simpler explanation. According to one of the investigative team, a Chinese naval unit had sent deep-sea divers to locate a piece of the new underwater technology and effectively steal it.

"This is another vector [how] Huawei gets into the infrastructure of another country..."

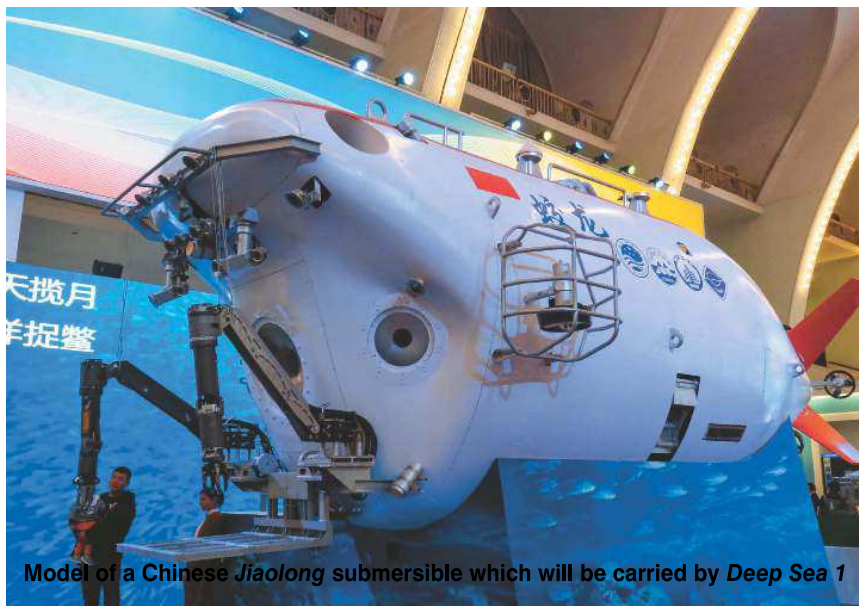
Retired US Army Lt. General and Deputy Commander US Cyber Command, William Mayville



HUAWEI CABLES VENTURE

Huawei Technologies too has gone to sea. Under its Huawei Marine Network component, it is constructing or improving dozens of sea cables around the world. Last year it completed a cable stretching nearly 4,000 miles from Brazil to Cameroon. It has also participated in other undersea cable projects totalling around 40,000 miles in length.

Earlier this year, China unveiled *Deep Sea 1*, another step towards its ambition of



Model of a Chinese *Jiaolong* submersible which will be carried by *Deep Sea 1*

becoming a primary player of deep-sea exploration. The ship is the country's first dedicated carrier and platform vessel that will support China's burgeoning fleet of midget submersibles, including the manned *Jiaolong* and the robotic *Hailong* series.

INTELLIGENCE CONCERNS

With so much of the world's data passing through cables, Western intelligence agencies are justifiably concerned with Huawei's undersea variant 5G technology and the alleged 'back doors' cited by so many intelligence officials. Such gateways are not the only problem. The Pentagon, Ministry of Defence and numerous intelligence agencies already recognise Russia and China operate submarines and deep water penetration vessels that have the capability to tap into cables. However, so does the West. As for Huawei, company officials already under siege because of fears its 5G networks can be penetrated by the MSS's numerous cyber units, have denied any manipulation of the



Cable Landing Station near Rostock in Germany

cable sets it is constructing. The US and UK note Huawei is obligated under Chinese law to hand over network data to the government.

As security fears grew about Huawei's alleged cooperation with the MSS, Washington acted by imposing sanctions and trade restrictions on the company and its many affiliates. This meant suppliers had to seek special licenses

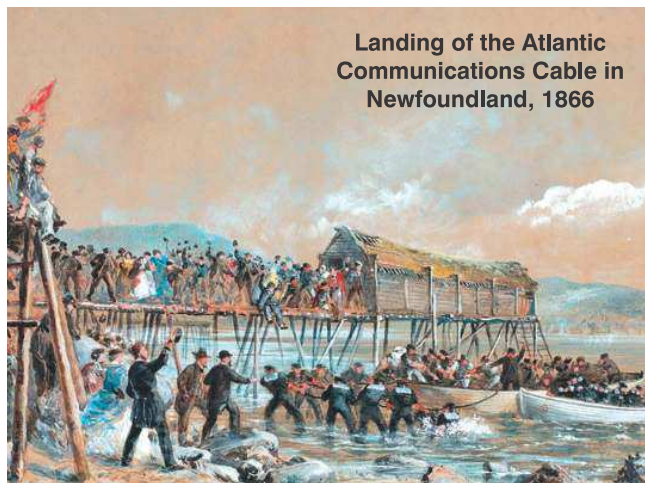
FRYING PAN TO FIRE?

As a result of all the restrictions, Huawei's management believed its involvement in Huawei Marine could damage its wider aspirations and operations in future years. The company now plans to sell its majority stake (51%) to Hengtong Optic-Electric Company, one of China's largest builders of electric power and optical-fibre networks. Founded in 1993, it is listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and is the world's seventh biggest manufacturer of cables. Naturally intelligence and defence officials have pored scorn on the move, claiming it does not diminish the threat because like Huawei, other Chinese firms are "obliged to help Beijing's defence and intelligence services" when requested. Some have used the phrase "out of the frying pan into the fire."

A further Western probe discovered Hengtong Optic-Electric, which is buying the Huawei subsidiary, is run and partially owned by Cui Genliang, a People's Liberation Army (PLA) veteran and deputy of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) - the pinnacle of state power and the national legislature of the People's Republic of China.



French cable laying ship *Rene Descartes* operated by Orange Marine



Just as concerning for those tasked with the protection of undersea cables, Hengtong Optic-Electric, established a joint research project on underwater optical communications

with the PLA's Naval Engineering University in 2016. Hengtong Group says it also received a commendation from Chinese defence officials for its involvement in the country's 2012

space programme, which included the successful exploration of an asteroid.

Continued on Page 80

OPERATION IVY BELLS COLD WAR CABLE TAPPING

At the height of the Cold War, the United States engaged in a most audacious operation involving the NSA, CIA and US Navy to tap into Soviet undersea communication cables allowing the West to learn more about Moscow's submarine and missile technology, and its first strike nuclear capability.

The project was beyond Top Secret and codenamed IVY BELLS. The specially converted submarine - USS *Halibut* - carried divers to the Sea of Okhotsk and a cable connecting the Russian naval bases at Petropavlovsk to the

Soviet Pacific Fleet headquarters in Vladivostok.

The US was aware of various naval defences, and the frequent appearance of Soviet warships and surveillance vessels, but the temptation to tap into the communications cable was simply too good to resist. US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger sanctioned the operation.

Divers found the cable and attached recorders which would be recovered at regular intervals. The content was passed to the NSA and other intelligence agencies for processing and evaluation.

USS *Halibut*



Cable tapping device built by AT&T Bell Laboratories



Ronald Pelton

Thereafter several more US submarines tapped into Russian communications cables using advanced instruments designed by AT&T Bell Laboratories; these could record and store a full year's worth of data.

In 1980, Ivy Bells was compromised by NSA analyst Ronald Pelton. Ridden with debt and unhappy about his role at the NSA, he walked into the Soviet Embassy in Washington and

offered his services - this in return for around \$35,000. Part of the intelligence he provided, much by memory, was related to the cable taps.

Months later a US surveillance satellite identified Soviet submarines and vessels in the location of the USS *Halibut* tap operation and thereafter the mission was halted.

Pelton's KGB contact in Washington, Vitaly Yurchenko, defected to the USA in 1985, and part of the intelligence bounty he provided led to the arrest of the NSA traitor. Pelton was duly given three life sentences (concurrent) for espionage. However, he was released in 2015 aged 77.

In 1999, the recording device discovered on the Sea of Okhotsk cable was displayed at the Great Patriotic War Museum in Moscow.

TALKING SECRETS



THE SERIES **10+**

BEYOND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

An error of judgement, incorrect analysis and even the unsuccessful outcome of an operation, are issues regularly faced by those in the intelligence world. They form just part of an everyday schedule and are generally accepted. Meetings, debate, questions, lessons learned and action follow, but all behind closed doors. Any exposure could be damaging, even catastrophic - but some officers and staffers still choose to take the debate to external bodies

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



History has shown there will always be intelligence workers who take it upon themselves to question the legitimacy of an operation, decision making and other procedures. Occasionally they take their argument beyond internal affairs, and for reasons which are plentiful, make contact with external government bodies... or worse, the media. Even the inadvertent slip of the tongue whilst talking to a journalist can have serious consequences. And when the action is deliberate, the situation changes dramatically.

These individuals are often described as 'Whistleblowers' and many suffer the consequences of their actions by falling foul of the Official Secrets Act or breaches of protocol.

Reasons why intelligence people break the Code of Silence, are plentiful. Conscience, wrong-doing and even vendetta are words used to defend their case in court. Many more have chosen to engage with external bodies because they believe an operation or task is immoral. Others have an ulterior

motive, but receiving monies from an adversary (foreign spy agency) is generally not one of them.

Eye Spy has sourced a number of important case examples whereby intelligence people, through direct or indirect ways, have sought to engage with journalists, providing insight into the mechanisms of intelligence planning and operations. Many people support their actions, whilst those in the intelligence and security industry believe they set a dangerous precedent...

MARK FELT DEEP THROAT

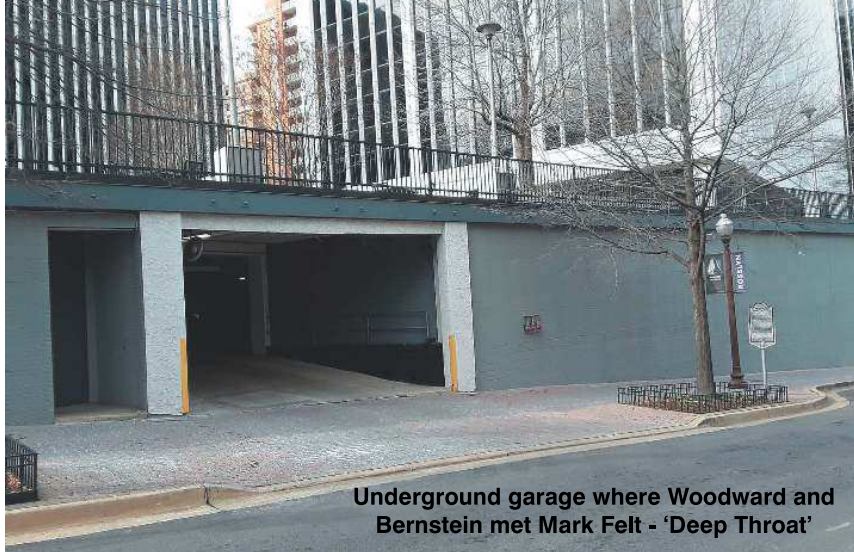
Watergate is forever embedded in spylore and conspiracy. It was a political scandal created by ill-advised officials seeking to ensure the re-election of President Nixon. On 17 June 1972, five men, four with past links to the CIA, broke into the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), in the Watergate complex, Washington DC. They were apprehended and soon phrases such as “political espionage” and “sabotage” ensued. For the operatives involved, charges of Conspiracy, Burglary and Wiretapping followed.

More importantly, there was deep suspicion the White House was directly involved, and this led to a number of covert actions to distance the President and his Office from the operation. And briefly, two young journalists at *The Washington Post*, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, began to investigate. This was followed by claims of a “personal vendetta” against Nixon by a “left-leaning liberal newspaper.” And the concealment of information and deflection of accusations continued as the President’s advisors attempted to distance him from the scandal. Other Nixon aides would later be drawn into the affair.

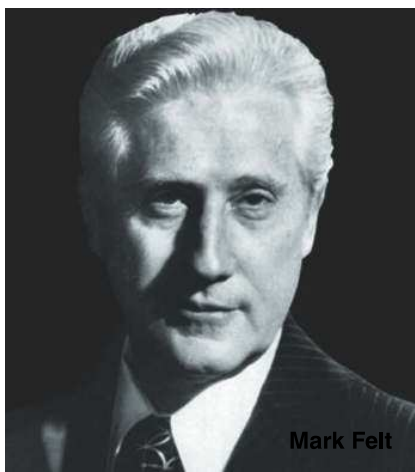
But information and tip-offs continued as the journalists probed deeper - and most arrived from a contact man nicknamed ‘Deep Throat’.



President Nixon leaves the White House shortly before his resignation



Underground garage where Woodward and Bernstein met Mark Felt - ‘Deep Throat’



Mark Felt

Throughout their liaison, all manner of tradecraft took place. For example, if the journalists wanted to meet their contact, Woodward would move a flowerpot on his apartment balcony containing a red flag.

As the Watergate case evolved, it became clear Nixon’s position was becoming increasingly untenable, and ultimately the affair led to his resignation in 1974.

For thirty years the identity of the ‘Deep Throat’ was unknown... though the FBI and White House advisors suspected it was Mark Felt, an experienced senior career officer. In 2005, Felt’s daughter persuaded him to acknowledge he was the shadowy insider, and *Vanity Fair* published his role in exposing Watergate. As for why Felt acted in the way he did, which breached Bureau protocol, there were all manner of reasons. Some claimed he was unhappy that Nixon had chosen L. Patrick Gray



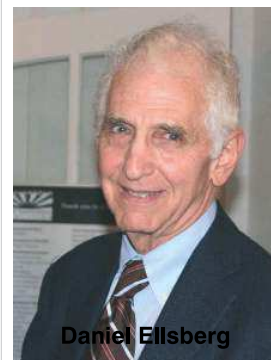
L. Patrick Gray

to replace J. Edgar Hoover as FBI Director instead of himself. Thus by exposing the break-in, Felt hoped Nixon would assume Gray “could not control the FBI,” leaving him as the obvious choice to take over. Others said Felt believed it was his duty to tell the truth about the break-in to the public, in this way the Bureau would be seen as being “utterly truthful.”

DANIEL ELLSBERG PENTAGON PAPERS

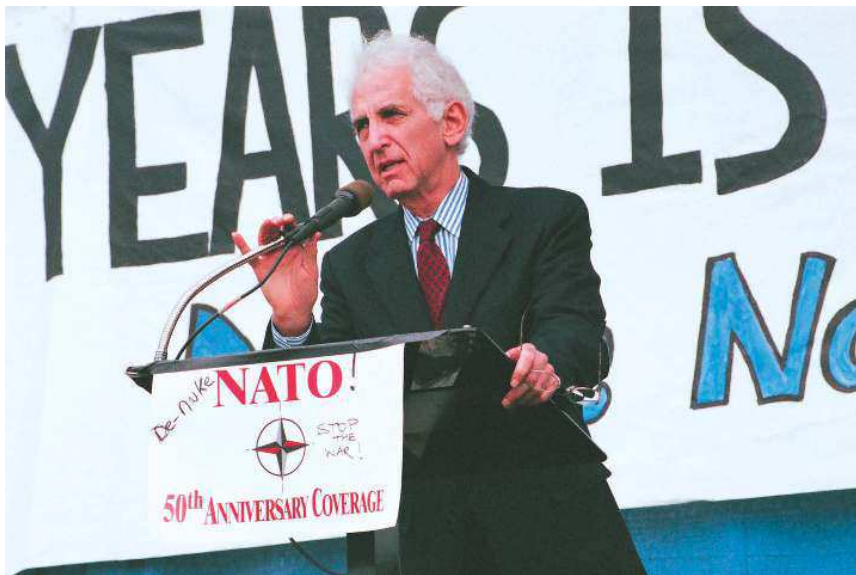
Daniel Ellsberg once called Israeli whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu the “pre-eminent hero of the nuclear age.” This followed his own actions over a decade earlier by providing journalists with a top secret US military intelligence study known as the ‘Pentagon Papers’. These documents contained all manner of secret government information concerning Washington’s decision-making into the Vietnam War.

As a military analyst with the RAND Corporation, Ellsberg began photo-copying documents - 7,000 in total. Some contained commentary from leading officials that the US could not win the war. And once he had failed to convince a few Senators about the futility of the war, the documents soon found their way into the hands of journalists. The *New York Times* published the papers and thereafter all manner of political fall-out consumed the country.



Daniel Ellsberg

In 1973 Ellsberg was arrested and charged under the Espionage Act - charges later dropped. “I felt as a responsible American, I could no



Ellsberg speaking at a protest rally following a NATO strike in Yugoslavia

longer conceal this information from the American public," he said. "I did this clearly at my own jeopardy."

Ellsberg, who was described by President Nixon's White House as the "most dangerous man in America," had appeared at anti-Vietnam War demonstrations in the late 1960s, and still attends anti-war events. He has also vented his support for NSA traitor Edward Snowden, calling him a "hero." The men are now friends.

COLEEN ROWLEY 9/11 HINDSIGHT

Intelligence officers are often reluctant to engage in the world of politics, fearful of the implications of speaking about sensitive issues, and more so of breaking security protocol. One such officer who did engage with external government offices is Coleen Rowley, an FBI agent who was engaged with aspects of security relevant to pre and post-9/11.

Following the terrorist attack on America, Rowley wrote a research advisory paper for then Director Robert Mueller. This contained critical information concerning the Bureau's "mishandling" of crucial intelligence that may



Coleen Rowley delivers a lecture entitled: 'Secrecy Kills'

have exposed the plot before it could be actioned. Central to the report was its investigation of one character - Zacarias Moussaoui - a 9/11 player dubbed the "13th hijacker" by the CIA, in the hijacking of US airliners used in the al-Qaida operation.

Moussaoui booked a pilot training course at Airman Flight School in Norman, Oklahoma, in February 2001. He failed to pass, but crucially the same school was also visited by one key figure - lead 9/11 hijacker - Mohammed Atta. Moussaoui had also been linked to earlier airline suicide attacks. All of this intelligence, if pooled and analysed carefully, could have given the FBI an insight into what was developing.

A year after 9/11, Rowley testified about the breakdown and perceived "analysis failures." And shortly thereafter warned Mueller that



Zacarias Moussaoui



Mohammed Atta



Mohammed Atta pictured with fellow students in Germany 1993

America would "not be able to stem the flood of terrorism that will likely head our way in the wake of an attack on Iraq."

Rowley, who departed the Bureau in 2004 after a service career of 24-years, is now involved in politics. She has since received several awards, though is still often referred to as a 'whistleblower'. This didn't stop *Time* magazine nominating her as 'Person of the Year'.

DAVID SHAYLER MI6 & GADDAFI

Former MI5 officer David Shayler, who joined the Security Service in 1991, is best remembered for his commentary alleging of an 1996 MI6 plot to assassinate Colonel Muammar Gaddafi - former leader of Libya.

Shayler held various posts during his short stay with MI5, but it was during his time spent on the Libyan Desk, that alleged papers on the



Former MI5 officers David Shayler and Annie Machon



David Shayler

secret endeavour passed his way. In 1996, Gaddafi visited the coastal city of Sirte when a bomb exploded resulting in the deaths of a number of civilians. The bomb, supposedly planted by the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) had been intended to destroy Gaddafi's car travelling in motorcade but had been attached to the wrong vehicle. The operation, which allegedly involved MI6 paying the LIFG £100,000, had not been sanctioned by then Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, according to Shayler.

After departing MI5 in 1996, Shayler reportedly sent a report to then Home Secretary Jack Straw outlining the case and other stories of wiretaps. All manner of controversy ensued when the story surfaced in the media, where details were first published in the *New York Times*, and later in the UK's *Guardian*. An injunction followed disallowing further reporting of the case.

Shayler fled to mainland Europe. Eventually he returned willingly to face questions - this after a French court dismissed a UK extradition request on the grounds that it was "politically motivated." He was charged with breaches of the Official Secrets Act.

At his subsequent trial in November 2002, he was found guilty and sentenced to six months in prison. He was released a few weeks later in December.

As for the assassination attempt supported by MI6, there is no evidence whatsoever to link the Service with the incident.



Colonel Muammar Gaddafi

JOHN KIRIAKOU WATERBOARDING

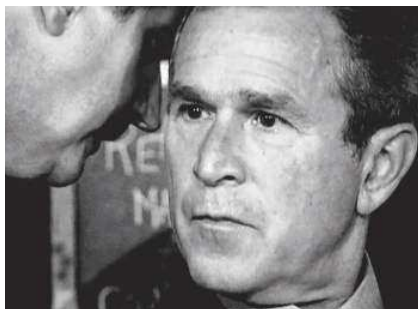
When al-Qaida attacked America on 11 September 2001, President George W. Bush vowed to bring all those involved to book. The CIA assembled a global network of operatives and using its prowess and many field stations, Langley's spymasters moved quickly to identify, capture and occasionally, eliminate key AQ people. Others who were designated "attached" or believed to be in possession of vital information, especially that which could lead to the whereabouts of Osama bin-Laden, were also detained and relocated quietly to so-called Black Sites around the world. Here they would be interrogated.

Of course there were key areas for sourcing information - Afghanistan and Pakistan in particular. And it was in Pakistan that CIA analyst, counter-terrorism specialist and case officer John Kiriakou, was posted. After 9/11 he was awarded the title of Chief of Counter-terrorist Operations in the country. And in March 2002, he helped plan the operation in Faisalabad, that led to the arrest of Abu Zubaydah - the terror group's third-in-command - codenamed 'The Gatekeeper' (See Eye Spy 9).



John Kiriakou

Kiriakou witnessed one interrogation of Zubaydah where he was subjected to the controversial practise of 'waterboarding'. But he soon learned it was widespread at other Black Sites. It was an aspect of interrogation which the CIA would rather have kept secret, and one that Kiriakou described as "torture." In 2004, Kiriakou resigned from the CIA. However, by 2007, information on waterboarding was



President Bush learns of the terrorist attack on America



Osama bin-Laden

leaked to the media world and caused no end of problems for the United States, leading to worldwide protests. Soon Langley's internal investigators focussed their attention on Kiriakou: their former colleague was arrested and convicted for "passing classified information to a reporter." He was sentenced to 30-months in prison.

Kiriakou could have expressed his doubts and fears about the legitimacy of the practise, but he believed it "would have got him nowhere." And in 2018, he said current D/CIA Gina Haspel, personally ordered the destruction of [waterboarding] videotapes of CIA torture. As for Abu Zubaydah, it transpired he was waterboarded 83 times.

Today the whistleblower is a frequent guest on many news programmes, and like Thomas Drake is a founding member of the US Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.



Abu Zubaydah

PETER WRIGHT SPYCATCHER

Easily the most controversial figure in British Intelligence involved with the release of perceived state secrets is former MI5 scientific officer Peter Wright. His book *Spycatcher: The Candid Autobiography of a Senior Intelligence Officer*, caused dismay in the British Intelligence community. All manner of legal attempts were made to stop its publication in 1985, and even the media were not allowed to properly cover its content due to legal restrictions. However, like many



Wright was convinced MI5 Director-General Roger Hollis, like a number of other British intelligence officers in the so-called 'Cambridge Spy Ring' (above), had been recruited by the KGB



Peter Wright

in today's Internet age, Wright eventually published his book in Australia, despite the UK Government applying for a similar ban. And soon it circulated around the world.

By 1988, regulations were lifted in the UK and it could be legitimately

purchased - Law Lords ruling it contained no state secrets. Yet this decree was not supported by all, especially intelligence people who were dismayed that numerous details of operations were revealed. Comments by Wright that "MI5 bugged its way across London," did not help, nor too the identity of targets. His telling of an alleged MI6 plot to



Roger Hollis

assassinate Egyptian President Gamel Nasser, during what became known as the Suez Crisis, also caused upset and controversy.

Perhaps one of the primary reasons

British Intelligence wanted the book banned, was Wright's belief that MI5 Director-General Roger Hollis was a KGB agent. In 1991, the European Court of Human Rights ruled the UK Government had breached the European Convention of Human Rights in not allowing the media to reproduce content.

As a footnote to the story, *Spycatcher* sold over two million copies. Wright passed in 1995 - a millionaire.

FRANK SNEPP INTERROGATOR

Frank Snapp may be a name unfamiliar to many of today's intelligence watchers, but a half-century ago he witnessed the end game in the Vietnam War.

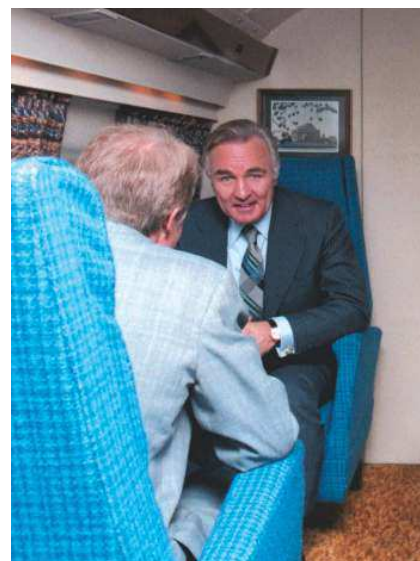
A few years later he decided to write about the chaotic scenes and unpreparedness of the CIA and US Government to Saigon's impending collapse - his written observations upsetting many in Langley and leading to legal action.



Frank Snapp

Snapp served as the CIA's Chief Analyst of North Vietnamese Strategy in Saigon during the Vietnam War. He was also an interrogator and spy debriefer. In 1975 he was awarded the Intelligence Medal of Merit.

In 1977, he wrote his memoir, *Decent Interval*, much of it concerning the fall of Saigon and the abandonment of allied forces left to the mercy of the North's victors. And whilst names were changed and certain parts (operations) altered, the watchers at Langley's Publications Review Board had not approved its publication. Director CIA Stansfield Turner



D/CIA Stansfield Turner with President Carter on Air Force One



opposed its content and soon Snep was sued for 'Breach of Contract' of the Non-Disclosure Act. The subsequent court case found the book had caused "irreparable harm to national security" due to it creating an "appearance of a breakdown of discipline in the CIA."

Snep is said to have lost around \$300,000 worth of royalties from the book's sale - all the monies being surrendered to the CIA. In 2001, he wrote another book - *Irreparable Harm* - about the court case with the CIA.

Today he works as an investigative journalist providing copy to many leading US titles, including the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*.

RICHARD TOMLINSON MI6 TRADECRAFT

Whilst Peter Wright did not altogether reveal the inner workings and tradecraft training that an active operative receives - this cannot be said about another British Intelligence officer - MI6's Richard Tomlinson. His battles with the Service began in 1995, when he attempted to take his former employee to court after he felt he had been unfairly dismissed. Part of his claim centred upon his insistence that he had suffered post traumatic trauma (PST) after witnessing violence in Sarajevo, during the break-up of Yugoslavia. This wasn't how MI6 viewed the situation, sources claiming he was "not a team player... having little motivation and a short term interest in the Service."

The legal move collapsed, and a game of 'cat and mouse' began, starting with more conflict when Tomlinson sought to enter his experiences into a book. Like Peter Wright, Tomlinson chose Australia, and sent a draft

summary to a publisher. It was an error and in 1997 he was charged with a breach of the Official Secrets Act and jailed for year. After serving five months he was freed.

Tomlinson then went on to write his book - *The Big Breach* - eventually published in Moscow, though it was serialised by the *Sunday Times*. Amongst its indepth content on tradecraft, further material which incensed MI6, For example, the charge that some of its officers did have a "licence to kill," and that the Service may have been involved in the incident in which Diana Princess of Wales died in Paris in 1997.

Thereafter Tomlinson moved to southern France - in exile. However, around 2010, Eye Spy understands an agreement was reached between MI6 and himself that the affair would be essentially dropped, and he would not be targeted if he returned to the UK.

KEVIN SHIPP INTERNAL AFFAIRS

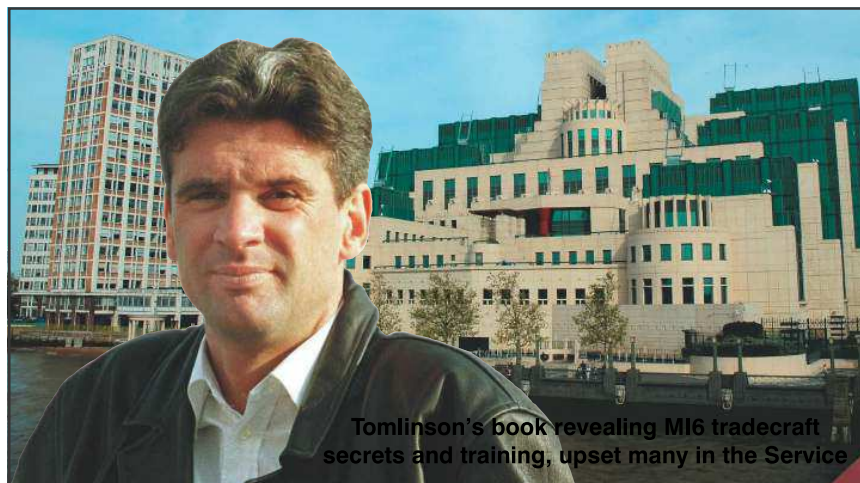
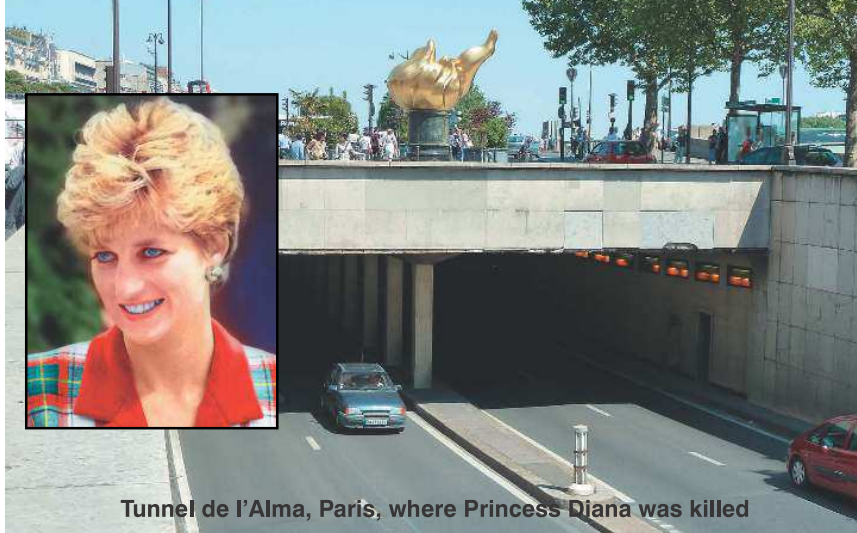
One of the first rules or instructions given to any new employee of an intelligence agency is that secrecy must prevail at all times - and that includes not

revealing information to even family members. Internal and external security procedures are paramount, and whilst it might not always be referenced - the "wider implications for national security" should any breach occur. Today, many agencies have internal liaisons or departments where an officer or staffer can raise issues or in some cases, question the legitimacy of an action. Oversight is a word which comes to mind. In years goneby of course, this was not the case.

Former CIA officer, Kevin Shipp, a counter-terrorism specialist, has for the past two decades spoken about the so-call 'Deep State' - relevant to his experiences in the Agency. This of course is supportive of a conspiracy argument about who really controls government. He has also referenced, on many occasions, the control and secret protocols used to target personnel if the Agency suspects or are fearful of a breach. Shipp has also claimed the CIA use "unconstitutional and illegal" measures to instill fear into possible whistleblowers.

Allied to this, Shipp claims when he moved to Langley's headquarters in Virginia in 1999, he was deliberately placed in a mold-contaminated house where he and his wife became sick. Two years later he launched a legal action against the CIA. The case was held in secret, thus he went public, much to the dismay of Agency and Government officials.

Today he is outspoken in his belief that the Deep State is real, and references intelligence plots to "unseat President Trump." ➤



MORDECHAI VANUNU MOSSAD'S THORN



Mordechai Vanunu pictured in 2005

In 1986, British journalists secured intelligence on Israel's most secret nuclear weapons programme. The information was astonishing and revealed the extent and arsenal of Israel's capability. The material, some verbal, but much of it in documented form or notes and 60 photographs, was unquestionably authentic. It had been provided for by nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu. His involvement in the expose was soon identified by furious Mossad and Shin Bet spy chiefs. And thereafter an international and covert operation to find and transport him back to Israel began.

After luring him to Italy by a series of bogus communications (honeypot), he was drugged and flown back to Tel Aviv. His trial behind closed-doors was a formality; dubbed a "traitor" he was jailed. After serving 18-years in prison, much of it in solitary confinement, he was released in 2004, with an array of legal caveats, including restricting his movement and speaking to the press. Even today, he is forbidden from coming within 100 yards of a foreign embassy; 550 yards of a



Satellite image of the top secret Dimona nuclear site



Former Mossad Director
Shabtai Shavit

border crossing, and all his Internet use and phone calls are monitored. And he can't speak to a foreigner unless approval is granted by Shin Bet.

Vanunu said he exposed Israel's nuclear weapons programme, including several sensitive and formerly top secret sites, including Dimona Negev, because he was a "peace activist" and opposed all such "weapons of mass destruction."

Whilst he has received a plethora of awards from human rights' groups - in the eyes of the Mossad - Vanunu still remains a traitor and whistleblower. Officials are adamant his actions threatened national security and gifted nations such as Iran a deep insight into Israel's nuclear capability.

Today, Israel still does not acknowledge its nuclear capability, though it is widely believed the country possesses around 200 nuclear missiles.

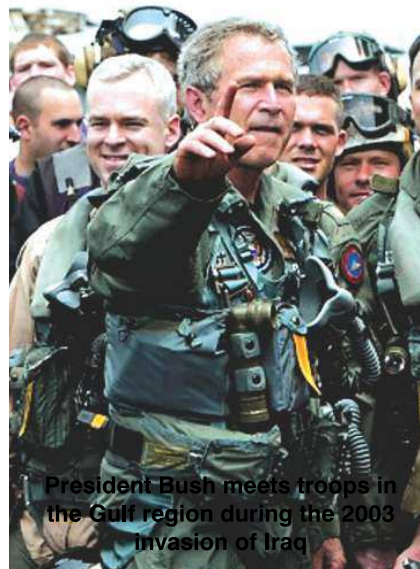
And as a footnote to the case, in 2004, former Mossad Director Shabtai Shavit admitted that in 1986, his organisation had examined the option of an "extrajudicial killing," but this was dropped because "Jews don't do that to other Jews," he said

KATHARINE GUN THE IRAQ WAR

Whilst working at GCHQ in 2003, translator Katharine Gun secured various intelligence files and e-mails, many from the NSA, that contained secret commentary about building the case for the invasion of Iraq and the toppling of its leader Saddam Hussein. These included a covert



Katharine Gun



President Bush meets troops in the Gulf region during the 2003 invasion of Iraq

action (eavesdropping) to monitor the United Nations in an effort to identify six nations' voting intentions at a resolution on the invasion of Iraq. These countries, Angola, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guinea, Pakistan and Chile, were described as 'swing nations' by the NSA, and their support deemed crucial.

Once British investigators identified the source of the leaks, Gun was arrested and appeared at the Old Bailey Court charged under the Official Secrets Act. But in a surprising turn of events, the prosecution dropped the case and she was freed. Minutes later after leaving the courtroom, she attended a press conference. Here Gun urged other intelligence operatives to "leak information if their consciences told them to do so."

As for why the UK Government dropped the charges, intelligence sources said that Britain feared evidence would emerge that senior government solicitors believed the war was illegal. All of this didn't stop the invasion, and in March 2003, a US-led Coalition (36 countries), including 45,000 British troops, began the process of removing Saddam.

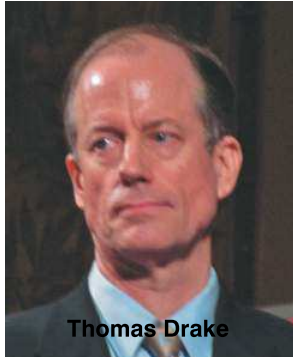
Gun's actions are set to appear in a motion picture later this year - 'Official Secrets'.



Saddam is captured by US troops in 2003

THOMAS DRAKE TRAILBLAZER

The subsequent fallout, investigations and ripples which followed the case of senior NSA executive Thomas Drake, continue to this day. Now regarded as a whistleblower by some, two decades ago Drake was involved in the Agency's search for new Internet-based intelligence collection



Thomas Drake

tools. Two programmes were under review - 'Trailblazer' and 'ThinThread'. Drake favoured the latter, primarily because it still afforded

privacy to US nationals, but Director Michael Hayden chose Trailblazer in 2000.

This led to disputes and Drake made his feeling known to internal offices. Other names soon appeared, including that of NSA officer William Binney, who had departed the Agency in 2001. Like Drake, Binney now questioned the "waste of money on Trailblazer." His house was raided in 2007 by the FBI.

In a complex affair, the FBI wanted Drake to help in its prosecution of other attached whistleblowers, but he refused. In 2010, Drake was indicted on various charges - one being the 'Wilful Retention of National Defense Information'. All the charges were later dropped.

A decade later parts of the 'internal' story began to surface in the media. In 2011, Jane Mayer of the *New Yorker* wrote: 'Drake felt the

NSA was committing serious crimes against the American people, on a level worse than what President Nixon had done in the 1970s'. As for Trailblazer, in 2003, the NSA Inspector General described it as an "expensive failure."

Drake is a founding member of the US Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.

FOOTNOTE: Any review of intelligence officers who have inflamed Government would be ill-advised not to reference the actions of NSA/CIA contractor Edward Snowden and US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea [Bradley] Manning. Their position in the annals of whistleblowing history is forever embedded. These two people released classified information in the form of documents, cables, imagery and commentary.

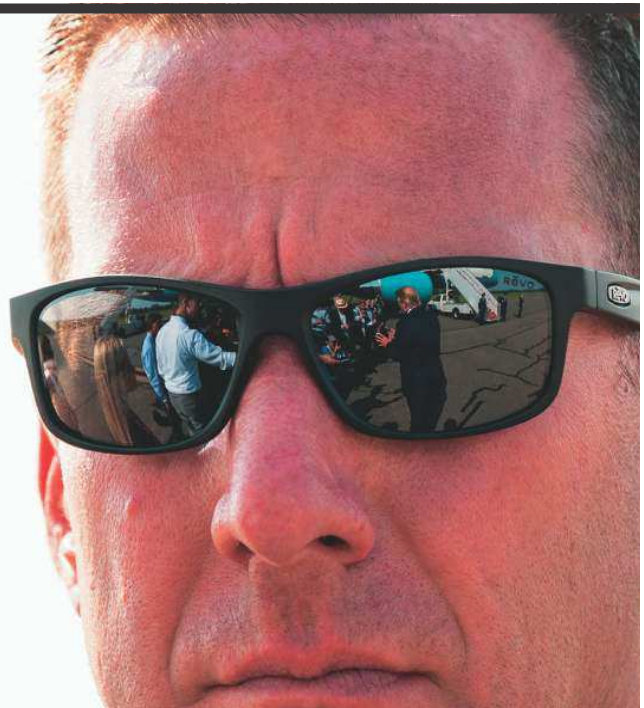
If history has shown us anything, these two people will not be the last to leak secrets...

BREACH

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

Unprecedented Leak of UK Ambassador's Diplomatic Cables Probed by New Scotland Yard

Personal reflections of President Trump, his White House organisation and policy cause friction between Washington and London and result in departure of UK Ambassador to the United States of America - Sir Kim Darroch



It is regarded as the premier ambassadorial job in the Foreign Office - Ambassador to the United States. With a history of friendship and an enduring security and intelligence relationship, no other foreign diplomat enjoys more access to the West Wing than the individual representing Great Britain. Despatched to Washington, the person carries an important instruction - 'don't create ripples'.

Now Sir Kim Darroch, who became ambassador in 2016, a year before President Trump's inauguration, has stepped down following an unprecedented series of events and betrayal.



Sir Kim Darroch

He was viewed with suspicion by Washington following a serious breach of security protocol. This concerns the publication of several highly controversial and confidential diplomatic telegrams or cables (DipTels) which reflected Sir Kim's personal overview of the President, his political status and policy of White House advisors and officials.

In one of the leaked communications the President was described as '*incompetent, inept and radiating insecurity*'. The ambassador commented on infighting and questioned American action against Iran. Perhaps more damaging a line claiming

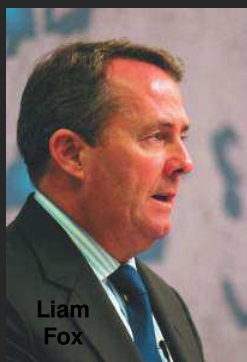


Sir Kim Darroch meets with Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson



Sir Craig Oliver

responsible course is to allow the appointment of a new ambassador'.



Liam Fox

Trump's exit from the Iran nuclear agreement (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), was made to allegedly spite President Obama who helped broker the deal in the first place.

happened the next day, when he was effectively banned from attending a banquet. Head of Britain's Diplomatic Service Sir Simon McDonald described the leaks as "malicious" and that it was the first time in his career he had ever known a head of state to refuse to work with a British ambassador.

Darroch, who has served the UK diplomatically for the best part of four decades, and was Downing Street's National Security Advisor between 2012 and 2015, was effectively isolated and 'persona non grata'. The incident caused a major furore in both Washington and London and many commentators said it could not have come at a worse time for Britain, especially as it tries to secure a new trade agreement with America. Former Prime Minister Theresa May said she backed Sir Kim, but disagreed with his overview of Trump, the White House and US policy.

The publication of the damning correspondence, dated 2017 and secured by the *Mail on Sunday*, led to a spate of allegations and counter accusations, with President Trump himself stating: "Sir Kim has not served the UK well... we're not big fans of that man." He then added, "we will no longer deal with the UK ambassador," and called him "very stupid and 'whacky'". In a tweet he

A Downing Street spokesman said: "Our ambassadors provide honest, unvarnished assessments of politics in their country, those views are not necessarily the views of ministers or indeed the UK Government. The leak is not acceptable. We would expect such advice to be handled in the correct way and a leak inquiry has been launched."

Eye Spy believes the cables were stamped 'Classified Sensitive' and whilst this appears secure, it is only one level above the lowest designation, meaning it could have been read by as many as 100 people. However, the Foreign Office has a diplomatic staff of around 13,000 people, thus it could easily have been shown to others. Hence any investigation to find the culprit, if he or she is working in government, could be difficult.

Former Downing Street Communications Director Sir Craig Oliver noted that whoever "delivered" the cables, carefully sourced the "juiciest bits before packaging them up and handing them to a journalist." Asked if he believed the person or persons responsible would ever be found, he said whoever provided the material "presumably have the nous to cover their tracks."

RESIGNATION

With mounting pressure on both sides of the Atlantic, and with likely future UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson refusing to back him, Sir Kim announced he would be departing. In a letter to the Foreign Office dated 10 July, he wrote:

'The current situation is making it impossible for me to carry out my role as I would like. Although my posting is not due to end until the end of this year, I believe in the current circumstances the



Sir Simon McDonald

continued to target the diplomat: 'Sir Kim is not liked or well thought of within the US'. He was due to attend a meeting with White House officials and visiting UK International Trade Secretary Liam Fox. Sir Kim was duly 'dis-invited'. Fox said "heads must roll" and he apologised to Trump. And a similar situation

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

UK ministers, including Tom Tugendhat, Chair of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee wrote to New Scotland Yard Commissioner Cressida Dick and asked that she investigate the circumstances of the leaks, and to find the perpetrators. Sir Alan Duncan addressing politicians about the breach said:

Boris Johnson praised Darroch but resisted questions when asked if he would have kept the ambassador in his current role

The person, persons or agency which leaked the cables, carefully selected only those parts of Sir Kim's overview of President Trump and his White House that were negative...

GCHQ is now said to be involved in identifying who passed the cables to the Mail on Sunday

Boris Johnson said the leaks do not impact on national security...

"If evidence of criminality is found then yes, the police should be involved. The most important focus is to establish who is responsible for this despicable leak."

On 12 July NSY Police Commissioner John Basu released a statement: "I would advise all owners, editors and publishers of social and mainstream media not to publish leaked government documents that may already be in their possession, or which may be offered to them, and to turn them over to the police or give them back to their rightful owner, Her Majesty's Government."

That did not go down well with the media, and senior politicians defended the press in respect of publishing leaks which do not impact on national security and are deemed in the public's interest.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt warned there would be "serious consequences" for whoever is responsible, recognising that the leaks undermine the work of diplomats around the world. Asked about the language and content used by Sir Kim to describe President Trump, and the damage it may have on USA-UK relations, Mr Hunt said: "This was a personal view and he was doing his job as

ambassador."

However, he said he did not share Sir Kim's assessment of either Trump or the US administration.

Interestingly, Hunt has not ruled out that the leak could have originated with a hostile foreign state intent on sewing discord between the UK and USA, which may have resulted in the 'capture' of certain communications. He said that at present, he has seen no evidence of such an [cyber] attack, but it does form part of the inquiry's remit. "They [investigators] are going to follow all avenues of inquiry to try to understand how this happened. That's something that will be



© ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

Sir Kim visits Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois, to sign a post-Brexit agreement on communications and telecoms technology



President Trump with Prince Charles during his largely successful State Visit to the UK recently in which he praised the 'special relationship'



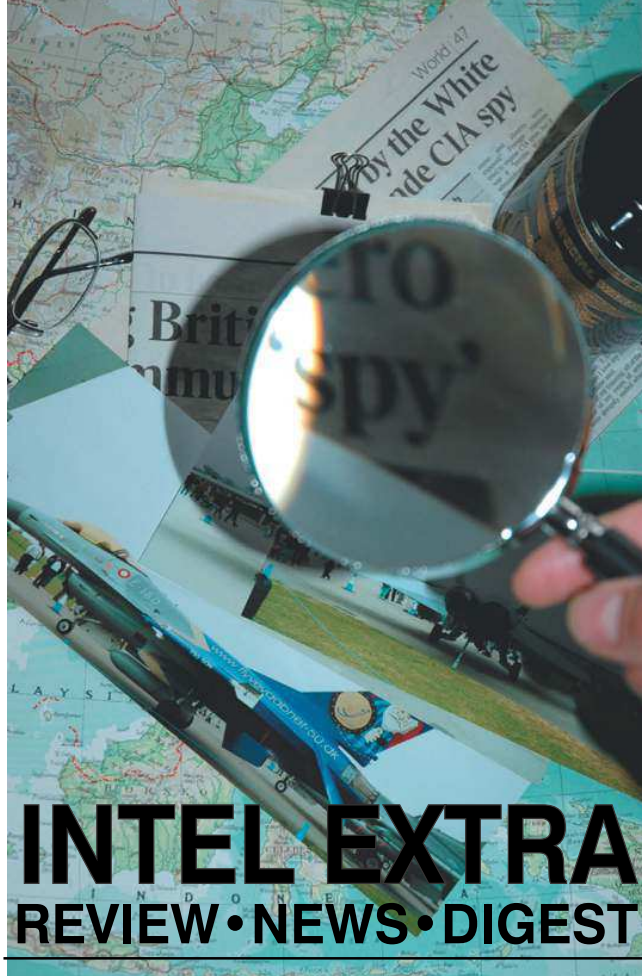
UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt (right centre) and to his right Sir Kim Darroch meet with former Director CIA Mike Pompeo (centre left)

considered." Sources say Russia, China, North Korea and Iran are all considered suspects, primarily because of their cyber prowess: and through a contact in

Continued on Page 82



Sir Kim pictured with former premier David Cameron in his role as National Security Advisor



ATLAS MOUNTAIN KILLERS

ISIS-INSPIRED GROUP TO BE EXECUTED

Three ISIS-inspired terrorists who beheaded two Scandinavian tourists in Morocco, and then posted film footage of the atrocity on the Internet, have been sentenced to death. Abdessamad Ejroud, Younis Ouaziya and Rachid Afatti, all pleaded guilty to killing Louisa Jespersen, 24, from Denmark and Norwegian Maren Ueland in December 2018. The

women were on a camping trip but disappeared. Their decapitated bodies were discovered in the remote Atlas Mountains region on 17 December.

The verdict follows an 11-week trial in which details of the men's support for ISIS became clear. However, it is thought they were not directly involved in the terror



Younis Ouaziya, Rachid Afatti and Abdessamad Ejroud

SPY GAMES AND MISCHIEF

US EXTRADITES IRANIAN NUCLEAR SMUGGLER

A new report prepared by intelligence analysts for the German Government, has once again named Russia, Iran and China as the main actors involved with espionage activities in the country. Iran was also accused of stepping-up spy operations following the 2015 nuclear agreement, which it has since breached.

A line in the 355-page document read: 'It is making efforts to expand its conventional arsenal of weapons... weapons of mass destruction'. Coded speak for

nuclear weapons. It was designated a 'risk country'.

The German intelligence report coincides with the extradition of Iranian national Behzad Pourghannad, 65, to the United States on 15 July, for exporting several tonnes of carbon fibre from America to Iran. Two other Iranians have also been charged - Ali Reza Shokri, 61, and Farzin Faridmanesh, 48. Pourghannad was arrested on 3 May 2017, by counter-intelligence officers from Germany's BfV. Carbon fibre is a commodity that can be used in the enrichment of uranium.

The US Attorney's Office said Pourghannad and his co-defendants went to great lengths to circumvent restrictions placed on the movement of carbon fibre.

MOIS FRONT COMPANY

The indictment states that between 2007 and 2008, the suspects

worked together to obtain carbon fibre from the US and surreptitiously export it to Iran via third countries. Pourghannad agreed to serve as the financial guarantor and Faridmanesh as the shipper. Shokri and a Turkey-based co-conspirator successfully arranged for the illegal export and trans-shipment of the material from the US to an Iranian company associated with Shokri. Some intelligence sources believe the company is linked to Iran's spy agency - MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence and Security).

In 2009, and again in 2013, they attempted to illegally procure and export the material from the US to Iran. The men are each charged with one count of conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which carries a maximum sentence of 20-years in prison. Shokri and Faridmanesh remain at large.

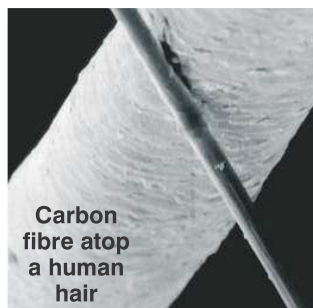


Carbon fibre fragments

FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge William F. Sweeney Jr. said: "Iran's continued pursuit of technology and materials to advance its nuclear programme remains a threat to the US and the rest of the world." He accused Iran of setting a "dangerous agenda."



William F. Sweeney Jr.



Carbon fibre atop a human hair



Maren Ueland and Louisa Jespersen

group. Ejoud told a judge: "We loved Islamic State and prayed to God for it." All the killers said they were "very sorry for their actions."

The men's defence team argued that their clients were of "low education," socially impacted by "mitigating circumstances" and suffered "psychological disequilibrium." Such arguments have been heard before involving other people arrested for carrying out acts on behalf of ISIS. They were all dismissed by a counter-terrorism court and followed

weeks of pressure from the Moroccan public who demanded proper justice. Prosecutor Khalid El Kerdoudou told the jury: "We can't be lenient towards these human beasts." And they agreed.

It transpired the trio also received training from ISIS sympathisers and were plotting to attack churches and synagogues.

Twenty other suspects linked to the men are currently on trial. If the executions are carried out, they will be the first in Morocco since 1993.

RUSSIA'S ALPHA UNIT

FSB Special Unit Resignation

Valery Kanakin, Director of the FSB's elite counter-terrorism unit Alpha (Directorate A), has reportedly stepped down. Some media houses claim he was dismissed by Kremlin officials.

Kanakin, has worked in Alpha since 1984 and holds a Hero of Russia medal. He was a central figure in the hostage-release operations which followed



Valery Kanakin

terrorist acts at a Beslan school and the Dubrovka Theatre siege in Moscow.

Intelligence sources do not believe his dismissal is linked to the recent arrests of fifteen FSB operatives from various units, including Alpha and Vypel, who have been accused of robbery.

Kanakin has held the position since 1984.



President Putin with members of Alpha



RAF Menwith Hill Expansion

APPLICATION FOR MORE RADOMES

Ministry of Defence (MOD) officials have submitted an application for additional radar domes to be built at the NSA's secret SIGINT base in North Yorkshire - RAF Menwith Hill. The facility already boasts around 34 radar domes on its 600-acre site. Other support buildings are also amongst the plans. The proposed domes will shelter new radar antennas.

Purchased in the early 1950s, the site is staffed by around 2,000 NSA employees, civilians and defence contractors and includes a GCHQ section. It is recognised as the biggest and most important communications' NSA Field Station in the world.

DSTL AND SPACE THREATS

Much in the news of late over its investigative assistance in the poisoning of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in Salisbury last year, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) has acquired its first satellite ground control station to support future space research activities for the MOD. Based at Portsmouth West, Hampshire, the ground station will use its 6.3m diameter antenna to direct satellites in both low-Earth and geosynchronous orbits, and will form a core part of the Dstl Space Science & Technology (S&T) programme.

Scientists from Dstl's Space Group will develop and test software for

satellite operations, and train civilian and military personnel in satellite mission operations. Towards the end of 2019, the ground station will task its first satellites, before progressing to control multiple satellite missions and other ground assets by 2021.

This ground station represents the first of a number of significant steps in conducting in-orbit research and concept demonstrator missions for the benefit of the MOD to better understand the space domain to enable freedom of action for future UK operations. This includes the protection of UK operations against emerging space-based threats.

Dstl Chief Executive, Gary Aitkenhead (right), commented: "Dstl is building world-class expertise in



developing systems for the space environment. Creating a ground infrastructure for future Space S&T missions is a key milestone in the continued rapid growth in our Space programme, supporting both Dstl, our colleagues across the MOD, and our other national and international partners."



Dstl's satellite ground control station

IRAN EMBARKS ON A GAME O

11th Hour Recall

Spy executions, arrests, attacks on oil-transporters and facilities, nuclear bomb claims, the downing of a UAV, sanctions, accusations, threat levels raised and the seizing of an Iranian oil tanker have conspired to create the 'perfect war platform' between the United States, its allies and Iran. That is the worrying assessment of many leading intelligence analysts...

Well over two years ago, US Intelligence warned that Iran was embarking on a programme of intimidation; this has evolved resulting in direct acts - though most are covert. Collectively, they threaten peace in one of the most strategic and important locations in the world. Iran is no longer a horizon threat and a plethora of incidents involving the nation have

prompted an influx of US weaponry and troops to the region, plus an expansion of its primary intelligence collection stations in neighbouring allied countries.

Responding to US threats of "enhanced sanctions" - intended to stop Iran exporting its oil - Tehran said it would stop honouring some aspects of the 2015 nuclear treaty agreement. "Stockpiles of low-enriched uranium would

therefore exceed negotiated levels," said an Iranian official. On 2 July, officials at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), verified it had breached agreed levels. Enriched uranium is used to make reactor fuel, but also nuclear bombs. Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said his country had taken the decision, because the "Europeans have failed to fulfill their promises of protecting Iran's interest under the [2015] deal." Most intelligence and military analysts believe the move is directly linked with an array of recent incidents and the increase of US military forces.

COVERT GULF ACTIVITIES

Over a fifth of all the world's oil needs flow through important water channels such as the Strait of Hormuz. This is problematic in itself because primary trade routes pass just a few miles from Iran's coast. In May, several oil carriers were carefully targeted and attacked; the incidents being blamed on 'state actors' or 'proxy forces' guided by Iran's intelligence service MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence Security) and IRGC (Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps). In all cases analysts said the bombs used to damage the vessels were affixed to the ships in places where the danger to loss of life was minimal.



An Iranian fireboat extinguishes flames on the oil tanker *Front Altair*

OF CHANCE

High stakes as CIA and MOIS continue to engage in a most dangerous 'poker game' as exposed Iranian acts and increased uranium enrichment inflame an already fragile theatre



Director of MOIS, Mahmoud Alavi

The incidents prompted additions to USCENTOM forces already operational in the Gulf, and a bitter war of words ensued, with the Pentagon accusing Iran directly. Tehran responded by claiming Israel's Mossad were behind the attacks - "they are trying to provoke conflict," an Iranian Foreign Ministry official said.

SURVEILLANCE

For several months, the CIA has monitored Iranian IRGC activities in ports and departures of weaponry from known sites - many taking place in hours of darkness. Small airstrips have also been enhanced to support air operations. Fast boats, stockpiles of missiles, mines, UAVs and torpedoes have all been moved to coastal areas. Reports suggest that the IRGC has replaced many conventional Iranian Navy units with its own specialist forces, many skilled in the art of sabotage. As a sideshow to the military movement, and unbeknown to the wider media, MOIS has detained several 'CIA watchers' on spy charges - alleging they were part of a Langley cyber and communications' network. This



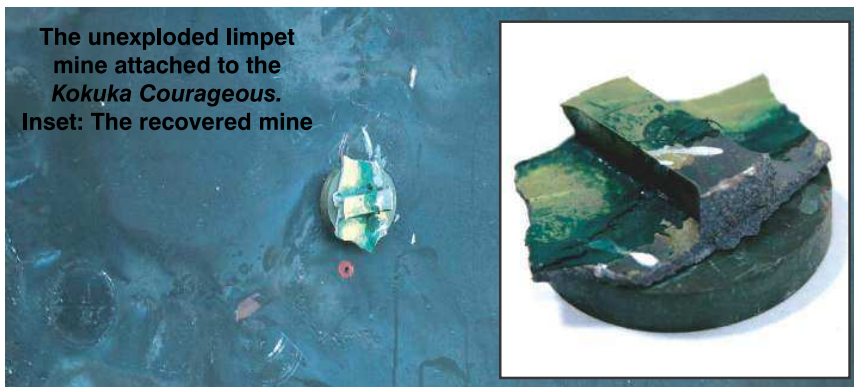
Crew members of *Front Altair* are accompanied by IRGC sailors to the port of Jask

Washington Seeks to Build Maritime Pact to Protect Gulf Shipping Lanes

followed the 'dismantling' of another alleged CIA network earlier in 2019. Also relevant, several Iranian nationals linked to the country's oil industry were arrested after trying to "influence" senior officials into "making wrong decisions to the benefit of the

United States." State media group Fars News said the US-controlled spy cell were led by a female agent who "operated to influence important managers in the oil industry and damage Iran further in the ongoing economic war with America." ➤

The unexploded limpet mine attached to the *Kokuka Courageous*. Inset: The recovered mine



USCENTOM photograph of the *Kokuka Courageous* following the attack



Iran National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani

MOIS chief Mahmoud Alavi said: "It's a complicated process against the CIA and its espionage network." He alleged an astonishing 290 CIA spies and contact people had been arrested in the last two years.

Iran's National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani made the more recent claims, and though he said his country had "evidence," this so far has not been provided.

However, the name of one former Iranian aerospace defence contractor surfaced - Jalal Hajizavar. Iranian media said when investigators searched his home they "discovered spy equipment and illegally obtained documents." State controlled media house IRIB said he had been convicted of spying for the CIA and duly executed at Rajai Shahr Prison near Tehran. An official said Hajizavar had "confessed to the espionage" and had "received money" from the CIA. His former wife (unnamed) is



MQ-9 Reaper

currently serving a 15-year prison sentence also linked to the espionage case.

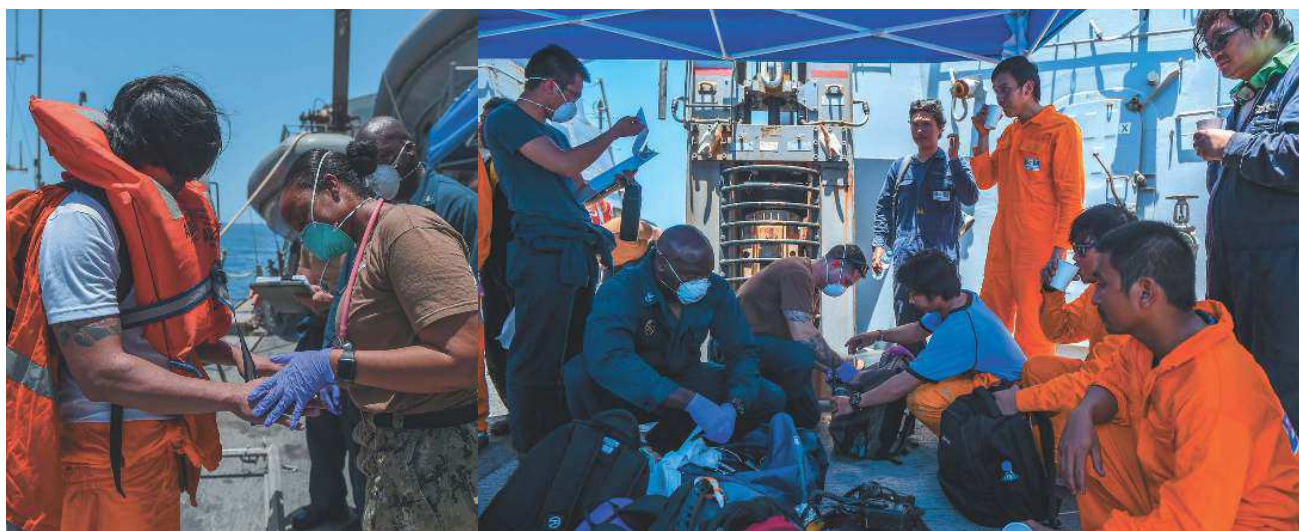
TANKERS ATTACKED

The situation between the US, its allies and Iran worsened on 13 June. Two more tankers were damaged by explosions in the Gulf of Oman: the *Front Altair* and *Kokuka Courageous*, the latter loaded with 75,000 tonnes of naphtha enroute to Taiwan from the United Arab Emirates. The crew of *Front Altair*, after making contact with the US Navy, were rescued by a cargo ship and then escorted by IRGC troops to the port of Jask in Iran. The US Navy despatched an MQ-9 Reaper to the scene and imagery taken by onboard surveillance cameras showed a raging fire and smoke billowing from its hull. The crew of the *Kokuka Courageous*, were assisted by USCENTOM forces and a Dutch tug.

The damage to both vessels was deliberate, and US Naval Intelligence imagery soon emerged showing an IRGC Gashti Class patrol boat close to *Front Altair*. Damage to the ships - holes - just above the waterline - seemed



US Navy surveillance images showing damage caused by an explosion on the hull of the *Kokuka Courageous*, and IRGC troops attempting to remove an unexploded mine



US sailors from USS *Bainbridge* give assistance to the 21 crew members of the oil carrier M/V *Kokuka Courageous* following a mine attack in the Gulf of Oman



US Secretary of State and former Director CIA Mike Pompeo is briefed by US Marine Corps General Kenneth McKenzie, USCENTOM Commander, on the attacks to shipping and the downing of a US UAV in the Gulf



IRGC patrol boat after engaging with the *Kokuka Courageous*

identical to that suffered by the oil vessels in the May attacks. One crew member on the *Kokuka Courageous* said he had witnessed “something flying at the ship,” followed by a “second shot.” This was suggestive of a torpedo or RPG (rocket propelled grenade) attack launched from an IRGC fast boat.

Incriminating surveillance footage released by the US Department of Defense also showed the crew of an IRGC patrol boat removing

what analysts confirmed was an unexploded limpet mine from the side of the *Kokuka Courageous*. This was obtained by specialists aboard the USS *Bainbridge*. Now Pentagon chiefs have instructed officials to examine the possibility of military escorts to accompany ships through the channel.

There was little doubt in the minds of CIA Station Chiefs in the region that Iran was behind the attacks. And Washington raised the

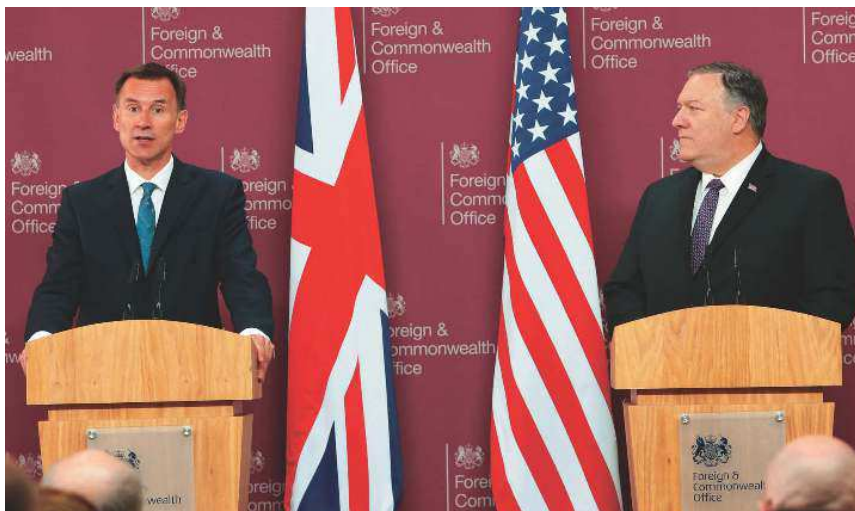


US Secretary of State Pompeo meets with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud

stakes by saying it would respond. US ally Saudi Arabia also blamed Iran, “we won’t hesitate to tackle any threats,” said Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. “We do not want a war in the region, but we won’t hesitate to deal with any threat to our people, sovereignty, territorial integrity and our vital interests.”

In the UK, MI6 notified the Foreign Office that it too was supportive of US evidence and commentary. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt told journalists: “Iran was almost certainly responsible.” Meetings were requested by UK Ambassador to Iran Rob Macaire to discuss the incidents and lower tensions.

Mr Hunt said Britain would “consider joining the US in military action,” against Iran, this after his department minister Andrew Murrison held talks with Iranian officials in Tehran. “We will stand by the United States as our strongest ally, but of course we have to consider any requests for military support on a case-by-case basis,” he said. Iran rejected the Foreign Office ascertain, while Pentagon officials insisted Tehran was trying to destabilise the entire region. ➤



May 2019. UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The UK blames Iran for the attacks

USAF RQ-4A Global Hawk UAV



A United Nations spokesman said officials should “not jump to conclusions” on which country was responsible, and said an independent investigation should take place.

China said the United States and Iran were “opening a Pandora’s Box,” and urged both nations to find a solution to the crisis.

On 18 June, Acting US Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan announced a further 1,000 troops were being deployed in the region. They will join with 1,500 who were despatched following the May oil tanker attacks.

UAV DOWNED

Whilst the debate rages about who was responsible for the tanker attacks, Iran was only too pleased to acknowledge it shot down a US Navy Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) RQ-4A Global Hawk UAV over the Strait of Hormuz on 19 June. The high altitude, long duration UAV was brought down by a Khordad-3rd surface-to-air missile system while conducting an ocean and coastal surveillance and intelligence collection mission.

USCENTOM insists it was flying over international waters and soon released convincing data on its flight plan, but Iran claimed it had strayed into its airspace. Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

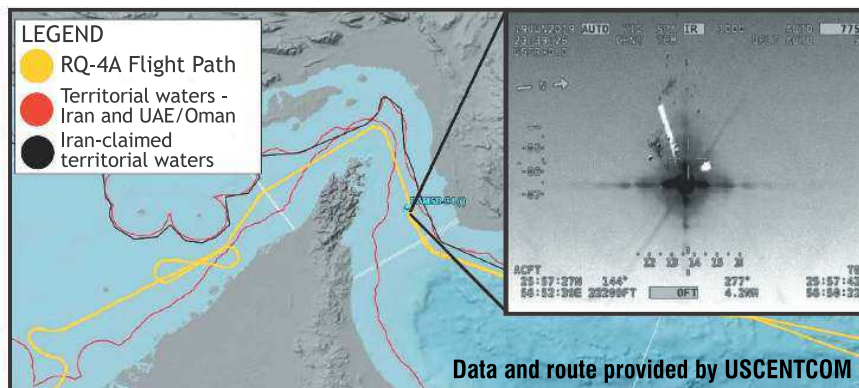


IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami

actually ‘tweeted’ the coordinates of the strike - 25°59'43N 57°02'25 near Kouh-e Mobarak. The data was provided for by the IRGC Aerospace Force. This conflicts with USCENTOM’s data, though only a few miles separate the figures. A day later wreckage of the UAV was displayed by the IRGC. Commander Major General Hossein Salami told



Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif ‘tweeted’ these images of the UAV flight path which shows the aircraft inside Iranian airspace. However, the data differs greatly from that provided by Pentagon analysts. Nevertheless, it is supported by the Kremlin



Data and route provided by USCENTCOM





IRGC and Iranian Government officials allowed the media to film the wreckage of the US Navy RQ-4A Global Hawk UAV



Iran Navy Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi

journalists: "The downing of the US drone had [sent] an explicit, decisive and clear message that defenders of the Islamic's Iran borders will show decisive and knockout reactions to aggression against this territory by any alien. Borders are our redline..." And in the Iranian Parliament, politicians chanted "death to America."

Iran media hailed the strike with editorials warning Washington what to expect if "it continues its policy of aggression." Iran's naval chief, Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi warned more US aircraft could be targeted, and it can always "deliver a crushing blow." It later transpired that an unidentified US reconnaissance aircraft was also deemed a

"legitimate target." The aircraft carried a crew of 30, but "Iran refrained from striking," an official said.

US RESPONSE

"Iran has made a very big mistake," said President Trump. Thereafter senior military and intelligence chiefs were instructed to initiate a tactical response - three IRGC coastal targets were identified, but at the eleventh hour the President aborted the attack. Intelligence sources initially stated Trump's change of heart came when he was told over 100 people would probably be killed in the strike. He believed the retaliation was "disproportionate." However, he warned that



UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash

"military action is always on the table against Iran," though he was willing to discuss a lowering of tensions between the adversaries. ➤



US Secretary of State Pompeo meets UAE Prince Mohammed bin Zayed to discuss the attacks. The UAE is one of America's key allies in the Gulf region



24 June. President Trump signs an Executive Order placing more sanctions on Iran. He is flanked by Vice President Mike Pence

US National Security Advisor John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited key allies in the region to explain the decision, which Washington said, “in no way was a step down.” Bolton met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and advised on a new series of sanctions that would severely impact on Iran. He also added that “no-one had given Iran a hunting licence in the Middle East.”

President Trump's sanctions impact on major companies and individuals, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and eight senior IRGC commanders and intelligence chiefs. This will result in the “lock-up” of billions of dollars in Iranian assets. US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said the orders were in place before the UAV shootdown.

In the UAE, a key US ally, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash, tweeted: *‘Tensions in the Gulf can only be addressed politically. [A] crisis long in the making*

requires collective attention; primarily to de-escalate and find political solutions through dialogue and negotiations’.

The UAE has also insisted that “clear and convincing evidence” was required before apportioning blame to any nation.

NSA-US ARMY CYBER COMMAND STRIKE

In an action intent on showing its hidden capabilities, on 22 June the US did respond by launching a cyber attack on various computer systems controlling the very same weaponry used to bring down the Global Hawk UAV. This was reportedly performed by the US Army Cyber Command supported by the NSA. Cyber action had been planned since the first oil tanker attacks in May, according to Pentagon sources. Iran's Minister for Information and Communication, Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said “they try hard, but they have not carried out a successful attack.”



US National Security Advisor John Bolton and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

At the same time, US Department of Homeland Security officials acknowledged Iran had “stepped-up” its own cyber attacks on US systems, including those carried by USCENTOM ships in the Gulf. This had led to authentic fears of a new cyber war between the two adversaries - even more damaging than the 2012 clash. In this case Iranian hackers struck oil companies, including Saudi giant Aramco. “We have never really seen a back-and-forth between two countries,” said Sergio Caltagirone, Vice President of threat intelligence at cyber firm Dragos. The former NSA officer said, “we are seeing the dawn of cyberwar.”



Sergio Caltagirone

Fearful of more attacks, some oil companies have already ordered their ships not to enter the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman until the situation is

resolved. Danish shipping giant Maersk announced it was levying a ‘War Risk Surcharge’ on cargos transiting the Persian Gulf. UAE air carrier Ethihad has suspended flights over the region, until further notice.



Majid Takht Ravanchi (left), Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations and his US counterpart, Ambassador Jonathan Cohen, brief journalists at the United Nations. Both men agreed to disagree...

UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council urged “maximum restraint” in the Gulf region as Iran and the United States traded diplomatic blows in New York. Majid Takht Ravanchi, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN, briefed journalists during Security Council consultations on the situation in the Middle East. “There is a need for genuine regional dialogue to address rising tensions in the Gulf,” he said, urging UN Secretary-General António Guterres “to play a role” in bringing countries to the table.

Mr Ravanchi, was speaking to reporters *outside* the Security Council chamber in New York, where a closed-door meeting was being held to discuss the deteriorating relations between the United States and Iran, which has also ratcheted up tension with Iran’s regional rival Saudi Arabia, and its allies. Ravanchi said he had asked to take part in the meeting, but his request had been refused. He blamed the United States for Iran’s exclusion.

At the press gathering he denied Iran was responsible for attacking the oil tankers in May and June and asserted that the “drone had been violating Iranian airspace when it was shot down.”



Mossad Director Yossi Cohen

Acting US Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Jonathan Cohen, told the same reporters: “Iran was responsible... the attacks pose a serious threat to the freedom of navigation and commerce in one of the world’s most important waterways.”

LAST WORD - MOSSAD BREAKS SILENCE

In early July, Mossad Director Yossi Cohen spoke publicly about the recent Gulf attacks giving his organisation’s view of events. Speaking to delegates at Israel’s Interdisciplinary Center’s Conference, Cohen said: “I say to you with certainty, based on the best sources both Israeli and Western espionage [have], that Iran is behind these attacks. They



Mossad image of safes which contained Iranian nuclear secrets

were approved by Iran’s leadership and carried out in large part by the IRGC and its proxies.” He accused Iran of trying to “start a fire” in the Middle East. He also referenced wider MOIS operations in Europe, which he described as “terrorist acts,” and Tehran’s quest for a nuclear bomb.

Interestingly, he drew reference to the audacious Mossad operation in Tehran in 2018 at a nuclear warehouse, which saw his officers secure hundreds of thousands of documents pertaining to Iran’s nuclear programme. He revealed six officers, including two women, were awarded the 2019 Israel Security Prize for their involvement. And with a slight smile, Cohen said: “In James Bond movies, one person saves the world at the last minute... again and again. In the Mossad, it’s groups of men and women.”

THE CURIOUS JOURNEY OF GRACE 1

Covert communications intercepted by NSA and GCHQ, satellite monitoring of protracted journey and transponder shutdown led British Intelligence to rogue IRGC oil delivery ship - the *Grace 1*



Royal Marines intercepted an Iranian oil supertanker on 4 July off the coast of Gibraltar, after intelligence gleaned by America’s NSA and CIA watchers in the Gulf, revealed it was destined for Syria.

The *Grace 1*, had made an extended 15,000 mile journey, described as “curious” by maritime intelligence specialists, skirting southern Africa (Cape) before making its way

north. The UK Government said its covert route was intentional to avoid EU sanctions which were introduced in 2011. Iran responded by saying the route was chosen because the vessel was too large and heavy to traverse the Suez Canal. “And anyway,” said Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, “Syria does not have a port big enough for it to dock.” However, when asked where *Grace 1* was headed, a hesitant Araqchi declined to reveal its destination.

Gibraltar’s Chief Minister Fabian Picardo dismissed Iran’s responses and said that *Grace 1* was carrying crude oil to the Baniyas Refinery in Syria, adding “the refinery is the property of an entity that is subject to European Union sanctions against Syria.”

For the record, the ship measures 350 yards in length and weighs 300,000 tonnes. Officials later confirmed it was fully loaded and carried two million gallons of oil. ➤



Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi



**Gibraltar Chief Minister
Fabian Picardo**

The *Grace 1* was stopped by 30 Royal Marines from 42 Commando and specialist officers, some who descended from a Wildcat HMA Mk2 attack helicopter.

No force was used and Foreign Office officials described the action as “benign.” Investigators have interviewed its 28-crew members, mainly Indian nationals, who were described as “witnesses - not criminals,” to determine its final destination and cargo. The Marines soon departed and control of the ship was assumed by 18 Royal Gibraltar Police officers and Custom officials.

MARITIME ‘PIRATES AND PUPPETS’

Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Moussavi, described the action as “piracy,” and accused the UK of operating as an “American puppet.” The country’s Defence Minister, Amir Hatami said it was “maritime robbery” and “would not be tolerated.” Britain’s Ambassador to Iran, Robert Macaire, a former counter-terrorism specialist, was summoned by Iran to explain the operation. UK ministers said there was no political request from Washington and that Britain had acted independently.

Intelligence sources said the UK and USA had good reason to believe *Grace 1* was enroute to Syria after communications between Bashar



**UK Ambassador to Iran,
Robert Macaire**



Royal Marines from 42 Commando followed by Gibraltar Police and Customs officers board the *Grace 1*



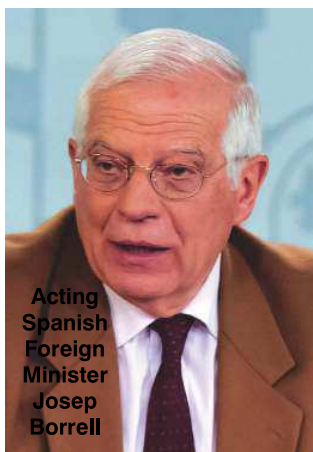


Iranian Defence Minister Amir Hatami

al-Assad's government and Tehran were intercepted. One is said to have confirmed oil was being shipped. Syria has acknowledged oil shortages, and Iran is its biggest ally along with Russia. Moscow accused Britain of worsening the situation in the Gulf.

Iran's IRGC threatened to target a British ship in response to the incident, which government officials claim was "authorised by America." Major General Mohsen Rezai said: "If Britain does not release the oil tanker, it is the authorities duty to seize a British oil tanker."

In Spain, which claims Gibraltar as its own, Acting Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said the UK was "doing Washington's bidding," and that Madrid would "investigate the incident" because it happened in waters that Spain considers its own.



Acting Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell

UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt praised Gibraltar officials and said the action would "deny valuable resources to Syria's murder-

ous regime." US National Security Advisor John Bolton called the operation "excellent news." And in a tweet added: *'America & our allies will continue to prevent regimes in Tehran & Damascus from profiting from this illicit trade'.*

INTELLIGENCE CLUES

Perhaps a clue to the interception concerns *Grace 1's* registration. Many media houses said it was Panamanian-flagged. However, the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) said its registration was cancelled in late May 2019, after the organisation received an authentic communication [warning]. The PMA released the following statement: *'The PMA was notified of the international alert regarding the vessel GRACE 1, which indicated that this vessel might be participating or [was] being linked to the Financing of Terrorism, or in support of the destabilising activities of certain regimes led by terrorist groups'.*

Similarly, specialists from *Lloyds List* magazine said *Grace 1* had turned off its tracking signals to avoid detection shortly before it journeyed around the Cape of Good Hope (South Africa). Intelligence analysts said this had been done by other Iranian ships not



Royal Marines descend from a Wildcat helicopter on to the deck of *Grace 1*

© MOD/CROWN COPYRIGHT



The operation was supported by Gibraltar Police and Customs

wanting to be tracked. "Any tanker with Iranian crude follows a similar pattern of behaviour," said Michelle Bockmann who wrote the piece in *Lloyds List*. "They do that by turning off their AIS (Automatic Identification System) transponder."

Samir Madani of *Tanker Trackers* said for reasons not yet fully understood, *Grace 1's* journey took two-and-a-half months, one month longer than it should have done. ➤



Royal Navy Wildcat helicopter (front)



Royal Marines



HMS Montrose
Inset: Missile launch

torpedoes and depth charges, trained her guns on the rogue boats and soon the Iranian crews retreated. No shots were fired. In London, the UK immediately raised the threat level in the region to Critical and issued new guidelines for shipping operators.

An MOD spokesman said, "Iran's actions were contrary to international law." Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt called the incident "illegal and hostile" and urged officials in Tehran to "de-escalate the situation." Downing Street said it was "committed to maintaining freedom of navigation in accordance with international law."

In Washington, US Fifth Fleet Vice Admiral Jim Malloy described the attempt to stop the *British Heritage* as "unlawful harassment." US

It departed in mid-April and he believes it was carrying fuel oil. He also asserted the ship could not have been sailing for Syria's Baniyas Refinery because of the shallow waters found there. Instead, Madani believes the oil would have been transferred to waiting ships in Syrian maritime waters.

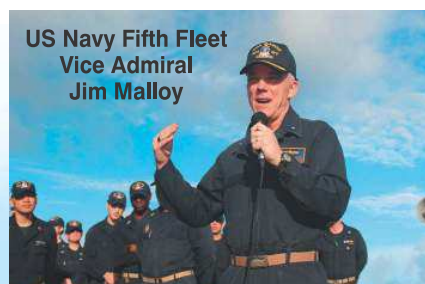
IRAN ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE UK TANKER

On 10 July, Iran tried to make good its threat to seize a British vessel in response to the *Grace 1* incident, this as Gibraltar police charged its captain and chief officer on suspicion of breaching EU sanctions. Three armed boats approached the BP-owned *British Heritage* tanker in an attempt to stop the ship as it moved out of the Persian Gulf and into the Strait of Hormuz. Once halted, the Iranians directed it towards Iranian territorial waters. A Royal Navy Type 23 Frigate, HMS *Montrose*,



First Sea Lord Admiral Tony Radakin - Chief of Naval Staff

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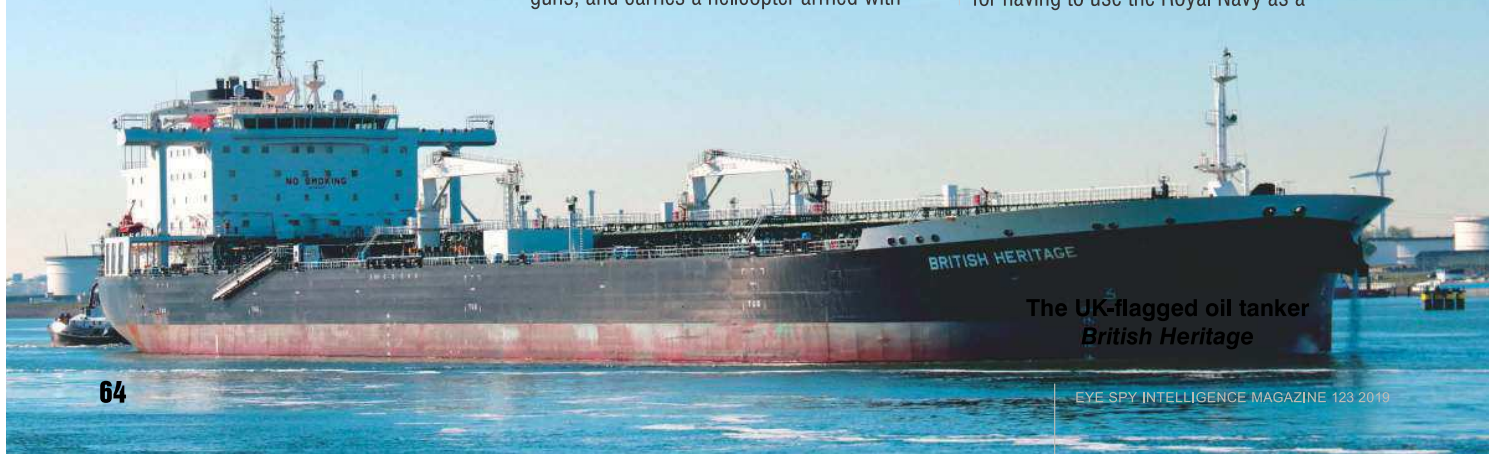
**US Navy Fifth Fleet
Vice Admiral
Jim Malloy**

which had been assigned to monitor British shipping, moved quickly between the ships stopping the Iranian boats in their tracks. The captain issued a verbal warning telling the Iranians to withdraw. The incident occurred near the island of Abu Musa, north of the United Arab Emirates.

Montrose, which is equipped with 30mm guns, and carries a helicopter armed with

State Department spokesman Morgan Ortagus commended the action of the Royal Navy and said: "US and allied forces would ensure the free flow of commerce through this critically important waterway."

IRGC officials denied they had attempted to stop the tanker, while Iran's President Hassan Rouhani called the UK "scared and hopeless" for having to use the Royal Navy as a



**The UK-flagged oil tanker
*British Heritage***

Royal Navy
destroyer
HMS Duncan



protector of British-flagged ships. "You, Britain, are the initiator of insecurity and you will realise the consequences of your actions later," he said.

IRAN UAV AND USS BOXER

On 18 July an unidentified Iranian UAV was targeted by the USS *Boxer* in the Strait of Hormuz. US officials said the aircraft was shot down after it came within 1,000-yards of the warship. Some sources say the device crashed after it was "electronically jammed by counter-measures." Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif dismissed the account as "fiction."

IRAN STRIKES BACK

Tensions in the Gulf rose dramatically on 19 July when IRGC fast boats and a helicopter forced the British-flagged *Stena Impero* into Iranian territorial waters where it was duly boarded and its crew detained. Another British-owned ship, the Liberia-flagged *Mesdar* was also boarded by Iranian troops but later released to continue its journey.

Stena Impero was directed to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. Tehran officials said the ship had "broken international maritime rules." References to a collision with an Iranian fishing boat were made. The tanker's owner, Stena Bulk, said the ship was in international waters when it was targeted. Computer tracking of the ship showed it suddenly deviated from its programmed course and started moving north towards Iran - this after its transponder was switched off. The incident only escalated a deeply worsening situation and resulted in an emergency security COBRA meeting at Downing Street.

Iran's most senior diplomat in London was also summoned to provide an explanation.



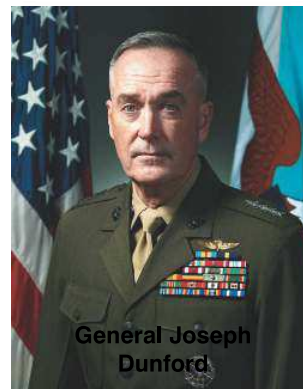
USS Boxer. Inset: IRGC fast boat

British-flagged
Stena Impero



Few doubt the 30,000-tonne *Stena Impero*'s seizure was Iran's response to the *Grace 1* incident. UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, backed by the United States and a plethora of other world leaders demanded that Iran release the ship. "Iran has now taken a dangerous path," he said.

US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford said from a US perspective, its forces would provide "intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance," to assist the normal and safe transit of shipping through the Gulf. The entire region is being surveilled from sea, land and air by a variety of watchers. Similarly, satellites are carefully monitoring and tracking the movement of ships, including those operated by Iran. Various units of Special Forces, including a number from the UK have since been stationed in the Gulf, and as a further protective measure, a Type 45 frigate HMS *Duncan* despatched.



General Joseph
Dunford



Lord West

The UK has four other ships in the region, all are based at a permanent Naval Support Facility in Bahrain. Downing Street said UK and US officials are in discussions to "send more military assets" to join with existing forces, including warships and fighter aircraft.

Thirty three countries participate in a Combined Maritime Force offering protection, but analysts acknowledge some nations are reluctant to engage directly with the Iranians.

The former head of the Royal Navy and First Sea Lord Admiral West, warned it would be "foolhardy and unacceptable" if UK ships continue to transit the Gulf sea routes without Navy protection. However, he said the Navy simply does not have enough ships and funding to escort all the ships. Between 15 and 30 major UK-flagged ships pass through the Gulf each day. Around three transit through the Strait of Hormuz, which is just 21 nautical miles wide at its narrowest point where the territorial waters of Iran and Oman collide.

After the seizing of *Stena Impero*, President Trump said: "We will talk to the UK... they have been a very great ally." He warned Iran not to do "anything foolish" [or] they "will pay a price." Pentagon officials announced US troops were being deployed to Saudi Arabia to "defend American interests from emergent credible threats."

NUCLEAR SUBMARINE INCIDENT

THE TOP SECRET BOAT

Fourteen Russian Navy Deaths Reported as Fire Damages Submarine Engaged with Secret Undersea Cables Research

On 1 July, fourteen Russian sailors, including seven Captains 1st rank died attempting to control a raging fire on a nuclear submarine in the Barents Sea. At the time, the AS-12 (just one of a number of designations used to describe the boat - NATO reporting name NORSUB-5), nicknamed *Losharik** by its 25-person crew, was on a secret mission studying aspects of the Arctic sea floor at a depth of around 1,000ft. An explosion was heard and the fire, which started in a battery

component room following a short circuit, spread quickly. It took the crew a reported 90-minutes to get the blaze under control.

DESIGNATION CONFUSION

Russian news agencies were told the submarine, "a small nuclear vessel on a secret mission," was carrying out bathymetric measurements. Some analysts interpreted this to mean the *Losharik* had deployed a submersible - and it was this vessel that had



Alleged photograph of the *Losharik*

Losharik's host submarine
BS-64 *Podmoskovye*



caught fire. A number of maritime magazines questioned if the submarine, which is around 77 yards in length, could even carry a submersible. Other media houses including *TASS*, said the fire was actually aboard the main submarine. *Novaya Gazeta* reported the submarine had the hull number AS-31 not the AS-12 designation, while *Open Source* said it was actually the enormous submarine BS-64 *Podmoskovye*. *Izvestia* referred to the submarine as *Project 210 Losharik*, and said it took a specialist team of structural engineers 15-years to build the boat; the work being started in the late 1980s and conducted in great secrecy. Russian naval specialists compounded the matter further when they said *Losharik* was being carried by the *Podmoskovye* when the fire broke out.



Memorial in Murmansk to Russian sailors who have perished in peacetime

Naval historian and writer H. I. Sutton told Eye Spy: "It is true that there is yet to be 100% confirmation that it was *Losharik*." However, he notes hull numbers can change over time, thus this might explain references to AS-12 and AS-31. "Whatever the confusion, everyone pretty much agrees that they mean *Losharik*." He also referenced the unlikely possibility that the boat in question was a PALTUS class midget submarine which is 100ft in length.

As for the submarine which carried *Losharik* out to sea, he confirmed it was the BS-64. "*Losharik* is carried underneath the host submarine docked into a deep keel with a recess." Mr Sutton noted whilst it is called a midget submarine, it is actually almost as large as many Western diesel-electronic submarines - it is described as such because

it is much smaller on the inside. Importantly, he advised that it is not intended to operate independently of the host submarine. As for why it was carrying so many captains, Mr Sutton said such boats have all-officer crews, and this is not unusual.

MISSION OBJECTIVE

Western intelligence sources believe confusion abounds because of a lack of comment from Moscow, the silence undoubtedly the result of its secret mission: any one of the many stories circulating in the media could turn out to be true. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said information about the incident is "absolutely classified" and will not be released. Nevertheless, its overall mission is being linked to underwater cable detection and communications' interference. Aboard the



Russia Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov

boat are said to be various laboratories. "The submarine was capable of operating at great depths, and could engage [tap] or even disrupt information-carrying cables [cut]," a US Navy analyst told Eye Spy. He said limited information about the boat, referred to as a 'Dark Target' by the Pentagon, had caused much confusion and speculation. However, it belongs to a small fleet of advanced submarines (29th Submarine Division) operated by Russia's Main Directorate of Deep-Sea Research (GUGI) and provides intelligence directly to the GRU. It has operated in various waters, more recently tracked in the Arctic Circle. ➤





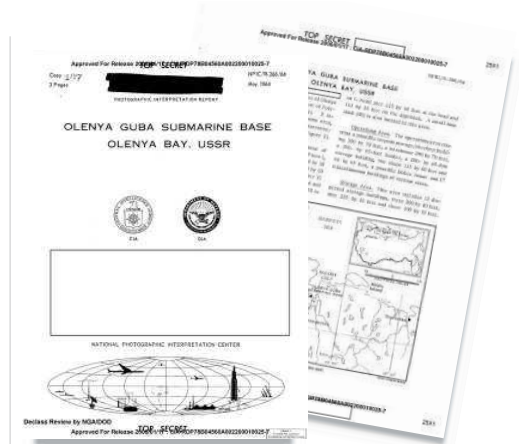
Nearby Norwegian fishing boats witnessed a submarine surface, and various crew members "running and shouting" on its deck. Hours later it was joined by a warship and two tugs, though the damaged submarine is said to have departed under its own power and returned to the port of Severomorsk, home of the Russian Navy's Northern Fleet headquarters.

SACRIFICE

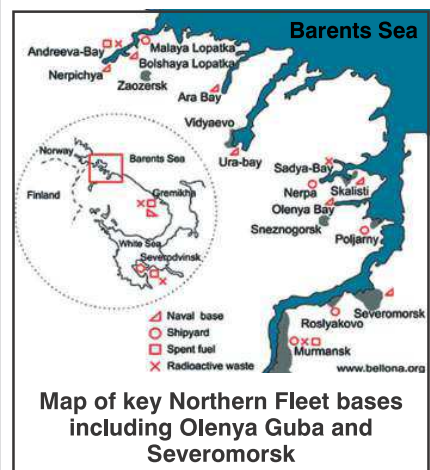
Russian Ministry of Defence officials would not confirm its actual role, but did say the highly decorated elite sailors gave their lives to save the boat, colleagues and prevent a possible nuclear incident. One of the crew actually closed a hatch - effectively sacrificing himself to stop the fire spreading. A statement by a Ministry of Defence official was read out in Moscow: "Fourteen submariners died as a result of combustion products." The officer said the men had died as a result of smoke inhalation rather than fire. He also referenced "deep-water research apparatus," another indication it was a small submersible, according to some analysts. However, similar vessels do not usually carry more than five persons.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, met with President Putin just 24-hours later and assured him the boat's nuclear reactor was secure. He also confirmed that the submarine was being repaired and would return to service. Shoigu said one sailor, named as Captain 2nd Class Dmitry Solovyev, gave his life to help evacuate a civilian scientist. Putin said the "unusual vessel's loss was significant," and sent condolences to the families of the deceased who he said were a "highly professional crew." He instructed Navy Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov, current Commander-in-Chief and Shoigu to conduct a full investigation into the circumstances of the incident. Both men flew to Severomorsk to collect more evidence. "I ask that you both report to me personally," he said.

Per Strand, Director of Norway's Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, said whilst no formal approach had been made to them by the Kremlin, he said that because the situation was brought under control very quickly, and no "nuclear incident registered," Russia was not obligated to reveal further details. However, he did say an approach should have been made. Tests in the waters where the incident occurred show no signs of radiation



The Olenya Guba Submarine Base was a location of interest to the CIA and DIA as early as 1964, as this former Top Secret investigative report reveals

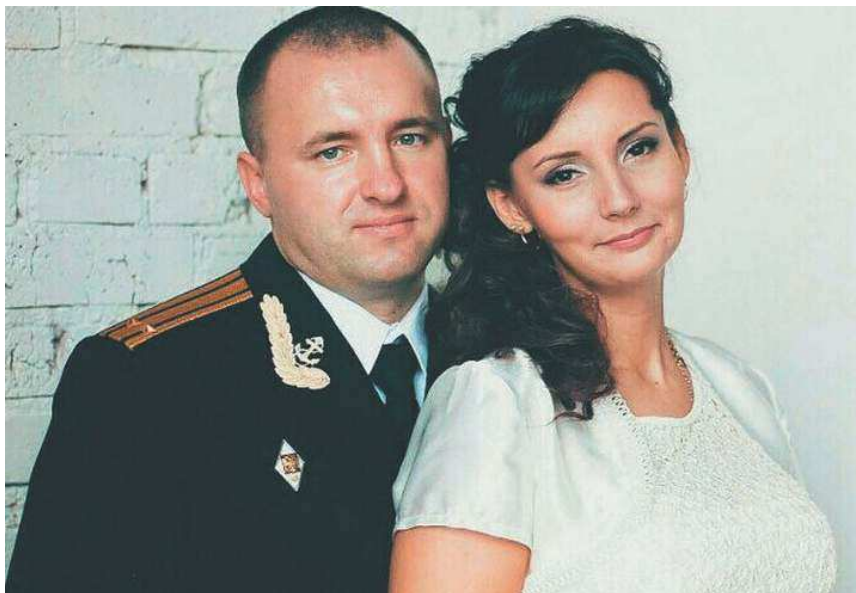


Map of key Northern Fleet bases including Olenya Guba and Severomorsk

contamination. The Pentagon was not informed of the incident either, though we understand that some details have since been provided.

Mr Sutton told Eye Spy he believed the *Losharik*, together with its host BS-6, had been operating at sea for less than a week when the accident happened. They returned

Left: Captain 2nd Class Dmitry Solovyev pictured with his spouse. Solovyev sacrificed himself to save a civilian scientist on the *Losharik*





Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu explains the circumstances of the *Losharik* incident to President Putin

directly to Severomorsk rather than their home port of Olenya Guba on the Kola Peninsula in the Murmansk Oblast. "This supports the view of analysts and officials that the damage done was minimal and repairable," he said.

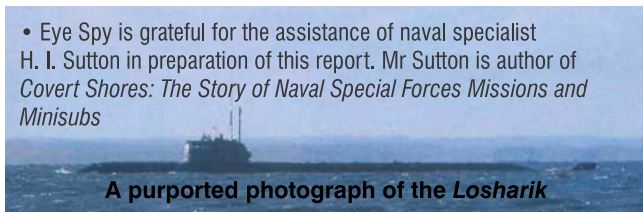
All the dead sailors are believed to be members of an elite deep sea intelligence unit, and though their names were released, a spokesman said no further details would be forthcoming for national security reasons. Four of the men received the Hero of Russia award, whilst the others posthumously awarded the Order of Courage.

The submarine tragedy is the first since the deaths of 20 Russian sailors aboard the nuclear powered *Nerpa* in 2008. The worst Russian submarine incident still remains the *Kursk*, which sank in 2000 claiming 118 lives.

All those who died on the *Losharik* were buried at a closed military ceremony in the Serafimovskoye Cemetery, St Petersburg - the same site where a monument was built honouring the Kursk sailors.

**Losharik* was the name of a very 'smart' circus cartoon horse made of wooden marbles. The *Komsomolets* - over page ➤

- Eye Spy is grateful for the assistance of naval specialist H. I. Sutton in preparation of this report. Mr Sutton is author of *Covert Shores: The Story of Naval Special Forces Missions and Minisubs*



A purported photograph of the *Losharik*



The fourteen dead sailors were named as: Captain 1st Rank Konstantin Ivanov, Andrey Voskresenskiy, Konstantin Somov, Denis Oparin, Vladimir Abankin, Denis Dolonskiy, Nikolay Filin, Captain 2nd Rank Alexander Avdonin, Dmitriy Solovyev, Sergey Danilchenko, Captain 3rd Rank Viktor Kuzmin Vladimir Sukhinichev. Other Crew Lieutenant Captain Mikhail Dubkov, Lieutenant Colonel of Medical Service Alexandr Vasilyev

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A WARNING FROM HISTORY

The K-278 Komsomolets

Coinciding with the loss of *Losharik*, the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research, has reported a Russian submarine lost in a fire three decades ago, continues to leak radiation

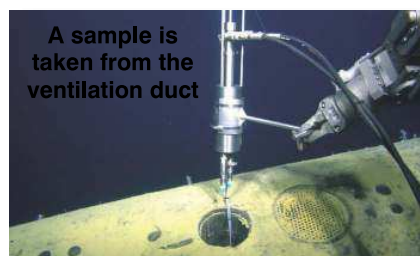
Fitted with a titanium inner hull, a single pressurised water nuclear reactor, and six 533-millimetre torpedo tubes that made it fit for anti-submarine warfare, the *Komsomolets* (Project 685) reached a depth of nearly 3,400ft in 1984, a record at the time. But following years of development and testing after it was commissioned as a prototype in 1983, its life as an advanced attack boat of the Soviet fleet was short-lived.

Whilst engaged in its first operational patrol on 7 April 1989, and at a depth of about 1,100ft, a fire in the engine room quickly spread and caused the boat's nuclear reactor to fail. The crew conducted an emergency ascent and reached the surface minutes later, but it sank later to the bottom of the Barents Sea approximately 110-miles southwest of Bear Island (Norway). Two nuclear-armed torpedoes were lost and forty-two crew members perished in the disaster.



Hilde Elise Helda

Three decades later, a Norwegian scientific expedition visiting the wreckage site confirmed the *Komsomolets*, which lays on the seabed at a depth of 5,500ft, continues to leak radiation. Norwegian scientists have been monitoring the site since the 1990s.



A sample is taken from the ventilation duct



ROV Aegir 6000 engages with the *Komsomolets*

"We found levels of radioactive cesium that were close to 1 million times higher than the levels we find in [uncontaminated] seawater," said Hilde Elise Helda, a researcher from the Institute of Marine Research who participated in the mission.

The Norwegian monitoring effort entails annual expeditions to the *Komsomolets* to take water and core samples from the sea floor, but is limited, according to Helda, because "we don't know exactly how close to the wreck we are."

Earlier this year the Norwegians deployed an ROV (remotely operated vehicle) the - Aegir 6000, which Helda said "made it possible to take pictures, film, and also take samples very close to the wreck. Leaks have been monitored from a ventilation pipe on the *Komsomolets* since the time of its demise; and though the levels appear high, "they are not dangerous," Helda assured reporters.

In 1992, according to the US Center for the Study of Intelligence (CSI), Tengiz Borisov, who headed the Russian Special Committee for the Conduct of Underwater Work, said: "If there is a leak, fishing will be impossible in the Norwegian Sea for between 600 and 700 years."



IMR specialists recover samples taken from the *Komsomolets*



MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

Chinese Spy Ship Monitors Talisman Sabre

The 2019 Exercise Talisman Sabre (TS19) war games took place mid-July in Australia's coastal waters and involved military forces from Australia, United States and Japan. Prior to the start of the exercise, which is held every two years, the Chinese surveillance ship, the *Tianwangxing* (Uranus), a Dong-Diao AGI 853 class vessel, positioned itself in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Coral Sea. Close enough to collect valuable data and intelligence.

The *Tianwangxing* belongs to the People's Liberation Army's East Sea Fleet based in Zhejiang Province, and is the same type that monitored the 2017 Talisman Sabre exercise. The Auxiliary General Intelligence (AGI) is fitted with advanced systems designed

to specifically eavesdrop and intercept communications. Also very prominent are spherical domes, which shield dish antennas that collect and intercept radio signals and give the ship its distinct profile. Intelligence analysts believe the Chinese are particularly interested in learning how the Australian Defence Force and the United States would operate together in responding to a maritime threat.

While the Chinese ship's presence near Australia's coast is not illegal, both Washington and Canberra have made reference to Chinese espionage and its increasing oceanology prowess.

For its part, China has protested to Washington about US Navy warships conducting "close-in surveillance" in its EEZ, and has objected to ships passing through



The Chinese spy ship *Tianwangxing*

disputed waters in the South China Seas. The US and other countries have argued that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), permits military activity inside EEZs.

It is not the first time Chinese military vessels have operated in Australia's EEZ, but by doing so again adds to precedent that other countries can cite Beijing's objections to similar actions in its EEZ in the future, such as freedom-of-navigation patrols.

Up to 25,000 military personnel, mainly from the US and Australia, took part in this year's Exercise Talisman Sabre. Much focus was on planning and conducting "mid-intensity high-end war-fighting."

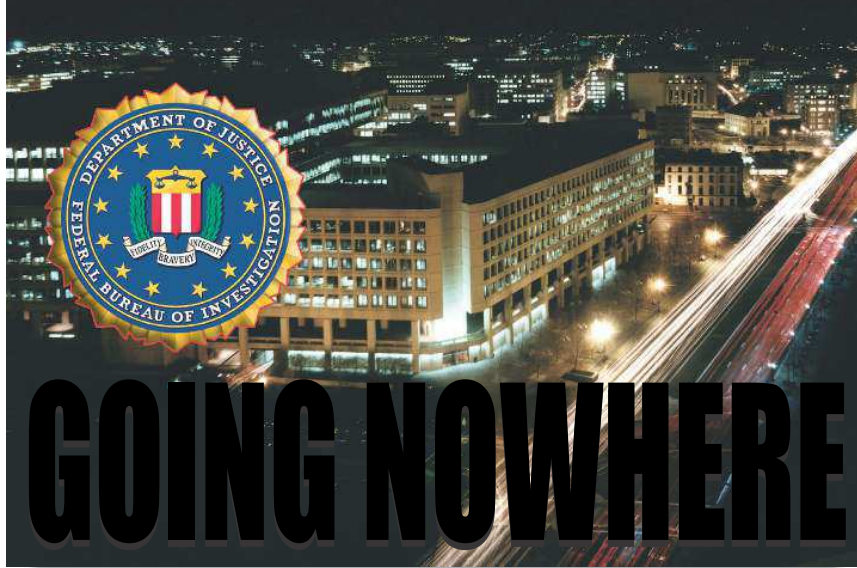
The exercise also involved the Japanese Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade. Tokyo created this special maritime unit last year primarily as a response option for potential Chinese incursions in the disputed Senkaku Islands.



Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison visits USS *Ronald Reagan* during Talisman Sabre 2019, and addresses participants



July 2019.
USS *Ronald Reagan*



GOING NOWHERE

FBI's Long Time Ambition to Relocate its Headquarters Now Under Threat

For the best part of two decades, intelligence officials backed by senior government planners scoured locations for the most suitable location or building to relocate the headquarters of America's most famous domestic intelligence service - the FBI. All recognised that the existing building was not suitable for expansion plans, including developing more electronic-based directorates. Several sites were favoured, including the Victory Center at 5001 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia. This building served as the home to US Army Materiel Command (AMC) for 30-years and had a high security rating. Other locations examined were also on the outskirts of Washington DC and the border regions of neighbouring Virginia. This meant staff would not need to relocate. Yet doubts started to emerge when Donald Trump became President. Insiders were already referencing the fact that the existing building sits just across the street close to the Trump International Hotel, the former Old Post Office.

Further commentary reflected Trump's perceived view that the current J. Edgar Building should be redeveloped or knocked down and a new structure built. It transpired the President himself had a keen interest in the

plans to relocate and personally participated in closed-door meetings. Some intelligence sources say he was firm in his belief that the headquarters should remain in the city centre. As to what transpired at the briefing sessions, participants were allegedly told not discuss the agenda with third parties.

Now lawmakers in the US are said to be reviewing a "White House decision not to relocate." Indeed, the Justice Department Inspector General himself is said to be fronting an investigation into the actual circumstances of the move. IG Michael Horowitz penned a letter to leaders of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform:

'The review will include an examination of the DOJ's and the FBI's progress in its planning, their assessment and consideration of the previously proposed plan to move FBI headquarters to a suburban location, and their



Michael Horowitz

Victory Center, Alexandria



assessment and consideration of the plan to demolish the J. Edgar Building and construct a new facility'.

Earlier this year, Trump's choice for the most senior position in the FBI - Christopher Wray, said the decision [not to relocate] was made solely by the FBI. Now the new review will investigate the exact circumstances and determine if it was in any way influenced by "external parties." As to the suggestion that the existing building be flattened and a new more contemporary structure built, Trump's opponents are already claiming it will cost more money.

The current FBI headquarters building is 45-years-old and supports a staff of over 18,000, however access and parking are limited. It was named the J.

Edgar Hoover Building on 4 May 1972 - two days after the death of the Bureau's most famous servant. FBI personnel started work at the premises in 1974.



Christopher Wray

SECRET HISTORY: WINNING THE INTELLIGENCE WAR

A HIDDEN ADVANTAGE



Dr Helen Fry

WHEN THE WALLS AND FLOORS HAVE EARS

Intelligence historian Dr Helen Fry provides engaging insight into the origins, development and achievements at one of the most important intelligence collection sites ever created in wartime, this as she encapsulates years of research into hundreds of classified files and interviews with persons connected to the secret MI6 mission - Trent Park

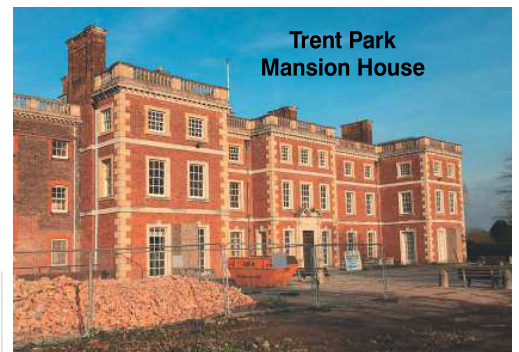
As German tanks rolled over the border and occupied Poland on 1 September 1939, one of Britain's most senior spymasters, MI6 intelligence officer Thomas Joseph Kendrick arrived at the Tower of London. Within a special compound, and away from the public's eyes, he created a

specialist unit that would secretly bug the conversations of German prisoners of war in their rooms. Those prisoners were held in the historic Salt Tower, the Broad and Constable Towers and the old hospital block; they were interrogated but gave nothing away. Only when they returned to their comrades would they begin to boast about what they had *not*

Tower of London



**Trent Park
Mansion House**



told the interrogators. They believed the British were unbelievably stupid and incompetent at interrogation. Little did they realise that the light fittings and thick stone fireplaces in the Tower had hidden microphones wired back to an 'M Room' where secret listeners were recording their conversations. At the end of September 1939, Kendrick already had 60 German prisoners in the Tower, most of them U-boat crew captured after their submarines had been sunk. Future months saw the arrival of shot-down Luftwaffe pilots and crews who



Kendrick at Trent Park

began to open up to each other about their war experiences, tactics, technology and importantly... "unbreakable codes." ➤



The Salt Tower, Tower of London, where German POWs were held in the autumn of 1939. It was here MI6 intelligence officer Thomas Kendrick, established his specialist eavesdropping unit - soon to relocate to Trent Park

So successful was the Tower's clandestine operation proving for the intelligence war, Kendrick requisitioned the former country house of Sir Philip Sassoon, Trent Park at Cockfosters in North London. His team moved in to 'wire it for sound' and, under the auspices of the branch of military intelligence - MI9 - his unit relocated by the end of 1939. This hidden workforce of men and women would go on to amass nearly 75,000 pages of transcripts from the bugged conversations throughout the war - the content of which will begin to change and deepen our understanding of the Second World War as historians analyse their contents.

THE INTELLIGENCE

It was a tri-services' unit of Army, Navy and Air Intelligence that soon became a massive

intelligence-gathering 'factory' that provided vital intelligence to various agencies, including the codebreakers at Bletchley Park, MI5, MI6's scientific section under Professor R. V. Jones, Bomber Command, the Air Ministry and the Political Intelligence Department (to name a few). The volume of intelligence was staggering: from intelligence ahead of the Battle of Britain in 1940, new enemy technology, Luftwaffe night fighter strategy, new aircraft and fighting capability, U-boat operations and construction, German campaigns on the Russian front, detailed information on coastal defences, including their construction and enemy operations ahead of D-Day, the Ardennes campaign, as well as details of mass atrocities and concentration camps.

Then within two weeks of the Japanese bombing of Pearl harbour in December 1941,



Relaxed senior German officers, some in civilian attire at Trent Park

'REMEMBER DEC. 7TH!'



1942. US wartime poster released following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Thereafter hundreds of US intelligence officers arrived in the UK - some assigned to the eavesdropping operation at Trent Park

American intelligence officers arrived at Trent Park. They were from the Office for Strategic Services (OSS, later CIA) and went on to make a valuable contribution as interrogators and intelligence officers. Their work marked the close emerging Anglo-American intelligence sharing arrangement that still continues today.

In 1941-2 Kendrick expanded his operation and requisitioned two further country estates in Buckinghamshire: Latimer House and Wilton Park. They would process 10,000 lower-ranking enemy prisoners of war. With increased personnel to 1,000, the sites had teams of German-Jewish refugee secret listeners recording, translating and transcribing the conversations, and women carrying out crucial intelligence analysis and even interrogation.

Meanwhile, Trent Park was finally reserved for the most prized prisoners of all - Hitler's captured Generals and commanders. In May



Professor R. V. Jones pictured with Director CIA James Woolsey and French WWII agent Jeanie Rousseau in 1993



German generals walk the grounds of Trent Park



Wartime aerial view of Latimer House near Amersham



General von Arnim

1943, General von Arnim arrived with his entourage and senior officers from the battlefields of North Africa having surrendered with 350,000 men. After D-Day, all the high ranking German commanders - Generals and two Field Marshals - arrived in stages at

Trent Park. Whilst they were 'wined and dined', looked after by a fake aristocrat 'Lord Aberfeldy', taken on trips to Simpson's in the Strand, one of London's oldest traditional



'Lord Aberfeldy' the fake aristocrat was intelligence officer Ian Munro

restaurants and given copious supplies of gin at the Ritz, they were totally hood-winked. Kendrick had already arranged for the house to be further 'wired for sound' - with microphones embedded in the walls, under floorboards, deep behind fireplaces, in plant pots and even the billiards table. The eaves-



The White House, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield



Simpson's in the Strand

dropping mission also extended outside the building: trees in the relaxing gardens were

US and British troops train for the invasion of Europe. Key intelligence secured through the listening operation at Trent Park was invaluable. This included German troop numbers, coastal and land defences, plus armaments and reserve forces



'Burgoyne' - intelligence officer John Burgoyne in the Blue Room, Trent Park



Original WWII secure fencing around Trent Park can still be found



Under the ground floor of Trent Park - cables supporting the MI6 eavesdropping operation were found



Female intelligence staff at Latimer House

bugged to record the Generals as they walked around the grounds. Not a single snippet of information could be missed.

THE SOLE OBJECTIVE

The frivolity and outlandish treatment of the Generals had one aim - to win the intelligence war. Giving 59 German Generals and nearly 40 senior officers a life of relative luxury in the mansion house, arguably led to one of the greatest intelligence coups of the war. From the bugged conversations of commanders most trusted by Hitler to protect Germany's secrets, the Allies gained the first concrete evidence at Trent Park of Hitler's secret weapon programme at Peenemunde on the Baltic coast (V-1, V-2 and V-3). The intelligence led directly to the RAF's bombing mission of Peenemunde in August 1943.



WWII secret listener Eric Mark

Codenamed Operation Crossbow, and authorised on the orders of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, this was a joint UK-US campaign targeting German long-range weapons -

It would be 65-years before any whisper of these secret endeavours emerged as formerly top secret files were finally released into the National Archives. The majority of the intelligence officers, secret listeners and analysts engaged in the eavesdropping had passed way by then and they never told their



V2 replica rocket at Peenemunde Museum



Thought-provoking drawing of the secret listeners in the basement eavesdropping on the Germans above

families what they had done. All had signed the Official Secrets Acts (OSA) and could not breathe a word to anyone.

The 'theatrical stage set' so carefully crafted by British Intelligence that the Generals walked into at Trent Park, would easily be considered



an act of fiction if it were not true. Fortunately, the 'mad hatters tea party' of daily life at Trent Park has been recorded in the weekly intelligence reports and the transcripts of these conversations secured for posterity. These preserve rare real conversations of the war and an unprecedented unique snapshot into daily life in the Second World War. And therein lies this extraordinary gem. This was no fiction, but one of the greatest deception operations conducted against Nazi Germany.

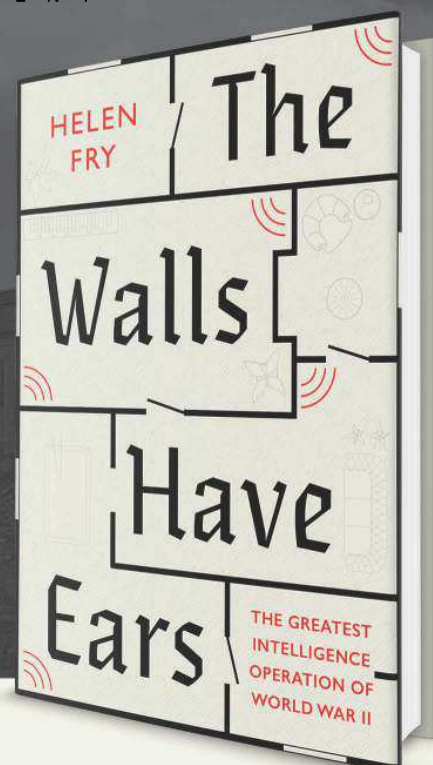


A major part of the mansion house at Trent Park has now been secured as a national museum to the 'secret listeners', and tells the intelligence story across Kendrick's three clandestine sites. It is opening in 2021/22 after the site's owners Berkeley Homes agreed to work with the Trent Park Museum Trust to make this museum a reality. The public is enthusiastically behind this project, appreciating what Historic England formally concluded in February 2017, that Trent Park's wartime work was "of considerable national and international historical interest which bears comparison to the code-breaking work at Bletchley Park."

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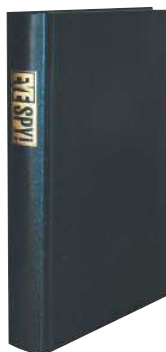
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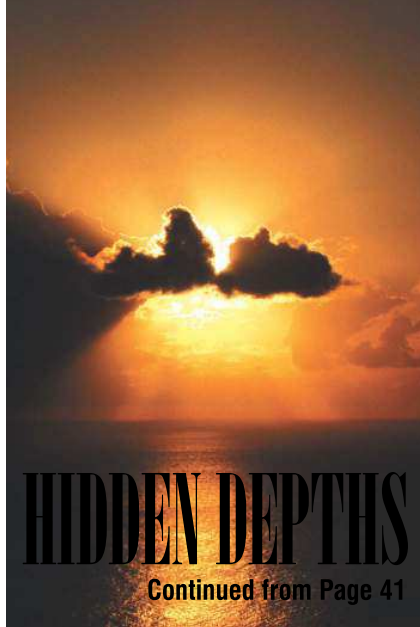


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CABLE TAPPING AND ESPIONAGE FEARS

A senior cables' traffic specialist told Eye Spy, China is determined to catch and surpass the West in respect of its seabed cable capabilities. And just like Russia, it already has the know-how enabling it to enter the world's cable network surreptitiously. "It is determined to gain access into this highly advanced communications area, and I doubt the West can stop it," he said.

Another China specialist, Jonathan Hillman, Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said: "The proposed deal Huawei are negotiating will not allay US concerns."

Intelligence officials from many countries believe the topic of underwater cable operations needs far more study and international agreements to prevent tampering. Most however, recognise tapping cables has become part of the overall tradecraft of espionage. NSA and US Navy specialists admit that an "actor does not necessarily have



A US Navy diver repairs a submarine communications cable

to engage with a cable on the seabed - it can be done remotely." They also point out that the most vulnerable section or part of a cable network is where it leaves the ocean and engages land. There are approximately 1,000



William Evanina

cable landing stations around the world, many in remote areas. William Evanina, Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center and former Chief of the Counterespionage Group for the CIA, said: "Given that undersea cables carry the bulk of the world's telecommunications data, safeguarding them remains a key priority for the US Government and its allies."

In 2017, former ASIS (Australian Secret Intelligence Service) Director Nick Warner, now Director-General of the Office of National Intelligence, effectively blocked a deal with Huawei Marine over espionage fears. The Chinese company wanted to build a 2,500-mile long cable connecting Sydney to the Solomon Islands. Warner said the cable would allow China direct access into Australia's Internet network via a landing station, thus creating a cyber risk. And in a more recent case, the US joined with Australia and Japan to try and derail a Huawei Marine cable plan with Papua New Guinea.

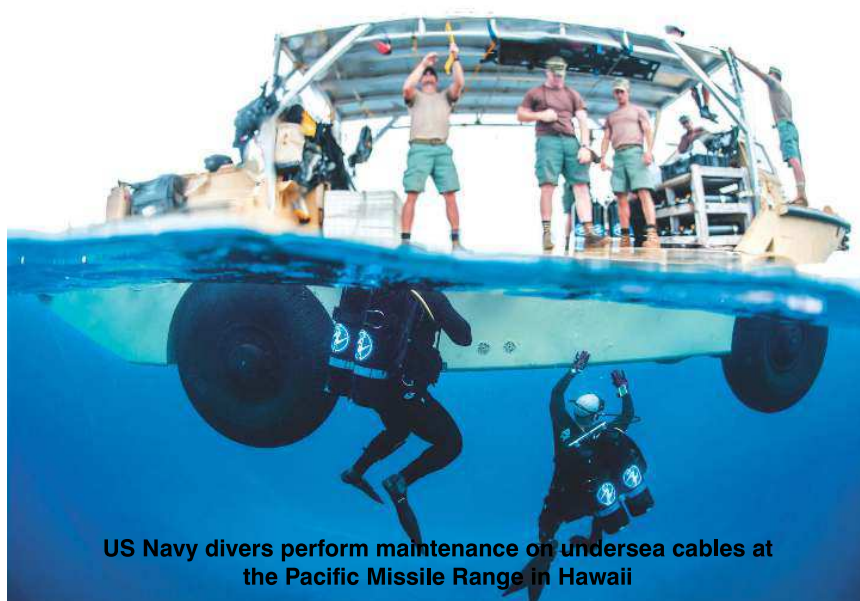
Retired US Army Lt. General and Deputy Commander US Cyber Command, William Mayville said: "This is another vector [how]



Maersk's Defender - a telecommunications cable layer



Former ASIS Director Nick Warner



US Navy divers perform maintenance on undersea cables at the Pacific Missile Range in Hawaii

INTEL INSIDE

Most underwater cables are about the same thickness as a garden hose and lay on the seabed. Also carrying telephone and television transmissions, they can move vast amounts of data at the speed of light - surpassing the capabilities of space satellites and much cheaper to operate. Besides civilian traffic, some cables carry defence and government traffic. It should also be noted cables criss-cross continents

Huawei gets into the infrastructure of another country. Failing to respond to Huawei cedes space to China."

Submarine veteran US Admiral Jamie Foggo said: "Underwater cables are part of our critical infrastructure and essential to the global economy. The US must protect the integrity and security of them as surely as we provide international freedom of the high seas. So while we certainly need to consider the challenges China poses on the surface of the

South China Sea, we also need to look down to the murky depths of the bottom of the sea."

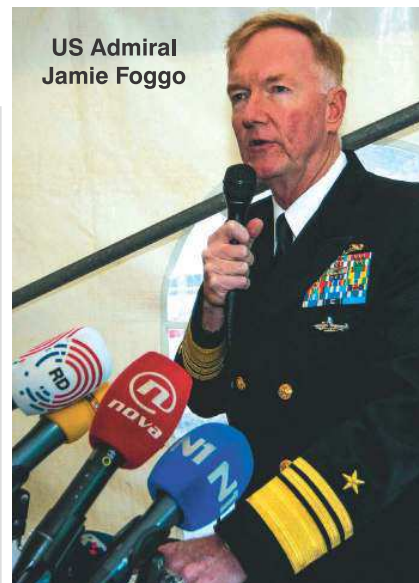
As for the Chinese company, Huawei Marine officials acknowledge it uses some technology from its "mother company," but was "willing to make any product available to any security expert or government agency for evaluation."

Huawei is expected to complete 20 new cable projects by 2020, some initiated in 2015. It is also involved with work on another 30, and the

improvement of 60 lines, including enhancing the capacity of landing stations.

A secret US Defense report with injection from a number of allied countries reflects continuing concern about Huawei's entry into the cable theatre. It concludes by noting its role in building cables will potentially enhance China's ability to collect (spy) and/or disable cable communications.

At present the industry is dominated by three major firms - America's SubCom, Europe's Alcatel-Lucent and Japan's NEC Corp. Many intelligence watchers believe Huawei is simply too strong, and backed by the powerful MSS, it will eventually complete its 'Digital Silk Road', journeying over and under land, into space and at the bottom of the world's oceans...



US Admiral Jamie Foggo

MSS, 5G AND HUAWEI

A 'Systemised Structural Relationship'

The row over Chinese technology company Huawei and its alleged links to the intelligence arm of the Ministry of State Security (MSS), took another strange turn, when Christopher Balding, an Associate Professor at Fulbright University in Vietnam, made a revealing discovery whilst studying the structure of the company. He uncovered the CVs of over 20,000 Huawei employees that had been reportedly leaked on the Internet and began examining their background and former employment records.

Balding discovered some were former agents of the MSS and worked on various secret projects for the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). A number were members of known cyber units, such as Unit 61398 (Comment Crew) already



Christopher Balding

accused of launching attacks against Western organisations. Some of its operatives have been indicted by the FBI. He described the data as a "treasure trove" which shows a "strong relationship between Huawei and all levels of the Chinese state. Balding concluded: "This to me appears to be a systemised structural relationship."



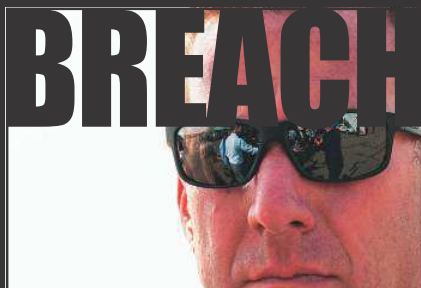
61398: Gu Chunhui, Huang Zhenyu, Sun Kailiang, Wang Dong, and Wen Xinyu indicted on cyber espionage charges

London-based think tank the Henry Jackson Society (HJS), has already reported that around 100 Huawei staffers had threats to the Chinese military and intelligence services, and this in itself is a cause of national security concern. Describing a number of staff as "spooks," HJS said this shows "closer links between the telecommunication company and military-backed cyber agencies than previously thought."

Huawei responded by stating it was "natural and obvious" that some of its staffers will have worked for the

government in past occupations. Intelligence watchers acknowledge that this is the case, but note that the company and Beijing government have gone to "extraordinary lengths" to conceal the background of its employees.

Under Chinese law, citizens and companies are obliged to cooperate and work for the government when asked to do so. And it is this which continues to be of major concern to international governments suspicious of the technology firm's ultimate controllers.



OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

Continued from Page 51

the UK or Europe, helped pass on the damaging communications from Sir Kim. However, just days after his resignation, a Foreign Office spokesperson said: "We do not, at the moment, have any evidence that this was a hack so our focus is finding someone within the system who has illicitly released these communications." Some intelligence analysts believe the leak could have originated from within the United States - the objective being to quicken his removal.

Associates of Sir Kim said he ultimately stepped down to protect the special UK-US relationship.

NOTES: ASSESSMENTS

Diplomats holding such positions of authority, are often asked to issue personal assessments on relations, individuals and departments and on wide range of issues in order that analysts can provide better guidance on future collective negotiations, projects,



NSY Commissioner Cressida Dick



Sir Michael Fallon

relations and policy. Frank views are paramount. Such commentary however, is very confidential and in most cases highly classified, thus whoever provided the newspaper with the material is in breach of diplomatic protocol. Systems, codewords and the use of dedicated channels is constantly monitored by specialists. Questions therefore have been raised by some intelligence watchers about the low classification grading of the Darroch cables made by staffers at the UK Embassy in Washington.

Security regarding memorandums and communications issued from embassies is paramount, thus a number of intelligence commentators believe there could be "darker" reasons for the leaks - henceforth suspicion of a foreign state actor. Former UK Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon called for a full criminal probe. "This is clearly a breach of the Official Secrets Act and if they can find out who did it, prosecutions should follow." As for Sir Kim's departure, he said the person responsible is the person behind the leaks."

The incident follows a successful Presidential State Visit to the UK, in which Trump praised the 'special relationship'.



British Embassy, Washington DC

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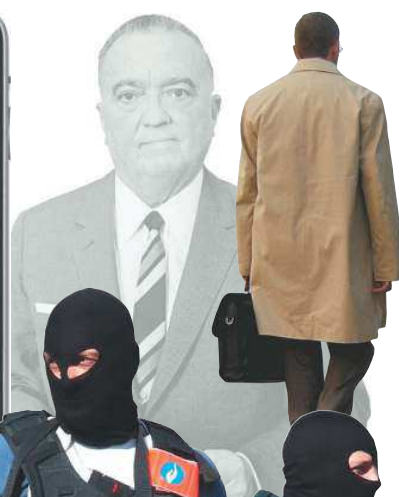
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